

Ms Emma Baumber
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Development Services
Hinckley Hub Rugby Road
HINCKLEY
Leicestershire
LE10 0FR

Our ref: LT/2025/129101/02-L01
Your ref: 24/01061/OUT
Date: 24 March 2025

Dear Ms Baumber

**V02: GROUNDWATER ASSESSMENT AND GEO ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT FOR:
OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION (ALL MATTERS RESERVED EXCEPT
VEHICULAR ACCESS) FOR THE ERECTION OF UP TO 240 RESIDENTIAL
DWELLINGS (USE CLASS C3), RETENTION OF THE EXISTING ACCESSES OFF
BARLESTONE ROAD AND THE CREATION OF NEW ACCESSSES OFF
BARLESTONE ROAD, A CEMETERY AND A HEALTH CENTRE (USE CLASS E(E)),
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE
LAND NORTH OF BARLESTONE ROAD NEWBOLD VERDON LEICESTERSHIRE**

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on this application.

Environment Agency Position: Groundwater and Contaminated Land

We have reviewed the following submitted information in support of this application:

- Groundwater Assessment – MEC, March 2025

The applicant has now submitted the requested water level data for the site, after reviewing this and the report recommendations, we note that the site does not meet the requirements for a low risk cemetery due to the water levels on site. Therefore, the site will need an environmental permit, as stated in the submitted report. "The investigation area **does not** currently meet the requirements of the ICCM or Environment Agency for establishment of a cemetery without the need for an environmental permit.". Given that the site will need mitigation to make it suitable for the cemetery, in the form of raising the ground levels, this will require approval through the permitting process.

To fall into the exemption category, there are fourteen conditions which must be met. The full list and supporting information can be found here: Low environmental risk cemeteries: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/low-environmental-risk-cemeteries-exemption-conditions>

Environmental Permit & Monitoring: Given the results and conclusions in the above referenced report, we require appropriate mitigation or contingency proposals to be in place for the cemetery proposal. In accordance with the latest guidance 'Protecting Groundwater from Human Burials' published April 2022, where a site needs active pollution prevention mitigation measures (this includes groundwater monitoring) or operational burial controls to protect the water environment, a bespoke environmental permit will be required. Please refer to the following for further information: Protecting groundwater from human burials - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) We would not therefore recommend conditions on the planning application with regard to monitoring and mitigation measures but would look to the environmental permit to control these.

Environment Agency
Trent Side North, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 5FA.
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
www.gov.uk/environment-agency
Cont/d..

We would encourage the 'twin tracking' of the EP, with the aim of encouraging more comprehensive submissions to assist in your determination of the planning application. At this time a permit has not yet been applied for. The permitting regime is assessed independently to planning and there is no guarantee that a permit will be granted. We recommend the applicant contact the National Permitting Service on 03708 506 506 for further advice and guidance. The applicant should note that operators of cemeteries should take appropriate measures to manage their sites to ensure they do not cause an unacceptable risk to groundwater quality. If pollution happens, the Environment Agency will take action, in line with enforcement and sanctions guidance.

Yours sincerely

Ms Huda Al Tahhan

Planning Advisor

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