

# FIVE YEAR SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

## **Rotherham Crematorium and Municipal Cemeteries**

# Overview

Dignity Plc and sub-contractors Glendale are committed to their working relationship with Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and continue to collaborate together in order to develop the service, and to bring the best possible outcomes the community of Rotherham through our crematorium and cemeteries.

The five-year service development plan has been developed to demonstrate collective commitment to ongoing projects, future projects, and overall grounds maintenance.

The performance of this plan will be managed on a quarterly basis and reviewed by RMBC. Considerations will be given to the current progress of the proposed developments, and the plan will be updated and amended where required. A more detailed plan for the current years developments will run from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April until the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, with the plan being refreshed in its entirety and submitted annually. This will be presented at the Improving Places Select Committee each year as part of the annual Bereavement Services update.

## In Year Service Improvements

### **Increased Involvement with local Cemetery Friends Group**

Dignity have continued plans to be proactively involved and engaged with local friends' groups. An updated and relevant strategy plan was submitted to the Council on 21/07/2023. The plan outlines key stakeholders, timescales, and a plan of action. Dignity have met and contacted many of the groups already this current year. Dignity will continue to hold meetings on a frequent basis moving forward.

A calendar of all meetings and other locally booked events will be sent to the Council Monthly. This will demonstrate Dignity's keen desire to work with the community. Any requests or feedback will be fed back to RMBC to monitor the working partnership. Glendale have and will continue to hold a seat at those meetings, which demonstrated a unified approach. It allows transparency and honest conversations to take place within the community.

Please find below a small snapshot of examples of collaborative projects undertaken so far in 2023

- Dignity supported and attended the two events commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the miner's disaster at Maltby, in partnership with the local friends group.
- A new blue plaque was unveiled by John Healey MP for the late Sir Charles John Stoddart. Dignity worked alongside the Rawmarsh friends' group in helping to get this advertised throughout the community.

### **Improved Customer Feedback Analysis**

Dignity will utilise online survey forms to capture customer views of funeral services provided for both burials and cremations, this will allow for greater accessibility for service users to provide feedback. All noticed boards within the cemeteries have been updated to explain how service users can undertake this.

Alongside this work a QR code is currently being produced which will link visitors to an online survey. This will be accessible to all cemetery users to provide feedback. We have changed the layout of the questions to better suit all cemetery users, and not just people having used one of the services. This is currently in the final stages of completion.

### **Produce a strategic plan for burial capacity to the end of the contract term**

Dignity have produced a strategic 35-year plan to RMBC. The plan is designed to give insight into future burial capacity for the borough. It provides a great understanding of the needs and challenges that RMBC may need to consider continuing providing burial provisions for future generations. The report explains the potential to expand within existing cemetery boundaries, but it also highlights the needs to look into virgin ground for certain local areas within the borough. The report was submitted to RMBC on 01/10/2023.

Dignity will continue to work alongside the cemetery wardens and Glendale to establish and estimate of burial capacity within each site and report annually via the Annual Performance Report.

### **Extension of last burial times**

Improvements to services have been introduced to assist those whose religious beliefs require a burial within 24 hours of their passing, granted all legalities are met. The last burial time of the day has been extended to 6:30pm. Additional lighting is being discussed to improve the late burials during the darker months. Dignity have introduced grave covers by working with the community to better understand needs. The covers negate the need to dig graves at short notice and ensures two graves are always ready if a request comes in from a family.

## In Year Service Improvements

### **Renovation of old office block at East Herringthorpe and the installation of a café and on site florist**

Initial plans previously put forward are now being re-assessed and discussed. New proposals have been sent to RMBC for review and the feedback given was positive. Consultations took place previously to look at renovating and old office block at the entrance to East Herringthorpe. Upon review a new idea was proposed which would not only fulfil the needs of the community but also allow for much safer parking.

The land at the entrance could then be better utilised, and if deemed the best course of action, cleared and used to expand the memorial options in its place.

Consultation with the local groups and appropriate tenders will continue, and the aim is to complete this action point by Summer 2024.

### **Adequate performance management of sub-contractor using KPI's specified within the Facilities Management Agreement**

#### **Agreement**

Implemented by Dignity for Sub-Contractor Glendale by 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2022. Updates by exception have been provided to the Council in the Monthly Performance Meetings. Meetings take place with Glendale on a frequent basis, during these meetings both Dignity and Glendale share ideas and solutions in order to support the performance frameworks and updated for the Five Year Plan.

### **Improved working with Faith leaders to provide reasonable adjustments and engagements during religious festivals.**

Dignity have established a list of key religious festivals and dates with Faith leaders. Reasonable adjustments have been recorded to help facilitate them. Meetings have taken place prior with Faith leaders before these key events.

Dignity have been regularly meeting with members of the Muslim Community, and considerable efforts have been made to visit each of the mosques within the area, this is still ongoing. So far the visits have gone a long way and have been received well with the community. Dignity in recent months in partnership with the community, have installed a handrail at the entrance of the Muslim section, to make paths more accessible to visitors. Additional taps where possible have also been installed.

Landscaping will continue in the new year to improve the overall feel and RMBC have approved the approach planned.

Improvements are being identified across the entire estate and a rolling programme identifying key areas is under way. All faiths and beliefs are considered, and the improvements are not isolated to just within the Muslim section of the cemetery. Consultation with all local friends' groups is a rolling programme and Dignity welcomes any and all feedback.

New railings were installed in Wath Cemetery in July 2023 as an example of such a request and improvements to infrastructure and boundaries continue across all sites.

Dignity continues to support religious events and the office was decorated earlier in the year in good taste to celebrate Eid-al-Adha and we have the popular Christmas Carol service coming up in December at East Herringthorpe.

## Overall Service improvements- Dignity

### **Restoration of and re-drafting of cemetery plans in line with agreed proposals**

Work currently being undertaken by Dignity, meetings are to be had about the current status of this.

### **Digitized capture of registers to be made available on the internet In line with agreed proposals**

This work is currently being undertaken by Dignity in conjunction with TownsWeb and is on target for completion 2023, regular meetings have been had with TownsWeb in order to keep track of their progress. There have been delays to original proposed dates due to the volume of work required and TownsWeb are working through the remaining ledgers. However, TownsWeb are nearing completion and updates are provided to RMBC on a monthly basis.

TownsWeb confirmed on 10/08/2023, that they are currently on phase ¾ of process.

### **Tree Works**

Year on year in March, Glendale will assess all tree works at all cemeteries. A maintenance plan will be scheduled for each month of the year to maintain the trees. All emergency tree works will be carried out within 24 hours. Meetings with Glendale have taken place, in order that Dignity can fully understand the scope of works to be carried out in all sites moving forward. The initial meeting to discuss 2024 was held on 14/08/2023. Regular weekly inspections carried out by Dignity will also monitor and identify any urgent works. Any requests from the community will be acted upon accordingly if legitimate and safe to do so.

