

Crail Preservation Society

Mural Monument XIX to the Lindsays of Wormiston, Crail Kirkyard, Crail, Fife



CONDITION REPORT & CONSERVATION STATEMENT

AUGUST 2024

JOHN RENSHAW ARCHITECTS

90a CONSTITUTION STREET
LEITH, EDINBURGH EH6 6RP

Telephone: 0131 555 2245
Email: designteam@johnrenshawarchitects.co.uk

Contents

	<i>page</i>
1. Introduction	4
2. Statutory designations	5
3. Description of the memorial enclosure	6
4. Historical background	9
5. Existing condition	16
6. Cultural significance	17
7. Conservation strategy	17
8. Proposed conservation works	18
Appendix A. Existing record of the monument	
Plans, elevations & sections of monument as existing	
Appendix B. Proposed conservation & repair work	
Plans, elevations & sections of monument as proposed	

1. Introduction

The high walled memorial monument, dedicated to the Lindsays of Wormiston, was erected c.1713 and is located to the north of the entrance to the kirkyard from Marketgate North. The southeast wall adjoins the kirkyard boundary wall and the northeast wall separates the enclosure from monument XVIII.

The monument is a Category A listed structure, comprising part of significant grouping of graveyard, walls and mural monuments which provide the setting to Crail Parish kirk, also category A listed.

The Crail Preservation Society (CPS) is a local community group, committed to working with Fife Council to conserve the Conservation Area of the Royal Burgh of Crail in order to protect the village's unique character and beauty. CPS has previously led three projects to repair selected mural monuments carried out between 1973–1978, in 1993 & most recently in 2022/3.

A growing concern during the 2010s about the poor condition of the churchyard's mural monuments prompted CPS to seek expert guidance on the main conservation priorities for each monument. A conservation statement for the Mural Monuments of Crail Churchyard was prepared by Dr Susan Buckham & Spectrum Heritage dated July 2018. This notes that the cultural significance of the collection of mural monuments is arguably second only to those of Greyfriars Kirkyard Edinburgh in terms of the large number that survive and the quality of their workmanship. It also provides a brief summary on the existing condition of each monument and recommends prioritised conservation treatments. This resulted in the conservation of mural monument XI to Sir James Lumsden of Airdrie being carried out by F. A. Sweeney stonemasons and Graciela Ainsworth Sculpture Conservation Studio under the direction of John Renshaw architect as a result of generous financial assistance from Fife Council, Fife Bereavement Services and the Pilgrim Trust.

The memorial to the Lindsays of Wormiston comprises a high walled burial enclosure containing wall mounted and free standing memorials and is generally in poor condition. The Conservation Statement states that the priority for its repair is necessary and its condition has deteriorated since 2018 with potential malicious damage to the memorial tablet within the monument. The recommended repairs included the removal of biological growth, including the higher plants on the upper part of the structure. Rake out and repointing of damaged mortar and open joints is also required, as well as the consolidation of the surface of the stone in areas affected by scaling.

John Renshaw Architects (JRA) were appointed by CPS in November 2023 to prepare a detailed condition report and supervise the urgent and necessary conservation works to mural monuments XVI and XIX and the following report provides a condition survey report for monument and recommends a programme of conservation treatments and work to preserve monument XIX in its existing condition.

A similar methodology has been adopted to that successfully used for the conservation of the Lumsden monument.

AOC Archaeology were commissioned to carry out a photogrammetric survey of the monument which provides a detailed and accurate record of the existing condition of the monument prior to the planned conservation works. The photogrammetric survey was undertaken on 22nd May 2024 and was proceeded by John Renshaw visit to site to clear vegetation, that could be removed by hand, which was obscuring the detail of the monument and to carry out a detailed condition survey and assessment. Graciela Ainsworth Sculpture Conservation Ltd were also commissioned to provide specialist advice on the conservation treatments required to preserve the carved stonework of the monument as found.

The following report is based on survey report provided by Will Collier of Graciela Ainsworth Sculpture Conservation Ltd following a visit on 5th April 2024 and the condition survey undertaken by John Renshaw on 24th April 2024.

2. Statutory designations

The Crail Parish Kirkyard walls and gravestones are Category A listed (LB23245) and were added to the inventory of HS/HES listed buildings on 9th May 1972. The Category A listed gravestones include the Lindsay of Wormistone enclosure which comprises part of a larger B group extending to 233 items.

