

# Sheffield General Cemetery

- **The vision: Conservation and repair at Sheffield General Cemetery.**
- **The Delivery Challenge: Funding, Timescales, COVID and overcoming opposition.**
- **The next chapter: Future plans & sustainable management of the cemetery park.**



Thanks to National Lottery Players, this project has been made possible by

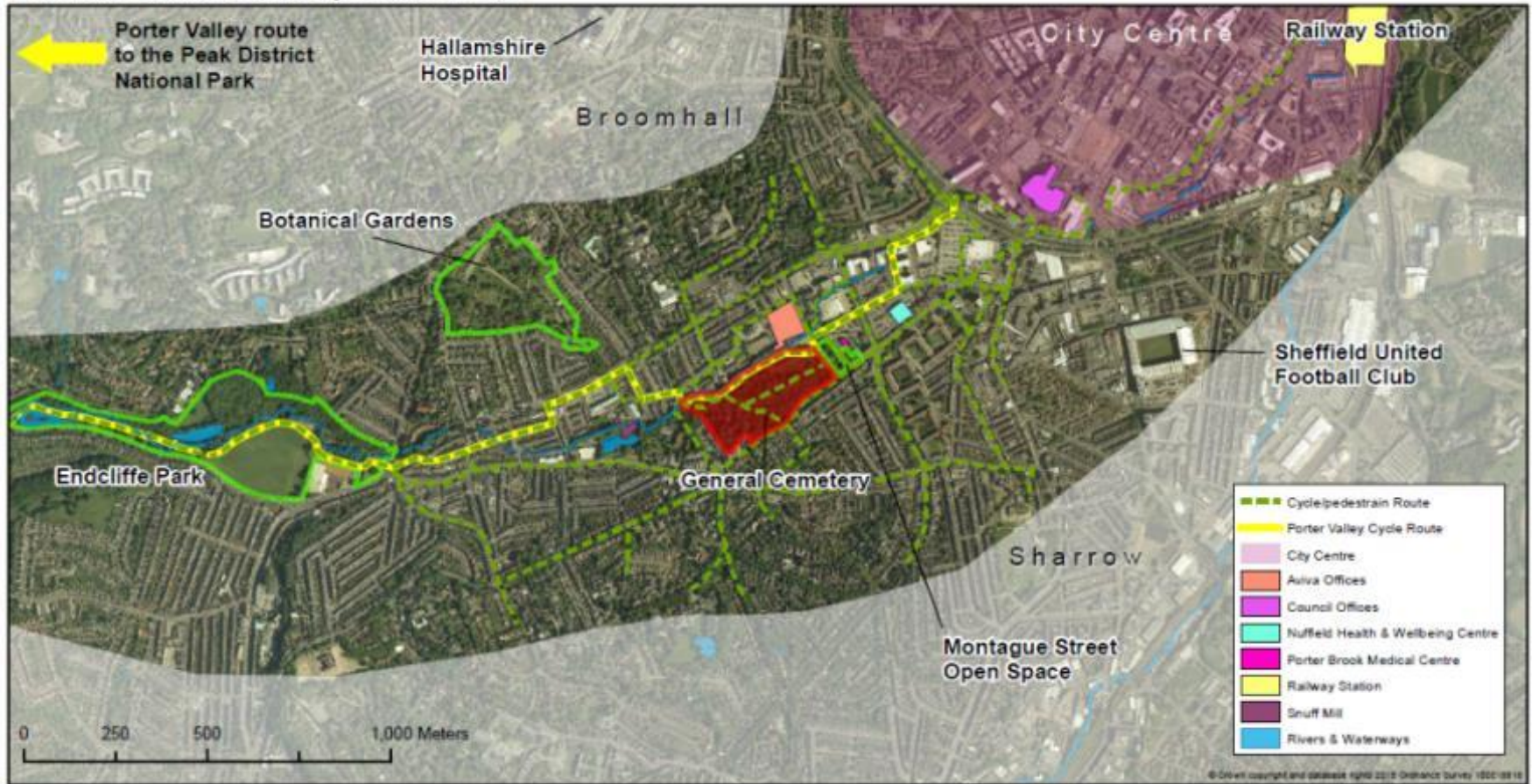
# The National Lottery Parks for People Programme



