

Brompton Cemetery Conservation Plan Section 1: Written Report (BCCP 105)

Conservation Plan
February 2015



Built Heritage
Consultancy

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1.0 Introduction

Brompton is the only civilian Cemetery in the country owned by the Crown and managed by The Royal Parks on behalf of the nation. It is one of London's Magnificent Seven historic cemeteries, which were designed in the mid 1800's to provide public recreation as well as burial space for a rapidly increasing London population. Brompton Cemetery is a magical place, combining historic monuments, trees and wildlife with the stories of the remarkable people buried here.

The Royal Parks purpose is to manage The Royal Parks effectively and efficiently, balancing the responsibility to conserve and enhance the unique environments with the creative policies to encourage access and to increase opportunities for enjoyment, education, entertainment and healthy recreation.

This Conservation Plan has been updated from previous Conservation Management Plans.

It has been developed as part of a suite of documents to guide the future management of the Cemetery. It will also form part of the submission to the Heritage /Big Lottery Fund, and also supports the application in January 2015 for Listed Building Consent and planning permission to RBKC.

The project and grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's (HLF) 'Parks for People' fund has been developed since March 2013, to conserve and restore the historic fabric of the Cemetery and to improve public access, education, and enjoyment of it. A successful first round (of the two stage) grant application was made in 2013 to the HLF, and the project proposals have been developed further during 2014.

Acknowledgements

This Plan would not have been possible without the help of the following people:

- The Royal Parks
- Jay Roos, Cemetery Supervisor and the Friends of Brompton Cemetery
- Professor James Stevens Curl
- Gillian King at English Heritage
- Dave Walker and the staff at Kensington and Chelsea Local Studies Centre
- The staff at the RIBA library at 66 Portland Place
- The staff at the National Archives at Kew

1.1. Research Context

Brompton Cemetery, alongside the other contemporary garden cemeteries, has been the focus of a great deal of interest, and there is a large body of scholarship surrounding the site. This Plan attempts to fill some gaps in this existing body of work. To this end it addresses the significance and likely survival of buried archaeological remains on the cemetery site; discusses the social history of the site from its opening and identifies new influences on the design of the cemetery's buildings and layout.

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All sources are listed in section 10.0 of this Plan.

1.1.1. Primary Material

There is a vast archive of material relating to Brompton Cemetery held at the National Archive at Kew. This material encompasses thousands of individual items and includes, but is not limited to, the Company minute books, hundreds of burial and stone ledgers recording the name and date of every burial that took place in the cemetery, hundreds of memoranda relating to the use and management of the cemetery by both the Office of Works and The Royal Parks, and drawings relating to alterations of the major structures in the cemetery. This material is split over several records in the Ref Work (for Office of Works, precursor and successor departments and organisations). Additionally some material relating to the use of the cemetery by the military can be found under Ref W/O (for War Office). This material is highly disparate; for example the drawings that relate to the cemetery are not held together but are arranged chronologically and held with other drawings relating to contemporary Office of Works schemes (drawings relating to the Kilmorney Memorial, for example, are held with drawings relating to the development of Victoria Embankment by the Office of Works). The archive would benefit from a major characterisation study for the use of future scholars.

In addition to written sources, interviews have taken place with Professor James Stevens Curl, who wrote the first comprehensive survey of monuments at Brompton Cemetery and is an authority on Victorian mourning and cemetery architecture.

1.1.2. Secondary Sources

The Survey of London summarises some of the archive material into a concise history of the site and is referenced throughout the Plan.

In general, the secondary sources cover broad themes that provide the context for Brompton Cemetery's design and use. For example, Victorian attitudes to death, funeral practice and rituals, and London cemetery architecture throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

1.2. Structure of this Document

This document consists two parts.

Section 1 is this written report.

Section 2 contains the Plans and Images; various historic plans, building phases, analysis of significance, and other historic and recent images, which are cross referenced in this written document.

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2.0 Strategic Context and Historic Development

2.1. Strategic Context

Brompton Cemetery is a large, early Victorian, garden cemetery located in West Kensington. The cemetery is on a c40 acre site bounded to the north by the Old Brompton Road and to the south by the Fulham Road. Its western boundary is formed by the Wimbledon branch of the District Line, this was previously the course of the Kensington Canal, and its eastern boundary is formed by the housing of Ifield Road, formerly known as Honey Lane.

The cemetery was established as one of the 'Magnificent Seven'; seven cemeteries opened by commercial companies in the vicinity of London in the 1830s and 1840s. The first of these, and the most profitable, was The Cemetery of All Souls at Kensal Green. Brompton, which opened as the West London and Westminster Cemetery, was authorised by an Act of Parliament in 1837 and completed in 1840, was the fourth to be established and the second from last to be completed. The 'Magnificent Seven' cemeteries were all large cemeteries set in landscaped grounds. They prefigured the large municipal and civic burial grounds of the later 19th and 20th centuries.

2.2. Archaeological Context

To establish the likely existence of buried archaeological remains predating the construction of the cemetery on the site, a range of sources were consulted. The Historic Environment Record, maintained by the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service, was consulted for a study area 300m from the borders of the cemetery. This search area was considered adequate given the size of the cemetery and its urban context. Following this historic maps and secondary source material were consulted. The Historic Environment Record returned no information relating to monuments that predate the construction of the cemetery within the cemetery site itself. No records of buried archaeology predating 19th century land use were found within the study area; this reflects the lack of archaeological investigation in the area. Further to the Historic Environment Record secondary sources and historic maps were consulted.

Mapping by the British Geological Society¹ shows the bedrock geology underlying the cemetery to be the London Clay Formation. This is overlain by Thames terrace gravels of the Kempton Park Formation, and Quaternary alluvial deposits have also been recorded as present in its southern corner. Organic remains and artefactual evidence dated from the Ipswichian Interglacial, about 128,000 years ago have been located in relation to the Kempton Park Gravels elsewhere in the London, and with the most well-known being the deposits at Trafalgar Square, which contained bones of hippopotamus, associated with plant remains and pollen providing information about the contemporary landscape. Deposits of interest of that date are likely to lie buried at a considerable depth below the site. Alluvial deposits of a later (Quaternary) date in the southern section have the potential to preserve waterlogged organic remains and palaeo-environmental remains from the Holocene at comparatively more shallow depths.

¹ British Geological Society website www.bgs.ac.uk

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Secondary sources illustrate that the cemetery site is located to the west of a former tributary of the Thames, Counters Creek, which flowed from Kensal Green through north Kensington and Brompton, to join the Thames at Chelsea Harbour. The creek is now lost, though stretches of it survived as the Kensington Canal until the mid-19th century. It is possible that the well-drained gravel banks of this tributary were settled in the pre historic period. Evidence of Palaeolithic or Mesolithic channels have been found in excavations on the Kings Road, to the east of the site, and it is known that the Thames and its tributaries were settled during the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron ages. However it must be noted that any archaeological remains related to these settlements in the vicinity of the cemetery site would have likely been severely truncated; if not by the brick making activities on the site in the early 1830s, then certainly by the cemetery's construction or the construction of the Canal in the late 18th century, and the subsequent conversion of the canal bed into the Wimbledon Branch of the District line in the mid-19th century. Similarly the subsequent intrusive ground works associated with the cemetery's use will have had the same effect.

2.2.1. Early History of the Site

There is little documentary evidence for land use in the vicinity of the site during either the Roman or early medieval periods; the main Roman settlement, Londinium, is c6km to the northeast of the site and the major Roman road in the vicinity, the A4, is some distance to the north west. Brompton itself is first recorded as a hamlet of Kensington, called Broom's Farm, in 1294. Although there were relatively substantial medieval settlements at Chelsea and Kensington, Brompton retained a largely rural aspect throughout the medieval and early modern periods. The nearest settlement of note, Little Chelsea, a small hamlet, appears to date from the 1650s onwards. The area became famous for its nurseries and market gardens throughout the 17th and 18th centuries; these were no doubt located in Brompton to take advantage of the well-established roads into the more populated districts of Chelsea and Knightsbridge. The largest of these, Brompton Park Nursery, was founded in 1681 and remained in operation until the mid-19th century. In the early 19th century the area consisted of nucleated hamlets, at Earls Court Farm and Little Chelsea, and some limited ribbon development along Fulham Road and Brompton Lane. From the mid-19th century the area became increasingly built up, with speculative housing developments covering the fields and gardens. These houses were originally settled by artists and writers and as rents increased, the tennantry became increasingly affluent.

2.2.2. Nineteenth Century

The cemetery site is shown on Cruchley's Map of 1829, as shown in the LUC 1998 Feasibility Study for the cemetery (not reproduced here due to copyright). As now, the site is bounded to the north by the Old Brompton Road, marked as 'The New Road', and to the south by buildings fronting Fulham Road, marked as 'Bridge Street'. These buildings are substantial and have large back lands; they are likely to have been large houses, though one is marked as 'The Black Bull', and so must have traded as an Inn. To the west the site is bounded by the Kensington Canal and to the east by Honey Lane, which except for a small group of buildings at the junction with the Fulham Road, runs between fields with no buildings. The site itself is shown divided into several fields, and is traversed by a path that runs diagonally along the north east of the site from the canal to the junction of Honey Lane and the Old Brompton Road. One building is shown within the site itself; this may have been a dwelling, it is depicted on the eastern edge of the site, about halfway along the length of Honey Lane. The

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site as depicted on Meale's map of 1830 (Fig 20); the depiction is largely unchanged though the field pattern has slightly changed; two smaller fields have been amalgamated into one larger one, and a small building has been constructed in the north eastern corner of the site at the junction of Honey Lane with the New Road.

The Survey of London tells us that from 1832 the site had been leased to a John Shaler, a market gardener; indeed the company minutes refer to the site as 'Shaler's Farm', which implies that Mr Shaler lived on the site. Given its location, to the north of a major east-west transport routes, it is likely that the site had functioned as a market garden for some time at this period. In 1836, however, the site, or part of the site, was sublet to William Hoskings, an engineer of the Birmingham, Bristol and Thames Junction Railway. Hoskings leased the site on behalf of the Pneumatic Railway Association. The site was then used for brick making. It is likely that the brick earth was removed from immediately below the soil and then dried and fired on the site. This was a common practice in the area at this period; there was a constant demand for building materials as London expanded westward; archaeological investigations at Farm lane in Fulham found evidence of 19th century brick making and several brick works are depicted on the 1830 map of Brompton. The brick making would account for the denuded appearance of the site in 1840; when it was said that 'the site has no natural attractions whatsoever. Not a tree and scarcely a shrub adorn the place', the 1826 and 1830 map depictions show extensive shrub and tree growth at the field margins.² There is no cartographic source that depicts the brick making activity on the cemetery site, and although several secondary sources mention that brick making took place, none have any detail about where or exactly what this consisted of. It is therefore unclear if any particular part of the site was favoured for clay extraction. It is clear, however, that at least a portion of the site remained in agricultural use; as Mr. Shaler appealed to the Company for compensation for crops growing on the site as the sale was completed.³ There is no documentary evidence to suggest which part of the site remained in agricultural use; it was likely the area immediately adjacent to the dwelling on the site, at roughly the centre of the site adjacent to Honey Lane.

It is considered unlikely that the cemetery site contains buried archaeological remains relating to human use prior to the construction of the cemetery. Survival of buried archaeological remains in the north western corner will also have been limited by bomb damage sustained in the Second World War (the damage was restricted to the area by West Brompton Station. There is, however, the potential for buried archaeological remains of a paeleo-environmental nature to be present at some depth; these are unlikely to have been disturbed by the cemetery construction or use.

2.2.3. Cemeteries in the early 19th Century

Existing burial practice

The existence of Brompton Cemetery (originally the West of London and Westminster Cemetery) can be traced back to the burial conditions found in the London in the 1820s and early 1830s when communal burial pits, private graveyards and churchyards had reached a crisis point.

² Brompton Cemetery, entry on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens

³ The Westminster Cemetery Company Minutes, held at The National Archives, Work 6/65 p. 32

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Presided over by sinecure sextons and absentee and 'irreligious' clergy, the church burial grounds were often poorly maintained⁴. This situation was exacerbated in the large urban centres, particularly the capital. The population of London rose steadily throughout the 18th century and more than doubled in the period from 1800 to 1840, 'with corresponding mortality' from regular cholera epidemics⁵. The rate of new burials outstripped the period needed for decomposition; 'the level of the ground [in churchyards] rose and hideous means were employed by the gravediggers to provide space for the new intakes.'⁶ Sometimes there was no more than a foot of earth on top of the most recent burial, and people believed the source of cholera was the miasma (bad air) around graveyards. The fear of disease and the general stench of decay led to much social commentary in newspapers and magazines about what should be done.

2.2.4. The Garden Cemetery Movement

The genesis of the garden cemetery movement in 19th century Britain is complex. Disquiet with burial in the establishment churchyards had grown throughout the 18th century, partly resulting from Enlightenment humanism. It is, therefore, unsurprising that two of the progenitors of the great Victorian garden cemeteries were associated with seats of Enlightenment learning; Edinburgh's Calton Hill of 1718, the burial place of the avowedly atheistic David Hume, and Paris's Père-Lachaise of 1804, laid out on the orders of Napoleon. Both of these cemeteries were established on well drained, sloping land above their respective city centres. Of the two, Père-Lachaise was the more influential. Tombs and monuments were laid out on winding routes, between naturalistic clumps and groups of trees. A measure of formality was to be provided by a 'centrally placed funerary pyramid of the kind with which French architects had been preoccupied for a generation. In the event, the pyramid was never built and, without a focal point the cemetery unfolds as a Jardin Anglais of tombs.'⁷

Alongside the increasing secularity associated with the Enlightenment, there was a concomitant rise in the membership and reach of the dissenting churches during the 18th century. This increased the need for burial grounds that were not aligned with an Anglican parish, as the dissenting congregations were barred from burial in consecrated ground. Several wealthy dissenters opened cemeteries for their congregations in the early 19th century; at Norwich, Liverpool, Manchester and at Stoke Newington, this last example evolved to Abney Park Cemetery.

In the 1820s several schemes for metropolitan cemeteries were advanced, though none were executed. The largest of these were Thomas Wilson's scheme for a pyramidal catacomb and ossuary at Primrose Hill, and Francis Goodwin's 'Grand National Cemetery', possibly to be located at Kidbrooke.⁸ Goodwin's plan was for a classical arcadia, loosely modelled on Père Lachaise with a greater degree of formality in the built structures (Fig 20). Monuments were to be arranged around winding paths with the central axes lined with colonnades atop

⁴ Curl, Pers. Comm

⁵ Turpin, J and Knight, D. *The Magnificent Seven, London's First Landscaped Cemeteries*. Amberly: Stroud, P12

⁶ Survey of London: volumes 37: Kensington, 1973, pp. 333-339

⁷ Colvin, H. *Architecture and the Afterlife*. Yale University Press. 1991. P370

⁸ Baker, F and Hyde, R. *London As it might have been*. John Murray: London P142

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catacombs, a circus, ionic temples serving as funerary chapels, copies of the Arch of Constantine at the entrances and a vast Anglican chapel at the centre, modelled on the Parthenon. This cemetery was to include a central portion for 'great and distinguished persons whose wisdom, bravery, genius and talent have conspicuously contributed to the glory of the country', areas for private burial and, beyond a vast crescent with a replica of Trajan's Column, burial plots for 'the humbler class'.⁹ The scheme was prominently advertised, both at Goodwin's offices and the Royal Academy, though the company never received royal assent and the scheme was promptly abandoned.

The cholera epidemics of the 1830s refocused attention on the burial situation in the capital, as an early leader in *The Builder* noted:

Fifty thousand desecrated corpses are every year stored in some one hundred and fifty limited pits of churchyards. This huge wedge and conglomerate of pride buries – no it does not bury – but stores and piles up fifty thousand of its dead to putrefy, to rot, to give out exaltations, to darken the air with vapours...¹⁰

It was in the context of the health reforms of the 1830s and 1840s that the government authorised the formation of eight private cemetery companies to provide burial grounds in the vicinity of London from 1832 to 1847.

In 1830 the barrister George Carden advocated the formation of a private company for burials, and the General Cemetery Company was formed¹¹. Two years later the company obtained an Act of Parliament for the establishment of The Cemetery of All Souls at Kensal Green to be operated independently from Church or State. The company sold shares in order to fund the building works, and this joint-stock model was soon seized upon by others.

2.2.5. The Battle of the Styles

In order to attract the most business, the competitive cemetery companies funded impressive architecture and landscape design on sites in the green outskirts of London; these cemeteries became known as the 'Magnificent Seven'. They are: Kensal Green (1833), West Norwood (1837), Highgate (1839), Brompton (1840), Nunhead (1840), Abney Park (1840) and Tower Hamlets (1841). Looking at a map of these cemeteries, Brompton appears to be the exception because it is the nearest to central London, but the area was still semi-rural in 1839.

During the early 19th century there was the so-called 'battle of the styles' between Neo-Gothic and Neo-Classical architects. Proponents of Neo-Gothic (e.g. Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin) and Neo-Classical (e.g. John Nash) argued why their style was the most appropriate for private and public buildings; some architects were less zealous and liked to prove they could design buildings in both styles.

In the era of the Magnificent Seven, Neo-Classical was initially the more dominant and was used at Kensal Green and Brompton, before Neo-Gothic took over at Highgate and West Norwood. At some cemeteries, architects used several styles to differentiate the architectural elements; Nunhead has Neo-Classical gates and a Neo-Gothic chapel, whereas Tower

⁹ Ibid, p144

¹⁰ Anon. 'On the state of the cemeteries'. *The Builder*, 8th April 1843. Vol. 1 p104

¹¹ Arnold, C. *Necropolis: London and its Dead*, Simon & Schuster, 2006 pp12-126

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Hamlets had a Neo-Gothic Anglican chapel and a Byzantine Non-Conformist chapel (they were bomb damaged and cleared away).

A British interpretation of ancient Egyptian style, known as the Egyptian Revival, was also popular. Interest in Egypt stemmed from Nelson's defeat of Napoleon at the Battle of the Nile in 1798 and there were expedition publications sold throughout the 1820s. The Egyptian Revival style could be applied to most funerary buildings and monuments; the best examples are the Egyptian Avenue at Highgate and the gate lodges at Abney Park.

2.2.6. Public Response to the New Cemeteries

J. C. Loudon believed the garden cemetery was as much for the enjoyment of the living as the dead, 'All burial grounds...once filled up...should be shut up as burying grounds and a few years afterwards, opened as public walks or gardens'.¹²

The wealthy seized upon the opportunities provided by these new commercial cemeteries, reassured not only by their security but also their beauty. They looked to make the family vault or mausoleum a reflection of their social status and no expense was spared on the design, which was often by well-known architects and sculptors (e.g. Edward Burne-Jones's tomb for Frederick Leyland at Brompton Cemetery). This extravagance also extended to the coffins themselves which were usually made from long-lasting hardwoods, studded with brass and lined with lead. In vaults and mausolea, the bodies inside such coffins were chemically treated to slow the more unpleasant effects of decay. Some families left the doors to the vaults and mausolea open during the day as they wanted their expensive coffins to be seen and admired.¹³

In contrast, the poor's experience of cemeteries was considerably different. Many could not afford a decent funeral, a good coffin or a headstone, and some would be buried in communal plots. This dichotomy is expressed clearly at Brompton, where the east side was reserved for those who could afford an 'in perpetuity' plot and the west side is for those who could not.

A day out to the cemeteries was considered a leisure activity by all classes; in some cemeteries, there was even a small charge to view coffins in the catacombs.¹⁴ It was quite common for visitors to bring a picnic with them and sit around the graves.

The Victorians embraced cemeteries as a new type of attraction, a place to promenade, to see and be seen in (even in death). The cemetery was a stage set where elaborate funerals were the show. This is reflected in much of the landscape planning and architecture of the cemeteries, which provide formal or picturesque views and dedicated raised viewing points such as terraces.

¹² Meller, Hugh & Parsons, Brian, London Cemeteries: An Illustrated Guide and Gazetteer, The History Press, 2011 (5th Edition) p16

¹³ Highgate Cemetery Tour, Pers, Comm

¹⁴ Meller & Parsons, p50

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3.0 The Establishment of Brompton Cemetery, 1839

3.1. The Company and the Site

The West London and Westminster Cemetery Company was incorporated by Act of Parliament in July 1837. The Act nominated fourteen men to act as the company board, empowered the company to buy the 40 acre Brompton site, and authorised the company to collect capital of not more than £100,000 through the issue of shares.¹⁵ The Act also required the company to pay a fee to any parish in a ten mile radius of the cemetery deprived of a burial by the presence of the cemetery; the metropolitan clergy ‘dependent in substantial measure for their income upon the revenue of burial fees’ had strenuously resisted the formation of the Company.¹⁶

The West London and Westminster Cemetery Company immediately ran into legal difficulty. The land proposed for this development was surrounded by fields and market-gardens, with Old Brompton Road (then Richmond Road) to the north, Honey Lane on the east (developed for housing during the period 1867-71; now Finborough and Ifield Roads), the Kensington Canal on the west (now the site of the District Line and London Overground) and Fulham Road to the south. The Brompton site was largely in the ownership of Lord Kensington, but for four acres along the Fulham Road that was owned by the Equitable Gas Light Company, who were not disposed to sell. Protracted negotiations resulted in the sale of a small portion at the junction of Honey Lane and the Fulham Road in 1839.¹⁷ The company’s desire for a grand frontage to the Fulham Road was thwarted and the off axis southern entrance to the cemetery is the result. Meanwhile, questions had been raised as to Lord Kensington’s ownership of the remainder of the site; it was unclear if the land had formed part of a settlement made by him on his heir. The case was referred to Chancery and the conveyance to the company was delayed until late 1838.¹⁸

These legal issues were exacerbated by the lacklustre company management. As the Survey of London dryly notes in the ‘first few months of [the cemetery company’s] existence attendance at meetings rarely exceeded four members’ and in August 1839 the first Chairman resigned, after having attended two meetings.¹⁹ By the middle of 1838, the company was struggling to sell shares since no visible progress had been made with the cemetery, and was considerably in debt.

After taking possession of the land in 1839, building work started with the walls and north entrance. In 1840 another batch of shares was sold to try to raise funds for the rest of the buildings and a loan of £25,000 was provided by Director and local landowner Robert Gunter.

The priority for the Company was to get the cemetery open so it could start making an income from burial fees. In June 1840 the ground was consecrated by C. J. Blomfield, Bishop of London, and the first burial took place a few weeks later. The name of the cemetery at the time of opening was the West of London and Westminster Cemetery.

¹⁵ Brompton Cemetery ‘Survey of London: volume 41: Brompton, 1983 p246

¹⁶ Ibid, p246

¹⁷ Ibid, p247

¹⁸ Ibid, p246

¹⁹ Ibid, p247

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Despite the fundraising efforts of the previous year, there was still a shortfall in funds so a special meeting was convened in spring 1841, with Directors and shareholders debating whether to stop work or continue. The vote was to continue and tenders were approved for the chapel, colonnades and catacombs; these buildings were completed in 1842.

The company's insistence on including a large proportion of catacombs in the layout of the cemetery proved a disaster financially. They were expensive to build and maintain and proved unpopular with the general public after some damning comments about gases from decomposing bodies made by the J.C. Loudon:

Even in some of the public catacombs of the new London Cemeteries, explosions have been known to take place, and the undertaker obliged to be sent for in order to resolder the coffin; which shows the disgusting nature of this form of interment, and its danger to the living.²⁰

3.2. The Cemetery Design Competition

The West London and Westminster Cemetery Company had initially engaged Stephen Geary, the architect of Highgate Cemetery, and Geary seems responsible for the design of the walls that surround the cemetery.²¹ In 1839 the company held a public competition for architectural designs for the cemetery. A 'Committee of Taste', formed by members of the company board and supported by an architect named Shaw, selected the winning design by Benjamin Baud.²²

Baud was appointed as architect in February 1839.

3.3. Baud's Design

None of Baud's original drawings have been found thus far so the best evidence for the Company's vision is G. Hawkins' lithograph of 1840 (fig. 21), which shows the date of the Cemetery's consecration and therefore must be contemporary with the construction works, and a separate bird's eye view drawing (fig. 21). These show an idealised version of the cemetery without many grave stones or trees.

Baud's design has a strong axial layout with a broad central carriageway leading from a triumphal arched gatehouse on the Old Brompton Road. Towards the centre of the site the carriageway was to be lined with parallel ranges of arcaded loggias above catacombs, topped with bell towers. These were to open into a broad circus, with two Doric temples housing Roman Catholic and Non-Conformist chapels at the eastern and western extremities of the circus. To the south of this circus, two further parallel ranges of the arcaded loggias were to lead to the centre point of the whole schema: a domed octagonal chapel, for the use of Anglicans. To the south of this the carriage-drive was to veer off the central axis to the south east, to connect to the entrance at the junction of Honey Lane and the Fulham Road. The original design also included a raised walkway along the eastern boundary of the site, and a further line of buried catacombs along the western boundary. The lithograph shows the

²⁰ London, J.C On the laying out, planting and managing of Cemeteries, and improviement of Churchyards, Longman, Brown and Green. 1843 Ivellet Books, 1981 (Facsimile Edition) p4

²¹ National Archives, Work 6/65 p32

²² Ibid, p46

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cemetery with broad parterres of lawn set between the carriage drive and an arrangement of axial paths, with monuments sparsely distributed throughout.

The design for the cemetery was incredibly ambitious but also very expensive. The Company Directors raised doubts at the time about Baud's competence but appointed him anyway. The relationship became strained towards the end of the construction phase as structural problems in the West Catacombs became evident.²³ Arguments between Baud and builder Philip Nowell over who was to blame contributed led to Baud's sacking in 1843.

3.4. Notable people involved in the building and design of the cemetery

John Claudius Loudon (1783 – 1843)

Loudon was a Scottish garden and landscape designer who wrote many monographs of the subject. He was a prolific writer, landscape gardener, horticulturist and social reformer who practiced during the first half of the 19th century. His writings display very definite opinions on styles of landscape design and this, combined with his concern for social improvement and education, make his texts comprehensive compendiums for both parks and cemeteries. On the subject of laying out cemeteries, this is certainly the case; his book 'On the Laying out, Planting, and Managing of Cemeteries, and on the Improvement of Churchyards' explore landscape design styles, planting styles, cover the logistics of particular operations, such as decomposition and space planning of laying out burials. All of these subjects are covered with clarity and within the context of high quality, but efficient, management and maintenance within an overall context of how to create a place which the wider public would enjoy and benefit from..

He created what is known as the 'gardenesque' style, which set out principles for planting, promoting exotics should be planted singly to show off the form of the plant, and to distinguish the style of planting design which could be mistaken for 'nature'. His book, 'On the Laying Out, Planting and Managing of Cemeteries' is thought to have guided early cemetery designers. He worked as an adviser to several cemetery companies, including the West of London and Westminster Cemetery Company during the building of Brompton Cemetery.

Many of his design ideas were put into practice at Derby Arboretum; his most prestigious project ever built, and the first public park designed specifically for public use. It demonstrates his gardenesque style, with trees and shrubs planted singly to show off their best aspect, and it exhibits entrance lodges, used for public education and visitor facilities; just as he advocated for cemeteries.

Loudon's Design Objectives for Parks and Cemeteries

Loudon's book states that the primary objective of a Cemetery was that of security of graves. He states 'the secondary object of cemeteries, that of improving the moral feelings, will be one of the results of the decorous attainment of the main object; for it must be obvious that the first step to rendering the churchyard a source of amelioration or instruction is, to render it attractive. So far from this being the case at present, there are in many instances the reverse, often presenting in London...a black unearthly-looking surface, so frequently

²³ National Archive, Work 6/66, entry for 29 Jan 1845 p417

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disturbed by interments that no grass will grow upon it' He reiterates the educational , aesthetic and moral issues which could be advanced through their careful design throughout the book, as well as the practical issues relating to the disposal of the dead. His design philosophy to create an attractive place is described in depth in his various books on laying out grounds and gardens, as well as his text on Cemeteries.

Loudon is clear that there should be a main Lodge Building which should contain the ledgers and information on burials, and a separate yard area for maintenance tools and staff

J.C.Loudon is clear that laying out a cemetery as a 'Garden Cemetery' would have a positive effect on the visitors to it, similar to the benefits gained by them visiting public parks, and this is achieved in a number of different ways. He states: 'A garden cemetery and monumental decoration are not only beneficial to public morals, to the improvement of manners but are likewise calculated to extend virtuous and generous feelings" He goes on to say that: A garden cemetery is the sworn foe to preternatural fear and superstition" and his summary that "a general cemetery in the neighbourhood of a town, properly designed, laid out, ornamented with tombs, planted with trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants, all named, and the whole properly kept, might become a school of instruction in architecture, sculpture, landscape – gardening, arboriculture, botany and in those important parts of general gardening, neatness, order and high keeping.

Stephen Geary (1797-1854)

Geary was an architect, engineer and entrepreneur. He founded the London Cemetery Company and designed most of the elements in Highgate Western Cemetery, including the magnificent Grade I-Listed Circle of Lebanon.²⁴ He was appointed as architect to the West of London and Westminster Cemetery Company in 1837 and showed designs for Brompton Cemetery at the Royal Academy in 1838²⁵. The company was evidently dissatisfied, and as described above decided to hold a public competition. Although Geary submitted his designs, he did not come in the top three and this was the end of the relationship. However, his interest in cemeteries continued and in 1841 he published Cemetery Designs for Tombs and Monuments. He died during a cholera epidemic in 1856 and fittingly, is buried in Highgate Cemetery.²⁶

Benjamin Baud (c. 1807-1875)

Baud was a pupil of Francis Goodwin and may have had knowledge of the latter's scheme for the Grand National Cemetery'.²⁷ Baud had also worked on the rebuilding of Windsor Castle under Jeffrey Wyattville, and it may be that Baud's designs came straight from Wyattville's office as they were marked 'Windsor' (while there is also a possibility that they were actually Wyattville's ideas).²⁸

After he was sacked as architect to Brompton Cemetery, Baud tried to sue the West London and Westminster Cemetery Company.²⁹ The expense and reputational damage of the failed

²⁴ Meller & Parsons, p188

²⁵ National Archive, Work 6/65 19 June 1838 p34

²⁶ Arnold, p151

²⁷ Arnold, p157

²⁸ National Archive, Work 6/65, 5,7, 20 Sept, 2 Oct 1838 pp44,46,47

²⁹ National Archive, Work 6/66 29Jan 1845 p417; 1 July 1846, p465, 8 Feb 1847 p477

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litigation affected his architectural practice to the extent that he did not design anything of consequence again.

The cemetery design was Baud's only substantial commission, and his acerbic obituary in *The Builder* noted: 'an architect now almost forgotten by the profession...he was much employed in alterations and additions to the mansions of various noblemen and gentlemen and numbered amongst his largest works the cemetery at West Brompton... The promise of his early years was scarcely fulfilled.'³⁰

Philip Nowell (c.1781-1853)

Philip Nowell was a major London builder (known as Messrs. Nowell), based at Grosvenor Wharf, Pimlico³¹. Like Baud, he had worked under Jeffry Wyattville and it is through this connection that he probably won the tender for most of the cemetery buildings. Fittingly, he is buried in Brompton Cemetery.

3.5. Original Buildings

Construction work began in the summer of 1840, as the first burials took place. In 1843 the colonnades, circus and central chapel were completed. The secondary chapels, the ranges of colonnades enclosing the chapel and one of the bell towers (as can be seen in Fig. 23 image 7) was not constructed; 'it may be that in their continuous search for economy the directors had reduced the quality and embellishment of [Baud's] first designs', concluded the Survey of London.³² The same year serious structural faults were found in the western range of catacombs, and Baud was removed from his position as company architect. The entrance and lodge on Fulham Road, noticeably more modest than the rest of the scheme was erected by Mr Dawson, a local builder, and completed in 1844.³³

Individually the executed built elements of the original scheme are of a high quality, with the exception of the Western Catacombs, which did not become the elevated walkway as originally intended, possible due to the draining of the canal as well as the financial strain on the construction budget. In particular the northern gate house, which recalls a small gentleman's villa as much as the Arch of Constantine, is finer and more elaborate than its counterpart at Kensal Green. Similarly the domed central chapel, showing the influence of various country house mausolea of the 18th century, is sober but well proportioned. As a whole, however, the executed design has 'a somewhat meagre air'.³⁴ The original intended impact of Baud's design could be said to have been compromised by later additions, such as the proliferation of tombs and monuments that obscure the central garden space of the Great Circle. Additionally the comments in the archives from the 1840's describe that the chapel 'seems too small in relation to the dominant position allocated to it'.³⁵

The rest of this section considers the design intention for each part of the site and how it was realised.

³⁰ Anon. the late Mr Benjamin J Baud, Architect' *The builder*, 1 May 1875 Vol33 p402

³¹ Philip Nowell entry from online version of *A Biographical Dictionary of Sculptors in Britain, 1660-1851*

³² *Brompton Cemetery, Survey of London: volume 41: Brompton (1983)*, p. 249

³³ National Archives, Work 6/66, entries for 20 March and 3 April 1844, pp. 385 and 388-9.

³⁴ *Ibid.* p. 248

³⁵ *Ibid.* p. 250

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3.5.1. Perimeter Walls

The perimeter boundary is formed by the perimeter wall, which is 2033m in total length. This is a substantial wall of London stock brick varying in height from 2m to 5m, buttressed at 6m intervals and topped with a saddle-back coping³⁶ (Fig. 23 image 7).

Although the threat of body snatching had greatly diminished after the Anatomy Act of 1832, high perimeter walls continued to be built around cemeteries. This was partly for security but also to differentiate the cemetery from the outside world both physically and in sentiment.

The perimeter walls were the first element to be constructed on the site in 1839 and were probably designed by Stephen Geary³⁷. The east and south walls were built by John Faulkner and the west by Messrs. Nowell, who went on to build most of the Cemetery's buildings.³⁸

3.5.2. North Entrance and Lodge

J.C. Loudon thought that a lodge was essential for the administration and management of the cemeteries, for example, 'keeping the record books and housing staff who could chase off any undesirables'³⁹. It was quite common for lodges to be incorporated into a gatehouse and there are particularly impressive examples at Kensal Green (a similar triumphal arch) and Abney Park (Egyptian Revival). By the 20th century, many cemeteries were built without lodges at all.

At Brompton Cemetery, the North Lodge and entrance onto Old Brompton Road were built in 1839-40 by Messrs. Nowell, from Whitby sandstone (later partly refaced, as described below). The building is in the form of a two-storey triumphal arch with Roman Doric columns; the ground floor has channelled rustication and round arched windows (Fig. 24, images 9 & 10).

To each side of the main arch is a single-storey wing, built of yellow stock brick. These abut side gates set in Whitby stone archways with channelled rustication (Fig. 24 images 9 - 11).

The yellow stock brick screen to either side of the wings is formed of large segmental headed openings, filled with tall iron railings by E. and R. Dewar. It is divided at the corners of the forecourt by rusticated Whitby stone piers (Fig. 24, image 12).

