Note: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this document but due to the complexity of conservation areas, it would be impossible to include every facet contributing to the area’s special interest. Therefore, the omission of any feature does not necessarily convey a lack of significance. The Council will continue to assess each development proposal on its own merits. As part of this process a more detailed and up to date assessment of a particular site and its context is undertaken. This may reveal additional considerations relating to character or appearance which may be of relevance to a particular case.
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1 Introduction

What does a conservation area designation mean?

1.1 The statutory definition of a conservation area is an “area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”. The power to designate conservation areas is given to councils through the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservations Areas) Act, 1990 (Sections 69 to 78). Once designated, proposals within a conservation area become subject to local conservation policies set out in Chapter 34 of the Council's Local Plan and national policies outlined in part 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Our overarching duty which is set out in the Act is to preserve or enhance the historic or architectural character or appearance of the conservation area.

1.2 A conservation area appraisal aims to describe the special historic and architectural character of an area. A conservation area’s character is defined by a combination of elements such as architecture, uses, materials and detailing as well as the relationship between buildings and their settings. Many other elements contribute to character and appearance such as the placement of buildings within their plots; views and vistas; the relationship between the street and the buildings and the presence of trees and green space.

1.3 This document has been produced using the guidance set out by Historic England in their document, Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Historic England Advice Note 1 (2016). This appraisal will be a material consideration when assessing planning applications.

Purpose of this document

1.4 The aims of this appraisal are to:

- describe the historic and architectural character and appearance of the area which will assist applicants in making successful planning applications and decision makers in assessing planning applications
- raise public interest and awareness of the special character of their area
- identify the positive features which should be conserved, as well as negative features which indicate scope for future enhancements
1.5 Kensal Green (All Souls) Cemetery is a tranquil green open space located at the northern end of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea adjacent to the Harrow Road. The cemetery not only has a practical purpose for the burial and remembrance of the dead but also acts as an amenity space for local residents and visitors. It is roughly rectangular in shape but it gradually narrows towards its eastern end with the boundary clearly defined by high brick walls and railings. The low-lying site slopes gently from the north-west to south-east and is traversed by tarmac, gravel and grass paths lined with mature trees many of which have survived from the cemetery’s original layout.

1.6 The cemetery is of special historic interest being an early and influential example of a cemetery laid out in the garden or pleasure ground style (1833) and is a Registered Historic Park and Garden (grade I). The cemetery was London’s first commercial garden cemetery, established by Act of Parliament in July 1832 and has an extensive and complex layout that survives largely intact.

1.7 The cemetery contains a significant group of associated structures in the Greek Revival Style that include the Anglican Chapel, (grade I), Dissenters’ Chapel (grade II*), Entrance Gateway on Harrow Road (grade II*), The Northern Colonnade/Catacomb (grade II) and perimeter walls, gateway and railings (grade II).

1.8 Between the paths that traverse the area are a collection of 152 outstanding listed tombs, memorials and mausoleums, ten of which are grade II*.

1.9 The cemetery is a Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation and has a unique character and atmosphere with scrub and wooded areas, meadows, untended overgrown areas and lawns that create an important wildlife habitat for invertebrates, wild flowers, birds and a notable diversity of butterflies. Within this landscape sit many monuments and
buildings that are slowly decaying. Although this romantic decay adds to the character of the area many of the monuments and buildings are now at serious risk of being damaged or becoming lost to future generations. As a consequence, a large number of listed buildings, monuments and Kensal Green Cemetery itself are now included on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.

**Location and Setting**

1.10 The Kensal Green Cemetery Conservation Area covers a total of 52.4 acres and is situated in the west London suburb of Kensal Green at the northern edge of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. The boundaries of the Kensal Green Cemetery are in the most part clearly defined with boundary walls to the north and east sides along the Harrow Road and Ladbroke Grove respectively. The southern boundary is also clearly defined with original boundary walls/railings, modern steel palisade fencing and the embankment of the Grand Union Canal. The western most boundary is less clearly defined but follows the original cemetery boundary when it opened in 1833. Additional land was purchased in the 1850s and was used as an extension to the cemetery and a crematorium and associated facilities were erected on this land in the late 1930s. The spaces now “leak” through to each other with the original boundary of the cemetery now being demarcated by a discreet alignment of parish boundary markers. These sit almost camouflaged within the larger grave stones and also mark the boundary between the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. The conservation area extends slightly further out than the boundaries of the cemetery itself at its north, east and southern boundaries to encompass the centre of the Harrow Road, Ladbroke Grove and the Grand Union Canal. The conservation area sits adjacent to other conservation areas outside the borough with St. Mary’s Conservation Area to the west in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensal Green Conservation Area to the north in Brent.

1.11 Beyond the boundaries of the conservation area to the north along Harrow Road are some late Georgian buildings with modest Victorian residential development beyond and out towards the east. To the south of the cemetery is the Grand Union Canal, the former Kensal Green Gas Works site and the Great Western Railway. To the west is St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery another important green open space.
2 Character Analysis

2.1 Generally, the overall impression of the cemetery is one of a well-managed place of burial, tinged with romantic decay, the quality and interest of the tombs being particularly striking. The cemetery can be divided into areas of different character and these are set out below.

2.2 From the main entrance the layout of the cemetery is dominated by the west-east central axis (Central Avenue) which runs to and terminates at the Anglican Chapel. The Central Avenue is bisected towards the west end by an avenue running north to south (Junction Avenue) and a circular path.

2.3 There are other subsidiary avenues, following sinuous north and south boundaries which interconnect with the main avenues.

2.4 At the east end of the cemetery is the Dissenters section which has one circulatory route bisected by a central axis culminating with the Dissenters’ Chapel.
Main Entrance

2.5 The semi-circular railed forecourt is overlooked by a neo-classical triumphal arch Gateway (grade II*), defining the main entrance to the cemetery with lodges on either side to control access. This leads to the main congregating area.
Boundaries

2.6 Walls dominate the boundary of the cemetery on the northern and eastern sides along Harrow Road and Ladbroke Grove and a mixture of walls and railings to the southern boundary adjacent to the Grand Union Canal, all of which are grade II listed.

2.7 The longest section of wall fronts onto Harrow Road and has an entrance gateway opposite Wakeman Road (also grade II). These walls were built in 1831-33 by John William Griffiths, Surveyor to the General Cemetery Company and are constructed from a yellow-grey-plum stock brick that is laid in English bond to a height of approximately 4-5 m. The wall is finished with Portland stone coping and has regularly spaced projecting engaged piers capped with shallow pyramidal copings of Portland stone and sloping coping to the outer-face lower level plinth. Unfortunately, a large section of the brick wall collapsed in August 2006 and subsequent monitoring resulted in more sections being removed for health and safety reasons. Sections of the wall have been rebuilt with the help of grant aid from Historic England, however, the extent of wall to be rebuilt and the cost implications have hindered progress. The gap in the wall has been made secure with block and steel sheet fencing which has a utilitarian and temporary appearance. The central entrance gateway has cast iron railings and gates that are set between large Portland stone piers. The pair of gates have spearhead rails set between two hollow piers of cast iron, each face of which terminates in an eared pediment and in turn is flanked by runs of spearhead rails set into granite kerbs. The gates are currently locked shut and the metal work is deteriorating with lost detailing and defective paint work.

