

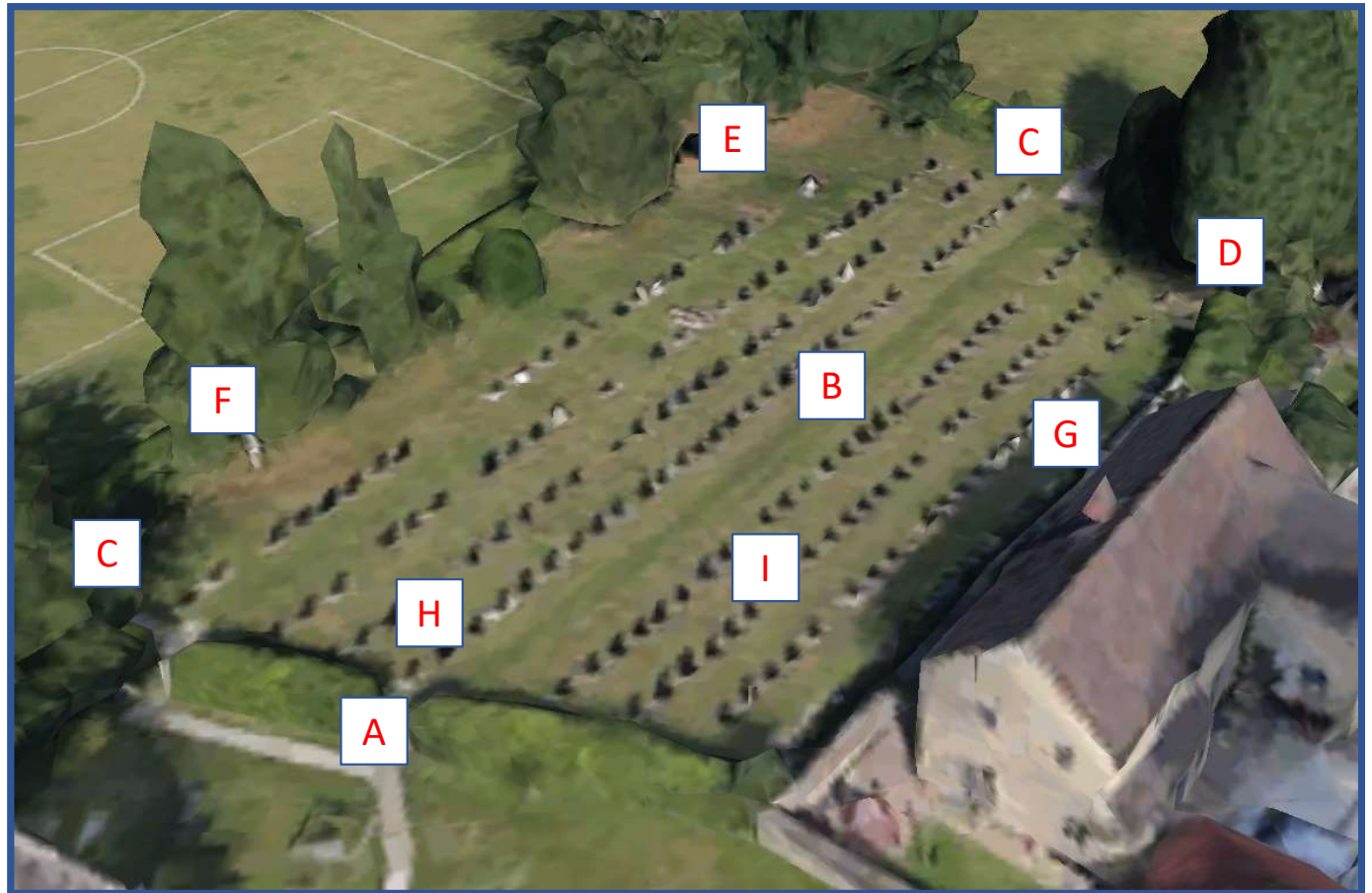


Pucklechurch Parish Burial Ground

Area Assessment and Headstone report – September 2024

Pucklechurch Burial Ground - Overview

General Info.	Hazards
A – Entrance from Churchyard	None
B – Main walkway / footpaths	Uneven surface in some area
C – Exits onto Recreation ground	Gates not closed
D – Water standpipe	Frost protection / Leak control
E – Memorial Bench	None
F – Holly Bushes	None
G – Old stone wall	Damage in one area
H – Headstone	No headstones failed the “wobble test”
I – Other headstones	Passed “wobble test” although leaning



Pucklechurch Burial Ground – Detailed View

A – Entrance from Churchyard & C – Entrance from Recreation Ground



Information and Observations

- The entrance from the churchyard consists of an access route with no gate but high bushes on either side are under control and evidence of cutting back was seen
- The entrance from the recreation ground is through a pair of gates. These gates have signage for dog walkers plus a “please be aware” sign making visitors aware of hazards likely to be in the burial ground
- Signage for dog walkers is hidden when walking in certain directions or if the gates are left open.

Recommendations

- Replace dog sign with improved sign (larger) and to include “please close the gates”

Pucklechurch Burial Ground – Detailed View

B – Main footpaths and Access Routes



Information and Observations

- The routes are made up of cut grassed pathways which had been recently cut clearly identifying the major route through the burial ground.
- Some of the routes are still uneven and difficult to identify any hazard within the surface
- Grass cuttings were not removed in areas around graves. Some of these had new flowers and the grass cuttings had potential to damage but also upset the families who had placed them.

Recommendations

- Ask landscape contractor to continue identifying any areas which are potential trip / fall hazards and to make safe.
- Maintain program of grass cutting to reduce risk
- Ask landscape contractor to remove grass cuttings which are on gravestones (leaf blower).

Pucklechurch Burial Ground – Detailed View

D – Water Standpipe



E – Memorial Bench



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.
- Various empty cans (alcohol & soft drinks) were discarded in this area. Area cleared by myself on this occasion.

Recommendations

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

Information and Observations

- A memorial bench is located in one corner of the burial ground
- The area around this has been cleared and left tidy (old image above).

Recommendations

- None.

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 a section of the old wall which has potential to fall onto the cremation plaques

Recommendations

- Repair wall to make safe

H & I – Headstones



Information and Observations

- Every headstone passed the “wobble test”, previous failures have been repaired.
- Several headstones are leaning although they do not wobble under any pressure and are deemed to be safe
- Some areas of ground in front of the headstones are uneven.

Recommendations

- Visual monitoring of gravestones for movement during inspections and by landscape contractor.

Burial Ground Assessment 2024

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.