The east wing of the North Lodge was used as a temporary chapel in 1840 because the cemetery opened before the main Anglican chapel was complete. With the completion of the Anglican chapel, the east wing continued to be used as the 'Dissenters' Chapel', as described on an 1884 surveyor's plan. (Fig 23 image 8) until the Anglican chapel was deconsecrated, according to the Friends of Brompton Cemetery, although there is a drawing showing the east wing still in use as chapel in 1905.

This use probably explains why the interior of the east wing has more surviving features than the west. The ground floor has half-height timber panelling in several rooms and two

³⁶ Land Use Consultants, Cemetery Management Plan, report prepared for the Royal Parks Agency, 1998

³⁷ Curl, Survey of Monuments, p2

³⁸ Brompton Cemetery, Survey of London: volume 41: Brompton (1983), p249

³⁹ Loudon, J.C., p. 153

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fire surrounds. The upper floor also has some original joinery, such as architraves, doors and window cills. The west wing has some of the same joinery and one pair of window shutters. (Fig 37-38)

3.5.3. Chapel

J.C. Loudon advised that both Anglican and Non-Conformist chapels should be built centrally.⁴⁰ However it was not always necessary to have more than one chapel and many cemeteries do not.

At Brompton, Baud planned to build three chapels, an octagonal Anglican one in the central aisle, and rectangular 'Greek temples' for Non-Conformists and Catholics, one to either side of the colonnaded Great Circle. However, due to financial constraints only the Anglican chapel was completed, in 1842. The site of the Non-Conformist chapel is said to remain unconsecrated as a mark of respect.

The chapel at Brompton was delayed by the financial problems of the Company. Work was permitted to go ahead in 1841 with Messrs. Nowell, and the building was finally finished in 1842, two years after the cemetery had opened for business.

The chapel is octagonal on plan and built of Bath stone, which at that time was still recognised as a prestigious material (though it was not as expensive as Portland stone). At each of the eight corners of the building stand a pair of giant Roman Doric pilasters (one shallow pilaster on each side of the corner). These support a heavy frieze of Doric triglyphs, beneath a bracketed cornice surmounted by a solid parapet relieved by blocking-courses and panels. The ground floor is raised on a plinth and covered with channelled rustication, while the first floor is smooth ashlar; both storeys have arched windows. The dome is covered with lead, with integral skylight panels set within the ribs on the upper third, beneath a central raised circular parapet. Facing the avenue to the north is a projecting porch with coupled columns (Fig. 25, image 13).

The outer doors to the south entrance are probably the only original doors left. These appear to be softwood timber with wood graining, covered over by later layers of paint. Wood graining was commonly used in the 1840s as a way of making softwood timber look like expensive hardwood.

To the east and west of the chapel are single storey wings, also rusticated, with niches; these are L-shaped in plan with the outer arms projecting southwards to frame the chapel. Outside the walls of the wings are several coal chutes leading to the basement. On the ground floor, the interiors housed administration offices. There is evidence of two fireplaces in the east wing and remains of the original ceiling and skirting, but the west wing is less well preserved.

Generally, the interiors of contemporary chapels were sparsely decorated and furnished. At Kensal Green, West Norwood and Highgate there was a coffin bier (or lift) in the chapel which lowered the coffin into the catacombs. However, this was not always the case and sometimes the coffin was left outside the chapel during the service (there were also

⁴⁰ Meller & Parsons, p. 38

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criticisms the process ‘has too much of the trick of the theatre about it for the stern realities of the grave’).⁴¹

The interior of Brompton chapel is highly decorative with giant Corinthian columns arranged in a circle below the dome (fig. 26, image 17). The inside of the dome is coffered and decorated with marigolds; the antifixes around the edge of the dome feature Acanthus leaves. Brompton chapel does not have a coffin lift and a contemporary illustration shows little furniture (Fig. 26, image 17).

3.5.4. Colonnades

The concept of a Great Circle with colonnades could have been inspired by several other designs of the period. As described above, the first of these was Francis Goodwin’s 1830 plan for a Grand National Cemetery, which was originally designed for site in Kidbrooke (but never built) and subsequently was also rejected for use at Kensal Green. The second influence, and that closest in date to Baud’s design, is Highgate Cemetery which had the Circle of Lebanon: a ring of mausolea from 1838 - 39 designed by Stephen Geary, the original architect to Brompton Cemetery.

As described above, the Grand Circle is incomplete in several respects if compared with the original vision. The missing side chapels mean there is a gap to east and west of the circle, while the southern flanking arms of the colonnades were not built, and there is only one bell tower on the west side of the central avenue (the completed tower is octagonal on plan, like the chapel, with a dome on top). The bell is no longer in the tower but is stored on site.

The original concept was to keep an open landscape in the centre of the Great Circle, presumably to function as a public open space for mourners and sightseers. However commercial pressures meant it was filled up with graves from 1889, when plots began to be sold (figs. 25 and 27).

The colonnades were built by Messrs. Nowell in 1841-42 in Bath stone, with channelled walls pierced by round arches divided at regular intervals by Doric columns (Fig. 27 & 28, image 21). The internal back wall is exposed brick, used for the fixing of memorial plaques, some of which related to interments in the catacombs below.

In each quadrant of the circle and either side of the centre of the avenue leading north, steps lead down to the catacomb entrances, with cast iron doors manufactured by E. and R. Dewar. The design has inverted torches with flames (this can also be seen at the Circle of Lebanon at Highgate Cemetery); this symbol means a life extinguished but still burning – a reference to resurrection (Fig. 28, image 22). The other motif of an ouroboros (a serpent eating its own tail) is a symbol from ancient Egypt and also symbolises eternal life.

3.5.5. Central Catacombs

Catacombs originated in the system of underground tombs built between the second and third milestones of the Appian Way, which led south east out of Ancient Rome. This example inspired countless later imitations such as the 18th century catacombs in Paris, and the concept became briefly fashionable in Britain during the early 19th century. According to

⁴¹ Quarterly Review, as quoted in Arnold, p. 128

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Meller & Parsons, catacombs were built at nine London cemeteries in the 19th century, including all of the Magnificent Seven (ref). The typical structure is a brick vaulted passage with loculi (places for the coffins) on each side. A strong structure was needed to support lead lined coffins stacked on top of one another. The front of the loculus was covered with glass or a metal grate so that the ornate coffins could be seen.

James Stevens Curl states that catacombs fell out of favour not long after Brompton was built because they were expensive to construct and not spatially efficient, the coffins often having to be laid crosswise rather than end-on (e.g. Kensal Green)⁴². In addition, as cremation became more popular at the end of the 19th century, some catacombs were converted into columbaria (Latin for dovecote) – places where ashes were stored in urns.

The catacombs at Brompton were also built by Messrs. Nowell in 1841-42 and are directly below the colonnades. They were occupied by the wealthiest patrons who could afford to purchase family vaults ‘in perpetuity’.

Each segment of the catacombs consists of a brick passageway with cells either side. The cells adjacent to the Grand Circle and Avenue are deeper, allowing three coffins to be placed at right angles to the passageway. The cells on the opposite side of the passageway are shallower, with the coffins placed one deep, alongside the passageway. Each cell has four shelves made from a thick piece of slate supported on brick ledges. At the front of each shelf are iron railings, which was probably the default security option; in some places, stone plaques have been used to seal the individual spaces or whole shelf (Fig. 28, image 23 & 24).

The coffins are in different stages of decay; however, their beautiful designs are still readable. The designs generally fall into two types – geometric patterns studded in nails, or with Gothic brass plate fittings. Incredibly, some original wreaths placed at the end of the coffins also survive (Fig. 28, image 24).

The roof of the passageway is formed by the stone slabs of the colonnades above. In some slabs there are tiny, glazed, oval openings or oculi – although they are small and do not let much light into the catacombs, they are a source of natural daylight (Fig. 29, image 27).

The passageway is divided at intervals by walls forming an arched opening. Within the head of the arch and wall above there are two holes. It is not known what these were for – possibly some type of lighting or rope pulley system (Fig. 29, image 27)

At the north end of south-west catacombs around the Grand Circle is a blocked up doorway. This is evidence that the short segments of catacombs and colonnades leading to the Catholic and Non-Conformist chapels were planned but then abandoned when the company could not afford to continue. (There may be further blocked doorways but not all the catacombs were seen)

3.5.6. West Catacombs

Baud originally envisioned catacombs all the way along the West Wall, which was then the boundary with the Kensington Canal (and later the District Line). The Hawkins lithograph from 1840 shows a terrace on top of the catacombs – a place where people could promenade and take in views of the cemetery, canal, and the countryside beyond. Stairs lead from the

⁴² Stevens Curl, James, Brompton Cemetery Survey of Monuments, English Heritage, 1989, p. 3

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main entrance up to the roof of the catacombs, providing a formal entrance to the promenade.

At Kensal Green cemetery, the architect Henry Kendall planned for coffins to arrive via a water gate on the Grand Union Canal, however, the Board did not approve and it was not carried out. Presumably Baud would have been aware of this idea but there is no record of him suggesting it for Brompton.

The West Catacombs were built by Messrs. Nowell, but shortly after their construction, structural faults developed and Baud and Nowell blamed each other⁴³. This was one of the reasons for Baud's sacking. Some of the Western Catacombs near the remaining main entrance has been subject to structural works in the 1980's. It is not clear, however, if further faults are still in evidence, as the movement surveys on the retaining wall with the railway undertaken in 2014 show minimal movement. Further structural assessment will take place in 2015 when the Western Catacombs have been emptied of all the soil, which they are currently filled with.

The structure of the West Catacombs is far less grand than the catacombs on the Central Avenue and Grand Circle. The east wall (facing the cemetery) is yellow stock brick and partially submerged beneath ground level. There were originally three entrances but only one remains. This projects out from the east wall and is also of yellow stock brick; the central section has channelled rustication and is carved with the word 'catacombs' in capital letters at the top. The door and window screens may once have been bronze but have been replaced with poor quality modern replicas (Fig. 29, image 28).

Internally the West Catacombs are arranged in a similar manner to the Central Catacombs, with cells either side of a passageway and five shelves in each cell. The layout is shown on drawings in the National Archives from the 1850s⁴⁴ (Fig. 30, image 29).

3.5.7. South Entrance and Lodge

The Company's original plan was to purchase the Equitable Gas Light Company land to the south and create an impressive entrance along the Fulham Road. However, as is evident from Hawkins' lithograph of 1840, this plan had to be abandoned because the land was too expensive. Instead a makeshift entrance was made from the south end of Honey Lane.

This situation was only rectified in 1843 when the Equitable Gas Light Company land came up for auction and a small parcel was purchased for the entrance onto Fulham Road.

The entrance is made up of pierced ironwork piers, set in a bowed iron screen with rusticated stone piers (Figs. 31 & 32).

Just behind the gate is the South Lodge which was designed and built by the contractor, Mr Dawson, after Baud's dismissal in 1844.⁴⁵ The lodge is built from yellow stock brick with stone cornice, plinth and window dressings, and a flat roof. Several of the large sash windows have the original glazing pattern with margin lights (Fig. 33, image 32).

⁴³ National Archives, Work 6/66, entry for 29 Jan. 1845, p. 417.

⁴⁴ National Archives, Work 98/152

⁴⁵ National Archives, Work 6/66, entries for 20 March and 3 April 1844, pp. 385 and 388–9.

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In the National Archives there are plans for ‘Additions to Lodge at Fulham Road Entrance’ which seem to show the South Lodge’s then existing east elevation and internal layout (Fig. 33, image 33)⁴⁶. The plans are undated but suggest that the lodge originally had a much smaller footprint than it does today. Ordnance Survey maps of 1906 and 1916 confirm that the central portion of the South Lodge’s east facade was originally recessed and that it was extended forwards between the dates of the maps.

The two southern rooms are shown with back-to-back fireplaces (the fire surrounds in the rooms today could date back to the 1840s). The drawings also show a large chimney stack for these fires; however, as there is no stack now, it must have been demolished (date unknown).

The northern half of the lodge is shown as comprising a small square room and an outside W.C. This room incorporates the buttress of the cemetery’s west perimeter wall. The front door seems to be between the small room and the walled yard.

To the east side of South Lodge is a one-room police box. This was built at the same time as the Lodge and has the same appearance externally (Fig. 33, image 34).

3.6. Landscape and Planting

Isaac Finnemore was appointed as landscape gardener alongside Baud's appointment as architect in 1837. By 1840, John Claudius Loudon was consulted on the planting for the site.

The landscape of Brompton Cemetery is in the the landscape of Brompton Cemetery was designed in an architectural style, a retrospective application of seventeenth century formal symmetry, which in 1840 was bucking the prevailing trend that hitherto leant towards more informal picturesque designs. J.C. Loudon a prolific author on matters of gardens and landscapes in the 19th century wrote the defining work on cemeteries in 1843, ‘On the laying out, planting, and managing of cemeteries, and on the improvement of churchyards’. Many of the ideas Loudon pursues in his work can be identified in the landscape layout of Brompton.

Loudon proposed in his work that when laying out a cemetery planting en masse should be avoided and that trees with the potential for bulky heads should be passed over in favour of those having narrow, conical shapes like the cypress, the form of which not only produces little shelter or shade, but has been associated with places of burial from time immemorial. Species that Loudon suggested for planting in cemeteries with a flat setting were: pines, firs, junipers and yews. Of these, tenders for pines, junipers and yews were made. Furthermore alongside the drives and paths trees should be planted parallel to the road at regular intervals. This is something that is seen throughout the layout of Brompton. The theory of excluding trees with ‘bulky heads’ ideal does not necessarily seem to have been translated into practice at Brompton, however, as there are many trees with bulkier canopies included in his original tree planting lists.

The first depiction of the possible original landscape layout of Brompton is a signed plan by Baud of 1837 (Fig. 22, image 5) for the layout of the cemetery; little is shown that describes the landscape, except the central Lime avenue, or main axis. The layout is subdivided into clear rectangular compartments intersected with straight east west paths and sub-ordinate

⁴⁶ National Archives, Work 38/203

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north south axis. The use of Classical architecture, which is almost entirely symmetrical, is a feature mimicked in the hard landscape layout, thus creating impressive vistas throughout.

Several sketches exist showing views of the area surrounding the chapel, one of which from the Historical Times a 'Bird's Eye View of the Chapel and Great Circle' depicts a number of trees and shrubs planted within the Great Circle, (Fig. 21, image 3) on which a significant number of monuments stands. From the view along the central avenue that is depicted, it is difficult to ascertain any particular pattern of planting.

Hawkins' lithograph, dated 1840, shows a formal landscape containing avenues, paths along straight axes as well as parterres and an overall symmetrical aesthetic. The cemetery is laid out in a number of regular squares, an idea spoken of by Loudon in his book, 'On Laying Out, Planting and Managing of Cemeteries and Improvement of Churchyards'.

On Hawkins' lithograph (Fig. 21, image 4) what is noticeable is a conservative planting scheme with a heavy focus on planting in the northern half of the landscape; again this follows a principle laid out in Loudon's work; that trees and shrubs should be planted in moderation and every effort should be made to avoid planting practices used in parks and pleasure grounds. However the lack of planting depicted in the south of the landscape in the lithograph can probably be attributed to the artist's decision to accentuate the built architecture in this area.

In minute books held in the National Archives at Kew (WORKS 6/65 (PRO KEW) there is a record of trees and shrubs from a consultation between the committee and JC Loudon on 21st January 1840.

The plants listed (see below for list of plants from Loudon consultation, 1840) from Loudon's consultation are representative of species he recommends in his book.

List of trees and shrubs. January 21st 1840. From a consultation between the committee and JC Loudon

Common Name	Latin Name
Corsican Pine	<i>Pinus laricio (For avenues and around the chapel)</i>
Black Pine	<i>Pinus nigra</i>
Common Cypress	<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i>
Cedar of Lebanon	<i>Cedrus libani</i>
Common Yew	<i>Taxus baccata</i>
Box	<i>Buxus sempervirens</i>
Common Juniper	<i>Juniperus communis</i>
Portugese Laurel	<i>Prunus lusitanica</i>

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Strawberry Tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>
Laurustinus	<i>Viburnum tinus</i>
Irish Yew	<i>Taxus baccata fastigiata</i>
Chinese Arborvitae	<i>Thuja orientalis</i>
Swiss Stone Pine	<i>Pinus caembra</i>
Phoenician Juniper	<i>Juniperus phoenicea</i>
Drooping Juniper	<i>Juniperus recurva</i>
Broad-leaved Phillyrea	<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>
Common Holly	<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Atlantic Ivy	<i>Hedera hibernica</i>

Not all of the species on this list were tendered for and in some cases seem to have been replaced with orders for another species. The only other note on the list was that the *Pinus nigra* and *Pinus laricio* were for avenues and around chapel. The species tendered for, the amount ordered and the supplier are listed below.

