Leicester's first municipal cemetery which was opened in 1849, is the third oldest in the country and is still in use. Listed Grade 2 in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens, the Cemetery covers 12 hectares (approximately 31 acres). Over the years it has changed little and contains many classical headstones and monuments demonstrating the wealth and standing of individuals buried there. The Cemetery is the resting place of many of Leicester’s notable Victorians and Edwardians such as Thomas Cook, John Ellis, Fielding Johnson and Arthur Wakerley. It is a unique green space close to the heart of Leicester, providing a tranquil environment for members of the public visiting graves or walking among the mature trees and the abundant flora and fauna.

The Heritage Lottery Fund and Leicester City Council have funded the Restoration Project which commenced on site in the summer of 2005. An interpretation area has been designed on the site formerly occupied by the Victorian chapels. A new Visitor Centre has been built inside the main entrance, whilst the main paths in the Cemetery have been resurfaced and new railings erected along University Road and Welford Road.

The Visitor Centre is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. The main entrance to the Cemetery is located on the A5119 Welford Road, Leicester, approximately 1.5 miles from the city centre. Parking is allowed on the main carriageway in the Cemetery. There are entrances for pedestrians next to the Chaplaincy, opposite Mayor’s Walk on University Road.

There are regular bus services along University Road and Welford Road. For details of services call Traveline on 0870 6082608. (local rate charges)
The Central Area
This area contains many notable monuments. The stone steps leading up to the Former Chapel Area are original and Victorian boot scrapers are visible at the top of the steps.

Former Chapel Area
On the site of the former Anglican and Dissenting chapels are plaques commemorating people buried in the Cemetery. The footpaths lead to the former chapel monuments. The footpaths have been maintained in line with the original layout of the area. The plaques contain information about the individuals commemorated and their grave numbers. On two lecterns to the rear of the area are maps showing the locations of each individual's memorial.

Visitor Centre
The Visitor Centre is open to the public as per advertised times, with information available. The Centre has toilet facilities for the disabled and the general public.

World War 1 Memorial
In the North Eastern area of the Cemetery is a memorial to service personnel who died at The Fourth Northern Military Cemetery, opened in 1917. The memorial includes a plaque listing the names of those who died and a plaque listing the names of the fallen Belgians. The memorial incorporates an Imperial War Graves monument designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield.

The Gatehouse
The original cemetery gardeners' lodge, The Gatehouse, was purchased from Leicester City Council in the 1990s and now houses the Chaplaincy of Leicester University.

Thomas Cook
The travel pioneer, Thomas Cook, is interred in the Cemetery. In 1841 he arranged for the Midland Counties Railway to stop at Rugby, and over the next few years his excursion programme rapidly expanded. The Thomas Cook travel agency still exists to this day.

The Original Boundary Wall
In this area the original boundary wall and entrance are still visible. The present gates on Welford Road were added in 1895 to prevent animals straying into the cemetery from the cattle market across the road.