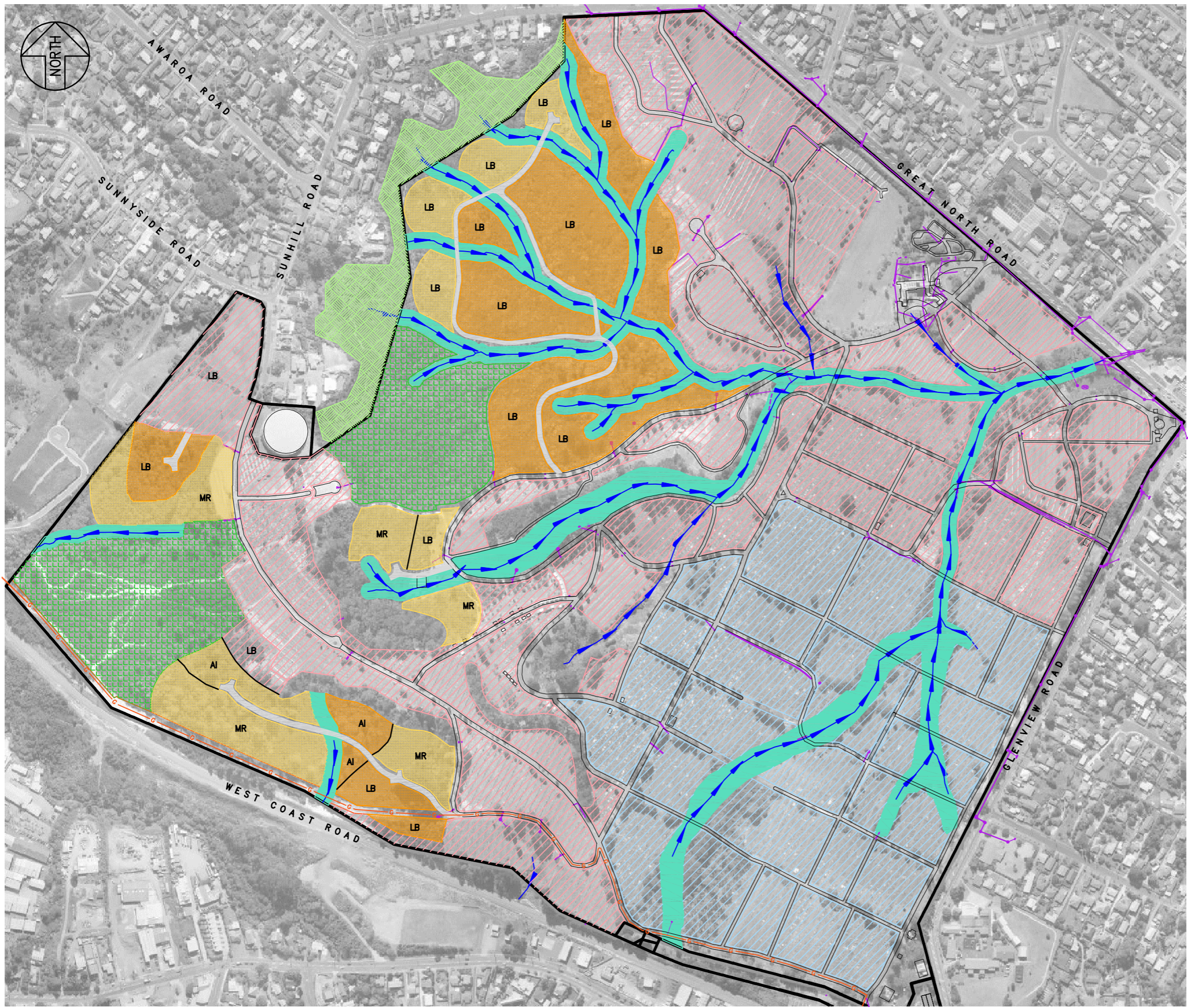


Part 2: Discussion



LEGEND:

- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- EXISTING STREAM
- EXISTING ROAD
- EXISTING GAS LINE
- GAS LINE EASEMENT
- EXISTING STORMWATER
- ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION AREA
- DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION LAND
- RIPARIAN ZONE

BURIAL ZONES:

- CLOSED BURIAL ZONE

STAGE DEVELOPMENT:

- CURRENT-2020 DEVELOPMENT
- 2020-2050 DEVELOPMENT
- 2050-ONWARDS DEVELOPMENT
- PROPOSED ROAD
- LAWN BURIAL **LB**
- ASH INTERNMENT **AI**
- MODULAR RETAINING **MR**



Plotted: Tue, 01 Apr 2014 - 3:17pm BY: OEM
 File Name: J:\Projects\1233 - Waikumete Cemetery - Reserve Management Plan\03 CAD\00 Drawings\1233-100 - MAP 1.dwg

DESIGNED:	DATE	REVISION	BY	APPRVD	DATE
-	-/-	-	-	-	-/-
DRAWN:	D.V.	02/08/2013	-	-	-/-
DWG CHK:	-	-	-	-	-/-
DSGN CHK:	-	-	-	-	-/-
APPROVED:	-/-	-	-	-	-/-
1	DRAFT WAIKUMETE CEMETERY RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN (APRIL 2014)	D.V.	R.M.	01/04/2014	



AUCKLAND COUNCIL
WAIKUMETE CEMETERY MAPPING
MAP 1 - CEMETERY OPERATIONS

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2.1 Cemetery Operations

2.1.1 Services and Management

Waikumete Cemetery is the largest operating cemetery in New Zealand. Since the closure of Symonds Street Cemetery in 1908, Waikumete has served as the main cemetery for the Auckland Region.

The other public cemeteries catering for the region are at North Shore Memorial Park (in the north) and Manukau Memorial Gardens (in the south). Additionally there are privately owned cemeteries at Auckland Memorial Park (Silverdale), Purewa Cemetery (Meadowbank) and Mangere Lawn Cemetery (in the south). Waikumete Cemetery caters mainly for the population of West Auckland but also provides services for the population of the wider Auckland isthmus. It currently provides for 15% of all burials in Auckland.

Waikumete Cemetery has three chapel's (including the historic 'Chapel of Faith in the Oaks') and an operating crematorium providing for burial, cremation and ash interment. The cemetery offers a range of burial options including conventional and natural burial, ash interment and memorial plaque, as well as mausolea. Since 1985, the cemetery has been run by a manager appointed by Council. The manager is responsible for all cemetery operations and maintenance. While cemetery staff undertake cremations, burials and associated operations, all grounds maintenance and physical works are carried out by independent contractors.

A graduated fee structure is used to fund cemetery operations and maintenance. For example, burials accommodated on public holidays or outside standard hours will incur a premium to cover additional operating costs. Noteworthy is the fact that the cost of maintaining the burial plots (excluding the headstones) must be met by Council from the (one-off) collection of burial fees.

Hours of operation

Services can be held any day of the week. The main entrance is from Great North Road, with the gates opening at 7.30am daily and closing at 6.00pm during the winter and 8.30pm during the summer. The office is open from 8.30am to 4.00pm (Monday to Saturday). There are six existing public toilets at the cemetery located at;

- The Chapel of Faith in the Oaks
- One each in Chapel 1 & 2
- Acmena Way
- Waitakere View
- Kowhai Ave (generally locked due to vandalism and anti-social behaviour)

Chapels

Waikumete Cemetery has three chapels, two of which are located adjacent to each other in the main building complex adjacent to Great North Road. The larger chapel (Chapel 1) has seating for 110, while the smaller chapel (Chapel 2) seats 60 people. Both chapels are available for funeral services. However, the majority of burials now follow a service that has been held elsewhere, for example at a church or private funeral service venue.



Above – there are three Chapels at Waikumete Cemetery; Chapel 1 & 2 (above left & middle) are located at the main building complex and, the historic Chapel of Faith in the Oaks (right) located near the Waikumete Rd entrance.

Council has recognised there is potential to upgrade the existing reception facilities so that Waikumete is able to offer an improved venue for an entire funeral service. There are two options for improving the existing facilities in the Chapel & Crematorium complex to accommodate funeral services;

- Conversion of Chapel 2 to a reception facility or,
- the construction of a new (larger) facility to the rear of the crematorium.

Either way, no decisions have yet been made and will be subject to further feasibility work in conjunction with Councils heritage department and the Pouhere Taonga Heritage New Zealand (formerly New Zealand Historic Places Trust and referred to hereafter in this document as Heritage NZ).

The historic 'Chapel of Faith in the Oaks' was built in May 1886 and was fully refurbished in 1996. This chapel is located adjacent the original main entrance at Waikumete Road and is also available for funeral services and other potential events, such as weddings or religious ceremonies (at the discretion of the cemetery manager).

Ethnic and cultural considerations

Waikumete Cemetery caters for interments from a wide range of denominational and cultural groups, as well as for the armed services. The protocol of some religious and ethnic groups stipulate a requirement for burial, whilst others favour cremations only. Unlike the older areas of the cemetery that were divided into distinct groups, the modern lawn format of the cemetery does not distinguish between religious or cultural groups, except where specific groups have requested their own areas.

At Waikumete, approximately 2 hectares of undeveloped land has been allocated for the exclusive use of Maori, Hebrew and Muslim groups, as well as the armed services. It is the only cemetery in Auckland providing burial facilities for those of the Jewish faith and is one of three cemeteries providing for Muslim burials. The Hebrew section incorporates the Belt Olam Prayer House and the Holocaust Stone, at the foot of which are buried ashes taken from Auschwitz Concentration Camp in 1945.

Cremations

More than half of the ashes from cremations are taken away by family to be scattered (or interred) outside the cemetery. Nonetheless, as a core function Waikumete Cemetery provides ash plot, memorial gardens, arboreta, niche-wall, as well as lawns for scattering, as options for the interment of ashes.

A relatively small percentage of cremated remains are interred in ash plots or niche walls. However in terms of land-use, this form of interment is very efficient, as the amount of land required is almost negligible. Ash plots cater for two sets of ashes per plot and may be marked by a small plaque on the berm.



Right – ash plots are a very land efficient means of interment

Lawn burial

The cemetery currently caters for around 450-500 lawn burials per annum. In an effort to make more efficient use of burial land, the sale of dual-plots (two interments per plot) is actively encouraged.

Prior to 1923, when the first crematorium opened, the cemetery catered exclusively for burials. By 2010, the percentage of burials at Waikumete had reduced to 43% and cremations had increased to 57%. It is perhaps the decline in the number of people holding traditional Judaeo Christian beliefs (which favours conventional burial) and increased immigration from Asia (whose peoples often favour cremation), which most likely underpins the rise in cremation rates.

Whilst the predominant preference of memorialising loved ones is by either conventional burial or cremation, attitudes are changing with a steady increase in alternatives such as natural burial and mausoleum, which is anticipated to continue.

Natural burials

Also referred to as eco-burials, a natural burial provides for an un-embalmed interment into a grave which is unmarked, apart from the planting of a native tree. The body is either buried in a coffin which is constructed from sustainably sourced untreated timber or is wrapped in a biodegradable shroud.

Mausolea

The cemetery offers a choice of private or public mausolea. There are currently 59 private mausolea at Waikumete, the first being built by the Corban family in 1914, and the most recent currently under construction. They range in size with the largest holding forty caskets.

The uptake of pre-purchased chambers within the 2 public mausolea has been very strong. The first of these was built in 1992 by Stately Mausoleums and contains twenty four chambers, which are all full. The second built in 2010 accommodates ninety six chambers. Mausolea make efficient use of land per interment and can be sited on the steeper slopes.



Above - Mausolea have a relatively low built footprint and are able to be sited on the land that is too steep for conventional lawn burial

Urupa

Te Kawerau a Maki and Ngati Whatua are recognised as Mana Whenua over West Auckland and have kaitiakitanga responsibilities over Waikumete Cemetery, which is held to be a valuable cultural landscape and significant site. Reflecting the increasing rate of urbanisation by Maori from the 1950's, kaumatua and kuia from many iwi (and who now reside in Auckland) approached Council in the early 1990's suggesting an Urupa at Waikumete Cemetery.

The Urupa was established in 1996 under the direction of an Urupa Komiti, with a mandate given by Te Kawerau a Maki and Ngati Whatua. The Urupa Komiti assists the cemetery manager in managing this area for urban Maori who choose to remain closer to Auckland whanau.

The Urupa has a special area set aside for the burial of tamariki (children).



Right - the Urupa is located adjacent the water reservoir at the sites north west boundary.

Returned services

The Returned Services section is the largest of its kind in New Zealand and is the final resting place for some 10,000 members of the Armed Forces.

The returned services area contains the graves of members of the New Zealand forces who served in various wars including the two World Wars, as well as the Korean and Vietnam wars. This area also includes the graves of the largest single collection of Victoria Cross holders in New Zealand, as well as several war memorials which are centre-piece during commemorative events.

The Returned Services Association (RSA) is actively involved in the management and development of the Returned Services area, which is maintained to a very high standard. The area has a dedicated entrance on the corner of Great North and Glenview Roads, which is opened for commemorative gatherings such as ANZAC Day.



Above – the Returned Services section

Infants and children

There are two areas within the cemetery which are set aside for children. The area known as The Stillborn Sanctuary is almost full and expected to close within the next 12 months. Plans are currently underway for a new children's area to be developed in the eastern berm & lawn area.

