

Cornholme Mount Zion Methodist Chapel Graveyard Memorial Survey

Background

Calderdale Methodist Circuit is responsible for the graveyard at Cornholme. Some of the memorials contained in the graveyard are in an unstable condition and have the potential to cause harm or serious injury. **A survey was undertaken in Feb 2026 to consider the state of memorials**, to address safety concerns. This was undertaken by a firm of building contractors with vast experience in graveyard work. This has become especially important following the tragic events at Rawtenstall.

Methodology

Information was provided by a Chartered Architects: Historic Building Consultants to allow a classification of the status of the monument. This was done based on a proportionate approach. Memorials have had one of the following classifications.

If memorials have been classified as Level 1, these are described as

Action is required to make the memorial safe or to stop the public accessing the memorial. This could be the permanent removal of the hazard or the temporary making safe of the hazard

If memorials have been classified as Level 2, these are described as

The memorial is not an immediate danger to the public but is not fully stable and will, therefore, need to be monitored every 12 months to assess any further deterioration of the memorial. The construction, material used, or position of the memorial may also qualify it as priority 2.

Finally, if memorials have been classified as Level 3, these are described as

The memorial appears stable. It should be reinspected in 5 years' time.

The initial survey identified a number of grave monument of concern.

Response

The Circuit responded to the survey, and followed this up with a further review of the highlighted monuments. The Circuit will now look to instruct contractors to make safe those memorials of concern which have been classified as Level 1. This action will attempt to stabilise and secure monuments, where possible, but many monuments will be laid down, in the confines of the grave in a careful and respectful way.

The graveyard may be closed for a short period of time while the Level 1 repairs are carried out, this is for safety reasons.

The circuit is not currently taking any action in relation to Levels 2 memorials, but will continue to monitor these.

Responsibility for repairs

An owner, the Deed Holder or successor in title of a memorial, has the responsibility to maintain it so as not to present a hazard. They should then be asked to engage a suitably qualified memorial mason to agree the works with the Circuit and make the required repairs. All work should comply with the National Association of Memorial Masons Code of practice.

If you are the owner of any of the below monuments that require some action, then please contact us at the following email.

graveyards@calderdalemethodistcircuit.org.uk

A request to the grave owners or people visiting the graveyard, please do not simply stand the monument back up as this does not resolve the safety issues identified.

Graveyard Layout

The Graveyard at Cornholme is on several different levels, therefore the graveyard was split into sections, this allowed for a more detailed mapping of the graves in question. Overall, there are 8 sections, labelled A – H. In each section the graves are started on the left-hand side and each grave is given an alphabetic letter and number, this is combined with the section to allow each grave to be uniquely identified. Please see the attached image for more details



Status

The following monuments have been classified as Level 1, the below table shows these graves, details from the survey and a next steps response following a visit with the contractors.

In some cases, level 1 stones have been laid flat at the time of the survey.

Section A

Plot	Identification	Description	Risk	Recommendation
AB1	HINDLE	Large headstone loose	1	Near roadside: Recommendation is to resin refix or lay headstone flat.
AF1	SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF RICHARD ARTHUR WILSON MANCHESTER FORMERLY OF CORNHOLME, WHO DIED APRIL 15th 1888 AGED 62 YEARS ALSO OF ELLEN HIS WIFE BORN AUGUST 6TH 1827 DIED JULY 13TH 1900	Large headstone, headstone & surround both loose	1	Near roadside. Recommendation is to lay this flat.
AG2	ASHWORTH	Large headstone rocks / surround	1	Near roadside. Recommendation is to lay this flat.

Section D

Plot	Identification	Description	Risk	Recommendation
DB1	IN LOVING MEMORY OF A DEAD FATHER & MOTHER JOHN WHITEHEAD 937 BURNLEY RD, PORTSMOUTH DIED OCT 31ST 1934 AGED 67 YEARS	Medium headstone unstable / surround	1	Recommendation: Lay Flat or refix and secure.

