

## A SHORT WALK IN EARLHAM CEMETERY

*This walk starts and ends at North Lodge on Bowthorpe Road. Allow around an hour. There is a map on page 6 of this guide.*

*The main part of this walk is on paved or tarred roads and tracks, although there are some optional detours on grassy paths. Please be respectful of people visiting graves or attending funerals and keep a lookout for vehicles sharing the roads you are walking along.*

Leave North Lodge and enter the Cemetery through the gates. Immediately on your right is a **Western Red Cedar, *Thuja plicata***, one of many fine examples in the Cemetery. Its longer, flask-shaped cones distinguish it from Lawson Cypress, which has rounded, pea sized cones. On the opposite side of the track, by the “Closing Time” notice is a **Persian Ironwood, *Parrotia persica***, whose flowers are maroon clusters of stamens, which appear in late winter. The leaves are rather like Witch Hazel, a member of the same family. They turn a spectacular red in autumn. “Ironwood” refers to the strength of the timber.

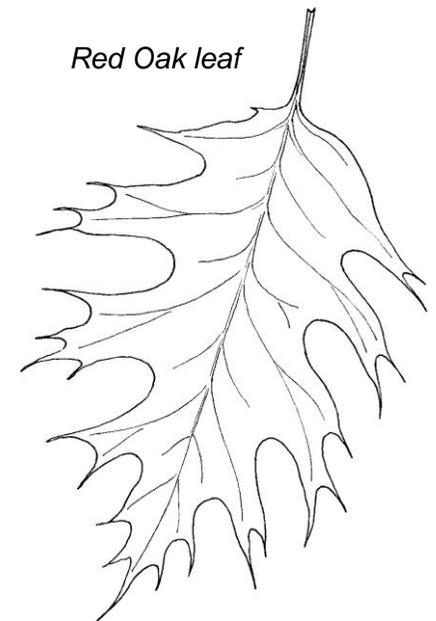
An avenue of **Common Lime trees (*Tilia x europaea*)** leads towards the Burial Chapel and Crematorium in the centre of the Cemetery.

Earlham Cemetery was opened in March 1856, following an Order from the Home Secretary banning burials in Norwich churchyards. The land was formerly owned by a Mr. John Cater and used to grow a variety of crops, including wheat, barley, turnips, potatoes and hay.

**North Lodge** was built in 1855 – 56 and was one of two lodges constructed to house the Cemetery Superintendents, who took care of the Cemetery and supervised and kept records of burials. On the right immediately after the first pair of Limes is the red granite grave of **James Self**, who lived in the North Lodge until his death in March 1883. He was the first Superintendent of non-conformist burials; the other Superintendent lived at South Lodge near Earlham Road and was responsible for Church of England burials.

Turn left after the second pair of Limes and follow the tarmac road curving downhill. A **Cherry Laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*)** on the right is one of several species of plant with **extrafloral nectaries**, small glands on the leaf shoots that provide nectar. These are a valuable source of food for insects such as bees and hoverflies when there are not many flowers about.

To the left is a fine **Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)** and, slightly further down the hill on the left is a large **Weeping Beech (*Fagus sylvatica* form *pendula*)**. Further down the hill the road is lined by several magnificent **Copper Beeches (*Fagus sylvatica* form *purpurea*)**. In early spring **crocuses and squills (*Scilla siberica*)** flower here and in late spring there is a sea of frothy white **Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)** under the trees.



Red Oak leaf

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The herbage in this part of the Cemetery is allowed to grow long before being cut. The whole Cemetery east of Farrow Road is a **County Wildlife Site** and is a very important natural resource, home to many wild flowers, birds and insects, as well as mammals such as foxes and muntjac deer. Nowadays the grass in the Cemetery is cut by petrol mowers and strimmers but until the mid 1950s it was cut by scythe twice every summer.

Stay on the tarmac road as it curves upwards. There is a **Small-leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata*)** here at the junction of two roads, which often attracts scale insects and these are prey for several species of ladybirds. The rough road to the left leads under another avenue of Common Limes to the Dereham Road gate. This part of the Cemetery is full of **Primroses** in the spring.

