## **Culture and Communities Committee**

### 10.00am, Tuesday, 16 November 2021

## **Cemetery Strategy**

Executive/routine Executive Wards All

**Council Commitments** 

#### 1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Culture and Communities Committee are asked to:
  - 1.1.1 Note the strategic objectives of the cemeteries service and the likely requirements of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 regulations in 2022:
  - 1.1.2 Note that officers will engage with Committee members and key stakeholder groups on the creation of proposed draft Cemetery Management Rules and will bring these to Committee on 1 February 2022 to seek approval to commence public consultation;
  - 1.1.3 Note the update on Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery and the financial analysis set out in paragraph 6.1.2 and notes that a report will be prepared for Committee when the funding options have been investigated; and
  - 1.1.4 Recognise the important contribution of Friends of Cemetery groups across the city and approve the guidance for Friends of Cemeteries Groups (Appendix 5).

#### **Paul Lawrence**

#### **Executive Director of Place**

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Manager

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## Report

## **Cemetery Strategy**

#### 2. Executive Summary

2.1 This report updates Committee on implementation of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 and the expectation that associated regulations will be implemented in 2022. The report also seeks approval to progress with development of Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery (phase 2) and for the introduction of Friends of Cemetery Groups Guidance (Appendix 5).

#### 3. Background

#### **City of Edinburgh Council Cemeteries**

- 3.1 City of Edinburgh Council owns and operates 42 cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds across the city (the locations are listed in Appendix 1). They occupy 77 hectares of ground, broken down into three categories (which each require different management strategies):
  - 3.1.1 There are five historical city centre cemeteries:
  - 3.1.2 There are 23 non-operational cemeteries; and
  - 3.1.3 There are 14 operational cemeteries (where coffin interments still take place).
- 3.2 The responsibility for maintaining some cemeteries transferred to the Council from the Church of Scotland due to an Act in 1925 and, more recently, through the acquisition of several private cemeteries.
- 3.3 In recent years, the number of people making arrangements for funeral burials has reduced and it is estimated that the current capacity would be sufficient for the next eight years. However, if Ratho cemetery was removed from the calculation and cases where ground conditions could affect coffin interments are taken into account, this would reduce to five years. In addition, the locations of existing burial grounds may not be preferred by families. Therefore, with the city's population expected to increase, it is proposed to bring forward proposals to meet future demand.

#### **Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016**

- 3.4 The Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 brings new legislation into effect for the management of both crematoriums and burial grounds.
- 3.5 The <u>regulations</u> to support the implementation of the management of crematoriums have been enacted.
- 3.6 However, although the <u>Act</u> includes the management of burial grounds, the associated regulations have not yet been enacted. These are expected in 2022.
- 3.7 In preparation for the expected regulations for the management of burial grounds, this report sets out the Council's proposed approach and next steps.

#### **Ensuring Cemeteries remain Safe Spaces**

- 3.8 In Edinburgh, a <u>Memorial Mason Registration Scheme</u> was introduced in 2006 following the death of a child in Newington Cemetery. This scheme continues to ensure that memorials are now constructed to the highest standard.
- 3.9 However, following the death of a child in 2015, <u>Burial Ground Memorial Safety:</u> <u>local government guidance</u> was introduced in 2019. This sets out the responsibilities for local authorities to carry out regular inspections and to keep records of the conditions in burial grounds.
- 3.10 In some cases, for safety reasons, memorial stones may need to be laid flat. This action is only taken when necessary and the Council will always seek to contact the memorial owner (who have responsibility for the memorial) wherever possible.

#### 4. Main report

#### **Cemetery Service – Strategic Objectives**

- 4.1 There are six strategic objectives of the cemetery service are provision of:
  - 4.1.1 Safe spaces:
  - 4.1.2 Poignant places of remembrance and reflection;
  - 4.1.3 Cemeteries, managed in compliance with Burial and Cremations (Scotland)
    Act 2016;
  - 4.1.4 Sufficient space for coffin interments;
  - 4.1.5 Environmental greenspace (linking to the Thriving Green Spaces project at present); and
  - 4.1.6 Managed cemeteries, including those within the historic world heritage site.
- 4.2 The implementation of these objectives is led by a Cemeteries team, working closely with colleagues from across the Council.

