



# Designation Consultation

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**This designation consultation is open for comment until 10 September 2025.**

## Give us your comments

Historic Environment Scotland consult with those who are directly affected by designation proposals – including owners, occupiers and tenants – and with the planning authority.

We also welcome comments from interested persons or groups.

When we consult about a designation case we will have carried out research and set this out in a **report of handling**. This report is an assessment produced for consultation and it sets out our view, including a proposed decision. The assessment is not intended to be a definitive account or description of the site or place. We consider the comments received before we take a final decision.

We consider comments and representations which are material to our decision-making, such as:

- Your understanding of the cultural significance of the site or place.
- Whether sites or places meet the criteria for designation.
- The purpose and implications of designating the site or place. We consider whether these are relevant to the case.
- Development proposals related to the site or place. Where there are development proposals, we consider whether to proceed with designation in line with our designation policy.
- The accuracy of our information.

You can find more guidance on providing comments and how we handle your information on our [website](#).

Information on how we treat your personal data is available on our [Privacy Notice](#).

## How to make a comment

Please send your comments to [designationconsultations@hes.scot](mailto:designationconsultations@hes.scot) and provide us with the case reference. You can also make comments through our [portal](#) by clicking on the link 'email your comments about this case'.

**If you are the owner, occupier or tenant or the planning authority please email us at: [designations@hes.scot](mailto:designations@hes.scot).**

If you are unable to email your comments please phone us on 0131 668 8914.



## Report of Handling Case information

<b>Case ID</b>	300080895
<b>Name of Site</b>	Cathcart Cemetery, 160 Brenfield Road, Glasgow
<b>Postcode (if any)</b>	G44 3JW

<b>Local Authority</b>	East Renfrewshire Council
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NS 58191 59726
<b>Designation Type</b>	Listed Building
<b>Designation No. and category of listing (if any)</b>	
<b>Case Type</b>	Designation

<b>Received/Start Date</b>	20/03/2023
<b>Decision Date</b>	Pending

## 1. Proposed decision

Previous Statutory Listing Address	N/A	Previous category of listing	N/A
New Statutory Listing Address	Cathcart Cemetery, including gatepiers and quadrant walls on Clarkston Road, former cemetery gatehouse and war memorial at 160 Brenfield Road, gatepiers, gates, railings, boundary walls and monuments, and excluding interior of former cemetery gatehouse and early 21 <sup>st</sup> century rear extensions, and all cemetery structures east of Netherlee Road, Glasgow (LB52661)	New category of listing	C

Our assessment using the selection guidance shows that the site meets the criteria of special architectural or historic interest. The proposed decision is to list the site at category C.



## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

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### 2.1 Designation Background

There is no previous review of Cathcart Cemetery.

### 2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

## 3. Assessment

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### 3.1 Assessment information

We received a proposal to designate Cathcart Cemetery on 20/03/2023. (Designations applications are published on our portal and will be available to view during the lifetime of the case and until 3 months after the case is closed.)

The applicant provided the following information and views in their application:

- The history of the site
- Information about its location and setting
- Information about the designer
- Information about people associated with the site
- Their views on cultural significance

We received a second proposal to designate this site on 21/11/2024. The applicant provided information and views about the social history of the site with focus on the connection with people associated with the history of Scottish football.

We informed the planning authority at East Renfrewshire Council about the proposal.

Our policy states that ‘our assessments may involve a site visit, and will aim to make use of the best available evidence.’ (See [Designation Policy and Selection Guidance](#), p.7.) We decide on a case by case basis whether a site visit is required to inform our assessments.

In this case we considered that a site visit was required to inform our assessment of the site’s interest for designation. We visited Cathcart Cemetery on 14/02/2024. We visited the cemetery grounds and wider setting. We saw the most prominent monuments within the Victorian section and the 20<sup>th</sup> century parts of the cemetery to the east of Netherlee Road. We saw the exterior of the former Cathcart Cemetery gatehouse and war memorial from the public realm.



## 3.2 Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

Cathcart Cemetery was originally proposed for inclusion on the Inventory of gardens and designed landscape. Our initial research and assessment indicated that the site was unlikely to meet the criterion of national importance for the Inventory and that the interest of the site may be better considered through an assessment for listing.

We carried out an assessment using the selection guidance to decide whether a site or place is of special architectural or historic interest. See **Annex A**.

We have found that the site meets the criteria for listing.

The listing criteria and selection guidance for listed buildings are published in Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (2019), Annex 2, pp. 11-13, <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>.

## 4. Consultation

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### 4.1 Consultation information

Consultation period: 20/08/2025 to 10/09/2025.