Common Name	Date	Number ordered	Supplier
Lime Trees	8/4/1840	Unknown	Unknown
Black Pine	28/10/1840	250	Unknown
Corsican Pine	28/10/1840	250	Unknown
Austrian Pine	28/10/1840	250	Unknown
Maritime Pine	28/10/1840	250	Unknown
Irish Yew	11/11/1840	850	Neale's of Wandsworth
Portugese Laurel	11/11/1840	172	Neale's of Wandsworth

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Holly	11/11/1840	120	Neale's of Wandsworth
Box	11/11/1840	160	Neale's of Wandsworth
Laurustinus	11/11/1840	70	Forest & Black of Kensington
Red Cedar	11/11/1840	25	Forest & Black of Kensington
Swiss Pine	11/11/1840	15	Forest & Black of Kensington
Cypress	18/11/1840	30	Supplied by Both Neale's and Forrests's
Sweet Bay	18/11/1840	20	Supplied by Both Neale's and Forrests's
Holly	18/11/1840	100	Supplied by Both Neale's and Forrests's
Portugese Laurel	18/11/1840	100	Supplied by Both Neale's and Forrests's
Common Laurel	18/11/1840	100	Supplied by Both Neale's and Forrests's
Cedar of Lebanon	18/11/1840	5	Supplied by Both Neale's and Forrests's
Laurel	25/11/1840	500	Supplied by Both Neale's and Forrests's
Laurustinus	25/11/1840	200	Supplied by Both Neale's and Forrests's
Box	25/11/1840	200	Supplied by Both Neale's and Forrests's

Whilst this tells us what type of plants and trees were to be used in the planting of the Brompton Cemetery landscape, there is no evidence showing where these different species were to be placed within the landscape, except for the Lime Trees which were ordered

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specifically for the Avenue, seemingly in place of the Pine varieties recommended by Loudon. The list of plants can be analysed against existing planting plans for authenticity.

Overall, the original layout of Brompton Cemetery was formal in nature; its landscape and architecture were devised to create a dramatic, processional and pleasing aesthetic in a previously flat, featureless landscape. The landscape is based heavily around the use of straight paths, cross axis, and vistas and has clearly been subdivided into a number of compartments, more than likely for efficiency and ease of installing grave plots but still lending itself to the formal symmetry of the site, and that of an outdoor cathedral in layout, defined by the built form. Whilst a list of the original planting exists, between having opened in 1840, it is clear from Hawkins 1840 lithograph (Fig. 21, image 4) and the first Ordnance Survey map of 1867-72 (Fig 2) there was a substantial increase in planting within the cemetery. The main features of the original layout that can be identified with a good degree of certainty are:

- Central Avenue consisting of Lime Trees running North to South.
- Two smaller linear avenues to the west and south east of the site.
- A pattern of planting within the Great Circle.
- Patterns of planting (like parterres, but not quite) within four equally sized areas, to either side of the avenue.
- Planting to frame the architecture.

3.7. Analysis of the Design

Contemporary commentators saw in the arrangement of the circular loggias and domed chapel building the influence of St Peter's in Rome, and this apparent influence has been repeated in much subsequent scholarship. Though there is a passing resemblance it is likely that the principal influences were rather closer to home; Nash's partly executed designs for The Regents Park, which were prominently exhibited at the time, feature a large central circus, and this may have been an influence⁴⁷. However the designs bear the greatest debt to Goodwin's unexecuted plans for the Grand National Cemetery. Brompton, with colonnades above catacombs lining the major axial routes, a circus lined by more colonnades, a strong central focus provided by an Anglican chapel and triumphal arches for gateways, is a simplification of Goodwin's scheme, presented on a more constrained site. The use of a classical idiom for the design may also have been suggested by Goodwin's scheme; in the battle of the styles Baud was generally a Goth⁴⁸. Geary's unexecuted designs may have featured some of these elements, although this cannot be verified as Geary's designs have not been preserved.

The cemetery's strongly axial layout is at odds with the early garden cemeteries, which were arranged around winding naturalistic paths, as Père-Lachaise had been. Brompton's layout may be attributed to John Claudius Loudon, who had advised the Company board. In his influential 1843 work 'On the Laying Out, Planting and Management of Cemeteries' he

⁴⁷ Professor James Stevens Curl, pers. comm.

⁴⁸ The Builder, 1st May 1875. Vol. 33, p402.

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advocated formal layouts to distinguish cemeteries from pleasure gardens.⁴⁹ The arrangement of paths shown on the Lithograph and early OS maps bears a resemblance to that designed by Loudon for a cemetery in Cambridge. The cemeteries laid out by the burial boards and municipalities from the mid-19th century generally adopted this formal grid layout; Brompton is, therefore, an early adopter of what became the standard layout of cemeteries in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Hawkins' lithograph, which predates the completion of the cemetery, illustrates a range of conical coniferous trees lining the main paths. Possibly these were cypresses, a tree particularly associated with mourning in the early Victorian period⁵⁰. This would be in line with Loudon's suggestions for cemetery planting, which suggested evergreens 'planted... along the park structure rather than in clumps mimicking the planting style of either private estate parkland or municipal parks.⁵¹ Though this axial planting seems to have been introduced, the species of trees were largely deciduous, limes for the main avenue and poplars elsewhere. Beyond the limes lining the central carriageway and possibly some of the evergreens within the cemetery such as the Cedar tree south of the Chapel, it is difficult to evaluate with certainty the exact survival of the original planting scheme, as a degree of natural woodland plant succession has taken place.

⁴⁹ <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/imported-docs/p-t/cemeteries.pdf>
⁵⁰ See, amongst others, the poetry of Christina Rossetti.
⁵¹ <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/imported-docs/p-t/cemeteries.pdf>

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4.0 Changes to the Cemetery, 1844 – 1952

4.1. Changes in the Burial Business

4.1.1. Changes in burial law and compulsory purchase

By 1847, the Company had paid most of the shareholders and the debts were cleared; there was even a small dividend. This was possible because of the huge numbers of burials taking place, which had reached 700 per year by 1850 (a significant proportion of this figure relates to cholera epidemics in 1840s and 50s).

Despite the initial success of commercial cemeteries in London, there was still concern about overflowing graveyards in other cities. Edwin Chadwick, the Secretary of the Poor Law Commission, expressed this concern in his 1843 document, Report on the Practice of Interment in Towns. However, it was not until he moved to the Board of Health in 1849 that he was able to push forward the regularisation of burial.

The Metropolitan Interment Act of 1850 empowered the Board of Health to provide new burial grounds in the metropolitan area, purchase the existing cemetery companies, and in due course close all the old insanitary and overcrowded graveyards. The Act also allowed for regulation of burial fees and for the Board to make contracts with undertakers.

Brompton was the first and only cemetery to be purchased by the Board of Health, because its power to do so was revoked soon after in the 1852 Burial Act. Even before this point the government had had second thoughts about the purchase and had argued over the price. Eventually a figure of £74,921 was agreed, and although the Directors did not want to sell, the shareholders pushed through the sale.

The 1852 Act empowered London Vestries to form burial boards and provide burial grounds funded by the Poor Rate. This effectively halted the founding of any new commercial cemeteries in London as there was simply too much competition. Indeed, Brompton is still the only Crown cemetery in Britain.

4.1.2. Rise of Cremation

As well as facing increasing competition from public cemeteries, private cemeteries were affected by changing attitudes towards burial and cremation. In Christian tradition cremation was not permitted as, like Christ, it was believed that a body should remain whole in order to ascend to heaven and be resurrected. However, during the late 19th century, attitudes began to change and the practice became more accepted.

In 1874, Sir Henry Thompson, surgeon to Queen Victoria, wrote a paper entitled The Treatment of the Body after Death, published in The Contemporary Review. His main reason for supporting cremation was that 'it was becoming a necessary sanitary precaution against the propagation of disease among a population daily growing larger in relation to the area it occupied'.⁵²

Following this paper he established the Cremation Society of England with other like-minded individuals. In 1885, the Society conducted the first legal cremation on land they had

⁵² Arnold, p. 229

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purchased next to Brookwood Cemetery in Woking (established in 1854 by the London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company)⁵³. Cremation could only be undertaken at private cemeteries until the Cremation Acts of 1900 and 1902 which enabled provision at public cemeteries or crematoria. In 1900, cremation represented 0.07 percent of all deaths but by 1952, it was 19.3 percent.⁵⁴

4.1.3. Closure of Brompton Cemetery

By 1900, (Fig 4) there had been 155,000 burials but this number dropped off substantially with only around 50,000 between 1900 and 1952 (when Brompton stopped accepting new burials). There were not fewer people dying each year - in fact there were more during the First World War and Spanish flu of 1918 - but changes in attitudes to religion and mourning meant that the grand cemeteries were chosen less frequently, and less burial fees were coming in. Catharine Arnold sums up the position during the inter-war period;

Exhausted by pestilence and war, the English were losing their faith. The certainties which governed High Victorian mourning were gone. An entire generation had been swept away...by the 1930s, elaborate funerals had fallen out of favour among the upper and middle classes.⁵⁵

This fundamental shift of attitude, following the war and the simultaneous growth of publicly funded suburban cemeteries, meant Brompton was becoming less and less viable. The bomb-damage caused during the Second World War and the growing preference for cremation effectively finished off Brompton's cemetery business.

4.1.4. Military Connections

Despite the declining number of public burials, Brompton remained the foremost choice for military burials in the capital. The cemetery benefited from its proximity to a number of military-philanthropic institutions in the area including the famous Royal Hospital Chelsea, which housed the Chelsea Pensioners. Brompton is the resting place of 2625 Chelsea Pensioners, and their presence is marked by a large granite obelisk (Fig. 34, image 35). In 1856 Brompton was designated as the London District Military Burial Ground, accepting burial of active soldiers stationed in London at the reduced rate of 11 shillings a burial⁵⁶. The cemetery was also selected as the final resting place for numerous individual military officers and senior colonial officials throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries; as Professor Curl's Survey of Monuments attests. One of the most dramatic of these is that for General Alexander Anderson, commander of the Royal Marines from 1859 to 1877. His memorial consists of a pyramid of cannon balls, each inscribed with the name of a battle at which the General was present.⁵⁷

⁵³ Arnold, p. 233

⁵⁴ Cremation Society of England, Progress of Cremation in England, Wales, Scotland and N. Ireland 1885 - 2012

⁵⁵ Arnold, p. 257

⁵⁶ War Office Memoranda, National Archives, WO 43/1026

⁵⁷ Mackay, James, Buried at Brompton. Undated Friends of Brompton Cemetery Publication, held at Kensington and Chelsea Local Archives.

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4.2. Changes to the Landscape

By 1860 the Kensington Canal had been drained and the West London Extension Railway constructed in 1863. In 1866 - West Brompton station opened. The railway was renamed District Line in 1879.

1889 – Grand Circle starts to be filled in with graves. This was originally intended to be free of graves and a garden circle, but after the first burial and headstone had been erected, it became a popular location for monuments, according to dates on them.

1896 – By this time the Electricity station is present (not the current one)

1940 – West Brompton station closes (Aerofilms photo available from 1947)

1952 – Station dismantled. West Brompton electricity substation built.

4.3. Changes to the Buildings

4.3.1. Perimeter Walls

The north-west part of the wall and West Brompton station suffered bomb damage during World War II.

4.3.2. North Entrance and Lodge

In the National Archives there are plans which show the North Lodge internal layout in 1867⁵⁸ (Figs. 35 & 36, images 38-43) and some drawings of the Non-Conformist chapel interior (in the East wing of the Lodge) in 1905⁵⁹ (Figs. 37 & 38, images 44-48).

What we don't know:

The North Gatehouse was refurbished in 1856, with the front refaced Aislaby Stone, according to Friends' website and conservation area proposals statement. There may be further information at the National Archives at Kew as to why, and this would merit further study.

The Friends website also says 'It suffered extensive bomb damage during World War II and was subsequently restored'. However Professor Curl doesn't think so, (conversation during writing this plan). No evidence of bomb has been specifically found, but the facing stone on Brompton Road does look like it has been bomb damaged with fragments of stone missing, and on the bomb maps in the London Metropolitan Archive, a bomb was recorded as having damaged housing in the street opposite.

It is clear from observation, corroborated by MRDA Architects Render Study 2014, (Appendix 2) that the southern façade has been significantly altered in the middle of the 20th Century, but exact dates are not known.

Basement

⁵⁸ National Archives, Work 38/148

⁵⁹ National Archives, Work 38/209

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The 1867 plans show there was a kitchen and cellar in the basement of the east wing. A small toilet was accessible from the staircase and the tooting remains in the brickwork today, indicating its location.

The west wing has a slightly different layout but also contains kitchen and cellar. Within the kitchen is a copper which was a device for heating up water. These devices were usually made up of a brick base with iron firebox at the bottom into which coal was placed in order to heat up the water in the copper bucket above. This device could have provided hot water for the whole lodge. Within the room there is also a rectangular shape drawn below one window, which could be a cold water sink.

Ground floor

The 1867 plans show that inside the east wing, there is a room labelled chapel, a living room and another small room. There are some differences if the 1867 plans are compared to the appearance of the facades today:

- There is an entrance directly into the chapel from the south under what appears to be a porch. This no longer exists.
- There is a screen wall on the south basement steps with glazing or holes in it. This is now solid and only exists at low level.
- The east façade also has no door as it does today.
- There is only one window on the south wall instead of the two existing today.

The original design of the window in the south wall is shown in the 1905 drawing. It is comprised of a pair of arched openings with the glazing divided by two horizontal metal bars – this matches the windows on the north wall. The drawing also reveals that at the east end of the chapel there were two doors and a pulpit. These are not shown in 1867.

The 1867 plans show that inside the west wing, the layout is different to the east, with smaller rooms for residential accommodation. There is a parlour, living room and two other general rooms; a small WC and sink can be seen on the west side. Again, there are differences in the facades and layout compared to today:

- There is a screen wall on the south side with glazing or holes in it. This is now solid and only exists at low level.
- The WC is now the main entrance into the wing and an opening has been made in its east wall.
- There are two windows to the south wall but in a different configuration to today.
- There are no windows in the west wall but there are today.
- The dividing wall between the living room and the other room has gone.

First floor

The 1867 plans show the configuration of the east and west wings seem to be unchanged from when they were built and this layout remains today.

South elevations

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The south facades of the side wings have been altered from the original design. Cementitious render with chamfered horizontal channels has been added to both façades, which were probably built in yellow stock brick to match the north side. Pairs of wide casement windows have also been added to each of these facades; it is not known if these replaced previous window types. These alterations may well date to the mid-twentieth century – it may be that the ‘Dissenters’ Chapel’ ceased to be used when the cemetery closed to new burials in the 1950s, and the conversion happened at that time (the Anglican chapel may conceivably have been deconsecrated at the same time).

4.3.3. Chapel

Drawings in the National Archives show the Chapel and its wings in 1908⁶⁰ (Fig. 39, images 49 & 50). This shows the pattern of seating is circular. Across the centre of the Chapel is what appears to be a heating duct.

The east wing housed the pay office in 1908. The plaster ceiling appears to be original, as is the skirting. There is an artificial ceiling in the present W.C. which may hide the original plaster ceiling behind. The 1908 drawing shows two fireplaces which are now blocked up. The fireplace to the east has cupboards to either side, which are shown in the drawing. It is logical that there could have been a partition between these two fireplaces in 1840s; this must have been removed before 1908. Two other partitions shown in 1908 no longer exist.

The west wing housed the superintendent’s office, safe room and some W.C.s in 1908. Two partitions present in 1908 have since been removed

4.3.4. Colonnades and Central Catacombs

No evidence has been found for any alterations during this period.

4.3.5. West Catacombs

Unfortunately, the North West end of the West Catacombs was hit by a bomb during the Second World War (recorded as between Oct. 7, 1940 and June 6, 1941⁶¹) and the damaged section had to be demolished. It appears that the opportunity was also taken to remove a considerable stretch of the catacombs at this time, with only the southern portion now remaining. As the catacombs were no longer being used, Parsons Brinckerhoff states that spoil from the cemetery was dumped in there.⁶² This remains today (2015) and is due to be removed in February–April. Refer to section 5.4.6.

4.3.6. South Entrance and Lodge

The original plans show that the South Lodge’s original internal layout differs from today⁶³ (Fig 17 and Fig. 33, image 33). It appears that the middle part of the building has been extended forward to the east, probably in 1906-16 according to the map evidence. Probably also at this time the building was lengthened to the north to incorporate what was

⁶⁰ National Archives, Work 38/204.

⁶¹ London County Council Bomb Damage Maps 1939-1945, London Topographical Society, 2005

⁶² Parsons Brinckerhoff, Brompton Cemetery: Conversion and Repair of the Catacombs, 2013, p. 1

⁶³ National Archives, Work 38/203

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previously the front yard. The extension provided a new front door and lobby facing south, two large rooms (one with a fireplace), two small spaces (presently used as cupboard and W.C.) and a bathroom. To the north, beyond the bathroom, is a walled yard. These northern rooms are very plain and have no decorative internal features.

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5.0 Changes to the Cemetery ,1952 Onwards

5.1. Changes in the Burial Business

After the Second World War the popularity of cremation continued to grow steadily until the late 1960s when it represented 50% of all deaths nationwide. This fundamental shift over the course of the 20th century led to the financial and hence physical decline of many commercial cemeteries. (In 2012, the highest percentage of cremations thus far was recorded, at 74.6 %.⁶⁴)

Brompton Cemetery closed to most new burials in 1952 but continued to accept interments in family vaults and in the military graves section.

Brompton Cemetery was opened again to new burials in 1996, with provision for single and family burials (typically now leased for a period of 75 to 100 years), and the deposit of cremated remains (on leases from 30 to 75 years or more).

5.2. Changes to the Landscape

5.2.1. Western Catacombs removal and the leaf yard constructions

Between the years of 1952 and 1972, large lengths of the western catacombs were removed, leaving the land to bank steeply down to the existing brick boundary wall, in space with the catacombs had once occupied. In the years between 1972 and 1991, the landform which defined the northern entrance to the western catacombs was removed, to be partially filled with earth to accommodate more grave space. The rest of the former entrance was replaced with the concrete leaf yard that is in existence today which, with its unsightly aesthetic and location, creates an eyesore within the cemetery. The steeply sloping ground has been planted with native shrubs and tree spp during the early 2000's and these must be kept in check if they are not to put undue pressure on the boundary wall.

