

Heritage Statement to Support Proposals for Extensions and Alterations to Rochdale Crematorium



Plate 1. Principal S elevation of Rochdale Crematorium

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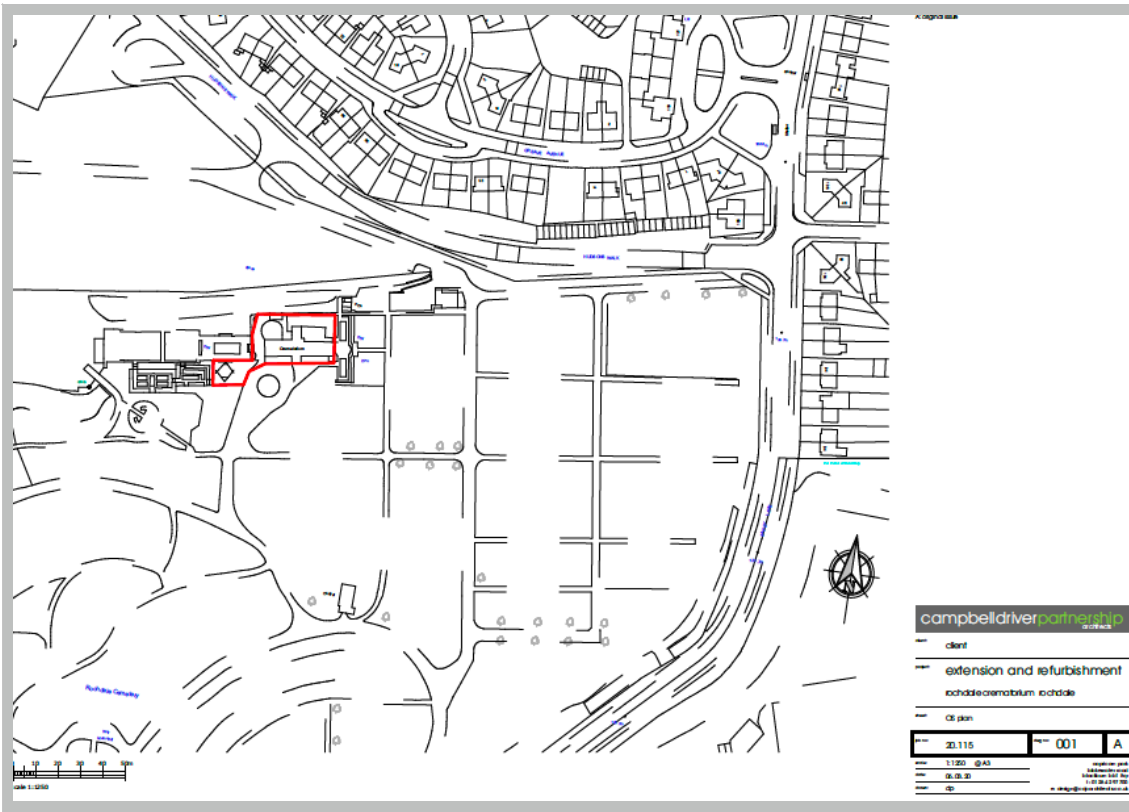
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Rochdale Crematorium Heritage Statement



Plan 1. Location Plan



Plate 2. Aerial photograph of Rochdale Cemetery

1. Introduction

1.1 This Heritage Statement has been prepared to support an application for planning permission for extensions and alterations to the crematorium at Rochdale Cemetery.

1.2 The cemetery is on Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens and is thus a designated heritage asset. Rochdale BC has advised in a Pre-application consultation response dated 8th September 2020 that, although the building is not on the statutory list of buildings of architectural or historic interest, the Council considers that the crematorium is a locally important building.

1.3 The Heritage Statement aims to consider the heritage significance of the site and to assess the impact of the proposal on that heritage significance.

1.4 This Heritage Statement has been informed by a visit to the site on 24th September 2020 and desk-based research.

1.5 In preparing this Heritage Statement, particular regard has been paid to the advice in Para.s 189 and 190 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019:

189. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance....

190. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

1.6 This Heritage Statement has been prepared by John Hinchliffe BA (Hons), BPI, MSc (Blg Heritage & Conservation), IHBC, RTPI of Hinchliffe Heritage.

2. Description

2.1 Rochdale Crematorium (Plates 1-11)

Rochdale Crematorium is located within Rochdale Cemetery, 300m N of the principal entrance and slightly off-centre to the NE. The topography of the cemetery is undulating with a steep embankment to the N. and it has many mature trees, with the effect that there are few long-range views of the building.

Rochdale Crematorium was designed by the Borough Surveyor and Architect, G H Morgan. Above the front (S) entrance, which is in a slightly projecting doorway/portico, is a date-stone of 1938, and a plaque of a lamb (as in lamb of God) in relief, bearing a flag.

It is an austere stone building of geometric shapes and is constructed in roughly coursed local sandstone with ashlar dressings for quoins, window surrounds, string course and copings around the flat roofs. It is set on an E-W axis with a short rectangular tower, off-set to the R (E), flanked by a tall chapel to the W, a lower range to the E and two smaller ranges to the N and S, creating an irregular crucifix plan.

The tower has a single large slit window on the principal S elevation and the rear N elevation and has a chimney off-set to the R(E), disguised by further crenellations.

The chapel has tall copings with three gaps in the form of crenellations and three tall mullioned and transomed windows with leaded lights and restrained tracery. A canopy supported on raking stone piers and with an inward-sloping roof has been added and obscures a bevelled string course and much of the slightly projecting portico on the L which contains the principal doorway. The W window of the chapel rises up from the string course to a gothic pointed arch and restrained ashlar tracery. The ashlar window surrounds continue down below the string course but are infilled with stone, rather than the stained glass above. The rear of the chapel is similar to the front, with three mullioned and transomed windows and a bevelled string course. The interior is plain and austere, with the nave within the tower and a suspended ceiling which cuts off the upper stained glass above the transoms.

The block to the R is mostly plainer than the other blocks, with mullioned windows and a door at ground level on the front and a blind upper level. At the rear, it has some attached service plant and a metal staircase. It is surrounded by a timber boarded fence approx 1.8m high which conceals further external plant. However, its E elevation projects at ground floor level to form a curved wall which incorporates niches for the deposition of ashes and has engraved stone panels.

An extension, where the staff kitchen is currently located, was constructed circa 7-8 years ago and the extension where the crematory are currently located was added before.

In summary, the crematorium is a curious blend of Art Deco and gothic elements which combine to create an unusual but highly distinguished composition. Pevsner provides a short description of the cemetery but does not mention the crematorium.



Plate 1. Principal S elevation of Rochdale Crematorium



Plate 3. W elevation

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Plate 4. W elevation and sunken Garden of Remembrance



Plate 5. View of rear from NW



Plate 6. View of rear from NE



Plate 7. E elevation



Plate 8. E elevation and screen wall



Plate 9. Date-stone and plaque over entrance

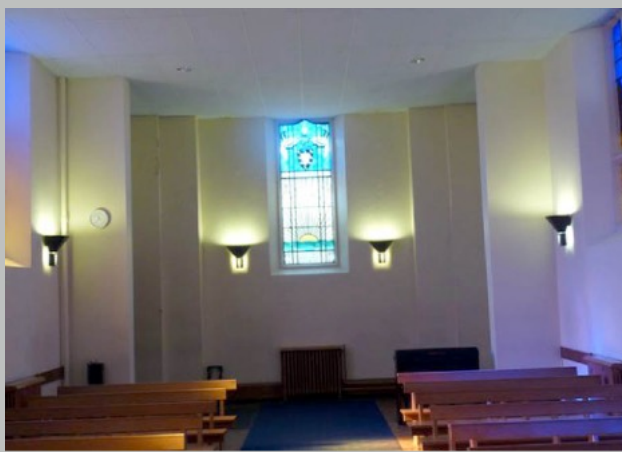


Plate 10. Internal view of W window in chapel



Plate 11. Internal view of base of tower

2.2 The Setting of the Crematorium and the Book of Remembrance Room (Plates 12-16)

The crematorium is approached from the SW on a wide drive encircling a planting bed. To the W of the crematorium the grounds are laid out as a sunken Garden of Remembrance and with a series of stone-walled terraces which descend into the valley.

To the WSW of the crematorium, adjoining the approach, there is a small mid-C20 Book of Remembrance Room, with projecting stone walls, full-height glazing, and a butterfly roof, which rises to a peak above the S entrance and which has a covering of mineral felt. This building is not part of the original design of the crematorium. Inside are three glass cases with memorial books and holders for flowers.

To the E, the crematorium enclosure is bounded by a 30m long stone wall, approx 4m high, running N-S. This wall has a water basin in a niche within a stepped surround at the centre of the outer E elevation and a curved wall in the W elevation (which corresponds to that on the crematorium). The land rises to the N with an embankment on which there are several mature trees and shrubbery and a stone wall beyond.



Plate 12. S elevation of Book of Remembrance Building



Plate 13. N elevation of Book of Remembrance Building and part of Garden of Remembrance



Plate 14. S elevation of Book of Remembrance Building



Plate 15. Book of Remembrance Building and Crematorium



Plate 16. Books of Remembrance

2.3 Rochdale Cemetery (Plates 17-35)

Rochdale cemetery is an excellent example of a High Victorian mid-19th C public cemetery, established by the municipality. A full description of the cemetery is provided in Historic England's description of the registered historic park at Appendix 1 but a summary is provided below.

The irregularly shaped cemetery is located 1.5km west of Rochdale town centre and is circa 12ha in area. The cemetery is bounded by Bury Road to the S, Sandy Lane to the SE and E, and partly

by Hudson Walk to the N. To the W there is a short boundary with Oulder Hill Drive with indented boundaries.

The cemetery is sited on high ground to the N of the River Roch. The S area of the cemetery is laid out on steeply undulating ground. The surrounding area is largely residential with a school and golf course to the NW and the Cemetery Hotel public house opposite the SE corner of the cemetery.

The principal entrance is from Bury Road on the S boundary and is marked by a tripartite stone gateway with a central carriage entrance flanked by two smaller pedestrian entrances. The carriage entrance has a large stone arch below a stepped parapet and is set between octagonal buttresses. The pedestrian entrances are set below smaller arches. The gateway has cast-iron gates to all three openings, with one of the centre pair bearing the inscription Samuel Barnish/ Maker/Rochdale" and "Rochdale Cemetery 1855" in a plaque. Immediately E and W of this entrance, there are two stone lodges, both of two storeys below slate roofs. The W lodge previously incorporated the cemetery office and has a C20 extension to the W but it is now disused. The cemetery office is now in the E lodge.

An entrance at the centre of the W boundary to Oulder Hill Drive is marked by plain square piers in coursed stone flanking a pair of C20 metal gates.

The C19 cemetery burial chapel is sited on high ground 200m NNE of the principal entrance. Set on a N-S axis, this is a small Gothic-style building in stone below a steep slated roof and with a 20th C entrance porch to the S. It was formerly the Roman Catholic chapel and was designed by local architect McDougall.

The original part of the cemetery between the principal entrance and the crematorium in the N is divided by a serpentine paths and driveways and the graves are laid out in largely organic arrangements to suit between mature trees. The more recent parts of the cemetery to the E and W are laid out more orthogonally and the graves are on more regular grids and with a more open landscape.

On high ground 110m north-east of the principal entrance, the elliptical drive divides around a children's memorial garden. The garden is bounded by low stone walls, which are retaining to the N, and occupies the site of the former Anglican chapel.

On high ground 100m NNW of the principal entrance, a wider drive meets the elliptical drive to enclose a grassed planting bed which marks the site of the former Nonconformist chapel. Immediately to the NE of the Nonconformist site, a Commonwealth War Graves Commission "Cross of Sacrifice" commemorates the dead of both World Wars.

The central and southern areas of the cemetery are extensively planted with mature trees, both deciduous and evergreen, used particularly to define main drives and paths. The majority of the stones, which form a geological trail, are sited along the elliptical drive in the S of the cemetery.

Rochdale Cemetery contains many imposing, highly decorative and impressive memorials in a variety of styles and materials, to successful and notable local people. They include one of 1865 to Alderman Thomas Livesey, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee at its opening. Also buried in the cemetery are sixteen members of the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society, whose first shop opened in 1844 in Toad Lane and which is significant as representing the beginning of the co-operative movement.

An unusual feature of the cemetery is a collection of low pillars, each of a different stone, set in geological sequence and engraved with the name and origin of the stone (Baines 1868). This feature was probably created by geologists Horsfall and Law and is believed to be unique. They were initially sited to demarcate the boundary between consecrated and unconsecrated ground.

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There were originally 27 of them which eventually increased to at least thirty, of which twenty-eight remain.

The cemetery is multi-denominational and so has graves of non-Christians and well as a range of different Christians religions.

To the NE of the crematorium is the operational compound which comprises a plain, low flat-roofed office of the mid-20th C and a group of shipping containers, enclosed by some industrial security railings.

