

Application N	Consultees Name	Recipient Address	Received	Comment	Response
2024/5407/P	TOM PIGOTT-SMITH	38 Crescent Road  N22 7RZ N22 7RZ	13/05/2025 08:35:15	OBJ	<p>Formal Objection to Planning Application 2024/5407/P – Proposed Gardeners’ Building at Highgate Cemetery</p> <p>I write to formally object to Planning Application 2024/5407/P concerning the proposed construction of a new Gardeners’ Building on the Mound at Highgate Cemetery. This is listed as PROJECT 6 on the planning document. As someone with a parent interred on the Mound, I am compelled to raise serious material concerns about the impact this development would have on the character, function, and sanctity of the site.</p> <p><b>1. Scale, Design, and Visual Impact</b> The proposed building is wholly out of keeping with its sensitive setting within a Grade I listed landscape. At approximately 5 metres above the Mound and 8 metres above the lower path, the height and bulk of the structure would constitute a significant visual intrusion. The industrial appearance—characterised by roller shutters, staircases, loading bays, and a concrete exterior—conflicts sharply with the historic and spiritual context of the cemetery.</p> <p>Such a development would overshadow nearby graves, disrupt key sightlines, and permanently alter the character of the landscape. Visual renderings submitted by the applicant under-represent the true scale and visual impact of the building, raising concerns about transparency and public understanding of the proposal.</p> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity and Privacy</b> The introduction of a large, operational facility in an active burial area would cause severe disruption to visitors and families. The Mound is home to recent graves, including those of children, and is regularly visited by mourners seeking privacy and quiet reflection. The presence of elevated walkways, vehicle bays, staff facilities, and even a public viewing platform undermines the peaceful, contemplative nature of the area.</p> <p>The proposal would cause an unacceptable loss of amenity and privacy for those visiting graves, particularly during the extended construction phase, when access to the Mound may be entirely restricted.</p> <p><b>3. Accessibility and Public Safety</b> The narrowing of the existing main pedestrian path to just 1.2 metres raises significant accessibility concerns, especially for wheelchair users and those with mobility impairments. This falls well short of acceptable standards for inclusive access and creates safety risks due to the proximity of construction activity and future operational vehicle use.</p> <p>For a site with active public use and considerable emotional significance, this represents a material planning failing.</p> <p><b>4. Noise and Operational Disturbance</b> The introduction of plant equipment, operational staff, vehicles, and service functions in close proximity to graves will create a continual source of background noise and disruption. This is</p>

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					<p>incompatible with the cemetery's purpose and undermines the tranquil environment that mourners reasonably expect.</p> <p>The addition of a viewing platform suggests a shift toward tourism or commercialisation, further increasing footfall and disturbance in an area meant for grieving.</p> <p>5. Impact on the Environment and Heritage Assets The development would result in the loss of green space, including an established wildflower bank, and could alter the local microclimate by casting prolonged shadows over graves and planting areas. This poses practical challenges for grave maintenance and contributes to the erosion of the area's natural character.</p> <p>These changes contradict policies protecting Metropolitan Open Land and the setting of heritage assets. Relevant environmental assessments and shadow studies have not been adequately disclosed to the public, suggesting procedural shortcomings in evaluating the scheme's impact.</p> <p>6. Traffic, Parking, and Site Suitability The proposal introduces increased operational activity in an area with fragile paths and limited infrastructure. The Mound is poorly suited to vehicle access or intensified use, and the introduction of servicing facilities in such a constrained location poses risks to both safety and the site's long-term maintenance.</p> <p>The operational use of this sensitive site appears unjustified when alternative locations—including space made available by proposed grave reclamations—could be considered.</p> <p>7. Procedural and Ethical Concerns Many affected families were not adequately consulted or informed during the application process. Notification timelines were insufficient, and the consultation appears to have excluded those most directly impacted in favour of broader institutional support.</p> <p>This undermines the principles of fair engagement and suggests a failure to meet the cemetery's ethical responsibilities as custodian of a nationally significant and emotionally sensitive site.</p> <p>Leighann Heron, one of the project managers at Highgate Cemetery has verbally failed to guarantee that graves will not be disturbed during the construction process, saying that "Although every effort will be made to protect graves, we cannot guarantee that they will not be disturbed". It is for this reason that we have applied for a license to exhume and will proceed immediately should this building go ahead.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal would materially harm the visual character, accessibility, tranquillity, and heritage value of Highgate Cemetery. It fails to respect the site's primary function as a place of burial and</p>

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					<p>mourning and instead prioritises operational convenience and possible commercial interests.</p> <p>We clearly demonstrated to Camden's Planning officer that plenty of other suitable sites on the estate exist and this building is in no way necessary in its proposed location.</p> <p>I respectfully urge Camden Council to refuse this application and request a reconsideration of how operational needs can be met in a manner consistent with planning policy, accessibility standards, and the enduring trust placed in Highgate Cemetery by grieving families.</p>
2024/5407/P	Victoria Marianne Barrett	15 Tudor Close  NW34AB NW34AB	13/05/2025 08:07:42	APP	<p>I would like to register my objection to the proposed development at Highgate Cemetery. The development would be entirely at odds with the character of the cemetery by introducing new and obtrusive buildings. Consultation with grave owners has been inadequate and has caused much disquiet.</p>
2024/5407/P	Imogen Wilde	14 Harestone Drive	12/05/2025 10:14:15	OBJ	<p>I hereby submit a formal objection to the proposal in Planning Application 2024/5407/P for the construction of a new two-storey Gardeners' Building on the Mound at Highgate Cemetery. I write as the visitor to the grave of a family member who carefully selected the plot for their own grave on the Mound having regard to the environment and the view that their family and friends would be able to enjoy when visiting.</p> <p>It is hard to believe that there is no other suitable site for a gardeners' building in the cemetery where the gardeners could benefit from improved facilities in a more discrete location away from recent graves. In their comments a number of others have suggested alternative sites and I hope that these will be investigated thoroughly with a view to identifying an alternative, more suitable site for the gardeners' building.</p> <p>Like all active burial sites, the Mound is a sacred space and visitors expect to be able to visit and mourn in an atmosphere of calm without being overshadowed by a large functional building that blocks their view and adds to noise through the presence of operational staff and vehicles. It is disrespectful to the those who are buried on the Mound and to the living who mourn them and visit their graves to site an operational building with staff toilets, showers etc in such close proximity to recent graves and in a position that blocks the beautiful, open view of trees.</p> <p>For all these reasons I would urge Camden Council to reject this proposal.</p>
2024/5407/P	Victoria Marianne Barrett	15 Tudor Close  NW34AB NW34AB	13/05/2025 08:07:41	APP	<p>I would like to register my objection to the proposed development at Highgate Cemetery. The development would be entirely at odds with the character of the cemetery by introducing new and obtrusive buildings. Consultation with grave owners has been inadequate and has caused much disquiet.</p>