5.2.2. Maintenance

The last half of the 20th Century saw significant changes to the use, management and perception of the cemetery. As the cemetery began to run out of space, it was conducting ever decreasing numbers of burials (29 per annum in 1979). The reduced income had a major impact on the maintenance of buildings and monuments, as well as on the wider landscape. This general decline in the upkeep of the cemetery is reflected in the reduction of the numbers of maintenance staff; in 1922 there was a team of around 40 gardeners and grave diggers, in 1945 there were 22, and by 1979 there were just 7 maintenance staffs. This was reduced further to just 4 staff by 1983. Inevitably, the vegetation colonised to such an extent that it became unmanageable for the low numbers of staff, resulting in the 'overgrown' character that is evident in much of the cemetery today.

In 1983, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea sponsored an MSC programme to deal with the overgrown vegetation, which was to an extent successful in claiming back some of the areas that had been overtaken by successive woodland. However in doing so, the damage

⁶⁴ Cremation Society of England, Progress of Cremation in England, Wales, Scotland & N. Ireland

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to monuments and graves caused by vegetation was uncovered, leading to much negative comment from the public. From 1982, The Royal Parks Agency developed a more determined management regime, which achieved a greater balance of vegetation character within the cemetery. Aiming to reverse the dominance of successive woodland, the management regime established more varied landscape types which, as well as woodland areas, allowed for areas of meadow, shrubland and lawn. It was around this time that the Friends of Brompton Cemetery group was formed, which has also played a role in helping to maintain a better balance landscape types⁶⁵. To this day, the landscape remains in balance between successional and overgrown woodland and shrubs, with areas of partially managed (only 1 cut per year) meadow and lawn.

5.3. Alternative uses of the Cemetery

At the closure of the cemetery for burials the daily management became less active and staff numbers were reduced accordingly. At this date Earls Court and West Brompton functioned as the centre of London's gay community; with a number of pubs, clubs and restaurants catering largely for gay men.⁶⁶ One of the most outré of these, a notorious leather bar called the Colherne, was located on Old Brompton Road near to the cemetery's northern entrance⁶⁷. Given the widespread hostility to the gay community at the time, in the years surrounding the decriminalisation of homosexuality, it was perhaps inevitable that a large overgrown and underused publically accessible space would become a focus for gay cruising activity. Cruising activity in the cemetery was widespread through to the early 1990s, as a hostile, somewhat frantic article in the Evening Standard stated: 'vandals are running riot in the last resting place of suffragette Emily Pankhurst [sic]... the cemetery is a meeting place for aggressive and intimidating gay men [a local resident] said the park [sic] was a 'pick up place' for gays. She stated 'this is quite threatening to those who live around here'⁶⁸. It is still a cruising area today, with several reports of daytime sexual activity, as can be seen in the 2013 and 2014 consultations and public surveys.

5.4. Changes to the buildings

As described above, societal changes and geo-political events influenced the fortunes of the commercial cemeteries. Some of the buildings, monuments and graves suffered bomb damage during the Second World War; most of Tower Hamlets' buildings (e.g. the Neo-Gothic Anglican chapel and a Byzantine Non-Conformist chapel) suffered this fate. However, cemeteries were also affected by general neglect as families died out and maintenance was not kept up.

English Heritage describes the situation in *Paradise Preserved*:

'Many of the private cemeteries were undercapitalised from the outset, and had not allowed for rising costs in their start-up calculations. Their once-elegant assets became fearful

⁶⁵ LUC. 2003 Management Plan

⁶⁶ Dave Walker, pers. comm.

⁶⁷ The Colherne was visited by such diverse characters as Freddy Mercury and Dennis Nielsen and was mentioned in Armistead Maupin 'Tales of the City'. It is now a gastro-pub called 'The Pembroke'.

⁶⁸ Mariott, Edward. 'Shame of Pankhurst Cemetery' Evening Standard 13th June 1991. Cuttings File, Kensington and Chelsea Local Archives

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liabilities, as costs mounted and revenues from burials dwindled. By the 1960s, crisis point was being reached. Some companies locked the gates and simply walked away for good. Highgate Cemetery and Nunhead Cemetery were effectively abandoned until local groups decided to find a way out of the impasse⁶⁹.

As cemeteries became less visited and more overgrown, they became targets for vandalism; perhaps the most serious incident was during the 1970s when Nunhead's Anglican chapel was targeted by arsonists.

Despite the general picture of decay, during and after the Second World War, there was a growing appreciation of cemetery architecture and several pieces of conservation and planning legislation (e.g. Town and Country Planning Act 1947, the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953, and the Civil Amenities Act 1967) introduced the mechanisms to protect it.

It was during the latter half of the twentieth century that many of the better cemetery buildings and monuments were given statutory designation. Brompton Cemetery's buildings were listed in 1969, many of the most important monuments in 1984, and the Brompton Cemetery Conservation Area was designated in 1985. (Fig. 9)

Parks, gardens and battlefield sites which appear to English Heritage to be of special historic interest may be entered onto Registers (under the powers of the 1953 Act); Brompton Cemetery was entered onto the Register in 1987 at Grade I.

5.4.1. Perimeter walls

It is assumed that part of the western wall had to be rebuilt following the bomb damage, however, no work file has been seen which confirms the details of the repairs.

5.4.2. North Entrance and Lodge

It is probable that the alterations to the south sides of the wings took place during the mid-20th century. This may have been associated with improvements to the accommodation and the removal of the chapel use from the east wing, following the closure of the cemetery to new burials. Internally, the main change has been to the chapel area of the east wing, where partitions have been inserted to create shower rooms and toilets for staff.

5.4.3. South Entrance and Lodge

There are no known alterations during this period.

5.4.4. Chapel

The main part of the Chapel has changed very little from when it was built. The main alteration is the replacement of the internal and external doors, possibly due to the decay of the softwood original doors.

In the east wing, the partition put in to create the present W.C. post-dates 1908.

⁶⁹ English Heritage and English Nature, *Paradise Preserved: an introduction to the assessment, evaluation, conservation and management of historic cemeteries*, 2002, p. 10

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In the west wing, the plaster ceiling is a modern replica of that in the east wing. Two of the window frames are modern replicas; some have horns which were not found on sash windows before about 1850.

5.4.5. Colonnades and Central Catacombs

The Cemetery Manager states that the wall plaques were removed because they were badly weathered.

Condition surveys undertaken during the 1990s to 2010 highlighted the damp conditions and cracking in some of the walls⁷⁰.

5.4.6. West Catacombs

The northern and central section and entrance of the West Catacombs was removed after bomb damage, (although it is not recorded on the bomb damage maps held in London Metropolitan Archives) and a short stretch near the southern end was also removed by the 1951-52 OS Survey (Fig 5). The missing section to the north was removed at an unknown date, but is shown to be missing by the 1962 OS survey (Fig 6).

Various investigations have taken place into the structural failure of the catacombs. In 1995, the conclusion was:

The West Catacombs is founded on fill material as shown by both bore holes and trials pits, undertaken as part of the Peter Brett (1995) and Parsons Brinkerhoff (2013) studies. This is not evidenced in historic material, but fill would have been necessary to some extent in the construction of the western boundary wall. Further research may reveal the exact construction. In addition to the downward drag of disturbed soil against the face of the wall and the undermining of foundations by burials (reported as 4m deep and therefore substantially below the level of the underside of the foundation) explains the observed settlement of this building.⁷¹

Extensive surveys (2013) of the structural condition have been undertaken by Parsons Brinkerhoff as part of The Royal Parks submission to HLF at round 1 application for funding, and it is not intended to replicate that information here. Further studies have now been undertaken in 2014 by The Morton Partnership; Conservation Engineers, in 2014 to ascertain what level of retention is practicably possible from a conservation approach. The findings of those is summarised separately in their drawings, referenced in the Design and Access Statement (DAS), Appendix 4

5.4.7. Monuments

Vandalism of tombs, exacerbated by poor surveillance in the cemetery and social deprivation, was a serious problem in the 20th century. Figurative sculptures seem to have been the most common targets; although many monuments featuring valuable metals have also been targeted by metal thieves. This has resulted in a diminution of the significance of

⁷⁰ For example, Purcell Miller Tritton LLP, Royal Parks Quadrennial Survey 2010: Central Catacombs, Brompton Cemetery, 2010

⁷¹ Peter Brett Associates, Brompton Cemetery, Central and West Catacombs report update, 1995, p. 1

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many memorials. In the words of Prof. James Stevens Curl 'it is almost always the most interesting examples that suffer the most'

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6.0 Recent Changes

6.1. Landscape

The management and maintenance that has been put in place over the last few decades has had a major influence on the current character of the landscape of the cemetery. As noted in the Management and Maintenance Plan, a concerted effort from the mid-1980's by The Royal Parks Agency and the Friends of Brompton Cemetery has managed to claw back some of the dominance of successional scrub that had characterised the landscape in the preceding years. The resulting landscape is, in general, a balance between woodland areas, scrub, meadow and close-mown lawn. The old 1980's and the current mowing regimes can be seen in the Management and Maintenance Plan, drawing 3841_MMP7 and 3841_MMP 2. These show how the varying and reduced mowing regimes in the 1980s, have shaped how the landscape looks today and led to the areas of colonisation of scrub and bracken at the expense of more ecologically beneficial diversity of wild flora which is present when more dominant vegetation such as bracken is kept under control.

The vegetation of the cemetery today requires a lot of work in terms of maintenance, with large areas of self-sown woodland and a dominance of bracken and bramble in those areas which are noted to have 1 cut per year. The result is overgrown pathways, which has a particularly negative effect on the smaller tertiary path networks which once formed part of the historic design. The result of overgrown scrub and thick bracken/bramble cover creates a lack of visibility through the cemetery which can reduce visitor experience through the creation of areas of poor natural surveillance. This problem has been a contributing factor to the well-documented anti-social behaviour that occurs within the cemetery.

6.2. Buildings

No significant changes to buildings have been made in recent years, and the Quadrennial Surveys and Building Works Manager has records of all repairs undertaken in recent years. The most recent are contained in the MMP, so not repeated here.

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7.0 The Cemetery today: Issues and Opportunities

7.1. Landscape Management & Maintenance

The landscape is a key contributing factor to the character of the cemetery today and visitors value its 'naturalistic' character, as demonstrated in the visitor surveys of 2013 and 2014. Making interventions to overcome the residual negative effects of the years of abandonment, and reinforcing these through the management and maintenance regime, will be instrumental in achieving a landscape aesthetic that is supportive of the romantic ruins and of nature in the city.

Issues: Self-sown trees and bracken now dominate large areas of the cemetery. Their further encroachment will need to be checked while their wildlife value advocates for restricting, rather than wholesale removal, to smaller, manageable areas. There is overgrown vegetation that obscures views to monuments and vistas which needs targeted removal. This approach applies also to the vegetation encumbering a number of overgrown paths. The Lime Avenue, one of the key components of the plan remaining today, has its impact diluted by self-sown trees along its length. The contributing role of overgrown vegetation to fairly frequent anti-social behaviour adds a further factor in deciding specific areas for clearance.

Opportunities: Clearance of significant areas of bramble and self-sown trees will open up ground for a wider range of nectar giving flora and consequent increase in biodiversity. Investment could bring initiatives that make significant improvements to the range, quality and experience of the 'nature' areas of the cemetery. The visual experience of flowering meadow, woodland edge planting, woodland, formal trees and planting will be combined with the sense and sound of insects and birds, moths and butterflies and possibly occasional sightings of reptiles.

Areas receiving more formal maintenance, for example the closely mown areas of grass around the Garden of Remembrance and the War Graves; the opportunity to reinstate formality to the path network and to maintain their restored orthogonal configuration; contrasted against new (proposed) ecologically managed natural areas of the cemetery; this contrast will highlight the original historic plan and communicate something of the subsequent story of the cemetery.

The clearly different treatments given to formal and informal areas by the future proposed maintenance will contribute to coherence across the site, as opposed to indefinite areas tarnished by neglect. This coherence may stimulate understanding and involvement in the cemetery.

7.2. Buildings

Issues: The buildings and structures in the cemetery are the elements that create the drama and interest on this relatively flat site. The grand bath stone buildings are currently not put to best use and the colonnades are on the English Heritage 'At Risk' register. English Heritage has advised that the Chapel will be included on the register if conservation work is not carried out soon.

The Chapel, which forms the centre piece of Baud's design, is typically only opened to the general public by the FoBC on their annual Open Day. Otherwise its use is limited to a small

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number of services and the FoBC talks. There is no step free access into the Chapel and the toilet facilities cannot be accessed from within the building.

The north lodge, which forms the main gateway into the site is not publically accessible. The west side is the residence of the cemetery supervisor and the east side is used by the landscape maintenance contractor as mess facilities and a small tool store. The 'public' toilets on this side are closed as there is no facility for monitoring their use and they have attracted antisocial behaviour in the past. There is no step free access into any part of the lodge.

The South Lodge is the base for the FoBC which is open for a limited time for visitors to pick up a leaflet or buy a postcard or guide book. It is not very inviting for the public as it is still very much set out as a residential property and the facilities are in desperate need of upgrading.

The central and western catacombs were never a commercial success and relatively few people are interred. The central catacombs are atmospheric and parts are opened annually by the FoBC for tours. The western catacombs have fallen into dis-repair over the years and a large section was demolished after the Second World War. Funding was invested in the western catacombs in the 1990s to convert them to columbarium; however this was not completed to a high standard or successful. They are permanently closed to the public and have security fencing surrounding. They have been monitored for movement and although there were thought to be significant risks associated with them and the boundary wall due to the proximity to live railway/underground lines, recent monitoring by The Morton Partnership (Conservation Engineers) does not show there to be movement. They are however filled with soil, which is to be removed under contract in early 2015. Further inspections will then be undertaken.

Opportunities: Along with the programme to catch up on a back log of maintenance is the opportunity to upgrade and extend the facilities of the buildings for the use, understanding and enjoyment of the cemetery as a whole.

Improved facilities in the Chapel will allow for improved access and comfort for funeral services and for a wider range of supplementary uses. The colonnades can house memorial plaques. Once stabilised the central portion of the western catacombs will be accessible with the opportunity for extension should there be a demand.

The North Lodge will become the friendly welcome to the cemetery and return the purpose of the buildings as the grand public entrance. With its discrete new wings it is able to provide much needed facilities for visitors including lavatories and a café as well as improvements for research, interpretation and display run by the Friends. The existing private garden area will be brought back into the public realm and improve the setting of the lodge.

At the south entrance, the former police post is to be converted to use as a kiosk and the Lodge is to be returned to its original function albeit with domestic accommodation that meets modern standards.

7.3. The Cemetery as an Amenity

The cemetery was originally designed as a 'Garden Cemetery' and planting was an important component of the original layout, enabling the public to walk and enjoy nature. Today the cemetery receives over 700,000 visits per annum, with a population of around 80,000 people

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living within 1km of the site. Although, as stated above, much of the landscape and buildings within the cemetery are in need of improved restoration and maintenance, it still provides a valuable recreational amenity for the local neighbourhood. It serves as a popular open space for physical activities such as walking and running, as well as providing opportunity for relaxation and reflection for those who live and work in this densely populated area of London, which has very few green spaces.

Issues: Although there are many visitors to the cemetery, facilities are few, lacking toilets or places for refreshments. The overgrown nature of parts of the site makes areas inaccessible to wheelchair users and the very elderly or often uninviting to others for concern over encountering anti-social behaviour. Despite the intriguing history of the site, information at the cemetery on this is brief.

Opportunities: The proposed restoration works see the benefits of improving visitor facilities. These additions will enable more visits and improve the visitor experience. Proposals for information on the cemetery, and for community involvement with the general public and with schoolchildren, will impart fascinating aspects of national, social and family history, of historic developments in burials, and specific aspects such as stonemasonry design. Outdoor learning in the cemetery lends itself in multiple ways for schoolchildren.

The cemetery will be a peaceful green space offering a unique character, distinct from city parks, of nature's resurgence among the historical grandeur of the cemetery, its tombs and monuments.

Improvements to paths and other facilities will open up opportunities for more people to visit the whole site and enjoy its nature and history. A further, and desired, outcome of improving the amenity value of the cemetery will be improved natural surveillance from an increase in, and a broader spectrum of visitors: helping to make it a safer place.

7.4. Business in the Cemetery

Brompton Cemetery is an active cemetery with approximately 50-60 burials and interments undertaken throughout the year. It has also several times in the past been selected as a site location for blockbuster films, which has brought in sporadic additional income. The proposed cafe will be an additional business enterprise within the cemetery.

7.4.1. The Funerary business

Issues: The funerary and burial business is currently the core source of income for the cemetery. However, the number of cremations and interments, and their contingent incomes is relatively modest, in terms of the cost of future maintenance. Some have voiced concern that proposed improvements to visitor facilities and an expected increase in visitors coming for leisure purposes has the potential to clash with the solemnity of a funeral procession. This has been considered by the Project Board, and the number of paths and routes through the cemetery mean it can absorb numbers of people very well, with the tranquillity and solemnity preserved. For instance, when large events are taking place currently, it is still easy to find quiet and tranquillity within the rest of the site.

Opportunities: The business plan (separate document) identifies future burial potential and consideration for more innovative solutions to existing graves and catacombs. Practice

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examples can be taken from The City of London Cemetery which has successfully introduced columbarium to house urn niches for ash interments in the catacombs. A refurbished Brompton Cemetery has the potential to offer an atmospheric setting, that is cherished and esteemed, although the scope of this project is to conserve the Western Catacombs rather than fully refurbish them at this stage. This is due to budget constraints. The City of London Cemetery and Crematorium has also started refurbishing and re-using graves which have been identified as having no relatives in attendance.

