

Additional resources:

What does heritage mean?

Enquiry Question Exploration

Below are some concepts which may arise from discussion and activities. You can use the questions to facilitate dialogue.

Heritage: Do we all have heritage? Is some heritage more important than others? Can heritage be forgotten? Can heritage be ignored?

Value: Do we all value the same things? Should we all value the same things? Is there more value in **tangible** (buildings) than the **intangible** (memories)?

Memory: Should we remember the past? Are all memories important? Do we all have memories? Are all memories true?



Prepare

Who decides what is of heritage value?

You can decide what heritage is of value to you. We can also think about what heritage might be of value to other people. **But how can we make those decisions?** We could create criteria to help us decide if something has heritage value. For example, we could consider: **Is something of value if it is old? Is something of value if there is only one? Is something of value if we learn from it?**

What does heritage mean to you?

Learners can be encouraged to write or draw notes, thinking about what heritage means to them as they hear stories about the Cemetery on the walk. These notes may include questions about their own heritage or the concept in general.

1



buildings



artefacts

tangible



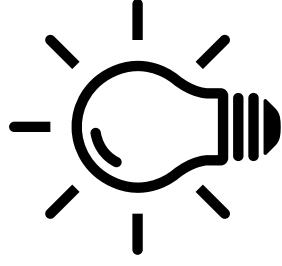
objects



graves and monuments

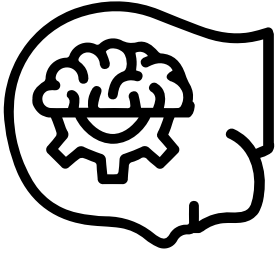


knowledge

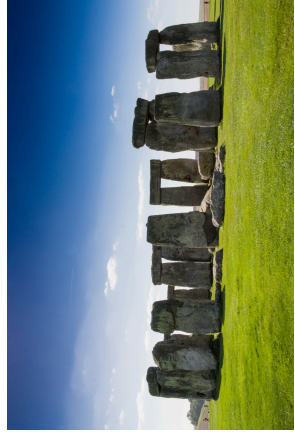


ideas

intangible

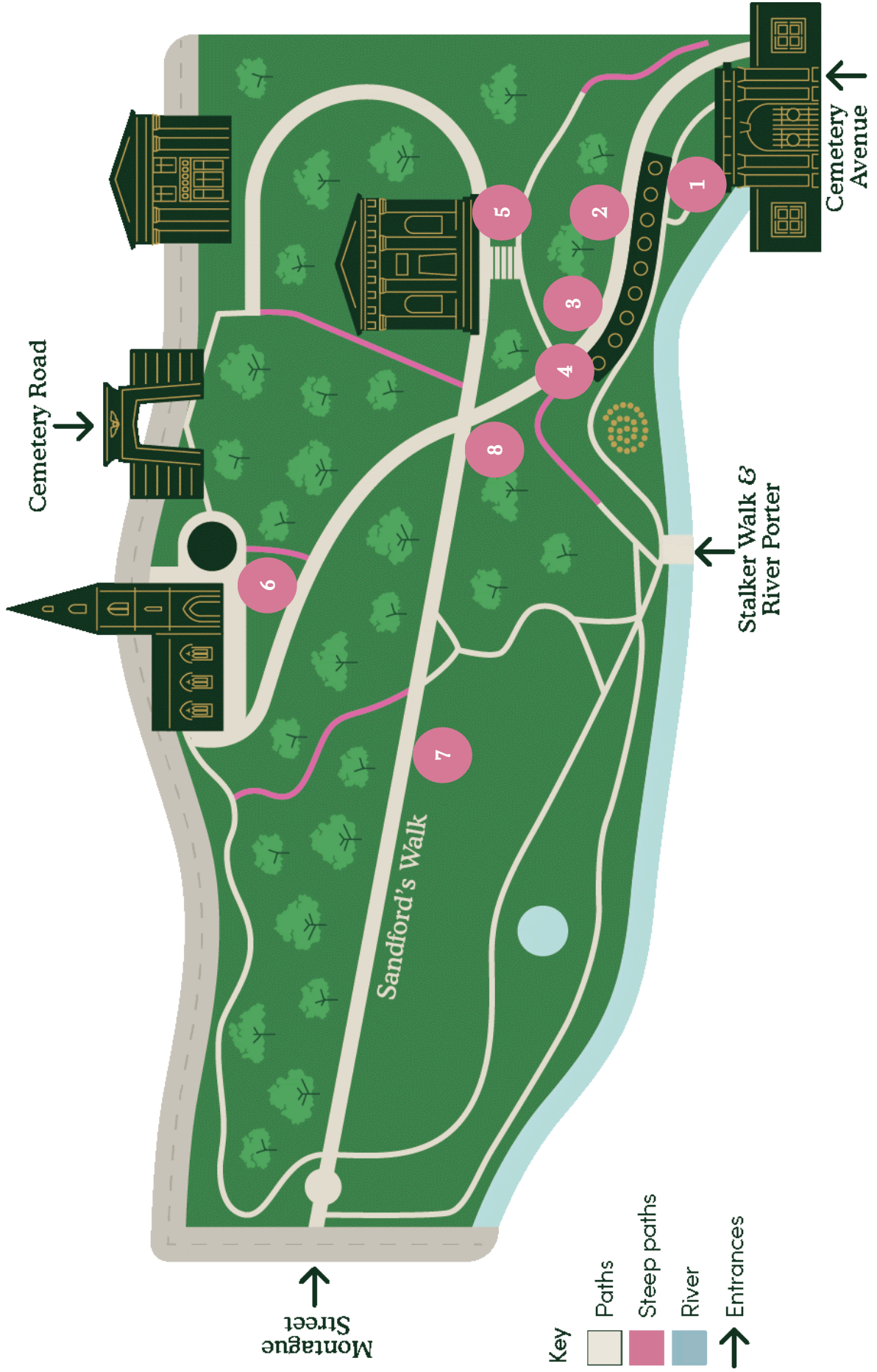


memories



traditions

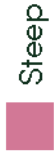
Map of Sheffield General Cemetery



Key



Paths



Steep paths



River



Entrances

Supported by:



	tangible (building, monument)	intangible (memory, tradition)	value to me	value to others
River Styx				
Catacombs				
JB Wostinholm				
The Great Sheffield Flood				
Simpkins				
Oriental plane				
Green space				