#### **Condition Surveys**

4.3 As part of the Council budget in 2021/22 £4m was allocated to cemeteries and parks/greenspaces. Committee were updated on progress with condition surveys

- on <u>15 June 2021</u> and approved progressing with works which were categorised as urgent and essential (provided these could be contained within the available budget and any additional funding secured).
- 4.4 Following the condition surveys, the total estimated cost of repairs to all category 1, 2 and 3 defects is £2.6m (a summary of these costs is provided in Appendix 2). A programme of works is underway, to address the most critical items (categories 1 and 2) at an estimated cost of £1.2m.
- 4.5 Boundary wall repairs, following partial collapses, are planned and underway at Buccleuch, East Preston Street and North Merchiston cemeteries.

#### Safe Spaces - Additional Actions

- 4.6 Updated health and safety warnings have been erected in all of the Council cemeteries, warning visitors of the inherent dangers within the cemetery. In addition, a new mobile application (app) will allow structural inspectors to record and photograph issues identified for compilation to improve surveillance and safety in cemeteries.
- 4.7 A recent Internal Audit highlighted a risk in respect of paper burial records. A workplan is currently being developed to allow a digitisation of burial records which will improve the records held by the Council moving forward.

#### Implementing the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 Regulations

- 4.8 It is expected that the Scottish Government will enact Burial Regulations in 2022. Thereafter, they will more closely monitor the way cemeteries operate. It is also expected that a management plan will be required for each cemetery and that they will be subject to regular inspection by a Scottish Government Burials and Cemeteries Inspector.
- 4.9 Preparation of cemetery management plans is underway. Service standards for each cemetery will be developed (to include, for example whether or not to strim around memorials, tree management and building management, and will be aligned with the <u>Parks and Greenspace Landscape Performance Quality Standards</u> (2017 version). Where active, Friends of Cemetery Groups will feed into the development of these standards.
- 4.10 In anticipation of a requirement to ensure that there are rules in place, it is proposed to begin engagement with Committee members and key stakeholder groups on draft Cemetery Management Rules, with the aim of bringing these to Committee on 1 February 2022 to seek approval to commence public consultation.
- 4.11 Following engagement, the draft rules will be prepared for Committee to approve for public consultation.

#### **City of Edinburgh Council Cemeteries Estate**

4.12 As set out in paragraph 3.3, it is important to ensure that the Council's cemeteries estate is sufficient to meet the needs of families who chose for their loved one to be interred in a Council burial ground.

#### Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery

- 4.13 In response to the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016, the Council is required to provide one cemetery either on its own or with others. Therefore, it is possible for the Council to designate Craigmillar Castle Park as its sole cemetery.
- 4.14 A second phase of development at Craigmillar Castle Park cemetery has planning consent but has not yet been developed (the plan is shown in Appendix 4). It is estimated that it would cost around £0.850m to complete the cemetery and officers consider that it would be most cost effective to develop the whole of the approved plan, rather than doing so incrementally. This cost is currently included in the Council's capital budget as an unfunded allocation.
- 4.15 If this site was developed to capacity, this would meet the expected demand for coffin interments in the city for the next 25 years.
- 4.16 It is hoped that the development may be able to progress with a capital funding allocation in 2022/23 or through capital borrowing, however in the absence of this being confirmed, it is proposed to progress with a phase 2A, which would be developed as a Muslim section (the current Muslim sections at Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery and at Portobello Cemetery are reaching capacity). (The cost of phase 2A is estimated to be £0.250m.)
  - City Plan 2030 and Developer Contributions
- 4.17 However, the proposed City Plan 2030 (approved by Planning Committee on 29 September 2021 to progress for the statutory consultation period) sets out the desire to identify space for additional cemetery provision and it is expected that Section 75 developer contributions will contribute to the costs of development.
- 4.18 A summary of the feedback received on the City Plan 2030 in respect of cemeteries is included in Appendix 3.
  - Natural Burial Sites
- 4.19 Alongside the work to identify space for additional cemetery provision, the Cemeteries team will also investigate the potential for providing other types of burials and burial sites (e.g. natural burial sites).
  - Pandemic Contingency Planning
- 4.20 Committee is asked to note that, as part of pandemic contingency planning, capacity to carry out coffin interments in large numbers is limited to Gogar Cemetery and Craigmillar Castle Park (once phase 2 of development is complete).