*Safeguarding Sheffield General Cemetery for the next 100 years – the Team*

# Location

Sheffield General Cemetery Location Plan



# Monuments

1. John Cole – One of 3 brothers who founded Cole Brothers, the Sheffield department store. Benefactors.
2. Mark Firth – Steelmaster, philanthropist, Mayor, Master Cutler, founder of a technical school for his workforce which developed over the years and became Sheffield University in 1905. Listed Grade II.
3. James Nicholson – Steelmaster. Listed Grade II.
4. George Bennet – Missionary, social reformer, benefactor. Listed Grade II.
5. George Bassett – Sweet manufacturer, Alderman and Mayor.
6. Thomas Burch – Alderman, businessman.
7. William Parker – Merchant, businessman. Listed Grade II.
8. John Gunson – Engineer involved in Dale Dyke Dam and the Great Flood of 1864.
9. Samuel Holberry – Leading figure in the Chartist movement.
10. Ernest Shuttleworth – One of many tombs memorialising World War 1 servicemen lost or buried abroad.

# Buildings & Points of Interest

- A. Gatehouse. Listed Grade II\*. Original grand entrance to the Cemetery. Once housed Cemetery employees, now Sheffield General Cemetery Trust office and a holiday cottage.
- B. Catacombs. Listed Grade II. 1836.
- C. Stone Spiral. Educational and design feature to demonstrate geology. 2004.
- D. Wildlife Pond. Created by volunteers. 2018.
- E. War Memorial. Erected here by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission 2015.
- F. Anglican Chapel. Listed Grade II. 1850. Designed by William Flockton.
- G. Egyptian Gate. Listed Grade II\*. 1836. Ornamented with ancient symbols.
- H. Original Cemetery office. Listed Grade II. 1836.
- J. The Samuel Worth Chapel. Nonconformist funeral chapel now an event space. Listed Grade II\*. 1836.

# General Cemetery – Heritage significance Monuments, Buildings & Landscape



# Timeline of the General Cemetery

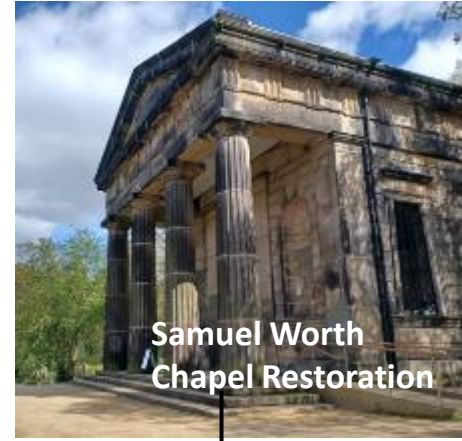
Potential beginnings of site as a sandstone/clay quarry



Concrete balustrade additions

Site purchased by SCC

Friends group established – which is now the General Cemetery Trust



Samuel Worth Chapel Restoration

Removal from the At Risk Register



General Cemetery Company Established

Last burial



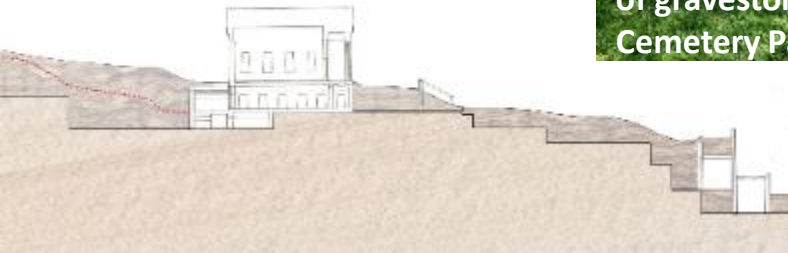
Anglican Chapel Graveyard cleared of gravestones making a Cemetery Park

