

## Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to attend this consultation event. We hope you find it useful and informative.

Please read the information provided and give feedback using the printed questionnaire or via the website ([www.cheltenham.gov.uk/Cem-and-Crem](http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk/Cem-and-Crem))

## Background

The site has been used as a crematorium since 1938 when an extension was built onto the original Victorian burial Chapels. While these buildings have undergone some degree of alteration over their history, they are no longer fit for current visitor volumes, as well as crematoria equipment, access and car parking.

A comprehensive study was carried out in 2015 to assess all options for delivering a long term sustainable future for the Cemetery and Crematorium, and how best to serve the communities of Cheltenham and surrounding areas in the future.

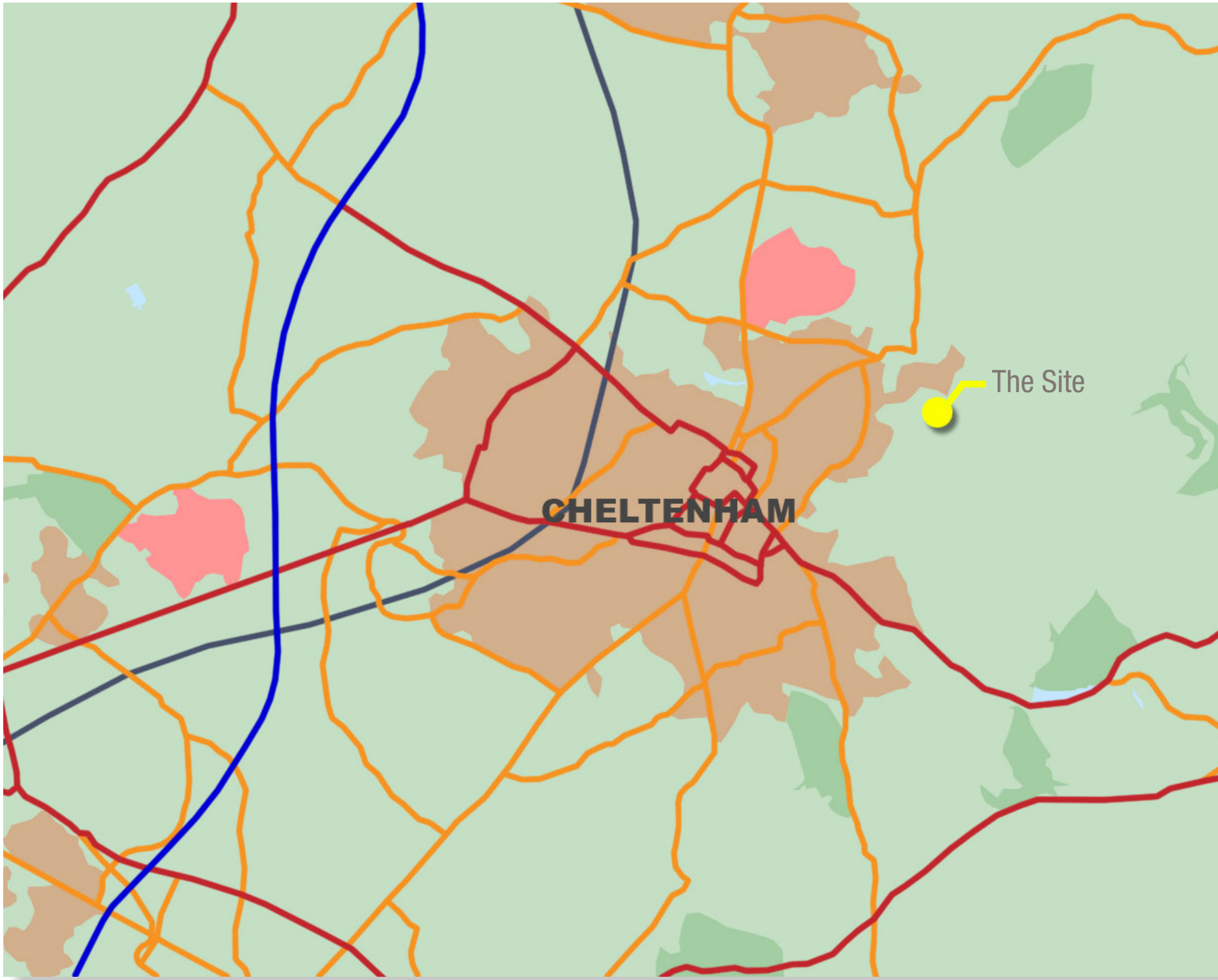
Following this study Cheltenham Borough Council decided to build a new Crematorium facility to the immediate east of the existing Cemetery and Crematorium site. This will contain new chapel facilities and crematory as well as associated parking.

