

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2011-16 MILL ROAD CEMETERY



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PART 1 – WHERE WE ARE NOW

INTRODUCTION

What is an Open Space Management Plan?

Management Plans are an important aid to the efficient and effective management of a site. A Plan forms part of a process for evaluating performance against agreed standards, consultation involving local community and stakeholders, strategic planning and providing continuity. Individual plans will be specific to each open space and will deliver aims and objectives specific to the needs of the local community who will be directly involved in its formulation.

An Open Space Management Plan also provides an excellent opportunity to collate a wealth of information relating to the Open Space that the management authority possesses into a comprehensive document. This plan should be used together with the Mill Road Cemetery Conservation Plan 2004.

Name of Site: **MILL ROAD CEMETERY**

Address of Site: Mill Road
Cambridge
CB1 2AW

If you require further details about this plan please contact:

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What is the purpose of this Management Plan?

As well as developing a Green Space Strategy the production of individual management plans for each open space is good practice and was an obligation made within the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2010 to 2015.

This Management Plan is intended to provide vital resource for staff in maintaining and developing the site as a resource for the community and visitors to the area and will be under constant review of progress.

It is expected that this Management Plan and the Conservation Plan 2004, will provide framework within which any future decisions concerning this site will be taken and that rolling reviews will inform future strategic and management planning. In addition it is hoped that the management plan for the site will assist with allocating existing and securing additional resources for enhancements on this site.

Open Space Management Plan – Mill Road Cemetery

Future actions and priorities for this site are identified in the action plan attached to this document. This Management Plan therefore provides a benchmark against which future progress can be measured.

Context

A Conservation Management Plan was produced for Mill Road Cemetery in 2004. This document details the background to the site and recognises its significance in terms of heritage, biodiversity and the cemeteries importance as a local green space.

This management and maintenance plan takes into account the *Cambridge Local Plan XX, Cambridge Parks and Open Spaces strategy 2010. Cambridge City Nature Conservation Strategy 2006, Cambridgeshire County Wildlife Site Register 2005.*

Statutory constraints;

- Mill Road Cemetery is listed Grade II in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.
- The Lodge, boundary walls and some of the monuments are listed.
- The cemetery is within the Mill Road and St Matthew's Conservation Area.
- The avenue of lime trees from Mill Road to the lodge is protected by City of Cambridge (Mill Road Cemetery) Tree Preservation Order No.5/1992
- It is a Cambridge City Council Wildlife Site which acknowledges its wildlife significance but offers no statutory protection.

The Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a 'Your Heritage' grant in June 2008 to support the aspirations of the City Council, Trustees and Friends of Mill Road Cemetery in preserving the fabric of the grade II listed cemetery and encourage greater appreciation of the site.

Representatives of the Trustees and Friends of Mill Road Cemetery have been consulted on and have contributed to the development of this plan.

SITE DESCRIPTION & INFORMATION BASE

Historical Background

Andrew Murray, the curator of the Cambridge University Botanic Garden at the time, designed Mill Road Cemetery. It was consecrated in 1848 to provide additional burial space for 13 of the city centre churches. For some time their churchyards had been full and could not be extended because of other development surrounding them. The new cemetery was divided up between the different parishes and boundary stones mark these divisions, either freestanding or set within the boundary brick wall.

The funding for the cemetery came from public subscription and so it was genuinely a place created by the town's people for the people. It was always intended that there should be a memorial chapel at the centre of the cemetery, where the burial services could be read, and that it should have the same relationship to the cemetery as a parish church has to its churchyard. George Gilbert Scott's chapel was finally completed in 1858 but it was demolished in 1954 when it became too costly to repair, leaving the cemetery without its central focal point.

Andrew Murray's plan shows the original plant selection was almost exclusively coniferous. Pine, fir and spruce trees predominated, most were trees that had been in the country for 2-300 years, but others appear to be new cultivars exclusive to those in botanical circles. Some of the pine established because they survive today, but the fir and spruce trees must have died. They are not suited to Cambridge soils and climate requiring acid soils, higher rainfall and damp atmospheric conditions. As a result there were many early failures and by 1865 an appeal was launched to raise funds for improvements and William Mudd, Curator of the University of Cambridge Botanic Garden, invited to draw up plans to refurbish the existing avenues and 'clumps' and add new planting areas. He recommended planting 340 coniferous trees and shrubs, 25 weeping willows etc. and nearly 200 roses. Within a year the grounds were refurbished; the surviving pines were retained and new evergreen and deciduous trees planted. Many of the mature trees in the cemetery date from this period and they create the character of the cemetery that exists today. The willows and the evergreen shrubs and roses may have been planted, but as they are short-lived plants none survive today and there are no known records to confirm this.

Description of Open Space

Mill Road Cemetery is located between Gwydir Street, Mackenzie Road, Norfolk Street and of course Mill Road, and can be accessed from the above locations. (*Plan A*) The cemetery is in a highly urbanised area of southeast Cambridge and provides valuable green space. Its close proximity to the local community rather than on the outskirts of the city, enable people to visit the graves of local family and friends relatively easily.

The cemetery is part of the route that many people follow as they go between home and various daily destinations. This is in addition to the visits made specifically for recreational and educational purposes. In a densely built-up area short of public open space, the cemetery is an important resource that enriches the lives of many people. It is a complex green space with trees that are of significance both within the cemetery and to the streets and houses that surround it. The shrubs and grassland are of importance aesthetically and also carry a significant biodiversity value. The possible indirect influence of J C Loudon on

Open Space Management Plan – Mill Road Cemetery

the layout and the connection with the Botanic Garden through its curator Andrew Murray, the listed lodge and the range of monuments within the cemetery, including the nine listed ones, combines with other components to produce a green space of special historic importance.

The cemetery was laid out before municipal public parks were created and at the time the only publicly accessible open space was common grazing land. In J C Loudon's influential book advising on the laying out of cemeteries (1843) he envisaged that once full, such cemeteries might become parks for the people. This is exactly what has happened in the case of Mill Road Cemetery because although originally laid out beyond the edge of the built up area, it is now in one of the most densely populated parts of the city. There is no open space of a similar character available to the public in this part of the city.

The cemetery is grade II listed on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. It also lies within the Mill Road Conservation Area.



Plan A
Map shows location of cemetery and surrounding streets.