Notable graves

Scattered throughout the cemetery are the graves of many notable figures including artists, writers, poets and pioneers. The pioneers are those who contributed to the early development and history of New Zealand and include brickmakers, winemakers, war heroes, politicians and criminals. Many of these graves contribute to three interpretive trails which are hosted by the Friends of Waikumete at monthly events (usually on the first Sunday of every month, subject to weather conditions). Events such as these contribute to the positive recreational use of the cemetery, particularly in the older sections which would otherwise be infrequently visited. This helps increase security through passive surveillance.

Historical records

In accordance with the Burial and Cremation Act (1964), Waikumete Cemetery is required to keep records of all interments. The Council holds an accurate and substantial data-base of all burials and cremations since 1886, which is available for research and genealogy enquiries. This database is a significant source of social and genealogical information on the history of Auckland. The Friends of Waikumete and other members of the public also have a personal interest in the site's historical records. There is potential for cemetery staff to work more closely with public volunteers in the interests of validating historic databases in particular.

Plot sales

Plot sales are made on the basis of a 60 year right of interment, during which time Council assumes responsibility for maintenance of the plot but not the headstone. The 60 year 'right' dates from the time of purchase, not interment and is set out in full in the Burial and Cremation Act 1964.

The Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaws are currently under review, with the objective of unifying several operative bylaws used under the previous local territorial authorities. A single 'Code of Practice' will set out the Bylaw detail but no change is anticipated in regards to plot sales.

2.1.2 Burial Capacity

A significant issue facing Waikumete Cemetery is the finite amount of land available for burials. Despite there being some 43 hectares of undeveloped land remaining from the 108 hectares first set aside for a site for a cemetery by Auckland City Council in 1886, much of this land is steep and densely vegetated. With less than 2.8 hectares of cleared land available (as of 2010) for new burials, and at current estimates, the cemetery is expected to reach burial capacity by 2018.

If more land is not made available on the site, the cemetery will have no new burial plots available for purchase and therefore be forced to downscale operations within the next few years.

[Alternative sites](#)

Apart from private cemeteries owned by churches at Oratia and Hobsonville, the only other cemetery in west Auckland is Swanson, which is small at 2 hectares and also nearly full. All the other large cemeteries within the Auckland region are some distance away; Auckland Memorial Park and North Shore Memorial Park (North Shore), Purewa Cemetery (Eastern Suburbs), and Mangere Lawn Cemetery and Manukau Memorial Gardens (South Auckland). There is no local alternative with the capacity to meet the forecasted needs of the population currently served by Waikumete. Without a cemetery in west Auckland, residents would be forced to travel considerable distance to bury their loved ones and attend their graves.

[Future forecasts](#)

Approximately 400 new burial plots are required per annum to meet the forecasted needs of Waikumete's catchment population. The development of new burial areas also requires sufficient land for road access, parking, landscape planting and turnaround bays for maintenance contractors. This equates to the need for 1 hectare of land to be developed every four years.

[Planning ahead](#)

The Conservation Plan (2001) recommended that Council allocate resources to investigate the development of new burial areas. Subsequently the former Waitakere City Council commissioned investigative work to support either the expansion of the cemetery, or the purchase and development of a replacement site.

[Options for cemetery services in Waitakere City \(Synergine, 2009\) Volume 1 - Master Plan discussion document](#)

This report investigated the following options:

- Closing the cemetery when the existing consented land is full
- Expansion of Swanson (or other) Cemetery to replace Waikumete
- Purchase and development of land for or a new cemetery to service west Auckland
- Expansion into undeveloped land at Waikumete Cemetery

- Alternative burial techniques (which make more efficient use of land and are able to utilise steeper topography)
- Infill into existing burial areas by utilising un-used grave plots

The study investigated 6 alternative sites located within the Waitakere City area, either within or marginally outside the Rural Urban Boundary. This study revealed that the costs of purchasing and developing a new site to be extremely high, when compared to the expansion into a portion of the vegetated upper slopes at Waikumete Cemetery.

The study also focused on a range of land-efficient burial methods that would extend the operational capacity of Waikumete Cemetery, which are discussed in Section 2.1.3 Burial Methods (refer Appendix A for aspects of this report).

Recommendations

The study concluded that the most prudent option was to continue operating at Waikumete cemetery and to utilise a combination of expansion into undeveloped land and more land-efficient burial and ash interment methods. The report advocated more use of mausolea and ash-plots, as a means of enabling effective use of some of the steeper slopes.

In order to increase the burial capacity of the cemetery, some of the protected vegetation on the upper slopes would need to be cleared to make way for future burial development. The report included specialist analysis of fauna and flora within the upper slopes, as well as identifying the highest quality and contiguous sequence of gumland vegetation, so that this could be set aside and protected from development.

Waikumete Cemetery Expansion Report (Blue Barn, 2010)

A further study in 2010 (Waikumete Cemetery Expansion Report) investigated cemetery expansion in more detail. The report identified 18.11 hectares of undeveloped land that would provide a total 15.60 hectares to be developed for new burial and ash plots, as well as mausolea development. The difference in area allows for a buffer zone between the protected gumland vegetation and proposed new burial areas, as well as for road access and infrastructure. Key sections of the Waikumete Cemetery Expansion Report 2010 are included in Appendix B and summarised as follows:

Of the 18.11 ha proposed for burial expansion;

- 10.25 hectares is considered relatively straight forward to develop (lawn burial)
- 4.34 hectares is considered moderately complex (modular retaining burial)
- 1.01 hectare is steeper slopes (ash interment)

Staged development

The expansion would be developed in 10-year stages over a 50 year period, in accordance with modelled demand. This process of incremental development would serve to minimise the effects of vegetation clearance (e.g., storm water run-off), while encouraging the uptake of land-efficient burial techniques. The forecasted operational capacity of the cemetery would be extended to 2060.

Submissions

As a precursor to this reserve management plan, a Discussion Document was circulated in January 2013, which set out the issues and opportunities confronting Waikumete Cemetery. In accordance with the Reserves Act (1977), submissions were invited to assist with compiling the reserve management plan. In regards to cemetery expansion, 70% of submissions were in favour of some vegetation clearance in order to increase the burial capacity of Waikumete Cemetery. Many of the submissions stipulated that any development should be done sympathetically and/or that vegetation clearance should be limited in order to protect landscape character and the areas of highest ecological value. Many of the submissions also expressed a desire for the cemetery to be developed concurrently for passive recreation and ultimately as a memorial park.

Unitary Plan

The Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan is currently out for public consultation and when approved will replace the operative Auckland Council District Plan. The areas of vegetation currently protected in the operative plan are classified as a 'Significant Ecological Area' (SEA) in the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan, and have been amended to allow for cemetery expansion.

Summary

The development of land within the existing site to enable the sale of burial plots beyond 2018 is the most prudent and cost-effective option for the future provision of cemetery services in west Auckland. This option will allow Council the time to plan and budget for the acquisition of new land for a future cemetery in the west, while providing the public an opportunity to purchase a burial space at Waikumete Cemetery until at least 2060.

International and local evidence (e.g., Symonds St Cemetery) has demonstrated that once a cemetery reaches capacity and is closed, it can fall into disrepair, as the operational presence and budget stream from the sale of burial plots diminishes. In the case of Waikumete Cemetery, the additional 50 years of operating time will allow Council to transition positive recreational use of the cemetery, as it develops it towards a memorial park.

2.1.3 Burial Methods

The conventional method of burial (headstone & grave plot) uses a lot of land, particularly when compared to the more recent conventions of cremation and ash interment. The additional constraint confronting Waikumete Cemetery and the available land remaining is that much of it comprises the upper slopes and therefore is too steep for conventional burial practises. However, there are alternative interment methods which could be utilised to enable cemetery development into a portion of this steeper land.

Some of these methods are already in use at Waikumete such as interment into ash plot, eco-burial plot or mausoleum. Other methods like modular retaining and vertical interment are in use by cemeteries in New Zealand and abroad and are therefore tried and tested. Collectively, there are a range of more land-efficient interment methods for the public and stakeholders to consider, which all help increasing capacity and thus extending the operational timeframe of the cemetery.

The range of burial/interment methods are summarised as follows, with the chart below giving a breakdown of relative land-use. Table 2 shows the area required for the range of burial methods based on data from Waikumete Cemetery and Auckland Memorial Park in Silverdale.

Burial Method	Interments per plot (Av.)	Area per plot (m2)
Traditional (Headstone)	1.8	8.9
Lawn burial	1.8	6
Public (Mausoleum)	96	200
Private (Mausoleum)	6	13
Natural Burial	1	15
Modular Retaining Layout	1.8	6
Ash Interment	1.8	0.32
Ash Octagon 1	16	2.5

Table 2 - Summary of Burial Method and Yield per Plot (Waikumete Cemetery Expansion Report 2010)

Modular retaining / honeycombing

The modular retaining system is already being used at other cemeteries in the Auckland region, such as Auckland Memorial Park in Silverdale. The system is designed to enable burial into steeply sloping ground by the creation of flat terraces retained with pre-cast panels, which are tied together with cast in-situ reinforced concrete beams on concrete anchor footings.

The area required for each burial plot is similar to that required for lawn burials. However more overall space is required for additional infrastructure such as steps, pathways and roads. The advantage of this method is that it allows the use of the steeper slopes unsuitable for conventional burial, and therefore is considered particularly suited for Waikumete Cemetery.



Right – an example of a Modular Retaining System at Auckland Memorial Park, Silverdale.

Extra depth plots

Double depth plots are already in use and are the standard basis upon which new plots are now sold at Waikumete. Between 2007 and 2010, over 90% of plots were sold as double burials and this trend is expected to continue. Due to health & safety reasons (and the danger to mourners within close proximity of a deep grave), Council generally restricts burials to no more than two bodies per plot. However triple depth burials are possible where ground conditions are suitable and are subject to the cemetery manager's discretion.

Vertical burial interment is not offered at Waikumete Cemetery, in most part due to the cultural tradition of laying a loved one to rest (lying horizontally in an ever-lasting state of rest). Vertical interment would provide land use efficiencies only where whole sections were set aside for single interment. Given that 90% of plots sales are sold as double depth, the provision for vertical interment appears to have no benefits in terms of land-use efficiency.

Family plot re-use

This method enables the multiple ash interment into an existing grave of a family member (which is already full with either single depth or double depth burials). Clarification must first be established on the ownership of the grave plot and the rightful acknowledgement of the proposed family members to have their ashes interred to the existing family grave. This method can accommodate the ashes of 6 family members to be interred above the buried family member(s). The existing grave plot is hand-dug to a depth of 600mm, with a record kept by cemetery staff on the location of each respective ash interment.

Once ownership is established, this is a fairly straight-forward option for all cemetery areas outside the historic cemetery. If an inscription is unable to be inscribed onto the existing headstone, then a small plaque(s) maybe installed to the existing base, with care taken not to impinge the ability of mowing machines to carry out their activities. The installation of a new headstone (to accommodate the newly interred ashes) is discouraged. The entire process including placement of the plaques, is monitored by cemetery staff.

Any application to inter the ashes of a family member into an existing family grave containing a pre-1900 burial is strictly monitored and requires the pre-approval of the Heritage NZ.

Burial infill into the historic cemetery

The historic section of the cemetery covers 8.6 hectares and has been estimated that 10% of the grave sites in this area may in fact be un-used. In some areas around Acmena Avenue and Amber Crescent, there appear to be large numbers of un-used plots. Council has undertaken preliminary investigations which estimate as many as 3000 burial plots are un-used.

These empty plots have been identified through the burial register, maps and the application of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). GPR equipment can detect soil disturbance, indicating that a possible burial has (or has not) taken place.

However, there is a degree of risk in offering un-used plots within the historic section of the cemetery for re-sale. While a useful tool, GPR can produce variable, sometimes unreliable results with obvious ramifications should the detection systems information prove incorrect. Burial infill into the oldest areas could require upgraded roads and access-ways (noting that road layout is a protected heritage asset in its own right) to accommodate burial preparation and interment. The potential is high for physical damage to already fragile historic items, as well as the visual impact of new headstones sitting out of character within the old cemetery. Given the reported quantity of un-used plots and the corresponding number of new headstones that could be introduced, burial infill into the historic section, particularly in the core heritage (pre-1900) area, would have a noticeable detrimental effect on the cemetery's heritage values and historic integrity. Many organisations, including Heritage NZ, find this option unacceptable.

In light of these issues, Council accepts that new burials into un-used plots in the core heritage area is too difficult and has already discontinued plot sales in these areas. However, the option may remain to utilise many of the un-used plots in the post-1900 burial areas, particularly where sizeable groupings of un-used plots are identified, and access is good. The 1950s burial areas tend to have a high degree of stylistic uniformity and are predominantly laid out as a simple lawn cemetery. In such areas, the possibility exists to introduce new burials into localised, un-used sections with minimal impact on heritage values, so long as the denominational character of existing sections is maintained and guidelines for memorialisation of new burials in these areas are developed. Given the large number of un-used plots, the development of a policy to undertake infill in the post-1900 areas deserves consideration and additional research, but is not currently a high priority.



Right - apparent areas of un-used burial plots within the historic cemetery.

Summary

The operational timeframe of the cemetery is constrained by the limited land available for future burials. Alternative burial methods would allow more efficient use of available land, which is currently not utilised due to steep topographical conditions.

