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**TOM SHARDLOW**  
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Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025

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If calling please ask for: Democratic Services

Dear Sir/Madam,

An Extraordinary meeting of the **Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel** will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Nuneaton on **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025** at **6.00 p.m.**

Yours faithfully,

Tom Shardlow

Chief Executive

To: All Members of the Environment  
and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny  
Panel

Councillors J. Sheppard (Chair), M. Walsh (Vice-  
Chair), J. Collett, J. Gutteridge, S. Markham,  
C. Phillips, R. Roze, C. Smith and B. Saru.

## AGENDA

### PART 1 – PUBLIC BUSINESS

#### 1. EVACUATION PROCEDURE

A fire drill is not expected, so if the alarm sounds please evacuate the building quickly and calmly. Exit by the door by which you entered the room or by the fire exits which are clearly indicated by the standard green fire exit signs.

Please use the stairs and do not use the lifts. Once out of the building, please gather outside Lloyds Bank on the opposite side of the road.

If you need any assistance in evacuating the building, please make yourself known to a member of staff.

Please also make sure all your mobile phones are turned off or set to silent.

#### 2. APOLOGIES - To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

#### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/PARTY WHIP - To receive declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other interests in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct and of the Party Whip in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules 4E, Paragraph 16(b).

Declaring interests at meetings

If there is any item of business to be discussed at the meeting in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest or non-pecuniary interest (Other Interests), you must declare the interest appropriately at the start of the meeting or as soon as you become aware that you have an interest.

Arrangements have been made so that interests that are declared regularly by members can be viewed in a schedule on the Council website ([Councillor Declarations of Interests](#)) Any interest noted in the schedule on the website will be deemed to have been declared and will be minuted as such by the Democratic Services Officer. As a general rule, there will, therefore, be no need for those Members to declare those interests as set out in the schedule.

There are, however, TWO EXCEPTIONS to the general rule:

1. When the interest amounts to a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is engaged in connection with any item on the agenda and the member feels that the interest is such that they must leave the room. Prior to leaving the room, the member must inform the meeting that they are doing so, to ensure that it is recorded in the minutes.
2. Where a dispensation has been granted to vote and/or speak on an item where there is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, but it is not referred to in the Schedule (where for example, the dispensation was granted by the Monitoring Officer immediately prior to the meeting). The existence and nature of the dispensation needs to be recorded in the minutes and will, therefore, have to be disclosed at an appropriate time to the meeting.

Note: Following the adoption of the new Code of Conduct, Members are reminded that they should declare the existence and nature of their personal interests at the commencement of the relevant item (or as soon as the interest becomes apparent). If that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary or a Deemed Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, the Member must withdraw from the room.

Where a Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest but has received a dispensation from Audit & Standards Committee, that Member may vote and/or speak on the matter (as the case may be) and must disclose the existence of the dispensation and any restrictions placed on it at the time the interest is declared.

Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest as defined in the Code of Conduct, the Member may address the meeting as a member of the public as set out in the Code.

Note: Council Procedure Rules require Members with Disclosable Pecuniary Interests to withdraw from the meeting unless a dispensation allows them to remain to vote and/or speak on the business giving rise to the interest.

Where a Member has a Deemed Disclosable Interest, the Council's Code of Conduct permits public speaking on the item, after which the Member is required by Council Procedure Rules to withdraw from the meeting.

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION - Members of the Public will be given the opportunity to speak on specific agenda items if notice has been received.

Members of the public will be given three minutes to speak on a particular item and this is strictly timed. The chair will inform all public speakers that: their comments must be limited to addressing issues raised in the agenda item under consideration: and that any departure from the item will not be tolerated.

The chair may interrupt the speaker if they start discussing other matters which are not related to the item, or the speaker uses threatening or inappropriate language towards Councillors or officers and if after a warning issued by the chair, the speaker persists, they will be asked to stop speaking by the chair. The chair will advise the speaker that, having ignored the warning, the speaker's opportunity to speak to the current or other items on the agenda may not be allowed. In this eventuality, the chair has discretion to exclude the speaker from speaking further on the item under consideration or other items of the agenda.

5. LAWN BURIAL PROVISION – report of the Assistant Director – Recreation & Culture and Parks & Green Space Manager (**Page 6**).

**THIS PAGE IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council  
Corporate Plan  
Building Communities 2025 – 2029  
*United in Achievement.***

**Theme 1: Place and Prosperity**

**Strategic Aims:**

1. Regenerate Nuneaton Town Centre; completing the Transforming Nuneaton Programme.
2. Establish an increased number of residential properties within the Town Centres
3. Help local businesses thrive, support new business incubation and reduce the number of vacant units.
4. Continue to promote and enable events across the Borough.
5. Continue to develop and help our markets to thrive.
6. Work with the business community to strengthen business in the whole Borough
7. Deliver a regeneration plan for Bedworth Town Centre.
8. Promote, and support our Town Centre economies.

**Theme 2: Housing, Health and Communities**

**Strategic Aims:**

1. Deliver the construction and opening of the Bedworth Physical Activity Hub (BPAH).
2. Focus on awareness and promotion of support services for mental health and wellbeing.
3. Facilitate warm, safe, sustainable and affordable housing.
4. Work with public health colleagues and partners to address community inequalities.
5. Promote active travel across the Borough.
6. Extend the housing home building programme to provide more Council homes.
7. Work with partners to prioritise community safety and empowerment.

**Theme 3: Green Spaces and Environment**

**Strategic Aims:**

1. Review the grounds maintenance contract for the Borough.
2. Celebrate the heritage within our green spaces, including museums, George Eliot and local industry.
3. Decarbonise our housing stock and promote the decarbonisation of homes in the private sector.
4. Support our residents to recycle more of their household waste.
5. Promote and develop play area facilities in line with the Parks and Green Space Strategy.
6. Reduce the carbon footprint of the Pingles Leisure Centre by 2026.
7. Establish a Climate Change Strategy and Delivery Plan by 2026.
8. Work with partners to improve air quality across the Borough.
9. Explore opportunities to promote, protect and enhance biodiversity in the borough.

## **Theme 4: Your Council**

### **Strategic Aims:**

1. Conduct a Local Government Association Peer Review by 2026.
2. Increase the level of resident engagement and consultation.
3. Deliver a refreshed Council change plan to modernise services.
4. Focus on civic pride, celebrating rich heritage and diverse communities.
5. Deliver continued forward financial planning to safeguard the finances of the Council.
6. Set ambitious and challenging budgets, to ensure taxpayers money is respected, and high-quality services are delivered.
7. Deliver a modern organisation with agile and effective structure that meet the needs of residents.
8. Strive for transparency and accountability in all that we do. Increase public scrutiny

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5

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NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to: Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date of Meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Subject: Lawn Burial Provision

Portfolio: Leisure and Health

Responsible Officers: Assistant Director Recreation & Culture / Parks  
and Green Space Manager

Corporate Plan – Theme: Green Spaces and Environment

Corporate Plan – Aim: Protecting our Natural Environment

Ward Relevance: All Wards

Public or Private: Public

Forward Plan: No - Extraordinary Meeting

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1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To provide information on the current position of lawn burial space in Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- 1.2 Outline options for the panel to consider the provision of lawn burial space in the borough, in order to make further recommendations to the Cabinet.
- 1.3 The panel considers alternative options for lawn burial space as this is not a statutory requirement for the Council to provide.

