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## A Memorial Stability Testing Report for Adderbury Parish Council

Address: Adderbury Cemetery, Horn Hill Road, Adderbury, Banbury, OX17 3EW

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Reference: C1138\_P01

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## 1 Introduction and Site Location

Following a request on behalf of Adderbury Parish Council, The CDS Group were commissioned to undertake memorial stability testing at Adderbury Cemetery, Horn Hill Road, Adderbury, Banbury, OX17 3EW.

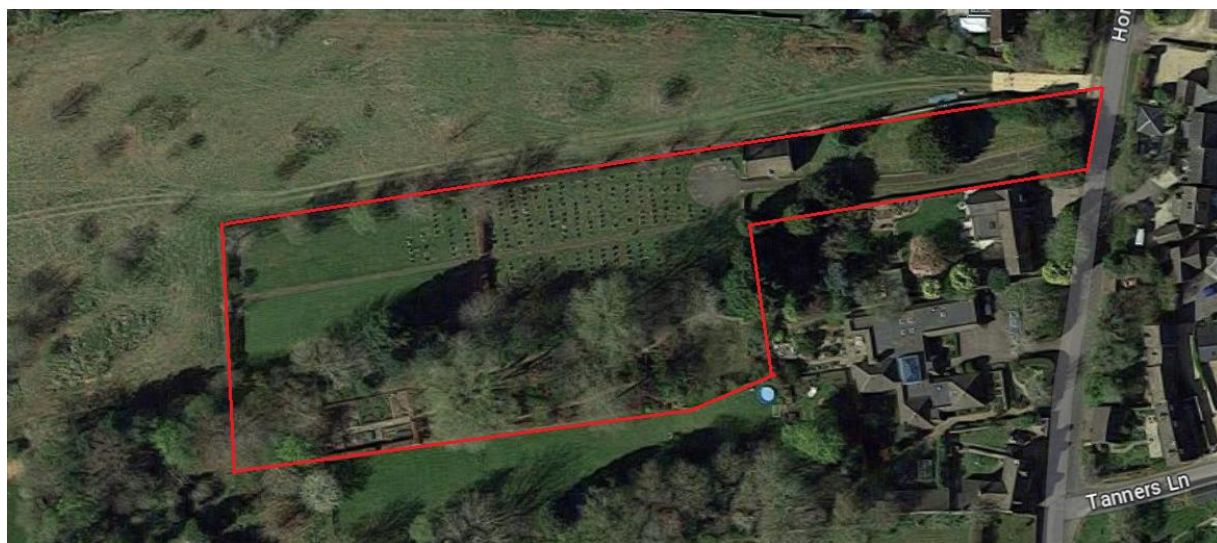
A total of 256 memorials were assessed as part of our works, comprising a mixture of memorials (lawn memorials, traditional memorials, kerb sets with headstones, kerb sets and large monuments). The site references are given as What 3 Words along with onsite references.

This assessment does not include any of the following:

- Any of the curb stone sets that have been placed aside by the council staff.
- Any of the head stones already laying down.

Our testing was carried out in line with the practical and pragmatic methods as laid out in the guidance notes of the Ministry of Justice and the recently published BSI Standards Publication (ref 8415:2018 – Memorials within burial grounds and memorial sites – Specification).

**Figure 1. Aerial Image of Site**



**Site Address: Adderbury Cemetery, Horn Hill Road, Adderbury**

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## Current Legislation

The most up-to-date guidance with regards to the assessment of the stability of existing memorials within cemeteries is provided in the following documents:

- 1) Ministry of Justice – Managing the Safety of Burial Grounds Memorial, Practical advice for dealing with unstable memorials.
- 2) BSI Standards Publication ref 8415:2018 – Memorials within burial grounds and memorial sites – Specification.

## **Ministry of Justice – Managing the Safety of Burial Grounds Memorial, Practical advice for dealing with unstable memorials.**

The above guidance set outs a risk-based approach to help operators develop a proportionate approach to managing the risk associated with memorials that is based on good practice. The information below, in italics, is taken from the guidance and provides a brief assessment of the risks associated with memorial stability. The reader is encouraged to ensure they have read the above document in full to fully understand their responsibilities.

*‘Over the last 30 years, 8 people in the UK have been killed when a memorial has fallen on them. Given the numbers of memorials and the number of visitors to burial grounds in any year, the risk of injury is extremely low.’*

*‘However, this general low level of risk may be called into question by the public following an incident or by operators when it comes to their assessment of the theoretical risk. There are simple steps which operators can take to manage the risks posed by memorials installed in a burial ground to provide assurance that the risks are low and that they are properly managed.*

*‘Burial authorities have a general duty under LACO to maintain the burial ground in good order. Parochial church councils are required to keep churchyards in good order if responsibility has not been transferred to the local authority. Most burial ground operators will also have duties under HSWA74. Operators should do all that is reasonably practicable to ensure that visitors and those working in burial grounds are not exposed to risks to their health and safety.’*

