



# Bunhill Fields for *Wildlife*

A shaded habitat suitable for ferns

Bunhill Fields Burial Ground is recognised as Site of Importance for Nature Conservation highlighting its value for wildlife.

Avenues of Plane trees (*Platanus x hispanica*) were planted in the 1860s. Other trees in the burial ground include Norway Maple, Sycamore, Chestnut, Lime, Oak, Ash as well as Fig and Mulberry Trees.

Birds noted include Great Tit, Blue Tit, Wren and Robin. The Spotted Flycatcher, a UK Biodiversity Action Plan priority species, is reported to be breeding on site.

In the spring carpets of crocus, snowdrop, daffodil and hyacinth appear amongst the graves and under the trees. The memorials, along with the shade from the overhead trees provide a suitable habitat for lichens, bryophytes and ferns.

A tranquil garden valued by its users



## THE CITY GARDENS

The gardens in the City are part of a network of open spaces, parks and gardens around London, owned and managed by the City of London as part of its commitment to sustaining a world class city. Each open space is a unique resource managed for the use and enjoyment of the public and for the conservation of wildlife and historic landscape. A full list of sites and visitor information can be found on our website at: [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/openspaces](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/openspaces) or by contacting the Open Spaces Directorate on 020 7606 3030.



For further information please contact:

The City Gardens Office,  
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London EC2P 2EJ  
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E-mail: [parks.gardens@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:parks.gardens@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

Whilst in the City Gardens do not hesitate to approach any of our staff, who will be happy to assist you.

If you require this leaflet in another format please contact 020 8472 3584

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## BUNHILL FIELDS BURIAL GROUND



# Welcome to Bunhill Fields

Bunhill Fields Burial Ground is located in the London borough of Islington but it is owned and maintained by the City of London. The 1.6 hectares of Bunhill Fields are an oasis of calm and greenery in a busy, congested locality just north of the City of London's Square Mile

It is one of the most celebrated Nonconformist burial grounds in England and has a long and fascinating history. There are close connections with two nearby nonconformist landmarks; the **Wesley Chapel**, 'the cathedral of world Methodism' and the **Quaker gardens**, (formerly the Quaker Burial Ground).

The burial ground's historic significance has been recognised by its designation as a Grade II listed Building, as part of the Bunhill Fields Burial Ground and Finsbury Square Conservation Area.

HERE  
LIES THE BODY OF  
MRS SUSANNA WESLEY.

# History of Bunhill Fields

The name Bunhill is thought to have been derived from 'Bone Hill' as the area has been a burial site for over a thousand years. By the time it closed for burials in 1854 around 123,000 people had been buried here. There are over 2,500 memorials providing a history of memorial design. An Act of Parliament in 1867 preserved Bunhill Fields as an 'Open Space' and the City of London has maintained this place for the public to enjoy ever since.



*William Blake's gravestone*

Many notable nonconformists have been buried at Bunhill (see map overleaf). The layout of the burial ground today derives from two design phases; the 1860s improvements by the City of London and the 1960s conversion to a garden of rest by one of the leading landscape architects of the period Peter Sheppard.

Illustrated London News 1866



## Bunhill Fields

# Information

Further information regarding Bunhill Fields can be obtained from

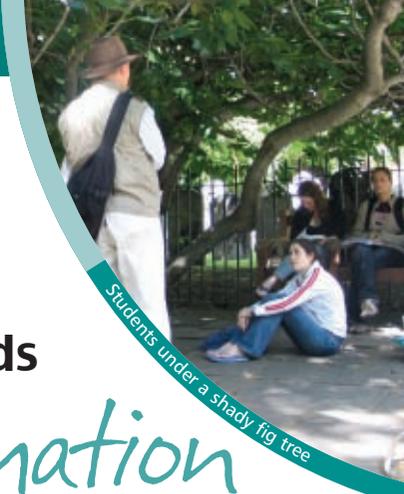
- The **Public Records Office** lists burials at Bunhill from 1713 to 1854.
- The **Guildhall Library** houses other Bunhill material, including interment order books for 1789–1854 and a record of the inscriptions on the monuments as they were in 1869.
- The **City Gardens website** also holds additional information regarding Bunhill Fields; [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/openspaces](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/openspaces)

A tour of the area with one of the City Guides is an excellent way to appreciate its varied history.

Children enjoying summer events



Students under a shady fig tree



# Bunhill Fields



**John Bunyan (1628–1688).** He was a tinker by trade but turned to religion and became a travelling preacher, imprisoned for unlicensed preaching (1660-72) and began writing. His most famous book is the *Pilgrim's Progress*.



**Thomas Bayes (1702–1761)**  
A mathematician and Presbyterian minister who is remembered for his theories regarding statistics and probability.



**Monument to Daniel Defoe (1660–1731)**  
Author of *Robinson Crusoe*, *Moll Flanders* and around 500 other books, leaflets etc.