### **Out of hours burial fees**

Dignity has reviewed its cemetery prices in Rotherham, and after consulting the Council and local community, has decided to waive the additional fee of £481 for out of hours and absorb the extra costs. Dignity also plans to refund any grave owner that has previously paid the additional weekend fee. Several residents have come forward and have received a refund if legitimately the rightful owner.

### **New equipment**

Glendale continues to invest in new equipment to be used in maintaining cemeteries roads and footpaths and to keep them clear from moss, blossoms, and other growth.

Glendale have held discussion regarding the equipment that is currently being used for moss clearance, and if there are any better alternatives for this, as well as laying lawn sand down. Moss in the winter months is common problem and Glendale's and Dignity wish to protect visitors and look after the new invested pathways and roads.

### **Cemetery notice boards**

RMBC Bereavement Services have installed lockable notice boards within each cemetery which RMBC, Dignity have access to these in order to relay messages, events and other important notices to visitors as needed. This improvement will help information reach a wider audience as many will not regularly check or have access to webpages, particularly if it is somewhere they visit often. RMBC reinstalled a notice board in October 2023, that had been badly vandalised at Haugh Road.

The notice boards continue to be updated on a regular basis, helping friend's groups display posters for upcoming events within the sites and around Rotherham. They will also once in place display the QR code previously mentioned.

## Future Improvements 2022-2027

### **Dignity's contractual Asset responsibilities**

Dignity will undertake a survey of the assets they have responsibility for as defined in the contract within the Cemetery and provide a full report to the Council on these which includes any necessary remedial works and the relevant commencement dates of these works where appropriate. Monthly Performance Framework meetings will ensure that this is constantly monitored by RMBC.

### **Drainage Surveys**

CCTV drainage surveys to be undertaken in all cemeteries to assess the condition of existing drainage. This will inform Dignity of any remedial works required and enable a thorough maintenance plan to be prepared and carried out by Glendale during their maintenance duties. Further CCTV drainage surveys will be undertaken periodically by Dignity to ensure all drainage systems are in full working order. Heavy rainfall over the summer of 2023 was contained and no reports of drainage issues were raised at any of the sites. This indicates a healthy system, but the reports will confirm.

### **Customer information**

RMBC Bereavement Services have already improved the Council website in order to keep interested parties fully informed on matters regarding each cemetery. Dignity will also update their own website to reflect the same information as the Council in tandem.

# East Herringthorpe Crematorium and Cemetery

## In Year Projects 2024-2025

### **Baby Section within site**

- Dignity have undertaken significant works within East Herringthorpe Cemetery to improve the condition of the roads and footpaths. This work was completed in 2022
- New plans in place to make the Baby section within the cemetery look better. Plans to have memorial stones cleaned, paths cleared, and flowers planted in bedding areas. A new plan will be made and sent to RMBC to see future developments within this area. Meeting to be had with Dan Fleetwood at Barnsley to discuss his previous project 'The Forget You Not Garden' on 11/08/2023. Hopes to have Dan Visit and share ideas on how the section at East Herringthorpe can be improved and give input on ways we can help this become part of the cemetery.
- Glendale will create additional flower beds at the top of the cemetery near the children's section and tidy up the Fellowship area which is situated in the August section of the Gardens of Remembrance.

### **Muslim Burial Section**

- Dignity have undertaken significant developments within the Muslim burial section of East Herringthorpe Cemetery to improve drainage in the existing burial section.
- A gabion wall and 32 new burial tombs have been installed, with a further 73 to follow.
- Regular meetings had with the Muslim community on how we can improve this section of the cemetery. It was discussed that there could be a potential for flowers on the gabion wall leading up to the top section. Dignity have taken some feedback from the community and purchased X2 grave covers. This will help save time when it comes to digging spaces in future. This is currently on trial.

### **Renovation of old office block**

- Dignity will propose new ideas to either renovate the old office block and seek to install an onsite Florist and Café for visitors or provide a suitable alternative. Initial plans to be re-visited and discussed.
- Alternative plans were discussed about other uses for the old office block. A new presentation of alternative ideas will be presented to the Council and to the public. This will be discussed further with property to discuss steps moving forward.

### **Friends Groups**

- Dignity will increase engagement with the newly formed Friends group to arrange events and small-scale activities within the cemetery such as tidy up events and making bird or bat boxes and bug hotels to increase biodiversity in the cemetery.
- Dignity will start to be more involved within the Friends Group and support as many events as possible, with hopes to support a minimum of four events per year but the aim to support many more. Meetings will be held at least once a Month.

### **Signage**

- Dignity have installed improved signage to direct visitors to the car park to ensure that inappropriate parking on site is managed allowing better access to the crematorium chapel for funeral corteges. Looking at sourcing another company for signage moving forward.
- Dignity will look at installing signage throughout the cemetery which will indicate which section visitors are in. This will hopefully make its easier for sections and plots within the sections easier to locate.

# East Herringthorpe Crematorium and Cemetery

## In Year Projects 2024-2025

### **Burial Land**

- Dignity will ensure that a review is undertaken of all potential burial land in other areas of East Herringthorpe and prepare this for burials or ashes interments.
- This will be added and into the 35 strategic plan in more detail once identified.

### **Cemetery Expansion**

- Dignity will complete Cemetery expansion works and open the new section for burials by 31st December 2024. Planning was submitted on 30th September 2022.
- Meeting to be had with property to discuss current stages of planning and next steps to take to get works in place to start.

### **Green recycling and Biodiversity**

- Glendale re-use most of the soil in the cemeteries, the rest of the soil and green waste is collected locally. Glendale's aim is to increase their recycling program and create a plan of how this will be implemented.
- It has been mentioned about implementing a wreath recycling scheme, and all parts separated into the correct category of recycling. For example, the oasis can often be donated and re-used for other wreaths.
- Dignity will commission a Biodiversity survey of the cemetery and will implement recommendations to encourage biodiversity at the site.
- Plans in place to get more bird boxes, bug hotels, and seed feeders in place. It was mentioned during a meeting on site, that it would be a good idea to partner up with local schools in the community to help decorate some bird boxes to be placed throughout the cemetery.

## Tree Works

Having had numerous meetings with the tree team at Glendale, it has been discussed that the tree works are to run from March 2023 to April 2024. The works carried out will be routine maintenance, with attention to any trees that pose a health and safety risk. Any request for service that involves any trees throughout the site, are dealt with accordingly.

There are currently plans to have the Cherry tree by the main office removed and the deadwood Cherry tree at the back of the old office removed. There are trees hanging over the boundary that will also be cut back.