The Kirkyard, the rubble built enclosing walls and funerary monuments contained therein are all significant in their own right and provide the setting for the Parish Church, also Category A Listed. It is situated at the north end of the Crail Conservation Area and contributes significantly to the special character and appearance of the Town and the Conservation Area and their architectural and historic significance.

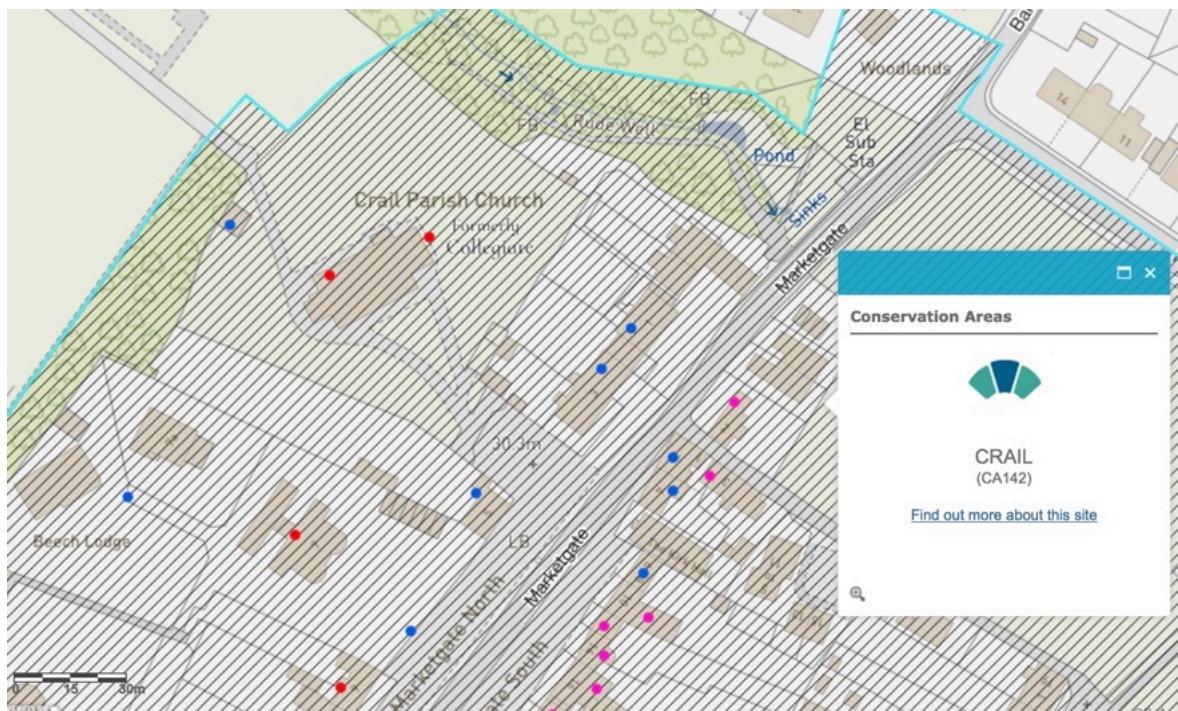


Figure 2 - Plan showing extent of Crail Conservation Area and location of listed buildings (HES)

3. Description of the mural monument

Location

The monument in memory of Lindsay of Wormiston comprises a high walled burial enclosure, located at the entrance to the kirkyard from Marketgate North. It adjoins the southeast section of the kirkyard wall, orientated on a southwest to northeast alignment roughly parallel with the southeast section of the kirkyard boundary wall and its entrance overlooks the main entrance to the kirkyard from Marketgate North.

Note: Erskine Beveridge comprehensively recorded and researched the churchyard, including its mural monuments, and his work was published in 1893. This report refers to Beveridge's numbering system (e.g. EB XIX see figure 3 below) which identifies the location of the memorial.