While burial infill into un-used graves in the pre-1900 sections has been discontinued, there is potential to utilise un-used post-1900 plots where groupings of plots exist and access is good. Where access by machinery is not possible an option to hand-dig the grave could be considered. Additionally there would need to be protocols around burial into denominational areas and appropriate means of controlling headstone choice.

Burial infill into older sections of the cemetery deserves consideration and additional research, but is not currently a high priority.

2.1.4 Infrastructure

The infrastructure at Waikumete Cemetery has been developed progressively over the last 130 years. These include; two crematorium, three chapels, toilets, offices, a works depot and equipment, 4.8 km of roads, 1980m² of car parking, a water reservoir, water reticulation, as well as stormwater and wastewater systems.

The overriding requirement in terms of the maintenance and renewals of this infrastructure, as well as planning for new capital works, is having certainty around the sites future. This has proved challenging for Council due to the limited amount of consented burial space and therefore the uncertainty on how to budget for and manage the sites assets.

The following snapshot of the component parts of the cemeteries infrastructure, provides a picture of the operational scope managed by Council.

Cemetery

Of the 108 hectare site, approximately 70 hectares have been developed to include:

- 2000m² of gardens
- 25 hectares of lawn cemetery (currently operating)
- 15 hectares of berm cemetery (pre-1980)
- 30 hectares of historic cemetery comprising individual plots

There are some 150,000 interments at Waikumete Cemetery, of which 60,000 are grave plots. The cemetery contains an estimated 16,900 lineal metres of concrete beams for memorial plaque placement. There are 59 private and 2 public mausolea, predominantly located along Orchid Rise, Narcissus Drive and Magnolia Way.

Buildings

The infrastructure has been developed cumulatively since the cemetery opened in 1880s and therefore comprises a number of historic buildings including:

- Sextons Cottage - 1886

- The Chapel of Faith in the Oaks -1886
- The Foreman's Cottage - 1917
- Mausolea - 1941 onward
- The Chapel & Crematorium Complex -1953

Future planning

The Significant Ecological Areas have been identified in the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan to enable cemetery expansion into 18 hectares of the current 43 hectares of vegetated areas. The 18 hectares of burial expansion land will allow the provision of new burial plots for the next 50 years until 2060, with the remaining 25 hectares being protected as a significant ecological area.

With 50 years of operational certainty, Council is able to address some key issues to improve the sites functionality and appearance. The Conservation Plan (2001), as well as further submissions to the Discussion Document (2013), identified the cemeteries main entrance at Great North Road as being extremely unsafe.

Due to the very high traffic volumes, both the right-turn entry from, and right-turn exit onto Great North Road are very dangerous. With no alternative entry/exit points, the problem is exacerbated during funeral processions with multiple vehicles attempting to enter and exit the cemetery from the Great North Road entrance. The decision to close all of the other vehicle entrances was made as a result of vehicles using the cemetery as a short-cut during peak hour traffic, as well as reckless vehicle use and rubbish dumping.

The opportunity to resolve safety issues with the main entrance is also seen as a chance to improve other aspects of the cemetery. The large 108 hectare site is challenging for Council to maintain, as well as to control from a safety and security perspective. Furthermore, with the advent of private funeral directors with new well-appointed facilities in West Auckland, it has been difficult for Waikumete Cemetery to compete for additional revenue (from hosted funeral services and weddings etc.) due to its poorly configured and dated facilities. The existing venues (Chapels & Crematorium) have insufficient parking and are co-located close to the administration office. This often results in awkward contact between visitors with administration queries at the office and grieving family members at a funeral service.

The former Waitakere City Council and Auckland Council have commissioned specialist reports advising solutions to vehicle entry, traffic circulation and parking, as well as the feasibility of expanding cemetery operations into a portion of the vegetated upper slopes. Additionally, tentative investigations were undertaken for a potential new reception facility which considered; upgrades to existing chapel/crematorium complex; or refurbishment to the Kelston Community Centre on Awaroa Road; to a new-build reception lounge. With a further 50 years of

operational capacity set out in the proposed Auckland Unitary Plan, Council is able to consider new capital works which would improve site functionality, revenue generation and development, ultimately as a memorial park.

Vehicle entrances, circulation and parking

The cemetery has seven vehicle entrances (of which only the main entrance at Great North Road is regularly used);

- main entrance adjacent the crematorium on Great North Road
- (closed) entrances x 2 on Glenview Road (200 & 350m respectively south of Gt North Rd intersection)
- (closed) original entrance on Waikumete Road
- (closed) entrance on Sunhill Road
- (closed) entrances x 2 on Awaroa Road

Of these, only the main entrance from Great North Road is open for daily use, the others are usually shut. Council opens the Glenview Road entrances for commemorative events only. The Waikumete Cemetery Access Study (Maunsell 2008) proposed five options to improve access and internal traffic flows within the cemetery, with the objectives being to;

- Evaluate existing access points to determine the safest and most practical position for the main entrance
- Reduce vehicle rat-running
- Improve internal traffic flows to and from the main entrance to the chapels
- Maximise parking capacity for Chapels 1 and 2 without impeding traffic circulation
- Evaluate the pedestrian and cyclist movements within the cemetery and any requirements for a shared footpath & cycleway along the main access route

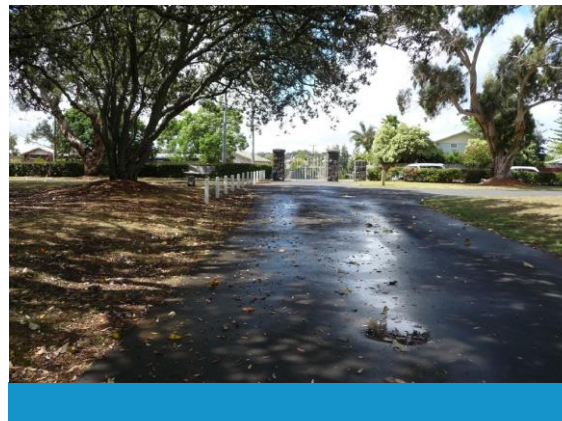
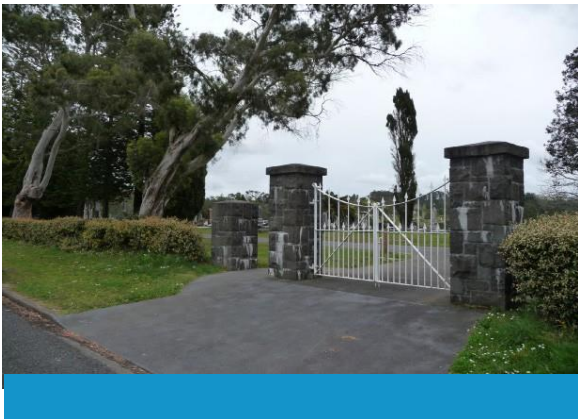
Council has considered the report and proposes the following prioritised actions to remedy the entrance, circulation and parking:

- Install CCTV security cameras to all entrances and key internal vantage points
- Install traffic calming devices along the road network where necessary
- Implement frequent security patrols to all parts of the cemetery
- Re-open all entrances to the cemetery (except the first entrance along Awaroa Road travelling west, and the second entrance along Glenview road travelling south)

- Create a (one-way) main entrance at Glenview Road (the 'parading entrance' flanked by existing basalt columns)
 - The one-way route to be from the Glenview Road entrance along Gallipoli Drive to the intersection of Parade Way only (the surrounding road network to remain two-way)
 - The one-way entrance would also avoid the need to widen the existing entranceway and therefore any modification to the stone columns
 - Investigate the suitability of the second entrance along Glenview Road to be upgraded as the main entrance, should the 'parading entrance' prove unsuitable
- Investigate closure of the existing main entrance on Great North Road (as soon as New Glenview Road main entrance is 'bedded-in')
- Investigate the creation of additional parking around the Chapel and Crematorium complex
- Commission a 'traffic engineers' report on each gate location to ensure appropriate design and safety.

The total closure of the Great North Road entrance would create room for additional parking around the crematorium. Whatever the case, it is also favoured to open all the other entrances as a means of increasing activity within the cemetery and the additional surveillance that would be provided to otherwise isolated parts of the site.

Gate opening and closure would need to be strictly adhered to, so as to avoid nuisance night time behaviour, and implemented together with CCTV, security patrols and traffic calming measures (e.g., speed humps) for respectful driving and pedestrian safety.



Above - two views of the recommended main entrance at Glenview Rd which will replace the existing main entrance at Great North Rd.

Summary

The need to develop new burial areas has provided impetus to resolve entrance, circulation and parking issues. There have been concerns about entrance safety, traffic circulation and parking at the cemetery for some time, the specific concern being the difficulty of using the entry/exit from Great North Road due to heavy traffic. The closure of the existing main entrance from Great North Road, together with the reopening of the Glenview Road entrance (as the main entrance with a sense of arrival and journey to the Chapel & Crematorium) is the preferred option.

Additionally, the daytime opening of all existing entrances is proposed as a means of increasing activity within isolated sections of the cemetery. This would provide additional surveillance and therefore an increased sense of safety in those areas. Night-time closure of these gates would need to be strictly adhered to, together with the installation of CCTV security cameras and additional security patrols. Traffic calming measures are recommended to discourage reckless vehicle use. The upgrades of some roads in the historic cemetery (Glenview & Waikumete Roads entrances) will be required to cope with increased traffic but should keep to the original layout and be carefully considered, due to heritage sensitivities.

Certainty on the operational future of the cemetery also provides a case for investigating whether reception facilities should be upgraded for improved functionality and revenue generation, which is addressed in Section 2.4 - Community Use.

Stormwater

The cemetery lies on heavy clays soils that are not free draining. Drainage can be a problem during periods of heavy rainfall when some grassed burial areas are very wet underfoot and the high ground water table can limit the use of certain areas for new burials. There is no history of flooding but surface runoff has the potential to cause erosion and wash sediment into streams. This is a problem in the newer areas of development on the steeper slopes of the upper catchment. These slopes are particularly vulnerable to erosion, which can be exacerbated by vegetation clearance and an increase in impermeable surfaces such as roads and concrete berms.

There is no stormwater collection system in the historic cemetery and many of the old roads are damaged by water running underneath them. The former Waitakere City Council undertook a programme of road upgrades in an attempt to improve drainage patterns. Since 1996, all new berms have had drainage installed and new roads are connected to a stormwater collection system. This stormwater system drains into the Gaden Stream network and a small wetland/retention pond near the Great North & Glenview Road corner.

New roads also have a variety of designs intended to reduce drainage problems, such as curb and channelling, gobi-block parking and concrete drainage swales

Future development

The expansion into areas of existing vegetation within the upper catchment for future cemetery development has the potential to exacerbate drainage and stormwater problems. For this reason, a stormwater assessment of the site was undertaken in 2006 and the recommendations included in the Waikumete Cemetery Expansion Report.

Waikumete Cemetery Expansion Report 2010

This report included a Stormwater Development Plan. This plan includes a raft of measures to reduce the effects of stormwater in the existing developed areas of Waikumete Cemetery, as well as in the proposed new development areas (refer Appendix B).

Use of these measures will minimise and mitigate the effects of the development on the streams within the cemetery and on the downstream waterways. A Low Impact Development (LID) approach has been adopted and is reliant on:

- Reducing contiguous impervious areas
- Limiting road lengths wherever possible
- Protecting vegetated riparian zones, especially within the steeper incised gullies
- Limiting the number of stream road crossings and using flat ridgelines for roads wherever possible.
- Providing grassed swales and filter strips for treating runoff from road areas
- Using bio-retention rain gardens for the small proportion of roads that are too steep for swales and filter strips
- Crematorium and Mausolea; use of cartridge filters for the crematorium car park to treat runoff before it enters the streams. The mausolea are not considered to require any special stormwater treatment.
- Historic Cemetery Areas; because of the difficulties in collecting and treating stormwater in these areas and the relatively good quality of the stormwater currently running off them, no stormwater treatment is considered necessary.
- Riparian Zones are to be created for all watercourses. The plan defines proposed riparian strips in both the new and existing cemetery areas.

- Gaden Stream Pond Flow Balancing; the outlet of the existing pond in Gaden Stream at Great North Road will be modified to balance peak flows and limit the effects of development on down- stream channels. A new inlet structure to the culvert under Great North Road would need to be constructed.

Summary

The above recommendations are incorporated into the Objectives and Policies of this reserve management plan. It should be noted that burial plot expansion into the vegetated upper slopes will need to be carried out in conjunction with stormwater mitigation measures as summarised above.

2.1.5 Maintenance

Maintenance of the cemetery grounds, grave plots and all associated infrastructure is a fundamental requirement. Society values open spaces which are well maintained and in particular, the appearance of our cemeteries and memorial parks reflect deep values within our society.

However, at 108 hectares and over 130 years old, the cemetery is both vast and complex with many of the older areas difficult to maintain to an acceptable standard and in a cost-effective manner. A perception of low maintenance standards can reflect poorly on an areas value and lead to a lack of appreciation and care from some users. The newer parts of the cemetery are easier to maintain and therefore are consistently kept in good order.

The dilemma facing old cemeteries are the high costs required to maintain tight layout configurations, which are unable to be maintained with the efficiency of large mowers, so that they are also constantly under threat from woody-weeds and high grass cover. Once such cemeteries reach burial capacity and close, they often fall quickly into a sad state of disrepair. Ironically however, there is a nostalgia attached to this unkempt state, which many in the community admire.