The proposals include for separating access (the side gates can be used for public access, rather than the central arch) during funerals so as to provide an appropriate reverence, separate from more light hearted activities of other visitors. Similarly use of the external courtyards outside the café can be suspended during funerals.

7.4.2. The Cafe Business

Issues: Some 19% of consultees (refer Design and Access Statement, 2015) were not in favour of café facilities being provided in the cemetery.

Opportunities:

The 2013 visitor survey showed dissatisfaction about the lack of toilets and lack of a café. Provision of a café will enable Public Toilets to be provided in the west wing of the existing North Lodge, which cannot be provided otherwise. The addition of 2 No pavilions to house the café to the south side of the Lodge will also enable a visitor information centre to be provided the East wing, also allowing Friends and volunteers accommodation.

The café will bring in £10-16,000 / year to be reinvested to the conservation and maintenance of the cemetery.

The on-site caterers could provide catering for the funerary business, thus providing a better offer.

7.4.3. Income from Film Shoots:

Issues: Income from film location has the potential to be disruptive to other visitors whether park visitors or funeral attendees. It is sporadic and does not offer a regular supporting income.

Opportunities: In the past, income has also been generated through hosting several blockbuster films and photographic shoots. Disruption may be avoided by filming late or very early. Depending on the context of the film, filmed images have potential to communicate the positive aesthetic of the cemetery, and of raising its profile, which it has done to date.

7.4.4. Income from researchers:

Issues: Demand for assistance in researching family graves requires dedicated time for part of the Cemetery Supervisor's time most weeks. There can be as many as 50 such requests in a week.

Opportunities: Income from assisting families in their research on their family graves generates a charge of £30 for 3 to 6 name searches. A greater amount than this is set at an hourly rate of £30 per hour. Potentially, the proposed refurbishments may raise awareness of

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the cemetery and its services, so that there could be an increase in demand for research assistance.

7.4.5. Stakeholders: Friends of Brompton Cemetery

Issues: There is, as with any supporting group of the public, the potential to lose goodwill, for factious disagreements to evolve. To date, the work of the Friends' Group has been positive and collaborative with TRP staff, and has helped contribute to the cemetery being a well-used public space with a wide variety of users.

Opportunities: There is potential to further involve the Friends in several of the proposed initiatives, for instance wildlife monitoring, planting, continuing or extending their guided walks and activities. The Friends Group has the potential, being part of a positive refurbishment project, to widen and strengthen their support and possibly to lighten the demand for TRP to solely staff a number of community involvement initiatives.

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8.0 Management Structure

There are a number of different contractors who carry out maintenance tasks in the park. The Park Manager encourages these contractors to work in 'partnership' with one another and with The Royal Park's staff to provide an effective and responsive service to maintain the cemetery to a high standard. The following paragraphs summarise the responsibilities of the key management and maintenance staff and contractors. This is more fully covered in the MMP.

8.1.1. Royal Parks Staff

The Chief Executive is appointed by Department for Culture Media and Sport and reports to the Minister responsible for The Royal Parks at the DCMS accordingly.

The Director of Parks reports to the Chief Executive and is a member of the Senior Management Team based at The Royal Parks Headquarters in Hyde Park. The role involves overseeing and being involved with the management of the 8 Royal Parks, communicating regularly with the individual Park Managers. The Director of Parks is proactive in establishing and working in partnership with organisations such as the Greater London Authority and the Borough Councils.

Brompton Cemetery is managed from the Kensington Gardens Management Centre which has a core TRP staff comprising a Park Manager, one Assistant Park Manager, a Park Assistant, an Office Manager (shared with Hyde Park) and one Wildlife Officer (for the Central Parks). The Royal Parks Operational Command Unit (TRP OCU), part of the Metropolitan Police, is responsible for policing the Park.

TRP has additional support staff at Headquarters including specialist services of Arboriculture, Ecology, Education and Community Engagement, Landscape Architecture and Horticulture. For large projects such as HLF projects, TRP commission other professionals including architects and project managers to undertake the work with TRP staff, stakeholder and community groups such as the Friends.

The Landscape Maintenance Contractor employs the cemetery supervisor, who lives on site and manages horticultural and cleansing staff to manage and maintain the soft fabric of the Cemetery. There is usually a team of 4 staff on site during the winter with 5 or 6 in the summer months. The cemetery supervisor also manages the burial and internment arrangement with families who have rights to existing graves or people who want to purchase plots. The supervisor also assists families who are researching family graves in the cemetery. There can be up to 50 requests for searches each week, which are charged at £30 for 3 to 6 name searches. Then for every 6 names there is an hourly fee of £30.

The Facilities Management Contract manages the numerous buildings, structures, water bodies, roads, paths and other hard landscape within the Parks. The Works Manager commission the quadrennial surveys of the structures and a works management plan for the cemetery. In 2011/12 £150,000 was spent on the colonnades with the aim to allocate approximately £50,000 a year to maintaining the cemetery features on the 'little and often' principle. Currently survey work is underway to monitor the western listed boundary wall, which is particularly important due to its proximity to the railway.

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8.2. Stakeholders and the Community

8.2.1. Friends of Brompton Cemetery

The Friends of Brompton Cemetery group was established in the mid 1980's. The original reason for the formation was to reduce the impact of management on gardens adjacent to the cemetery. However over the years the Group expanded to around 400 members and have played an active role in preventing a significant decline of the cemetery through guiding policies, hosting events, conducting research and generating support to increase visitor numbers. They hold an open day every year, along with a series of guided walks and tours for special interest groups. The work and knowledge of the Friends Group, and their work alongside The Royal Parks' maintenance staff, has helped to contribute to the cemetery being a well-used public space with a much wider variety of users than before the Friends group formed.

8.2.2. The Wider Local Community

As part of the Redcliffe Ward "City Living, Local Life" initiative, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea ward councillors commissioned a residents survey in 2013 to obtain people's views on local priorities and possible community projects. Of the total 672 responses, improving Brompton Cemetery was ranked fifth in terms of local improvements with 67% of respondents stating it would improve local life.

- The Royal Parks questionnaire survey for Brompton Cemetery in 2013 received 270 responses, among which the most cited improvements were:
- Improving overall management and maintenance
- Dealing with security / safety issues
- Provision of a café
- Toilet provision
- Promoting responsible dog ownership

The survey results from local communities highlight the importance of the cemetery for them, their concerns and aspirations for it.'

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9.0 Legislation and Policy (Heritage, Funerary and Parks)

Refer to the Design and Access statement for a full list of all relevant Planning Policy

9.1. Statutory Designs

Brompton Cemetery is a site of considerable significance, for its heritage assets, natural assets; historic, aesthetic, community and social values.

Brompton Cemetery’s buildings were first listed in 1969, many of the most important monuments in 1984, and the Brompton Cemetery Conservation Area was designated in 1985.

Please refer to the plan showing the location in the cemetery of the listed buildings, structures and monuments’(Fig. 9).

The Designations for the Cemetery as of 2014 are:

Feature	Grade	List No
Registered Park and Garden.	I	1225713
Entrance gates and Screen on Old Brompton Road, SW10	II*	1225715
Arcade Forming North West Quarter of Circle and Avenue	II*	1225714
Arcade Forming South East Quarter of Circle and Avenue	II*	1225715
Tomb of Frederic R Leyland, Brompton Cemetery	II*	1225750
Arcade forming South Western Quarter of Circle and Avenue	II*	1266205
Church of England Chapel	II*	1266241
Arcade forming North East Quarter of Circle and Avenue	II*	1266242
Tomb of Emmeline Pankhurst	II	1225716
Tomb of Chest of Valentine Cameron Prinsep	II	1225717
Westernmost K2 Telephone kiosk outside Brompton Cemetery	II	1227243
Tomb of George Goodwin	II	1235110
Guards of Memorial North West of Circle Number 4 at the Brompton Cemetery	II	1246851
Tomb of Flight Sub Lieutenant Reginald Warneford Vc on Northern Approach to Great Circle Brompton Cemetery	II	1246852
Easternmost K2 Telephone kiosk outside Brompton Cemetery	II	1265464

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Tomb of John Jackson	II	I266206
Brompton Cemetery Ironwork Piers, Gates and Screen on Fulham Road	II	I358150
Tomb of Robert Coombes, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403329
Tomb of Joseph Bonom, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403330
Tomb of Herbert Finch, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403331
Tomb of Clement Family, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403332
Tomb of Benjamin Golding, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403333
Tomb of Philip Nowell, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403334
Tomb of Barbe Maria Theresa Sangiorgi, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403335
Mausoleum of Colonel William Meyrick, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403336
Tomb of Alfred Mellon, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403337
Brass Family Tomb, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403338
Mausoleum of James McDonald, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403339
Monument to S L Sotheby, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403340
Tomb of Elizabeth Moffat, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403341
Tomb of Peter Borthwick and Family, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403343
Tomb of Henry Pettit, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403344
Chelsea Pensioners Monument, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403345
Burnside Monument, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403346
Tomb of Emily Adney Bond, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403347
Mausoleum of Harvey Lewis, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403348
Tomb of Percy Lambert, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403350
Tomb of Blanche Roosevelt Macchetta, Brompton Cemetery	II	I403352

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Tomb of Blanche Roosevelt Macchetta, Brompton Cemetery II 1403352

9.2. Planning Policy Review – Brompton Cemetery

National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)

Those sections of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which are relevant to the regeneration of Brompton Cemetery include the following:

Section 7: Requiring good design.

Paragraph 61 states ‘although visual appearance and the architecture of individual buildings are very important factors, securing high quality and inclusive design goes beyond aesthetic considerations. Therefore, planning policies and decisions should address the connections between people and places and the integration of new development into the natural, built and historic environment’. It further states ‘applicants will be expected to work closely with those directly affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Proposals that can demonstrate this in developing the design of the new development should be looked on more favourably’.

Section 11: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment. ; And

Section 12: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment.

Paragraph 137 states ‘local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites and within the setting of heritage assets to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset should be treated favourably’. Paragraph 140 states ‘local planning authorities should assess whether the benefits of a proposal for enabling development, which would otherwise conflict with planning policies but which would secure the future conservation of a heritage asset, outweigh the disbenefits of departing from those policies’.

9.3. The London Plan July 2011

The London Plan is the overall strategic plan for London. It sets out a fully integrated economic, environmental, transport and social framework for the development of the capital to 2031. It forms part of the development plan for Greater London. London boroughs’ local plans need to be in general conformity with the London Plan, and its policies guide decisions on planning applications by councils and the Mayor.

On 11 October 2013, the Mayor published Revised Early Minor Alterations to the London Plan (REMA). From this date, the REMA are operative as formal alterations to the London Plan (the Mayor’s spatial development strategy) and form part of the development plan for Greater London. None of the revisions included within the 2013 review affect any of the policies referred to below.

Chapter 7 of The London Plan refers to London’s Living Places and Spaces. The following policies are relevant to the regeneration of Brompton Cemetery.

Policy 7.2 - An inclusive environment

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The Mayor will require all new development in London to achieve the highest standards of accessible and inclusive design and supports the principles of inclusive design which seek to ensure that developments:

Can be used safely, easily and with dignity by all regardless of disability, age, gender, ethnicity or economic circumstances

Are convenient and welcoming with no disabling barriers, so everyone can use them independently without undue effort, separation or special treatment

Are flexible and responsive taking accounts of what different people say they need and want, so people can use them in different ways

Are realistic, offering more than one solution to help balance everyone's needs, recognising that one solution may not work for all.

The Mayor will assist boroughs and other agencies in implementing accessible and inclusive design in all development proposals by updating the advice and guidance in the Supplementary Planning Guidance 'Accessible London: Achieving an inclusive environment'; by continuing to contribute to the development of national technical access standards and by supporting training and professional development programmes.

Policy 7.4 - Local character

Development should have regard to the form, function, and structure of an area, place or street and the scale, mass and orientation of surrounding buildings. It should improve an area's visual or physical connection with natural features. In areas of poor or ill-defined character, development should build on the positive elements that can contribute to establishing an enhanced character for the future function of the area.

Policy 7.5 – Public realm

London's public spaces should be secure, accessible, inclusive, connected, easy to understand and maintain, relate to local context, and incorporate the highest quality design, landscaping, planting, street furniture and surfaces.

Policy 7.6 – Architecture

Architecture should make a positive contribution to a coherent public realm, streetscape and wider cityscape. It should incorporate the highest quality materials and design appropriate to its context.

Policy 7.8 – Heritage assets and archaeology

London's heritage assets and historic environment, including listed buildings, registered historic parks and gardens and other natural and historic landscapes, conservation areas, World Heritage Sites, registered battlefields, scheduled monuments, archaeological remains and memorials should be identified, so that the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and of utilising their positive role in place shaping can be taken into account.

Development should incorporate measures that identify record, interpret, protect and, where appropriate, present the site's archaeology.

Policy 7.9 – Heritage led regeneration

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Regeneration schemes should identify and make use of heritage assets and reinforce the qualities that make them significant so they can help stimulate environmental, economic and community regeneration. This includes buildings, landscape features, views, Blue Ribbon Network and public realm.

Policy 7.17 Metropolitan Open Land

The Mayor strongly supports the current extent of Metropolitan Open Land (MOL), its extension in appropriate circumstances and its protection from development having an adverse impact on the openness of MOL.

Policy 7.19 Biodiversity and access to nature

The Mayor will work with all relevant partners to ensure a proactive approach to the protection, enhancement, creation, promotion and management of biodiversity in support of the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy. This means planning for nature from the beginning of the development process and taking opportunities for positive gains for nature through the layout, design and materials of development proposals and appropriate biodiversity action plans.

Any proposals promoted or brought forward by the London Plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site of nature conservation importance (to include special areas of conservation (SACs), special protection areas (SPAs), Ramsar, proposed and candidate sites) either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. Whilst all development proposals must address this policy, it is of particular importance when considering the following policies within the London Plan: 1.1, 2.1-2.17, 3.1, 3.3, 5.14, 5.15, 5.17, 5.20, 6.3, 7.14, 7.15, 7.25, and 7.26.

Whilst all opportunity and intensification Areas must address the policy in general, specific locations requiring consideration are referenced in Annex 1.

Policy 7.21 – Trees and woodlands

Trees and woodlands should be protected, maintained, and enhanced, following the guidance of the London Tree and Woodland Framework (or any successor strategy). In collaboration with the Forestry Commission the Mayor will produce supplementary guidance on tree strategies to guide each borough's production of a tree strategy covering the audit, protection, planting and management of trees and woodland. This should be linked to the borough's open space strategy.

Policy 7.23 Burial places

The Mayor will work with boroughs, cemetery providers and other key stakeholders to protect existing burial spaces and to promote new provision.

9.4. Core Strategy for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea – 2010

The Core Strategy for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea was adopted in December 2010.

Executive Summary

The key diagram on page 3 of Exec Summary shows Brompton Cemetery affected by the following proposed designations:

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- Three neighbourhood centres dotted along the western and southern boundary of the cemetery;
- An ‘Area with particular National or International Reputation’ located adjacent to the north western corner;
- Better connections and legibility needed, in an area located to the north of the cemetery;
- ‘Possible new centre’ located to the north west of the cemetery ; and
- A potential new station located on its north western boundary.

The Executive Summary outlines seven strategic objectives. The following strategic objectives have particular relevance to the regeneration of Brompton Cemetery.

Strategic Objectives

CO 2 – Strategic Objective for Fostering Vitality.

Our strategic objective to foster vitality is that the quality of life of our predominantly residential Borough is enhanced by a wide variety of cultural, creative and commercial uses which can significantly contribute to the well-being of residents and to the capital’s role as a world city.

CO 4- Strategic Objective for an engaging public realm.

Our strategic objective for an engaging public realm is to endow a strong local sense of place by maintaining and extending our excellent public realm to all parts of the Borough.

CO 5 - Strategic Objective for Renewing the Legacy.

Our strategic objective to renew the legacy is not simply to ensure no diminution in the excellence we have inherited, but to pass to the next generation a Borough that is better than today, of the highest quality and inclusive for all, by taking great care to maintain, conserve and enhance the glorious built heritage we have inherited and to ensure that where new development takes place it enhances the Borough.

Policies

The following policies have relevance to the regeneration of Brompton Cemetery.

- Policy CR 5- Parks, Gardens, Open Spaces and Waterways

The Council will protect, enhance and make the most of existing parks, gardens and open spaces, and require new high quality outdoor spaces to be provided. To deliver this the Council will:

- resist the loss of existing:
 - Metropolitan Open Land;
 - public open space;
 - private communal open space and private open space where the space gives visual amenity to the public;
- resist development that has an adverse effect upon the environmental and open character or visual amenity of Metropolitan Open Land or sites which are listed within

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the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England, or their setting;

- resist development that has an adverse effect on garden squares including proposals for subterranean development, and to promote the enhancement of garden squares;
- Require all major development outside a 400m radius of the closest entrance to the nearest public open space to make provision for new open space which is suitable for a range of outdoor activities for users of all ages, which may be in the form of communal garden space. Where this is not possible for justified townscape reasons, that a 5106 contribution is made towards improving existing publicly accessible open space;
- require all major developments to provide on site external play space, including for under 5s, based on expected child occupancy;
- require all green open space to optimise biodiversity and wildlife habitat;
- require all open space that forms part of a proposal to be designed and landscaped to a high standard;
- Require opportunities to be taken to improve public access to, and along the Thames and the Grand Union Canal, and promote their use for education, tourism, leisure and recreation, health, well-being and transport.

Policy CR 6 – Trees and Landscape

The Council will require the protection of existing trees and the provision of new trees that complement existing or create new, high quality green areas which deliver amenity and biodiversity benefits.

