

APPENDIX C

Dignity Operational Burial Space Plan

October 2025

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On 9th September 2024 Dignity submitted a revised document reflecting the Operational Planning required by The Council. The document was noted by The Council and discussions have been on going regarding the documentation required to demonstrate effective management of the Crematorium and Cemeteries Assets.

As an update, this document is submitted to provide a current overview of the burial space to supplement the 35-year plan.

The contract is nearing completion of 18 years of a 35-year duration and therefore the strategic plan beyond 2043 requires further partnership discussion.

This document provides information regarding the available space for full adult burials and interments of cremated remains within the cemeteries managed, including the consideration of religious requirements.

The figures presented within this document considers space required for infrastructure and can only be estimates until the detail of the land is known.

The forecasting of availability will vary as death rates change. To give a more accurate understanding of timescales, work commenced this year on a review of the pre-purchase plots and the re-open capacity, this has been included in the figures presented for:-

- East Herringthorpe Cemetery
- Wath Cemetery
- Maltby Cemetery

The previous rating stated below are included but the pre-purchase and re-opens are also available to give a more accurate risk level.

RED Less than 5 operational years remaining

AMBER 5-10 operational years remaining

GREEN 10+ operational years remaining

1.1 Scope of document

Dignity has management responsibility for all municipal cemeteries in Rotherham. The categorisation of is detailed below: -

Open Cemeteries

- East Herringthorpe Cemetery
 - Muslim Section
 - Areas for Other Religious Denominations and Non-Religious Burials/Interments for Cremated Remains.
- Maltby Cemetery
- Wath Cemetery
- Haugh Road Cemetery
- Greasbrough Lane Cemetery

Closed Cemeteries

- Town Lane Cemetery, Greasbrough
- Masbrough Cemetery (Closed to burials but some cremated remain plots identified)
- High Street Cemetery
- Moorgate Cemetery

1.2 Contractual expenditure

The capital expenditure to achieve a **GREEN** rag rating on all sites is significant and the contract is in year 18 of the 35-year duration.

Capital expenditure will be considered to ensure burial space is available for the Rotherham community at the time of need although this may not always be to a maximum level.

2.0 EAST HERRINGTHORPE CEMETERY

2.1 Muslim Burial Section

The initial stage of a long-term development to meet the needs of this area of the Rotherham community was completed in November 2025.

Fig 2.1a

East Herringthorpe, Muslim Burial section As of 15.10.2025		East Herringthorpe, Muslim Burial section Pre-Purchase data (Historical)	
Burial Type	Plots Available	Burial Type	Plots Purchased
Lined	21	Number of plots P/P no interments	43
Earthen	6		
NVF	27		
Baby	3		

OPERATIONAL YEARS AVAILABLE FOR LINED BURIAL PLOTS - 9 MONTHS

OPERATIONAL YEARS AVAILABLE FOR EARTHEN BURIAL PLOTS - 9 MONTHS

Architectural instruction has been given to commence the work on the development of the cemetery land beyond the current phase which will allow further burial capacity as detailed below.

Fig 2.1b – Below is the ADDITIONAL plots post November 2025

East Herringthorpe, Muslim Burial section As of 01.12.25		East Herringthorpe, Muslim Burial section Pre-Purchase data	
Burial Type	Plots Available	Burial Type	Plots Purchased
Lined	@132	Number of plots P/P no interments	Plots offered to community
Earthen	@20		

Operational Plan

NVF	Discussing process with NHS
Baby	20

OPERATIONAL YEARS AVAILABLE FOR LINED AND EARTHEN BURIAL PLOTS

Lined **4 years 10 Months**

Earthen **2 years 7 Months**

The detail for this development is included in the 5-year plan (APPENDIX B).

Dignity envisage that the scale of the development will allow pre-sale of a percentage of plots to the community giving confidence that families can be laid to rest together.

2.2 Other religious denominations/Non-Religious Burials/Interments for Cremated Remains

Focused work has identified the number of plots available for immediate need, pre-purchased and re-opened to more accurately understand the position.

Fig 2.2

East Herringthorpe As of 15.10.2025		East Herringthorpe Pre-Purchase data	
Burial Type	Plots Available	Burial Type	No
Full Burial Plots	66	Full Burial Plots for re-open	487
Cremated Remains	72	Cremated Remains plots for re-open	445
Roman Catholic* Full burial plots	22	Plot full for burial but space for CR	556
Cremated remains	14		
Baby/NVF	20	Number of plots P/P currently unused	192

*This is separate to ensure all faith needs are clearly demonstrated.

