

A1. Exhibition Boards

The second 'Neighbour Day' exhibition attracted 599 local residents on its opening day (20 April, '24) and continued to be staged until superseded by the 'Final Exhibition' in November, '24.

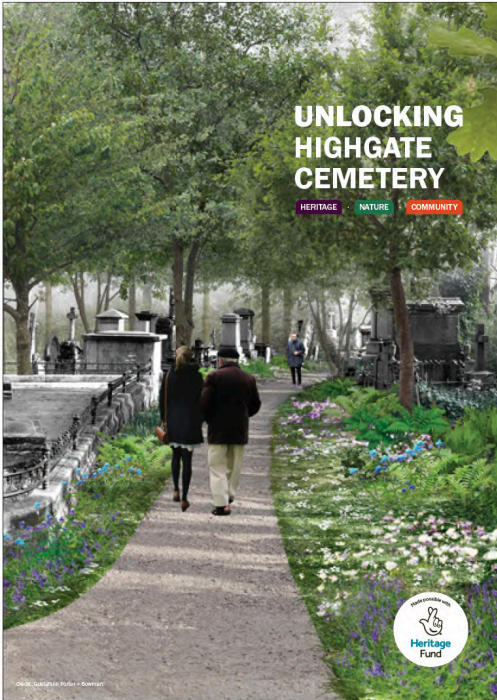
The exhibition explored the emerging design with reference to the three themes of 'Heritage', 'Nature' and 'Community'.

Neighbour Day Exhibition - 20th April 2024 Stage 3

The exhibition boards are arranged in a 3x4 grid:

- Board 1:** Title board: UNLOCKING HIGHGATE CEMETERY
- Board 2:** WELCOME A FUTURE SHARED
- Board 3:** PROGRESS UNLOCKING POTENTIAL
- Board 4:** HERITAGE RETAINING THE MAGIC
- Board 5:** HERITAGE LANDSCAPE OF MEMORIES
- Board 6:** HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE
- Board 7:** NATURE GROWTH AND DECAY
- Board 8:** NATURE ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY
- Board 9:** COMMUNITY OUR HEART AND SOUL
- Board 10:** COMMUNITY WORKING WITH PEOPLE
- Board 11:** WE NEED YOUR HELP
- Board 12:** THANK YOU HIGHGATE CEMETERY

1



2

WELCOME A FUTURE SHARED

For almost two centuries, people have enjoyed the dramatic architecture and sinuous paths of this extraordinary place. High above the busy metropolis, it is a much-needed sanctuary from the world below. Today, time and climate change have exposed the fragility of the historic structures, while invasive species threaten the rich biodiversity. *Unlocking Highgate Cemetery* brings our community together to address these urgent issues, safeguarding the future of the site and sharing it with a wider range of people. We will approach the project by focusing on three interrelated themes: 'Heritage', 'Nature' and 'Community'. Find out more about our future plans and tell us what you think. Your feedback will help us shape the project.

Heritage

Many structures are unstable and access to some areas is difficult or closed. The most urgent needs include conservation of the Grade I listed Egyptian Avenue and Circle of Lubaton, retaining open space from the Grade II* listed Terrace, and opening the great West Carriage Drive and opening the 'Chapel' to public use.

Nature

Over time, the effects of climate change and an increasing monoculture of well-watered trees and a high level of air pollution have damaged the habitat. We will remove dangerous and diseased trees, restoring biodiversity with climate-resilient planting and improved water management.

Community

We will partner with local organisations to develop a wide range of programmes, including work with school groups, vocational training in heritage management, as well as learning resources on connected themes such as grief, memory or safety. A new interpretation plan will expand our heritage stories and welcome from diverse visitors.

3

PROGRESS UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

We have been working on *Unlocking Highgate Cemetery* since 2019 when we published our Conservation plan. Then we launched an international competition to find the right team to develop proposals. With their direction we carried out extensive survey work and research to understand the site and to inform proposals. Last year we consulted with the public, Camden Council and Historic England to test our ideas. Now we will develop these.

The Heritage Fund

In January 2024, the Heritage Fund awarded *Unlocking Highgate Cemetery* a development phase grant of £250,000. This is the first step towards securing the investment needed to implement the project. The Trust will submit a second stage bid for £6.7 million towards the delivery phase in 2025. Once planning and listed building consent has been granted. The funds of *Unlocking Highgate Cemetery* Trust have committed resources to the project but we still need to raise an additional £2.2m to realise our ambitious plan.

Step by step

Informed by our 2019 Conservation Plan, *Unlocking Highgate Cemetery* is a 20-year Masterplan project which will be delivered in phases. We will submit a full planning application and listed building consent application to Camden Council later this year for the full Masterplan.

The first phase of the project, supported by the Heritage Fund will focus on the heritage and conservation where the need is most urgent along with developing our public programming and activities to reach more of the community. Other Masterplan projects will follow in later phases.

Design team

WILLIAMS PARTNERS Architects	HOPKINS ARCHITECTS Architects
BROWNSHAW SPAIN Planning and Heritage	Gustafson Porter + Bowman Landscape
Alan Borer Conservation	usefulprojects Sustainability
BANKS LANGRISH Interpretation planning	Steve McAdam Community engagement

OUR GOALS

- 2019 Conservation Plan
- 2022 Highgate Cemetery Act allows grave re-use
- 2023 Heritage Fund development phase grant
- 2024 Masterplan, Listed Building Consent and Full Planning Application Received
- 2025 Heritage Fund delivery phase application
- 2026 Subject to funding, begin implementation period of Phase 1
- BEYOND 2030 Delivery of future phases

4

HERITAGE RETAINING THE MAGIC

Conservation rather than restoration is our objective. We want to preserve rather than to renew, allowing some of the character of the buildings that has come about through the passage of time and a degree of decay to be kept.

Wonder and delight

From its earliest days, the architecture of Highgate Cemetery has been a source of wonder and delight, by its intricate structures and a special resonance which over the decades has been reinforced. Our site, the garden which grew up in its shadow, today, many of the structures are unstable and access to some areas is difficult or closed. The most urgent needs include conservation of the Grade I listed Egyptian Avenue and Circle of Lubaton, retaining access to open space from the Grade II* listed Terrace, and opening the great West Carriage Drive.

Amongst other improvements, we will open up the 'Chapel' to public use as a public space to welcome 200 years of human stories.

We will

- Conserve key buildings and structures
- Retain the Chapel's lost cupola and pinnacles
- Restore the original levels of the Courtyard
- Undertake regular condition surveys
- Prioritise repairs to monuments by significance and condition

Conservation, interpretation and story-telling

Unlocking Highgate Cemetery will conserve exceptional historic buildings and monuments and enable the full range of stories which contribute to the being of the cemetery to be told. Our public programming will respect the 'wonder' and story-telling aspects of the monuments and buildings, and ensure that the design is sympathetic to the intentions of the original landscape design.

A1. Exhibition Boards

5 HERITAGE LANDSCAPE OF MEMORIES

Gustafson Porter and Bowman, our landscape architects, have carried out extensive research to understand the special magic of Highgate Cemetery. They have studied countless historical images and documents to rediscover its original layout and likely planting scheme. They have seen how trees and shrubs were used to frame views both of the architectural elements within the Cemetery, and outwards to the metropolis. They have thought about how visitors moved through the Cemetery and where they might have rested.

They have considered how the character of the landscape has changed, appreciating the present less manicured state which many people value today. This cannot be a historic restoration, but the landscape plans will be informed by a strong understanding of history and character.

We will

- Maintain the distinct character of the East and West sides
- Keep or reinstate historic structural planting
- Maintain or reopen key views
- Extend the lifespan of historic trees
- Recreate nodes and paths in appropriate materials
- Enhance the forecourt and courtyard, improving accessibility

Historical views compared with today

Aspects of key views

KEY

- Dissemination building
- Visitor and Operations building
- Education and Community building
- Gateway building
- Utility block

Restored/reinstated buildings

- South Lodge - Visitor toilets
- Countess and South Lane public works - Roseford and Reynolds
- North Lodge - Gardener's tea point

Conservation

- Egyptian Avenue
- Circle of Lebanon
- Temple, Calcutta

Restoration and repair

- South Lodge Refurbish to provide visitor toilets
- Courtyard and Swan's Lane public realm Refurbish and improve
- North Lodge Refurbish as gardener's tea point, especially for volunteers

6 HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE

New buildings will respect their context. Scale, massing and materials will be sympathetic to those around them, but in a language of their own time.

We will

- Provide better facilities for visitors, including a cafe and toilets
- Reopen government store and messroom
- Expand visitor facilities
- Provide adequate office space
- Ensure new structures are of high quality in design and materials, and enhance the site

Dissemination building

Visitor and Operations building

Education and Community building

Utility block

Restored/reinstated buildings

- South Lodge - Visitor toilets
- Countess and South Lane public works - Roseford and Reynolds
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- South Lodge Refurbish to provide visitor toilets
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7 NATURE GROWTH AND DECAY

The Cemetery is a haven for life, from trees and plants to a variety of insects, birds and mammals, including a rare cave spider. Over time, the effects of climate change and an increasing monoculture of self-seeded Ash trees and a blight of Ash dieback have degraded this rich habitat.

We will remove dangerous and diseased trees, restoring biodiversity with climate-resilient planting and improved water management. Above all, we will protect the special character of Highgate Cemetery.

We will

- Encourage a diversity of flora and create a diverse range of habitats
- Select species more resilient to climate change, but be guided by precedent as far as form, scale and planting of specimen trees
- Actively manage woodland ground cover plants
- Improve drainage to reduce water-logging
- Minimise the use of chemicals in landscape maintenance

Water flow and drainage strategy

No trees and tree planting

Retention of diseased trees (ASH DIEBACK) in Highgate Cemetery

Water flow and drainage strategy

No trees and tree planting

Retention of diseased trees (ASH DIEBACK) in Highgate Cemetery

8 NATURE ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

New openings in the tree cover will admit sunlight, reveal views and monuments and increase plant and habitat diversity.

Water

Planting

Resilience

Paths

We will

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Water flow and drainage strategy

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Water flow and drainage strategy

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Retention of diseased trees (ASH DIEBACK) in Highgate Cemetery

9 COMMUNITY OUR HEART AND SOUL

Community is at the heart of Highgate Cemetery, from grave owners, visitors and members to the volunteers who have battled to save the site for the last fifty years.

As part of *Unlocking Highgate Cemetery*, we will partner with local organisations to develop a wide range of programmes, including oracy skills for school groups, vocational training in landscape management, as well as learning resources on universal themes such as grief, memory or celebrity.

Our new interpretation plan will expand the stories we tell, reflecting the huge range of heritage and welcoming a greater diversity of people.

An active cemetery

Highgate Cemetery continues to be a working cemetery as well as a visitor attraction. Part of the special character comes from being a typical backstreet, very different from parks and other green spaces. It is a place of everyday and occasional, practical and ceremonial, activities of the bereaved. Other old cemeteries have tried to use curbside and single gravestones to create the important connections to people being around them.

Highgate Cemetery has a different future. The Highgate Cemetery Act 2022 gives the Trust the power to take back long unused green to provide burial space for the needs of the present generation – subject to many safeguards, of course – and thereby secure the future of the cemetery.

Volunteering

The Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust was formed in 1973 by local people who were concerned for the future of the Cemetery. Almost fifty years later, that volunteer ethos is still fundamental. As a result of the work done by volunteers:

• The garden made its history come alive for visitors, visitor organisations receive tours of all kinds, and families and former gravestone and gardening volunteers ensure that Highgate Cemetery continues to look its best, come rain or shine.

Throughout the conservation project, workshops will be run to ensure the wealth of on-site knowledge is captured and built directly into the design of new buildings and landscapes. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch using the contact details on board 11.

Community Action

A community action group has been established to bring resources from the local community. It is a space for exchange where participants are both informed about and contribute to issues for the cemetery. Operational priorities will be identified on an ongoing basis for a local group or organisation and could include the park, through get in touch with us using the contact details on board 11.



Volunteer gardeners at work

Landscape architect Neil Parter conducting a cemetery tour

10 COMMUNITY WORKING WITH PEOPLE

We are building relationships with local community partners such as Harrington Scheme, Brookfield Primary School, Wood That Works and Lauderdale House.

A new Head of Public Programmes and Learning Officer, funded by the Heritage Fund, will develop these pilot activities into a permanent programme.

We are working hard to open dialogue with a full cross-section of our community members, building on our earlier engagement efforts. To do this we will:

- Ensure that our wonderful volunteers are best fully supported of all project development and that their views are sought;
- Continue to work with and expand our Community Liaison Group;
- Pilot free access for specific community groups, schools and post code groups with the use of smart technology and pass cards to test and develop the most effective measures;

- Appoint new staff to further build and maintain relationships with communities and to design related programmes;
- Improve accessibility through developing meeting points and facilities in appropriate locations to compensate for the steepness of the site;
- Work with our community to help shape and inform our interpretation plans whereby the history and stories of the cemetery are shared;
- Work with key stakeholders to co-create and deliver an ambitious Activity Plan and public programme. See below.

We will

- Continue to champion our volunteers
- Ensure our plans respond to community needs and views
- Co-produce an Activity Plan with key local stakeholders
- Appoint a Head of Public Programmes and Learning Officer
- Keep our community informed about our proposals
- Rely on our Community Liaison Group as a sounding board

Activity Plan

Unlocking Highgate Cemetery has an outline Activity Plan, composed of four sections that address the production of programmes and activities alongside high level recommendations which can be progressed through the Development and Delivery Phases of Highgate Cemetery's Heritage Funded project.



Brookfield Primary School children on play equipment made from waste wood from Highgate Cemetery (photo: Matthew Wilson, 2024)

11 WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our ambitious plans are still evolving. You can help shape them.

Feedback

Please give us your feedback

Please complete a feedback form and return it to the charity desk. Your responses shape our project and help the design team determine their plans. We will also include a summary of responses in our planning application so that the planners can understand the active role of local people in shaping the project. You can also enter your views online: <https://highgatecemetery.org/feedback>



Donate

Please donate

Unlocking Highgate Cemetery is a seven-year, £18m project. Thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and our own reserves, we can begin this vital work to unlock our future. However, we must still raise £1.2 million. You can help by donating or joining us as a Patron or Member. To find out more about how to support the plans, especially, please visit our website and follow the links to the 'donations' section.



Volunteer

Please volunteer

The Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust was formed in 1973 by local people who were concerned for the future of the Cemetery. Almost fifty years later, that volunteer ethos is still fundamental. As a result of the work done by volunteers:

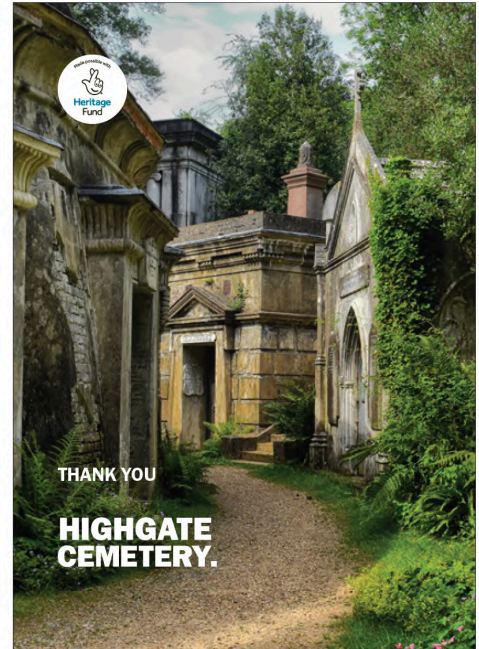
• The garden made its history come alive for visitors, visitor organisations receive tours of all kinds, and families and former gravestone and gardening volunteers ensure that Highgate Cemetery continues to look its best, come rain or shine.

Throughout the conservation project, workshops will be run to ensure the wealth of on-site knowledge is captured and built directly into the design of new buildings and landscapes. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch with us using the contact details below.

Highgate Cemetery, Dewar's Lane, London NE9 8PQ
info@highgatecemetery.org | 020 8340 1834



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'Fair in the Square' is an annual fair organised by the Highgate Society and staged in the summer in Pond Square, Highgate Village - a short walk from the cemetery. It is attended by around 15,000 people each year. The June '23 event provided an opportunity for a 'mini exhibition' describing important aspects of the cemetery in terms of those buried (and loved) and the flora and fauna.

Please note, the fifth board was a template set out to capture local thoughts on a number of scheme aspects - so it is not illustrated on the following page.

