

# Consultation Report on the Nunhead Cemetery Conservation Management Plan

2023



# Summary

## 1. Introduction

Southwark Council manages three cemeteries, these are Nunhead Cemetery, Camberwell Old Cemetery and Camberwell New Cemetery. They all have historic buildings and memorials and are important places in local community life. Their histories are closely tied to the growth of the borough, and they also offer wider benefits for ecology, biodiversity and recreational activities.

Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) are an important guide for managers and they contain a review of the ecology, landscape and tree and woodland management for each cemetery. They highlight the value of the heritage and ecology, and include management policies and guidance, which aim to protect and enhance their value for the future, setting out aims and guidance for each cemetery for local community groups and residents. The CMPs can also be used to help apply for grants and funding to improve the cemeteries for visitors.

The council has produced draft CMPs for each of its cemeteries, to guide the management of these spaces. We are consulting with the public on these documents one at a time starting with the Nunhead Cemetery Conservation Management Plan (NCCMP).

A copy of the Nunhead Cemetery CMP can be downloaded at [webpage for cemetery CMPs](#)

## 2. The Survey

The consultation was open to the public from 5 June to 21 July 2023. An online survey was available on the council's Consultation Hub website. A paper copy of the CMP and survey was available upon request. A mailing list of 44 interested residents was informed when the public consultation began. Project staff attended the Nunhead Cemetery Open Day on the 20 May 2023, to raise awareness of the CMPs and the consultation.

A drop in event was held at The Green Community Centre, in Nunhead on Wednesday 28 June. We chose a location away from the cemetery to be as convenient and easy to access as possible for residents and to encourage participation from residents who may not visit the cemetery presently. The event was held from 3pm to 7pm to allow residents who may be available during the day as well as those who may be available after work the opportunity to attend.

A virtual consultation meeting was held on Tuesday 4 July from 6.30pm for residents who could not attend the in-person drop in meeting.

The consultation was also promoted through posters displayed in and around Nunhead Cemetery (see appendix 1).

Local community and faith groups were contacted, to provide them with the consultation details and posters to place up in their community centres and places of worship.

### 3. Executive Summary

The consultation received a total of eight responses, this is a low response rate, however each respondent returned a large number of comments, with a lot of great suggestions on how to improve the CMPs. Those comments and suggestions are reviewed in full from page 4.

There were a number of comments about the consultation itself and the documents being presented. Several respondents felt that they were too long, mistakenly thinking that the CMP was a consultation questionnaire. The length of the CMP cannot be reduced as every CMP must follow a standard format and structure. This is explained in more detail in the results section.

Residents also requested a shorter summary document, however we had to provide the whole document, to make sure all of the information was available to the public, before the CMP is finalised.

Regarding the information in the CMP the key feedback included;

Respondents mentioned that they like the view of St Pauls (Cathedral) and are pleased that it will be maintained, however they also mentioned that during the warmer months, fast growing vegetation can block the view, and during the spring and summer it would need more maintenance. Unfortunately, the regularity of maintenance is limited by our maintenance budget. Should visitors notice that the view has become obscured, it would be helpful if they could inform council staff on site or by emailing [parks@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:parks@southwark.gov.uk)

Some respondents felt that some of the Victorian graves need more maintenance, and that the vegetation also required more regular maintenance, so that more people can access inner areas of the cemetery. The amount of maintenance that our team can carry out is limited by our maintenance budget. The CMP currently advises against cutting back vegetation to allow access to the inner areas of the cemetery. This is to protect the woodland environment and wildlife in these inner areas of the cemetery, and discourage visitors from treading new pathways that are not part of the historic path network that we wish to protect.

We had several comments about how burials are managed in the cemetery, both currently and in the future. It was suggested that some new burials could be allowed, if done sensitively. No new burials take place at Nunhead Cemetery, except for second interments, as the last two active burial areas became full in 2022. There are currently no plans for new burial areas to be created. The cemetery's important status as a nature reserve will be given consideration, should any plans for new burials be made in the future.

Some respondents stated that they were opposed to the re-use of graves, however there was also a comment saying that graves should be re-used, highlighting the different opinions about this matter. The re-use of graves is not currently being considered and would require agreement from the Council Cabinet if it were to be pursued in the future. Re-use has not been proposed or considered at Nunhead Cemetery and so references to re-use have been removed from the NCCMP.

There were several comments about dogs in the cemetery, about the current PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) and how this is communicated, opinion about whether the PSPO is effective, and also concern about dangerous dogs and dog control.

## 4. Results Analysis

There were eight surveys returned which is a low response rate. The drop-in session held on 28 June had two attendees, and no one attended the Zoom meeting.