*‘The approach to managing memorial safety set out in this guidance involves the periodic assessment of memorials as part of a planned exercise or when anything has changed, for example a programme of major work or repair to the burial ground environment. It is for operators to decide on the frequency of this assessment. Where action is necessary following this assessment, measures to control any risks should be proportionate to the level of risk ‘*

*‘The enforcing authorities under HSWA74 do not consider the risks from memorials to warrant inclusion in their proactive inspection regimes because of the low risk of injury. However, in the unlikely event of a serious accident, their inspectors may undertake an investigation. They will want assurance that operators had followed this guidance, had taken the sort of sensible, risk-based precautions set out, and that they had done all that is reasonably practicable in the circumstances. Inspectors recognise that even when all reasonably practicable precautions have been taken, incidents may still occur.’*

## **BSI Standards Publication ref 8415:2018 – Memorials within burial grounds and memorial sites – Specification.**

The above specification provides details on how memorials should be installed on site, based on a number of factors including type of memorial ground, materials used, type of foundation and number/type of dowels.

In addition, Section 8 of this report details how memorials should be checked to ensure that all memorials are maintained in a safe condition. Assessment is recommended to be carried out in accordance with Annex A, which has been partially summarised below:

*‘The accident and incident history relating to memorials suggests that the risk of serious injury from unstable memorials is extremely low. However, those responsible for burial grounds should have a simple system in place to control the risks from memorials.’*

- A1 – Assessment of Risk

- A1.1 – Identifying risk factors in burial grounds
- A1.2 – Identifying risk factors in memorials
- A1.3 - Records and evidence of appropriate procedures
- A1.4 – Assessment of Lawn Memorials
- A1.5 – Assessment of Large Memorials
- A2 – Precautions

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## **Memorial Stability Testing Process**

The CDS Group commenced the memorial stability testing in October 2023 in line with the MoJ requirements and as set out in our fee proposal.

Records of the failed memorials were taken in line with MoJ recommendations and have been recorded in an excel spreadsheet, which has been provided to our client.

The table below summarises the number of memorials tested in each section and the number of failed memorials recorded.

<b>Section I.D</b>	<b>Number of Memorials Tested</b>	<b>Number of High Risk Failed Memorials</b>	<b>Number of Medium Risk Failed Memorials</b>
<b>1</b>	144	1	6
<b>2</b>	80	0	4
<b>3</b>	27	0	0
<b>4</b>	5	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	256	1	10
<b>Failures</b>		<b>11</b>	

On completion of the memorial stability work our report should be forward to a suitability qualified stone mason to undertake the required repair works.

We trust that we have understood your requirements, however if you require any alterations, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards

Callum Ward

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# **APPENDIX A**

## **MEMORIAL TESTING SHEETS**

## The CDS Group

## Memorial Stability Testing Report

Site Address:	Adderbury Cemetery, Horn Hill Road, Adderbury
Client:	Adderbury Parish Council
Date of Inspection	Oct-23
Section ID.	1
Number of Memorials Tested	144
Number of Memorials Failed	7

[illegible]



## The CDS Group

## Memorial Stability Testing Report

Site Address:	Adderbury Cemetery, Horn Hill Road, Adderbury
Client:	Adderbury Parish Council
Date of Inspection	Oct-23
Section ID.	2
Number of Memorials Tested	80
Number of Memorials Failed	4

[illegible]

## The CDS Group

## Memorial Stability Testing Report

<b>Site Address:</b>	Adderbury Cemetery, Horn Hill Road, Adderbury
<b>Client:</b>	Adderbury Parish Council
<b>Date of Inspection</b>	Oct-23
<b>Section ID.</b>	3
<b>Number of Memorials Tested</b>	27
<b>Number of Memorials Failed</b>	0

[illegible]



## The CDS Group

## Memorial Stability Testing Report

Site Address:	Adderbury Cemetery, Horn Hill Road, Adderbury
Client:	Adderbury Parish Council
Date of Inspection	Oct-23
Section ID.	4
Number of Memorials Tested	5
Number of Memorials Failed	0

[illegible]

# **APPENDIX B**

## **PHOTOGRAPHS**





Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7



Photo 8





Photo 9



Photo 10

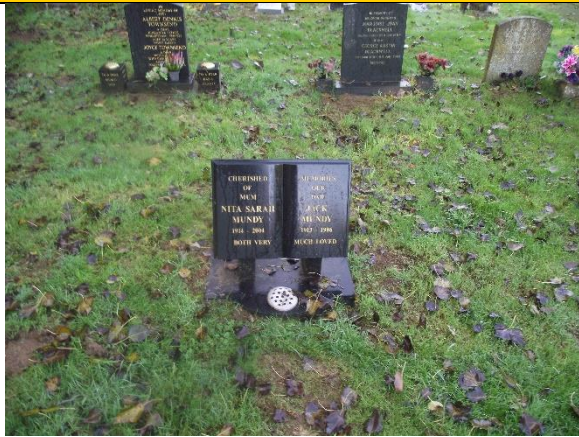


Photo 11