

New garden of remembrance – request for additional edging stones

Plots for the interment of ashes in the new garden of remembrance are laid out in a grid pattern of 250X250mm squares. The northern boundary edging stones are marked with drilled holes and number tags 'A' - 'Z' to mark the individual plot boundaries (see fig 1). In the easterly direction the plot boundaries are measured out by means of a wooden 'set square' device, with plot distances numbered out. Thus, a given plot number is defined by a letter and number e.g. A15. To define a plot, the 'set square' is placed against the northern edging stones against the desired letter and the plot number on the arm defines the plot. [See fig 3,4]

This has worked well for number of years, but now we have reached row 14, which represents a distance of nearly 3 metres from the northern edging stones. As this is longer than standard wood lengths and larger than the tool shed can accommodate, the set square is now made of two sections which must be assembled and disassembled each time. This join adds inaccuracy and, as the distance increases from the edging stones, this inaccuracy together with any slight misalignment with the edging stones magnifies potential measuring errors. This makes it increasingly difficult to accurately locate a given plot. As the space between plots is only 50mm the chances of breaking into the next plot is high and becoming greater. Since we have currently only filled approximately one quarter of the potential number of plots, to carry on in the same way would ultimately require a measuring square of at least 12 metres in length, which would be impractical, un-wieldy, and inaccurate.

The proposed solution is to lay another row of 'northerly' edging stones down the centre of the garden in parallel with the existing stones down as far as the Southern edge of the gate and as far as possible level with the surface of the grass, so as not to create a trip hazard for persons or when mowing. Note that there is already a raised stone to show the centre point (see fig 2) To be stable, the stones would need to be set in concrete, as are the existing stones. This will allow the plots to be measured either side of the new row of stones i.e. both north and south.

The new row would be marked and identified with plot boundaries and letters as are the existing stones. As the plots may be measured from either side of the new stones, the distance from an edging stone is limited to a manageable value. It is not intended that a new space for remembrance flowers would be created on either side of this new line as this would interfere when measuring and use up at least 24 or 48 potential plots. A typical edging stone is shown in Fig 5. Note that it has one rounded and one square edge.

NB To permit the letter tags and plot drillings to be drilled, the stones must be laid with the SQUARE edge UPPERMOST (usually they are laid rounded edge up).



Fig 1 Existing Northern boundary stones



Fig 2 Looking West, along the proposed line of new edging stones. Note the raised centre stone at the top centre of the picture



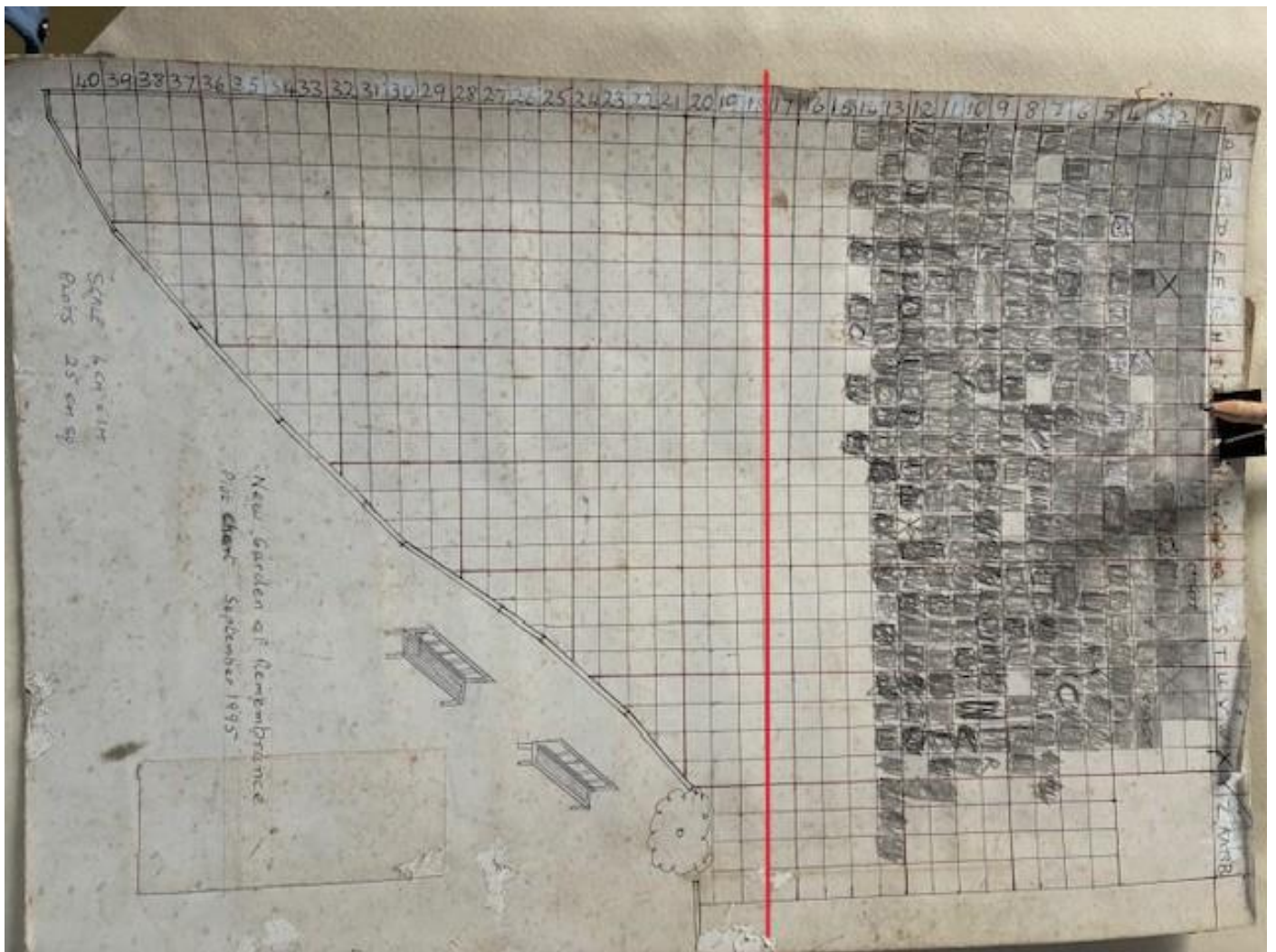
Fig 3 'Set Square' in use



Fig 4 Note the round letter tags on the edging stones



Fig 5 Edging stone. Note the rounded and square edges



Plot map of Garden of Remembrance with location of new edging stones marked. Used plots are shaded. Plan indicates that the new stones would be installed sufficiently away from any used plots to prevent disturbance.