	AGNES WHITEHEAD DIED DEC 20TH 1935 AGED 68 YEARS			
DC4	IN LOVING MEMORY OF PATTY UTTLEY IVY ANENUE, BLACKPOOL DIED OCT 7TH 1938 AGED 72 YEARS ALSO GREENWOOD HUSBAND OF THE ABOVE DIED FEB 15TH 1939 AGED 75 YEARS REUNITED	Medium headstone / rocks	1	Recommendation. Lay Flat or refix and secure.

Section F

Plot	Identification	Description	Risk	Recommendation
FA13	IN LOVING MEMORY OF JAMES LAW DIED 27TH JULY 1925 AGED 58 YEARS ALSO ADA HIS WIFE DIED 2ND NOV. 1939, AGED 67 YEARS ALSO JOHN THEIR SON DIED 23RD OCT. 1918, AGED 19 YEARS ALSO NORMAN THEIR SON DIED 22ND JAN. 1957, ACED 46 YEARS ALSO ELSIE JOANNA PICKLES THEIR DAUGHTER DIED 11TH FEB. 1956, AGED 63 YEARS	Small headstone laid on grave	1	laid flat at time of survey
FC6	IN LOVING MEMORY OF WILLIAM HENRY HELLIWELL OF WHITEHAVEN	Stepped cross all rocks	1	Recommendation: Lay flat

	<p>DIED FEB XX 1909 AGED 6X YEARS</p> <p>MARY ANN WIFE OF THE ABOVE WHO DIED xxxx 14TH 1912 AGED 74 YEARS</p>			
FE10	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF JOHN CUNNINGHAM HOSKIN OF BARROW UN FURNESS WHO DIED AT WATER ST TODMORDEN FEB 23RD 1915 AGED 62 YEARS ALSO MARY ELLEN WIFE OF THE ABOVE DIED MARCH 8TH 1921 AGED 70 YEARS</p> <p>ALSO SARAH ANN WIFE OF WALTER GATENBY OF MANCHESTER WHO DIED FEB 26TH 19xx</p> <p>ALSO GEORGE WILLIAM INFANT SON OF THE ABOVE WHO DIED JUNE 16TH 1892 AND WAS INTERRED AT BARROW IN FURNESS CEMETERY</p>	<p>Very large headstone / cross on top loose</p>	1	<p>Recommendation. Remove cross and its base from the top of the monument. Alternatively resecure cross & its base as main body of base secure.</p>
FF4	<p>IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROBERT BULCOCK OF STUBELEY HOUSE CORNHOLME DIED JULY 7TH 1904 IN HIS 58TH YEAR ALSO SUSANNA WIFE OF THE ABOVE DIED APRIL 24TH 1927</p>	<p>Very large headstone rocks</p>	1	<p>Recommendation. Lay flat</p>

	IN HER 77TH YEAR ALSO OF ALICE DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE DIED FEB 9TH 1891 IN HER 9TH YEAR			
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Section H

Plot	Identification	Description	Risk	Recommendation
HC2	IN LOVING MEMORY OF SUSAN WIFE OF THOMAS OGDEN NORWOOD AVENUE PLACKPOOL DIED JUNE 27TH 1920 AGED 77 YEARS ALSO THOMAS OGDEN DIED DEC 1922 AGED 79 YEARS	Medium headstone rocks. Tree growing through the middle	1	Recommendation. lay flat
HD5	IN LOVING MEMORY OF AUTHUR GREENWOOD OF CORNHOLME WHO DIED AUGUST 14TH 1923 AGED 54 YEARS. ALSO LUCY ELLEN WIFE OF THE ABOVE WHO DIED FEBRUARY 18TH 1937 AGED 65 YEARS	Medium headstone / surround	1	Laid flat at time of survey
HE12	IN LOVING MEMORY OF BETTY LAW DIED MARCH 1ST 1930, AGED 72 YEARS THOMAS HENRY LAW.	Medium headstone laid on grave	1	Laid flat at time of survey

	<p>DIED OCT. 19TH : 1932, AGED 74 YEARS HUSBAND OF THE ABOVE. ALSO OF MATILDA, DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE DIED JUNE 8TH 1960, ACED 72 YEARS. ALSO JOHN CRABTREE DIED JAN 31ST 1949 AGED 73 YEARS.</p>			
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The following were classified as Level 2 in the survey. The families of these monuments are invited to contact the circuit if they want to make remedial repairs.

