12. Improving the Carbon Footprint of Your Burial Ground

CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE

This sheet explains how churchyards and cemeteries are currently storing carbon in their trees, plants and soils, and how you can maximise this process. It gives ideas to help manage burial grounds in ways that reduce the carbon being released into the atmosphere, whilst increasing that stored within plants and soil. Both of these will reduce your burial ground carbon footprint.

Burial grounds can be a good store of carbon. The majority contain soils which have been storing carbon for decades, centuries or even millennia. They also contain trees, native shrubs and sometimes an area of woodland.

The Carbon Cycle and Fossil Fuels

Many of us are striving to reduce our **Carbon Footprint** as a response to climate change. The Anglican Churches of England and Wales have a target of 2030 to reach net zero carbon whilst other denominations and local authorities have similar targets in place. Carbon dioxide is a key greenhouse gas which needs to be reduced in the atmosphere, but it is also crucial to life. Life revolves around the carbon cycle which, when undisturbed, is storing, releasing and using both carbon dioxide and oxygen in a balanced way.

When we think about capturing carbon, most of us think of tree planting but actually this is not always the best thing to do. Trees, shrubs, grassland and soil all store carbon. A tree in the wrong place can damage precious habitats and trigger a release of carbon so care is needed.

Trees, shrubs and woodland

Trees and shrubs store carbon in wood, within their trunk, branches and roots. Trees store more carbon than other plants owing to their size and long lifespan; a veteran tree has been storing carbon within its wood for a great many years. Hedges can be ancient too and also store carbon. Due to this, trees and hedges are often seen as the pinnacle of carbon sequestration (which is another way of saying storage!), and planting schemes are promoted as a way to combat climate change.

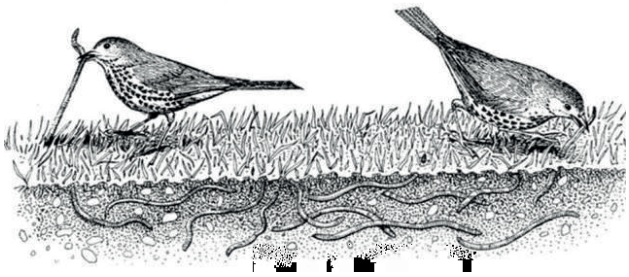
Grassland

Grasslands are often overlooked as an important store of carbon as they don't contain large visible plants like trees or shrubs. Grasslands do store carbon within the leaves, stems and roots of their plants though, and can hold a great deal of carbon within the soil. It is estimated that up to 30% of the earth's carbon is stored in grasslands as soil carbon.

Soil carbon

Soil carbon is the carbon that enters the soil through decomposing plant matter.

When plants or parts of plants die, they are broken down and used as food by invertebrates such as insects and worms, by fungi and by bacteria and other microbes. Whilst some carbon dioxide is released through this process a great deal of the plant matter is incorporated into the soil. This plant matter is made primarily of carbon and oxygen.



The more mature soil is, the better for carbon storage. A mature, complex, undisturbed soil has a wide range of invertebrates, fungal mycorrhizae, bacteria and other microbes all of which contain carbon. Burial ground grassland tends to be full of different grasses, flowering plants, fungi and lichens. This richness above ground leads to a corresponding richness below.

So, which is the best?

It is not easy to directly compare the carbon within a veteran tree, a group of shrubs and an area of grassland: there are so many variables such as tree size, age and type, number of species within the grassland, soil depth, underlying rock, management and rainfall.

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Rather than doing a direct comparison it is more useful to know that individual trees, grasslands and areas of woodland are all excellent carbon stores. With trees, shrubs and woodlands most of the carbon is above ground and visible, with grasslands it is mainly invisible - within the soil.

As a general rule, peat bogs and fens store the most carbon, mature semi-natural woodland next, followed by species-rich grasslands including those with scattered trees such as parkland or orchard. We are currently working with partners to gain more knowledge of the specific importance of churchyards for carbon storage.

Reducing the Carbon Footprint of a burial ground

When planning how to reduce your churchyard, chapel yard or cemetery carbon footprint there are two aspects to consider:

1. How can you manage a burial ground to allow the most carbon storage.

2. How can you reduce the release of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases by reducing the oil, petrol and chemicals you use in churchyard and burial ground management.