It is intended that the entrance route to the proposed new Crematorium will continue to be via the internal road network past the existing chapels. However, owing to the constraints of the existing Cemetery network, there is a need to provide a new route for visitors to exit the proposed new Crematorium efficiently and safely. In addition, there will need to be a temporary route outside the boundary of the existing Cemetery site for construction traffic during the building programme.

- High significance:**  
 The historic core of the site, & areas otherwise of significance, or which have been extensively used for burials, & consequently areas where possible new buildings or major works would be unacceptable in principle.

**Medium significance:**  
 Areas such as the Nursery, which are historic, but secondary, or limited landscape value, & much altered, or the remaining eastern land, which is just beginning to be used for burials, & which is highly visible from the historic core, where some form of building or proposal may, in conservation terms, be acceptable, subject to scale, form, massing, detailing, landscaping & access routes.

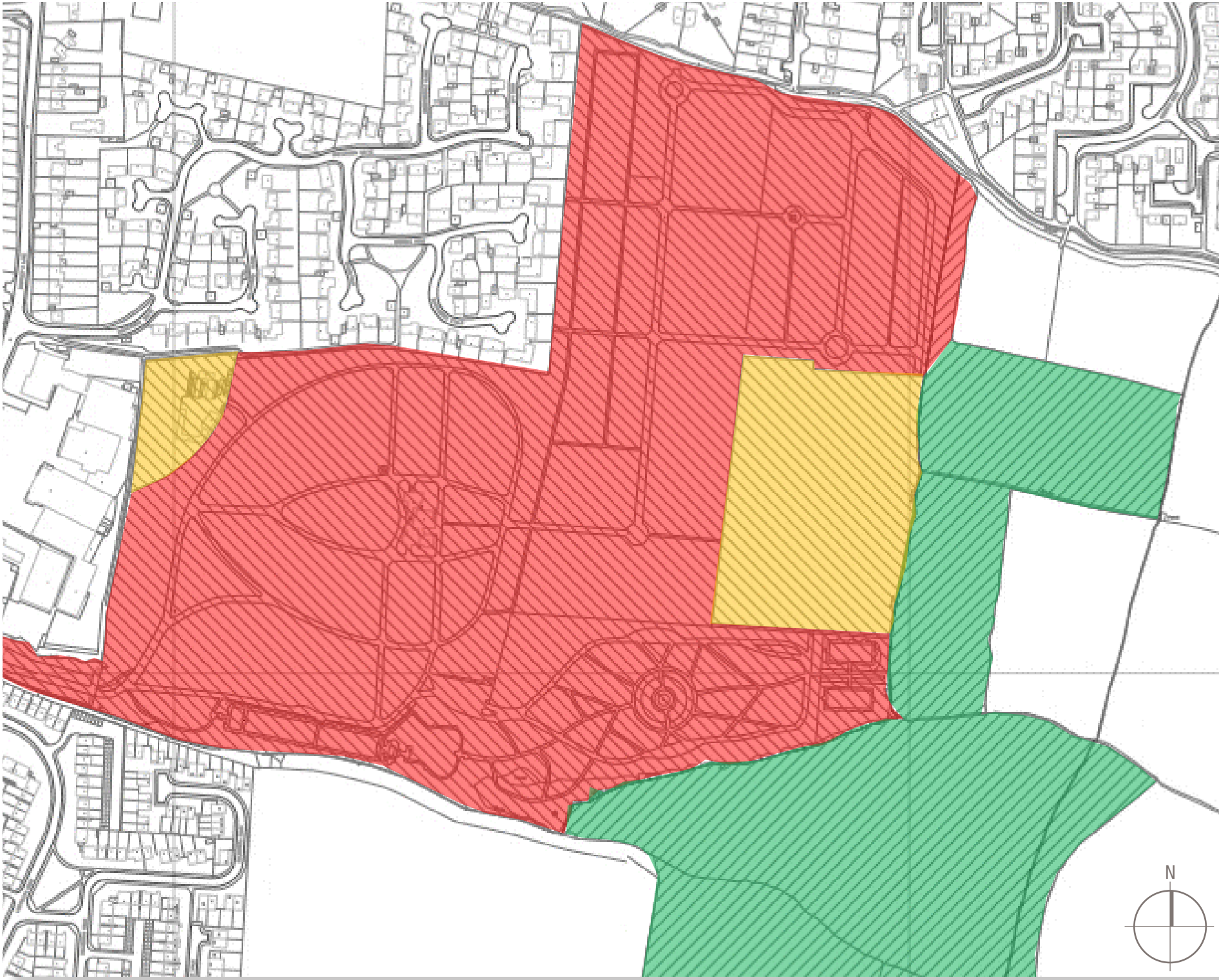
**Low significance:**  
 The possible areas of expansion, well beyond the historic core & clear of burials, where a proposed building or proposal is likely to be acceptable in conservation terms, subject to quality of design, scale form, massing, detailing, landscaping, access routes & so forth.