Fair in the Square - 10th June 2023 Stage 2

1

LOOKING BACK

Highgate Cemetery has been open for almost 200 years. At its heart, the cemetery is a place for people. Each of the 50,000 graves and monuments tells a story.

During the 20th century the Cemetery experienced a series of declines but luckily it was saved and we can all enjoy it today. Here are some pivotal points in the history of the cemetery showing how it has expanded and evolved over the decades.

The changing face of the cemetery

The original cemetery was a formally arranged and designed landscape, but over the years it has become overgrown with vegetation, with a number of trees self-seeding and dominating the site.

1839

Highgate Cemetery was established in 1839 by the Rev. Dr. John Phillips, a Unitarian minister, as a place for people to be buried and remembered.

1860

Highgate Cemetery was expanded to include the area around the site of the old Highgate School, which was built in 1858.

1888

The cemetery was further expanded to include the area around the site of the old Highgate School, which was built in 1858.

1905

The cemetery was further expanded to include the area around the site of the old Highgate School, which was built in 1858.

1944

The cemetery was further expanded to include the area around the site of the old Highgate School, which was built in 1858.

1950s & 60s

The cemetery was further expanded to include the area around the site of the old Highgate School, which was built in 1858.

1975

The cemetery was further expanded to include the area around the site of the old Highgate School, which was built in 1858.

The history of conservation at Highgate Cemetery

Since the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust was founded, a number of conservation projects have been undertaken to preserve and protect the cemetery's buildings and monuments. These include:

- 1984-85 2002: Restoration of St James' Church
- 1985-89 2012: Repair of Church and office conversion, relocation of Anglican Chapel
- 1992 1997: Conservation and installation of Egyptian Avenue and Lebanon Circle
- 1993 2002: Restoration of St James' Church
- 1995-2004: Repair to West side boundary wall
- 2000-2010: Conservation and repair to St James' Church
- 2010: Highgate Cemetery Conservation Plan

2

A LOVING LANDSCAPE

Highgate Cemetery is the last resting place of 15,000 people - from further afield as well as Londoners from all walks of life. Some individuals are globally known, widely recognised for their notable contributions to philosophy, architecture, medicine, engineering, science, the arts, theatre and media. Other individuals are more locally known to friends, family and neighbours.

Around 20% of people buried at Highgate are in common graves. From the 1830s, those who did not have the means to pay for private graves, a common grave was an affordable solution. A single grave would hold a number of interments, often unrelated, with no stone or marking. Today, this practice is less common, but many common graves can be found across the cemetery.

Notable figures from the cemetery

Charles Darwin 1809-1882 Biologist and geologist, first modern evolutionary theorist	Leeds Robinson 1850-1904 English poet and novelist	Thomas Hardy 1895-1928 English poet and novelist
Mary Ann Evans (George Eliot) 1819-1880 Novelist and journalist	Henry Cavendish 1731-1810 English natural philosopher, chemist, physicist and inventor	Samuel Pepys 1633-1703 English naval administrator, writer and diarist
Charlotte Brontë 1816-1855 English novelist, poet and philanthropist	John Ruskin 1818-1900 English art critic, social thinker, and philosopher	George Orwell 1903-1950 English novelist, screenwriter, political activist, biographer, and essayist
John Donne 1572-1631 English poet, scholar, philosopher, satirist, and cleric	Walter Scott 1771-1832 Scottish novelist, poet, and historian	Roger Moore 1927-2005 English actor, film producer, and television presenter

Hidden stories of Highgate Cemetery

A team of highly committed volunteers give their time to researching and recording stories that they are proud to tell. The grounds that we have only just scratched the surface. An important part of keeping Highgate Cemetery special is ensuring the rich history of people at Highgate is preserved. It's not just about the graves. By sharing their stories, we will help to build an even better future for the future.

Do you know about someone buried at Highgate Cemetery or is there someone you would like to know more about? Perhaps they did something remarkable for your family, neighbourhood, London or the world?

Tell us your stories here

3

A LIVING LANDSCAPE

Highgate Cemetery is famed for its eclectic landscapes, natural beauty and tranquility. Visitors come far and wide to visit the quiet space in a busy urban metropolis. Amongst the graves, visitors have been allowed to grow vegetables. As the year goes by, the seasons are marked by an ever-changing colours, from vibrant greens, through yellows and oranges to the rich reds of autumn. Today, this practice is less common, but many common graves can be found across the cemetery.

Cemetery trees

Trees are an important part of the cemetery's character. They provide shade, are home to wildlife and contribute to the landscape. Any species and challenges include:

- Ash**
A common tree in the UK with green and red leaves. This tree has been planted in the cemetery. They are a high species and are more common in the cemetery. They are a high species and are more common in the cemetery.
- Cherry**
The cherry blossom is a tree native to the East of Asia. It is a common tree in the cemetery. They are a high species and are more common in the cemetery.
- Holly**
The holly tree is a common tree in the cemetery. They are a high species and are more common in the cemetery.

Abundant wildlife

Highgate Cemetery supports a rich array of plants and animals, creating a habitat for a wide range of species. The cemetery is a rich and diverse ecosystem, with a variety of plants and animals. The cemetery is a rich and diverse ecosystem, with a variety of plants and animals.

A Delicate Balance

The cemetery is a delicate balance of nature and human intervention. The cemetery is a delicate balance of nature and human intervention. The cemetery is a delicate balance of nature and human intervention.

4

LOOKING FORWARD

The Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust is undertaking a major project to conserve and restore Highgate Cemetery's remarkable landscape of monuments, gravestones, and buildings. The project is a response to the effects of climate change and to better meet the needs and expectations of the cemetery.

The Trust is being assisted by a team of architects and landscape designers. Sign-up for news about the cemetery to receive invites to upcoming exhibitions and events: highgatecemeteryconservation.com

Ensuring the future of the cemetery

Highgate Cemetery Trust has established the 'Future of Highgate Cemetery' working group. This group is responsible for ensuring the future of the cemetery. The group is responsible for ensuring the future of the cemetery.

Activities at the cemetery

To ensure Highgate Cemetery is a vibrant space in the local community, the Trust is bringing to life the space of activities and events. The Trust is bringing to life the space of activities and events.

The Design Team

Gustafson Porter Bowman Responsible for landscape design of the cemetery to present.	HOPKINS ARCHITECTS Responsible for architecture design of conservation and new buildings.
AMINBAY Responsible for conservation advice and habitat design.	useful/projects Responsible for reducing the accessibility of the project.
SARKIS LANGHAM Responsible for planning and programming advice.	useful/projects Responsible for reducing the accessibility of the project.

5

YOUR CHANCE TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

Share your experiences and ideas on how Highgate Cemetery could change.

As changes are made at Highgate Cemetery, the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust would like to involve everyone to help shape the process of renewal and conservation.

Have you ever visited Highgate Cemetery? What would make you want to visit?

What about Highgate Cemetery is important to you?

Do you have any suggestions for how the Trust can improve the experience or facilities?

Please share your thoughts using the boxes on this board:

Visitor Facilities:

Living Landscape:

Health & Wellbeing:

Volunteer Experience:

Learning & Knowledge:

2017
2020
2022
2023
2024

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LOOKING BACK

Highgate Cemetery has been open for almost 200 years. At its heart, the cemetery is a place for people. Each of the 53,000 graves and monuments tells a story.

During the 20th century the cemetery experienced a period of decline but luckily it was saved and we can still enjoy it today. Here are some pivotal points in the history of the cemetery showing how it has expanded and evolved over the decades.

The changing face of the cemetery

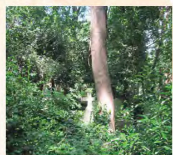
The original cemetery was a formally arranged and designed landscape, but over the years it has become overgrown with vegetation, with a number of trees self-seeding and dominating the site.



NOW (left) 1839 aerial view of Highgate Cemetery showing the clear character of the space. NOW (right) 2017 aerial view of the cemetery showing how trees have become overgrown across the site, creating many challenges for the cemetery.



THEN a view of Highgate Cemetery in 1852 showing the varied arrangement of the selected graves and monuments with St. Michael's Church in the background.



NOW the same view in 2017. The site is still visible but the rest of the monuments and graves, as well as the long views of the site, have been obscured by vegetation and overgrowth.