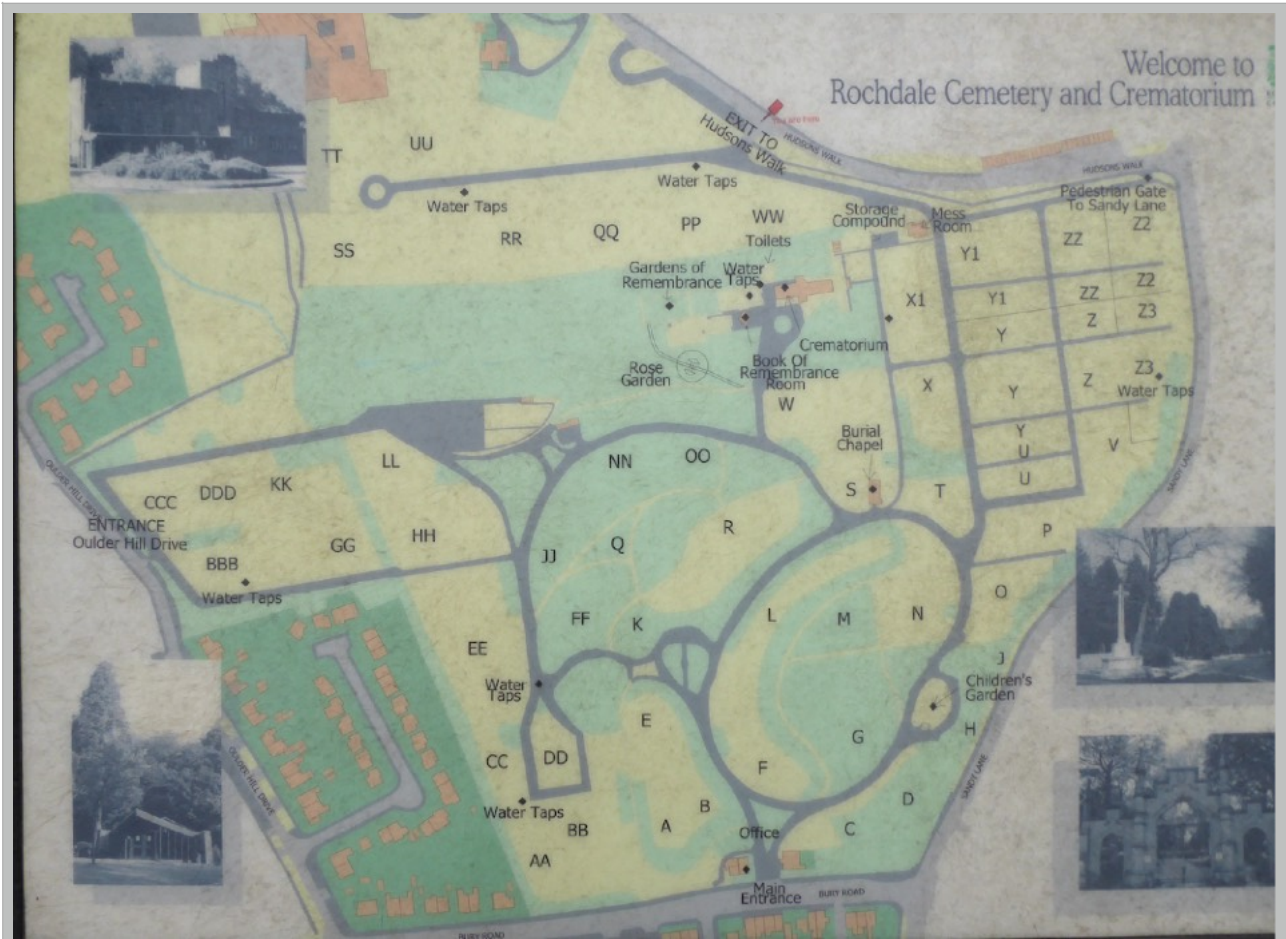


Plate 17. Plan of Rochdale Cemetery



Plate 18. Gateway to Rochdale Cemetery on Bury Road and lodges



Plate 19. Gateway to Rochdale Cemetery on Bury Road and W lodge

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Plate 20. Gateway to Rochdale Cemetery on Bury Road and W lodge



Plate 21. Plaque on gate



Plate 22. E Lodge



Plate 23. Gateway and W Lodge



Plate 24. S end of Burial Chapel



Plate 25. N end of Burial Chapel

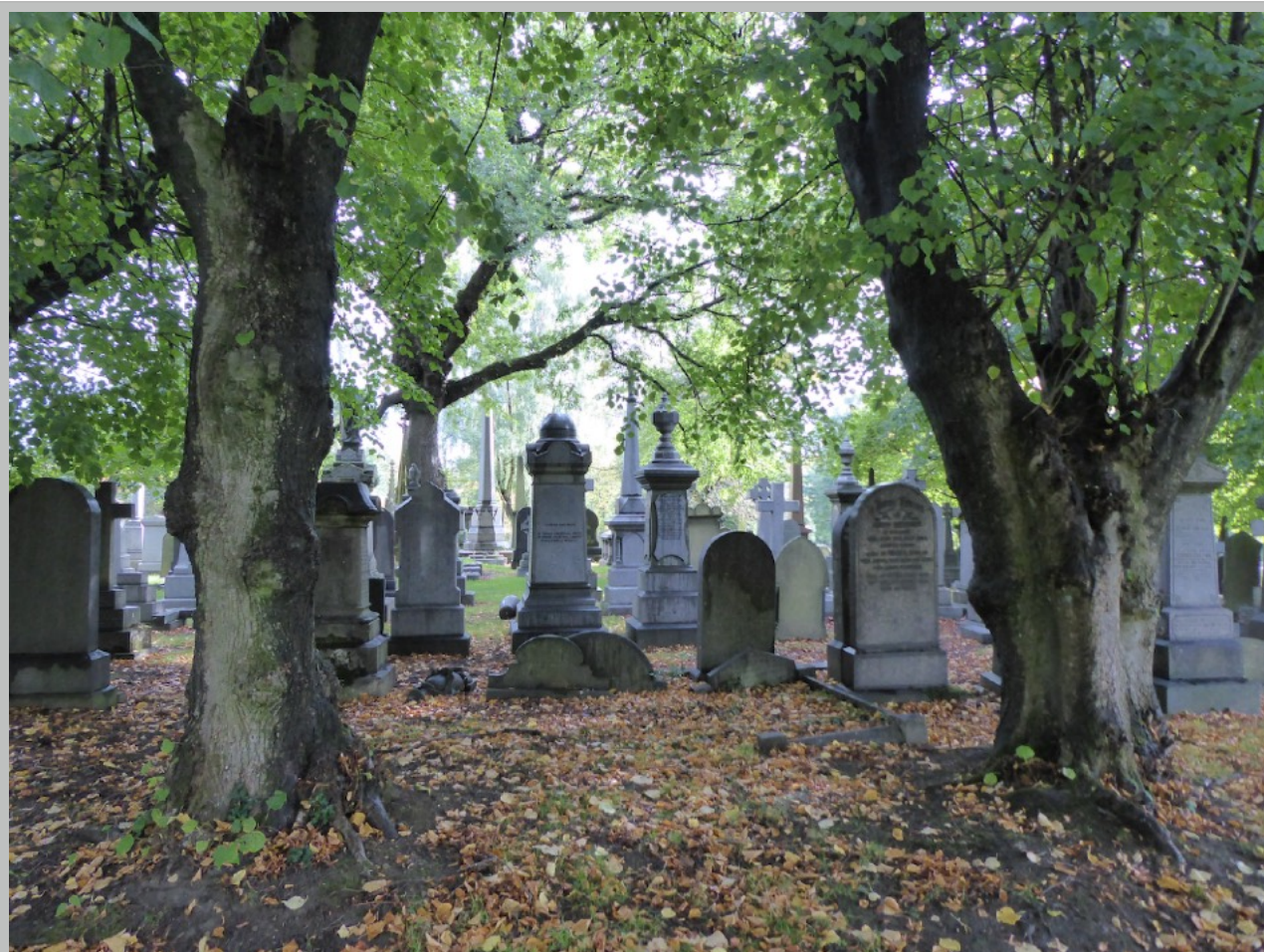


Plate 26. Funereal Monuments



Plate 27. Stone “geological” pillar



Plate 28. Stone “geological” pillar



Plate 29. Stone “geological” pillar



Plate 30. Trail of Rochdale Pioneers' Graves



Plate 31. Gravestone of one of Rochdale Pioneers



Plate 32. Gravestone of one of Rochdale Pioneers



Plate 33. War Memorial



Plate 34. Groundsmen's Compound



Plate 35. Groundsmen's Compound

2.4 Rochdale

Rochdale is a large town in the NE of Greater Manchester, at the western foothills of the South Pennines. It lies in the dale on the River Roch and has a population of over 200,000.

Evidence of its important role in the textile industry can be seen throughout the town in some surviving mills, although many have been lost and few are still in use for that purpose. Further evidence of its success and wealth in the 19th C can be seen in its many fine churches, parks and public buildings, the best of which is the gothic revival Town Hall (Plate 36) of 1871 by the architect, William Henry Crossland. The quality of the exterior is more than equalled by the quality of its interior, with frescoes, tiles and stained glass windows, including one which acknowledges the importance of the port of Liverpool (Plate 37) to its international trade. The architectural critic Nikolaus Pevsner described the building as possessing a "rare picturesque beauty".



Plate 36. Print of Rochdale Town Hall



Plate 37. Stained glass window in Rochdale Town hall

3. History

3.1 Rochdale

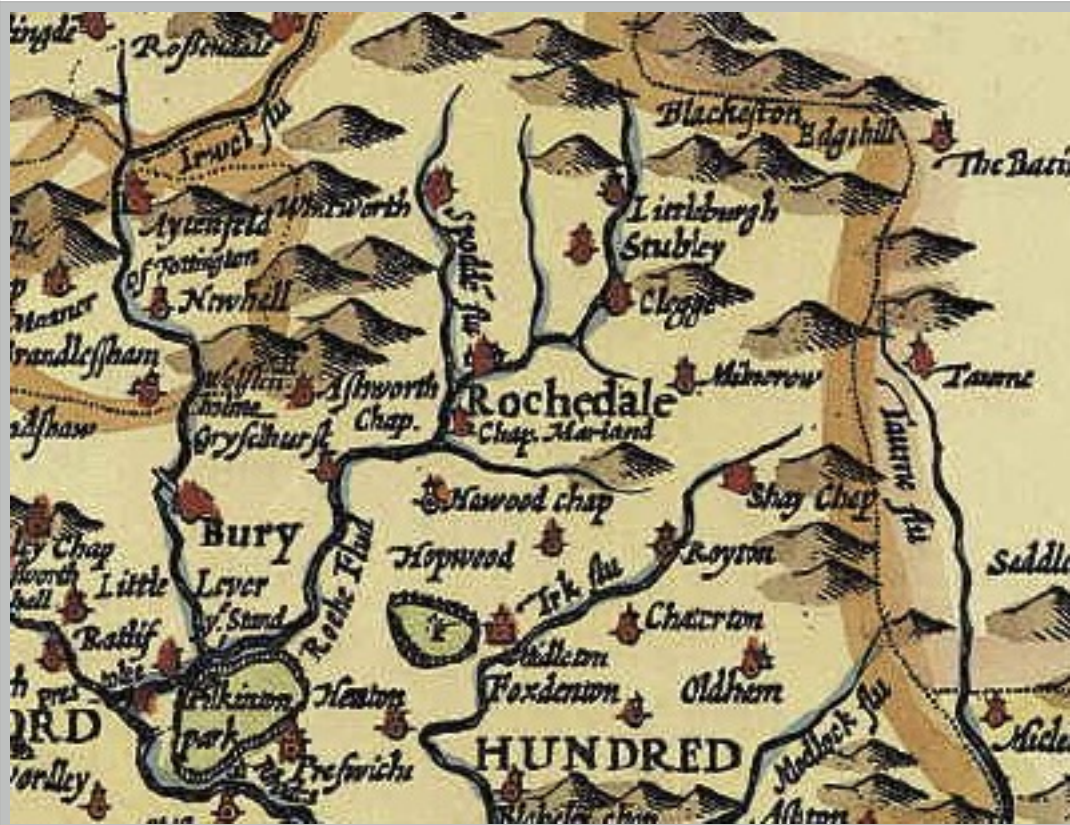
Rochdale was historically part of Lancashire. Its recorded history begins with an entry in the Domesday Book of 1086 under "Recedham Manor" and the ancient parish of Rochdale was a division of the hundred of Salford and one of the largest ecclesiastical parishes in England, comprising several townships. By 1251, Rochdale had become important enough to have been granted a Royal charter. It flourished into a centre of northern England's woollen trade but remained a relatively small town until the early 19th C. It is named as "Rochedale" on Speed's 1610 map of Lancashire (Map 1), which shows it in relation to the surrounding hills and river courses.

Rochdale rose to prominence in the 19th century as a mill town and centre for textile manufacture, during the Industrial Revolution. It is shown as a partially densely-developed town around the river courses on Greenwoods 1818 Map of Lancashire (Map 2) and at the junction of several roads which radiate in all directions. It was a boomtown of the Industrial Revolution, and amongst the first industrialised towns in the country. The Rochdale Canal was a highway of commerce during this time, used for the haulage of cotton, wool and coal to and from the area. The socio-economic change brought by the success of Rochdale's textile industry in the 19th century led to its growth and rise to borough status and it became a dominant settlement within the region. However, even by 1851 (See Map 3), the town had not expanded much to the W beyond the "River Rock" and "River Spodden".

Rochdale is known as the birthplace of the modern Co-operative Movement, to which more than one billion people worldwide belonged in 2012. The Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society was founded in 1844 by 28 local residents as a response to the high cost and frequent adulteration of basic foodstuffs by shopkeepers at the time. The Pioneers were notable for combining the notion of the patronage dividend alongside investing trading surplus for member benefit, especially in education. The Rochdale Principles, the set of ideals which underpinned the society, are still used, in updated form, by the International Co-operative Alliance. The Rochdale Pioneers shop was the precursor to The Co-operative Group, the largest consumer co-operative in the world.

By 1894 (see Map 4), the first phase of Rochdale Cemetery had been laid out at a distance from the town centre and some terraced houses and villas had been built along Bury Road. In the following decades Rochdale expanded further W from the town centre and the OS Maps of 1908 (Map 5), 1930 (Map 6) and 1947 (surveyed 1938) (Map 7) illustrate that more terraced houses and villas had been built along Bury Road and around the cemetery.

Rochdale's spinning capacity declined during the 20th century towards an eventual halt, and the town has had to diversify its industrial base and has become part of the commuter catchment area for Manchester.



