

Kerem Sezer

Grave Owner

FAO: Ms Miriam Baptist
Planning Application Case Officer
Camden Council Planning Department
Development Management,
Camden Town Hall, Judd Street,
London WC1H 9JE

13th May 2025

Subject: Objection to Planning Application –2024/5407/P – 2024/5423/L Highgate Cemetery

Dear Ms. Baptist,

On 8 May, my mother attended a meeting on the Mound with you and several other grave owners to discuss the proposed Gardener's Building. During the meeting, Amir Sinai physically demonstrated the building's full scale, revealing that the computer modelling submitted by Highgate Cemetery Trust significantly understates its actual dimensions and impact.

I would like to formally add the following concerns raised during our meeting to my original statement:

1. Impact of Scale and Design

The building's size will dominate the only open side of the Mound, altering its character and compromising the contemplative atmosphere. Its visibility from across the cemetery is inappropriate for such a historic site.

2. Road Access and Vehicle Movements

The narrow road cannot safely accommodate regular vehicle access. We had to step onto graves to allow a gardening vehicle to pass, showing the space is already inadequate.

3. Noise and Activity Impact

The increase in staff activity, vehicle noise, and the use of noisy security shutters will disturb the area's peace, turning the Mound into a service yard rather than a reflective space.

4. Construction Challenges

With limited access and sensitive terrain, excavation near the Mound would require complex retaining work, significantly raising costs. We question whether the Trust has properly accounted for this or whether the project is feasible.

5. Precedent and Long-Term Impact

Approving this proposal risks setting a precedent for further intrusive development, undermining the cemetery's heritage.

6. **Alternative Locations and Design**

The building's functions—mess area, tool storage, and vehicle shelter—could be accommodated in a less visible, more practical location, preserving both heritage and cost.

Conclusion

We urge the Trust to reconsider. A more respectful, practical solution must be found—one that meets operational needs without compromising the sanctity of this historic site.

Thank you for your attention.

Kind regards,
Kerem Sezer