

Waterbeach Parish Council-Risk Assessment

Risk Assessment for the Testing of Memorials in Waterbeach Cemetery

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Statutory Requirements:

- All operators must be trained in safe working and read this assessment, and others referenced prior to use.
- Minimum 2-metre exclusion zone around work area (should be signed off to warn bystanders).
- Operators carrying out physical testing (hand test) must have received ICCM training.

PPE Requirements:

Steel toecap boots, gloves.

Vibration

Not applicable to this task.

COSHH: See assessments referenced by this risk assessment for the machine or operation being undertaken.

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Hazard	Risk	Likelihood	Controls	Likelihood if Controls applied
Lone Working	Being injured and unable to summon help.	Medium	Memorial testing and making safe shall be undertaken only when two officers are present. Lone testing is not permitted.	Low
Memorials (hand tests)	Falling memorials can cause serious or fatal injuries. Average weight of a standard headstone 3-500kg depending on material and thickness.	Medium	Ensure persons undertaking hand testing of memorials are trained by the ICCM. Do not apply excessive force or apply force in such a way that if the memorial fails that you would go with it. Do not carry out any physical testing on memorials over 1.5 metres high, refer to a structural engineer for an assessment.	Low
Memorials (making safe)	Manual handling injuries from moving stones. Finger and other body parts being crushed or caught in between a memorial and the ground or other parts. Working with hand tools when employing the stake and bind method of securing.	Medium	Plan any movement of a failed memorial and give regard to the weight of the memorial and the method of securing it chosen. Use lifting/handling aids where a memorial needs to be moved from its original position. These could include sack barrows, jacks, wedges and rollers. Protect memorials from damage by using wood and other materials to avoid marking them.	Low
Contact with the public	Distress, aggression, violence.	Medium	The council will place advance public notice of the testing. However, people are	Low

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			often upset or angered by memorials being marked as unsafe or made safe by laying down. Sensitivity and tact is essential when dealing with the bereaved and every effort should be made to minimise their distress. However, if there are any threats or suggestion of violence the incident needs to be recorded and the police informed. In an emergency situation call 999 immediately.	
Accusations of vandalism	Complaints	Medium	In order to avoid accusations of deliberate vandalism, the inspection process can be filmed either by a separate camera on a tripod or by body worn cameras.	Low

Safe System of Work

<u>Do</u>	<u>Do Not</u>
<u>Ensure you are trained to carry out testing and comply with the ICCM handbook and all relevant legislation.</u>	<u>Carry out lone inspections</u>
<u>Apply only sufficient pressure to memorials to observe movement.</u>	<u>Push hard on stones, if the stone falls you may go with it.</u>
Wear appropriate PPE	Test memorials over 1.5 metres high.
<u>Use safe manual handling techniques and aids when making memorials safe.</u>	Leave an unsafe memorial without making it safe.
<u>Do use hand tools safely and appropriately</u>	<u>Argue or antagonise persons who are upset by the work.</u>
Do treat the bereaved with respect and kindness	
Do report any anti-social behaviour to the clerk.	
Do record inspections for the avoidance of accusations	

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