

YORKSHIRE GEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



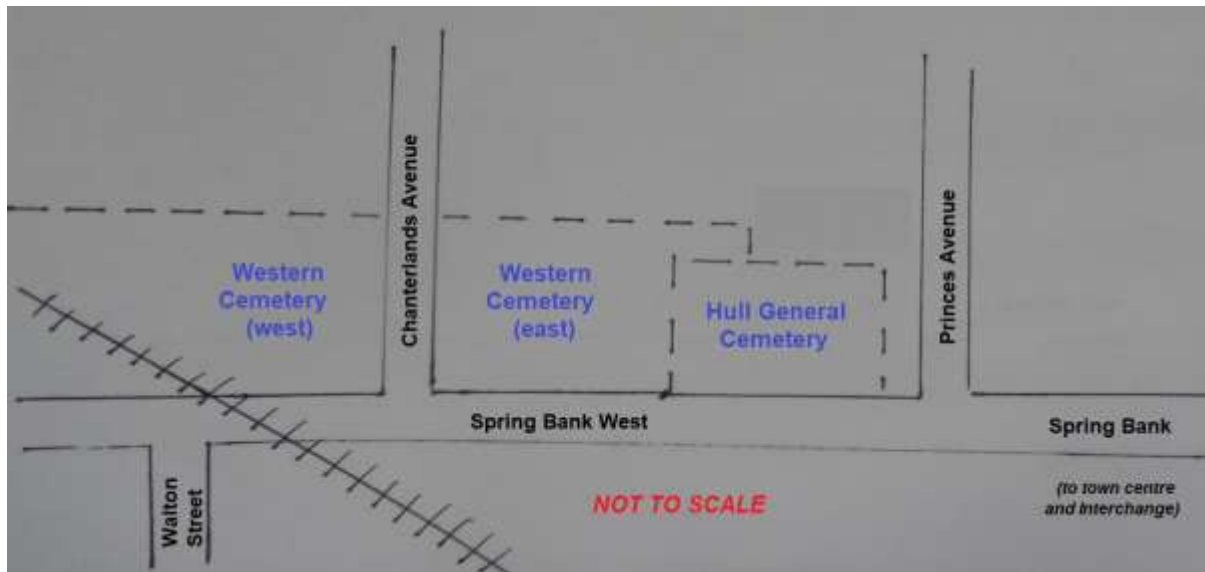
Virtual field trip to Spring Bank Cemetery in Hull

By Anne and Mike Horne

Commonly known as Spring Bank Cemetery, the site is really two cemeteries. The General Cemetery was opened in 1847 and now has many mature trees. The Western Cemetery opened in 1889 and is now divided by Chanterlands Avenue. For this virtual geological field trip we are going to visit a part of the western half of Western Cemetery.



The cemetery we are visiting is at the south end of Chanterlands Avenue, near the level crossing on Spring Bank West. It is roughly a thirty minute walk from the Hull Interchange (bus and train station) or the University of Hull, walking at a casual pace.