2. What is the panel being asked to consider?

- 2.1 The current position in relation to the number of Lawn Burial plots remaining within Nuneaton and Bedworth.
- 2.2 Options for consideration to accommodate short, medium- and long-term Burial Space.
- 2.3 Future requirement to provide lawn burial space for residents.

### 3. Background

#### 3.1 Borough Burial Space

3.1.1 Officers updated the Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the current burial land availability, within existing cemeteries to resolve the shortage of burial space with the provision of a new or extended cemetery. In October 2014 they made the following Recommendations to Cabinet that was approved in December 2014. Minute number CB47.

- a) the use of green belt land around Nuneaton for use as a cemetery;
- b) the extension of Marston Lane Cemetery for use as a Borough Cemetery; and
- c) agreeing that no recreation land should be used for a new Cemetery.

3.1.2 In 2022, a general fund budget of £100K was approved, to be used for the feasibility study, surveys, cost estimates, at Marston Lane site in Bedworth.

3.1.3 In 2024, ground investigation work was undertaken at Marston Lane on adjacent land, owned by Coventry Diocese Board of Finance, beginning the feasibility exercise. The remainder of the budget was then Cabinet approved to complete revenue maintenance to improve drainage works at Attleborough and Bucks Hill cemetery sites. No further works have been completed at Marston Lane Cemetery to date.

#### 3.2 Lawn Burial Space provision

3.2.1 An assessment of burial space has been undertaken, and the following table provides the latest estimates, using data to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025.

Averages Per Year		Currently Available	Years Remaining	Adjusted Years Remaining
Kerb Graves (Marston Lane)	6	224	35	N/A
Lawn Graves (Marston Lane)	17	169	10	Reduces once burials move from Oaston Road
Cremation Plots (Marston Lane)	17	454	26	Reduces once burials move from Oaston Road
Lawn Graves (Oaston Road)	22	7	0	N/A
Cremation Plots (Oaston Road)	18	223	12	N/A
Short Notice Graves (Oaston Road)	14	65	5	N/A

Full report in Appendix 1. Bucks Hill is not included above, due to no new lawn burial spaces being available for several years.

3.2.2 Presently, once Oaston Road cemetery is full, (The remaining 7 grave spaces are held for in the event previously reserved graves are unusable at the time of burial i.e., due to a collapse) all lawn burials will be offered at the Marston Lane site in Bedworth.

3.2.3 Using the above data, Officers have estimated that there is approximately four years left of lawn burial space in the Borough.

### 3.3 Bucks Hill Cemetery

3.3.1 Following requests by Cabinet to assess potential additional lawn burial space in this cemetery initial investigations have been carried out by a consultant landscape architect, to arrive at a feasibility report shown in Appendix 2 (at the time of this review, it did not take account of other potential areas / opportunities within the site that can be further exploited to maximise lawn burial spaces going forward).

3.3.2 Several areas were suggested, but most of these discounted, due to various site constraints (including drainage channels and

ditches), and the area of the Garden of Remembrance falling without these constraints has been used for ashes scattering since 1966, with a total of 343 registered scatters, with the possibility of many more unofficial. The remaining area (currently used as the grounds maintenance contractor's storage yard) has been considered as a potential location for burials, and there is space for a possible 26-29 graves.

3.3.3 There is an option to utilise up to half of the existing Garden of Remembrance area, which could support further lawn burial spaces. It is recommended, if members consider using this space that full public consultation is undertaken in advance and formal notice is advertised.

3.3.3 With regard to the loss of storage space by removing the compound it would result in an implication for the grounds maintenance contractor's management of the site as storage of soil would not be able to remain onsite during a dig, and lead to a suggested additional fee of approximately £1,200 on top of existing NBBC burial costs. If this is agreed this would need to be factored into the NBBC fees and charges for 26/27 and approved by Council.

3.3.4 Before the exact numbers can be confirmed for Lawn Burial spaces, further information is required, from the following:

- Landscape Architect – further design and specifications
- Cost Consultant – estimate of works required
- Building Surveyor – report on existing structures
- Utilities – survey of existing underground cables/pipework
- Planning – need for LA approval
- Legal – ensure ownership and any potential restrictions to development
- Specialist ground investigation – report on remediation required due to pollution
- Agree final layout/numbers
- Contractor – Tendered costs for works package

3.3.5 All of the above listed items will incur substantial cost and will require officer capacity – these are hard to quantify without further investigation therefore subject to the direction given from Members and an allocated budget, Officers will then do these works if required. Any further areas identified as potential burial space would also be subject to the investigations detailed in 3.3.4.

### 3.4 Attleborough Cemetery

- 3.4.1 The area of land identified in the cemetery as a possible option to extend lawn space burials, or provide a garden of remembrance, is situated in the far South-East corner (appendix 3), bordered by the railway and the adjacent bank to the road bridge on Lutterworth Road.
- 3.4.2 The Land Registry shows it as unregistered and as the Council have maintained it a number of years, NBBC have now applied for adverse possession to take ownership of the land.
- 3.4.3 This land was quite heavily covered in trees which NBBC felled several years ago. The area does present some challenges if it was to be considered for burials. Given the ground levels, not all the site area would be level enough to utilise. The trees were felled to ground level, but the root systems remained, which would make excavations difficult.
- 3.4.4 There are no roadways in the site, only footways, which would make access for excavators/dumpers & removal of surplus spoil problematic. There is nowhere to store material, so everything would have to go off-site on each occasion. There is also little by way of parking for funeral services, given the lodge has been sold & they have a right to park in the grounds as well.
- 3.4.5 Given the site has had flooding issues recently, and NBBC are aware of that, a survey would need to be carried out to ensure we could use the land for burial, and we would have to also ensure that there are no environmental risks from burials. Given we know the site has flooding issues, we would need to follow the best practice provided by the Environment Agencies (EA) and allow a 10-metre zone or gap from the field drain. This is shown in the appended report (Appendix 4 is the Attleborough Cemetery Feasibility Document.)
- 3.4.6 Following the EA measures required, officers need to work through various challenges to fully exploit this area for lawn burial space or alternative use for cemetery space.