Capturing carbon in burial ground trees, plants, and soils

Trees (see Action Pack sheets A4, A5, A6 and A7)

Whether intentionally planted or self-seeded, burial ground trees are storing carbon so try to avoid cutting down or pruning trees unless this is necessary for safety reasons or potential damage to buildings or monuments.

Existing Trees and Shrubs:

- Prolong the life of trees and native shrubs like hazel by coppicing (pruning stems at their base) or pollarding (pruning part way up the trunk).
- Consider allowing branches of veteran and ancient yews to touch the ground and take root, this is rejuvenating and keeps the tree living for longer.
- Deadwood contains carbon and decomposes slowly. Think of deadwood as an asset to be stored, either in a deadwood pile or if possible and safe, leaving it within the tree where it will also provide holes, nooks and crannies for wildlife too.

- Wood is also a useful product and by making something long-lasting you will be storing carbon for the lifetime of the object you make. If a tree needs to be felled can the wood be used for floorboards, furniture or even a bowl or two?

- Do you have hedges? Increasing the area of a hedge leads to a direct increase in carbon storage. Could it be left to grow taller and wider and any gaps planted up?
- Do you need to rake up dead leaves in autumn or can they be left beneath trees? If left, they will be pulled into the soil by worms and will increase soil carbon. Raking leaf litter up to put into a compost heap helps too and is the best option if they can't be left. (N.B you may need to rake leaves from flowery grassland to maintain the wildflowers, both thick leaf litter and grass cuttings will gradually reduce the floristic diversity).

Planting new trees and shrubs

- There is sometimes a place for new planting in burial grounds. You may be replacing a tree that came down in a storm, or planting in an area of grassland which does not contain much diversity. Try doing the simple survey in our Burial Ground Botanical Companion (on our website – caringforgodsacre.org.uk) to see if the chosen location for a new tree is already full of species in which case a different place would be better. N.B. if planning to plant trees please check with your diocese, local authority etc to see if permission is needed.
- Could you plant a hedge if you need a new boundary, perhaps to delineate a churchyard extension? The young, vigorous hedge plants will store carbon particularly rapidly in their first years of quick growth.
- If you have flowerbeds, can you plant some shrubs within them?

Grassland (see Action Pack sheets A2, A3 and A8).

Burial ground grasslands are likely to be excellent for carbon storage as they tend to contain a rich array of plant species. Their carbon storage can be increased by managing them in a less intensive way.

The higher the number of different plants growing in the grassland, the greater the amount of stored carbon. This is because an assemblage of species growing together will use the available resources (light, water, minerals) effectively as different species have different needs. In other words, more species result in a more efficient use of available resources, which increases productivity, thus increasing the carbon being

12. Improving the Carbon Footprint of Your Burial Ground

removed from the atmosphere and used for plant growth.

More plants also mean more plant debris going into the soil and supporting a wider range of animals including soil invertebrates, many of which may be specific to particular plants. By having a range of meadow flowers as well as grasses there is more carbon stored within plant roots, as the meadow flowers tend to have longer roots than grass species.

A taller sward means that more carbon is used in producing the stems and leaves of plants, it also means that roots go deeper to support the larger plants. Deeper rooting leads to more soil activity which in turn leads to more soil carbon storage.

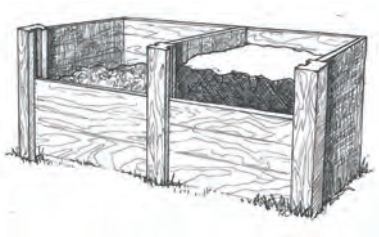
Short grass will store carbon but does not store as much as long grass.

Grassland with a few species will store carbon but does not store as much as grassland full of different grasses, wildflowers and a rich association of invertebrates.

N.B. grasslands do not continue to store more and more carbon over centuries, they reach a point of saturation. It is important to keep that carbon locked away within the grassland. This is the same for other natural habitats such as peat bogs or mature forests.

Consider:

- Increasing the amount of taller, meadow grass within your burial ground (see A2 & A3).
- Managing short grass areas a little differently – how about having medium length grass which is cut monthly with the cutting bar at its highest setting? (see A2). This small difference will increase carbon storage both above and below ground whilst remaining manageable and neat.
- Keeping a record of the plants within your grassland; many burial grounds have a wide variety of grassland plants but for those that don't, you might consider enhancing the sward with seed or plug planting (see B10, the Botanical Companion and our website for information on using iNaturalist).