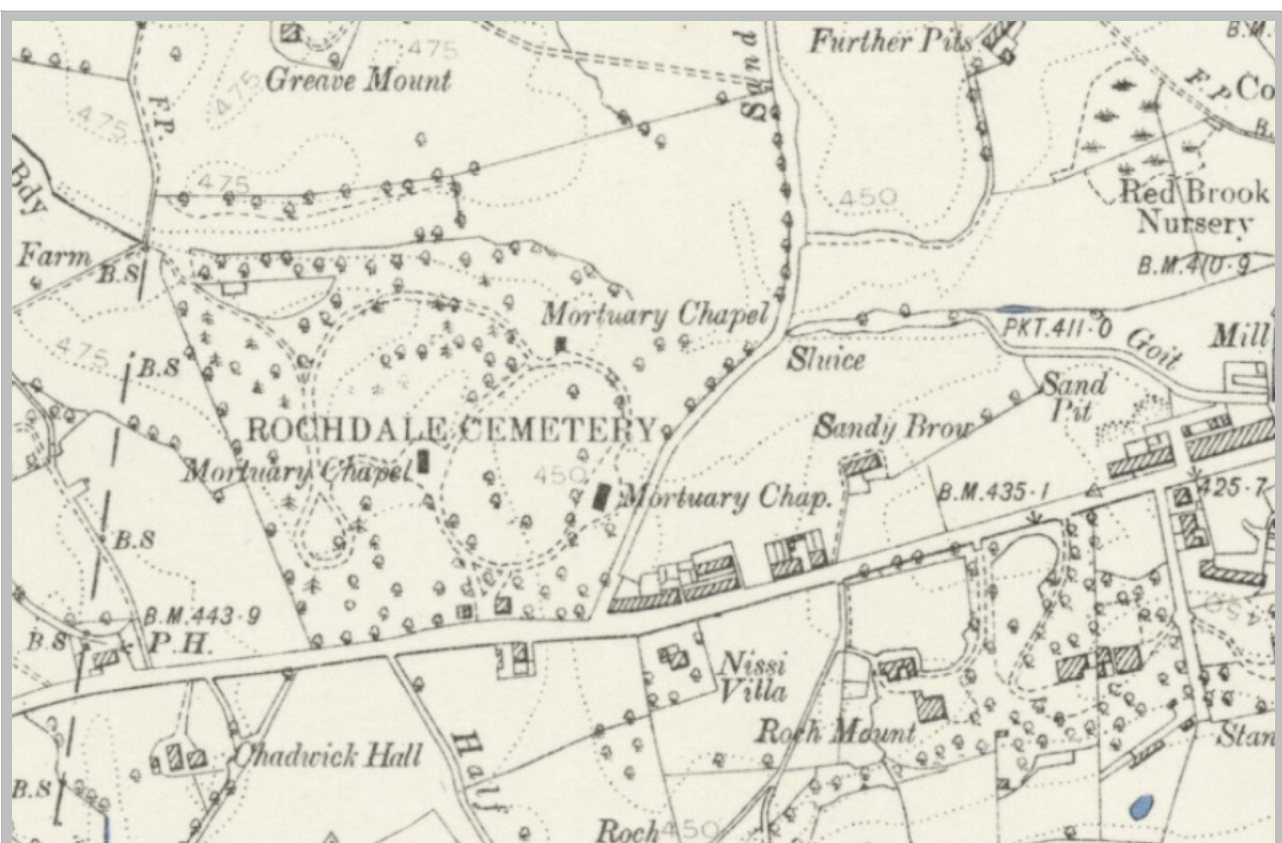
Map 1. Extract from Speeds Map of Lancashire 1610



Map 2. Extract from Greenwoods Map of Lancashire 1818

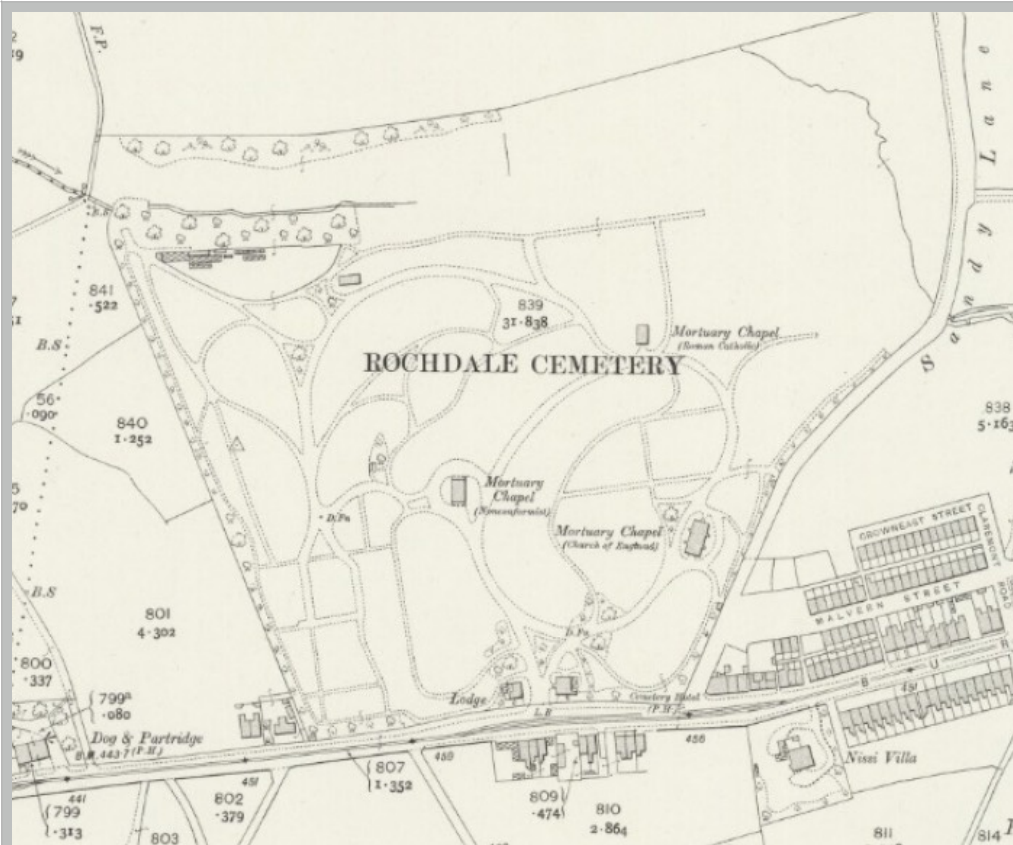


Map 3. 1851 OS Map



Map 4. 1894 OS Map

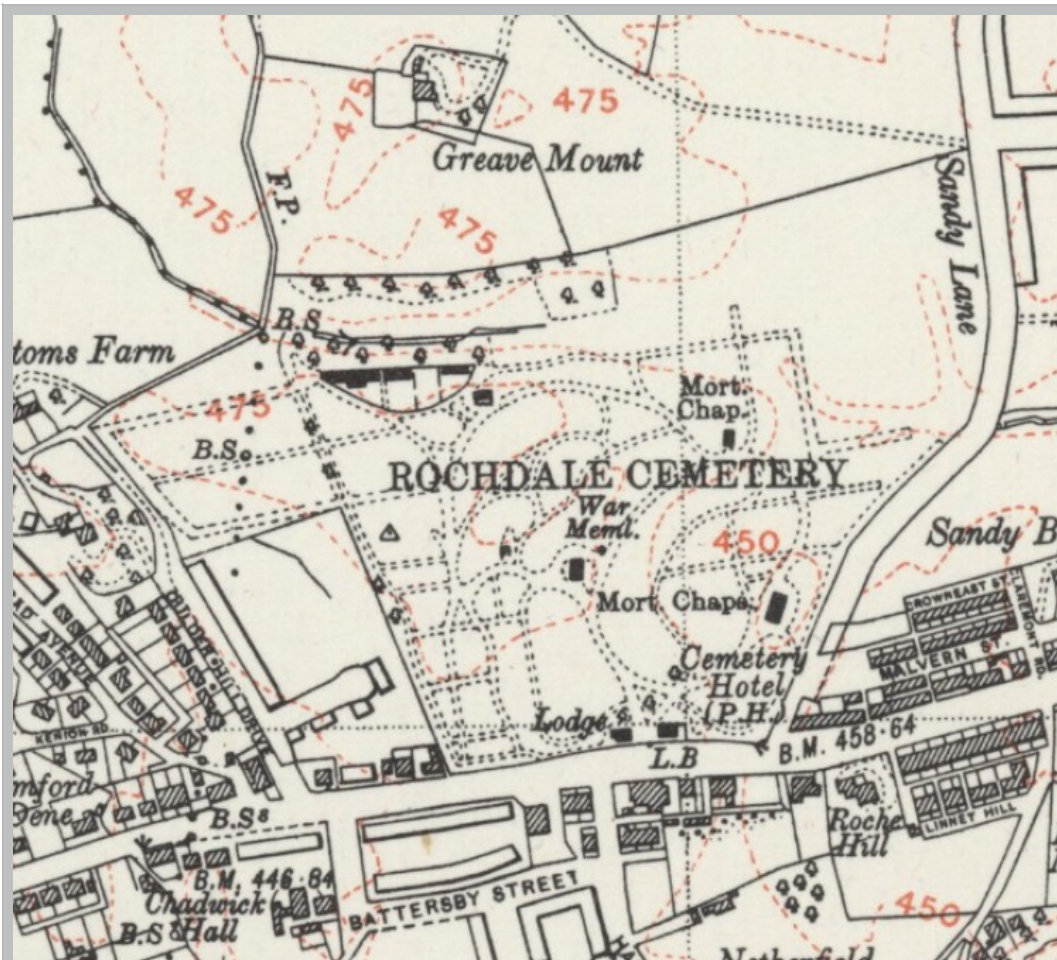
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Map 5. 1908 OS Map



Map 6. 1930 OS Map



Map 7. 1947 (surveyed 1938) OS Map

3.2 Rochdale Cemetery and Crematorium

The leading article in *The Pilot and Rochdale Reporter* of 14 June 1847 considered that the need for a public cemetery to serve Rochdale as it was 'rapidly becoming an absolute necessity' because all but one of the fourteen existing burial grounds in the town centre were either 'loathsome' or nearly filled. The Rochdale Improvement Act, passed in August 1853, included provision for the Rochdale Improvement Commissioners to construct a new larger cemetery. A site had already been approved in December 1852 and in December 1853 the Commissioners advertised a competition for the design of a 12 acre (5ha) site W of the town centre on Bury Road, including buildings, with awards offered of £20, £10, and £5.

The cemetery was planned by Abraham Stansfield, assisted by two geologists, James Horsfall of Healey Nursery and Robert Law of Todmorden. The opening on 28 April 1855 was attended by many thousands. At the opening, the entrance was complete and the two adjoining lodges almost so, while foundation stones for the Church of England and Dissenters' chapels were laid as part of the ceremony by the Bishop of Manchester and the Chief Constable respectively. Timber chapels were erected as a temporary measure and the boundary between consecrated and unconsecrated ground were initially marked by timber posts.

The Church of England Chapel (Plates 38 and 39) was designed in Norman style with a square central tower, by architect R Moffat Smith of Manchester and cost c £950 (The Builder 1855). Pevsner described it as "very curious indeed - on the principle of Anglo Saxon Barton-on-Humber". The Dissenters' chapel, by architect Fowles of Rochdale, was modelled on the Erectheum at Athens. By 1868 a Roman Catholic chapel had been constructed and the division between consecrated and unconsecrated ground had been marked by twenty-seven pillars, each of a

different stone, set in geological sequence and engraved with the name and origin of the stone. This feature was probably created by the geologists Horsfall and Law and is believed to be a unique feature in a cemetery. The number of pillars was eventually increased to at least thirty, of which twenty-eight now remain.

The Rochdale Improvement Act of 1872 allowed the Corporation to buy further land to extend the cemetery and, in 1874, 11 acres (c 4.5ha) were purchased. The cemetery was further extended in the 20thC, to the north-west and north.

In the 1930s the crematorium was constructed in the north of the cemetery and, by 1955, a detached Book of Remembrance Room had been constructed at the head of terraced memorial gardens to the W of the crematorium. The crematorium has since been extended by the construction of a canopy with an inward sloping roof along the full width of the chapel and it has been altered internally with the lowering of the ceiling within the chapel.

Moffat Smith's Anglican chapel was regrettably demolished in the 1950s and the Nonconformist chapel in 1972, following the re-dedication of the Roman Catholic chapel for inter-denominational burial use. A substantial flat-roofed porch has since been constructed on the SE frontage of the burial chapel.

Later in the 20th C, accommodation and a compound for the groundsmen was constructed to the E of the crematorium, between the crematorium and the vehicular exit on to Hudson Walk.

Rochdale Cemetery remains in use and in the ownership of Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council.