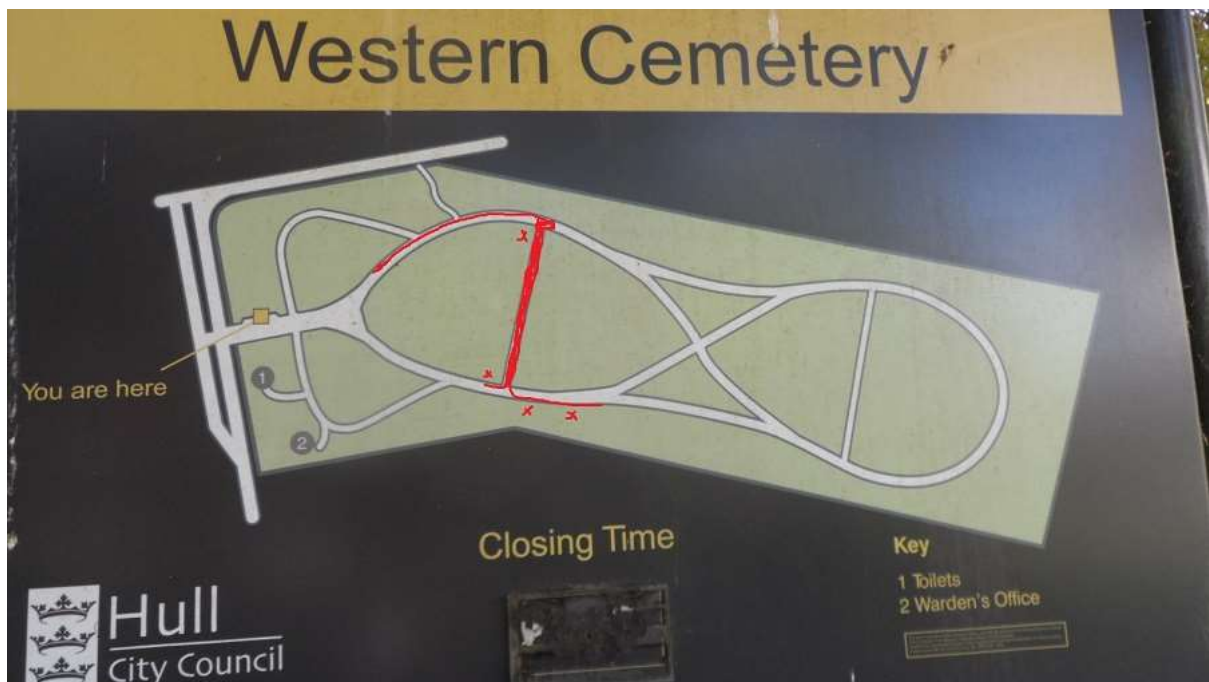


Please check the opening times when you visit to ensure you are not locked in. In winter the cemetery often closes at dusk. Dogs are not allowed. The toilets never seem to be open. There is time-limited, on-street parking nearby on Charterlands Avenue; or you should be able to park in the cemetery as long as you are not causing an obstruction. The roads in the cemetery are metalled with tarmac so should be suitable for wheelchair users – the memorials selected for this walk are mostly close to the roads. The grassed areas may be uneven and may be slippery when wet.

Please remember that this is a cemetery and you are viewing memorials. Treat the memorials with respect and do not damage them. Please do not lean on the memorials: they may be unstable. It would be polite to keep away from people who are visiting and tending specific memorials.

As geologists we are not able to hammer, scratch or test the rocks used; we have to rely on our sight only to identify the rocks used for the memorials. The grid references are from a handheld GPS with about 8 metres accuracy (perhaps less under the trees). For the identification of the gravestones we have used the name of the first person listed on the memorial inscription.

There is a scale card used on the close up pictures of the rock types – the scale is in millimetres and centimetres; the whole card measures about 85 x 60 mm (slightly bigger than a credit card). There are some hyperlinks in this document that will take you to definitions of the rock types for further information on the Hull Geological Society website.



The route we are taking is marked in red on this plan of the site. We have picked out a few of the memorials that are of geological or historical interest. There are many more for you to explore. Most of the ones we have picked are included in a RIGS ([Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Site](#)), an area designated in 2004 for its educational value (we have informally called this area “the avenue” in this document).

There are no local rocks in the area [around Hull](#) suitable for making memorials, they all have to be brought into the city and are thus indicative of trade routes. Most of the memorials selected date around 1900 and their design and [imagery](#) offer insights into the beliefs and customs of those times.

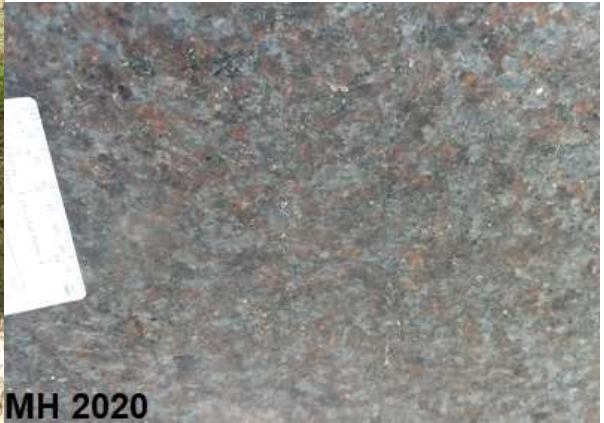
After we have entered the cemetery gates and walked past the gatehouse we will look at a few monuments on the left side of the road.



No 1 – NGR TA 07290 29574 - Doris O'Pray died 1907 - draped urn design in [Carrara Marble](#).



No. 2 – (nearby) Valdemar Agerskow d. 1899 – Anchor and chains in [Carrara Marble](#).



No 4 – NGR TA 07265 29559 George Spring d 1896 – gravestone in dark red [granite](#) (probably Vergo Granite).

No 5 – Ellen Rayner d. 1902 – Angel (with head missing) in [Carrara Marble](#).



No 6 – NGR TA 07238 29536 Zebedee Scaping d. 1909, Head Master of Trinity House Navigation Schools for 55 years – obelisk of dark grey igneous rock (perhaps [dolerite](#)) restored in 2009 by the Old Boys Association (according to a new [basalt](#) plaque added to the memorial).

No 7 - Napoleon Heron d. 1949 – angel in [Carrara Marble](#).

No 8 – Ada Bacon d. 1923 – Celtic cross in [Carrara Marble](#).



Start of "the avenue"





No 9 – (west side of the avenue) NGR TA 07167 29551 - memorial to the R38 airship disaster of 24th August 1921 - 28 British people from the RAF, National Physical Laboratory and Royal Airship Works were killed; 9 of whom are buried here; 16 people from the Rigid Airship Detachment of the United States Navy also died – [Portland Stone](#) with the fossils raised due to weathering. The plaques are green slate (perhaps [Tilberthwaite Tuff](#) from the Lake District) – these replaced the original bronze plaques which have stained the limestone green.