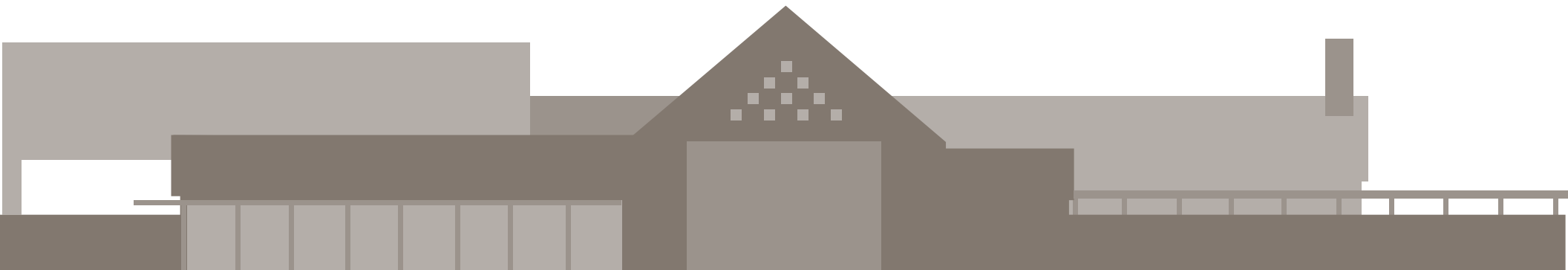
Local diagram



Aerial image



Heritage significance plan





Cheltenham Cemetery and Crematorium has expanded over time in a west-to-east direction, with the more recent memorial areas being added to the east of the original Victorian graveyard.

The historic core of the Cemetery was designated as a Grade II - registered park & garden in March 2003.



Existing Cemetery chapels

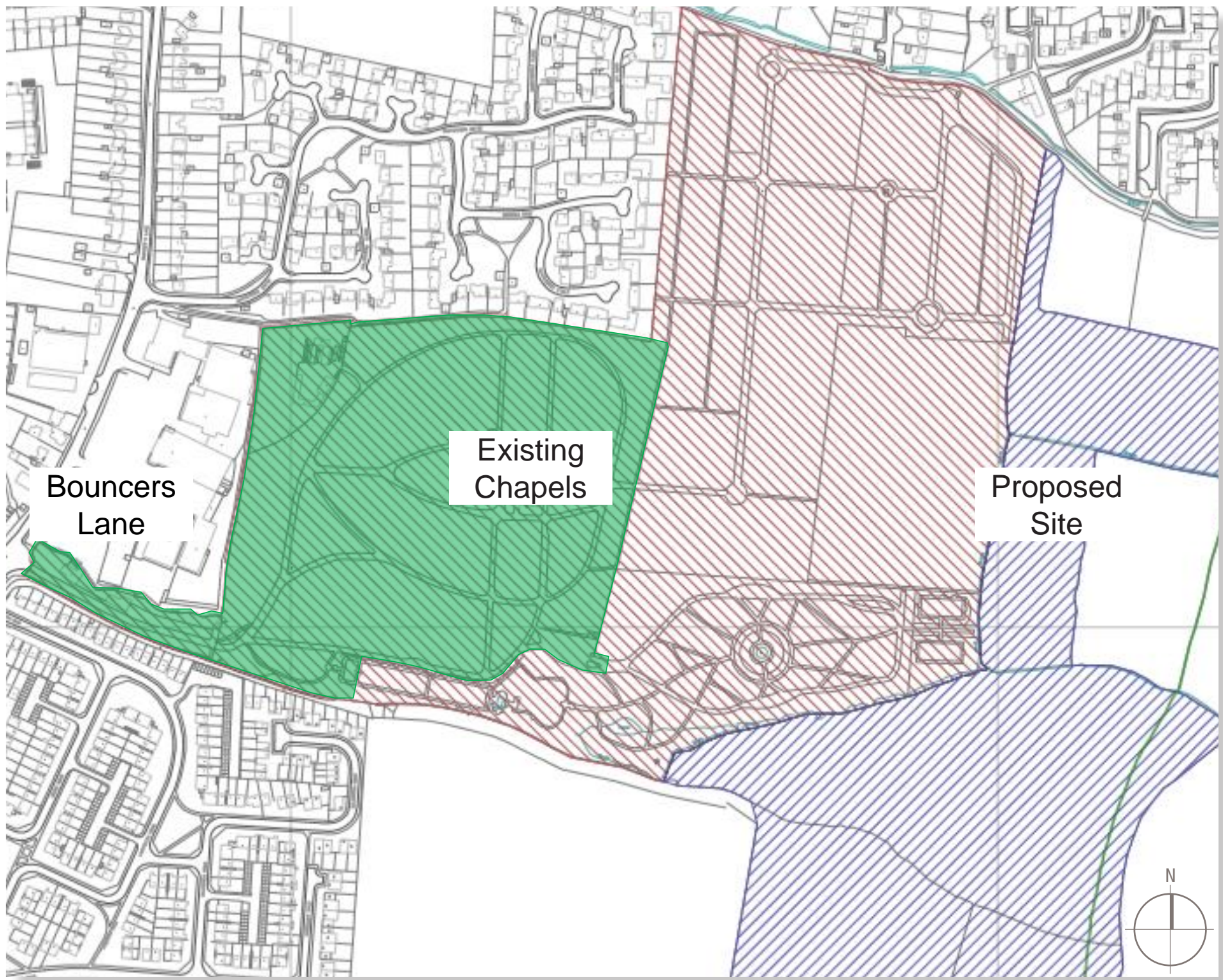


Figure of the Registered Park & Garden, shaded green

The proposed site is just beyond the current eastern boundary of the Cemetery grounds, within fields under the control of Cheltenham Borough Council..



West towards the existing chapels



Existing road along proposed site



North-east towards Cleeve Hill



East towards the proposed site



Proposed crematorium site looking north-east



Proposed car park site looking north-east





## Entrance Road

The proposed route to the new site is via the internal road that leads past the original north chapel and access into the north-western corner of the top field.

## Exit Road

A number of routes have been considered (see map below)

- Routes through the existing Cemetery are very difficult due to the narrowness of current roadways, the problems in creating new roads within a Cemetery and the need to protect its peaceful environment
- An alternative route across Priors Farm leading to Imjin Road would increase traffic flows through residential areas and at the Priors Road / Imjin Road junction during crematorium operating hours

The exit route that has been selected runs along the southern boundary of the site and would connect back into the existing road near the lodge buildings.

## Construction Traffic Road

Again a number of alternatives have been considered

- Routes through the existing Cemetery will have a huge impact on mourners and may not be possible due to the width of the roadways
- Using the proposed exit road route will create major difficulties and safety issues for traffic entering and leaving the Cemetery during the building period
- Using the route of the exit road with a temporary connection for construction works around the western edge of the playing fields will lead to construction traffic using Imjin Rd

Various studies have been carried out to review the access options including Traffic and Ecological surveys.

Please use the questionnaire to give us your opinions.

- ● ● ● ● Entrance route along existing road network
- ● ● ● ● Exit route along existing boundary
- ● ● ● ● Alternative routes - since discounted



Proposed site plan illustrating the access road and new crematorium





## The Site

The site for the new crematorium and parking is located to the eastern edge of the existing grounds on two fields. These are surrounded by mature hedges and tree belts on all sides with small streams along the southern and western boundaries as well as the dividing east-west hedgerow. The site slopes up generally from the west to east up to the Cotswold escarpment.

## Building a Second Chapel

The site is designed for two chapels with the possibility of holding simultaneous services. At the time Cheltenham Borough Council decided to invest in a new crematorium the intention was to build only one new chapel and to use one of the current chapels with the possibility of building the second new chapel at some point in the future. The Council has now looked again at the opportunity to include the second chapel in the initial build. This has some advantages;

- Use of a single location will be less confusing to mourners
- Bringing all operations into one place and not needing coffins to be transported from the old chapel to the new crematorium
- Building now will be much less disruptive to day-to-day services, indeed adding a new chapel at a later date would probably mean a long period of closure

However:

- The current Victorian chapels would not be available for services and may be re-used for other purposes
- The Council would need to invest an additional £1 million at a time when its finances are already under pressure

On balance the proposal is that a second new chapel will be constructed at this time.

## Circulation

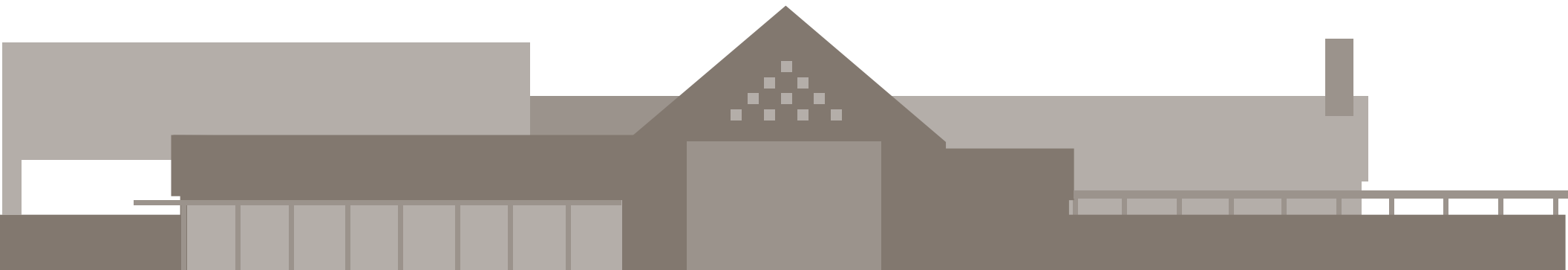
The access to the new car park is located off the existing internal road network in the north-west corner of the site. From the parking area wide paths link directly to the entrances and waiting areas for both chapels. After the service cars would exit back onto the existing road which then connects onto the new exit road to the south. Separate cortege routes have been discretely incorporated for both chapels.



Proposed computer generated image of the main chapel approach



Proposed site plan





## Design

The proposed design picks up on the character of traditional barns and appears as a series of connected buildings of different scales, with high quality materials used throughout such as stone, slate and brick.

The scheme also allows for lots of natural light and potential for controlled natural ventilation to a number of the spaces which will help to create pleasant internal spaces.

The existing trees and landscape will give an attractive backdrop to the crematorium as well as screening the proposed building from long distance views.