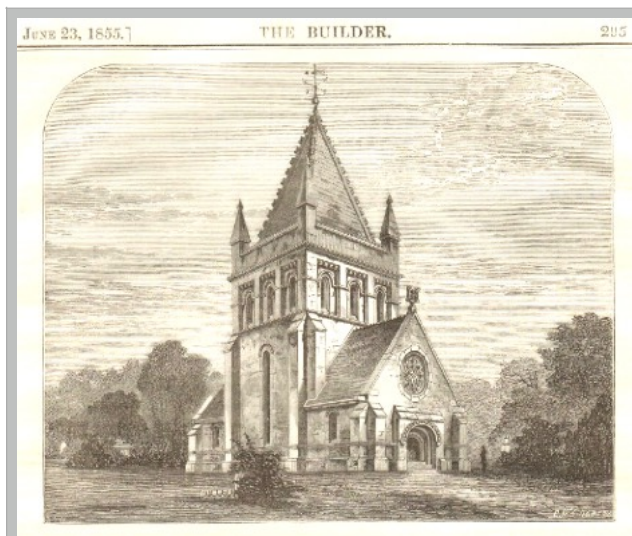


Plate 38. Drawing of Episcopal Chapel from *The Builder*

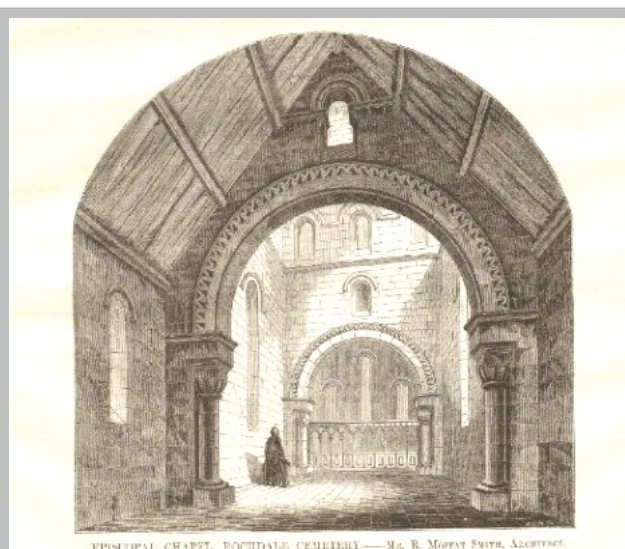
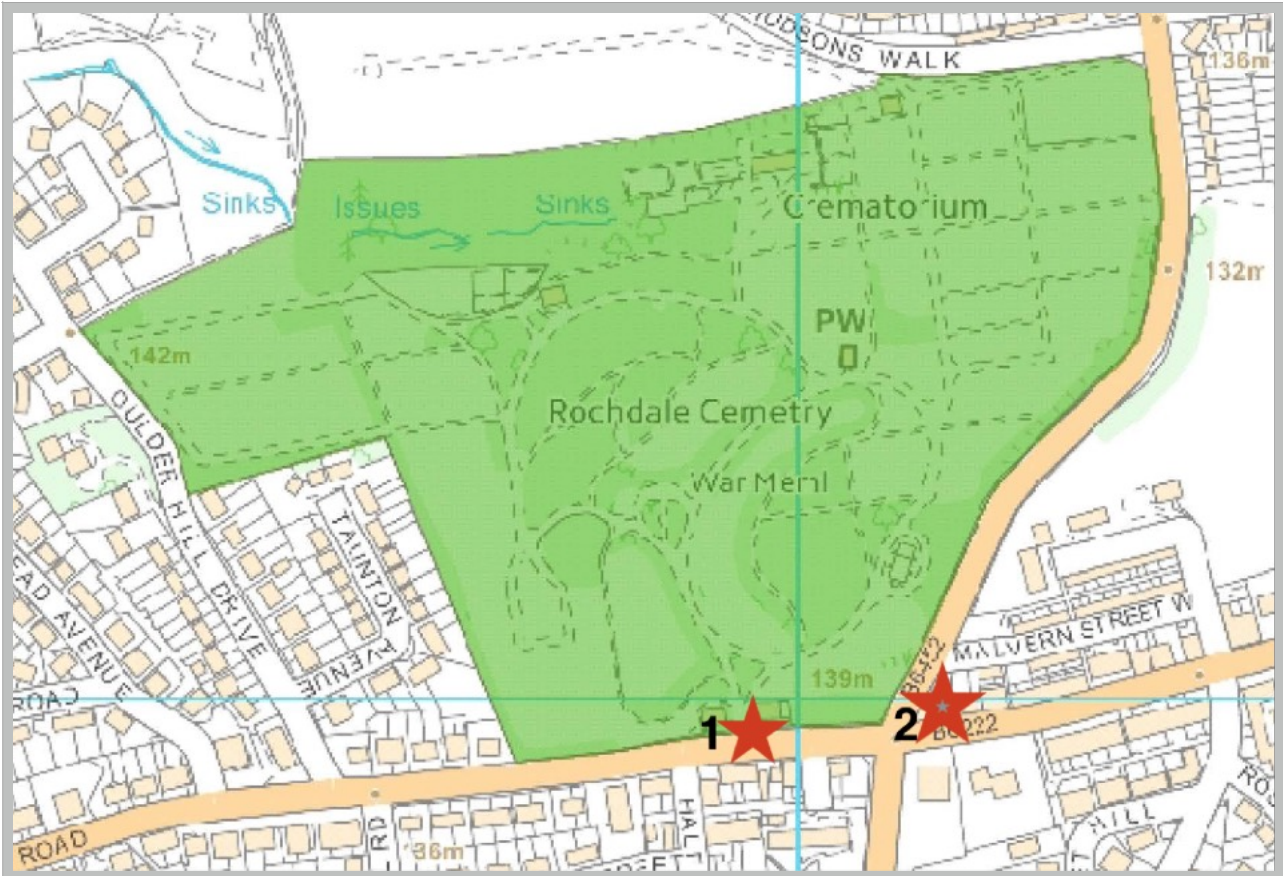


Plate 39. Drawing of Episcopal Chapel from *The Builder*

4. Heritage Designations

4.1 Historic Park and Garden

Rochdale Cemetery was added on to Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens at Grade II in December 2001 with the List Entry Number 1001565. The formal description unreasonable for designation is provided at Appendix 1 and the map of the designated area is provided at Map 8.



Map 8. Rochdale Cemetery Registered Historic Park and Garden and Listed Buildings

4.2 Listed Buildings

Statutory Listed Buildings

4.2.1 The only statutorily listed building within Rochdale Cemetery is Rochdale Cemetery Gateway (Plates 18-21) on Bury Road which was listed at Grade II in February 1985 as List Entry Number: 1084268. Its location is shown with a red star and the No.1 on Map 8.

The listing description (for identification only) is:

Rochdale Cemetery Gateway

G.V. II

Gateway. 1855. Coursed rubble and ashlar dressings. Large flattened arch flanked on either side by two smaller symmetrical gateways. All three arches are double chamfered, have heraldic shields and scrolled ribbons above, and are separated by octagonal buttresses with weatherings, bands and crocketed pinnacles. Each end is terminated by

weathered angle buttresses with diagonally set square shafted crocketed pinnacles. The gables are coped and stepped. The gates are cast iron.

4.2.2 The only statutorily listed building within immediate vicinity of Rochdale Cemetery is the Cemetery Hotel (Plates 40 and 41), Bury Road, which is on the opposite side of Sandy Lane from the cemetery. It was listed at Grade II in September 2010 as List Entry Number 1393976. Its location is shown with a red star and the No.2 on Map 8.

The listing description is:

Cemetery Hotel Public House

II

Public House. Mid C19 with early-C20 decorative scheme by Crown Brewing Company Ltd of Bury. Red brick, painted white to rear. Shallow hipped slate roof. PLAN: Three-room plan with a central corridor expanding into a wide drinking lobby with bar counter at the rear. The building forms the left end of a short terrace, and occupies an acutely-angled corner site. EXTERIOR: Two-storey front elevation and three-storey rear elevation. Central entrance with depressed arch, now with modern canvas canopy, and six-panelled door with overlight. Public room to either side with shallow segmental-arched windows incorporating upper tripartite lights with stained leaded glass in an Art Nouveau design, and single lower lights of etched glass. Left, parlour window etched WINES & SPIRITS; right, vault window etched CROWN ALES. Three first-floor windows with segmental-arched heads and sill band; modern casement windows. Sill band and dentilled eaves band carried round curved corner of building, which incorporates curved window frames. INTERIOR: Small inner porch with mosaic floor bearing the name 'Cemetery Hotel', and dado of vibrantly coloured green tiles with Prussian blue borders and Art Nouveau motifs in green, blue and orange. Above dado is cream rectangular tiling with decorative coloured border at ceiling level, and moulded cornice. Central corridor and drinking lobby have similar Art Nouveau dado tiles. The three rooms have half-glazed doors set in moulded architraves, with multi-pane leaded lights and three fielded panels to the lower part; room numbers attached. To the front right is the vault, now a pool room. Parquet floor and fitted bench seats with plain matchboard backs to all walls, now with attached cushioned panels. Fireplace in centre of east wall with cast-iron range inscribed 'L BUTTERWORTH, ROCHDALE'. To the front left is the parlour with four areas of fixed seating separated by part-glazed mahogany baffle screens with leaded multi-panes, ramped heads and end columns with fluting and volutes. There are also higher baffle screens to either side of the doorway. Above the seating is a band of panelling incorporating an oval panel to each area, now painted with the numbers 1 to 4. Angled west wall has a fireplace with ornate surround and overmantel incorporating classical columns and fluted pilasters, a circular mirror, and a hearth set within dark blue tiling. To the rear left is a small, wedge-shaped snug with fixed seating to all walls with bell pushes in the panel above, and a ramped timber baffle screen adjacent to the door. Reproduction fireplace and modern hatch to side of servery. Bar counter to rear of drinking lobby has slightly bowed front with fielded panels. Bar superstructure partly remodelled with late-C20 stained glass panels, and modern bar back fitting. Large cellars of rubble stone and brick, which are ground-floor level at the rear of the building.

HISTORY The Cemetery Hotel is believed to have been built in the 1860s and appears on the first edition 1:2500 Ordnance Survey map of 1893. It took its name from the adjacent Rochdale Cemetery, a public cemetery which opened in 1855 on previously open fields (Grade II on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest). It is likely that the pub was built in part to serve funeral parties attending burials at the cemetery. In the early C20 the pub was given a comprehensive interior refurbishment by the Crown Brewery Company Ltd. of Bury.

DESIGNATION DECISION The Cemetery Hotel, 470 Bury Road, Rochdale, a mid-C19 public house with an early C20 decorative scheme, is designated at Grade II for the following principal reasons:

- * Planning: the pub retains the original C19 layout of individual rooms and an opened out corridor in front of the servery to form a drinking lobby, a regionally distinctive feature of historic pub planning in Lancashire and Yorkshire.*
- * Interior: for the intactness and good quality of the early-C20 decorative scheme by Crown Brewing Company of Bury, including Art Nouveau dado tiling, fixed seating, bell-pushes, part-glazed doors, windows with coloured and etched glass, and parquet flooring to the vault. Of particular note is the front parlour with ramped and part-glazed baffle screens with fluting and volutes to the end columns, and classically detailed mantelpiece to the fireplace.*
- * Group value: the pub was built in an initially rural location most probably in part to serve funeral parties from the adjacent Grade II listed Rochdale Cemetery, a public cemetery opened in 1855, the close association apparent in the choice of pub name.*



Plate 40. Cemetery Hotel



Plate 41. Cemetery Hotel

Local Listings

4.2.3 Rochdale BC does not hold a formal list of buildings of local architectural or historic interest but it advised in a pre-application consultation response dated 8th September 2020:

The Crematorium is considered to be a Locally Important Building, as it is located within a cemetery that is designated as a protected park and garden of special historic interest (Grade II). Policy P2 of the Core Strategy seeks to conserve, enhance and promote key heritage assets including registered parks and their wider settings

The Glossary of the NPPF (2019) defines “Designated heritage assets”:

A World Heritage Site, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Protected Wreck Site, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield or Conservation Area designated under the relevant legislation.

It defines “Heritage Assets”:

A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. It includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority (including local listing).

It is therefore assumed that the crematorium should be considered to be a non-designated heritage asset.

4.3 Conservation Areas

4.3.1 Rochdale has 29 designated Conservation Areas but none of them include Rochdale Cemetery or are within its immediate vicinity.

4.4 Archaeology

There are no known sites of archaeological interest within Rochdale Cemetery.

5. Significance

5.1 Introduction - Understanding Heritage Significance

5.1.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (2019) requires that:

189. In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance....

190. Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

5.1.2 The Glossary of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019) defines "Significance" (for heritage policy):

The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.

5.1.3 In assessing the heritage significance of Rochdale Cemetery and Crematorium and their setting, regard has been had to the special heritage interest of the heritage assets, as required by the NPPF, and the heritage values, as defined in Historic England's *Conservation Principles* (2008), which asserts that a tangible heritage asset can have the following four values:

Evidential value - the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity.

Historical value - the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present.

Aesthetic value - the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place.

Communal value - the meaning of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory.

5.1.4 *Conservation Principles* also clarifies that:

The significance of a place embraces all the diverse cultural and natural heritage values that people associate with it, or which prompt them to respond to it. These values tend to grow in strength and complexity over time, as understanding deepens and people's perceptions of a place evolve.

In order to identify the significance of a place, it is necessary first to understand its fabric, and how and why it has changed over time; and then to consider:

- *who values the place, and why they do so*
- *how those values relate to its fabric*
- *their relative importance*
- *whether associated objects contribute to them*

- *the contribution made by the setting and context of the place*
- *how the place compares with others sharing similar values.*

Understanding and articulating the values and significance of a place is necessary to inform decisions about its future. The degree of significance determines what, if any, protection, including statutory designation, is appropriate under law and policy.

5.1.5 *Conservation Principles* goes on to state that:

4.1 Change in the historic environment is inevitable, caused by natural processes, the wear and tear of use, and people's responses to social, economic and technological change.

4.2 Conservation is the process of managing change to a significant place in its setting in ways that will best sustain its heritage values, while recognising opportunities to reveal or reinforce those values for present and future generations.

4.3 Conservation is achieved by all concerned with a significant place sharing an understanding of its significance, and using that understanding to: judge how its heritage values are vulnerable to change take the actions and impose the constraints necessary to sustain, reveal and reinforce those values mediate between conservation options, if action to sustain one heritage value could conflict with action to sustain another ensure that the place retains its authenticity – those attributes and elements which most truthfully reflect and embody the heritage values attached to it.

4.4 Action taken to counter harmful effects of natural change, or to minimise the risk of disaster, should be timely, proportionate to the severity and likelihood of identified consequences, and sustainable.

4.5 Intervention may be justified if it increases understanding of the past, reveals or reinforces particular heritage values of a place, or is necessary to sustain those values for present and future generations, so long as any resulting harm is decisively outweighed by the benefits.

4.6 New work should aspire to a quality of design and execution which may be valued both now and in the future. This neither implies nor precludes working in traditional or new ways, but should respect the significance of a place in its setting.

5.1.6 In Historic England's *Informed Conservation*, Kate Clark advises that:

Significance lies at the heart of every conservation action, which for the historic environment means the recognition of a public value in what may well be private property. Historic buildings and their landscapes are significant for many different cultural reasons: for their architecture, for their archaeological significance, for their aesthetic qualities, for their association with people and memories, beliefs and events or simply because they are old. They can tell us about technology, innovation, conflicts and triumphs. Their interest may lie in the materials used or in the decorative finishes, in the grouping of landscape, building and place. That significance may be personal, local, regional, national or international; it may be academic, economic or social...

5.1.7 Important considerations in assessing significance are authenticity and integrity. These are defined as:

Authenticity is a measure of truthfulness. Understanding of the concept of authenticity is guided by ICOMOS's *Nara Document on Authenticity* (1994)

Integrity is a measure of the wholeness and intactness of cultural heritage and its attributes

5.1.8 Historic England has recently issued *Statements of Heritage Significance (October 2019)* which explores the assessment of significance of heritage assets as part of a staged approach to decision-making in which assessing significance precedes designing the proposal.

