



# Conservation Area Proposals Statement Brompton Cemetery Conservation Area

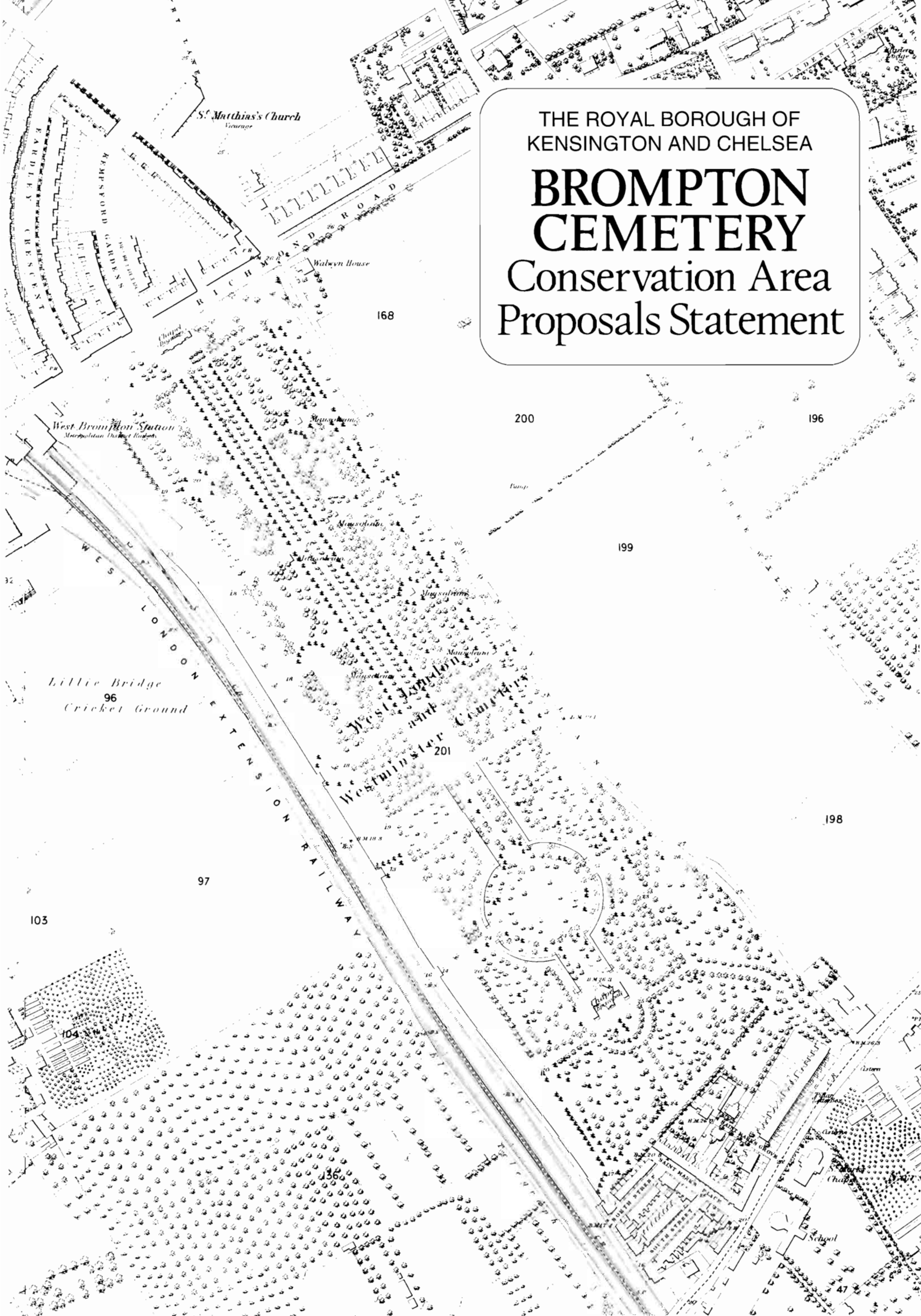


THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON  
AND CHELSEA

THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF  
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