We expected a low response rate because the NCCMP is very long and detailed, which means people would need a lot of spare time to read it. The NCCMP cannot be made any shorter because it needs to follow a prescribed structure, in line with guidance from various organisations including Historic England and the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF).

A stakeholder consultation had been held previously in 2021, which allowed the Friends of Nunhead Cemetery and the Camberwell Cemeteries Working Group to review and comment on the CMP first. Many residents with a keen interest in the cemetery are likely to be members of these groups, and so would have already had the opportunity to read the CMP and comment.

The tables below includes all comments received.

Comments about the consultation documents and materials		
Comment	Number of times mentioned	Response to comment
It is a very long consultation / lots of consultation material	2	Although we have condensed the report as much as possible, the length of the CMP cannot be reduced, as every CMP must follow a standard format and structure
We need a consolidated version with headlines to engage with	2	A summary of each chapter was provided. We considered providing a summary only, instead of the full CMP. However, this would have been misleading, because a lot of information would have been missing. So we decided to provide the whole document, to make sure all of the information was available to the public, before the CMP is finalised.
This was a very informative document - hardly any of which I knew. You should try and provide this information on site, would enhance visitors experience.	2	The project to restore the East Lodge in Nunhead Cemetery is considering visitor experience and providing boards with information about the cemetery in more detail.
The document can be repetitive	1	The CMP has been reduced as much as possible, however, it is necessary to repeat some information where it relates to different sections of the plan.

Not many people will have time to read these documents	1	The length of the CMP cannot be reduced as every CMP must follow a standard format and structure.
Management guidance 3(e) should include a link to the interactive map on the Heritage at Risk register section of Historic England website.	1	The CMP has been updated with this information.
Page 62. Can you refer to HE as 'heritage' or 'statutory consultee' rather than planner?	1	The CMP has been updated with this information.
Reference to HAR 2017 needs updating	1	The CMP has been updated with this information.
Note that HE comments are not incorporated in Section B : Landscape and Design	1	The CMP has been updated with this information.
Please check again for spelling and grammar. I.e who's rather than whose on 1.5.	1	The final version will have a second proof check for spelling and grammar errors.
Paragraph 8.28 should be updated, as now there are four volumes of Notables	1	The CMP has been updated to add details of the fourth volume of notable burials. These are leaflets containing records of well-known people buried at the cemetery.
Paragraph 7.77, 4 <sup>th</sup> point. Still needs to refer to the purpose of the original purchase in 1926.	1	The paragraph already does refer to the original purpose of Honor Oak Recreation Ground as being burial grounds.

#### Comments about the landscape and layout of the cemetery

Comment	Number of times mentioned	Response to comment
I agree with retaining the view of st pauls. Vegetation blocks the view for much of the year and it needs more maintenance	2	The view of St Pauls Cathedral from Nunhead Cemetery is a protected view within the Southwark Plan and this is included within the NCCMP. The NCCMP contains an 'action plan', which states that the view should be maintained by cutting back tree growth. Some residents were concerned that this was not happening regularly enough to retain the view. Unfortunately, the regularity of maintenance is

		limited by our maintenance budget. Should visitors notice that the view has become obscured, it would be helpful if they could inform council staff. No change to the NCCMP is required, as a result of this feedback.
There needs to be more maintenance of some of the victorian graves and vegetation, so that more people can access inner areas of the cemetery	2	The amount of maintenance that our team can carry out is limited by our maintenance budget. The NCCMP currently advises against cutting back vegetation to allow access to the inner areas of the cemetery. This is to protect the woodland environment and wildlife in these inner areas of the cemetery, and discourage visitors from treading new pathways that are not part of the historic path network that we wish to protect. The NCCMP does recommend that vegetation should be maintained to the first row of graves and monuments, which are set back from paths which is already being carried out.
I agree that the original pathway network is preserved and new informal paths are restricted.	1	n/a
No issues with water pooling around the lodge this is incorrect, only by the entrance gates to the Cemetery	1	The issue has been identified with the East Lodge only and is being addressed through the restoration project
Works to the paths in the cemetery have been poorly executed. Path levels are below the drains so water doesn't drain/flow into them. Pressed gravel has not been maintained and become loose which washes away. This has blocked drains in the street.	1	Installing tarmac pathways at Nunhead Cemetery has been considered and discounted, as it is not in keeping with the natural look and feel of the cemetery. Self-binding gravel wears away with use and tends to wash down the steep slopes. Unfortunately, there is not sufficient funding to repair the pathways on a regular basis.
Page 25, 4 (b) there should be reference to the path flooding issue, particularly on the East Path	1	This issue of the East path flooding is already identified in section 4 (e)
Path improvement around the Scots Martyrs memorial and edging of paths close to the	1	These works have been monitored and we are seeking to resolve the issues. No change to the NCCMP is required.

pond area have not been successful.		
With reference to 1(h) in the action table: This should clarify the difference between planting around pre- and post- 1979 graves (the latter beginning after Southwark began new burials on site). Wildlife planting around older graves has taken place and may be appropriate in future whereas new planting around post-1980s graves where lawn cemetery provisions were intended to apply may not be appropriate	1	The NCCMP has been updated to make this clearer.