**Optional detour to old army burial ground:** Turn left at the junction then take the first right turn down a grass path (past the grave of John Wilkins) to visit the old army burial ground. The path leads through swathes of Cow Parsley and Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) before opening out onto the sunlit grassy sward by the war memorial, "**The Spirit of the Army**" (1878), designed by the sculptor John Bell and paid for by public subscription. The soldiers buried here were mainly stationed at Britannia Barracks. The plot became full by the middle of the First World War and there is another military burial ground further west in the Cemetery, with a war cross.

This area of the Cemetery is part of an extension made in 1874. The **Yew trees (*Taxus baccata*)** attract **Goldcrests** and other birds, and **Speckled Wood** butterflies like the dappled shade.

Look for the grave of Paymaster Sergeant **David McSweeney**, who accidentally drowned in June 1875 while boating on the River Wensum.

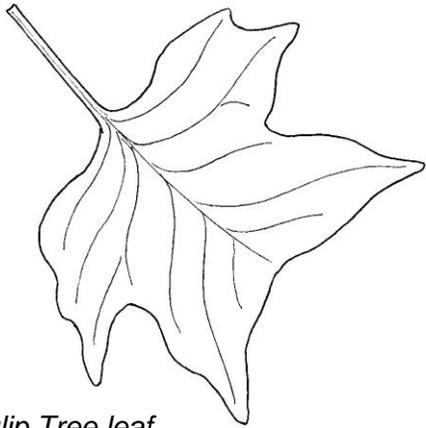
Retrace your steps to the road junction by the Small-leaved Lime tree.

Continue on the tarmac road as it swings right and uphill. A large, evergreen, **Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*)** on the right hand side of the road is the first of several you will see. Opposite is a memorial with a draped urn, to **James Matthews, a Medical Botanist** (died 1878). He was born in Cambridge and lived at Raglan Street, just off the bottom of Dereham Road.

Ignore the track to the left and continue on the tarmac road. Also ignore a turning to the right to the Burial Chapel, beneath an avenue of **Sweet Chestnuts (*Castanea sativa*)**. Just before this turning is another very fine Copper Beech, which has **Spanish Bluebells** underneath in spring.

The houses to your left are on **Winter Road**, named after a Mr. J. J. Winter who owned the cricket field that they were built on. (He was a local Solicitor and also suggested that the old army burial ground should be laid out.) There are several **Ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*)** along the boundary. Ash dieback disease reached the Cemetery in 2014 but it is mainly confined to small ash saplings at present.

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Tulip Tree leaf

On the right is a **Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)**, which has tulip shaped flowers in June or July, though these can be hidden in the strangely shaped leaves.

The road continues straight ahead and passes the prominent **Bullard family burial vault**. Richard Bullard (died 1864) founded the **Anchor Brewery** on Coslany Street in Norwich. The brewery was eventually taken over by Watneys and brewing ceased but later the buildings were sensitively redeveloped into houses and flats.



Sweet Gum leaf

Follow the road as it takes a sharp turn right. The road passes between an avenue of **Turkish Hazels (*Corylus colurna*)** and on the left is a small tree with fine maple-like leaves, a **Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styracifolia*)**. It has beautiful leaf colour in autumn (reds and yellows), as does the **Spindle tree (*Euonymus europaeus*)** on the left just past it (pink leaves, pink and orange berries).

Ahead on the left is the **South Lodge**, which was sold by Norwich City Council in 2015. Until the 1960s about thirty staff looked after Earlham and Rosary Cemeteries, including six gardeners who raised over 40,000 plants a year in four greenhouses at South Lodge.

On the right of the road by the lodge is a **Portuguese Laurel (*Prunus lusitanica*)** and a **Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)**. Look through the Holly's foliage to two unusual memorials. The one further away is that of **John Abel** (died 1883), a horse dealer.

Arrive at the crossroads with the main road through the Cemetery. To the left is the Earlham Road entrance. On the corner is a **drinking fountain**, given to the Cemetery by Ambrose Winter, longstanding Chairman of the Norwich Burials Board. It was erected in 1892 and originally stood in the middle of the crossroads, where it must have been an obstruction to traffic.

**Optional detour to James Baldry's grave:** Turn right at the crossroads and follow the road towards the Burial Chapel. On the left just before the Burial Chapel is a **Variegated Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)**. Just past this there is a bench and then a slab path by a beech hedge. The first headstone by the path is that of **James Baldry** (died 20<sup>th</sup> December 1855). He was erecting scaffolding on one of the burial chapels when he fell and died, thus becoming the first person to be buried in the Cemetery, three months before the official opening.