How to find Quaker Gardens and Wesley's Chapel

**Quaker Gardens** ([www.bunhillfields.quaker.eu.org](http://www.bunhillfields.quaker.eu.org))

This is the Bunhill Fields Meeting House and Quaker Gardens. The gardens are a small fragment of a Quaker burial ground, which was the first freehold property owned by Quakers, bought in 1661 and used until 1855 for 12,000 burials.

**Wesley's Chapel** ([www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/](http://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/))

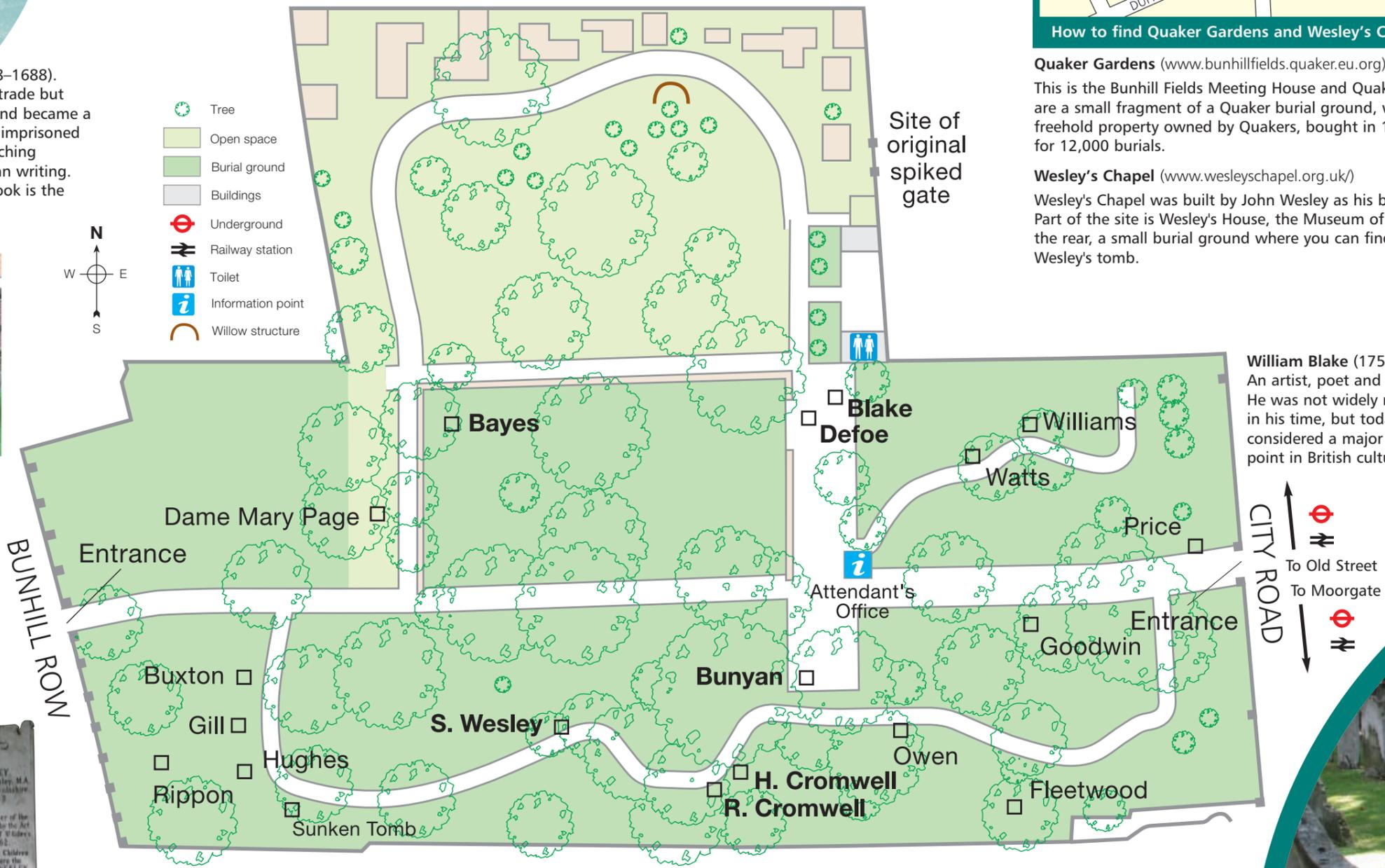
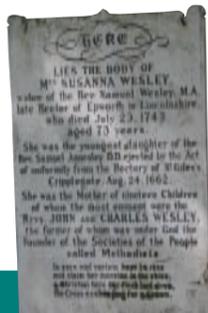
Wesley's Chapel was built by John Wesley as his base in London in 1778. Part of the site is Wesley's House, the Museum of Methodism and, to the rear, a small burial ground where you can find John Wesley's tomb.



Willow Structure (playfeature)

H. Cromwell and many other Cromwell relations are buried at Bunhill Fields, including Henry who was grandson of Oliver Cromwell.

**Susanna Wesley (1669–1742)**  
Mother of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism who is buried at Wesley's Chapel on City Road.



**William Blake (1757–1827):** An artist, poet and visionary. He was not widely recognised in his time, but today he is considered a major reference point in British culture.