### 3.5 Marston Lane Cemetery

- 3.5.1 Ongoing discussion with Portfolio Holders has been undertaken in relation to future Lawn Space provision for burials in Nuneaton and Bedworth, with the site at Marston Lane identified as the most suitable long-term solution (as per Cabinet approval in December 2014). This has also been included in the Local Plan (for adoption in December 2025) as a long-term strategic option.
- 3.5.2 There are two parcels of land adjacent to the cemetery. The first is owned by NBBC and was previously used as football pitches (part of which has already been used for a recent cemetery extension). The second piece of land is owned by the Coventry Diocese and currently used as pony paddock. This has been identified in the Borough Plan for future cemetery space.
- 3.5.3 The agent for the Diocese (Godfrey Payton) has previously contacted NBBC, as to its intentions, looking to understand NBBC needs and negotiate a possible sale to NBBC. No discussions with the Diocese or their agent have yet taken place however these would commence subject to Member decision.
- 3.5.4 A call for sites as part of the Borough Plan revision, did not provide any other options. A capital budget was previously set aside for ground surveying works and initial design, costing, etc, to be undertaken at the Marston Lane site, to understand if a cemetery extension should be considered, but diverted elsewhere before full feasibility was understood.
- 3.5.5 The summary survey results confirm that burials could take place on the land identified and providing new lawn space for the Borough. The cost to purchase the land, develop the site (which could include a phased approach), if approved, would need to be taken forward and a budget approved for these works to take place.
- 3.5.6 An estimate of £100K budget to develop a site proposal, further surveying and a cost consultant to review costs to develop the site and a possible phased approach, would be required. Legal and Land & Property would also need to be engaged to understand and negotiate the purchase of the land.

3.5.7 An estimate of circa 36 months to develop the site prior to use, has been discussed. A more detailed timeline of the project and phased delivery needs to be undertaken with external consultants to confirm dates. The full delivery of this proposal is roughly estimated at approximately £3 million.

3.5.8 To accommodate the above extension of the existing Cemetery does have a direct impact on the adopted Playing Pitch Strategy, and therefore as part of the loss of any grass sports pitch it would require a mitigation strategy that was approved or constructed in partnership with Sport England. This is something that would have to be explored if this site was approved as the preferred option.

#### 4. Non-Statutory service – Burials

4.1 Under s214(1) of the LGA 1972, district Councils are “burial authorities”

4.2 The Local Authorities’ Cemeteries Order 1977 (“LACO”) set out powers and obligations of burial authorities.

4.3 There is no statutory duty on a local authority to provide burial facilities, but if they do the management of them is governed by LACO.

4.4 As detailed within the Cemetery Regulation, NBBC manage and maintain the following:

- Oaston Road Cemetery
- Attleborough Cemetery
- Stockingford (Bucks Hill) Cemetery
- Marston Lane Cemetery
- Coventry Road Cemetery

4.5 The following Burial Grounds are maintained by NBBC but managed by the Diocese:

- All Saints Church, Bedworth
- St Nicolas Church, Nuneaton.
- Coton Parish Church, Nuneaton
- St Pauls Church, Exhall

#### 5. Other options for consideration

5.1 The powers that Local Authorities use to provide cemeteries are not strictly limited to land within the Borough, provided decisions

are lawful, reasonable, and properly documented. The Panel may wish to consider the option of procuring land outside the Borough for future burial provision but is geographically accessible to Borough residents. This approach is likely permissible under current legislation, subject to compliance with governance and planning requirements. Officers would need to undertake a feasibility study, including cost, environmental impact, and consultation, before any recommendation is made to Cabinet.

## 6. Summary

### 6.1 Bucks Hill

- Further investigation works could be conducted to enable the Council to utilise the identified area at Bucks Hill (currently used as the grounds maintenance contractor's storage yard) providing the possibility of 26-29 new graves.
- It should be noted by the panel that this could be a costly option for only a small number of Grave spaces being made available, with additional costs for management of each grave.
- Explore the option of any other remaining land within the Cemetery that is suitable for burials, with budget identified to do the full investigation works across the full site.

### 6.2 Attleborough

- The Council are awaiting land registry confirmation following the submission of an adverse possession form to take ownership of the land.
- Based on the challenges identified in the report, it is recommended to the Panel that this area is only explored further as a garden of remembrance subject to demand for this.

### 6.3 Marston Lane

- Previously approved by Cabinet in December 2014 and identified within the Borough Plan as the long-term strategic option for Lawn Burial space.
- An option to extend the current cemetery into the Council owned football pitch field to the rear, subject to mitigation being put in place with Sport England and budget being identified for these works to proceed.

- Long-term option identified to purchase adjacent land from the Diocese to provide the Borough with a long-term solution.

#### 6.4 Non-Statutory Service – Lawn Burials

- Member consider the future provision of providing Lawn Burial service in Nuneaton and Bedworth.

#### 6.5 Other options for consideration

- The Panel may wish to consider the option of procuring land outside the Borough for future burial provision but is geographically accessible to Borough residents.
- The panel considers consulting with other neighbouring local authorities to jointly provide cemetery provision and lawn burial space.

### 7. Appendices

Appendix 1 Remaining Burial Spaces report

Appendix 2 Bucks Hill Cemetery Feasibility Document

Appendix 3 Land at Attleborough now under NBBC ownership

Appendix 4 Attleborough Cemetery Feasibility Document

### 8. Background Papers

- Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2014 Cemetery Land Provision Agenda Item 7 Minute Number PE20
- Cabinet on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014 Cemetery Land Provision Agenda Item 11a Minute Number CB47
- Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 Cemetery Update - Bucks Hill / Attleborough Agenda Item 7 Minute number CB35

### 9. Report Writer Details:

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Appendix 1

	2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025 (To 31st October)		Average (Including 2020/2021)		Average (Excluding 2020/2021)	
	Burials	Ashes	Burials	Ashes	Burials	Ashes	Burials	Ashes																						
Attleborough (Nuneaton)	1	11	1	14	0	7	0	11	0	9	1	8	1	2	3	8	2	9	0	4	0	9	0	5	0	8	1	8	0	8
Coventry Road (Bedworth)	5	43	6	61	5	59	3	42	8	43	6	42	6	28	11	35	3	38	1	55	1	29	2	26	1	33	4	41	4	42
Marston Lane (Bedworth)	51	39	56	34	55	46	48	29	48	43	59	57	50	33	68	25	53	51	46	40	47	45	42	34	48	37	52	39	50	40
Oaston Road (Nuneaton)	62	72	68	69	74	69	56	84	59	53	85	75	75	63	99	37	72	59	74	84	63	56	67	50	43	50	69	63	66	66
Stockingford (Nuneaton)	37	37	45	53	33	39	31	44	24	40	21	31	16	23	32	15	25	31	14	31	17	32	17	24	8	20	25	32	24	34
<b>Totals</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>190</b>

