



# Grange Cemetery

## Restoration of Monuments



Serious injuries and fatalities caused by falling headstones in cemeteries in the UK over many years led to a Health & Safety Executive requirement that local authorities must survey all monuments in cemeteries. Any monuments deemed unsafe had to be laid flat. As a result, by 2006, nearly 9,500 dangerously unstable headstones were laid flat in Edinburgh cemeteries. Although Grange Cemetery was in better condition than most, many stones had to be laid flat. Other stones had already fallen, leaving some areas of the cemetery looking very messy.



Since 2016, thanks to Alan McKinney's Southside Graveyard Project and funding from various sources, including the Old Edinburgh Club and Grange Association, and help in kind and materials from the City of Edinburgh Council, over 225 headstones have been rebuilt in Grange Cemetery. The manual work has been undertaken, under trained supervision, by people on the Community Payback Orders Scheme. It has been of benefit to the appearance of the cemetery and to many of the young people who have found it has helped their self-worth and attitude towards the community.

The work takes time. It begins with laying aside the monument, lifting any base stone and then removing the original brick foundations, some deeper than others. Concrete is then poured in to form a new base. This has to be left to cure for 14 days before inserting stainless steel rods into drilled holes and returning the monument to its vertical position. The weather can delay progress because the concrete has to be poured in frost-free conditions. Restoration of some stones takes longer and is more costly than others depending on the size of the stone and thus the depth of the foundations and the length and thickness of the steel pins.



*Drilling poured concrete foundation*



*Foundation stone drilled with stainless steel rods inserted*



*Steel rods offered to drilled foundation on a bed of soft stabilising cement*

To move stones over six feet high needs heavy lifting equipment and cannot be tackled under the Community Payback Scheme. The Grange Association has agreed to fund a commercial company to re-erect some larger stones. The first four large stones are expected to be done later in 2021. Photos overleaf show the group of stones near the Catacombs, with the small ones completed by Payback workers and the larger ones awaiting professional attention.

# Examples of grave restoration

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**



*The stones above have been restored by Community Payback Order workers. They can be found in the block to the north east of the main path to the tunnel at the catacombs, to the east of the group below.*

## Work in progress

**BEFORE**



**AFTER** smaller stones restored



*Community Payback Order workers have restored the smaller stones to the left in the photos above, situated just north of the tunnel by the catacombs. The larger stones on the right in the photos are awaiting professional restoration by stonemasons financed by the Grange Association.*

If you would like to find out how to help finance materials to repair and re-erect the smaller stones or to help pay for professional stonemasons for the larger stones, click on the tile 'Donate to support our work' at:  
<https://grangeassociation.org/cemetery/>

