


Address Friar's Bush Graveyard Stranmillis Road Belfast BT9 5AA	HB Ref No HB26/27/014	
Extent of Listing Not listed		
Date of Construction 1700 - 1719		
Townland Malone Lower		
Current Building Use Graveyard		
Principal Former Use Graveyard		

Conservation Area	Yes	Survey 1	B1	OS Map No	147/1SE
Industrial Archaeology	No	NIEA Evaluation	Delist	IG Ref	J3360 7230
Vernacular	No	Date of Listing	27/09/1979	IHR No	
Thatched	No	Date of Delisting		SMR No	ANT061:006
Monument	No			HGI Ref	_____
Area of Townscape Character	No				
Local Landscape Policy Area	Yes				
Historic Gardens Inventory	No				
Vacant	No				
Derelict	No				

Owner Category

Building Information

Exterior Description and Setting

The graveyard is relatively modest in terms of size, comprising only two acres, but is densely populated with burials. The site takes its name from an old thorn bush which stands in the centre of the graveyard, where mass was performed in secret during strict Irish Penal Laws.

The site is located on the Stranmillis Road, which bounds it to the west, while the Ulster Muesum and Botanic Gardens are to the north and east. Access to the graveyard is through the arched gothic gate lodge.

Interior Overview

N/A

Architects

Historical Information

Described in the list entry dated 1974 as:

Inscribed small stone Ordnance Survey Map of 1832. Article by C Douglas Deane 'News Letter' 26/2/77. Ulster Architectural Heritage Society 'Queen's University' page 34.

Criteria for Listing

NB: In March 2011, revised criteria were published as Annex C of Planning Policy Statement 6. These added extra criteria with the aim of improving clarity in regard to the Department's explanation of historic interest. For records evaluated in advance of this, therefore, not all of these criteria would have been considered. The criteria used prior to 2011 are published on the Department's website under 'listing criteria'.

Architectural Interest

Not listed

Historical Interest

Not listed

Evaluation

Described in the list entry dated 1974 as:

Irregular shaped graveyard enclosed by high rubble stone wall and named after 'Ye Friar's Grave'. Extended and enclosed before 1932. Contains many tomb memorials on the enclosing walls and free standing.

The Graveyard was designated as a Scheduled Monument, which is a more appropriate form of protection, on 24th February 2026.

Replacements and Alterations

None

If inappropriate, Why?

General Comments

Monitoring Notes – since Date of Survey

Date of Survey 18/12/2025