

## REGISTER OF PARKS AND GARDENS OF SPECIAL HISTORIC INTEREST

### DRAFT DESCRIPTION

LANCASHIRE

PRESTON CEMETERY  
(NEW HALL LANE CEMETERY)

PRESTON  
SD5630

GD3424

A cemetery laid out in 1855 retaining the original design and mature tree cover reflecting the C19 planting scheme.

### HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Preston Cemetery was laid out in 1855 by the Preston Burial Board on an area shown as open fields on the 1848 OS map. Three cemetery chapels (demolished late C20) were designed 1854-5 by TD Barry. The cemetery was opened on the second of July 1855, when most of the town's burial grounds were closed (Hewitson). A Jewish burial area was established within the site in the early C20 and a Muslim area followed in the late C20.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

#### LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING

The cemetery is situated c 2.5km east of the centre of Preston in the suburb of Ribblesdale. The c 18ha site is on a rectangular plot of level land in an urban and residential area. New Hall Lane forms the southern boundary, where there is a stone wall which formerly had railings, some of which have been reinstated near the entrance. Miller Road forms the northern boundary where there is a stone wall surmounted by railings. On the east side there is a low stone wall and C20 fences alongside a footpath called Occupation Lane. Fences divide the cemetery from houses and gardens on the west side. Main views are internal with emphasis on unfolding scenes rather than vistas.

#### ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES

There are two main entrances to the cemetery. The principal entrance is at the south-west corner at the junction of Blackpool Road and New Hall Lane where there are stone gate piers flanking an arched stone entrance of 1855, probably by TD Barry. Lodges which stood on either side have been demolished. On the north side of the site there is an entrance of c 1925 with stone gate piers and ironwork gates on Miller Road directly opposite the entrance to Preston New Cemetery (outside the registered area). A pedestrian entrance at the north-west tip of the site had a lodge, probably by TD Barry (demolished). There is another pedestrian entrance with an iron gate at the south-east corner which was probably introduced mid-late C20.

#### OTHER LAND

The main entrance at the south-west corner leads north-east to a forecourt with late C20 cemetery offices on the north west side. Paths divide opposite the entrance on each side of a grassed area with flowerbeds. One branch leads east to the section designated for

Nonconformist burials and the site of the Nonconformist Chapel (demolished) which formerly stood c 200m east of the main entrance. The other branch runs north past a works yard to a point c 100m from the entrance where the path divides again. A First World War memorial, in the form of a stone cross, stands at the junction of the paths. One branch runs north through the Roman Catholic part of the cemetery, and links with subsidiary curving paths and the site of the Roman Catholic Chapel (demolished) which formerly stood c 325m north-east of the main entrance. The Anglican part of the cemetery occupies the centre and north-eastern part of the site. A path leads north-east from the war memorial to the site of the Anglican chapel (demolished) which forms the main focus of the lay out. It lies c 300m north-east of the main entrance slightly to the east of the centre of the site amid a series of looping paths which radiate from the platform on which it stood. The sites of the other chapels also relate to a specific pattern of curving paths, the Roman Catholic area having a system of concentric near-circular paths on the north-west side, and the Nonconformist area with paths describing elongated interlocking oval patterns in the south east corner. The plan therefore reflects three linked but distinct elements in the pattern of the different denominational areas.

A Jewish burial area, established in the early C20, lies in the south-east corner of the site. There is a late C20 brick meeting room and the rectangular plot is bordered by late C20 railings. Just to the north there is a Muslim burial area, established in the late C20, also bordered with late C20 railings. This is given a distinctive appearance by the fact that almost every grave is planted with a rose tree. A late C20 Muslim prayer shelter lies nearby, c 300m from the main entrance. An area alongside the northern boundary, west of the north entrance, was designated as a woodland burial site in the late C20 and is bounded by a border of shrubs.

Mature planting, mainly consisting of native broadleaf trees, is informal, and the paths unfold amidst the trees as the site is traversed. Perimeter planting encloses the site, and the pattern of trees and paths create an inward-looking character. The 1890 OS map shows that the whole of the perimeter was planted with trees and softened by varying the thickness and outline of the belt. The planting within the cemetery broadly follows the scheme shown on the 1890 map, though it has been augmented, probably by a combination of deliberate planting and self seeding. The cemetery has a range of Victorian memorials and a group of gravestones commemorating soldiers killed in the First World War, all of one design with regimental badges, which lies just to the west of the northern entrance on to Miller Road.