	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025 (to 31st October)	
	Marston Lane	Oaston Road	Marston Lane	Oaston Road						
New Kerb Graves Used	8	N/A	7	N/A	4	N/A	3	N/A	10	N/A
New Lawn Graves Used	20	35	16	25	19	19	15	21	17	8
New Cremation Plots Used	27	24	11	15	17	21	17	17	15	15
New Short Notice Graves Used	N/A	19	N/A	14	N/A	10	N/A	15	N/A	11

Averages Per Year	Currently Available	Years Remaining	Adjusted Years Remaining
Kerb Graves (Marston Lane)	6	224	35
Lawn Graves (Marston Lane)	17	169	10
Cremation Plots (Marston Lane)	17	454	26
Lawn Graves (Oaston Road)	22	7	0
Cremation Plots (Oaston Road)	18	223	12
Short Notice Graves (Oaston Road)	14	65	5

Lawn Graves (Marston Lane)	39	169	4	Adjusted figure taking account of availability & remaining space at Oaston Road. Total time remaining before current 'lawn' grave spaces are exhausted is therefore 4 years as @ Oct '25
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**Notes:**

1. There is currently a fourth quadrant at Marston Lane that is unallocated - approx. 350 graves. However, as our existing 'lawn' graves provision is fully utilised, we will also exhaust our remaining supply of 'short notice' graves & will require a new section preparing. As these are orientated differently to other denominations, it would be difficult to split the remaining quadrant between two sections.
2. The Geotechnical survey works for the proposed extension to Marston lane have now been undertaken. Further survey works, necessary to fully identify future provision/suitability beyond that land currently in NBBC ownership, have been halted pending a decision on further project funding by Cabinet, as the balance of the current budget has been re-allocated.
3. Current estimates for construction of a new cemetery, taking account of survey, analysis & design work, costing, planning consent, political process, procurement & mobilisation/delivery are 36 months from instruction.

## 2646 – Bucks Hill Cemetery

### \\ Feasibility Document

Document Reference: BHC-COL-XX-XX-DO-L-0001

Document Status: For Information

**Issue and Approval Schedule**

First Issue	Name	Signature	Date
Prepared by	H. Phelps / C. Thomas		23.07.25
Checked by	C. Thomas		05.07.25

**Revision Record:**

Rev	Date	Status	Amendments	By	Checked
01	05.07.25	For Information	1 <sup>st</sup> issue – for Information	HP	CJT
02	11.08.25	For Information	2 <sup>nd</sup> issue – for Information	CJT	CJT
03	13.08.25	For Information	3 <sup>rd</sup> issue – for Information	CJT	CJT
04					

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## 1.0 Introduction

Colour have been appointed by Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council to create a feasibility study to increase grave capacity at Bucks Hill Cemetery. This study will highlight three areas, as instructed by the client, where capacity may have the potential to be increased. This study will illustrate the legal or physical constraints of each area and the number of graves that each area could accommodate.

This study and capacity numbers stated within this document are based on high level Ordinance Survey information and as such should only be used as a guide.

This study does not take into consideration any ground contamination, sudden changes in level, utility lines, or archaeological anomalies which might affect overall plot numbers.

Tree locations have been plotted based on an aerial and has assumed the root protection area of each tree. As such, this is an approximate indication of the constraints on site and should only be used as a guide.

## 2.0 Cemetery location

Bucks Hill Cemetery is located approximately 3.4km north west of the centre of Nuneaton in the county of Warwickshire. The Cemetery is located between two suburbs; in the northern fringes of Whittleford and the southern section of Chapel End. The site is a compilation of areas within the north-west corner and south-east corner of Bucks Hill Cemetery. Refer to Figure 01.

## 3.0 Site context

The cemetery is bound by a dense perimeter of trees. The cemetery boundaries are formed to the south by a narrow footpath directly adjacent to housing; to the north-east by Skey Drive (road); and to the east by Bucks Hill (road). To the north west and the west of the cemetery is a dense area of woodland branching from a footpath called 'The Black Track' which is on a disused rail line. This dense area of woodland also contains a water course running from Skey Drive on a south-west axis.

The cemetery contains two buildings to the south east along with a number of small outbuildings. A small service yard is to the rear of the southernmost building. This is well screened by trees and hedgerows.

The cemetery contains a large number of trees, which especially provide coverage within the east of the site, while in the west tree planting was limited to key circulation routes.

The majority of the graves at Bucks Hill are marked by headstones. In the north-west of the cemetery there is an existing memorial with remembrance garden, which is used to allow family members to scatter ashes and visit the deceased's remains.

## 4.0 Access

Main vehicle access is from the Bucks Hill Road, located to the east of the site.

A footpath is located just outside of the site along the south boundary of the cemetery. An informal footpath winds through the dense wooded area to the north / north west of the site which connects the south boundary footpath with 'The Black Track', connecting the area to Whytell Wood to the south to Chapel End to the north.

## 5.0 Specific site context

The areas within the cemetery we have been asked to consider are located in the north-west of the site and the south-east of the site. These are listed below:

### North West

- Cemetery edge
- Existing Remembrance Garden

### South East

- Existing service yard

These areas are illustrated on Figure 02 and photographs for the existing service yard are shown in Figure 03.

## 6.0 Key considerations

These three areas going forward will be described in isolation as each area has specific considerations and constraints. These are listed below:

### Edge of cemetery

- Close proximity to a watercourse
- Located near a number of trees

### Existing remembrance garden

- This space is currently used to scatter ashes and allows friends and family members to visit the remains of their loved ones.

### Existing service yard

- Existing trees and hedgerows
- Area has a daily operational function

## 7.0 Exploration of each space

The following section will demonstrate what is the maximum number of graves which can be incorporated within the space given the existing constraints listed above.

Grave size are not standard within the UK and vary between local authorities. After consulting the teams at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council the standard lawn grave plot area sits at 3m x 1.5m. This allows sufficient space to exhume a grave without the fear that the soil will collapse in from an adjacent, recently dug, grave where the soil is still settling (Figure 04)

### Cemetery edge

As can be seen within Figure 05 this space sits in close proximity to a water course which sits along the north-east and north-west boundaries. The space is also littered with field drains which are also identified on the figure 5. Adhering to the Environment Agency's '[Minimum good practice groundwater protection measures](#)' no human burials shall take place within 30m of any watercourse or spring and within 10m from a field drain.

There are also a number of trees which sit along the northern length of this space. Any impact on their roots would likely negatively impact or kill the tree. As such Figure 05 illustrates an estimated area of the Root Protection Area (RPA).

Given the site constraints no plots can be accommodated within this space. This is illustrated within Figure 05.

### Existing Remembrance Garden

The Remembrance Garden is currently designated as a space for the scattering of ashes and quiet reflection by family and friends. It serves a deeply personal and symbolic function for those who have chosen this method of laying their loved ones to rest. Any proposal to repurpose this land, such as converting it into a traditional burial ground, risks undermining the purpose for which the garden was intended and could be interpreted as a direct disturbance to the remains already scattered there.