Ownership

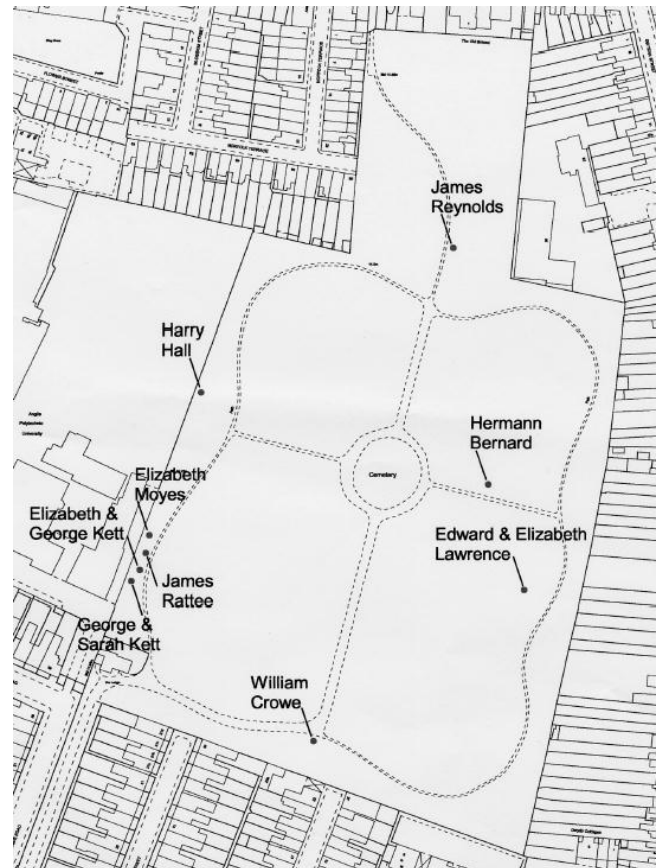
The cemetery is held in trust by the parishes, their incumbents acting as Trustees, but by law as a closed churchyard it is maintained by the City Council. Different parts of the cemetery were 'closed' by separate Orders as the land allocated to individual parishes became full. The Local Authority has therefore taken over the obligation to maintain the grassland and boundary of the cemetery to preserve it as a place of burial. Strictly speaking these obligations are fairly minimal, but because of the cemetery's location and the large number of people who pass through it each day, the City Council devotes greater resources than it otherwise might.

Buildings & Structures

The cemetery lodge is a listed building now in private ownership after being sold by the Trustees several years ago. (further detail can be found within the Conservation Plan)

There are currently nine listed memorials;

- 667/21/10116 Tomb of James Rattee (Grade II)
- 667/21/10118 Tomb of Elizabeth and George Kett (Grade II)
- 667/21/10119 Tomb of Harry Hall (Grade II)
- 667/21/10120 Tomb of James Reynolds (Grade II)
- 667/21/10122 Tomb of Herman Bernard (Grade II)
- 667/21/10123 Tomb of Edward & Elizabeth Rist Lawrence (Grade II)
- 667/21/10124 Tomb of William Crowe (Grade II)
- 667/21/10125 Tomb of Elizabeth Moyes (Grade II)
- 667/21/10141 Tomb of George and Sarah Kett (Grade II)



Plan B shows location of listed memorials.

The memorials are an integral component of the cemetery, and as a general rule are the responsibilities of surviving relatives. In practice however, funding for repairs generally has been achieved through the Friends apply for City Council grants, donations and the City Council 'Closed Churchyards' budget. A number of the monuments have suffered from subsidence and vandalism; a particularly bad attack led to the formation of the Friends of Mill Road Cemetery in 1999 and then to the formation of the Mill Road Cemetery Working Group. Repairs have been necessary to make the monuments safe or to reassemble damaged ones. Priorities for repairs are discussed with Trustees and Friends, based on aesthetics, location and cost.

Faculty approval must be granted before work can commence on site.

There are a number of war graves throughout the cemetery that are maintained by the War Graves Commission.

The cemetery 'Closure' act places responsibility for maintenance of boundary walls with the local authority. Work has been undertaken when required, with a large stretch of perimeter wall by Norfolk Terrace being conserved in 2009 at considerable cost. Repointing was necessary and the original half-round brick coping repaired, and in places totally renewed with specially made bricks.

Central area / Mortuary Chapel; The Conservation Plan (2004) details the history and construction of the George Gilbert Scott mortuary chapel that stood until 1957 in the central area of Mill Road Cemetery. The document also raises questions regarding the current use of this area, and if the chapel area should in some way commemorate the former building and in doing so provide a new focus for a shared 'memorial'.

The Heritage Lottery fund grant enabled a two-day archaeological dig to be conducted by Oxford Archaeology East during November 2009. Geophysical surveys taken before work commenced on site detailed clearly the outline of the chapel and a series of trenches determined the construction and condition of the foundation stones.



Opinions regarding the development of the central area have changed since the initial questionnaire in 2004 that suggested the creation of a memorial garden. Further consultation will need to be undertaken to determine if or how the chapel outline should be demarcate.

Further information on the Archaeology works can be found in the Oxford Archaeology East report 2009. (This document can be at www.millroadcemetery.org.uk or in the Cambridge Collection)

Access

There are four entrances to the cemetery, the main access fronts onto Mill Road and leads up the cemetery drive towards the lodge. Iron gates are installed at Mill Road and Norfolk Street, although they are rarely closed giving 24-hour access to the site. There are issues with unauthorised parking along the main drive, which must be addressed.

A pedestrian entrance adjacent the cemetery lodge on the Mackenzie Road boundary provides a popular third entrance into the site.

An unofficial route developed from Gwydir Street into the cemetery at the northeast end of the site. Attempts in the past to block off this desire line failed and so a gate was installed to formalise the access point. This is closed each Good Friday on behalf of the Trustees to prevent the route developing as a right of way.

Paths

The 1848 path layout is still intact although in some places the paths have shifted slightly when shrubs or yew trees have grown out over the original line. The less well used paths on the east side have narrowed as the grass has gradually grown over the edges. The original paths were gravel it is believed, but repairs have been carried out using a variety of materials including broken brick. Potholes develop periodically and in places water lays in puddles. The main paths from Mill Road through the central area of the cemetery are constructed of limestone and become wet and messy during periods of prolonged bad weather.

Some desire lines exist, cutting across sections of the cemetery, particularly from the central area towards the lodge. Temporary chestnut paling fencing has at times been used to deter use, but this often affects the aesthetics of the cemetery. Consideration should be given to whether and how the desire lines are managed as problems arise.

Grounds Maintenance

Grounds Maintenance work is undertaken by Cambridge City Council, under the direction of area supervisor with input from Nature Conservation Projects Officer and Green Space Office as required.

Current operations:

- Majority of grass is cut / strimmed fortnightly, with the arisings left in situ
- No cutting is undertaken within the grave surrounds to encourage growth native and self-set plants.
- The northern meadow area is cut once, usually end of September / early October, the arisings should be removed from site although this hasn't always been achieved in the past.
- Litterbins are emptied daily? And the site litter picked every two weeks????
- Needles are collected by Street Scene / City Rangers
- Self-sets trees and saplings are removed by Street Scene or approved contractor (last undertaken 2004)

Other tasks are undertaken as and when required, either with Street Scene or approved contractors.

Trees

The original layout is still clearly identifiable and some of the original planting survives. Plants were chosen for their ability to define a place and to create an ambience as well as being attractive in their own right. Pioneer species were chosen alongside plants whose habit and performance were tried and tested.