We have consulted directly with the owners and the planning authority.

The consultation report of handling is published on our portal for comment from interested parties.

### 4.2 Designation consultations

#### *Comments we consider*

We will consider comments and representations which are material to our decision-making, such as:

- Your understanding of the cultural significance of the site or place and whether it meets the criteria for designation.
- The purpose and implications of designating the site or place. We consider whether these are relevant to the case.
- Development proposals related to the site or place. Where there are development proposals, we consider whether to proceed with designation in line with our designation policy.
- The accuracy of our information.

#### *Comments we don't consider*

# Designation consultation



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ALBA

We do not consider comments and representations on non-relevant/non-material issues, such as:

- Economic considerations
- Abusive or offensive remarks
- Whether you personally like, or do not like, a proposal

Our video about consultations explains how you can comment on our designations decisions, and what we can and can't take into account when considering your views. <https://youtu.be/ZlqU51tRA6g>.

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## Designations Service

Heritage Directorate  
Historic Environment Scotland

<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:designations@hes.scot">designations@hes.scot</a> 0131 668 8914
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## ANNEX A

### Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

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#### 1. Statutory address

Cathcart Cemetery, including gatepiers and quadrant walls on Clarkston Road, former cemetery gatehouse and war memorial at 160 Brenfield Road, gatepiers, gates, railings, boundary walls and monuments, and excluding interior of former cemetery gatehouse and early 21<sup>st</sup> century rear extensions, and all cemetery structures east of Netherlee Road, Glasgow

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#### 2. Description and historical development

##### 2.1 Description

A hilltop garden cemetery designed in 1876 by William Ross McKelvie. It occupies grassed and wooded grounds west of Netherlee Road in the residential suburb of Cathcart, 6km south of Glasgow city centre. It comprises boundary structures, a gatehouse and a range of monuments and grave markers, accessed by minor roads and curving paths. The earliest part of the cemetery is the main entrance and northeast quadrant (laid out 1876–78), with the southern and western areas in place by the earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century. The cemetery extensions on the east side of Netherlee Road are excluded from the listing (see 6. Legal exclusions).

**Gatepiers on Clarkston Road:** Two outer, square-plan, stop-chamfered sandstone gatepiers flank the entrance avenue along Clarkston Avenue. They have simple detailing and truncated pyramidal caps. Low quadrant boundary walls adjoin the piers (inner piers and railings are missing (2025)).

**Main entrance on Brenfield Road:** Finely decorated cast-iron gates have iron twist and floral motifs. There are a total of six sandstone, square-plan gatepiers. Four central piers have circular stone carving on each face and consoled, truncated pyramidal capitals with four round-arched lunettes enclosing floral emblems and urn finials above. Quadrant walls and iron railings extend from the central piers and adjoin two more plain outer gatepiers (matching those on Clarkston Road).

**Cathcart Cemetery Gatehouse:** This is a prominent, two-storey, three-bay Scots Baronial gatelodge with circular turret, built of yellow snecked sandstone with a slated cross-pitched roof. Likely designed by William Ross McKelvie, the lodge is dated 1877, with later extensions. The interior and early 21<sup>st</sup> century rear extensions are excluded from the listing (see 6. Legal exclusions).

The front (west facing) elevation has a central circular turret with timber front door and fanlight, surrounded by a moulded doorpiece with label mould and squared date



plaque above. A single window in the turret's first floor has a stepped Tudor hoodmould and sill band stringcourse, with a keyed oculus to the right. A billeted dripmould is present below the eaves and the conical roof has square and diamond slate patterns.

The gabled bays are advanced (to right) and recessed (to left), both with ground floor tripartite bay windows. The left one is canted and double height, with dividing stepped string course. Its gabled end protrudes from the pitch of the roof at first floor. First floor single windows are round arched with hoodmoulds, figurative corbels and central plaques above. The windows are painted timber two-pane sash and case with horns.

There are moulded gable-end chimney stacks with moulded copes and decorative octagonal cans at both side of the house. Gables and gablets have stepped coping and decorative kneelers. Crested brattishing covers the main roof ridge.

There is a mid-20<sup>th</sup> century single storey extension to left (north facing elevation) with central door and six-pane fanlight flanked by specular modern multipaned windows.

There is a standard design Commonwealth War Graves Commission **Cross of Sacrifice War Memorial** in the grassed area north of the gatelodge.