The history of conservation at Highgate Cemetery. Since the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust was founded, a number of conservation projects have been undertaken to preserve and protect historic buildings and monuments. These include: 1984-91, 2002 Restoration of Terrace Catacombs; 1985-89; 2012 Repair of Chapels and office conversion; redecoration of Anglican Chapel interior; 1992-1997 Conservation and stabilisation of Egyptian Avenue and Lebanon Circle; 1993 Restoration of Beer Mausoleum; 1999-2004 Repairs to West side boundary walls; 2010-2015 Conservation and repairs to listed monuments; 2019 Highgate Cemetery Conservation Plan

1839 At London's northern tip, there was an urgent need to find more space to bury people. The Highgate Cemetery was created in 1839 to create three new consecrated areas, north, east and west of London, Highgate Cemetery opened in 1839.

1860 Highgate Cemetery more than doubled in size with the opening of a 18-acre extension on the east side of Sewin's Lane. At its peak in the 1860s, an average of thirty burials took place each day across the whole site.

1888 Houses on Sewin's Lane are demolished to make space for more burials.

1905 Land acquired at Clarendon Road for the cemetery to build up more space for burials.

1944 Lodge at Chester Road gate bought and not rebuilt. Land used for horse.

1950s & 60s Consents with the Metropolitan Council, the Friends of Highgate Cemetery and three parts of the East side.

1975 Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust founded, the first cemetery friends group in the UK.

A LOVING LANDSCAPE

Highgate Cemetery is the last resting place of 173,000 people - from further afield as well as Londoners from all walks of life. Some individuals at Highgate are globally known, widely recognised for their notable contributions to philosophy and literature, architecture, medicine, engineering, science, the arts, theatre and media. Other individuals are more locally known to friends, family and neighbours. Around 20% of people buried at Highgate are in common graves. From the 1830s, those who did not have the means to pay for private graves, a common grave was an affordable solution. A single grave would hold a number of interments, often unrelated, with no stone or markings. Today, this practice is less common, but many common graves can be found across the cemetery.



Common grave site in the cemetery

Notable figures from the cemetery

Grid of portraits and names of notable figures buried in the cemetery, including Ernestine Rose, Mary Ann Evans (George Eliot), Hilary Bradshaw, George Michael, and Roger Lloyd-Pack.

Hidden stories of Highgate Cemetery

A team of highly committed volunteers give their time to researching and recording stories that they share through tours of the grounds, but we have only just scratched the surface. An important part of keeping the cemetery open is revealing the rich diversity of people at Highgate, allowing visitors to find their own meanings. By sharing your stories, we will help to build an even better archive for the future.

Tell us your stories here

A LIVING LANDSCAPE

Highgate Cemetery is famed for its Gothic landscape, natural beauty and tranquillity. Visitors come from far and wide to visit this quiet space in a busy urban metropolis. Amongst the graves, wildlife has been allowed to grow untamed. As the year goes by, the seasons are marked by an ever-changing colours, from snowdrops, bluebells and daffodils in early spring to the lush green leaves of summer turning to autumn tones of autumnal leaves.

Cemetery trees

Trees are an important part of the cemetery's character. They provide shade, are home to wildlife and contribute to the biodiversity. Key species and challenges include:

Grid of images and descriptions for different tree species: Ash (common tree in UK with green oval leaves), Chestnut (regular features of parks and gardens), Holly (ancient tree with berries), Plane (common sight in capital since introduced in late 18th century), Oak (tree in British history and culture), Yew (ancient tree species with long affinity with cemetery settings).

Abundant wildlife. Highgate Cemetery supports a rich array of plants and animals, including a population of the nationally scarce orb-weaving spider Mela Bournei (1) which inhabits the vaults in the Egyptian Avenue. The woodland supports a diverse range of plants, including rare and notable species as well as a range of lichens, ferns and mosses. New species of bats have been recorded on the site, including the soprano pipistrelle (2), and Nathusius's pipistrelle. A pair of sparrowshawk (3) also nest regularly in a cemetery.

A Delicate Balance

Over the years the landscape at Highgate cemetery has changed dramatically. Overgrown trees, many affected by disease, were common in the 1950s and 60s and are causing damage to graves and monuments (1). Weather logging is causing more trees to drop, creating dangerous conditions (2). In parts of the cemetery, vegetation has overgrown, making parts of the site inaccessible. To restore the cemetery's natural openness, changes need to be made. New designs are being developed for the grounds that restore features that were part of the original vision for the site. The designs also look to the future, incorporating how the climate has changed since the cemetery opened.

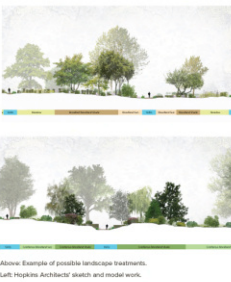
LOOKING FORWARD

The Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust is undertaking a major project to conserve and unlock Highgate Cemetery's remarkable landscape of memories, preparing it to combat the effects of climate change and to better meet the needs and expectations of the community.

The Trust is being assisted by a team of architects and landscape designers. Sign-up for news about the cemetery to receive invites to upcoming exhibitions and events: highgatecemeteryconservation.com

Ensuring the future of the cemetery

Historically, the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust has championed the aesthetic of 'romantic decay' as a light touch approach to landscaping, whilst addressing immediate hazards and maintaining safe routes through the site. New designs will unlock the cemetery's potential, enhance its role in the community, and conserve its landscape, monuments and buildings. Decaying buildings will be restored and new structures built as the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust looks to welcome new diverse audiences. New facilities will be built that improve the experience of visiting and volunteering at the cemetery.



Above: Example of possible landscape treatments. Left: Hopkins Architects' sketch and model work.



Activities at the cemetery

To ensure Highgate Cemetery is serving everyone in the local community, the Trust is looking to diversify the types of activities that take place and reach new audiences who may have never visited the site before. It is important that activities are generally worthwhile and beneficial to people, offering opportunities to improve health and wellbeing, learn new skills or research and uncover histories of people buried there.



The Design Team

Grid of logos and roles for the design team: Gustafson Porter + Bowman (Responsible for landscape design), Hopkins Architects (Responsible for architecture design), Alan Baxter (Responsible for conservation advice), usefulprojects (Responsible for ensuring the sustainability of the project), Barker Langham (Responsible for planning public programming and activities).

The Process of Change

Timeline of key events: 2017 Consultation exhibition about Highgate Cemetery's future; 2020 International Competition for landscape architects and architects held; 2021 Highgate Cemetery Competition Winners Announced; 2022 Highgate Cemetery Act 2022 allowing the reuse of graves; 2023 Resource exhibition on the draft proposals with the general public; 2024 Planning Applications submitted.

A1. Exhibition Boards

'Fair in the Square' is an annual fair organised by the Highgate Society and staged in the summer in Pond Square, Highgate Village - a short walk from the cemetery. It is attended by around 15,000 people each year. The June '24 event provided an opportunity for a 'mini exhibition' describing important elements of the design approach. It also drew attention to the on-line exhibition which provided fuller information and a digital feedback form.

Fair in the Square. 8th June, '24 Stage 3

1

WELCOME A FUTURE SHARED

For almost two centuries, people have enjoyed the dramatic architecture and serene paths of this extraordinary place. High above the busy metropolis, it is a much-needed sanctuary from the world below. Today, time and climate change have exposed the fragility of the historic structures, while creative concepts threaten the site's identity. Unlocking Highgate Cemetery brings our community together to address these urgent issues, safeguarding the future of the site and sharing it with a wider range of people. We will approach the project by focusing on three interconnected themes: 'Heritage', 'Nature' and 'Community'. Find out more about our future plans and tell us what you think. Your feedback will help us shape the project.

Heritage
The cemetery is a treasure trove of architectural and historical significance, with many structures in various states of decay. Our goal is to preserve these structures, restore them where possible, and ensure they are accessible to all. We will focus on the most significant structures, such as the Mausoleum and the Chapel, and work to restore them to their former glory.

Nature
The cemetery is a haven for a wide range of plants and animals, and we want to ensure that this natural environment is protected and enhanced. We will focus on creating new green spaces, planting native species, and improving the overall biodiversity of the site.

Community
The cemetery is a place where people from all backgrounds and ages come together. We want to ensure that it remains a welcoming and inclusive space for everyone. We will focus on creating new community spaces, such as a cafe and a library, and working to improve the overall accessibility of the site.