Soil Carbon

Burial grounds tend to have mature, undisturbed soils. When soil is bare it erodes which leads to the carbon within the soil being released back in the atmosphere. When plant debris within soil is exposed, it quickly decomposes, releasing carbon. Burial ground soils rarely erode as they are not broken up by ploughing or excavation. Apart from grave digging, these soils have been gradually deepening, with a complex network of invertebrates, fungi and microbes forming. Grave digging, whilst it disturbs the soil, leaves soil open to the air for a short time following which the soil is replaced and turves laid back on top.

Consider:

- Following the steps above for grassland, this affects the soil and the carbon stored within it.
- Avoiding unnecessary digging. Burial grounds contain biodiverse, mature habitats so no need to try and 'enhance' by putting in a pond or making extra flower beds.
- Keeping soil covered with vegetation helps to prevent carbon-loss so include ground cover plants within flower beds.

Taller vegetation such as a meadow rather than short lawn creates a deeper zone of active soil associated with deeper plant roots. Active soil contains more stored carbon as it is full of life.

Reducing the oil, petrol and chemicals that you use
(see Action Pack sheet D6)

The management tasks that you and other churchyard volunteers do may use fossil fuels, but usage can be reduced or even eliminated. Here are some principles in carbon reduction to consider and try to follow.

Consider:

Reducing the use of power tools. Most power tools (including grass mowers) are petrol driven and less use means less release of carbon dioxide. Do you need a leaf blower or hedge trimmer or will a rake and clippers do? When you need to buy new tools maybe choose electric ones and consider an electricity supplier that uses renewable energy.

Mowing less often. Rather than short grass which is cut fortnightly, how about a combination of medium grass which is cut monthly and long grass which is left uncut for 3 to 4 months – far less mowing needed and far more flowers! (See Action Pack sheets A2 & A3)

12. Improving the Carbon Footprint of Your Burial Ground

Using what you have near at hand. Moving things in vehicles involves fossil fuels so try to use or buy local. Do you decorate the church with flowers grown locally or even from the churchyard, or are they imported?

Saving water by collecting and using rain for watering flowers. Treating and moving water takes time, chemicals and fossil fuels. Why not install water butts on the church downpipes?

Avoiding chemicals such as herbicides and pesticides. We have seen that more diversity means more carbon storage and producing these chemicals can be a carbon heavy process.

Composting green waste or letting it decompose in situ, in a deadwood pile or as leaf litter within wooded areas. N.B. always rake up and move leaves and grass cuttings away from your grassland areas, do not leave them to rot on the sward or you'll gradually lose your wildflowers!

Avoiding the burning of leaves or deadwood. How about creating a deadwood pile and putting leaves into the compost. Burning releases carbon immediately unlike slow decomposition.

Try and take a step on this journey

It's key that you do this gradually, change takes time, and it is important to keep managing your site whilst you change systems. Try and bring volunteers and the local community along with you as you make these changes, there may be ideas that would work in your gardens or public green spaces too. Start with something small, such as moving from fortnightly to monthly mowing of short grass areas and then follow this up with another change that is achievable, water butts perhaps. Every step on the journey helps and it's good to focus on what you can achieve rather than what you can't easily change.

Useful contacts

Church in Wales environment page
www.churchinwales.org.uk/en/about-us/our-campaigns/environment/

Church of England environment page
www.churchofengland.org/environment

Treeconomics www.treeconomics.co.uk

Woodland Trust
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Useful Reading

CfGA Action Pack sheets referred to above:

A2 Caring for grassland

A3 Cutting long grass and dealing with grass cuttings

A4 Inspecting and caring for trees

A5 Yews and other veteran trees

A6 Practical management of trees and shrubs

A7 Caring for hedgerows

A8 Creating wildflower meadow and helping wildlife

B10 Surveying for plants and animals

D6 Sustainability

BBC Bitesize helps to explain the carbon cycle, carbon footprint and global warming in a simple way
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

This action sheet was funded by the Church in Wales and the Church of England Environment Programme

YR EGLWYS YNG NGHYMRU THE CHURCH IN WALES

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

2. Health and Safety

This sheet gives guidelines on health and safety, first aid, first aid kits and on doing a risk assessment when running an event or volunteer work party.

