

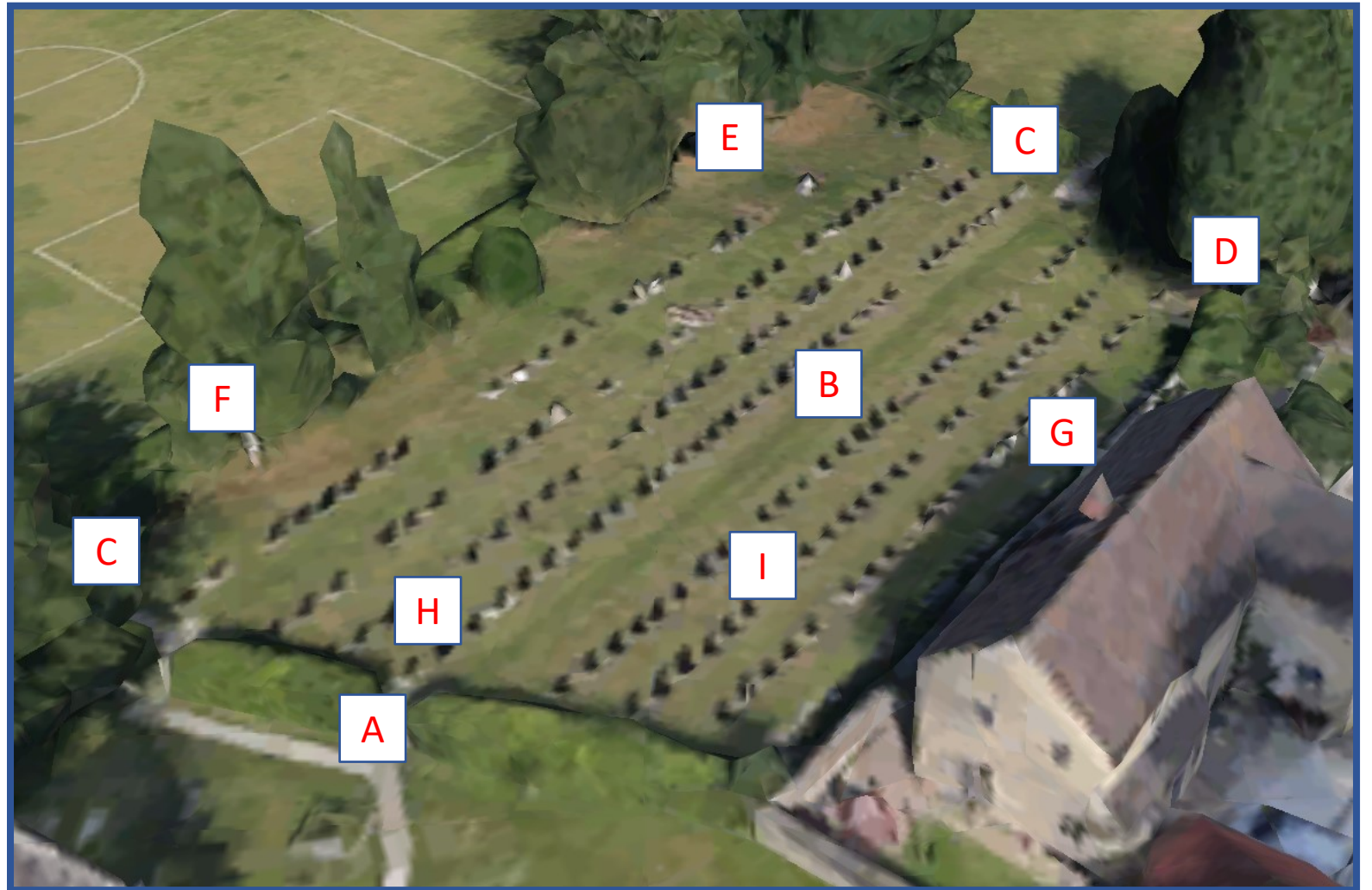


Pucklechurch Parish Burial Ground

Area Assessment and Memorial report – July 2021

Pucklechurch Burial Ground - Overview

General Info.	Hazards
A – Entrance from Churchyard	Overgrown bushes and brambles
B – Main walkway / footpaths	Uneven surface in many areas
C – Exits onto Recreation ground	Gates missing or unable to latch
D – Water standpipe	Frost protection / Leak control
E – Memorial Bench	Overgrown bushes and litter
F – Holly Bushes	Overhanging and obstructing access route
G – Old stone wall	Damage in one area
H – Memorial D33	One memorial failed “wobble test”
I – Other memorials	Passed “wobble test” but require monitoring



Pucklechurch Burial Ground – Detailed View

A – Entrance from Churchyard



Information and Observations

- The entrance from the churchyard consists of an access route with no gate but high bushes on either side which contain some bramble.
- Several movable waste bins are located in this area.
- Signage for dog walkers is hidden when walking in certain directions.

Recommendations

- Cut bramble back and trim bushes to ensure safe access.
- Improve signage for "Dogs on leads"
- Relocate bins to better area so they do not cause an obstruction.