To deliver this the Council will:

- resist the loss of trees unless:
 - the tree is dead, dying or dangerous;
 - the tree is causing significant damage to adjacent structures;
 - the tree has little or no amenity value;
 - Felling is for reasons of good arboricultural practise.
- resist development which results in the damage or loss of trees of townscape or amenity value;
- require where practicable an appropriate replacement for any tree that is felled;
- require that trees are adequately protected throughout the course of development;
- require new trees to be suitable species for the location and to be compatible with the surrounding landscape and townscape
- require landscape design to:
 - be fit for purpose and function;
 - be of a high quality and compatible with the surrounding landscape, and townscape

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- character;
 - clearly defined as public or private space;
 - optimise the benefit to wildlife habitat;
- Serve Tree Preservation Orders or attach planning conditions to protect trees of townscape or amenity value that are threatened by development.

Chapter 34, renewing the legacy includes a plan outlining the Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens and Strategic Views. Brompton Cemetery is listed as a Registered Park and Garden, a Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest and as being located within a Conservation Area.

Policy CO5 Strategic Objective for Renewing the Legacy

Our strategic objective to renew the legacy is not simply to ensure no diminution in the excellence we have inherited, but to pass to the next generation a Borough that is better than today, of the highest quality and inclusive for all. This will be achieved by taking great care to maintain, conserve and enhance the glorious built heritage we have inherited and to ensure that where new development takes place it enhances the Borough.

Policy CL1 – Context and Character

The Council will require all development to respect the existing context, character, and appearance, taking opportunities available to improve the quality and character of buildings and the area and the way it functions, including being inclusive for all.

To deliver this the Council will:

require development through its architecture and urban form to contribute positively to the context of the townscape, addressing matters such as scale, height, bulk, mass, proportion, plot width, building lines, street form, rhythm, roofscape, materials, vistas, views, gaps and historic fabric;

- require the analysis of context to be drawn from an area that is proportionate and relevant to the size of the development site;
- require the density of development to be optimised relative to context;
- require riverside and canalside development to enhance the waterside character and setting, including opening up views and securing access to the waterway;
- resist development which interrupts, disrupts or detracts from strategic and local vistas, views and gaps;
- Require a comprehensive approach to site layout and design including adjacent sites where these are suitable for redevelopment, resisting schemes which prejudice future development potential and/or quality.

Policy CL3 – Heritage Assets – Conservation Areas and Historic Spaces

The Council will require development to preserve and to take opportunities to enhance the character or appearance of conservation areas, historic places, spaces and townscapes, and their settings.

To deliver this the Council will:

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- require full planning applications in conservation areas;
- resist substantial demolition in conservation areas unless it can be demonstrated that:
- the building or part of the building or structure makes no positive contribution to the character or appearance of the area;
- a scheme for redevelopment has been approved;
- Require, in the event of a collapse or unauthorised demolition of a structure in a conservation area, a replacement replica of the structure where the original made a positive contribution to the character and appearance of that conservation area.

Policy CL4 – Heritage Assets - Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Archaeology

The Council will require development to preserve or enhance the special architectural or historic interest of listed buildings and scheduled ancient monuments and their settings, and the conservation and protection of sites of archaeological interest.

To deliver this the Council will:

- resist the demolition of listed buildings in whole or in part, or the removal or modification of features of architectural importance (both internal and external);
- Require the preservation of the special architectural and historic interest of listed buildings, scheduled monuments or other buildings or places of interest. In particular the integrity, plan form and structure of the building including the ground and first floor principal rooms, original staircases and such other areas of the building as may be identified as being of special interest should be preserved;
- require the preservation of the original architectural features, and later features of interest, both internal and external;
- require internal or external architectural features of listed buildings or scheduled ancient monuments, commensurate with the scale of the development, to be:
- reinstated where the missing features are considered important to their special interest;
- removed where the additions to or modifications are considered inappropriate or detract from their special character;
- resist the change of use of a listed building which would materially harm its character;
- strongly encourage any works to a listed building to be carried out in a correct, scholarly manner by appropriate specialists;
- require development to protect the setting of listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments or sites of archaeological interest;
- resist development which would threaten the conservation, protection or setting of archaeological remains;
- Require desk based assessments and where necessary archaeological field evaluation before development proposals are determined, where development is proposed on sites of archaeological significance or potential.

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Policy CL5 – Amenity

The Council will require new buildings, extensions and modifications and small scale alterations and additions, to achieve high standards of amenity.

To deliver this the Council will:

- require good daylight and sunlight amenity for buildings and amenity spaces, and that the conditions of existing adjoining buildings and amenity spaces are not significantly reduced or, where they are already substandard, that there should be no material worsening of the conditions;
- require reasonable visual privacy for occupants of nearby buildings;
- require that there is no harmful increase in the sense of enclosure to existing buildings and spaces;
- Require that there is no significant impact on the use of buildings and spaces due to increases in traffic, parking, noise, odours or vibration or local microclimatic effects.

NOTE: Refer to Policy CE6 in relation to noise and vibration.

Policy CL6 – Small scale Alterations and additions

The Council will require that alterations and additions do not harm the existing character and appearance of the building and its context.

To deliver this the Council will:

- resist small-scale development which:
- harms the character or appearance of the existing building, its setting or townscape;
- results in a cumulative effect which would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the area;
- are not of high quality form, detailed design and materials;
- do not remove physical barriers to access or improve the security of the building in a sensitive manner in relation to the character and appearance of the building and surrounding area;
- Require telecommunication, plant, micro-generation and other mechanical equipment to be sited discretely so that visual amenity is not impaired.

Core Strategy Proposals Map (adopted 8th December 2010)

Brompton Cemetery – zoned as Metropolitan Open Land and a Site of Nature Conservation Importance

9.5. London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea - Unitary Development Plan (May 2002) – Extant Policies

Para 4.2.21 refers to Cemeteries. It states “Two other principal open spaces in the Royal Borough are the cemeteries, dating back to the 1830’s and designated as Metropolitan Open Land. They were conceived as places of beauty, of botanic and other interest. Both have been designated as conservation areas. They are social and historic ‘documents’, also worthy of

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conservation as nature reserves, botanic gardens and sculpture parks. The Council will promote their appreciation by, for example, encouraging improved access, landscaping, paths, signs and visitor information, but at the same time ensures that their character is not unduly affected by greater numbers of visitors or new visitor facilities’.

Policy CD16 states ‘To promote opportunities for the appreciation of Kensal Green and Brompton Cemeteries whilst protecting their special character’.

Map 11 on page 35 illustrates the Sites of Nature Conservation Importance within the Borough. Brompton Cemetery is classified as a Site of Borough Importance (Grade I).

London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea – Conservation Area

The area of the cemetery was designated as Brompton Cemetery Conservation Area by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in May 1985 with the aims of recognising the importance of the cemetery, controlling development and facilitating improvement. A detailed Conservation Area Proposals Statement was produced and adopted by the Borough in April 1999. A key proposal in the document is the enhancement of the North Gate forecourt. This area is legally part of the highway and is used for parking and for the council’s recycling bins. The current usage, layout and materials detract from the historic character of the cemetery’s main entrance.

9.6. Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPG 5) (National Planning Policy Framework, English Heritage, 2012)

The Policy Statement states “a key feature of the PPS is a holistic approach to the environment. The elements of the historic environment that are worthy of planning matters are called ‘heritage assets’. This term embraces all manner of features, including: buildings, parks and gardens, standing, buried and submerged remains, areas, sites and landscapes, whether designated or not and whether or not capable of designation” (para 10).

As a Grade 1 Registered Park and Garden and a designated conservation area containing listed buildings and monuments, Brompton Cemetery falls under the following PPG 5 statement: “World Heritage Sites, Listed Buildings, Protected Wreck Sites, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields and conservation areas are all heritage assets. The process of designation has identified them as having a level of significance that justifies special protection measures” (para 13).

It continues to say that “the difference between a heritage asset and other components of the environment is that a heritage asset holds meaning for society over and above its functional utility... the aim of the policies within the PPS is to conserve these assets, for the benefit of this and future generations’ (para 11).

The above policy statements signify that all efforts should be made to restore and maintain Brompton Cemetery as a heritage asset.

9.7. Government Guidance on Green Spaces

- Published by the DTLR in 2002, this is the final report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce and is concerned with the regeneration of the country’s urban parks and green spaces. The report confirms that green spaces make an important contribution to wide, long-term social, economic and environmental progress, for instance:

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- Urban renewal and regeneration – helping to improve the quality of projects, creating community enterprise and new jobs.
- Health – promoting healthy living and preventing illness, by providing places for physical activities, walking and other forms of exercise.
- Social cohesion, community development and citizenship – encouraging involving local pride by giving people the chance to participate in design, management and care
- Education and life-long learning – providing a valuable resource for learning about the natural world and local environment.
- Environmental sustainability – countering the pollution which can make cities unbearable and unsustainable and helping to promote ecologically sensitive towns and cities
- Heritage and culture – parks and green spaces are reservoirs of collective memory, and promote venues for civic events.
- The renovation of Brompton Cemetery would support these aims.

Cleaner, Safer, Greener (ODPM, October 2006)

This is the Government’s response to the Green Spaces, Better Places report from the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce.

The quality of public spaces matters to people. Evidence shows (Oxford Brookes 2002) that people are typically concerned about:

- Unsafe public spaces that foster anti-social behaviour, crime and the fear of crime.
- Dirty public spaces strewn with litter, dog mess, abandoned cars and graffiti.
- Unattractive and inaccessible parks and open spaces with poor provision for children and young people, older people and disabled.
- These are issues that inform the proposals within this conservation management plan.
- The 2001 British Crime Survey (Crime in England and Wales 2001/2. The Home Office) shows a direct link between perceptions of visible disorder and fear of crime. It is interesting to note that the majority of complaints at police consultative meetings, even in high crime areas, are often about dog fouling and other “quality of life” issues.
- Concerns about the quality of public spaces affect all areas and are bound up with the social and economic life of communities. The quality of public space, real and perceived, plays a vital role in the vicious or virtuous cycles that characterise communities on the up, in decline or in recovery. Degraded public spaces are not a sign of a vibrant community.

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10.0 Summary of Heritage Values and Significance

10.1. Methodology for assessing significance

This section analyses the significance of Brompton Cemetery to identify which features contribute negatively or positively to its significance, and in what degree.

The Heritage Lottery Fund in its Conservation Plan Guidance (2012) describes significance as: ‘what is important about the heritage, why and to whom it is important’.

Assessing significance is the means by which the cultural importance of a place and its component parts are identified. It is essential for effective conservation and management: the identification of areas and aspects of higher and lower significance, based on a thorough understanding of a place, enables proposals to be developed which protect, respect and where possible enhance the character and cultural values of a place. The assessment can identify areas where only minimal changes should be considered, as well as locations where change might enhance significance.

The Statement of Significance is a summary which describes the significance of the site in words with reference to others nationally or regionally. English Heritage’s Conservation Principles (2008) outlines an approach to conservation that takes account of how a building or place is generally valued and the associations which it carries. The document describes four different value groups that contribute to the significance of a building:

Historical value - Historical value derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be illustrative or associative.

Aesthetic value - Aesthetic value derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.

Evidential value - Evidential value derives from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.

Communal value - Communal value derives from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. Communal values are closely bound up with historical (particularly associative) and aesthetic values, but tend to have additional and specific aspects.

10.2. Statement of Significance

10.2.1. Evidential (archaeological) value

It is considered unlikely that the cemetery site contains buried archaeological remains relating to human use prior to the construction of the cemetery. Any buried archaeological remains of this nature present in the site are likely to have been severely truncated; if not by the brick making activities on the site in the early 1830s, then certainly by the process of ground leveling which took place during the construction of the cemetery and the intrusive ground works associated with the cemetery’s use. Survival of buried archaeological remains in the north western corner will also have been limited by bomb damage sustained in the Second World War (the damage was restricted to the area by West Brompton Station. There is, however, the potential for buried archaeological remains of a paeleoenvironmental nature

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to be present at some depth; these are unlikely to have been disturbed by the cemetery construction or use.

Buried archaeology predating the construction of the cemetery therefore makes no contribution to the significance of the site.

10.2.2. Historical Value

Brompton Cemetery's very existence can be traced back to a series of historical events, which began with the public and political rejection of the burial practices of London in the 1830s. A number of key individuals, such as Carden and Geary, were proactive in finding a solution – the commercial garden cemetery. Individual pieces of legislation empowered cemetery companies, such as the West of London and Westminster Company, to form and to set up their sites.

The commercial cemeteries found an audience immediately. All the Magnificent Seven were patronised by the wealthy who indulged in expensive funerals and monuments, which befitted their social status. Norwood was known as the millionaire's cemetery but Brompton had its fair share of that market; one example is Sir Samuel Cunard who founded the famous shipping line (which went on to build the Titanic). At Brompton, the social division between the wealthy and the poor is illustrated in the difference in the monuments between the East side ('in perpetuity' graves) and the West side (poor and mass graves).

Physical aspects of cemeteries have illustrative value as they reflect the religious divisions of the time. Victorian society was religiously conservative and Anglicans and Non-Conformists led separate lives in many respects. Death was no exception and many cemeteries had more than one chapel to accommodate the different denominations. Brompton was meant to have three chapels but due to cost saving measures only the Anglican chapel was built, though it was later deconsecrated so it could be used by all. Non-Conformists were provided with separate burial areas in the north-east and south-west of the site.

Brompton's ownership today is a legacy of the change in attitudes to burial in the 1850s when new legislation gave the government powers to purchase private cemeteries and promote local publicly funded cemeteries. The Burial Acts fundamentally shifted responsibility for burial onto the public purse and effectively ended the idea of burial as private enterprise.

Brompton's business history also reflects the evolution of attitudes towards treatments after death. The business became less financially viable during the early twentieth century when spending on funerals decreased and the popularity of cremation increased.

The grave stones and monuments have illustrative and associative value for three primary reasons – the type of material they are made from, their design, and who is buried there. Each of these is explored below.

When the Magnificent Seven were first built, buildings and monuments were usually made from Portland, Bath or York stone. As the railway system developed, other materials, such as granite, became more accessible from Cornwall, Aberdeen and Cumbria⁷². Therefore, the

⁷² Arnold, p. 220

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monuments reflect the developments in infrastructure and mining across the country during the 19th century.

The design of grave stone or monument was very personal, sometimes reflecting a person's occupation, their role in the family or how young they died. However, the style of monuments also reflects prevailing aesthetic taste in society at the time. For example, there are several Arts and Crafts tombs, one designed by the artist Edward Burne-Jones for Frederick Leyland (who was a patron of the arts) (fig. 32).

Particular burial groupings reflect events in London and the wider geo-political arena at the time. At Brompton, the presence of mass graves in the south west corner is testament to the numerous cholera epidemics which hit London in the 19th century. The presence of eastern European names is a result of emigres coming to London during the early twentieth century. Other cemeteries have similar pattern; for example, West Norwood has a corner which was exclusively used by the ex-patriate Greek community in London.

There are numerous important historical figures buried at Brompton including artists, actors, writers, musicians, scientists, industrialists and politicians. Amongst these are:

- John Snow – physician, pioneering anaesthetist and discoverer of the source of Cholera.
- Emmeline Pankhurst - leader of the Suffragettes.
- Sir Henry Cole - founder of the Public Record Office, promoter of the Great Exhibition and its legacy, and first Director of the South Kensington Museum (later the Victoria & Albert Museum).
- John Wisden – cricketer and founder of Wisden's Cricketers' Almanack.
- Robert Coombes – rowing champion.
- John Jackson - bare-knuckle prize fighter.

Brompton served as the London District's military cemetery from 1854 until the start of the Second World War. The north-west corner includes plots and memorials for the pensioners of the Royal Hospital at Chelsea and Brigade of Guards. As such, Brompton not only illustrates the various conflicts Britain has been involved in, but is also associated with individuals of great merit, including 12 holders of the Victoria Cross. This group includes Sub Lieutenant Reginald Warneford, who attacked and destroyed a heavily armed German airship.

10.2.3. Aesthetic Value

The formal layout of Brompton contrasts with the naturalistic planning of the other Magnificent Seven – it is this singularity which makes it particularly significant.

Baud and the Company's objectives when designing Brompton Cemetery were two-fold; i) to attract wealthy patrons, and ii) to create a stage on which the public rituals surrounding death could be carried out. Therefore, understanding the architectural composition is the key to unlocking the significance of the cemetery as a whole.

As described earlier in this report the composition of the original design was based on a basilica plan, with each building located at a point on the cross. The intended three chapels would have represented the different denominations in England at the time (Anglicans,

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Catholics and Non-Conformists). The use of the basilica plan ties Brompton firmly into ancient Roman and then Christian tradition.

The association with the ancient world can be taken further if the central aisle is considered an allusion to the Appian Way, the road along which ancient Romans placed their dead. The term 'catacomb' was first applied to the underground tombs along part of that road, where the apostles Peter and Paul were supposedly buried.

As well as the grand set-pieces, the site needed basic security so the lodges, high walls and gates were added to guard against vandals. These elements are all well executed and have aesthetic value of their own.

The choice of Neo-Classical design is significant in itself since such buildings are in a minority within the Magnificent Seven. Brompton was the last cemetery to use Neo-Classical architecture on a grand scale before the Neo-Gothic dominated for the next 40 years. It is therefore important because it reflects this historical turning point in the 'battle of the styles'.

Throughout the cemetery, the Victorian obsession with symbolism is evident, to some extent in the buildings, but much more so in the individual monuments. The majority of the tombs are standard models from the catalogues of monumental masons, rather than individual commissions. The symbols are not only of aesthetic value: deciphering their language adds another layer of meaning to the cemetery.