In respect to the local community, a public consultation should be undertaken as the land has local and cultural significance.

If this space was deemed appropriate for burials, and given the site constraints of being within 30m of a watercourse, then the space could accommodate 135 plots.

### Existing Service Yard

The existing service yard is surrounded by trees and hedgerows. It is used to support the day to day maintenance and services provided in the cemetery.

All trees should be retained as it is common place that trees within graveyards are protected with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). As such it is recommended that the Local Planning Authority is consulted prior to any works being undertaken.

This area currently acts as a service yard that is physically separated from the cemetery to prevent disturbing grieving families. The area provides an important space that allows for:

- Storage of machinery;
- administrative and workshop space to workers
- Storage of soil

Due to the above, the loss of this space would negatively impact the day to day operation of the cemetery. Given that there is no alternative area of land within the cemetery that can be used for soil storage from recently dug graves, it is advised that a cost analysis is undertaken to see what the cost implication would be to transport soil from each newly dug grave off site. This requirement to take soil off site will increase the number of vehicles entering and existing the cemetery. As such the Local Authorities Highways Department should be consulted due to the potential of increasing issues with highways safety.

Figure 06 illustrates the number of plots achievable if the hedge was retained (plot no.26) and Figure 07 illustrates the numbers of plots which could be accommodated if the hedge is removed (plot no.29). A space for a vehicle to move between the plots has also been accounted for.

## Figures

*L-BHC-COL-XX-XX-DO-L-0002 – Figures 01-07*

# BUCKS HILL CEMETERY

 Cemetery location



# BUCKS HILL CEMETERY



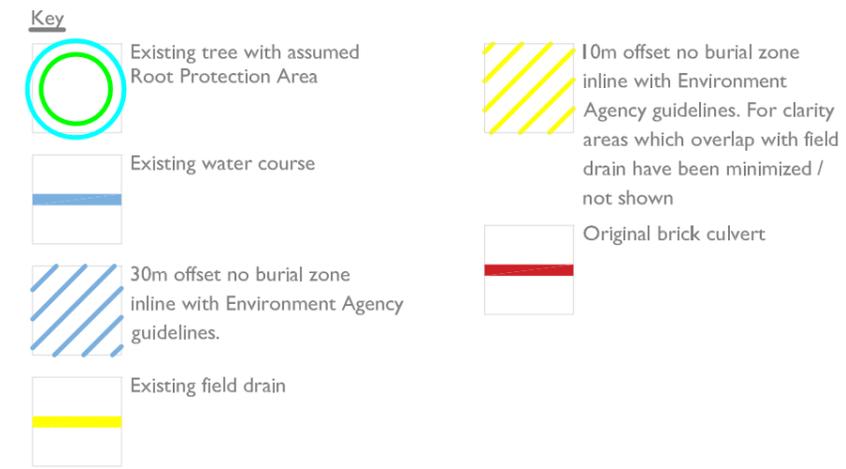
Figure 02: Site aerial

# BUCKS HILL CEMETERY



Figure 03: Existing service yard photographs

# BUCKS HILL CEMETERY



**Area A - Cemetery Edge:**

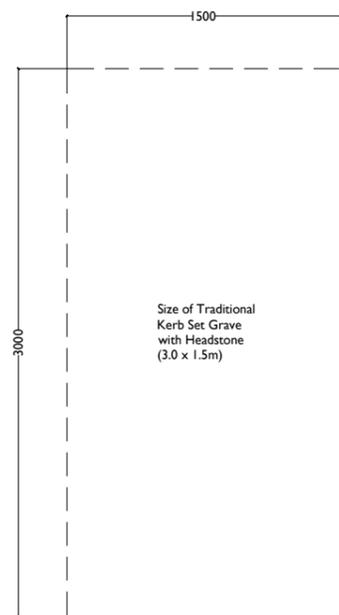
Estimated number of plots within dashed red line boundary: 0

**Area B - Existing Remembrance Garden:**

Estimated number of plots within Remembrance Garden: 135  
Due to the sensitive nature of this area, no plot sizes have been shown

**Area C - Existing service yard**

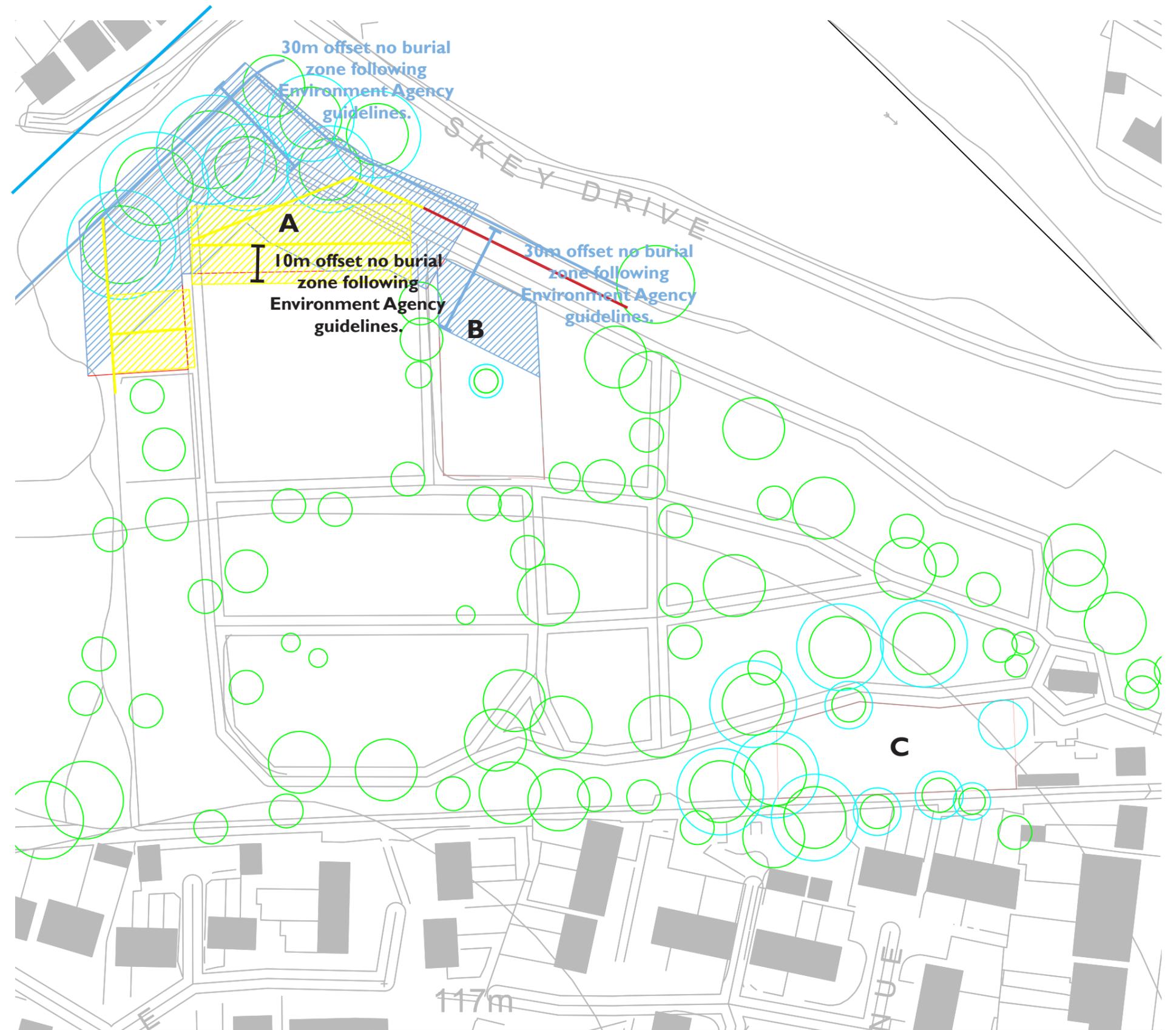
is explored in greater detail on Figure 06