The trees also create the character of the cemetery. The southern area is quite different from the northern sector and the trees contribute to this distinction. In the southern part there is formality and a sense of order and purpose. The mature trees follow the formal path structure and are carefully placed in the landscape for maximum effect. They define the boundaries and paths, mark the intersections and within the burial ground help identify the position of graves. At the same time they appear as fine individual specimens giving seasonal pleasure.

In the northern sector the trees follow the paths that traverse the cemetery and mark the entrance. They are planted to fill the space rather than to define it and provide formality

and order. They are placed informally and the mature forest scale trees are seen as individual specimens and group planting. Within the meadow the trees screen the cemetery and the adjoining houses from each other.

- The avenue of lime trees from Mill Road to the Lodge is protected by City of Cambridge (Mill Road Cemetery) Tree Preservation Order No. 5/1992.

The Conservation Plan 2004 highlighted the need to understand the balance between sun and shade in the cemetery because the nature of the ground vegetation changes accordingly. This is especially important in the four quadrants. During dry, sunny periods in the summer the grass does not grow thereby allowing short and rosette forming plants to flower. In order to maintain this these areas of the cemetery must be kept open. It will be important to take this into account when designing new planting schemes for the cemetery. Special care must be taken in the selection of specie and positioning the new trees to ensure areas are kept open and sunlight can bathe the ground. It may be necessary to work out a system of rotating the open spaces when deciding where to plant replacement trees for existing trees in decline or recently felled trees.

Biodiversity of the Open Space

The cemetery qualifies for designation as a City Wildlife Site (CWS) for neutral grassland and calcareous grassland. City Wildlife Sites are those sites considered to be of particular local importance for nature conservation at county, rather than at national level. The sites are assessed by agreed criteria and are designated for their habitat value covering a range of flora and fauna.

The important contribution CWS play in conserving biodiversity has been recognised by national government in guidance to local authorities. Cambridgeshire authorities report to national government on the positive management of CWS across the County through National Indicator 197.

Ecological description

The cemetery comprises neutral-calcareous grassland areas, managed under two different regimes, with scattered coniferous and broadleaved trees, a high proportion of which are non-native. Around the perimeter are mostly shrubs and ranker vegetation, bordered with an old brick wall outside of which is many mature gardens and trees. While some of the graves are cleaned and tended, the grassland is continuous over many, while others with raised stone borders and gravel surfaces have different communities, and still others are overgrown with woody species. The ecological effect is of grassland with some broken stony ground and scrub, with lichen communities on some gravestones.

The grassland divides roughly into three parts.

- 1) In the north end the sward is cut approximately once or twice a year. It is dominated by coarser grasses, particularly False Oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*, with a mean height of around 100cm. There are few forbs within the sward, other than Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis*.
- 2) The grassland within the main circular path is regularly mown. The regime permits finer vegetation and the sward is forb-rich including notable species such as

Common Bird's-foot-trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* that is now frequent in the south-east quarter and occasional elsewhere. Grasses that manage to flower include Timothy *Phleum pratense* and False oat-grass *Arrhenatherum elatius*.

- 3) Next to and outside the circular path the cutting is in places less severe and the sward is rather similar to that in the north end, although more forb-rich. Perforate St. John's-wort *Hypericum perforatum* occurs in a stand in the northeast corner. Stands of Yellow Oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens* flower in these areas.

Many graves with stone borders within the grassland have taller, ranker vegetation. Other graves have Ivy *Hedera helix*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and self set saplings. Ivy Broomrape *Orobancha hederaceae* occurs around some in the south –west quarter. This is an unusual plant that has no chlorophyll and is reliant on its ivy host for nutrients. Garden escapes, e.g Hollyhock *Alcea rosea*, are common around graves.

Scrub is vital for food, refuge and breeding sites for the majority of species frequenting the site. Scrub needs to be managed to retain its full wildlife value whilst recognising the multi functional requirements of the site. A rotation of coppicing of scrub compartments is proposed. This will aim to have a proportion of scrub at varying ages on the site at all times.

Water on site is confined to rainwater collecting on paths and in tree cavities and memorial stones. These should be recognised and retained where safe and practical to do so.

Evergreen trees, shrubs and climbers provide cover for winter roosting, early nesting and shelter from predators and bad weather. Ivy is also an important late nectar source.

Over 35 species of bird have been recorded using the site and it is of local importance for breeding bird populations and supporting wintering species such as Redwings and Blackcaps. The current mixture of native and non-native tree and shrubs provide a broad menu of feeding opportunities and the 2010 balance should be retained. Additional tree and scrub planting should consider berry bearing species.

The microclimates found within the grave sets and sheltered 'glades' are of particular value to a variety of invertebrates and care should be taken when considering removal of sections of scrub or large trees, to avoid exposing such sites to the elements.

Compost piles of cuttings are valuable for invertebrates and small mammals. Areas should be designated and remain undisturbed.

Bird nest boxes and bat boxes would be valuable due to the limited number of natural cavities. A variety of designs should be installed including a Tawny Owl box in a suitably mature tree. These birds will benefit from increased small mammal populations associated with long grass areas.

It should be noted that short grass is an important feeding area for thrushes, starlings and wagtails and allow some of the short grass herbs to flourish without competition.

Bats forage on the site, any additional lighting should be considered carefully and appropriate foraging route surveys undertaken.

Open Space Management Plan – Mill Road Cemetery

Introduced species such as Grey squirrel and muntjac form part of the visitor experience of a 'wild' urban area. Although they do incur limited damage to native flora and fauna. Other species pose a greater threat and should be monitored include garden escapes such as golden rod and Japanese knotweed. Suggest annual inspection of site for presence and abundance of non-natives.

Lichen and bryophytes (moss and liverworts) on gravestones provide a fascinating community, and their diversity should be protected and encouraged. Stones should not be cleaned, apart from inscriptions when required. Care should be taken when repositioning stones as this may not favour the lichen that has become established.

Additional planting should concentrate on local, native species.

Bulb planting should be limited to entrances and key routes. It is possible to increase native plant diversity under mature trees through plug planting of wood anemone, native bluebell and alike.