The Advice Note recommends:

For each heritage asset, describe the various interests:

Archaeological interest

There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially holds, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point.

Architectural and artistic interest

These are interests in the design and general aesthetics of a place. They can arise from conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved. More specifically, architectural interest is an interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types. Artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skills, like sculpture.

Historic Interest

An interest in past lives and events (including pre-historic). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation's history, but can also provide meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.

Having described the various interests, assess the level of the general significance of the heritage asset and the particular contribution to that significance of any features which would be affected by the proposal, or of its setting if it, too, is affected by the proposal.

Again in the development of proposals and during works, more information may become available which increases the understanding of the heritage asset, and of its significance. The opportunity may usefully be taken to re-appraise significance in such cases.

The applicant can assist the LPA's decision-making by setting out a clear and succinct explanation of the impact of the proposal on significance and how negative impact on significance has been avoided, by continuing to follow the staged approach, as shown below.

5.2 Levels of Significance

5.2.1 There is no definitive grading system or methodology for assessing the levels of significance or values of heritage assets but the most reliable methodologies have clearly defined criteria for grading, based upon the designations and other values of the heritage assets.

5.2.2 This Heritage Statement uses the levels of significance and their criteria (Appendix 2) which were used in the *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges* (DMRB), which has been used in some cases by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic England and others. The DMRB has been withdrawn

by the government but the criteria for levels of significance of heritage assets and methodologies for assessing impact of development on them remain valid.

5.3 The Significance of Cemeteries and Crematoria

5.3.1 Historic England's website (www.historicengland.org.uk) advises that:

The combination of architecture, sculpture, landscape, wildlife and poetry makes cemeteries like no other place in the historic environment...

Cemeteries were conceived and designed both as gardens of the dead and as a memorial. The inscription on memorials, the design of monuments, the choice of stones, the architecture of building and landscape design shed light on past social customs and events and combine to make a cemetery an irreplaceable historical resource. As an important record of the social history of the area, each cemetery is also the biography of its community. Many cemeteries include both consecrated and non-consecrated sections, and some cemeteries are dedicated to a particular faith...

The development of cemeteries in the mid-19th century reflects the unsavoury and insanitary nature of urban churchyards which had become overcrowded with burials, and the desire for alternative burial grounds. The cemetery developers – and many were local authorities – commissioned leading architects and designers to layout the cemetery landscapes and build chapels, lodges, gates and walls. As esteemed places, families also commissioned grand monuments with fine sculpture and beautiful stones. There is a strong link between the design of cemeteries and Victorian public parks hence the garden character of these last resting places for the dead. The tradition continued with the design of the crematoria landscapes into the 20th century.

5.3.2 Historic England has also published *Landscapes of Remembrance Register of Parks and Gardens Selection Guide (2017)*, which covers burial grounds and cemeteries of various different types.

On the evolution of cemeteries, it states:

1.3.2 High Victorian and Edwardian municipal cemeteries

The Public Health Act 1848 created a framework for the closure of insanitary burial spaces, and Burial Acts in 1852 and 1853 empowered vestries to establish new cemeteries funded through loans raised against the rates. The burial boards which were then created to administer these new cemeteries took their cue from the private establishments of the earlier period, in offering the sale of burial rights in perpetuity. This degree of permanency, in addition to a growing cultural aversion to disintering bodies in order to re-use space in the cemetery, created a context for the erection of more elaborate monuments. Boards generally established hierarchies of graves which ranged from the formal and imposing, situated along the principal avenues, to public graves in less prominent areas, where families were generally not permitted to erect a memorial.

Early sections were frequently joined later by later nineteenth- and twentieth-century extensions which can possess a different character in terms of layout and planting. The grander municipal cemeteries, like their commercial inspirations, aimed at an opulent effect through imposing gateways, chapels and planting, but this gave way during the later twentieth century to a much leaner approach to upkeep which involved the demolition of disused buildings, the in-filling of pathways, and the abandonment of elaborate planting schemes, which has transformed their appearance.

On "Crematoria", it advises:

Cremation was legalised in 1884, the first legal cremation took place in 1885, at a crematorium founded by the Cremation Society of Great Britain, at Woking (Surrey; Grade II). An Act of 1902 empowered the construction of crematoria by local authorities. Hilary Grainger's Death Redesigns records that to 2005, 251 crematoria were built in the UK: 14 to 1914, 6 in the 1920s, 34 in the 1930s, and 4 in the 1940s. Between 1950 and 1970 a further 147 were constructed. Golders Green, opened 1902 (London Borough of Barnet; registered Grade I; Fig 8) is the first crematorium in England where landscape design was considered from the outset, and it had significant influence on crematorium landscape design in general right through the first half of the twentieth century although, as the figures above show, it was only in the 1930s that crematoria began to be built in larger numbers.

The American term 'gardens of rest' or 'gardens of remembrance' has been in use since the 1920s. They are interchangeable and usually describe either the entire grounds surrounding a crematorium or a specific area within more extensive cemetery grounds. These were characterised by a relatively formal layout close to the crematorium buildings, with rose beds, pools, rockeries, shrubberies and walks (mostly influenced by the Arts and Crafts style), with informality beyond. Although in the early years most ashes were interred in the ground, there was a gradual move to retain ashes above ground which promoted the building of columbaria, walls with niches purchased either for a few years or in perpetuity.

5.4 Statement of Significance of Rochdale Cemetery and Rochdale Crematorium

Rochdale Cemetery is designated at Grade II on Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. It has heritage significance for the following principal reasons:

- * Rochdale Cemetery is a good example of a High Victorian garden cemetery (1855).
- * The cemetery was laid out by Abraham Stansfield, assisted by local geologists James Horsfall and Robert Law.
- * The division between the consecrated and unconsecrated portions of the cemetery is uniquely marked by a series of stone pillars, each formed from different identified stone.
- * The layout of the cemetery survives substantially intact, although both the Anglican and Nonconformist chapels by R Moffat Smith of Manchester and Fowles of Rochdale respectively have been lost.
- * The cemetery contains a good collection of C19 and early C20 funerary monuments reflecting the development of Rochdale, including several members of the Rochdale Pioneers who established the Co-operative Movement.
- * The cemetery contains a crematorium and memorial garden designed in 1938 by the Borough Surveyor and Architect G H Morgan.

Although the cemetery has evolved and has been extended, it retains a high degree of authenticity and integrity. In accordance with the criteria for heritage significance at Appendix 2, the cemetery is assessed as being of **Medium Heritage Significance**.

The crematorium has been assessed informally by Rochdale BC as being a Locally Important Building. It has heritage significance for the following principal reasons:

- Rochdale Crematorium has evidential value as it bears witness to the changing demand in the early 20th C for disposing of the deceased from burials to cremation

Rochdale Crematorium Heritage Statement

- The crematorium and memorial garden were designed as an entity in 1938 by the Borough Surveyor and Architect G H Morgan, and illustrate the tradition of design of municipal buildings by in-house design professionals.
- The adjoining Gardens of Remembrance and niches for the placing of ashes with engraved plaques bears witness to that tradition of displaying the last resting place, which developed slowly in the UK from the late 19th C
- The building is an example of the use of local stone as the principal building material, in rough irregular courses and as ashlar
- The crematorium has architectural and aesthetic value, primarily as a curious blend of Art Deco forms and gothic elements which combine to create an unusual but highly distinguished composition, although appreciation of its architectural merits has been harmed by the construction of a full-width canopy across the chapel, which obscures some of the architectural detailing.
- The Book of Remembrance Building has some limited architectural value, as an example of mid-20th C design with projecting stone walls, full-height glazing and a butterfly roof, which rises to peaks at front and rear
- The crematorium and the Book of Remembrance Building have high communal value as a place of reflection and remembrance of the deceased for the loved ones of the local community

Although the crematorium has been altered and extended, it and the Book of Remembrance Building retain a reasonable degree of authenticity and integrity. In accordance with the criteria for heritage significance at Appendix 2, they are assessed as being of **Low Heritage Significance**.

6. Relevant Heritage Legislation and Policy

6.1 National Legislation

6.1.1 *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Area) Act 1990*

This is the primary legislation for heritage assets.

6.1.2 S.66 of the Act places a statutory duty on Local Planning Authorities to “...have special regard to the desirability of preserving the (listed) building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses”.

6.1.3 S.72. of the Act states:

(1) In the exercise, with respect to any buildings or other land in a General duty as conservation area, of any powers under any of the provisions mentioned respects in subsection (2), special attention shall be paid to the desirability of conservation preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.

6.1.4 The Act does not introduce any special legislation in respect of Historic Parks and Gardens or locally listed buildings but they are considerations in the planning process.

6.2 National Policy

6.2.1 National Planning Policy is provided by the National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF).

6.2.2 On “Achieving well-designed places” it states:

124. The creation of high quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Being clear about design expectations, and how these will be tested, is essential for achieving this. So too is effective engagement between applicants, communities, local planning authorities and other interests throughout the process.

6.2.3 On “Conserving and enhancing the historic environment” it states, inter alia:

192. In determining applications, local planning authorities should take account of:
a) the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
b) the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and
c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.

6.2.4 The NPPF effectively identifies three levels of harm to heritage assets: Total Loss; Substantial Harm and; Less Than Substantial Harm. It states:

195. Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all of the following apply:
a) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and

- b) no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and*
- c) conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible; and*
- d) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.*

196. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use

6.2.5 In relation to non-designated Heritage assets, it states:

197. The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

6.3 National Guidance

6.3.1 Historic England issues national guidance to assist LPAs in making decisions about their own cultural heritage at a local level. The key Historic England guidance which is relevant to this proposal are listed below:

- *Conservation Principles : Policies and guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment*

This is an over-arching document which seeks to establish good policies and practice.

- *Making Changes to Heritage Assets Historic England Advice Note 2 (2015)*

This advice note illustrates the application of the policies set out in the NPPF in determining applications for planning permission and listed building consent, as well as other non-planning heritage consents, including scheduled monument consent.

6.3.2 Historic England provides: some generic advice on its website on the management of historic cemeteries; some more specific advice on “Caring for Historic Cemetery and Graveyard Monuments” and; some advice on “Conservation Management Plans for Cemeteries” but it provides none specifically on the conservation of crematoria or alterations to them, which might be relevant to the current proposal.

6.3.3 Historic England has also published the detailed *The Management and Maintenance of Historic Parks, Gardens and Landscapes* (2007), but this makes little reference specifically to cemeteries.

6.4 Local Policies

6.4.1 The Rochdale Local Plan sets out how Rochdale BC will plan the future development in Rochdale borough. It guides new developments to appropriate locations while protecting the natural environment and built heritage. Several documents make up the Local Plan, including:

- The Core Strategy 2016 , which is the lead document of the Rochdale Borough Local Plan. It provides an overview of our objectives for the whole of the borough. All other plans and policies must fit with the developments laid out in the Core Strategy.

and

- The 1996-2016 Local Plan - the Unitary Development Plan from the 1996-2016 Local Plan is still in place until the Allocations Development Plan is adopted and provides the basis for decision-making on development proposals.

6.4.2 The Core Strategy 2016 includes:

Policy P2 - Protecting and enhancing character, landscape and heritage

1. We will protect and enhance the borough's character, the distinctiveness of its town centres, housing areas and countryside, and the qualities of its landscapes, utilising the considerable potential of these assets in development and regeneration schemes. We will do this by:

- a. Requiring new development to integrate successfully with the key natural features of the borough, e.g. river valleys and the Pennine landscape;*
- b. Requiring new development to take opportunities to protect and open up important views of hills and valleys which are part of the borough's unique character;*
- c. Restoring the River Roch and other water bodies to their place as key and attractive features of the borough, including opening up waterways where they have been covered, and enhancing their setting, heritage assets and biodiversity potential;*
- d. Protecting, enhancing and utilising outstanding cultural landscapes, such as the Cheesden Valley area and around Littleborough and Hollingworth Lake; and*
- e. Conserving and enhancing townscape character.*

2. We will protect the borough's heritage by:

- a. Conserving, enhancing and promoting key heritage assets, both statutory and non-statutory, including consideration of their wider settings. Key heritage assets of the borough include:*
 - i. Four outstanding conservation areas: Central Rochdale, Middleton and Littleborough town centres and Rock Nook / Summit;*
 - ii. Other designated assets such as listed buildings, conservation areas, registered parks and scheduled ancient monuments;*
 - iii. The heritage of the Co-operative movement, the Rochdale Pioneers and the Labour movement;*
 - iv. The Edgar Wood and J. H. Sellers cultural heritage;*
 - v. The heritage of the seventeenth and eighteenth century vernacular tradition; and vi. The engineering heritage, including mills, canals and railways.*
- b. Conserving, enhancing and utilising other non-statutory heritage assets of local interest, be they buildings, parks, gardens or archaeological sites, including promoting their sensitive restoration;*
- c. Using heritage assets positively and intelligently to strengthen identity and image and support the visitor economy, particularly in development and regeneration schemes; and*
- d. Prioritising the conservation of heritage assets at risk from decay, giving special attention to designated heritage assets in this regard.*

6.4.3 The Unitary Development Plan includes policies:

POLICY G/BE/9(PART ONE POLICY) CONSERVATION OF THE BUILT HERITAGE:

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THE PRACTICAL CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF THOSE FEATURES OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT WHICH ARE THE MOST VALUABLE, IN PARTICULAR: CONSERVATION AREAS; LISTED BUILDINGS AND THEIR SETTINGS; SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS; PARKS AND GARDENS OF SPECIAL HISTORIC INTEREST; AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS. SUCH BUILDINGS, AREAS AND FEATURES OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC MERIT WILL BE PROTECTED FROM ADVERSE DEVELOPMENT OR DEMOLITION AND POSITIVE MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN OR SUPPORTED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, TO FACILITATE THEIR CONTINUED UPKEEP AND BENEFICIAL USE. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS WILL BE PLACED ON SECURING NEW USES FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS TO ENSURE THEIR FUTURE, AND ON PROMOTING CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES WHICH PROVIDE A STIMULUS FOR THE REGENERATION OF TOWN CENTRES, OLDER URBAN AND RURAL AREAS, INCLUDING HISTORIC AND CULTURAL LANDSCAPES.