Routine Maintenance 2022-2027 updated

East Herringthorpe Crematorium 2023/2024														
Job Description	Indic Freq	WINTER		SUMMER								WINTER		Comments
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
RIDE ON MOW GRASS AREAS	32			3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	
STRIM OBSTACLES AND GRASS EDGES	32			3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	1	
SWEEP/ BLOW PATHS AND KERBS NEAR GRASSED AREAS	48	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
LEAF CLEARANCE ROADS/PATHS/GRASS AREAS	When Required													
APPLY HERBICIDE SPRAY AROUND OBSTACLES/HEADSTONE STRIPS/SHRUB BEDS	8			2		2			2		2			
LIFT LOW BRANCHES UP TO 8FT	2		1										1	
REMOVE EPICORMIC GROWTH FROM TREES	4	1	1									1	1	
CULTIVATE SHRUB BEDS	8	2	2									2	2	
EDGE SHRUB BEDS	8	2	2									2	2	
DEAD HEAD ROSES												1		
SOFT PRUNE ROSES												1		
HARD PRUNE ROSES												1		
PRUNE VARIOUS OTHER SHRUBS	3	1										1	1	
PRUNE INTERNAL HEDGES	2		1								1			
LEAF CLEARANCE FROM SHRUB BEDS	8	2	2									2	2	
HALF MOON GRASS EDGES	8	2	2									2	2	
CLEAR MOSS OFF PATHWAYS USING MECHANICAL BRUSH / CHEMICAL	8	2	2				2					2	2	
SUPPLY AND PLANT SUMMER BEDDING	2						2							
SUPPLY AND PLANT WINTER BEDDING	2										2			
GRIT HEARSE ROUTE AND TOP CAR PARK AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required													
SNOW CLEAR ALL HARDSTANDING AREAS AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required													

# Maltby Cemetery

## In year Projects 2024-2025

### Operational Works

- Dignity have undertaken a site survey of the roads and paths within Maltby cemetery. The survey highlighted all areas of the cemetery where resurfacing repairs and improvements are required. The work to improve the condition of the roads and footpaths will commence 5th of September 2022 and is estimated to be complete by March 2023. Works completed Feb 2023
- Dignity surveyed the boundary wall of Grange Lane and Maltby Cemetery. The re-pointing of the wall was completed in August 2022. The remaining works to stabilize the pillars was completed in November 2022

## Proposed future projects 2022-2027

### Friends Groups

- Dignity will become more actively involved with the Maltby Friends group and will arrange events and activities with the group throughout the year, each year, with a goal to encourage the Friends group to operate autonomously.
- Dignity will attend a minimum of four meetings or events of the friends group per year with the hopes of having these on a more regular basis, once per Month.
- The friends of Maltby have become quite an independent group, however they will always reach out to Dignity if they need any support with events or activities.

### Green recycling and Biodiversity

- Dignity and Glendale will assess the feasibility of recycling and waste throughout this Cemetery and produce an appropriate plan for implementation.
- Dignity will commission a biodiversity survey of the cemetery and will implement any recommendations to encourage biodiversity through the site.
- Get a plan together with the Friends Group and establish ways in which we can work together with the community to help encourage nature through the area.

## Tree Works

Meeting had with the tree team at Glendale and have established that alongside the routine tree maintenance throughout the year, there is only need for the cherry tree near the bus stop to be trimmed. There will also be tree works done as and when require by the community if needed and is safe to do so. Regular tree maintenance and works will be through March 2023 to April 2024.

# Maltby Cemetery

Routine Maintenance 2022-2027 updated

Maltby Cemetery 2023/2024													
Job Description	Indic Freq	WINTER		SUMMER								WINTER	
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RIDE ON MOW GRASS AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
STRIM OBSTACLES AND GRASS EDGES	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
SWEEP/ BLOW PATHS AND KERBS NEAR GRASSED AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
APPLY HERBICIDE SPRAY AROUND OBSTACLES/HEADSTONE STRIPS/SHRUB BEDS	6	1	1	1							1	1	1
APPLY HERBICIDE SPRAY AROUND OBSTACLES/HEADSTONE STRIPS/SHRUB BEDS	4			1		1			1		1		
LIFT LOW BRANCHES UP TO 8FT	1		1										
REMOVE EPICORMIC GROWTH FROM TREES	1		1										
DEAD HEAD ROSES			1										
SOFT PRUNE ROSES			1										
HARD PRUNE ROSES	1		1										
PRUNE INTERNAL HEDGES	2		1							1			
HALF MOON GRASS EDGES	1		1										
CLEAR MOSS OFF PATHWAYS USING MECHANICAL BRUSH / CHEMICAL	2		1									1	
GRIT HEARSE ROUTE AND TOP CAR PARK AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required												
SNOW CLEAR ALL HARDSTANDING AREAS AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required												

# Moorgate Cemetery

## In year projects 2023-2024

### Operational Works

- Dignity have undertaken a site survey of the roads and paths within Moorgate cemetery. The survey highlighted all areas of the cemetery where resurfacing repairs and improvements are required. The original historic cobble stones will be left.
- The commencement of the work to improve the condition of the roads and footpaths will be scheduled and timescales and dates will be published once these have been established.
- Currently Moorgate is one of 3 cemeteries that still require new paths throughout the site. Dignity will revise current quote and company used and look at getting a more up to date figure for remaining paths with other local businesses.
- Green paths have been identified throughout the site (pictured below) these will be seeded and soiled during the appropriate times and eventually turn back to nature.
- There have also been some bedding areas identified, and there are discussions to be had to get these areas tidied and flowers planted.

### Friends Groups

- Dignity and Glendale will work with the Friends Group to improve the relationship and encourage cohesive working between all parties, through different events and activities undertaken with the cemetery.
- As well as working alongside the friend's group, Dignity have also partner with community payback services, who have helped carry out works within the cemetery alongside Glendale and the group.
- An up-to-date plan for Moorgate was sent to the council for review on 24/08/2023.
- There are many graves within the site and Dignity are working alongside the Friends of Moorgate in order to help get as many of these identified as possible and help with grave clearance when needed.

## Proposed Future Projects 2022-2027

### Green recycling and Biodiversity

- Dignity will commission a biodiversity of the cemetery and will implement recommendations to encourage biodiversity at the cemetery.
- Dignity and Glendale are to assess the feasibility of recycling waste within the cemetery at a local level and produce an appropriate plan for implementation.
- It has been Discussed in meetings about implementing a wreath recycling scheme, wreaths will be collected and then separated into the correct category of recycling. For example, the oasis that is often used can be recycled and used for other wreaths.

# Moorgate Cemetery

## Proposed Future Projects 2022-2027

### Operational Works

- Dignity will undertake a survey of the assets they have within the cemetery and provide a full report to the council. This will include any necessary remedial works and the commencement dates of these works where appropriate

### Historic projects

- Dignity have worked with Historic England and the cemetery is now Listed as a Grade II listed Park and Garden, listed 13<sup>th</sup> November 2002, Entry Number-1001643 Historic England
- Commonwealth War Graves to be commemorated as at the other cemeteries on key dates, such as VE day and Remembrance Day. Dignity will work on getting a list of key dates together in order to better plan for these events and contribute wherever possible.

