



## Thames & Chilterns in Bloom - Parks and Open Spaces Marking sheet

**NAME OF ENTRY:** Tower Hill Cemetery

**LOCATION:** Witney

**ASSESSORS:** Paul Almond & Nigel Bishop  
and Sunny

**DATE:** 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**WEATHER CONDITIONS:** Dry

SIZE/TYPE	<i>Pocket Park/garden</i>	<i>Park</i>	<i>Large Park</i>	<i>Country Park</i>	<i>Cemetery</i>	<i>Church Yard</i>	<i>Commercial</i>
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MARKS	<i>Community</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Environment</i>	<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>AWARD</b>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver Gilt</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>C the ert. of</i>
<i>Ach.</i>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="25"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text" value="x"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

This is a well maintained cemetery in a lovely peaceful and tranquil setting. Large mature beech trees add to the aesthetic value of this site. The two chapels are in good condition although one is used for storage, while the other is functional and also used on "Open Days" to house exhibitions.

### AREAS OF ACHIEVEMENT

1. Working with the War Graves Commission to acknowledge the tragic death of an American Airman who lost his life in a freak accident involving the propeller of an aeroplane. A tree with a plaque has been planted opposite his grave.
2. Heritage open days have been a great success with interpretation and notice boards highlighting the history of the site, which was formally a quarry. A nice gesture is a totally restored coffin bier over a hundred years old that is now used to display a number of items including a beautiful flower arrangement.
3. The control of traffic movements within the cemetery, with the use of moveable bollards, restricting access to certain areas at different time of the day.
4. A good level of DDA compliance, given the undulating nature of the site. This is very helpful to visitors.
5. The regular inspection of headstones, as a duty of care, involving the relatives of the bereaved, where possible, to use a Topple Tester to test the stability of their relatives' headstone and to take the necessary action if required.

6. The high standard of Topiary was excellent and noted as an attractive feature. The substantial reduction of the boundary laurel hedge to open up attractive views into the cemetery is to be commended.

#### **AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT**

1. There is an ageing tree population within the cemetery. As a duty of care these fantastic trees are inspected on a regular basis by a private company. As the trees are removed on safety grounds, they are replaced which is to be commended. Unfortunately some have failed and consideration to the actual location and watering needs be addressed for their successful establishment. There is some thought that the fashion of carving trees stumps would be a suitable addition in this cemetery creating interesting features out of the remains of the felled trees.

2. There were areas set aside for wild flowers, but these have not been successful this year. There could be several reasons for this, but we feel this type of project should be continued and encouraged. Perhaps the results may be due to the location. You may like to consider planting plugs or shade tolerant varieties?

3 The Judges noted that the rose bed adjacent to the chapel was in need of weeding.

4. It would be worth taking a close look at the climbing plants growing up the chapel wall in case the plants are causing damage to the stonework.

5. It would be nice to try and encourage the small group of people who used to maintain the small flower beds adjacent to the chapel to return. They will need encouragement and reassurance if they are to come back to working in this environment.

## **Parks Category Scoring Matrix**

For each section individually:

9-10 Gold

7-8 Silver Gilt

5-6 Silver

3-4 Bronze

1-2 Certificate of Achievement

For overall/total marks:

26-30 Gold



20-25	Silver Gilt
14-19	Silver
8-13	Bronze
0-7	Certificate of Achievement