

Memorial Safety Testing in Ilminster Cemetery.

Do you own a grave or headstone in Ilminster Cemetery?

Please take a few moments to read this, it is to help you understand why it is necessary for us to carry out safety inspections on memorials to ensure a safe environment in our cemetery to visitors and staff.

Be aware that cemeteries are potentially dangerous places. Visitors should keep to footpaths wherever possible and avoid touching any memorials. Ensure children are always supervised.

Why are we testing memorials?

Guidelines are that all Burial Authorities should inspect every headstone in their cemeteries at least every 5 years. The inspection should be fully documented identifying all dangerous or unstable memorials, and also those that have passed.

We appreciate that testing and making safe memorials may cause upset to bereaved families and friends, but our priority has to be for the safety of all people visiting or working in the cemetery.

What do we do if we find a problem?

If there is a problem with the stability of the memorial we will either temporarily stabilise it, fence it off, or lay the memorial down on the grave plot.

Who is responsible for the safety of a memorial?

Responsibility rests with the owner, or the stonemason or the person who installed the memorial – depending on how long it has been in situ. In most instances, memorials that need attention are many years old and the purchaser/owner has either moved away or has passed on and no family member is currently maintaining it, and ultimately the responsibility for safety within Ilminster Cemetery falls on Ilminster Town Council as the landowner.

What do you do if you are advised that your memorial is unsafe?

We understand that this may be upsetting for you, and are sorry for any distress it may cause. If your memorial has had to be laid flat to make it safe you can choose to either:

1. Leave the memorial laying down, and take no further action.
2. Have the memorial repaired by a Registered memorial mason.

If your memorial has had a temporary fixing to make it safe and/or a warning notice attached, you can choose to either:

1. Have the memorial repaired by a registered stone mason.
2. You can give permission for the memorial to be laid down by contacting Ilminster Town Council office.

If you choose to have your memorial repaired, for your own safety DO NOT attempt to repair or move the memorial yourself. Only approved memorial stonemasons will be allowed to carry out this kind of work to make sure safety standards are complied with.

What do you need to do?

If you are concerned about the safety of your memorial, you can ask for a safety inspection from a trained member of Ilminster Town Council staff, or they can arrange for a registered stone mason to inspect your memorial.

We also strongly recommend insurance cover for your memorial.

Please keep your contact details up to date with the office.

Contact Ilminster Town Council on

01460 52149

or email

town.council@ilminster.gov.uk

or visit the office Monday to Friday, between 11am and 2pm at the

Old Magistrates Court, East Street, Ilminster TA19 0AJ