## Tree Works

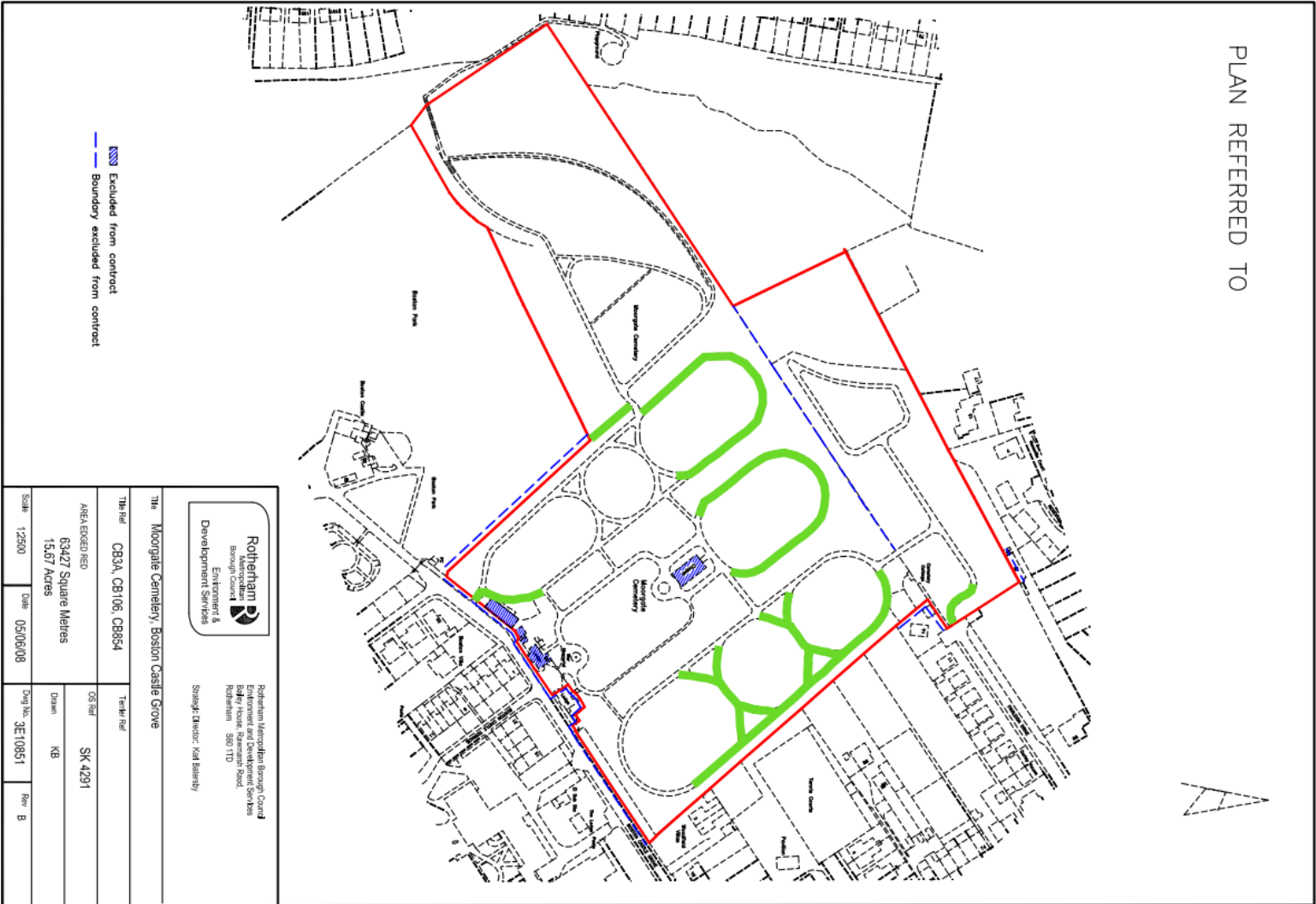
A meeting with the tree team at Glendale at the site took place and it was discussed that the Chery tree by the entrance will be reduced and some deadwood sycamore trees are to be removed that are encroaching over the path. Tree works will be carried out between March 2023 to April 2024. Wherever needed, tree works requested by the community will be looked at and acted upon if needed and safe to do so.

## Moorgate Cemetery Routine Maintenance 2022-2027 updated

Moorgate Cemetery 2023/2024														
Job Description	Indic Freq	WINTER		SUMMER								WINTER		
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
RIDE ON MOW GRASS AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
STRIM OBSTACLES AND GRASS EDGES	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
SWEEP/ BLOW PATHS AND KERBS NEAR GRASSED AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
LEAF CLEARANCE ROADS/PATHS/GRASS AREAS	5	1	1	1									1	1
APPLY HERBICIDE SPRAY AROUND OBSTACLES/HEADSTONE STRIPS/SHRUB BEDS	4			1		1			1		1			
LIFT LOW BRANCHES UP TO 8FT	1		1											
REMOVE EPICORMIC GROWTH FROM TREES	1		1											
CULTIVATE SHRUB BEDS	1		1											
PRUNE VARIOUS OTHER SHRUBS	1		1											
HALF MOON GRASS EDGES	1		1											
CLEAR MOSS OFF PATHWAYS USING MECHANICAL BRUSH / CHEMICAL	2		1										1	
GRIT HEARSE ROUTE AND TOP CAR PARK AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required													
SNOW CLEAR ALL HARDSTANDING AREAS AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required													



Green Paths



# Haugh Road Cemetery, Rawmarsh

## In Year Projects 2023-2024

### Operational Works

- Dignity have undertaken a site survey of the roads and paths within Haugh Road Cemetery. The survey highlighted all areas of the Cemetery where resurfacing repairs and improvements were required. Path works completed by 28/05/2023
- Dignity have enquired about getting 'anti-vandal' taps installed throughout the whole of the cemetery as it has been more common for taps to be vandalised within this site. The taps will operate via a push button system. One has already been installed and has been a great success up to date.

### Green pathways

- In July 2022, Dignity, RMBC Bereavement Services and Glendale visited the cemetery to identify which pathways will be left to nature. Dignity are undertaking updated to these cemetery maps in order to reflect these pathways.
- The remaining paths that were left from the completed tarmac works, are to be soiled and seeded at during the appropriate months.

### Friends Groups

- Dignity have been more involved with the Friends of Rawmarsh, which help cover Haugh Road, Greasbrough town and Highstreet cemetery. Regular meetings have been taking place with the Friends of Rawmarsh, and together with Glendale, are working on getting ideas and plans together to help better the cemetery.

