

Crawl Space under Nursery, at Christchurch Churchyard and Todmorden CE Primary School

The base of the Nursery building is an area of poured concrete, in breeze block borders, of about 55-60cm depth. The headstones are laid on the poured concrete surface.



The surface of the area is rough textured and so not easy to kneel on.



The ground is slightly sloping, leaving more height for movement at the Cricket Club side of the building. However, there is still less than a meter clearance along the entire length of the building even at the cricket club side of the building.

There are steel girders across the width of the building and along the whole length. The girders are 21cm wide at their lowest point and the steel is 2cm thick. There are also concrete blocks at about 1m intervals across the floor space of the building though they do not seem to be weight bearing.

The space with most clearance beneath the girder is closest to the entrance door. Between the raised concrete floor and the girder edge, there is 68cm clearance or 72cm at the deepest or highest point, nearest to the cricket club.



At the second girder from the entrance there is only 65cm in height clearance, under the main floor of the concrete platform.



The third girder is just 60cm high and the 4th is 58cm, though clearance varies across the width of the building depending on where on the slope the measurement is located.

In between the girders, which are weight-bearing, there is a wooden frame holding up a chipboard ceiling. There is 100cm to the lower edge of the wooden frame and 120cm to the chipboard ceiling.



It is possible that the headstones could be partially lifted in the 100-120cm high spaces between the girders. However, as they are 190cm in length, 70cm wide and 10cm deep, it will not be possible to lift them fully upright even at the highest point beneath the nursery. To get them out beneath the girders the headstones would need to be moved on a flatbed trolley of some sort. The gaps between the headstones vary between inches and a meter; finding a space to rest anything to lever the headstones up will be challenging.



190cm headstones



Smaller end stones



More 190cm headstones



However, the rough floor work, low height of the girders and the variety of utilities pipes would also make the use of a trolley very difficult.



Pipework

In addition, even if a trolley could be used to bring the headstones across the concrete floor, they will then need to be brought down to the floor level at the edge of the poured concrete floor.



At the furthest end of the building, in the direction of Christchurch and the Memorial Garden, there is virtually no crawl space at all, so removing any headstones from there will be almost impossible unless the building is dismantled.

