

# **New Southgate Cemetery**

## **Conservation Management Plan**



**June 2019**

# 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 *“Cemeteries were designed to serve a balance of practical and aesthetic purposes. While the primary reason for their existence was to receive burials, in most, thought and care was given to ensuring that they also provided an appropriate environment for the burial ceremony, a dignified setting for commemorative structures, and a pleasant place for the bereaved to visit”.<sup>1</sup>*
- 1.2 This statement neatly sums up both the original and the continuing primary objectives for New Southgate Cemetery. However, there is also a further key objective for this particular cemetery. New Southgate Cemetery is one of only a few Victorian cemeteries still owned and operated as a commercial enterprise, independent of funding from central or local government. Its continued existence, management and development depend entirely upon the cemetery generating sufficient income.
- 1.3 The cemetery is owned by New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium Limited, part of the Westerleigh Group. The cemetery has virtually run out of space for new graves on both virgin ground and on overfilled areas. Many London local authorities face a similar situation and may address shortages of burial space using their powers under the London Local Authorities Act 2007, which are not available to private companies.
- 1.4 New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium Limited has gained new statutory powers, namely the New Southgate Cemetery Act 2017, to resolve this issue.
- 1.5 The overall strategy to enable New Southgate Cemetery to continue operation is to bring forward significant new burial capacity through the reclamation and re-use of old graves.

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<sup>1</sup> ‘Paradise Preserved: Registered cemeteries in date order with notes on principal reasons for designation and designers and architects’. English Heritage 2011. Page 3

- 1.6 New burial capacity will enable the cemetery to meet the long term needs of the diverse community and faith groups that it serves. For these people, the cemetery and crematorium has significant historic and continuing value.
- 1.7 By definition, this involves the close management of areas within the cemetery left relatively un-managed over recent years. This needs to be done within the framework of this Conservation Management Plan, that maintains and where possible enhances the amenity and open space value of the overall site, whilst at the same time ensuring commercial objectives are met to provide significant new capacity and fund the ongoing investment required to maintain and enhance the site.
- 1.8 This Conservation Management Plan considers how the provision of new burial space and the management and development of the cemetery as whole can be delivered with due regard to its value in terms of heritage, ecology and public amenity.
- 1.9 This Plan has been adopted by the New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium Limited and will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to ensure it remains informed and valid for its purpose.

## 2 Statement of significance

2.1 New Southgate Cemetery is not amongst over 100 cemeteries that are included within Historic England's 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England'. It does not satisfy Historic England's criteria for '*High Victorian and Edwardian Municipal Cemeteries*', which were developed from the 1850s:

2.2 *"Specific criteria for this category of cemetery will be more stringent than for the earlier categories. Sometimes it may be appropriate to designate only the early sections of a cemetery if the later areas are without claims to design note; these may be the areas with greater emotional sensitivity on account of possessing more recent burials, however. Specific criteria should include:*

- *Quality of original design*
- *Intactness and degree of alteration*
- *Overall effect of landscaping, buildings and tombs*
- *Earliness of date*
- *Innovation*
- *Regional or local distinctiveness*".<sup>2</sup>

2.3 In overall conservation and heritage terms, the cemetery, the buildings and the monuments contained within the site are of relatively low architectural or historic significance. They are not within a conservation area; not statutorily listed (with one exception); not locally listed; not listed as a scheduled monument nor listed within the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. The one exception is the Grade 11 listed memorial to German civilian internees.

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<sup>2</sup> Paradise Preserved: Updated list of cemeteries included in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest (January 2011) and the register criteria. Page 20



- 2.4 In planning terms, the site is zoned as Metropolitan Open Land and is also a Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), a non-statutory designation. Part of the site along the Brunswick Park Road is covered by a Tree Preservation Order protecting a number of trees.
- 2.5 The value and significance of the site is therefore very much related to:
- its historic and continued significance as a much needed cemetery for the wider community, and
  - its amenity and open space value to people in the local area.
- 2.6 A significant proportion of the original landscape remains in the more elevated western part of the cemetery, where the burial sections radiate outward from the central chapel. The chapel building itself is in essentially good order and a planned preventative maintenance schedule and budget is in place. Improvements to the office area and public toilets are currently under consideration prior to a planning application.
- 2.7 The area of the cemetery surrounding the chapel is arguably the most attractive as it retains trees that pre-date the cemetery and most of the trees planted as part of the original cemetery landscape design. These trees provide significant visual amenity. However, some of them have reached physiological maturity, with some large Lawson Cypress and Western Red Cedars approaching the stage where they will pose safety hazards to visitors.
- 2.8 The burial sections within the circular perimeter road also contain the oldest, largest and more interesting memorials.
- 2.9 The reclamation and re-use programme will be implemented in areas of the cemetery lacking memorials of architectural quality.

- 2.10 Historically, the cemetery has suffered from a lack of maintenance in some areas due to lack of funding. This has led to self-set trees developing into dense secondary woodland in parts of the south east of the site.
- 2.11 These areas have limited nature conservation value and the trees both hinder access to graves and cause disruption and damage to memorials. In progressively thinning these trees, those with potential to provide visual and ecological merit in the long-term will be retained. This will provide a 'wooded' appearance and link this part of the site with the sections on higher ground around the chapel, with the oldest and more significant trees.
- 2.12 The cemetery is of very great significance to the families and friends of people buried there. Due to its location, character and the facilities it offers, New Southgate Cemetery has become the preferred choice for people from a number of ethnic and religious communities

### 3 Contents

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....	2
2	STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE .....	4
3	CONTENTS .....	7
4	LIST OF FIGURES.....	9
5	APPENDICES.....	11
6	INTRODUCTION.....	12
7	CONTEXT.....	13
8	HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE CEMETERY .....	15
8.2	ORIGINAL SHAPE AND SIZE .....	15
8.12	CHANGING SHAPE AND SIZE.....	18
8.31	EXPLANATION FOR THE ‘SHRINKING’ CEMETERY .....	28
8.43	THE EARLY YEARS AND THE CEMETERY RAIL SERVICE .....	30
9	PATTERNS OF CONSECRATION .....	40
10	BURIAL USES, LAYOUTS AND ARRANGEMENTS .....	42
11	FUNERARY MONUMENTS AND SCULPTURES .....	47
12	CULTURAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL HERITAGE .....	52
12.2	EDMUND ALEXANDER SPURR .....	52
12.4	RICHARD BETHELL .....	53
12.6	THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD AMELIUS WENTWORTH BEAUCLERK .....	54
12.9	BALDASSARE VISCARDINI.....	55
12.11	DOROTHY LAWRENCE .....	56
12.14	VICTIMS OF THE COLNEY HATCH ASYLUM FIRE .....	57
12.18	SECTION W .....	58
12.20	THE CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL BASSISHAW .....	59
12.23	CWGC WAR BURIALS .....	60
12.26	GERMAN CIVILIAN INTERNEES .....	61
12.29	THE SAVOY VAULTS.....	62
12.35	SHOGHI EFFENDI .....	64
12.38	SIR ALFRED BARING GARROD.....	65
13	LANDSCAPE DESIGN .....	66

<b>14</b>	<b>ARCHITECTURE .....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>NATURE CONSERVATION .....</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>ARBORICULTURE.....</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>AMENITY AND OPEN SPACE .....</b>	<b>99</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>ADOPTION AND REVIEW .....</b>	<b>101</b>
	<b>APPENDIX A .....</b>	<b>102</b>
	<b>APPENDIX B .....</b>	<b>105</b>

## 4 List of Figures

Figure 1: Extract from O.S. Six inch to one mile map, Middlesex V11. Surveyed 1863 to 1864.....	16
Figure 2: Extract from O.S. Six inch to one mile map, Middlesex V11.SW. Revised 1894 to 1895.....	18
Figure 3: Southern entrance to New Southgate Cemetery c.1908 .....	19
Figure 4: Extract from O.S. Six inch to one mile map, Middlesex XLV1.SW. Revised 1912 .....	20
Figure 5: Extract from O.S. Six inch to one mile map, Hertfordshire XLV1.SW. Revised 1938 .....	21
Figure 6: The 'surplus' unused land, in pink, sold under the Great Northern London Cemetery Act 1961 .....	22
Figure 7: the Shoreditch General Grave .....	22
Figure 8: The plan showing the land previously used for burial and sold under the 1968 Act. ....	23
Figure 9: The plan showing the land sold under the 1976 Act. ....	24
Figure 10: Map of sections in the original eastern cemetery.....	25
Figure 11: Composite image showing land use following the 1976 Act.....	26
Figure 12: Composite image showing the redevelopment of the western part of the cemetery.....	27
Figure 13: Scale of Fees from the 1855 Act .....	31
Figure 14: Burials by class of grave in the first ten years .....	32
Figure 15: Calculated average annual income in the first ten years .....	33
Figure 16: King's Cross cemetery station c. 1954.....	34
Figure 17: The cemetery station c.1884.....	35
Figure 18: The Retreat c.1910 .....	36
Figure 19: Extract from O.S. Six inch to one mile map, Middlesex V11.SW. Revised 1894 to 1895.....	37
Figure 20: Extract from O.S. 25 inch to one mile map, Hertfordshire XLVI.9 Revised 1897.....	38
Figure 21: Original grave plan for Section L.....	42
Figure 22: Memorial commemorating those interred in public graves.....	45
Figure 23: Religious beliefs of people buried at New Southgate Cemetery 2014 to 2018.....	46
Figure 24: Examples of small memorials on common graves .....	48
Figure 25: Examples of 'Traditional' headstones and kerbs.....	49
Figure 26: Examples of the few large monuments in the cemetery .....	50
Figure 27: Memorials on one of the Greek Orthodox sections .....	51
Figure 28: Modern mausolea .....	51
Figure 29: The grave of Edmund Alexander Spurr.....	52
Figure 30: The grave of Richard Bethell .....	53
Figure 31: The Beauclerk Vault.....	54
Figure 32 The grave of Baldassare Viscardini .....	55
Figure 33: Dorothy Lawrence .....	56
Figure 34: The grave of the victims of the Colney Hatch Asylum fire.....	57
Figure 35: Memorial to those exhumed from Section W .....	58

Figure 36: Communal memorial re. the church of St Michael Bassishaw .....	59
Figure 37: The CWGC Cross of Sacrifice and screen wall.....	60
Figure 38: Memorial to 51 German civilians .....	61
<i>Figure 39: The 'Savoy Vaults' .....</i>	<i>63</i>
Figure 40: The 'Savoy Vaults' interpretation board. ....	63
Figure 41: The grave of Shoghi Effendi.....	64
Figure 42: The grave of Sir Alfred Baring Garrod.....	65
Figure 43: Digital map of graves on section J .....	66
Figure 44: View towards the Chapel along the radial road between sections K and L .....	68
Figure 45: View away from the Chapel along the radial road between sections J and H .....	68
Figure 46: Interior views of the chapel at New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium .....	75
Figure 47: Exterior views of New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium chapel, crematorium and office .....	76
Figure 48: Plan of the ground floor of the chapel and offices.....	77
Figure 49: Plan of the basement .....	77
Figure 50: View looking north over sections O and P.....	85
Figure 51: View looking south over Section P .....	86
Figure 52: View looking south over Section Q.....	86
Figure 53: View looking south over Section R .....	87
Figure 54: Mature Oak with young self-seeded birch and ash saplings .....	88
Figure 55: Tree survey plan of section Q.....	94
Figure 56: Tree survey plan of section Q.....	94
Figure 57: Mature Oak tree on section R .....	96
Figure 58: Self-set trees on Section AG, with multi-stemmed Ash in right foreground .....	97
Figure 59: Hand-written Deed of Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial for the Savoy Vaults .....	102
Figure 60: Transcript of the wording of the deed of Grant .....	103
Figure 61: layout plan of the Savoy Vaults .....	104

## **5 Appendices**

### **Appendix A:**

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society's research and survey of the Savoy Vaults.

### **Appendix B:**

DLA Limited 'New Southgate Cemetery. Ecology - Nature Conservation Assessment'  
Report No. DLA 1583/Eco July 2018

## 6 Introduction

- 6.1 This Conservation Management Plan provides a framework for the future management of New Southgate Cemetery.
- 6.2 Since its opening in 1861 as the Great Northern London Cemetery, there have been approximately 180,000 burials in the cemetery and there is virtually no space remaining for new graves in either virgin ground or in overfilled areas. The New Southgate Cemetery Act 2017 grants powers that enable the cemetery to continue to provide space for new burials through the planned and carefully executes reclamation and re-use of old graves.
- 6.3 This Conservation Management Plan follows a structure recommended within the guidance document published in 2013 by the London Environment Directors Network (LEDNet), *‘Technical Guidance on the Re-use and Reclamation of Graves in London Local Authority Cemeteries’*. It is an assessment of the significance of the site in terms of its historic and cultural heritage alongside a consideration of the architectural, ecological, arboricultural, landscape, townscape and amenity value.



## 7 Context

- 7.1 Since 1861, when New Southgate Cemetery first opened and was known as the Great Northern London Cemetery, there have been many changes affecting demand for burial within the UK and within London in particular.
- 7.2 In 1861, all deaths in the UK resulted in burial. However, the development of the UK's first public crematorium at Woking in 1885 initiated a slow, but progressive reduction in the demand for burial. In 1885 there was only a single crematorium and it carried out only three cremations, yet by 1968 there were 203 crematoria and that same year 50% of deaths resulted in cremation. In 2017, 77% of deaths in the UK resulted in cremation.
- 7.3 Demographic changes have included population growth, declining mortality rates, increasing diversity in ethnicity and religious belief and the growth in the proportion of the population in older age groups.
- 7.4 New Southgate Cemetery has adapted to these changes by converting the Cemetery Chapel building in 1957 into the 102<sup>nd</sup> crematorium in the UK and by continuing to meet the religious and cultural requirements for burial of the changing local population.
- 7.5 There is a generally acknowledged shortage of new burial space in London<sup>3</sup>. The challenges inherent in implementing relevant legislation have, to date, resulted in only a small number of London local authorities facing the challenges of reclaiming and re-using old graves. The powers contained within the New Southgate Cemetery Act 2017 enable New Southgate Cemetery to continue provide burial space for local people, particularly those belonging to distinct ethnic and religious groups, who live in North London and require the burial of their dead.

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<sup>3</sup> Audit of London Burial Provision. J. Rugg and N Pearce. GLA March 2011

- 7.6 The current draft London Plan, showing minor suggested changes (August 2018), includes the following within the section **Policy S7 Burial Space**:

**A Cemeteries should be protected and the re-use of burial space supported**

*5.7.2 The **re-use of graves** can provide some additional capacity. Both Section 74 of the [London] Local Authorities Act 2007 and Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857 allow for the re-use of graves in certain circumstances and boroughs are encouraged to actively examine the potential that re-use offers them. The unique heritage and archaeological qualities of cemeteries should be taken into account when providing additional capacity in existing cemeteries.*

- 7.7 New Southgate Cemetery is ideally located to continue to provide for the burial space needs of the diverse community in North London. This Conservation Management Plan, additional detailed planning and careful implementation combined with the commitment of the owners of the cemetery will ensure that this can be achieved lawfully, ethically and with due regard to heritage, and ecological considerations.

## **8 Historic development of the cemetery**

- 8.1 New Southgate Cemetery was originally developed by the Great Northern London Cemetery Company and named the Great Northern London Cemetery. The Great Northern London Cemetery Act received Royal Assent on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1855 and the first burial took place in the new cemetery on 11<sup>th</sup> July 1861.

### **8.2 Original shape and size**

- 8.3 Section 19 of the 1885 Act states:

- 8.4 *“Whereas plans of the cemetery, and also a book of reference thereto, containing the names of the owners and lessees, or reputed owners and lessees, and occupiers of the lands in which the cemetery is intended to be made, have been deposited with the Clerk of the Peace for the County of Herts.; therefore, subject to the provisions of this Act, the company may make, alter, enlarge, improve, and maintain a cemetery a cemetery for the burial of the dead, with chapels, entrances, and all other necessary works connected therewith, upon the lands delineated on those plans and described in that book of reference, and may within two years after the passing of this Act, but not afterwards, enter upon, take, and use such lands as are secondly mentioned in the First Schedule to this Act annexed, for that purpose.”*

- 8.5 Section 20 of the 1885 Act states:

- 8.6 *“The cemetery shall be completed within three years after the passing of this Act, and on the expiration of that period the powers by this Act granted to the company for making the cemetery, or otherwise in relation thereto, shall, except as to so much of the cemetery as is then completed, cease to be exercised: provide always, that the company may from time to time make any works and conveniences for the purposes of the cemetery, notwithstanding the expiration of that period.”*

- 8.7 The First Schedule to the Act lists the owners, acreages and a brief description of seventeen parcels of land to be purchased under the Act. The largest parcel was 145 acres, owned by Willian Bowles Esq., and known as Southgate Farm, 42 acres of which was located on the west side of Colney Hatch Road (later renamed Brunswick Park Road). In addition, there were a further 10 acres on the west side of the road between the southwest edge of Southgate Farm and the Great Northern Railway. The parcels of land listed included pasture, meadow, arable and two cottages with gardens, in total occupying 155 acres.
- 8.8 The map extract below of the Ordnance Survey (O.S.) six inch to one mile map illustrates the original shape and size of the area described in the Schedule to the Act and illustrated on the deposited plan, highlighted in transparent green and edged in red.