Who uses the site, where they come from, patterns of use and behaviour

Ward Information – Petersfield Ward

Resident Population – 7,800

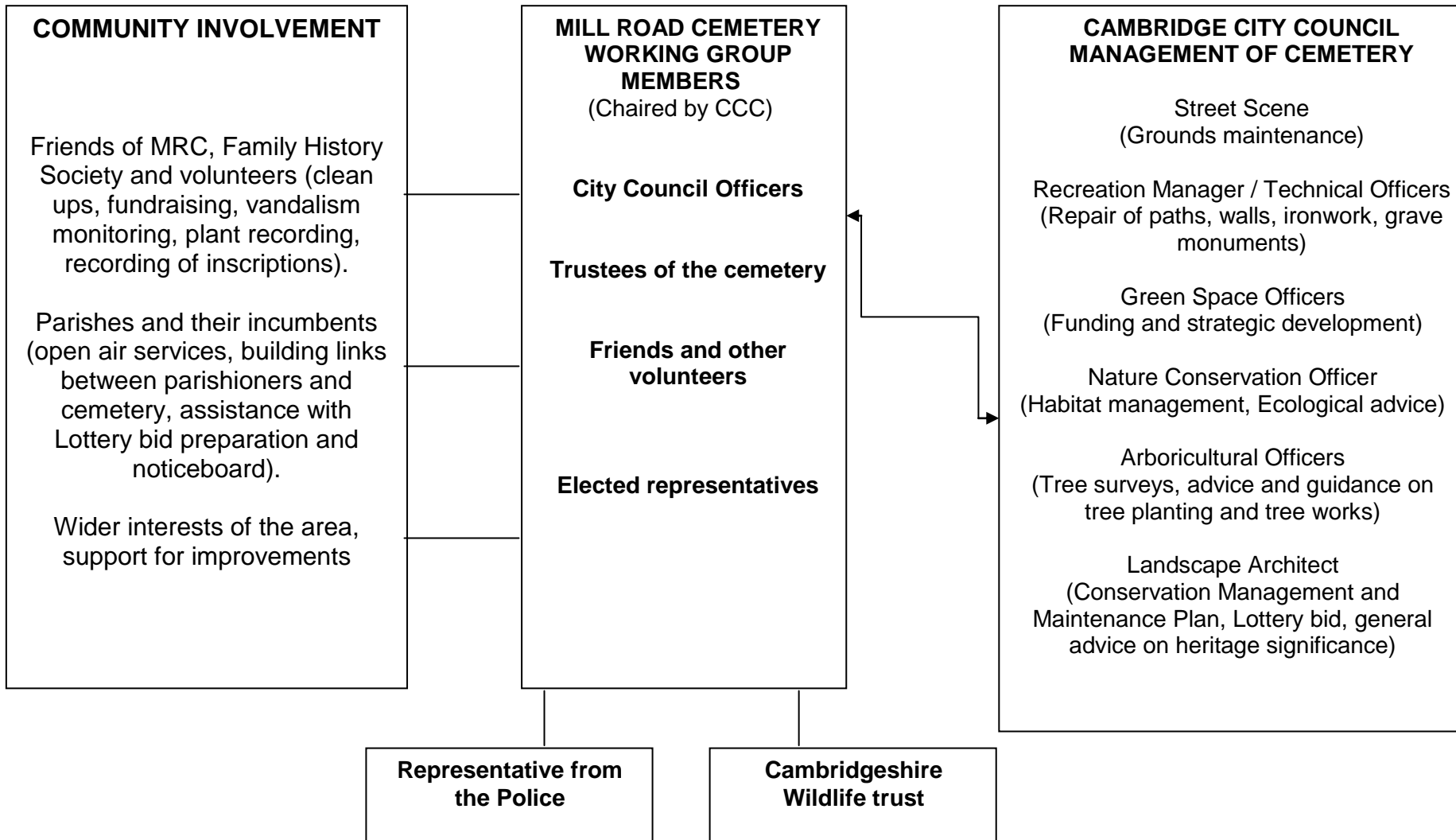
Patterns of use and behaviour – Multitude of uses; Closed churchyard, historical significance, local wildlife site, short cut between various destinations, green / recreation space, place of quiet contemplation, tending family graves and more recently as an educational resource. The cemetery is not locked which allows 24hr access. Issues of ASB have been highlighted in recent years.

Stakeholders – Trustees of Mill Road Cemetery
Friends of Mill Road Cemetery
Local Wildlife Trust
Petersfield Ward Councillors

Management of the site

The cemetery is held in trust by the parishes, their incumbents acting as Trustees and owners of the land. By law as a closed churchyard, maintenance of the site is the responsibility of Streets & Open Spaces Department at Cambridge City Council.

The Mill Road Cemetery Working Group (MRCWG) was formed alongside the development of the Friends group in 1999, and continues to be a vital forum for the continued protection of the site. The diagram on page 13 shows the groups that are represented and how they are in touch with the community. This representation ensures that concerns of relatives of those interred in the cemetery and local people can influence the management of the cemetery. The MRCWG discusses policy and through the Chair of the Group, the consensus arrived at is translated into action through the officers within the group. However some of the management and maintenance decisions are permanently in place and are not negotiable, as they relate to Council responsibilities in a wider sense.



PART 2 – WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET TO

VISION

The vision for Mill Road Cemetery within this plan will continue to provide a quality open space, balancing wildlife conservation, public safety and historic fabric of the cemetery to support its continued enhancement. Consultation and collaboration with the Trustees, Friends of Mill Road Cemetery, the local community and all other relevant stakeholders will be essential for continued progression.

General Objectives

- To improve health and well being of residents and visitors by offering a well maintained and quality open space for active recreation and or relaxation
- To protect our biological assets and increase biodiversity
- To reduce anti social behaviour
- To realise the potential of the open space as a cultural and historical place to visit through a programme of publicity, information and events.
- To work with the local community in identifying local priorities for funding for the open space.
- To ensure the activities and events in our open spaces celebrate and promote the rich diversity and that our open spaces are accessible to everyone.

ANAYLSIS & ASSESSMENT

Monuments

The Mill Road Cemetery's primary function, as a place of commemoration should always be recognised. It is important therefore that the monuments are as much as possible, kept in good repair. The variety and quality of the monuments and their condition contributes to the character of the cemetery and shows that it is well cared for. This in turn deters vandalism and makes people visiting feel safer. More people are likely to use the cemetery if they feel secure and this protects it further. A rolling programme of repairs to the monuments is necessary to safeguard these positive effects into the future and avoid a sense of dereliction.

Memorials are by law the responsibility of relatives of the deceased, however in reality repairs are usually organised and funded by the city council or through grants and donations, as supported by the Trustees and Friends of the cemetery.

There are currently a significant number of memorials throughout the cemetery, which require attention. These should be identified and costed for repair on an annual basis, then as funding becomes available, faculty applications should be made and once granted; an approved contractor should undertake repairs. A photographic record of repaired memorials should be kept for future reference.

Memorial repairs are undertaken as a matter of urgency if there are deemed to be safety risks. In this instance the Trustees and DAC (Diocesan Advisory Committee) should be notified and the work undertaken using an approved contractor. A retrospective Faculty applied for at the earliest opportunity.

A significant number of memorials have been repaired since the establishment of the Friends group. A faculty petition to restore 23 memorials is currently being processed with work to begin during 2010/2011. The Trustees and Friends assist the Council in agreeing priorities for repair.