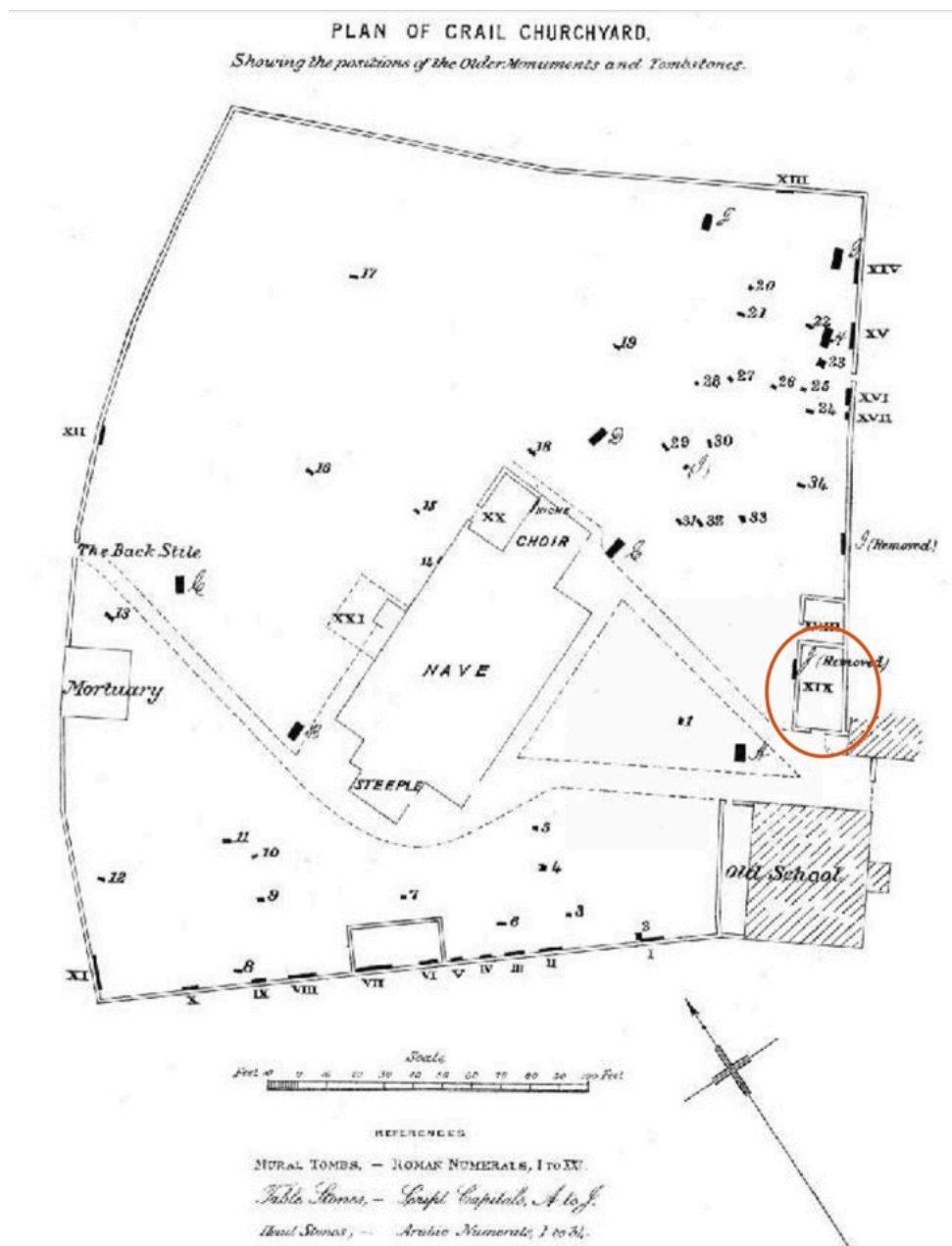


Figure 3 - Plan of Crail Churchyard showing the position of monument XIX and the older monuments and tombstones

Enclosure

The principal (southwest) facade comprises an arched ashlar door-piece surmounted by a central framed inscribed panel with flanking S scrolls on pyramid blocks with pediment above containing a shield with traces of initials in relief letters to either side.

The door opening, provides access to the rectangular enclosure which measures approximately 8.2 x 4.2 m internally within rubble stone walls approximately 1.67 - 1.9 metres high, capped with an ashlar moulded cope or cornice.

The northwest wall is bowed inwards (by c. 120mm at its mid point), presumably as a result of the growth of a large mature tree during the 19th century (refer to Erskine Beveridge's record dated c.1890 and subsequent historic photographs on pages 9 - 12 below).

