

apse online seminars

Making Space for Nature in our Burial Grounds



Wednesday 6 September 2023

Online Event

Programme

10:00 Session one

Making Space for Nature in Our Burial Grounds - APSE Research Report Launch

- Recognising opportunities for biodiversity in burial grounds
- The report and what it hopes to achieve.
- The 10 steps approach.

Wayne Priestley APSE Principal Advisor

Understanding the Value of the Ecosystem Services Provided by Our Cemeteries And Burial Grounds.

- What are ecosystem services?
- What value can cemeteries bring to environmental issues, biodiversity and social well-being?
- Increasing the multiple values of cemeteries through future planning.

Danielle Sinnett, Professor in Sustainable Built Environments & Katie McClymont, Associate Professor in Urban Planning, University of the West of England

Uncovering and protecting the wealth and variety of biodiversity in our burial grounds.

- How do I know what's there?
- Recording and promoting biodiversity – Using iNaturalist and the National Biodiversity Network
- Going Forward and Involving Communities - Love Your Burial Ground week, running events and galvanising conservation volunteers.

Andrea Gilpin, Conservation and Communications Manager, Caring for God's Acre

Audience question and answer session

11:15 Short Break

11:25 Session two

The importance of engaging with volunteers to ensure biodiversity is protected.

- 'More harm than good'- the danger of going it alone.
- Bringing together all the interested parties for the sake of biodiversity

- Developing a workable management plan

Julia Morris, Parks Development Officer, Dudley Council

Creating and managing Biodiversity in a cemetery setting on a budget and managing customer expectations.

- Declining biodiversity – what can Bereavement Services do about it?
- Developing the necessary partnerships.
- Actions taken and benefits achieved.

Douglas Henderson, Business Development Manager Bereavement Services, Worcester City Council

Balancing the needs of cemetery visitors with promoting and protecting habitats for wildlife.

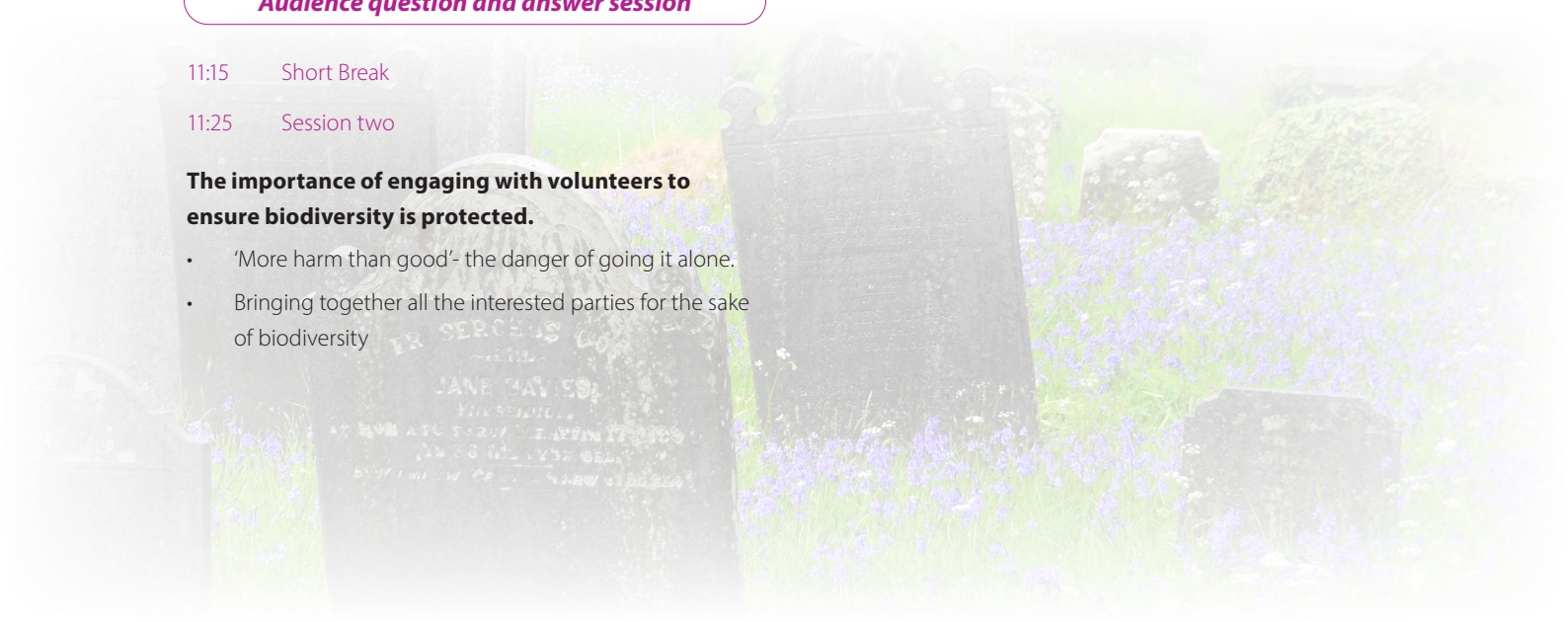
- The levels of biodiversity on the site
- The work of the Friends Group regarding biodiversity
- How you balance the pressures of visitors/tourists on biodiversity.