Maintenance of the historic cemetery

Council assumes the maintenance responsibility of burial plots (not headstones or plaques) in perpetuity. Headstones remain the property and responsibility of the family, who over time, tend to lose the day to day connection with the graves and the care that brings. The headstones and surrounds of many older graves are no longer tended by family members, are neglected and poorly maintained. Vegetation and woody-weeds undermine the headstones, plaques and decorative features, causing ongoing decay and damage. Despite the nostalgic appeal of the unkempt

state of the old cemetery, what can transpire is a lack of respect from a minority of visitors to these older areas, manifesting in theft, vandalism and ultimately irreversible damage and loss.

The tight configuration of the historic cemetery requires labour-intensive maintenance methods, such as hand-held line trimmers, hand-weeding and herbicide spot spraying. Council contractors currently line trim the historic cemetery two times per year (in spring and autumn). This relatively low frequency of mowing is a cost-effective means of maintaining the grass cover in the old cemetery, as well as allowing the wildflowers the time to bloom and regenerate.

However, with the wildflower sanctuary limited to a 1 hectare site at the southeast corner of the old cemetery, there is potential for more frequent line trimming of the remainder of the historic cemetery. Coupled with this, should be an adequately resourced programme to control woody-weeds (by both hand-pulling and herbicide usage).

The programme should include mandatory education & up-skilling of contractor staff so that they are sufficiently aware of the heritage sensitivities of the site. A basic understanding and awareness of the soft and porous materials in the old cemetery, will lead to better maintenance practises, such as blowing off all leaf litter from headstones and surrounds so as to avoid lichen growth and decay. Limiting line trimming to within a 100mm of headstone & surrounds (hand-pulling & herbicide control of actual grave plot) will also reduce the damage & decay of these fragile heritage assets.

There is also more potential for Council to positively engage with volunteer and community groups. With specialist heritage assistance, these groups as well as maintenance contractors, could be empowered and up-skilled to effectively work in a unified way and with a sense of shared purpose.



Above - typical historic headstone & grave plot surround inundated by grass and woody weeds and unable to be maintained by efficient lawn mowing machinery requires hands on maintenance.

New grave decorations and maintenance

Newer areas of lawn cemetery are given the highest level of maintenance, due to their higher level of visitation and maintenance friendly layout. A grid layout has been designed to keep maintenance costs down. The grass berms are sufficient width to allow access by large mowers and for this reason there are restrictions on fences, structures and grave decorations.

The Waitakere City Council Public Places Bylaw authorises Council to regulate the grave-side installation of memorials, including the erection of fences and structures on or around plots. This is necessary so as to avoid a proliferation of memorials to the extent that maintenance duties are unable to be carried out. If left uncontrolled, grass berms become a messy combination of clutter and long unmown grass. Ultimately, this leads to increased ratepayer costs in tidying these areas so that grass mowing and other maintenance can resume.

Current policy is to allow some decoration in an agreed area within the grave plot. Families must make an application and the proposed decorations must be within the permitted guidelines and be 'removable'. Applications that are approved are then registered.

Council has an ongoing programme of grave maintenance to monitor adornments and make contact with families to discuss removal of non-compliant items.



Left - the new lawn areas are easy to maintain



Centre - floral decorations and tributes to loved ones are managed in a way which allows maintenance activities to be carried out (allowing easy access for visitors and to keep the cemeteries appearance in good order)



Right - floral decorations and tributes contained within the concrete berm

Summary

At present some areas are better maintained than others and submissions indicate a level of satisfaction with much of the maintenance (which has improved from a low point in the mid-1990's). The two main areas where maintenance is perceived to be inadequate is in the historic cemetery, as well as some of the newer areas where a proliferation of grave decorations and structures prevent lawn mowing machinery from carrying out their activities. Cemetery staff will continue to regulate grave-side adornments and decorations, so as to keep grass berms open for easy public and maintenance access.

Apart from the 1 hectare wildflower sanctuary at the southeast corner of the old cemetery, it is recommended that the grass mowing in the remainder of the historic cemetery be carried out more frequently. Additionally, the entire historic cemetery requires more maintenance resource applied to hand-pulling and herbicide control of woody-weeds, together with up-skilling of contractors and volunteers on the requirements of good work practice within a heritage zone.

2.1.6 Design guidelines

Since its inception in the late 1800's, Waikumete Cemetery has developed in an incremental manner with no overall long-term plan. However what has transpired is a place of distinctive character with many constituent parts, now valued as a sequence of historical landscapes. Each section reflects the style of its period, which collectively bestows the city with a landscape record of its historical development.

Throughout the site, varying styles, materials and plant species have been used in the cemeteries soft and hard landscape development. Some of this more recent variation however, detracts from the cemeteries landscape appeal, as elements such as bollards and fencing for instance have been located in older areas which weaken its heritage integrity. In many cases it has been the renewal of assets such as park furniture (fences, gates, signs, seating and rubbish bins), as well as roads and entrances, which have detracted from the visual integrity of the cemetery. A thoughtful and consistent design approach to these elements would ensure the site remains cohesive, with less clutter and make it easier to navigate around without unduly affecting its heritage fabric.

It is recommended to develop a comprehensive 'design guideline' which sets out an agreed suite of options for park furniture, signage style and infrastructure. The design guideline should be completed with the assistance of heritage and landscape specialists, and approved by Heritage NZ.

Site boundaries and entrances

The 108 hectare site has an extensive perimeter boundary, which extends along Great North, Glenview, Awaroa, Sunhill and Waikumete Roads, as well as a portion of the western railway line. The boundary is marked by plantings, fences, and rock walls, of varying age, style and condition. Boundary elements include hedges, shrubs and trees, as well as steel & wooden fencing and bollards.

The cemeteries seven entrances have a range of different gates and styles, ranging from purely functional to historic. The original Waikumete Road gate and the two RSA gates on Glenview Road are exceptional. These three gates have heritage significance and should remain as the core in the event of the introduction or renewal of any associated assets such as signage, roads and paths. Together with the historic *Elaeagnus reflexa* hedge, the Glenview Road boundary exhibits a strong connection to the sites heritage but does require some improvements. There are several breaks in the hedge which are filled with a rather unsightly steel-railed fence. It is recommend to formalise visual breaks in the hedge with improved permeable fencing, taking a design cue from the historic stone plinths marking the entrances along Glenview Road. This would improve the appearance of the site and provide added surveillance into an area subject to past acts of vandalism and antisocial behaviour.

The remaining site boundaries, entrances and fencing serve an important function as 'first impressions' and in defining the site. They are visible from many locations and convey messages about the nature of the site and internal safety & security. The cemetery would benefit from a consistent application of appropriate boundary and entrance treatment, which are in keeping with the site's values.

Interpretation, information and signage

The existing directional and interpretive signage at the cemetery has a range of styles and the appearance of ad hoc development. Often the style is determined by the information contained within it, for example either historical information or stormwater functionality. It is recommended to develop a signage wayfinding audit, which would establish the optimum location for both directional and interpretive signs. In this way a cohesive and logical walkway route can first be established, which identifies the range of interpretive opportunities such as maori, colonial and contemporary stories, as well as natural history (e.g., former kauri podocarp forest and regenerating gumland scrub). The design and range of required signage boards can then be established within the Design Guideline development.

Summary

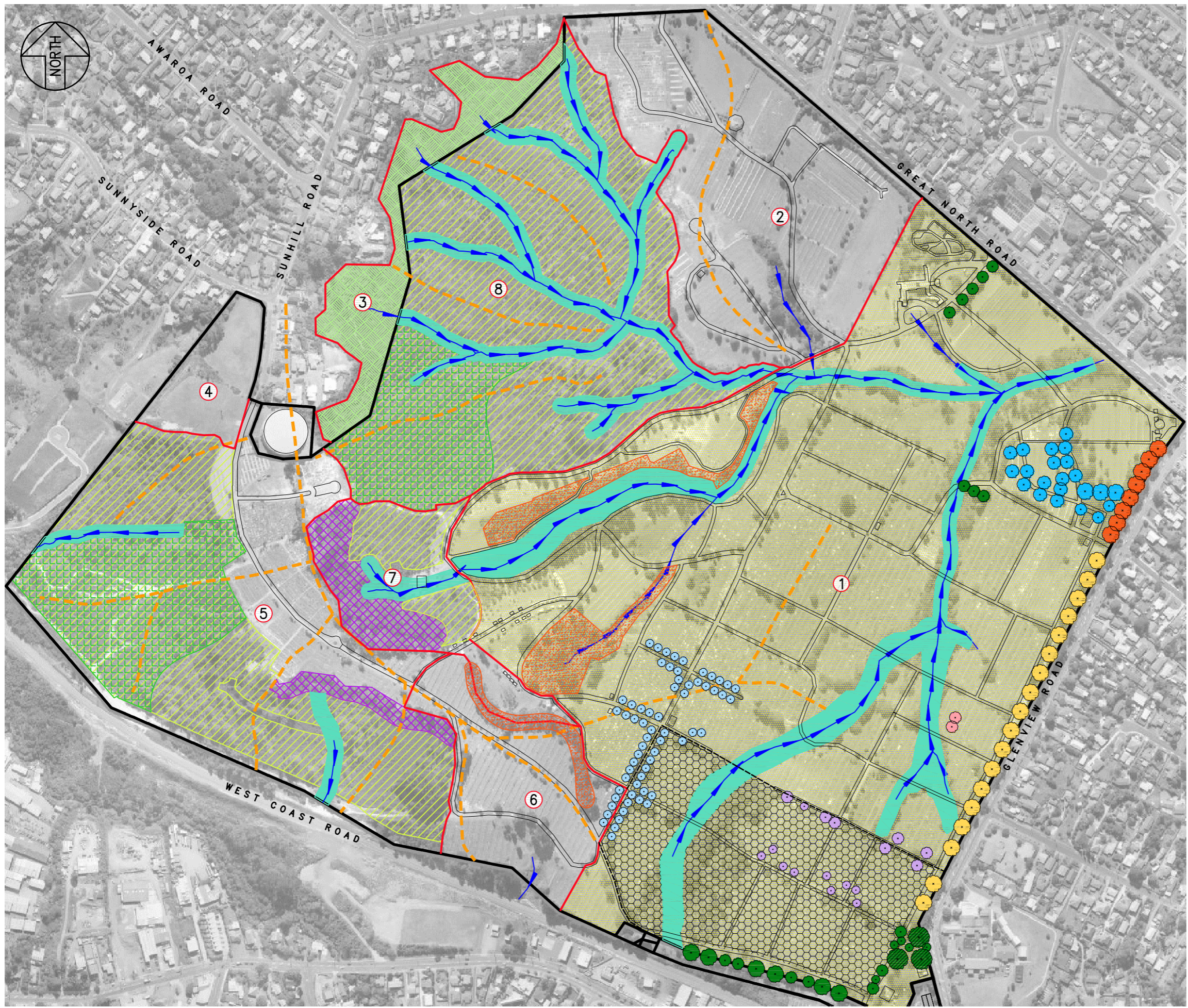
A comprehensive Design Guideline covering soft and hard landscape design is recommended to be developed for the site, with a commitment to the sites heritage significance and an eye to its ultimate future as a memorial park. An underlying tenant of the design process should be to reduce infrastructure clutter, such as co-locating signage and park furniture where possible. For example bollards could also include a subtle

directional sign, so as to control vehicle access as well as directing pedestrians. The Design Guideline should be undertaken by specialists in cultural heritage landscapes and be endorsed by Council's heritage department and the Heritage NZ.

The range of elements to be considered in the Design guideline should include;

- Site entrances and boundary treatment
- Signage Styles (interpretive, directional and grave markers)
- Park furniture (bollards, seats, bins, drinking fountains, lighting)
- Walking and cycling trails
- Roads and paths.
- Amenity planting (garden bedding, future specimen and avenue trees)

Plotted: Tue, 01 Apr 2014 - 3:17pm BY: OEM
 File Name: J:\Projects\1233 - Waikumete Cemetery - Reserve Management Plan\03 CAD\00 Drawings\1233-200 - MAP 2.dwg



LEGEND:

- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- EXISTING STREAM
- EXISTING ROAD
- HILLSIDE VEGETATION
- ECOLOGICAL PROTECTION AREA
- DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION LAND
- WEED MANAGEMENT PROPOSED RE-VEGETATION
- RIPARIAN ZONE
- VISUALLY PROMINENT RIDGELINE VEGETATION
- WILDFLOWER AREA
- HERITAGE AREA
- TOPOGRAPHIC RIDGE LINE
- LANDSCAPE CHARACTER BOUNDARY
- SCHEDULED ITEMS - TREES
- NOTABLE TREES
- CHAMAECYPARIS TREES
- AVENUE PLANTINGS
- POHUTAKAWA TREES
- EUCALYPTUS TREES
- POHUTAKAWA AND EUCALYPTUS
- EXOTIC AND NATIVE PLANTINGS

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS (FROM WAIKUMETE EXPANSION REPORT JULY 2010)	
AREA	DESCRIPTION
1	HERITAGE
2	LAWN CEMETERY
3	CONSERVATION RESERVE
4	WAITAKERE VIEW
5	UPPER CONTEMPORARY
6	LOWER CONTEMPORARY
7	EUCALYPTUS STAND
8	NORTHERN VEGETATION BLOCK



BY	DATE	REVISION	BY	APPRVD	DATE
DESIGNED:	-	-	-	-	-
DRAWN:	D.V.	02/08/2013	-	-	-
DWG CHK:	-	-	-	-	-
DSGN CHK:	-	-	-	-	-
APPROVED:	-	-	-	-	-
1	DRAFT WAIKUMETE CEMETERY RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN (APRIL 2014)	D.V.	R.M.		01/04/2014



AUCKLAND COUNCIL
WAIKUMETE CEMETERY MAPPING
MAP 2 - VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

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STATUS:	DRAFT	CONTRACT NUMBER:	-
DRAWING NO.:	1233 - 200	SCALE:	1:5000 @ A3
		REVISION:	1

2.2 Ecology

The vegetation cover at Waikumete Cemetery is extensive and diverse. It includes naturally occurring and historical plantings of native and exotic species. The Waikumete Cemetery Expansion Report classifies vegetation within the cemetery into five broad but distinct types:

Stream gullies and riparian margins comprising a heavily vegetated mix of native and exotic vegetation. They contribute to the overall amenity of the area by expressing the contour and the formative processes that shaped the site.