The northeast wall forms a 'party' or separating wall between the Lindsay memorial and an adjoining memorial enclosure which measures approximately 4.1 x 4.2 m internally within slightly lower rubble stone walls approximately 500 - 550mm thick.

The southeast wall forms part of the kirkyard boundary wall, part of which is abutted by a conservatory making access for a full inspection difficult.

The walls are constructed with sandstone rubble masonry with dense cementitious mortar pointing to, and over rubble and ashlar masonry units with many interface cracking between mortar and stones. The dense mortars applied to the ashlar work is exacerbating stone decay and trapping water in the structure. The raking walls of the principal facade and northwest, northeast and southeast wallheads are capped with a profiled ashlar cope or cornice which is heavily covered with moss, common Valerian, Cotoneaster and other vegetation growing from between joints and under the cornice stones. A structural settlement crack at the northern end of the northwest wall indicates ongoing structural or thermal movement within the wall.

Memorials

A marble mural memorial tablet, to David Aytone Lindesay, 1080mm (h) x 1400mm (w) x 170mm (d) is fixed to the internal face of the northeast wall. Although still secure, the inscription panel and upper moulding are detached from the wall and the pediment is now lies against the wall below the memorial. The marble is covered with lichen growth and dirt, making the inscription hard to discern.

A freestanding memorial, standing roughly centrally within the enclosure is dedicated to Sybil Aytone and comprises a marble plinth and base sitting on a rubble foundation. The base measures 580mm (h) x 660mm (w) x 410mm (d). It was originally surmounted by a cross shaft, which is no longer extant (refer to Erskine Beveridge and the National Art Survey of Scotland historic photographs dating from 1890-1900 on pages 9 & 11 below). The marble base is also engrained with organic growth and surface grime. The lead lettering of the inscription is in very poor condition with approximately half of the letters missing and half of the remaining letters badly damaged.

Ground / floor surfaces

A worn ashlar stone step, 60mm high is located at the threshold of the entrance and the slightly higher ground level within the enclosure comprises grass with an exposed earthen edge, approximately 300mm wide at the base of the enclosure walls.

Adjoining structures

The southeast wall of the enclosure forms an extension of the kirkyard boundary wall and supports a lean-to conservatory on its southeast side within the rear garden of No 3 Marketgate North.

Surrounding landscape

A recumbent memorial stone lies within a grass strip, adjacent to the northwest wall. A Laburnum tree (assumed *Laburnum anagyroides*) is also growing adjacent to the northwest wall within the grass strip between the monument and the path and the tree stump of the mature tree depicted in the late 19th century record photos also remains.

4. Historical background

Patrick Lindsay, a burghess of Cupar, Fife, and later a merchant of St Andrews bought the estate of Wormiston in 1621. The estate had previously belonged to the Spence family of Wormiston, Constables of Crail, who had supported Mary, Queen of Scots, during the 1570s. It was then acquired by the Balfours in 1612, before being acquired by Patrick Lindsay.

The Lindsay family were ardent supporters of King Charles I and Charles II during the Civil Wars and following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660, Patrick Lindsay was appointed Commissioner Clerk of St Andrews, a position the family then held for four successive generations.

Patrick Lindsay was succeeded by his son John in 1651 who was then succeeded by his eldest son Patrick in 1666. Patrick had married Katherine Bethune, the daughter of Robert Bethune of Brandon, in 1657. Her initials and arms are displayed upon the monument and it is thought that she had instigated the construction of the monument c.1718, although the surrounding enclosure pre-dates this, possibly to around 1689. Patrick and Katherine had eight sons and seven daughters. Their eldest son, John, was an advocate. He married Margaret Haliburton, daughter of the Bishop of Aberdeen. John succeeded the estate upon his father's death in 1715. His brother, Patrick Jr., was also a Jacobite supporter and proclaimed the Pretender at St Andrews. He was executed in 1746 for his part in the rebellion.