# BROMPTON CEMETERY

## Conservation Area Proposals Statement





***BROMPTON***  
***CEMETERY***  
**Conservation Area**  
**Proposals Statement**

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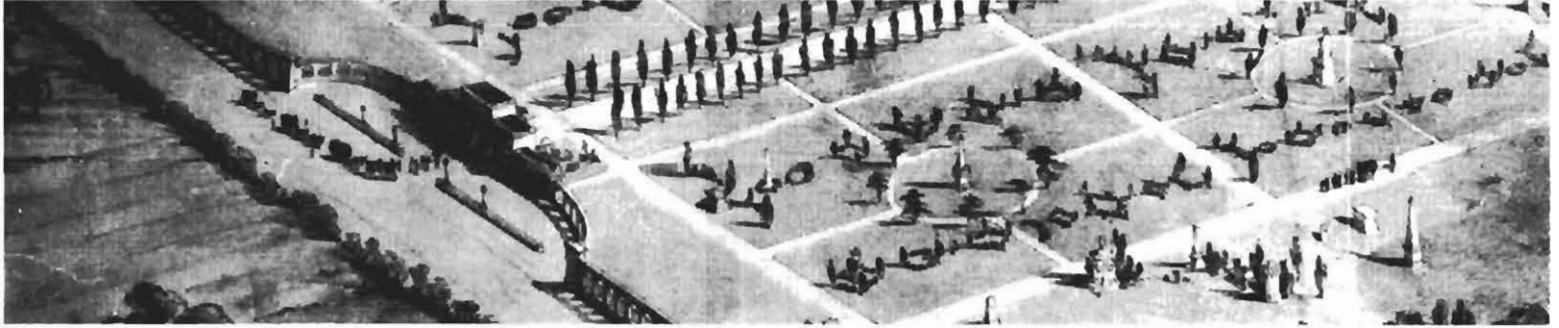
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AND CHELSEA

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**BROMPTON CEMETERY CONSERVATION AREA  
PROPOSALS STATEMENT**

***Foreword by the Chairman,  
Planning and Conservation  
Committee***

*The area covered by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea was principally developed by the Victorians, so it is entirely fitting that the Borough should contain one of London's great Victorian cemeteries. Just as 19th century architecture is better appreciated nowadays, so it is more widely recognised that Brompton Cemetery represents a significant resource at so many different levels for nearby residents and for the Borough as a whole.*

*The Council has designated the Cemetery as a conservation area, and its Unitary Development Plan recognises its contribution to the quality of the Borough as a registered park or garden, as Metropolitan Open Land and as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance. In addition, the Cemetery's main buildings and a number of memorials are listed. With the publication of this Statement, the Council has put in place a framework within which to respond to initiatives to preserve and enhance the Cemetery for future generations.*

*I would like to place on record the Council's appreciation of the involvement of The Royal Parks, the Friends of Brompton Cemetery, amenity societies, residents associations and any private individuals who have contributed to the production of this Statement.*

**Councillor David Campion BA(Arch) DipTP FRIBA MBCS**



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## Introduction

*Hawkins lithograph detail  
(see page 10)*

*(title page)  
Fresh flowers adorn the  
monument to Blanche Roosevelt  
Maccheta, Marchesa d'Allegri  
1858-98, biographer of Gustav  
Doré, in the Great Circle*

### STATUTORY BACKGROUND

Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 obliges local planning authorities to determine which parts of their areas are of special architectural or historic interest and to designate them as conservation areas. Once designated, councils are further obliged (Section 71) to formulate and publish proposals for their preservation and enhancement, to present such proposals for consideration at a public meeting in the Area and to have regard to any views expressed at the meeting concerning such proposals. The Public Meeting to consider this Statement was held in Brompton Cemetery Chapel on 1 February 1999.

It is the general duty of all local planning authorities, in the exercise of planning functions, to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of conservation areas (Section 72).

The Plan provides that 'each Statement identifies the characteristics which contribute to the special nature of the conservation area and includes guidance which ensures its preservation and enhancement. Guidelines for the design of new building work (including extensions and alterations to existing properties), as well as proposals for enhancement work to be carried out by the Council itself, are also included.'

The Plan also indicates that 'The statements will set out detailed guidance to interpret and elaborate on development control policies set out in the Plan. Such detailed guidance will be applied to all relevant planning applications.' Comments in Statements are therefore subsidiary to and should be read in the light of the Council's general restrictive policies as set out in the Unitary Development Plan.

### PLANNING BACKGROUND

The Council is committed by its Unitary Development Plan to the preparation of Proposals Statements for conservation areas. The Plan contains general policies governing the control of development, including policies and standards regarding conservation, design and related matters. Its overall aim is 'to maintain and enhance the character and function of the Royal Borough as a residential area and to ensure its continuing role within the metropolitan area as an attractive place in which to live and work'. Policies include presumptions against the loss of permanent residential accommodation, the encroachment of inappropriate business activities and the loss of local services which support residential character. Therefore underlying Conservation Area Proposals Statements is a continued resistance to any change of use from residential use in the Area and also to any change which damages residential amenity, for example, extra traffic generation.