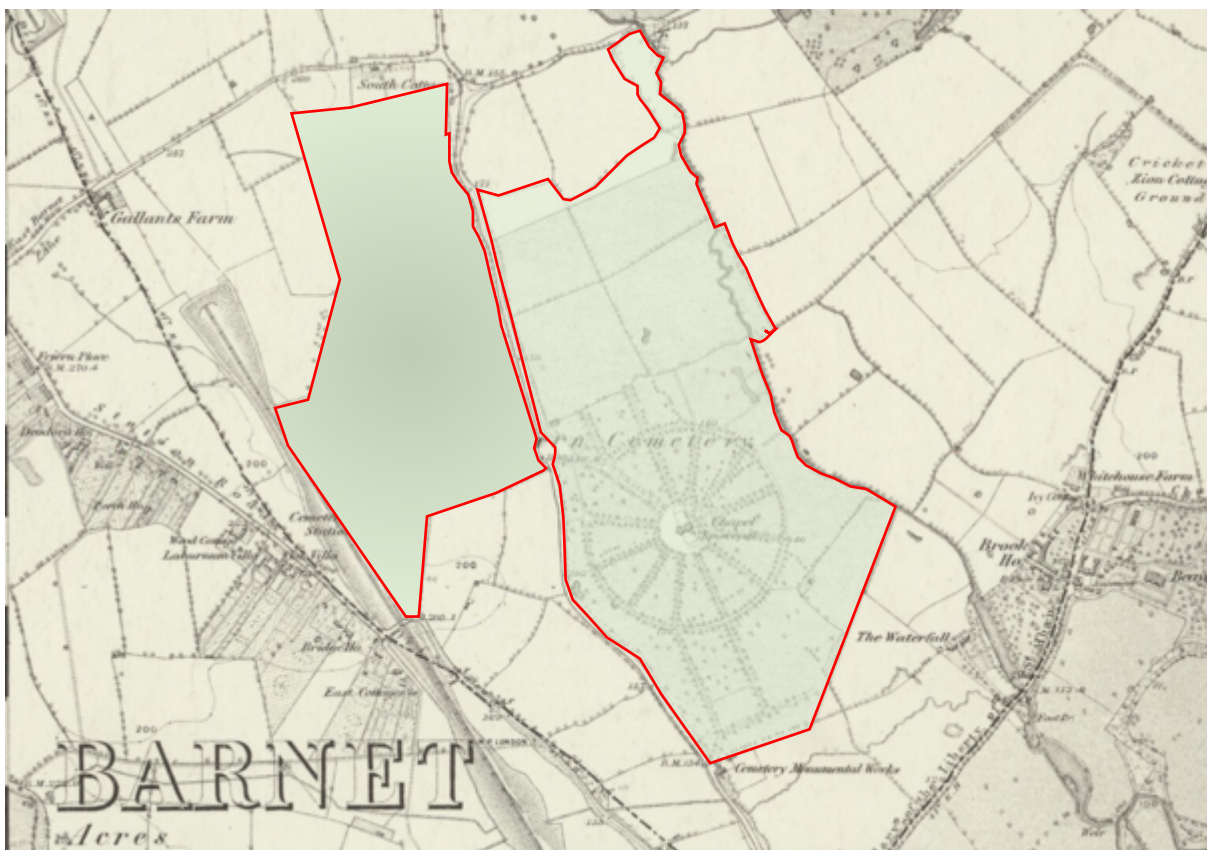


Figure 1: Extract from O.S. Six inch to one mile map, Middlesex V11. Surveyed 1863 to 1864.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Figure 1 Map reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.

- 8.9 The first prospectus printed by the company in 1855, immediately following the passage of the Act, proudly stated:
- 8.10 *“160 acres of land have been secured, admirably adapted to the purpose of a Cemetery ... The land will be enclosed, laid out, and planted with due regard to the sacred purpose to which it is devoted”.*
- 8.11 However, the survey by the O.S. visible in Figure 1, undertaken within eight to nine years of the passing of the Act, reveals that only part of the total acreage originally envisaged had actually been developed as cemetery land, complete with roads and landscaping.

## 8.12 Changing shape and size

8.13 The Great Northern London Cemetery Company obtained successive Acts of Parliament in 1876, 1896, 1961 and 1968 in order to gradually dispose of all the land on the western side of Brunswick Park Road. A further Act in 1976 enabled the disposal of part of the land on the eastern side of Brunswick Park Road.

8.14 Figure 2 below illustrates the extent of the cemetery lands in 1894:

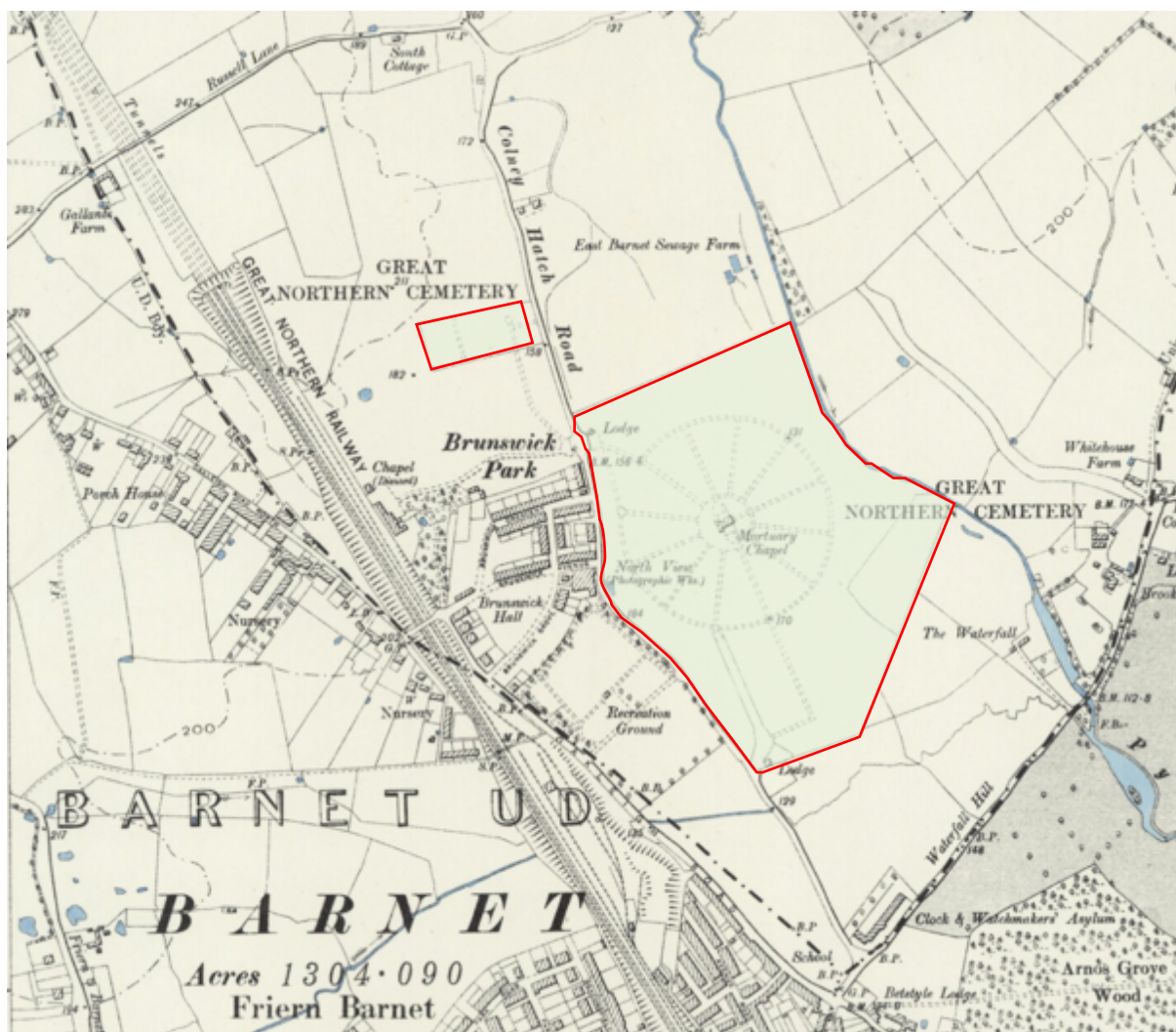
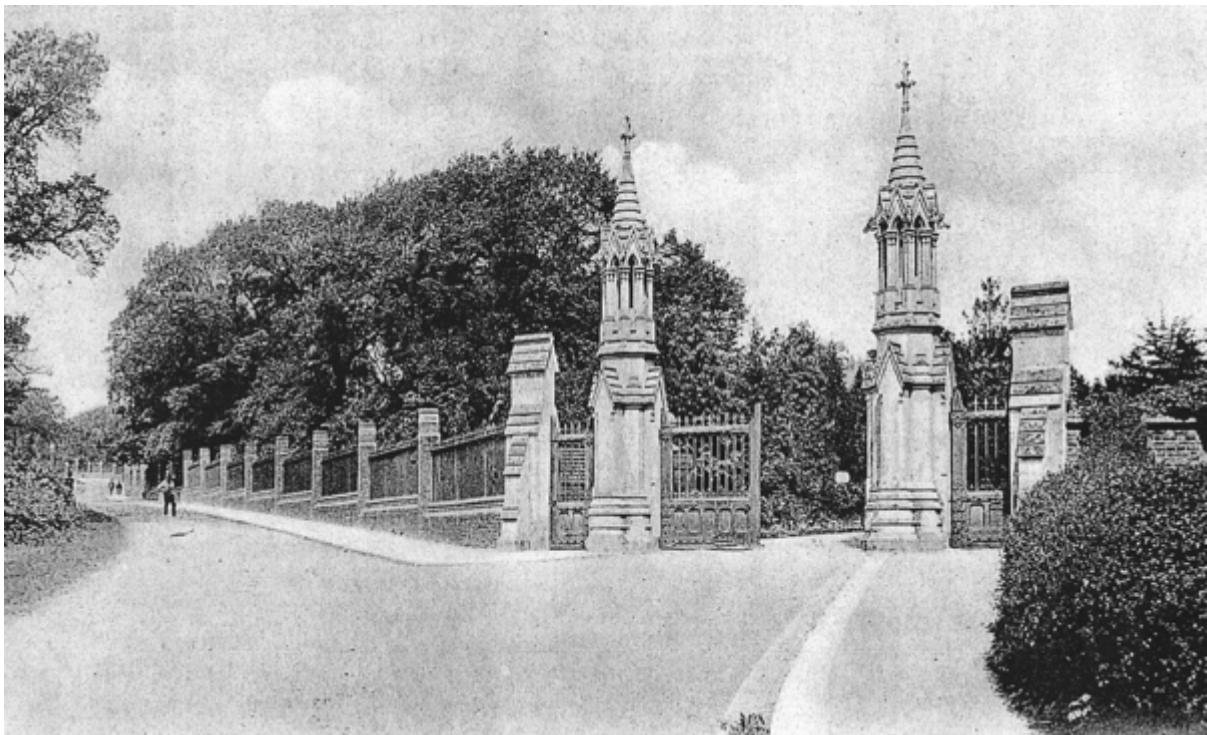


Figure 2: Extract from O.S. Six inch to one mile map, Middlesex V11.SW. Revised 1894 to 1895<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Figure 2 Map reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.

- 8.15 These areas total approximately 67.5 acres, 4 acres of which was located on the western side of Brunswick Park Road.
- 8.16 The distinctive design of the cemetery on the eastern side of Brunswick Park Road, with roads radiating out from the central chapel and linked by a circular road, had been constructed by this time. This eastern side of the cemetery had two entrances with associated gates and lodges.
- 8.17 Figure 3 illustrates the gates at the southern entrance, with the view northwards along what is now Brunswick Park Road.



*Figure 3: Southern entrance to New Southgate Cemetery c.1908*



- 8.18 The extract from the O.S. map revised in 1912 shown in Figure 4 below illustrates tracks or roads appearing on the land on the west side of Brunswick Park Road. The cemetery station and chapel are still evident on the map:



Figure 4: Extract from O.S. Six inch to one mile map, Middlesex XLV1.SW. Revised 1912<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Figures 4 Map reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.





- 8.20 The Great Northern London Cemetery Company Act 1961 enabled the sale of 1.4 acres of the remaining 4 acres of the western cemetery land. This portion fronted Brunswick Park Road and had never been used for burial. Figure 5 below illustrates this 'surplus' land coloured **pink** and the remainder of this part of the cemetery, that had actually been used for burials, coloured green on the plan deposited with the Bill:

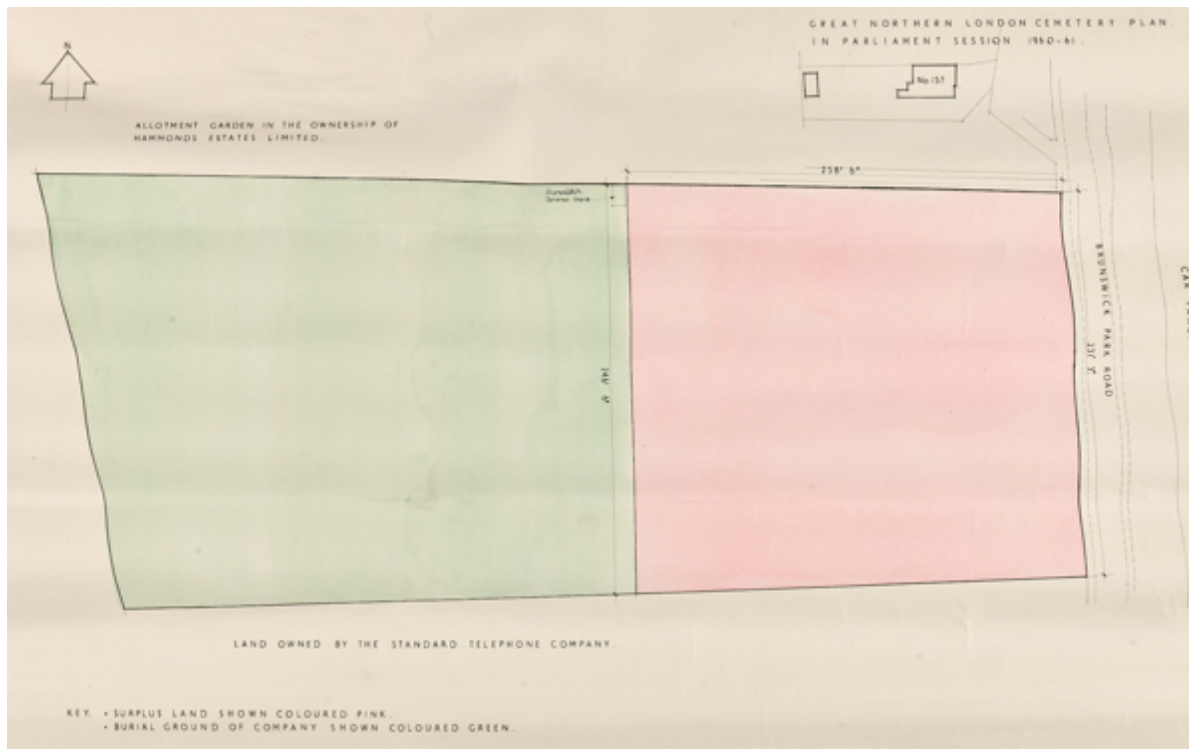


Figure 6: The 'surplus' unused land, in pink, sold under the Great Northern London Cemetery Act 1961

- 8.21 Figure 7 below zooms in on this plan to show the 'Shoreditch General Grave', in which were communally buried a number of civilians, who were victims of German air raids on the former borough of Shoreditch during 1940 and 1941.

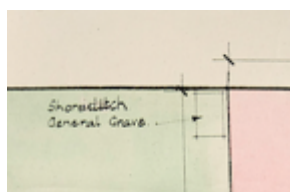
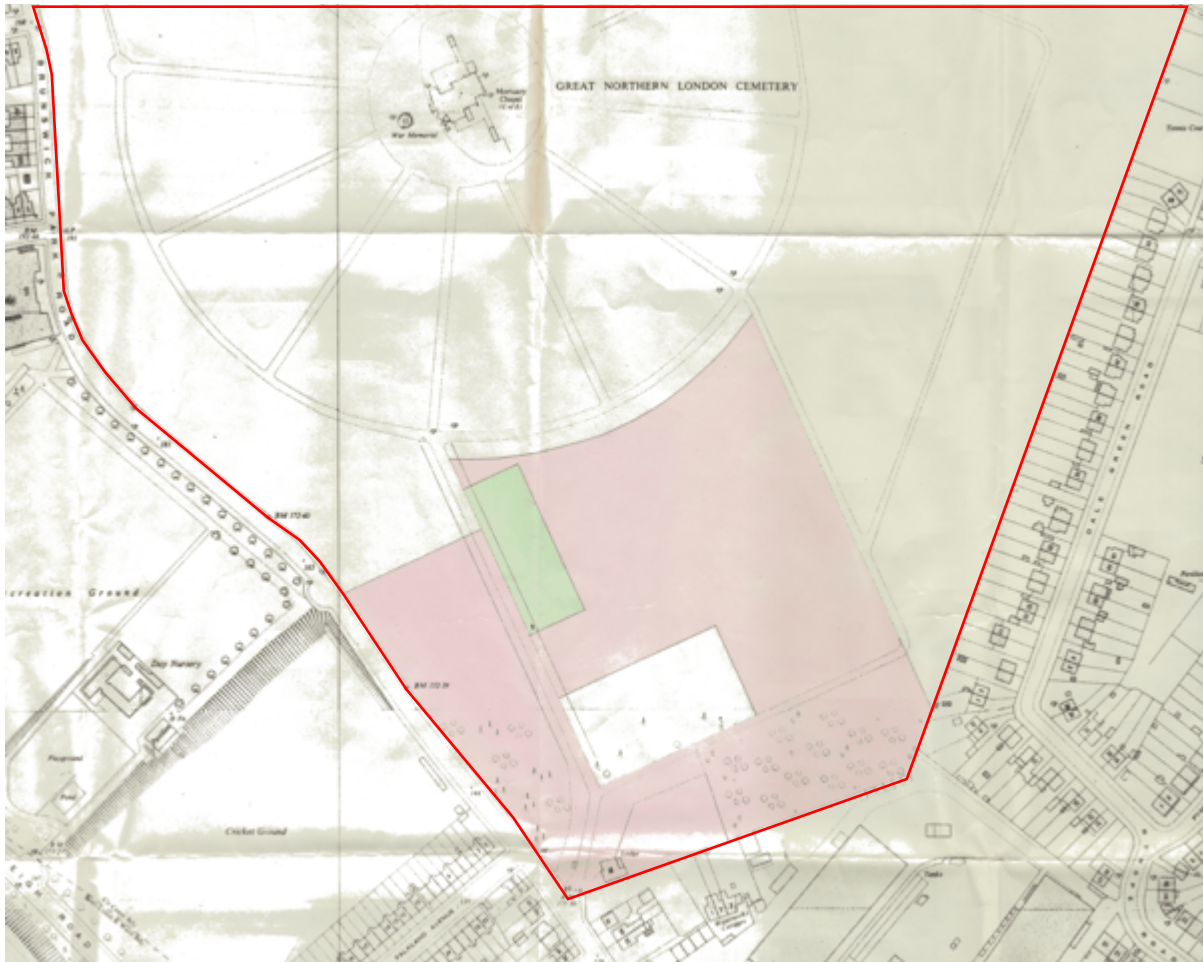


Figure 7: the Shoreditch General Grave





8.24 The Great Northern London Cemetery Company Act 1976 enabled the sale of land in the main part of the cemetery on the east side of Brunswick Road. Figure 9 below illustrates the area affected. As with the plans associated with earlier Acts, land not actually used for burial is coloured pink and that used for burial is coloured green on the plan deposited with the Bill.



*Figure 9: The plan showing the land sold under the 1976 Act.*

8.25 The green area used for burial is part of what was originally Section W. Under s.34 of the original 1855 Act, this was leased by the cemetery company for 999 years to the Rector and Churchwardens of the Parish of St George the Martyr in the County of Middlesex. This land was intended to provide burial space for residents of that parish.