Originally the Brompton landscape would have been kept immaculately tidy by a large team of gardeners. As at other cemeteries, a high level of maintenance was not possible once burial fees had dropped, and following the reduction in maintenance of the 1980's, Brompton became overgrown and now its aesthetic value partly derives from its qualities of a romantic ruin; for example, stones leaning in different directions, overgrown with ivy (fig. 33). A balance needs to be found between retaining such value without exposing monuments to further damage.

The significance of the individual buildings is described further below.

10.2.4. Communal

The most obvious communal value of Brompton Cemetery is as the burial place of many thousands of people, and a focus of mourning and remembrance for their families. Originally, the Victorian protocols around death made the formal axis, mausolea, and grand open space in front of the chapel into the settings for very public displays of familial feeling, friendship, mourning and social status. Although this has now passed, the landscape and buildings remain in part as a testimony to the social, religious and symbolic role originally conceived for them.

The communal value of Brompton Cemetery has changed in other ways through time. Originally Loudon envisaged cemeteries as public parks, where people could escape the city for a day out. Brompton and the other Magnificent Seven cemeteries were certainly enjoyed in this way, with visitors flocking to see the grand buildings, mausolea and catacombs.

During the early twentieth century public interest in cemeteries waned, visitor numbers dropped and cemeteries became emptier and quieter. Brompton was no longer a place for

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show as it had been at the time of Victorian funerals, but more a place of sombre contemplation.

Today relatives enjoy the peaceful atmosphere and landscape of the cemetery, perhaps visiting the grave of a distant ancestor. Brompton's Find a Grave facility (operated through Ancestry.com) allows anyone to search for a grave via the internet and this has brought many international visitors to the cemetery. However, it is not just relatives but also the general public also visit, spurred by an interest in our collective past and the aesthetic value of the buildings and monuments. There is a particular interest in the military graves section and people come in order to pay their respects to those who sacrificed their lives in war.

Brompton is one of the few open green spaces in the local area and is frequently used by joggers and dog walkers. It is also a useful shortcut to walk between Old Brompton Road and Fulham Road; on match days, hordes of Chelsea football fans can be seen in the cemetery on their way to and from the ground (Stamford Bridge).

The Friends have organised community events to open up access and educate people about the communal value of the cemetery. Guided walking tours are given to reveal the history of the site and to show visitors the resting place of the many of historically and culturally significant people who are buried at Brompton.

10.2.5. Environmental and Biodiversity Significance

Brompton Cemetery is Kensington and Chelsea's largest semi naturalised public open space. It is hugely valued as having what is perceived as a naturalistic character and attracts many visitors who value the feel of wilderness that the cemetery offers. This character supports a variety of grassland, tall herb, scrub and parkland which create a complex mosaic of habitats within the site. It also supports bats, invertebrates and mammals. (Refer to Ecology surveys undertaken 2014). The Friends of Brompton Cemetery have organised bat walks and numerous studies have been undertaken over the years recording the many species which it supports. Recently protected species surveys have been undertaken and both common and soprano pipistrelles are feeding within the cemetery.

In such a highly built up area of London with limited access to 'natural' greenspace, the Environmental Significance can be said to be moderate to high

10.3. Significance of Individual Elements / Buildings

10.3.1. The Cemetery: Overall Layout

Brompton's principal significance lies in its built form and symmetrical, axial layout. Although the architectural design was only partially completed, and as a whole is somewhat weak, the individual elements of the composition are well designed, in a sober classical style. In terms of its landscape design Brompton Cemetery is significant as for its application of classical, symmetrical formality, at a time when a move toward a more picturesque style was prevalent, especially in the other contemporary London cemeteries. Additionally, Brompton's rejection of a picturesque or naturalistic layout it marks a turning point in landscape of cemeteries. Its strongly axial, grid like layout is a feature of the later 19th and 20th century municipal burial grounds. The cemetery incorporates typical design elements of the early 19th century, such as the extensive catacombs. The work is also significant as one of the last cemeteries to be designed in a classical idiom; from the 1840s onwards gothic

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cemetery design predominated. The buildings and the site layout are therefore the most significant elements at Brompton Cemetery.

10.3.2. Soft Landscape Layout

The overall legibility of the planting has been lost through unchecked growth; a degree of natural woodland succession has taken place and continues to do so to the detriment of flowering meadow, herb and grassland layers. Therefore the planting as a whole contributes only moderately to the significance of the cemetery. There are exceptions to this, however. Elements of the planting are likely to date to the initial construction and laying out of the cemetery particularly: the avenue of limes that mark the central carriageway; the planting to the eastern boundary and some of the surviving groups of trees at axial points, and as standard trees in the design. These mature tree planting elements are of a high significance.

10.3.3. Individual Buildings

Perimeter walls

The walls have historical value as they were the first element of the site to be constructed and were a public statement that the company now owned the land. As basic brick structures, the walls have no particular aesthetic value, however, they do have an important role to play in the sense of enclosure within the cemetery. Therefore, the walls are of low to moderate significance.

10.3.4. North Entrance (lodge and screen)

The historic value of the entrance is derived from it being a public statement about the quality of the cemetery to come. As the first building to be built on the site, the scale of the arch was designed to impress wealthy families and make them choose Brompton over another cemetery. The architectural composition of the arch with the curved screen wall is of considerable aesthetic value. Overall, the North Entrance is of high significance, although there are some altered areas of lower significance. Comparative significance drawings of the North Lodge are provided on Fig. 15-17.

10.3.5. Chapel

The Chapel is the centrepiece of Baud's design; it was the Anglican chapel, and therefore the most important of the three proposed. The Chapel's aesthetic value is derived from its high-quality materials and elegant Neo-Classical exterior. The interior is more decorative but, in the Anglican tradition, is not overly elaborate or brightly coloured so as not to distract mourners.

In terms of its relative importance compared to other chapels, Kensal Green's Neo-Classical Anglican Chapel is considered the best chapel of the Magnificent Seven and is listed Grade I (1836-7); the Neo-Classical Dissenters' chapel is listed Grade II* (1832-37). As an early Neo-Classical design, Brompton's Chapel has historical value as part of this group and as the Grade II* designation reflects, it is of more significance than the later, often Gothic, chapels.

Overall, the Chapel is of high significance (Figs. 11, 12 & 13).

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10.3.6. Colonnades

The colonnades are a key element in the overall design of the cemetery, lining the central avenue and framing the chapel in the centre as well as the originally intended public forecourt. The appreciation of the original intention and coherence of the executed design is somewhat diminished by the missing chapels to east and west, missing eastern bell tower and the circle full of graves. Nevertheless, the sheer scale of the colonnades and repetitive rhythm of the columns and arches gives the cemetery a sense of serenity and grandeur.

Overall, the Colonnades are of high significance.

10.3.7. Central Catacombs

The significance of the Central Catacombs lies primarily in contents of the cells, rather than the architecture or structural engineering, which was for purely practical purposes.

The occupied sections of the catacombs are very well preserved and an excellent example of their type. They have illustrative historic and evidential value as they reveal aspects of funerary practice from the 1840s onwards, for example, the railings reflect concerns about security. A considerable proportion of the cells are empty and therefore do not have slate shelves, railings or coffins. This illustrates the scale of the Company's ambitions in comparison to the limited number of people who could afford the expensive fees.

The brick passageway has some mysterious features, such as the holes in the ceiling and walls. Further research may reveal these features to have a particular architectural purpose which would illustrate how the catacombs operated.

The historic coffins have high aesthetic value in their own right and contribute to the overall significance of the space. Some of the original decoration is still visible and reveals the prevailing taste in design of the time. The on-going decay of the coffins will eventually diminish their aesthetic value but this is acceptable as part of a natural process.

Overall, the Catacombs are of high significance.

10.3.8. West Catacombs

The West Catacombs have suffered more damage than any other part of the site from inherent structural problems and a bomb damaged section had to be pulled down. That part of the building is still standing is a testament to the engineering and construction capabilities of the time and to later repair efforts. However, the losses have inevitably affected the aesthetic value of the catacombs. The surviving portion retains some historical value as an admittedly plain example of a relatively rare building type in London cemeteries, and also for the rooftop public walk which once allowed far-reaching views over the canal and market gardens to the west.

Overall, the West Catacombs are of moderate significance.

10.3.9. South Entrance (lodge, police box and gates)

The group of structures at the South Entrance was built several years later than the other buildings but still has historic value as part of the overall story of the development of the cemetery (Figs. 17 & 18).

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The aesthetic value of the South Lodge lies primarily in its external appearance, which has a well preserved section from 1844 and a similarly styled Edwardian extension. The rooms have limited aesthetic value as the building was designed as a functional space for cemetery staff. Aside from one moulded fire surround, there are no special decorative features. A few 19th century elements remain, such as cupboards, fire surrounds and joinery, which contribute to the spaces' significance.

In general the survival of 19th century lodges has been rather patchy with some being sold off or converted for other uses. At many cemeteries lodges remain vacant and are vulnerable to vandalism. At Brompton the lodge is used as a base for the Friends of Brompton Cemetery to educate visitors about the cemetery and therefore it also has a value for the community.

In summary, the simpler design and lack of interior features in the lodge mean the group is of comparatively less significance than the North Entrance group. Overall, the South Entrance is of moderate significance.

10.4. Significance Plans

10.4.1. Landscape Layout

The landscape significance plan is shown on Fig. 8. The significance is rated from 'High Significance' down to 'Elements that Detract from Significance'. In terms of landscape, Baud's original path layout is rated as being of high significance. These paths define the structure of the cemetery and have, in general, remained largely unchanged since their construction. What's remaining of the western catacombs is ranked as moderately significant, whilst the boundary walls (excluding the northern perimeter) are considered to be of low significance. Elements that detract from significance are more recent additions to the cemetery and include the leaf yard and the hedge which forms the western boundary to the Garden of Remembrance.

10.4.2. Buildings

The significance plans (Figs. 11 – 19) should be read in conjunction with the Statement of Significance for a complete view of significance, taking into account intangible elements such as communal value and archaeological potential.

The following grading is used:

High significance: original or historic features that make a substantial contribution to the historic and aesthetic value of the heritage asset, e.g. facades and key interior features.

Moderate significance: original or historic features which contribute to the historic and aesthetic value of the heritage asset, e.g. internal plan form.

Low significance: original or historic features, which make a lesser contribution to the historic and aesthetic value of the heritage asset. E.g. fabric located in an area that has undergone notable change or later alterations.

Neutral: features of little or no interest, which does not contribute to the historic and aesthetic value of the asset.

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Detracts: features that obscure or detract from the historic and aesthetic value of the heritage asset.

It should be noted also that the labels on the plans reflect what is assumed about the original features of the building, what is known about the state of the fabric in 1867, and what is observable today.

It also should be noted that archaeological value is not included in the grading assessment since it is assessed in terms of 'potential' to yield evidence about the past. Similarly, communal value is an intangible quality which for the most part cannot be tied to the physical fabric.

The significance plans for the North Lodge, South Lodge and Chapel show the different parts of building fabric relative to each other – the purpose of this is to promote understanding of what is special about the built fabric and inform decision making about changes to it.

Detailed assessment of the significance of individual rooms and landscape elements can be found in the Gazetteer entries (Appendix 1, and the plans assessing significance in the separate document, Section 2: Plans and Images).

10.4.3. Proposals

Proposals for the cemetery are described in detail in the Design and Access Statement, as submitted to RBKC in February 2015. Therefore it is not repeated here. The full set of drawn plans and Scopes of Works for all landscape, buildings and monument conservation can be seen in Appendix 1 – 5 of the Design and Access Statement, and are fully described there.

These proposals are subject to a successful planning application and lottery funding approval. Without those approvals, the condition of the cemetery will certainly deteriorate, due to the volume of investment and improved long term maintenance required.

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Work 38/145 Plan of area before cemetery laid out

Work 38/148 Basement of principal entrance gateway lodge 1867

Work 38/148 Ground floor of principal entrance gateway lodge 1867

Work 38/201 Mortuary chapel (actually the central chapel)

Work 38/204 Plan and section of circular chapel 1908

Work 38/203 Proposed additions south lodge

Work 38/207 Elevations Circular walk. C 1905. With proposal to remove part of the arcades.

Work 38/209 Internal elevations North Lodge (when used as Dissenters' Chapel), 1905

Work 38/211 Sections through boundary wall (in area of electricity substation)

Work 98/152 Western Catacombs, 1850

Work 6/65 West of London and Westminster Cemetery Company Minutes 1837-1840

Work 6/66 West of London and Westminster Cemetery Company Minutes 1843-1849

Work 97/13/66/180/203 Brompton Cemetery Burial Books and Stone Ledgers.

WO 43/1026 War Office Memoranda.

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12.0 List of Plans within Section 2: Figures 1-19

Historic progression, Cemetery Wide Significance & Listed features: Figures 1 - 9

- 384I_Fig 1: Historic Progression Map 1850
- 384I_Fig 2: Historic Progression Map 1867 - 72
- 384I_Fig 3: Historic Progression Map 1895
- 384I_Fig 4: Historic Progression Map 1906 - 16
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- 384I_Fig 8: Landscape significance plan
- 384I_Fig 9: Listed Features within the Cemetery

Building Phases and Significance plans: Figures 10 - 19

- 384I_Fig 10: Chapel: Building Phases
- 384I_Fig 11: Chapel: Significance - Basement, Ceiling/ Floor Plans
- 384I_Fig 12: Chapel: Chapel: East and West Elevations
- 384I_Fig 13: Chapel: North and South Elevations
- 384I_Fig 14: North Lodge: Building Phases
- 384I_Fig 15: North Lodge: Significance - Plans
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- 384I_Fig 17: South Lodge: Significance and Phases - Plan and Elevations
- 384I_Fig 18: Police Box: Significance and Phases - Plan and Elevations
- 384I_Fig 19: Western Catacombs: Plans and Elevation – Entrance Section

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13.0 List of Images within Section 2: Figures 20 – 39

List of Images: (Images and Photographs contained in a separate A3 document)

3841_Fig 20 to 39. (Images 1-50) Historic maps, drawings and images

1. The cemetery site, as shown on the Meale’s map of 1830 (Courtesy of Kensington and Chelsea Local Studies Centre).
2. Goodwin’s design for the Grand National Cemetery (Courtesy of the British Museum).
3. Hawkins’ lithograph showing Baud’s design. The scale of the buildings has been exaggerated, to lend the composition greater drama (Courtesy of the Kensington and Chelsea Local Studies Centre).
4. A bird’s eye view of the cemetery, 1840, shows two bell towers, only one of which was completed (Historic Times).
5. Plan of Brompton signed by Baud in 1837. National Archives
6. Plan of Brompton Cemetery_ 1851_ Courtesy of National. Archive
7. View of the cemetery from the Kensington Canal, 1841, by William Cowen. Two bell towers can be seen on top of the colonnades, although only the west was built. (Courtesy of Kensington and Chelsea Local Studies Centre).
8. Plan of Cemetery 1884 by T.A. Dash, Lands Surveyor to Commission of Woods and Forests. Courtesy of National Archives
9. North Lodge - North Elevation
10. North Lodge - South Elevation
11. North Lodge - East Wing, south elevation showing mid-20th century cement render, altered windows and original door blocked up. Refer MRDA render removal study
12. North Lodge and screen
13. Chapel viewed from the north
14. Chapel from Great Circle
15. Chapel dome
16. Chapel from south-west
17. Illustration of the interior of the chapel, 1847 (The Pictorial Times).
18. Chapel roof void and dome structure 2014.
19. An illustration showing the Grand Circle empty of graves, from West of London and Westminster Cemetery Table of Charges. Curiously, two bell towers are shown, which suggests it was drawn before the east tower was abandoned. The writing in the left hand corner says ‘Benj. Baud Archt’ although it is not clear if this is a drawing by him (Courtesy of the Kensington and Chelsea Local Studies Centre).
20. The same view today, Central Axis, with the addition of tombs, 2014

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21. Grand Circle: Colonnades
22. Catacombs Entrance Doors
23. Coffin shelving inside the Catacombs
24. Decorative coffin in Catacombs 1
25. Decorative coffin in Catacombs 2
26. Decorative coffin in Catacombs 3
27. Oculi or light wells in the Catacomb ceiling
28. West Catacombs entrance
29. Plan of the West Catacombs (National Archives, Work 98/152)
30. 19th century illustration of the South Entrance. The Lodge is visible behind the gates (Courtesy of Kensington and Chelsea Local Studies Centre).
31. The South Lodge, as above, coloured
32. The South Lodge, 2014
33. The South Lodge's original internal layout (National Archives, Work 38/203)
34. Police box next to the South Entrance, 2014
35. Chelsea Pensioners' Memorial
36. The Grade II* Listed Leyland Tomb. Sir Frederick Leyland, 'one of the last men in England to wear frills', was a patron of the pre-Raphaelites. The tomb was designed by Burne-Jones.
37. Axial layout
38. Plans which show the North Lodge internal layout in 1867 (National Archives, Work 38/148) North Lodge Basement – east
39. North Lodge basement – west
40. North Lodge ground floor – east
41. North Lodge ground floor – west
42. North Lodge first floor – east
43. North Lodge first floor – west
44. Drawings of the Non-Conformist chapel interior in 1905 (National Archives, Work 38/209) East side of North Lodge (1)
45. As above (2)
46. As above (3)
47. As above (4) with inscriptions above door
48. As above (5) with inscriptions above door
49. The Chapel and its wings in 1908 (National Archives, Work 38/204)

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50. As above: Chapel Plan

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14.0 Appendices

14.1. Appendix 1: Gazetteer

14.2. Appendix 2: MRDA Render Removal Study

14.3. Appendix 3: MRDA Roof Condition and Options Study