

Reading Borough Council  
Development Control  
PO Box 17  
Reading  
Berkshire  
RG1 7TD

**Our ref:** WA/2025/132791/01-L01  
**Your ref:** PL/25/1679  
**Date:** 19 December 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

**Reading Crematorium redevelopment phase 2a and associated works for a new staff area, funeral director's collection facilities, installation of a plant room and works to improve courtyard accessibility including retaining walls, level adjustments, new ramps and staircases.**

**Reading Crematorium & Henley Road Cemetery, 55 All Hallows Road, Caversham, Reading, RG4 5LP**

Thank you for consulting us on the development proposed above, on 9 December 2025.

We have reviewed the following documents:

- Planning Statement-01 31 October 2025
- Application Form
- Drawing number 2856/2022/P001 Rev A 10-25

### **Environment Agency position**

Whilst we have **no objection** to this planning application, should planning permission be granted, we request that the following informative be included on the relevant decision notice.

### **Informative**

Operating a cemetery without an environmental permit from the Environment Agency is an offence, unless the development meets the exemption criteria. New cemetery developments must do one of the following:

- Meet all the criteria in the exemption for low environmental risk cemeteries. See "*Low environmental risk cemeteries: exemption conditions*".
- Operate under a standard rules permit. The Environment Agency has recently consulted on proposed standard rules permits for cemetery developments and hopes to make this option available in the future. For further details and guidance see "Protecting groundwater from human burials".
- Operate under a bespoke permit. See the "bespoke permits" section of our cemeteries guidance.

Did you know that in the UK, 6.6 million tonnes of household food waste a year is thrown away? Almost three quarters of that is food which could have been eaten. Do your bit to avoid domestic food waste to fight climate change! [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com) [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk)

Permit applications must include a groundwater risk assessment prepared in line with *Cemeteries and burials: groundwater risk assessments*. For support with the application process, refer to *Get advice before you apply for an environmental permit*.

**Final comments**

Thank you again for consulting us on this application.

Please note that this response is based on the information provided at this time and if this changes in the future, we would need to consider our position again. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In accordance with the Planning Practice Guidance ([Determining a planning application](#), paragraph 019), please notify us by email within two weeks of a decision being made or if the application is withdrawn. Please provide us with a URL of the decision notice, or an electronic copy of the decision notice or outcome.

Yours faithfully

**Miss Liz Denham**  
**Planning Advisor**

Team e-mail: [planning\\_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:planning_THM@environment-agency.gov.uk)