2.8 The wall fronting onto Ladbroke Grove on the eastern side of the cemetery was rebuilt and repositioned when the road was widened in 1937. It is constructed from London stock brick laid in English bond with a flat stone coping which steps down towards the Harrow Road. The original sections of walls that surround the
Dissenters’ cemetery behind nos. 599-621 (odd) Harrow Road and along the Grand Union Canal have built in reinforcement buttresses to the external face.

2.9 The southern perimeter along the Grand Union Canal has cast iron railings, approximately two metres tall which alternates with stretches of brick wall approximately three metres in height providing a more open aspect to the canal. The railings have spearhead finials supported with cast iron brackets of scrolled anthemion form that are set onto a dwarf brick wall and finished with a Portland stone coping. Some stretches of railings are missing and have been replaced with modern metal palisade fencing which has a plainer utilitarian appearance lacking the detail and quality of the original railings and as a consequence detracts from the appearance of the boundary. Two funeral barge gateways are present on the southern boundary which served the Dissenters and Anglican areas of the cemetery. The gates have spear tipped bars and are hung on hollow piers of cast iron with eared pediments to each face. Unfortunately, these have been neglected for some time and now have defective paintwork and decorative elements missing.

2.10 The southern edge of the Kensal Green Conservation Area extends to the centre of the Grand Union Canal. Between the boundary of the cemetery and the canal is an embankment which contains a thick coverage of trees (see Ecology section). The soft green edge creates a clearly defined boundary to the cemetery looking north and helps to screen modern development when looking out of the conservation area. The northern edge of the canal along much of its length is a bank with some sections that have been shored up with sheet piling and concrete retaining walls. The tow path along the southern edge of the canal allows glimpse views between the trees and foliage of the cemetery’s boundary walls and railings to the monuments beyond. Close to the Ladbroke Grove bridge, there are moorings with more substantial retaining walls constructed from brick with a stone or
engineering brick copings. The grass verge along this stretch of the canal has been turned into amenity space for the house boats, giving the edge a distinctly domestic appearance with gardens, hardstanding, planting, sheds and washing lines.

2.11 The southern edge of the canal, although not in the conservation area, contributes to its setting. This stretch of the canal has more solidly built moorings along its entire length and has an array of different house boats. Between the canal and the London stock boundary wall enclosing the gas works, is a grass verge and a well-used tow path by pedestrians and cyclists.

2.12 There is only one boundary within the confines of the cemetery itself which subtly divides the Dissenters and Anglican areas. This originally took the form of a 'sunk fence' that ran between the northern and southern boundaries which was broken close to the Central Avenue junction with stone piers from which decorative iron gates were originally hung. The boundary is now demarcated with a trellis like fence and mature trees and shrubs which align with the Portland stone gate piers.

2.13 The western most boundary was removed when the cemetery was extended in the 1850s and the two spaces now connect seamlessly together. The original boundary alignment can still be determined, however, by a number of parish boundary markers (grade II) that are situated amongst the gravestones. They constitute a rare survival group of twelve parish boundary markers all in their original positions. They are made of yellow sandstone each roughly five hundred millimetres high with round-heads, inscribed with the date 1868 and HP and KP on each face, for Hammersmith parish and Kensington parish.
Parish boundary marker and stone tablet at north west boundary wall

Parish boundary marker

Treed boundary to canal with boat moorings to south
Dissenters’ Chapel Area

2.14 The small area designated for non-Anglican burials is approximately oval in shape and was formerly made prominent by a wider central axis path that terminated with the neo-classical chapel with curved colonnades.

2.15 The overall character of this area is defined by its open appearance that is enclosed on its north eastern and southern sides with high brick walls with informal sparse planting of shrubs and trees. An important feature of this area is the numbers of large monuments that line the main axis and the area to the front of the chapel. The restoration of the chapel completed in 1997 has improved the overall aspect of the area giving a more cared-for appearance. Originally a sense of enclosure to the central pathway was achieved by a line of mature trees, but many were removed after storms in 1987 brought them down.

Central Avenue

2.16 The cemetery has an apparent and discernible central axis which terminates with the Anglican Chapel and winged colonnades (grade I).

2.17 The initial section of the Central Avenue is quite open with some informal planting on the edge of the path. The southern side of the avenue, at its western end, has a particularly fine group of early neo-classical monuments including a column, obelisks and sculpture.

2.18 More recently graves have been encroaching on the Central Avenue which is lined (at right angles) with recent small graves in front of older and grander monuments. These modern monuments use different materials and design and are seen in stark contrast to the earlier nineteenth century ones.

2.19 At the point where the curving paths divide north and south, the first initial glimpse of the Chapel appears along the Avenue. The Avenue is dominated by a formal avenue of mature chestnut trees which gives an enclosed feeling. The mausoleums and monuments crowd the Avenue, creating a uniquely rich ensemble. These are generally large and elaborate, using a wide range of materials and are in the typical style of that period. A particular feature was the use of marble statuary typically of weeping...
mourning figures. Together they form one of the finest collections of Victorian cemetery monuments in Britain.

2.20 At the Circle, the grass pathways are dominated by a dense planting of trees, shrubs and undergrowth, and lined with monuments. Later graves have encroached upon the grass path, and erode clarity of this section which has virtually vanished.

2.21 The central cross-over (Junction Avenue) is also lined with elaborate monuments and has views down the axis of the Avenue to the canal gate, with a sense of drama towards the neo-Classical pedimented temple form of the chapel and colonnades.

2.22 Social conditions have changed over the years since the cemetery has been in operation, and the type and size of memorials reflects this fact. The cemetery has always allocated graves, at random or by the request of customers, and the layout of the cemetery reflects this to some extent by the choices of different classes of people and many ethnic minorities. The General Cemetery Company does now exercise more control over the type and size of memorials for this area than perhaps was always the case in the past.
The Anglian Chapel dominates the western section of the cemetery being raised on a terrace beneath which is an extensive catacomb. The Chapel is flanked by ‘L-shaped’ colonnaded wings containing notable monuments in formally roofed pavilions each end. The chapel and cloister complex has a unique character and dominates views from much of the cemetery, especially from lower lying ground to the south. It is one of the grandest neo-Classical set-pieces in the country, having a mixture of fine architecture and richly wooded ground. The areas to the west, behind the Anglican Chapel, are principally occupied by smaller monuments interspersed with a number of notable monuments in the north west arm.
On the north boundary is sited the North Terrace Colonnade, with a catacomb beneath, which used to dominate this part of the cemetery but is now overwhelmed by the large building behind dating from the 1970s. The absence of trees gives this area an open meadow-like appearance. From the Colonnade there are wide views over the cemetery with the Anglican Chapel at its centre. Beyond it is still possible to enjoy the views of the ‘Surrey Hills’ which Victorian writers eulogised. It is in a poor state of repair and has an unacceptable level of deterioration.

The North Colonnade with hostel building to the rear

The cemetery generally slopes from north to south and south east down to the canal with the highest points along the northern boundary and at the Anglican Chapel. There is a stark contrast between open green landscape and urban surroundings and it is an important oasis in a London setting.

The cemetery is underlain by London clay. The tenacious clay can create waterlogged ground in some parts of the cemetery. When weathered, London clay swells and moves. This disturbs monuments from their original positions and can be serious cause of harm. There are many examples within the cemetery where brick grave walls have collapsed inwards, sometimes causing memorials above to topple. The General Cemetery Company is engaged on an operation to stabilise the memorials.