### THE PURPOSE AND FORMAT OF THE PROPOSALS STATEMENT

This document presents proposals for the preservation or enhancement of Brompton Cemetery Conservation Area.

This Proposals Statement has three purposes:

1. To identify the particular characteristics of the Area which justify its designation as a conservation area and which should be preserved or enhanced.
2. To provide guidance in respect of any proposed changes and on the Council's likely response to applications for planning permission or listed building consent.
3. To identify works of improvement, enhancement or other initiatives which could be undertaken by the Council or other agencies.

## THE EXTENT OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

Brompton Cemetery was designated a conservation area in May 1985 as part of the Borough-wide review. This was influenced by the designation of Kensal Green Cemetery Conservation Area the previous October, not only to recognise the national importance of the Victorian architectural and historical interest of the Cemetery, but to promote the restoration of buildings and monuments, to improve the prospect of grant aid, and to allow additional control over the numerous and significant trees. These three threads of recognition, control and enhancement underly the designation of Brompton Cemetery Conservation Area. The boundaries were reviewed during the production of this Statement, when it was decided that the Conservation Area was best served by boundaries that reflected the Cemetery itself and its designation as Metropolitan Open Land, as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance and as a Grade II\* item in the Parks and Gardens Register. The boundaries therefore remain unchanged from the original designation.

pared under the direction of M J French, Executive Director of Planning and Conservation, by the Council's consultants, McCoy Associates, in liaison with The Royal Parks Agency, Ward Councillors, The Friends of Brompton Cemetery, The Victorian Society, The Kensington Society, The Chelsea Society, local residents' groups and interested parties. It has been prepared as the Council's contribution to a secure and sustainable future for Brompton Cemetery represented by the preparation of the Feasibility Study and Management Plan drafted on behalf of The Royal Parks Agency and the Friends of Brompton Cemetery.

The Statement was written by Geoffrey Huntingford BSc(Hons) MRTPI IHBC, and Mary Powell BA(Hons).

Except where credited, modern photographs are by Geoffrey Huntingford and historical maps and illustrations are reproduced from originals kindly made available by Kensington Local Studies Library. The assistance of the Council's Local Studies Librarians and of The Royal Parks Agency is gratefully acknowledged.

## PROCEDURE

This Proposals Statement for Brompton Cemetery Conservation Area has been pre-

The map on the cover is taken from Ordnance Survey maps surveyed 1862-5 and published 1871, by permission of Guildhall Library, Corporation of London.

## THIS PROPOSALS STATEMENT WAS ADOPTED BY THE PLANNING AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE ON 19 APRIL 1999.

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*A detail from the weathered  
marble tomb of Val Prinsep  
(see page 36)*



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*There was growing recognition by the second quarter of the 19th century that London's overcrowded graveyards were in a shocking state and posed a serious risk to health. Between 1832 and 1841, Parliament authorised six commercial cemeteries around the metropolis to relieve the situation: one of these was the West London and Westminster Cemetery Company which undertook to provide a large new burial ground at West Brompton.*

The Company was incorporated by Act of Parliament in July 1837 and authorised to build chapels and catacombs, to charge fees for burials, and to raise capital by selling shares. The site was 40 acres between Richmond Road (now Lillie Road/Old Brompton Road) on the north, Fulham Road on the south and Honey Lane on the east. On the west was the short-lived Kensington Canal, created from Counters Creek, a tidal inlet of the Thames long used as a common sewer. Negotiations began with Lord Kensington for the majority of the land and with the Equitable Gas Light Company for land on the Fulham Road frontage which had become surplus to the gas company's requirements.

Throughout its relatively short life, the Cemetery Company was beset with difficulties. The first of these emerged after three instalments had been paid to the spendthrift Lord Kensington: doubts over his right to sell the land following the entailing of the Edwardes estate on his son were not settled until November 1838. By this time David Ramsay, a local nurseryman, had been appointed landscape gardener, and the designs for the Cemetery prepared by its self-styled 'founder' and 'promoter', Stephen Geary, had been passed over in competition in favour of those submitted under the name of Benjamin B Baud, formerly an assistant to Sir Jeffry Wyattville on work at Windsor Castle. There is evidence to suggest that the designs emanated from the Wyattville office, with Baud nominally in charge to preserve Sir Jeffry's detachment from the project as a competition judge. Geary resigned in January 1839.

With the conveyance of Lord Kensington's land in August that year, work began on boundary walls, the western catacombs and the north entrance. A temporary exit at the southern end of Honey Lane was created because negotiations for the Fulham Road frontage had fallen through. The

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## History

*Kensington Canal & Cemetery,  
William Cowen, 1841*

