

Access Statement for Planning Application: Proposed Columbarium at Mount Noddy Cemetery

Site Address: Mount Noddy Cemetery, Blackwell Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex. RH19 3HP

Proposal: Installation of a columbarium structure for the interment of cremated remains

1. Introduction

This Access Statement is submitted in support of a planning application for the installation of a columbarium at Mount Noddy Cemetery. The proposal offers a respectful, space-efficient, and sustainable alternative to traditional burial, in line with modern interment needs and environmental considerations.

2. Use and Justification

The columbarium will provide secure, above-ground niches for cremated remains. This reflects the increasing preference for cremation and helps address the limitations of space within the existing cemetery grounds. It will allow Mount Noddy to continue serving the community's needs in a respectful and sustainable manner.

3. Site Access

- **Vehicular and Pedestrian Access:**

The cemetery is accessible via its existing entrance. The columbarium will be placed along the hedge line beside the cemetery lodge—an area already well-integrated into the cemetery's layout and easily visible to the public.

- **New Footpath Installation:**

A new footpath will be installed in front of the columbarium to ensure safe and convenient access. The path will be level, durable, and made of non-slip material, suitable for all users including those with mobility impairments.

A gap will be left between the columbarium and the existing hedge to allow regular access for maintenance and hedge cutting as needed.

- **Public Transport and Parking:**

The cemetery is served by local transport links and offers on-site parking, including accessible spaces for disabled visitors.

4. Inclusive Access and Design

- **Accessible Pathways:**

The new footpath will be at least 1.2 metres wide, step-free, and constructed to accommodate wheelchairs, mobility aids, and pushchairs, ensuring the area remains inclusive and easy to navigate.

- **Existing Site Features:**

No new seating or planting is proposed as part of this application, as both are already provided in the immediate vicinity of the proposed columbarium location.

Additional signage is not required as the columbarium's position near the cemetery lodge makes it clearly visible to all visitors.

5. Maintenance and Sustainability

The columbarium is a low-maintenance structure requiring only periodic cleaning. Its installation will help reduce the need for future land-intensive burials, promoting a more sustainable use of space. The hedge access gap will ensure ongoing landscape maintenance is straightforward and unobstructed.

6. Conclusion

This proposal for a columbarium at Mount Noddy Cemetery provides a modern, environmentally sensitive interment option within a clearly accessible and well-maintained area of the site. The inclusion of a new footpath and the thoughtful siting along the existing hedge line demonstrate practical planning with long-term sustainability and inclusivity in mind.