Section A

Plot	Identification	Description	Risk	Recommendation
AA3	STANSFIELD	Surround loose / slight movement	2	Periodically monitor & review
AA5	G.C 134	Small marker / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
AA7	I.C 232	Small marker loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
AB10	GREENWOOD	large headstone	2	Slightly loose. Possibly lay flat as near path. Periodically monitor & review
AC6	LANGFIELD	Headstone loose / surround	2	Periodically monitor & review
AC8	CUNLIFFE	Medium headstone. Rocks in hole	2	Periodically monitor & review
AD4	JACKSON	Headstone laid down broken	2	On a slope. Could possibly move to a more stable position despite being flat. Periodically monitor & review
AD12	HOLDEN	Headstone small movement / surround	2	Periodically monitor & review
AE5	No name	Surround partially broken & laid onto grave	2	Periodically monitor & review
AF8	HALSTEAD	Large headstone / surround is loose	2	loose surround laid onto grave at time of survey. Periodically monitor & review
AH3	HODGSON	Large headstone rocks slightly / surround is loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
AH4	CLEGG	Large monument / surround and top loose	2	Solid in the base so unlikely to topple (downgraded from Risk 1 on review)

AH5	ASHWORTH	Large headstone leaning slightly /surround foot loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
AI2	NINNISS	Medium headstone rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
AI9	No name	Surround foot rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
AJ1	FIELDEN	Very large headstone leaning sideways & rocks	2	Near roadside: Periodically monitor.
AJ3	GREENWOOD	Medium headstone, large surround loose	2	The surround on this had been moved and fallen in between survey visits. Periodically monitor & review
AJ8	ACKROYD	Large stone & surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review

Section B

Plot	Identification	Description	Risk	Recommendation
BA6	BOWMAN	Very large headstone / rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
BA11	SILVERWOOD	Large headstone / rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
BB4	A.P 298	Small marker / rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
BB11	RHODES	Large headstone / rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
BB15	R.N 285	Small marker / rocks	2	On the path. Periodically monitor & review
BB21	GREENWOOD	Large memorial stone / rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
BB22	COLLINGE	Medium headstone / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
BC12	R.H 309	Small marker leaning back	2	Periodically monitor & review

Section C

Plot	Identification	Description	Risk	Recommendation
CA6	No stone	Surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
CA12	HELLIWELL	Large headstone laid down / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
CB1	STANSFIELD	Large headstone / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
CB6	CRABTREE	Large headstone / leaning forwards / rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
CB10	PEARSON	Double grave surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review

Section D

Plot	Identification	Description	Risk	Recommendation
DA4	CUNLIFFE	Medium headstone laid in grave / surround loose	2	Could be refixed. Periodically monitor & review
DA6	SHARMA	Large headstone & surround rocks & partially fallen	2	Periodically monitor & review
DB3	No name	Surround laid in grave	2	Periodically monitor & review
DB4	ORMEROD	Medium headstone laid back on another grave	2	Perhaps lay headstone back over its own grave. Periodically monitor & review
DB5	GREENWOOD	Medium headstone / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
DC6	HOLDEN	Headstone collapsed onto grave. Damaged through tree roots	2	Periodically monitor & review
DC7	CROWTHER	Small headstone / laid back / surround loose. Damaged through tree roots	2	Periodically monitor & review
DE1	SUTCLIFFE	Medium headstone / surround rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
DH6	STEPHONSON	Medium headstone / rocks / surround	2	Periodically monitor & review
DI2	FORD	Medium headstone / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
DI7	SMITH	Medium headstone leaning back surround loose	2	Deep in the bushes. Periodically monitor & review
DJ1	CRABTREE	Medium headstone rocks / surround	2	Periodically monitor & review
DJ2	HEYWORTH	Medium headstone rocks / surround	2	Periodically monitor & review
DJ7	MITCHELL	Small headstone rocks / surround	2	Periodically monitor & review

