

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Local Green Space
Date: 20 February 2023 15:25:12
Attachments: [crag_green_space\[2003\].pdf](#)

In the context of the Sheffield plan, please find our application for local green space status for Montague Street Open Space.

I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely

Jane Munro

Chair

Cemetery Road Action Group (CRAG)

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

C R A G

Cemetery Road Action Group
are requesting that the
Montague Street Open Space
be assessed for
Local Green Space Status

CRAG

Cemetery Road Action Group

The purpose of CRAG is to maintain, safeguard and improve our neighbourhood.

To protect the piece of land bordered by Cemetery Road, Sunderland Street, Napier Street and Montague Street from being built on.


To maintain the 'wild' area and for it to gain protected wildlife and nature reserve status.

To make, keep and develop links with the Sheffield General Cemetery and the Porter Brook Medical Centre for 'Green Prescribing' and other local groups and projects working to protect wildlife and green spaces.

To increase, when and where possible, the climbing activities for adults and children.

Memberships is open to anyone who lives nearby or travels through the area and who agrees with our aims and would like to help us meet them.

All members are volunteers.

For more information and records of plants, animals and birds seen on this site please contact 

In the 1960s the site which is now known as Montague Street Open Space, was created when a heavily populated area adjacent to the east end of the general cemetery bounded by Cemetery Road, Parliament Street, Sunderland Street and Montague Street, was 'cleared' of its housing, schools, shops and church, initially as part of slum clearance and to build a new ring road extension. Back then it was a heavily industrial area. The Ward's Brewery, Stanley Tools, Rayburn Chesterman and Dormer Drills all had works surrounding the site, on the Ecclesall Road, Summerfield Street and Pear Street.



Sunderland Street looking towards Parliament Street – 1962



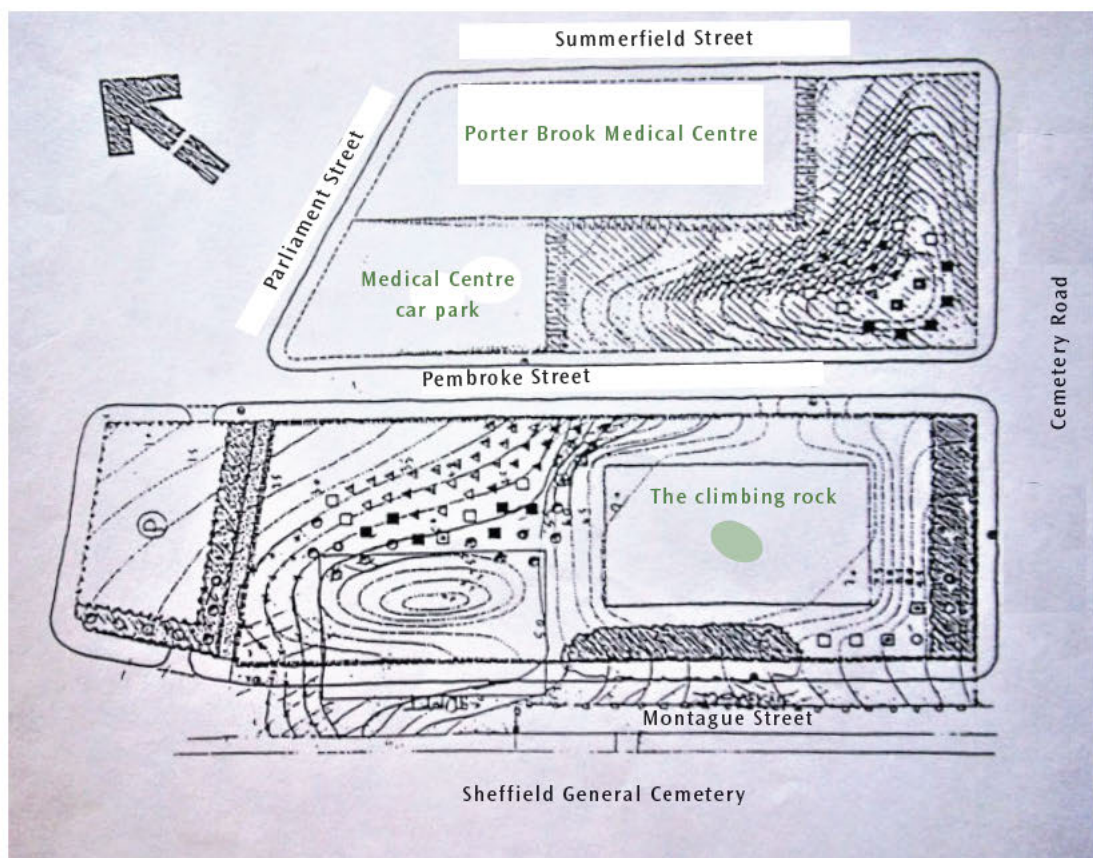
Parliament Street from Summerfield Street