## REFERENCES

### PUBLISHED MATERIAL

*Preston Guardian*, 16 June 1855 p 4

A Hewitson, *History of Preston in the County of Lancaster* (1883) p 249-50

W Farrer & J Brownbill, eds, *The Victoria History of the County of Lancaster*, 7, (1912), p 105

N Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: North Lancashire* (1969), p 203

### MAPS

Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile: 1<sup>st</sup> edition published 1847

1928 with additions of 1938

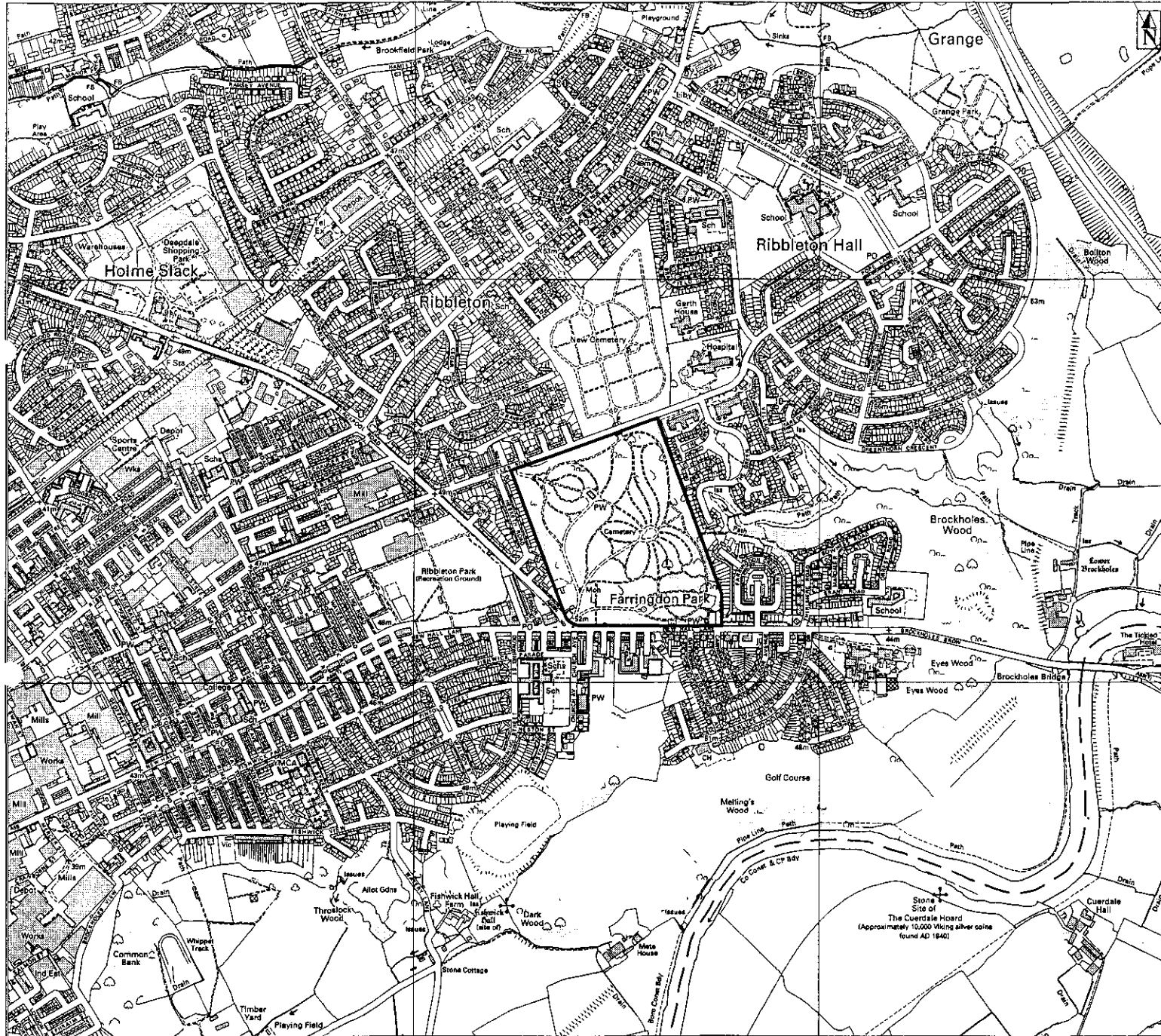
25" to 1 mile: 1<sup>st</sup> edition surveyed 1890-91-92

### ARCHIVAL MATERIAL

Five early C20 postcards showing views of the cemetery, Preston Local History Library Postcard Collection

Description written: September 2001  
Register Inspector: CEH  
Revised 6<sup>th</sup> November 2001

# Register of Parks and Gardens



Name: PRESTON CEMETERY

Number: PG3424  
 Grade: II  
 Registration date: 06/06/2002

County/UA: LANCASHIRE

District: PRESTON

Parish:

Notes:

For further information regarding this Park and Garden please contact English Heritage


Map centred on NGR: SD5642730406

Boundary captured at: 1:10000

Map scale: 1:10,000

Extract from OS sheet(s): SD52NW; SD53SW;  
 SD52NE; SD53SE

Key:

 Designated Park and Garden

Sheet 1 of 1

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