Section E

Plot	Identification	Description	Risk	Recommendation
EB9	No name	Surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
EC4	TREGAY	Medium headstone fallen back	2	Periodically monitor & review
EC10	TREGAY	Surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review

ED6	CRABTREE	Large headstone fallen back, broken	2	Periodically monitor & review
ED9	TAYLOR	Large headstone rocks / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
EE1	HAWORTH	Small headstone / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
EE2	BARKER	Medium headstone / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
EE6	MITTON	Large headstone rocks / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
EF7	AMELIA	Large headstone rocks / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
EF8	No name	Surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
EG4	TREGAY	Large headstone rocks / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
EG5	WILSON	Medium headstone rocks / surround	2	Periodically monitor & review
EG6	LAW	Very large headstone / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
EG7	No name	Surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review

Section F

Plot	Identification	Description	Risk	Recommendation
FA3	No name	Surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
FA4	EARNSHAW	Stepped cross rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
FA6	RILEY	Small headstone rocks / surround	2	Periodically monitor & review
FA9	CROWTHER	Medium headstone laid flat still rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review - downgraded from Risk 1
FA10	CRABTREE	Medium headstone rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
FA12	RHODES	Medium headstone fallen back	2	Periodically monitor & review
FA14	HOLT	Medium headstone rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
FB9	No name	Surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
FC3	DEAN	Stepped cross broken	2	Periodically monitor & review
FC4	BINNS	Stepped cross fallen over	2	Periodically monitor & review
FC5	GREENWOOD	Small headstone rocks / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
FC7	DAVEY	Surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
FD4	CRABTREE	Small headstone / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
FE8	GREENWOOD	Large cross rocks / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review

FF8	SUTCLIFFE	Small headstone / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
FF9	SIMPSON	Very large headstone rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
FG1	HORNE	Stepped cross rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
FH6	CUNLIFFE	Very large headstone rocks / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
FH8	GREENWOOD	Medium headstone rocks / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
FH9	No name	Surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
FH10	BAIRSTOW	Small headstone rocks / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
FH12	GREENWOOD	Small headstone / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review

Section G

Plot	Identification	Description	Risk	Recommendation
GA1	BARRETT	Surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
GB10	SHARPE	Large headstone fallen back / surround	2	Periodically monitor & review
GB11	CRABTREE	Small headstone fallen back broken	2	Periodically monitor & review
GC4	CRABTREE	Small headstone fallen back	2	Periodically monitor & review
GE6	GREENWOOD	Very large monument	2	Periodically monitor & review
GE8	HINDLE	Large headstone rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
GF3	No name	Surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review

Section H

Plot	Identification	Description	Risk	Recommendation
HA3	JUDSON	Medium headstone rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
HA4	JUDSON	Medium headstone rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
HA11	MILES	Cross rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
HB1	STOWELL	Medium headstone rocks on dowels	2	Periodically monitor & review
HB9	JACKSON	Medium headstone / surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
HB13	OGDEN	Medium headstone rocks / surround	2	Periodically monitor & review

HC3	No name	Terracotta surrounds loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
HC4	No name	Terracotta surrounds loose	2	Periodically monitor & review
HC11	HOBSON	Small headstone rocks	2	Periodically monitor & review
HD7	BARNES	Small headstone rocks / surround	2	Periodically monitor & review
HE13	SHACKLETON	Surround loose	2	Periodically monitor & review

The following additional actions were undertaken as part of the survey to improve safety

Plot	Identification	Description	Risk	Recommendation
AA9	W.S 227	Small marker laid down	3	Moved to lay flat over hole at time of survey
AA9	W.S 227	Small marker laid down	3	Moved to lay flat over hole at time of survey
AH9	J.G 142	Small marker laid flat	3	The marker is not covering the hole – move to cover hole