



DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT

LAND NORTH OF EXISTING CEMETERY

Council of the Isles of Scilly

Site description

The proposed site is located at the southern side of the island of St Mary's in an area of enclosed agricultural land to the north of the existing cemetery at Old Town, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly. The site borders the public highway (A3112) where the main access to the cemetery by the public is located.

A site plan is presented in Appendix A.

A site location plan is presented in Appendix B.

The field sits alongside a narrow track which leads directly to the church, which bypasses the existing cemetery plot and churchyard. The site boundaries include a mixture of mature native hedging (Elms) with some non-native pittosporum hedging to the southern boundary. The site boundaries also include low, stone-faced hedgebanks. There are breaks in the boundaries at the north-west and the south-east of the site.

The field is currently used for grazing but with little evidence of recent activity. The site is composed of semi-improved grassland, with scattered scrub.



Figure 1: View of site from the north-west

Proposed works

The Council is in the process of purchasing this land from the Duchy of Cornwall as there is a requirement to extend the Cemetery at Old Town, St Marys to allow for burials to continue to take place. The existing cemetery is likely to reach capacity in the next 2-3 years.

Once groundworks have taken place, the ground requires at least 2 years to settle before burials can take place. The cemetery will be maintained and managed by the Council of the Isles of Scilly after the development and sale of the land has taken place.

The proposed works will require a full risk assessment to be undertaken to ensure the site is made secure and safe to prevent public access whilst the works are taking place. The site is likely to require temporary fencing at locations where there are gaps in the existing boundaries.

Site works will begin by pruning overhanging Elm branches and pittosporum hedging along all site boundaries, to allow for machinery access. The Council will appoint a qualified tree surgeon to undertake the tree works. The Council will be required to create a works access entrance to the north-west corner of the site, just off the main trackway. This will require the removal, and subsequent replacement, of two granite posts and a small section of the stone wall hedge (Figure 2).



Figure 2: North-west corner (works entrance).

Vegetation growing within the field will be topped and mown. Stakes to mark out grave trenches will be created by the council's operational team and the island's undertaker.

Ground works to the site will involve digging, trench by trench, down the length of the site (west to east) to a minimum depth of 2 metres. A gap of 1.5 will be left to the areas closest to the field boundaries, with an area approximately 2 metres (minimum) left down the

centre of the proposed site and towards the bottom (east), to allow for public and machinery access when the site is in use.

Soil and ram will be removed and replaced to refill the grave trenches, once all large rocks are removed. The site will then be levelled and left to settle. Additional earth may be required to raise the site back up to an appropriate level, which will come from local sources i.e., neighbouring farm. The site will then be re-seeded with an appropriate seed mix.

Access & Design

It is proposed that the entrance to the north-west (Figure 1) is used as permanent public access to the proposed site, once works are complete and the cemetery can be accessed by the public. The Council will include the installation of suitable wooden latched gate at the area (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Proposed gate design for permanent public access to north-west.

We propose to create an access path to the south and down the centre of proposed new gated entrance, to allow for public access. There is existing access to the site at the south-east corner, where there is a natural gap in the site boundary. This will allow for the public to move freely between the cemetery plots.

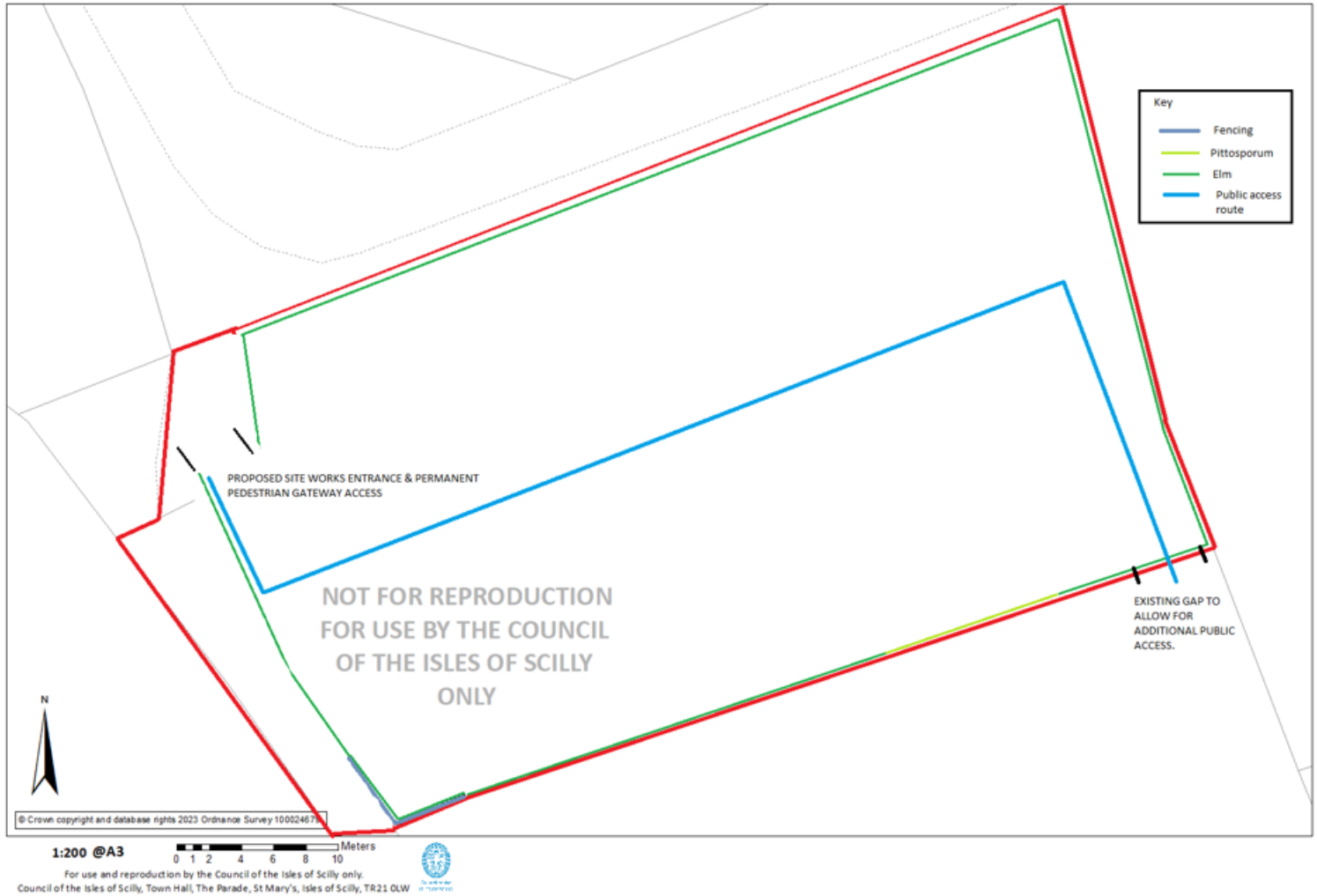
Permanent fencing is required to a section of the proposed site, and to the existing cemetery, as shown in Figure 4. This is to prevent access by the public to reduce erosion caused by walking (as can be viewed in Figure 4). The existing cemetery can also be accessed by the public, through a formal entrance, further down the track that runs to the churchyard. Stock post and wire fencing will be sort by the Council and installed as part of the works.



Figure 4: Location of permanent fencing.

APPENDIX A: Site Plan

Old Town Cemetary, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly



APPENDIX B: Site Location Plan

Old Town Church & Cemetary, Old Town, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly

