

Liv Rickman  
Council of the Isles of Scilly  
Planning & Development Department  
Old Wesleyan Chapel Garrison Lane  
St Mary's  
Isles of Scilly  
TR21 0JD

**Our ref:** DC/2023/123506/01-L01  
**Your ref:** P/23/060/COU  
**Date:** 25 August 2023

Dear Ms. Rickman

**CHANGE OF USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND TO CREATE EXTENSION TO CEMETERY.  
LAND TO NORTH OF CEMETERY, OLD TOWN ROAD, OLD TOWN, ST MARY'S, ISLES OF SCILLY**

Thank you for consulting us on the above planning application.

**Environment Agency position**

We have no objections to this planning application.

**Advice – Risks to Groundwater**

We have reviewed the Tier 1: Groundwater Risk Assessment for a Proposed Expansion to an Existing Cemetery at Old Town Church, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly. Report Number: 2023.018.001d.v01, dated: 06/06/2023. The Groundwater Risk Assessment demonstrates the proposed Burial Ground Development to represent a potential LOW RISK to controlled waters.

Notwithstanding the above, we advise that operators of cemeteries should take appropriate measures to manage their sites to ensure they do not cause an unacceptable risk to groundwater quality.

We recommend that reference should be made to cemetery section in the ['The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection'](#) and information on the Natural Death Centre website.

In principle any new cemetery or the extension of any existing cemetery must:

- be at least 250 metres from a well, borehole or spring used to supply water that is used for human consumption, or for use in dairy farms
- be at least 30 metres from any other spring or watercourse and at least 10 metres from any field drain

Environment Agency  
Sir John Moore House Victoria Square, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL31 1EB.  
Customer services line: 03708 506 506  
[www.gov.uk/environment-agency](http://www.gov.uk/environment-agency)

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- have at least one metre of subsoil below the bottom of the burial pit, allowing a hole deep enough for at least one metre of soil to cover the remains
- have at least one metre of unsaturated zone (the depth to the water table) below the base of any grave. Allowance should also be made to any potential rise in the water table (at least one metre should be maintained)

Please contact us again if you require any further advice.

Yours sincerely

**SARAH SQUIRE (On behalf of Mark Williams)**  
**Sustainable Places - Planning Advisor**

Direct dial 0208 474 6316

Direct e-mail [SPDC@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:SPDC@environment-agency.gov.uk)