Gate House Restoration

Beginning of Round 2 NLHF project



At least 50 years of deterioration



# Goals of the NLHF bid (2014-16)

## The overall Sheffield General Cemetery HLF project objectives are:

- Address the immediate H&S issues relating to on-site structures
- Conserve and repair the registered landscape, listed monuments and built infrastructure
- Removing the site from the EH Heritage At Risk (HAR) register and the SCC asset risk register
- Transform the site into an accessible and well used community park
- Improve the localised built environment and stimulate development in the surrounding area
- Understand and communicate the sites history and its modern-day relevance
- Develop and implement a training programme focused on meeting identified gaps in traditional craft skills and landscape management skills (e.g. masonry and monumental masonry repair).
- Develop and implement an education and maintenance programme linking with the Sheffield Botanical Gardens and both Universities.
- Develop and implement a new business model which will sustain future management and maintenance (potential link with NESTA “Re-thinking Parks Management” project and Botanical Gardens)



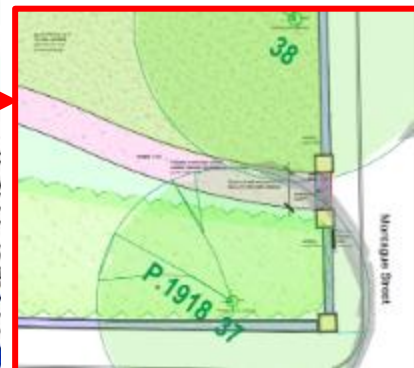
# Condition in 2018



# 2017 Restoration plans

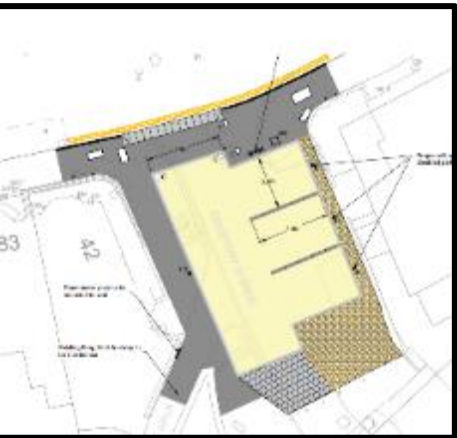


Lines in the sand...





# 2020 Master Plan that was delivered



Project Name	Sheffield General Cemetery
Project Number	1454.001
Client	Sheffield City Council
Scale	1:1000
Date	2020
Author	Colvin & Moggridge
Check	
Drawn	
Scale	
Date	



Sheffield General Cemetery	
MASTERPLAN	
PLANNING	
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Drawn	
Scale	
Date	

Green circle	Tree
Grey circle	Tree
Yellow circle	Tree
Blue circle	Tree
Black circle	Tree
White circle	Tree
Red circle	Tree
Orange circle	Tree
Green square	Tree
Grey square	Tree
Yellow square	Tree
Blue square	Tree
Black square	Tree
White square	Tree
Red square	Tree
Orange square	Tree

Green line	Path
Grey line	Path
Yellow line	Path
Blue line	Path
Black line	Path
White line	Path
Red line	Path
Orange line	Path

Green box	Planting
Grey box	Planting
Yellow box	Planting
Blue box	Planting
Black box	Planting
White box	Planting
Red box	Planting
Orange box	Planting

# What Changed?

2020

## The Covid turning point: when did the pandemic become unstoppable?

Scientists describe the moment they realised this was 'the big one', and the chances that were missed

- Coronavirus - latest updates
- See all our coronavirus coverage



...& austerity

2021

Construction industry ● This article is more than 2 years old

## Cost of building work on UK homes to rise as price of materials soars

Booming housing market as 'incredible demand' fuels shortage of essentials from concrete and timber to taps and roof tiles

Zoe Wood  
Sat 8 Mar 2021 18:00 BST  
< Share



● The supply problem is particularly acute for roofers as the lead time for concrete tiles has tripled in three months. Photograph: Rick Avel/PA  
UK homeowners face higher bills for renovation work as builders grapple with soaring material costs and shortages of essentials ranging from concrete and timber to taps and roof tiles in a booming housing market.

