



# Paradise Preserved

An introduction to the  
assessment, evaluation,  
conservation and management  
of historic cemeteries



ENGLISH HERITAGE





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Brought to publication by Joan Hodsdon

Chris Brooks' 1989 book on Victorian and Edwardian cemeteries was the first volume to look at how these special places  
could be protected and conserved. English Heritage dedicates this publication in memory of his pioneering work.

**Front cover:** The listed grade II\* monument of Raja Rammouhun Roy Bahadoor at Arncliffe Cemetery, Bristol. AA023589

**Back cover:** A monument in the Urmston Jewish Cemetery, Manchester for Ethel Raphael who died in 1923, aged three years. AA040112

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# FOREWORD

The inscriptions on memorials, the design of monuments, the choice of stones, the architecture of buildings and the landscape design shed light on past social customs and events and combine to make a cemetery an irreplaceable historical resource.



Cemeteries are highly valued. The primary role of any cemetery is to provide a place to bury and commemorate the dead, and to provide a focal point for mourning and religious observance. However, because they provide green oases within built-up areas, cemeteries are also places for rest and contemplation in a more general sense, offering opportunities for fresh air and exercise, or simply a place for quiet communion with nature. The coexistence of nature and art, sometimes in an uneasy alliance, accounts for much of their character and makes them a unique historical, cultural and natural resource.

Space for burials is becoming scarcer, especially in urban areas. The pressure upon cemetery managers to utilise every available space for burial can threaten the special qualities of cemeteries. At the same time, the condition of many cemeteries is deteriorating due to inadequate or inappropriate management. The upkeep of our cemetery heritage poses one of the biggest conservation challenges that we face.

In 2001 a Parliamentary Select Committee Inquiry on cemeteries examined current provision for burials, discussed the question of maintaining existing cemeteries and looked

at options for the future. Subsequently the Government asked English Heritage and English Nature (now part of Natural England) to provide guidance on the conservation and management of cemeteries.

Government policy is that 'local burial and cremation facilities should offer a fitting environment for the bereaved and enhance the life of the community' and that 'cemetery services must be consistent with broader Government policies on the environment and cultural heritage' (Home Office 2001). The Government's policy statement, *The Historic Environment: A Force for our Future* (DCMS and DTLR 2001) emphasises the importance of the historic landscape and features such as cemeteries in shaping the identity of neighbourhoods. Properly managed green spaces, which can include cemeteries, are essential to successful and sustainable urban regeneration. The Government's commitment to quality green spaces is set out in *Living Places* (ODPM 2002).

*Paradise Preserved* was first issued in 2002 to introduce and raise awareness of cemetery conservation management. This new edition is intended to complement the Government's review, *Burial Law and Policy in the 21st Century* (Home Office 2004), and its *Cleaner, Safer, Greener* campaign for parks, open spaces and streets. It also takes into account the *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds* published in 2005 by English Heritage and the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division of the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. As from October 2006, public bodies and statutory undertakers have a duty to ensure due regard to the conservation of biodiversity.

Advice on where to look for more detailed information and support is given in the Further reading and the Useful contacts sections at the end.

Jenifer White and David Knight

# INTRODUCTION

Cemeteries were conceived and designed both as gardens of the dead and as a memorial. They are functional landscapes and many of our historic cemeteries are still being used for the business of burying and mourning, and as places for quiet reflection. They are valued and enjoyed by local people as open spaces and for the wildlife and they make an important contribution to the quality of life of the local community. Cemeteries are distinct from other burial places and other green spaces. This interweaving of architecture, sculpture, landscape, wildlife and poetry is like no other place in the historic environment.

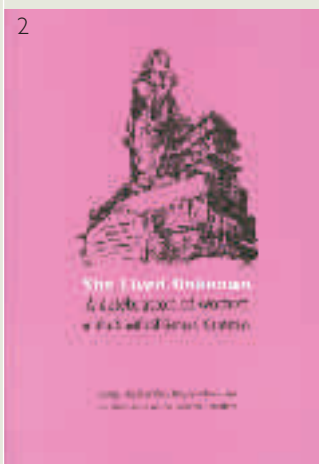
As an important record of the social history of the area it serves, a cemetery may be said to contain the biography of a community. Its design and layout reflect the fashions of the time when it was first opened; different religious faiths and denominations are characterised by different styles of commemoration and sometimes special sectors within the cemeteries; the inscriptions on the monuments contain important information about the people who are buried there. Different types of cemetery have special significance to different people, not only reflecting the past and its community but also including the people involved in managing and caring for the cemetery today. As general interest in genealogy and family history grows, so does the importance of cemeteries as repositories of biographical information to the wider community.

Over time, this artificial environment has often been softened, overlaid and sometimes obliterated by the growth of the original planting, and by the natural arrival of other plants. Wildlife colonises these quiet, green spaces, which quickly become important habitats for plants and animals. These sites were often created on the edge of towns and today they are gems of countryside and remnant habitats locked in an urban setting. The combination of designed and natural features creates unique and important landscapes.

In conserving and managing these landscapes we need to take into account all of their special meanings and characteristics, and also the dynamics of the working cemetery receiving new burials. *Paradise Preserved* firstly looks at the history of the English cemetery and the range of designations highlighting the significance of these places and their buildings and monuments, and secondly, it offers advice on conservation management planning and practical conservation.

1 Bradford Undercliffe Cemetery and its rows of Victorian monuments sit high on the hillside looking over the city and beyond. The Metropolitan District Council has designated the cemetery as a Conservation Area to protect its historic interest and as a feature of the city.

2 and 3 The Sheffield General Cemetery Trust promotes awareness and interest through themed leaflets, one of which celebrates the lives of women buried in the cemetery and another features the war graves. *Sheffield General Cemetery Trust*



## MONUMENTS AND BUILDINGS

Erected in their thousands, cemetery monuments range from magnificent mausolea to humble headstones. It is the tombs, by and large, which create the qualities of contemplation and feelings associated with cemeteries. The combination of word and image, of epitaphs and symbolism, can be deeply touching. The monuments remind us that the dead were once alive, and that the deceased shared the same feelings as us.

In artistic terms, tombs can be of high quality: commissioning an elaborate tomb was a way of showing respect, as well as a way of gaining remembrance, and many of the leading sculptors and architects of the past were engaged in tomb design. Some exceptional monuments are individually listed for their historic or sculptural importance, but all memorials possess some value as tributes to past lives and as visual components in the special cemetery landscape. Knowing what we value now, and will value in the future, is one of the greatest challenges English Heritage faces as it begins to address our sepulchral and memorial inheritance.

Churches, chapels, lodges, walls and other structures form the largest and grandest architectural presence within cemeteries. They help to define the character of the place, and embody the ambition and pride that went into them. Very often, however, these buildings have fallen out of use, and have suffered from a consequent lack of



4 At Coalbrookdale, the burial ground is a record of the Quakers and their role in the iron industry in Shropshire. AA98/04541



5 Lighthouse gravestone of Daniel Rouncefield overlooking the sea at St Ives, Cornwall. AA031467

6 and 7 These historic views show the evergreens planted in cemeteries at Tunbridge Wells and Bournemouth to create a sombre and everlasting landscape. © RHS, Lindley Library/Brent Elliott



maintenance and from vandalism. They form key visual elements in the overall design, however; and will often be listed structures, deserving of careful upkeep. In some cases, notably where a cemetery has been surrounded by later urban development, the cemetery lodge and chapel may be valued as part of the architectural heritage for the area and its character.

## LANDSCAPE

Cemetery landscapes were carefully designed to create sites fit for the dead and to evoke meaning and sacredness. Idealised landscape settings were created to evoke the Elysian fields of ancient myth, catacombs reflected the exemplary lives of the early Christians, or a carefully tended garden to echo the Arcadian tranquillity of the afterlife.

Planting was often designed to enhance the symbolism of the landscape. Yew trees linked the cemetery with the more traditional burial sites of ancient churchyards and, along with other evergreen trees, signified both eternal life and the sombre shades of grief. Weeping willows expressed mourning, while oak and laurel brought to mind the wreaths with which heroes were celebrated in antiquity.

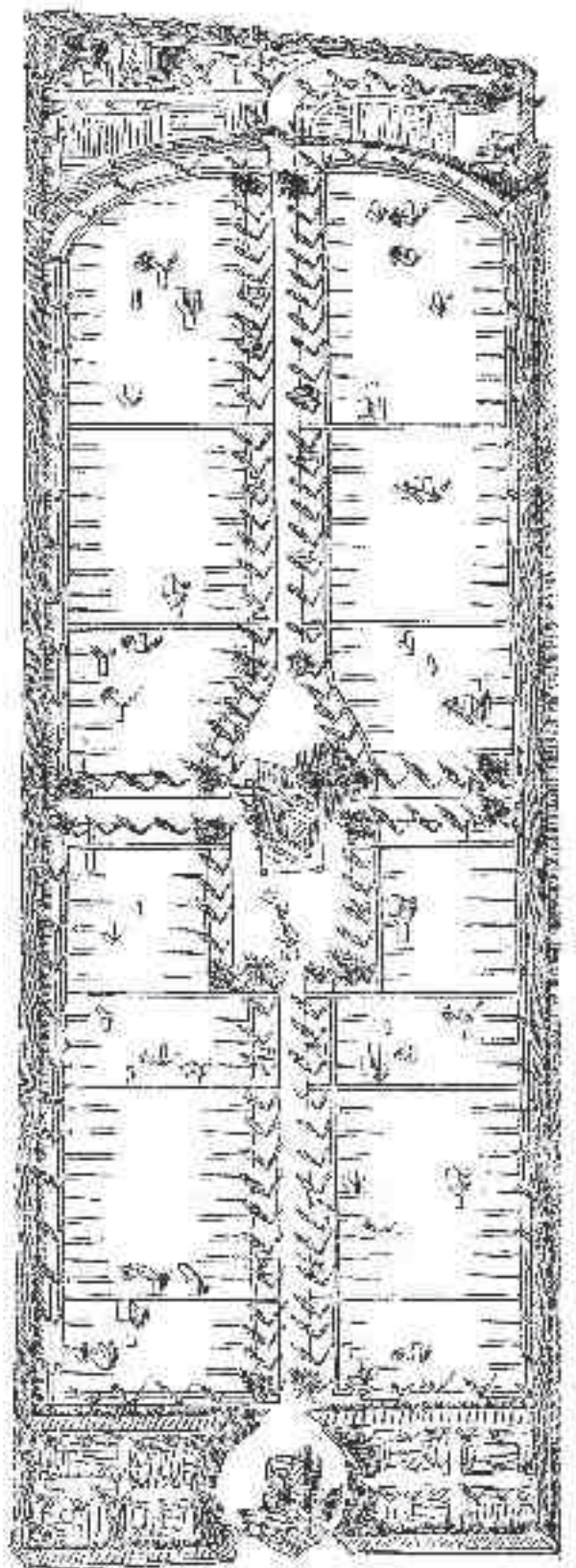
The more ordered, grid-like layouts of the mid-19th century cemetery relate to a more rational approach to the question of cemetery design. Eminent landscape designers were commissioned to lay out cemeteries.

Cemeteries are characteristically large areas, planned to be substantially larger than typical churchyards. Similarly, the cemetery perimeter boundary and formal entrance



- 8 The writer and landscaper J C Loudon favoured a grid plan for cemeteries, this being more practical than an irregular layout, as shown in this *Gardener's Magazine's* 1843 illustration of his design for Histon Cemetery, Cambridge.

8



- 9 The architect H E Milner (1845–1906) designed an informal picturesque layout for Stoke Cemetery in the 1880s with sinuous paths and drives, and carefully composed groups of trees and shrubs. *Reproduced by kind permission of Sarah Rutherford*

9



are distinctive features designed to symbolise and functionally separate, secure and protect the buried. Also unlike other burial places, the typical cemetery layout of roads and paths creates an 'address' for each grave, and a sense of control for the plot owner.

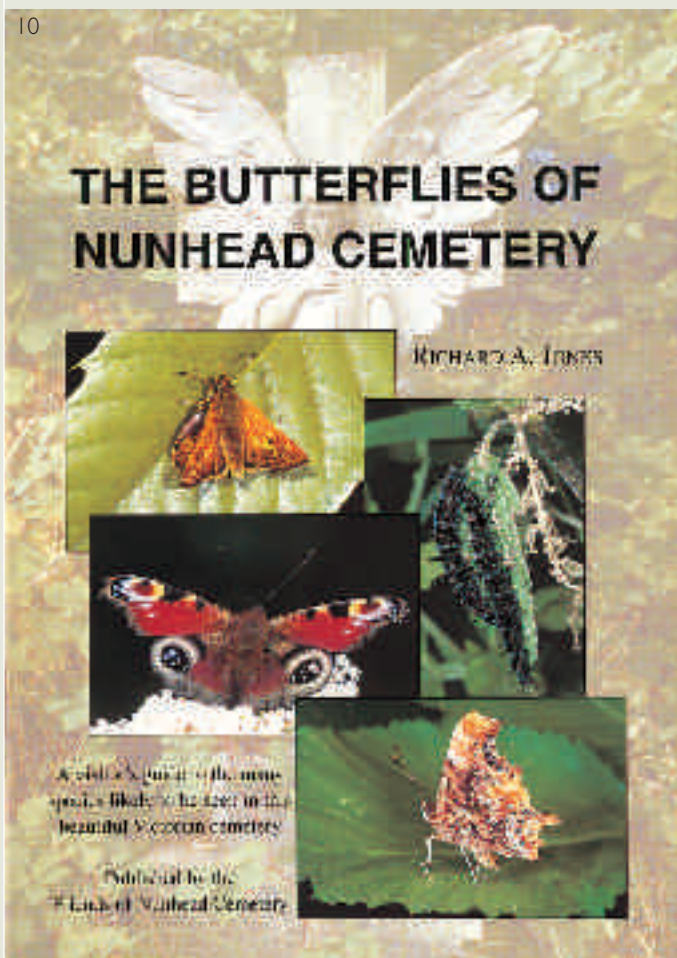
Only by understanding these landscapes can we tend them appropriately and hand them on to future generations. English Heritage, through its *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens*, has drawn up a gazetteer of the most outstanding funerary landscapes thus far identified (see pp 14–15).

## WILDLIFE AND THE NATURAL HERITAGE

Cemeteries were often developed from greenfield sites, and many now have remnant habitats and features like heaths and hedges. As pockets of countryside locked within urban areas and as inherently quiet places, cemeteries can provide a range of habitats that can support a diversity of wildlife, and they are a legacy from the past. The common toad, hedgehog, woodmouse, deer, badger, and a chorus of



10 Sixteen species of butterfly have been recorded at Nunhead Cemetery one of the great Victorian cemeteries in London. *Friends of Nunhead Cemetery/Richard A Jones*



birds such as woodpecker, wren, and blackcap, can be found in cemeteries, as well as a surprising variety of wildflowers, fungi such as waxcaps, and lichens. Some cemeteries can be locally important sanctuaries for uncommon or protected species, such as bats, spotted flycatcher, slow-worm, stag beetle, and orchids that are otherwise rare in our towns and cities. For example, Broadway Cemetery, Peterborough, has the largest population of meadow saxifrage in Cambridgeshire; Morden Cemetery has the only green winged orchids in London; The Rosary in Norwich has heather and wood speedwell which survive from the days when the site was heathland lying outside the city.