**Cemetery monuments:** Large and ornate monuments of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century date include:

- The Egyptian-style, pink granite Hood Mausoleum. Built 1900 by Scott and Rae for William and Mary Hood, it is based on Trajan's Kiosk from the Philae temple complex (now relocated to Agilkia Island in southern Egypt) (Packer 2012: 67).
- A Gothic-style red sandstone monument, designed by architect, John Bennie Wilson, for his wife, Sarah Harrison (d.1896) and himself (d.1923). The wide headstone incorporates a three-centred, cusped arch framing a coloured mosaic.
- The Dallas Monument (for Simon Dallas, Glasgow magistrate, d.1904 and family). This is a marble open aedicule (a small shrine or niche) on a decorative plinth, with Ionic columns supporting an entablature roof and urn.

Other monuments are in the form of crosses, obelisks, pedestal tombs, figurative sculpture, and headstones, with varying sizes and levels of ornamentation.

**Other boundary features:** A stepped, coped boundary wall of snecked and vermiculated sandstone runs north along Brenfield Road from the main entrance and along Netherlee Road. A secondary entrance at the northeast tip of the cemetery comprises a pair of gatepiers (matching those on Clarkston Road and the main





entrance) and a cast-iron gate. A third entrance is located to the south on Netherlee Road – this has a wrought-iron gate with gatepost and a curved quadrant wall.

## 2.2 Historical development

Population growth around Glasgow and the shortage of burial accommodation prompted the need for a new cemetery in this area. In July 1876, members of the Cathcart Parish Board set up a joint stock company to oversee its planning (North British Daily Mail 1876). The newly formed Cathcart Cemetery Company acquired land from the local Bogton Estate and engaged William Ross McKelvie to prepare designs, which they approved in October 1876 (Glasgow Herald 1876).

Over the next years, newspapers reported on an ongoing scandal around the original land purchase deal and speculation by some members of the Board, who appear to have gained substantial personal profits (Ferne 2021). Nevertheless building works had begun promptly in late 1876 and Cathcart New Cemetery was advertised as open by March 1877 (North British Daily Mail 1877).

The cemetery initially occupied a triangular area at the north of the site, but was extended to the southwest in the 1890s, and then in a strip along the length of Netherlee Road by around 1911 (evident frontispiece Glasgow 1888 and Ordnance Survey editions revised 1893, 1895, 1911). The cemetery superseded Cathcart Old Churchyard on Carmunnock Road.

By the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, Cathcart Cemetery had reached most of its current extent west of Netherlee Road, and there was an extension east of Netherlee Road (the Linn Extension), which was further developed northwards during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. The cemetery areas east of Netherlee Road, which includes the Hebrew and Muslim burial areas, are excluded from the listing (see 6. Legal Exclusions).

The Cathcart Cemetery Company went into liquidation in 1979, with the management of the cemetery taken over by the local authority.

In the early 2020s, Cathcart Cemetery was demarcated part of the Footballs Square Mile Open Air Museum on account of the number of early footballers and pioneers of the game interred there (see 3.2.3 Associations with people or events of national significance <https://www.footballssquaremile.com/cathcartcemetery>).

## 3. Assessment of special architectural or historic interest

To be listed a building must be of ‘special architectural or historic interest’ as set out in the [Planning \(Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas\) \(Scotland\) Act 1997](#). To decide if a building is of special interest for listing we assess its cultural significance using selection guidance which has two main headings – architectural interest and historic interest (see Designation Policy and Selection Guidance, 2019, Annex 2, pp. 11-13).





The selection guidance provides a framework within which judgement is exercised in reaching individual decisions. The special architectural or historic interest of a building can be demonstrated in one or more of the following ways.

## 3.1 Architectural interest

The architectural interest of a building may include its design, designer, interior, plan form, materials, regional traditions, and setting and the extent to which these characteristics survive. These factors are grouped under two headings:

### 3.1.1 Design

Cathcart Cemetery is a typical example of a later 19<sup>th</sup>-century garden cemetery, executed in its first stages to designs by William Ross McKelvie (1826–1893). It retains most of the design structure as established from 1876 including an entrance avenue, ornamented entrance gates, Scots Baronial gatelodge, and curving paths through landscaped, wooded grounds.

In these aspects, it follows the principles of the garden cemetery movement as pioneered at Père-Lachaise cemetery in Paris (opened 1804) and endorsed in Britain by John Claudius Loudoun (1843). This favoured spacious new extramural cemeteries enhanced by paths and planting with ordered plots for the display of individual monuments. In Scotland, the first major prototype was the Glasgow Necropolis (opened 1832), which attracted critical acclaim and influenced subsequent provision across towns and cities from the 1840s.