Photograph: Stringer/Getty Images  
but only understood  
led 1.7 million lives since it

Sheffield

● This article is more than 6 years old

## Sheffield MPs urge council to pause tree felling

Protests continue to grow over controversial PF1 contract that has resulted in thousands of trees being cut down



● A sign on tree cut down by contractors in Sheffield. Photograph: Danny Lawson/PA

Two Labour MPs in **Sheffield** have called on the city's Labour-run council to pause tree felling in the city, as protests grow over a controversial road maintenance contract that has resulted in thousands of trees being cut down and replaced with saplings.

A freedom of information request has revealed that the council's 25-year private finance initiative (PFI) deal with the contractor Amey specifies that as many as 17,500 trees - half of the city's 36,000 trees - could be felled as part of the work to maintain the city's roads and pavements.

In a statement, Louise Haigh, MP for Sheffield Heeley, said she had been troubled by scenes taking place on the streets of Sheffield - with residents being arrested as they attempted to stop felling. She said it was "simply

Frances Perraudin North of England reporter

Thu 15 Mar 2016 09:43 GMT

< Share

2018



For the chop: the battle to save Sheffield's trees

# Problem 1: Delivering a scheme that the community would support

Bring cars in the cemetery?

## Cemetery car park plans

People living near Sheffield General Cemetery have set up their own campaign group as a row over improvement works and a possible car park at the site continues.

By The Newsroom  
Published 15th Mar 2018, 14:28 BST  
Updated 16th Mar 2018, 09:50 BST

**2018**

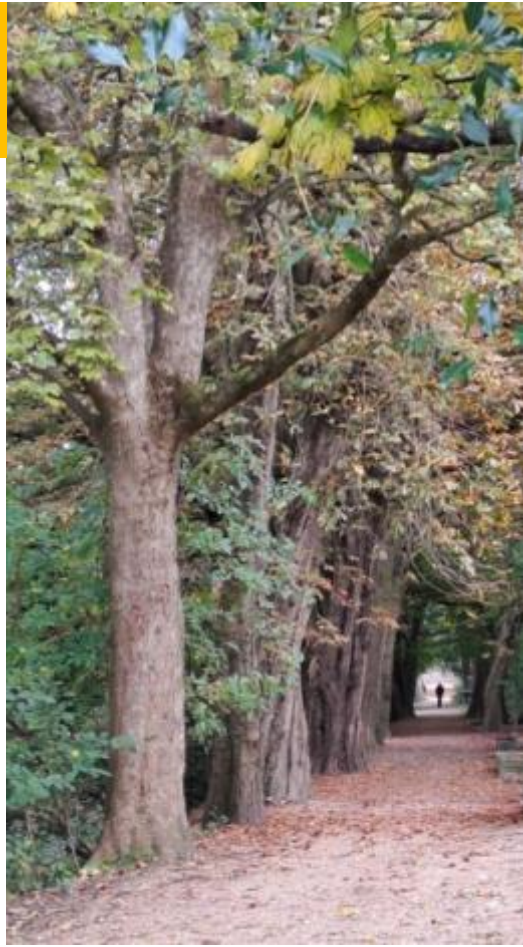


Sheffield General Cemetery

Taking out trees?



Adding a new entrance?



# Problem 2: Delivery during COVID (consulting on the capital works)

## Can you help us review our plans?

In 2018, Sheffield City Council received a grant from the National Lottery Parks for People fund to help conserve Sheffield General Cemetery for the future. Parts of the Cemetery are almost 200 years old and our project aims to keep this special place safe and enjoyable for visitors whilst also safeguarding the General Cemetery's heritage and wildlife.

