

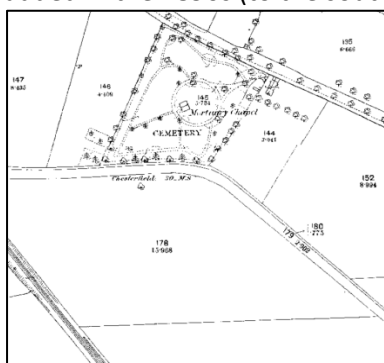
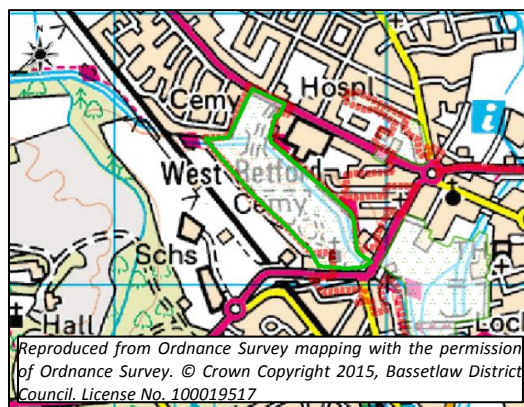
Unregistered Park & Garden: **Retford Cemetery**

NCC/BDC Ref:
UPG47

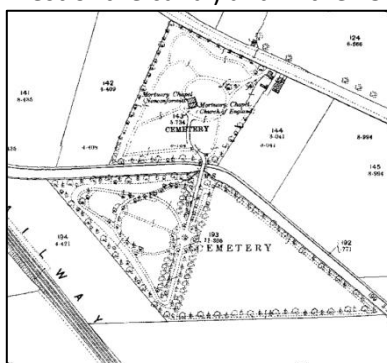
Date(s):
 1854, 1890s & c1950s

Description & historic information:

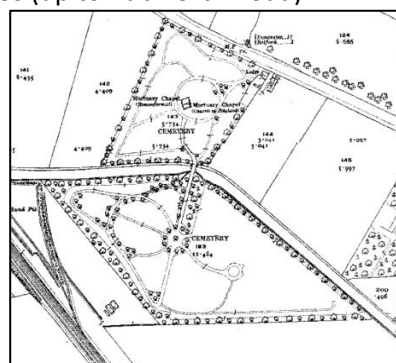
Large cemetery of 3 parts, with original cemetery opened 1854 off North Road, and later extensions added in the 1890s (to the south west of the canal) and in the 1950s (up to Babworth Road).



1886 Ordnance Survey Map

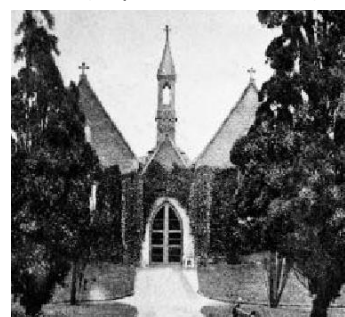


1899 Ordnance Survey Map



1920 Ordnance Survey Map

The first part of the cemetery (between Chesterfield Canal and North Road) opened in 1854 (first recorded burial 24th October 1854ⁱ), the cost was 1800 pounds and the site contained two mortuary chapels (C of E and Non-conformist) linked by a porch (designed by Arthur Wilson of Nottinghamⁱⁱ, demolished mid-20th century). Entrance gateway with stone gate piers and iron gates. Numerous mature trees throughout of various species, including large belt around perimeter. Range of significant monuments. Cemetery lodge exists to south, designed by James Fowler (of Louth), gothic revival style, red brick with stone dressings (although with altered window openings), slate roof brick front boundary wall with iron railings.



Mortuary chapel, c1910 (Source: www.picturethepast.org.uk)



Older memorials close to site of former mortuary chapel



Cemetery Lodge, adjacent to main entrance, North Road

Extension to cemetery added in 1890s on the south west side of the canal, linked to the 1854 section by a stone and iron bridge, with a small crypt underneath on the 1854 side. Extension has similar layout, with circular walkways and belts of mature trees around perimeter. Again, a range of significant monuments throughout.



Formal layout of paths and trees in 1890s section



Bridge over Chesterfield Canal

A further extension was added in the 1950s, to the south east of the 1890s section, up to Babworth Road. This end of the site contains the Catholic Church, completed in 1959, designed by E Bower Norris (of Sandy & Norris). Site is typified by a semi-formal parkland layout, with belts of trees supplemented by large areas of open space and with isolated specimen trees throughout.



Aerial photograph of Retford Cemetery, taken 2007, with 1950s section edged red, 1890s section orange and 1854 section yellow (source: Bassetlaw District Council) – Inset pictures show features of 1950s section, including tree-lined driveway, specimen trees and Catholic Church.

The Chesterfield Canal running through the site was completed in 1777, designed by master engineer James Brindley (see the approved Retford Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Planⁱⁱⁱ for further details on the canal).

Features of significance:

1854 section of cemetery with range of ornate monuments, front boundary railings with hedge, gated entrance with stone gate piers and iron gates and cemetery lodge. Grassed mound in centre of site marks position of former mortuary chapels. Wide variety of significant trees.

1890s section (also with numerous monuments and significant trees) linked to earlier site by a stone and iron bridge over the canal, with iron hand rails and a small crypt underneath (on 1854 side). Similar layout to 1854 section.

1950s section appears as a landscaped park, with only the northern section currently containing burials. Large open spaces with specimen trees, with smaller belts of trees and tree-lined routes. Catholic Church at southern end adjacent to Babworth Road (completed 1959, designed by E Bower Norris of Sandy & Norris).

Chesterfield Canal runs through the site, completed 1777 designed by James Brindley. Several war graves throughout cemetery.

Listed Buildings:	n/a
Scheduled Ancient Monuments:	n/a
Conservation Area:	Retford Conservation Area (designated 6 th July 2011) – All relevant unlisted buildings and structures within the Conservation Area are regarded as ‘positive buildings’
Local Interest Buildings:	n/a

Retford Cemetery



References:

ⁱ *Kelly's Directory of Nottinghamshire*; 1891; p1310.

ⁱⁱ *Nottinghamshire Guardian*; 4th May 1854.

ⁱⁱⁱ Bassetlaw District Council; *Retford Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan*; May 2012.