

Kensal Green Cemetery

Most relevant parts of planning Application: Chapter 4 (The proposed Development)
Chapter 10 (Daylight, Sunlight, Overshadowing) plus the Appendix
Chapter 14 (Built Heritage) Drainage strategy

The Cemetery has many listed buildings (Dissenters Chapel(Grade 2*) Anglican Chapel(Grade 1) Main Gate(Grade 2) and hundreds of individual monuments .
It is also a valuable wildlife habitat – three species of bats have been observed hunting in the grounds, it is at least part of the territory of a sparrowhawk family and home to Greater Spotted woodpeckers.

The mature trees and increasingly uncommon unimproved grassland provide habitat for a wide diversity of species of mammals, amphibians and insects, including butterfly and moth populations. Such a habitat is becoming increasingly rare in London – in fact in the whole of Great Britain, The habitat value is further increased by the proximity of the canal on the south side of the grounds allowing use by semi aquatic and riparian amphibians, mammals and birds.

Cemetery is a working Cemetery, not a 'park' It is the oldest of the 'Magnificent Seven' Cemeteries , opened in 1833 (Older than Highgate)

During the construction period:

- a) noise will adversely affect the quiet and contemplative atmosphere of the Cemetery , especially during burial services
- b) Airborne pollution will adversely affect the air quality in the Cemetery both for human visitors and wildlife
- c) construction noise will adversely affect visitors, funeral services and wildlife
- d) vibrations from construction and construction traffic on Harrow Road and Ladbrooke Grove will damage fragile foundations and structures of the Dissenters Chapel and the original surrounding wall – itself a listed structure at high risk. Water penetration is a particularly high risk in the Dissenters Chapel
- e) Risk of inadvertent damage or change to existing water tables and drainage systems within the Cemetery as a result of building work

Completed works

The character of the Cemetery gives open views particularly to the south. Although there are some tall buildings, they are at a distance and do not directly affect the Cemetery. The proposed development with its massed high rise blocks will almost entirely destroy these views and result in a complete change of character within the Cemetery from open and bordered by trees to overshadowed, overlooked and densely urban.

The eastern end of the Cemetery, including all of the dissenters Area and Chapel will be in almost total shade from October to March (see attached projections copied from the Environmental Impact Statement Chapter 10 annexes)

This will cause detriment to:

- a) scope of activities within the Dissenters Chapel
- b) raise maintenance costs of the Chapel
- c) create frost pockets, increased damp and change to vegetation species due to changes in light levels which will lead to reduction of diversity and of all animal species currently inhabiting or visiting the Cemetery
- d) destroy the quiet contemplative atmosphere of the Cemetery entirely for visitors to graves and for members of the public seeking a relatively quiet space within the urban environment

It should also be noted that, though not part of this proposal, allowing the density of development suggested here will become a de facto argument for some sort of access through the Cemetery to Kensal Green underground Station due to the weight of numbers already on the finished site.