Current specifications for memorials being repaired in 2010 are as follows;

- All fixings will be stainless steel to the current grade and rod will be threaded in the appropriate diameter. The rods will be set in thermo setting resin or grouted in with a hydraulic lime mix. Alternative dowels could be ceramic if not required as a more structural measure. All other mortar repairs and pointing will be undertaken using hydraulic lime mortars (NHL 3.5) and graded sands and stone dusts/pozzolanic buff bricks dusts. Lime putty mixes may be used in certain instances but no Cement.
- The memorials will be set up right to prevent future collapse, the base will need to have been suitably prepared to give sound footing. The introduction of limecrete foundations or lintels (fully concealed) will be considered separately on each monument. When necessary lifting equipment will be used to lower heavy stone onto the pre prepared base and stainless steel rods. If new stone is required this will be introduced to match to plain shaft sections or minor loss recreated with lime mortar (plastic repairs)
- Where salvaged fragments exist we will introduce them especially if they are required for structural benefits. Our approach is based on conserving with available stones and not recreation or "over restoration"
- We are not to lay down memorials under the current scheme but will do so if instructed where others not presently viewed are precarious or dangerous. We would consider it inappropriate to move monuments to other areas unless a valid reason exists and all permission sought etc.

Central Area

Questionnaire survey conducted in 2003 generated an expression of interest in the need for a shared memorial situated within the central area of the cemetery. This would once again provide a central focus to the site, inform visitors about the mortuary chapel and support the cemetery's function as a place of commemoration.

The Friends of Mill Road Cemetery conducted a survey during 2009's Mill Road winter fair listing potential options for the central area, results of which showed clear support for an outline of the foundations of the chapel, which should be flush to the ground to allow the grass to be easily cut and not inhibit any current use of this space.

Public Art initiative fund, is contributing to the development of a community art project within the cemetery. The formation of a steering group in 2009 is in the early stages of consultation with the Mill Road Community to gauge ideas on what form the art project will take. It may be that the central feature and the art project will be part of the same project, this will become clearer by mid 2010.

Paths

Walls

Street Furniture

Grounds Maintenance

The 2003 users' survey carried out for the conservation plan showed how highly the public valued the cemetery as an open space and wildlife habitat. The current slightly relaxed style of grounds maintenance seems to be an acceptable compromise between achieving a cemetery that is well looked after for those who continue to tend graves and yet provides opportunities for the plants and associated wildlife that also have an important role in this very urban setting.

Management needs to be aware that sometimes there can be a localised conflict and be responsive to requests for a higher level of maintenance around particular graves if there is evidence that they are tended, even if this is infrequently.

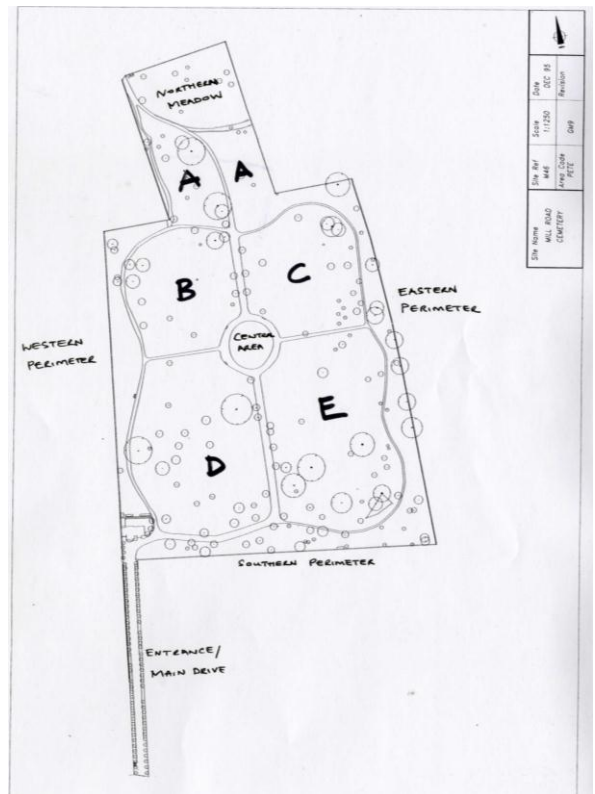
Self-set tree seedlings can, if left, destabilise monuments and for this reason must be killed not just cut back. Ivy growth has protected many monuments and is useful in disguising damaged ones. It can contribute to the shrub layer and provide an evergreen component in the landscape. The value to wildlife is significant both in providing cover and food. However there can be situations when the top growth is so heavy that it risks destabilising monuments in high winds. The solution is not to tear off the ivy, risking damage to sculpture, but to trim it over to reduce the bulk on vulnerable graves. This should occur outside the bird-nesting season and not be a blanket treatment to all ivy because the flowers and fruit of ivy are very valuable to wildlife.

Balancing the desire to see some brambles in the cemetery with the need to control their spread is an issue that is best resolved by designating certain areas to brambles. These need to be periodically cut to the ground to allow new growth. However this should be done in rotation so that there are always patches of brambles that are in different stages of growth to maintain the habitat value.

Below shows a plan of the cemetery divided up into areas, based on proposed management styles.

Areas A, B, C, D and E:

- Amenity grass, cut fortnightly with the arisings remaining on site. Care should be taken when cutting / strimming as there are often seasonal flora (both wild and cultivated plants/flowers) that should be retained.
- Grave surrounds and sets should be left un-cut to encourage development of unique micro-habitats that often contain fragile plant species.
- Self sets trees and shrubs should be systematically removed and treated during the winter months to both control unwanted vegetation and prevent damage to memorials.
- Some brambles and elders are important for wildlife and visitors to the cemetery, therefore specific areas should be retained and proactively managed; these are mostly likely to be around the perimeter of the cemetery. Exact areas to be agreed on site annually with stakeholders. Mature specimens in sheltered, sunny locations are of particular value to nectaring insects.
- Ivy provides a valuable wildlife habitat by providing cover and food. Mature specimens in sheltered, sunny locations are of particular value to nectaring insects. It also contributes to the shrub layer and provides evergreen component within the cemetery landscape. In some cases the ivy has served to protect memorials, however there are situations where vegetation has built up to become too top heavy risking destabilising the monument. In these cases the Ivy should be initially trimmed back to reduce the weight, before assessing condition of memorial and if full removal should be carefully undertaken. In some specific areas it may be appropriate to carefully systematically remove the ivy from a section of memorials to reinstate the aesthetics of the site, this however should be balanced with ensuring large areas of growth are retained.



Northern Meadow:

Previous cutting regimes have proven unsuccessful in establishing a diverse range of flora. Rank grass species have dominated the sward and although valuable for some species it is felt this is not the desired habitat.

- Due to lack of consistency in previous management a programme of restorative cutting is suggested. This will aim to remove some areas of dense

Open Space Management Plan – Mill Road Cemetery

tussock forming grasses to encourage a more diverse, herb rich sward. The value of tussocks for over wintering invertebrates and small mammals should not be forgotten.