The vegetated north-west slopes and southern flanks are undeveloped parts of the cemetery covered in dense scrub comprised of native trees and weeds, as well as tracts of gumland ecosystem bisected with tree fern filled gullies.

Parts of the southern area are dominated by planted Pine stands and areas of wilding Pine and Wattle.

Cultural plantings cover the developed areas of the cemetery and comprise a range of amenity plantings. These are intended as structure plantings and/or symbolic significance associated with personal graves. They include the 1 hectare wildflower sanctuary which has naturalised in the historic part of the cemetery. This wildflower collection of exotic perennial plants and bulbs has considerable historic and botanical value and constitutes a unique and significant heritage feature of the cemetery.

Feature trees have been planted throughout the site. Most of these trees have particular meaning in association with burials, an example being the Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempivirens*), a symbol of everlasting life. A feature stand of eucalyptus is located on the Waitakere View Road ridgeline. This stand comprises trees of great stature and is visually prominent from a large viewing catchment.

2.2.1 Amenity Plantings

There are a number of native and exotic plantings that have either local or national significance. These include the naturalised wildflowers and the 30 species of eucalypts, some of which are over 100 years old.

Rimu, totara, tanekaha, kahikatea, oaks, gums and other trees were planted in the late 19th and 20th centuries. One of the most significant plantings of native trees was that associated with Charles Craig who planted 500 native trees in the 1930's in memory of his wife. This planting is located in the gully between Watsonia Way and Crocus Road. A number of other exotic trees and plants in the cemetery have significance through their cultural associations, being species traditionally utilised in cemeteries of the Victorian era, with many having strong associations with loss and death. Unfortunately some of the exotic trees have maintenance and safety concerns, such as constantly shedding bark, branches, pollen or sharp fronds and/or are generally more prone to wind damage than the deeper rooted native trees. It is recommended that a Landscape

Enhancement Plan is produced which considers the entire stock of existing amenity trees within the cemetery and determines which species should be maintained into the future and those which should be eventually replaced with more appropriate specimen trees.

Further, much of the pre-1950 sections of the cemetery suffer from ongoing infestation of invasive and woody weeds. In these areas weeds are common and the undergrowth provides cover for seedling wattle, pine, pohutukawa and palms, which spread through the cemetery. These rapidly growing trees have invasive root systems which damage graves and require strict management and control. Acmena and other trees planted as specimens are categorised as noxious weeds and require specialist seasonal trimming to ensure they do not propagate. Removal of invasive woody-weeds, as well as taking care not to smother graves with grass clippings would alone have great benefit.



Right - Equally important is the role of various commemorative plantings and memorials to specific groups of the wider community who have been significantly affected by particular events

Wildflower sanctuary

Much of the historic cemetery is blanketed in wildflowers and is one of the most significant collections of naturalised South African wildflowers in New Zealand. The wildflowers contribute greatly to the cemeteries aesthetic and nostalgic quality, having naturalised amongst graves in the older part of the cemetery.

In recognition of their botanical significance, a 1 hectare site in the south-eastern corner near the Waikumete Road entrance was set aside as a sanctuary in 1993. This initiative promoted a reduced mowing regime (twice a year in spring and autumn) as a means of protecting the

sustainability of the wildflowers. However what has transpired is minimal mowing and woody weed control of the entire historic cemetery areas. This has allowed the woody weeds to flourish unchecked in the pasture grass and around the old and fragile grave plots in particular.

There is potential for more frequent grass mowing of the historic areas outside the 1 hectare wildflower sanctuary, which should be introduced alongside a programme of pest-plant control by herbicide use and hand-pulling of woody weeds. It is also recommended to seek the specialist assistance of Auckland Botanical Gardens staff to monitor the on-going health of the wildflowers and the diversity of species.



Above – wildflower sanctuary in bloom

2.2.2 Natural Areas

The sites natural areas are defined in most part by the undeveloped upper slopes, incised by stream gullies, with both areas containing a dense mix of native and exotic vegetation, including a range of pest plants. The gumland vegetation on the hillsides is particularly valued for its scarcity on a regional and national level.

Gumland ecosystems arise following the clearance of mature kauri forest. Gumlands were once common throughout the region from the earliest days of European settlement, as the vast tracts of kauri were milled and remaining forest cover burned and cleared for settlement. Low fertility soils (kauri podzols) typify the landscape and can remain waterlogged for many months. Biotic and abiotic factors (including drainage, rainfall, altitude and time since fire) influence the type of vegetation that grows in gumland communities. At Waikumete the gumland vegetation is

a distinctive vegetation type dominated by Manuka (*Leptospermum scoparium*), Kanuka (*Kunzea ericoides*), Umbrella fern (*Gleichenia dicarpa* and *Gleichenia microphylla*), and sedges such as *Machaerina*, *Schoenus*, *Tetraria* and *Lepidosperma*.

The gumland at Waikumete is known for its diversity and abundance of nationally and regionally rare native orchids. As a successional stage in the development of a mature forest ecosystem, the gumland scrub will eventually give way to larger tree species as they push through the 'nursery' shrub cover. Therefore its ultimate demise would appear inevitable, with the natural areas eventually maturing to hillside pockets of kauri podocarp forests (but would likely take many genera due to the heavily leached soils present).

The cemeteries natural heritage areas are regionally significant, and designated as significant ecological areas within the Proposed Unitary Plan. The protected areas are difficult and expensive to maintain and are under constant threat from invasive pest plants, including ground smothering species, climbers, shrubs and trees. Auckland Council currently engages NZ Bio Security Ltd to undertake quarterly site visits as part of a sector wide pest control programme. However this current programme requires additional resourcing, as it is apparent that pest-plants are out-competing the native species in many areas.

The Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan has identified two Significant Ecological Areas to the sites north-west and south-west slopes, totalling some 25 hectares of the highest quality and most contiguous areas of gumland vegetation. The two areas are proposed to be set aside as scientific reserve in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977. Together with the existing scenic reserve adjacent to Sunhill Road, these natural areas will comprise more than 30 hectares in total, which will remain protected into the future. It is hoped that this elevated conservation status will attract more resourcing from local and central government agencies, as well as assistance from volunteer organisations and increased public awareness.

Threatened species

The gumland is valued as a unique habitat for several threatened indigenous species including rare orchids, two grass species and a critically endangered liverwort. The scrub is also home to populations of threatened native reptiles including protected species of copper skink and the Auckland Green Gecko.

Riparian margins

The many streams running through the cemetery are mainly tributaries of the Gaden Stream (north of the ridge), with two main tributaries to the Waitakere Stream south of the ridge. The riparian margins of these streams are mostly vegetated and are also Protected Natural Areas, the width of the margin protected varying according to the flow of the stream.

The smallest is a 5m wide margin for an ephemeral (temporary) stream and the largest is 20m for the more permanent streams in the lower catchment (although the final width will need to be determined at the detailed planning stage to be certain of the margins capacity to cope with anticipated rainfall events). Riparian vegetation plays an important role in stream water quality by filtering and slowing land-based run off, reducing erosion, stabilising water temperature and enhancing stream habitat.

Wetlands

A series of wetlands are associated with the stream and its tributaries, and are predominantly soft-bottomed (muddy) due to the clay soils. These watercourses and wetlands support aquatic insects, freshwater fish and native plant species.

The Conservation Plan (2001) identified the practice of dumping grave spoil and other rubbish in the heads of the gullies as a major threat to water quality and stream health. This has contributed significantly to the muddy and soft-bottomed nature of many of the streams pools and associated wetlands. It increases the stress on the stream when it rains and inhibits the colonisation of these streams by stoneflies, mayflies and some caddis flies, robbing them and many of the other more sensitive aquatic macro-invertebrates of anchoring points, food supplies, and clogging their gills. Sediment also destroys the algal films that are grazed on by some aquatic macro-invertebrates and affects water quality in the stream.



Right – spoil dumping at the head of streams



Waikumete Cemetery Ecological Management Plan (Biosearches, 2010)

An Ecological Management Plan was prepared for the southern and northern gumland regions, to be implemented as a condition of burial development in these parts of the cemetery. The plan recommended the establishment of 20 metre buffer zones around parts of the proposed conservation areas, pest plant control and restricted access.

The objective is to preserve the diversity of native plants now present in the southern gumland and northern gumland regions, with emphasis on keeping viable populations of those species that are now rare in the Auckland region, chiefly the orchids.

Particularly within the last decade, degradation of the natural values of these two gumlands has become very noticeable. This is especially because of the increase of weeds (Australian and South African species well adapted to the low-nutrient gumland soils), but also because of things like the use of off-road vehicles, dumping of rubbish and clay spoil, making of clearances and fires, and increase in the rabbit population. The northern gumland's integrity was severely damaged by the felling of its larger wattles and pines during Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries' 2003-4 painted apple moth operations. Young wattles have proliferated where the manuka canopy was broken.

2.2.3 Pests

Pest plants

A pest management plan for the natural areas of the cemetery is recommended to be developed, as part of the detailed planning required ahead of the physical expansion works. This pest management plan should be included as an addendum to the Ecological Management Plan 2010, focusing on both plant and animal pests and recommendations for their control. In some areas invasive weeds are a serious threat to the indigenous vegetation, including the critically endangered gumland vegetation. Additional maintenance resource is required to protect the long term viability of the gumland vegetation and native vegetation in general, as council manages the cemetery towards more recreational use as a memorial park.

Cemetery expansion into a portion of the upper slopes will make the task of ecological restoration slightly more achievable, as it has proved difficult to effectively manage such a vast area. Setting aside the area as a scenic reserve will elevate the protection status and position the site for a sustained programme of ecological restoration.

Pest-plant species are present throughout the site with particular reference to the following natural areas;

Gumland scrub

Wattle, Hakea and Pine, are hampering the re-establishment and dominance of manuka and other gumland species

Gullies

Sydney Golden Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*), Black Wattle, Silver Poplar (*Populus alba*), Maritime and Radiata Pine, Monkey Apple (*Acmena mitchii*), Tree Privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*), Chinese Privet (*L. sinense*), Eucalypt spp. and Woolly Nightshade (*Solanum mauritianum*)

Wetlands

Willow sedges, Japanese Honeysuckle, Pampas (*Cortaderia jubata* and *C. selloana*) and kahili ginger

The following plant groups are particularly invasive;

Ground covers

Wandering Jew (*Tradescantia fluminensis*), Mexican Daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*), *Selaginella kraussiana*, Mistflower (*Ageratina riparia*) and Tuber Ladder Fern (*Nephrolepis cordifolia*)

Lianes

Climbing Asparagus (*Asparagus scandens*), Ivy (*Hedera spp. Helix*), Moth Plant (*Araujia sericifera*), and Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)



Right – weed infestation within the upper slopes

Animal pests

The cemetery is also plagued with rabbits, wild cats, stoats and other pest species. The burrowing habits of the rabbits in particular are causing constant problems with soil disturbance, contributing to erosion and sedimentation of stream beds. Other animal pests prey on native fauna such as geckos, skinks, birds and fish.

The Ecological Management Plan for the cemetery includes animal pest control, as well as setting out a pathway to protect and restore the remaining indigenous vegetation. It includes a comprehensive pest management plan, for both pest plants & animals.