**Figure 04: Grave dimensions/ plot size**

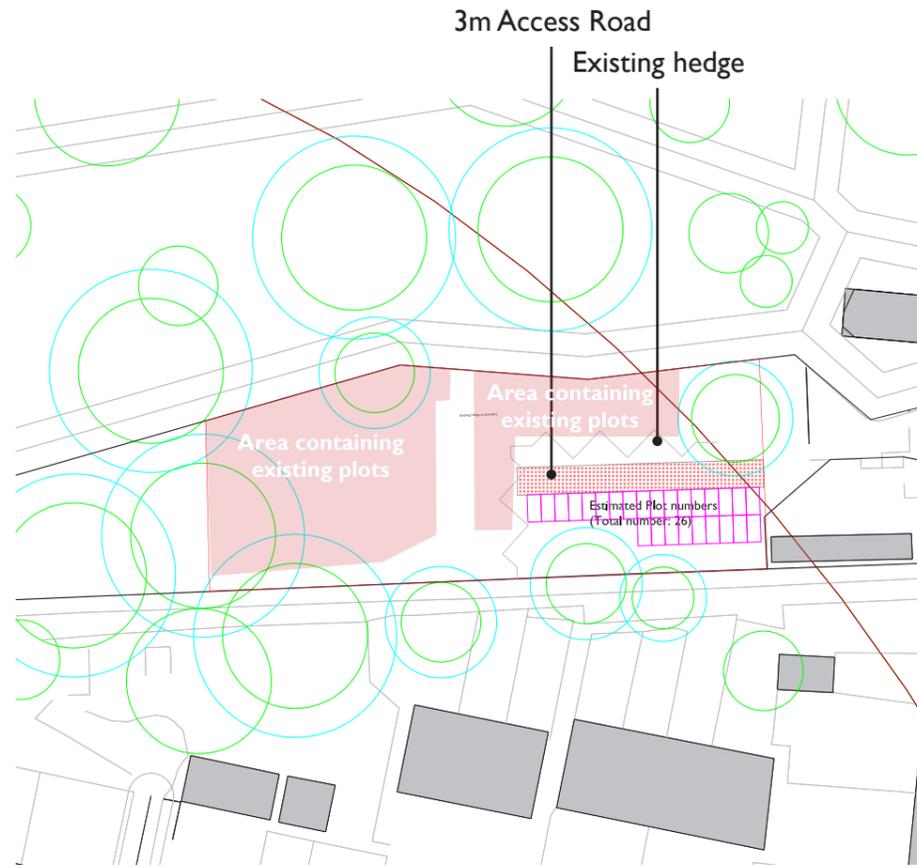
Agreed Plot Size.

Following consultation with Nuneaton and Bedworth officers  
Extraordinary Environment and Leisure OSP - 4th December 2025