#### **Friends of Cemetery Groups**

- 4.21 There are 10 Friends of Cemetery Groups in the city at present: Dalry, Grange, Greyfriars, Morningside, Mortonhall Baby Rose Garden, Newington, North Merchison, St Cuthbert's and Warriston. South Queensferry is in the process of creating a committee.
- 4.22 To support the establishment of these groups, donations of between £1,000 and £3,000 have been provided to assist with the legal constitution of groups, insurance,

publicity materials/website development, gardening tools and purchasing grave markers. The funding for this has been secured from participation in a national scheme recycling metals recovered from the cremation process at Mortonhall Crematorium, with the written agreement of families. In total, €24,000 of donations have been shared by the Council's refinery partner directly with groups over the last two years.

- 4.23 The Friends of Cemetery groups provide excellent support to help maintain cemeteries to a higher standard and have contributed to improving the conditions within their local cemeteries. A number of these groups have active social media platforms which share information on their activities and wonderful photographs of the plants and wildlife that they nurture.
- 4.24 In addition, working with the Friends Groups, the cemeteries service has planted several thousand spring bulbs and have plans to plant new trees.
- 4.25 Committee is asked to recognise the Friends Groups for their enthusiasm and commitment.
- 4.26 A guidance document (Appendix 5) has been developed in consultation with and agreement of the Friends of Cemetery Groups to assist them in their operation. The guidance outlines the activities which can be safely carried out in Council cemeteries, activities which require the pre-approval of the Council and activities which cannot be carried out.

#### **Tour Guide Registration Scheme**

4.27 On <u>17 November 2020</u>, Committee approved the introduction of a Cemetery Tour Guide Registration Scheme. The scheme came into effect on 1 June 2021 and now has 42 members.

#### Historic Graveyards in the World Heritage Site

- 4.28 Improved bronze name plaques have been introduced at the historic graveyards including Braille, English and Gaelic.
- 4.29 In addition, an interpretation panel has been added at Greyfriars along with contactless donation boxes and a text to donate option. The Greyfriars Kirkyard stakeholders' group are assessing the development of a conservation management plan to include how to fund ongoing repairs to deteriorating monuments.

#### 5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If Committee approve the recommendations in this report:
  - 5.1.1 Investigate appropriate funding to progress the development of phase 2 at Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery; and
  - 5.1.2 Implement the Friends of Cemeteries guidance.
- 5.2 Officers will also:
  - 5.2.1 Continue to develop management plans for the city's cemeteries;

- 5.2.2 Begin engagement with Committee on the development of Cemetery Management Rules;
- 5.2.3 Monitor the development and enactment of regulations to support the implementation of the Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act 2016 and keep Committee updated on this;
- 5.2.4 Continue to encourage and support Friends of Cemeteries groups to be established and to work with those which are already established;
- 5.2.5 Continue to engage with the Planning service on City Plan 2030 and work to identify suitable sites and funding and investigate the options to accommodate natural burials in future; and
- 5.2.6 Work with Edinburgh World Heritage and others to protect and enhance the historic city centre cemeteries.

#### 6. Financial impact

#### 6.1 As set out above:

- 6.1.1 The Council approved funding of £4m to improve the condition of the city's cemeteries and parks/greenspaces. A condition assessment has estimated it will cost £2.6m to address all of the category 1, 2 and 3 defects identified. A programme of works is underway, to address the most critical items (categories 1 and 2) at an estimated cost of £1.2m; and
- 6.1.2 The cost to develop phase 2 of Craigmillar Castle Park cemetery is estimated to be £0.850m. This is currently unallocated in the Council's capital programme and therefore officers will investigate prudential borrowing to progress these works (if approved by Committee). If the full amount cannot be secured, in the short term, phase 2A may be implemented at an estimated cost of £0.250m; and
- 6.1.3 As additional cemetery provision is identified, funding options will be investigated (including the potential to utilise Section 75 developer contributions).

## 7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 In preparing this report, there has been consultation with various Friends of Groups, Greyfriars Kirkyard Stakeholders Group, Edinburgh World Heritage, and the Planning and Archaeology services.
- 7.2 There may be equalities implications arising from these proposals if insufficient burial space is provided to meet the needs of all faith groups. The proposals are intended to maintain good health and safety, governance and regulatory compliance.

## 8. Background reading/external references

8.1 None.

## 9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 List of City of Edinburgh Council Cemeteries.
- 9.2 Appendix 2 Cemetery Repair and Maintenance Capital Cost Estimate.
- 9.3 Appendix 3 City Plan 2030 Consultation Cemetery Feedback.
- 9.4 Appendix 4 Craigmillar Castle Park Phase 2 Plan.
- 9.5 Appendix 5 Friends of Cemetery Groups Guidance.

