

23 April 2025

Your Ref:

Our Ref: CW/24832

BY EMAIL

Ms E Baumber
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
Argents Mead
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 1BZ

Dear Emma,

**Barlestone Road, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire
Planning Application Ref. 24/01061/OUT**

Further to your response to comments received from the Environment Agency regarding the proposed cemetery at the above development, I am writing to provide you with a response to the key points raised.

We note that the Environment Agency commented on the 24th March 2025 following their review of the Groundwater Assessment prepared by MEC and detailed under the following cover:

- 'Barlestone Road, Newbold Verdon, Leicestershire – Groundwater Assessment' report ref. 24832-GEO-0403 Rev B, dated March 2025.

The Environment Agency noted that the site does not currently meet the requirements for a low risk cemetery without an environmental permit. This was due to groundwater levels being within 1m of the base of any graves proposed for the cemetery.

In order to facilitate the delivery of the cemetery at the site, our Client has confirmed that they would apply for an environmental permit once outline planning permission has been secured and undertake the necessary remedial work to mitigate any potential impact of the proposed cemetery on the underlying groundwater quality. Based on the existing information, the remedial work will most likely involve raising site levels above the existing levels to allow sufficient clearance of the groundwater table and ensure that any contaminants leached from the cemetery do not result in degradation of the underlying groundwater quality. Raising levels is unlikely to be prohibitive to the proposed development given that this technique is frequently used on proposed development sites to create level development platforms and assist in the drainage design.

The degree to which levels will be raised will be established following completion of a groundwater risk assessment, which will be prepared to support the permit application. This groundwater risk assessment will establish the baseline groundwater quality and include pollutant flux calculations and detailed modelling to determine the likely pollutant release from the cemetery. Following confirmation of the level raising required, a cut and fill exercise will be undertaken as part of the wider development to ensure materials required to raise the site levels are derived from the site as much as possible.

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On the basis of the above, the cemetery can be provided for the proposed development, following completion of the appropriate environmental permit by the Client and completion of any necessary remedial measures.

We trust the above is sufficient to support the proposed development but should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'C J Wall'.

Chris Wall MSc BSc(Hons) AMIEnvSc RSoBRA
Associate Geo-Environmental
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