In 1975 the whole of this particular area was landscaped and planted under a single scheme (see below), retaining Pembroke Street as a foot and cycle path between the raised L shaped section to the east and the rectangular area next to Montague Street and the entrance to the General Cemetery.

Creating interest and variation across a plain gradient, this urban redeveloped landscape is a rare survivor of its type. The two others on this side of the city are next to Division Street, and at the junction of Broadfield and Abbeydale Roads. Both of these sites have been remodelled again leaving them with reduced contours, growing space and planting.

The land rises from Cemetery Road forming a small, cherry tree topped hill on the L shaped part, contrasting nicely with the Montague Street section. Here it slopes down from Cemetery Road, flattens out to accommodate the play area with the climbing rock, but then holds its height against the natural drop of the land, making another hill to terminate at the end of Parliament Street.

The way the contours are drawn clearly indicates the intention to close and landscape the lower part of Montague Street. This never took place. CRAG suggests it should be undertaken now and is advocating that the lower part of Montague Street, below the cemetery entrance, be repurposed to incorporate it into the site to provide more space for healthy play opportunities such as climbing rocks with different levels of difficulty for younger children.



Annotations to this original plan in green are to indicate current landmarks

We feel there is a good case in favour of the site becoming a protected Local Green Space linking the cemetery with other green spaces nearby.

Here trees and vegetation have flourished through neglect over the decades. Self sown lower trees like elder, hawthorn and holly grew, with an undergrowth of bramble, ivy, snowberry and others. Many birds and insects orientate to this kind of environment. Nature has been left to take its course. The resulting dense woodland and tangled briar, blackthorn and nettle patches have created good opportunities for small birds to thrive and breed.

Over half of the entire proposed site is mown grass. It has a recreational value plus an ecological one. Lying below the climbing rock and seating area is the second landscaped.

Its eastern flank is covered by the mass of blackthorn and bramble, while its crown and western side is a dense miniature woodland. Our site supports a variety of trees from tall forest trees with girths around two metres to fruit trees



The wildlife in the area knows no boundaries, in that those that inhabit the General Cemetery, a designated nature reserve, and the Porter Valley, also visit and inhabit the Montague Street Open Space.

The area around the General Cemetery and Montague Street Open Space is an extremely precious, rather small green lung for this densely populated and polluted residential area of Sheffield.

The woodland and bramble mix follow the hill almost to the end where there is a grass corridor connecting the end of Montague Street with the cycleway. Two more seats are provided and everything is closed off by a screen of trees.

Local resident volunteers already work on the site, doing everything from maintaining the wild section to litter picking.

Local people have been committed to getting the very best from the site. It was through their efforts that the site has been preserved and their fundraising that the climbing rock was bought in 2006.



Through our links with the General Cemetery, CRAG is planning the future management of vegetation and planting.

We also have links with other neighbours such as Porter Brook Medical Centre considering how we could help them with their Green Prescribing initiatives, with Regather for advice and assistance on sourcing planters as well as the Sheffield Green Open Spaces Form, of which we are members, Sharrow Community Forum, local councillors and our two local LACs.

In recent years the population of the area has changed. It has always been a mixed area with private housing, local authority flats, Housing Association assorted dwellings, with an exciting mixture of ages, classes and backgrounds. The brewery was developed as flats as were buildings originally government department offices. Densely populated private rented housing has left many roads between the cemetery and the Ecclesall Road with street after street of HMOs. This is also true to a lesser extent on Cemetery Road and the older housing behind. More recently there has been a massive expansion of specifically student blocks on Napier Street and a huge block intended for young professionals.

All these people have increased the demand for fresh air, peaceful spaces and, an albeit brief, connection with nature.

Both Montague Street Open Space and the General Cemetery are very well used by dog walkers, families walking to and from school, people in their lunch hour, people walking to and from work, Forest School Nursery, local residents, bird watchers, photographers and many others.





C R A G

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