Cemeteries can also form an important part of the 'green corridor' networks of parks, gardens, and other open spaces that enable wildlife to move from site to site and to the countryside beyond. As more cemeteries are surveyed, their nature conservation interest is revealed and many have been designated important sites for conservation.

11 and 12

Species usually found in old grasslands like the meadow saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*) and the green winged orchid (*Orchis morio*) still survive in city cemeteries. *Natural England*



The historic monuments and buildings can be important wildlife habitats too. The rich variety of stone within cemeteries represents a valued resource for the understanding and appreciation of geology.



# THE HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH CEMETERY

Until the mid-17th century, although high-status burials took place inside in vaults sunk into the church floor, nearly all of the dead were interred in parish churchyards. This monopoly was first challenged in the 1650s, when Nonconformist burial grounds like Bunhill Fields, on the northern fringe of the City of London, began to be opened; the earliest Jewish burial ground in London's East End dates from 1657. Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries there was increasing criticism of burials in Church of England graveyards and vaults in urban areas. Churchyards were full to overflowing which gave rise to unsanitary conditions and caused disease to spread. From the mid-17th century onwards, people like Sir Christopher Wren, John Evelyn and Sir John Vanbrugh revived the ancient Roman idea of burials and the siting of cemeteries on the outskirts of towns. The first such burial ground, St George's Garden, was opened in Bloomsbury in 1714 and it still exists as a park.

As this neoclassical-style cemetery idea gained ground, outdoor burial became increasingly popular. In the 1770s urban cemeteries were created in Edinburgh (Calton) and Belfast (Clifton Street), but not until 1819 was the first public cemetery in England opened, in Norwich (The Rosary). During the 1820s several more provincial cemeteries were opened. Some public authorities set up cemeteries, such as the 1845 Leeds Beckett Street Cemetery, under local acts of parliament but still there was no national movement for cemetery creation.

Both public health concerns and religious politics played a substantial role in promoting the foundation of cemetery companies. Indeed, the majority of the early cemetery companies were set up by Dissenters seeking a means to establish burial space independent of the established church. Private enterprise was responsible for the first public cemetery in the capital: All Souls' Cemetery at Kensal Green was opened in 1833.

## CEMETERIES LEGISLATION

By 1850, most major towns in the United Kingdom had a cemetery financed through joint-stock companies. Urban churchyards had had their day – overfull, exclusively Anglican, and suspected of being sinks of contamination. There was no power to close these overcrowded burial grounds and a public alternative to the joint-stock company cemeteries was also needed. *The Metropolitan Interment Act 1850* allowed for publicly-funded cemeteries in London, and this was extended across the country by the 1853 Act.

This ushered in a boom in the construction of public cemeteries by publicly-financed burial boards run by parish vestries (the antecedents to today's local authorities). Scores of cemeteries were set up in the 1850s and 1860s. In many cases, the architect who designed the mortuary chapels and other structures was also commissioned to provide the layout, but other sites were laid out by nationally-known landscape designers. Many of these landscapes were of very high quality, incorporating careful compositions of chapels, lodges and catacombs and enhanced by memorial structures, and planting. By 1900 there were few towns that did not have their own public cemetery. They were not only repositories of the dead but also places of resort for mourners and others: as cities expanded, so surviving areas of green spaces assumed ever more importance. They were, however, very high-maintenance places, too.

Up to this time, cemeteries had received only burials, but the ancient alternative of cremation was soon to return. In 1874 the Cremation Society was founded, but the first official cremation did not take place until 1885, at the great cemetery of Brookwood, outside Woking. (So special was this cemetery, which remains the largest in Europe, that it even had its own railway line that brought entire funeral cortèges from Waterloo Station virtually to the graveside.) In the 1890s Manchester, Glasgow and Liverpool built crematoria, but it was not until 1902 that the greatest of all such installations, the Golders Green Crematorium, was opened in North London. Further crematoria, set in their own distinctive landscapes (within existing cemeteries), followed throughout the 20th century as the cremation movement accelerated. The greatest expansion of crematoria building came after the 1952 Cremation Act, and in the 1960s cremation was the dominant mode of interment.

By the Edwardian period, however, the 'Great Age of Death' had passed its zenith. Burial and mourning customs were changing, moving away from the elaborate Victorian ritual of commemoration towards a more private, less showy grief. The mass death of World War I confirmed this tendency. The dignified restraint of the cemeteries and memorials of the Imperial War Graves Commission provided a model for a new style of remembrance.

Today, most cemeteries are operated by local authorities, ie district, borough, town or parish councils, under legislation set out in the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local

Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977. There are still some private cemeteries and these are governed by their own Acts; and all Church of England graveyards are subject to relevant ecclesiastical legislation. In addition, there remain a few public burial and related Acts of general application which date back to the nineteenth century.

## LAYOUT AND DESIGN

Early 19th-century burial grounds were utilitarian walled enclosures with minimal planting. Early cemetery designers lacked models to follow: churchyards had developed almost organically, following local precedent, and public parks did not yet exist. Instead, the private landscape park provided inspiration, with chapels taking the place of country houses as the centres of attention. The boundary walls, entrance lodges, and a scattering of Arcadian memorials were all there to be borrowed. The Parisian cemetery of Le Père Lachaise strongly influenced design from 1815 onwards. Its combination of straight and winding paths and streets, a profusion of monuments, and a number of imposing structures set amid a carefully planted setting that sought to remind the visitor of Arcadia, was widely copied in English cemeteries. These landscapes developed in splendour as each new memorial added an extra note of interest.

The landscape of the early Victorian cemetery was usually laid out informally in the picturesque style, with sweeping drives and serpentine lines of trees emulating the legacy of the most fashionable designers of the day such as Humphry Repton. Planting was very carefully designed, with trees lining the drives and paths, and enclosing the perimeter of the site. John Claudius Loudon's practical and influential book, *On the Laying Out, Planting and Managing of Cemeteries* (1843), promoted a more utilitarian layout, often based on a standard grid pattern that did not fit well with informal picturesque principles but was undoubtedly a more efficient use of land; it made finding a grave easier, too. Loudon believed that cemeteries should also be morally improving, educational, soothing and dignified places, a view to which many others subscribed. The many cemeteries created as a result of the 1853 Act were planned with either a picturesque layout or a grid pattern, or a combination of the two. These were often skilfully designed and developed by local municipal surveyors and in turn added to the distinctiveness of individual communities.

The changing burial and mourning customs are also reflected in cemetery designs and monuments – both their decorations and materials. The Victorian landscape designs still dominate as the master plans although many cemeteries

13 In 1771 the Paris government acquired the Le Père Lachaise site on the outskirts of the city and started to lay out a new burial ground and catacombs for the human remains that needed to be removed and reinterred, for public health reasons, from the 5th, 7th and 8th *arrondissement* cemeteries. The view shows one of the winding streets lined with tombs.

14 The architect William Tite designed the South Metropolitan Cemetery in Norwood. As this engraving shows, the cemetery was planted in what J C Loudon called the 'Pleasure Ground' style with spacious lawns leading up to the buildings with clumps of trees and groups of tombs. From J C Loudon's *On the Laying Out, Planting and Managing of Cemeteries, and on the Improvement of Churchyards* (1843). Reproduced by kind permission of Sarah Rutherford.

15 Frank Galsworthy's painting of the Stoke Poges Gardens of Remembrance shows an example of 1930s cemetery design by architects Milner Son & White. Reproduced from *Landscape and Garden* I, 17 (1834) by permission of the Landscape Institute and Milners.





16 In the 1950s, the landscape architect Richard Sudell designed a new Memorial Garden for the Victorian City of London Cemetery. *City of London: London Metropolitan Archives*

17 to 20

The vast Brookwood cemetery at Woking, Surrey has military cemeteries for different nationalities and over 4,000 graves. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission continues to care for these memorial landscapes.

17 The burial ground for the Turkish Air Force servicemen killed in World War II.

18 A memorial dating from World War I for a cavalry serviceman of the Indian Army.

19 Muslim, Jewish and Christian French servicemen are buried together.

20 The Czechoslovak section of the cemetery with its 45 airmen who died 1940–1945.



also include set landscape features from later periods such as memorial gardens. New cemeteries continued to be laid out in the 20th century but during the inter-war period, the grand Victorian cemetery landscape and its monuments were subject to a growing critique and was contrasted to the romantic ideals of the small English churchyard. Alternative cemetery aesthetics began to develop. The War Graves Commission cemeteries set an influential example of the dignity of uniform monuments in an immaculately maintained landscape setting.

In keeping with post-war public thinking, managers began to simplify cemetery landscapes. The widespread shortage of labour post-war exacerbated difficulties of maintaining complex Victorian landscapes. First steps included the levelling of burial mounds which had been created to provide platforms and deterrents to people stepping on graves. Kerb sets delineating grave boundaries also disappeared as they too impeded increasingly mechanised maintenance. Similar pragmatic ideas are reflected in the new lawn cemeteries with their simple memorial stones set flat into the grass, providing a large expanse of open lawn and making maintenance much easier. Through the 1950s and 1960s the design concept was developed further with monuments set flush or slightly sunken in the grass so that they do not impact on the landscape. Cemetery landscape design and monument-setting ideas continue to evolve; and from the turn of the 21st century there is a hint of the return of romanticism.



# PROTECTION THROUGH STATUTORY DESIGNATIONS

## CEMETERIES IN CRISIS

A survey in 2000 recorded 2,047 churchyards and cemeteries in the UK and 83 per cent of these grounds are still receiving burials and most will be of heritage interest. The upkeep of our cemetery heritage poses one of the biggest conservation challenges we currently face.

In Britain, burial rights granted in perpetuity guaranteed that graves would never be disturbed and would remain intact. In those cases where funds have been left for upkeep 'in perpetuity', the value of the legacies has been eroded by inflation. As time passes, descendants move away or families die out, and the private upkeep of family tombs has become the exception rather than the rule.

Economic difficulties too have arisen. Many of the private cemeteries were undercapitalised from the outset, and had not allowed for rising costs in their start-up calculations. Their once-elegant assets became fearful liabilities, as costs mounted and revenues from burials dwindled. By the 1960s, crisis point was being reached. Some companies locked the gates and simply walked away for good. Highgate Cemetery and Nunhead Cemetery were effectively abandoned until local groups decided to find a way out of the impasse. These groups realised the value of their local cemeteries for wildlife and they also appreciated the romantic qualities of these overgrown sites.

The loss of landscape maintenance skills and the reduction of local authority budgets in the late-20th century meant that cemetery landscaping could no longer be maintained. Such neglect is not benign. Although woody plants can be of value in their own right, as well as providing habitat for other species, unchecked, these plants and other invasive species can erode the landscape design, damage or destabilise memorials, and encroach upon other valuable habitats.

Cemetery landscape character is shaped by the memorials and the massing of them. When the memorials were designed and installed, little thought would have been given to their long-term maintenance and repair. As monuments age, they are more likely to need attention – iron and metal fixtures rust and corrode, stone cracks, earth settles, and all these can cause a memorial to become unstable and hence a danger. Concerns about the safety of memorials has led to many local authorities dismantling monuments and cordoning off areas within cemeteries with detrimental consequences for the landscape.

Neglect is not the only problem, however. Local authorities are obliged to offer burial places, but suitably large sites in urban settings are hard to find and even harder to afford. The pressure upon cemetery managers to utilise for burial every available green space within existing cemeteries presents the greatest immediate threat to cemetery landscapes. Disinterring bodies is a very expensive operation, but bulldozing memorials is all too cheap; new burials can be placed in between the plots occupied by much older burials, or encroach upon paths and avenues. An alternative is to clear older cemeteries and re-use the ground. Whilst the disinterring of bodies is an immediate threat to closed burial grounds, ancient sites and private cemeteries, it is less of an issue for operational municipal cemeteries at present, although it may become a problem in the medium to long term. Such practices are among the biggest threats facing historic cemeteries. As mentioned in the Introduction, the Government is reviewing burial law and policy.

## PROTECTING OUR CEMETERIES

Various statutory designations can be applied to cemeteries and to their associated buildings and monuments in recognition of their historic or architectural interest, their importance as historic landscape designs or wildlife habitats, or their amenity value. Designations highlight special importance and the need for conservation. In addition, there are various non-statutory ways of recognising the importance of a building or site. The current system of heritage protection can appear confusing:

- Individual buildings and monuments can be listed (or, occasionally, scheduled as a monument)
- The designed landscape can be registered
- The cemetery might be designated as Conservation Area (reflecting architectural and historical interest)
- The cemetery may be declared a local nature reserve
- Local statutory plans may also recognise cemeteries as Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation
- Individual trees may have Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs).

A mixture of national and local designations may apply to a cemetery, and it is vital to establish just what designations are in place.



21 Originally the Witton Cemetery, Birmingham had three chapels, two of which were demolished in 1980. *The Builder*, January 1862

22 The Egyptian-style gateway frames the approach to the Circle of Lebanon and the heart of the Grade II\* registered Highgate Cemetery (1838); an important cemetery in informal style. *K910115*

21



22



How we assign statutory protection to the historic environment is currently under review. The Government's Heritage Protection Review, undertaken in partnership with English Heritage, will bring together current designations within one single Register of Historic Sites and Buildings. Legislation to bring this about is scheduled for 2007–8. Historic enclaves such as cemeteries are just the sort of sites that will gain from this new integrated approach. Buildings, monuments, designed landscape elements – all these will sit alongside each other, to create a single overview of what is truly significant in national terms. The review also seeks to promote local assignment of significance too, and this may well have considerable implications for the ongoing management of cemeteries across the country even where national designations are not in place. Recent legislation has also strengthened measures for nature conservation.

A full evaluation of the national significance of these special places requires many more years' study. Many have been re-assessed recently for listing, registration or nature conservation status. Kensal Green cemetery now has almost 140 individually listed tombs, but this tally is exceptional; and some cemeteries have more than one designation.

## LISTED BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS

Cemetery buildings survive in their thousands; funerary monuments in their millions. Some selection for listing is thus inevitable, especially from more recently built structures. Listing is intended to flag up those items of special architectural and historic interest, and thus is not lightly awarded.

As part of the Heritage Protection Review, the criteria for selection will be defined. Buildings will be selected by types. The criteria are underpinned by a common set of principles relating to age and rarity, aesthetic merits, selectivity, national and local interest, state of repair, and historical associations. The principles of selection will be made publicly available but a brief résumé of the current approach may be useful here as they will form the foundations of the future approach as well as explaining listing to date.