## Appendix 1 - List of City of Edinburgh Council Cemeteries, Churchyards and Burial Grounds

Historic City Centre	Operational	Non-Operational
Canongate	Comely Bank	Buccleuch Churchyard
Greyfriars	Corstorphine Hill	Colinton Churchyard
New Calton	Craigmillar Castle Park	Corstorphine Churchyard
Old Calton	Currie	Cramond Churchyard
St Cuthbert's	Grange	Currie Churchyard
	Kirkliston Cemetery	Dalmeny Churchyard
	Liberton	Dalry
	Morningside	Duddingston Churchyard
	Mortonhall	East Preston Street
	Portobello	Gogar
	Ratho	Kirkliston Churchyard
	Rosebank	Liberton Churchyard
	Saughton	Mount Alvernia Convent
	South Queensferry	Newington
		North Leith
		North Merchiston
		Queensferry Vennel
		St Mary's Ratho
		St Triduana's Restalrig
		Sciennes Jewish
		South Leith Churchyard
		Warriston
		Wauchope/Greendykes

**Appendix 2 – Cemetery Repair and Maintenance Capital Cost Estimate** 

Name	Cat 1	Cat 2	Cat 3	Total
Name	Defects	Defects	Defects	Estimated
Buccleuch		£67,914		£67,914
Old Calton		£11,452	£9,498	£20,950
Canongate		£50,051	£1,652	£51,703
Colinton			£17,611	£17,611
Comely Bank	£8,260	£9,360	£62,220	£79,841
Corstorphine			£24,426	£24,426
Corstorphine Hill		£246,677	£6,873	£253,550
Craigmillar Castle Park		£13,409	£12,846	£26,256
Cramond	£441	£19,846		£20,287
Currie Churchyard			£29,110	£29,110
Dalmeny Kirk		£12,306	£10,508	£22,814
Dalry		£33,037	£210,227	£243,264
Duddingston			£7,599	£7,599
Ferrymuir Lane S Qferry		£104,163	£24,613	£128,776
Gogar		£11,012	£4,703	£15,715
Grange		£32,157	£73,651	£105,808
Greyfriars Churchyard	£2,202	£75,641	£20,461	£98,304
South Leith Kirkgate			£61,118	£61,118
Kirkliston		£42,199	£441	£42,640
Liberton	£330	£26,981	£5,726	£33,037
Morningside			£74,579	£74,579
Mortonhall		£71,470	£7,984	£79,454
Mount Alvernia Convent	£31,165	£1,872		£33,037
New Calton		£39,563	£2,993	£42,556
Newington		£33,037	£58,432	£91,469
East Preston Street		£5,244	£22,093	£27,338
North Leith	£1,322	£17,510	£550	£19,382
North Merchiston		£2,202	£63,322	£65,524
Portobello			£126,539	£126,539
Queensferry Vennel			£11,360	£11,360
Ratho			£14,514	£14,514
Rosebank		£84,627	£45,231	£129,858
Saughton			£41,737	£41,737
St Cuthbert's		£62,551	£47,463	£110,013
St Mary's Church	£4,956		£34,199	£39,155
St Triduanas/Restalrig	£8,898		£15,505	£24,403
Warriston	£881	£65,964	£78,849	£145,694
Greendykes/Wauchope		£18,612	£881	£19,492
Sciennes Jewish	£2,533	£4,845	£1,541	£8,919
Thriving Greenspaces			£144,000	£144,000
Total	£60,988	£1,163,702	£1,375,056	£2,599,747

## 1G. We want City Plan 2030 to identify space for additional cemetery provision, including the potential for green and woodland burials.