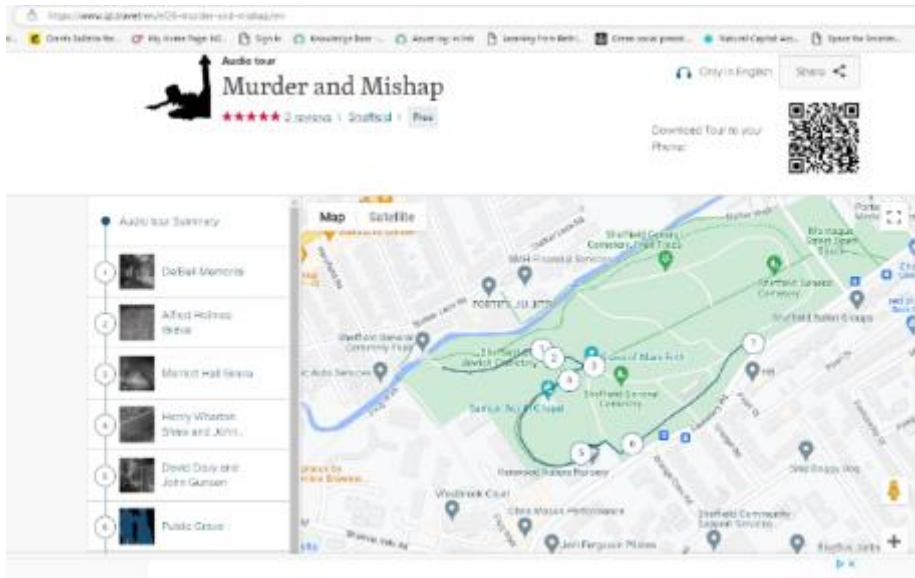
Use the QR code below to access the survey



# COVID driven innovations in engagement and interpretation

Izzy Travel app

<https://www.izi.travel/en/ef26-murder-and-mishap/en#b7b86b93-a157-45ef-ab66-12de98fb0461>



# Women in the General Cemetery

Women Trail



NEW SOUTH WEST COUNCIL  
A Woman's Place by Sarah Bevan  
Illustration by Sarah Bevan



Burial records are kept on a register in the Cemetery - names, ages, date of death, date of burial, address, and in the case of men, occupation. Women are only ever recorded in terms of their marital status - they are not as widows or spinsters - wives of the famous. Thus, they had not a successful business for years. At least, a husband's name, a father, a wife, a woman's occupation and a job who died as one on 1855, is rarely recorded in the burial register. It is a widow and on the family grave as a beloved wife.