One of the proposed building types is 'commemorative'. For pre-Victorian cemetery structures and memorials, the principles proposed are

- Quality of design
- Sculptural quality
- Historical interest of the commemorated person, or epitaph
- Rarity of material, or type of material

Greater selectivity has to be applied when assessing post-1840 buildings and monuments. Increasing rigour is applied to commemorative features dating from after the 1914 and 1945 watersheds.

The following structures will be seriously considered for listing:

- Designs of special architectural interest
- Designs forming part of a notable group or ensemble
- Designs incorporating significant examples of craftsmanship and art

- Designs reflecting technological interest, such as innovative construction or unusual materials
- Those with strong historical connections with figures or events of national importance

Selecting monuments for designation involves slightly different considerations. Serious consideration will be given to designating those memorials which:

- Are the work of a noted architect, sculptor or designer
- Possess clear special qualities of design and execution
- Are part of a special group, or play a key visual role in the landscape
- Are of interest for their symbolism or iconography
- Have inscriptions of exceptional interest
- Are of clear interest for their materials or construction, or where these reflect regional specialities
- Form part of a special group, or play a key visual role in the landscape
- Commemorate figures of clear national interest, for example an indicator would be if the individual is included in the *Dictionary of National Biography*.

The grade of a structure is intended to reflect its relative significance. All listed structures possess clear special interest on a national level: those placed in the upper tiers of Grade I or Grade II\* form less than 10 per cent of all designated buildings and monuments, are of outstanding interest and may be eligible for grant aid.

Listed building designation affords some protection from alteration, demolition, or inappropriate development on neighbouring sites. Listing covers all parts of a building, including the interior, and protects fixtures and fittings, as well as outbuildings, boundary walls and all other structures 'within the curtilage'. Once a building has been listed, its setting is also protected. Listing does not guarantee that the building or monument will never be altered, demolished or developed, but it does require the owner to get listed building consent if changes are to be made which, in turn, allows other interested parties to comment or object. Cemetery monuments remain private property and local authorities and cemetery managers cannot intervene unless the structures poses a health and safety risk. Local planning authorities, in considering planning applications for development which affects a listed building or its setting, are under a duty to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting.

**23** A monument, c 1854, to Mrs Anne Farrow in West Norwood Cemetery, London. Listed Grade II, this is a rare example of a cast and wrought iron monumental shelter: AA98/06442

**24** The architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner described Sir John Soane's mausoleum as an 'outstandingly interesting monument ... extremely Soanesque with all his originality and all his foibles'. The celebrated architect's monument in St Pancras Gardens, London is listed as Grade I. AA98/06426

23



24



Listing has a considerable impact on the management of cemeteries, since without listed building consent, listed structures cannot be dismantled, altered or repaired in any way that affects their special interest. Moreover, their setting might be compromised by memorials inserted nearby – a real consideration that carries weight. As well as listing status other considerations such as health and safety may need to be taken into account. The fact that a structure is not listed does not mean it has no architectural or historical value. The local authority's conservation officer should be consulted about historic or architecturally interesting features.



**25** The designer of the Crystal Palace and many gardens and cemeteries, Sir Joseph Paxton, is commemorated with this 1866 listed Grade II gothic monument in Coventry's London Road Cemetery. Paxton's registered cemetery design was described as having 'more the air of a gentleman's park than a city of the dead'. The Builder, May 1867

**26 and 27**

The Jewish and Congregationalist Cemeteries, Falmouth were established adjacent to each other in 1780 and, although considerably overgrown in places, both were designated as Scheduled Monuments in 2002.

**26** A Jewish headstone, 1855. The Jewish Cemetery was in use until the Jewish community declined in the late 1860s.

**27** View of the Congregationalist Cemetery showing the scrub and secondary woodland growth.



Current designations may not fully reflect the special interest of a cemetery. Our appreciation of these special places is still developing, and the sheer scale of the resource has prevented the completion (or revision) of detailed consideration of all cemeteries. It is all the more important, at this significant point in the ongoing history of cemetery conservation, that buildings and monuments of historic interest are appropriately protected. If there are structures or memorials deserving of national designation, they should be drawn to English Heritage's attention.

The English Heritage website gives details on what listing means, how to get buildings considered for designation, and how to apply for consent to carry out work on a protected building or monument (see Useful contacts). The local planning authority conservation officer or the National Monuments Record Centre can tell you whether buildings and monuments are protected.

## BUILDINGS AT RISK REGISTER

It is a measure of the critical condition into which many cemeteries have fallen that individual buildings and monuments often feature on English Heritage's *Buildings at Risk Register*. The register is intended to keep attention focused on those historic buildings and monuments that are vulnerable due to neglect and decay, and to seek ways to secure their future. It is a working tool that enables us to define the scale of the problem and establish the extent to which these important buildings are at risk. The register is updated annually and includes Grade I and II\* (and in London, Grade II) listed buildings and structural scheduled monuments. The register is available on English Heritage's website or at local authority planning departments (see Useful contacts).

## THE REGISTER OF PARKS AND GARDENS OF SPECIAL HISTORIC INTEREST

The funerary landscapes of special historic interest are included in the English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens*. Cemeteries are often important for their landscape design, as examples of a designer of national renown, or for pioneering development. Publication of *Paradise Preserved* marks the completion of English Heritage's national review of historically important cemeteries. Over 100 cemeteries have been identified for this gazetteer and they are listed overleaf. Whilst it is likely that further candidates for inclusion will be identified through more detailed assessment as our understanding develops, it is our view that these registered landscapes include the majority of the key examples of cemetery designs.

As with the listing of buildings and monuments, registration considers the quality of design, historic interest and the status of the designer. For inclusion in the *Register*, cemeteries must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Those laid out before the *Burial Acts* (with 1850 being taken as the cut-off date) where enough of the layout of this date survives to reflect the original design
- Those laid out between 1850 and 1914, where the landscape survives intact and is of special historic interest
- Those laid out after 1914, but over 30 years ago, which are of exceptional importance
- The landscape design is of particular historic interest in its own right
- Structural planting and the group of built features such as chapels, lodges, entrances, approaches, entrances, boundaries, and monuments are of exceptional quality
- The social context of the cemetery is of particular note and is reflected in the landscape
- Sites having an association with significant persons or historical events

Inclusion in the *Register* is a material consideration in planning terms so, following an application for development which would affect a registered park or garden, local planning authorities must take into account the historic interest of the site when determining whether or not to grant permission.

The English Heritage website gives details on how to get sites registered and the National Monuments Record Centre will provide information on individual registered cemeteries (see Useful contacts).

## CEMETERIES REGISTERED AS LANDSCAPES OF SPECIAL HISTORIC INTEREST

### London

Abney Park Cemetery  
Brompton Cemetery  
City of London Cemetery  
City of Westminster Cemetery  
East Finchley Cemetery  
Golders Green Crematorium  
Grove Park Cemetery, Lewisham  
Hampstead Cemetery  
Highgate Cemetery  
Kensal Green Cemetery  
Kensington & Chelsea Cemetery

**28** Nottingham's Church Cemetery (registered Grade II) was shaped out of the sandstone rocks and the natural caverns were adapted to create catacombs. Allen's *Illustrated Guide to Nottingham* by J Porter Briscoe (1888) description says 'the Cemetery will, as a whole, perhaps stand unsurpassed in the kingdom. The tombs and monuments, which are numerous, present most beautiful specimens of the sculptor's art. The Cemetery is well laid out, and is neatly kept.'

**29** The Maddingley site in Cambridgeshire was chosen as the permanent American Military Cemetery as many American World War II casualties occurred in East Anglia. This registered cemetery was dedicated in 1956.



Nunhead Cemetery  
Paddington Cemetery  
Putney Vale Cemetery  
St Pancras & Islington Cemetery  
Teddington Cemetery  
West Norwood Memorial Park

### South East Region

Brookwood Cemetery, Woking  
Gardens of Remembrance, Stoke Poges  
Gravesend Cemetery, Gravesend  
Kington Cemetery, Portsmouth  
Magdalen Hill Cemetery, Winchester  
Military Cemetery, Aldershot  
Reading Cemetery, Reading  
St Sepulchre's Cemetery, Oxford



Southampton Cemetery, Southampton  
Woodbury Park Cemetery, Tunbridge Wells  
Woodvale Cemetery, Brighton

#### **West Midlands Region**

Bedworth Cemetery, Nuneaton  
Brandwood End Cemetery, Birmingham  
Hartshill Cemetery, Stoke on Trent  
Key Hill Cemetery, Birmingham  
London Road Cemetery, Coventry  
Stapenhill Cemetery, Burton on Trent  
Warstone Lane Cemetery, Birmingham  
Witton Cemetery, Birmingham

#### **East Midlands Region**

Church Cemetery, Nottingham  
General Cemetery, Nottingham  
German Military Cemetery, Cannock Chase  
Nottingham Road Cemetery, Derby  
Old Cemetery, Derby  
Welford Road Cemetery, Leicester

#### **Yorkshire and the Humber Region**

Burngreave Cemetery, Sheffield  
Beckett Street Cemetery, Leeds  
City Road Cemetery, Sheffield  
Dewsbury Cemetery, Dewsbury  
General Cemetery, Sheffield  
Hunslet Cemetery, Leeds  
Lawnswood Cemetery, Leeds  
Lister Lane Cemetery, Halifax  
Moorgate Cemetery, Rotherham  
Pudsey Cemetery, Pudsey  
Scholemoor Cemetery, Bradford  
Stoney Road Cemetery, Halifax  
Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford  
West Cemetery, Darlington  
York Cemetery, York

#### **North West Region**

Allerton Cemetery, Liverpool  
Borough Cemetery, St Helens  
Anfield Cemetery, Liverpool  
Chadderton Cemetery, Oldham  
Dalston Road Cemetery, Carlisle  
Flaybrick Memorial Gardens, Wirral  
Greenacres Cemetery, Oldham  
Lancaster Cemetery, Lancaster  
Manchester General Cemetery, Manchester  
Manchester Southern Cemetery, Manchester  
Mansfield Cemetery, Mansfield  
Overleigh Cemetery, Chester  
Philips Park Cemetery, Manchester  
Preston Cemetery, Preston  
Rochdale Cemetery, Rochdale

Sale & Brooklands Cemetery, Sale  
St James's Cemetery, Liverpool  
Tonge Cemetery, Bolton  
Toxteth Park Cemetery, Liverpool  
Weaste Cemetery, Salford  
Whitworth Cemetery, Rochdale

#### **North East Region**

Newcastle Cemetery, Newcastle  
St Andrew's Cemetery, Newcastle  
St John's Cemetery, Newcastle  
Westgate Hill Cemetery, Newcastle

#### **East of England Region**

American Military Cemetery, Madingley, Cambridge  
Bedford Cemetery, Bedford  
Belper Cemetery, Belper  
Boston Cemetery, Boston  
Histon Road Cemetery, Cambridge  
Mill Road Cemetery, Cambridge  
Norwich Cemetery, Norwich  
Old & New Cemetery, Ipswich  
Rosary Cemetery, Norwich  
Saffron Hill Cemetery, Leicester  
Woodbridge Cemetery, Woodbridge

#### **South West Region**

Abbey Cemetery, Bath  
Arnos Vale Cemetery, Bristol  
Barton Road Cemetery, Torquay  
Bouncer's Lane Cemetery, Cheltenham  
Ford Park Cemetery, Plymouth  
General Cemetery, Falmouth  
Great Torrington Cemetery, Torrington  
Lansdown Cemetery, Bath  
Poole Cemetery, Poole  
St Bartholomew's Cemetery, Exeter  
Trowbridge Cemetery, Trowbridge  
Wimborne Road Cemetery, Bournemouth

### **CONSERVATION AREAS**

Conservation areas are areas 'of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. They are usually designated by local planning authorities and, in London, also by English Heritage. A number of cemeteries have already been designated as conservation areas in their own right.

Designation as a conservation area controls the demolition of whole buildings or structures and provides limited protection for trees. Conservation area consent is needed for the demolition of any building, structure (or monument) in a conservation area. Trees in a conservation

area are protected to the extent that notice must be given to the local planning authority before a tree is cut down, topped, lopped, uprooted or damaged, and the authority has six weeks to make a Tree Preservation Order (see *below*). High hedges are now subject to controls. In addition, planning controls such as an Article 4 Direction can be made to restrict development that would otherwise have been generally permitted. The Planning Portal website explains such controls and permitted development rights (see Useful contacts). In considering any application for development in a conservation area the local planning authority must pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of the area.

For details of local conservation areas contact your local authority planning department. The English Historic Towns Forum also has many useful publications (see Useful contacts).

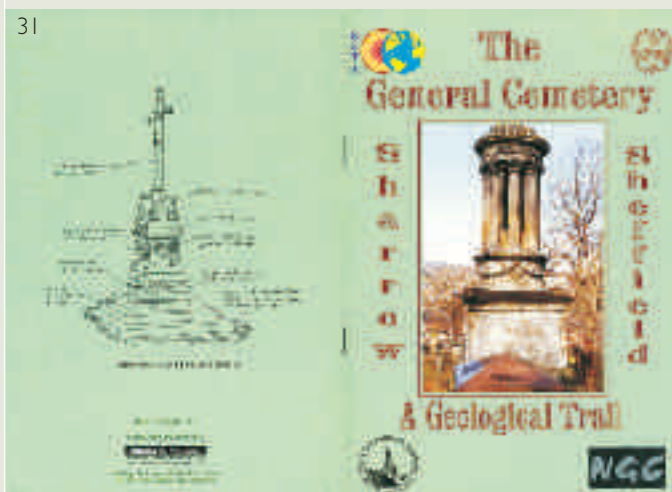
### TREE PRESERVATION ORDERS

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are made by local authorities on the basis of amenity value, and can be applied to individual trees or groups of trees. The trees may be important features in the historic landscape design, and valued both as veteran specimens and because they provide wildlife habitat. It is a criminal offence to cut down, top, lop, uproot or damage a tree with a TPO without the local authority's consent, and it should be protected from harm (including harm to its roots caused by any adjacent development). Further information is available from the Department for Communities and Local Government (see Useful contacts)

### SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) represent the best wildlife and geological sites. They are notified by Natural England. There are currently just over 4,000 SSSIs, spread throughout the country and covering in total about 6 per cent of England. About 900 SSSIs, covering some 500,000 hectares, are urban or on the urban fringe. The historic monuments and buildings can be important wildlife habitats too. The rich variety of stone within cemeteries represents a valued resource for the understanding and appreciation of geology. Although no cemeteries are presently designated SSSI, should a site be of sufficient interest it could be made an SSSI. The biodiversity interest of many cemeteries has probably been overlooked. Natural England's website has information on the selection and notification or declaration of wildlife sites and their management and funding, and information on individual sites (see Useful contacts).