#### Total responses – 816

Agree 76% (617)	Disagree 24 % (199)	
Reasons for agreeing	Reasons for disagreeing	Comments / other issues raised
<ul> <li>Some representations give much stronger support to green and woodlands burial schemes compared to burial in a city cemetery as the former can also contribute to creation of</li> </ul>	Cemeteries involve roads , buildings, car parks, fences etc that can urbanise green spaces and become visually intrusive.	<ul> <li>Unable to have a view about 'green and woodland' burials until the site location specification, design and infrastructure/ drainage requirements associated with these</li> </ul>
diverse green spaces.	Caution against identifying such space in a plan, as landowners may not bring it forward for such use.	burials is fully specified.
It is noted there has been an increase in non- traditional burials also.	This is critical to avoid allocations in the plan which fail the effectiveness test in SPP.	The clarification of these specifications has now become urgent, as a result of increased demand for burials due to Covid 19.
<ul> <li>Green and woodland burials will also help relieve any pressure on historic burial grounds.</li> </ul>	Instead recommend a criteria based policy to allow providers to identify the sites most fit for purpose	Cemeteries need to be developed with great care to ensure contamination of ground water
<ul> <li>Some also argue that there may be scope in some existing cemeteries currently closed to new burials for green and woodland burial sites, provided this does not impaction on their</li> </ul>	Others recommend preference should first be afforded to land already vested with the Local Authority (including underused Open Space).	is not an unintended consequence. SEPA will work with City of Edinburgh Council to help identify suitable sites.
<ul> <li>value for encouraging wildlife and biodiversity.</li> <li>A number of representations argue the cemeteries should be discouraged as there is limited space and cemeteries effectively</li> </ul>	Green and/or woodland burial sites are not appropriate in urban or semi-rural, semi-urban locations. These would carry serious risks of vandalism.	<ul> <li>Green and woodland burials should be affordable to more people or even free, though it is argued these burials are for the wealthy within the city given space is limited.</li> </ul>
sterilises land for hundreds of years.	There are contrary views on proposals for woodland burials, and there will be an ongoing challenge of	<ul> <li>Other methods for disposal of the dead are suggested, including; Human compost funerals</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Instead some argue cremations would save space and that memorial gardens should be provided with spaces for cremated remains.</li> <li>Making this a better known option and more easily available would encourage a lot more</li> </ul>	sustaining the protection and maintenance of woodland burial sites.	are 'better for environment' (although others argue that "human composting" are macabre), Freeze blasting and a memorial tree planting scheme in parks to conserve space but also give place for loved ones to remember the

## 1G. We want City Plan 2030 to identify space for additional cemetery provision, including the potential for green and woodland burials.

#### Total responses – 816

Agree 76% (617)	Disagree 24 % (199)	
Reasons for agreeing	Reasons for disagreeing	Comments / other issues raised
people to choose, although some state many		dead. Can also have more than one person
people already do not wish to be buried.		buried on one site and/or bury the dead
Others argue however that cremations are not environmentally friendly given CO2 is generated		standing up. Graves should be biodegradable and have a lifespan of a time of mourning. Presently cemeteries are also a drain on finances for upkeep
Some support for green and woodland burials is		
contingent on where these are located. Some		New cemeteries should aim to more 'wild' as
support them based on the presumption that		unkempt havens of nature where people can
these are located outwith the urban envelope or sensitively located within the urban area,		go and picnic and play amongst the stones.
although others state actual forest is not		
acceptable.		Some argue however the public will feel
		uncomfortable with walking past burial sites
It is argued a range of carefully considered		and they would be at risk of vandalism in an
settings should be considered (including in the		openly accessible area. Also, to respect the
countryside) as this would maximise choice and		families of the deceased then areas would
reduce urban land used.		need to be segregated to allow mourning away
There are strong requirements for burial		from joggers and kids playing and running
provision for some religions. There is however		about etc -
the practical problem that- space within towns		
has to be prioritised for the living.		This is a pre-existing problem and should be
		the responsibility of City of Edinburgh Council.
		It should not be required as a developer contribution.
		These should be located outside the city
		centre with good bus routes for access.

1G. We want City Plan 2030 to identify space for additional cemetery provision, including the potential for green and woodland burials.

#### Total responses – 816

Agree 76% (617)	Disagree 24 % (199)	
Reasons for agreeing	Reasons for disagreeing	Comments / other issues raised
		<ul> <li>Convert current cemeteries and rebury current graves. This would allow rewilding of cemeteries or repurposing. Others strongly oppose digging it up and burying bodies</li> </ul>

## Appendix 4 – Craigmillar Castle Park Cemetery Phase 2 Grave Plan



## **Craigmillar Castle Park Phase 2A**





# Friends of Cemetery Groups Operational Guidance

#### Introduction

The City of Edinburgh Council own and operate 43 cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds across the city. Some churchyards are hundreds of years old. St Cuthbert's, for example, dates back to around the 8th century and in 1562, Mary Queen of Scots gifted the land for Greyfriars to the Council. Church of Scotland churchyards were formally transferred into Council ownership by act of parliament in 1925. By the 1980's many of the private cemeteries established during the Victorian period had come to the end of their operational life and were compulsorily purchased after suffering significant neglect.