The Conservation Statement of the Mural Monuments of Crail Churchyard carried out by Dr Susan Buckham & Spectrum Heritage provides the following information on the recent history of the monument:

1708:	Construction of enclosure instigated by Katherine Bethune, although possibly the enclosure structure may pre-date this by c. 20 years.
1890s:	Erskine Beveridge comprehensively recorded and researched the churchyard.
1904:	NASS illustrations shows scrolls <i>in situ</i> ; see page 11 below.
1971:	Condition survey notes requirement to seal wall heads and reinstate scrolls flanking the armorial panel.
1975:	Restoration of enclosure successfully completed by stonemasons and improvement was considered particularly noteworthy.
1978:	Repairs carried out but no detail of work.
1998:	Wrought iron gate to enclosure visible in c. 1900 no longer exists.
2018:	Conservation Statement prepared by Dr Susan Buckham & Spectrum Heritage.
2024:	Condition surveys by Graciela Ainsworth Studio & JRA note structural movement of inscription panel to David Aytone Lindesay, possibly as a result of attempted theft or vandalism.

The historic photos retained in the Canmore Archive include photos from the Erskine Beveridge collection c.1890s and provide a visual photographic record of the condition of the monument and its deterioration over the last 130 years.

	<i>Chronology of historic surveys and photographic records</i>
<i>Date</i>	<i>Creator or source of image</i>
c. 1890	Erskine Beveridge CANMORE(Catalogue No SC 739329)
	 https://canmore.org.uk/collection/739329
	Note: Erskine Beveridge comprehensively recorded and researched the churchyard, including its mural monuments, and his work was published in 1893. This image clearly shows the condition of the principal elevation of the monument at the end of the 19th century.

1892

CANMORE Neil Hynd Collection, Catalogue Number: DP 312724



<https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1890026>

Note: Perspective view of Lindsay of Wormiston Memorial inscribed 'The Lindsay Vault, Crail, WL 92'. Neil Hynd Collection.
<http://canmore.org.uk/collection/1890026>

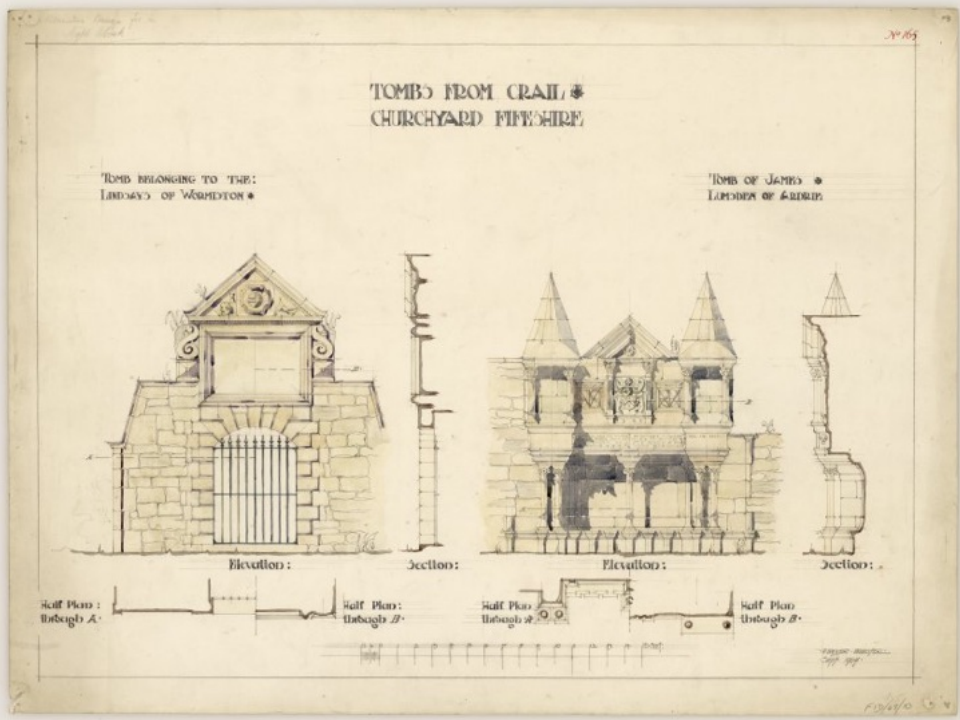
c. 1900

National Art Survey of Scotland photograph Catalogue No: SC 1104678



<https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1104687>

Note: Lindsay of Wormiston Memorial. Image from the Records of the National Art Survey of Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland. Date: c.1900.
<http://canmore.org.uk/collection/1104687>

1904	National Art Survey of Scotland signed A Walker Webster and dated Sept. 1904 (CANMORE Catalogue No DP 166377)
	 TOMBS FROM CRAIL CHURCHYARD FIFE SHIRE TOMB BELONGING TO THE LANDSEYS OF WETHERSTON TOMB OF JAMES LORD OF ARDEIR Elevation: Section: Elevation: Section: Half Plan: through A. Half Plan: through B. Half Plan: through C. Half Plan: through D. https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1361353
	Note: A survey drawing showing southwest elevation and part section through principal elevation. The drawing also shows the elevation and part section of Mural Monument XI. http://canmore.org.uk/collection/1361353
1998	Stuart Farrell collection (CANMORE Catalogue No SC1855127.
	 https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1855130
	Note: Detail of plaque and pediment above enclosure. Stuart Farrell collection dated 8th June 1998.