- 30 Trees are often an important element of the cemetery design. They may also be important as interesting specimens, as veteran trees and wildlife habitats or for their cultural association like the ash ('the Hardy tree') in St Pancras Gardens. The novelist and poet first trained as an architect and designed the grouping of these headstones and the ash has grown in the centre.
- 31 The *Geological Trail* and the Trust's award-winning website for Sheffield General Cemetery introduces different rock types used for memorials and buildings like Peterhead granite, millstone grit, sandstones, marbles and unusual ones like Norwegian Larvik granite. *Sheffield General Cemetery Trust*
- 32 The Bisley Road Cemetery in Stroud is a Local Nature Reserve. The Town Council has installed interpretation boards on its wildlife and the history of the cemetery for visitors. *Stroud Town Council*







## GEOLOGICAL INTEREST AND RIGS

The geological interest of cemeteries lies in the stonework of the tombstones, memorials, mausolea and other built structures. Cemeteries can represent locally important resources for the study and appreciation of stones with the variety of stones originating from diverse and distant sources all brought together in one place. The stones may be of scientific, historic or aesthetic interest. Sites of geological interest can be identified as being of local importance and afforded protection in local plans.

Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS), designated by locally developed criteria, are currently the most important places for geology and geomorphology outside statutorily protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The designation of RIGS offers a means of recognising and protecting important earth science and landscape features for future generations to enjoy.

RIGS may include ex situ features of geological interest such as memorial stones as well as natural features. The application of the Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) designation for cemeteries and churchyards has been debated but as yet no decision has been made.

## LOCAL NATURE RESERVES

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally and which give people special opportunities to study and learn about them, or simply enjoy and have contact with nature. Local authorities are able to declare LNRs under Section 21 of the *National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949*. Included among the 700 or so LNRs that have now been declared in England are three cemeteries: Abney Park (London), Bisley Road (Stroud, Gloucestershire), and Tower Hamlets (London), and more are proposed. A core principle of LNR designation is that such sites are managed for the conservation of their natural features. Natural England's guidelines for LNR designation therefore require the production of a site management plan. For details and advice about LNRs, contact your local authority planning department or local Natural England office (see Useful contacts).

## SITES OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

Besides the statutory designated nature conservation sites, planning policy guidance also recognises the role and value of local nature conservation sites to help conserve biodiversity and geological features. These sites are often important to local communities affording people the only opportunity of direct contact with nature, especially in urban areas. There are a variety of terms used for these local sites. The sites are usually administered by the local authorities often in partnership with the wildlife trusts and/or RIGS groups.

Designated sites are usually recognised through the planning system and protective policies in the statutory Local Plan or the Unitary Development Plan. The sites are selected by a survey and evaluative process, and plans put in place for their conservation management. Examples of cemeteries designated as local sites are the 'Magnificent Seven' cemeteries in London – Kensal Green (opened in 1832) followed by West Norwood (1837), Highgate (1839), Nunhead, Brompton and Abney Park (1840) and Tower Hamlets (1841) – all of which are identified as having Importance for Nature Conservation. Highgate, Nunhead and Tower Hamlets are also identified as London metropolitan sites.

## LOCAL BIODIVERSITY AND GEODIVERSITY ACTION PLANS

Following the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (1994), Local Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) have been prepared by local partnerships to address both national priority habitats and species, as well as those of local significance. Although there is no national habitat plan for cemeteries, there are specific local plans such as Cambridgeshire's Churchyard and Cemeteries Local Habitat Action Plan (HAP). These HAPs provide valuable guidance and information concerning conservation priorities and recommendations for action. They also identify key players and sources of funding.

Local BAPs are prepared by partnerships of organisations, usually facilitated by the local authority or local wildlife trust. The site management plans which integrate the varied interests and functions of cemeteries are often an action point in such BAPs. See Further reading for more information on these BAPs.

Local Geological Action Plans (GAPs) are also being developed to provide a mirror framework for conserving local geological interest. Cemeteries will undoubtedly figure in these GAPs.

## PROTECTED AND BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN SPECIES

A number of wild animals and plants are afforded legal protection under various acts, most notably the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). Many of these can be found in cemeteries: they include bats, badgers (protected under the *Badgers Act 1992*), most birds, the slow-worm, common lizards, and grass-snakes. Management of both natural features (such as shrubberies that are bat or bird roosts) and built structures (such as lodges and mausolea) could affect these species. Legal protection has recently been increased for activities that can disturb, injure, and/or kill individuals, their eggs and young, and/or damage or destroy their nests and/or places of shelter. Cemetery managers are urged to consult their local Natural England team for guidance.

The UK Biodiversity Action Plan also identifies species that require urgent conservation action – Priority Species, and Species of Conservation Concern – both at national level and through the local BAP process. Many of these, such as hedgehog, song thrush, linnet, bullfinch, spotted flycatcher, and stag beetle, can be found in cemeteries.

33 and 34

Species of Conservation Concern like hedgehogs and spotted flycatchers can often be found in cemeteries. *Natural England*



More information on habitat action plans and protected species is available from the Natural England website (see Useful contacts).

## OTHER CONTROLS

There are other controls governing management and change within cemeteries. For example, Church of England sections are subject to the Faculty Jurisdiction Measure, under which consents may be required from the local diocese to move memorials, adapt cemetery layout or undertake conservation work. Detailed information on the operation of the Faculty system, including wildlife, is given in the General Synod of the Church of England's *Code of Practice* (1993). The Department for Constitutional Affairs' *Guide for Burial Ground Managers* (2005) contains useful advice about the law, service and standards (see Further reading).



# CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

It is estimated that there are about 7,000 hectares of cemeteries in England, and nearly all of them have some special local, if not national, importance and the majority are still in use as burial grounds. Judgements have to be made concerning their historic, aesthetic, wildlife and amenity value, and the extent to which they can sustain change or should be conserved as they are.

The question of how best to manage these large and complex sites can best be solved by co-operation between the various professional disciplines and interested parties involved. An integrated approach makes it much easier to manage a cemetery effectively, find the right balance between high-level maintenance and benign neglect, and make the best use of scarce resources. For example, it is not true that wildlife will always flourish best where natural processes have been left to take their course. The right kind of management encourages diversity, and balances the need to preserve historic interest with the promotion of biodiversity, whilst maintaining a pleasant and secure environment in which visitors can feel at ease. The management prescriptions are twofold: first, the historic interest, such as the landscape design, often forms the framework for these prescriptions and, second, the nature conservation interest is part of the detailed management. It is helpful to think of the cemetery as discrete character areas with dual conservation interests rather than zones of either historic or nature conservation interest.

A conservation management plan is a tool for assessing what matters and why, and working out what needs doing and how to go about it. The best plans integrate all interests, and are especially effective when all those concerned with a cemetery have been involved in drawing them up. Friends groups can play a particularly valuable role, identifying issues to be addressed, co-ordinating voluntary labour, maintaining links with the local community and fundraising. Consultation should include local residents: people whose homes overlook a cemetery may have strong feelings about it, even if they never visit the site.

There are various guides on producing plans. All follow the same process although they may focus on different aspects depending on their origins. The most recent publications are issued by CABI Space (*A Guide to Producing Park and Green Space Management Plans*, 2004) and the Heritage Lottery Fund (*Conservation Management Plans*, 2004). The CABI Space publication is aimed at local authority officers; and the Heritage

Lottery Fund publication is for heritage sites. The guidance below follows the same principles but concentrates on the conservation management planning needs for a cemetery and specifically its historic and wildlife interests. It should be used in conjunction with the CABI Space and Heritage Lottery Fund advice and their guidance on how to prepare and structure a plan (see Further reading).

As well as providing guidance for individual cemeteries, conservation management plans should also link with green space strategies being prepared by local authorities. Cemeteries are an important part of the community's green spaces and are included in the Government's Planning Policy Guidance (PPG 17) on open space, sport and recreation as a category of green space (ODPM 2002). CABI Space has also published a good practice guide on green space strategies (see Further reading).

## PREPARING A CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Drawing up a plan is basically a two-stage process. The first step is to describe accurately the cemetery and all its features, develop an understanding of the place and its many interests, its significance, the resources available and the possible constraints. The second step is to work out what needs to be done and how. The table over the page illustrates this process of assessment through to developing management programmes.

Surveying and recording the cemetery provides invaluable information. Analysis and evaluation of the significance of the cemetery for the conservation management plan will require research and survey, which might include:

- Documentary research into written descriptions, maps and plans of the site
- Architectural survey
- Monument and sculpture survey (including artists' names)
- Geological interest survey
- Biographical survey of the people buried in the cemetery – social, ethnic or religious groups, or notable individuals
- Landscape design survey
- Ecological survey
- Tree survey
- Survey of the local community's views on what they value and how they would like to be involved

## PREPARING A CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

The first stage in managing a site involves an assessment of what matters and why – usually a conservation plan. Specific management actions or detailed prescriptions can follow this, but should not precede it (adapted from *Informed Conservation: Understanding Historic Buildings and their Landscapes for Conservation*, (Clark, K 2001))

### ASSESSMENT

Research and recording  
Understanding the cemetery  
Assess its significance  
Current burial uses  
Defining issues and constraints  
Setting a vision for the cemetery  
Conservation management policies for features and character areas

### ACTION

Programming management work including prescriptions and standards  
Maintenance checklists  
Planning budgets and work programme  
Option appraisals and feasibility studies for new developments like new burial plots (if appropriate)  
Business planning

### MONITORING

Regular monitoring and review of management plan (including programme of condition surveys)

### CONSERVATION PLAN

### MANAGEMENT PLAN

### PLAN IN ACTION

- Appraisal of the current care of the cemetery – by visitors as well as official guardians

Assessing historic or cultural importance is particularly difficult in the case of cemeteries. They have been neglected in official surveys of architecture and landscape, a situation that is only now being rectified. Some of the key indicators of quality and significance that could be used to determine the importance of a cemetery are:

- The number of listed structures within the cemetery
- The inclusion of the cemetery in the English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens*
- Conservation area status
- The existence of any wildlife or environmental designations covering the cemetery

It is, however, important to remember that the absence of any official designations should not be regarded as evidence that a cemetery has no significance or value. It may simply mean that the cemetery has not yet been included in the national surveys. Regardless of official designations, therefore, the local assessment of the cemetery's conservation significance should take into account the presence and integrity of:

- Entrance lodges, gates or screens; boundary walls or railings
- Chapels
- Other significant buildings: mausolea, catacombs, etc
- Monuments that are striking because of their architectural design, decoration or sculptural quality or geological interest or important because of the sculptor
- Burial sites of famous or important people
- The historic layout, and subsequent adaptations of the layout
- The historic planting, including notable trees
- The presence and diversity of wildflowers, fungi, lichens, shrubs, trees, birds, mammals, reptiles and insects – especially rare and protected species

## RESEARCHING CEMETERIES


Since Victorian and Edwardian cemeteries were built and managed by private companies of the local authorities – initially burial boards and then local councils – most historic information is still held locally. Documentary sources might include landscape plans and architectural designs, minute books for meetings, published scales of



35 A worksheet on lichens adapted from *Hunt the Daisy: Teachers Notes* (1998), a Living Churchyard and Cemetery Project education pack aimed at encouraging children to discover the world of nature in churchyards and cemeteries. With thanks to the Arthur Rank Centre

35

### What grows on headstones



Lichens are tiny living plants which often grow on rocks and stones. They are strange because they are a really small green plant (called an alga) and a fungus living together. Lichens come in 3 kinds - look at the pictures to see what these are.

Lichens like to live in clear air, just like we do. They can show us that there is pollution in an area as some types can live in dirtier areas than others.

Crusty/Powdery

Leafy

Shrubby

Headstone	Crusty/Powdery	Leafy	Shrubby
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

charges, balance sheets and burial registers and their cross-references to cemetery layout plans, prospectuses and guidebooks. The survival of historic documents varies. The private cemetery company papers are likely to be lodged with the relevant local studies library or county records office. The burial board archives should, in theory, have been passed on to the local council responsible for cemetery provision from the 1890s onwards and therefore are likely to be lodged with the records office too. Cemeteries still in operation are likely to still hold their burial registers and plans at their offices and may well hold other reference material. Local studies libraries may also hold relevant material such as early engravings, photographs and postcards. Local sources such as newspapers can give an insight to attitudes about the cemetery, its design, memorials, and those buried there. A selection of 19th- and early-20th-century publications concerned with the disposal of the dead, cemetery planning, landscaping and architecture, and monument design is given in Further reading.

Cemetery monuments are a biographical record of the community and its individuals. The location of different types of burials, the arrangement of prestigious plots and pauper burials and types of memorials and use of grave spaces all adds to the understanding of the history of the cemetery. Various publications on recording and analysing burial grounds are listed in Further reading.

There is also published advice on recording and researching the wildlife and geological interest of cemeteries. The local wildlife trusts would be the first point of contact for finding out about survey information and the Living

Churchyard and Cemetery Project publishes advice including educational resource packs to help involve schools in using and recording burial grounds. There are a number of habitat action plans for churchyards and cemeteries and references for some of those published on the internet are given in Further reading.

### CURRENT USES

The plan needs to take into account current use of the cemetery in terms of burials and its business needs and their implications for the conservation management of the cemetery. A shortage of burial spaces or particular types of burial spaces such as full body burials or interment of cremated remains, or the desire to provide alternatives such as woodland grave sites might necessitate changes to areas. Similarly the integration of modern memorials, or different shapes, sizes and materials amongst existing memorials could alter the character of monument groups.

### ASSESSING SIGNIFICANCE

Cemeteries are complex places. An overall assessment should be made of the significance of the cemetery and its individual features in order to guide its future care and management. As well as the historic, architectural and design, or wildlife significance those preparing the plan will also need to consider the less tangible significances such as sacred qualities and associations with people and events. Significance can also change with passing generations as reflected in changing attitudes on cemetery and memorial designs, and past attitudes may be recorded in archives.

