



Our Digital Ancestors











Our Digital Ancestors

- Run by Caring for God's Acre
- Funded primarily by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England
- Supporting burial grounds of all denominations to record memorials and engage communities
- Running until October 2028



Caring for God's Acre

- Established 2000
- Promotes conservation of all burial sites, regardless of denomination
- Hosts Love Your Burial Ground Week and Churches Count of Nature
- Runs a Shropshire-based volunteer group
- Heritage to Inspire



ODA Aims

- Work with communities to map and record burial grounds
- Increase public engagement with burial ground heritage through activities and resources
- Tell the stories of the deceased and reconnect them with the living



Case Study: Warstone Lane, Birmingham

 Mapped by Atlantic Geomatic as part of Birmingham's Beautiful Burial Grounds (2019-2022)



The process

- Base map produced by AG Intl
- Volunteers photographed and recorded memorials
- Recording completed as part of ODA
- 2,657 memorials/7,070 people
- 28 volunteers, 1150 volunteer hours



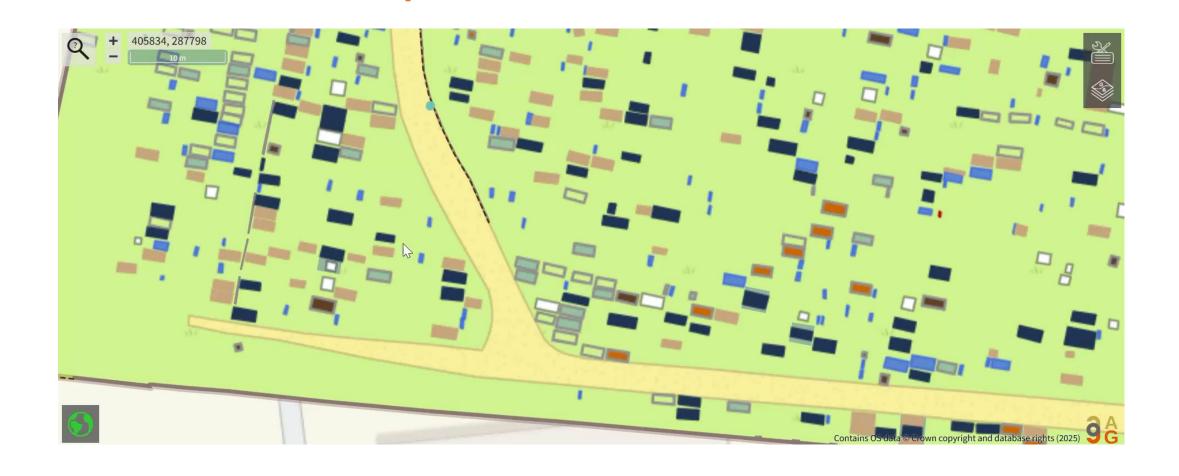
The map

https://warstone.burialgrounds.co.uk/mapmanagement/#/

What does it show?

- Location
- Named individuals
- Individual details

- Memorial photos
- Memorial type
- Memorial condition



Public portal







Associated activities

- Guided tours
- School workshops



Online Resources

- 2 courses, free to all.
 - How to use BGMS
 - ODA Course (Memorial Recording)
- ODA Course. 4 modules:
 - Health and Safety
 - Memorial Photography
 - Memorial Recording
 - Researching Individuals
- Sign up here:
 https://community.caringforgodsacre.org
 .uk/register/our-digital-ancestors/





Future plans

- Further training courses:
 - Producing plans from aerial photographs
 - Creating a trail leaflet for your burial site
- Expanding activities across England
 - Recording Key Hill cemetery, Birmingham
 - Currently working in London and Midlands, supporting work in burial grounds elsewhere
 - Working with cemeteries, churchyards and United Synagogue, London





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