There is a considerable variety of stone types represented in the monuments. The amazing variety of stones found display the eclectic Victorian taste of that period.
2.28 In 1993 and 1994 the London Ecology Unit was commissioned to survey sites of ecological interest within the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Kensal Green Cemetery and the Grand Union Canal were identified as Sites of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation (SMI). These sites have the highest priority against loss or damage of habitat. There are scrub and wooded areas along the southern and northern boundaries and the circle area. The unimproved grassland in the northwest section is rich in meadow species of plants. Each area has its own characteristic habitat providing a home for diverse species of fauna and flora and is a valuable habitat for invertebrates, wild flowers, birds and a notable diversity of butterflies.

**Kensal Green Cemetery Site of Metropolitan Importance**

2.29 Kensal Green Cemetery is a large area of relict, unploughed and largely unsprayed grassland containing distinctive plants and fungi with diversity enhanced by vegetated tombs/mausoleums. A total of nine London notable plant species have been recorded here along with a diverse mammal fauna.

2.30 The majority of the site comprises semi-improved neutral grassland between and over the graves. The cemetery lies on London clay and the resultant neutral grassland community includes a number of species favouring heavy, moisture retentive soils such as greater burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*), London notable and indicator of ancient pasture, meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and creeping jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*).

2.31 The gravestones and tombs support further notable species - wild basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*) are found infrequently on limestone gravestones and lesser hawkbit (*Leontodon saxatilis*) occurs occasionally. A varied
assemblage of ferns can be found around the chapel area’s tombs and mausoleums including maidenhair spleenwort (*Asplenium trichomanes*), wall rue (*Asplenium ruta-muraria*) and black spleenwort (*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*), again all London notable species.

2.32 Scrub and woodland occurs along both the northern and southern boundaries of the site, in both areas they are dominated by ash, horse chestnut and evergreen oak. A large number of the uncommon fungus *Leccinum duriusculum* can be found under the poplars to the west of Cambridge Avenue.

2.33 The site abounds with invertebrate activity with many narrow bordered five spot burnet moths, field grasshopper, small white, meadow brown, speckled wood, large skipper, large white, yellow meadow ant and common blue damselfly. The 1993 Ecological Survey recorded 18 breeding butterfly species at the site.

2.34 Kensal Green Cemetery has the highest mammal species diversity in the Borough with the following species recorded; fox; weasel, brown rat, grey squirrel, hedgehog, bank vole, field vole, wood mouse and Pipistrelle bat.

2.35 Thirty species of bird, twenty one breeding or probably breeding, have been recorded. Stock Dove, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Whitethroat, Willow Warbler, Wood Pigeon, Carrion Crow are of particular note. There is also a small number non-native pairs of Ring-Necked Parakeets living in the cemetery which have distinctive bright green plumage and a striking red beak.
Grey Squirrel and Wood Pigeon

Carrion Crow and Wood Pigeon

Ring-Necked Parakeets
The Grand Union Canal Site of Metropolitan Importance

2.36 The canal is an important green corridor spanning the city containing characteristic aquatic flora, fauna and breeding water birds.

2.37 The stretch of canal in the Kensal Green Cemetery Conservation Area forms part of the Paddington Branch and also forms part of the Grand Union and Regent’s Canal SMI that runs through the Borough for approximately two kilometres.

2.38 The vegetation in the Kensal Green section comprises semi-improved grassland to the north and rough land, tall herb and bracken dominated vegetation to the south. The wet marginal vegetation has hard rush, yellow iris, hemlock water dropwort, great water dock, angelica, reed sweet-grass and lesser pond sedge (*Carex acutiformis*). The canal walls are constructed from a variety of materials with brick sections supporting a diverse range of vegetation including skullcap, common alder, trifid bur-marigold and marsh woundwort (*Stachys palustris*), gypsywort and pelitory of the wall.
2.39 The cemetery site contains a large number of mature trees of many different Genera and species. There are distinct areas within the cemetery each planted with a specific tree species. A large number of maturing Large Leaved Limes *Tilia platyphyllos* are located at the western end of the cemetery, other areas close by have a large number of mature Ash *Fraxinus excelsior* trees and there is an avenue of Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* trees running through the site along Central Avenue.

2.40 The large majority of the trees on the site are mature or even over mature with little age structure shown throughout the tree population apart from a small amount of natural regeneration from species such as Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and Ash. Oak trees *Quercus*, of many species are found throughout the site and the pathogen Oak Processionary Moth has been found in active nests in the canopies of these trees, there is a particularly good specimen of the evergreen Oak *Quercus ilex* growing close to the Northern boundary close to a good example of a Dawn Redwood *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*. 
Lime and self-seeded trees to the western boundary of the cemetery

Lime trees west of the Anglican Chapel

Self-seeded tree line to embankment of Grand Union Canal
Materials used in the construction of the historic buildings and monuments within the conservation area are either natural materials such as slate and stone or traditionally (and then locally) manufactured ones such as brick, stucco and glass. Their original method of fabrication results in a finish that is typical of traditional building materials. The imperfections and markings in natural stone/wrinkles in hand made bricks, along with the natural process of ageing and weathering, give the buildings and monuments their authentic historic character and patina that makes the conservation area so special. Traditional materials used in the Kensal Green Cemetery Conservation Area include:

- Stone (steps, coping stones, dressings, monuments)
- Brick (brown, yellow, red, plumb)
- Stucco (building frontages and decorative elements)
- Lime (main constituent of mortar and stucco)
- Slate and lead (roofs)
- Painted timber (windows, doors)
- Painted cast iron (railings, windows, doors, chains, railings, decorative elements).
- Glass (thin crown or cylinder glass, stained glass)
- Granite (setts, kerb stones)
Stucco render, Anglican Chapel

London Stock brick and Portland stone dressings

Painted wooden doors

London Stock brick
Cemetery Furniture

2.42 The conservation area contains a small number of items of historic or modern furniture some of which are of a design and historical interest in their own right helping to enrich the character and appearance of the conservation area. However, there are others that are harmful.

2.43 Some of the avenues are signposted with small cast iron markers that display the name of the corresponding avenue. These are about 800mm in height and have a decorative moulded baluster that supports a name plate with the avenue and the corresponding square number painted on its surface. Unfortunately, many of these have been removed or have been broken. They are of historic interest that possibly date from the period when the cemetery was first laid out or from a slightly later date.

2.44 Other signage is modern in design and is generally of two main types, finger sign posts and boarded signs which have little heritage value. The finger posts are constructed from concrete that has been coloured brown with inscribed lettering painted yellow. The boarded signs are constructed from steel plates painted black with gold lettering, direction arrows and boarder which are supported on two plain metal posts.

2.45 The meadow area, located in the northwest of the cemetery, has a timber framed interpretation panel explaining the meadow management of the area and the types of flora and fauna to be found. The sign is modest in size and its brown stained finish makes it sit quietly in the cemetery setting.
2.46 Granite guard stones can be found either side of the approach to the Dissenters' Chapel which would have protected the low stone coping and walls from being damaged by carriage wheels.

2.47 There are a number of modern bollards in and around the cemetery that are based on more traditional designs. The two cannon and ball style bollards that block the north western portion of Cambridge Avenue to allow for burials, have a distinctly urban characteristic that looks out of place in the cemetery setting. On the northern boundary of the Anglican Chapel, enclosing the grassed area, are a number of evenly spaced concrete bollards that are square in profile. These gradually taper inwards and finish with a rounded top. The largest collection of bollards can be found in front of the main Entrance Arch on Harrow Road enclosing the semi-circular forecourt. These are modern in date and are of the cannon and ball type with two square tapering bollards at each corner fronting the road.

2.48 Around the cemetery are a number of bins which generally detract from the setting of the cemetery. There are two types; large wire baskets and large metal wheelie bins. Their utilitarian appearance and prominent positions around the cemetery add incongruous clutter causing visual harm to the cemetery.
Concrete bollards enclosing the grassed area to the north of the Anglican Chapel

Wire basket bin

Aluminium wheelie bins, rear of Anglican Chapel

Cannon and ball style bollards to main entrance on Harrow Road
The main avenues are carriage drives, some being tarmac, others gravel or earth. The distributor pathways are much smaller and are mostly now covered in grass. There has been a recent trend of putting down bark mulch and some paths have been allowed to fade away. The paths are important historic features as they define the landscape. There is a need to safeguard important avenues and historic pathways. Some have drainage problems and others have been churned up by mechanical diggers. In some cases, graves have also encroached on pathways, narrowing their widths or infilling them entirely.
Distributor grassed pathway

Gravelled Central Avenue

Earthen track to South Avenue

Grassed pathway of Inner Circle
2.50 Originally the cemetery would have been located in open countryside. As the urban area of Central London grew its setting became more urban with small scale domestic Victorian development and larger industrial buildings such as the gas works site to the south and other post war buildings. Despite the intrusion of later development there are still some areas in the cemetery where the original sense of openness, beyond the confines of the cemetery, can be appreciated, particularly where development has not encroached close to the cemetery boundary or risen higher than the canopies of the trees. Uninterrupted skylines can be had from South Avenue and the ‘tear dropped’ shaped junction with the avenue that leads north to the Anglican Chapel. Long distance views looking north and west from here are of grave stones gradually rising up with the contours of the land to an tree lined horizon. Similar views are also obtained from the higher ground close to the Colonnade on the northern boundary with views looking west. This open aspect contributes to the character and appearance of the conservation area and is present in both static and kinetic views as one moves around these areas of the cemetery.

2.51 The gasometers, adjacent to the canal, to the southern side have a looming presence in this area of the cemetery and can be seen within many views looking out of the cemetery in a southerly direction. The skeletal frame of the now redundant holders has a light appearance where daylight is seen through the framing in a similar manner to the branches of the trees. The gas holders do not detract from the setting of the cemetery and form part of an important part of a wider Victorian urban landscape.

2.52 It is impossible to list all the important views within the cemetery due to their considerable number and the fact that views are constantly changing as one walks around the cemetery.

2.53 There are numerous long and short distance views within the cemetery along avenues and paths as well as between monuments, mausoleum and gravestones which are all important to the character and appearance of the cemetery. There are some key views along the Central Avenue towards the Anglican Chapel looking west. The mature trees along the gravelled avenue are particularly attractive framing views of the Chapel against the skyline with monuments and mausoleum either side. The Anglican Chapel is seen in many other views, some of the more important ones are from the Colonnade looking south and from the east along West Centre Avenue to the rear of the Chapel with the colonnades either side. The Chapel is also visible in many glimpse
views forming an important backdrop as well as centre piece to the cemetery.

2.54 Other attractive views can be had along other avenues and footpaths that do not necessarily terminate onto a building or monument but comprise avenues of trees and monuments that stretch as far as the eye can see, such as those views looking north and south along Avenue Junction. Other secondary avenues and footpaths have a more open character and views can be had over larger areas of monuments and trees or are confined to more restricted views due to dense undergrowth or are terminated with a monument but all have picturesque qualities in their own right.

2.55 Despite the large size of the cemetery there are relatively few areas in which one is unaware of buildings beyond its perimeter. Impact on views can be intrusive and show that areas adjacent to the cemetery are particularly sensitive to development, especially those on a large scale. The Sainsbury’s superstore visually intrudes into the Non-Conformists’ area and the setting of the Dissenters’ Chapel has been impacted upon with new development either side of the canal on the eastern side of Ladbroke Grove. These buildings have the unfortunate impact of looming over the chapel and has resulted in its distinctive profile no longer being seen against the skyline in many views. The large hostel block behind the Colonnade on the north side of the cemetery dominates this area and has had a harmful impact on the appearance of the colonnaded areas.

2.56 Important views outside the cemetery can be had from the towpath of the Grand Union Canal looking north towards the heavily treed embankment. These create a near continuous soft boundary. Where there are breaks within the foliage, views of the cemetery boundary walls and railings can be observed and in some instances the cemetery monuments can be seen beyond.

2.57 Views from Ladbroke Grove can be had of the Dissenters’ Chapel when looking north over the canal bridge along with the cemetery’s high boundary wall. Other important views can also be had from the Harrow Road with views of the main entrance Gateway with its impressive neo-Classical arch, the setting of which is softened with privet hedges and small trees. The high northern boundary brick wall with substantial brick piers and stone copings is an impressive sight and creates, where still existing, a formidable and attractive boundary with the canopies of mature trees growing over the top.
View east along Central Avenue

View west along Central Avenue towards the Anglican Chapel

Views west from the southern end of Terrace Avenue to uninterrupted tree line

Junction Avenue looking north with the route lined with trees and monuments

View east along Central Avenue

View west along Central Avenue towards the Anglican Chapel
Impact of new development on the setting of the Dissenters’ Chapel

View looking north from Anglican Chapel towards the North Colonnade illustrating the harmful impact of post war development

View south east from the Anglican Chapel terrace towards the gas holder site

Views across monuments towards the Anglican Chapel from The North Colonnade

Impact of new development on the setting of the Dissenters’ Chapel
3 Buildings

Entrance Gateway

3.1 The Entrance Gateway (grade II*) was designed by John Griffith the Surveyor to the General Cemetery Company in 1833.

3.2 This building forms the main pedestrian access from Harrow Road into the cemetery. The gateway is an impressive neo-Classical triumphal arch in the Greek Revival style flanking lodges, offices and landscaping.

3.3 It is built of brick and faced in Portland stone in a three bay form. The central bay has a portico and arched gateway with a projecting attic above. The portico has fluted Doric columns detailed with a plain necking ring and no base. The entablature is correctly detailed with wide spaced triglyphs and guttae. It has a projecting cornice which is a particularly fine feature with mutules positioned above a triglyph and metope frieze.

3.4 The central bay has a round arch and prominent keystone. The archway forms a tunnel vault with deep coffering. Cast iron gates detailed with spear heads and dog bars are attached to the Harrow Road arch.

3.5 The side bays are identical with pilasters, an entablature as on the central bay and a plain string course. The ground floor has pylon-formed window openings with eight-paned timber sash windows and shouldered surrounds. The first floor windows are square, timber framed casements, divided centrally by a glazing bar with a continuous surrounding architrave. On the front elevation these windows are blind.
Lodges

3.6 The side bays are flanked by identical single storey stuccoed lodges with flat roofs, the parapets of which are unusually high forming a simple projecting frieze. The ground floor windows have seen the original timber vertical sliding sashes removed and replaced with inappropriate uPVC replacements. These sit within recessed openings with simple architrave surrounds and a large keystone detail above. The west lodge is further flanked by a twentieth century addition in a similar style. The east lodge has a basement accessed from the cemetery.
Landscaping of Entrance Gateway

3.7 The triumphal arch has been set back from Harrow Road and in front there is a semi-circular York stone perimeter forecourt area, the boundary being marked by railings and bollards. Artificial granite setts have been used to mark the entrance into the cemetery. The landscaping is of formal privet hedges which follow the semi-circular boundary. The flank wall to the remaining terrace houses has been rendered with pilasters and a plan entablature.