## Proposed Future projects 2022-2027

### Green Recycling and Biodiversity

- Dignity will commission a biodiversity survey of the cemetery and will implement recommendations to encourage biodiversity at the Cemetery.
- Dignity will work with the community to get more bird boxes, bug hotels and other options that can help encourage more wildlife within the site.
- Dignity alongside Glendale will look at the feasibility of recycling waste within the cemetery at a local level and produce and appropriate plan for implementation.
- As mentioned previously above about the possibility of implementing a wreath recycling scheme. wreaths will be collected and then separated into the correct category of recycling. For example, the oasis that is often used can be recycled and used for other wreaths.

### Burial Land

- Dignity will assess the bottom corner of the cemetery which is currently unused and determine whether this will be suitable land for burials or ashes interments, and the potential for a communal seating area or memorial feature.

# Haugh Road Cemetery, Rawmarsh

## Tree Works

Having had numerous meetings with the tree team at Glendale, it has been discussed that the tree works are to run from March 2023 to April 2024. The works carried out will be routine maintenance, with attention to any trees that pose a health and safety risk. Any request for service that involves any trees throughout the site, are dealt with accordingly.

There are a few areas within the site that have deadwood trees, these will be removed, and any branches encroaching onto boundaries will be trimmed and lifted. Epicormic growth treated as and when by grounds maintenance as and when needed.

## Haugh Road Cemetery Routine Maintenance 2022-2027 updated

Haugh Road Cemetery 2023/2024													
Job Description	Indic Freq	WINTER		SUMMER								WINTER	
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RIDE ON MOW GRASS AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
STRIM OBSTACLES AND GRASS EDGES	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
SWEEP/ BLOW PATHS AND KERBS NEAR GRASSED AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
APPLY HERBICIDE SPRAY AROUND OBSTACLES/HEADSTONE STRIPS/SHRUB BEDS	6	1	1	1							1	1	1
LIFT LOW BRANCHES UP TO 8FT	1		1										
REMOVE EPICORMIC GROWTH FROM TREES	1		1										
PRUNE INTERNAL HEDGES	2		1							1			
HALF MOON GRASS EDGES	2		1										
CLEAR MOSS OFF PATHWAYS USING MECHANICAL BRUSH / CHEMICAL	3		1									1	
GRIT HEARSE ROUTE AND TOP CAR PARK AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required												
SNOW CLEAR ALL HARDSTANDING AREAS AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required												



# Greasbrough Lane Cemetery, Rawmarsh

## In year projects 2023-2024

### **Environmentally friendly burial area**

- Due to water issues in the past, several test digs have taken place this year to get a better understanding of the current state of the ground, and whether this is still suitable for burial. This was completed by the end of September, and the outcome suggested that this will still be a suitable area to allow for burials.
- Glendale soiled and seeded with wildflower seed, and this allowed for some good growth throughout the summer.

### **Operational Works**

- Dignity alongside Glendale looked at improving the tree coppice area and how this could be better maintained. Wood chippings were laid under this area and is currently a work in progress until the area is covered. Glendale are using trees and branches that have been cut down within the cemetery, as a way of recycling the wood and repurposing it within the site.

## Proposed Future Projects 2022-2027

### **Green Recycling and Biodiversity**

- Dignity will commission a biodiversity survey of the cemetery and will implement recommendations to encourage biodiversity at the cemetery.
- Since having the woodchips spread underneath the tree coppice area, there have already been growth of wild mushrooms and burrows.
- Dignity alongside Glendale will look at the feasibility of recycling waste within the cemetery at a local level, and to produce an appropriate plan for implementation by the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2024
- Begin looking at the possibility of implementing a wreath recycling scheme, where all parts of the wreath can be recycled and repurposed elsewhere.

### **Environmentally friendly burial area**

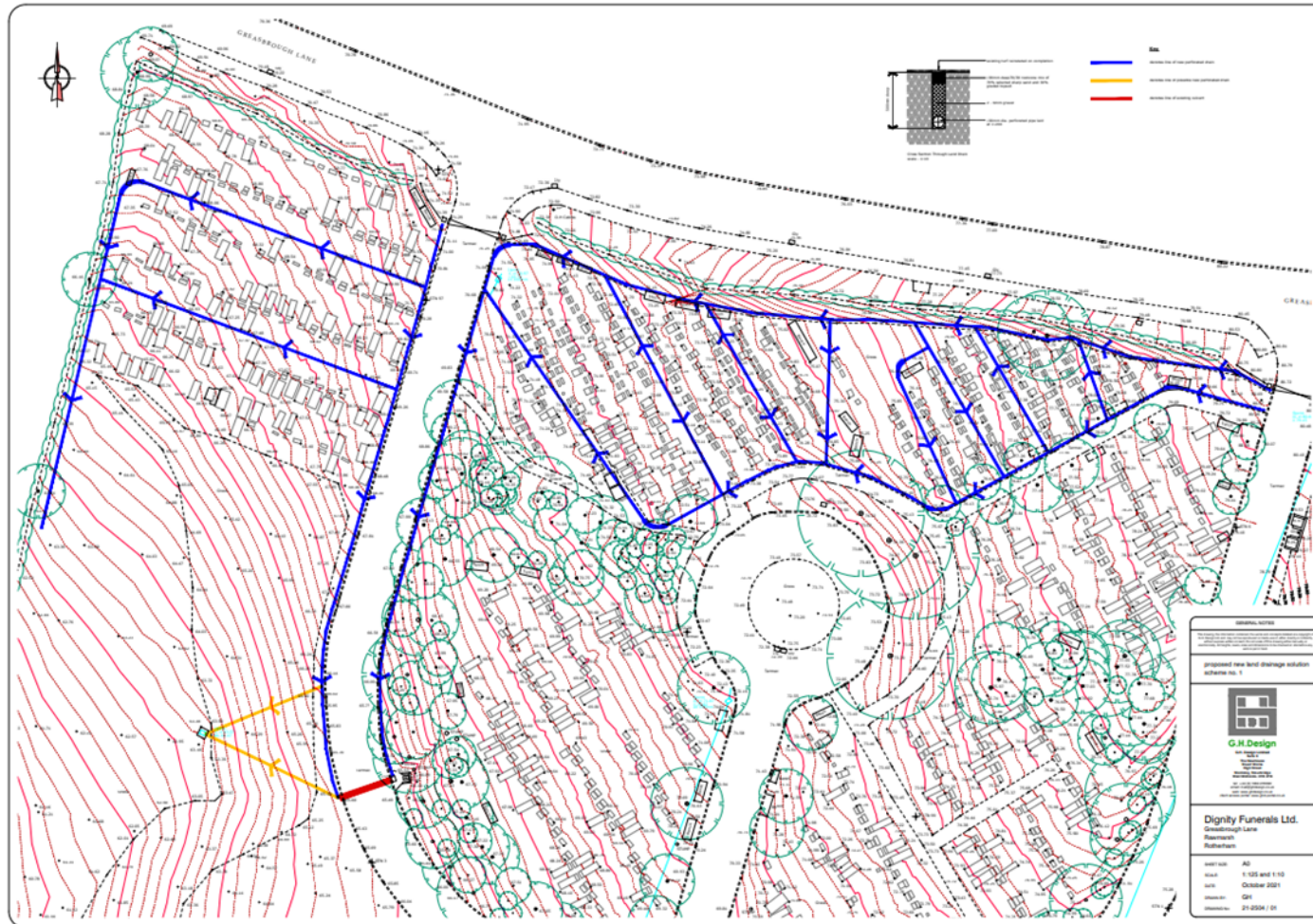
- Since re-visiting the Environmentally Friendly Burial area, Dignity is working alongside Glendale to look at other options of tree and shrub that can be used to separate this section from the rest of the cemetery. Currently there are still red robins within the ground, these dead shrubs will need removing and replaced with shrubs that are better suited to the ground.
- There is currently an area within the corner

## Tree Works

There are a few trees within the tree coppice area that require trimming or removing. The trees within this site aren't a cause for concern. Ongoing maintenance will be carried out March 2023 to April 2024, as with other sites.

