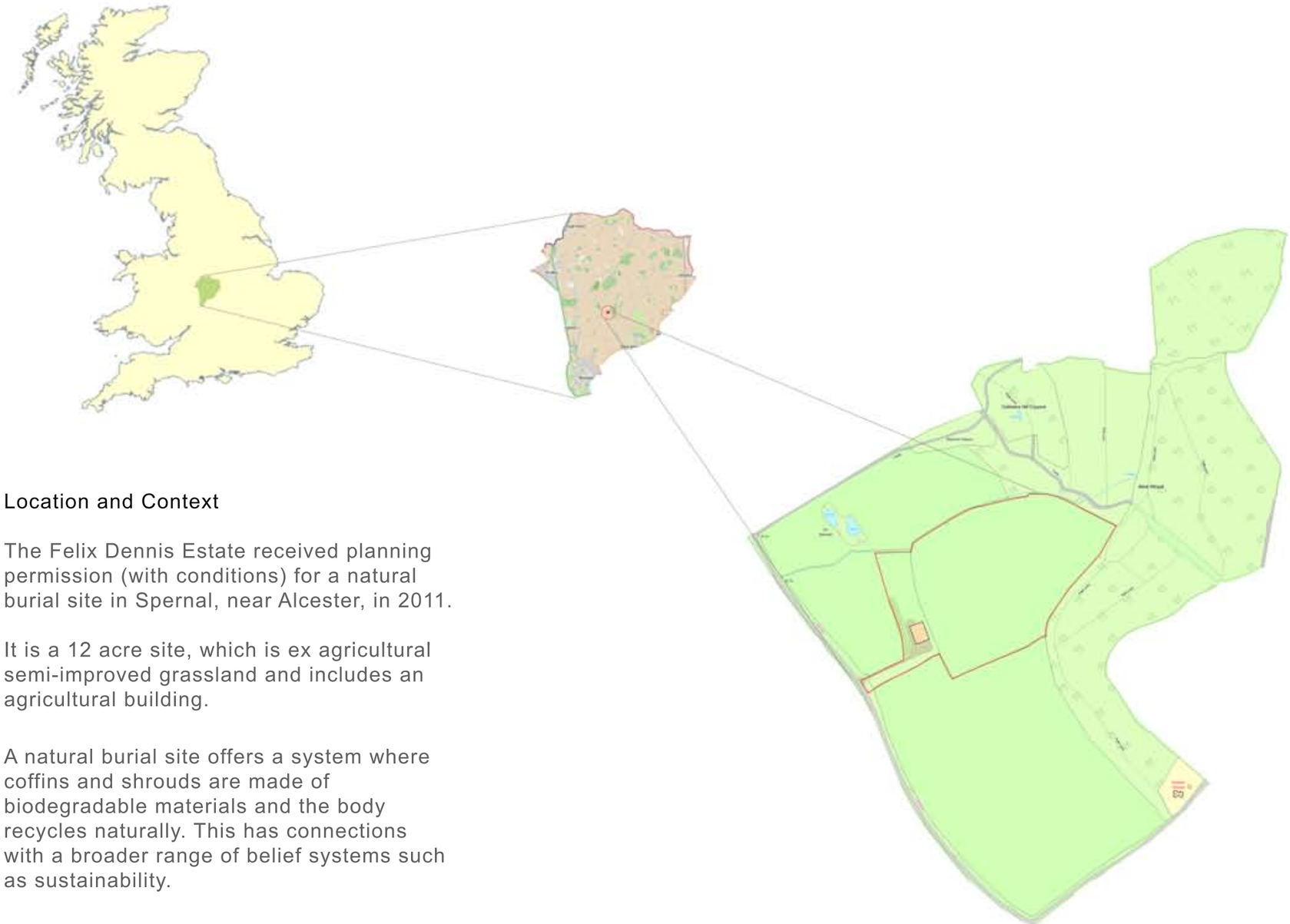


Location and Context

The Felix Dennis Estate received planning permission (with conditions) for a natural burial site in Spernal, near Alcester, in 2011.

It is a 12 acre site, which is ex agricultural semi-improved grassland and includes an agricultural building.

A natural burial site offers a system where coffins and shrouds are made of biodegradable materials and the body recycles naturally. This has connections with a broader range of belief systems such as sustainability.

ALNE WOOD PARK NATURAL BURIAL SITE

The existing vehicular access of crushed stone off Spernal Lane, leads to an area of concrete hard standing and a metal clad agricultural barn.

The highway verge at the access is wide, giving good visibility in both directions.

The surrounding land comprises of fields of grassland, a field planted with young woodland and Alne Wood.

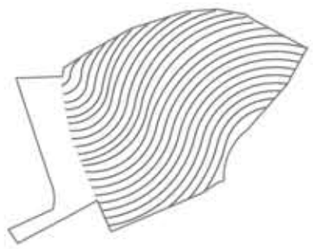
The land drops from Spernal Lane, with the agricultural barn situated in a natural hollow. The land rises sharply behind the building, to the east. The other fields associated with the site to the north and south of the building are undulating but reasonably level.

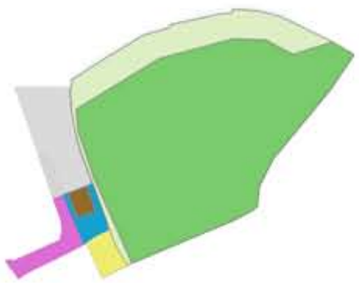
The site boundary running parallel to Spernal Lane is made up of mature trees and hedgerows.

There are a small number of residential properties nearby, otherwise the site is surrounded by open countryside.

Inspiration

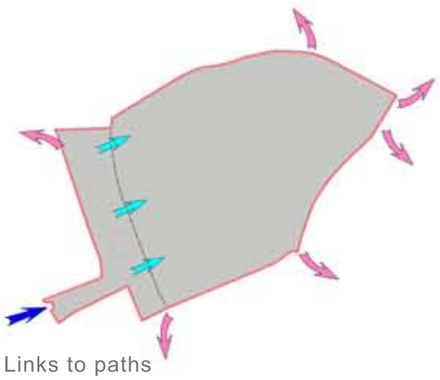
Ridge and furrow of farmland





Organisation

Circulation



Links to paths

Entrance
Reception
Car park
Reception building
Burial ground
Stream buffer
Garden

