

Jane Steel

From: David Spring
Sent: 17 July 2024 10:27
To: Planning Folder New
Subject: FW: 24/00248/FUL- Environmental Agency response

From:
Sent: 17 July 2024 10:07
To: David Spring <David.Spring@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: 24/00248/FUL- Environmental Agency response

Hello

Hope you are well.

Sorry for the delay in response.

Unfortunately, our position stays the same.

From the documents on the planning portal, we understand it as a change of use from allotments to burial grounds. Any extension to any existing burial grounds should be treated as a new cemetery and therefore they will need to do a tier 1 assessment, as a minimum, to ensure that the minimum groundwater protection requirements are met. In order to meet the low environmental risk cemeteries: exemption conditions (for all new cemeteries or extensions to existing cemeteries) the site must meet requirement 3:

-There must be at least 1 metre clearance between the base of a grave and the top of the water table. You must make sure that you can meet this condition at all times of the year, including when groundwater levels are seasonally high. For example, after winter rainfall.

Information on this can be found here: Low environmental risk cemeteries: exemption conditions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

The applicant can provide information on groundwater levels at the cemetery, by:

- use the Hydrology Data Explorer to find groundwater level data close to your site
- investigate the groundwater levels at your site using intrusive methods, such as boreholes. You should employ a competent environmental consultant to investigate groundwater levels.
- You will need information such as groundwater levels to support your planning application. For the detail you will need to provide, see the section on 'information to support planning applications' in the guidance on protecting groundwater from human burials.'

Requirement 4 also states that:

A burial must not be undertaken directly into groundwater. You must not use a burial plot if there is either:

- groundwater present in the base of a grave
- a continued input of groundwater into the grave
- You must also make sure you can meet condition 3 if the groundwater is very shallow.

This condition does not prevent you using a grave if:

- water from rainfall has entered the grave
 - perched water has entered the grave from surrounding soils, but there is not a continued flow of water into the grave
- In these 2 cases, you should remove the water before using the grave.'

If they can provide us with some evidence as to why there will be a sufficient depth to groundwater beneath the new proposed graves, either by using groundwater level data close to the site or evidence to show that the adjacent graves are dry; or ideally by providing site investigation data for the site, then we can go with this. Not all cemeteries do provide detailed groundwater level data (for example small cemeteries in low risk settings) but we would expect them

as a minimum to do a basic tier 1 with desk study info. to provide evidence as to why the minimum groundwater protection requirements will be met.

Hope this helps

Please feel free to email me if you have any further questions.

Huda Al Tahhan

Planning Advisor, Sustainable Places - Planning Team

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From: David Spring <David.Spring@hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk>

Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:30 PM

To:

Subject: FW: 24/00248/FUL- Environmental Agency response

Hi Huda,

I hope you are well.

I have asked the applicant for evidence the proposed site in question has been used as ancient burial ground in the past. Hopefully he will respond shortly with proof of this.

In the meantime I just wanted to confirm with you that your request for this additional information still stands despite the immediately adjacent area being used for burials. Presumably the ground conditions are very similar if not the same. Pardon me for asking for this confirmation please but this would be the only reason for refusal of this application and so we need it to be defensible at appeal should it come to that.

I appreciate your time in responding to this.

With regards,

David Spring

Planning