

Design and Access Statement

For

**Cemetery Junction and Archway
Conservation Improvement Works**

July 2024

Design

No changes are proposed to the design of the Archway.

Use:

- The space is vacant and has not been occupied since approximately 2015 and was last used as a police post.

How much will be built on the site:

- No additions are proposed to the current structure either.
- What is proposed are like for like structural improvement works which are intended to ensure the safety and integrity of the archway. Although constantly monitored for safety compliance as a vacant building, no major works have been carried out to date.
- The proposed works are intended to rectify this to avoid further deterioration and risk to general members of the public who regularly access The Reading Old Cemetery through the Archway.

Landscaping:

- There is no additional landscaping proposed as part of these works

Appearance:

- **No changes are proposed to be made to the appearance of the structure.** The works are intended to keep in observance of the Archway character as a structure of architectural as well as historic interest.

Access:

The Entrance Lodges and Archway lie close to a heavily trafficked junction. They also provide the only vehicular access into Reading Cemetery which, although very occasionally used for burials is accessed by dog walkers, people from the local community as well as RBC's maintenance and service vehicles.

- The works proposed include providing temporary access gates for the duration of the project. Alarmed access scaffold to a height of 2m with timber hoarding to base will also be provided. This will act as a safe walkway for essential vehicular access, whilst works are carried out.

Inclusive Access:

- Access for pedestrians into the cemetery is available via two pedestrian gates, one of which was recently cleared out to provide a level access pathway leading from this gate. This was refurbished in preparation for these planned works.
- There is another wider gated entrance along the Wokingham Road, furthest east end of the cemetery. These gates are currently overgrown and not in use.
- A Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) will be produced in consultation with the Old Reading Cemetery RBC stakeholders, once a contractor is appointed and decision will be made as to whether or this gate too, should be put back into use. This is only if the pedestrian access gate and vehicular access gate prove to be insufficient.
- This gate though, provides as additional access route to the Cemetery, should the two that are deemed to be sufficient, turn out not to be.