Proposed computer generated image of the main chapel



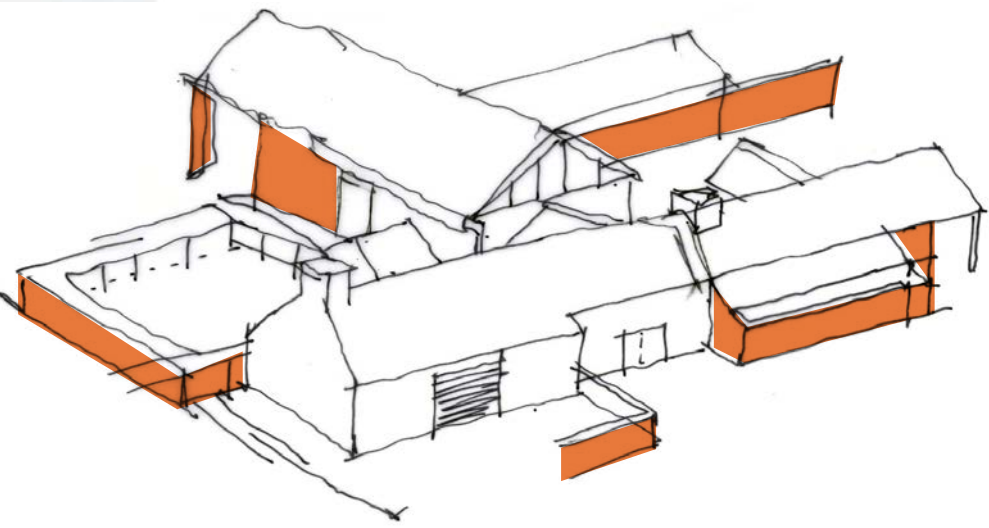
Proposed main chapel (west) elevation



Proposed east elevation



Proposed 2nd chapel (north) elevation



Photographs of the concept model





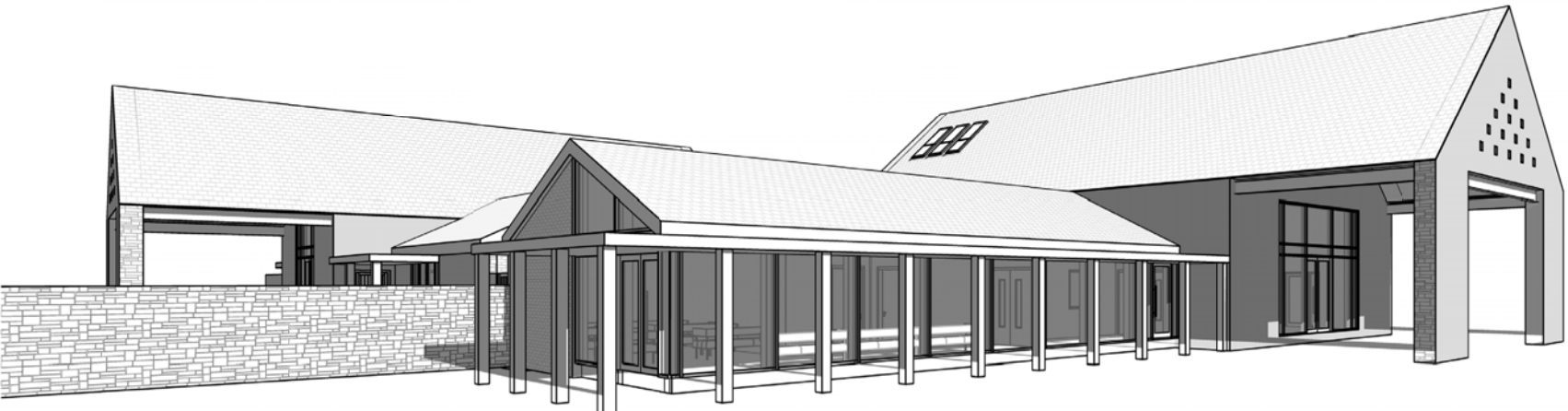
# Layout

The building has been designed to have a very legible arrangement and clear circulation flows throughout. From the car park there is a direct link to the entrances of both chapels and internal waiting room or under the external canopies. The waiting areas have clear views across the Cemetery lawns to the front to see the cortege approaching.