Above – rabbits, flowering gorse and windblown grave decorations at the edge of the gumland

Summary

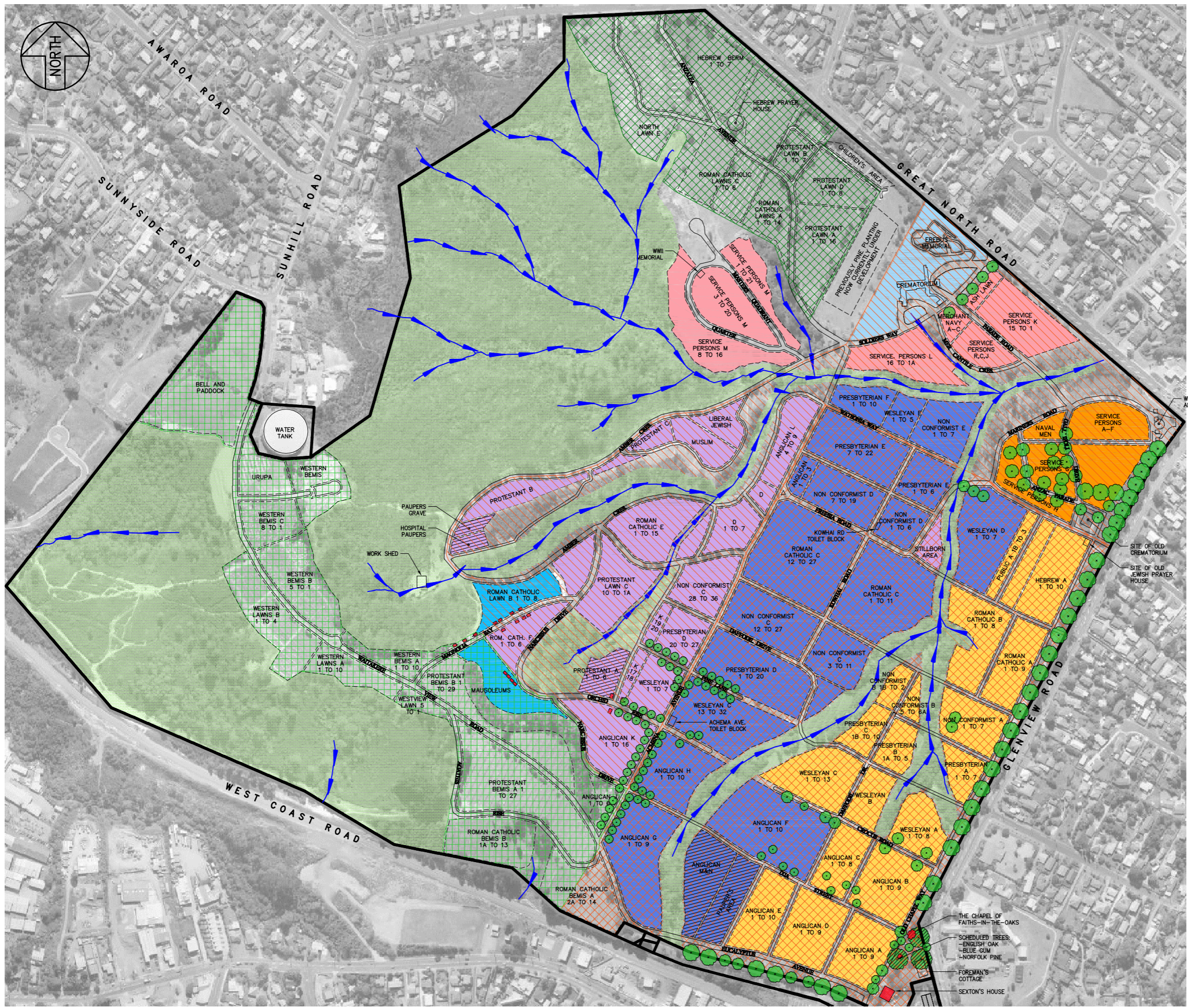
The pre-1950 sections of the cemetery suffer from ongoing infestation of invasive and woody weeds. In these areas, woody weeds are common within the higher grass cover, which provides shelter for seedlings of acmena, wattle, pine, pohutukawa and palms. These rapidly growing trees have invasive root systems which damage graves and should be strictly controlled. Removal of invasive woody weeds, as well as

taking care not to smother graves with grass clippings would alone have great benefit. The historic areas outside the 1 hectare wildflower sanctuary should be more frequently mowed (line trimming), which is recommended to be introduced alongside a programme of pest-plant control by herbicide use and hand-pulling of woody weeds. It is also recommended to seek the specialist assistance of Auckland Botanical Gardens staff in monitoring the on-going health of the wildflowers and species diversity.

The protected natural areas are difficult and expensive to maintain and are also under constant threat from invasive pest plants, including ground smothering species, climbers, shrubs and trees. Auckland Council currently engages NZ Bio Security Ltd to undertake quarterly site visits as part of a sector wide pest-plant control programme. However this current programme requires additional resourcing, as it is apparent that pest-plants are out-competing the native species.

The Conservation Plan (2001) identified the practice of dumping grave spoil and other rubbish in the heads of the gullies as a major threat to water quality and stream health. It is recommended a programme of grave spoil dumping be developed with the assistance and approval of council's Biodiversity team based in the Henderson office.

An Ecological Management Plan (refer Appendix C) was developed by Biosearches Ltd as part of the Cemetery Expansion Report (2010). It is recommended to follow up this plan with a more detailed analysis to include a pest (fauna & flora) control programme.



- LEGEND:**
- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
 - EXISTING STREAM
 - EXISTING ROAD
 - EXISTING AREAS OF VEGETATION
 - HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE A
 - HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE B
 - WESTERN BERM & LAWN AREA
 - EASTERN BERM & LAWN AREA
 - EARLY EAST AREA
 - EARLY WEST AREA
 - MODERN WEST AREA
 - EAST ARMED AREA
 - WEST ARMED AREA
 - CREMATORIUM AREA
 - MAUSOLEUM AREA
 - MASS GRAVES AREA
 - HISTORIC/ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE
 - SCHEDULED ITEMS - BUILDINGS
 - SCHEDULED ITEMS - TREES
 - NOTABLE TREES



Plotted: Tue, 01 Apr 2014 - 3:17pm BY: OEM
 File Name: J:\Projects\1233 - Waikumete Cemetery - Reserve Management Plan\03 CAD\00 Drawings\1233-300 - MAP_3.dwg

DESIGNED:	DATE	REVISION	BY	APPRVD	DATE
-	-/-	-	-	-	-/-
DRAWN:	D.V.	02/08/2013	-	-	-/-
DWG CHK:	-	-/-	-	-	-/-
DSGN CHK:	-	-/-	-	-	-/-
APPROVED:	-/-	-	-	-	-/-
1	DRAFT WAIKUMETE CEMETERY RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN (APRIL 2014)	D.V.	R.H.	01/04/2014	



AUCKLAND COUNCIL
WAIKUMETE CEMETERY MAPPING
MAP 3 - HERITAGE

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DRAWING NO:	1233 - 300	SCALE:	1:5000 @ A3
		REVISION:	1

2.3 [Heritage](#)

Waikumete Cemetery is a cultural landscape of local, regional, national and international significance, and this is recognised by its category 1 listing in the Auckland Council District Plan (Waitakere Section). Under the provisions of the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan, Waikumete is scheduled as a category A* with a defined extent of place. The pre-1900 sections are archaeological sites protected under the definitions of the Heritage NZ Act 2014. Furthermore, the historic section is recorded as archaeological site number R11/2827 with the New Zealand Archaeological Association database (NZAA).

Cultural Landscapes are defined by the World Heritage Convention 1972 as the ‘combined works of nature and man’ which, are “illustrative of the evolution of human society and settlement over time, under the influence of the physical constraints and/or opportunities presented by their natural environment and of successive social, economic and cultural forces, both external and internal”.

The Conservation Plan (2001) provides a statement of cultural heritage significance which recognises the cemeteries history and associations, archaeology, spiritual and cultural values, aesthetic, community and genealogical values and its educational, landscape and setting values.

“The value of Waikumete does not rest with one period alone, but rather in an accretion of artefacts, structures and landscapes over the whole span of its development. In addition, each denominational portion of the Cemetery and the old Crematorium site, in whole or part, could stand alone as having cultural significance on an aesthetic, scientific, social or historic basis.” (Conservation Plan 2001)

“Although the range of items to which individual significance can be ascribed is very small, their collective significance is high..... Waikumete Cemetery is itself an artefact, being made up of a very large number of distinct elements to which it is neither practicable nor proper to attach individual importance.” (Conservation Plan 2001)

An archaeological assessment of the cemetery was carried out in 1999 by Clough and Associates as part of the preparatory work for the Conservation Plan. The assessment found that:

“... the historic part of the cemetery with its chapel, graves, tombs, pathways and roads, is an area of considerable archaeological significance. The tomb inscriptions have considerable information relating to social history, genealogy and demography. Analysis of the materials used and design of the gravestones and monuments also provides information on the source of available raw materials and on local crafts and industries (stone masonry, iron foundries, lime and cement industries, brick making and ceramics). Old pathways and roads also provide evidence of the original layout of the cemetery as well as the types of materials used in their construction.”

“Features of archaeological value... include the grave sites, monuments, paths, roads, the site of the original Jewish Prayer House, and the subsurface remnants of now demolished structures such as the old crematorium.”

2.3.1 Built and cultural heritage

The cemetery contains buildings, graves and memorials and structures of varying age and heritage significance, some are ranked in terms of their significance by the Conservation Plan (2001) and others are District Plan scheduled including;

Name	Date	Operative Plan	Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan (PAUP)	PAUP reference Appendix 9	NZHPT Register	Conservation Plan	CHI #	Notes
Entire Cemetery		Category 1	Category A*	217		Prepared by Waitakere City Council 2003		
Chapel of Faith	1886	Category I	primary contributing feature	187	Cat 2 (#2605)	Matthews and Matthews Architects	1603	restored and re-opened by Mayor Bob Harvey and Councillor Janet Clews 5 th October 2010
Mausolea	from 1941	Category I	primary contributing feature	195			1614	
Sextons Cottage	1886	Category II	primary contributing feature	215		Dave Pearson Architects 1997	1659	
Foreman's Cottage	1917	Category II	primary contributing feature	170		Anthony Barnes Salmon Reed Architects dates	15750	relocated from Beach Road to Waikumete site 1979,
Crematorium Chapels and Office	1953	Not listed	The <i>Crematorium</i> is a primary contributing feature	187		Salmon Reed Architects 2006 (draft)		This complex was designed by Massey, Beatson, RixTrot and Carter

Other non-scheduled structures of heritage value include:

- Two lavatory blocks (Acmena Ave and Kowhai Rd) built in 1939. A history and condition assessment was prepared by Salmond Reed Architects in 2006.
- The Great North Road / Glenview Road gates, WWI Cenotaph and ‘The Cube’ memorial

The Sextons’ and Foreman’s’ cottages are tenanted to residential occupants and managed by councils property arm, Auckland Council Property Limited. All other buildings and structures are managed by the cemetery and Council’s Property Department to a yearly programme

which considers asset condition ratings, recommendations of from the Property Department and provisions of conservation plans where these are available. Budgetary provision for such work sits with the Property Department and comes from operational funds.

All other structures, gates, the WWI Cenotaph and memorials are maintained by the Cemetery themselves and all other structures including the Hindu Prayer house, Jewish Prayer House and private mausoleums are maintained by groups or individuals.

To preserve the heritage integrity of the cemeteries buildings and structures, it is paramount that any proposed maintenance work and/or changes to scheduled and non-scheduled structures of heritage value are subject to a full heritage assessment against the provisions of the Conservation Plan (2001), and the ICOMOS NZ Charter.

Furthermore, Council departments and staff who have responsibility for these buildings need appropriate training to understand their significance, as well as the procedures and approvals required before undertaking maintenance and other work.

Significant historical events

Waikumete is the final resting place for many of those who lost their lives during global events such as war, epidemic disease and disaster. Two such events are World War 1 and the influenza epidemic of the early twentieth century. Waikumete Cemetery has the largest Returned Services area of any cemetery in New Zealand, and Council is working closely with the Returned Services Association to commemorate the centenary of World War 1 (WW1, 1914-19).

The centenary of the influenza epidemic will be marked in 2018 and is closely linked to WW1, as returning troops brought the disease to Auckland and other places. Auckland recorded the nation's highest death toll of 1680 victims. Genealogists and historians are discussing how this event might be observed at Waikumete Cemetery, where during the months of October to December 1918, a total of 624 influenza victims were buried. The epidemic peaked on 15th November 1918 with 70 burials at Waikumete on that single day. Most graves containing influenza victims are not specifically marked and while there is a memorial located on the grass berm adjacent Anglican E section, grave plots are spread throughout the old part of the cemetery. It is important that Council work with stakeholders to ensure that appropriate commemorative projects are supported which encourage the recording of this, and other such significant events.

Monuments and graves

The older areas of Waikumete Cemetery contain graves, monuments and features of significant historic value. The Conservation Plan 2001 identifies the old monumental masonry as "part of a set of monumental masonry without parallel elsewhere in New Zealand."

"The importance of cemetery architecture lies in the relationship of the individual headstones to their surrounding rails and kerbings and to the cemetery landscape as a whole. ... All elements of an individual grave's architecture are part of the design whole and should be considered as forming a complete unit along with the headstone. The loss of such design elements would certainly remove an essential part of the grave's complete design."

Individual monuments and graves as well as their layout have been compromised by the extensive spread of self-seeded plants such as Pohutukawa and Acacia and invasive species such as Heather and Watsonia. Urgent action is required to minimise further damage.

The main threats to heritage items and features are:

- Vandalism / theft
- Fire
- Vegetation / woody weed damage
- Lack of dedicated resources
- Lack of maintenance
- Insensitive maintenance
- Inadequate record keeping
- Lack of cooperation between council and community groups involved in heritage restoration
- Weather

The most at risk monuments and headstones include;

- Those which are leaning or are a safety hazard to cemetery users and are likely to become an easy target for vandalism (the Friends of Waikumete are currently raising funds to restore the 'Falling Angel' on the grave of Dr and Elizabeth Wallis).
- The small number of sandstone headstones and/or those with timber railings.
- Graves previously vandalised and smashed, notably the 2010 damage.
- Graves which are examples of a notable style and/or graves of notable people.
- Graves identified on the three FOW walks as shown on Map 4 – Community Use.