# Greasbrough Lane Cemetery, Rawmarsh

## Land Drains



# Greasbrough Lane Cemetery, Rawmarsh

Greasbrough Lane Cemetery, Rawmarsh Routine Maintenance 2022-2027 updated

Greasbrough Lane Cemetery 2023/2024														
Job Description	Indic Freq	WINTER		SUMMER								WINTER		Comments
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
RIDE ON MOW GRASS AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
STRIM OBSTACLES AND GRASS EDGES	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
SWEEP/ BLOW PATHS AND KERBS NEAR GRASSED AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
LEAF CLEARANCE ROADS/PATHS/GRASS AREAS	2	1											1	
APPLY HERBICIDE SPRAY AROUND OBSTACLES/HEADSTONE STRIPS/SHRUB BEDS	3			1				1				1		
LIFT LOW BRANCHES UP TO 8FT	1		1											
REMOVE EPICORMIC GROWTH FROM TREES	1		1											
PRUNE INTERNAL HEDGES	2				1						1			
HALF MOON GRASS EDGES	2	1	1											
CLEAR MOSS OFF PATHWAYS USING MECHANICAL BRUSH / CHEMICAL	3		1				1						1	
GRIT HEARSE ROUTE AND TOP CAR PARK AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required													
SNOW CLEAR ALL HARDSTAN DING AREAS AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required													



# Wath Cemetery

## In year Projects 2023-2024

### **Operational Works**

- Dignity have undertaken a site survey of the roads and paths within Wath Cemetery, the survey highlighted all areas of the Cemetery that needed resurfacing, repairing, and improving where required. The commencement of the works to improve the condition of the roads and footpaths will be scheduled, and timescales and dates will be published once these have been established.
- Dignity have looked into sourcing other local businesses to get other quotes for the works, and these are currently being reviewed and discussed with the properties team.
- Dignity's planning consultants have submitted a pr-application to the Council to expand Wath Cemetery, with a full planning application submitted on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2022. This is still with the contractor and updates will be given, so the community will be aware of the works to proceed.

### **Friends Groups**

- Dignity have been actively involved with most friends' groups. There have been communications with the Friends of Wath, and they have become quite an independent group. Dignity will actively continue to offer support regarding events and other activities if they require assistance.

## Proposed Future Projects 2022-2027

### **Green Recycling and Biodiversity**

- Dignity will commission a biodiversity survey of the Cemetery and will implement any of its recommendations to encourage more biodiversity through the site.
- Dignity will work with the friend's group and other local communities such as schools and colleges to install more bird boxes, bug hotels and seed feeders, to encourage more wildlife within the area.
- Meeting have taken place about the potential to implement a wreath recycling scheme, to help encourage better recycling within the cemetery. There needs to be more discussion about this idea, and how Dignity can effectively implement this within Wath Cemetery.

### **Tree works**

Trees within Wath cemetery have been assessed, there are a few trees within that site that require removal. There is a cherry tree near the entrance that will be removed during the yearly tree works and other deadwood trees throughout. Maintenance will also be carried out as and when needed, if requested by the community and if this is safe to do so. The scheduled works will run from March 2023 to April 2024.

# Wath Cemetery

Wath Cemetery Routine Maintenance 2022-2027 updated

Wath Cemetery 2023/2024													
Job Description	Indic Freq	WINTER		SUMMER								WINTER	
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
RIDE ON MOW GRASS AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
STRIM OBSTACLES AND GRASS EDGES	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
SWEEP/ BLOW PATHS AND KERBS NEAR GRASSED AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
LEAF CLEARANCE ROADS/PATHS/GRASS AREAS	6	1	1	1							1	1	1
APPLY HERBICIDE SPRAY AROUND OBSTACLES/HEADSTONE STRIPS/SHRUB BEDS	4			1		1			1		1		
LIFT LOW BRANCHES UP TO 8FT	1		1										
EDGE SHRUB BEDS	1		1										
DEAD HEAD ROSES	1		1										
SOFT PRUNE ROSES	1		1										
HARD PRUNE ROSES	1		1										
PRUNE INTERNAL HEDGES	2				1					1			
HALF MOON GRASS EDGES	1	1											
CLEAR MOSS OFF PATHWAYS USING MOSS BRUSH / CHEMICAL	2		1									1	
GRIT HEARSE ROUTE AND TOP CAR PARK AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required												
SNOW CLEAR ALL HARDSTANDING AREAS AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required												

# Wath Cemetery

## Wath Cemetery Expansion



# Masbrough Cemetery

## In year Projects 2023-2024

### **Operational Works**

- Dignity have undertaken a site survey of the roads and paths within Masbrough Cemetery, as with all other sites, this survey highlighted all areas within the cemetery that needed improving. The commencement of these works will be scheduled in and timescales and dated will be published once these have been established.
- Dignity and Glendale have devised a plan to be implemented to tackle the onsite Japanese Knotweed, and to dispose of this correctly. The treatments will take place in August 2023, 2024, 2025. Any knotweed will be monitored during the treatment process for 2 years following a successful treatment of the knotweed. First treatment on 11/09/2023

### **Friends Groups**

- Dignity to engage with the established friends group. The group remains inactive, and several contacts have been made to the friend's group to get meetings in place to get up to date with current activities within the area.
- Dignity will continue to show support to the friend's group if they require assistance for any events or activities.
- There have been a few ideas discussed during other meetings with the with other Friends Groups, which involve ways in which Dignity can be more actively involved.

## Proposed Future Projects 2022-2027

### **Green Recycling and Biodiversity**

- Dignity will commission a biodiversity survey of the cemetery and will implement any of its recommendations.
- Dignity will look at the feasibility of recycling any waste within the cemetery at a local level and get a plan in place for implementation.
- Wreath recycling scheme to be discussed with Glendale, and the feasibility of this being actioned throughout Masbrough Cemetery.
- Dignity will look at working with the community to add bird boxes and to implement other methods that will encourage wildlife in the cemetery.

