Graveyard Conservation: Opportunities and Issues

Dr Susan Buckham
The Heritage Cycle

Protection enables experience

Through experiencing understanding

Engaging and experiencing

Creating knowledge and understanding

Securing for the future

Understanding value

Through appreciation protection

Through understanding appreciation
Local Value

The ‘Blood Stone’
St Ninian’s Old Churchyard,
Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire
Sense of Place and Authenticity

Visibility in the place of origin is important. Replica fragment of an early medieval cross, St Michael’s Old Churchyard, Cambusnethan, North Lanarkshire.

The collection of early medieval grave slabs and hogback stones at Govan, Glasgow are a source of community pride.
Old Graveyard, Dalzell Estate, N Lanarkshire

Located within the estate of former country house, managed by council

- Former parish churchyard, church demolished and private mausoleum built in its footprint in 1790s

- 225 gravestones, including later medieval grave slab but most date from 18th and 19th centuries
Old Graveyard Dalzell Estate

Community engagement
• Buried tombstone survey
• RTI digital photography

Repair
• consolidation
• resetting
Kirkton Old Churchyard, Burntisland, Fife

- 13th century ruined church and churchyard
- 85 gravestones, earliest dated 1626 but most date from 19th century
Crail Parish Churchyard, Fife

- Parish church is in use but the churchyard was closed in 1923
- Churchyard surveyed and photographed in 1891
- Over 20 mural monuments dating from late 16th to 20th century
New Calton Burial Ground, Edinburgh

Vandalism at site entrance graffiti and fire raising

Internal view looking north showing terraces and watch tower
New Calton Burial Ground, Edinburgh

New interpretation increased footfall and visitor welcome

Volunteer workshop repointing terrace wall with lime mortar
Resources

susan.buckham@kirkyard-consulting.co.uk


https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/caring-for-heritage/cemeteries-and-burial-grounds/

https://www.communityactionlan.org/history-archaeology/item/historic-kirkyards


www.scottishheritagehub.com/content/future-thinking-carved-stones-scotland