It is the responsibility of burial ground managers to consider the safety of the whole site for the casual visitor. These guidelines are for groups running an event or work party as part of a conservation project.

Burial ground and churchyard managers need to think about the health and safety not only of visitors but also people who are volunteering. Cemeteries are likely to be the responsibility of the local authority and in most Anglican sites the Church Council takes the responsibility. This entails ensuring that a burial ground is as safe as is reasonably practicable and care is taken to minimise accidents. The responsible body must comply with health and safety legislation, hold public liability insurance and keep records.

When organising a work party or event you will need to consider the dangers, the associated risks and how to keep people as safe as possible.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Doing a risk assessment sounds like a very scary undertaking, but it is largely a matter of looking at your site, using your common sense and recording your findings.

The first step is to take a hard look at your site and the activities you are planning and think about what might cause harm (these are called the hazards.)

Site risk assessment

Start by looking at the site systematically, trying to imagine visiting it for the first time.

Paths and entrances – are paths even or uneven? Are any steps clearly visible? If there are railings by steps are they strong enough, smooth or sharp, are there any broken sections?

Areas away from paths – what is the rest of the site like? Is the ground uneven? Are there stones that could trip, gravestones that are not clearly visible, brambles or nettles?

Scots Pine

Stonework and monuments – are any of these unstable? Are graves surrounded by sharp railings?

Trees – are the trees safe, have you acted on recommendations from tree surveys? Do they have low, sharp branches or stumps? Are they poisonous?

Activity risk assessment

Look at the activity planned - what tools or equipment will be used? What is the range of ages and abilities of participants?

Tools – will there be sharp tools? If so list them. What about heavy or awkward tools? This could be cutting tools, sledge hammers, mowers.

Other equipment – will there be heavy things to lift, things to trip over? Are you planning to have a fire or boiling water?

The activity – what and where will people be working and what level of skill or training is needed? Will people be doing an activity for the first time or do you know that they have prior experience?

Are there particular risks with an activity: inappropriate tool use, lifting heavy or awkward objects, a need for space around the person? (Sledgehammer or strimmer use for example).

Will works be near or on a path or a road?

Who could be harmed? – could the activity cause harm to the participants or members of the public or to anyone else?

At the end of this process you will be feeling that the

2. Health and Safety

whole site is terribly dangerous, the activity that you are planning is potentially lethal and no one should be allowed anywhere near either of them! Hopefully the next stage will put risks into proportion.

The table below is based on one recommended by the Health & Safety Executive and has been partially filled out to give you some examples. **This is a template example only and must be filled out specifically for your burial ground or activity.**

Activity/event assessed:

Date of activity/event:

Location:

Nearest hospital:

First aider on site?:

First aid kit on site?:

Assessment carried out by:

Date assessment carried out:

What are the hazards?	Who might be harmed and how?	What are you already doing to control the risks?	What further action do you need to take to control the risks?	Who needs to carry out the action?	When is the action needed by?	Done
Trips & slips – uneven paths	Trips and slips	Warn participants and point out any specific	Warn participants to wear stout non-slip shoes	Task leader	Before	Tick or initial when done
Trips & slips – nettles & brambles	Participants could fall	Point out risky areas	Consider barriers if necessary	Task leader	Before	Tick or initial
Stings, thorns, scratches, allergies	Participants could be stung, scratched or have allergic reaction to plants	Warn of risks including identification of problem plants	Recommend long sleeves, trousers	Task leader	Before	Tick or initial
Unstable headstones	Participants could be hurt by falling headstones	Point out unstable headstones	Consider barriers if necessary	Task leader	Before	Tick or initial
Sharp tools – list them here	Participants & public could receive cuts	Instruct participants on safe use	Ensure public don't have access to tools	Task leader or designated person	Before & during	Tick or initial
Bonfire	Participants & public could receive burns or smoke inhalation	Take note of weather conditions e.g. wind	Ensure location is suitable & bonfire is supervised at all times	Task leader or designated person	Before & during	Tick or initial
Adverse weather conditions	Participants could get wet or very windy conditions could be unsafe	Advise attendees to dress suitably including footwear	If conditions warrant consider postponing or cancellation	Task leader or designated person	Before & during	Tick or initial
Etc						

These are all probably measures that you would take anyway, but not all participants may be as familiar with your burial ground as you are. They may need warning of, for example, a drop to the pavement below where the boundary wall is above the height of the surrounding area, or if there are some particularly sharp railings surrounding one grave.