Rachel Smith, Assistant Group Manager, Greenspace, Biodiversity & Bereavement Services, Glasgow City Council

Audience question and answer session

APSE Concluding Statement

13:15 Seminar close



Seminar Objectives

About the Seminar

For a number of years there has been a growing amount of academic research outlining the value of cemeteries and burial grounds as places where a local populations cultural history is stored. It is believed that by gaining a better understanding of the lives of the people who are buried in them, we begin to understand our sense of place and being in the areas we live in.

This appreciation of the cultural heritage has spawned a great deal of work in interpreting the architecture of such places and significant resources have been expended to preserve monuments and create educational experiences linked to burial grounds. As part of this appreciation and greater understanding, there has been a further realisation of the benefits to the natural world burial grounds can bring. Often relatively undisturbed and less intensively managed than many of our urban greenspaces, burial grounds have developed unique habitats for wildlife, many holding relics from the pre-industrial world. The world-wide decline in levels of biodiversity has further raised the importance of these spaces as potential refuges for flora and fauna we have lost in such devastating amounts elsewhere across the UK. Therefore, many councils are now utilising and enhancing these spaces, in order to reap the benefits, they bring.

Following request from member authorities to provide information on how cemeteries and closed churchyards can be utilised to support biodiversity, APSE has produced a report which offers advice, guidance and a wealth of case studies, each with their own story to tell as to how nature has been welcomed and nurtured in these spaces. Included within the report is a practical 10 step guide as to how to increase opportunities for biodiversity based on a wide range of research findings. This seminar will be of importance to any officer, elected member or stakeholder group supporting the council in increasing opportunities for biodiversity, now a local authority duty as set out in the Environment Act 2021.

Speakers will address a wide range of topics from identifying suitable sites within burial grounds for promoting biodiversity, identifying the range of biodiversity already present and how best to conserve and enhance it, managing and understanding the needs of the bereaved and biodiversity, engaging and managing volunteers and other stakeholders and recognising the wider ecosystem values of cemeteries and closed churchyards.

About the Speakers

APSE has invited senior academics, wildlife charities and local authority practitioners to speak at this event, which will be one of the most informative and interesting experiences in this field of work. Anyone who has an interest in biodiversity and preserving and enhancing it for future generations and the future of the planet will find the topics discussed of considerable interest and more importantly of practical use. APSE therefore expects that the seminar will be popular with a wide range of officers and elected members alike and expects that the online seminar will be well supported.



Booking Information

Who should attend?

- Service Directors
- Managers and officers (bereavement services, funeral services, cemeteries and crematoria, Grounds maintenance, greenspace, climate change and environmental services)
- Ecology officers and Biodiversity officers
- Policy advisors, accountants and lawyers
- Performance Management officers
- Health and Safety Managers
- Trade Union representatives
- Contractors and suppliers
- Friends groups who support cemeteries and closed churchyards
- Wildlife groups supporting local authorities on biodiversity enhancement

Venue

This is an online event to be held on Microsoft Teams

A meeting link will be set after booking

Delegate Packages Exclusive of VAT

What's included?

The delegate fee covers attendance, delegates' documentation.

APSE member delegate fee:	£99 + VAT
Non member delegates fee:	£184 + VAT
Commercial delegates:	£255 + VAT

Click [here](#) to reserve your place on this event

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY: Reservation is a contract. Substitution of delegates is acceptable any time in writing by email to **MEgerton@apse.org.uk**. Cancellations must be made in writing at least 10 working days before the event, and will incur a 20% administration fee. No refunds can be given for cancellations received less than 10 working days before the event or for nonattendance. In the unlikely event of cancellation by the organisers, liability will be restricted to the refund of fees paid. The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the programme, speakers or mode of delivery should this become necessary. If due to emergency action by UK Governments/Administrations or Public Agencies this event is postponed, for example for reasons of public health and safety, the organisers will transfer your booking to the replacement event or provide a credit voucher against a future event booking.