- Suggest a two cuts per year regime; early spring cut at the end of March (height of cut 100-150mm), followed by a November cut and collect.
- In order to retain some tussock grass areas for over wintering invertebrates and maturing lava the meadow will be subdivided into three areas (see plan) One area will always be left uncut, which will be rotated annually.
- It is recognised that successful restoration management of meadows requires regular reviews and additional work undertaken if needed such as removal of self-seeds or invasive weeds.



2011/12 & 2014/15	
area 1	Cut
area 2	Cut
area 3	Leave

2012/13 & 2015/16	
area 1	Leave
area 2	Cut
area 3	Cut

2013/14 & 2016/17	
area 1	Cut
area 2	Cut
area 3	Leave

Plan C : Meadow Restoration / Cutting areas

Entrance 'walk'

- The lime avenue is a significant formal feature within the cemetery dating back to 1847. The trees are annually pollard and epicormics removed as arranged by the Arboricultural Officer. (excluding the trees within the boundary of the cemetery lodge which is privately owned)
- Euonymous along the main driveway should be pruned annually to retain the formality of the approach to the cemetery.

Western Perimeter

- Grass should be maintained to at least a meter strip along the paths, retained in areas around listed or important memorials and behind seating.
- A programme of periodic cutting back of bramble and scrub should be established to encourage new growth; this work should be rotated with other

Open Space Management Plan – Mill Road Cemetery

bramble areas within the cemetery. (As agreed through annual work programme)

- Self sets should be dealt with as described previously
- Area directly behind the cemetery lodge requires discussion with current owners of property. Suggestion would be to allow area to form as scrub with selective management as appropriate, such as pruning of boundary hedge, removal of Russian vine and removal of self-sets.
- Narrow paths could be established behind areas of mature vegetation / brambles to enable access to memorials, create interesting trails and on a practical notice allow local police to patrol 'hot spot' areas more easily.

Eastern Perimeter

- Designated areas of brambles and elders should be retained along this boundary, with a selective programme of maintenance in rotation with other areas within the cemetery.
- Once the Northern meadow has been restored, consideration should be given to establishing longer grass areas between the boundary wall and line of memorials in the southern section of this perimeter and south-east corner of the cemetery. The south-east corner and the southerly area in section E already have established wildflowers such as violets and primroses and so it seems appropriate to continue this theme in a more formalised arrangement with Street Scene.

Southern Perimeter

- Established areas of elder, bramble and ivy provide a beneficial screen to neighbouring properties and should be retained, with selective pruning to ensure regeneration of growth periodically.
- Self-sets should be treated as described above.

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE

PROGRAMME

COMPONENT	OBJECTIVE	MAINTENANCE TASK	YEAR	FREQUENCY	AREA OR NUMBER
		ROUTINE TASKS			
GRASS Main area	Cut amenity grass areas	Cut grass using hand held mower, clippings unboxed.	Annually	Fortnightly, April-Nov	37401m ²
Northern Meadow	Cut hay meadow areas	Strim grass and collect and remove arisings in two out of three areas, one area to be retained for over wintering. (co-ordinate with Friends group re-raking off arisings)	Annually	Early March and November	1500m ²
Graves	Short grass around graves	Strim grass around grave kerb sets and monuments. NB no strimming to be carried out around trees to avoid damage to trunks.	Annually	Fortnightly, April - Nov	
HEDGE	Cut <i>Prunus</i> hedge on drive	Cut hedge after leaf fall and before February and dispose of arisings.	Autumn	Annual	62m
SCRUB & SELF-SETS	Control of self set woody vegetation.	Cut down resprouting, self set woody vegetation disrupting monuments and treat with approved herbicide.	Autumn/ Winter	Annual	Variable
Self sets	Keep evergreen trees free from ivy and self-set shrub and tree seedlings.	Clear ivy climbing within evergreen trees.	As above	Annual	Variable
LITTER	Empty bins and maintain cemetery litter and needle free	Empty litter bins	Annually	Daily	10 no.

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		Litter pick whole cemetery, including collecting and recording needle finds.	01-Oct	Monthly	41327m2
	SUBTOTAL				
PATHS	Maintain main path and drive without potholes	Repair potholes	01-Oct	Annual	Variable
TREES	Maintain safety of trees	Inspect trees for compliance with health and safety legislation and order work required. (Accordance with Tree Protocol, appendix doc)		3 yearly@	
	Prune the lime avenue on the drive	Arboricultural Officer to instruct tree contractors to carry out the work in accordance with the specification	01-Oct	Annually	78 no.
TREES	Maintain sustainability of tree stock.	Plant young trees (only in accordance with the Arboricultural Strategy & tree protocol)	01-Oct	Oct-March	Variable
	SUBTOTAL				
WATER TAP	Disconnect water supply in winter.	Turn off stopcock in autumn, by 31 October and back on again on in spring by 1 March.	01-Oct	Annually	1 no.
		CYCLICAL TASKS (repair and renewal fund)			
WALLS	Maintain perimeter wall in good condition.	Inspect perimeter wall.	Summer	Annual	Variable
		Re-point and repair perimeter wall.	As required	Intermittent	Variable
	SUBTOTAL				
GATES and RAILINGS	Maintain railings and gates in good condition.	Inspect railings and gates.	Summer	Annual	
		Repair ironwork referring to historical patterns.	As required	Intermittent	Variable

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		Paint ironwork in accordance with specification	1, 5, 10	5 yearly	
	SUBTOTAL				
PATHS	Maintain side paths in good condition	Inspect paths for depressions that hold water, pose hazards or difficulties for the less able.		When visiting for regular maintenance	3450m2
		Repair all the paths in accordance with the specification.	As required	Intermittent	Variable
		Re-establish line of the path where it has deviated from its proper position, reinstating the adjacent grass, using grass mix in the specification. Deal with the reason for the deviation eg prune back overhanging shrub.	As required	Intermittent	Variable
	Actively discourage shortcuts developing	Note the development of informal paths when carrying out grass cutting operations. Promptly restore the grass according to the specification and erect temporary barriers and notices requesting that cyclists and walkers keep to the formal paths to maintain the appearance of the cemetery.	As required	Intermittent	Variable
	SUBTOTAL				
SEATS	Maintain seats in good condition	Repaint and stain the seats in accordance with the specification	As required	4 yearly	6
NON-ROUTINE TASKS					
FLY TIPPING	Clear dumped rubbish promptly	Report instances of fly-tipping when routine maintenance visits to the cemetery are made and arrange for the removal to a licensed tip within 7days.	As required	Intermittent	

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MONUMENT DAMAGE	Respond to dangerous or vandalised monuments	If monuments are vandalised lay the pieces on the ground within the grave space. If the monument becomes dangerous either through vandalism, subsidence or through failure of supports, report to the Technical Officer immediately so that steps can be taken to make the monument safe.	As required	Intermittent	
	TOTAL				

Trees

The Conservation Plan of 2004 and the Council's Arboricultural Strategy provide an excellent basis on which to found tree management principles. The Friends of Mill Road Cemetery has provided a vehicle for discussing tree management and some work may require a Faculty to be granted. Ultimately, however, the responsibility for the management of trees lies with the City Council.