Visitor experience		
Comment	Number of times mentioned	Response to comment
The East Lodge project will improve visitors experience, café, toilets, visitor centre are good	2	n/a
Nunhead Station has very poor access (no lift) this should be mentioned	1	This has been added to the NCCMP
FoNCs new portacabin will also have toilets available for use (should be mentioned in 7d & section 13.)	1	As part of the East Lodge project the proposed renewed FONC cabin for practical work will include toilet facilities for volunteers as well as for the general public when FONC are on site and for events.
In SECTION 18 it should make some reference to the proposed Controlled Parking Zone impact on the cemetery under visitor facilities.	1	The proposed Nunhead Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) was consulted on from April to June 2023, and is now referenced in the NCCMP. The impact of the CPZ on Nunhead Cemetery is currently unknown, at the CPZ is yet to be finalised at the time of writing this report, but could be added in a future update of the NCCMP.

A couple of blue badge bays and proper cycle docking is needed	1	The consultation on the Nunhead CPZ includes a proposal for permit and paid bays which will also permit free blue badge holder parking, near to the entrances.
Signage is being addressed under the East Lodge Project.	1	This had been added to the NCCMP

<b>Burials and graves</b>		
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of times mentioned</b>	<b>Response to comment</b>
Additional and sensitively planned conventional burials should be allowed.	2	No new burials can take place at Nunhead Cemetery, except for second interments, as the last two active burial areas became full in 2022. There are currently no plans for new burial areas to be created, the cemetery's important status as a nature reserve will be given consideration, should there be any plans for new burials in the future.
Against re-use including common or paupers graves. Disrespects the notion of what the cemetery was set up for.	2	The re-use of graves has not been proposed or considered at Nunhead Cemetery, and would not be able to go ahead in the future unless there was agreement from the Council Cabinet.
Re-use should be considered in the context of addition of levels	1	The re-use of graves has not been proposed or considered at Nunhead Cemetery, and would not be able to go ahead in the future unless there was agreement from the Council Cabinet.
Many of the graves around the Limesford Road entrance are a bit tatty	1	Maintenance work is carried out on memorials to ensure safety, and is limited by our maintenance budget. Many of the graves are privately owned, and the responsibility for maintenance is with the grave owner, rather than the council.
Woodland burials aren't mentioned as an option? Where could they go?	1	Burials are not carried out at Nunhead Cemetery, except for second interments. Woodland burials are not currently an option at any of our cemeteries. The 2012 Cemetery Strategy notes that there was interest in



		woodland burials during public consultation, and suggests investigating where this could be provided, and that it may be at a new location outside of the borough, an possibly in partnership with another local authority.
Space should be set aside to allow the continuation of people to be buried with generations of their family, so long as they are continuous residents in Southwark	1	Unfortunately, there is no remaining space in Nunhead Cemetery for new burials.
I think the priority should be to conserve existing burials and wider community use rather than further burials	1	There is no remaining space in Nunhead Cemetery for new burials. Looking after graves and memorials is one of the aims in the NCCMP
Is there an ash scattering area?	1	There is not currently an ash scattering area.
The CMP should clearly differentiate between NEW BURIALS which are using ground previously unused for burials, RE-OPENING of graves where previously purchased space is available for use by the original purchasers or their successors and RE-USE OF GRAVES where unused space in existing plots is used for interments entirely unrelated to the existing interments	1	New burials above older graves is called 're-claiming', and 're-use' involves moving remains prior to carrying out new burials. References to re-use have been removed from NCCMP, as it has not been proposed or considered at Nunhead Cemetery.

