

COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS **SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**



MEETING OF LUCAN/PALMERSTON/NORTH CLONDALKIN AREA **COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

HEADED ITEM NO. 4

Esker Cemetery Columbarium Wall

Following the presentation of [Motion 10](#) at the LPF ACM in September 2020, a request was received for a Headed Item to be presented to the Committee at the November meeting on “the installation of a wall/facility in Esker Cemetery for the display/repose of urns of ashes”. This report examines the provision of such a facility in Esker Cemetery.

The public storage of cinerary urns (those holding a deceased cremated remains) is usually in a columbarium. This is a niche which is specifically designed for this purpose. The niche can be housed in a room in a church or freestanding in a cemetery in a Columbarium Wall. It is the freestanding Columbaria that is the subject of this report.

Columbarium Walls come in a wide range of sizes and styles. The most common type that people would be familiar with are the walls that can be seen at Glasnevin Cemetery and Newlands Cross Cemetery which are shown in the images below.



Columbarium Wall at Glasnevin Cemetery



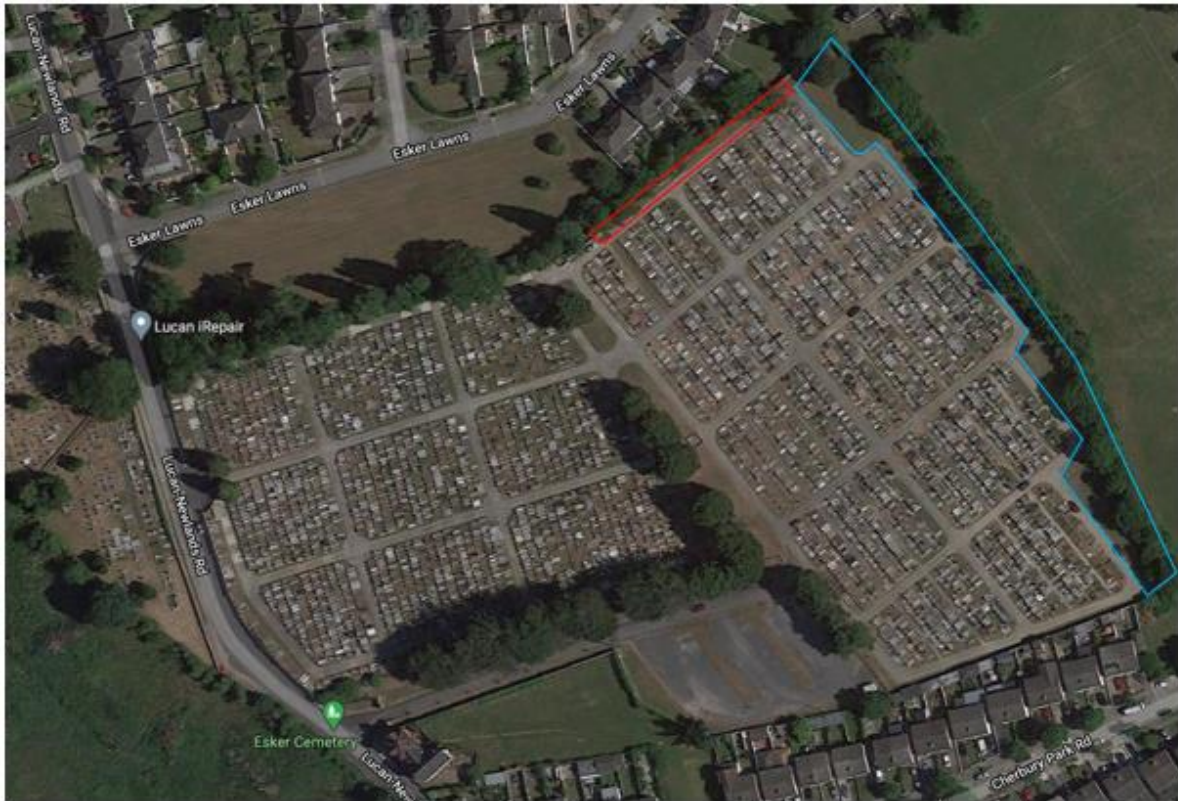
Columbarium Wall at Newlands Cross Cemetery

The size of the wall varies between sites and is determined primarily by the space available and demand. The presence of an on-site crematorium also has a large part to play and the demand for columbaria in such locations is generally greater. This is most noticeable in Glasnevin Cemetery where a crematorium catering for various religious denominations has been in operation since 1982.


The Crematorium Wall is made up of Columbaria or niches. The internal size of each niche can vary but is approximately 40cm wide x 25 cm deep x 31cm tall. Each niche can hold up to two urns. A columbarium wall made of 20 niches (4 rows x 5 high) measures 1.96m high x 2.9m wide x 36cm deep. The height can vary depending on the style of plinth and capping stone used but these figures give a good indication of the space it occupies. The picture below shows an example of this type of configuration.



An examination of Esker Cemetery was carried out to determine the most appropriate use of the land available for the provision of additional grave plots and a Columbaria Wall(s). The examination included an assessment of the boundary walls around the cemetery which vary in height according to the location. The wall adjacent to the open space at Beech Park is the lowest at 179cm. The walls which boarder the housing estates of Cherbury and Esker Lawns are 220cm high. It would not be appropriate to have a Columbarium Wall rising above the height of residential walls. Other factors to be considered include the presence of services. The grass verge running along the boundary of Cherbury Estate has a surface water drain in it and it would not be possible to place or construct anything in this area. A google image of the cemetery below shows the possible use for the lands that are currently under consideration.



 Plots area

 Columbarium Wall area

An initial baseline survey of the area indicated for plots has been carried out, but further works are required to factor in vehicle movement, proximity to existing wall foundations before the number of plots can be confirmed. The proposed area indicated for a Columbarium Wall has not been surveyed. Surveying works will continue during the winter period and it hoped to be able to develop the areas indicated in 2021.