

RAIKES ROAD BURIAL GROUND POTENTIAL HAZARDS



Entrance gate:	You wouldn't be the first person to trap their fingers in the gate and/or the latch so be careful as you enter the site.
Watch out underfoot:	Uneven and dodgy ground is a feature of the graveyard. There are one or two muddy areas for you to slip in and innumerable tripping hazards including half-buried barbed wire, exposed roots and other vegetation, and gravestones and grave edgings concealed in rank vegetation. Please take special care when choosing where to put your feet, especially close to monuments and memorials that you could hit your head on as you fall.
Mortuary roof:	We used to think the Mortuary stood above ground and that it later collapsed producing the mound of fallen masonry that you can see today. We now know that the Mortuary is underground and that the mound is its grass-covered roof. Until the building is surveyed we don't how stable the roof is so, to avoid the risk of falling through, you are advised to keep away from the Mortuary area.
Splinters and other sharp objects:	Some of the fencing and other timber in the graveyard has been there for many years and may not be in the best condition. Try and avoid touching exposed timber: splinters won't kill you but they can be painful, and other sharp objects, such as exposed nails in timber gates and fences, can cause problems too – especially if you are not up to date with your anti-tetanus vaccinations.
Standing water:	There isn't much in the way of standing water in the graveyard, even after heavy rain, but given the nature of the local wildlife what water there is may contain leptospirosis or other pathogens. The risk is low but it's best to steer clear of any wet areas.
Litter and fly- tipped waste:	We don't get much in the way of broken glass or used needles but it pays to be watchful, especially near the entrance gate and in the area adjoining the boundary wall.
Hazardous plants or animals:	Although we have some patches of bramble we're not aware of any dangerous fungi, plants or animals in the graveyard, such as bracken or ticks. This doesn't mean there aren't any though so keep an eye out for any potential problems. And if you are allergic to anything it's worth taking the precautions you would normally employ, such as taking antihistamine tablets or carrying an Epi-Pen.
Falling masonry:	Some of the walls in the graveyard, as well as the gravestones and memorials, have been here a long time. Work is in hand to stabilise them but until it is complete take special care around stonework. Falling masonry can cause serious injury.
Ongoing work:	If anyone is working in the graveyard during your visit avoid them. It's not that they are unfriendly but they may be working on something, or using tools or equipment, which could injure you, so keep well away.
As you leave:	Whichever direction you're taking you'll need to cross the road on leaving the graveyard. Please take special care. The traffic on Raikes Road is often travelling pretty fast and may not see you as you step out from behind the boundary wall.



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Please make a note here of any hazards you spot during your visit that we are not already aware of: