

# **Recreating a historic cemetery for the 21st century**

**Dr Ian Dungavell  
Chief Executive  
Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust**

**HIGHGATE  
CEMETERY.**

## **Highgate Cemetery in numbers**

- opened with 17 acres in 1839: 19 acres added in 1860

### **WORKING CEMETERY**

- around 70 burials/year
- £500k in grave sales income from 30-40 sales / year
- standard grave from £22,396; cremation plot from £4,255

### **VISITOR ATTRACTION**

- 100,000 visitors (2018-19) = £570,000
- 69,000 visitors (2020-21) = £500,000
- self-guided and guided tours















Highgate Cemetery  
Conservation Plan  
Prepared for FOHCT  
February 2019





## **Conservation project outcomes**

- The Cemetery will continue to function as an active burial ground
- The trees, paths and monuments will be better looked after
- Visiting will be easier and more rewarding





ANNO SEXTO & SEPTIMO

## GULIELMI IV. REGIS.

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*Cap. cxxxvi.*

An Act for establishing Cemeteries for the Interment of the Dead, Northward, Southward, and Eastward of the Metropolis, by a Company to be called “The London Cemetery Company.”

[17th August 1836.]

**W**HEREAS the Cemeteries or Burial Grounds within the Cities of London and Westminster and the immediate Suburbs thereof are of limited Extent, and many of them having been long in use are so occupied and filled with Graves and Vaults as to be altogether insufficient for the increased and increasing Population in the Neighbourhood thereof, and not equal to afford those Facilities for the Interment of Bodies which is necessary and essential to the Convenience of the present and increasing Population: And whereas it would be of public Advantage if general Cemeteries on extensive Scales were established in open Situations Northward, Southward, and Eastward, and within proper Distances from the Metropolis, for Interment of the Dead, under certain Regulations and Restrictions: And whereas the several Persons herein-after named, together with other Persons, are willing at their own Costs and Charges to establish such Cemeteries upon being empowered for that Purpose by the Authority of Parliament: May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted; and be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same,

[Local.]

69 M

That

[HC]

## Highgate Cemetery Bill [HL]

[AS AMENDED IN COMMITTEE]

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill is promoted by the Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust (“the Trust”).

The purpose of this Bill is to authorise the Trust to extinguish rights of burial in grave spaces, and to disturb and reinter human remains in graves in order to increase the space for further interments in such graves and improve Highgate Cemetery (“the cemetery”), as well as powers to use appropriately or remove altogether from the cemetery any memorials on such graves. It would provide the Trust with equivalent powers to those that are already available to local authority run burial grounds and certain private burial authorities in London. The Bill also repeals outdated and redundant legislation applying to the cemetery, and confirms the Trust’s powers to operate and manage the cemetery following those repeals.

*Clause 1* gives the short title of the Bill and provides for it to come into force 28 days after it is passed.

*Clause 2* defines certain expressions used in the Bill.

The cemetery is currently operated under the London Cemetery Company Act 1836, London Cemetery Company Act 1843 and London Cemetery Company Act 1911, which provided for the laying out of the cemetery, and conferred various functions on the London Cemetery Company to manage the cemetery. As the London Cemetery Company has been dissolved, and the cemetery is now operated by the Trust, it is proposed to repeal the 1836, 1843 and 1911 Acts. *Clause 3* confirms the Trust’s powers to operate and manage the cemetery following those repeals. *Clause 3* is based substantially on Article 3 of the Local Authorities’ Cemeteries Order 1977.

*Clause 4* provides the burial authority with the power to extinguish rights of burial in grave spaces in the cemetery where a right of burial has not been exercised for 75 years or more from the date of the latest burial in the grave space or, if there has been no burial in the grave space, from the date of the grant of the right of burial in the grave space. *Clause 4* is substantially based on section 6 of the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1969, section 9 of the Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1976 and section 3 of the New Southgate Cemetery Act 2017, which provide the equivalent powers in respect of publicly run burial grounds in London and the New Southgate Cemetery respectively.