ALNE WOOD PARK NATURAL BURIAL SITE

The journey

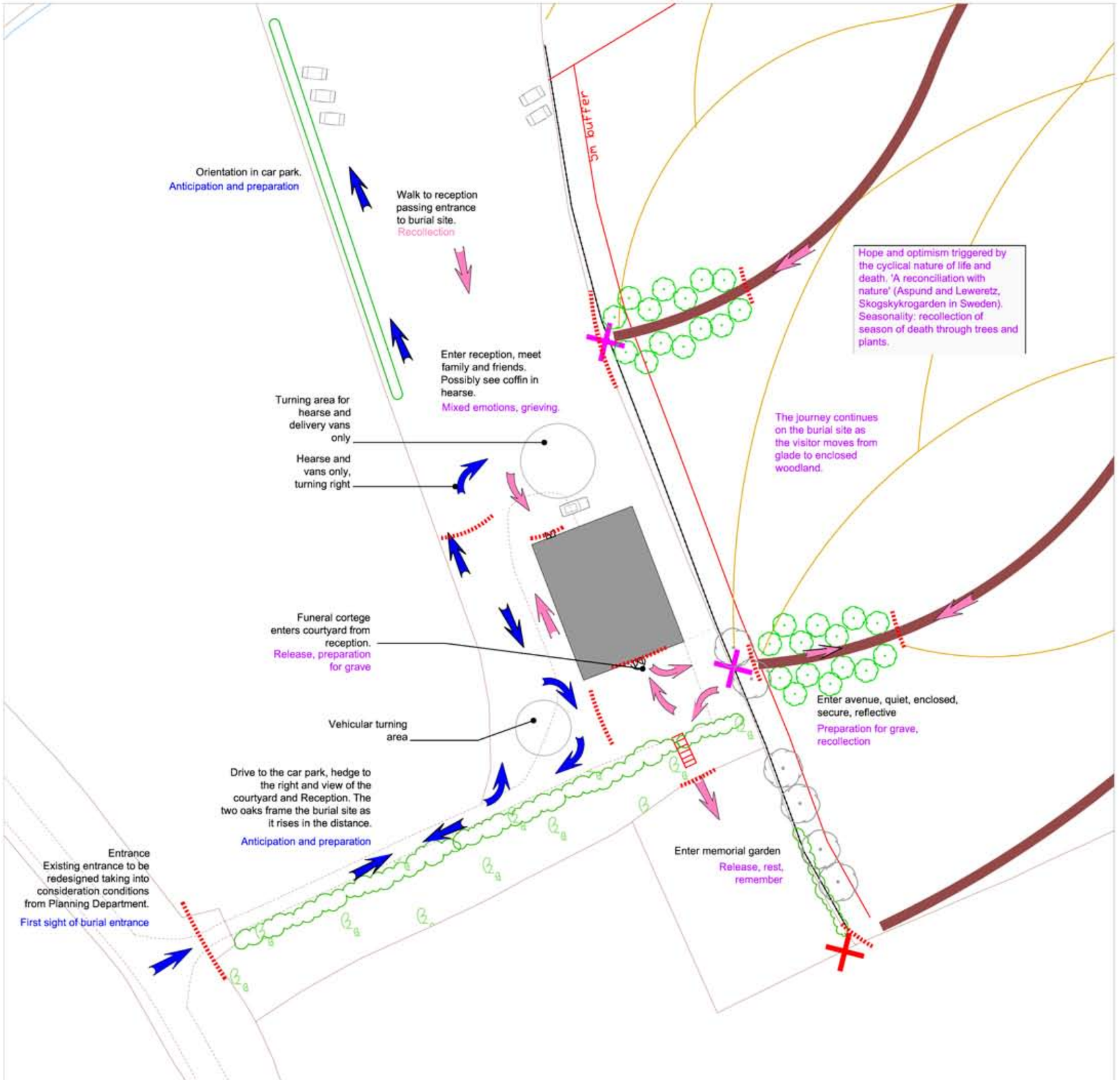
Grief

Memory

Contemplation

Release

Acceptance with emotional attachment



ALNE WOOD PARK NATURAL BURIAL SITE

Car Park

Source of parking information:
Stratford-on-Avon District Local Development Framework
Car and Cycle Parking Standards, Supplementary Planning Document
April 2007
Traffic Advisory Leaflet 5/95, April 1995
Parking for Disabled People

Objectives

The provision of adequate, safe parking without compromising the aesthetic quality of the site. Formal design with some informal planting. Maintain connection yet separation from adjoining burial ground and fields.

Visual prompts: size of paving, large pavers indicate shared space. This is minimal, confined to the car park entrance.

C1 Vehicular car park entry and exit.
C2 4 large parking spaces (4.8m x 4.8m) allocated adjacent to Reception building with direct access to footpath. (Condition 3)
C3 24 car parking spaces 4.8m x 2.4m (Condition 3). The 28 car parking spaces will be discreetly marked out with Marshalls Conservation Concrete Kerbs laid flat in the corners of the rectangular space.
C4 Parking space for hearse.
C5 Breedon self binding gravel tree lined footpath.
C6 Paved foot path. (See Surface Materials)
C7 Pedestrian gate to burial site.
C8 Pleached small leafed tilia and underplanting of shaped buxus.
C9 Staff entrance. Multistemmed Betula jacquemontii.
C10 Wildflower meadow with tree planting including multistemmed Betula jacquemontii.
C11 Weed suppressant membrane and Golden Blend 20mm gravel or similar.

Reception area

Objectives

Short term parking for hearse and delivery vehicles. Good manouevrability for vehicles including hearse and delivery vans.

Transition space between reception building, memorial garden and burial ground.

Visual prompts: size of paving, large pavers indicate shared space. This is minimal confined to short term parking for the hearse and delivery vehicles adjacent to the reception.

R1 Waiting area for hearse and delivery vans. This may also be used as a drop-off point for pedestrians. Shared surface for pedestrians.
R2 Roundabout to facilitate vehicles entry and exit. (Condition 10).
R3 Pleached small leaf lime with underplanting to afford glimpses of memorial garden.
R4 Bridge from Reception area to memorial garden.
R5 Bridge from Reception area to burial site. This is the main route for the coffin and funeral cortege.
R6 Fastigiate hornbeam or Prunus Lusitanica, Portuguese Laurel topiared into mushroom shapes with 1.7m clear stem.
R7 Seating built into planters.
R8 Researching possibilities of repurposing existing concrete sleeve.