**Figure 05: Potential plot layout**

# BUCKS HILL OPTIONS

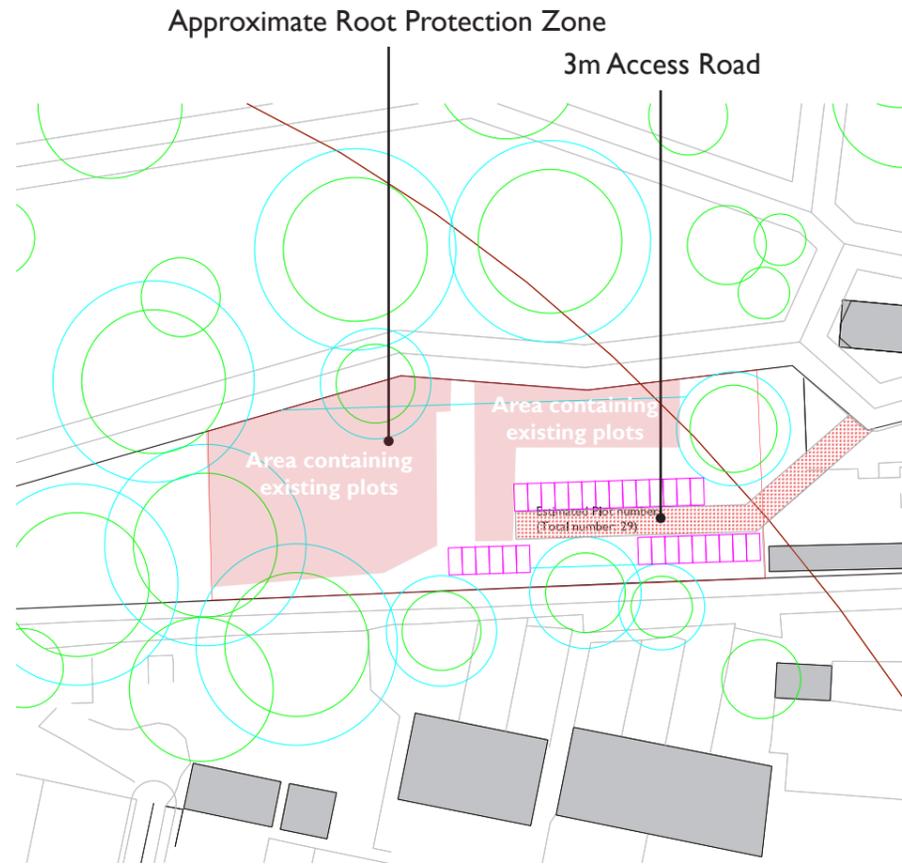


**Figure 06**  
**OPTION 01 - Retain northern hedge boundary**

Estimated number of grave plots

Total number: 26

3m Access road through site



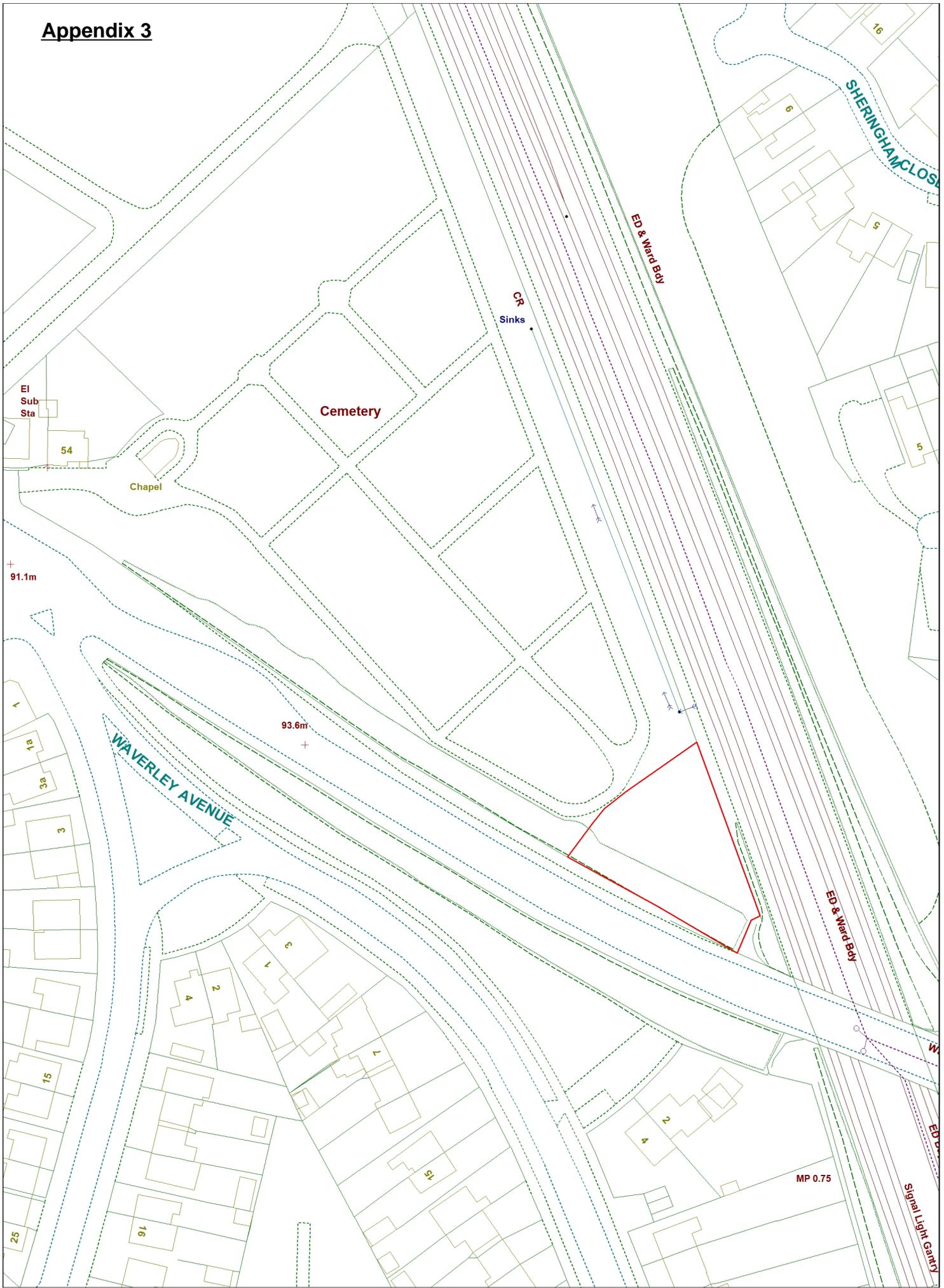
**Figure 07**  
**OPTION 02 - Omit northern hedge boundary**

Estimated number of grave plots

Total number: 29

3m Access road through site

**Appendix 3**



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## **2659 – Attleborough Cemetery**

### **\\ Feasibility Document**

Document Reference: ATC-COL-XX-XX-DO-L-0001

Document Status: For Information

**Issue and Approval Schedule**

First Issue	Name	Signature	Date
Prepared by	C. Thomas		23.07.25
Checked by	C. Thomas		05.07.25

**Revision Record:**

Rev	Date	Status	Amendments	By	Checked
01	05.07.24	For Information	1 <sup>st</sup> issue – for Information	HP	CJT
02	02.09.25	For Information	Updated following comments	CJT	CJT
03					
04					

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## 1.0 Introduction

Colour have been appointed by Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough Council to create a feasibility study to increase grave capacity at Attleborough Cemetery. This study will highlight one area, as instructed by the client, where capacity may have the potential to be increased. This study will illustrate the constraints of the area and the number of graves that each area could accommodate.

This study and capacity numbers stated within this document are based on high level Ordnance Survey information and as such should only be used as a guide.

This study does not take into consideration any ground contamination, sudden changes in level, utility lines, or archaeological anomalies which might affect overall plot numbers.

Tree locations have been plotted based on an aerial and has assumed the root protection area of each tree. As such, this is an approximate indication of the constraints on site and should only be used as a guide.

## 2.0 Cemetery location

Attleborough Cemetery is located within Attleborough, a residential area approximately one mile south-east of the town centre of Nuneaton, Warwickshire. The site this study is focused on, is located within the south-east corner adjacent to the crossing of Lutterworth Road (B4114) a railway corridor connecting Nuneaton and Rugby. See Figure 01.

## 3.0 Site context

The cemetery is a triangular shape with Lutterworth Road forming the south-west boundary, the railway corridor and a field drain forming the north-east boundary, and the Attleborough Recreation ground and it's access forming the north-west boundary. The south-west and north-east boundaries are lined by trees and hedgerows. The north-west boundary is formed by a close board wooden fence and a hedgerow scattered with trees. Three buildings are located adjacent to the cemetery access; 2 residential properties not related to the cemetery and a small chapel in which cemetery related services are held. Please refer to Figure 02 for site aerial and context and Figure 03 for site photographs.

## 4.0 Access

Vehicular access is provided from Lutterworth Road. Vehicular access is limited to the area directly adjacent to the cemetery chapel. The paths within the cemetery, which are in a grid like pattern, are limited to 1.3m or less, restricting interior access to pedestrians.

## 5.0 Proposal Assessment

The following section will discuss the constraints of the site and demonstrate the maximum number of graves which can be incorporated based on these constraints.

Grave sizes are not standard within the UK and vary between local authorities. After consulting the teams at Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council the standard lawn grave plot area sits at 3m x 1.5m. This allows sufficient space to exhume a grave without the fear that the soil will collapse in from an adjacent, recently dug, grave where the soil is still settling (Figure 04).