### IDENTIFYING KEY ISSUES, PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The conservation management plan should set out clearly the key issues involved in the conservation of the cemetery. Conservation management needs to be sensitive to legal, ethical, theological and public attitudes and, in particular, to the controls and guidelines on how to treat human remains, associated artefacts and grave markers. Issues that might need to be addressed in the plan include:

- Controls over the site or restrictions on proposed work, including statutory designations and Church of England Faculty Jurisdiction Measure
- Financial constraints
- The condition of buildings, monuments and memorials
- The condition of landscape features
- Wildlife and geological interests

- Site security
- Traffic
- Burial and cremation business needs and regulations
- The need to accommodate new burials
- Access issues and community use (including *Disability Discrimination Act 1995* and *2002*, obligations)

Problems that need to be addressed might include:

- Damaged or dangerous structures and trees
- The need to repair or renew hard landscaping
- Blocked or broken drainage systems
- The need to repair or renew planting
- Lack of security and the need to maintain or repair gates, fences and boundary walls
- Vandalism and vagrancy

The cemetery might present opportunities that should be investigated. These might include:

- The potential to make the cemetery accessible to the local community and the wider public
- The use of volunteers for research, survey and recording, for practical tasks such as clearing brambles, and for organising events and activities
- The encouragement of biodiversity
- The potential to use the cemetery as an educational resource
- The availability of funding (see *Funding*)

## SETTING PRIORITIES

The second part of the conservation management plan sets out the work programme. It should set out priorities for attention in the short, medium and long term. The plan is also a tool for the local community and Friends Groups in planning how they can help to look after the cemetery. Preparing the plan will require:

- Co-ordinating research and recording efforts effectively, for example by using local studies libraries and collections, local history and family history groups, Friends Groups and wildlife groups
- Devising an efficient and accessible way of gathering together all the available information, pictorial, photographic and written

- Identifying a depository for archiving all information and records
- Devising a system for regularly updating records and further condition surveys, for monitoring purposes
- Monitoring and reviewing the plan, its inventories and surveys, and the effectiveness of policies and repairs

The plan will need to address:

- Urgent repairs to dangerous structures
- Urgent repairs to entrances and boundaries
- Inventories, gazetteers and survey plans of monuments, buildings, landscape design and habitats
- Repairs to specified buildings and monuments, with priority given to repairing listed structures
- Restoration of the historic landscape design
- Habitat creation and management tasks
- Day-to-day maintenance
- New developments, including new burial areas

*Conservation Plans in Action and Informed Conservation* (Clark, K 1999) (see Further reading) provides advice on preparing a conservation management plan and researching historic sites and buildings.



# INSPECTION, CARE, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF MEMORIALS

Historic churchyards traditionally used local building materials, especially indigenous stone for gravestones and monuments. Victorian and later cemeteries fundamentally differ from these older burial grounds. In cemeteries we see more diverse materials and greater or more flamboyant artistic expression. With the Industrial and Transport Revolutions, it became possible to quarry, work and transport a much wider range of stones. Traditional limestones, sandstones and slates were joined by imported marbles and granites. Alongside fundamental shifts in taste, these practical considerations had a major impact on the character of cemeteries. Costs were reduced too making memorials affordable to a larger section of the populace. The result is a very different form of funerary space, in which monuments were more numerous, and more diverse in form and material, than had been the case before.

This diversity and richness raises a number of implications for cemetery conservation. Nevertheless, the principles, approach and practice required to implement appropriate care, maintenance and repair within cemeteries are the same as other historic structures. This must be based upon a sound understanding of the nature of the different materials of construction, their behavioural and deterioration characteristics, and the most appropriate means of preservation. Fundamental to this process is accurate visual examination as part of planned routine inspection, which forms an essential component of the conservation management plan.

## TYPES OF MEMORIALS

The most common form of memorial is the simple vertical headstone, but cemeteries contain a vast range of structures – including horizontal ledger slabs, pedestal tombs, table tombs, tomb chests, obelisks, crosses, allegorical sculpture, and chapels – often ranging greatly in size and manner of construction. The care and maintenance of each memorial therefore varies according to its nature and complexity of carving or construction and physical location. Similarly, the level of expertise required to plan and implement any practical or passive intervention will also differ accordingly and whilst general principles can be applied, an individual or site-specific assessment is often desirable.

## MATERIALS AND DETERIORATION

Stone is the predominant material used for memorials, but brick, slate, terracotta, artificial stone such as Coade Stone, plaster, cast iron, bronze, lead, copper and timber have also been used, either separately or in various combinations. Inscriptions may be incised, or sit proud of the surface and can be gilded, painted or filled with metal, such as lead. The variety and combination of materials, their distinct physical and chemical properties, different reactions to agents of decay and the effect of any remedial treatment must be taken into account when planning any conservation intervention. Correctly identifying the materials or materials of construction and accurately assessing the current condition requires relevant expertise necessary to devise appropriate repair procedures. Inappropriate diagnosis and subsequent treatment methods will not only prove ineffective, but may also cause lasting damage.

All materials decay, especially when exposed to the effects of prolonged weathering in an outdoor location. However, the rate of deterioration will vary according to the composition of the material, its method of construction and degree of subsequent exposure and the prevailing environment. Limestone, for example, is more readily eroded by acid rainfall than sandstone, but both suffer equally disastrous damage to the outer surface layers from the effects of salt movements within the stone. Some of these salts are deposited by acid rainfall or transported into the stone by rising dampness. Similarly, metals are affected by atmospheric pollutants and suffer adverse physical and chemical reactions in an uncontrolled outdoor environment resulting in progressive stages of deterioration. Correct identification of these mechanisms and analysis of the causes of deterioration is essential to long-term preservation and the success of any practical treatment.

Material performance problems are usually due to the original design, choice of materials and incompatibility of juxtapositioned materials, construction techniques and later treatments. For example:

- Poor design detailing may result in cracking of joint-lines or water may become trapped in undercut surfaces
- Inadequate rain protection in the design can lead to run-offs and differential staining or erosion

- Inferior or poor durability materials reduces the life expectancy of the original memorial or monument
- Incorrect orientation of bedding planes can result in the memorial stone de-layering and other types of erosion
- Different thermal expansion coefficients are created by the juxtaposition of incompatible materials causing stresses, and in turn cracks or preferential decay
- Embedded iron fixings expand as they rust and push masonry elements apart
- Inadequately secured metal railings can begin to tilt
- Inadequate footings or foundations may result in structures slumping or leaning, especially larger monuments or tall headstones
- Unsuitable mortar accelerates decay around joint-lines
- Harsh or injudicious cleaning may accelerate decay or promote surface breakdown on both stones and metals

## MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE

The best means of long-term preservation is routine care and maintenance, but inappropriate action can be as damaging as no maintenance. Excessive build-up of soil, the establishment of invasive plants and blocked or faulty drains are examples in which lack of maintenance can promote decay. However, most lichens, mosses and some small ferns and wildflowers can be left on monuments, providing they are not so lush as to cause structural damage or obscure carved detail. Such plants contribute to the interest and biodiversity of the cemetery and some lichens are associated with specific stones and should be protected and left in place.

Woody species, such as *Buddleia* do cause physical damage and should be carefully removed without damage to the memorial. Creeping plants, such as ivy or Virginia creeper can be tenacious and can cause physical damage or lead to differential moisture retention and staining on stone or metals.

Examples of inappropriate repair and maintenance include inexpertly applied or inappropriate chemical cleaning agents, application of unsuitable paints and surface treatments and poorly executed and non-compatible mortar pointing. In this respect, it is essential that only suitably experienced specialists – conservators, monumental masons or stonemasons and architectural metalworkers – who have a clear understanding of

36 The Aberdeenshire red Rubislaw granite memorials stand out amongst other stones in the City of London Cemetery.

37 A dilapidated Gothic memorial in the Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey.





38 Damage caused by unchecked tree growth at Nunhead Cemetery, London. K030022

39 When left unchecked vegetation becomes rank and secondary woodland trees become invasive causing damage to and destabilisation of memorials as seen here at Arnos Vale, Bristol.



appropriate treatments and display the required skills to execute these to a high standard are engaged in the repair of the most important historic memorials.

The need to prevent theft and vandalism is an important preventive conservation aspect of care and maintenance. Surfaces are defaced by graffiti or abrasion and components may be broken off and discarded. Metal roofing materials are attractive to thieves and entire monuments may be stolen for re-sale as architectural salvage. It is important, therefore, that security measures to reduce the impact of theft or vandalism are considered and a rapid response is often necessary to remove graffiti as soon as possible after it occurs. This requires the sensitive skills of experienced

operatives, but this must be executed in a controlled manner to prevent shadowing occurring where the graffiti has been removed and thus avoid an imbalance between the cleaned and non-cleaned surfaces. In some situations it is necessary to retain lichens or other surface detail and particular care and the expertise of a conservator may be required to remove the graffiti.

Similarly, physical damage should be investigated and recorded at an early stage. Detailed examination will assess the full extent of the problem and its impact on any surrounding features and identify potential health and safety risks. Damage should also be repaired as soon as practicable to prevent further loss of any vulnerable adjoining material.

## IDENTIFICATION, DOCUMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

The first stage in documenting historic cemeteries is to create an inventory, but this does not need to equal the archaeological exhaustiveness of Harold Mytum's *Recording and Analysing Graveyards* (2000). A preliminary survey should reveal and document what is of interest and provide an illustrated record to include the location, dimensions, description, materials of construction and current condition of each memorial. Specialists may be required, for example, to identify the stone types or other materials of construction and to carry out a detailed condition or structural assessment of the more complex structures. However, most of the more straightforward recording can be undertaken by volunteers, once the surveying process and a common framework is devised. Volunteers may need to be trained in visual examination and recording procedures to provide a consistent level of observation.

## RISK ASSESSMENT

As the result of well-publicised accidents and fatalities within graveyards and cemeteries in the past 10 years there is now increased awareness and concern regarding public safety and the potential dangers, especially of large headstones or monuments. Unstable, poorly secured or physically damaged memorials can pose a serious hazard to cemetery workers and visitors. However, the risks need to be objectively evaluated and an order of priority established for any emergency measures or practical intervention. Typically, less than 10 per cent of Victorian memorials failed safety checks by local authorities, whereas many more post-war memorials were found to be unstable (Public Services Ombudsman *et al* 2006). The Local Government Ombudsmen's advice and guidance on memorials is summarised on p 27. The Institute of

Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) representing the cemetery services professions has also published national guidance on the management of memorials. This document includes advice on the inspection process, assessing risk and example inspection sheets. Historic Scotland has issued two leaflets on health and safety in historic graveyards, one aimed at visitors and owners and the other for work teams and volunteers (see Further reading).

Risk assessments are a central part of the inspection process. Legally it is the responsibility of the cemetery manager to carry out risk assessment; and cemetery managers and their surveyors need to ensure this is carried out on a routine basis. All observations should be carefully recorded in a clear manner, perhaps using a standardised format, especially for large numbers of memorial or complete cemeteries. Repeat inspection is the best means of monitoring the condition of the memorials and determining if change over time is affecting their stability. This also assists in programming necessary repairs before instability occurs, which prevents unnecessary damage or loss of important detail, and it also reduces expenditure.

The design and scale of many memorials and monuments within historic cemeteries present such different problems to modern cemeteries containing relatively small, upright memorials or low, horizontal monumental components. It is therefore, essential that professional specialists (architect, surveyor, conservator or structural engineer) with relevant experience of historic buildings, sculpture or monuments undertake the inspection.

A visual and physical examination should aim to establish all or most of the factors affecting the condition and stability of the memorial. This may require further practical or scientific investigation to substantiate the initial observations.

Memorials or monuments in historic cemeteries may not be perfectly upright or sometimes appear unstable. This may be due to a combination of inadequate foundations, ground movement due to subsidence or tree roots, corrosion of internal iron fixings, or physical separation of individual components. The danger presented by these hazards must be clearly identified and categorised, with the aim of removing the risk entirely, or reducing the potential for damage and injury by preventive measures or practical intervention. In general, less risk of serious injury is attached to small headstones or memorials and conversely larger memorials are susceptible to greater instability and present a higher potential health and safety hazard.

40 The figures in this memorial plaque have been decapitated.

41 Following inspection, notices at this cemetery have been posted on each unstable memorial to warn of the potential hazard and to ask owners to contact the cemetery office.





## MEMORIAL SAFETY IN LOCAL AUTHORITY CEMETERIES

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### General advice

- Councils have an overriding duty to take, as far as reasonably practicable, measures to prevent injury or death from unstable materials.
- Councils must balance the (sometimes slight) risk of injury on the one hand and the certainty of distress and outrage if memorials are laid down on the other.

#### Information

- Councils should give public notice in advance of carrying out a general testing programme.
- Councils should notify individual owners of rights of burial that testing is to be carried out, unless records are out of date, or urgent action is required in the interests of health and safety.
- Councils should notify the owner of the right of burial, if known, if a memorial fails the test.
- A council should display, in the cemetery itself and on the council's website, lists of memorials which failed the test. Individual notices should be placed on or near a memorial which fails the test, giving the council's contact details and the period for making contact.
- Councils may offer demonstrations of their safety testing procedure to owners and interested members of the public.

#### Training

- Personnel carrying out testing must be properly trained.

#### Risk assessment

- Councils should have a system for assessing the risk posed by individual unstable memorials. Simply to lay down all memorials that move is inappropriate.

#### Survey

- The maximum period between inspections should be five years.
- More frequent inspection may be required for individual memorials whose condition requires it, or generally where other factors dictate shorter periods.

#### Testing

- Councils should have a testing policy.

#### Making memorials safe

- Councils should have regard to alternatives to laying down if a memorial fails the test.
- A temporary support and warning notice is likely to cause less public outrage than laying large numbers of memorials flat.
- Laying down may be necessary but only to prevent a genuine hazard to health and safety that cannot be remedied by a temporary support.

#### Action after a memorial has been made safe

- The principal responsibility for maintaining a memorial in a safe condition is that of the owner.
- In the absence of maladministration in the testing process, there is no obligation on a council to meet the cost of remedial work.
- Re-fixing, where necessary, should be carried out to an approved standard.
- We commend the practice of councils that establish hardship funds to assist owners who cannot meet some or all of the repair costs, and councils that pay for all repairs themselves in the interests of preserving the amenity of their cemeteries or where no responsible person can be found.

Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and the Commission for Local Administration in England, March 2006. *Special Report Memorial Safety in Local Authority Cemeteries. Advice and Guidance from the Local Government Ombudsmen*. London and Pencoed. [www.lgo.org.uk](http://www.lgo.org.uk)

The range and extent of the hazards must be assessed on an individual basis by determining:

- The size and stability of the memorial
- The nature of the materials involved
- The surrounding above and below ground level conditions
- Evidence and degree of cracking
- The risks of detaching components
- The effect of vegetation
- How the structure can be stabilised (temporarily or permanently).

The common action where instability exists has been to lay memorials flat or set them into the ground. Whilst the temporary dismantling of high-risk headstones is a reasonable response to safety concerns, this is not an acceptable permanent solution for architecturally or historically important memorials and monuments. Such action within an historic cemetery will normally require listed building consent and this is likely to be rejected in favour of a better long-term solution involving conservation repair techniques.

Nevertheless, emergency treatment or temporarily isolating and cordoning-off unstable structures is essential whilst decisions are reached on the extent of the required repair work and the preparation of specifications and costs. The severity of the instability will determine the exact actions required, but erecting secure fencing to enclose a structure and other temporary support systems would be appropriate. Safety measures to prevent injury must be acted upon once instability has been established and a rigid enclosing barrier with suitable warning signs erected should be located a safe distance away from the affected structure. Such barriers should only be used for a limited period and they will also require inspection to ensure that safety has not been breached until the memorial or monument has been permanently repaired. Barriers and signs can be unsightly and it is not acceptable to use these measures for a prolonged period of time in an historic setting or to neglect carrying out the repairs.