UNLOCKING HIGHGATE CEMETERY

2

PROGRESS UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

We have been working on Unlocking Highgate Cemetery since 2019 when we published our Conservation Plan. There we launched an international competition to find the right team to develop proposals. With their direction we carried out extensive surveys work and research to understand the site and its future potential. Last year we consulted with the public, Camden Council and Historic England to test our ideas. We will now develop these.

We received a Development Phase grant from the Heritage Fund in January and are now working towards a second stage that which we will submit in 2025. Ahead of this we are working to secure planning and listed building consent.

Informed by our 2019 Conservation Plan, Unlocking Highgate Cemetery is a 2.5 year restoration project, the first phase of which will focus on the landscape and conservation where the need is most urgent. An additional £1.2m will have to be raised to realise this first phase.

Design team

HERITAGE ARCHITECTS
Custodian
FORRE + BOOTHBY
Aurora
www.projects

OUR GOALS

- 2019: Published the Conservation Plan
- 2020: Secured the Heritage Fund grant
- 2021: Completed the first phase of the project
- 2022: Completed the second phase of the project
- 2023: Completed the third phase of the project
- 2024: Completed the fourth phase of the project
- 2025: Completed the fifth phase of the project

BEYOND 2025

Continuing to improve the site and its future potential

3

HERITAGE RETAINING THE MAGIC

Conservation rather than restoration is our objective. We want to preserve rather than to renovate, allowing some of the character of the buildings that has come about through the passage of time and a degree of decay to be kept.

Wonder and delight

Conservation is not just about preserving the past. It is also about creating a sense of wonder and delight. We will focus on creating new spaces that are both beautiful and functional, and that will provide a unique experience for all who visit the site.

Conservation, Interpretation and Storytelling

Conservation is not just about preserving the past. It is also about creating a sense of wonder and delight. We will focus on creating new spaces that are both beautiful and functional, and that will provide a unique experience for all who visit the site.

We will:

- Restore the Mausoleum
- Restore the Chapel
- Restore the Clock Tower
- Restore the Cemetery
- Restore the Cemetery
- Restore the Cemetery

4

NATURE GROWTH AND DECAY

The Cemetery is a haven for life. From trees and plants to a variety of insects, birds and mammals, including a rare green spider. Over time, the effects of climate change and an increasing population of self-seeded dogs have and a high of the debris have degraded this rich habitat.

We will remove dangerous and deadened trees, making biodiversity with climate resilient planting and improved water management. Above all, we will protect the natural character of Highgate Cemetery.

Our design goals and objectives are:

- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight

ECOLOGICAL AND BIODIVERSITY

New coverings in this cover will add sunlight, avoid insecticide and increase plant and habitat diversity.

Water

Improving water management and reducing water consumption.

Planting

Planting native species and creating new green spaces.

Resilience

Planting climate resilient species and improving water management.

Paths

Improving the accessibility of the site and creating new paths.

We will:

- Remove dangerous and deadened trees
- Plant native species
- Improve water management
- Create new green spaces
- Improve the accessibility of the site
- Create new paths

5

COMMUNITY OUR HEART AND SOUL

Community is at the heart of Highgate Cemetery, from green spaces, water and gardens to the volunteers who have helped to care the site for the last 100 years.

As part of Unlocking Highgate Cemetery, we will partner with local organisations to develop a wide range of programmes, including early work for school groups, vocational training in landscape management, as well as creating jobs for young people in the area.

Our new interpretation plan will expand the stories we tell, reflecting the huge range of heritage and welcoming a greater diversity of people.

We will:

- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight

Volunteering

Volunteering is a key part of our community and we will continue to support and encourage our volunteers.

WORKING WITH PEOPLE

We are building relationships with local community partners such as Kingsley College, Brookland Primary School, Street That Runs and Laidlaw's House. A new Head of Public Programmes and Learning Officer, based at the Heritage Fund, will develop these place activities into a permanent programme.

We will:

- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight

6

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our ambitious plans are still evolving. You can help shape them.

Feedback

Please give us your feedback

Donate

Please donate

Volunteer

Please volunteer

We will:

- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight
- Create a sense of wonder and delight

1

UNLOCKING HIGHGATE CEMETERY

HERITAGE NATURE COMMUNITY

Unlocking Highgate Cemetery will conserve exceptional historic buildings and monuments and create the first ever area which combines the story of the cemetery with the story of the city. It will also help to conserve and enhance the historic buildings and monuments, and will ensure that the site is accessible to the widest range of people.

Heritage Fund logo

2

WELCOME A FUTURE SHARED

For almost two centuries, people have enjoyed the dramatic architecture and sinuous paths of this extraordinary place. High above the busy metropolis, it is a much-needed sanctuary from the world below. Today, time and climate change have exposed the fragility of the historic structures, while invasive species threaten the rich biodiversity. Unlocking Highgate Cemetery brings our community together to address these urgent issues, safeguarding the future of the site and sharing it with a wider range of people. We will approach the project by focusing on three interrelated themes: 'Heritage', 'Nature' and 'Community'. Find out more about our future plans and tell us what you think. Your feedback will help us shape the project.

Heritage

Heritage structures are essential and access to some areas is difficult or closed. The most urgent needs are to conserve the Grade II* listed Egyptian Revival and the Grade II listed Egyptian Revival and the Grade II listed Egyptian Revival. We will ensure that the site is accessible to the widest range of people.

Nature

Over time, the effects of climate change and an increasing number of invasive species have led to a loss of biodiversity. We will ensure that the site is accessible to the widest range of people.

Community

Our site is a place of shared heritage and we will ensure that the site is accessible to the widest range of people. We will ensure that the site is accessible to the widest range of people.

3

PROGRESS UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

We have been working on Unlocking Highgate Cemetery since 2019 when we published our Conservation Plan. Then we launched an international competition to find the right team to develop proposals. With their direction we carried out extensive survey work and research to understand the site and to inform proposals. Last year we consulted with the public, Camden Council and Historic England to test our ideas. Now we will develop these.

The Heritage Fund

The Heritage Fund is a not-for-profit charity that has been set up to support the development of the site. It will ensure that the site is accessible to the widest range of people.

Step by step

The first phase of the project, supported by the Heritage Fund, will focus on the buildings and conservation work on the site. A second phase will focus on the landscape and public programming and will ensure that the site is accessible to the widest range of people.

OUR GOALS

- 2019: Conservation Plan
- 2022: Highgate Cemetery Act allows growth
- 2023: Highgate Cemetery Act allows growth
- 2024: Monuments Listed Building Consent and full Restoration Programme
- 2025: Heritage Fund delivery phase application
- 2026: Subject to funding, begin the first phase of the project
- BEYOND 2030: Delivery of future phases

Design team

HOPKINS ARCHITECTS

Gustafson Porter + Bowman

usefulprojects

Heritage Fund logo

4

HERITAGE RETAINING THE MAGIC

Conservation rather than restoration is our objective. We want to preserve rather than to renew, allowing some of the character of the buildings that have come about through the passage of time and a degree of decay to be kept.

Wonder and delight

From its earliest days, the architecture of Highgate Cemetery has been a source of wonder and delight. Our aim is to ensure that the site is accessible to the widest range of people.

Conservation, interpretation and story-telling

Unlocking Highgate Cemetery will conserve exceptional historic buildings and monuments and create the first ever area which combines the story of the cemetery with the story of the city. It will also help to conserve and enhance the historic buildings and monuments, and will ensure that the site is accessible to the widest range of people.

We will

- Conserve key buildings and structures
- Restore the original basis of the Courtyard
- Underpin regular condition surveys
- Provide repairs to monuments by significance and condition

5

COMMUNITY OUR HEART AND SOUL

Community is at the heart of Highgate Cemetery, from grave owners, visitors and members to the volunteers who have battled to save the site for the last fifty years.

We will

- Create our plans based on community needs and views
- Co-develop a Highgate Cemetery Plan with key local stakeholders
- Appoint a Head of Public Programmes and a Learning Officer
- Keep our community informed about our proposals
- Help set up a Community User Group as a sounding board

Volunteering

The Historic England Community Team funded 1,000 by local people who were contacted for the future of the Cemetery. We will ensure that the site is accessible to the widest range of people.

WORKING WITH PEOPLE

We are building relationships with local community partners such as Harington Scheme, Brookfield Primary School, Wood That Works and Lauderdale House. A new Head of Public Programmes and Learning Officer, funded by the Heritage Fund, will develop these pilot activities into a permanent programme.

- Appoint new staff to further build and maintain relationships with communities and to design tailored programmes
- Improve accessibility through developing existing events and introducing appropriate facilities to compensate for the weaknesses of the site
- Work with our community to help shape and inform our interpretation areas whereby the history and stories of the cemetery are shared
- Work with key stakeholders to co-create and deliver an ambitious Activity Plan and public programming

6

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our ambitious plans are still evolving. You can help shape them.

Feedback

Please give us your feedback

Please visit our website to see and give your feedback on our proposals which describe our ambitious plans. We will also include a summary of responses in our planning application so that the public can understand the action role of local people in shaping and supporting this project.

Donate

Please donate

Unlocking Highgate Cemetery is a not-for-profit charity. We will ensure that the site is accessible to the widest range of people.

Volunteer

Please volunteer

The Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust was formed in 2019 to help people who were contacted for the future of the Cemetery. We will ensure that the site is accessible to the widest range of people.

Heritage Fund logo

The 'Whittington Estate' outreach exhibition was staged in the Whittington Estate 'Garden Room' and attended by representatives of the cemetery and the estate residents. For this exhibition, additional information was provided on the ecological approach to the landscape design and on the habitats proposed to support biodiversity at the request of the residents (two of whom are Community Liaison Group Members).

Whittington Estate - 10th July 2024
Stage 3

1 WELCOME
A FUTURE SHARED

For almost two centuries, people have regarded the dramatic architecture and landscaped paths of this extraordinary place high above the busy metropolis. It is a much-loved sanctuary from the world outside. Today, time and climate change have revealed the fragility of the historic structures, with visible signs of their age. Sustainable, innovative Highgate Cemetery brings our community together to address these urgent needs, safeguarding the future of the site and helping it to evolve in a wider range of ways. We will approach the project by focusing on three interrelated themes: Heritage, Nature and Community. Find out more about our future plans and tell us what you think. Your feedback will help us shape the project.

Heritage The cemetery is a unique and irreplaceable part of London's history and heritage. It is a place where the past meets the present, and where the lives of those who have passed on are remembered and celebrated. We will work to preserve and enhance the historic buildings, monuments and landscape, ensuring that they remain a source of inspiration and pride for generations to come.

Nature The cemetery is a rich and diverse ecosystem, home to a wide variety of plants, animals and insects. We will work to enhance and restore the natural environment, creating a haven for wildlife and a source of beauty and tranquility for all who visit. This will involve planting native species, creating new habitats and improving the overall health of the site's flora and fauna.

Community The cemetery is a place where people from all backgrounds and cultures come together to remember their loved ones and to find comfort and solace. We will work to strengthen the sense of community and belonging that has always existed here, by providing opportunities for people to connect, share their stories and support one another. This will involve creating new spaces for social activities, events and services, and ensuring that the cemetery remains a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone.

UNLOCKING HIGHGATE CEMETERY

2 PROGRESS
UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

We have been working on Unlocking Highgate Cemetery since 2019 when we published our Conservation plan. There is a lot of work to do, but we are making progress. We have secured a £1.5m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to support our work. We have also been working with the local community to develop a vision for the future of the cemetery. We will be launching a new website in 2024, which will provide more information about the project and how you can get involved.

Design team
WPC/IN/ARCHITECTS
GARDEN DESIGN
Landscape Architecture
SOUTH EAST
Landscape Architecture

OUR GOALS

- 2024: Complete the Conservation Plan and start work on the first phase of the project.
- 2025: Launch the new website and start work on the second phase of the project.
- 2026: Complete the second phase of the project and start work on the third phase.
- 2027: Complete the third phase of the project and start work on the fourth phase.
- 2028: Complete the fourth phase of the project and start work on the fifth phase.
- 2029: Complete the fifth phase of the project and start work on the sixth phase.
- 2030: Complete the sixth phase of the project and start work on the seventh phase.

3 HERITAGE
RETAINING THE MAGIC

Conservation rather than restoration is our objective. We want to preserve what we can, and to restore what we cannot. We will work to retain the magic of the cemetery, ensuring that it remains a place of beauty and tranquility for all who visit. We will focus on the historic buildings, monuments and landscape, ensuring that they remain a source of inspiration and pride for generations to come.

Wonder and delight
The cemetery is a place of wonder and delight, where the past meets the present, and where the lives of those who have passed on are remembered and celebrated. We will work to enhance and restore the natural environment, creating a haven for wildlife and a source of beauty and tranquility for all who visit. This will involve planting native species, creating new habitats and improving the overall health of the site's flora and fauna.

Conservation, interpretation and story-telling

4 HERITAGE
ARCHITECTURE

New buildings have been designed to respect the existing. Our conservation and restoration work will be carried out in a way that respects the original fabric of the site and its history. We will work to enhance and restore the natural environment, creating a haven for wildlife and a source of beauty and tranquility for all who visit. This will involve planting native species, creating new habitats and improving the overall health of the site's flora and fauna.

Heritage Architecture

5 NATURE
GROWTH AND DECAY

The Cemetery is a haven for life, from trees and plants to a variety of insects, birds and mammals, including a rare owl species. Over time, the effects of climate change and an increasing population of well-meaning but naive and a little bit of deer damage have shaped the site's natural environment. We will address degradation and release trees, restoring biodiversity with climate-resilient planting and improved water management. Above all, we will protect the special character of Highgate Cemetery.

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

New openings in the tree cover will admit sunlight, reveal views and improve the overall health of the site's natural environment. We will work to enhance and restore the natural environment, creating a haven for wildlife and a source of beauty and tranquility for all who visit. This will involve planting native species, creating new habitats and improving the overall health of the site's flora and fauna.

Water The cemetery is a rich and diverse ecosystem, home to a wide variety of plants, animals and insects. We will work to enhance and restore the natural environment, creating a haven for wildlife and a source of beauty and tranquility for all who visit. This will involve planting native species, creating new habitats and improving the overall health of the site's flora and fauna.

Planting We will work to enhance and restore the natural environment, creating a haven for wildlife and a source of beauty and tranquility for all who visit. This will involve planting native species, creating new habitats and improving the overall health of the site's flora and fauna.

Wildlife The cemetery is a rich and diverse ecosystem, home to a wide variety of plants, animals and insects. We will work to enhance and restore the natural environment, creating a haven for wildlife and a source of beauty and tranquility for all who visit. This will involve planting native species, creating new habitats and improving the overall health of the site's flora and fauna.

6 NATURE
ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

Landscape Masterplan Habitats

7 COMMUNITY
OUR HEART AND SOUL

Continuity is at the heart of Highgate Cemetery, from grave services, public events to the volunteers who have nurtured the site for so long. As part of Unlocking Highgate Cemetery, we will partner with local groups, including the local school, to create a sense of ownership and pride in the site. Our new responsibility plan will respect the site's history, reflecting the huge range of heritage and welcoming a greater diversity of people.

Volunteering

We are building relationships with local community partners such as the local school, including the local school, to create a sense of ownership and pride in the site. Our new responsibility plan will respect the site's history, reflecting the huge range of heritage and welcoming a greater diversity of people.

WORKING WITH PEOPLE

8 WE NEED YOUR HELP

Our ambitious plans are all waiting. You can help shape them.

Feedback

Please give us your feedback

Donate

Please donate

Volunteer

Please volunteer

1

WELCOME A FUTURE SHARED



For almost two centuries, people have enjoyed the dramatic architecture and sinuous paths of this extraordinary place. High above the busy metropolis, it is a much-needed sanctuary from the world below. Today, time and climate change have exposed the fragility of the historic structures, while invasive species threaten the rich biodiversity. *Unlocking Highgate Cemetery* brings our community together to address these urgent issues, safeguarding the future of the site and sharing it with a wider range of people. We will approach the project by focusing on three interrelated themes: 'Heritage', 'Nature' and 'Community'. Find out more about our future plans and tell us what you think. Your feedback will help us shape the project.



Heritage

Many structures are unstable and access to some areas is difficult or closed. The most urgent needs include conservation of the Grade I-listed Egyptian Avenue and Circle of Lullaton, restoring extensive areas from the Grade II-listed Terrace Catacombs, re-opening the grand West Gate Drive and re-opening the Devonport Chapel for public use.

Nature

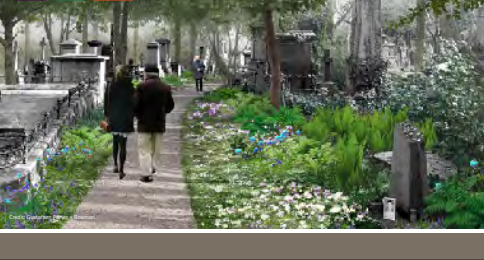
Over time, the effects of climate change and an increasing monoculture of well-kept Ash trees and a high level of soil salinity have impacted the habitat. We will remove dangerous and diseased trees, working collaboratively with climate-resilient planting and improved water management.

Community

We will partner with local organisations to develop a wide range of programmes, including one-to-one tree care, educational tours, horticultural management, as well as learning resources on practical themes such as grief, memory or locality. A new interpretation plan will expand our heritage spaces and welcome more diverse visitors.

UNLOCKING HIGHGATE CEMETERY

HERITAGE - NATURE - COMMUNITY



2

PROGRESS UNLOCKING POTENTIAL

We have been working on *Unlocking Highgate Cemetery* since 2019 when we published our Conservation plan. Then we launched an international competition to find the right team to develop proposals. With their direction we carried out extensive survey work and research to understand the site and to inform proposals. Last year we consulted with the public, Camden Council and Historic England to test our ideas. We will now develop these.

We received a Development Phase grant from the Heritage Fund in January and are now working towards a second stage bid which we will submit in 2025. Ahead of this we are working to secure planning and listed building consent.

Informed by our 2019 Conservation Plan, *Unlocking Highgate Cemetery* is a 25-year Masterplan project, the first phase of which will focus on the landscape and conservation where the need is most urgent. An additional £1.2m will have to be raised to realise this first phase.

Design team



OUR GOALS

- 2019 Conservation Plan
- 2022 Highgate Cemetery Act allows grave renewal
- 2023 Heritage Fund development phase grant
- 2024 Masterplan, Listed Building Consent and Full Planning Application finalised
- 2025 Heritage Fund delivery phase application
- 2026 Start of funding, begin implementation period of Phase 1
- BEYOND 2030 Delivery of future phases



3

HERITAGE RETAINING THE MAGIC

Conservation rather than restoration is our objective. We want to preserve rather than renew, allowing some of the character of the buildings that has come about through the passage of time and a degree of decay to be kept.

Wonder and delight

From its earliest days, the architecture of Highgate Cemetery has been a source of wonder and delight. Over time, the garden design gave way to woodland, by encroaching the monuments and a special entrance sealed over the 20-acre site.

Today, many of the structures are unstable and access to some areas is difficult or closed. The most urgent needs include conservation of the Grade I-listed

Egyptian Avenue and Circle of Lullaton, restoring access to separate views from the Grade II-listed Terrace Catacombs, and re-opening the grand West Gate Drive. Among other improvements, we will open up the Devonport Chapel as a public space to welcome 200 years of human stories.

We will

- Conserve key buildings and structures
- Reinstate the Chapel's lost cupola and pinnacles
- Restore the original levels of the Devonport
- Undertake regular condition surveys
- Prioritise repairs to monuments by age/condition and condition

Conservation, interpretation and story-telling

Unlocking Highgate Cemetery will conserve exceptional historic buildings and monuments and tackle the full range of issues which contribute to the decay of the cemetery's built fabric. But in addition, our work will restore the 'wonder' and 'delight' aspects of the our monuments and buildings, and will ensure that the design is sympathetic to the character of the original landscape design.



4

HERITAGE ARCHITECTURE

New buildings have been designed to respect their context. Scale, massing and materials will be sympathetic to those around them, but in a language of their own time.



We will

- Provide better facilities for visitors, including cafe and toilets
- Replace gardeners' store and messroom
- Expand volunteer facilities
- Provide adequate office space
- Ensure new structures are of high quality in design and materials, and enhance the site

Disasters' chapel
Refitted for interpretation and display, it will also be used as a rehearsal space for the Anglican chapel ensemble for example, creating gathering after funerals. Offices move out, archives remain in the room over the entrance.



Visitor and Operations building
New building south of the Columbae. Ticket office and cafe at the front, with disabled WC, offices for staff and volunteers behind. Carefully designed to be secondary to the historic architecture.



Education and Community building
New building replacing the gardeners' mess in the East side. Space for our developing public programmes, including educational visits and community activities. Will reuse the historic burial architecture. Can be accessed directly from Swain's Lane.



Refurbished/repurposed buildings

- South Lodge - Visitor toilets
- Courtyard and Swain's Lane public realm - Refurbished and improved
- North Lodge - Gardeners' tea point



Key Conservation projects

- Egyptian Avenue
- Circle of Lullaton
- Terrace Catacombs

Gardeners' building
New building constructed as a retaining structure for the Round, East side. Gardeners' messroom, vehicle and staff store will all be in the same place for the first time. Their present location allowing connection with the historic burial architecture for common graves that may be encountered.



Utility block

- South Lodge - Refitted to provide visitor toilets.
- Courtyard and Swain's Lane public realm - Refurbished and improved.
- North Lodge - Restored as gardeners' tea point, especially for volunteers.

5

NATURE GROWTH AND DECAY

The Cemetery is a haven for life, from trees and plants to a variety of insects, birds and mammals, including a rare cave spider. Over time, the effects of climate change and an increasing monoculture of self-seeded Ash trees and a blight of Ash dieback have degraded this rich habitat.

We will remove dangerous and diseased trees, restoring biodiversity with climate-resilient planting and improved water management. Above all, we will protect the special character of Highgate Cemetery.

Our design teams and consultants are leading us to identify ways in which we can effectively tackle these problems through careful design, landscape management and planting architectural detailing and effective drainage. These are being built into our design and management responses. With the support of the Heritage Fund we will equip the cemetery to face the challenges of climate change.



ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

New openings in the tree cover will admit sunlight, reveal views and monuments and increase plant and habitat diversity.

Water
Free draining soils and gravel around pathways will reduce runoff and allow for the sustainable infiltration and retention of rainwater in the ground.

Resilience
We will encourage regular cycles of regeneration through active management. Trees will be regularly monitored for symptoms of ill health and removal action taken. Growing conditions will be improved so that trees are less prone to pests, diseases and climate change.

Planting
Planting will reflect the historic meaning, individual tree positions and based of confidence and decorative trees.

Paths
New surfaces on major paths using historically appropriate materials will help deal with a greater volume of water from increasingly frequent storms.

We will

- Encourage a diversity of flora and create a diverse range of habitats
- Select species more resilient to climate change, but be guided by precedent as to the form, scale and placing of specimen trees
- Actively manage woodland ground cover plants
- Improve drainage to reduce water logging
- Minimise the use of chemicals in landscape maintenance


Restoring biodiversity and local wildlife habitats for threatened species



6

NATURE ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

Landscape Masterplan Habitats



Proposed planting typologies/habitats

- Decadent woodland with shade on light soils
- Decadent woodland with sun on light soils
- Decadent woodland with shade on medium to heavy soils
- Decadent woodland with sun on medium to heavy soils
- Decadent woodland with shade on heavy soils
- Decadent woodland with sun on heavy soils
- Wet woodland with shade on heavy soils
- Wet woodland with sun on heavy soils
- Wet woodland with sun on medium soils
- Wet woodland with sun on light soils
- High quality open edge of parks (lumpy and shaded areas)
- Colonisation, Open (lumpy and shaded areas)
- Dry grassland/meadow with sun on medium soils
- Wet grassland/meadow with sun on heavy soils
- Grassland/meadow with sun on heavy soils
- Species rich lawn with sun on heavy soils
- SUDS
- Hedgerows

7

COMMUNITY OUR HEART AND SOUL

Community is at the heart of Highgate Cemetery, from grave owners, visitors and members to the volunteers who have battled to save the site for the last fifty years.

As part of Unlocking Highgate Cemetery, we will partner with local organisations to develop a wide range of programmes, including oratory skills for school groups, vocational training in landscape management, as well as learning resources on universal themes such as grief, memory or celebrity.

Our new interpretation plan will expand the stories we tell, reflecting the huge range of heritage and welcoming a greater diversity of people.

We will

- Continue to champion our volunteers
- Ensure our plans respond to community needs and views
- Create a new Activity Plan with key local stakeholders
- Appoint a Head of Public Programmes and a Learning Officer
- Keep our community informed about our proposals
- Stay open on Community Liaison Group as a sounding board

Volunteering

The Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust was formed in 1973 by local people who were concerned for the future of the Cemetery. Almost fifty years later, the volunteer ethos still flourishes. So much of the work is done in volunteers.

Your guides make the history come alive for visitors, visitor assistants welcome hundreds of all kinds, sell tickets and answer questions, and gardening volunteers ensure that Highgate Cemetery continues to look its best, come rain or shine.

Throughout the conservation project, workshops will be held to ensure the wealth of volunteer knowledge is captured and feeds directly into the design of new facilities and landscaping. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch using the contact details provided.

WORKING WITH PEOPLE

We are building relationships with local community partners such as Harrington Scheme, Brookfield Primary School, Wood That Works and Lauderdale House. A new Head of Public Programmes and Learning Officer, funded by the Heritage Fund, will develop these pilot activities into a permanent programme.

We are working hard to open dialogue with a full cross-section of our community members, building on our earlier engagement efforts. To do this:

- Engage that our wonderful volunteers are best fully appreciated of all project development and that their views are sought
- Continue to work with and expand our Community Liaison Group
- Offer free access for specific community groups, schools and post code groups with the use of smart technology and pass cards to test and develop the most effective measures.
- Appoint new staff to further build and maintain relationships with communities and to design tailored programmes
- Improve accessibility through developing resting points and benches in appropriate locations to compensate for the steepness of the site
- Work with our community to help shape and inform our interpretation plans whereby the history and stories of the cemetery are shared
- Work with key stakeholders to co-create and deliver an ambitious Activity Plan and public programme.





8

WE NEED YOUR HELP


Our ambitious plans are still evolving. You can help shape them.

Feedback

Please give us your feedback

Please visit our website to view and give your feedback on our full exhibition which describes our intentions in depth. We will also include a summary of responses in our planning application to the planning authority.

You can understand the active roles of local people in shaping and supporting this project. <https://highgatecemetery.org/feedback>



Donate

Please donate

Unlocking Highgate Cemetery is a seven-year, £18m project. Thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and our own members, we can begin the vital work to unlock our future.

However, we must still raise £12 million. You can help by donating or joining as a Patron or Member. To find out more about how to support the plans, please visit our website (see QR code to the right) and follow the links to the 'donations' section.



Volunteer

Please volunteer

The Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust was formed in 1973 by local people who were concerned for the future of the Cemetery. Almost fifty years later, the volunteer ethos still flourishes. So much of the work is done by volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch with us using the contact details below.

Highgate Cemetery, Swain's Lane, London N6 8PZ
info@highgatecemetery.org | 020 8340 3834

A1. Exhibition Boards

The 'Final Exhibition' shows a synopsis the design work submitted for planning approval. This exhibition is mounted at the cemetery and it will remain open until the planning application is determined, and possibly longer, to support the second stage Heritage Lottery Fund application. Exhibition visitors will be informed of means of submitting comments to LB Camden through the planning portal or by written submission.

Final Exhibition boards for November, 2024
Double A0 boards

Stage 3

1 **UNLOCKING HIGHGATE CEMETERY**
HERITAGE NATURE COMMUNITY

2 **LOOKING AHEAD OVERVIEW**
CONSERVATION MASTERPLAN

3 **LANDSCAPE VIEWS**
HERITAGE NATURE COMMUNITY

4 **LANDSCAPE PLANTING**
HERITAGE NATURE COMMUNITY

5 **LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY AND HABITATS**
HERITAGE NATURE COMMUNITY

6 **LANDSCAPE ACCESS AND MOVEMENT**
HERITAGE NATURE COMMUNITY

7 **ARCHITECTURE CONSERVATION**
HERITAGE NATURE COMMUNITY

8 **ARCHITECTURE NEW BUILDINGS & RE-USE OF EXISTING BUILDINGS**
HERITAGE NATURE COMMUNITY

9 **ARCHITECTURE NEW BUILDINGS**
HERITAGE NATURE COMMUNITY

10 **SUSTAINABILITY TAKING THE LONG TERM VIEW**
HERITAGE NATURE COMMUNITY

11 **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND PROJECTS**
HERITAGE NATURE COMMUNITY

12 **THANK YOU HIGHGATE CEMETERY**
Please support our planning application

A1. Exhibition Boards

1

UNLOCKING HIGHGATE CEMETERY

HERITAGE · NATURE · COMMUNITY

A future shared

For almost two centuries, people have enjoyed the dramatic architecture and sinuous paths of this extraordinary place. High above the busy metropolis, it is a much-needed sanctuary from the world below.

Today, time and climate change have exposed the fragility of the historic structures, while invasive species threaten the rich biodiversity. *Unlocking Highgate Cemetery* brings our community together to address these urgent issues, safeguarding the future of the site and sharing it with a wider range of people. We will approach the project by focusing on three interrelated themes:

Heritage
Our plans must reflect the importance of the Cemetery as a listed landscape containing many important buildings and monuments.

Nature
All changes to the landscape must respect original intentions and 'retain the magic' while responding to climate change, ecological growth, enhanced biodiversity and sustainability.

Community
The Cemetery must be an active burial ground and be connected to and serve the wider community, as a sanctuary for all.

Project team
 Conservation Director: **OPPINI ARCHITECTS**
 Landscape Architect: **ARTELLA**
 Planning: **ARTELLA**
 Heritage: **ARTELLA**
 Sustainability: **ARTELLA**
 Environmental: **ARTELLA**
 Conservation: **ARTELLA**
 Planning: **ARTELLA**
 Heritage: **ARTELLA**
 Sustainability: **ARTELLA**
 Environmental: **ARTELLA**
 Conservation: **ARTELLA**

2

LOOKING AHEAD OVERVIEW

We have been working on *Unlocking Highgate Cemetery* since 2019 when we published our Conservation Plan. Our international design competitions found the right teams to develop the architectural, landscape and conservation proposals. Over the past two years we consulted with the public, Camden Council and Historic England to test our ideas and these have now developed in to a masterplan that will conserve and enhance the Cemetery for future generations.

KEY
 New Buildings
 Conservation/Heritage Existing Structures
 Proposed New Trees

Conservation Masterplan

HERITAGE · NATURE · COMMUNITY

3

LANDSCAPE VIEWS

Extensive research has been carried out by our landscape architects, Gustafson Porter and Bowman, to understand the special magic of Highgate Cemetery. They have studied countless historical images and documents to rediscover its original layout and likely planting scheme. They have seen how trees and shrubs were used to frame views both of the architectural elements within the Cemetery and outwards to the metropolis. They have thought about how visitors moved through the Cemetery and where they might have rested.

They have considered how the character of the landscape has changed, appreciating the present less manicured state which many people value today.

Historical view
View from the West (c.1850-1860)

Current view
View from the West (2020-2025)

Proposed view
View from the West (2025-2030)

Map of key views

Historical views | **Current views** | **Proposed views**

We will

- Frame internal and external views to key buildings, monuments and trees
- Re-open and create external views from levels of high ground in both sides of the Cemetery
- Maintain the distinct characters of the East and West sides
- Maintain and re-establish historic structural planting
- Maintain and reopen key views

HERITAGE · NATURE · COMMUNITY

4

LANDSCAPE PLANTING

The planting proposals will build upon the Cemetery's changing topographical conditions. With an ever-changing diversity of plants that start with native species at the bottom of the hill of the East Side becoming more exotic at the Cemetery's northern summit on the West Side, where plant choices are influenced by the language of 19th century plant hunter species. This increase in diversity of plant species will create a more resilient landscape.

Character Planting Strategy

Site-wide Planting Concept for the transition from East Side to West Side of Highgate Cemetery.

Plan of Existing and Proposed Trees

Tree Planting Detail

Tree Heights

Tree Piles

We will

- Align the historic context of the Cemetery with a more varied planting character, using a greater proportion of non-native and evergreen species on the West Side and native and deciduous trees on the East Side
- Select plant and tree species more resilient to climate change, but be guided by provenance to their form, scale and placing of specimen trees
- Actively manage woodland ground cover plants
- Restore the historic alignments of large trees along drives and primary paths
- Maintain the predominant woodland and meadow glade character of the West Side with a more open summer meadow character, edged by woodland on the East Side.

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