## 6.0 Constraints

The main constraints of the proposed location are:

- Existing vegetation and their root protection areas
- A field drain located along the eastern boundary along the rail line
- Access and Circulation - Vehicular access to carry coffins

### **Existing Vegetation**

As demonstrated in Figure 05, the existing trees and root protection areas will limit the area in which graves could be allowed. All trees should be retained as it is common place that trees within graveyards are protected with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). As such it is recommended that the Local Planning Authority is consulted prior to any works being undertaken.

### **Field drain**

Figure 05 illustrates a 10m offset from the field drain. Adhering to the Environment Agency's ['Minimum good practice groundwater protection measures'](#) no human burials shall take place within 10m of any field drain.

### **Access and Circulation**

As mentioned above, vehicular access within Attleborough Cemetery is limited to the area directly adjacent the chapel; this is due to the existing footpaths limited to approximately 1.3m wide. The footpaths cannot be widened as they are surrounded by existing graves. As such, all coffins must be carried by hand from the chapel area to the prepared grave. The distance from the chapel to the proposed area that the coffin would need to be carried would be approximately 125m (410ft). In order to provide this service, the number of staff on site would need to be increased or a vehicle smaller than the standard Harse would need to be provided as the friends family members of the deceased would not be able to carry such a weight that distance.

## 7.0 Potential Proposed Layout

Figure 05 demonstrates a possible layout of graves within the proposed area. This layout includes a 3m access road, to reflect the standard width of cemetery access roads. 13 graves, based on the standard measurement of 3m x 1.5m are expected to fit within this area while allowing for pedestrian access between each row.

## Figures

*L-BHC-COL-XX-XX-DO-L-0002 – Figures 01-05*

# ATTLEBOROUGH CEMETERY

 Cemetery location



# ATTLEBOROUGH CEMETERY



Figure 02: Site Aerial



Figure 03: Site Images

# ATTLEBOROUGH CEMETERY

Estimated number of plots has been indicated on the adjacent plan as 13.  
 A 3m access road has been shown to adjoin to existing access point.

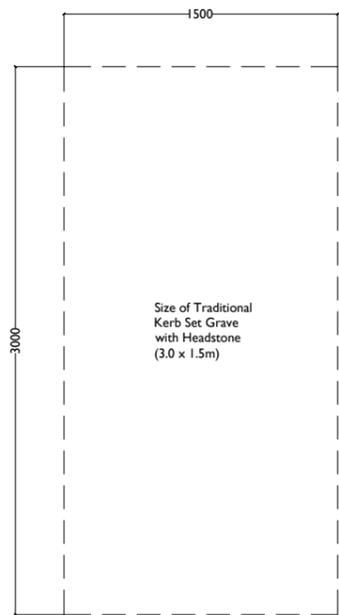
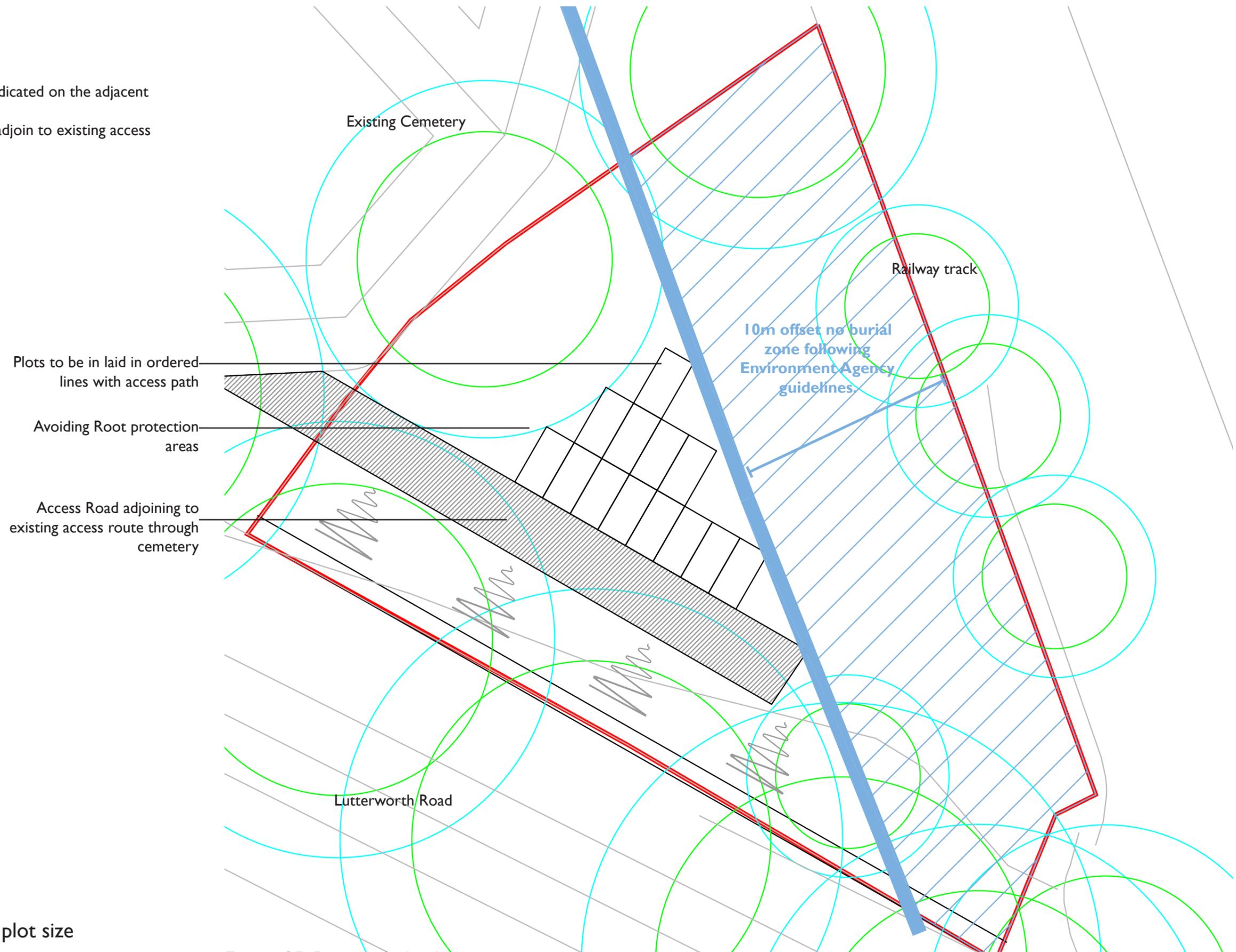


Figure 04: Grave dimensions/ plot size

Agreed Plot Size.  
 Following consultation with Nuneaton and Bedworth officers.  
 Extraordinary - Environment and Leisure OSP - 4th December 2025

Figure 05: Potential plot layout