- 8.26 Figure 10 below illustrates the location of Section W, on an early section plan of the cemetery:

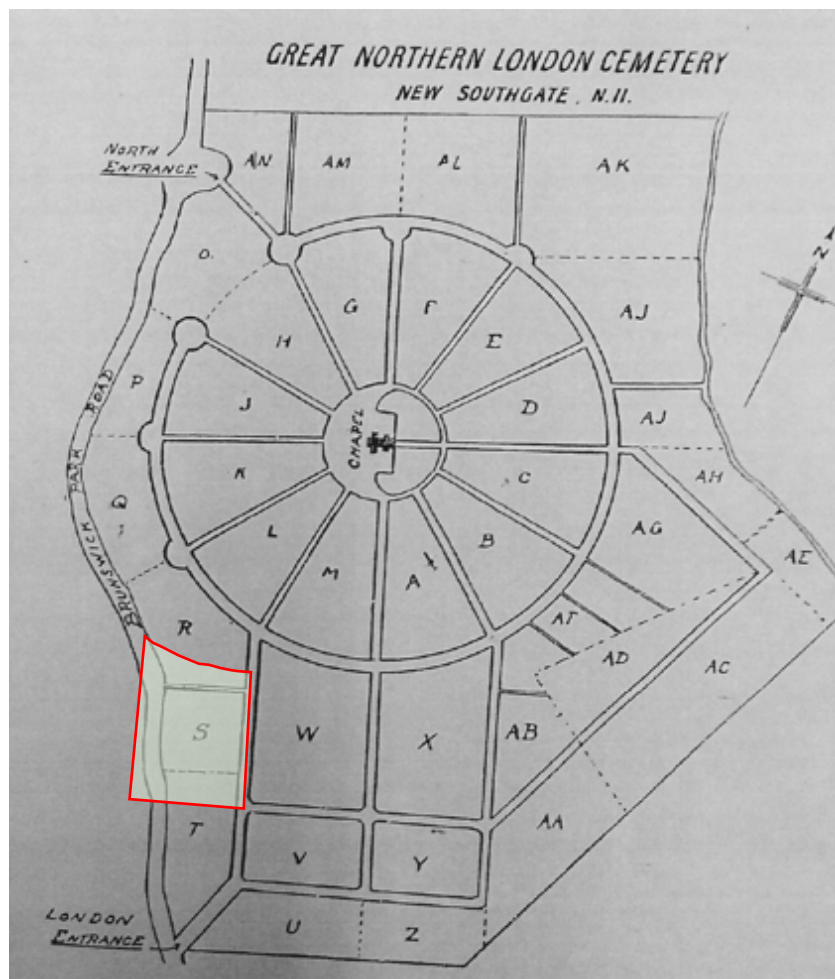


Figure 10: Map of sections in the original eastern cemetery

8.27 The image in Figure 11 below combines the O.S. map of 1912 with a current aerial photograph to illustrate the effect of the 1976 Act.



Figure 11: Composite image showing land use following the 1976 Act.

8.28 The original sections V and W are now covered by woodland. Other sections that were never used for burial, namely sections S, T, U, X, Y and Z, have been developed for housing, associated roads and part left as woodland.



- 8.29 The image in Figure 12 below similarly combines map and aerial photograph to illustrate how the western unconsecrated part of the Great Northern London Cemetery was completely removed and the land is now part of residential development.
- 8.30 The site of the cemetery station complex now lies underneath a car park, shown highlighted in blue, used by the London Borough of Barnet for their offices within the North London Business Park.

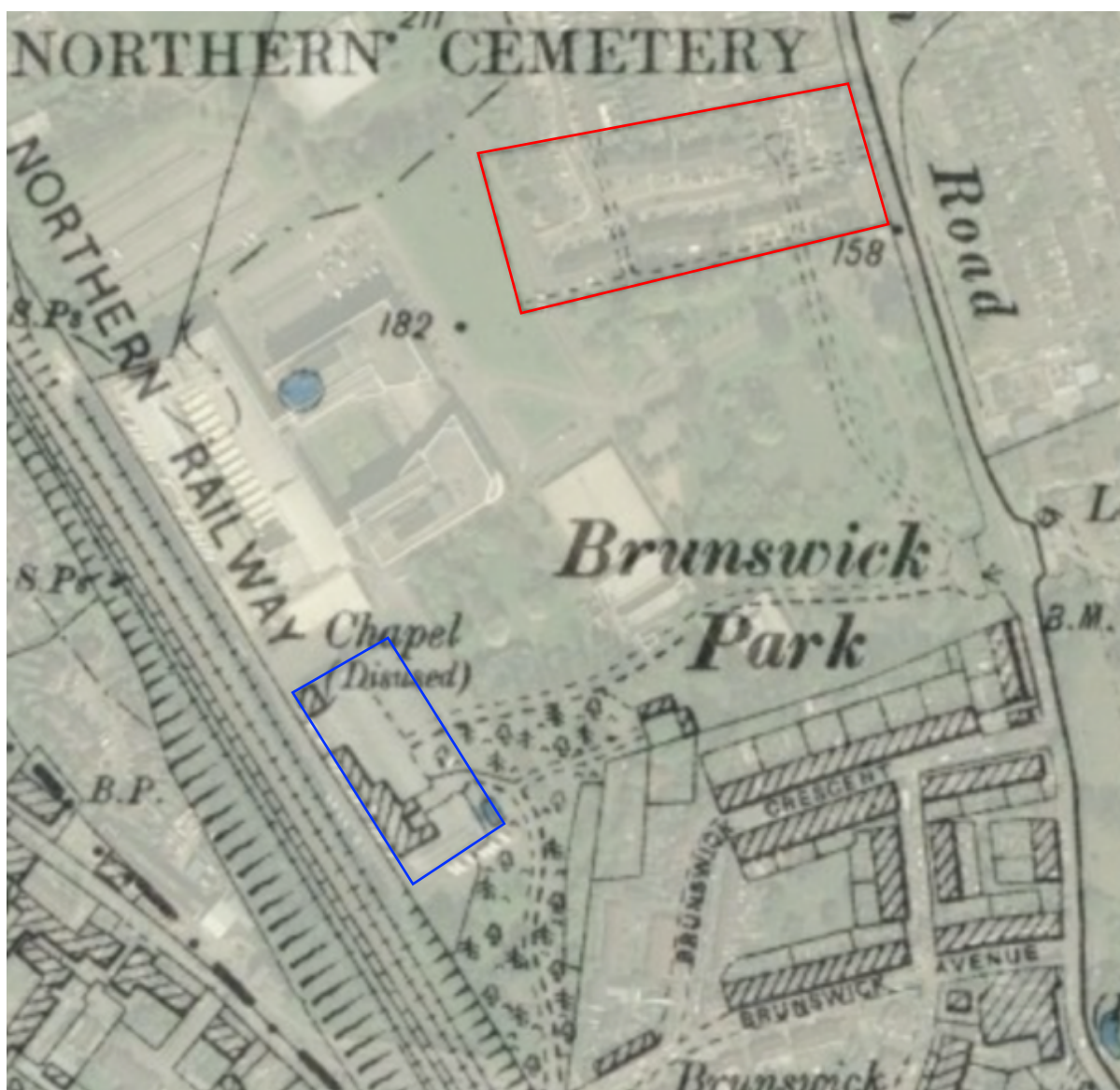


Figure 12: Composite image showing the redevelopment of the western part of the cemetery

### 8.31 Explanation for the ‘shrinking’ cemetery

- 8.32 The normal pattern of the development and use of a cemetery is that land is acquired and sufficient to meet demand for a considerable period is laid out with roads and paths. It is not unusual for the parts of the land not immediately required are put to an alternative use, such as allotments or sports.
- 8.33 As space for new graves within the land developed as a cemetery diminishes, the cemetery is extended into part or whole of the land previously set aside for future use. The normal pattern is for cemeteries to increase, rather than decrease in size. The Great Northern London Cemetery is unusual in shrinking in size, even within the period after Royal Assent was granted to the Act of 1855 establishing the cemetery.
- 8.34 The various subsequent Acts of Parliament, which enabled the sale of parts of the land originally purchased and designated for cemetery use, give an insight into why the Great Northern London Cemetery Company sold off land.
- 8.35 The preamble to the Great Northern London Cemetery Company Act 1961 states:
- 8.36 *“A portion of the said lands which lie on the west of the said Brunswick Park Road has in the past been utilized by the Company for the purpose of the burial of human remains, but has not been so used for many years and the remaining portion thereof extending to some 1.4 acres or thereabouts and having a frontage to the said Brunswick Park Road (hereinafter referred to as ‘the surplus lands’) has not been used for such purpose and, having regard to the extent of ground available in the said cemetery of the Company and to the existence of the said crematorium, is not required by the Company for or in connection with the burial of the dead.”*



- 8.37 The preamble to the Great Northern London Cemetery Company Act 1968 states:
- 8.38 *“The revenues of the Company have been insufficient to provide a proper standard of maintenance in the cemetery or the said unconsecrated burial ground and it is consequently expedient that the Company should be authorised to dispose of the said unconsecrated burial ground by way of sale free from restrictions and should for that purpose be authorised to remove from all the said unconsecrated burial ground any human remains which are interred therein.”*
- 8.39 The preamble to the Great Northern London Cemetery Company Act 1976 states:
- 8.40 *“The revenues of the Company have been insufficient to meet the constantly increasing cost of providing a proper standard of maintenance in the cemetery, which is too large for future requirements and it is consequently expedient that the cemetery should be reorganised in the light of these requirements”*
- 8.41 Revenues in this private cemetery directly reflect volumes of sales of exclusive rights of burial, interment fees and the sales of memorials. Maintenance costs increase, not only with general inflation, but also the greater time required to cut grass growing between memorials in an established cemetery than in open, unused areas in a new cemetery.
- 8.42 These extracts from enabling Acts clearly indicate that the cemetery company could see no other way out of diminishing income and spiralling costs, but to sell land to reduce the size of the cemetery. These decisions to dispose of cemetery land must be viewed within the context of the inexorable increase in the trend for cremation and consequent decreasing demand for burial. The 1968 Act coincided with the first year in which cremations in the UK accounted for 50% of funerals.

### 8.43 The early years and the cemetery rail service

- 8.44 In 1885, a key element of the business plan for the new cemetery was to emulate Brookwood Cemetery by having its own direct link to a mainline railway, the Great Northern Railway. This was conceived to enable funerals to arrive by train from a specific platform at King's Cross to the cemetery station located on a short siding. It was expected that this would draw significant numbers of funerals from the metropolis to the cemetery. The development and operation of the cemetery rail service is thoroughly documented by Martin Dawes in his book, 'The End of the Line' published in 2003.
- 8.45 The first prospectus printed by the company in 1855 expounded the benefits of access by railway to the new cemetery:
- 8.46 *"One of the main and distinguishing features of this Cemetery is direct rail communication, - an advantage possessed by no other North of the Thames; and by which will be avoided the great cost and inconvenience of the long journey by road to the existing cemeteries; and the greatest economy of time and money will be secured to those classes who can least afford an unnecessary expenditure of either."*
- 8.47 The reference to the poorer classes is continued in the prospectus published in 1861, following the opening of the cemetery for burials:
- 8.48 *"In carrying out this object, the Directors have kept in view, among other important points, the following, viz: To connect the Cemetery with some important Railway, and thereby provide a more expeditious mode of transit for Funerals than has hitherto existed, - to secure, by careful supervision of all details, propriety and solemnity in the performance of the whole ceremony, - and to offer all these advantages to the public upon terms far below those which are demanded elsewhere."*

8.49 The 1855 prospectus reveals that the Directors anticipated a minimum of 5%, rising to 10%, of all the burials in London:

8.50 *“The Burials in the Metropolis amount to about 65,000 per annum. If the Great Northern London Cemetery Company, during their early progress, obtain only one-twentieth of this number, or 3,250 Interments, an income of £13,000 per annum will be realised. ... But if the Company ultimately obtain, as may reasonably be anticipated, one-tenth of the interments, the income will be increased to £26,000 per annum...”*

8.51 Schedule 2 to the original Great Northern London Cemetery Act 1855 lists the proposed scale of fees, illustrated in Figure 13 below:

Proposed scale of fees															
	Ground			Fees for the Conveyance of the Coffin from the Company's Station at King's Cross, Funeral Service and Interment, but exclusive of such fees as the Act may require to be paid to the Incumbents of Parishes or others											
				Adults						Children under 10 years					
				Conveyance			Interment			Conveyance			Interment		
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
First Class															
Catacombs	10	10	0	0	18	0	2	5	0	0	15	0	1	10	0
Brick vaults for 12 coffins	10	10	0	0	18	0	2	5	0	0	15	0	1	10	0
Brick vaults or graves for 6 coffins	7	7	0	0	18	0	2	5	0	0	15	0	1	10	0
Second Class															
Private grave in perpetuity	3	3	0	0	15	0	2	0	0	0	12	6	1	7	6
Ditto in selected places	4	4	0	0	15	0	2	0	0	0	12	6	1	7	6
Third Class															
Interment in separate grave not in perpetuity	0	0	0	0	12	0	1	10	0	0	10	0	1	0	0
Common Interments	0	0	0	0	7	6	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	13	0

Figure 13: Scale of Fees from the 1855 Act

- 8.52 The income generated by a cemetery is highly influenced by the proportion of burials taking place in new private graves, in which charges are made for the purchase of exclusive rights of burial, referred to simply as 'Ground' in the scale of fees above. No such income is derived from burials in common graves, also known as public, shared or 'pauper' graves.
- 8.53 Martin Dawes researched the Burial Registers for the first ten years of operation of the cemetery to analyse burials by class of grave and whether in consecrated or unconsecrated ground<sup>8</sup>. Figure 14 below combines these data to provide figures for total burials by class of grave. These figures must be viewed within the context of the time, which was prior to the opening of the UK's first crematorium in 1885.
- 8.54 3<sup>rd</sup> Class refers to 'interment in separate grave not in perpetuity'. I believe this to be a grave in which the family had 14 years in which to save the necessary funds to purchase the exclusive rights, before the cemetery might bury an unrelated person in the grave on the same terms to another family.
- 8.55 4<sup>th</sup> Class refers to a burial in a common grave, in which unrelated burials might take place at any time.

	All Burials				
Year	1st Class	2nd Class	3rd Class	4th Class	Totals
1861-2	5	39	22	140	206
1862-3	6	34	43	732	815
1863-4	7	45	39	1,737	1,828
1864-5	4	29	37	2,013	2,083
1865-6	5	33	30	2,180	2,248
1866-7	5	46	41	2,977	3,069
1867-8	6	47	55	2,584	2,692
1868-9	9	48	51	2,667	2,775
1869-70	3	42	34	2,645	2,724
1870-1	1	47	41	4,247	4,336
<b>Totals</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>21,922</b>	<b>22,776</b>
	0.2%	1.8%	1.7%	96.3%	

Figure 14: Burials by class of grave in the first ten years

<sup>8</sup> Martin C Dawes 'The End of the Line'. Barnet and District Local History Society 2003. Page 93

8.56 It is evident that the Great Northern London Cemetery Company's vision of a minimum of 3,250 burials "*during their early progress*" was not achieved, with an average over the first ten years of only 2,278 burials per year.

8.57 However, using average burials per year over the first ten years and the fees listed in the Act, Figure 15 below illustrates that they more than met their income target of £13,000 per year. For the purpose of these calculations, adult fees are applied and fees for conveyance by railway are excluded.

Class	Fees	Burials	Income
1st Class	£96.00	5	£ 480.00
2nd Class	£51.50	41	£2,111.50
3rd Class	£15.00	39	£ 585.00
4th Class	£10.00	2,192	£ 21,920.00
<b>Totals</b>		<b>2,277</b>	<b>£ 25,096.50</b>

Figure 15: Calculated average annual income in the first ten years

8.58 Martin Dawes' research reveals that the anticipated demand for funerals arriving from King's Cross by train was never realised, leading to the cessation of the cemetery rail service in April 1863, and he puts forward three possible reasons<sup>9</sup>:

1. The short distance from the city to the cemetery when compared to the only other rail-connected cemetery (the Brookwood Necropolis).
2. The lower than expected level of initial interest in the cemetery as a burial place for Londoners.
3. The unexpectedly high proportion of pauper' burials.

8.59 Whilst the company's prospectus referred to "*those classes who can least afford an unnecessary expenditure*", the evidence suggests that the poor of Inner London could not afford the costs of conveying their dead by train to the Great Northern London Cemetery.

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<sup>9</sup> Martin C Dawes 'The End of the Line'. Barnet and District Local History Society 2003. Page 50

8.60 However, the high numbers of common interments suggests that the poor managed to bring their dead to the cemetery by alternative means. The first Burial Register from 1871 onwards records parishes 'whence removed' that included Bethnal Green; St George's Bloomsbury; St James' Clerkenwell; Finchley; Hackney; St Andrews Holborn; Islington; St Luke's Middlesex; St Pancras; Westminster and Whitechapel. In contrast, private graves were purchased by people living more locally.

8.61 Figure 16 below is a photograph of the King's Cross terminus building, taken by RG Lucas and featured in his article '*King's Cross Cemetery Station*', published in '*The Railway Magazine*' of October 1954:



Figure 16: King's Cross cemetery station c. 1954<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Figure 16 Courtesy Rob White [www.STCNSG.org.uk](http://www.STCNSG.org.uk)

- 8.62 This terminus, located on Maiden Lane and opposite the Belle Isle signal box, was a large building with landscaped grounds and included a mortuary for the storage of bodies between death and funeral.
- 8.63 Figure 17 below is a photograph, possibly taken in 1884, of the cemetery station buildings as viewed from the north and showing the main line railway and the bridge carrying the road, now known as Oakleigh Road North, over the railway line.



Figure 17: The cemetery station c.1884<sup>11</sup>

- 8.64 In addition to the cemetery station, there was a cemetery chapel immediately adjacent to the north, seen in the left foreground of the photograph, and a substantial residential property adjoining the southern end of the station.

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<sup>11</sup> Figure 17 Courtesy Rob White [www.STCNSG.org.uk](http://www.STCNSG.org.uk)

- 8.65 Edmund Alexander Spurr, the architect who designed the cemetery, also become its first Superintendent and lived in the house by the cemetery station until his death in 1872.<sup>12</sup>
- 8.66 Figure 18 below shows the cluster of buildings known as 'The Retreat' consisting of the Superintendent's house on the right, the adjoining station and separate chapel on the left in approximately 1910, viewed from what is now Oakleigh Road North.



*Figure 18: The Retreat c.1910*<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> 'The End of the Line'. M. Dawes. Barnet & District Local History Society, 2003. Pages 30 & 67.