2018	The Mural Monuments of Crail Churchyard Conservation Statement Dr Susan Buckham & Spectrum Heritage.
	
	Note: The report notes that all carvings are very worn and the inscription panel below the pediment is completely eroded. It recommended the removal of biological growth, including the higher plants on the upper part of the structure; repointing of damaged mortar and open joints and consolidation of the surface of the stone in areas affected by scaling.

2024	John Renshaw Architects, condition survey 24th April 2024
	

5. Existing condition of monument XIX to the Lindsays of Wormiston

Principal facade of enclosure

The sandstone pediment, the carved/dressed sandstone around the entrance, and the framing around the panel are all very weathered but appear to be sound with little obvious disaggregation.

There are previous repairs/open cracks at the PL pediment moulding which require attention.

The majority of the cementitious pointing around the sandstone door and central panel has been lost or is failing allowing water ingress.

There are several small delaminations overall especially at the central panel frame which are likely to deteriorate and cause further surface loss. The surface of the central panel has been lost through disaggregation/weathering except for a small area of inscription which is still visible near its centre.

The mortar joints in the rubble masonry monument facade and enclosure walls are pointed with dense cementitious mortars which are exacerbating the erosion/weathering of the sandstone. It is trapping moisture within individual stones which encourages stone decay/disaggregation and the growth of vegetation and mosses which are established along the top of the walls. The cement pointing is also failing at many areas of the interior and exterior of the walls and the root systems of the woody vegetation will cause or exacerbate cracking and structural movement.

Due to the cementitious nature of the pointing throughout the monument it would be prudent to replace it with an appropriate lime mortar, especially around the areas of carved or dressed sandstone to minimise further deterioration.

Wall mounted memorial tablet to David Aytone Lindesay

The marble mural memorial tablet mounted on the inner face of the southeast wall is in poor condition. Its pediment is detached and lying on the ground below the memorial tablet. The inscription panel and upper moulding are misaligned but remain secure. This, and the detached pediment, has occurred since the 2018 survey (undertaken by Clara Sanchez) and could be due to attempted theft/vandalism.

The inscription on the marble panel is largely obscured by lichen infestation and surface grime. The pointing around the marble and at the sandstone background has failed leaving open joints which will allow water ingress.

Freestanding memorial to Sybil Aytone

The marble plinth, base stone and rubble foundation remain stable and in reasonable structural condition; the original free standing cross is no longer extant. The marble plinth and base stone are engrafted with organic growth and surface grime and the marble would benefit from careful cleaning.

Approximately 50% (62 letters) of the lead lettering to the monument base are lost and another 25% badly damaged.

6. Cultural significance

The Conservation Statement for the Mural Monuments of Crail Churchyard by Dr Susan Buckham & Spectrum Heritage dated July 2018 summarises the aesthetic, historic and social values represented by individual designs, monument groups and the Crail assemblage as a whole. It also considers how the monuments at Crail contribute to our wider appreciation of the development of post-reformation mural monuments in Scotland.

Monument XIX is one of five monuments within the kirkyard of contrasting appearance which illustrate the variety of ways in which commemoration based on court architecture was translated for a local audience during the first half of the 18th century. It is of high local significance and as part of the assemblage of mural monuments in Crail kirkyard it is of national significance.

The main threat to its significance is the continued deterioration of its condition and loss of the little surviving detail of the carved surfaces.

The mural monument XIX and should be preserved for current and future generations in accordance with the principals of the ICOMOS International Charter for Cultural Heritage (2022).

7. Conservation strategy

The proposed conservation strategy for the monument has been developed from the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan, 2018, the condition surveys carried out by Graciela Ainsworth Sculpture Conservation Studio and John Renshaw in 2024 and the lessons learned from the conservation work carried out to the Lumsden mural monument (XI) completed in 2023.