OPERATIONAL YEARS AVAILABLE FOR FULL BURIAL PLOTS **1 YEAR 10 MONTHS**

TO INCLUDE PRE-PURCHASE AND RE-OPEN THIS WOULD INCREASE TO **18 YEARS 11 MONTHS**

CREMATED REMAINS AVAILABILITY **5 YEARS, 5 MONTHS**, ALTHOUGH RE-OPEN OPPORTUNITES INCREASE TO **13 YEARS**.

In addition, work is ongoing to develop options within the cemetery to assess any plots unused to ensure an increase in capacity. This work will be finalised in early 2026. This will enable Dignity and The Council to work together to consider the future requirement for this site.

The Council is required to provide space/land to use for burial plots. Dignity is contractually obliged to develop the land to make operationally viable. The work to

secure a long-term position for East Herringthorpe is part of the strategic discussions which accompany all long-term contract partnerships.

3.0 MALTBY CEMETRY

3.1 Operational land

The aspect of Maltby as part of a mining community provides several land-challenges. Observations of the cemetery would suggest a high number of available plots however the rock seams and machinery access have reduced the available burial land.

Work has been undertaken to maximise the available land and agree a systematic approach to immediate need burials. This has enabled further plots to be identified.

Fig 3.1

Maltby As of 15.10.2025		Maltby Pre-Purchase data	
Burial Type	Plots Available	Burial Type	Plots Purchased
Full Burial Plots	129	Number of plots P/P no interments	70
Cremated Remains	28		
Baby/NVF	0		
Plots identified for Full burial and cremated remains can be used for baby/NVF if needed, so no concerns.			

OPERATIONAL YEARS AVAILABLE FOR FULL BURIAL PLOTS **7 YEAR 3 MONTHS**. Caution should be given to these figures due to land challenges

TO INCLUDE PRE-PURCHASE AND RE-OPEN THIS WOULD INCREASE TO **12 YEARS 3 MONTHS**

CREMATED REMAINS AVAILABILITY **3 YEARS, 9 MONTHS**.

Maltby Cemetery has no adjacent land which can be brought into use to extend the existing cemetery. The Council are currently progressing land provision.

4.0 WATH CEMETERY

4.1 Operational Land Currently Available

Wath cemetery has been limited for space, and therefore work has been carried out to assess new areas for burial. Space has been identified however due to the challenging ground this is not confirmed until a full dig is undertaken. To demonstrate this, a full section has previously been lost due to the identification of building foundations.

Operational Plan

There are no options to pre-purchase plots within Wath, due to its current capacity. The pre-purchase details are included in the figures to assist with understanding of total capacity.

OPERATIONAL YEARS AVAILABLE FOR FULL BURIAL PLOTS **4 YEARS 6 MONTHS**. Caution should be given to these figures due to land challenges.

TO INCLUDE PRE-PURCHASE AND RE-OPEN THIS WOULD INCREASE TO **6 YEARS 6 MONTHS**

CREMATED REMAINS AVAILABILITY **2 YEARS, 8 MONTHS**.

Fig 4.1

Wath As of 15.10.2025		Wath Pre-Purchase data	
Burial Type	Plots Available	Pre-Purchase	Plots Purchased
Full Burial Plots	60	Number of plots P/P no interments	87
Cremated Remains	21		
Roman Catholic	42		
Baby/NVF	3		

4.2 Campsall Field Road Expansion

Dignity has a project team currently working on the development of this site which is timetabled to commence on site in early 2026. The full details of the development are included in the 5-year Plan (Appendix B).

The figures below are approximate at this time until the final architectural drawings are agreed. These are ADDITIONAL to the existing.

Fig 4.2

Wath Mid year 2026		Pre-Purchase data	
Burial Type	Plots Available	Burial Type	Plots Purchased
Full Burial Plots	@500	Proposed pre-sale	Up to 50% of new
Cremated Remains	@50		

Allocation for baby/cremated remains will be undertaken based on demand.

OPERATIONAL YEARS AVAILABLE FOR FULL BURIAL PLOTS **37 YEAR 4 MONTHS**.

CREMATED REMAINS AVAILABILITY **6 YEARS, 5 MONTHS**.

The completion of this work will enable pre-sale of plots to take place for the Wath Community.

5.0 HAUGH ROAD CEMTETERY

5.1 Operational Land Currently Available

Work continues to identify available plots for the community in this area although the site is in close proximity to Greasbrough Lane Cemetery. A new system of burial has increased the number of plots available both full burial and cremated remains. The outcome of this work has been that the number available currently is higher than last year, even though a small number of burials have taken place through-out the year.

The cemetery has a higher rate of re-opens which equates to 75% of cemetery operations.

Fig 5.1

Haugh Road As of 15.10.2025		Haugh Road Pre-Purchase data	
Burial Type	Plots Available	Burial Type	Plots Purchased
Full Burial Plots	74	Number of plots P/P no interments	50
Cremated Remains	29	Pre-Purchase figure is approximate until all plots are recorded from the registers	
Baby/NVF	0		
Baby spaces can be found, not an urgent requirement.			