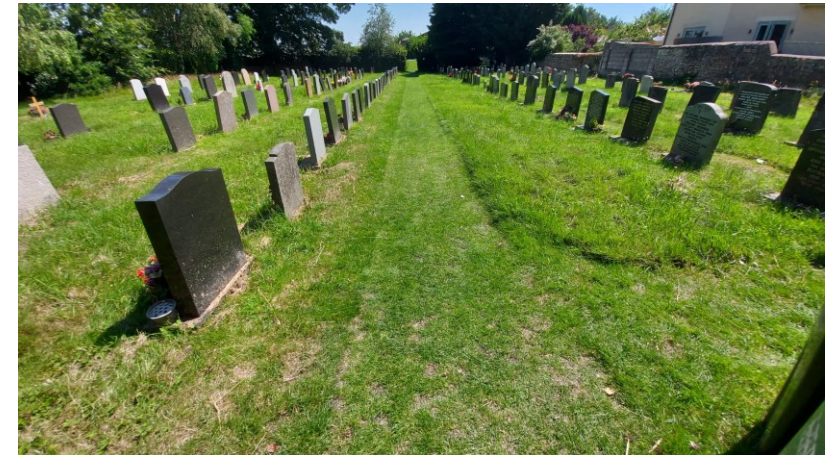
Pucklechurch Burial Ground – Detailed View

B – Main footpaths and Access Routes



Information and Observations

- The routes are made up of cut grassed pathways
- Some of the routes are uneven and difficult to identify any hazard within the surface
- There are unidentified small potholes within the routes



Recommendations

- Ask contractor to identify any areas which are potential trip / fall hazards
- Ask contractor to begin program of levelling some of these identified areas.
- Maintain program of grass cutting to reduce risk
- Identify methods of separating pathways to ensure visitors keep to identified routes.

Pucklechurch Burial Ground – Detailed View

C – Exits onto Recreation Ground



Information and Observations

- Two exits / access routes onto the recreation ground
- Both routes have gates although the exit at the Church end of the burial ground does not latch.
 - This has evidence of some repair work which may not be complete
- The bottom exit has 2 gates although one is currently missing and waiting repair.
- There is small signage adjacent to both entrances referring to visitors walking their dogs.

Recommendations

- Complete repair on Church end gate so this latches correctly.
- Complete repair on bottom gates reinstating the missing gate and ensuring they close and latch correctly.
- Cut back bramble on hedges adjacent to the gates
- Improve signage for dog walker
- Consider signage for general visitors on good practice within the grounds



Pucklechurch Burial Ground – Detailed View

D – Water Standpipe



Information and Observations

- A water standpipe is located near to the recreation ground – no indication or markings to identify who's responsibility this item is.
- Access route to this item is through a non-designated route with low hanging branches on a tree.

Recommendations

- Monitoring of the standpipe for damage to the lagging or pipework should be put in place to prevent leaking and wastage of water.

E – Memorial Bench



Information and Observations

- A memorial bench is located in one corner of the burial ground.

Recommendations

- Clear high foliage around the bench to make the area look more attractive.
- Remove litter accumulated behind the bench and in the bushes.

Pucklechurch Burial Ground – Detailed View

F – Holly Bushes



Information and Observations

- There are two holly bushes alongside the recreation ground side of the burial ground.
- One of these impedes onto the route past several memorials

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Recommendations

- Cut back and maintain the bushes to allow safe access and egress in this area

Pucklechurch Burial Ground – Detailed View

G – Old Stone Wall



Information and Observations

- The wall alongside the burial ground is made up of breeze block and original old stone walling
- There is damage to one section of the old wall which has potential to fall onto the cremation plaques

Recommendations

- Determine who the wall belongs to so the damage can be assessed and repaired.

H & I – Memorials



Information and Observations

- One memorial failed the wobble test
- Several memorials are leaning although they do not wobble under any minor pressure.
- Some areas of ground in front of the memorials are uneven
- Some areas of grass around the edge of the ground was high at the time of the report.

Recommendations

- See report – Burial Ground Assessment 2021 located within this document

Burial Ground Assessment 2021

This report has been completed using guidelines available from government websites and provided by the clerk.

- [Managing the safety of Burial Ground Memorials](#)
- [The Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977](#)
- [Health and Safety at Work Act 1974](#)

The following page is a plan of the burial ground and each memorial has had a visual inspection to assess the risk of a memorial falling. This test is not time consuming, uses simple common sense and judgment, but yet acts as an effective early warning system to allow the parish council the opportunity to prioritise memorials that need more detailed inspection.

Problems that I looked out for include:

- Damaged or eroding bonding.
- Movement of parts of a memorial from its original position.
- Kerb stones breaking apart.
- Undermined or unstable foundations.
- Leaning memorials – particular if there is evidence of recent movement.
- Evidence of structural damage or disturbance (e.g. cracks).
- The presence of vegetation, which may cause cracks etc to widen.