Testing procedures for memorials measuring from 1.5–2.5m in height are being developed by the Memorial Safety Sub Committee to the Department for Constitutional Affairs' Burial and Cemeteries Advisory Group. Their proposed visual inspection as the first stage is acceptable, but the suggested supplementary hand testing by a person

exerting physical force of 35kg (350 newtons) for memorials measuring up to 2.5m high could possibly inflict damage on an historic memorial. Similarly, their suggested force measuring equipment to estimate failure for memorials up to 1.5m high should not be used on listed memorials or those of historic value without first contacting English Heritage. Apart from the historic and social significance of these memorials, they will in many cases be highly carved or composed of decorative elements. These are susceptible to damage from undue physical forces applied incorrectly and it is difficult to apply a uniform testing procedure to historic memorials constructed in a variable manner.

The best means of assessing safety in these situations requires a combination of detailed visual inspection, related simple physical investigation of the components of the memorial and judgement by a suitably experienced surveyor, conservator or structural engineer. Stability can be tested during the inspection process by applying gentle pressure to the headstone at shoulder height and by working from the side to prevent injury. Any movement, however slight will be observed at the base of a headstone or between the joints in smaller composite memorials or monuments and will reflect the degree of risk.

The employment of a surveyor, conservator or structural engineer can be justified for significantly important memorials or ensembles within a cemetery. This is, however, affected by available funding and the size and number of memorials requiring assessment. Moreover, the cost must be balanced against the difficulty in expecting the average trained operative to have the necessary understanding and experience to make the required judgements. This is also further influenced by legal responsibility for such inspections and having professional indemnity insurance to cover the consequences of inappropriate judgements.

English Heritage is developing guidelines regarding the potential effects on historic memorials from the implementation of formal memorial safety guidelines and/or legislation. English Heritage is happy to advise any individual or organisation on any issue relating to listed buildings or scheduled monuments. It is possible that certain works (including physical testing) to a listed or scheduled memorial will require the appropriate legal consent prior to the commencement of such works. Details of the various designations and relevant consent bodies are described on pp 10–18 of this leaflet.



# PRACTICAL CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

## MEMORIAL CONSERVATION

The aim of any practical intervention on memorials within historic cemeteries is to slow down the rate of deterioration and remove any causes and effects of structural instability and provide physical security. This must also preserve as much as possible of the historic significance and integrity of the individual or collective memorials. Practical treatment should use compatible materials and follow a policy of minimum intervention and should avoid replacing missing ornamental detail, especially if the design of the replacement is conjectural. Such losses and the effects of weathering are part of the history of the memorial or monument and the aim should never be to achieve a pristine or highly restored condition that alters the appearance or the artist's original intention. Successful conservation and repair requires careful planning and the requisite understanding and knowledge of the suitable approaches and replacement methods and materials. Highly developed practical skills are also essential to execute the work to the required standard.

Within the context of this document it is not possible to provide the type of detailed information necessary for step-by-step evaluation and methods of conservation repair work. However, this will be covered in a forthcoming English Heritage technical guide to the inspection, conservation, maintenance and repair of historic gravestones and monuments, which is due to be published in 2007.

There are four main practical treatment types for memorials and monuments – emergency intervention, repair, cleaning, and consolidation and surface treatment.

Emergency intervention is undertaken to make the memorial or monument safe and to allow further inspection, stabilisation and repair work. Supports and props may be needed to secure displaced elements and enclosing barriers to prevent public access.

Repair can range from localised re-pointing of open joint-lines, grouting surface stabilisation and treatment of individual elements to complete dismantling of a memorial or structure, removal of corroded internal metal fixings and re-building. Repair of large structures will involve specialist lifting equipment and techniques.

Cleaning can vary from simple removal of loose atmospheric soiling to laser cleaning, depending on the nature of the original material and dirt layers. The aim is always to clean in the safest and most effective manner without damaging the underlying material. Non-invasive and non-woody plants like lichens are unlikely to cause damage to the structure.

Consolidation work aims to restore cohesion and physical strength to degenerating materials. Surface treatments aim to provide a protective layer. The types of treatment and appropriate method of application must be determined by suitably experienced personnel.

Many aspects of repair and maintenance of historic memorials and monuments, especially involving complex structures are within the domain of professional experts. Architects and surveyors are necessary to inspect buildings and larger structures and, in cases of serious structural instability, they will advise on whether the services of a structural engineer are required. Specialist conservators are engaged to evaluate and analyse the condition of the materials of construction, treat decay and clean and stabilise the surfaces of headstones, tombs and monuments. Stonemasons, historic building contractors and metalworkers are required to repair headstones, provide temporary support to displaced elements, repoint defective or failed joint-lines and rebuild collapsed or unstable table tombs.

Volunteers can have a role to play in tackling the majority of the cyclical maintenance work, including the production and regular updating of the condition assessment reports in the inventory, pruning invasive woody vegetation and other higher plants that affect the surrounding memorials. They can also carry out basic cleaning as long as a clear method statement has been provided by a professional conservator and after appropriate training. In these circumstances, it is important that volunteers work in a restrained, controlled manner and if they encounter more complex problems the cemetery manager must be alerted so that further advice can be obtained.

## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

The significance of the historic landscape design of cemeteries is often overlooked and designs are disrupted by unfortunate developments such as the location of new burial plots in carriage drives and paths or the introduction of new landscaping. With each generation of cemeteries, new ideas in landscape design are explored and early examples of each period may represent pioneering concepts in terms of both layout and planting. Changes are sometimes inevitable but a good understanding of the cemetery layout and the aims of the design will help guide decisions towards the placing of harmonious or inconspicuous new memorials alongside old ones and the avoidance of placing new burials in key vistas, avenues and paths.

Analysis of the historic landscape design would include a look at its aesthetic qualities and its functionality. The siting of chapels, drives and landscape planting were often planned to lead visitors through the cemetery, establish a contemplative ambience and discretely guide and separate different users and uses. The historic trees and shrubs are likely to have been chosen to evoke a place of mourning and contemplation, or an idealised landscape – a paradise. New planting should be in keeping with the historic design including the siting of trees and shrubs, and chosen species and forms. Similarly features like paths, hedges and borders should be carefully designed to complement the historic landscape. The standard of maintenance needs to reflect the aims of the design too. For example, avenues and shrubberies and their forms, may have been designed to frame views and vistas, or to create areas. Management regimes – and a hierarchy of management intensity – can help guide visitors around the cemetery and show active care for the cemetery.

In programming cemetery maintenance tasks, thought needs to be given on how to conserve and enhance the character of the historic design and integrate nature conservation interests, such as the natural propagation of wild flowers, and environmentally sensitive management.

There are various publications on preparing plans for restoring historic landscape designs. English Heritage will advise on plans for registered sites (Grade I and II\*) and the Garden History Society and county gardens trusts may also be able to advise on the historic interest of cemetery designs (see Useful contacts).

42 Work underway by specialist contractors to repair memorials in Nunhead Cemetery, London. © Stonewest Ltd

43 Nunhead Cemetery Anglican Chapel, designed by Thomas Little in 1843 and listed Grade II, forms the centrepiece of the landscape design. There was a major fire in 1974 and the pyramidal roof was lost. A Heritage Lottery Grant resulted in the remaining fabric being stabilised and made safe in 2000–01. K030020



## MANAGING FOR WILDLIFE AND GEOLOGY

The principal wildlife habitats found in cemeteries are woodland and species-rich grassland, although many also support thickets, scrub, heath, veteran trees and wetlands. These may be fragments of former countryside and as such retain much of their natural character and features making them of particular nature conservation value. Trees from former landscapes incorporated in the landscape design can be of considerable stature and age. These veteran trees provide important habitat for many species like invertebrates and fungi and host

44 Eastfield Cemetery, Peterborough. Species-rich grassland supports various interesting plants including hoary plantain (*Plantago media*), ox-eye daisy (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*) and meadow saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*). *Natural England* 12071

45 The stag beetle, the larva of which lives in the decaying wood of deciduous trees, is in decline. A contributing factor is the removal of tree stumps and dead wood resulting in a loss of habitat. *Natural England*



breeding birds and roosting bats. The built structures in cemeteries also provide wildlife habitats like the lichens on monuments.

Habitats need to be managed. Without active management, shrubs and trees tend to seed and establish themselves and through this natural process of succession, areas of grassland and other open habitats become colonised by scrub and trees. Conservation management aims to 'arrest' this succession. Non-intervention or low key management may be appropriate on some sites but not benign neglect. The art of good management is to

optimise the quality and diversity of wildlife and natural features and to be able to sustain this in the long term. Local biodiversity action plans can provide a valuable reference for identifying habitats and features of local conservation significance. Although many areas do not yet have local geodiversity action plans, consulting local geologists, including the Regionally Important Geological Sites Groups, can help identify features of particular geological interest.

Whilst it may be possible to create new habitats as well as managing existing ones of conservation value, such changes need to be considered both in the context of the historic design of the cemetery, its role, and any additional maintenance costs this may imply.

Well-planned conservation management for wildlife is generally less intensive, and can be resource-efficient. If well planned, it can also complement the historic landscape design and add a romantic quality. Habitat management in a cemetery is more akin to gardening than standard nature reserve management techniques. In the longer term, effective management should reduce the need for chemical control. It is good practice to identify wildlife management areas and to rotate these areas over a number of years. This helps to gently and incrementally restore the site and helps spread costs and workloads.

In the wildlife areas vegetation need not be cut so regularly, nor is there any need to cut to formal lines as in other parts of the cemetery, although it is good practice to demarcate areas managed for wildlife so as to show that apparent neglect is intentional and managed. Techniques such as mowing strips along main paths and drives can help guide visitors around the cemetery and show active management is underway. Different habitats require different styles of management and different budget planning. Health and safety considerations apply to wildlife areas and features, and where trees and other woody species are undermining memorials they will need to be removed.

Natural England encourages the following management principles:

- Avoiding the bird breeding season (February to August) for all tree and shrub management to prevent nests, eggs and young birds being disturbed or destroyed
- Retaining, where safety permits, dead and dying trees (both standing and fallen) as additional habitats and to help grade the change between grassland and woodland habitats



- Managing grassland to benefit wildflowers and insects by cutting either once (late August/early September) or twice a year (June and October) and removing cuttings
- Composting of cuttings rather than burning but if burning is the only available option then to identify one specific burn site
- Controlling invasive weeds such as Japanese knotweed but leaving some corners where plants such as bramble and nettle can grow
- Limiting the use of herbicides, pesticides and other chemicals; use should be carefully targeted to tackle specific problems where other forms of management are impractical
- Providing bird boxes for a range of species if there are few large old trees and built structures
- Retaining patches of bare ground in sunny areas for solitary bees and wasps
- Providing information and interpretation of the site's natural features and their conservation management
- Involving local people in conservation management work
- Establishing new trees and shrubs where the existing cover is poor (appropriate to the historic landscape design)

More recent cemeteries may lack areas rich in wildlife. Beside tree and shrub planting, establishing wildflowers in selected areas can help make these places more attractive. The introduction of such features should be considered carefully within the context of the landscape design of the cemetery and its overall management. Ideally plant material of local provenance should be used, although the use of exotic and naturalised species to maintain the integrity of the landscape design may preclude this. Where there are trees of historic importance, scions could be made to grow replacements.

## FUNDING

Funding for cemeteries is potentially available through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and the Big Lottery Fund. The HLF supports projects that care for and protect our heritage, increase understanding and enjoyment, give people a better opportunity to experience heritage by improving access, improve people's quality of life by benefiting the community and the wider public. Several cemeteries, including Nunhead Cemetery in London and Arncliffe Cemetery in Bristol, have already benefited handsomely

46 A plant border has been created as a habitat for butterflies. The biodiversity interest can often be enhanced but planting different trees and creating other wildlife features may not be appropriate in some historic cemeteries. *Natural England 14003*



from this source. The Big Lottery Fund aims to help communities understand, improve or care for their local environment (see Useful contacts).

English Heritage also can offer grants for Grade I and II\* listed buildings and monuments, for scheduled monuments, and for registered parks and gardens. Some local planning authorities also run grant schemes to repair historic buildings and preserve conservation areas (see Useful contacts).

The Architectural Heritage Fund helps buildings preservation trusts to rescue redundant historic buildings, and publishes a comprehensive annual guide to grants and loan schemes. For further contact details and other potential sources of funding see Useful contacts.

#### 47 and 48

The Historic Chapels Trust has undertaken a programme of repair on the Greek Revival styled Dissenter's Chapel at Kensal Green Cemetery. An early artist's impression served as a guide for the repair of the curved flanking colonnades which had fallen into total disrepair. K970179; K970169

47



48



49 There are no grant schemes specifically for cemetery conservation but grants like the war memorial scheme may be appropriate for individual features.

49



Grants for  
**WAR MEMORIALS**

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## VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS

Wildlife and historic research, recording projects, and practical conservation work is often a good way of involving local communities in understanding and enjoying the landscape and its upkeep. Indeed, it's the cemetery Friends' groups that have led cemetery conservation. Many of the cemetery Friends started as pressure groups concerned about the neglect of a cemetery or proposals for inappropriate use. They are often involved in monitoring maintenance and restoration work and, if given the opportunity, help in a practical way. The groups have also produced leaflets on their cemeteries and helped to raise funds.

Practical conservation projects need good co-ordination between cemetery staff and volunteers but should not be treated as a cheap option to improve conservation management. Volunteers should not, of course, undertake conservation work in cemeteries without prior agreement of the cemetery owner.

The National Federation of Cemetery Friends will help new groups get started and share notes on saving cemeteries. Organisations like the BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers), the wildlife trusts, and the county gardens trusts (Association of Gardens Trusts) run conservation training courses, and will help organise new groups and projects (see Useful contacts).

## FURTHER READING

### LAW, POLICY, DESIGNATIONS AND THE PLANNING SYSTEM

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UK Biodiversity Website has information on local, species and habitat action plan summaries. [www.ukbap.org.uk/plans](http://www.ukbap.org.uk/plans)

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[www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/vertebrates/EPs.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/vertebrates/EPs.htm)  
[www.naturalengland.org.uk/conservation/wildlife-management-licensing/default.htm](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/conservation/wildlife-management-licensing/default.htm)

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[www.pmsa.org.uk](http://www.pmsa.org.uk)

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Living Churchyard and Cemetery Project publications:  
[info@arthurrankcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@arthurrankcentre.org.uk), [www.arthurrankcentre.org/arc3](http://www.arthurrankcentre.org/arc3)

— *Daisy Chains* – education pack

— *Hunt the Daisy* – education pack (National Curriculum Key Stage 2, 7 to 11-year-olds).