2. Health and Safety

Keep records

Take a paper copy of the risk assessment and keep a file with all of your risk assessments in it. The site manager or church officials may want to store this file for you as it is a useful record for them.

Accident book

Keep a record of accidents and near misses. This can be a notebook with a pencil attached which is kept on site. There should be a separate page for each entry to avoid accidental sharing of personal information such as contact or medical details. Record the accident (including minor ones), the name of the injured person, the date, time of day and any particular conditions such as low light, rain or slippery ground. Near misses often go unrecorded but can give really useful insights. Use common sense when deciding what to record. Example: 'Slipped badly whilst carrying sharp tools but managed not to fall'.

First aid kit

The first aid kit should contain contents suitable for the number of people and the risks identified (e.g. lots of sterile eye wash if dealing with lime mortar).

Volunteers should be briefed at the start of the session as to the risks associated with the work/event, the provision and location of the first aid kit(s), who is the trained first aider and where the emergency phone is sited.

For more information on the recommended contents of first aid kit(s) contact **St. John Ambulance** or the **Red Cross.**

Review

One of the five steps to a successful burial ground project is an annual meeting and a review of the work and how volunteers are feeling (see sheet A1, The Five Steps).

During this meeting it is useful to review health and safety:

Consider:

• Do you have sufficient first aid training within your group?

• Would anybody like to do the training?

• Does the group have access to a landline or (working!) mobile phone to contact emergency services if needed?/

• Has the first aid kit been used and has it been replenished if needed?

• Have risk assessments been carried out for all new activities and events and are there copies in a file?

• Are you collecting emergency contact numbers for people who regularly volunteer and keeping them securely?

• Are there any patterns emerging in the accident book? For example:

- If accidents happen in the last hour of the work day consider stopping tasks earlier.

- If lots of minor cuts occur when using a particular tool do you need a replacement or different tool?

Useful contacts

British Red Cross, www.redcross.org.uk

Church of England, ChurchCare, www.churchcare.co.uk

Church in Wales, www.churchinwales.org.uk/resources/property

Health and Safety Executive, www.hse.gov.uk

St John Ambulance, www.sja.org.uk

Your insurance company!

Useful reading

Managing Visitor Safety in the Countryside – Principles and Practice, Visitor Safety Group

7. Burial Grounds for All – Welcoming all abilities into your burial ground

This sheet explains the steps that can be taken to make your burial ground as accessible as possible based on what you already have in your grounds.

A CULTURE OF WELCOME

Making as many people as possible welcome in your burial ground is not as difficult (or expensive) as you might think. Accessibility is not only about ramps and wheelchair accessible paths, and whilst this is a great thing to do if possible and affordable, there is a lot you can do if it isn't. Remember to work with what you have, if only part of your site is or can be made accessible then that is better than no access at all.

Helping people to plan their visit

Whether people with access needs are visiting for an event, a service, to visit a grave or simply to enjoy this beautiful place, being able to plan and know exactly what to expect can be the single thing that allows somebody to visit. This knowledge allows potential visitors to make informed choices about whether they can visit independently or might need help. It can help soothe anxieties and offering detailed access information shows consideration and a spirit of welcome to all people.

Getting there

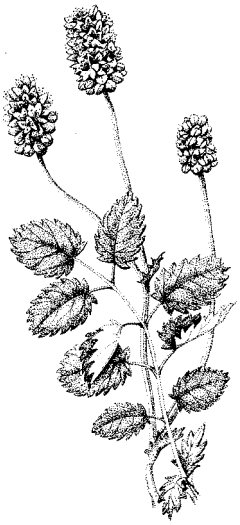
How do people arrive at your churchyard, cemetery or chapel yard?

Give as much information as you can including the location of bus stops or train stations and which bus routes it is on. What is the journey distance and conditions from leaving public transport to the burial ground entrance? How long is it, is there a pavement, crossing points, steep slopes up or down and are there are any seats along the route? Does the bus stop have a shelter and seat?

