



Dennistoun Community Council

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**APPLICATION TO DAP FOR NIIF FUNDS  
FOR GROUND CLEARANCE FOR A  
TERTIUS REMEMBRANCE GARDEN  
AND COLUMBARIUM  
IN THE GLASGOW NECROPOLIS**



## THE GLASGOW NECROPOLIS HISTORIC DESIGNED 'A' LISTED LANDSCAPE

The Glasgow Necropolis is Scotland's first ornamental garden cemetery and one of the earliest in Britain, inspired by Père Lachaise in Paris. It serves as the burial site for over 50,000 people, 40% in unmarked graves without headstones.

The Necropolis is 'A' listed in the Historic Environment Scotland Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes, which protects its character and integrity.

It is also a designated Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) due to its diverse wildlife, including animals, plants, and fungi.

The site features areas of botanical interest, such as remnant acid grassland, neutral grassland, woodlands, and scrub, which provide habitats for breeding birds and other animals. Rare species like Stag's Horn Clubmoss and Heath Pearlwort were previously found here, and over 200 species were identified in 2005, with more discovered since.

The Friends of Glasgow Necropolis (FoGN) have instigated and physically helped create a wildflower meadow in Secundus and wildflower borders in Eta and Iota, collaborating with Glasgow City Council and local Dennistoun schools.

### THE PROPOSAL - BACKGROUND

Tertius, historically known as the 'Cowp,' is an area unused for burials within the Glasgow Necropolis. The Friends of Glasgow Necropolis (FoGN) propose transforming it into a Remembrance Garden with thoughts to possibly include Columbarium.

The site contains memorials and stone fragments relocated from their original locations by Glasgow City Council (GCC) since the city took over the ownership of the cemetery from the Merchants House.

However, the Tertius area (The Cowp) faces many issues:

1 invasive plant species – Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed

2 dumped building materials from GCC contractors

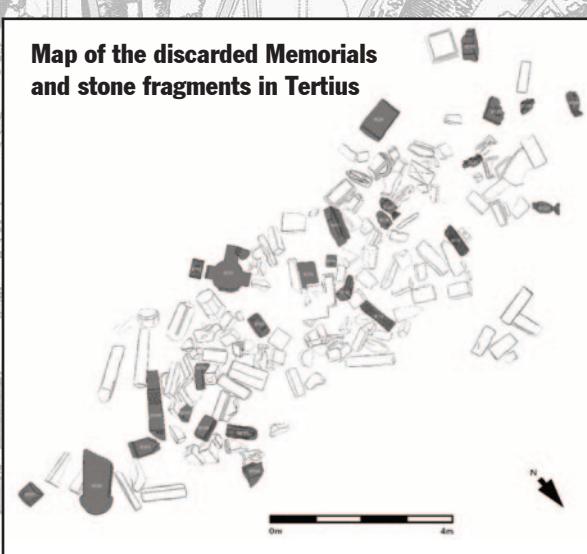
3 antisocial activities like drug taking and dealing, drinking and prostitution.

These problems cause visitors, including frequent local dog walkers and local and international tourists, to feel unsafe at the Glasgow Necropolis.

### INVESTIGATION OF TERTIUS

The Friends of Glasgow Necropolis (FoGN), as part of their Photographic and Stone Condition Survey (PSCS) of the 3,500 monuments, funded a survey project in the Tertius area of the Glasgow Necropolis. They cleared overgrown vegetation to enable access and identify monuments and fragments that had been relocated to Tertius after being disconnected from their original memorials, with no information about their original locations.

Map of the discarded Memorials and stone fragments in Tertius

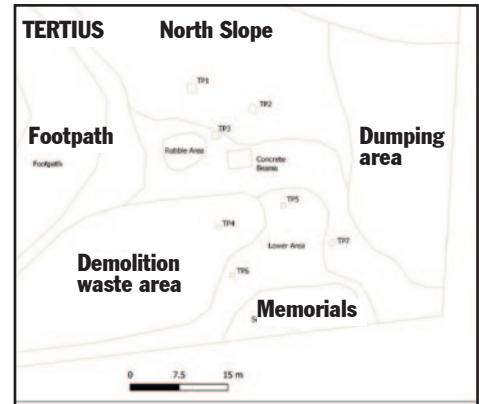


FoGN enlisted the help of Dr. Michael Given, a professor at the University of Glasgow Archaeology Department, who appointed a PhD student to lead a team of students for the survey. The team photographed and mapped the stones and FoGN identified some memorials and their original sites based on inscriptions, while others remain unidentified as they are face down. The findings contribute to FoGN's PSCS of all Necropolis monuments, which began in 2012 and is two-thirds complete. FoGN is seeking funding to finish this important survey.



## RESULTS FROM THE GROUND SURVEY

Along with the survey of the monuments and stone fragments the Team undertook to identify the extent of the dumping by GCC contractors who have accessed the cemetery and used Tertius to dispose of demolition waste from different parts of the city and bring further invasive species.