OPERATIONAL YEARS AVAILABLE FOR FULL BURIAL PLOTS **16 YEAR 10 MONTHS.**

TO INCLUDE PRE-PURCHASE AND RE-OPEN THIS WOULD INCREASE TO **11 YEARS 4 MONTHS**

CREMATED REMAINS AVAILABILITY **5 YEARS, 2 MONTHS.**

6.0 GREASBROUGH LANE CEMETERY

6.1.Operational Land Currently Available

Greasbrough Lane Cemetery is one of the newer Cemeteries, there is approximately 90+ operational years within this site, and there is no concern for operational years available. Below details the mapped plots for community consideration. Planning is taking place with the Dignity Cemetery Strategic Team to ensure the most effective use of the rest of this Cemetery. This is likely to require some capital work to terrace the grounds.

Operational Plan

Fig 6.1

Greasbrough Lane As of 15.10.2025		Greasbrough Lane Pre-Purchase data	
Burial Type	Plots Available	Burial Type	Plots Purchased
Full Burial Plots	98	Number of plots P/P no interments	100
Cremated Remains	16		
Baby/NVF	19		
The figures above represent plotted space, there is a significant amount of additional land which requires a burial plan – this will be completed in 2026.			

OPERATIONAL YEARS AVAILABLE FOR FULL BURIAL PLOTS **6 YEAR 6 MONTHS**.

TO INCLUDE PRE-PURCHASE AND RE-OPEN THIS WOULD INCREASE TO **6 YEARS 8 MONTHS**

CREMATED REMAINS AVAILABILITY **1 YEARS, 5 MONTHS**.

Burial space on a new section within the cemetery has commenced and is proving popular with the community.

Long-term development of the aspect of the land is currently being considered at a strategic level to ensure the effective and safe use of the space.

7.0 TOWN LANE CEMETERY

7.1 Operational Land Currently Available

Greasbrough Town Lane Cemetery is a closed Cemetery for new burials, however there are still re-opens within this site. The work to determine the extent of the re-open space will take place in 2026 however this has not been determined as the demand for this site for burials has been very low.

Fig 7.1

Greasbrough Town Lane As of 15.10.2025		Greasbrough Town Lane Pre-Purchase data	
Burial Type	Plots Available	Pre-Purchase	Plots Purchased
Full Burial Plots	Re-open only	Number of plots P/P no interments	15
Cremated Remains	Re-open only	Pre-Purchase figure is approximate until all plots are recorded from the registers	
Roman Catholic	Re-open only		
Baby/NVF	-		

PRE-PURCHASE AND RE-OPEN BASED ON CURRENT RATES **37 YEARS**. This is due to the low frequency and when the plots are required.

8.0 MASBROUGH CEMETRY

8.1 Operational Land Currently Available

Masbrough Cemetery is currently a closed Cemetery for new burials.

Fig 8.1

Masbrough As of 15.10.2025		Masbrough Pre-Purchase Data	
Burial Type	Plots Available	Burial Type	Plots Purchased
Full Burial Plots	Re-open only	Number of plots P/P no interments	6
Cremated Remains	12	Pre-Purchase figure is approximate until all plots are recorded from the registers	
Roman Catholic	Re-open only		
Baby/NVF	0		
Despite being a closed cemetery, 12 cremated remains plots have been identified, these could also be used for NVF/baby			

8.2 Available Undeveloped Operational Land

There is a small strip located in the Cemetery that could be used for cremated remains plots, however there are large trees located within this area, therefore tree roots would also need to be considered.



The above is an approximate indication of the area referenced.

9.0 HIGH STREET CEMETERY

High Street Cemetery is a closed Cemetery, meaning there is no room for re-opens or new burials.

The site has historical significance which Dignity, The Council and the local community, are working together to manage and preserve. Dignity is currently managing the often demands of historians and ecologists to enable the educational value for both schools and the community to dovetail for future generations.

10.0 MOORGATE CEMETERY

Moorgate Cemetery is a closed Cemetery, however there have been occasional re-opens for families.

Moorgate Cemetery holds a lot of historical importance, work with the community has achieved the re-establishment of access to graves enabling families and historians to observe and pay respect. This site is listed as a grade 2 park and garden.

Fig 10.1

Moorgate As of 15.10.2025		Moorgate Pre-Purchase Data	
Burial Type	Plots Available	Pre-Purchase	Plots Purchased
Full Burial Plots	Re-open only	Number of plots P/P no interments	7
Cremated Remains	Re-open only	Pre-Purchase figure is approximate until all plots are recorded from the registers	
Baby/NVF	-		