William Jumbo				

How would you measure the value of heritage for yourself and others?
Would you use a scale e.g. 1 (no value) - 5 (significant value)?

Stop 1 on the map: River Styx

Stand at the Gatehouse and close your eyes, what can you hear? Underneath the Gatehouse, the Porter Brook flows. Some believe that walking through the gatehouse across the river symbolises a crossing from life into death. The River Styx comes from Greek mythology. It can refer to reaching the Elysian Fields (the afterlife) or as a Judaeo/Christian reference to crossing the River Jordan to reach the Promised Land.

Stop 2 on the map: The Catacombs

The catacombs were built in 1836 when the Cemetery first opened. Over the years, parts were added like the concrete balustrade in 1937 (you can see one remaining piece behind the sign). An important part of a project that finished in 2023 was when sections of the balustrade were removed to protect and conserve the catacombs for many years to come. A wildflower meadow was introduced which has a significant impact on biodiversity within the Cemetery.

Stop 3 on the map: JB Wostinholm

Sheffield Wednesday and Sheffield United are well represented in the Cemetery, with great players, managers and chairmen from both sides buried within the walls. This grave that slopes down next to the path is for Joseph Beckett or 'JB' Wostinholm. He was essential to the formation of Sheffield United in 1889, working as club secretary until 1899.

Stop 4 on the map: The Great Sheffield Flood

The Great Sheffield Flood on the night of 12th March 1864, was the result of the catastrophic collapse of the new Dale Dyke dam, built by the Sheffield Water Company in response to the rapidly growing city's need for water. There are 27 unidentified victims of the Sheffield Flood buried in the Cemetery in unmarked public graves. Sixteen of these unidentified people were children. This remembrance plaque was put in place in 2023 to commemorate them.