No 10 – opposite number 9 (east side of the avenue) - 3 modern memorials – William Cass 1982 book design in polished black [basalt](#) with gold lettering. Benjamin Crag d 1976 [Carrara Marble](#) with lead lettering. Noel Jubb d. 1976 in grey [granite](#).

no 11 – (west side of the avenue) - Bartholomew Binnington d. 1909
[Carrara Marble](#) with lead lettering. Was this a member of the Binnington family that ran a bus company in Hull?

No 12 - (west side of the avenue) Joseph Simmons d. 1959 - Dark
[Larvikite](#).

No 13 – (west side of the avenue) - Emily Mackman 1904. Grey and black igneous rock with black [xenoliths](#) (probably [diorite](#))



No 14 – (west side of the avenue) Charlie Powell d 1906 - red [granite](#) scroll design.

No 15 – (west side of the avenue) Catherine Ridley d. 1905 - Dark igneous rock.



No 16 – (west side of the avenue) Rosa Goodwin d. 1905, wife of Arthur Goodwin of Doncaster - Celtic cross in pale grey [granite](#)



No 17 – (west side of the avenue) - William Henry Little – pale [Larvikite](#).



No 18 – (west side of the avenue) - Richard Toogood d.1904, “JP of this city” – red [granite](#) with strained quartz.



No 20 - (west side of the avenue) - Muriel Staning, also Gertram Staning killed in action in France 1918 - rustic Celtic Cross in coarse grey [granite](#).

No 21 – (west side of the avenue) Alice Lovitt d. 1908, grey and black igneous rock (probably [diorite](#)).



No 22 – (east side of the avenue) two memorials – John Whaley d. 1917, lost at sea through enemy action – urn in [Carrara Marble](#) on a [basalt](#) column.



(Three rows behind)– Albert Ovel d. 1973 – red and black [gneiss](#).



No 23 – (east side of the avenue) Carrie Winsor d 1917 – draped urn on a draped square column in [Carrara Marble](#).



No 24 – (east side of the avenue) Andrew Cochrane d. 1917 – scroll in yellow-grey [granite](#).



No 25 - (east side of the avenue) - Elizabeth Clark d. 1916 – angel in [Carrara Marble](#) on a round [Larvikite](#) column.

No 26 – (west side of the avenue) Agnes Ruthven d. 1901, Major to E Y R who died at La Vacquerie, Cambrai, France when in command of the 2/6th Gloucestershire Regiment - Obelisk in pink/red [granite](#).



No 27 – (west side of the avenue) William Wheatley d. 1900, also Sabina Hope who died in 1911 aged 70 “devoted servant for 60 years”. Urn with handles on square plinth in grey igneous rock (probably [diorite](#)).

No 28 – (west side of the avenue) Gordon Ledger d 2006. Black [basalt](#) with a photograph.



No 29 – (in row behind 28) - ? Munkman d. 1901 – Anchor and chain on a boulder in [Carrara Marble](#).

No 30 – (west side of the avenue) Thomas Rumley d .1898 Urn with garland in [Carrara Marble](#).



No 31 – (west side of the avenue) NGR TA 07193 29625 (under a tree)
Owen Daley MD d. 1897. Stylised Celtic cross in grey granite.



North end of the avenue

Turn right (east) and walk about 10 m



No 32 NGR TA 07211 29629 Elizabeth Walton d. 1907 (and other Waltons) large obelisk in medium grained dark grey igneous rock. Nearby Walton Street was named after the Waltons.



No 33 Niels Mortensen 1881-1923, born in Klitmølden, Denmark, who died at sea and his wife Agnes (nee Groth) born in Horsens 1890 who died in Epping in 1955 - ship carved into rough red [granite](#).

Retrace your steps and then walk about 10m west of the avenue



No 34 NGR TA 07174 29650 On the north side of the road there is a group of three memorials to people killed in the “Baltic Outrage” (also known as “the North Sea Incident”), when the Russian Baltic Fleet attacked the Hull trawler fleet in the North Sea mistaking it for an invading Japanese Navy on 22nd October 1904.

- William Legett from the trawler Crane - [Carrara Marble](#)

- Captain George Smith from the trawler Crane – [Carrara Marble](#)
- Captain Walter Whelpton from the trawler Mino who died on 13th May 1905 “of shock caused by the Russian Baltic Fleet”.

For further reading - “North Sea Incident 21 October 1904” by Arthur Credland, 2004, published by Hull Museums and Art Galleries.

Walk on a further ca 35 m, still on the north side of the road.



No 35 [War grave](#) – NGR TA 07146 29656 T B Wilson d. 1917 – [Portland Stone](#).

6 rows further on



No 36 NGR TA 07133 29658 – two memorials - Henry Petty d. 1905 – carving of railway 0-6-0 loco no. 1420 in [York Stone](#). This is next to William Gawthorpe d. 1905 in [Carrara Marble](#), which is losing its lead lettering due to weathering by acid rain.

We hope you have enjoyed this self-guided walk. There are some more self-guided walks on the websites of the [Yorkshire Geological Society](#) and the [Hull Geological Society](#). Mike also leads geological walks from time to time in Hull, Beverley, Driffield and other locations; details can be seen on the HGS website.

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