Policy BE/11 PROTECTION OF LOCALLY IMPORTANT BUILDINGS AND FEATURES OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC INTEREST.

The Council will permit development proposals that do not adversely affect buildings and features which are of local interest and which contribute to the character of an area and/or are important in townscape term

Policy BE/19 PROTECTION OF PARKS AND GARDENS OF SPECIAL HISTORIC INTEREST

Development proposals which would result in the loss of, or cause harm to the historic character, structure or setting of any part of a designated historic park or garden will not be permitted.

7. The Proposal

7.1 The proposal which is now being applied for involves:

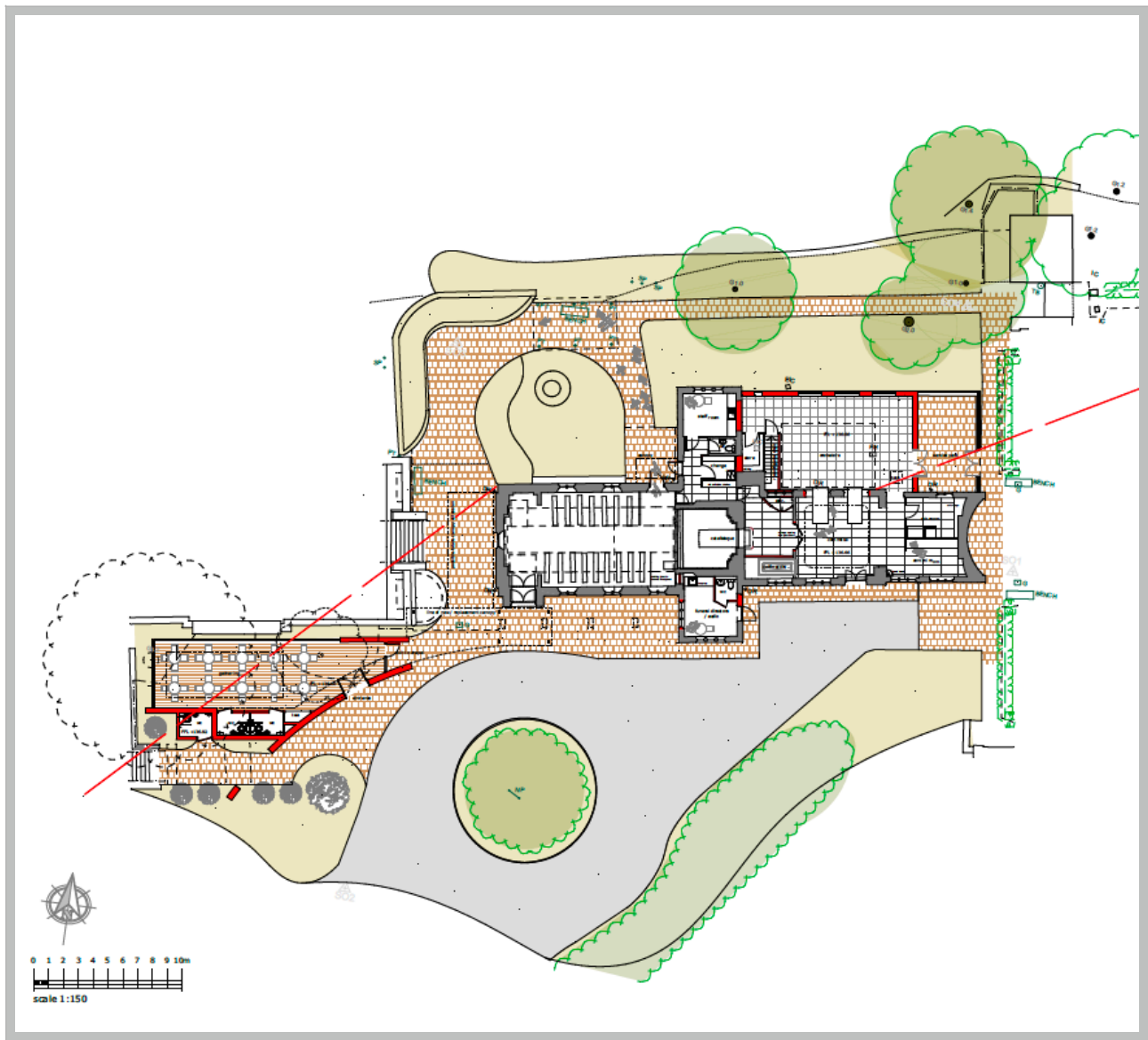
A. Taking Down

1. Removal of the existing canopy on the front of the chapel
2. Removal of the existing fencing and plant from the rear of the crematorium
3. Demolition of the existing Book of Remembrance Room

B. New Build/Alteration

4. Erection of new Waiting Room with a link canopy to the crematorium
5. Erection of an extension for new cremators and associated equipment at the rear of the committal room
6. Minor alterations to the floor plan of the crematorium and insertion of new windows and door in the funeral director's room

7.2 The proposals are shown in detail and to scale in drawings submitted with the application but are also shown in Plans 2-11, not to scale, in this Heritage Statement.



Plan 2. Site Plan

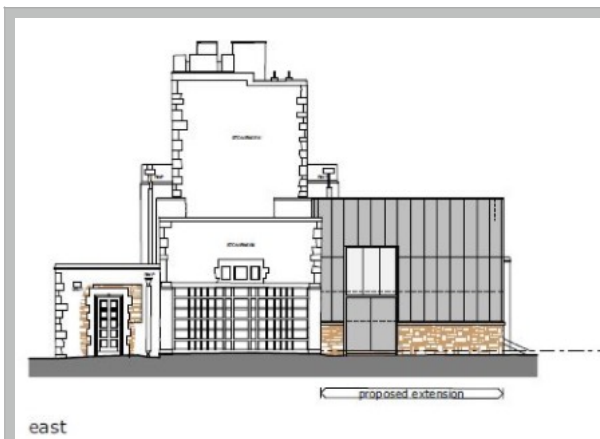
Rochdale Crematorium Heritage Statement



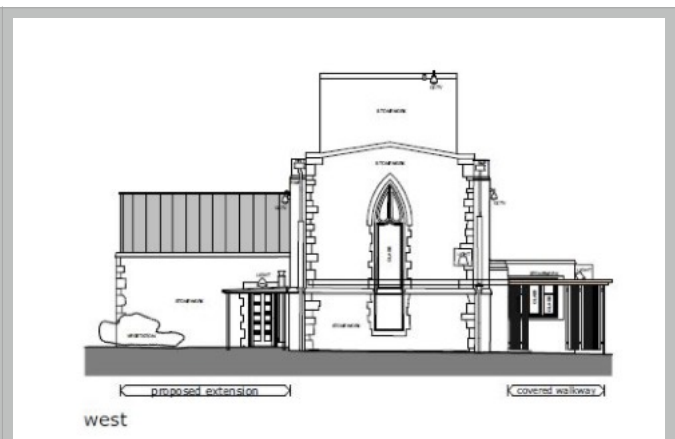
Plan 3. Proposed S elevation



Plan 4. Proposed N elevation

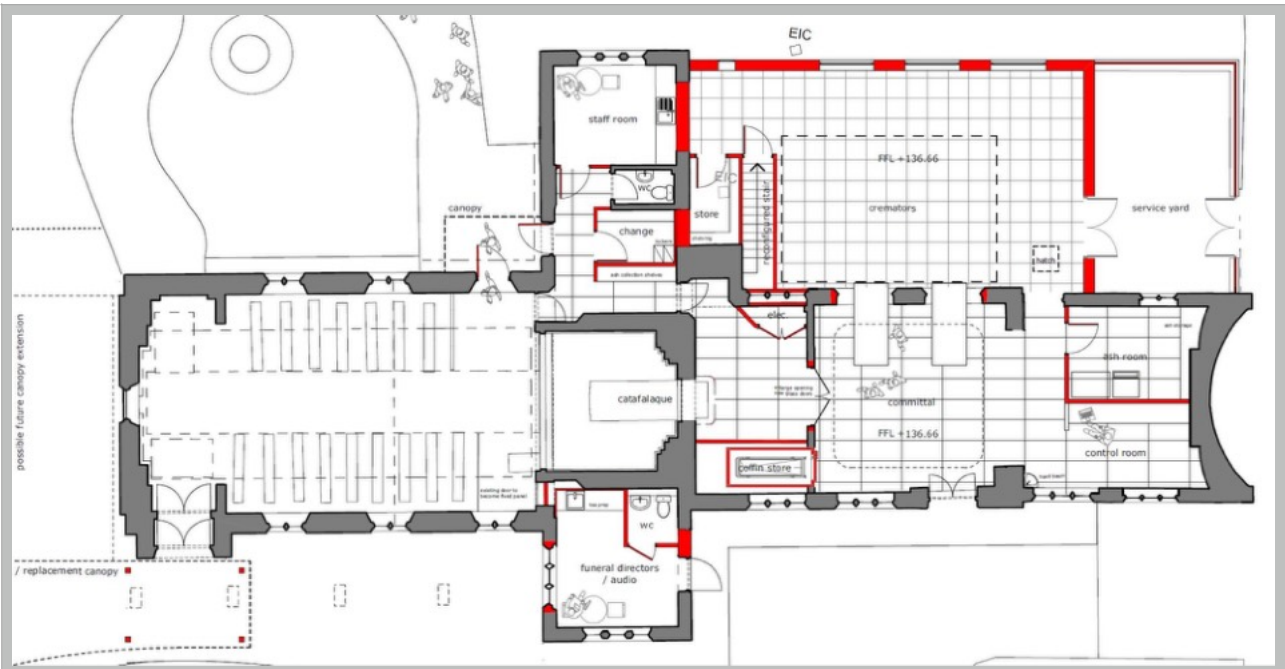


Plan 5. Proposed E elevation

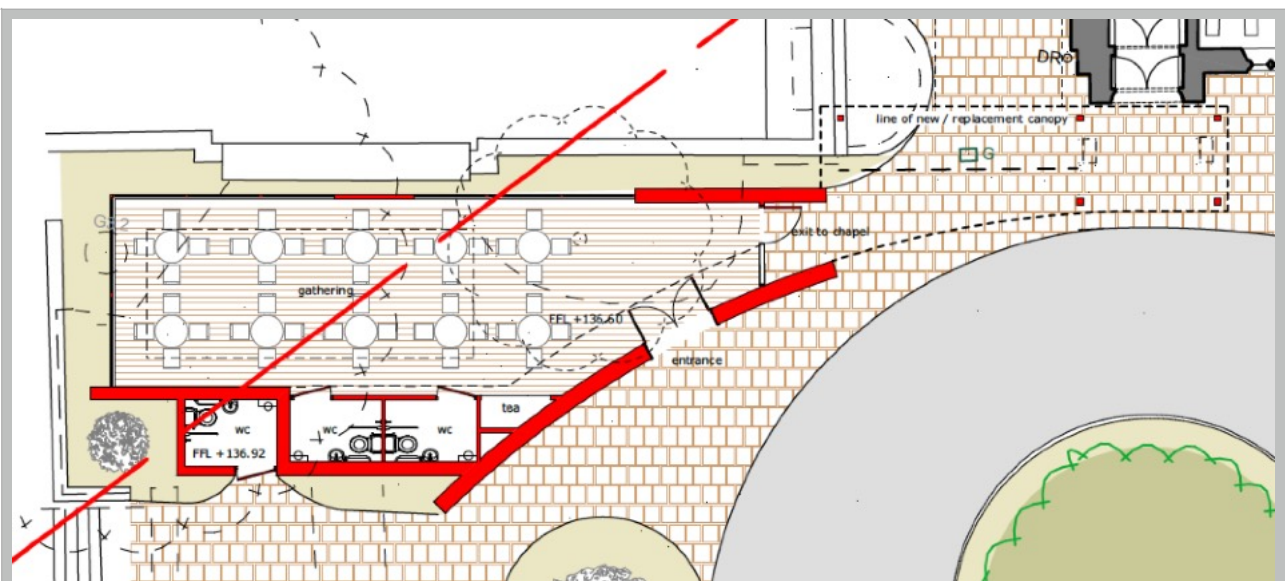


Plan 6. Proposed W elevation

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Plan 7. Proposed G F Plan of Crematorium



Plan 8. Proposed G F Plan of Gathering Room

8. Assessment of Impact on Heritage Assets

8.1 Assessment Methodology

8.1 Para 189 of the NPPF states:

In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance....

Major applications affecting heritage assets require comprehensive heritage impact assessments, using a recognised methodology. However, in this case the proposal is considered to be relatively modest and so the methodology used in the assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the heritage assets on and around the site is a simple assessment of the physical interventions and their impact on the historic building (the crematorium) and its setting and on the historic cemetery.

8.2 Change in the Historic Environment

8.2.1 The assessment has been undertaken on the principle that change in the historic environment is not necessarily harmful to the significance of heritage assets.

The NPPF (2019) acknowledges the potential for new development to enhance a heritage asset or its setting. It states:

185. Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. This strategy should take into account: ...

c) the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and ...

8.2.2 Similarly, Historic England adopts this approach to change in the historic environment, as set out in its over-arching document, *Conservation Principles*. Historic England is the national expert advisory body for England and its advice and opinions normally carry great weight in the determination of applications for planning permission and listed building consent.

Conservation Principles states at 4.1:

Change in the historic environment is inevitable, caused by natural processes, the wear and tear of use, and people's responses to social, economic and technological change.

and asserts at 4.2 that:

Conservation is the process of managing change to a significant place in its setting in ways that will best sustain its heritage values, while recognising opportunities to reveal or reinforce those values for present and future generations.

