

Wantage Park Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Questions	Answers
Where will the site be located?	Wantage Farm, Round Spinney, Northampton , NN3 7TR
Why is this location chosen for the crematorium?	<p>The site was selected for its accessibility, minimal environmental impact, and the ability to serve West Northants’s growing population effectively. The need for this new crematorium was identified through a robust methodology that began with a comprehensive capacity review of existing crematoria in and around West Northamptonshire. Our analysis revealed that existing crematoria within the area are operating above their practical capacity. This leaves a significant portion of West Northamptonshire without adequate access to cremation services within a 30-minute travel time, particularly during peak times, where families could experience longer waiting or shorter service times.</p> <p>The selection of the new site was guided by both quantitative and qualitative factors. It was essential to consider not just the number of cremations each facility could handle, but also the quality of services provided, such as the availability of preferred time slots, the condition of the buildings, and the capacity to accommodate larger coffins. Traffic congestion, longer waiting times for services, and journey times exceeding 30 minutes were identified as key issues that further underscored the need for a new facility.</p> <p>After a systematic process of site identification, 11 potential sites across West Northamptonshire were shortlisted. These sites were evaluated based on their size, accessibility, environmental impact, and suitability for a crematorium. Through an intensive screening process of all 11 sites, the Round Spinney site emerged as the optimal location. This site was chosen for its high suitability scores and its ability to meet the current and future needs of West Northamptonshire.</p>

<p>Why is the council building a crematorium?</p>	<p>With over 75 per cent of people in Great Britain now choosing cremation over burial, and in 2022, 82 per cent opting for cremation, the demand for cremation services is clearly significant. Other crematoria in the area are operating at or beyond capacity. This situation leaves many residents of central West Northamptonshire without adequate access to timely cremation services, within a 30-minute travel time, particularly during peak times, where families could experience longer waiting or shorter service times.</p> <p>The new facility will ease the pressure, reducing waiting times for grieving families. There is a proven quantitative need for a crematorium in this region to serve the needs of the people within this community who are currently unserved by any other crematorium within an approximate 30-minute drive time at cortege speed.</p> <p>The development of Wantage Park will also bring numerous benefits to the local community. The surrounding land will be transformed into recreational spaces, including walking paths and green areas, encouraging community well-being. Careful planning and expert input will ensure minimal visual, traffic, and noise impacts. Infrastructure improvements, such as a new independent access road, enhanced public footpaths, and boundary screening, will further support the local area.</p>
<p>What sustainable features will the new facility at Wantage Park include, and how will it contribute to reducing CO2 emissions and supporting the Council's Net Zero targets?</p>	<p>The facility will feature a range of sustainable design elements, including energy-efficient electric cremators, heat recovery systems, solar panels, and green roofs. Unlike the current gas-fed crematoria in the area, which significantly contribute to CO2 emissions, the electric cremators at Wantage Park will operate on a green energy tariff and have, on average, 80 per cent lower CO2 emissions. This approach supports our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint and contributes to the Council's ambitious Net Zero targets for 2030. Additionally, the thoughtful landscaping and green roofs will enhance local biodiversity, further contributing to a greener and more sustainable Northampton.</p>

<p>Why isn't the site at Wantage Farm being used for traditional burials, given the community's shortage of burial space?</p>	<p>We understand the community's concern regarding the shortage of burial space and the desire to use the site for interring caskets. While there is clear support for additional burial space, it's important to recognise that the suitability of the land for such use is subject to ground surveys and a range of environmental factors. These assessments will determine if the site can meet the necessary conditions for safe and respectful burial practices.</p> <p>Our priority is to balance the community's needs with what the land can sustainably support. If ground conditions and other factors permit, we will certainly consider incorporating burial spaces into the site's development. However, the crematorium itself is essential for addressing the current and future demand for cremation services, which will alleviate pressure on existing facilities and improve service times for bereaved families. This approach allows us to make the best possible use of the site while remaining open to future possibilities for burial space, ensuring that the needs of our community are met in a thoughtful and sustainable manner.</p>
<p>When will on-site construction commence?</p>	<p>Estimated Autumn 2025, if a planning approval is successful. Construction work will not start until the planning process is completed; this will include consideration of informative notes and the discharge of conditions.</p>
<p>When might operations of the crematorium commence?</p>	<p>We are currently targeting Autumn 2026.</p>
<p>What stage is the development program?</p>	<p>We are at a stage where the concept design has been produced and we can commence the consultation processes and design development in the lead-up to a planning application in November.</p>
<p>What time of day will the crematorium operate?</p>	<p>Crematorium core hours for services are under review but are currently proposed to be 9.30 am to 2.45 pm to avoid school drop-off and collection times.</p> <p>We are considering a facility that is open 7 days a week to spread the load of cremations - if 5 days a week it would be 4 cremations per day on average. Seven day opening would also allow families the option for weekend services.</p>