Many of the monuments and funerary ornamentation on the older graves are fragile. Over time they have been damaged or removed, often by vandals or by maintenance contractors unaware of their significance. Where items and ornaments have been removed or damaged and remain on site, Council's heritage department and the Heritage NZ should be advised.

The following steps should then be actioned;

- Relocate the damaged headstone to its correct grave plot
- Lay the headstone upon a bed of gravel at a 5 degree angle (so that rainwater runs-off)
- Severely damaged headstones should be recorded and stored safely and in an appropriate manner.
- A complete audit of the historic cemetery to be undertaken by a heritage specialist who would then lead to a system of prioritising works and budgetary provision to enable complete restoration works to take place

Note: refer to Appendix D – Management of Historic Graves



Above – archival and contemporary images of damaged headstones

Heritage precinct

A submission on behalf of the West Auckland Historical Society has proposed the establishment of a heritage precinct in the cemeteries' south east corner. This precinct would include the original Waikumete Road gate, the Sexton's Cottage, the Foreman's Cottage, the Chapel of Faith, scheduled oak trees and the avenue of Phoenix Palms.

This proposal could have benefits for protecting and enhancing the historic cemetery by:

- having a custodial presence in the heritage area,
- positive use and surveillance of an isolated corner of the cemetery,
- deterring vandals and anti-social behaviour,
- the upgrade of the entrance as the 'heritage gate' to the cemetery, and
- improving the linkage to the Glen Eden town centre.

The restoration of the chapel was successfully undertaken by a council/community partnership and officially re-opened in October 2010. Given the demand on Council's resources, this model may be the most appropriate to deliver and expedite restoration needs on damaged headstones in the historic section of the cemetery.

The creation of a heritage precinct could provide a focus for heritage support and activities for a section of the cemetery which is most at need of both protection and restoration measures. This could include community use of at least one of the historic houses in this area.



Above – panoramic view inside Waikumete Road entrance at the cemeteries historic south-east corner

2.3.2 Landscape Heritage

Two landscape assessments have been undertaken for the cemetery. The first by John Adam in 1999 which was used as a reference document for the Conservation Plan 2001 and the most recent by SOUL Environments Ltd in 2010, which contributed to the Cemetery Expansion Report 2010 by Blue Barn Consultants. Both of these reports have described the incremental development of the cemetery (to no particular plan) as being a reason for much of its resulting charm. Whilst John Adam has also identified individual, groves and avenues of notable trees, Soul Environments Ltd has described the cemetery in terms of 'landscape character units'. Collectively, these documents have provided an informed basis upon which new development can be conceived in a manner which protects its historic charm and enhances its landscape appeal.

The sites varied topography has set the framework for development of the cemetery, with the areas of easiest contour being developed for burials early on and the gullies and the steeper slopes of the upper catchment remaining undeveloped and vegetated. The earliest areas to be developed are located in the south east along Glen View Road, with the entrance at Waikumete Road adjacent the railway line. These historic areas are characterised by individual Victorian and Edwardian gravestones (often large and ornate and now decaying), mature trees, long grass between rows of headstones, seasonal wildflowers and an air of rambling, romantic, decay. The roads are laid out on a grid pattern and are narrow, without curb and channelling.



Right - archival aerial photo of early cemetery development

As the cemetery expanded during the 1900s, new burial areas opened up towards the north-west. Headstones are generally less ornate and extravagant in these areas and the layout becomes more ordered, reflecting fashion, financial constraints and changes in technology such as the use of concrete, availability of imported materials and the mechanical production of headstones. In addition, distinctive cultural preferences and styles have made their mark on the landscape in some areas. For example, the uniform style of the large Returned Services section and the collection of European-style mausolea.

The late 20th - 21st century burial areas have a very formal and manicured layout and appearance, with mown grass, low concrete berms, and curbed & channelled sealed roads lined with rows of young trees. This is partly the result of the mechanisation of grave digging and maintenance, with diggers and trailer mowers requiring a wide and uniform grass berm between headstones.

This ordered formality is in contrast to the colourful displays of artificial flowers, fences, decorations and personal memorabilia that adorn many of the newer graves, particularly those of Pacific Island people and children.



Left – the sites topography has been a major factor leading to the cemeteries distinct landscape character

The varied and still changing landscape of the cemetery is an important record of our cultural history. The cemetery has developed incrementally since 1886 and the landscape of each new area opened up for burials embodies the particular fashions, social constraints, events and ideas about death prevalent at the time of the development.

The landscape is also a record of important events in our history. These events include the burial of paupers in unmarked graves and of people hung during the period of capital punishment. There are memorials for the dead of wars in which New Zealand has participated, the polio and Spanish flu epidemics and the Erebus disaster.

Remnants of early plantings such as cypress and oaks indicate the intention to create a traditional Victorian cemetery with the use of symbolic trees. However there appears to have been no overall master plan ever developed for the cemetery. Instead, work has been carried out in a sporadic fashion in response to natural disasters (fire), the need for new grave areas, and/or complaints about the state of disrepair. The gullies in the developed areas have been planted progressively throughout the life of the cemetery. The retention of these planted gullies has a dramatic influence on the style of the cemetery, imparting an informal and highly vegetated naturalistic character which cuts across the formal layout of the burial areas.

Research undertaken for the Conservation Plan (2001) suggests that “the development of the cemetery has been carried out with well-defined and generally traditional design intentions, but that many of these efforts either were not fully carried out or were diluted through lack of maintenance subsequent to their implementation. An example of this is the intent for the Cemetery to reflect an ordered and ‘garden-like’ character at its inception, however, due to both the topography of the site and the lack of maintenance through the years, this intent was never

truly realised and the site was often viewed as a neglected swampland. ... The legacy of neglect is partly what gives the cemetery its distinctive character, with the sense of decay and random naturalisation of specimen trees and wildflowers.”



Above – landscape contrast between the ordered formality of the developed cemetery and natural bush areas

Summary

While landscape change is inevitable, the Conservation Plan (2001) identified the following key landscape elements “which form part of the strong character of the site and which should be protected and enhanced”:

- Retention of the distinct sequence of landscapes which are a cultural record of the evolution of Auckland
- Contrast between grid pattern of grave plots and ‘fingers’ of more natural vegetated gullies;
- Formal avenue plantings along internal roads;
- Detailed small scale planting adjacent to the new crematorium buildings;
- Symbolic cemetery tree plantings, large specimen trees and wildflower meadows;;
- The historically significant layout of roads and paths between grave plots;
- Boundary treatments - in particular the retention of the Glen View Road *Elaeagnus reflexa* hedge;
- Views out over Auckland City and to the Waitakere Ranges;
- Filtered views into the cemetery from outside the site..

2.3.3 Natural Heritage

The natural heritage values of the cemetery were assessed for the preparation of the Conservation Plan (2001). An ecological assessment found that a range of regionally significant natural areas exist within Waikumete Cemetery and ranked the cemetery overall as an area of high natural significance.

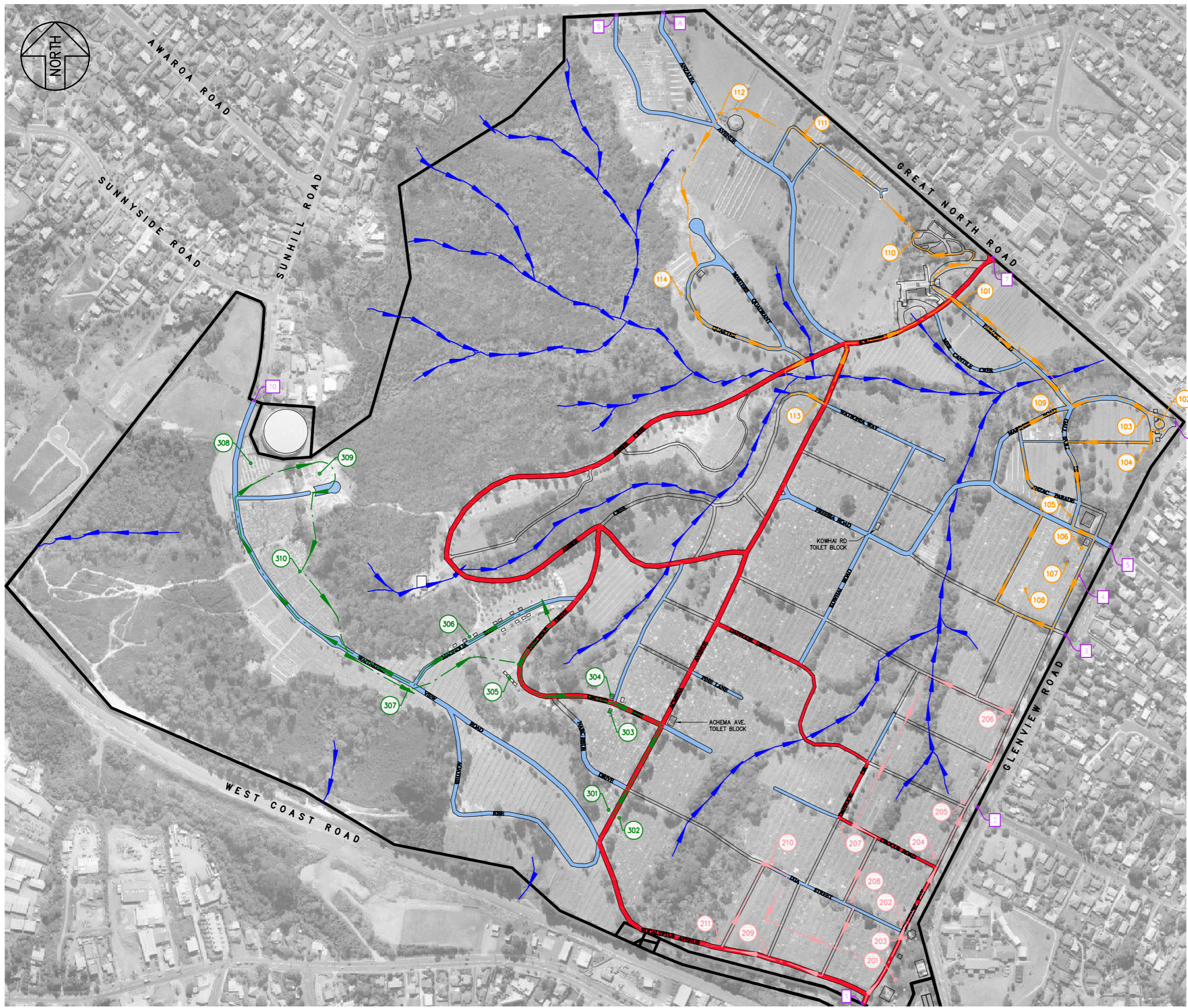
Natural significance values are attributed to:

- Streams and riparian margins
- Wetlands
- Gumland vegetation
- Planted and regenerating gullies
- Native and exotic specimen trees
- Rare and threatened species

Statement of Natural Heritage Significance

The Conservation Plan (2001) states:

“A range of regionally significant natural areas exist within Waikumete Cemetery and it is nationally significant owing to the presence of large populations of threatened and uncommon native plants. Collectively the gumland areas form the largest area of highly significant gumland vegetation remaining in the Tamaki Ecological District... and as such, need to be managed in a manner that protects these values in perpetuity. Freshwater ecosystems within the Tamaki Ecological District have been largely depleted through drainage and land reclamation, with only a few areas of raupo reedland and one small patch of Maire tawake (Syzgium maire) forest remaining in the lowlands of West Auckland”.



WAIKUMETE CEMETERY ACCESS AREAS	
ACCESS #	DESCRIPTION
1	ORIGINAL CEMETERY ENTRANCE, 1886, GLEN EDEN RAILWAY STATION OPPOSITE (1886-2001)
2	FENCE AND ELEGANT HEDGE PUNCTUATED WITH GATES AND OPENINGS IN HEDGE FOR PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
3	NEW MAIN ENTRANCE
4	NEW CONNECTING ROAD FOR ONE-WAY SYSTEM
5	GENE A.T. LECKEY MEMORIAL GATE (RSA). ENTRY TO FORMER JEWISH PRAYER HOUSE 1886-1992 AND FORMER CREMATORIUM
6	HISTORICAL GATES AND CENOTAPH, RSA AREA ESTABLISHED 1917
7	CREMATORIUM ENTRANCE C1940
8	AWAROA ROAD ENTRANCES TO WESTERN AREA OF CEMETERY
9	SUNHILL ROAD ENTRANCES TO WESTERN AREA OF CEMETERY
10	SUNHILL ROAD ENTRANCES TO WESTERN AREA OF CEMETERY

LEGEND:

- PROPERTY BOUNDARY
- EXISTING STREAM
- EXISTING ROADS
- PRIMARY ROADS
- SECONDARY ROADS

NOTABLE GRAVES SELF-GUIDED WALKS

- WALK 1 108
- WALK 2 202
- WALK 3 306



Plotted: Tue, 01 Apr 2014 - 3:17pm By: OEM
File Name: J:\Projects\1233 - Waikumete Cemetery - Reserve Management Plan\03 CAD\00 Drawings\1233-400 - MAP_4.dwg

DESIGNED:	DATE	BY	APPROVED:	DATE	BY
-	-	-	1	01/04/2014	RJM



AUCKLAND COUNCIL WAIKUMETE CEMETERY MAPPING MAP 4 - COMMUNITY USE

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STATUS:	DRAFT	CONTRACT NUMBER:	-
DRAWING NO.:	1233 - 400	SCALE:	1:5000 @ A3
		REVISION:	1

2.4 Community Use

2.4.1 Stakeholder groups

There are three Local Boards located within West Auckland, all of which have a custodial interest in Waikumete Cemetery. The cemetery is located within the Waitakere Ranges Local Board area who, have hosted multiple workshops to include members from the other two Local Boards (Whau & Henderson Massey) in the development of this reserve management plan.