Conservation Principles states at Para 138 that:

New work or alteration to a significant place should normally be acceptable if:
a. there is sufficient information comprehensively to understand the impacts of the proposal on the significance of the place;

- b. the proposal would not materially harm the values of the place, which, where appropriate, would be reinforced or further revealed;*
- c. the proposals aspire to a quality of design and execution which may be valued now and in the future;*
- d. the long-term consequences of the proposals can, from experience, be demonstrated to be benign, or the proposals are designed not to prejudice alternative solutions in the future.*

8.2.3 Historic England adds further guidance on “Additions and Alterations” to heritage assets in its *Making Changes to Heritage Assets Historic England Advice Note 2*. It states at Para 41:

The main issues to consider in proposals for additions to heritage assets, including new development in conservation areas, aside from NPPF requirements such as social and economic activity and sustainability, are proportion, height, massing, bulk, use of materials, durability and adaptability, use, enclosure, relationship with adjacent assets and definition of spaces and streets, alignment, active frontages, permeability and treatment of setting. Replicating a particular style may be less important, though there are circumstances when it may be appropriate. It would not normally be good practice for new work to dominate the original asset or its setting in either scale, material or as a result of its siting. Assessment of an asset’s significance and its relationship to its setting will usually suggest the forms of extension that might be appropriate.

There is thus no objection in principle by Historic England to change in the historic environment, provided that the criteria in Para 138 of *Conservation Principles* are met and the advice in Para 41 of *Making Changes to Heritage Assets* is followed.

8.3 Impact of removal of existing canopy on front of the chapel

8.3.1 The existing canopy on the front of the crematorium’s chapel was added in the mid-late 20th C , is thus not part of the original design of the crematorium or the cemetery and is of no historic significance in its own right.

8.3.2 The existing canopy has an inward sloping roof and is supported on raking stone piers. It is stylistically different from the original building, does not relate well to the original building and has minimal architectural merit in its own right.

8.3.3 Importantly, the existing canopy obscures sight of the string course and much of the portico of the chapel and so detracts from the architectural merit of the original building and its contribution to the aesthetic value of the wider cemetery.

8.3.4 The removal of the existing canopy will therefore: remove a structure which has no historic or architectural merit and; better reveal part of the principal elevation of the original building. The removal will have a beneficial impact on the significance of the crematorium, which is of Low Heritage Significance, and on the cemetery which is of Medium Heritage Significance.

8.4 Impact of removal of the existing fencing and plant from the rear of the crematorium

8.4.1 The existing fencing and plant on the rear of the crematorium were added in the early 20th C and are not part of the original design of the crematorium or the cemetery and are thus of no historic significance in their own right.

8.4.2 The existing fencing and plant on the rear of the crematorium have been added for purely functional reasons with minimal design-input or consideration about their visual impact on the original building. They are utilitarian structures which were needed at the time they were erected but do not relate well to the original building, they detract from the appearance of the secondary elevation of the original building and they have minimal architectural merit in its own right.

8.3.3 Importantly, the existing fencing and plant detract from the austere simplicity of the original building and from the aesthetic value of the wider cemetery.

8.3.4 The removal of the existing fencing and plant from the rear of the crematorium will therefore: remove structures which have no historic or architectural merit and; better reveal the original building. The removal will have a beneficial impact on the significance and appearance of the crematorium, which is of Low Heritage Significance, and on the cemetery which is of Medium Heritage Significance.

8.5 Impact of demolition of the existing Book of Remembrance Room

8.5.1 The Book of Remembrance Room was erected in the mid 20th C and so is not part of the original design of the cemetery or the crematorium and its Garden of Remembrance. It has a function which is related to the principle uses of the cemetery and crematorium but it is a function which can take place elsewhere. Indeed, it is proposed that the Books of Remembrance and associated memorials will shortly be transferred to the newly refurbished gate house, just inside and to the immediate left of the Main Gate, therefore leaving the existing building empty. The building's presence is recorded in Historic England's formal listing description of the cemetery (Appendix 1) but no positive heritage or landscape values are attributed to it. It has some communal value as a small building where the deceased are recorded in books and where mourners can linger and remembered their loved ones but the books of remembrance can be transferred elsewhere and there are no permanent memorials or ashes within the building.

8.5.2 The Book of Remembrance Room is architecturally distinctive, with its projecting stone walls, full-height glazing and butterfly roof, but it is not of exceptional quality and is stylistically different from the crematorium. Its small size limits its potential for other uses and its design makes it a difficult building to extend without harming its fundamental symmetry.

8.5.3 The demolition of the Book of Remembrance Room will involve the loss of a small building which has limited heritage significance. It is not considered that the Book of Remembrance Room is protected in any way by the designation of the cemetery as a historic Park and Garden or the local listing of the crematorium. The demolition will have negligible impact on the significance of the crematorium, which is of Low Heritage Significance, and on the cemetery, which is of Medium Heritage Significance.

8.6 Impact of erection of new Waiting Room with link canopy to crematorium

8.6.1 It is proposed that a new single storey Waiting Room will be constructed to the L (SW) of the crematorium to provide shelter for mourners waiting to enter the crematorium.

8.6.2 It is proposed that the Waiting Room will have a curved SE frontage faced in stone to match that of the crematorium at the RH side, with a glazed double door within a simple doorway. The use of natural matching stone will help to assimilate the new building into the setting of the crematorium and the wider setting of the cemetery, where similar stone has been used for most structures. The building will be prominent when approaching the crematorium from the S but the curved wall relates well to the curved walls on the E side of the crematorium. Also, its location, form and simplicity will help to lead views and movement towards the larger and more dominant crematorium and so will actually enhance the setting of the crematorium. Its low height and complementary materials will also ensure that it will sit comfortably into the overall landscape of the cemetery, as illustrated by Plates 9 and 10.

8.6.3 It is proposed that the LH (W) end of the frontage will be orthogonal and will be faced in seamed zinc panels or similar. This material has a neutral appearance which is very similar to the appearance of traditional lead and although it will be recessive in the overall scene, it will add a

restrained contemporary element to the overall composition of the cemetery around the crematorium.

8.6.4 It is proposed that the Waiting Room will be linked to the crematorium to provide shelter, when mourners are moving from the Waiting Room to the Crematorium, by a lightweight canopy, which will be supported on slender piloti. Although the canopy will slightly obscure the original portico, it will be positioned at a height to relate to the coursing of the ashlar on the portico and so will integrate with it rather than clash with it and will be an improvement on the existing canopy. The height will allow a hearse to drive under the span for the deposition of a coffin adjacent to the front entrance if required, particularly during heavy rain.

8.6.5 It is proposed that the side (W) elevation and much of the rear (N) elevation will be fully glazed to provide expansive views into the Garden of Remembrance and to relate in siting to the wall of niches on the S side of the garden. Not only will this help to integrate the building into its setting when seen against the wall of niches on the S side of the garden from within the garden, but it will also enable better appreciation of the garden from the Gathering Room.

8.6.6 In summary, the design of the proposed Gathering Room is contemporary in nature yet complementary to the crematorium and to the wider cemetery, in terms of siting, palette, design and style. The proposed Gathering Room will provide a valuable function as a place for mourners to gather whilst waiting for the cremation ceremony but it will also; provide an enhanced setting at the approach to the crematorium; be a high quality contemporary addition to the cemetery and; enable better appreciation of the Garden of Remembrance. It will therefore have a beneficial impact on the heritage assets and their setting.



Plan 9. Visualisation from SE



Plan 10. Visualisation from SW Main Approach

8.7 Impact of the erection of an extension for new cremators at rear of committal room

8.7.1 It is proposed that a new extension will be constructed at the rear (NE) side of the crematorium to accommodate new cremators which are required by current legislation. As the existing area within the crematory is of insufficient size and orientation to provide the required space for modern environmental and energy efficient cremation equipment, the new cremators and associated equipment will thus enable the building to continue to be used for its original function. This will keep the building in use and ensure its long-term conservation and maintenance. If the new cremators are not installed and the building ceases to be used, it would be in danger of becoming a Building at Risk. It is therefore preferable that the building should be sensitively extended to retain it in beneficial use.

8.7.2 It is proposed the extension will be strongly orthogonal in form to match the blocks of the original building and that it will be slightly taller than the existing committal block but lower than the chapel and the tower. Its form and size will thus sit comfortably with the existing building (see Plate 11).

8.7.3 It is proposed that the extension will have a plinth wall of natural roughly coursed stone with an ashlar coping to relate it to the existing building but that the upper walls will be covered with seamed zinc panels or similar. This material has a neutral appearance which is very similar to the appearance of traditional lead and will be recessive in the overall scene but will add a restrained contemporary element to the composition, as well as helping to relate the extension to the proposed Waiting Room on the other side of the crematorium.

8.7.4 As with the crematorium itself, it is proposed that the extension will be fundamentally austere and plain but importantly, it will have three tall windows in the N elevation which will replicate the articulation and proportions of windows in the chapel.

8.7.5 The proposed extension will integrate harmoniously into its setting when viewed from close but medium and long-range views of it are severely limited, as: the crematorium itself will obstruct most sight of it from the S and W; the groundsman's compound will partially obscure sight of it from

the NE (Plate E) and sight of the existing crematorium is substantially filtered from the N by the embankment which is densely planted with mature trees and shrubbery and has a stone wall which runs E-W (Plates 42 and 43). The extension will be visible in medium and long-range views from the E (Plate 8) but, as stated, its form and materials will ensure that it will be quietly contextual.

8.7.6 In summary, the design of the proposed extension is contemporary in nature yet complementary to the crematorium and the cemetery in terms of siting, palette, design and style. The proposed extension will provide an essential function to enable the crematorium to continue in use but it will also; have minimal impact on most views of the building and will integrate harmoniously with the existing building and landscape when it can be seen. It will therefore have a neutral impact on the heritage assets and their setting.

8.8 Impact of minor alterations to floor plan of crematorium and insertion of new windows and door in funeral director's room

8.8.1 It is proposed that some minor alterations will be made to the internal arrangement of the crematorium to provide suitable facilities for the operation of the crematorium. As the interior is plain and functional and cannot be seen from the cemetery, the proposals will have no impact on the heritage significance of the crematorium or the cemetery.

8.8.2 It is proposed that, as part of the internal alterations, a new window will be inserted in the W elevation of the S projecting block and a doorway will be inserted in the E elevation of that block to create suitable facilities for funeral directors. Although this will involve some minor intervention in the original fabric and appearance, the windows and doorway will be carefully created with details which match those on the existing building and so will have a neutral impact on the appearance and heritage significance of the crematorium and the cemetery.



Plan 11. Visualisation from N at close range



Plate 42. View toward crematorium from N at medium range



Plate 43 View toward crematorium from NE at medium range

8.9 Cumulative Impact of the proposals

8.9.1 As assessed above, the proposals will have a range of impacts on the heritage assets but none of those impacts will be adverse and, cumulatively, they will have a beneficial impact on the heritage significance of the crematorium and cemetery, not least in that they will: provide improved facilities at the site; enable the continuity of use of the site and; deliver an enhancement of the visual qualities of the site, without harming the heritage significance of either the registered cemetery or the locally listed crematorium. The cumulative impact on the crematorium, which is of Low Heritage Significance, and on the cemetery, which is of Medium heritage significance, will be beneficial.

8.9.2 The listed buildings (the entrance gateway and the Cemetery Hotel) in the wider vicinity are separated from the crematorium by a distance of approximately 200m, undulating topography and dense mature trees. There is no inter-visibility between the crematorium and the listed buildings and the proposal will have absolutely no impact whatsoever on the setting of listed buildings.

8.10 Assessment against Historic England's Generic Advice

8.10.1 Historic England's *Conservation Principles* states:

- 138. New work or alteration to a significant place should normally be acceptable if:*
- a. there is sufficient information comprehensively to understand the impacts of the proposal on the significance of the place;*
 - b. the proposal would not materially harm the values of the place, which, where appropriate, would be reinforced or further revealed;*
 - c. the proposals aspire to a quality of design and execution which may be valued now and in the future;*
 - d. the long-term consequences of the proposals can, from experience, be demonstrated to be benign, or the proposals are designed not to prejudice alternative solutions in the future.*

This Heritage Statement makes the case that the proposals meet these criteria for acceptable change in the historic environment:

- A. the submitted plans, this Heritage Statement and the other supporting documentation provide sufficient information to enable an understanding of the impacts of the proposal on Rochdale Cemetery and the Crematorium

- B. the proposal will not materially harm the values of the place as identified in the Statement of Significance (in Section 5 above) and indeed, some of the visual values will be enhanced
- C. the proposals aspire to a quality of design which will be valued now and in the future
- D. the long-term consequences of the proposals will be benign, as they will enable the building to continue in use

8.10.2 *Conservation Principles* also advises:

*143. There are no simple rules for achieving quality of design in new work, although a clear and coherent relationship of all the parts to the whole, as well as to the setting into which the new work is introduced, is essential. **This neither implies nor precludes working in traditional or new ways**, but will normally involve respecting the values established through an assessment of the significance of the place.*

Great care has been taken in the design of the proposed extension to work in “a new way”, following an assessment of the significance of the place, to ensure a coherent relationship with the surrounding buildings and to complement the character and appearance of the site. The aim is for the proposed Gathering Room and extension to be seen as impressive contemporary additions, rather than being pastiche or a poor copy of the original building. The aim is for them to be respectful of their historic setting and that they will be “...valued now and in the future”.

This approach is fully consistent with current international and national advice for new buildings in historic settings.

8.11 Assessment against Rochdale MBC Heritage Policies

8.11.1 The proposals are in compliance with Policy P2 - *Protecting and enhancing character, landscape and heritage* of the *Rochdale Core Strategy* 2016, as they will:

- “protect and enhance the borough’s character”
- “conserve and enhance key heritage assets, both statutory and non- statutory, including consideration of their wider settings”, including the Rochdale Cemetery Registered Park (with its links to the heritage of the Co-operative movement, the Rochdale Pioneers and the Labour movement) and the Rochdale Crematorium locally listed building

8.11.2 The proposals are in compliance with Policy G/BE/9 (Part One) *Conservation of the Built Heritage* of the Unitary Development Plan, as they will conserve and enhance the affected features of the built environment which are the most valuable, namely the Rochdale Cemetery Registered Park (with its links to the heritage of the Co-operative movement, the Rochdale Pioneers and the Labour movement).

8.11.3 The proposals are in compliance with Policy BE/11 *Protection of locally important buildings and features of architectural interest*, as they will not adversely affect the Rochdale Crematorium locally listed building.

8.11.4 The proposals are in compliance with Policy BE/19 *Protection of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest*, as they will not result in the loss of, or cause harm to the historic character, structure or setting of any part of the Rochdale Cemetery Registered Park.