Management of the cemetery		
Comment	Number of times mentioned	Response to comment
Council shouldn't rely on FoNC - they are a voluntary org. The FoNC website is old fashioned and often out of date. People can only join if they have a chequebook - puts people off. FoNC could do with some	1	FoNC are a valued organisation and the benefits of their work at the cemetery is recognised in the NCCMP. The feedback about the website has been passed on to the group.

technical/digital advice from council and perhaps funding?		
The rules for planting around current graves need to be sensitively enforced	1	<p>The rules for planting are contained within the 'Southwark Memorial Grounds Regulations' which state that:</p> <p>"only fresh-cut flowers may be placed within the designated memorial area"</p> <p>"the planting of shrubs, trees or bushes, and flowers is also prohibited."</p> <p>Council staff have permission to remove and dispose of items that do not conform with the regulations, and can do so without giving any notice.</p> <p>Enforcement is carried out in a sensitive manner, and on some occasions staff are required to contact the grave owners to discuss the removal before it goes ahead.</p>
Can we introduce some animals to help with maintenance? = goats!	1	As it would have ongoing costs and potential safety implications, this is not something that the council can currently consider.
The entrance area to the cemetery is frequently not clean or maintained properly	1	Staff carry out maintenance duties as regularly as possible, however the amount of maintenance that can be carried out is restricted by budgets.
Litter is a problem	1	Visitors to the cemetery should use the litter bins or take their litter home with them to recycle.
The entrance gate (linden grove) is too narrow and is dangerous. The middle gate or another gate should be reopened	1	At the time of writing this report, there is only one gate open, this is a temporary situation due to the construction works being carried out at the East Lodge. When the works are finished, both pedestrian gates will be open, while the middle gate will remain closed to prevent unauthorised vehicles driving into the cemetery.
A pop up bollard at the Linden Grove entrance (as there is at Limesford Road) would stop unauthorised vehicles entering	1	The vehicle gate at the Linden Grove entrance is locked and there is no need for a bollard. Unauthorised vehicles in the cemetery should be reported to <a href="mailto:parks@southwark.gov.uk">parks@southwark.gov.uk</a>
Cemetery unlocking and locking is random, this coincided with	1	The team who lock and unlock the cemetery must also visit other sites to lock and unlock them too. They have to visit each site one

thefts from the cemetery after dark		after the other, which can affect the time that Nunhead Cemetery is locked / unlocked.
Alcohol consumption should be banned from the cemetery as it has upset the local Muslim population	1	An alcohol ban would be impossible to enforce, as entry to the cemetery is not controlled.
Signage in the vicinity of the lodge should be done with the owner of the lodge. The existing signs are not clear that the entrance gate should not be blocked, and what to do if locked in the cemetery	1	The Bereavement Services team are communicating with the owner of the West Lodge about the signs in question.
Hire bikes are dropped off on pavements around the entrance to the cemetery and even in the cemetery itself. More control needed	1	Unfortunately, it is not possible to prevent people leaving hire bikes around the entrance.
section A 1.d would like to see quarterly reviews with FoNC inserted	1	The NCCMP has been updated to reflect that there will be quarterly reviews of volunteering activity with FoNC.
There are numerous references to 'possible' assistance from FONC where we believe that assistance will certainly be desirable or required and should thus be more specific in that regard. In other case references to 'volunteers' are made where we believe it would be more accurate to say 'FONC and other volunteers' in order to recognise the important role FONC has and will continue to play	1	We have removed the word "possible" where assistance from FoNC is referred to in the NCCMP. References to "volunteers" have been changed to state "FoNC and other volunteers".
Re section 2a in action plan. Under the responsibility section it must be clear that responsibility rests with the Bereavement Services Manager but in consultation with FONC/volunteers. The latter cannot be 'responsible' as we do not have ownership of the site	1	The NCCMP has been updated to reflect this.

FoNC still believe that designation as an Archaeological Priority Area is entirely appropriate and should be applied for as a priority. A timescale should be inserted here.	1	This is something the council would look to support in the future, should resources be available. A timescale cannot be included until resources become available.
Updating of section 3 needs to reflect current status. The management action section needs to be updated in the light of current plans which have been explained to FONC. Also refer to FONC monument inscription recording	1	The CMP will be valid for 10 years, and any “current” information will become out-of-date quickly. Therefore the CMP will reference where the latest information can be found, instead. FoNC have provided information regarding their monument inscription recording which has been used to update the CMP
Section 7 (j) still needs to be updated in the light of counter sensors having been placed at both gates and that two years’ worth of data is now available	1	The NCCMP has been updated with information about the ‘visitors counters’ which at the time of writing this report, are located at the main entrance gates on Linden Grove. These ‘visitor counters’ contain sensors, and count the number of people entering or exiting the cemetery.

<b>Buildings, fencing, walls and infrastructure</b>		
<b>Comment</b>	<b>Number of times mentioned</b>	<b>Response to comment</b>
The chapel should be refurbished so it can be an exhibition space and perhaps marriage venue = source of income. Rebuild the walls and re-instate the original railings	1	The aim of refurbishing the Anglican Chapel is already stated in the NCCMP, and carrying this out is dependent on funding being available.
The metal panels around the perimeter detract from the cemetery = refurbish the original walls and railings	1	Restoring the walls and railings is already included as an aim in the NCCMP, and carrying this out is dependent on funding being available.
The cemetery needs to have more attractive entrances and walls to attract people in	1	Restoring the walls and railings are already included as aims in the NCCMP, and carrying this out is dependent on funding being available.