William Ross McKelvie was among a small group of Scottish architects, nurserymen and civil engineers who attained expertise and renown in garden cemetery design during the mid-later 19<sup>th</sup> century. While his work followed that of earlier practitioners such as Stewart Murray, David Cousin, and James Findlater, he nevertheless came to be regarded as a designer of merit after a career spanning the 1850s–1880s (Dingwall 2016).

William Ross McKelvie almost certainly trained under Stewart Murray and became Superintendent of Parks and Cemeteries in Greenock in 1852 before moving to a similar post in Dundee a decade later. He was involved in the design of Dundee's Eastern Necropolis from 1862–63 (LB24962), the Western Necropolis at Balgay Park in 1870 (GDL00039) and Wick Cemetery (1872). In 1876, a reporter on Cathcart Cemetery described him as having “acquired a deservedly high reputation for taste and skill” (Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser 1876). Later works were Allenvale Cemetery (1880) (LB46473) and Duthie Park in Aberdeen (GDL00166) (1881).

Begun in 1876, Cathcart Cemetery is one of William Ross McKelvie's later cemetery designs. While more modest in layout than the slightly earlier Western Necropolis (1870), it nevertheless represents a design made at the peak of his career. The curving paths recall McKelvie's earlier designs in Dundee and also Loudoun's



recommendations for a hilly site (plan reproduced in Curl 1983: 149). The layout of the paths is retained in the current cemetery design.

Other built components at Cathcart Cemetery also contribute architectural interest. The prominent ornamented boundary and entrance treatments are typical of public parks and cemeteries of this period. The front elevation of the gatelodge is little-altered, and retains its richly decorated exterior character.

The collection of funerary monuments within the cemetery are representative of the tastes and aspirations of contemporary society. The largest and most embellished mausolea are executed in high quality polished stones and marbles and evidence architectural forms in vogue among the middle classes and most wealthy at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### 3.1.2 Setting

Cathcart Cemetery has a mainly suburban, residential setting. It has prominence in the local landscape due to its extent, hilltop location, wooded canopy, and its substantial and ornamented boundary features, including walls, gates, gatepiers and the gatehouse on Brenfield Road.

When the cemetery was first laid out in the late 1870s, the surrounding landscape was rural in character, comprising fields of the Bogton House estate, and the policies of Linn House to the east. The small settlement of New Cathcart was located to the northwest along what is now Clarkston Road.

The elevated topography may have determined the choice of site, with other cemeteries of the period often taking advantage of natural ridges and hills (e.g. the Glasgow Necropolis, Paisley's Woodside Cemetery and Dundee's Western Necropolis at Balgay Park). The rural character of the site was an important part of its attraction, with media reports and a pamphlet on the cemetery advertising its potential as an 'attractive resort', its clean air, nearby streams, woods, flowers and blossoms (Airdrie & Coatbridge Advertiser 1876, 1888 Notes on Cathcart Cemetery, quoted in <https://tdocplus.co.uk/linnpark/some-history/cathcart-cemetery>).

The expansion of suburban housing to the north, west and south of the cemetery in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the expansion of the cemetery itself east of Netherlee Road means that the wider setting has since changed. However, the cemetery retains some of its prominence, its inherent structure and design features, including the view along the original entrance avenue on Clarkston Avenue towards the gates and gatehouse. The cemetery remains legible in this landscape, and the functional relationship between the built components of the cemetery remains clear.

### 3.2 Historic interest



Historic interest is in such things as a building's age, rarity, social historical interest and associations with people or events that have had a significant impact on Scotland's cultural heritage. Historic interest is assessed under three headings:

### 3.2.1 Age and rarity

Many cemeteries were built in towns and cities during the mid-later 19<sup>th</sup> century, prompted by the demands of an increasing population and inspired by early models, most notably in Scotland by The Necropolis in Glasgow (opened 1832).

Early examples include Sighthill (1840), the Southern Necropolis (1840) and the Eastern Necropolis (1847) in Glasgow, Woodside Cemetery in Paisley (1845), Greenock Cemetery (1846) and five cemeteries in Edinburgh to designs by the architect, David Cousin, including Warriston (1842) and Dean Cemeteries (1845). Later cemeteries recognised for their interest as designed landscapes include Tomnahurich Cemetery in Highland (1864), (GDL00374) and the Western Necropolis at Balgay Park in Dundee, also by William Ross McKelvie (1870) (GDL00039).

Cemeteries spanning this period are not rare sites in Scotland. Most survive, with varying levels of authenticity and completeness. Some have been expanded or have had their layout simplified, while built features, including individual memorials, boundary treatments or former gate lodges, can be subject to loss, damage and/or alteration.

