

Memorial Safety Inspections

We conduct memorial safety inspections in our cemeteries to make sure they are safe places for you to visit as well as for our staff and contractors to work in.

Where we will be inspecting

Memorial safety inspections are taking place in both Rye and Bexhill Cemeteries. Each memorial headstone will be inspected to make sure it is not at risk of falling over and injuring someone.

We will put up notices at each cemetery in advance of the inspections taking place.

What does the inspection involve?

A specially trained member of staff will start by doing a visual inspection of the memorial, followed by a hand test. This will involve pressure being applied to the memorial to check for movement. In some cases, a calibrated instrument will be used to test the memorials' stability. In most cases, there will be no movement and a record will be kept that the memorial has passed the inspection. If the memorial moves it will not pass the inspection.

What will happen to memorials that do not pass the inspection?

Memorials which are categorised as at **immediate** risk of falling will have a warning notice with instructions placed on the memorial, supported where possible or laid down dependant on the level of risk and the type of memorial. Please note that where possible we will give 28 days' notice of a memorial being laid down.

Memorials which are found to be unstable but unlikely to cause immediate danger will have a warning notice attached with instructions.

Where the grant of exclusive right of burial (grant holder) has been issued in the last 30 years a letter will be sent to the last known registered address. We are expecting that some address details will be out of date so we will also place a notice near the memorial asking the owner to call the Council.

It is the responsibility of the grant holder to make sure that the memorial headstone is kept in a safe condition, therefore those memorials that do not pass the inspection, the grant holder will be asked to carry out repairs with a registered stonemason.

What to do if your memorial has not passed the inspection

If your memorial has not passed the safety inspection, you will need to contact a registered stonemason to have it repaired. Please do not try to move or make repairs to the memorial yourself.

Once the repairs have been made, you will then need to contact us to approve the repairs. We will do this free of charge.

How often will the inspections be done?

Memorials will be inspected up to a maximum of every five years.

What you might notice in our cemeteries

When visiting our cemeteries, you may see our staff performing the safety inspections. During this time and beyond, you may notice that some of the memorial headstones have signs attached, been laid down or have been removed to be repaired.

How you can help

If you own a memorial headstone, check that we have the correct contact details for you by calling the Cemeteries Office on 01424 787523 or by emailing memorialinspections@rother.gov.uk