Many of Edinburgh's historic graveyards have now become full. The passing of time and demographic changes mean some graveyards no longer have the same strong familial links to the local community. Over the last century burials in Edinburgh have fallen from 100% of funerals to around 15% significantly reducing the income available to manage graveyards. Therefore, the creation and operation of Friends of Groups is very welcome.

#### **Guidance Objectives**

This guidance will support volunteers in providing their discretionary energy to cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds across the city with the objectives of:

- Strengthening links to the local community, to help bring the city's graveyards back to the centre of community life;
- Promoting their heritage, community memories, biodiversity, historical and educational values;
- Supporting public enjoyment and understanding of the graveyards by improving their amenity, appearance and condition;
- Recognising a graveyard's individual character.

#### **Guiding Principles**

- 1. Recognise that families may still visit graves, therefore accord due respect to the deceased and their families.
- 2. Be welcoming to visitors and neighbours.
- 3. Comply with all Cemetery Management Rules.
- 4. Recognise that cemeteries can present significant health and safety risks from toppling memorials, boundary walls, gates, trees and other structures and undertake appropriate risk assessments in advance of a work task.
- 5. Adopt best practice guidance when working on site.
- 6. Protect and enhance the historic landscape, built heritage and biodiversity to promote a Thriving Greenspace.
- 7. Contact Bereavement Services before initiating a new work task<sup>1</sup> and advise timeously any issues of concern.
- 8. Recognise that the City of Edinburgh Council has ownership of the land.

## **Operational Activity Guidance**

Tasks Supported	Notes & Links
<ul> <li>Trees</li> <li>Removal of small self-sown saplings from poor positions</li> <li>Clearance of fallen branches, leaf litter</li> <li>Monitoring and evaluation of condition</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Vegetation Management</li> <li>Removal of ivy from gravestones, walls and structures, except where to do so would be hazardous or would disturb birds during the nesting season</li> <li>Reduction of the level of weeds such as brambles, nettles, thistles, sticky-willie, rosebay willow herb, Himalayan balsam</li> <li>Weeding</li> <li>Collecting up grass cuttings</li> </ul>	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
New Planting     Introduction of suitable and varied planting, in line with Council recommendations, to enhance biodiversity and amenity  Wildlife	
<ul> <li>Monitoring and recording</li> <li>Education &amp; Engagement</li> <li>Promoting knowledge of the history and ecology of the graveyard for example by creating guidebooks</li> <li>Conducting guided tours to encourage donations to the group</li> <li>Assisting the public to identify and visit graves</li> <li>Conducting workshops</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Gravestones &amp; Monuments</li> <li>Minimal cleaning of grave markers in accordance with guidelines</li> <li>Recording</li> <li>Monitoring and evaluation of surface condition</li> <li>Assisting and supporting Commonwealth War Graves Commission in their work and participating in commemoration ceremonies.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>General Tidying</li> <li>Litter picking</li> <li>Cleaning signage, benches &amp; other furniture</li> <li>Sweeping steps, drainage gutters</li> </ul>	

Tasks Requiring Specific Consent	Notes & links
Wildlife	
<ul> <li>Installation of wildlife support such as bat boxes, hedgehog houses, insect boxes, beehives etc. supported by locational plan</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Vegetation</li> <li>Tree planting</li> <li>Use of light power tools such as strimmers after completion of risk assessment and appropriate training of users</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Gravestones, Monuments or other Structures</li> <li>Commissioning professionals to re-erect, reinstate or repair</li> </ul>	
Site furniture  Installation of compost bins, tool sheds, benches, signage etc.  Painting of ironwork	
Tasks not supported	Notes

Tasks not supported	Notes
Use of industrial machinery such as chainsaws	Notify Bereavement services of any tree issues so they can deal with this on your behalf
Application of chemical herbicides or pesticides	Notify Bereavement Services of invasive vegetation so they can deal with this on your behalf
<ul> <li>Disturbance of bird nesting sites during the breeding season, bats, badgers etc.</li> </ul>	
Lifting gravestones	
Human Remains	Contact Bereavement Services without delay

#### Contacts

Bereavement Services	Operational Manager Jane Matheson
Mortonhall	Team Leader Gareth Edwards
30b Howdenhall Road Edinburgh EH16 6TX	Bereavement Officer Alan Thomson
Email bereavement@edinburgh.gov.uk	Telephone 0131 664 4314 Out of Hours 0131 200 2000