— *Living Churchyard and Cemetery Project* – audio cassette; DIY information pack; poster; slide/tape pack; video

— *Meeting with Nature* – slide pack and booklet

— *Sacred Gardens: A Living Growing Memory*

Living Churchyard and Cemetery Project free leaflets: *Bats in Churchyards*; *Birds in Churchyards*; *Churchyard Lichens*; *Discovering Butterflies in Churchyards*; *Dry Stone Walls around Churchyards*; *Geology in the Churchyard*; *Grassland in Churchyards*; *Nature in Churchyards: Conservation Guide*; *Trees and Hedges in Churchyards*

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# USEFUL CONTACTS

## GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

### CABE Space and CABE

1 Kemble Street

London WC2B 4AN

Tel: 020 7070 6700 Fax: 020 7070 6777

Email: [enquiries@cabe.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@cabe.org.uk)

Websites: [www.cabe.org.uk](http://www.cabe.org.uk) and [www.cabespace.org.uk](http://www.cabespace.org.uk)

CABE Space aims to bring excellence to the design, management and maintenance of parks and public space in our towns and cities. CABE Space, established in 2003, is part of CABE, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, which champions the quality of our buildings and spaces.

### Department for Communities and Local Government

Eland House

Bressenden Place

London SW1E 5DU

Tel: 020 7944 4400

Fax: 020 7944 9645

Email: [contactus@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:contactus@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Website: [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)

DCLG is responsible for housing, urban regeneration, planning, local government and promoting community cohesion and equality.

### Department for Constitutional Affairs

Coroners Division, Ground Floor, 4 Abbey Orchard Street

London SW1P 2HT

Tel: 020 7340 6661 Fax: 020 7340 6680

Website: [www.dca.gov.uk/corbur](http://www.dca.gov.uk/corbur)

The Department is responsible for burial and cremation law and practice, including exhumation. The Welsh Assembly is responsible for regulations in Wales. In Scotland, responsibility for the relevant law lies with the Scottish Executive. Before June 2005, the government department responsible for burial law in England was the Home Office.

Burial and Cemeteries Advisory Group

Website: [www.dca.gov.uk/corbur/burial01.htm](http://www.dca.gov.uk/corbur/burial01.htm)

The Burial and Cemeteries Advisory Group was established in December 2001 following the March 2001 report on cemeteries by the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee). The Group was established to use the collective expertise of the industry, and to provide advice and information for burial authorities, the public, and government, including in connection with the review of burial law.

### Disability Rights Commission

DRC Helpline, FREEPOST MID02164

Stratford upon Avon CV37 9BR

Tel: 08457 622 633 Textphone: 08457 622 644

Website: [www.drc-gb.org.uk](http://www.drc-gb.org.uk)

The DRC is an independent body established in 2000 by Act of Parliament to stop discrimination and promote equality of opportunity for disabled people. The DRC website has useful links for disability organisations, advisory organisations, and accessibility technology.

### English Heritage

1 Waterhouse Square, 138–142 Holborn

London EC1N 2ST

Tel: 020 7973 3000 Fax: 020 7973 3001

Email: [customers@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk)

Website: [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

English Heritage's role is to make sure that the historic environment of England is properly maintained and cared for. By employing some of the country's very best architects, archaeologists and historians, English Heritage aims to help people understand and appreciate why the historic buildings and landscapes around them matter. From the first traces of civilisation, to the most significant buildings of the 20th century, English Heritage wants every important historic site to get the care and attention it deserves.

### HELM Historic Environment Local Management

English Heritage's web-based resource to enable local authorities to manage change in the historic environment with skill and confidence [www.helm.org.uk](http://www.helm.org.uk)

### English Heritage – National Monuments Record Centre (NMRC)

NMR Enquiry and Research Services

National Monuments Record Centre

Great Western Village, Kemble Drive

Swindon SN2 2GZ

Tel: 01793 414600 Fax: 01793 414606

Email: [nmr@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:nmr@english-heritage.org.uk)

To find out whether a building or monument is listed, or a cemetery landscape design is registered. English Heritage can provide free copies of the 'listing description' of up to three buildings within five working days (or next day, for a fee).

**English Heritage Customer Services** – Catalogue and ordering for free publications

PO Box 569

Swindon SN2 2YP

Tel: 0870 333 1181

Email: [customers@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk)

Website: [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

### **English Nature**

(now part of Natural England)

### **Health and Safety Executive (HSE)**

HSE Infoline, Caerphilly Business Park

Caerphilly CF83 3GG

Tel: 0845 345 0055 Fax: 0845 408 9566

Minicom 0845 408 9577

Email: [hseinformationservices@natbrit.com](mailto:hseinformationservices@natbrit.com)

Website: [www.hse.gov.uk](http://www.hse.gov.uk)

HSE's mission is to protect people's health and safety by ensuring risks in the changing workplace are properly controlled.

### **HSE publications**

HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury

Suffolk CO10 2WA

Tel: 01787 881165 Fax: 01787 313995

Email: [hsebooks@prolog.uk.com](mailto:hsebooks@prolog.uk.com) Website: [www.hsebooks.co.uk](http://www.hsebooks.co.uk)

### **Historic Scotland**

Longmore House, Salisbury Place

Edinburgh EH9 1SH

Tel: 0131 668 8600

Tel: 0131 668 8638 for conservation publications and free leaflets

Website: [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)

Historic Scotland safeguards the nation's historic environment and promotes its understanding and enjoyment on behalf of the Scottish ministers.

### **Home Office**

See Department for Constitutional Affairs

### **Natural England**

Enquiries, Natural England, Northminster House

Peterborough PE1 1UA

Tel: 0845 600 3078 Fax: 01733 455103

Email: [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)

Website: [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

Natural England is the new government body working for people, places and nature, enhancing biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas; promoting access, recreation and public well-being, and contributing to the way natural resources are managed so that they can be enjoyed now and in the future.

### **Natural England publications**

Tel: 0870 120 6466

Email: [naturalengland@twoten.com](mailto:naturalengland@twoten.com).

Alternatively Natural England free publications can be

downloaded from the following sites:

[www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/publication/pub\\_search.asp](http://www.english-nature.org.uk/pubs/publication/pub_search.asp)

[www.countryside.gov.uk/publications](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/publications)

[www.defra.gov.uk/rds/publications](http://www.defra.gov.uk/rds/publications)

### **Office of the Deputy Prime Minister**

See Department for Communities and Local Government

### **Planning Portal**

Website: [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)

The UK Government's one-stop-shop for planning information and services online. This planning resource provides information on planning permission and appeals, government policy, and contact details.

## **BURIAL, CREMATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATIONS**

### **Association of Burial Authorities**

155 Upper Street

London N1 1RA

Tel: 020 7288 2522 Fax: 020 7288 2533

Email: [aba@swa-pr.co.uk](mailto:aba@swa-pr.co.uk)

ABA represents the interests of organisations engaged in the management and operation of burial grounds. It has taken on some of the functions of the Memorial Advisory Bureau and is a useful source of advice on conservation and maintenance issues in churchyards and cemeteries.

### **Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers**

Cornerstone, Forbe

Alford AB33 8QH

Tel: 01287 205863

Email: [algao-cji@ntlworld.com](mailto:algao-cji@ntlworld.com) Website: [www.algao.org.uk](http://www.algao.org.uk)

The Association provides a forum representing archaeologists working for local authorities, including national parks, throughout England and Wales. ALGAO's range of interests embrace all aspects of the historic environment.

### **Confederation of Burial Authorities**

See Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management

### **Council for British Archaeology**

St Mary's House, 66 Bootham

York YO30 7BZ

Tel: 01904 671417 Fax: 01904 671384

Email: [info@britarch.ac.uk](mailto:info@britarch.ac.uk) Website: [www.britarch.ac.uk](http://www.britarch.ac.uk)

The CBA is the principal UK-wide non-governmental organisation that promotes knowledge, appreciation and care of the historic environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

### **The Cremation Society of Great Britain**

2nd Floor, Brecon House, 16/16a Albion Place, Maidstone

Kent ME14 5DZ

Tel: 01622 688292/3 Fax: 01622 686698

Email: [cremsoc@aol.com](mailto:cremsoc@aol.com) Website: [www.cremation.org.uk](http://www.cremation.org.uk)

The society promotes cremation.



### **The Federation of British Cremation Authorities**

41 Salisbury Road, Carshalton  
Surrey SM5 3HA  
Tel: 020 8669 4521 Website: [www.fbca.org.uk](http://www.fbca.org.uk)

The Federation of British Cremation Authorities represents 94% of all cremation authorities in the United Kingdom and has one overseas member in Canada.

### **Local Government Association**

Local Government House, Smith Square  
London SW1P 3HZ  
Tel: 020 7664 3000 Fax: 020 7664 3030  
Email: [info@lga.gov.uk](mailto:info@lga.gov.uk) Website: [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

The LGA represents all local authorities in England and Wales and promotes better local government.

### **GreenSpace** (formerly the Urban Parks Forum Ltd)

Caversham Court, Church Road, Reading  
Berkshire RG4 7AD  
Tel: 0118 946 9060 Fax: 0118 946 9061  
Email: [info@green-space.org.uk](mailto:info@green-space.org.uk) Website: [www.green-space.org.uk](http://www.green-space.org.uk)

GreenSpace is a registered charity set up to help those committed to the planning, design, management and use of public parks and open spaces.

### **Heritage Building Contractors Group**

c/o Linford Group Ltd  
Quonians, Lichfield  
Staffordshire WS13 7LB  
Tel: 01543 441367 Fax: 01543 410 065  
Email: [dlinford@linford-bridgeman.co.uk](mailto:dlinford@linford-bridgeman.co.uk)

The Group has a membership of highly-skilled, specialist contractors prominent in the repair of historic buildings, monuments and sites.

### **Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management**

City of London Cemetery  
Aldersbrook Road, Manor Park  
London E12 5DQ  
Tel: 020 8989 4661 Fax: 020 8989 6112  
Email: [julie@iccm.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:julie@iccm.fsnet.co.uk) Website: [www.iccm-uk.com](http://www.iccm-uk.com)

The ICCM facilitates the better provision, operation, administration and management of cemeteries, crematoria and bereavement related services. (The ICCM was formed from the merger of the IBCA and the CBA).

### **Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management**

ILAM House, Lower Basildon  
Reading RG8 9NE  
Tel: 01491 874800 Fax: 01491 874801  
Website: [www.ilam.co.uk](http://www.ilam.co.uk)

ILAM is the professional body for the leisure industry and represents the interests of leisure managers across all sectors and specialisms of leisure.

### **Institution of Civil Engineers**

1 Great George Street  
London SW1P 3AA  
Tel: 020 7222 7722 Fax: 020 7222 7500  
Website: [www.ice.org.uk](http://www.ice.org.uk)

The Institution of Civil Engineers is an independent engineering institution representing professionally qualified civil engineers.

### **Landscape Institute**

33 Great Portland Street  
London W1W 8QG  
Tel: 020 7299 4500 Fax: 020 7299 4501  
Email: [mail@l-i.org.uk](mailto:mail@l-i.org.uk) Website: [www.l-i.org.uk](http://www.l-i.org.uk)

The Landscape Institute is the chartered institute in the UK for landscape architects, incorporating designers, managers and scientists, concerned with enhancing and conserving the environment. The Landscape Institute promotes the highest standards in the practice of landscape architecture and management. Its main object is to regulate the way its members operate through its mandatory code of professional conduct.

### **The National Association of Memorial Masons**

27a Albert Street, Rugby  
Warwickshire CV21 2SG  
Tel: 01788 542264 Fax: 01788 542276  
Email: [enquiries@namm.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@namm.org.uk) Website: [www.namm.org.uk](http://www.namm.org.uk)

The aim of the Association is to further the memorial masonry industry and safeguard the interests of the bereaved through the promotion of high standards, wide choice and increased understanding in all matters relating to natural stone memorials.

### **Royal Institute of British Architects**

66 Portland Place  
London W1B 4AD  
Tel: 020 7580 5533 Fax: 020 7255 1541  
Email: [admin@inst.riba.org](mailto:admin@inst.riba.org) Website: [www.riba.org.uk](http://www.riba.org.uk)

The RIBA's mission is to advance architecture by demonstrating benefit to society and promoting excellence in the profession.

### **Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and RICS Building Conservation Forum**

12 Great George Street  
London SW1P 3AD  
Tel: 0207 222 7000 Fax: 0207 222 9430  
Email: [info@rics.org.uk](mailto:info@rics.org.uk) Website: [www.rics.org.uk](http://www.rics.org.uk)

Building Conservation Forum  
Website: [www.rics.org/buildingconservation](http://www.rics.org/buildingconservation)

RICS is a global professional body that represents, regulates and promotes chartered surveyors and technical surveyors. RICS Building Conservation Forum is a forum for chartered surveyors linked by a common interest in conservation and using its profile.

#### **Stone Federation of Great Britain**

Channel Business Centre

Ingles Manor, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone

Kent CT20 2RD

Tel: 01303 856123 Fax: 01303 221095

Website: [www.stone-federationgb.org.uk](http://www.stone-federationgb.org.uk)

The Stone Federation of Great Britain provides specifiers and users with a first point of contact for information, advice and guidance in sourcing an appropriate material and a reliable service.

#### **United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works**

3rd Floor, Downstream Building, 1 London Bridge

London SE1 9BG

Tel: 020 7785 3805 Fax: 020 7785 3806

Email: [admin@instituteofconservation.org.uk](mailto:admin@instituteofconservation.org.uk)

Website: [www.ukic.org.uk](http://www.ukic.org.uk)

UKIC is the professional body representing those who care for the country's cultural objects and heritage collections. The Institute exists to foster excellence in the provision of conservation services, to raise awareness of the importance of conservation skills, and to provide information and advice to those requiring conservation services.

### **HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATIONS**

#### **The Architectural Heritage Fund**

Clareville House, 26/27 Oxenden Street

London SW1Y 4EL

Tel: 020 7925 0199

Email: [ahf@ahfund.org.uk](mailto:ahf@ahfund.org.uk) Website: [www.ahfund.org.uk](http://www.ahfund.org.uk)

The Architectural Heritage Fund helps to repair and regenerate historic buildings by helping voluntary and community groups, with grants, low-interest loans, and advice.

#### **Association of Gardens Trusts**

70 Cowcross Street

London EC1M 6EJ

Tel/Fax: 020 7251 2610 Website: [www.gardenstrusts.co.uk](http://www.gardenstrusts.co.uk)

The AGT is the national organisation of County Gardens Trusts engaged in conserving, researching, documenting and caring for parks, gardens and designed landscapes.

**Cathedral and Church Buildings** (formerly the Council for the Care of Churches)

Church House, Great Smith Street

London SW1P 3NZ

Tel: 020 7898 1000

Website: [www.cofe.anglican.org/about/cathedralchurchbuild/](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/cathedralchurchbuild/)

The organisation is responsible for national policy on the Church of England's buildings which are used for worship and for developing the Church's vision of how it may best use its buildings.