How will traffic be managed?	Funeral services will be scheduled to avoid school pick-up and drop-off times. A thorough traffic assessment will be conducted to determine the expected trip generation by car for a cremation service. There will be dedicated parking bays for the funeral cortege and hearse vehicles.
What parking facilities will there be available?	As part of the planning application a full transport assessment will be completed which details the onsite parking facilities that will be provided as part of the proposed development. Currently, 180 car parking spaces are being planned, including larger accessible parking spaces and EV charging. Motorcycle spaces and covered cycle parking are also provided on site to provide maximum flexibility. The car park will be covered by CCTV to monitor security whilst members of the public are attending the ceremony or wake building.
How far away from the nearest properties will the crematorium be?	Any new crematorium on the site will have to adhere to strict planning and environmental controls, strictly limiting its effect on the surrounding area. The proposed development conforms with regulations and guidelines as the proposed crematorium building is developed further than 200 yards from the nearest dwellings, as required by the Cremation Act 1902.
How will Air Quality be monitored?	The monitoring of emissions from crematoria will be carried out by an independent body rather than the operator to ensure no conflict of interest. An air quality assessment will be undertaken during pre-planning which includes dispersion modelling to ensure that all receptors will not be negatively impacted, and this will determine the height of the stack.

<p>What emissions will come out of the crematorium stacks? Will there be any smoke or smells?</p>	<p>Modern filtration equipment allows modern crematoria highly more environmentally friendly. There are strict abatement and emissions controls that govern crematoria, including ensuring that there will be no smoke or odors. Electric cremators are proposed for the development. Electric cremators operating on a green electricity tariff do not release any CO2 emissions from the fuel source. Abatement equipment attached to the cremator will filter and process 99.9% of particulates. Materials are separated, and then collected for processing off-site. The design and height of the stack will be informed by the dispersion modelling that is set to occur in the coming months.</p> <p>Under normal operation the cremator there will be no visible emissions. In cold conditions, such as winter mornings, there may be a small visible water vapour plume during start-up. This is similar to that seen from a domestic condensing gas boiler or from car exhaust tailpipe.</p>
<p>Will there be any noise?</p>	<p>As part of the noise assessment process, noise consultants will need to undertake periodic assessments to ensure best practice acoustic design for the scheme and, to satisfy planning. We are planning to conduct noise assessments to ensure that noise levels from the facility remain minimal. As we progress with the design, we will gather more information. This information will be included in our planning consultation to keep everyone informed and involved in the process.</p>
<p>How will the proximity of the nearby school, particularly the sports pitches, affect the atmosphere at the crematorium?</p>	<p>We understand concerns about the potential impact of the crematorium's proximity to the nearby school, particularly regarding noise from sports pitches. However, the crematorium's design and operation have been meticulously planned to ensure a peaceful atmosphere for both those attending services and the school community. The school buildings are over 200 yards away from the closest corner of the proposed site, and additional landscaping, bunds, and visual screening will further enhance this separation. The access road along the school playing field's southern boundary will also be screened with hedgerows and structured planting to create a suitable visual barrier. Additionally, the facility's</p>

	<p>placement and operating hours are planned to avoid any disruption to school activities, allowing both to coexist harmoniously.</p>
<p>What landscaping will be provided?</p>	<p>One of the project's objectives will be to ensure any landscape proposals enhance the existing mature environment with natural planting; primary sources of inspiration will be greater biodiversity and harmony with nature and will also address the need for green screening to form a natural visual barrier at the site boundaries. The development will provide a Biodiversity Net Gain of at least 10%, in line with all planning regulations. To achieve this we are engaging with an Ecologist and Arboriculturist, to ensure we develop the most suitable approach for the safeguarding of existing wildlife and planting.</p>
<p>How will this project impact green space?</p>	<p>This project will preserve valuable green spaces in an area experiencing rapid development. This facility will require less land and blend seamlessly with its natural surroundings, enhancing local biodiversity through thoughtful landscaping. This approach ensures that green spaces are protected while still meeting the community's needs.</p> <p>Through the first stage of engagement, we want your ideas to help us start to think about how we might improve existing green space and nature at Crowfields Common Nature Reserve as part of this project. We know that Crowfields Common Nature Reserve is a valued green space.</p> <p>We've already started to think about ways nature and green space could be enhanced and feedback on these opportunities will be sought through the stages of public engagement, as well as other suggestions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initiating community-led nature conservation projects. 2. More planting and enhancements to biodiversity <p>The development will provide a Biodiversity Net Gain of at least 10%, in line with all planning regulations.</p>