Stop 5 on the map: Simpkins

To the right of the bottom of the Samuel Worth Chapel steps, 4-5 graves along you will see a grave for Simpkins. Albert Simpkin's eldest son Albert Leslie, known as Leslie, fought in the Battle of the Somme in World War One. Leslie was awarded the Military Cross for his bravery when he suffered serious injuries in battle. To help recover, Leslie was given liquid glucose and this gave him the idea of making glucose based sweets. Leslie's brother Clifford joined Leslie's business and, with some help from Albert too, they began selling medicated, glucose confectionery to chemists. In 1929, Leslie founded A. L. Simpkin & Co. Ltd., the Hillsborough-based glucose sweet manufacturers famed today for their travel sweets in round tins.

Stop 6 on the map: Oriental plane

Near the Anglican Chapel at the top of the Cemetery, you will see two large, majestic, twisted trees. The landscape at Sheffield General Cemetery was originally designed as a garden cemetery by Robert Marnock. Almost 200 years later we are able to enjoy the results of the Victorian planning which they imagined but never saw. Today the Cemetery is a listed landscape and nature reserve. Some original planting exists and the Cemetery has some unusual hollies, fine oriental planes, open grassy areas and wildflowers. The oriental planes are non-native trees specifically planted by the Victorians for their unusual and grand shape. This tree would have been very expensive and was meant to be viewed on its own but now other trees have grown around it. There are not many in the country. The oriental plane is also very tolerant of pollution, absorbing it into its bark creating scales that it eventually ping off.

Stop 7 on the map: Green space

By the 1970s, the Cemetery had become neglected and overgrown and was intended for housing, but in 1979, an Act of Parliament was passed which removed the Cemetery's consecrated status and ownership was transferred to Sheffield City Council. In 1980, Sheffield City Council cleared the Anglican part of the Cemetery of 7,800 headstones to create the open green space we see today. Because it is close to the city centre, it is an important green space for people without gardens to use.

Stop 8 on the map: William Jumbo

Stand at the cross roads and look up at the large Turkey Oak tree.

William was a man living on the Wicker in the mid-1800s who was pronounced as coming from 'Africa'. He died of apoplexy which was the name given to different forms of internal bleeding, likely in William's case to be a stroke. William was buried in the Cemetery in September 1850.

During the Victorian period, many people came to Britain from places including Africa, America and the Caribbean seeking refuge from enslavement, to settle and to study or to find work. They joined existing generations of Black British people. Many were part of a colonial workforce, brought to England in the navy, army, and other industries.

William, living on the Wicker, would have been adjacent to a lot of workshops and sites of industry. His neighbours were cutlers, glaziers, and other metal workers. It is very likely that William was employed in one of these trades. William may have been born in Liberia as there is a record of a William Jambo who was a '20-year-old native of Cape Palmas in Liberia' baptized in Liverpool in 1808. There are also quite a few instances of people with the surname "Jumbo" or "Jambo" in the British Navy during this period. There is one William Jambo from Sierra Leone who was born in 1782 and named as working in the Navy in the 1830s and another William Jumbo in the Navy, born in West Africa in 1834. Either of these could be this William, ending up in Sheffield. The name 'Jumbo' might connect William to the West Coast of Africa, other people with the surname 'Jumbo' are recorded on passenger ships coming from that region, many from Liberia and Nigeria.

We do not know William's full story, but we do know that William Jumbo was not his real name. It was a name imposed upon him, connecting him to the colonial actions of Britain. He rests underneath this oak tree, opposite other people whose lives echo across oceans. These large monuments across the way are full of manufacturers, industrialists and men of steel who gained the means through industrial labour to pay to be remembered here today.

Holding the past

Each memory

Reminders that

I am me

Tangible and not

All are important

Grounding me

Everywhere I go

What does heritage
mean to you?