<sup>13</sup> Figure 18 Courtesy Rob White [www.STCNSG.org.uk](http://www.STCNSG.org.uk)



- 8.67 Figure 19 below is an extract from the O.S. map revised in 1894, showing the location of the cemetery station and house, highlighted by the red circle, in the far southwestern corner of the originally planned cemetery lands.

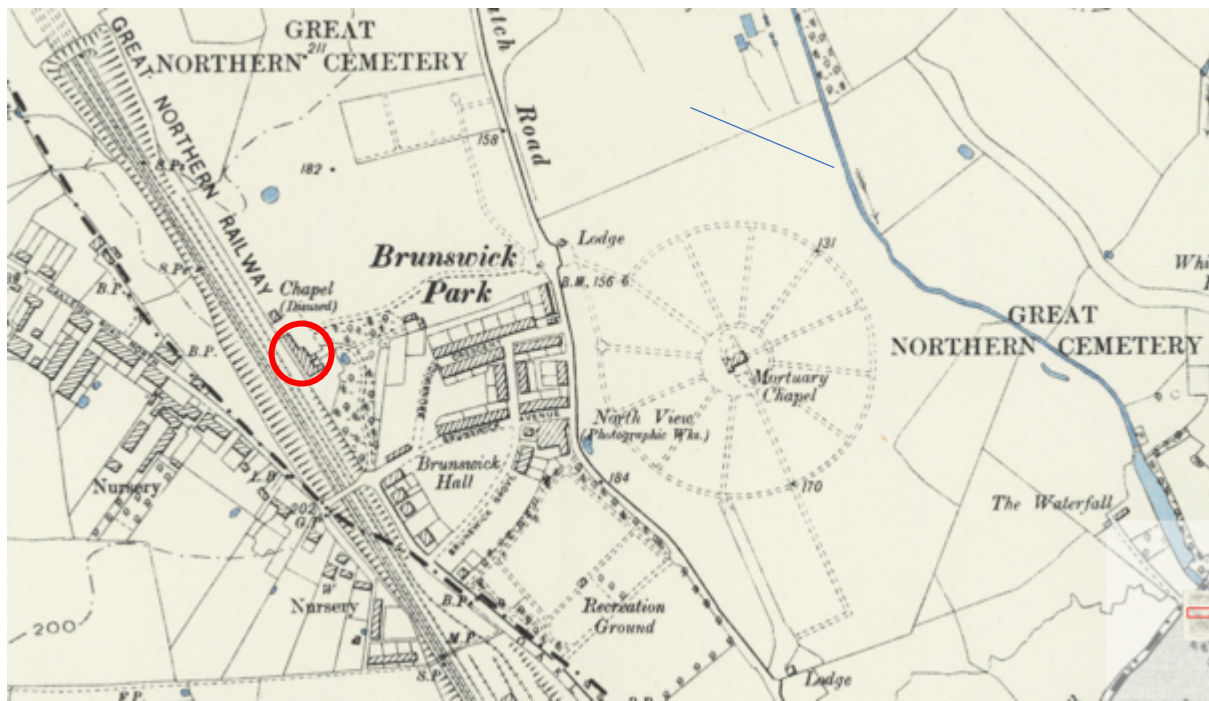


Figure 19: Extract from O.S. Six inch to one mile map, Middlesex V11.SW. Revised 1894 to 1895<sup>14</sup>

- 8.68 The route leading from the station and its adjacent chapel can be seen meandering towards the main road, where funerals could either turn northwards towards the rectangular 4.2 acre western burial section or proceed across the road into the 63.5 acres of the main eastern part of the cemetery.
- 8.69 The map indicates the chapel by the station to be disused. By the time of the production of this map, the cemetery station had also been disused for 30 years.

<sup>14</sup> Map reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland

8.70 Figure 20 below illustrates an extract from the O.S. twenty-five inches to the mile map revised in 1897, showing the land on the west of Brunswick Park Road.

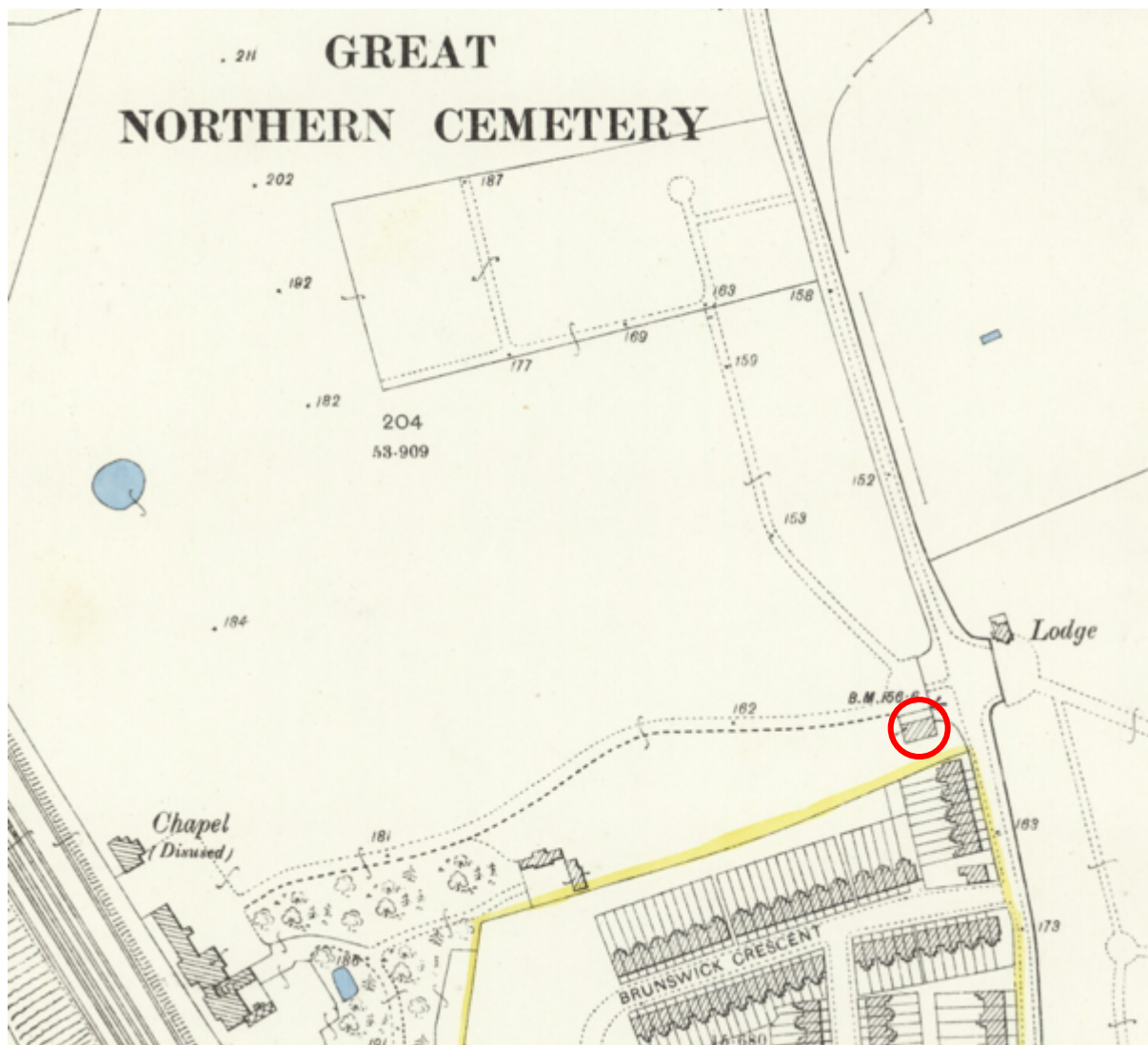


Figure 20: Extract from O.S. 25 inch to one mile map, Hertfordshire XLVI.9 Revised 1897.<sup>15</sup>

8.71 “A ‘tin tabernacle’ known as ‘the Iron Church’, highlighted by a red circle, was built in the south-east corner by the main road entrance. It was later removed to Oakleigh Road, where it became St Michael’s Church; this latter site is now occupied by flats.”<sup>16</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Map reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland

<sup>16</sup> ‘The End of the Line’. M. Dawes. Barnet & District Local History Society, 2003. Page 15

- 8.72 As the original chapel by the cemetery station is marked *Disused*, it is likely that the second more modest tin chapel was constructed to accommodate funeral services still taking place in the section of the cemetery on the east side of Brunswick Park Road.
- 8.73 Little physical evidence remains of the funeral station at King's Cross. It was used for many years by the railway as a warehouse, and it was finally demolished in 1962.
- 8.74 The cemetery station and associated buildings were demolished around the First World War, when J Tylor and Sons Ltd., an engineering company, bought the site and developed a factory to make engines for lorries.
- 8.75 In 1921, the company went into receivership and the site was purchased and redeveloped by Western Electric, who later became Standard Telephones and Cables. The site is now the North London Business Park.
- 8.76 The existence of the short-lived Great Northern London Cemetery railway service is neither widely nor celebrated, compared to the more successful and longer-lasting service from the funeral station in Westminster Bridge Road, near Waterloo Station, to the two stations within Brookwood Cemetery.

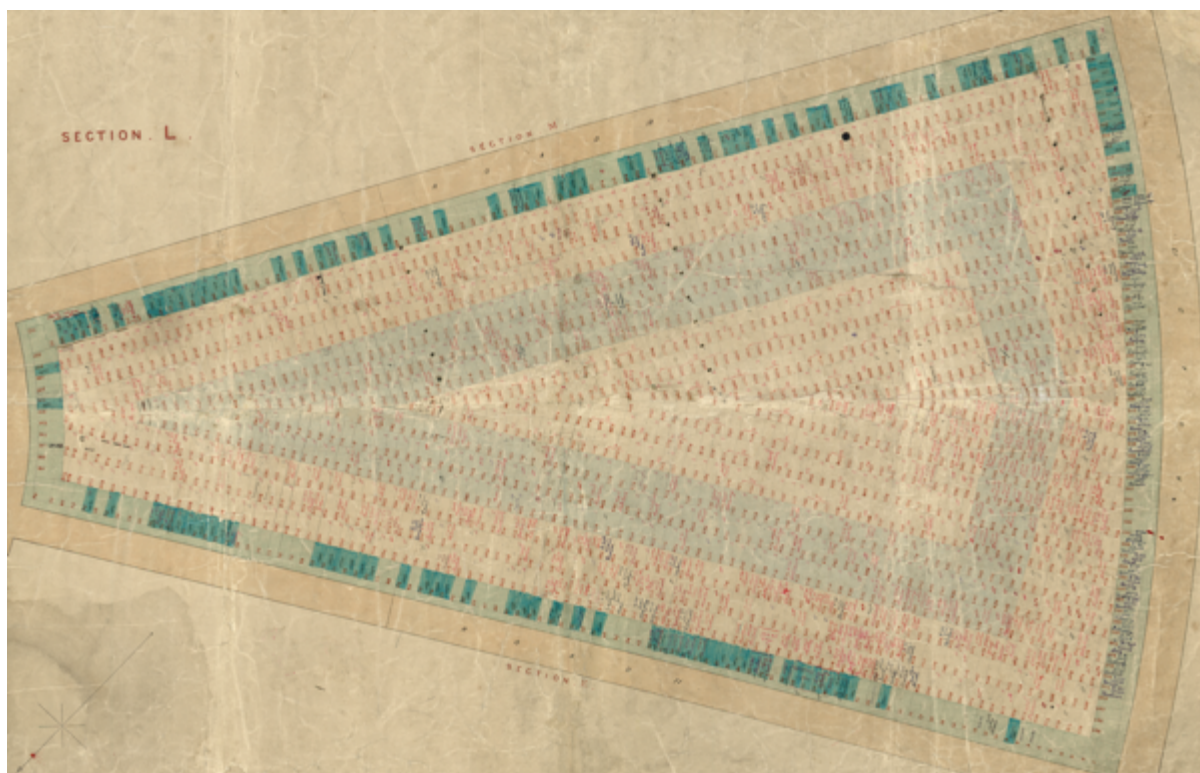
## 9 Patterns of consecration

- 9.1 Section 23 of the Great Northern London Cemetery Act 1855 states:
- 9.2 *“Not less than two thirds of the area of the cemetery shall be set apart for burials according to the rites of the established Church, and shall be divided from other parts of the cemetery to the satisfaction of the Bishop of the Diocese.”*
- 9.3 The cemetery was consecrated on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1871. Unfortunately, searches within both private and public archives have failed to reveal any extant maps or documents relating to the consecration of the Great Northern London Cemetery. There is no physical evidence on the ground in the cemetery of any divisions between consecrated and unconsecrated ground.
- 9.4 However, duplicate copies of Deeds of Grant of exclusive rights of burial reveal the status of the various cemetery sections. Comparison of Deeds with the Register of Burials No. 1 in Unconsecrated Ground confirms that the part of the cemetery lying on the west side of Brunswick Park Road was never consecrated. This Burial Register records the first burial in that part of the cemetery taking place on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1861 and its last entry, number 750, occurring on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1904.
- 9.5 Although this original bound Burial Register has many blank pages after this last entry, burials in fact continued in this part of the cemetery. It appears that these later burials were recorded within the volumes of the Register of Burials covering all sections of the cemetery on both sides of Brunswick Park Road.
- 9.6 The Great Northern London Cemetery Company Act 1968 refers to the last burial taking place in the western unconsecrated part of the cemetery being a burial in a reopened purchased grave in 1953.

- 9.7 The duplicate copies of Deeds of Grant of exclusive rights of burial reveal that virtually all of the sections within the main eastern part of the cemetery were consecrated. The six sections AH to AN were used exclusively for common graves and therefore no Deeds of Grant were issued that could confirm the consecration of these sections. However, the low level of demand for burial in the unconsecrated western part of the cemetery combined with the evidence from the Burial Registers of the ministers officiating at funerals strongly indicate that these sections were also consecrated.
- 9.8 Faculty No. 3463, granted by the Consistory Court of the Diocese of London on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to enable the implementation of the New Southgate Cemetery Act 2017, has been granted on the basis that the majority of the cemetery is consecrated ground.

## 10 Burial uses, layouts and arrangements

- 10.1 The rectangular shape of the unconsecrated part of the cemetery on the west side of Brunswick Park Road facilitated a simple grid pattern of grave spaces. This is a standard approach in many cemeteries, as it maximises the number of grave spaces that can be fitted into any given area. This layout also facilitates access, excavation of graves and grave numbering systems.
- 10.2 However, the radial design of sections in the main eastern part of the cemetery presents challenges for all of these issues. Figure 21 below illustrates Section L, with colours denoting different classes of graves and with access roads and paths.
- 10.3 The laying out of parallel rows of graves from the roadside to the centre is straightforward, until they meet along the central axis, resulting in some loss of space and potential for confusing grave numbers.



*Figure 21: Original grave plan for Section L*

- 10.4 In spite of the majority of the cemetery being consecrated, the design of the grave layouts facing in all directions results in very few following the traditional east-west orientation, long established in churchyards and commonly adopted in cemeteries from Victorian times and even to the present day.
- 10.5 Up to the present day, over 186,000 burials have taken place in New Southgate Cemetery. Whilst this figure includes the burial of ashes in both family graves and ashes plots, these represent a small minority of total burials.
- 10.6 Typical of both private and local authority Victorian cemeteries, exclusive rights were sold in perpetuity. The last perpetuity rights were granted by Deed Number 23,582 on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1964. Since 4<sup>th</sup> June 1964, exclusive rights have been granted for a period of 50 years and may be periodically renewed.
- 10.7 When the cemetery opened for burials in July 1871, the first graves were excavated on section A. The Burial Register reveals that, in the early days of the cemetery, the company undertook burials on this section in both common and purchased graves. This pattern seems to fit in with the company's optimistic expectations of the relative proportions of demand for purchased and common graves, i.e. that a significant proportion of graves would be purchased.
- 10.8 In the case of purchased graves, the company seemed to offer a degree of choice of location, as the records indicate that new purchased graves were excavated across different sections.
- 10.9 The cemetery did not provide graves sequentially from one end of the cemetery to the other. Over time, this method can result in there being unused grave spaces scattered widely across a cemetery, as there isn't a logical sequence of use. This did indeed happen at New Southgate and up to the present people have been able to select unused graves in the older parts of the cemetery.



- 10.10 As it became clear that an overwhelming majority of burials were taking place in common graves, sections located along the north and north eastern boundary of the cemetery were brought into use to provide common graves exclusively, with multiple 'pauper' funerals occurring daily. In these seven sections AH to AN, there were no purchased graves.
- 10.11 The more desirable sections laid out radially from the central chapel were thereafter predominantly used for purchased graves. This can be seen today by the high proportion of graves in these sections that have memorials.
- 10.12 By September 1<sup>st</sup> 1871, the seventeenth common burial took place on section AL. Common and purchased graves were subsequently excavated across a number of the sections in this more distant part of the cemetery.
- 10.13 By 1873, almost all common burials took place in section AL. January 1865 saw section AM being brought into use for a few common burials, continued on a more regular basis from April 1865. Whilst common burials continued mainly on AL, AK also came into use in March 1875 and AN in May 1875. AN was still in use in the 1920s; AJ came into use in the 1930s and AH in the 1940s.
- 10.14 These sections covered approximately 4.1 hectares (10.15 acres), which was sufficient to provide over 13,000 grave spaces, in which many thousands of unrelated people were buried over a period of seventy years.
- 10.15 During the 1950s, ground levels were significantly raised over the seven sections AK to AN, previously used exclusively for common graves. This is not an unusual practice in private and local authority cemeteries in London as a means to create new burial space. There are no extant documents providing details of when and how this was completed.
- 10.16 These overfilled sections were subsequently renamed and used to provide new private graves.