*Subsection (3)* provides that the date of the grant of any burial right by the former London Cemetery Company for the purposes of *subsection (2)* is unaffected by *clause 9(4)*, which otherwise provides for things done by the London Cemetery Company to have effect as if they were done by the Trust. In effect *subsection (3)* makes clear historic burial rights granted by the London Cemetery Company are not deemed to have been granted on the passing of the Act as a result of the operation of *clause 9(4)* for the purposes of determining the 75 year period mentioned in *subsection (2)*.

*Subsections (5) to (9)* provide that at least six months’ notice of the proposal to extinguish such rights must be given by the burial authority concerned. If the registered owner objects to the proposal within that period, the right of burial may not be extinguished.





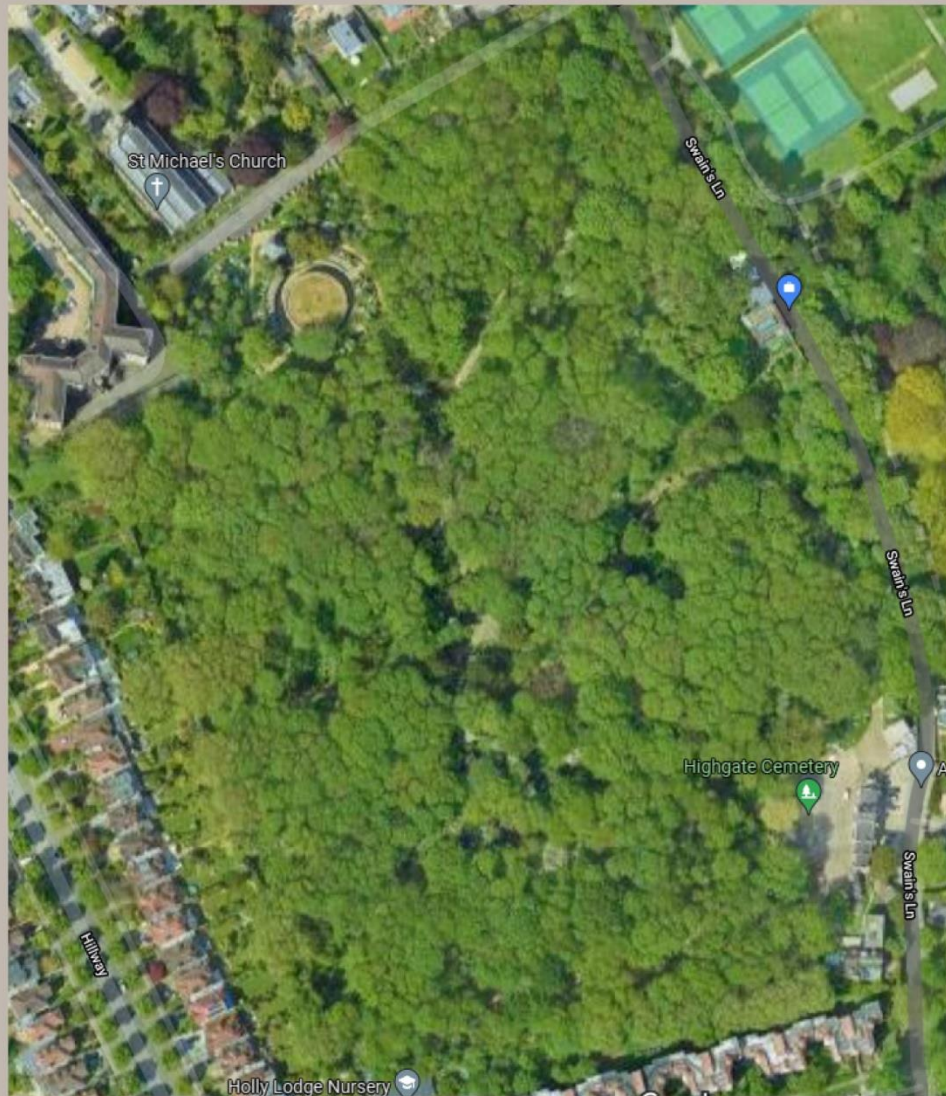






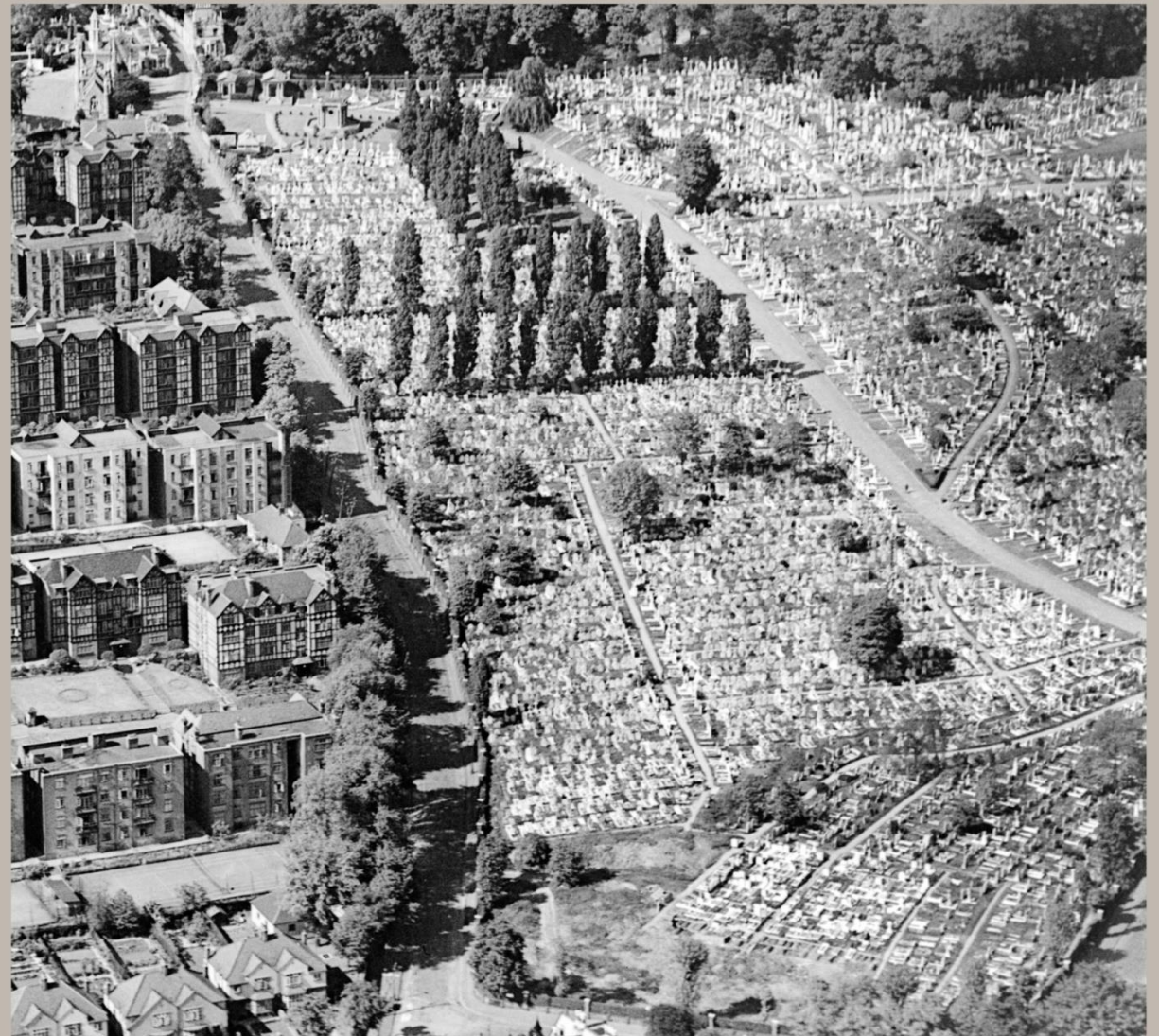
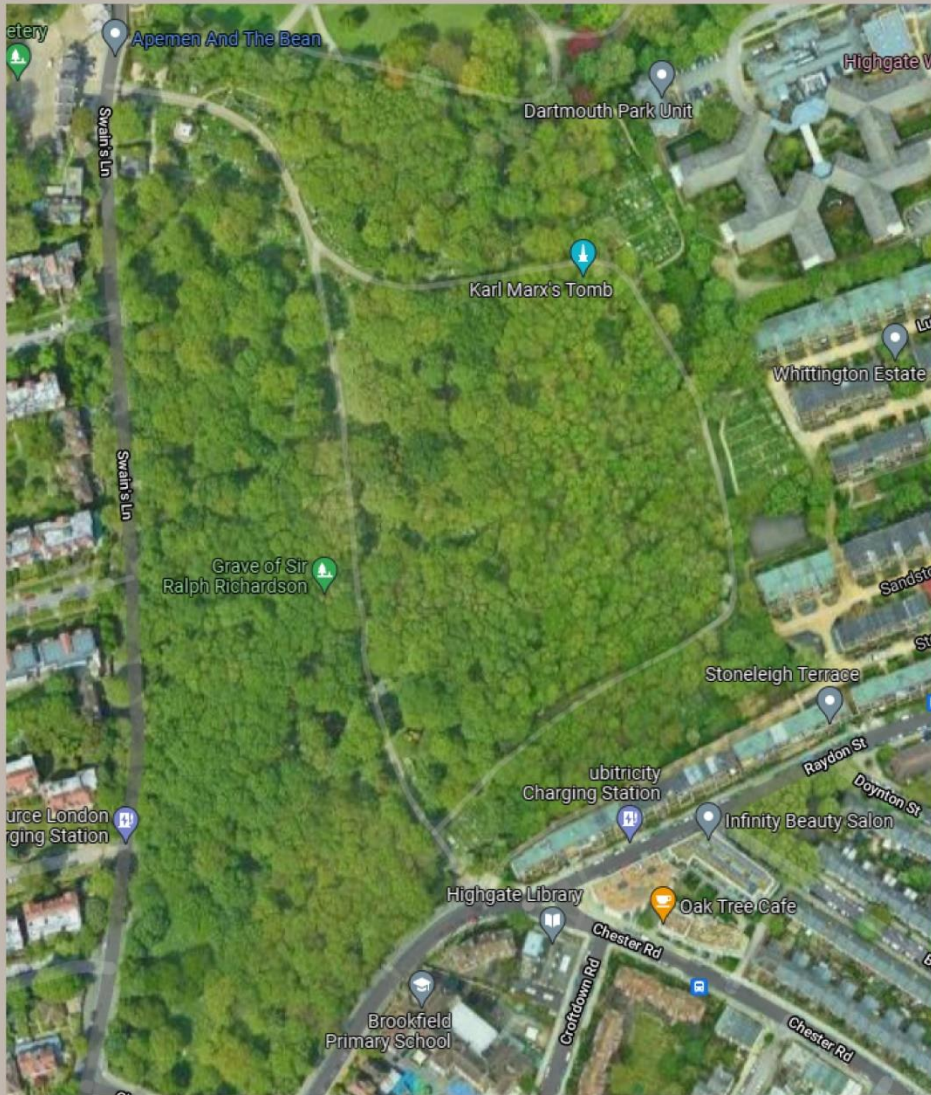