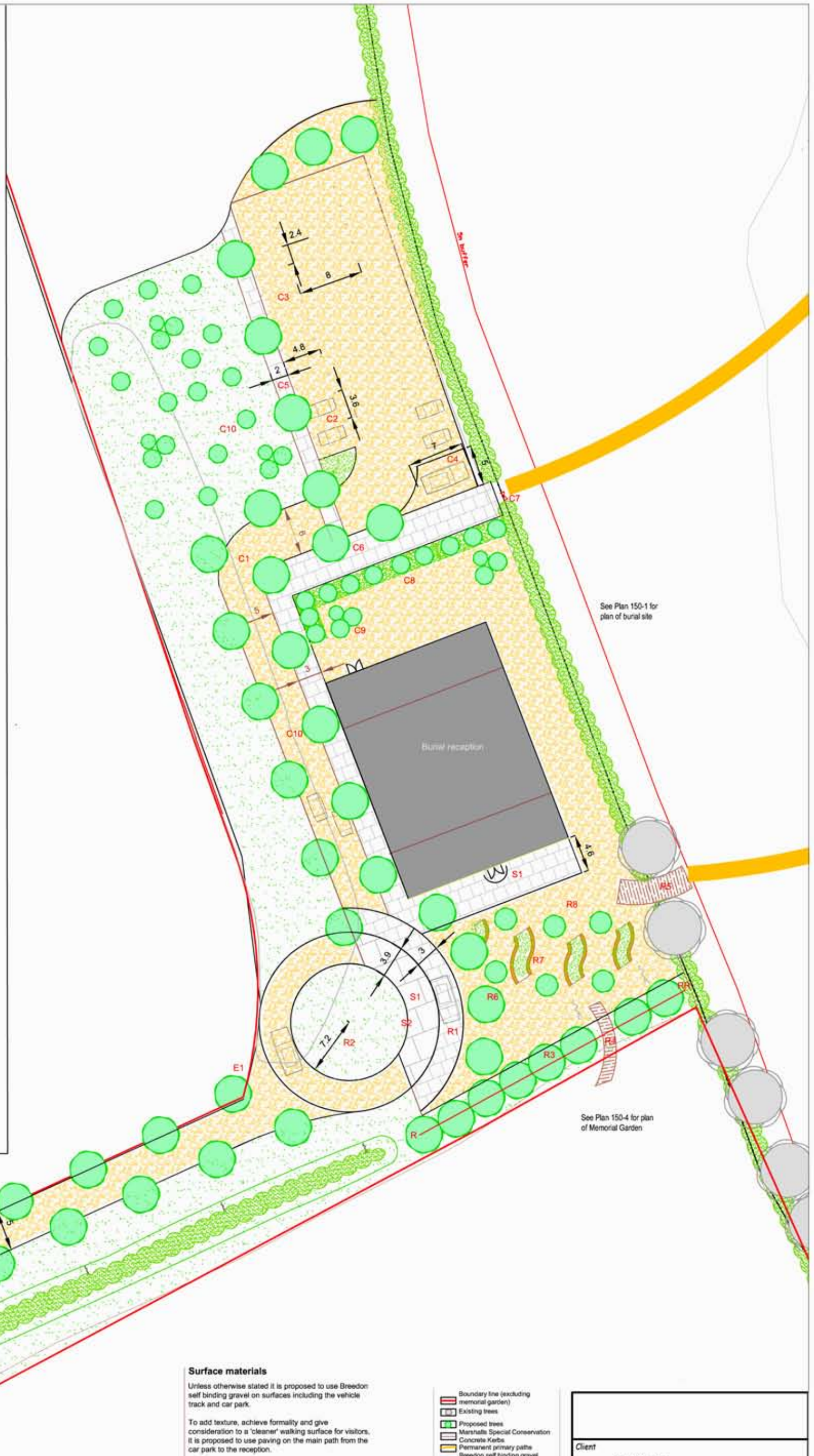
Entrance

Objectives

To provide safe entry and exit from the site. Create a distinctive entrance that is in keeping with its location.

Enable good manouevrability for vehicles. Separation of vehicles and pedestrians.