- 10.17 New graves have been excavated with neither any risk of the disturbance of the old burials remaining at depth below, nor without the need to extinguish old burial rights, as none had been granted.
- 10.18 In sections AO and AP, which lie over the northern half of the original AJ, the first new private graves were sold in 1980 and 1984 respectively.
- 10.19 AH and the remainder of AJ were overfilled in 2005 under Faculty. A special memorial commemorates those previously buried in common graves that lie under this modern burial area, shown in Figure 22 below



*Figure 22: Memorial commemorating those interred in public graves*

- 10.20 As is standard in most cemeteries, sections have been allocated for use by different religious and cultural groups. The table below summarises data on religious belief, where provided on the Notice of Interment, of people buried at New Southgate Cemetery between 2014 and 2018 inclusive

Greek Orthodox	53.9%
Anglican and non-conformist	18.6%
Roman Catholic	15.0%
Bahai	1.3%

*Figure 23: Religious beliefs of people buried at New Southgate Cemetery 2014 to 2018*

- 10.21 There are observable general trends within the various cultural and religious groups who choose to bury their dead at New Southgate Cemetery.
- 10.22 The Greek Cypriot community are usually Greek Orthodox. They prefer earth graves in sections alongside other members of their community and upon which they may erect kerbed memorials with crosses. These memorials are quite evident across large parts of the eastern side of the cemetery.
- 10.23 Members of the Italian community are usually Roman Catholics and, depending upon the tradition in the area in Italy from which their families originate, may prefer not to bury in earth graves, but in mausolea, which are above-ground burial chambers.
- 10.24 A significant proportion (68% in the Census 2011) of Afro-Caribbean people often come from a Christian tradition, but generally non-conformist, including Evangelical and Pentecostal, rather than Anglican. Many choose concrete vaults in preference to earth graves.
- 10.25 The treatment of the surface of the eastern areas of the cemetery with gravel is preferred by many as being a practical alternative to high-maintenance lawns.

## 11 Funerary monuments and sculptures

- 11.1 As has already been noted, a significant proportion of burials at New Southgate Cemetery took place in the past in common graves. Small memorials, typical of common graves in most cemeteries, are still present in some sections of the cemetery.
- 11.2 The cemetery has many purchased graves with memorials, but grand, ornate or historically significant memorials are lacking in comparison to such cemeteries as London's 'Magnificent Seven': Abney Park, Brompton, Highgate, Kensal Green, Nunhead (All Saints), Tower Hamlets and West Norwood.
- 11.3 In November 2011, English Heritage (now Historic England) advised that it had decided not to add New Southgate Cemetery to its Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.
- 11.4 *"Perhaps surprisingly for a London cemetery, there are not many memorials of real architectural quality and few with historical associations to prominent figures. None are currently listed although consideration could be given in the future to listing those referred to in the Memorials section above. The adoption by the cemetery of separate sections dedicated to different ethnic and religious groups, and new structures reflecting this such as the mausoleums, is interesting from a social history perspective but this aspect of the use of the cemetery is a relatively recent phenomenon.*

*Memorials: the relative lack of high quality memorials of either architectural or historic interest further undermines its claims;"<sup>17</sup>*

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<sup>17</sup> Advice Report. English Heritage. 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011. Page 2

11.5 There are several distinct types of memorial present at New Southgate Cemetery.

- Small numbers of modest memorials on common graves
- Large numbers of 'traditional' headstones with kerbs and crosses
- Small numbers of larger monuments
- Large numbers of modern headstones with kerbs and crosses in the Greek Orthodox sections
- Modern mausolea

11.6 Typical examples of these are illustrated in the photographs below



*Figure 24: Examples of small memorials on common graves*





*Figure 25: Examples of 'Traditional' headstones and kerbs*





*Figure 26: Examples of the few large monuments in the cemetery*





*Figure 27: Memorials on one of the Greek Orthodox sections*



*Figure 28: Modern mausolea*

## 12 Cultural and biographical heritage

12.1 In the light of English Heritage's view that *"there are not many memorials of real architectural quality and few with historical associations to prominent figures"*, the photographs below pick out such examples as do exist in New Southgate Cemetery.

### 12.2 Edmund Alexander Spurr

12.3 Edmund Alexander Spurr was the architect, who designed the cemetery and also become its first Superintendent. He lived in the house by the cemetery station until his death in 1872.



Figure 29: The grave of Edmund Alexander Spurr



## 12.4 Richard Bethell

- 12.5 Richard Bethell, one of the original Trustees of the cemetery company, who became the Lord High Chancellor of England, purchased the rights to a bricked grave with capacity for twelve coffins. The grave containing the burials of only his wife and himself is marked by a sombre granite chest memorial, illustrated below:



*Figure 30: The grave of Richard Bethell*

## 12.6 The Right Honorable Lord Amelius Wentworth Beauclerk

12.7 This gentleman was a son of the eighth Duke of St Albans, a Captain in the Royal Navy and nephew of an Admiral. He was one of the original Trustees of the Great Northern London Cemetery Company and was buried in 1879 in the family vault on Section K, on the end facing the Chapel.

12.8 His brother-in-law, Charles Harrison, was a Director of the Company and was also buried in the Beauclerk vault in 1880.



*Figure 31: The Beauclerk Vault*



## 12.9 Baldassare Viscardini

- 12.10 In contrast to the fairly plain memorial to Richard Bethell, a large and beautiful marble angel sits in an unusual pose upon the grave of Baldassare Viscardini. He died in 1896 and his memorial records that he was a '*veteran of the Campagna d'Italie 1859*': a soldier who fought in Garibaldi's army.



Figure 32 The grave of Baldassare Viscardini

### 12.11 Dorothy Lawrence

- 12.12 In further contrast to these grand memorials is the complete absence of a memorial upon a public grave containing, amongst other unrelated burials, the remains of Dorothy Lawrence. She gained a degree of fame as the woman who 'passed herself off as a man' in order to fight in the trenches of the First World War. She wanted to be a newspaper reporter and disguised herself as a man before briefly joining the ranks of 179 Tunnelling Company, 51st Division, Royal Engineers.
- 12.13 She could not maintain the disguise for long and gave herself up to the British authorities, who did not look sympathetically upon her actions. Her book about her experience in the trenches at the Front Line, *'Sapper Dorothy Lawrence, The Only English Woman Soldier'*, was published in 1919, but did not make her rich and famous. By 1925, her behaviour was considered to be erratic and, without relatives to care for her, she was committed to the London County Mental Hospital and then Colney Hatch Lunatic Asylum. She died in 1964 and was buried in a common grave in section AH at New Southgate Cemetery. The area was overfilled in 2005 under Faculty and then used for new burials.



Figure 33: Dorothy Lawrence

## 12.14 Victims of the Colney Hatch Asylum fire

- 12.15 Whilst Dorothy Lawrence has no memorial, there is a memorial commemorating the deaths of some other patients of the Colney Hatch Asylum. This is solely due to the fact that they all perished together in a disastrous fire on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1903.
- 12.16 The asylum opened in 1851 and was the largest in Europe. The original vision was for it to be a place where patients would not be restrained, but would engage in useful and productive daily activities that would assist their wellbeing.
- 12.17 These noble objectives suffered under the pressure of numbers, which also led to the building of 'temporary' wooden buildings to increase the asylum's capacity. It was these that caught fire and burned down rapidly, leading to the deaths of 51 women patients.



*Figure 34: The grave of the victims of the Colney Hatch Asylum fire*



## 12.18 Section W

- 12.19 On the wall to the rear of the crematorium building, facing a lawned area which contains their ashes, is the memorial tablet commemorating those whose remains were exhumed from section W, under the Great Northern London Cemetery Company Act 1976.



*Figure 35: Memorial to those exhumed from Section W*

## 12.20 The church of St Michael Bassishaw

- 12.21 Close to the current main cemetery entrance is situated a memorial commemorating the reinterment site of “129 coffins and 197 boxes of human remains” removed in 1892 from the church of St Michael Bassishaw, in Basinghall Street in the City of London.
- 12.22 The church, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, was demolished in 1900 and the remains exhumed and reinterred at the cemetery.



Figure 36: Communal memorial re. the church of St Michael Bassishaw



## 12.23 CWGC war burials

12.24 The Commonwealth War Graves Commission records that New Southgate Cemetery:

12.25 *“contains 109 Commonwealth burials from the 1914-1918 war, scattered throughout the cemetery, 51 German burials from Alexandra Palace Internment camp, and two Belgian soldiers. There are also 86 Commonwealth burials from the 1939-45 war. The Cross of Sacrifice is erected in front of the Chapel, and behind the Cross is a screen wall bearing the names of those of the 1914-1918 war whose graves could not be marked by headstones. Those from the 1939-1945 whose graves could not be marked are named on a Kerb Wall affixed to the Cross of Sacrifice.”<sup>18</sup>*



Figure 37: The CWGC Cross of Sacrifice and screen wall

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<sup>18</sup> <https://www.cwgc.org/find-a-cemetery/cemetery/39625/New%20Southgate%20Cemetery>



## 12.26 German civilian internees

12.27 Historic England has listed only one memorial within the cemetery, commemorating 51 German civilians.

12.28 *“The memorial to German First World War Internees, in New Southgate Cemetery, is listed at Grade II for the following principal reason:*

**Historic interest:** *as an eloquent witness to the tragic impact of world events on a particular community, and as witness to one little-remembered aspect of the First World War, namely the internment of German civilians.*

*Over the course of the First World War German civilians – deemed to be enemy aliens, often with their English families - were interred at Alexandra Palace in a prison camp that was open from 1915-19. At any one time there were as many as 3,000 internees, and over the course of the war some 17,000 men had passed through the camp. Conditions were generally good, with facilities both for sport and entertainment. Nevertheless, over the five years there were deaths, and 51 internees who died were buried in New Southgate Cemetery, in what is now the London Borough of Barnet; their names are recorded on this memorial there, together with the dates they died.”<sup>19</sup>*



Figure 38: Memorial to 51 German civilians

<sup>19</sup> <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1433355>

## **12.29 The Savoy Vaults**

- 12.30 As part of the works to construct the Victoria Embankment in 1876, the Metropolitan Board of Works constructed a new approach from the Strand to the Victoria Embankment. This necessitated the complete removal of the St. Marienkirche Lutheran Chapel, Savoy Precinct.
- 12.31 A total of 235 burials had taken place there between 1722 and 1853. The Great Northern London Cemetery Company granted to Queen Victoria the exclusive right of burial in a plot of consecrated ground measuring 75 feet by 54 feet in section Q in order to accommodate the reinterment of the burials.
- 12.32 The exhumed remains were reinterred in 32 vaults specifically constructed for the purpose, with family members being reinterred together in the same vault. This area became known as the 'Savoy Vaults'.
- 12.33 In 2001, members of the Friern Barnet and District Local History Society undertook research and a survey of the Savoy Vaults. Extracts from the results of this work are in Appendix A.
- 12.34 As part of the works implementing the re-use of graves on section Q, New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium Limited will ensure the preservation of the vaults and their inscription tablets. The company will enhance the landscape enclosed by the vaults and the surrounding area to enhance both the vaults and the experience of visitors. The importance of the vaults as point of historical interest within cemetery will be promoted and accessibility for visitors will be improved.



*Figure 39: The 'Savoy Vaults'*



*Figure 40: The 'Savoy Vaults' interpretation board.*



## 12.35 Shoghi Effendi

12.36 New Southgate Cemetery is of particular great importance to members of the Bahá'í faith, as it is the location of the grave of one of their leaders, Shoghi Effendi.

12.37 *“On 4 November 1957, Shoghi Effendi passed away suddenly in London, following a bout of influenza. He was just 60 years old. Five days later, his funeral cortege made its way northwards across the city to what was then called the Great Northern London Cemetery, where the Guardian’s remains were interred.*

*The following year, a simple column was built over Shoghi Effendi’s grave, fashioned from the same white marble he had himself chosen for the resting places of his illustrious family members in Haifa. The column is surmounted by a globe, the outline of Africa facing forward to symbolize the great love that Shoghi Effendi had for the continent and the spirituality of its peoples. Atop the globe sits a large gilded bronze eagle, a reproduction of a Japanese sculpture which Shoghi Effendi had placed in his own room and admired for its realism and beauty.*

*The Guardian’s resting place, today part of the New Southgate Cemetery, is a place of prayer and reflection for visitors from all over the world.”*<sup>20</sup>



Figure 41: The grave of Shoghi Effendi

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.bahai.org/shoghi-effendi/shoghi-effendis-passing>

## 12.38 Sir Alfred Baring Garrod

12.39 Sir Alfred Baring Garrod (1819 to 1907) was an English physician.

12.40 *"In 1848, Garrod had discovered an abnormal increase of uric acid in the blood of patients with gout, and was the first to propose lithium as a remedy for the disorder. He recommended lithium as a treatment for mental illness, and hypothesized that gout could be a cause of mood disorders such as mania and depression. He is also credited for coining the term "rheumatoid arthritis"”<sup>21</sup>*

12.41 He was buried on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1908 aged 88 years in grave M 102.



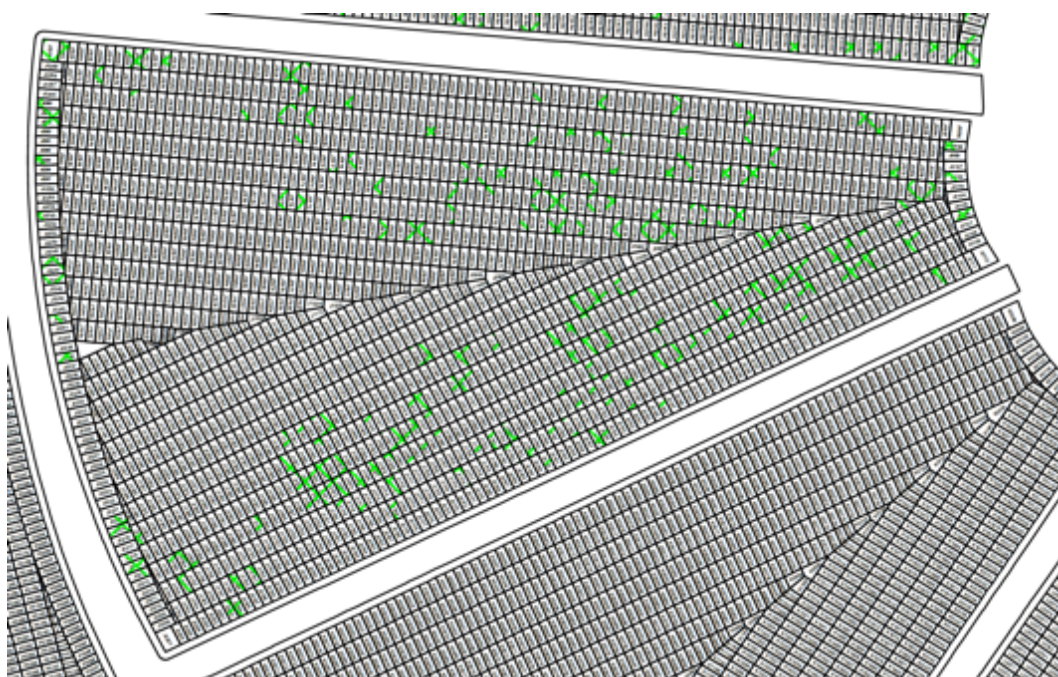
Figure 42: The grave of Sir Alfred Baring Garrod

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<sup>21</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/AlfredBaringGarrod>

## 13 Landscape design

- 13.1 New Southgate Cemetery slopes gently downwards and eastwards from approximately 55m above Ordnance Datum (O.D.) along its western boundary with Brunswick Park Road to approximately 35m O.D. on its eastern boundary with the Pymme's Brook.
- 13.2 In addition to the gently sloping site, the key feature of the cemetery landscape design is the central Chapel with eleven roads radiating outwards like the spokes of a wheel to a circular perimeter road.
- 13.3 Each burial section framed within this road layout has graves running in rows parallel with the roads bordering it. As the roads converge towards the end of the section closest to the Chapel, the rows of graves meet along the central axis of the section.

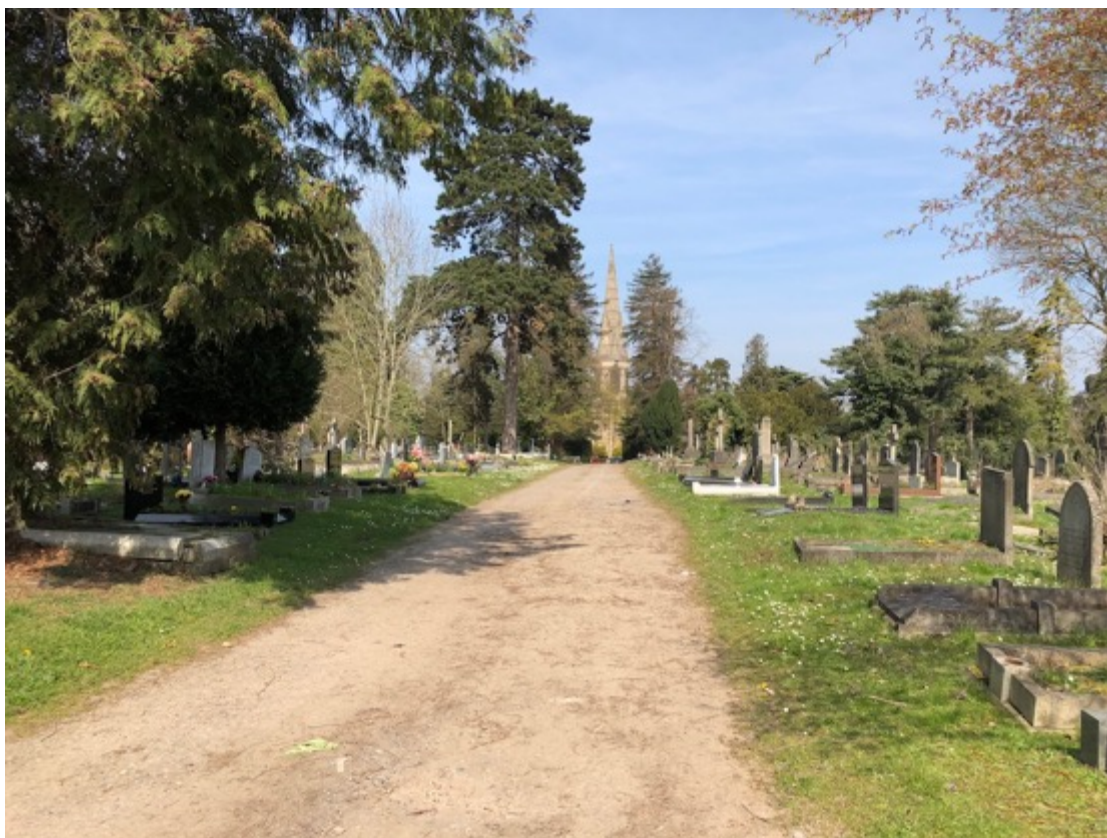


*Figure 43: Digital map of graves on section J*

- 13.4 The result is distinctly different from the rectangular grid layout obtained on traditional square or rectangular cemetery sections.