#### **Cemetery Research Group**

Dr Julie Rugg

Centre for Housing Policy, University of York

Heslington

York YO10 5DD

Tel: 01904 321480 Fax: 01904 321481

Email: [jrl0@york.ac.uk](mailto:jrl0@york.ac.uk) Website: [www.york.ac.uk/inst/chp/crg](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/chp/crg)

The principal aim of the CRG is to expand an understanding of current and past burial culture in the modern period in the UK, by studying the ways in which social, emotional and religious concerns have interacted with economic and political imperatives to frame burial practice.

#### **The Churches Conservation Trust**

1 West Smithfield

London EC1A 9EE

Tel: 020 7213 0600 Fax: 020 7213 0678

Email: [central@tcct.org.uk](mailto:central@tcct.org.uk) Website: [www.visitchurches.org.uk](http://www.visitchurches.org.uk)

The Trust cares for redundant churches.

#### **English Historic Towns Forum**

PO Box 22

Bristol BS16 1RZ

Tel: 0117 975 0459 Fax: 0117 975 0460

Website: [www.historic-towns.org/ehf](http://www.historic-towns.org/ehf)

The objective of the EHTF is to promote and reconcile prosperity and conservation in historic towns.

#### **The Garden History Society**

70 Cowcross Street

London EC1M 6EJ

Tel: 020 7608 2409 Fax: 020 7490 2974

Email: [enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org)

Website: [www.gardenhistorysociety.org.uk](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org.uk)

The GHS is the national amenity society for the study and protection of historic parks and gardens.

#### **The Local History Directory**

Website: [www.local-history.co.uk](http://www.local-history.co.uk)

The *Local History Magazine's* website listing county based local history associations, and local history umbrella groups covering towns and conurbations.

### **Survey of the Jewish Built Heritage**

Jewish Heritage UK, PO Box 193  
Manchester M13 9HZ  
Tel: 0161 275 3611  
Email: [director@jewish-heritage-uk.org](mailto:director@jewish-heritage-uk.org) Website: [www.jewish-heritage-uk.org](http://www.jewish-heritage-uk.org)

The Jewish Built Heritage in the UK and Ireland is a comprehensive survey of Jewish monuments and sites.

### **The Victorian Society**

1 Priory Gardens, Bedford Park  
London W4 1TT  
Tel: 0870 774 3698 Fax: 0870 774 3699  
Email: [admin@victorian-society.org.uk](mailto:admin@victorian-society.org.uk)  
Website: [www.victorian-society.org.uk](http://www.victorian-society.org.uk)

A national amenity society for the study and protection of Victorian and Edwardian architecture.

## **MONUMENTS AND SCULPTURE ORGANISATIONS**

### **The Church Monuments Society**

See website for current secretary's address for correspondence  
Email: [churchmonuments@aol.com](mailto:churchmonuments@aol.com)  
Website: [www.freespace.virgin.net/john.bromilow/CMS/](http://www.freespace.virgin.net/john.bromilow/CMS/)

The Church Monuments Society offers a focus for all who have an interest in church monuments of all types and periods. It was conceived to encourage the appreciation, study and conservation of church monuments both in the UK and abroad.

### **The Mausolea and Monuments Trust**

70 Cowcross Street  
London EC1M 6EJ  
Tel/Fax: 020 7608 1441  
Email: [mausolea@btconnect.com](mailto:mausolea@btconnect.com)  
Website: [www.mausolea-monuments.org.uk](http://www.mausolea-monuments.org.uk)

The Mausolea and Monuments Trust is a charitable trust, founded in 1997, for the protection and preservation for the public of mausolea and sepulchral monuments situated within the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

### **The Memorial Awareness Board**

Southbank House, Black Prince Road  
London SE1 7SJ  
Tel: 020 7463 2020 Fax: 020 7463 2008  
Email: [mab@mdacomms.com](mailto:mab@mdacomms.com)  
Website: [www.namm.org.uk](http://www.namm.org.uk)

The organisation is dedicated to furthering the memorial masonry industry and safeguarding the interests of the bereaved through the promotion of high standards, wide choice and increased understanding in all matters relating to natural stone memorials.

### **National Archive of Memorial Inscriptions**

Richard Smart, Director  
De Montfort University, Polhill Avenue  
Bedford MK41 9EA  
Email: [info@memorialinscriptions.org.uk](mailto:info@memorialinscriptions.org.uk)

### **Public Monuments and Sculpture Association**

c/o Courtauld Institute of Art  
Somerset House, Strand  
London WC2R 0RN  
Tel: 020 7848 2614  
E-mail: [pmsa@pmsa.org.uk](mailto:pmsa@pmsa.org.uk) Website: [www.pmsa.org.uk](http://www.pmsa.org.uk)

The PMSA aims to heighten public appreciation of Britain's public sculpture, and to contribute to its preservation, protection and promotion.

### **War Memorials Trust** (formerly known as Friends of War Memorials)

4 Lower Belgrave Street  
London SW1W 0LA  
Tel: 020 7259 0403 (charity) 020 7881 0862 (conservation)  
Fax: 020 7259 0296 Email: [info@warmemorials.org](mailto:info@warmemorials.org)  
Website: [www.warmemorials.org](http://www.warmemorials.org)

The Trust is dedicated to protecting and conserving all War Memorials within the UK forever.

## **WILDLIFE ORGANISATIONS**

### **Alliance of Religions and Conservation**

3 Wynnstay Grove  
Manchester M14 6XG  
Tel: 0161 248 5731 Fax: 0161 248 5736  
Website: [www.arcworld.org](http://www.arcworld.org)

A charity that works with religious communities and environmental groups around the world to develop and expand efforts to care for the environment.

### **Arthur Rank Centre**

National Agricultural Centre  
Stoneleigh Park  
Warwickshire CV8 2LZ  
Tel: 024 7685 3060 Fax: 024 7641 4808  
Email: [info@arthurrankcentre.org.uk](mailto:info@arthurrankcentre.org.uk)  
Website: [www.rase.org.uk](http://www.rase.org.uk)

The Arthur Rank Centre serves the rural community and its churches. The Living Churchyard and Cemetery Project is designed to encourage conservation management of churchyards and burial grounds for wildlife.



### **The Bat Conservation Trust**

Unit 2, 15 Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park Road  
London SW8 4BG  
Tel: 020 7627 2629 Fax: 020 7627 2628  
Email: [enquiries@bats.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bats.org.uk) Website: [www.bats.org.uk](http://www.bats.org.uk)

The Trust is a membership organisation devoted to the conservation of bats and their habitats.

### **British Lichen Society**

c/o Department of Botany  
Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road  
London SW7 5BD  
Email: [bls@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:bls@nhm.ac.uk) Website: [www.argonet.co.uk/users/jmgray](http://www.argonet.co.uk/users/jmgray)

The Society was formed to stimulate and advance interest in all branches of lichenology.

### **British Mycological Society**

Joseph Banks Building  
Royal Botanic Gardens  
Kew, Richmond  
Surrey TW9 3AB  
Email: [info@britmycolsoc.org.uk](mailto:info@britmycolsoc.org.uk)  
Website: [www.britmycolsoc.org.uk](http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk)

The Society's objective is to promote mycology in all its aspects. See also [www.fungus.org.uk](http://www.fungus.org.uk) for links to local fungus groups.

### **The Wildlife Trusts**

The Kiln, Waterside  
Mather Road, Newark  
Nottinghamshire NG24 1WT  
Tel: 0870 036 7711 Fax: 0870 036 0101  
Email: [enquiry@wildlife-trusts.cix.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@wildlife-trusts.cix.co.uk)  
Website: [www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org)

A conservation charity dedicated to wildlife conservation, with a network of 47 local wildlife trusts. Website includes links to local wildlife trusts.

## **GEOLOGY ORGANISATIONS**

**The Association of UK RIGS Groups** (Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites)  
National Stone Centre, Porter Lane  
Middleton by Wirksworth  
Derbyshire DE4 4LS  
Tel: 01629 824833  
Email: [info@ukrigs.org.uk](mailto:info@ukrigs.org.uk) Website: [www.ukrigs.org.uk](http://www.ukrigs.org.uk)

The Association encourages the appreciation, conservation and promotion of RIGS for education and public benefit.

### **The Geological Society**

Burlington House  
Piccadilly  
London W1J 0DU  
Tel: 020 7434 9944 Fax: 020 7439 8975  
Email: [enquiries@geolsoc.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@geolsoc.org.uk) Website: [www.geolsoc.org.uk](http://www.geolsoc.org.uk)

The Geological Society of London is the UK national society for geoscience. It is a learned and professional body, and a registered charity, and exists to promote the geosciences and the professional interests of UK geoscientists.

### **The Geologists' Association**

Burlington House  
Piccadilly  
London W1J 0DU  
Tel: 020 7434 9298 Fax: 020 7287 0280  
Email: [geol.assoc@btinternet.com](mailto:geol.assoc@btinternet.com)  
Website: [www.geologist.demon.co.uk](http://www.geologist.demon.co.uk)

The Association is a charitable organisation serving the interests of both amateur and professional geologists and promoting the study of geology.

## **VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS**

### **BTCV** (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers)

Conservation Centre  
163 Balby Road, Doncaster  
South Yorkshire DN4 0RH  
Tel: 01302 572244 Fax: 01302 310167  
Email: [information@btcv.org.uk](mailto:information@btcv.org.uk) Website: [www.btcv.org](http://www.btcv.org)

BTCV is the UK's leading charity creating better environments where people feel valued, included and involved.

### **Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens**

The GreenHouse  
Hereford Street  
Bristol BS3 4NA  
Tel: 0117 923 1800 Fax: 0117 923 1900  
Email: [admin@farmgarden.org.uk](mailto:admin@farmgarden.org.uk) Website: [www.farmgarden.org.uk](http://www.farmgarden.org.uk)

City farms and community gardens are projects working with people, animals and plants. Each one is unique. They are (or are aiming to become) community-led and managed, empowering those involved through a sustainable approach to what they do.

### **National Federation of Cemetery Friends**

42 Chestnut Grove  
South Croydon CR2 7LH  
Email: [GwynethI@btinternet.com](mailto:GwynethI@btinternet.com)  
Website: [www.cemeteryfriends.org.uk](http://www.cemeteryfriends.org.uk)

Groups of volunteers dedicated to conserving their local cemeteries. The website has links to other Cemetery Friends Groups' websites.

## FUNDING IN ENGLAND

### **Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund**

ASLF Team, Area 2D  
Ergon House, Horseferry Road  
London SW1P 2AL  
Email: alex.j.comber@defra.gsi.gov.uk

The Fund is administered at the strategic level by Defra which has delegated the authority to distribute funds to a number of distributing bodies including DCLG, Natural England, English Heritage, and the Department for Transport. The ASLF is funded through revenue raised by the Aggregates Levy. One area of the fund's work is to provide grants for landscapes and communities.

### **Architectural Heritage Fund**

Clareville House  
26/27 Oxenden Street  
London SW1Y 4EL  
Tel: 020 7925 0199 Fax: 020 7930 0295  
Email: ahf@ahfund.org.uk Website: www.ahfund.org.uk

The Architectural Heritage Fund helps to repair and regenerate historic buildings by helping voluntary and community groups, with grants, low-interest loans, and advice.

### **Big Lottery Fund** (merging the New Opportunities Fund and Communities Fund)

1 Plough Place  
London EC4A 1DE  
Tel: 0207 211 1800 Fax: 020 7211 1750  
Textphone: 0845 039 0204  
Email: general.enquiries@biglotteryfund.org.uk  
Website: www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Big Lottery Fund is an organisation that was created by merging the New Opportunities Fund, which provides funding for health, education and environment projects and the Community Fund, which provides funding for charities and the voluntary and community sectors. It will also take over the Millennium Commission's role of supporting large-scale regeneration projects. It will hand out half the money for good causes from the National Lottery.

### **English Heritage** See p 39

### **Forestry Commission England**

Great Eastern House  
Tenison Road  
Cambridge CB1 2DU  
Tel: 01223 314546 Fax: 01223 460699  
Email: nationaloffice.fcengland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk  
Website: www.forestry.gov.uk/england

The Forestry Commission is responsible for the sustainable management of existing woods and forests; and a steady expansion of our woodland area to provide more benefits for society and the environment. The English Woodland Grant Scheme includes grants for woodland planning, assessment, regeneration, management and improvement, and creation.

### **Geologists' Association Curry Fund**

The Geologists' Association  
Burlington House, Piccadilly  
London W1J 0DU  
Tel: 020 7434 9298 Fax: 020 7287 0280  
Email: geol.assoc@btinternet.com  
Website: www.geologist.demon.co.uk

The Curry Fund exists to support geological publications, including film, video and television productions; geological conservation, including the purchase, clearance and recording of sites other initiatives approved by the Council, including awards to individuals. The Curry Fund has supported work on graveyards and cemeteries.

### **Heritage Lottery Fund**

7 Holbein Place  
London SW1W 8NR  
Tel: 020 7591 6000 Fax: 020 7591 6271  
Email: enquire@hlf.org.uk Website: www.hlf.org.uk

The Heritage Lottery Fund gives grants to a wide range of projects involving the local, regional and national heritage of the United Kingdom. The website includes application packs, guidance notes and other publications.

### **Landfill Tax Credit Scheme**

Website: www.ltcs.org.uk

The LTCS was designed to help mitigate the effects of landfill upon local communities. It encourages partnerships between landfill operators, their local communities and the voluntary and public sectors. See website for directory of distributive environmental bodies.

The LTCS was introduced with the landfill tax in October 1996 and enables landfill site operators to donate up to 6.0 per cent of their landfill tax liability to environmental projects in return for a 90 per cent tax credit.

### **Natural England**

See p 40



English Heritage is the Government's statutory advisor on the historic environment.

Our role is to champion and care for the historic environment which we do by:

- Improving understanding of the past through research and study
- Providing conservation grants, advisory and education services
- Identifying and helping to protect buildings and archaeological sites of national importance
- Maintaining over 400 historic properties and making them accessible to the broadest possible public audience
- Maintaining the National Monuments Record as the central publicly accessible archive for the historic environment in England.

For more information please see [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

Natural England is a new government body championing integrated resource management, nature conservation, biodiversity, landscape, access and recreation. It combines the talents, skills and resources of English Nature and elements of the Countryside Agency and the Rural Development Service.

Natural England works for people, places and nature to conserve and enhance biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas. It is working towards four strategic outcomes:

- A healthy natural environment
- More people enjoying, understanding and acting to improve the natural environment, more often
- The sustainable use of the natural environment
- A secure environmental future.

For more information please see [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

For copies of this leaflet, please contact English Heritage Customer Services Department on 0870 333 1181 or email: [customers@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk)  
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