### **Operational Works**

- Dignity to undertake a survey for any potential burial land within the cemetery. This has been looked at and further detail added within the 35-year plan.
- Dignity to look at ways to manager vehicle access within the site, as issues still present of people using the site as a car park during school run hours. This can cause access issues to anyone wishing to visit the cemetery alongside staff members.
- Dignity will work alongside the Wardens at Glendale, to undertake and assessment of whether there are any public graves on site, and if so, commission an install a plaque to identify these areas. Discussions have already taken place with the Cemetery Wardens about the best methods to identify these graves.

# Masbrough Cemetery

## Tree Works

During the ongoing tree maintenance through March 2023-April2024, there will be a few trees that are going to be monitored and their condition to be reassessed in the coming year. There will be day to day maintenance and upkeep of the trees during this period. As mentioned in other sites, any request for tree works by the community will be looked at and assessed, and then acted upon if needed and if safe to do so.

## Masbrough Cemetery Routine Maintenance 2022-2027 updated

Masbrough Cemetery 2023/2024														
Job Description	Indic Freq	WINTER		SUMMER								WINTER		Comments
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
RIDE ON MOW GRASS AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
STRIM OBSTACLES AND GRASS EDGES	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
SWEEP/ BLOW PATHS AND KERBS NEAR GRASSED AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
APPLY HERBICIDE SPRAY AROUND OBSTACLES/HEADSTONE STRIPS/SHRUB E	2	1											1	
APPLY HERBICIDE SPRAY AROUND OBSTACLES/HEADSTONE STRIPS/SHRUB E	3			1				1				1		
LIFT LOW BRANCHES UP TO 8FT	1											1		
REMOVE EPICORMIC GROWTH FROM TREES	1											1		
CULTIVATE SHRUB BEDS	1												1	
EDGE SHRUB BEDS	1												1	
PRUNE INTERNAL SHRUBS	1												1	
PRUNE INTERNAL HEDGES	1										1			
HALF MOON GRASS EDGES	1												1	
CLEAR MOSS OFF PATHWAYS USING MECHANICAL BRUSH / CHEMICAL	2		1										1	
GRIT HEARSE ROUTE AND TOP CAR PARK AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required													
SNOW CLEAR ALL HARDSTAN DING AREAS AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required													



# Town Lane Cemetery, Greasbrough

## In Year Projects 2023-2024

### **Friends Groups**

- Dignity will work towards establishing a Friends Group for this Cemetery. There have been conversations had with the public where the friends' groups have been introduced to people visiting the Cemetery. There will be plans to Discuss this with the already establish Friends of Rawmarsh, and to gather any ideas that this community may have to help encourage other people in the area to join this group.

## Proposed Future Projects 2022-2027

### **Operational Works**

- Dignity had a survey of the roads and paths within this Cemetery, and the works were completed throughout this site. However, there is one pathway that was left. Dignity are working at looking to get this path refurbished, due to protruding roots from the nearby trees. This has been a common topic for discussion with the community. Discussions are to be had with the properties team and establish a plan of action that can get this rectified in the coming years.
- Dignity have already looked into potential burial land for this site, and more detail is given within the 35 years plan.

### **Green Recycling and Biodiversity**

- Dignity will commission a biodiversity survey of the cemetery and will implement any of its recommendations.
- Dignity will look at the feasibility of recycling any waste within the cemetery at a local level and get a plan in place for implementation.
- Wreath recycling scheme to be discussed with Glendale, and the feasibility of this being actioned throughout Greasbrough Town Lane.
- Dignity will look at working with the community to add bird boxes and to implement other methods that will encourage wildlife in the cemetery.

## Tree Works

Tree works ongoing through the year March 2023 to April 2024, there are currently no trees that pose health and safety issues, however with all sites, this will be monitored at all times. Requests for any tree works by the community will be acted upon if necessary and if this is deemed safe.

# Town Lane Cemetery, Greasbrough

Town Lane Cemetery, Greasbrough, Routine Maintenance 2022-2027

Greasbrough Cemetery 2023/2024														
Job Description	Indic Freq	WINTER		SUMMER								WINTER		
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
RIDE ON MOW GRASS AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
STRIM OBSTACLES AND GRASS EDGES	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
SWEEP/ BLOW PATHS AND KERBS NEAR GRASSED AREAS	16			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	
LEAF CLEARANCE ROADS/PATHS/GRASS AREAS	4	1	1										1	1
APPLY HERBICIDE SPRAY AROUND OBSTACLES/HEADSTONE STRIPS/SHRUB BEDS	3			1				1			1			
LIFT LOW BRANCHES UP TO 8FT	1		1											
REMOVE EPICORMIC GROWTH FROM TREES	1		1											
DEAD HEAD ROSES	1										1			
SOFT PRUNE ROSES	1			1										
HARD PRUNE ROSES	1										1			
PRUNE VARIOUS OTHER SHRUBS	1		1											
PRUNE INTERNAL HEDGES	2				1					1				
HALF MOON GRASS EDGES	2	1												1
CLEAR MOSS OFF PATHWAYS USING MECHANICAL BRUSH / CHEMICAL	2		1									1		
GRIT HEARSE ROUTE AND TOP CAR PARK AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required													
SNOW CLEAR ALL HARDSTANDING AREAS AS AND WHEN NECESSARY	When Required													

# High Street Cemetery, Rawmarsh

## In Year Projects 2023-2024

### Historic Projects

- Dignity have started working with the community payback services and who have started uncovering the historic cobbled path throughout the site. There is currently only one more side left to uncover.

### Operational Works

- The front entrance to the area is to be maintained since this was cleared, Dignity will communicate with the friend's group and Glendale in order to keep this clear.
- Glendale have since cleared the nettles and overgrowth down the edge of the public footpath, this is now a safer route for cemetery visitors.

### Green Recycling and Biodiversity

- Biodiversity to be respected by leaving some areas of the site to nature. Once big cut to be done During the winter months, as picture don the maintenance schedule below.
- Discussions had with the local Friends groups about ways in which more biodiversity could be encouraged within the site, alongside the wildflowers that grow there. This will be a good project to start in time for summer.

### Friends Groups

- Dignity have become more involved within the group and will be participating in any litter picking events that take place, as well as supporting other events that have been organised.
- Dignity have worked with the friends Group alongside Glendale to create a more up to date plan for Highstreet, this was sent to the council on the 14/11/2023

## Future Projects 2022-2027

### Friends Groups

- Dignity will continue to work with the friend's group and local Historians to establish a History Trail, including permanent markers at certain historically interesting graves.
- There were discussions with the friend groups about getting information boards throughout the site, that are informative about the different wildlife that can be seen within the Cemetery.
- Dignity will work with the friend group to help locate ware graves and other historical graves within the site, and have the potential to have some paths mowed to allow access to these graves.