- 13.5 Whilst there are views along parallel rows of memorials, these are limited and confused by rows of adjacent graves at a distinctly different angle. This layout gives a sense of intimacy and small scale, in contrast with the serried ranks of memorials in parallel rows across large sections in many cemeteries, that emphasize the scale and expanse of the site.
- 13.6 The juxtaposition of memorials at varying angles can obscure distant views out from within each section. Stepping out from a section onto one of the radial roads gives a dramatic contrast and provides extensive views through the roadside trees to the central Chapel or looking outwards, both giving a sense of the size and scale of the site.
- 13.7 The perimeter circle, particularly from the lower eastern area, affords views towards the Chapel surrounded by trees on higher ground. Sometimes only the top of the spire is visible, but the effect is to emphasize the importance of the central Chapel.
- 13.8 The sections within the circular perimeter road were those primarily used for private graves, each of which usually has a memorial. As in many Victorian cemeteries, particularly large or ornate memorials are to be found graves in prime positions, such as on front rows.
- 13.9 The area of the cemetery around the Chapel within the perimeter circle is also the part of the cemetery retaining trees planted when the cemetery was first laid out. Many of these large trees are coniferous, providing colour all year round and often framing views within the cemetery. This was most likely to have been intentional on the part of Edmund Alexander Spurr and his colleagues.





*Figure 44: View towards the Chapel along the radial road between sections K and L*



*Figure 45: View away from the Chapel along the radial road between sections J and H*



- 13.10 The areas of the cemetery to the north east and south east of the perimeter circle are laid out more conventionally using rectilinear grid patterns. The north eastern sections in particular were used for common graves, which would have had a few small memorials.
- 13.11 Beginning in the 1950s, these areas were overfilled with soil to considerable depths to provide new burial space. The most recent phase of such overfilling took place under Faculty in 2005.
- 13.12 The unpurchased status of the original graves in these areas and the subsequent overfilling means that they lack the established trees characterizing the sections within the perimeter circle used for the burial of more wealthy Victorians.
- 13.13 As noted earlier in the section on funerary monuments, English Heritage (now Historic England) decided that New Southgate Cemetery does not merit inclusion in its Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.
- 13.14 In 2010, Barnet Council applied to Historic England to consider the site in relation to the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. The letter to the owners of the cemetery dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011 and enclosing the accompanying the Advice Report stated:
- 13.15 *As you will know from our earlier letters and from the visit made by our Designation Adviser we have been considering adding the above site to the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.*
- We have taken into account all the representations made and completed our assessment of the site. English Heritage has decided not to add New Southgate Cemetery to the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.*
- 13.16 This assessment followed a previous one made in 2003, referenced in the Advice Report:

13.17 **Context**

*English Heritage has been asked to consider adding New Southgate Cemetery to the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. The cemetery was considered in 2003 as part of the Register Upgrade Programme when it was deemed to be not of sufficient special interest to add to the Register. As the last assessment was more than five years ago, English Heritage is giving the case further consideration. None of the memorials or buildings within the cemetery are currently listed and it does not fall within a conservation area.*

13.18 The Advice Report provides the criteria against which New Southgate Cemetery was assessed and the reasoning behind the decision not to include this cemetery in the Register:

13.19 *The general criteria for the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens state that sites with a main phase of development post-1840 require special interest and be relatively intact for inclusion on the register. Special interest considerations include: sites influential in the development of taste; sites representative of a style of layout or type of site, or work of a designer of national importance; sites with a strong group value with other heritage assets. In assessing cemeteries for the Register, the following criteria are used: whether the site contains a pioneering example of any landscape feature particularly associated with cemeteries; has structural planting of exceptional quality; historical or cultural context of particular note; structural elements, such as chapels or lodges, are, as a group, of particular interest (the existence of impressive groupings of monuments can add to the case for registration) (English Heritage 2009). For High Victorian cemeteries, which account for the largest number of the 108 registered historic cemeteries, and therefore require greater selectivity than earlier categories, specific criteria include: quality of original design; intactness and degree of alteration; overall effect of landscaping, buildings and tombs; earliness of date (for municipal cemeteries); innovation and regional or local distinctiveness.*

- 13.20 *Dating from 1861, New Southgate Cemetery, formerly the Great Northern Cemetery, is relatively late for a privately-owned Victorian cemetery, since by the mid-C19 most large urban cemeteries were municipally owned. Consequently, it is not of the same historical interest as the so-called 'Magnificent Seven' private London cemeteries established between 1832 and 1841. The overall design was drawn up by EA Spurr, a local architect rather than one with a national or regional reputation. The principal part of the cemetery with its central Anglican chapel connected to a circular drive by radial spokes with further axial drives to the south was firmly in the formal manner of design set out in the writings of JC Loudon; the serpentine paths that formed another important aspect of Loudon designs being present in the western part of the cemetery (now lost). The radial 'wheel' design is certainly an unusual feature although other earlier cemeteries had used a similar, if less ornate version of the device, for example Poole Cemetery (1854) and City of London Cemetery (1853-5). Two of the radiating drives have been truncated.*
- 13.21 *The provision of a station at the cemetery, allowing funeral parties to travel by train from central London, is an interesting aspect of its history. However, by 1861 it was not particularly innovative since Brookwood Cemetery had been served by a rail link from a special station at Westminster Bridge Road since 1854, nor was it a particularly successful venture. Unfortunately, nothing remains of the station and its associated Nonconformist chapel and all land west of Brunswick Park Road is no longer part of the cemetery. The land to the east of the road has also been reduced by development to the south and the cemetery as a whole is much reduced from its original size. Whilst the western part of the remaining cemetery retains its Victorian character and much of the original planting is evident, although now heavily overgrown in parts, the eastern and southern sections have lost their historical significance due to large areas of overfill and gravel surfacing.*
- 13.22 *Apart from the loss of the station and Nonconformist chapel, the other principal buildings remain. These have, however, been altered, with extensions to the north lodge and the fine Anglican chapel (and its conversion to a crematorium). The south lodge is now in private ownership and detached from the cemetery by later housing*

*development. The railings to Brunswick Park Road survive for the most part although some sections are now missing and the section to the south of the cemetery was lost with the sale of this part of the cemetery for development.*

13.23 *In summary, the conclusion reached in 2003 not to include New Southgate Cemetery on the Register remains the same. Its historic interest as one of last of the privately financed metropolitan cemeteries of London has been eroded by the loss of a large proportion of the original area by sale and development, including its station, one of its most interesting aspects. The cemetery does not have a rich collection of memorials (never having gained particularly high status or popularity), and neither are its surviving historic buildings sufficiently intact to compensate for the losses to the topographical integrity of the site. Although of undoubted and continuing local interest New Southgate Cemetery is not recommended for inclusion on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.*

13.24 ***Reasons for designation decision***

*New Southgate Cemetery, a late High Victorian private cemetery opened in 1861, is not recommended for inclusion on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens for the following principal reasons:*

- ***Alteration:*** *the greatly diminished size of the cemetery, particularly the loss of the part to the west of Brunswick Park Road, demolition of the station and Nonconformist chapel, and alteration of the lodges and Anglican chapel, seriously reduce the historical interest;*
- ***Memorials:*** *the relative lack of high quality memorials of either architectural or historic interest further undermines its claims;*
- ***Effect of landscaping:*** *the areas to the east and south of the remaining part of the cemetery has lost its historic character due to overfilling and gravel surfacing;*
- ***Designer:*** *EA Spurr is not an architect of national reputation;*
- ***Late date:*** *relatively late date for the type of privately owned metropolitan cemetery exemplified by the earlier 'Magnificent Seven' London cemeteries.*

13.25 **Countersigning comments:**

**Agreed.** *This case has been carefully considered and we remain of the view -- reached following assessment in 2003 -- that the New Southgate Cemetery does not merit inclusion on the Register of Parks and Gardens. It is later in date than the great metropolitan cemeteries and it lacks the intactness and design interest that registration in this context would require. It is, however, of clear local interest.*

13.26 Thus, whilst there are clearly remnants of the original cemetery landscape design still evident, Historic England has concluded after two site-based assessments that the cemetery “*lacks the intactness and design interest*” required for inclusion on the Register of Parks and Gardens.

13.27 The Directors of New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium Limited are committed to the preservation and improvement of the landscape of the cemetery as it is now. This will be achieved through carefully planned and executed management, in particular of the self-set saplings and overgrown areas, to enhance public access and enjoyment of views of the cemetery landscape and its features.

13.28 The key function of the site is to provide burial space to continue to meet the needs of different groups of people living in this part of North London. New Southgate Cemetery is a commercial operation and is entirely dependent upon income generated through fees for burial and cremation services.

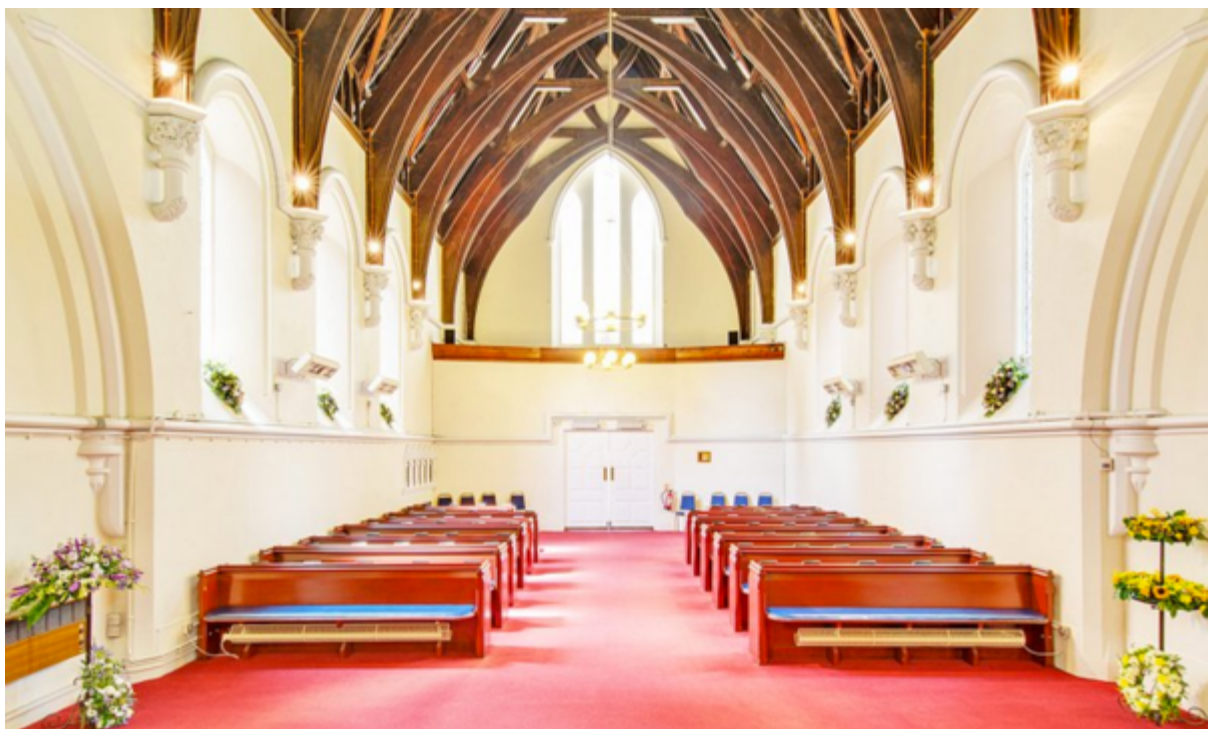
13.29 There is no doubt that in order to re-use old graves certain changes to the landscape will be necessary. Old memorials will be removed and in time replaced by new ones and some clearance of vegetation will be necessary to enable the use of old sections for burial by the present generation. The surface and drainage of the original perimeter road that borders the sections initially scheduled for re-use will require upgrading to modern standards to facilitate safe all-weather access by vehicles and pedestrians.

## 14 Architecture

- 14.1 The cemetery and all its buildings were designed by Edmund Alexander Spurr, who qualified as an architect on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1853.
- 14.2 All evidence of the original unconsecrated part of the cemetery, located to the west of Brunswick Park Road, together with the cemetery station complex, complete with chapel and lodge, has long disappeared.
- 14.3 The area upon which the original south gate lodge was situated was sold off and redeveloped under the Great Northern London Cemetery Act 1976. The original north gate lodge is now in private ownership.
- 14.4 The buildings within New Southgate Cemetery are thus now limited to the central Chapel.
- 14.5 *“At the hub of the plan a chapel was built in Early English lancet style capped by an imposing broach spire 150 feet tall. It is one of London’s finest cemetery chapels, even though the intended catacomb crypt was never completed and in the 1950s the interior was radically altered by its conversion into a crematorium.”<sup>22</sup>*

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<sup>22</sup> Meller, Hugh. London Cemeteries: An Illustrated Guide & Gazetteer. The History Press 2013.



*Figure 46: Interior views of the chapel at New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium*

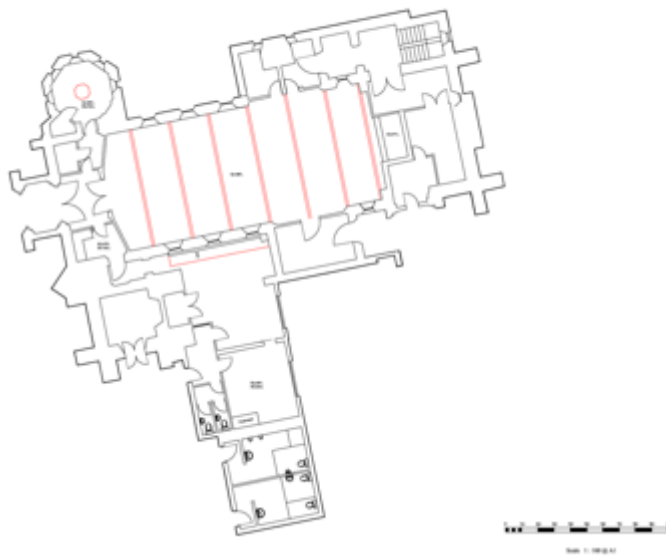




*Figure 47: Exterior views of New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium chapel, crematorium and office*



- 14.4 The original plans for the building are no longer extant. However, a full survey was undertaken in 2018 by D&H Surveys to inform a Planned Preventative Maintenance Report produced by Jones Hargreaves. The surveys and report provide a useful insight into the condition of this building, which is now over 150 years old. The ground floor and basement plans are illustrated below.



*Figure 48: Plan of the ground floor of the chapel and offices*



*Figure 49: Plan of the basement*

14.5 The Jones Hargreaves Planned Preventative Maintenance Report (PPM) includes the following summary:

14.6 *“We summarise below the main elements of work over the 10-year PPM period.*

14.7 ***Building Fabric***

*The building fabric is free from significant disrepair, with no major works or renewal expected within the 10-year PPM period. Allowances have been included within the PPM schedule for isolated repair and maintenance works over a periodic and phased basis as required. This includes works to the elevational masonry where localised stonework is weathered or in disrepair alongside entrance doors and windows more notably their glazed units where isolated panes are cracked or smashed.*

14.8 *All roof and spire coverings would seem to be performing as per intended with no evidence of significant disrepair or water ingress internally indicative of leakage suggesting major works including renewal are required over the next 10 years. General roof repair and maintenance is required where damaged, missing and displaced slates, etc exist. Restricted access prevented a detailed inspection of the metal clad and mineralised felt covered flat roofs over the building, though all are assumed to be of similar condition to that of the pitched elements. An annual allowance is made within the PPM for general roof repairs and maintenance over the 10-year period, as well as associated rainwater drainage. A close inspection of the flat roof coverings would be required to establish whether replacement is necessary during this period. The existing decorative finishes where applied vary in condition, with elements showing various signs of wear particularly to exposed areas. An allowance is made for cyclical redecoration predominantly set out on a 5-yearly basis over the 10-year planned maintenance period.*

14.9 *Due to the scale of the building, an annual allowance is made within the PPM for the provision of temporary access to safely complete all high-level works. This cost largely relates to the erection of scaffolding and the hire of a cherry-picker to complete isolated works where access permits.*

**14.10 Internal Areas**

*The internal areas vary in condition subject to their use, with general public areas, including main Chapel, Vestry and Book of Remembrance noted largely well maintained. Finishes within the basement Crematorium and ground floor Management Office/adjoining public WC block are also reasonably well maintained, though are worn and dated to a degree particularly to the latter (Management Office/WC block) largely due to high level use. Some isolated repairs and renewal of finishes and fittings will be required at some stage over the next 10-year period, with allowances made for such works within the PPM. Cyclical redecoration works largely completed on a 3-year periodic basis is also included for within the PPM period.*

- 14.11** *Evidence of disrepair, largely appearing to be historic, is apparent throughout the basement storage space, including to the walls, ceilings and floors, as well as applied render and plaster finishes. An allowance is made within the PPM for phased repair (and redecoration), however limited costs have been included to reflect the use (storage) and aged construction nature of this accommodation. All allowances could be omitted or placed elsewhere if not considered essential.*

**14.12 External Areas**

*The external areas are generally well maintained particularly to those parts within close proximity to the main building and site entranceway (principal fronting areas). Footpaths and roadways throughout the site, particularly to wider site Cemetery and compound areas are suffering from disrepair in places with surfaces worn and cracked. Accordingly, an allowance has been made for undertaking general repair and renewal to these footpaths and roadways on a phased basis over the 10-year PPM period due to the extent of works required to distribute costs as best possible.*

- 14.13** *An allowance has also been included for general repair and maintenance of the site drainage and boundary treatments, including timber and metal railing fencing extending around large parts of the site, as well as signage and other site surface finishes.*

- 14.14 *Other items covered within the PPM include cyclical external decoration, where felt applicable over a 5-yearly period. An allowance for phased redecoration of the painted metal railing boundary fence extending along the front main entrance of the site (Brunswick Park Road) has been allowed for due to scale of works required to distribute costs evenly. Other redecoration works allowed for include site signage, lampposts and treatment of some site fencing mainly erected around the building.*
- 14.15 **Building Services**  
*The building services appear to vary in age and condition, as well as the level of current maintenance implemented subject to their location and operational needs, although installations to the main building areas would seem to be in an acceptable working order. Routine inspection and testing are noted to be currently implemented in respect of various installations. Periodic safety inspections are noted carried out with an allowance for continuing inspection, including annual maintenance/servicing of installations included for within the PPM.*
- 14.16 *An allowance is made within the 10-year PPM period for some end of life factor replacement of installations (or parts), including, the low temperature hot water heating system, extract units, electric convector heaters, domestic water services, intruder and fire alarm alongside and small power distribution system. A cost is also included for upgrading the existing internal lighting installation where dated on a phased basis with new energy efficient LED fittings, as well as an annual cost for routine maintenance, re-lamping and cleaning.”*
- 14.17 The budget costs of implementing the PPM (inclusive of contingencies and anticipated professional fees) for the forthcoming 10 years are projected to total £1.1 million at current rates.
- 14.18 In addition to the maintenance of the building, the company is currently planning to significantly improve the current office and public toilet facilities.

## 15 Nature conservation

15.1 The site classified as Metropolitan Open Land and is also a Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) a non-statutory designation.