Cathcart Cemetery is not an early example of a garden cemetery in Scotland. It is, however, a good representative example of a later 19<sup>th</sup> century garden cemetery that followed the first wave of urban cemetery provision. While it has been expanded, and the wider setting altered, it retains its Victorian elements and layout and is a good example of the work of William Ross McKelvie, who achieved renown for the quality of his designs.

### 3.2.2 Social historical interest

All surviving examples of mid-later 19<sup>th</sup> century cemeteries in Scotland will have a degree of social historical interest as they illustrate contemporary attitudes towards public health, death and funerary customs, commemoration, and other social concerns.

Garden cemeteries responded to public anxiety about unhealthy, overcrowded churchyard conditions, exacerbated by population growth, outbreaks of disease and fears for the security of interred bodies. Cemetery companies typically initiated new schemes on the edges of towns and cities, with the Burial Act (Scotland) 1855 allowing town councils to establish and maintain new sites and close older burial grounds. Burial plots were sold in perpetuity, and garden cemeteries were marketed as wholesome, green landscapes, instructive for morals and recreation. Large and



elaborate monuments in these landscapes were designed to convey the status and prestige of those who could afford them (Buckham 2015; Curl 1983).

Cathcart Cemetery, designed and laid out from 1876, is typical of many cemeteries from this period. It reflects the southward expansion of Glasgow suburbs and also contemporary opinion around cemetery design. The variety of grave markers is typical in demonstrating trends in memorialisation. Most notable in this regard is probably the monumental, Egyptian-style Hood Mausoleum for butcher and Justice of the Peace, William Hood. Erected in 1900 at a cost of £1311 with a further £500 later gifted by his widow for its upkeep 'for all time coming', it shows how people invested in costly and ornate memorials (Packer 2012, Incorporation of Masons Glasgow 2015).

### 3.2.3 Association with people or events of national importance

Historic cemeteries will normally contain gravemarkers of individuals who achieved renown. Cathcart Cemetery is typical among large urban cemeteries in Scotland in this regard, with artists, engineers, business owners, architects, performers, a suffragette and sportspeople represented.

Cathcart Cemetery is also typical in representing the impact of major conflict on society. In addition to the Cross of Sacrifice, the cemetery as a whole contains markers to 245 casualties of the First and Second World Wars (<https://www.cwgc.org>).

Cathcart Cemetery has additional interest through the number of notable early footballers and other pioneers of the game commemorated there. While this interest is typical for the building type, the level of significance is elevated due to the concentration of individual markers identified, their documented association with footballing history, and their relationship to other sites of footballing heritage in south and central Glasgow (<https://www.footballssquaremile.com>).

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## 4. Summary of assessment

Cathcart Cemetery meets the criteria of special architectural or historic interest for the following reasons:

- As a later 19<sup>th</sup> century garden cemetery that retains its layout and most of its built elements, including a richly decorated former gatelodge and entrance gates and some large and ornate monuments
- As an example of the work of William Ross McKelvie, who achieved renown for the quality of his designs following the initial wave of garden cemetery construction in Scotland

- For its association with Scottish footballing heritage in Glasgow.

In accordance with Section 1 (4A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 the following are excluded from the listing: Interior of former cemetery gatehouse and early 21<sup>st</sup> century rear extensions, and all cemetery structures east of Netherlee Road, Glasgow

## 5. Category of listing

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Once a building is found to be of special architectural or historic interest, it is then classified under one of three categories (A, B or C) according to its relative importance. While the listing itself has legal weight and gives statutory protection, the categories have no legal status and are advisory. They affect how a building is managed in the planning system.

Category definitions are found at Annex 2 of Designation Policy and Selection Guidance (2019) <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/designation-policy>.

### 5.1 Level of importance

Cathcart Cemetery's level of importance is category C.

Buildings listed at category C are defined as 'buildings of special architectural or historic interest which are representative examples of a period, style or type.'

Taking into account the prolific building type, category C is considered to be the most appropriate level of listing.

## 6. Legal exclusions

In accordance with Section 1 (4A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 the following are excluded from the listing: Interior of former cemetery gatehouse and early 21<sup>st</sup> century rear extensions, and all cemetery structures east of Netherlee Road, Glasgow

The former gatehouse was substantially refurbished to the interior and extended to the rear in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The cemetery extensions to the east of Netherlee Road date to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These areas are standard in design, with headstones and monuments disposed in lines following an ordered pattern and are not of special interest.

## 7. Other Information

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N/A

## 8. References

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National Record of the Historic Environment: <https://www.trove.scot/> Place Records  
UIDs 78494 (Cemetery), 161659 (Lodge), 340829 (War memorial)

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