For people arriving by car, describe the parking available and how to get to it, whether the postcode will get a visitor directly to the parking or whether further directions are required. Describe the surface of the car park and whether there are designated spaces marked for disabled visitors. If the parking is on the roadside, make that clear, are there kerbs and pavements? Is the most accessible route between designated parking and the entrance to the site easy to find and clearly marked? If there are multiple entry points, which are the most accessible ones, and can you park near them? This is helpful for people who are getting a lift or taking a taxi, so that the driver can be directed to the best entrance.

Making a site welcoming to all need not be expensive or difficult. You have a responsibility to maximise access but not to make everywhere fully accessible. Most burial grounds have some parts which are not particularly easy. Do what you can to make reasonable adjustments, particularly when planning a change such as a new path, notice board or car park layout.

Once there



Tell visitors what they can expect once they have arrived. Is the ground level or not, what are the surfaces of paths and how does this change with the seasons? Are paths swept clear of wet autumn leaves or treated for ice? Are there steps, steep slopes or ramps and can these be avoided by selecting a different route? Describe any steps or slopes; is there a handrail, how many steps are there and how steep, are they lit on dull days or for evening events? Most people will have some sort of access need during their lifetime and your detailed knowledge of your grounds is a valuable thing to share.

An accessible toilet is a real bonus for visitors, if your burial ground has one then do let people know. If you have additional facilities such as a change table or a

hoist, make that clear too. When is the loo open and is it easy to get there from a designated parking place?

Many people need to stop and rest frequently and knowing where they can sit will allow them to explore. Does your site have any seating and how far it is in metres from the parking to the first seat? You can estimate this by taking long strides of about 1m or measuring on an accurate map. Are there more seats and if so where?

Say something like; 'you can find several seats in the new part of the churchyard, at about 40m intervals. The older section has one bench, which is about 150m away from the nearest seat along a grassed path'.

Think about how to reduce or remove any barriers that stop people accessing and enjoying your site. Do they need more information to be able to plan their visit? Where will they find this information? Is access made as easy as possible with information that is clear and useful? What extra things you can do to make your churchyard or cemetery interesting for all visitors?

How will visitors find this information?

Think about where people can learn about the accessibility of your site and any other interesting information that you want to share. Would a map or a series of photos on a website be a good way to let people know about what to expect or how about a short video? Is information available in a different form for those who have difficulty reading?

If you have an accessible, interesting place to visit please try to spread this useful information. Is there a church or community website or Facebook page? Think about local tourism offices, the community Hub or café, as well as local organisations that support people with access needs. Those who help plan activities on the site such as wedding planners, undertakers and those holding other events or functions need this information too. Consider providing a phone number for people to ring with access questions.

We have put together an access checklist to help you collate the information that might be helpful to anyone planning a visit. It is at the end of this sheet.

Information for visitors during their visit

Try to think of ways to welcome and help those with particular needs. Good access information on site makes it clear that all are welcome to visit and explore. If you are renewing your signage, leaflets or other interpretation then try to make it all as inclusive as possible.

How about putting Makaton symbols onto an entrance notice board? This welcomes children with additional needs. Can your signs be read when sitting down? Is text easy to read for those with partial sight or colour blindness? Can visitors receive the information by touch or sound rather than sight? It is a good idea to seek help and advice about this so see Useful Contacts for online resources and organisations offering guidance.

7. Burial Grounds for All – Welcoming all abilities into your burial ground

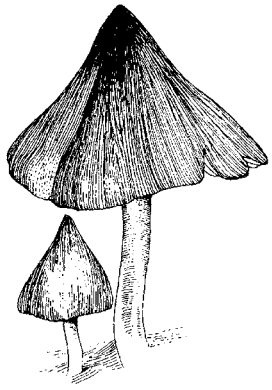
Other things to consider

Accessibility also includes non-physical access needs. Are you able to present information about your site for people who cannot read or find reading difficult? Providing information through pictures and photographs makes the information immediately accessible to young children as well as non-readers. To be able to sit back and listen to a recording of nature notes, stories about the stones or a descriptive tour of the grave yard can be enjoyed by anyone with adequate hearing including those with reduced mobility and those who have forgotten their reading glasses!

Few burial grounds will be entirely accessible to everybody on every level of need; however you can be creative in how you help people to explore and enjoy as much as possible.