The proposed objectives are to:

- a) Provide a full 'as existing record' of the monument, before, during and after the proposed conservation works based on digital and photographic surveys;
- b) Conserve the structure and detail of the monument "as found";
- c) Remove previous (inappropriate) repair interventions which are damaging to the structure, its design and carved details (eg. cementitious mortars) or detract from its design and setting (trees which obstruct significant views and could damage the monument);
- d) Reinstall any original elements where adequate evidence exists of their original detail and the reinstatement is necessary to the structural integrity of the monument; &
- e) Provide modest and sympathetic new works which improve the setting of the monument and facilitate its better appreciation.

8. Proposed scope of conservation works

1) Introduction

The proposed conservation works will comprise:-

- i. the removal of vegetation, mosses and organic growth and treatment with D/2 Solutions biocide ;
- ii. the removal of all cementitious repair mortars and replacement with appropriate lime based mortar matching as closely as possible the original historic mortar;
- iii. removal of soluble salt encrustations and disaggregated stone;
- iv. filling of delaminated stone with a reversible consolidant (eg. Paraloid B72);
- v. the complete removal of all woody plant growth, removal of all dense cementitious repair mortars with appropriate high calcium lime putty and hydraulic lime mortars;
- vi. conservation treatments to the two marble memorials within the enclosure comprising cleaning with biocide, poulticing and steam cleaning; the re-pointing of joint with lime putty mortar; & replacement of missing lettering;

2) Detail scope of conservation treatments

Carved and ashlar of principal (sw) elevation

All vegetation and mosses on the copes, door frame rusticated ashlar, panel and pediment of the principal facade will be removed with wooden tools prior to the removal/lessening of the surface organic growth/ surface grime using nylon brushes, water and an application of D/2 Solutions biocide.

The cementitious pointing to the dressed stone, panel, pediment and copes will be carefully removed, where there is no risk of damage to the carved ashlar stonework and replaced with an appropriate lime mortar.

The delaminations to the carved/dressed stone will be injected with Paraloid B72 (6% in acetone) prior to being filled with Paraloid B72 (10% in acetone), mixed with fine sand, which will be textured and pigmented to match the surrounding stone. The open cracks at the pediment and the stones of the South facing entrance wall, as well as the edges of the remaining fragment of the inscription at the central panel, will be filled and capped in the same way.

The disaggregating stone of the central panel will be carefully brushed back to a solid surface. It may then be concluded that the panel requires further consolidation (following trials) with Silres BS OH 100 stone strengthener.

Enclosure walls

All vegetation and mosses on the moulded ashlar copes, will be removed with an application of D/2 Solution biocide using wooden spatulas.

All dense cementitious repair mortars will be carefully removed and replaced with an appropriate lime putty or NHL 3.5 hydraulic lime mortar to match the original or early repair mortars to the front, sides and rear of the monument.

Floor surfaces

The existing turfed ground surface within the enclosure will be retained and protected during the works.

Memorial to northwest wall

The wall mounted memorial will be cleaned with distilled water and D/2 Solutions biocide using nylon brushes. Poulticing/steam cleaning may be required to lessen the stubborn/engrained staining.

The misaligned panel and moulding will be carefully removed, and the fixing holes cleared prior to their reinstatement using the original fixing method and a strategic amount of polyester resin (or using new stainless-steel (grade 316) threaded dowels if needed).

The pediment will be re-installed using small stainless steel (grade 316) threaded dowels set into drilled holes with polyester resin.

The open joints will then be pointed with an appropriate lime putty mortar.

Free standing Memorial

The memorial will be cleaned with distilled water and D/2 Solutions biocide using nylon brushes. Poulticing/steam cleaning may be required to lessen the stubborn/engrained staining.

The open joints will be pointed with an appropriate lime putty mortar.

The missing and badly damaged lead letters on the base stone (62 no.) will be replaced with epoxy putty, which will be shaped and pigmented to match the existing lead lettering.

Landscape setting

The Laburnum tree, which does not form part of a considered design and is planted too close to the northwest elevation will be removed in order to prevent risk of further tree root damage to the structure. The Crail Preservation Society will plant tree(s) to replace these on common lands within the Burgh of Crail.