**Highgate Cemetery West**  
opened 1839





**Highgate Cemetery East  
opened 1860**



# Constraints

## Conservation area

- Protection for all pre-1925 monuments
- Protection for trees > diameter over 75mm at 150cm (Section 211 notice)
  
- Around 80 listed monuments
- Grade 1 registered landscape (Historic England)
- Metropolitan Open Land
- Site of Metropolitan Importance for Nature Conservation



## **Work in progress**

- Research
- Site familiarisation
- History
- Hydrology
- Soils
- Plant communities
- Local context
- Site constraints

Gustafson Porter + Bowman 'aim to develop a strong conceptual framework that lends meaning and distinctiveness to a project'







## **Trees afflicted by**

- Ash dieback
  - Massaria (London Planes)
  - Chestnut leaf borer
  - Oak processionary moth
  - Box moth
- 
- Dutch Elm disease (if we had any)





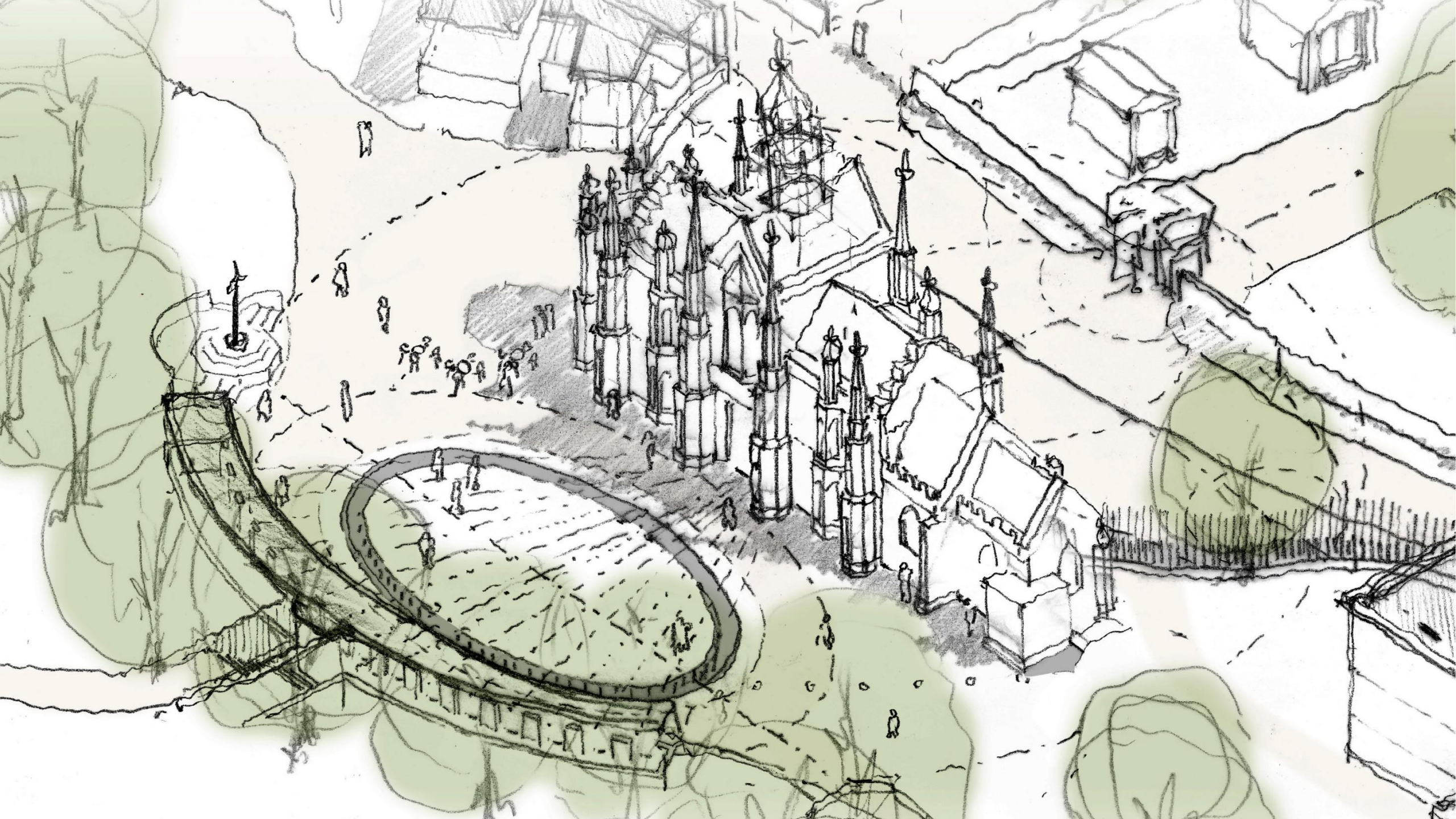














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**Friends of Highgate Cemetery Trust**

ian@highgatecemetery.org

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