### Operational Works

- Dignity and Glendale will work together to look at ways in which the overgrowth within the central area can be tackled, doing so will hopefully encourage more wildflower growth in this area. For example, looking into selective weedkiller as a option, however this will require more research.

# High Street Cemetery, Rawmarsh

## Tree Works

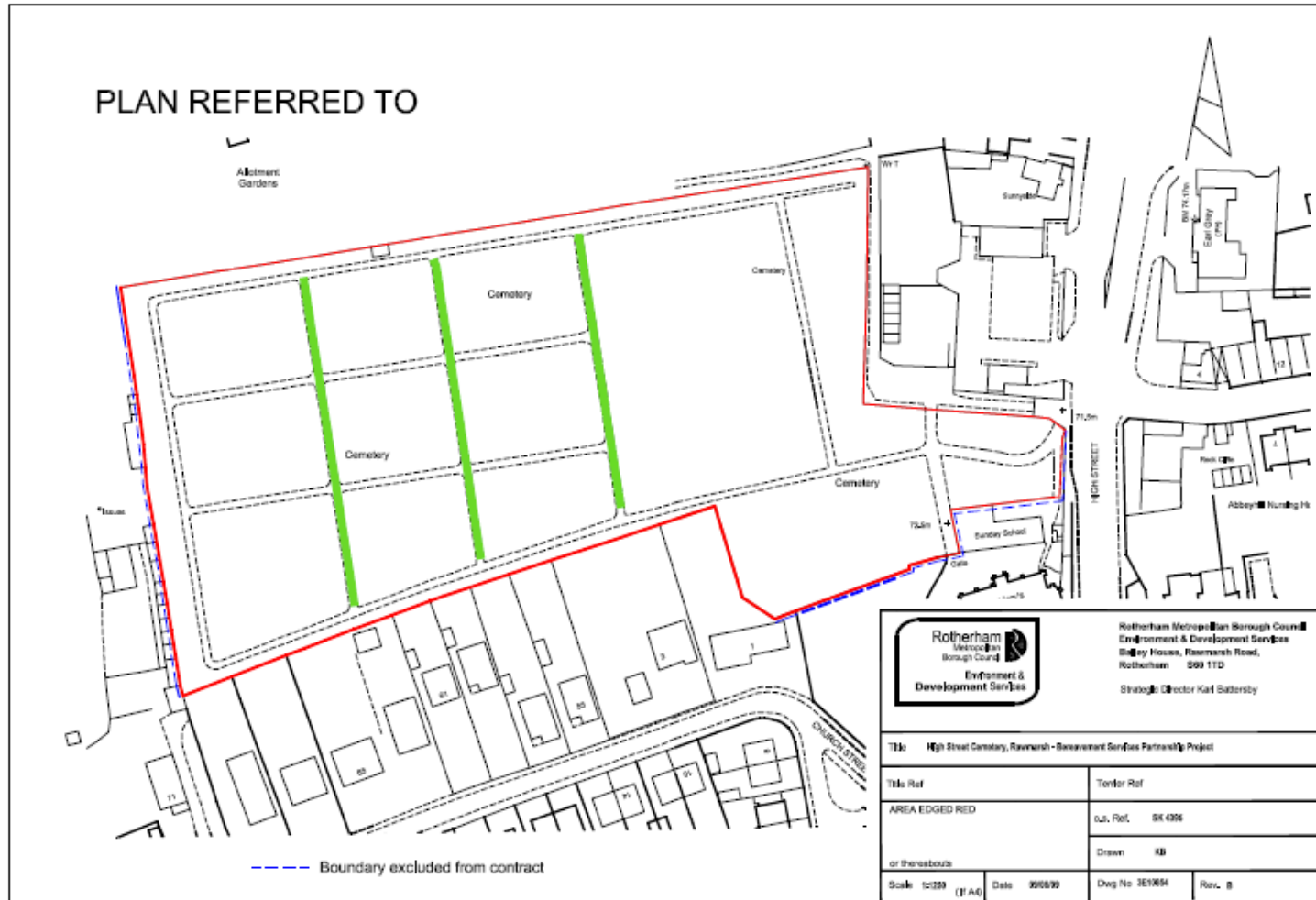
There are few trees throughout the site that are being monitored throughout the course of the tree maintenance programme. These will be regularly checked on to assess the conditions. There are some self-sets by the boundary that will be removed, as well as self-sets by the wall. Ivy growth on tress will be severed and monitored.

## High Street Cemetery, Rawmarsh, Routine maintenance updated

High Street Cemetery 2023/2024														
Job Description	Indic Freq	WINTER		SUMMER								WINTER		Comments
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
RIDE ON MOW GRASS AREAS (FULL SITE CUT)	1										1			
RIDE ON MOW GRASS PATH AREAS	4			1		1		1		1				
STRIM OBSTACLES AND GRASS EDGES	5			1		1		1		1	1			
SWEEP/ BLOW PATHS AND KERBS NEAR GRASSED AREAS	5			1		1		1		1	1			
LEAF CLEARANCE	1		1											
CLEAR MOSS OFF PATHWAYS USING MECHANICAL BRUSH	1		1											
MANAGE GROWTH ON PERIMETERS	2		1								1			
LIFT LOW BRANCHES UP TO 8FT	WHEN REQUIRED													
REMOVE EPICORMIC GROWTH FROM TREES	WHEN REQUIRED													
APPLY HERBICIDE SPRAY AROUND OBSTACLES	0													
APPLY HERBICIDE SPRAY TO BUILDING LINES, PATHS, AND CAR PARKS	0													

# High Street Cemetery, Rawmarsh

## Green Paths



## Ad Hoc Maintenance – Dignity & Glendale

- Repairing and replacing water taps in cemeteries.
- Removal of green waste from the friends group events.
- Removal of fly tipping within the cemeteries.
- Repair fencing and gates, as and when required.
- Transport heavy memorial benches to different sites.
- Removal of tributes from graves when needed.
- Re-paint gates and railings as and when required.
- Undertake emergency tree works within 24 hours when required.

## **Bereavement Services**

Rotherham Crematorium Cremation service times:

Direct Cremations: Mon – Fri – 8.00am – 8.30am

All Cremations: Mon – Fri – 9.00am – 6.30pm

Saturday times available on request

Book of Remembrance – Monday – Friday – 9.00am – 4.15pm

Saturday, Sunday, and Bank Holidays – 10.00am – 4.00pm

Appointments available to view alternative dates

## **Rotherham Cemeteries include:**

East Herringthorpe Cemetery – open site for interments

Maltby Cemetery – open site for interments

Moorgate Cemetery – open site for interments

Haugh Road Cemetery – open site for interments

Greasbrough Lane Cemetery – open site for interments

Wath Cemetery – open site for interments

Masbrough Cemetery – open site for interments

Greasbrough Cemetery – open site for interments

High Street Cemetery – closed site for interments