Future projects should focus on opening up the lodges and the chapel	1	Restoration of the East Lodge and the Anglican Chapel so they can be opened to the public are identified as priorities in the NCCMP, and carrying this out is dependent on funding being available.
The West Lodge is not for sale and is a private property. It is separate from the rest of the cemetery and the East Lodge.	1	The West Lodge was constructed as part of Nunhead Cemetery. The NCCMP does not state that the West Lodge is for sale and acknowledges that it is private property. We have amended the wording in the NCCMP to make sure this is clearer.
I like the East Lodge project but think the West Lodge should be acquired too	1	The West Lodge is a private residence and is not for sale.
Agree that the mesh panels on southern boundary should be replaced as they fail.	1	n/a
People enter the cemetery from Brockley footpath and this needs to be secured	1	Broken fencing should be reported to the council, so it can be repaired.
A water point by the chapel for people to refill water bottles	1	The introduction of a water fountain is being considered as part of the East Lodge project.
Lighting in the Cemetery entrance has been out of action for 5 years, safety and security issue. Linked to thefts	1	The cemetery closes at dusk therefore lights are not currently required. This is being reviewed as part of the East Lodge project.
People locked in do not know what to do? Can't read signs in the dark	1	Visitors should be aware that the cemetery closes at dusk, and they should exit in good time. The times are displayed at both entrances.
Damage/vandalism to memorials is caused by Cemetery not being locked or locked later than anticipated	1	Unfortunately, damage and vandalism can happen at any time of day, and does not appear to be linked to the locking regime.
The boundaries of properties on Ivydale RD are in poor condition. This has led to burglaries' from people accessing through cemetery	1	The council is aware of the condition of this boundary and we are seeking to carry out repairs, should funding be available.
I agree with ensuring that all management and maintenance actions are designed to	1	n/a

conserve and enhance the heritage features.		
Existing timber portacabin is adjacent to west lodge not east lodge	1	The NCCMP has been updated with this information.
Replace any reference to portacabin with cabin	1	The NCCMP has been updated with this information.
Section 4 a – the chapel has pinnacles not spires	1	The CMP has been corrected.
Section 3 (i) should be updated to refer to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to investigate the feasibility of re-roofing the chapel. Reference should also be made to a longer term ambition to restore the Eastern Catacomb	1	The CIL funding is now referenced in the action plan section. The restoration of the Eastern Catacombs is already listed as an aim in the action plan.

Comments about dogs		
Comment	Number of times mentioned	Response to comment
The signage for dogs on and off the lead could be improved. It is not very clear unless someone explains it to you	2	The NCCMP contains a section about dogs and no changes to this section are recommended. We will look at whether the signs can be made clearer.
My partner and I visit the cemetery every day to walk our dog and agree with dogs on leads in certain areas and picking up dog waste	1	n/a
The cemetery is generally very clean. Don't think there is a dog fouling problem, I see more fox fouling!	1	n/a
Dog fouling and smell of dog urine is disgusting and unhygienic (in the entrance areas)	1	Responsible dog owners and their dogs are welcome in our cemeteries, and clean up after their dogs; unfortunately a small number of irresponsible dog owners do not.

Dangerous dogs have attacked other dogs and children	1	Responsible dog owners and their dogs are welcome in our cemeteries, and keep their dogs under control or on a lead; unfortunately, a small number of irresponsible dog owners do not.
The grassed area needs to be fenced off to prevent its destruction by dogs	1	Grass areas cannot be fenced off, as public access is required
Don't agree with dogs on leads, dogs should be allowed off lead	1	Dogs are only required to be on leads in burial areas. Dogs are permitted off lead in most of Nunhead Cemetery.
With reference to 1(i) in the action table: Relating to dog control. This section should recognise the contentious nature of dog controls and also highlight incidents when children have been knocked over or threatened by dogs not under control, where other dogs and wildlife have been attacked or threatened and other anti-social behaviour by dog owners has occurred	1	The policy regarding dog control is covered by the PSPO. Reporting incidents is essential in assisting the council with this issue. If you witness dogs that are dangerously out of control or dog attacks, report this to the police immediately. If you witness any dog-related anti-social behaviour, please report this to <a href="mailto:sasbu@southwark.gov.uk">sasbu@southwark.gov.uk</a> . The Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) regarding dog control will be reviewed in spring 2024. The police and the warden services are regularly monitoring and enforcing the PSPO.