CONDITION

3.8 The gateway was renovated in 1992 by the General Cemetery Company, partly funded with an Historic England grant. The building and associated structures appear to be in good condition with no notable cracks or patches of defective facing materials. The parapets and exposed decorative elements appear weathered but do not appear to be in a poor state. Ivy growth, however, has now become a problem and may be damaging the stone work and preventing moisture evaporating from the surface of the building.
The Northern Colonnade and Catacomb

3.9 The Northern Colonnade and Catacomb (grade II) were designed by John Griffith the Surveyor to the General Cemetery Company in 1832-3.

3.10 This structure was built to display tablets and monuments with a brick-vaulted catacomb beneath in which coffins could be placed. It is one of the earliest structures to have been built in the cemetery and the catacombs were the first of their kind to be introduced in the country and have a capacity for around 2000 coffins.

3.11 The colonnade is in a Neo-classical style using the Greek Doric Order with a 3-8-5-8-3 bay form, the centre and end bays projecting, having once contained memorial tablets. The corners are antae and each column is baseless, having simple capitals with a plain entablature, frieze and a projecting cornice. There is a continuous parapet detailed with plain blocks and antefixae decorated with anthemion. Undergrowth now hides the original raised base and steps.

3.12 The colonnade is of Portland stone, the roof being constructed of iron beams which are fixed into the boundary wall and are supported by the columns. The underside is infilled with roofing tiles and concrete to form semi-circular vaulting. The rear wall is rendered and divided into bays by Portland stone pilasters, each bay containing memorial tablets. Where some of the brickwork is exposed it shows neat mortar joints that have been penny struck suggesting that it was originally intended to be seen.
3.13 The catacomb was originally entered from the western side and has steps which are partly hidden by undergrowth. Coffins were lowered into the catacomb via a central shaft, now infilled with concrete. The catacomb extends in front of the colonnade to form a terrace.

**CONDITION**

3.14 The colonnade is in a very poor condition because of a lack of maintenance and vandalism. Where facing materials and protective renders have been lost or removed, the resultant water ingress has rusted metal supporting elements and cramps allowing the brickwork to spall. Because of missing downpipes and blockages, the roof is no longer discharging rain water adequately.

3.15 The flagstones lining the floor to the colonnade are loose and vegetation has taken hold of the structure and the surrounding terrace.

3.16 Many monuments have been lost, and some have fallen away because of the penetrating water, but most appear to have suffered from vandalism having being forced away or burnt by vandals. The remaining have been smashed or inscribed with graffiti.

3.17 The severe state of disrepair has consequently meant that the Colonnade was entered on Historic England’s Heritage at Risk Register in September 1999.
Dissenters’ Chapel

3.18 The Dissenters’ Chapel (grade II*) was designed by John Griffith the Surveyor to the General Cemetery Company in 1831-34 and was the first purpose-built Nonconformist funerary chapel constructed in a cemetery.

3.19 The Chapel is of the Greek Revival style with a tetrastyle portico in the Ionic Order. The portico has four fluted columns with Ionic capitals and bases. These support a plain entablature, frieze and projecting cornice. There is no decoration to the tympanum. It has two curved colonnaded wings in the Doric Order standing on a podium.

3.20 The Chapel is constructed of brick, rendered with decorative elements faced in Portland stone. There is a brick vaulted catacomb beneath.

3.21 It has two wings, divided into three bays by four linked antae. The rear wall is rendered and the bays are divided by pilasters. The wing ends have fluted Doric columns in antis with no bases. The podium paving is constructed of sandstone slabs.

3.22 The Chapel is entered through a large gated doorway with a panelled door. The entrance doorway is detailed with a simple architrave moulding, cornice and decorative console.

INTERNALLY

3.23 A decorative scheme dating from the mid-nineteenth century is stencilled internally which was revealed in the repair programme completed in 1997. The east wall is articulated with pilasters and fittings including pine pews and a reading desk. The surviving physical evidence and original drawings has enabled an accurate reconstruction of the internal furnishings and fittings.
The Dissenters’ Chapel had been unused for many years, fell into decline and the wings were demolished. The wings were reconstructed and the Chapel restored by The Historic Chapels Trust and funded by Historic England, North Kensington City Challenge and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The restoration was completed in 1997 and a visitor centre was built to the rear of the colonnade with an access from Ladbroke Grove. The building is an outstanding example of a restoration project and received a Europa Nostra Award and Environment Award from the Royal Borough, and the Civic Trust gave it a commendation in 1998. It is now occupied by The Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery.
The Anglican Chapel (grade I) was designed by John Griffith the Surveyor to the General Cemetery Company in 1835-6. The chapel was damaged by bombing in 1940 and later restored in 1954 under E.R. Bingham Harriss.

This is the largest structure within the cemetery. It has a Greek Doric tetrastyle portico, with ‘L-shaped’ wings and a catacomb beneath. The chapel is rectangular, brick built, faced in stucco with channel-work and Portland stone pilasters.

At the front the four fluted columns are baseless with plain capitals and neck rings. Similar to the entrance gateway, the chapel has an identical entablature with mutules, triglyphs and guttae although with a plain pediment and coffered ceiling.

The rear of the chapel has clasping pilasters, a Diocletian stained glass window, Portland stone dressings and a recessed plain panel.

Internally

A pair of doors give access to the interior, first into a vestibule, then into the chapel. Smaller doors on each side of the vestibule lead to a former vestry on the right and to the catacombs on the left. Blank panels intended for memorials occupy the wall spaces above these doors. A pair of Doric columns mark the entrance to the ceremonial area.

Some of the original fixtures and fittings survive, including the York stone paving and timber floor. In plan it is similar to Ayot St. Lawrence Church, but also to Sir John Soane’s vestibule for the Bank of England in the City. The layout is cruciform with coffered barrel vaults and Greek key decoration over each arm of the Cross. The piers and pilasters carry a deep entablature which was enriched with triglyphs and mutules. Over the main body of the chapel the ceiling raised on pendentives, form
a canopy-like vault. Its shallow plaster dome is ribbed and scalloped. At the apex is a rose of acanthus leaves surrounded by a Greek key pattern.

3.32 The Chapel is used for funeral services and there is a hydraulic catafalque for lowering coffins into the catacombs. It was added soon after the Chapel was built in 1837, and designed by an enterprising engineer, a Mr A. Smith of Princes Street, Leicester Square. The principle of operation was a screw jack mechanism. However, the primitive manufacturing processes of the early 1800s meant that this apparatus was far from reliable and in 1844 it was replaced.

3.33 The new device worked on the principle similar to that of the one installed in West Norwood Cemetery. The catafalque worked on an unusual hydraulic principal, with its main advantage being silent operation in both raising and in particular lowering mode. The work was completed by the firm of Bramah and Robinson.

3.34 The catafalque was restored and brought back into use in May 1997 by the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery and is an extremely important and rare working mechanism.

3.35 Underneath the chapel is a brick-vaulted catacomb which is divided into sections (loculi) with brick walls and shelves of stone slabs. Some loculi have decorative grills or glass fronts, others are sealed, the remainder are left open.
WINGS

3.36 At the front, the elevation of each wing has four bays divided by pairs of columns and engaged antae, plain entablature, parapet and antefixae decorated with anthemion. Behind are recessed, tapering, doorways with shouldered architraves set into channelled rendered walls opening onto a colonnade. The northern wing has been infilled to provide further accommodation and stores.

3.37 The return wings are of six bays with paired columns and antae as in the front elevation, with recessed doorways. To the rear is a colonnade of seven bays and eight baseless, fluted Ionic columns and antefixae. Monuments and memorial tablets are attached to the rendered walls. The monuments above ground are the family of J.G. Lough, sculptor, 1876 and Robert Sievier, sculptor, 1865.

3.38 The end bays have wider clasping antae which project forward with entablature as at the front, and an attic storey. The west end bays contain monuments against stuccoed walls.

SETTING

3.39 The Chapel and colonnade stand on a plinth (stylobate) or Portland stone and sandstone slabs beneath which is the catacomb. The rear terrace is laid with concrete paving and has eight raised planting beds. The front has a carriageway consisting of granite setts, kerb stones and grand steps to the main entrance. The front terrace is lined with variegated holly trees.

CONDITION

3.40 There is evidence of water and damp ingress visible in the chapel. Some of the front steps are missing. Architectural elements have been lost; for example an end triglyph is damaged. Vegetation and lichen are visible where the render has spalled and on top of roofs where drainage is blocked. In the wings there is evidence of cracking, movement and water ingress. This has particularly affected the end bays which are in poor condition. There has been loss of roof structure because of collapse to the colonnades causing constant water penetration which has allowed decay of stucco and brickwork, allowing cramps to be exposed. The two grand monuments are now exposed and are showing signs of weathering as statuary marble was never intended to be this unsheltered.

3.41 The severe state of disrepair has consequently meant that the Anglican Chapel has been entered on Historic England’s Heritage at Risk Register since September 1999.
4 Monuments

4.1 The contribution the ensemble of tombs make to the cemetery can be summarised as a collection of many thousands of monuments which create an overall impact even greater than the sum of their individual parts; a precious combination of nature and statuary; a rich collection of Victorian commemorative art, unsurpassed in the country, showing it at its most diverse and opulent in a verdant landscape setting. Overall, the tombs create a remarkable garden of death imbued with great elegiac atmosphere.

4.2 For administrative purposes, the map of Kensal Green Cemetery was originally divided up into squares. In each square a monument or tomb can be identified from a number which was issued in sequence as a burial took place. Full records and plans are kept by the General Cemetery Company.

4.3 It is beyond the scope of this document to deal with the listed monuments and other important tombs individually. Those which are currently listed are described in Appendix 1. Reference should also be made to the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery publication, Paths of Glory, by Henry Vivian-Neal. A listing re-survey by Historic England has been completed and the number of listed monuments has increased considerably to 152 listed tombs, memorials and mausoleums, ten of which are grade II*.

4.4 Listed below are a number of different types of monuments that serve to illustrate the wide range of tombs existing within Kensal Green Cemetery and highlight common causes for concern.

Mausoleums

4.5 These take the form of small chapel of temple-like structures, in many different styles and materials. The type of problems associated with these structures is usually water ingress to roof coverings causing cracking, lamination or movement. Lack of maintenance, tree growth or vegetation causes similar problems. Decorative elements often serve as water discharges; these are usually now missing or blocked. Weathering of stone and decay of pointing causes water ingress and further deterioration. Often the original door openings have been blocked with unsightly bricks to prevent entry. Essential decorative elements have been vandalised, stolen or weathered beyond recognition.
**Canopy Monument**

4.6 This type of monument takes the form of a canopy structure beneath which a tomb chest or other structure is placed. Because the canopy is supported on slim columns they are quiet delicate structures. Any movement from the ground or trees causes cracking and can lead to the loss of architectural elements or in extreme cases collapse.

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**Columns, Obelisks, Crosses**

4.7 These are usually made in a number of sections and differing materials, often on plinths. The form of burial and the nature of the clay make these monuments prone to leaning and in some cases collapse. Movement allows water ingress, which causes metal cramps to rust, loss of pointing and some sections to fracture.

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**Ledger**

4.8 This is a stone slab with an inscription sometimes on a plinth, or gabled. Monolithic slabs will sometimes crack due to ground movement.
Pedestal

4.9 This type of monument takes the form of a box structure, with a plinth which is sometimes surmounted by a decorative feature. The box structure is usually made of a number of stone sections joined with slate or metal cramps. Water penetration may rust the cramps and ground movement can cause the side panels to collapse.

Sarcophagus

4.10 Typically this is an ornamental stone coffin, usually on a plinth with claw feet or other supporting structures, the sides and top of which are sometimes canted. They can be affected by ground movement which places the supports under stress.

Chest-Tomb

4.11 This is generally in the form of a rectangular box with a plinth and a capping of some form. This may suffer from rusting cramps and ground movement causing the panels to collapse.
Headstone

4.12 Traditionally this is a single slab of stone set upright, with an inscription. The vertical nature of the stone and weak foundations make them prone to subsidence. There is delamination of sandstone headstones owing to rising damp.

Family Tomb

4.13 These were constructed to allow the interment of a number of people over a period of time.

Railings/Surround/Kerbing

4.14 Many monuments were finished in a detail of this form. These elements are vulnerable to damage and vandalism. Railings rust, sections become loose and chains break. Surround and kerbing become detached by ground movement and vegetation. The lack of a maintenance regime and regular painting has led to the inevitable breakdown of components. There was also a loss of ironwork for the war effort and clearance operations.
Headstones

Family tomb

Iron rails to ledger slab

Railings to ledger slab

Headstone with kerbing
5 Negative Elements and Opportunities for Enhancement

5.1 The cemetery has many monuments, walls and buildings that are slowly decaying or have been damaged or collapsed due to lack of maintenance and essential repairs being undertaken. Although this romantic decay adds to the character of the area many of the monuments and buildings are now at serious risk of being damaged or becoming lost to future generations.

5.2 The blocking up of mausoleum openings using unsightly bricks and crude craftsmanship to prevent entry are intrusive and detract from the original architecture.

5.3 Modern and temporary fencing to the boundaries along the Harrow Road with the block and sheet steel fencing is visually intrusive as is the modern steel palisade fencing on the southern boundary which replaced original railings.

5.4 The practice of introducing burials in footpaths or avenues alters the original layout of the cemetery, harms its historic integrity and makes its original layout difficult to interpret when moving around the cemetery.

5.5 The practice of building up land to create banks for further burials along the southern boundary has caused visual harm and introduced an incongruous feature within the cemetery. These are not only intrusive in themselves but disrespect the existing monuments close by enclosing them with banks of earth. This practice is exacerbated further by
the introduction of temporary trellis like fencing which is also at odds with the historic character of the cemetery.

5.6 The brightly coloured wheelie bins detract from the setting of the cemetery. Their utilitarian appearance and prominent positions around the cemetery add incongruous clutter in prominent key nodes and junctions.

5.7 The design and materials of new monuments and tombstones can be viewed as discordant elements amongst the traditional designs and materials such as sandstone, limestone and unpolished red granite. The introduction of new black and grey polished granite with gold lettering is particularly intrusive, attracting undue attention and detracting from the historic character of the cemetery.

5.8 Replacement uPVC windows to the lodge of the main entrance arch detract from the appearance of the building. These would benefit from being changed back to vertical sliding timber sashes to complement character of the original building.

5.9 Longer views of the Anglican Chapel along the Central Avenue are now blocked by the canopies of trees and this has resulted in the most important vista within the cemetery being lost. Careful management of the tree canopies could help to reopen this vista to the benefit of the cemetery.
Prominently positioned wheelie bins

Decaying stone sculptures

Unsympathetic blocking up of mausoleum openings

Unsympathetic modern palisade fencing enclosing parts of southern boundary

Modern temporary fencing to Harrow Road

The closing and infilling of original footpaths with burials
Polished black granite stone contrasts strongly with the traditional monuments which weather more naturally.

Raising ground levels to provide additional burials.

Inappropriate modern uPVC windows to lodge of Main Entrance Gateway.
Appendix 1: History

6.1 Kensal Green Cemetery opened in 1833 and was the first commercial cemetery in London. The need for large cemeteries in London was stimulated by the increase in population and the inadequate space provided by existing cemeteries and churchyards.

6.2 Campaigners for burial reform and public opinion considered the best solution would be “detached cemeteries for the metropolis”, and in 1832 Parliament passed a bill that incorporated the General Cemetery Company “for the Interment of the Dead”. (Source: The Penny Magazine, August 1834).

6.3 The General Cemetery Company had purchased land for the cemetery in 1831 and promoted a competition for the design of a new cemetery at Kensal Green. The brief included two chapels with catacombs, entrance gateway with lodges and a landscaped layout for monuments. There were 46 entrants, and the winner was Henry Edward Kendall (1776-1875) for his designs for buildings in the Gothic style which can be seen in his perspective drawing in the RIBA Architectural Library.

6.4 However, the Chairman of the General Cemetery Company preferred a neo-classical design of building and persuaded the Surveyor to the Company, John Griffith, to draw up new designs in the Greek Revival Style. It was Griffith’s designs which were eventually built.

6.5 The cemetery was divided into the consecrated Anglican section and an unconsecrated one for Dissenters. The chapels in the neo-classical style used the Doric order for the Anglicans and Ionic for the nonconformists.

6.6 The Established Church was allotted 39 acres and the remaining 15, clearly separated, were given over to Dissenters, a distinction deemed crucial at the time. Thomas Liddell presented a plan for the new cemetery. He was a pupil of John Nash, who had recently designed Regent’s Park. The final scheme, however, was prepared by John Griffith of Finsbury, the protégé of the Chairman of the Board, Sir John Dean Paul. The final landscape designs were by Richard Forrest, who had been Head Gardener at Syon Park.

6.7 The grounds were excavated and planted by Hugh Ronalds in a modified landscape style with informal elements and central axis which was popular in the early 19th century. Planting was carried out using formal avenues and informal specimen planting supplied by Kennedy of Hammersmith. This style was probably influenced by Pere-Lachaise Cemetery in Paris (1804) and the writings of J.C. Loudon (1783-1843) in his Encyclopaedia of Gardening and Gardeners Magazine (1822). The layout is described in a contemporary magazine:

Fig 6.1: Map of 1869

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6.8 “The ground is laid out in gravelled roads of sufficient width for carriages, and planted with forest trees, evergreens, and other shrubs and flowers. The visitor has before him a long vista of slightly ascending ground, termination of which is concealed by trees and shrubs.” (The Penny Magazine, August 1834).

6.9 The combination of neo-classical buildings with richly planted grounds creates a very special Arcadian landscape. The buildings are positioned in dominant settings within the cemetery. The same magazine describes the temple and the colonnade in consecrated section as:

6.10 “The most conspicuous objects in this part of the cemetery are the chapel and the colonnade. The chapel stands nearly in the centre of the ground, and is intended for the performance of the burial service according to the rites of the Church of England. It is a very appropriate little building though not so large or handsome as that in the consecrated ground; but we are informed this is only a temporary structure, a site having been reserved for the erection of another on a more extended scale. Along part of the northern boundary-wall a series of catacombs extends, which are at present calculated to contain about 2,000 coffins. The line of these vaults is indicated, above, by a colonnade of Greek architecture, designed for the preservation of tablets and other monuments in memory of the persons whose bodies are deposited underneath.”

6.11 The landscaping transformed the cemetery into a form of memorial garden; and an attractive location for the tombs of the rich and famous, the burial of HRH Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex (1773-1843) and his sister HRH The Princess Sophia (1777-1848) establishing Kensal green as a ‘society’ burial ground. The cemetery also became very successful because the plots could be acquired with the right of interment in perpetuity. They were more expensive than any of the other joint stock cemeteries in London.

6.12 Initially the area of the cemetery was 55 acres, and a further 22 acres were developed on existing land to the west of the cemetery. The West London Crematorium and Gardens of Remembrance were also developed in the east of this area in 1939 and currently operate separately.

6.13 The cemetery has remained in the ownership of the General Cemetery Company and burials have continued in the unused spaces. Despite this, new burials have led to encroachment on paths and the banking-up of earth and erosion of the old monuments on the north and south perimeters. There has been a reduced level of resources available for repair.
and maintenance of buildings, boundaries and monuments where registration and upkeep has not been kept up by the families concerned. The considerable expense of maintenance and the passing of time is also a factor in the deterioration of many tombs and monuments.

6.14 A Friends organisation, known as The Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery, was established on 13 June 1989 which has helped to stimulate concern and interest for the long-term conservation of the cemetery. They have provided practical help in the clearance of ivy, minor maintenance and light reconstruction work of broken and dislodged graves. Much work has been done to raise the profile of the cemetery as a place to visit and to organise regular guided tours.

6.15 The Friends took the lead in restoring the Dissenters’ Chapel completed in May 1997. The Historic Chapels Trust leased the Chapel from the General Cemetery Company and assisted by grants from the Council (through North Kensington City Challenge), Historic England and the Heritage Lottery Fund, refurbished the chapel and built new visitor facilities. Subsequently the Chapel has been sub-let to the Friends. The visitor centre provides an office and meeting space with new access to it from Ladbroke Grove.
Appendix 2: Listed Buildings, Tombs and Monuments

Fig 6.4: Listed buildings, tombs and monuments map
• The Anglican Chapel (grade I)
• Entrance Gateway Opposite Wellington Road (grade II*)
• Perimeter walls and railings including entrance gateway opposite Wakeman Road (grade II)
• The Dissenters’ Chapel (grade II*)
• The Northern Colonnade (grade II)
• Tomb of John Gordon (grade II)
• Tomb of John Collett (grade II)
• Tomb of Elizabeth and Alexis Soyer (grade II*)
• Tomb of Commander Charles Spencer Ricketts, Royal Navy (grade II*)
• Tomb of Major General Sir William Casement, Knight Commander of the Bath (grade II*)
• Tomb of William Mulready, Royal Academy (grade II*)
• Tomb of Mary Gibson (grade II*)
• Tomb of John Gibson (grade II)
• Tomb of Andrew Ducrow (grade II*)
• Tomb of John St. John Long (grade II*)
• Monument to Sir Ernest Joseph Cassel (grade II)
• Memorial to Robert Owen (grade II)
• Tomb of Feargus O’Connor (grade II)
• Tomb of Sir Richard Mayne (grade II)
• Birkbeck Mausoleum (grade II)
• Tomb of Thomas Fenwick (grade II)
• Group of two tombs approximately 15 metres to north west of tomb of Thomas Fenwick which includes the Mausoleum of Isabella Gregory (grade II)
• Tomb of Sir Marc Isambard Brunel and Isambard Kingdom Brunel (grade II)
• Tomb of Thomas Cooke (grade II)
• Dr Richard Valpy Mausoleum (grade II)
• Tomb of John Hankey (grade II)
• Tomb of William Staveley (grade II)
• Tomb of James Meadows Rendel (grade II)
• Tomb of Howe Browne, 2nd Marquess of Sligo (grade II)
• Tombs of Rear-Admiral Thomas Tudor Tucker and Henry St. George Tudor Tucker (grade II)
• Tomb of Peter Burrowes (grade II)
• Tomb of Robert Smirke (grade II)
• Tomb of Admiral Sir John Ross (grade II)
• Tomb of Robert Kennard (grade II)
• Tomb of General Sir Warren Peacocke (grade II)
• Tomb of Harriet Browne, Viscountess D’Alte (grade II)
• Tomb of Agnes Kelly (grade II)
• Tomb of Joseph Hume (grade II)
• Tomb of Thomas Hancock (grade II)
• Tomb of James Leigh Hunt (grade II)
• Tomb of Walter Peart and Henry Dean (grade II)
• Tomb of Sir Charles Lock Eastlake (grade II)
• Tomb of Sir Charles Newton (grade II)
• Tomb of Admiral Henry Collins Deacon (grade II)
• Tomb of William Cavendish-Bentinck, 5th Duke of Portland (grade II)
• Tomb of General Forster Walker (grade II)
• Tomb of Grace Percy (grade II)
• Tomb of Rev. Sydney Smith (grade II)
• Tomb of Anthony Trollope (grade II)
• Tomb of Emile Blondin (grade II)
• Tomb of General Sir John Aitchison (grade II)

• Tomb of HRH The Duke of Cambridge (grade II)
• William Wilkie Collins (grade II)
• Tomb of Samuel Griffith (grade II)
• Tomb of John Lucas (grade II)
• Tomb of Decimus Burton (grade II)
• Tomb of John Ternouth (grade II)
• Tomb of Mary, Lady Montgomerie (grade II)
• Tomb of Duke of Somerset (grade II)
• Tomb of Colonel Gideon Gorrequer (grade II)
• Tomb of W.H. Kent (grade II)
• Anne Harris mausoleum (grade II)
• Unidentified mausoleum (grade II)
• HRH Augustus Frederick (grade II*)
• Tomb of Mary Ann Thurston (grade II)
• Monument to the Molyneux family (grade II)
• Monument to HRH Princess Sophia (grade II*)
• Monument to Sir George Farrant (grade II)
• Monument to Ninon Michaelis (grade II*)
• Mausoleum of James Morison (grade II)
• Monument to Maria Tusten (grade II)
• Monument to Frederick Albert Winsor (grade II)
• Mausoleum of Baron John Frederick Andrew Huth (grade II)
• Mausoleum of Joseph Hudson (grade II)
• Monument to Joseph Allmond Cropper (grade II)
• Monument to Joanna Stevenson (grade II)
• Monument to Maria M. Thompson (grade II)
• Parish boundary markers (grade II)
• Monument to Dr James Barry (grade II)
• Monument to the Revd John Frederick Blake (grade II)
• Monument to William Burn (grade II)
• Monument to John Campbell (grade II)
• Monument to Major General Sir George De Lacy Evans (grade II)
• Monument to Sir Augustus Wollaston Franks (grade II)
• Monument to Ann Gardner and Family (grade II)
• Monument to Annabelle, Dowager Viscountess Glentworth (grade II)
• Monument to George Kmety (grade II)
• Monument Edward Mackle (grade II)
• Mausoleum of Eustace Meredyth Martin (grade II)
• Monument to Admiral Sir Robert Waller Otway (grade II)
• Monument to Tigran Sarkies (grade II)
• Monument to Peter Thomson (grade II)
• Monument to James Edward Andrews (grade II)
• Monument to Robert Ferguson (grade II)
• Monument to Henry Russell (grade II)
• Monument to Adeline Lane (grade II)
Appendix 3: Further Reading

• Kensal Green Cemetery  
  Ed. James Stevens Curl, Phillimore & Co Ltd, 2001  
  For a definitive study of the cemetery, one need look no further than this magnificent volume. It covers everything about the cemetery from its history and architecture to landscape, geology, and flora and fauna. It also contains an extensive bibliography.

• Paths of Glory  
  This is a comprehensive biographical list of notable persons buried at the cemetery.

  This contains a short history of the cemetery and has a good line drawing of the Anglican Chapel.

• The Buildings of England, London 3: North West  
  Contains a brief account of the cemetery and its monuments.

• Kensal Green Cemetery; A Concise Guide  
  A small guide produced by the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery which gives a brief history and over view of the cemetery including a look at notable people interned there.
Appendix 4: Historic England Guidance

Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management: Historic England Advice Note 1 (2016)

This guidance sets out ways to manage change in a way that conserves and enhances historic areas through conservation area designation, appraisal and management.


The checklist below has been taken from this publication and has helped to identify the buildings that make a positive contribution to the historic and architectural character of the conservation area.

- Is the building the work of a particular architect or designer of regional or local note?
- Does it have landmark quality?
- Does it reflect a substantial number of other elements in the conservation area in age, style, materials, form or other characteristics?
- Does it relate to adjacent designated heritage assets in age, materials or in any other historically significant way?
- Does it contribute positively to the setting of adjacent designated heritage assets?
- Does it contribute to the quality of recognisable spaces including exteriors or open spaces with a complex of public buildings?
- Is it associated with a designed landscape eg a significant wall, terracing or a garden building?
- Does it individually, or as part of a group, illustrate the development of the settlement in which it stands?
- Does it have significant historic association with features such as the historic road layout, burgage plots, a town park or a landscape feature?
- Does it have historic associations with local people or past events?
- Does it reflect the traditional functional character or former uses in the area?
- Does its use contribute to the character or appearance of the area?

Additional criteria set by the Council:

- Does the building have architectural, historical, archaeological, evidential, artistic or communal significance that contributes to the character or appearance of the conservation area?
- Has the building retained its original design, materials, features and setting or ones that are appropriate to its style and period?
- Does it contribute to the evolution and diversity of the conservation area?
- Was it built by an important local builder or one who also built other significant buildings in the area?

Conservation and Energy Efficiency

Historic England have produced useful guidance on how homeowners can improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions whilst still respecting the historic and architectural significance of their properties. For more information follow this link:

https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/your-home/saving-energy/
Appendix 5: Relevant Local Plan Policies

The table opposite indicates those policies in the Royal Borough’s Local Plan, which have particular relevance to the preservation and enhancement of the conservation area.

These policies are the primary means through which the Council ensures that proposed development within designated conservation areas preserve or enhance the area’s character and appearance.

This list is not comprehensive and any development proposals will have to take account of the whole suite of policies contained within the Council’s Local Plan. Please consult the Council’s website.

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