<p>Will the facility be multi-faith?</p>	<p>Those of all faiths and no faith will be welcome to use the facility.</p> <p>For example, we have allowed for bespoke design features, such as a viewing room to view the act of cremation, which is important to certain faiths and communities.</p>
<p>What features will the development have?</p>	<p>Wantage Park will offer a range of features designed to meet the diverse needs of our community, including level access across the site, accessible parking, adaptable lighting for neurodiverse individuals, and multi-functional spaces for community use. The facility is designed to be inclusive, accommodating various faiths and providing spaces that respect the privacy and dignity of all users.</p> <p>We are also considering providing a facility for wakes on the site, so that families and friends do not have to face the stress of a journey to another location for their informal celebration of the life of their loved one.</p>
<p>How big is the crematorium going to be?</p>	<p>The proposed buildings at the new crematorium have been carefully designed to minimise visual impact and maintain the secluded nature of the site. All buildings will be single storey and located towards the lower part of the site. The total floor area of the buildings is 1,270 m², which is approximately a quarter of the size of a football pitch. In contrast, the entire field site spans 17.7 acres—equivalent to more than 13 football pitches—ensuring that the development remains unobtrusive and preserves the natural landscape.</p>
<p>Is there a provision for the display of the flower tributes?</p>	<p>Yes, a designated covered flower tribute area is included in the design plans and is thoughtfully integrated into the overall landscaping. Positioned on the exit route from the main Hall, this area is elevated to allow mourners to easily read messages without having to bend down. The design also offers serene views across the landscape, providing a peaceful space for reflection and remembrance.</p>
<p>What interment methods are being considered?</p>	<p>We are reviewing opportunities for memorials at the site, and developing concept ideas for this. We are reviewing the possibility of memorial walls, ash interments and benches. We would welcome suggestions for what people would value.</p>

<p>What will happen to the piece of land adjacent to the Crowfield Nature Reserve?</p>	<p>We understand and appreciate the community's concern regarding the land adjacent to Crowfield Nature Reserve. The preservation of green spaces and the enhancement of local nature reserves are priorities we share. We are committed to working closely with the community and relevant environmental groups to explore options for this land. Our goal is to ensure that it serves the best interests of the community and the environment.</p> <p>While the crematorium will provide essential services and preserve a significant portion of green space, we are open to discussions about how the adjacent land can best complement Crowfield Nature Reserve. Whether through expansion of the reserve or other conservation efforts, we will ensure that this land enhances local biodiversity and remains a valuable natural asset for the community.</p>
<p>Will there be late night activities on site, and will this disturb residents?</p>	<p>We do not anticipate any late-night activities at the crematorium. The expected operating hours will be from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, and potentially a late afternoon slot once school traffic has ended, with no late-night operations planned. The site is designed with respect for the surrounding community, ensuring minimal disruption. Additionally, the Public Right of Way within the development will be maintained and enhanced, offering opportunities to visit the café, which is physically and visually separated from the main crematorium building.</p> <p>We are currently considering the opening hours of the Wake facility, which may differ from the crematorium's hours. This decision will be guided by community feedback and needs.</p>
<p>When is the planning application going in?</p>	<p>It is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted in November 2024.</p>
<p>Can pets be cremated?</p>	<p>Due to legislation, pets cannot be cremated in a cremator designed and licensed for use on humans, so there are no plans to provide pet cremation at the proposed crematorium.</p>

How will the community be involved in the project?	We are committed to ongoing engagement with the community through meetings, the council's social media, and regular updates. Feedback mechanisms will ensure community concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.
How can I share my feedback?	<p>Pre-planning consultation will commence on Wednesday, 25 September, with an in-person session at Moulton Community Library from 5pm-8 pm. Residents are encouraged to view the project plans, ask questions, and share their feedback. The draft plans will also be available at the Moulton Community Library until 2 October, with an option to participate in an online consultation as well.</p> <p>Comments and queries can also be sent to Wantage.park@westnorthants.gov.uk.</p>
How will you respond to my feedback from this consultation?	Your feedback as part of this stage of engagement will help inform early ideas and a business case to be agreed to seek funding for the next stages of the project. There will be future opportunities to get involved.

Any questions please email: Wantage.park@westnorthants.gov.uk.

More information on the proposed crematorium is available on the [West Northamptonshire Council website](#).