Comments about the woodland, nature and biodiversity		
Comment	Number of times mentioned	Response to comment
The document acknowledges the management is about a balance between historic formal character and nature. Shouldn't become more natural and overgrown (less actually)	1	Due to the cemetery's status as a nature reserve, wildlife and ecology will be enhanced wherever possible.
There are limited open areas at present. As a result Cemetery can be a bit dank? Especially north eastern edge.	1	The woodland (which covers much of the cemetery) creates shade and can be dark especially in the winter months. There are open areas in the southern areas of the cemetery, which creates a balance. The CMP recommends maintaining the existing balance of open and shaded/wooded areas. The

		woodland should not be reduced as it is an important habitat for wildlife.
(ref section ia) Ash is so common as it was used as kindling when open fires were used for cooking and heating	1	n/a
I would support removal of trees to encourage bio diversity and open up glades	1	The woodland plan being developed as part of the East Lodge project ( <a href="#">webpage for east lodge project</a> ) will consider possible new glades. The woodland should not be reduced as it is an important habitat for wildlife and is protected within the Nunhead Cemetery Conservation Area designation, which means we cannot remove any trees without a good reason, and planning permission
Increasingly large fox population which isn't described. Mentioned this as it's a potential threat to small mammal and bird population	1	The NCCMP has been updated to acknowledge the fox population living in Nunhead Cemetery
In reference to 6(e) in the action plan: Needs to be a reference to the Woodland Management Plan in the context of the East Lodge Project	1	Section 6 (e) of the NCCMP is about ivy management, and this section has been updated to refer to the woodland management plan
Page 40, in section 6 (j). No reference has been made to pond fencing	1	The NCCMP has been updated with information about the fence surrounding the pond
Number of bird species identified by GiGL still not comprehensive in our view but data constantly updated so not making a fuss over this!	1	n/a

Other comments		
Comment	Number of times mentioned	Response to comment
Very interesting summary. Highlights the tension between growth of trees and plants and preservation of built structures and monuments	1	n/a



Its unique character as a cemetery rather than nature reserve or park is not referenced. Being surrounded by so much life and death is unique offer	1	The NCCMP vision on page 1 references the cemetery's unique character as a cemetery.
The war graves look stunning because they are so uniform	1	n/a
Glad to see council supporting this local resource, is a great place but could be even more magical	1	n/a

#### 4. Equalities information and the profile of respondents

60% of respondents identified their sex recorded at birth as female. 20% identified as male and 20% did not answer this question.

Five people provided equalities information for this analysis. Three organisations (professional bodies, consultants or local community groups) returned comments on the CMP and did not return equalities information. The small data set can make the data misleading, and can also make it difficult to draw any firm conclusions.

##### Sex and Gender Identity

Gender of respondents to this consultation	number	%
Male	1	20%
Female	3	60%
Not answered / prefer not to answer	1	20%

The local population is 52.6% female so this is a slight over representation.

##### Below: Local community profile for Nunhead North MSOA (Middle-layer Super Output Area) from the 2021 census

Gender of North Nunhead community area	
Male	47.4%
Female	52.6%

## Ethnicity

No respondents were from a black, Asian or ethnic minority background; 52% of the local population are from a black, Asian or ethnic minority background (2021 census), and they were not represented at all.

The consultation drop-in session was held in a Community Centre away from the cemetery, in the heart of the Nunhead community, and information was displayed locally and emailed to local faith groups some of which have black, Asian or ethnic minority members. We hoped to reach black, Asian and ethnic minority communities but unfortunately this was not successful.

80% of respondents stated they are from a white background. 48% of the local population is white (according to 2021 census data), so this shows that people from a white background were overrepresented.

Ethnicity of respondents to the survey	number	%	% grouped percentages for comparison with census data below
Asian	0	0	0
Black Nigerian	0	0	0% black/African/Caribbean
Black other African	0	0	
Black Caribbean	0	0	
Black British	0	0	
Mixed White Black Caribbean	0	0	
Mixed White Asian	0	0	0% mixed multiple ethnic groups
Other Mixed	0	0	
Other	0	0	
White Other European	2	40	80% white
White British	2	40	
White English	0	0	
White Scottish	0	0	
White Irish	0	0	
Not answered	1	20	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Below: Local community profile for North Nunhead MSOA (middle layer super output area) from the 2021 census**

Ethnic Group of the North Nunhead local community	
White	48.0%
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Groups	8.3%
Asian/Asian British	4.9%
Black / African / Caribbean / Black British	34.6%
Other Ethnic Group	4.1%

## Age

No responses were received from people aged under 34 years old. 49.4% of the local population are under 34 according to the 2021 census, showing that the views of children and young people were not represented at all.

