

Response to ‘Proposed new civil burial area at St John’s Drive, Wetley Rocks

From The Parochial Council of St John the Baptist, Wetley Rocks

Following a Standing Committee meeting on Monday 22nd July, 2024

The church has raised an objection to the proposal for several reasons:

- 1) The Church is not involved with the proposed civil burial area in any way, despite this seeming to be the implication of the original proposal.
- 2) The area is not an “extension” of the existing graveyard simply because it is adjacent.
- 3) The proposed burial area does not have Heritage Status and should not have used our Heritage Statement (previously written by Rev’d Sue Goodwin for St John’s).
- 4) St John’s Churchyard is already a multi-faith burial ground, so there is no need for any separate area.
- 5) The proposed site has 3.3 metres width with a 0.9m high wall. Any changes to the wall of the Churchyard would need faculty approval from the diocesan chancellor. St John’s (and grounds, including walls) is a listed building. Any adjoining wall would be subject to the same conditions – i.e. it would have to be a stone wall of identical material and construction to that present.
- 6) The area proposed contains a large land drain (approximately 45m. from the main road). This may make it unsuitable for burials. (See diagram.)

We also note that in response to the original proposal:

- A) Martin Steele had asked “Where is the evidence that this type of facility is required in this Parish ?”

This question remains unanswered

- B) Cheddleton Parish Council had responded with, “No Objection in principle but the church will have to be involved.”

The Church is not involved with the area being discussed, and we do not see how it would be.

In addition,

Are all the neighbours fully informed of the proposed path to be used? i.e. Is there sufficient access for people (and their cars) attending funerals to park at the Village Hall and access this new area?

Diagram showing location of existing land drain with manhole