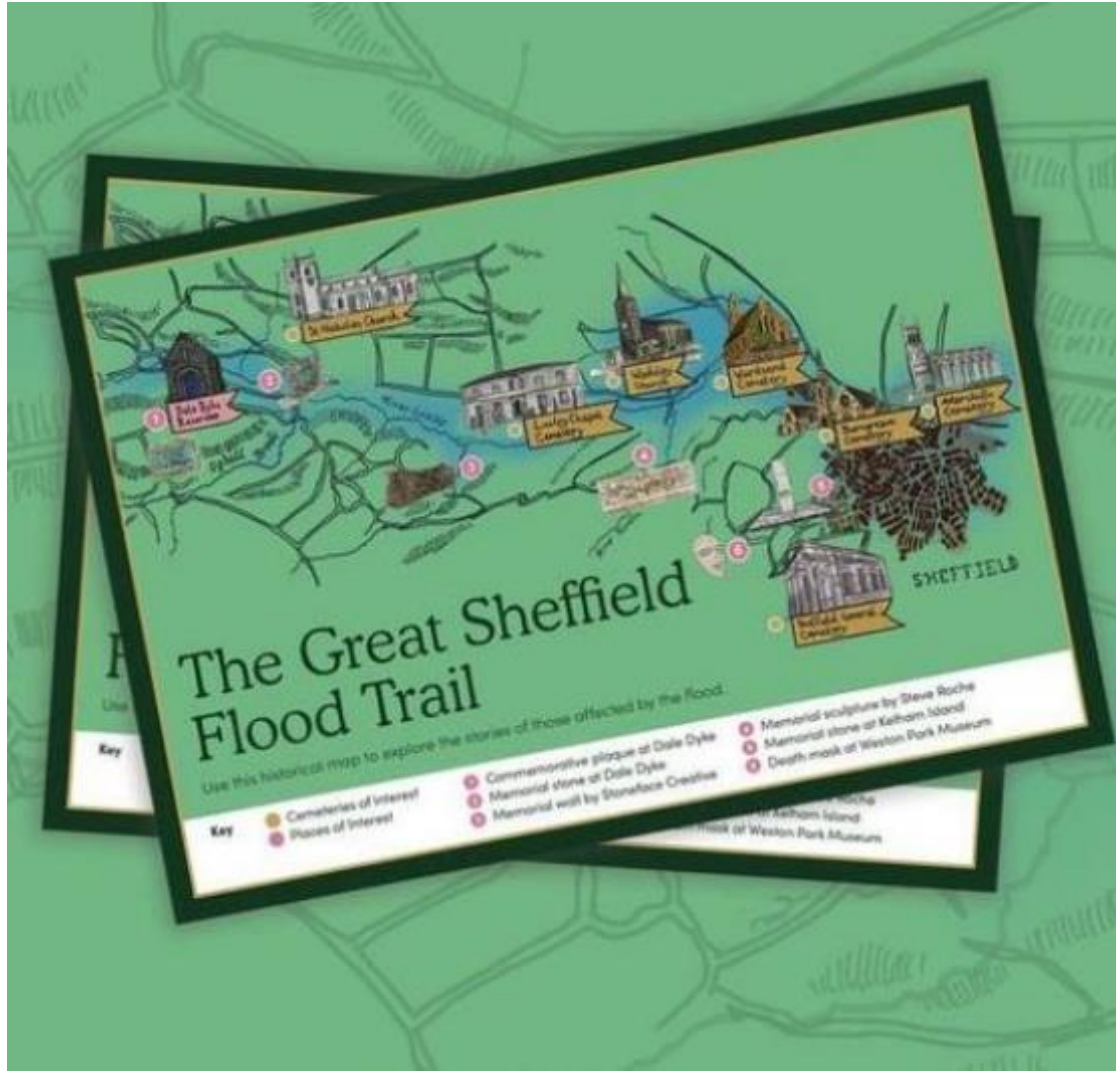
Most environmental historians are usually recognised. Most of the community might have been aware of their contributions to the community and their careers, but rarely women, who are recorded only in terms of being a wife, mother or sometimes, widow. Quaint one, where present, tend to

praise motherly or wifely duties. Occasionally, another source of information about individuals, members of the church, and other professionals may be right looking at the case of women, namely below the end of the nineteenth century.

Census records give the name of women, their ages, names, status and place of birth. An occupation is recorded for a married woman, who was expected to be at home, but with occasional work. Single, widowed or divorced women could also be recorded as having different jobs towards the end of the century. In the 19th century, the only women who were recorded as having an occupation, but there is a list of names given in the address and mothers.

In fact, unless a woman died accidentally, qualified outside of her profession, the women's occupation is rarely in the burial records, and usually, it is recorded for the party and directly related to her.

Some women did find themselves responsible positions during the early 19th century. When a husband died, it was often left to her to run the family business, the care of the shop. The Mary Ann Barker, a J. Barker's widow, was the first to do so. She was a widow, and her shop, which was a small one, was the only one of its kind in the area. She was a widow, and her shop, which was a small one, was the only one of its kind in the area.

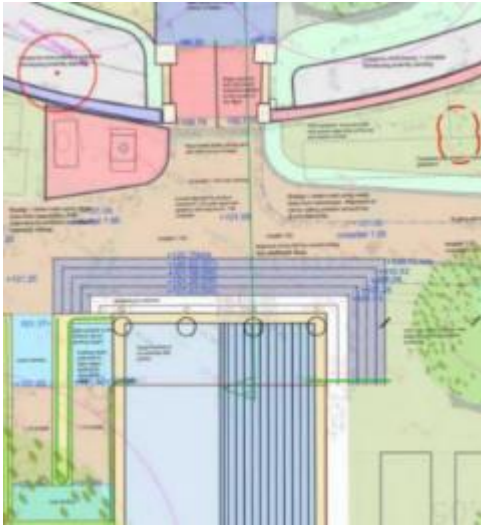


## The Great Sheffield Flood Trail

Use this historical map to explore the stories of those affected by the flood.