Tree management principles should respect the principle that the cemetery is a burial ground and that it is a well used space serving the community in many ways. Whilst it is used as a route or short cut across the city for some, others come to relax, exercise, play, study or visit graves. The space is valued for its wildlife and tree management should promote habitat where appropriate.

- Felling

Trees will not be removed unless there is justification for doing so. It is unacceptable to fell a healthy tree unless it can be demonstrated that the long-term benefit outweighs its removal. The removal will be undertaken when all other alternative management techniques are inappropriate or cannot resolve the issue.

- Planting

All trees that are removed are automatically placed on a list for replacement planting in the following planting season (November-January) when a suitable replacement will be planted if possible and practicable. Trees that have been removed because they are causing structural damage are not normally replaced.

There may be trees whose life expectation is limited. These trees should be identified and where possible and practicable the opportunity should be taken to plant a replacement tree in advance of the removal so that when another tree is in place and established when the older tree is felled. New planting should be developing and maturing ready to take over from that in decline or through structural weakness close to felling. It is important not to fill all the potential tree planting positions at one time so that the landscape can be orchestrated over a long period of time, beyond the working life of a single manager of the tree stock.

- Pruning

Trees are not pruned unless there is a need to undertake such work. For the most part a tree should be allowed to develop a natural crown shape and pruning should seek to preserve this.

Trees are pruned by removing a branch, or occasionally a root, the purpose being to clean out deadwood, diseased or crossing limbs, or to reduce or thin the crown to create more air space.

There are several different pruning practices which are used in tree management, these include crown reduction, crown thinning, crown lifting.

- Pollarding

Pollarding is a particular management technique. It is not a practice that is normally undertaken on trees under the management of the City Council because the Council prefer to allow trees to develop their natural habit and growth pattern. However, there are exceptions but these are generally confined to certain species and special management

techniques. The lime avenue into the cemetery is one location where trees are pollarded. The trees were managed as pollards from the date of planting and have adapted to this treatment. Every year the annual growth is removed at specific pruning points using secateurs and hand tools. It is important that this regime is continued in this way. If pollarding is discontinued and the growth becomes large and heavy branches can break away from the bole. When breakage occurs the bole may be so badly damaged by the tearing out of wood below the branch base that it soon breaks up further or dies from loss of functional sapwood due to drying and microbial attack. Some main stem decay inevitably develops in association with pollarding cuts, but any weakening effects that it may have are usually offset by the small sail area of the canopy and the reduced length of the lever arm branch. The decayed core can become an ecological asset for the wildlife dependent upon the deadwood.

- Topping and Lopping

Topping and lopping are arboricultural practices that are no longer accepted as good practice. The Council will not normally undertake such work except where trees have been topped or lopped in the past and the only form of management is to repeat the procedure. Occasionally after storm damage, or for nature conservation purposes, it may be necessary to top or lop a tree because no other form of pruning is possible.

- Coppicing

Coppicing is an established forestry technique whereby a tree or shrub is cut down to ground level and allowed to re-grow. A multi-stemmed plant regenerates. Only certain species, such as hazel, respond well to this treatment. There may be opportunities within the fringe to manage planting in this way for habitat and to promote wildlife.

Proposed Tree Management, including planting;

The southern sector

It is proposed that the central space (i.e. that surrounding the central area and within the principle circulatory path) is retained as a public walk. Plants within it should reflect the original and later 19th century planting. The position of plants and their specie selection should be based on these principles. Conifers should mark the east and west junctions of the axial path with the circulatory route. Within each of the four quadrants forest-scale trees should provide structural planting and around them smaller ornamental trees and shrubs should provide seasonal interest and pleasure.

It is important to respect the need for the interplay of light and shade and to allow sunlight to reach the herbage layer in the quadrants if the wide selection of plants is to prosper. Tree planting should not be too close nor should the specie be so dense as to shade the surrounding grassland excessively.

The Raywood ash trees planted in the 1970's were new and exciting 20th century introductions. In choosing such plants the Council were following the use of pioneer plants by Loudon, Murray and other 19th century plant selectors. However, time has revealed that the trees have a tendency to failure in adverse weather. Branches are ripped out either from their union with the main stem or at branch unions. Once limbs are lost the canopy is vulnerable to further losses and eventually trees are felled. New trees should be planted as replacements for the Raywood ash trees. The Raywoods can be left for the immediate future allowing the new trees to establish. When the Raywoods are removed the new planting should be of a stature to compensate for their loss.

The yews planted on the north – south axis should be clipped and managed as formal plants.

The walks should be maintained for public access by foot and bicycle. Vehicles using the Cemetery for maintenance purposes should be of minimal height. Trees adjacent to the paths should be crown lifted to provide the necessary clearance.

One of the finest features of the cemetery is the long views. The main avenue is a remarkable feature, axial paths offer vistas, there are views into the cemetery from the surrounding streets and the views from the circulatory paths across the space are rewarding. These views should be maintained where appropriate by pruning trees that obscure the long views. A balance should be sought between lifting all the trees to afford a view and retaining some canopies down to the ground to create a sense of expectation and privacy and t allow a tree to grow in its natural form. Some recent tree planting threatens to compromise some of the long views. In particular the hop hornbeams are planted too close to the paths and their dense canopies already block views across the grounds. Their removal should be considered in the near future. Their planting could be considered as an inappropriate choice for the location and their removal before they mature further may be expedient. If removal is not appropriate their canopies will require regular management to open the view.

Outside the circulatory path the vegetation could be managed for habitat purposes. The advice of the City Council ecologist should be sought on a planned management regime which ensures that the plants are available which will ensure the area continues to be rich in wildlife without providing an environment where anti-social behaviour can occur or visitors are discouraged. The boundary could be managed so that groups of trees and shrubs that are tended and managed are interspersed with areas of brambles, nettles and free flowing vegetation which provide a rich habitat for wildlife. The distinction between the two needs to be gradual, a scalloped edge will assist in the transition and there could be further gradation from the edge of the path back to the boundary. This could provide a valuable habitat and a management plan should be produced to ensure that the areas are not cleansed of the plants that will provide the richness that is currently afforded. It may be possible to provide boundary planting and groups of trees based on the original design but which are especially useful to wildlife, such as fruiting cherry, crab apple and rowan. This would further increase the harvesting undertaken by local residents.

The southern boundary has been densely planted with trees in the last few years. The original design showed a central bed at the axial junction. If the trees are not thinned soon the southern boundary will become a copse and light levels will diminish. Planting close to the boundary wall may cause structural damage and neighbouring residents may complain as day light rather than sunlight levels into their gardens diminish. Self-set trees have established, especially against the boundary wall, because the samara and seeds drift into this area. These should be removed as in future all self-set saplings cleared as good husbandry.