This could include:

- An album of photographs of points of interest that might be hard to reach for some visitors. These might be the wildflowers, notable trees and interesting monuments in a further away area which is down a steep slope or flight of steps.
- A self-guided tour telling visitors what they can see, hear, smell from various (seated) points in the burial ground. This might be a podcast to download, a leaflet or a laminated map.
- A pictorial guide to the site at key moments in its history.
- A sensory garden with scented plants positioned around seating, that is easy to reach from the most accessible entrance.
- A short film available online.
- Audio recordings of the birdsong of various birds that visit the site.



If you do produce items like those above, make sure you tell people about them and where to find them.

Useful Contacts

The Sensory Trust, resources, ideas and advice on making the outdoors accessible
www.sensorytrust.org.uk

Creating Accessibility, a list of documents, organisations and guidelines collated by Accessible Countryside for Everyone ACE
www.accessiblecountryside.org.uk/creating-access

The Church of England Accessibility Guidance
www.churchofengland.org/more/church-resources/churchcare/advice-and-guidance-church-buildings/accessibility

Government guidance on designing for accessibility
https://accessibility.blog.gov.uk/2016/09/02/dos-and-donts-on-designing-for-accessibility

Government guidance on accessible formats
www.gov.uk/government/publications/inclusive-communication/accessible-communication-formats

Makaton symbols – this site has a free download section that covers a number of annual events and occasions
www.makaton.org/shop/shopping/browseStore/Free-resources

Making your film accessible to the visually impaired.
https://zeroproject.org/practice/pra181261tur-factsheet

Historic England's Easy Access to the Historic Environment document.
https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/easy-access-to-historic-buildings

Good practice Guidance from Disability Wales
www.disabilitywales.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/WAY-TO-GO-Toolkit-E-with-links.pdf

7. Burial Grounds for All – Welcoming all abilities into your burial ground

Access Checklist

This list is to help you consider what you have on your site and might help you answer questions about accessibility for a prospective visitor. This is not an access audit. Distances can be approximate, measured out with paces.

Public transport

Does public transport pass close to the site?

How far (in metres) is it from the bus stop/train station?

What is the bus route number?

Is there seating or a shelter at the bus stop?

Is the route on a pavement?

Is the route up or down hill?

Are there any obstacles for someone walking with sticks or a frame?

Are there rest opportunities along the way?

What type of route is it? E.g. along a busy road, through a park etc.

Parking

What is the parking situation? Is it roadside or a car park?

Does the postcode get you directly to the parking or are further directions required?

What sort of surface does it have?

Does it have designated parking clearly marked?

Is the best access route visible or signed from the designated parking space/s?

Are there any kerbs, steep slopes or steps?

Toilets

Is there an accessible toilet?

Does it have any additional facilities (change table, hoist etc.)

When is it open?

Does the route from the car park to the toilet involve any steep slopes, steps or ramps?

Seating

Is there any seating in the burial ground?

Can you describe them? Do they have backs? Do they have arm rests?

Does the route from the car park to the closest seat involve any steep slopes, steps or ramps?

How far in metres is it from the designated parking in the car park (if any) to the first opportunity to sit?

What are the distances in metres from the first seat to subsequent seating?

Pathways

Is there a route accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs?

What is the length of this route in metres?

What is the surface of the path?

Are the surfaces slippery when wet?

Do the paths get covered in leaves?

Do the paths get icy?

Is it well lit?

Are there handrails at any point?

If there isn't an accessible route can you describe the easiest route?

What is the length of this route in metres?

What is the surface of the path?

Are the surfaces slippery when wet?

Do the paths get covered in leaves?

Do the paths get icy?

Is it well lit?

Are there handrails at any point?

Is it sloping/steep?

How many steps are there?

Are the front edges of any steps a different colour, texture or material to the rest of the steps?

Are there rest opportunities?

Are there areas of the burial ground that cannot be accessed without negotiating steps or a steep path?

Information

If you have a notice or information board does the route to it from the car park involve any steep slopes, steps or ramps?

Can the information be read from a seated position?

Is there a seat from which the information can be read/viewed?

Do you have information in different formats? (Recordings, large print, pictorial guides) if so where can a visitor find them?

Is the information posted on site able to be found elsewhere e.g. a web site?