There are a number of community groups associated with the cemetery. These groups are comprised mainly of volunteers who give their time and considerable expertise for the good of the cemetery. Their areas of interest include restoration, heritage (military, social, genealogical), landscape, ecology, recreation and community. The reserve management plan advocates for these groups and a positive ongoing relationship with Auckland Council, for the betterment of Waikumete Cemetery and community it serves.

Auckland Jewish Benevolent Society

The society oversees matters in relation to the Hebrew Section at the cemetery and contributes financially to its upkeep. The society advises the cemetery manager and staff in relation to cultural matters.

Chapel of Faith in the Oaks Trust

The Chapel and surrounding environs were managed and championed by the Waikumete Chapel Restoration Trust Board. The Trust was instrumental in preserving the Chapel as an historic place for future generations, prior to it being handed back to Council in 2008.

Friends of Waikumete Inc

The Friends of Waikumete was established in 1995, with the aim of promoting the unique historical and horticultural features of the old cemetery. Its voluntary membership includes historians, genealogists and researchers. The Friends of Waikumete have taken a particular interest in the Wildflowers, leading to the setting aside a one hectare 'Wildflower Sanctuary' at the cemetery's southeast corner. The group undertakes historical research, providing Council with valuable information on the cemetery's history. They also conduct monthly heritage walks for the public during summer months, acknowledging historical grave sites and those of the famous and infamous. The Friends of Waikumete assist with the physical care of the old cemetery and made a substantial contribution to the Waikumete Cemetery Conservation and Reserve Management Plan 2001.

New Zealand Muslim Association

A special interest group that provides the cemetery manager and staff with advice on the cultural practices of Islam in relation to the interment and memorialising of loved ones.

Returned Services Association (RSA)

The RSA through Veterans Affairs contributes financially towards the upkeep of the RSA area in the cemetery. The RSA has networks with similar associations and are pivotal in ANZAC Day and Armistice Day events.

Stone Masons

Stone Masons are private enterprises who provide all manner of stone masonry and plaque services to families of the deceased. There are a number Stone Mason operations located within close vicinity of the cemetery, many of whom have had a long association with Waikumete Cemetery and cemetery staff. The Stone Mason is engaged and contracts directly with the family and must obtain permits from the cemetery office for their works.

Urupa Komiti

The Urupa Komiti comprises members from many iwi , as well as the cemetery manager. The komiti meets regularly to discuss operational matters in relation to the Urupa and assists the cemetery manager and staff with cultural advice in relation to the interment and memorialising of maori.

West Auckland Historical Society

This society promotes and actively engages on a number of heritage projects throughout West Auckland. The society collaborated with former Waitakere City Council during the restoration of the Chapel of Faith and presented the concept for a 'heritage precinct' to be established at the south east corner of the cemetery, based around the cluster of historic buildings.

Other groups

Other special interest groups include:

- Glen Eden Protection Society.
- Blockhouse Bay Heritage Protection Society.
- New Zealand Historic Places Trust

[Local community](#)

The residents and businesses of Glen Eden also have a special relationship with the cemetery. It is not only their local park but arguably the main defining feature of their landscape. The cemeteries operational activity supports local businesses such as stonemasons, florists and funeral directors. The cemetery brings tourists, genealogists and other visitors into the area.

2.4.2 Recreation and events

At 108 hectares, Waikumete Cemetery is the largest area of public open space in the urban part of Waitakere. Waikumete is also the largest council-managed land holding in West Auckland and provides a significant link between the Waitakere Ranges and the Waitemata Harbour. Together with the scenic reserve located on the north-west boundary of the cemetery, Waikumete offers diverse recreational opportunities from physically demanding bush walks, to quiet contemplation within garden settings.

Public use and access

Although the cemetery is perceived as a cemetery and crematorium only, it is increasingly popular as a place for passive recreation. The cemetery receives approximately 10,000 visitors per year (for funerals, genealogy research and recreation) with the use from passive recreation expected to increase.

The reserve offers a unique and rich recreational experience. This includes walking, jogging, experiential enjoyment of the formal gardens and natural environment, as well as the cemeteries cultural history, heritage walks and outings.

As a consequence of the sites topography and poor-draining clay soils, many of the walking trails through the sites upper slopes in particular are undeveloped and poorly drained. In some locations they pass through gullies and dense vegetation and may be perceived to be unsafe due to the poor sight-lines and infrequent use.

In the newer sections of the cemetery, pedestrians share the road with cars and in the older parts an historic network of metal roads and grassed paths have been provided. However, there is no consistent network of walking trails and signage to assist the user public with the safe and easy enjoyment of the site.

As council expands burial development into the upper slopes, it will need to integrate the established parts of the cemetery with the proposed new burial areas, as well as the remaining scrub and forested zones.

It is recommended that a walking track network be designed within a landscape development plan which links and integrates all parts of the cemetery. The track network should be designed in tandem with the proposed signage way-finding audit, and be cognisant of CPTED principles so that it is safe, easy to navigate around and a well thought out recreational experience.



Above – the sites steep topography requires sound stormwater management and a well-designed network of sign-posted walking tracks

New development

New burial areas need to consider future recreational opportunities in their layout. Just as older areas of the cemetery are enhanced by infrastructure and planting undertaken in earlier years, forward planning of newer areas needs to ensure that these also develop long term historic and natural values. Amenity planting would improve the visual pleasantness of the newer burial areas such as Waitakere View, which are currently relatively bare. The planting, layout and design of new areas should relate to the landscape character established in the older parts of the cemetery to give a cohesive feel to the reserve.



Above - some of the new burial areas are devoid of trees and require amenity planting so that they mature over time to mirror the landscape aesthetic of the established areas.

Glen Eden

The township of Glen Eden was established concurrently with Waikumete Cemetery, as many of the associated service providers were and continue to be located in or near the town. Today, the suburbs of Glen Eden, Kelston, Glendene and Sunnyvale surround the cemetery, meaning that the recreational value of this vast open space is crucial, as the population density increases.

Auckland Transport is proposing a 'park and ride' facility at the end of Waikumete Road, which will service local residents who commute via the Glen Eden Train Station. This is envisaged to have positive benefits for the old part of the cemetery in particular, bringing more foot traffic to an isolated part of the site, as well as pedestrian upgrades to Waikumete Road.

This proposal, together with other measures to enhance the amenity of the historic cemetery, will combine to reconnect the reserve with the town, in a manner that will encourage local residents to engage positively with the reserve.

Cycle-ways

Auckland Transport and Auckland Council are proposing cycle-ways along the boundaries of the cemetery, as follows;

Great North Road

- This is an off-road cycle route being proposed along the Great North Road boundary of the cemetery and carriageway.
- The cycleway is proposed to utilise part of the existing footpath along this boundary and to be separated from pedestrians (by the provision of separate paths).
- No formal agreement has been undertaken as yet with Auckland Transport but Council recognises the benefit this would bring to the local community.
- Council has noted however, that the entire existing footpath sits within the cemeteries boundary.

Glenview Road

- Auckland Council is proposing the development of 'Greenways' which are shared pedestrian & cycle routes which utilise the sides of rail and motorway corridors, as well as reserve land to accommodate safe off-road cycle and pedestrian routes.
- A Greenways objective is to also connect communities via walking and cycling routes, and to encourage commuting and recreation alternatives in places increasingly dominated by roads and heavy traffic.
- This proposal would ideally seek to utilise the thoroughfare inside the cemetery along the Glenview Road boundary, entering through the heritage gates at either end (being the Waikumete Road & Gt Nth Rd RSA entrances).
- This would take pedestrians and cyclists along the RSA, Hebrew and historic sections of the cemetery, which could work to provide public surveillance and positive use of these parts of the cemetery.

- If implemented together with formalised breaks in the elegant hedge along Glenview Road, so that visibility is increased into the cemetery from Glenview Road, this would bring positive benefits for safety & surveillance of Greenway users, as well as the adjacent monuments and graves within the old cemetery.

Summary

The site is valued for offering a peaceful and respectful recreational experience with an appreciation of historic and natural areas. All recreational development is required to respect the special qualities of commemoration and provide opportunities for tranquillity, seclusion, intimacy, safety and solitude.

By the preservation and enhancement of the sites natural and cultural landscape, notions of sanctuary and resilience will continue to permeate the site. As a memorial park, the site embodies a connection to a social fabric with a sense of belonging; of being part of cultural history; and a place of memory.

Appropriate recreational development opportunities are:

- An integrated network of walking trails (logical routes that connect all parts of the site).
- A dedicated signage suite for both way-finding around the site and interpretation of points of interest.
- A dedicated suite of park furniture and lighting.
- Easy connectivity with the local community by way of improved footpaths and dedicated cycle ways to and through the site.
- Amenity planting to existing new burial areas and future burial areas.
- Educational events and opportunities.



Right – a place for quiet contemplation

2.4.3 Safety and security

Safety is related to perception as much as fact. If the cemetery is perceived to be unsafe, this will discourage use and the fewer people that visit the site, the less safe it is likely to be. A sense of security can enhance the recreational experience, especially for older people, women and children.

Sightlines

Poor sightlines within the site contribute to safety concerns and discourages visitation to those areas. Vegetation, especially in the gullies that dissect the site, is often dense and restricts views across the cemetery, leaving some areas visually isolated. Much of this vegetation is in the protected riparian stream margins. These bush 'fingers' have been identified as having high landscape heritage significance and their vegetation plays a vital role in protecting stream water quality. Therefore selective pruning by qualified personnel is required to open up sightlines while not endangering the health of vegetation and stream habitat.

New planting undertaken within the riparian margins needs to include species and a layout that protect internal views within the cemetery and enables better sightlines around walkways. In many places there is poor visibility into the site from the surrounding areas. This could be improved by a well-designed and maintained planting scheme that is either low and/or visually permeable.

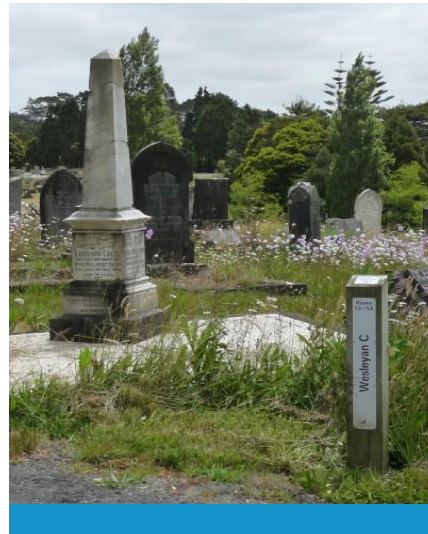


Above - riparian vegetation needs to be kept low between isolated sections of the cemetery so that surveillance between areas is open for increased safety.

Walkways and signs

There is no clear network of walking trails and those walkways that are in use are generally not well formed or maintained. This discourages their use. Walkways and access-ways are often not well marked. In some places there are clear road signs and grave row markers and these should be developed throughout the site.

The cemetery is large and complex and the general layout is not clear or easy to navigate for new visitors. These factors also contribute to perceptions of safety.



Right – two views of signage variation

Vandalism

Of particular concern is the damage to historic headstones & surrounds, and the theft of plaques. Incidents of vandalism can add to a perception of an area being unsafe and therefore discouraging public use and the surveillance that brings. This tends to have a snow-ball effect in giving rise to opportunities for further vandalism. Most antisocial behaviour occurs at night and therefore lighting may be one way in which to reduce vandalism, but would need to be implemented together with a range of preventative measures.

Security cameras are recommended to be installed at all site entrances as well as key internal locations. In the short to medium term, security cameras should be monitored to signal a proactive message to potential offenders. The presence of an on-site Ranger, together with regular security patrols, would provide 'ground' surveillance, particularly at night when it is most needed. The live-in use of the Sexton's Cottage by the

Ranger would provide a permanent custodial presence in the old part of the cemetery, which is subject to the most incidents of anti-social behaviour.

The incorporation of CPTED principles (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) into all future planning (e.g., Design Guidelines and Landscape Enhancement Plan) and development would help to minimise future risks.

Summary

One of the best ways to ensure public safety is to ensure the site is well used. In this regard, an operating cemetery and highly valued recreational space is likely to be safer due to the constant activity and flow of people through the site.

Initiatives recommended to improve safety and security in the cemetery are;

- Pruning of riparian vegetation for improved internal sightlines and visibility of users
- Monitored CCTV security cameras
- Security Patrols
- Improved lighting
- Improved pedestrian, cycle & vehicular access
- An improved network of walkways and dedicated suite of signage
- Improved and consistent application of a grave row identification marker system
- Community usage of existing buildings and/or a live-in Ranger
- Improved maintenance & restoration of historic headstones, graves and surrounds
- Application of CPTED principles to all future planning

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