40% of comments were from people aged 35 to 44 years old. 15.3% of the local population is within this age range showing an over representation.

Age of respondents	Number	%
16 and under	0	0%
17 – 24	0	0%
25 - 34	0	0%
35 - 44	2	40%
45 - 54	0	0%
55 - 64	1	20%
65 – 74	1	20%
75 plus	0	0%
Not answered	1	20%
Total	5	100%

**Below: Age profile for North Nunhead MSOA (middle layer super output area) from the 2021 census**

Age of the North Nunhead area community	
Aged 14 years and under	16.2%
15-24 years	11.5%
25-34 years	21.7%
35-44 years	15.3%
45-54 years	13.5%
55-64 years	11.1%
65-74 years	6.4%
75+ years	4.4%

## Disability

40% of respondents to the survey stated that they have a disability, 40% stated they do not have a disability, and 20% did not answer the question. 17.6% of residents in Southwark are registered as having a disability. This is a good representation from people with disabilities.

## Religion or belief

60% of respondents stated they have no religion, 20% stated they are Christian and 20% did not respond to this question. The Christian community is 45% so this is an under representation. 37.6% of the local residents identify as having no religion so this is an over representation.

### Below: Religion of residents in the North Nunhead MSOA (middle layer super output area) from the 2021 census

Religion of the North Nunhead area community	
No religion	37.6%
Christian	45.0%
Buddhist	0.7%
Muslim	8.7%
Hindu	0.2%
Jewish	0.2%
Sikh	0.1%
Other religion	0.7%
Not answered	0.7%

People who have a religion and / or belief may have a greater interest in the cemetery, due to the fact that some religions require burial, and some require cremation. People from Christian and Muslim religious backgrounds are known to be buried at Nunhead Cemetery. An aim of this consultation was to get good representation from the Muslim community, and unfortunately this was not successful, with no representation from Muslims. We contacted local religious groups directly, but we did not receive any responses.

## 5. Conclusion

The consultation received a total of 8 responses, with 5 responding to the online survey and 3 responding by email. This is a low response rate as expected, however each respondent returned a large number of comments, with a lot of great suggestions on how to improve the NCCMP. The comments and suggestions are shown in full from page 5.

The groups who were under-represented or had no representation were black Asian and ethnic minority people, children and young people aged 34 years old and under, and those from religions other than Christianity, particularly the local Muslim community who are buried at Nunhead Cemetery.

The lack of representation of children and young adults is in line with cultural assumptions, which are generally that older people are more likely to be interested in historic environments than younger people. It may also be connected to lack of time being a barrier to consultation.

When preparing for the consultations for Camberwell Old and Camberwell New Cemetery CMPs we should consider how these groups can be reached more effectively, but also take into account that some members of our community are not interested in the detail that the CMPs provide.

Some respondents felt that the NCCMP was too long, and some mistakenly thought the NCCMP was a consultation questionnaire, rather than a CMP.

Although we have condensed the report as much as possible, the length of the NCCMP cannot be reduced, as every CMP must follow a standard format and structure, which is described on the Historic England website at [Historic England webpage for conservation advice](#).

The council is going to make a funding application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF) in November 2023, and they want us to send in our CMP for Nunhead Cemetery. The NHLF offer advice on what the CMPs must include, which can be found at [Heritage fund webpage for advice](#).

The NCCMP will be formally adopted by the council, and will be available for use by the Bereavement Services team and anyone else who wants to use it.

The NCCMP contains a high level action plan, which provides the basis for the development of more specific and detailed action plans that will help council officers to secure future funding to carry out the actions.

Before the consultation began, we considered that the NCCMP document is very long, and that this may discourage some people from taking part in the public consultation. We considered providing a summary of the NCCMP, instead of the full document. However, we decided this would have been misleading, because a lot of information would have been missed out. Therefore we decided to provide the whole document as well as a summary, to make sure all of the information was available to the public, before the NCCMP is finalised.

Some respondents requested a summary version, split into sections on different themes, which had already been provided. The NCCMP document was split into eight sections. Each section had a brief summary to allow residents to choose which sections might be of interest to them, if they did not wish to read the whole NCCMP.

For the future consultations about Camberwell Old Cemetery CMP and Camberwell New Cemetery CMPs, we will again divide the document into sections, and include a summary of each section, alongside the full document.

Respondents mentioned that they like the view of St Pauls (Cathedral) and are pleased that it will be maintained. Some mentioned that during the warmer months, fast growing vegetation can block the view, and during the spring and summer it would need more maintenance.