8.12 Assessment against Section 16. Conserving and enhancing the historic environment of the NPPF

8.1.1 The proposals are in compliance with Section 16. *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*, of the NPPF, not least as:

- the heritage assets affected by the proposals will be "...conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.", as required by Para 184
- this Heritage Statement fulfils with the requirements of Para 189
- the proposals will not result in any harm to the heritage assets, as defined in Paras 194-197.

9. Conclusion

9.1 This Heritage Statement makes the case that the current proposals for alterations and extensions to the Rochdale Crematorium within Rochdale Cemetery will cause no harm to the heritage assets or their setting and will in fact bring about an enhancement in the heritage significance and appearance of the buildings. The key heritage benefits of the proposal are that they will:

- provide improved facilities at the site;
- enable the continuity of use of the site and;
- deliver an enhancement of the visual qualities of the site, without harming the heritage significance of either the registered cemetery or the locally listed crematorium.

Indeed, the cumulative impact on the crematorium, which is of Low Heritage Significance, and the cemetery, which is of Medium Heritage Significance, will be beneficial.

9.2 This Heritage Statement makes the case that the current proposals are consistent with national and local heritage policies and guidance and that there are no grounds for resisting them.

9.3 The NPPF, in Section 16 on *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*, places great weight on the conservation of heritage assets and their setting. It provides advice to local authorities on decision-making in respect of proposals which will cause some level of harm. It states at Para 196:

196. Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use.

However, the heritage impact assessment in this Heritage Statement concludes that the proposals will cause no harm to the heritage assets or their setting. Therefore, the advice on *The presumption in favour of sustainable development* in Para. 11 of the NPPF (2019) is more relevant. It states:

Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

...For decision-taking this means:...

c) approving development proposals that accord with the development plan without delay;...

9.4 The proposals represent sustainable development and accord with the development plan and so this Heritage Statement makes the case that the proposals should be considered favourably and that the applications should be approved without delay.

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Landscapes of Remembrance Register of Parks and Gardens Selection Guide Historic England 2017

Appendices

Appendix 1.Details of Rochdale Cemetery on Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Garden

Details

A public cemetery designed by Abraham Stansfield, opened in 1855 and extended in the late-C19 and C20.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

The leading article in *The Pilot and Rochdale Reporter* of 14 June 1847 considered that the need for a public cemetery to serve Rochdale was 'rapidly becoming an absolute necessity' as all but one of the fourteen existing burial grounds were either 'loathsome' or nearly filled. The Rochdale Improvement Act, passed in August 1853, included provision for the Rochdale Improvement Commissioners to construct a cemetery (Fishwick 1906). A site had already been approved in December 1852 (ibid) and in December 1853 the Commissioners advertised a competition for the design of a 12 acre (5ha) site, including buildings, with awards offered of £20, £10, and £5 (Rochdale Sentinel, 24 December 1853).

The cemetery was planned by Abraham Stansfield, assisted by two geologists, James Horsfall of Healey Nursery and Robert Law of Todmorden (Rochdale Observer 1996) The opening on 28 April 1855 was attended by many thousands (Rochdale Sentinel, 5 May 1855). At the opening the entrance was complete and two adjoining lodges almost so, while foundation stones for the Church of England and Dissenters' chapels were laid as part of the ceremony by the Bishop of Manchester and the Chief Constable respectively (ibid). Timber chapels were erected as a temporary measure and the boundary between consecrated and unconsecrated ground marked by timber posts (ibid).

The Church of England chapel, in Norman style with a square central tower, was designed by architect R Moffat Smith of Manchester and cost c £950 (The Builder 1855). The Dissenters' chapel, by architect Fowles of Rochdale, was modelled on the Erectheum at Athens (ibid). By 1868 a Roman Catholic chapel had been constructed and the division between consecrated and unconsecrated ground was marked by twenty-seven pillars, each of a different stone, set in geological sequence and engraved with the name and origin of the stone (Baines 1868). This feature was probably created by geologists Horsfall and Law and is believed to be unique (Rochdale Observer 1996). The number of pillars was eventually increased to at least thirty, of which twenty-eight now (2001) remain.

The Rochdale Improvement Act of 1872 allowed the Corporation to buy further land to extend the cemetery and, in 1874, 11 acres (c 4.5ha) were purchased (Fishwick 1906). The cemetery was further extended in the C20, to the north-west and north. In the 1930s a crematorium was constructed in the north of the cemetery and, by 1955, a detached book room had been constructed at the head of terraced memorial gardens to the west. The Anglican chapel was demolished in 1950 and the Nonconformist chapel in c 1972 following the re-dedication of the Roman Catholic chapel for inter-denominational use. Rochdale Cemetery remains (2001) in use and in the ownership of Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council.

DESCRIPTION

LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING The irregularly shaped site is located 1.5km west of Rochdale town centre and is c 12ha in area. The cemetery is bounded by Bury Road to the south, Sandy Lane to the south-east and east, and partly by Hudson Walk to the north. To the west there is a short boundary with Oulder Hill Drive with indented boundaries to the south-west and north-west adjoining C20 housing. A school is situated immediately to the north of the late-C20 extension area (outside the area here registered). The south boundary is marked to the east by a low stone wall, formerly supporting railings, and to the west by a c 1.5m high stone wall. Stone walls c 2m high mark the boundaries to the east and to the south-west corner. The west and adjoining north-north-west boundaries are marked by low stone walls, formerly supporting railings. The northern boundary, adjoining Hudson Walk, is marked by an inter-war, low stone wall topped with railings between stone piers. The north boundary, adjacent to the cemetery extension, is marked with C20 mesh fencing. Boundaries are generally lined with mature trees. East of the principal entrance the south boundary wall incorporates two stones in the geological series, one being the final stone in the geological sequence. The first stone in the sequence is set in the east boundary wall 250m north-east of the principal entrance.

The cemetery is sited on high ground to the north of the River Roch. The southern area of the cemetery is laid out on steeply undulating ground giving dramatic views within the cemetery and occasional long views out towards Knowl Moor to the north-west and the town centre to the east. In the northern area of the cemetery the ground slopes up gradually from the north-east corner and from the west boundary with Oulder Hill Drive towards the centre. From the western area there are views out over the river valley to the south. From the north-west corner of the site a stream, Red Brook, flows east for c 150m at the base of a steep-sided valley before entering a culvert c 80m west of the crematorium. The OS map of 1877 shows this stream extending to Sandy Lane to the east and forming the northern boundary of the cemetery. To the north of the stream valley the northern extension area of the cemetery (outside the area here registered) slopes gently up to the west. The surrounding area is largely residential with a school and golf course to the north-west and the Cemetery Hotel public house opposite the south-east corner of the cemetery.

ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES The principal entrance (listed grade II) lies on the south boundary and is marked by a carriage entrance flanked by two pedestrian entrances. The carriage entrance has a large stone arch below a stepped parapet and is set between octagonal buttresses. The pedestrian entrances are set below smaller arches. There are cast-iron gates, dated 1855, to all three openings, with one of the centre pair bearing the inscription 'Samuel Barnish/Maker/Rochdale'. Immediately east and west of this entrance there are two stone lodges, both of two storeys below slate roofs. The western lodge incorporates the cemetery office and has a C20 extension to the west; it is served by a vehicle entrance formed by a break in the boundary wall.

An entrance at the centre of the west boundary to Oulder Hill Drive is marked by plain square piers in coursed stone flanking a pair of C20 metal gates. Some 380m north of the principal entrance, on the northern boundary of the cemetery extension (outside the area here registered), a wide vehicle entrance is marked by a pair of plain C20 metal gates set between stone piers in line with the boundary wall. A pedestrian entrance at the north-east corner of the cemetery is in similar style but without a gate.

PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS The C19 cemetery chapel is sited on high ground 200m north-north-east of the principal entrance. Set on a north/south axis this is a small Gothic-style building in stone below a steep slated roof with a C20 entrance porch to the south. It was formerly the Roman Catholic chapel and was designed by local architect McDougall (Baines 1868).

The crematorium, dated 1938, is sited 300m north of the principal entrance on level ground below a steep embankment to the north. The austere stone building is set on an east/west axis with a short rectangular tower flanked by a tall chapel to the west and a lower range to the east. The design was by the Borough Surveyor and Architect, G H Morgan. The crematorium is approached from the south-west with a wide drive encircling a planting bed. To the west of the crematorium the grounds are laid out with formal memorial gardens on a series of stone-walled terraces which descend into the valley to the west. To the west-south-west of the crematorium, adjoining the approach, there is a small mid-C20 book room with stone walls, full-height glazing, and butterfly roof. To the east the crematorium enclosure is bounded by a 30m long, c 4m high stone wall, running north/south. This wall has a large semicircular water basin at the centre of the east elevation and, to the west, incorporates niches for the deposition of ashes.

OTHER LAND Some 15m north of the principal entrance on the south boundary the entrance drive divides at a triangular bed to join a roughly elliptical undulating drive at the head of a steep-sided, low-lying area running from south-west to north-east parallel to the eastern boundary. The low-lying area is divided by a serpentine path running from 50m north-east of the principal entrance to the chapel, which is set to the north of the elliptical drive. Straight paths lead off the serpentine path dividing the area within the elliptical drive. On high ground 110m north-east of the principal entrance, the elliptical drive divides around a children's memorial garden. The garden is bounded by low stone walls, which are retaining to the north, and occupies the site of the former Anglican chapel.

On high ground 100m north-north-west of the principal entrance a wider drive meets the elliptical drive to the north-west and encloses a grassed planting bed which marks the site of the former Nonconformist chapel. The site commands views out over low-lying areas of the cemetery and beyond to the north and east. Burial areas adjacent to both chapel sites include a number of standing monuments interspersed with simple gravestones. Immediately to the north-east of the Nonconformist site a Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cross of Sacrifice commemorates the dead of both World Wars.

West of the Nonconformist chapel site a serpentine path leads west to a point 150m north-west of the principal entrance where it widens at the site of a former drinking fountain. From this point a drive leads directly north and two paths lead southwards to join and enclose a roughly rectangular burial area in the south-west of the cemetery. A planting of mature trees in this area indicates a former layout of circular paths (OS 1893). The north drive divides after 70m with one arm curving north-west and the other north-east. The former connects with the rectilinear path layout in the north-west area of the cemetery adjoining Oulder Hill Drive. The north-east arm continues to form a semicircular drive, joining the elliptical drive 20m west of the remaining chapel. The semicircular drive encloses an area of undulating ground, rising to the south-east, laid out with winding paths. Some 70m north-west of the chapel a path leads north from the semicircular drive to the crematorium.

A low stone wall which runs from c 400m north-west to 360m north-north-east of the principal entrance overlooks the northern slope of a steep-sided valley, rising to the west, which does not form a part of the cemetery used for burials. The stone wall is on the line of the former northern cemetery boundary (OS 1893). To the west a stream runs through the valley between the densely wooded slopes. On the edge of the valley, to the south, a semicircular wooded area is enclosed by a c 2m high stone wall. This is a former grounds maintenance area with, to the east, former stone outbuildings which are now (2001) ruinous. In the east of the valley the stream is culverted and the

ground is laid out as a terraced memorial garden adjoining the crematorium. The former stone wall boundary terminates 50m north-east of the crematorium, adjacent to the northern entrance drive.

The north-east area of the cemetery is laid out in a grid pattern to the east of a main drive leading north from the elliptical drive towards the north entrance on the boundary to Hudson Walk. A drive leads west from this main drive to the crematorium from a point some 300m north-north-east of the principal entrance.

The central and southern areas of the cemetery are extensively planted with mature trees, both deciduous and evergreen, used particularly to define main drives and paths. The majority of the stones which form the geological trail are sited along the elliptical drive in the south of the cemetery.

Rochdale Cemetery contains memorials to many notable local people including, immediately north of the principal entrance, one of 1865 to Alderman Thomas Livesey, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee at its opening. Also buried in the cemetery are sixteen members of the Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society, whose first shop opened in 1844 in Toad Lane; Rochdale is now regarded as the home of the co-operative movement.

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Archival items A collection of C19 and C20 illustrations, C20 photographs, and C19 notes from local newspapers is held at the Rochdale Local Studies Library. Late C19/early C20 photographs (Rochdale Cemetery Office) C20 press cuttings (Rochdale Cemetery Office)

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION Rochdale Cemetery is designated at Grade II for the following principal reasons: * Rochdale Cemetery is a High Victorian garden cemetery (1855). * The cemetery was laid out by Abraham Stansfield, assisted by local geologists James Horsfall and Robert Law. * The division between the consecrated and unconsecrated portions of the cemetery is uniquely marked by a series of stone pillars, each formed from different identified stone. * The layout of the cemetery survives substantially intact although both the Anglican and Nonconformist chapels by R Moffat Smith of Manchester and Fowles of Rochdale respectively have been lost. * The cemetery contains a good collection of C19 and early C20 funerary monuments reflecting the development of Rochdale. * The cemetery contains a crematorium and memorial garden designed in 1938 by the Borough Surveyor and Architect G H Morgan.

Description written: September 2001 Amended: October 2001 Register Inspector: HMT Edited: December 2009

Appendix 2. Levels of Heritage Value and Definitions, from DMRB

Very High	• Structures inscribed as of universal importance as World Heritage Sites. • Other buildings of recognised international importance.
High	• Scheduled Monuments with standing remains. • Grade I and Grade II* (Scotland: Category A) Listed Buildings. • Other listed buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations not adequately reflected in the listing grade. • Conservation Areas containing very important buildings. • Undesignated structures of clear national importance.
Medium	• Grade II (Scotland: Category B) Listed Buildings. • Historic (unlisted) buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations. • Conservation Areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character. • Historic Townscape or built-up areas with important historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures).
Low	• 'Locally Listed' buildings (Scotland Category C(S) Listed Buildings). • Historic (unlisted) buildings of modest quality in their fabric or historical association. • Historic Townscape or built-up areas of limited historic integrity in their buildings, or built settings (e.g. including street furniture and other structures).
Negligible	• Buildings of no architectural or historical note; buildings of an intrusive character.
Unknown	• Buildings with some hidden (i.e. inaccessible) potential for historic significance.