Pucklechurch Burial Ground - Wobble Test

A 27	A 26	A 25	A 24	A 23	A 22	A 21	A 20	A 19	A 18	A 17	A 16	A 15	A 14	A 13	A 12	A 11	A 10	A 9	A 8	A 7	A 6	A 5	A 4	A 3	A 2	A 1	A 18
	Plot				Plot										Secure but tilted					Secure but tilted		Secure but tilted		Secure but tilted	slight wobble		

B 59	B 58	B 57	B 56	B 55	B 54	B 53	B 52	B 51	B 50	B 49	B 48	B 47	B 46	B 45	B 44	B 43	B 42	B 41	B 40	B 39	B 38	B 37	B 36	B 35	B 34	B 33	B 32	B 31	B 30	B 29

C	C 81	C 80	C 79	C 78	C 77	C 76	C 75	C 74	C 73	C 72	C 71	C 70	C 69	C 68	C 67	C 66	C 65	C 64	C 63	C 62	C 61	C 60
										Secure but tilted				Secure but tilted								

D 126	D 125	D 124	D 123	D 122	D 121	D 120	D 119	D 118	D 117	D 116	D 115	D 114	D 113	D 112	D 111	D 110	D 109	D 108	D 107	D 106	D 105	D 104	D 103	D 102	D 101	D 100	D 99	D 98	D 97	D 96	D 95	D 94	D 93	D 92	D 91	D 90	D 89
			Secure but tilted	Secure but tilted				Plot	Memorial not fixed to base																												End of falling

E 340	E 339	E 338	E 337	E 336	E 335	E 334	E 333	E 332	E 331	E 330	E 329	E 328	E 327	E 326	E 325	E 324	E 323	E 322	E 321	E 320	E 319	E 318	E 317	E 316	E 315	E 314	E 313	E 312	E 311	E 310	E 309	E 308	E 307	E 306	E 305	E 304	E 303	E 302	E 301	E 300	E 299	E 298	E 297	E 296	E 295	E 294	E 293	E 292	E 291	E 290	E 289	E 288	E 287	E 286	E 285	E 284	E 283	E 282	E 281	E 280	E 279	E 278	E 277	E 276	E 275	E 274	E 273	E 272	E 271	E 270	E 269	E 268	E 267	E 266	E 265	E 264	E 263	E 262	E 261	E 260	E 259	E 258	E 257	E 256	E 255	E 254	E 253	E 252	E 251	E 250	E 249	E 248	E 247	E 246	E 245	E 244	E 243	E 242	E 241	E 240	E 239	E 238	E 237	E 236	E 235	E 234	E 233	E 232	E 231	E 230	E 229	E 228	E 227	E 226	E 225	E 224	E 223	E 222	E 221	E 220	E 219	E 218	E 217	E 216	E 215	E 214	E 213	E 212	E 211	E 210	E 209	E 208	E 207	E 206	E 205	E 204	E 203	E 202	E 201	E 200	E 199	E 198	E 197	E 196	E 195	E 194	E 193	E 192	E 191	E 190	E 189	E 188	E 187	E 186	E 185	E 184	E 183	E 182	E 181	E 180	E 179	E 178	E 177	E 176	E 175	E 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Burial Ground Wobble Test 2021

From my assessment of the burial ground:

I recommend to the Parish Council that the one memorial which has failed the assessment is dealt with as soon as possible in line with the recommended practice as taken from the Managing the Safety of Burial Ground Memorials document although a further assessment may be required to determine if the memorial falls in line with the guidance (16) below.

16. If some instability is detected following the hand test, a judgment must be made as to whether this movement is limited, or whether there is sufficient movement for the memorial to present a high risk to people's health and safety. Operators should note that many memorials installed in recent years on independent foundations are fitted with a ground support system. These memorials may move, even rock if the base to foundation joint is broken, but do so within designed tolerance limits and represent no danger as the memorial will lock on the ground anchor.

If it is determined that the memorial needs to be made safe then the following guidelines are recommended.

Deciding on precautions 19.

Any precautions taken must be proportionate to the risk of people suffering harm. In most cases the actual level of risk from an unstable memorial will be very low such that a warning sign near to – or in some instances on – a memorial alerting visitors to the potential danger will suffice until repair has been arranged. If the circumstances make this impractical, for example there is the potential for confusion as to which memorial any warning refers, a memorial may need to be cordoned off until it is made safe.

20. A memorial may be so unstable there is an imminent risk of it toppling. In a very few cases where this could result in serious injury, immediate steps may be necessary to reduce the risk e.g. restricting access or laying the memorial flat. The routine staking of memorials is not recommended – not only is there a risk of harm in the staking itself, there is also the potential for damage to the memorial.

21. In all cases where temporary measures have been taken to make a memorial safe, steps to effect permanent repairs should be taken as soon as possible. Operators should be aware of the potential for upset and distress amongst mourners and the bereaved, as well as the potential for disfiguring the appearance of a burial ground.

For the 13 memorials which are secure although on an angle, I recommend these are monitored and reviewed on a regular basis to determine if further work is required.

For the 4 memorials which have a slight wobble, I believe these are safe and no further action is required at this time but would recommend to any contractor working in the burial ground that they observe and report on any damage or noticeable change to any memorial.