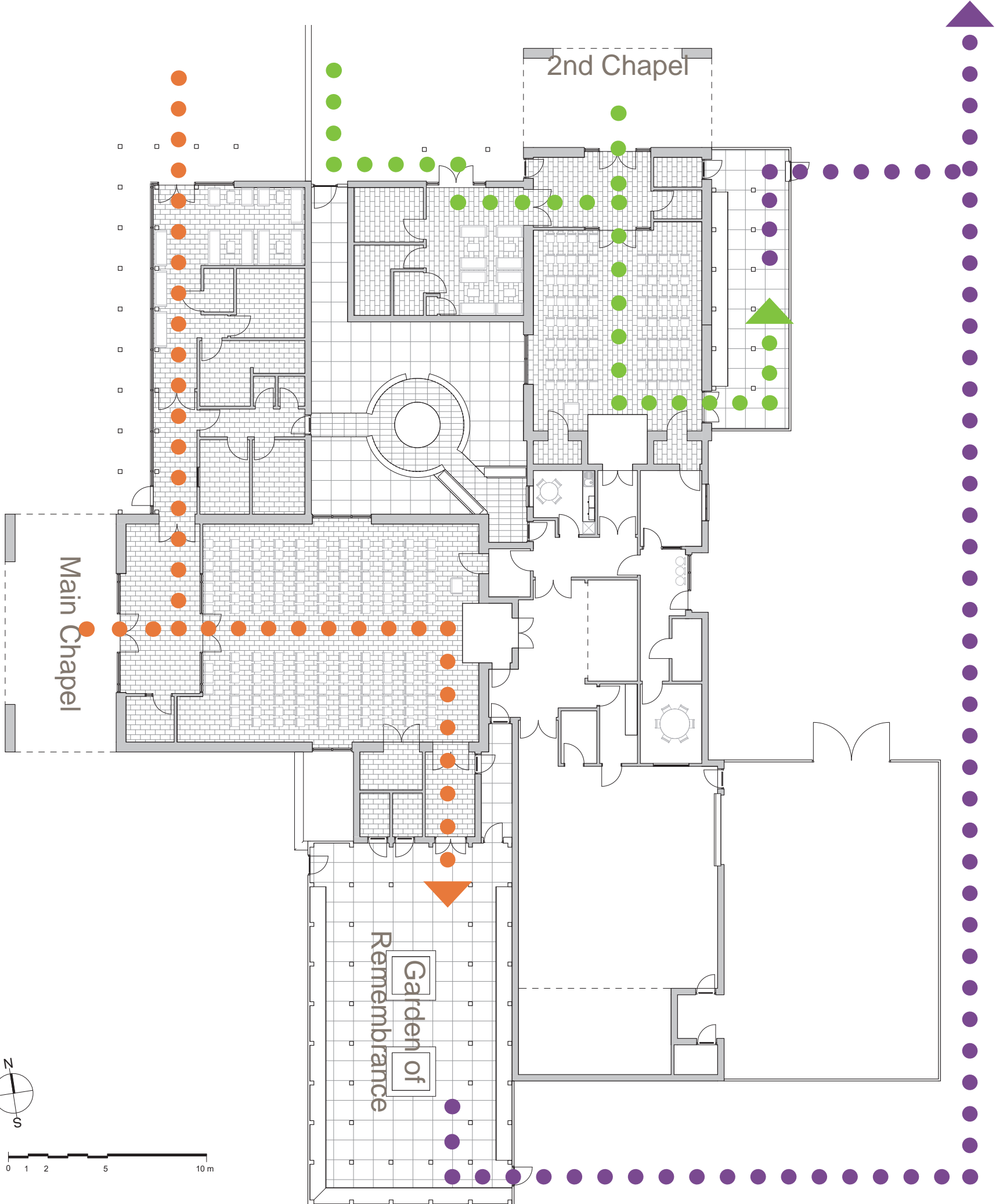
The main chapel is obviously the key space within the whole arrangement with a strong symmetry and focus towards the catafalque on the central axis.

The flow continues into a cloistered external garden space with covered floral display areas around the perimeter. This is a generous open space with further water features and covered floral display areas around the perimeter.

The chapels themselves have been designed with a symmetry and form that feels comfortable but reverent, with pitched roofs and high level windows.



Material example images



- Route through main chapel
- Route through second chapel
- Boulevard route back to car park



Landscape example images



We welcome your feedback on the proposals. Tell us what you prefer, what could we could do better, what you like and what you don't like.

THANK YOU