This work was not a soil analysis but in 5 separate 'digs' the pits exposed the extent of building material, glass, plastics and tarmac over parts of Tertius in different areas. This has been ongoing since 2016 as a photograph of the area from that date shows a flat area of grass.

## INVASIVE SPECIES

This Team's Ground Survey also looked at the various invasive species. Japanese Knotweed has been identified here for some years and, despite claims of treatment to eradicate this plant, it remains in two areas of the Tertius Compartment - at the front and quite extensively on the north slope.

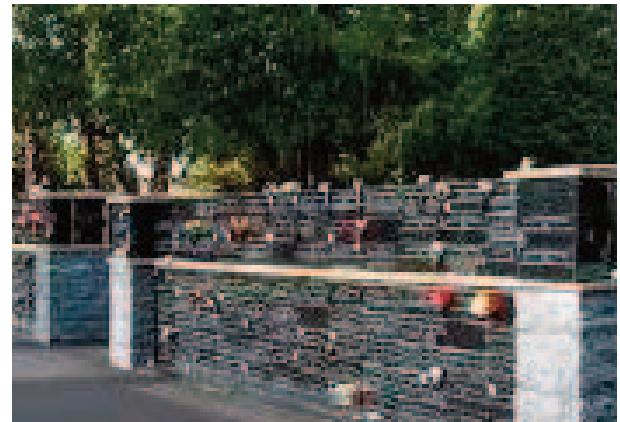
Two other species were also identified. Himalayan Balsam invariably found near water (there is no water in the Necropolis) and Giant Hogweed. These two species are recent imports into the area we assume along with the import of building materials from other parts of the city.

## PROPOSAL FOR REMEMBRANCE AND SENSORY GARDEN

The Tertius site was formally a basalt quarry providing stone cobbles and forms a natural Amphitheatre. Ground-works, industrial drainage and stabilization elements could be used to exploit the natural geology.

As the Necropolis is interdenominational and unconsecrated ground the Memorial Garden would be a multicultural space. Much of the symbolism of various faiths have some commonality and these would be used in this area for people of all faiths and beliefs. It would be welcoming to people visiting relatives in unmarked graves in the Necropolis. There are 21,870 people in unmarked graves scattered throughout the Necropolis cemetery, but their exact locations are unknown. These are people from all walks of life: - Nurses and patients from the Royal Infirmary and Gartnavel Hospitals who are here in numbers, 232 men from all military services, as well as many others who are commemorated on family monuments but are actually buried abroad. A Memorial Garden also serves to remember Glasgow citizens who travelled to distant places and died there particularly those in search of better health. A Memorial Garden provides a dedicated space to honour all these burials and will re-use the dislocated grave memorials and stone fragments, decoration carvings and columns which were relocated from their original locations in the cemetery as part of this Garden.

This Garden will provide a peaceful sanctuary for reflection, remembrance and celebration of life.



ABOVE COLUMBARIUM DUBLIN

## THE COLUMBARIUM

We believe the inclusion of a Columbarium would bring many improvements to this area now known for its antisocial behaviour.

In studies of death rituals, it is often indicated that the living like to have a connection to a particular place to continue the relationship with those they have lost. There are many requests for scattering of ashes here and a Columbarium would provide a new space within the Cemetery for people who want to purchase a niche to hold family ashes. We suggest that a Memorial Wall would offer niches for plaques and cremated remains. As well as bringing funds to GCC ringfenced for this Cemetery it may mitigate against the current use of this area for anti-social behaviour, drug dealing and prostitution.



ABOVE COLUMBARIUM BARCELONA

## FoGN Funds

**At the time of writing FoGN have raised over £200k for various projects in the Glasgow Necropolis. Funding so far for Tertius from FoGN was used to clear the vegetation from the area and remove fallen dead trees lying on top of the discarded monuments. FoGN funded the Archaeology Teams' work on mapping and photographing the monuments, the ground investigations and identification and extent of the invasive species.**

**FoGN income is derived from:**

- **Membership subscriptions**
- **Donations received from those attending our tours given by our volunteer tour guides. 2026 sees our most extended programme of walking tours.**
- **Donations from groups and organisations which have requested our PowerPoint presentations.**
- **Funding applications to various Trusts and organisations**
- **Sale commission from books, guides, badges and cards.**

## IN CONCLUSION

**This proposal to Dennistoun Area Partnership (DAP) for NIIF is to obtain funds required for taking this area from a neglected, misused and derelict piece of land and make a place of Remembrance not a dumping ground with invasive species in an 'A' Listed Cemetery currently used for antisocial behaviour.**

**What requires to be done before the creation of a Memorial and Sensory Garden and Columbarium is the removal of demolition waste dumped in the area and the removal/eradication of the 3 off identified invasive plant species.**

**We very much hope that Dennistoun Area Partnership will view this application favourably and feel able to put forward this application for NIIF Funds supported by Dennistoun Community Council and Dennistoun Area Partnership.**

**BELOW IS A MAP FROM GCC WEBSITE IDENTIFYING TERTIUS AS THE COUP (COWP)**