- Key
- 1 Cemeteries of Interest
  - 2 Places of Interest
  - 3 Commemorative plaque at Dale Dyke
  - 4 Memorial stone at Dale Dyke
  - 5 Memorial wall by Stoneface Creative
  - 6 Memorial sculpture by Steve Roche
  - 7 Memorial stone at Ketham Island
  - 8 Death mask of Weston Park Museum

# Problem 3: Delivering an affordable Scheme of work



- Prioritisation – such as catacombs restoration
- Value engineering – that improves overall design solution e.g. steps & accessibility solution at the chapel
- Omit elements (such as unpopular new entrance)
- Reducing number tree removals



# Problem 4: Problem solving through capital delivery!



Ash Die Back

Foundations

Design changes

Delays



COVID meetings

Discoveries



















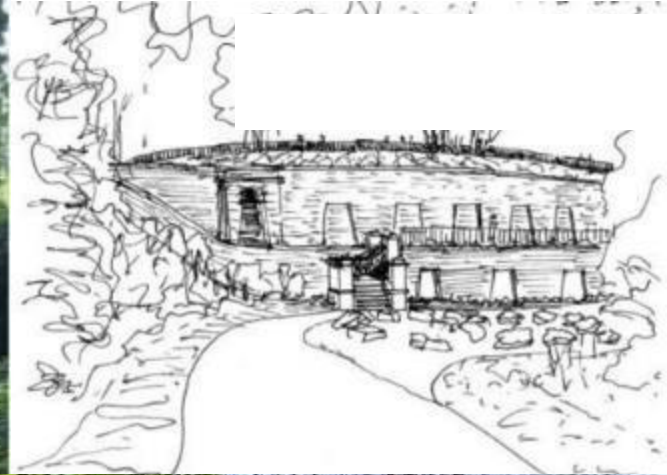


Samuel Worth Chapel Before





Samuel Worth Chapel After



colvin &  
moggridge





A welcoming and interpreted site!



2024 application submitted



## Samuel Holberry

Samuel Holberry was one of the leaders of the Chartist movement in Sheffield. In 1840, Holberry was arrested - accused of organising a plot to take over the Town Hall. At the trial he was not allowed to offer any defence. He was found guilty and sentenced to four years in Northallerton House of Correction.

Holberry was illegally made to work a treadmill and his health deteriorated. He was transferred to York Castle, but being already very ill, he died of consumption in June 1842.

The Chartists organised the funeral which saw tens of thousands of people follow the coffin to the Cemetery.

Whilst Samuel's name and history has been commemorated, many do not know that his wife Mary also played an important part in the Chartist movement. Women Chartists were fundamental to the movement, writing articles and organising rallies, and fighting for women's suffrage. After Samuel's death, Mary continued to be politically active.

Scan this QR code to read more:



In memory of the 85 people buried in this single, unmarked public grave in 1838-9. 70 of these burials were children and 54 were aged two and under.

Sheffield  
General  
Cemetery  
Trust

In memory of the 168 cholera victims buried here in unmarked public graves in 1849 and 1854.

Sheffield  
General  
Cemetery  
Trust

In memory of the 27 unidentified victims of the Sheffield Flood on 12th March 1864 who were buried in unmarked public graves. 16 of these unidentified people were children.

Sheffield  
General  
Cemetery  
Trust

In memory of the more than 10,000 stillborn babies interred in this Cemetery. Over 500 of these babies are buried here in Vault EE in the lower catacombs.

Sheffield  
General  
Cemetery  
Trust

# Uncovering hidden stories





Work in Progress



# Future Plans and Sustainability



Sexton's Lodge Holiday Cottage



The Samuel Worth Chapel



Sheffield's unique wedding venue



Jazz at The Chapel  
Blue Seven Jazz

Fri, 26 April 2024 Doors 8pm  
8.30pm



An American in Luton-  
John Hegley

Sat, 27 April 2024 Door 7pm

An American in Luton - John Hegley A tall

## Volunteer







Thank You