15.2 In 2018, DLA Limited, Landscape Architects and Environmental Planners, commissioned Drs. Alison Strange and Fergus Mould to undertake a nature conservation assessment, concentrating on the areas in the first phase of re-use.

15.3 This comprised:

- a desk-top survey to identify priority habitats and species, and
- fieldwork that included a Walkover and Phase 1 Habitat surveys to Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) standards, minimum, together with appropriate surveys for protected species, breeding birds or other locally significant flora / fauna.

15.4 An assessment was also made of the nature conservation value of the site taking into account the potential changes resulting from re-use or reclamation, including any mitigation measures that may be appropriate.

15.5 The report is attached as Appendix B, but key extracts are reproduced below.

### 15.6 **Vegetation**

*The standard methodology as described in the Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey is a technique for environmental audit (Joint Nature Conservation Committee; JNCC, 2007) and has become a widely accepted method for surveying habitats. A Phase 1 habitat survey was undertaken by Dr Alison Strange on 31 May 2018, using standard Phase 1 habitat survey methods (JNCC, 2007). Target notes were taken where applicable and the abundance of plant species was noted using the DAFOR scale.*



#### 15.7 **Badgers**

*Within the survey area all vegetated areas, boundaries, paths and other linear features were systematically surveyed for evidence of badger activity. The interior of the site was surveyed in addition to the boundary to identify evidence of badger foraging or if badger paths passed through it. Other habitat that offered potential to contain badger setts was searched where practicable.*

#### 15.8 **Bat Roost Potential (BRP)** *The survey methods used followed best practice guidance (CIEEM, 2006) and bat survey guidelines (BCT, 2012 and JNCC, 2004) with the assessment of potential bat roost features in trees was based on Andrews (2012). While bat activity surveys are limited to the months when bats are flying, generally April to October, potential roost surveys can be undertaken throughout year, with winter considered the best time to assess trees due to the lack of foliage.*

*The survey was conducted under ideal conditions and good visibility. All trees were examined for damage (broken or missing branches and limbs) due to wind or lightning strikes, decay/ rot, holes (e.g. woodpecker), cracks, peeling bark and additional features such as trimming or lopping, ivy or fungal growth.*

#### 15.9 **Birds**

*A transect route was walked for approximately two hours within the site. The number of individual birds (excluding juveniles) of all species was recorded.*

#### 15.10 **Reptiles**

*To fully assess the potential impacts of the proposed scheme on reptiles it is necessary to identify the key attributes of the landscape that reptiles rely upon and their ecological function. Although reptiles have relatively broad habitat requirements, at a landscape scale their distribution will largely be dependent on the availability of places of rest and shelter, basking opportunities, foraging habitat and habitat connectivity.*

*Favourable habitat for reptiles is typically characterised by a mosaic of habitat types with a high degree of structural heterogeneity.*

#### 15.11 **Statutory sites**

*There are two Local Nature Reserves within a two km buffer zone of the site:*

*Coppetts Wood and Glebelands LNR 1.5km to the southwest*

*Oak Hill Wood LNR 1.7km to the north*

#### 15.12 **Non-statutory sites**

15.13 *The site is classed as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), grade 2 BaBII21, and is the most northerly known site in Britain, and the only one in London, for the dusky cockroach (Ecotobius lapponicus).*

15.14 *The western section, which is the area under consideration, has had limited intervention for a number of years allowing a self-seeded woodland to develop with a dense growth of ash, beech, hawthorn (Crataegus monogyna) and sycamore (Acer pseudoplatanus) saplings with some birch (Betula pendula) between the mature oak, beech and ash trees. Many gravestones are covered with ivy although some recent restoration has been undertaken. That no lichens were present on the memorials is probably indicative of air quality of the period that the cemetery has been in use. The north-western section is a large area of closely mown grass with occasional mature trees.*

#### 15.15 **Conclusions**

15.16 *The area under consideration, to re-use the burial space where one has not taken place for over 75 years and also reclaim existing space, is the oldest section of the site (areas O, P, Q and R), extending to about 1.9ha. As management has been limited, a woodland has developed with a dense understorey of self-seeded ash, beech and sycamore saplings. There is limited ground cover, mainly dominated by ivy, with few forbs being able to tolerate such low light levels. The north-western corner (area O) is managed and is a closely mown grassland with few forbs (herbaceous flowering plants that are not grasses).*

- 15.17 *No signs of badger activity were noted and no evidence of any setts was found.*
- 15.18 *No evidence was found of any bat roosts, however due to the time of year much would have been obscured due to the dense tree foliage.*
- 15.19 *The bird survey recorded sixteen species of which three species are JNCC Red List: House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), Song thrush (*Turdus philomelus*) and Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). The wooded areas and the thick shrub layers provide ideal nesting habitat for birds with many open areas for them to forage.*
- 15.20 *The habitat does not appear to be suitable for reptiles as there are few areas of tussocky grass where they could shelter and forage and any basking areas are subject to a lot of disturbance and management through mowing.*
- 15.21 **Recommendations**
- 15.22 **Birds**  
*It is advised that any works that require shrub cutting or tree trimming/felling must take place outside the bird breeding season (March to August inc.) to avoid the destruction of any nests as this is illegal under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). If this is not possible and work has to start during the nesting season then the site must be inspected by the appointed ecologist prior to the removal of any vegetation.*
- 15.23 **Bats**  
*It is advised that if any work requires trimming/felling any mature trees a bat survey must take place by a licensed bat ecologist to ensure that they harbour no roosts; as bats and their roosts are protected through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.*

15.24 ***Invasive plant species***

*Butterfly bush* was recorded on site and it is listed as Category 3 on the London Invasive Species Initiative (LISI). Care must be taken with its removal as it produces small seeds that are easily disturbed and can be transported by vehicles, movement of contaminated soil and poor management strategies. The most effective treatment is to directly inject a suitable herbicide in to the plant and then burn it once removed. It should not be placed into any compost or mulched.

15.25 The photographs below illustrate sections O, P, Q and R, where the re-use of graves is planned to take place first.

15.26 With the exception of two CWGC graves marked with CWGC headstones, the exclusive rights of burial in graves in these sections have now been extinguished under the powers of s.3 of the New Southgate Cemetery Act 2017. These sections will be the first where re-use will enable the provision of new burial space.



Figure 50: View looking north over sections O and P.





*Figure 51: View looking south over Section P*



*Figure 52: View looking south over Section Q*





*Figure 53: View looking south over Section R*

- 15.27 The ecological impact of planned re-use on section Q will be very low, due to the current absence of habitat for wildlife due to close-mown grass and lack of vegetation, apart from the large oaks.
- 15.28 Where present on sections Q and R, growth of brambles and self-seeded young saplings have been cleared during the winter months to enable the checking of all memorials, in preparation for their removal in due course to enable the re-use of graves where exclusive rights have been extinguished.
- 15.29 Some adjacent and more distant sections of the cemetery have areas of self-seeded saplings, growing between large established trees. The photograph below illustrates such an area. These scattered areas will continue to provide a mosaic of habitats for nesting and foraging birds whilst Section P, Q and R provide much-needed new burial space.

- 15.30 Subject to future demand for new burial space, further clearance of this undergrowth will be necessary to enable new burial space to be provided. This will be a gradual process undertaken over periods of years, with the other parts of the cemetery providing nesting habitat.



*Figure 54: Mature Oak with young self-seeded birch and ash saplings*

- 15.31 Unchecked pioneer species, such as silver birch, have a detrimental effect upon even well-established oaks. In addition to casting shade upon the lower branches, the birches thrash about in the wind and damage bud and leaf growth on the oaks and thus restrict and distort their growth.
- 15.32 Unchecked growth of self-set saplings ultimately leads to the development of dense dark woodland, which does not support wildlife. Biodiversity is promoted through the availability of different habitats, particularly those with a predominance of light combined with some dappled shade. This is exemplified in the cycle of periodic coppicing of broadleaved woodland.

- 15.33 Habitats naturally change over time, particularly as trees grow and light levels on the ground decrease. In New Southgate Cemetery, different areas of the cemetery receive different levels of grounds maintenance, which encourages diversity.
- 15.34 The re-use of graves will necessarily involve some loss of habitat, but the relatively slow pace of re-use will enable other less-intensively maintained areas of the cemetery to continue to provide shelter and foraging for wildlife on a long rotation. Thus, the cemetery as a whole will remain a resource for wildlife indefinitely.
- 15.35 Some cemeteries in London, in part or as a whole, such as Abney Park, Nunhead and Tower Hamlets, have effectively become nature reserves through lack of maintenance. Whilst this has many positive benefits for wildlife and visitors, it does not maintain the option of burial for people requiring it. The primary function of New Southgate Cemetery is as an operational cemetery. However, using a planned approach to re-use in the long term, a mosaic of habitats will be maintained within the cemetery, which extends to approximately 60 acres (24 hectares).
- 15.36 A succession of further Phase One Habitat Surveys will be completed throughout the cemetery, supported by protected species and any additional surveys as appropriate, to inform the management of the cemetery as a whole to benefit wildlife. The results of these surveys will inform the planning and phasing of the re-use of graves beyond the current programme in sections P, Q and R.

## 16 Arboriculture

16.1 New Southgate Cemetery has some oak trees within it that were already growing on the site before the development of the cemetery. It also retains many of the trees planted along the sides of the internal roads as part of the original landscaping of the cemetery.

16.2 In addition, in older sections of the cemetery there are areas of self-seeded trees, many of which are densely-growing, thin, young saplings. There are some which have developed into large trees.

16.3 A key objective of the New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium Limited is the active and professional management of all the trees across the whole site to enhance their condition and overall safety, having regard to the reclamation strategy and responsible stewardship, including retaining and protecting existing healthy mature trees where feasible. The company recognises that trees within the cemetery can have a wide range of environmental, aesthetic and biodiversity benefits.

16.4 In November 2017, AM Lane, a Chartered Forester and Arboricultural Consultant, undertook a survey of the trees within sections P, Q and R and produced plans and a tree works specification, from which the following are extracts.

### 16.5 **Outline**

*As part of the ongoing restoration of the burial area and boundary adjoining Brunswick Park Road there is a requirement to remove self-set saplings, self-set early mature trees and woody vegetation to enable the rationalisation and reuse of the existing grave locations.*

*There are a number of larger trees dating from the Victorian planting and trees that pre-date the cemetery as well as a small number of early mature trees. These have been surveyed within the general accord of BS5837:2012 to calculate the root protection areas.*

*The aim is to preserve the treed feel to the landscape and historical planting whilst recognising the requirement to increase the available space of graves.*

#### **16.6 Existing situation**

*Several large mature trees, predominantly English oaks, form the remnants of the landscape prior to the laying out of New Southgate, these are significant landscape features in this context and are distinct from the later Victorian planting which commonly features conifers.*

*Amongst the pre-existing landscape trees and Victorian planting are a number of early mature self-set trees.*

#### **16.7 Proposal & Constraints**

*The proposal is retain the larger structural planting comprising the trees pre-dating the cemetery, the Victorian planting and a small number of the better formed early mature self-set trees.*

*A significant proportion of the trees comprise Common Ash and there is early evidence of Ash dieback *Hymenocyphus fraxinea* is noted on some of the younger trees. Given the inevitability of the Ash all succumbing to dieback it is proposed that they are all removed to include several larger mature Ash trees.*

*The key constraint is ensuring that the proposal minimises direct damage (root severance) and indirect damage (compaction) to the root systems of retained trees. The soils locally are clay and gravels which are highly prone to compaction hence care is required where vehicle movements are required or occur within root zones.*

*A balance is needs to be struck between the retention of trees which a long term contribution to visual setting of the site (40yrs +) and the need for additional grave space.*

#### **16.8 Retained Tree & Ground Protection**

*The following applies to ALL operations within the area to include temporary access to the boundary fence, tree work and renovation of the area. All works must be overseen by an Arboricultural Clerk of Works.*



- 1.** *The root protection areas for the retained specimen trees have been calculated in accordance with Table 2 of BS5837:2005 Trees in relation to construction – Recommendations. This has informed a ground protection area described by a radial arc and shown on the attached plan. Note that onsite this may be calculated using the NJUG 4.2 Precautionary Area calculation of 4 x tree circumference at 1.5m.*
- 2.** *The extent of the RPA can be demarcated by steel road pins and tape or spray markings on the ground.*
- 3.** *The following restrictions apply within the demarcated ‘ground protection area’.*
  - a.** *Only low ground pressure machinery with a suitably low ground pressure of  $\leq$  human footfall i.e. 60kPa (120kPa when moving) should be used.*

*N.b. A 5t tracked excavator with an operational weight comprising 0.14 m<sup>3</sup> bucket, fully serviced, +80 kg operator (as per ISO 6016) develops a ground pressure of  $<30$ kPa.*
  - b.** *Wheeled machinery should not enter the protected area unless it is unavoidable to retrieve monuments then it should be in conjunction with the agreed ground protection measures.*
  - c.** *Soil levels should not be reduced unless by hand and then by no more than 100mm.*
  - d.** *Excavation within the root protection areas should be avoided.*
  - e.** *Materials to include soil, aggregate or building materials must not be stored within the protected area under any circumstances even temporarily.*
  - f.** *Stumps located within the protected area MUST NOT be dug out by machine but ground out where possible.*
  - g.** *Cement mixing and refuelling sites must be situated outside of the protected area and precautions taken to ensure that spillage or washings do not enter the ground protection area.*
  - h.** *Soil levels should not be increased within ground protection area by more than 100mm unless previously agreed. Where soil levels are raised this should be with a graded un-compacted topsoil placed and levelled by hand.*
  - i.** *Operations should be avoided during very wet periods due to increased compaction of the clay based soil.*

*4. Felling will be planned to ensure that any damage to retained trees is avoided where possible. Any damage must be rectified via pruning in accordance with BS3998:2010 Tree work – Guidance.*

*5. Herbicide stump treatment may only be used with care to avoid transference of herbicide due to root grafting from removed trees to felled trees.*

*6. Main access routes for machinery including low ground pressure machines should concentrate outside of the designated root protection areas. Where repeated access is required over an RPA then ground protection measures will be required e.g. ground boards.*

*7. Ground protection should comprise the following however gross machine loads MUST NOT exceed a ground pressure rating of 60kPa.*

*a. 150mm of woodchip laid over a permeable geotextile material.(To reduce point loading and increase load spread)*

*b. Interlinked sheets overlaid on the wood chip and fixed down with steel pins.*

*(Sheets may comprise either 19mmthick composite/plywood sheets or HDPE ground mat)*

#### **16.9 Commencement & Completion**

*1. Initial memorial clearance works to include saplings below 8cm diameter with immediate effect.*

*2. Felling of marked trees (Estimated early January to avoid bird nesting)*

*3. Completion of tree works by the end of February.*

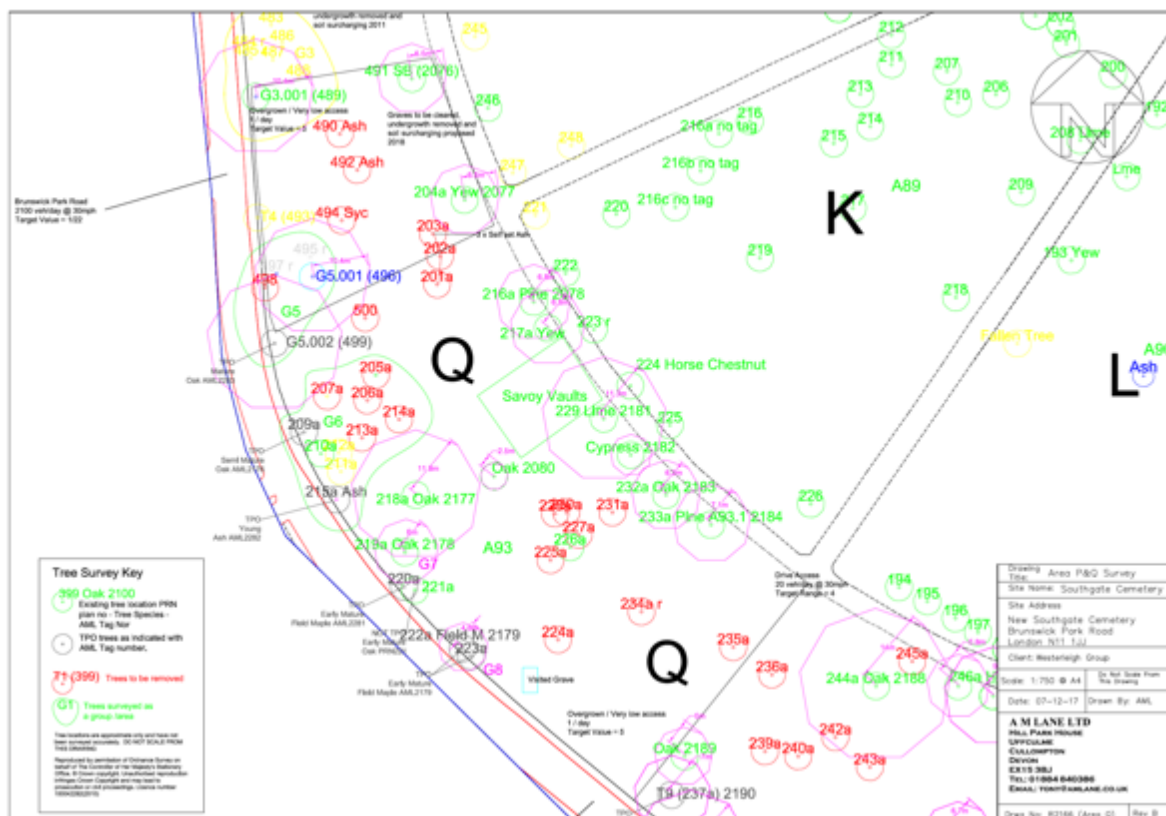


Figure 55: Tree survey plan of section Q

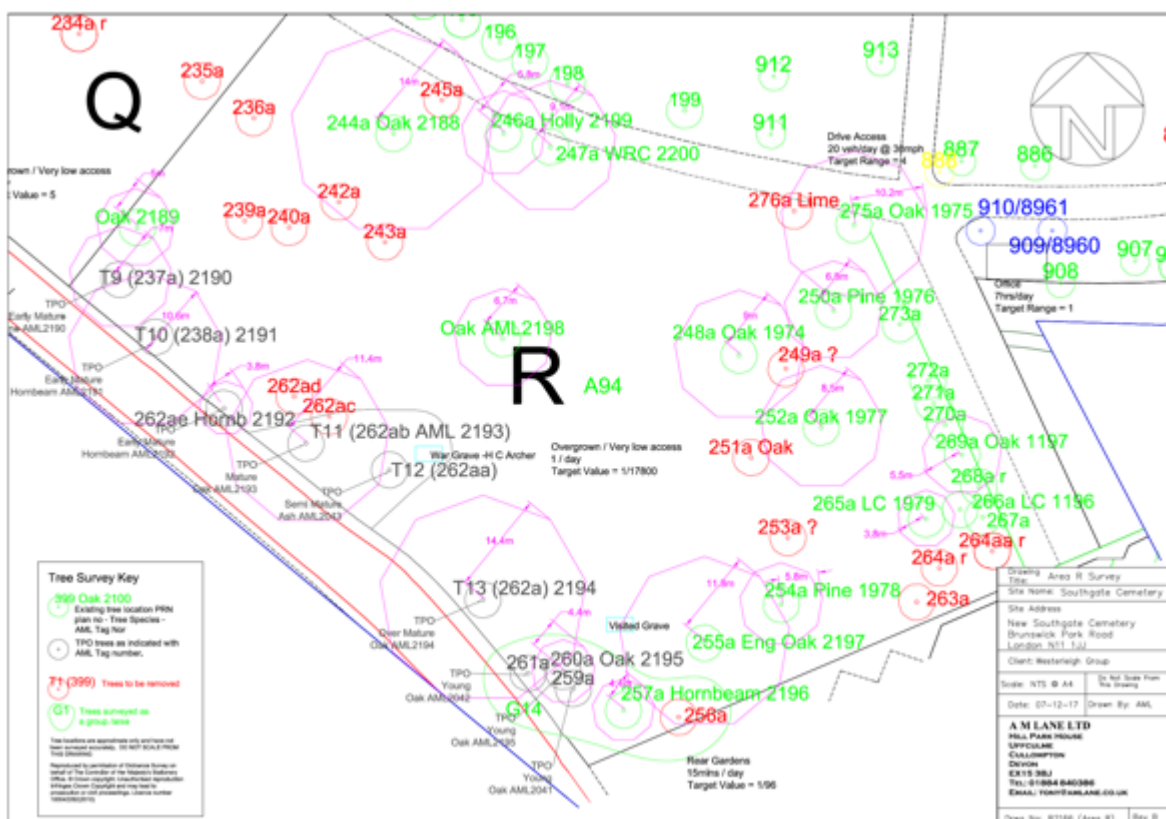


Figure 56: Tree survey plan of section R

16.10 The Forestry Commission have advised that a felling licence is not required for works to trees in a cemetery that has a chapel. In a letter to AM Lane dated 21<sup>st</sup> September 2011, the Forestry Commission state:

16.11 *"I am writing regarding the recent submission for a felling licence at New Southgate Cemetery in London.*

*The Forestry Commission have reviewed this application and have decided that on this occasion as there is a chapel within the cemetery grounds the area in question is exempt from the Forestry Act and the need for a felling licence. In view of this I am returning the applications. You should of course check with the local authority that there are no other felling restrictions such as TPO or Conservation Area.*

*This exemption only applies to the ground on which a church stands and not to burial grounds. Any burial grounds that do not have a church within them would require a felling license."*

16.12 On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the London Borough of Barnet made a Tree Preservation Order. This relates to 17 trees close to the western boundary of the cemetery along Brunswick Park Road. The trees concerned are identified on the plans above and have numbered tags to identify them on site. These trees are:

9 Oak

2 Multi-stemmed Hornbeam

2 Field Maple

1 Twin-stemmed Field Maple

1 Pine

2 Ash

16.13 The removal of memorials and the re-use of graves on sections Q and R will take place in accordance with the restrictions listed at paragraph 15.8 above with regard to retained tree and ground protection and overseen by an Arboricultural Clerk of Works to ensure the minimum impact of these activities.

- 16.14 The selection of graves for re-use will take account the root protection areas around the trees, which include splendid specimens such as the oak illustrated below:



*Figure 57: Mature Oak tree on section R*

#### 16.15 **General Tree & Woodland Management**

- 16.16 The cemetery is subject to a rolling review of the trees in relation to their safety using the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment ([www.QTRA.co.uk](http://www.QTRA.co.uk)) methodology since 2010. This is further supported by making management recommendations across four priority levels. This survey seeks to primarily ensure public safety whilst also considering the longer-term management requirements of the site with the following objectives:

- Managing trees in harmony with grave owner's expectations,
- Sustainably maintaining in the long-term the treed nature of the site,
- Balancing the requirement for grave space in relation to tree safety, nature conservation, statutory constraints (TPO), nature conservation, biodiversity, biosecurity and the historical context of the site.



- 16.17 There is a mix of individual specimen trees of a wide age class which includes trees that pre-date the cemetery construction to recent memorial planting. Areas AA, AC, AG, GC, P, Q & R have largely developed into secondary woodland. The woodland has limited nature conservation value as outlined on the Phase 1 habitat assessment at Section 14. The development of Areas P, Q & R are described above.



*Figure 58: Self-set trees on Section AG, with multi-stemmed Ash in right foreground*

- 16.18 Sections AA, AC, AG & GC are subject to progressive clearance. These areas having formed secondary woodland are now in conflict with memorials of which many remain in dedication. Memorial disruption and poor access are key concerns. The management objective for these areas is for the progressive clearance of the trees in these sections, retaining those of longer-term merit to maintain the 'wooded' nature of these areas.

- 16.19 Ash Dieback *Hymenocyphus fraxineus* has been identified onsite. Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* constitutes a significant proportion of the self-set secondary woodland, estimated at 10-15% of canopy cover. These woodland areas will be managed in accord with the Forestry Commissions Operations Note 046 '*Managing ash (Fraxinus excelsior) in woodlands in light of ash dieback (Hymenocyphus fraxineus)*' and the general recommendations outlined in the Tree Council's '*Ash Dieback: an Action Plan Toolkit*'.
- 16.19 Individual specimen trees planted as part of the original landscape plan within the cemetery have reached physiological maturity with many of the conifers beginning to extend into over maturity. The Victorian planting included a large number of specimen conifers particularly notable in sections G, H, J and K as well as around the Chapel building. These trees present significant visual amenity. The Lawson Cypress *Chamaecyparis lawsoniana* and Western Red Cedars *Thuja plicata* are generally reaching the end of their safe useful life expectancy and will be progressively removed as they become unsafe or die.
- 16.20 Opportunities for replacement planting following the removal of the larger specimen trees has been identified onsite with species selection based on retaining the original planting scheme, maintaining species diversity and ensuring a harmonious relationship with surrounding grave spaces or memorials.
- 16.21 Trees in all other parts of the cemetery will be subject to a programme of tree surveys to B.S.5837: 2012 to inform their management, particularly in older areas where future re-use of graves may be implemented in due course.

## **17     Amenity and open space**

- 17.1     The cultural norms of the people choosing to bury their dead at New Southgate Cemetery include frequent visits to their graves, both in the short term following the funeral and also into the long term. There are also regular visits from people who have chosen cremation and to have the ashes placed in the Garden of Remembrance or in burial plots.
- 17.2     New Southgate Cemetery is located in a highly populated area of North London. Whilst it is open to the general public, it does not form a through route for either vehicles or pedestrians. The vehicle access gates are locked overnight, but pedestrian access remains available.
- 17.3     Unlike cemeteries such as Highgate, there are few memorials commemorating famous people; there is no 'Friends of New Southgate Cemetery' group; the cemetery is not famous for its landscape features, such as Highgate's Circle of Lebanon and, as a consequence, there are no guided tours.
- 17.4     However, people visiting the cemetery are not exclusively limited to those who have a relative buried there. A small number of people exercise their dogs or they jog around the cemetery roads, as they do in many other cemeteries.
- 17.5     In the past, the Great Northern London Cemetery Company found that income was not sufficient to properly fund the maintenance of the extensive grounds. This resulted in the sale of parts of the cemetery, as documented earlier in the section on the historical development of the cemetery.
- 17.6     The implementation of the re-use of graves under the New Southgate Cemetery Act 2017 will not only provide burial space to meet demand, but will also provide important income to enable the company to maintain and enhance the cemetery.

- 17.7 In obtaining the legislative powers and carefully managing their implementation, the company is making a long-term financial commitment to improve the cemetery.
- 17.8 The re-use of graves within the framework of this Conservation Management Plan will deliver improvements for the cemetery. These will include the restoration and improvement of the setting of the Savoy Vaults, together with other memorials of general public interest. Improved access and signage to these features; interpretative signage at points of interest throughout the cemetery; new burial areas; and new public toilet facilities, will enhance the experience of visitors to the cemetery.

## **18 Adoption and Review**

- 18.1 This Conservation Management Plan has been formally adopted by the New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium Limited.
- 18.2 Recognising the primary purpose of the Plan and how the passage of time will affect the natural and built environment within the cemetery, New Southgate Cemetery and Crematorium Limited will review and update the Plan on a regular basis.
- 18.3 This process will enable the Plan to be continuously improved in the light of both experience gained within the cemetery, in the reclamation and re-use of graves under the Act, and developments in policy and practice outside the cemetery affecting the management of cemeteries and the continued provision of burial space



## Appendix A

Friern Barnet and District Local History Society's research and survey of the Savoy Vaults.

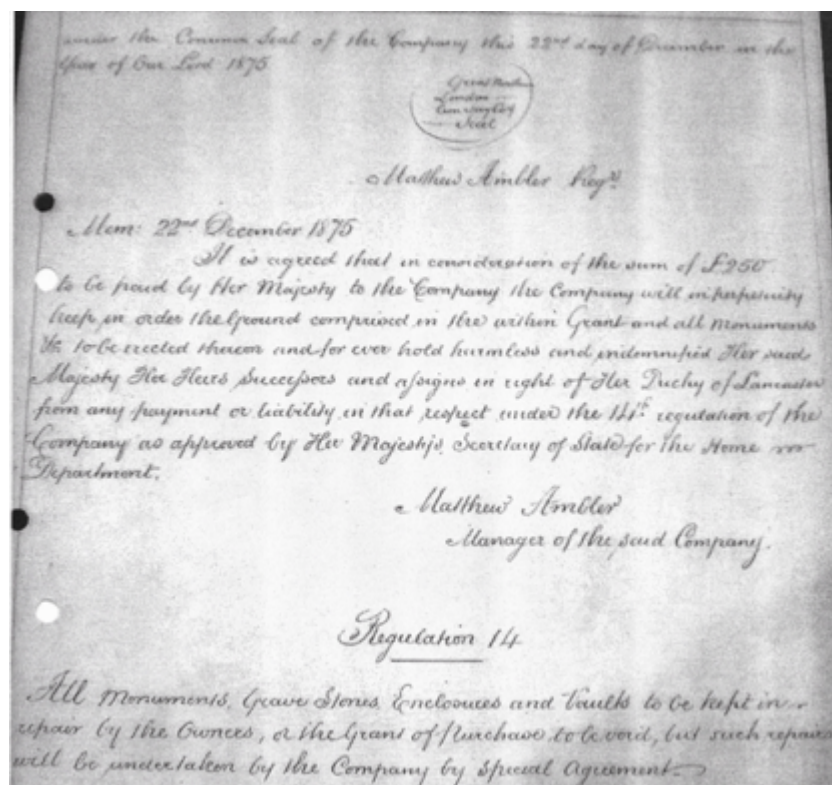
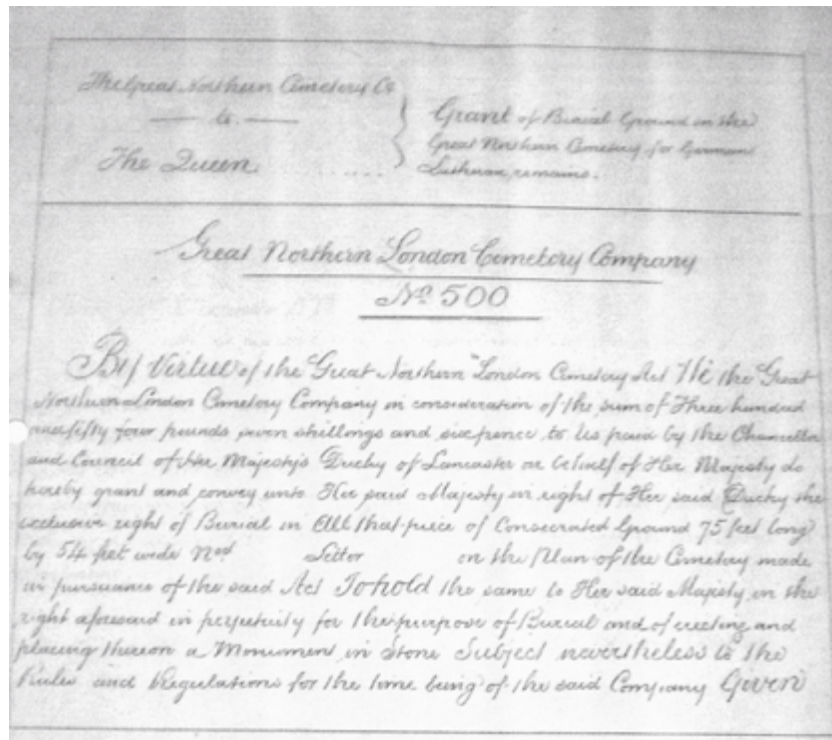


Figure 59: Hand-written Deed of Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial for the Savoy Vaults

### **Grant of Burial Ground in the Great Northern Cemetery for German Lutheran remains**

By virtue of the Great Northern London Cemetery Act We the Great Northern London Cemetery Company in consideration of the sum of Three Hundred and fifty four pounds seven shillings and sixpence to us paid by the Chancellor and Council of Her Majesty's Duchy of Lancaster on behalf of Her Majesty do hereby grant and convey unto Her said Majesty in right of her said Duchy the exclusive right of Burial in All that piece of Consecrated Ground 75 feet long by 54 feet wide N<sup>od</sup>

Letter                      on the Plan of the Cemetery made in pursuance of the said Act To hold the same to Her said Majesty in the right aforesaid in perpetuity for the purpose of Burial and of erecting and placing thereon a Monument in Stone Subject nevertheless to the Rules and Regulations for the time being of the said Company Given under the Common Seal of the Company this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December in the Year of Our Lord 1875.

Matthew Ambler Reg.r

Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1875

It is agreed that in consideration of the sum of £250 to be paid by Her Majesty to the Company the Company will in perpetuity keep in order the Ground comprised in the within Grant and all Monuments etc to be erected thereon and for ever hold harmless and indemnified Her said Majesty Her Heirs Successors and assigns in right of Her Duchy of Lancaster from any payment or liability in that respect under the 14<sup>th</sup> regulation of the Company as approved by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Matthew Ambler

Manager of the said Company

#### **Regulation 14**

All Monuments, Grave Stones, Enclosures and Vaults to be kept in repair by the Owners, or the Grant of Purchase to be void, but such repairs will be undertaken by the Company by Special Agreement.

*Figure 60: Transcript of the wording of the deed of Grant*

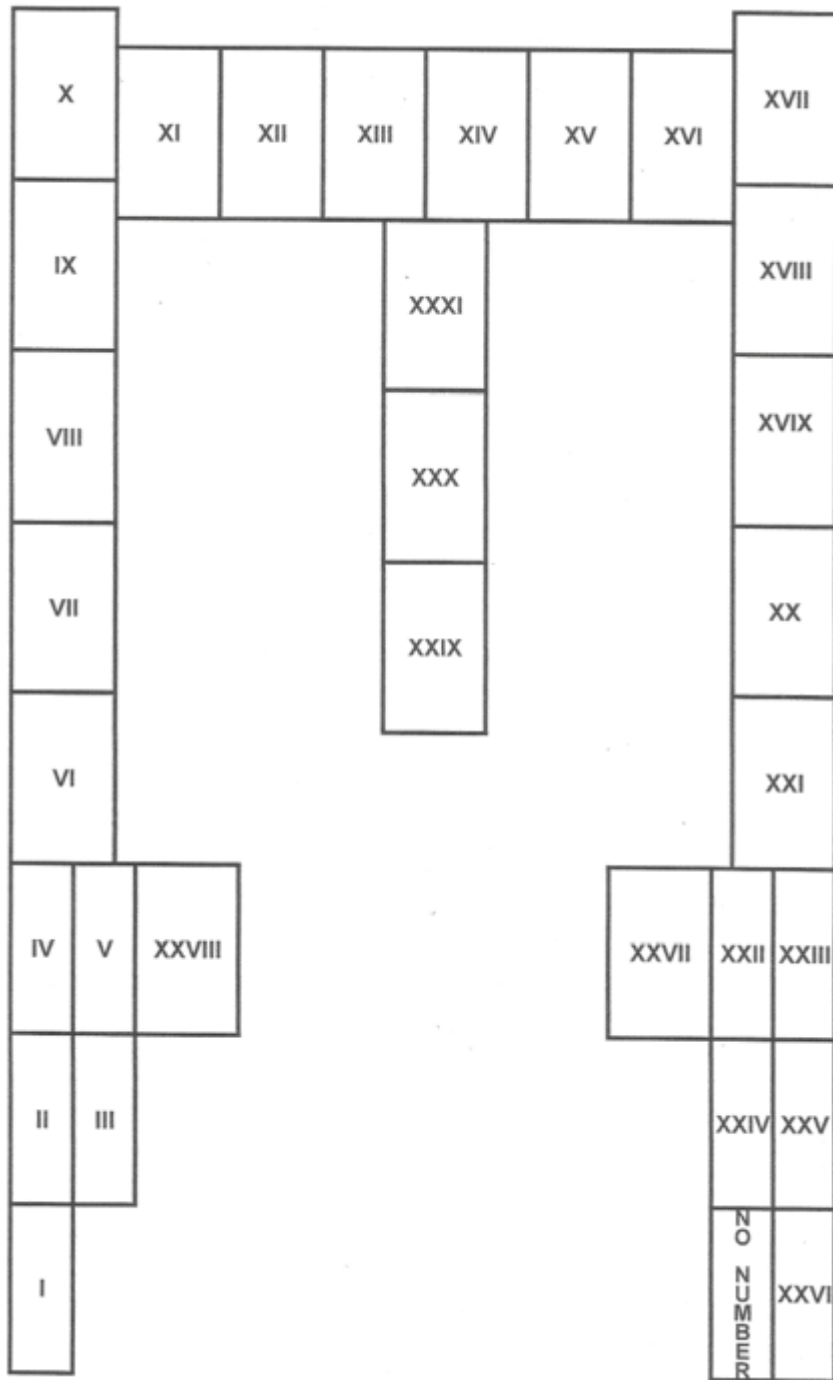


Figure 61: layout plan of the Savoy Vaults

## **Appendix B**

DLA Limited 'New Southgate Cemetery. Ecology - Nature Conservation Assessment'

Report No. DLA 1583/Eco July 2018