E1 See attached report.
E2 5m wide track for two vehicles.
E3 5.6m wide wooden vehicular gates in vernacular style to replace existing metal gates.
E4 Visibility splays (see report).
E5 Separation of track from grassed verge indicated by Marshalls Special Conservation Concrete Kerbs as in S2, or similar, laid in random lengths.
E6 'Gateway' to encourage speed reduction.
E7 New hedgerow with appropriate native species on reformed bund approximately 1m high.
E8 New hedgerow, exact placement to be decided.
E9 Prunus Lusitanica, Portuguese Laurel topiared into mushroom shapes with 1.7m clear stem.



Surface materials

Unless otherwise stated it is proposed to use Breedon self binding gravel on surfaces including the vehicle track and car park.

To add texture, achieve formality and give consideration to a 'cleaner' walking surface for visitors, it is proposed to use paving on the main path from the car park to the reception.

Vegecol by Colas is a vegetable based binder that may be used as an alternative to Breedon self binding gravel in areas where a 'cleaner' finish is required.

S1 Marshalls Arbury Riven Buff Multi Paving 450mmx450mm and 450mmx600mm, 50mm thickness, or similar.
S2 Marshalls Special Conservation Concrete Kerbs 145x255mm in lengths of 300mm and 450mm laid randomly. Colour: Harvest Buff, or similar. To be laid flat in pedestrian walking areas.

50mm Amenity grade bark mulch to be spread on planted beds.

- Boundary line (excluding memorial garden)
- Existing trees
- Proposed trees
- Marshalls Special Conservation Concrete Kerbs
- Permanent primary paths Breedon self binding gravel
- Planting
- Existing fence
- Proposed reinstated and new hedging
- Proposed bridge
- Proposed ground treatment - Breedon self-binding gravel
- Proposed shared surface
- Proposed pedestrian paving
- Proposed grass

Client	Mr Felix Dennis
Job Title	Alne Wood Natural Burial Site Spernal Lane, Great Alne
Drawing Title	Entrance, reception area and car park
Drawing No	150-5
Rev	A
Drawn	as
Scale	1:500@A3
Date	21 July 2012

ALNE WOOD PARK NATURAL BURIAL SITE

Block 1
Dominant Oak - 4356m²
Open edge - 1586m²
Glade - 623m²

Block 11
Orchard - 3561m²
Glade 275m²
Behind buffer, orchard planted with 4m spacings with glades

Block 8
Low woodland - 9424m²

Block 9
Glade with occasional trees - 2671m²

Block 4
Dominant Oak - 6031m²

Block 2
Dominant Oak - 8931m²
Open edge - 2837m²
Glade - 836m²
Avenue of Quercus robur - 428m²

Block 12
Orchard - 3485m²

Block 7
Prunus padus - 540m²

Block 3
Tall stand - more open canopy
Dominant Oak - 2627m²
Avenue of Fastigiate Oak at 9m spacing - 223m²

Block 6
Amelanchier lamarckii - 492m²

Block 5
Glade
823m²

Block 10
Orchard - 2837m²

Watercourse
30 m buffer from watercourse
Proposed pedestrian entrance
Existing pedestrian entrance
Open edge
Morus rubra
Prunus padus
Amelanchier lamarckii
Blossom Trail
Glade
See Plan 150-5 for plan of entrance, reception and car park
See Plan 150-4 for plan of Memorial Garden

Qr - Quercus robur - English Oak
Qp - Quercus petraea - Sessile Oak
Fe - Fraxinus excelsior - Ash
Bp - Betula pendula - Birch
Ug - Ulmus glabra - Wych elm
Tc - Tilia cordata - Small leaved lime
Cs - Castanea sativa - Sweet chestnut
Sa - Sorbus aucuparia - Rowan
Pa - Prunus avium - Cherry
Ac - Acer campestre - Field maple
Sar - Sorbus aria - Whitebeam
St - Sorbus torminalis - Wild Service
Ia - Ilex aquifolium - Holly

Shrub layer
Cb - Carpinus betulus - Hornbeam
Ca - Corlyus avellana - Hazel
Cm - Crataegus monogyna - Hawthorn
Rc - Rhamnus catharticus - Buckthorn
Ee - Euonymus europaeus - Spindle
Rc - Rosa canina - Dog rose
Ruc - Ribes uva-crispa - Gooseberry

Further details of planting are given on Drawing No 150-3

Boundary line (excluding memorial garden)
Existing trees
Proposed orchard
Proposed high canopy woodland
Proposed low woodland
Proposed glade
Proposed open edge
Permanent primary paths - Breedon self-binding gravel