The Burial Chapel and Crematorium you see today was constructed in 1963 – 1964 and replaced the twin burial chapels built when the

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Cemetery was first opened (one Church of England, with a bell turret, and the other the non-conformist chapel). The architect for the Lodges and chapels was Edward Everett Benest, the City Surveyor.

Retrace your steps to the crossroads with the drinking fountain and turn right onto another tarmac road.

If you aren't taking the detour, continue straight over the crossroads. Immediately on the right is the **Roman Catholic Chapel**, which dates from 1874. Beyond the chapel are the original **Catholic burial areas**. The headstones here are often quite elaborate. The founder of the Round Table, Louis Marchesi, is buried here, as well as members of Norwich's Valori family, originally from Italy and one time owners of a number of fish and chip shops in the city.

Look out for Jays perching on gravestones as you approach an avenue of **Horse Chestnut trees (*Aesculus hippocastanum*)**. The crocuses here are spectacular in spring.

*Jay on gravestone*



Follow the road as it makes a sharp right turn. The large spreading tree on the right corner is a **Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)**, an American species with tiny black edible fruit (which taste pleasant but are mostly stone). On the left at the bend is a small slender tree with opposite pairs of heart-shaped leaves growing out of its branches on short red stems. It is a **Katsura (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*)**. In autumn its leaves smell of candyfloss.

Pass a couple of rows of pleached Lime trees on your left. The Yews and conifers here are a good place to spot Goldcrests – listen for their high pitched twittering call.

The Beech hedge on the right is the boundary of the **Memorial Garden** at the back of the Crematorium. The graves in this section of the Cemetery were mostly removed in 1970 to make way for a rose garden. Much of this planting was replaced by shrubs and hardy perennials about ten years later. The Crematorium and Memorial Gardens were sold by Norwich City Council in 1998 and are maintained by Dignity plc.

*Goldcrest on Yew*



Continue straight ahead and on the left is the memorial bounded by railings is that of **Henry Trevor (died 1897), the creator of The Plantation Garden** and other family members, including his father-in-law, **Joseph Gray (died 1862)**.

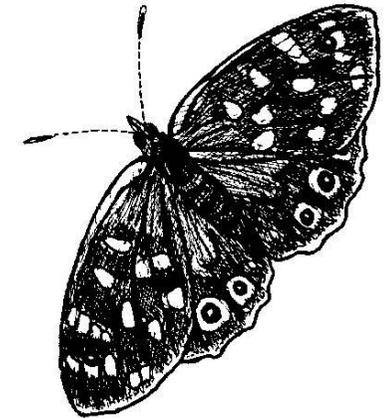
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Straight ahead is an area enclosed by wire fencing and gates, which was used as a nursery for plants grown in the Cemetery. Earlier still, this was the site of the **Iron Hospital**, an isolation hospital built in the 1870s to house patients with infectious diseases such as smallpox. Its function was taken over by the Isolation Hospital built in the 1890s, now the Julian Hospital.

Continue on the tarmac road, as it turns sharply right and then sharply left beneath an avenue of Limes. As the road bends right again a grass path leads through a gap in the hedge to the **Jewish Burial Ground**, which was established at the same time as the Cemetery.

A shady avenue of **Limes** and then **Horse Chestnuts** takes you back to a crossroads with the main road to the Burial Chapel. Turn left here to return to North Lodge, the start of the walk.

*Right: Speckled Wood butterfly*



See the next page for a map of this walk. As you can see, there is a lot more of the Cemetery still to explore.

**Friends of Earlham Cemetery** produced this walking guide. To find out more about our group and the Cemetery (including its history and wildlife), visit our website at [www.friendsofearlhamcemetery.co.uk](http://www.friendsofearlhamcemetery.co.uk). We hold regular walks in the Cemetery, open to all.

There are comprehensive lists of trees, wild flowers and wildlife on our website.

We can be contacted by e-mail at [friendsofearlhamcemetery@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:friendsofearlhamcemetery@yahoo.co.uk).

If you have any comments about this walking guide, or want to submit any wildlife records, please get in touch.

Line drawings by Vanna Bartlett.

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