The view of St Pauls Cathedral from Nunhead Cemetery is a protected view within the Southwark Plan and this is acknowledged within the CMP. The CMP contains an 'action plan', which states that the view should continue to be maintained within the cemetery by cutting back tree growth. Some residents were concerned that this was not happening regularly enough to retain this view. Unfortunately, the regularity of maintenance is limited by our maintenance budget. Should visitors notice that the view has become obscured, it would be helpful if they could inform council staff. No change to the CMP will be made, as a result of this feedback.

Some respondents felt that some of the Victorian graves need more maintenance, and that the vegetation also required more regular maintenance, so that more people can access inner areas of the cemetery.

The amount of maintenance that our team can carry out is limited by our maintenance budget. The NCCMP currently advises against cutting back vegetation to allow access to the inner areas of the cemetery. This is to protect the woodland environment and wildlife in these inner areas of the cemetery, and discourage visitors from treading new pathways that are not part of the historic path network, which we wish to protect. The NCCMP does recommend that vegetation should be maintained to the first row of graves and monuments which are set back from paths; this is already being carried out.

Once adopted, the NCCMP will be used to help the council decide how much money is required to maintain the cemetery, and apply for funding to support priority maintenance works

It was suggested that some new burials could be allowed, if done sensitively. No new burials take place at Nunhead Cemetery, except for second interments, as the last two active burial areas became full in 2022. There are currently no plans for new burial areas to be created, due to the lack of space and the cemetery's important status as a nature reserve.

There were also queries about woodland burials at Nunhead Cemetery. Woodland burials are not available at any of our cemeteries. Woodland burials are not currently an option at any of our cemeteries. The 2012 Cemetery Strategy notes that there was interest in woodland burials during public consultation, and suggests investigating where this could be provided, and that it may be at a new location outside of the borough, an possibly in partnership with another local authority.

Burial space in Southwark is running out due to the limited space in our cemeteries. Two respondents stated that they were opposed to the re-use of graves, which was the most popular suggestion in the 2012 public consultation regarding how to provide more burial space in Southwark's cemeteries. It was mentioned that public graves (also sometimes called common or pauper's graves) should not be re-used. It was suggested that re-using graves would be disrespectful the notion of what the cemetery was set up for. However, there was also a comment saying that graves should be re-used, highlighting the different opinions about this matter.

The re-use of graves is not currently being considered and cannot go ahead in the future without agreement from the Council Cabinet. The re-use of graves has not been proposed or considered at Nunhead Cemetery, therefore references to re-use have been removed from the NCCMP.

Some respondents said they found the NCCMP to be a very informative document, containing a lot of information that they did not already know. They suggested that this information should be provided at the cemetery, to enhance visitor's experience.

The project to restore the East Lodge in Nunhead Cemetery is considering visitor experience and providing boards with information about the cemetery in more detail.

Some requested that the signs showing information about the dog PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) could be improved. These signs show which areas dogs are only permitted on-lead, and where they can be off-lead.

The NCCMP contains a section about dogs and no changes are recommended. We will look at whether the signs can be made clearer.

It was mentioned that there are limited open areas at present, as most of the cemetery is a woodland and nature reserve. They felt this made the cemetery feel dark and cold, especially along the north-eastern edge.

The woodland (which covers much of the cemetery) creates shade and can be dark especially in the winter months. There are open areas in the southern areas of the cemetery, which creates a balance. The NCCMP recommends maintaining the existing balance of open and shaded/wooded areas. The woodland should not be reduced as it is an important habitat for wildlife and is protected within the Nunhead Cemetery Conservation Area designation, which means trees cannot be removed without a good reason, and planning permission. If a visitor feels unsafe in the darker wooded areas it is possible to walk through the cemetery by following the wider, more open-feeling pathways and glades.

## 6. Next Steps

The NCCMP has been updated following this public consultation and the final version was formally adopted on 1 December 2023.

It has been published on the council website at [webpage for cemetery cmpts](#)

Public consultation on the Camberwell Old Cemetery CMP and Camberwell New Cemetery CMP is expected to commence in 2024.

# Have your say on the draft Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Nunhead Cemetery

CMPs review and create actions for all areas of the Cemeteries management including ecology, woodlands and trees, buildings and memorials and visitor experience and infrastructure.

We have developed a draft CMP and welcome you to read and return any comments you have via the online survey by **21 July**. The CMP and survey are available from;



[www.southwark.gov.uk/cemeteryCMPs](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/cemeteryCMPs)

The webpage will also include opportunities to speak to the project team with any questions you may have. If you need any more information please also contact

[parks@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:parks@southwark.gov.uk)

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