The western boundary retains many of the 19th century lime trees. These should be managed with minimal intervention and where trees have been removed and not replaced new lime trees should be planted. Self-set trees have seeded against the wall they should be removed and all self set saplings cleared as good husbandry.

The eastern boundary is overgrown for much of its length and has an unkempt appearance. This engenders a sense of insecurity and discourages use by the general public. Many of the finest monuments are located on this boundary and are swamped or hidden from view behind the self set trees. It should be agreed that the vegetation should not be allowed to grow over or to damage them. The area could be cleared of some of the unkempt vegetation, the dense cover which provides the privacy and secrecy required for anti-social behaviour would be removed and the long views into the cemetery would be opened up. This would encourage more people to use the path as a route through the cemetery and the increased footfall would further deter anti-social behaviour. Such passive policing would be beneficial, this path is the most direct link between Mill Road/Mackenzie Road and Norfolk Street, but many prefer to detour along the central axis where the views are more open and the feeling of vulnerability reduced. A management programme needs to be produced for this area. The original design shows planting at the junction and on internal beds beside the path. The mass and scale of the ARU buildings require that tree planting continues in these locations to soften the mass and outline of these buildings. Key structural trees should be planted, their

positions carefully selected for maximum screening. Smaller trees offering seasonal interest and wildlife habitat could be incorporated. This would support the potential of creating positive wildlife habitat.

The northern boundary has two different characters. The eastern section continues the unkempt qualities of the eastern boundary and may be a rich habitat. Whilst the dense overgrowth may deter unwanted access into the rear gardens of properties in Norfolk Terrace there should be a long-term proposal for this area. It should be possible to treat the boundary positively; elsewhere the northern, eastern and southern boundaries do not experience this dense overgrowth.

The western section is exposed following the felling of a mature beech tree. Both these places would benefit from tree and associated shrub planting. Trees should be planted to secure the long-term structure. Shrubs or a herbage layer could be managed for wildlife habitat. Self-set seedlings tend to set against the boundary walls and these should be removed as saplings as good husbandry.

The northern sector

The northern quadrant lacks the formality of the southern space and there are fewer burial monuments. It is narrower than the main body of the cemetery so human activity is more apparent and the use of the cemetery as a short cut is more obvious.

Whilst the trees are a mix of mature deciduous and evergreen trees across a wide age range, there is a lack of way marker or landmark trees indicating entrances to Gwydir Street and Norfolk Terrace. There is an opportunity to plant trees at the northern entrance and at the eastern gate to Gwydir Street to provide these functions.

The future of the meadow is in jeopardy. It depends upon light for its success. To the east ash trees have been planted and self-set sycamore, ash and cherry saplings are establishing and to the west Japanese and native cherry trees and an alder have been planted. If the self-set saplings and the young deliberately ash and alder trees are allowed to mature the meadow will receive restricted levels of daylight and sunlight which will eventually cause it to fail. The self-set saplings should be removed from the boundary walls as good practice and the alder and ash trees removed as part of a phased removal and planned replacement planting programme.

The northern extension provides an excellent opportunity for new planting in carefully selected places. A cherry should be planted at the gate to Norfolk Street as a landmark tree. The alder and ash trees should be removed in the next few years before they reach maturity and shade the area. The ash have light canopies and will offer dappled shade, but planted as a group their effect will be more pronounced. The alder will mature to a tall tree with a dense habit. Meanwhile, crab apple trees could be planted in the north-west corner. They mature to small-medium height and offer wildlife and seasonal interest. Once established the ash trees could be removed to allow the meadow to prosper.

The Mill Road entrance

It is thought that the lime avenue from Mill Road was planted in 1871, it continues to flourish. The trees are pruned annually to remove the new growth. Where trees have failed replacements have been planted. Care must be taken in replacement plant selection to ensure the correct lime cultivar is chosen to match the original plants, it is especially noticeable in the winter months when the colour of the stems identifies the later, dissimilar planting.

The entrance to the cemetery beside the Lodge lacks clarity. There is no sense of arrival. This is contrary to the period. The Victorians excelled at entrances to buildings, parks, railings, bridges and other architectural features. The entrance should be clear of self set trees and overgrown vegetation and the monuments, now swathed in brambles, should be cleared. A tree, or group of trees, should be planted as a landmark and to create a positive landscape feature.

STRENGTHS

Multi functional space

Good community engagement

CHALLENGES

ASB

Needles

RECOMMENDATIONS

INSERT INFORMATION

PART 3 – HOW WILL WE GET THERE

Timescales as given in this document are as following;

- Short Term – Within one year from adoption of this plan
- Medium Term – Within three years from adoption of this plan
- Long Term – Five years and more from the adoption of this plan

Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Reviewed
Memorial repairs	Catalogue areas of the cemetery recording memorials in need of repair include costs and photographs. Work to be prioritised as funding becomes available.	On going	CCC / Trustees / Friends	Annually
Removal of self sets	Systematic approach throughout the cemetery	Short/medium	AC	Annually
Central Area	Confirm proposals for outline of chapel / commemoration (post art project work)	Short Term	AC	2011
Meadow restoration	Programme of work as detailed above	Short/medium	CCC/Friends	Annually
Improved communication with users of MRC	Installation of notice boards and information panels (HLF, Trustees & CCC funded)	Short term	CCC	

PART 4 – HOW WILL WE KNOW WHEN WE HAVE ARRIVED

MONITORING & REVIEW

This Open Space Management Plan will be updated and fully reviewed in 2015 when the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy is updated.

The members of the Mill Road Cemetery Working Group will assist with monitoring of the management plan and PMF (Performance Management Framework). The regular meetings and contact with the officers will enable adjustments to be made if they are necessary. The MMP should be reviewed annually to ensure that the objectives are still suitable, and that the management and maintenance taking place in the cemetery is still relevant.

A working copy of this management plan will be held by;

- Green Spaces department
- Street Scene department
- Trustees of Mill Road Cemetery
- Friends of Mill Road Cemetery

Performance Management Framework (PMF) established with Street Scene in 2009 assesses the following;

- Day to day management – Undertaken by Street Scene, three times a year
- Quality Assessment – Undertaken by Green Spaces team, twice a year
- Value Assessment – Undertaken by Green Spaces team, annually

Assessments undertaken in 2009 gave Mill Road Cemetery the following scores;

Value – 74%

Quality – 75%

The Friends and Trustees of Mill Road Cemetery will be invited to undertake on site assessments using the above criteria annually.

Assessment criteria are found in the appendices

REFERENCES

Cambridgeshire County Wildlife Site Selection Criteria
Cambridge City Council Nature Conservation Strategy
Mill Road Cemetery Conservation Plan 2004