Ann Sherrock Landscape
07766 334 306 Manchester
a.sherrock@manchester.ac.uk

Client: Mr Felix Dennis

Job Title: Alne Wood Natural Burial Site
Spernal Lane, Great Alne

Drawing Title: Burial Ground
Drawing No: 150-1
Rev: A

Drawn: as
Scale: 1:1000@A3
Date: 21 July 2012

Ash
Fraxinus excelsior

Oak
Quercus robur

Field Maple
Acer campestre

Pteridium aquilinum

Mercurialis perennis

Rubus fruticosus

Objectives of the woodland

Integration of the woodland naturally into its surroundings

Structural diversity

A balance between planting to establish young woodland and the need to integrate new trees requested by customers into the existing structure

Native species

Consideration of the planting of sensitive areas (next to Alne Wood)

Plans and provision of a robust but varied pattern of planting, which gives each species a good chance of contributing to the natural woodland structure without relying heavily upon future stand management

A combination of planted clumps and open areas

Development of canopy, shrub, field and ground layers in appropriate locations

The National Vegetation Classification for the proposed woodland type falls into two main categories: W8 Fraxinus excelsior - Acer campestre - Mercurialis perennis woodland and W10 Quercus robur - Pteridium aquilinum - Rubus fruticosus woodland. These are the selected dominant species for the proposed woodland.

It is proposed to plant an initial tree/shrub structure for the burial site bearing in mind that it is anticipated that a maximum of 133 burials may take place in any one year and that trees may be planted at those burials that contribute to the structure of the woodland.

It is proposed to initially plant a small percentage of trees and shrubs to give the field some structure yet leave the majority as open space so that the woodland can develop as trees are planted as memorialisation.

Oaks and birch have been planted in groups of 3 with 3 to 4m spacing. There is random spacing between other trees and shrubs.

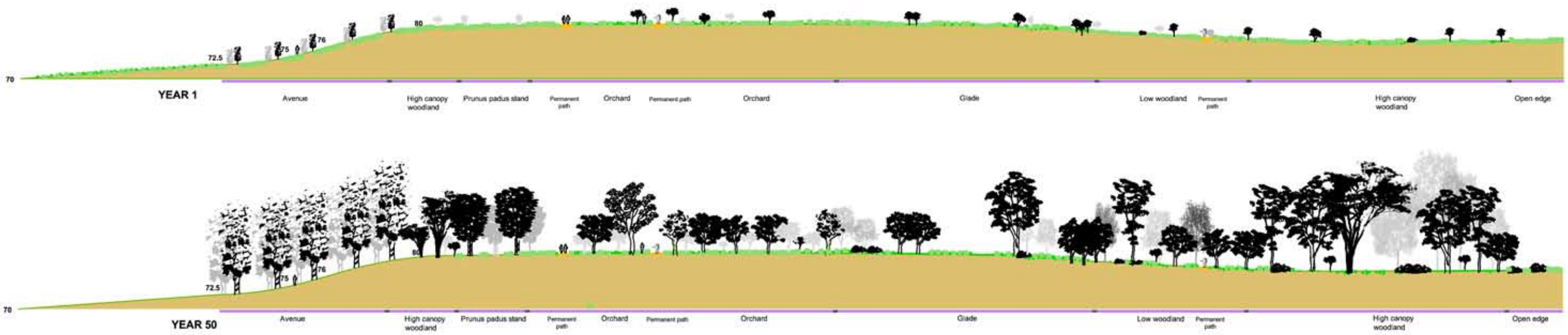
A low percentage of graves are to be planted with standard tree species such as oak and ash that become the permanent high canopy layer.

Coppicing

The majority of graves can be planted with coppice species such as hazel, chestnut, ash or whitebeam.

These trees will then be ‘pruned’ at or near the ground level, at an interval of between 7 and 15 years, depending on the species and growth rate. This will encourage vigorous growth that supports wildlife and the coppiced wood can provide an income. These trees will be permanent markers of the graves and will have a potential to live for many years.

Coppicing the burial site in sections gives a cyclical opening up of certain areas that encourages woodland flowers and then insects, butterflies, birds and mammels.



ALNE WOOD PARK NATURAL BURIAL SITE