

***Friends Meeting House, Adel***

*New Adel Lane, Leeds, LS16 6AZ*

*National Grid Reference: SE 26422 39303*



***Statement of Significance***

***The origins of the Quaker site date from 1868 when land was given by local Friend Hannah Baker for use as a burial ground. The meeting house was built in 1870, originally as a mortuary chapel for the burial ground used by the Carlton Hill Meeting, and as a meeting house since 1928. Overall, the building and burial ground have high heritage significance as a good example of a Victorian Quaker site.***

### **Evidential value**

***The meeting house and burial ground are considered to have medium archaeological potential and evidential value, relating to the fabric of the building and the archaeology of the site and burial ground.***

### **Historical value**

***The meeting house has high historical value as a building originally built as a mortuary chapel to serve the Friends at Carlton Hill Meeting in the centre of Leeds. The meeting room retains some of its early features, including a tiled floor (now covered in carpet), dado panelling and some open backed pine benches. It has been a regular place of worship since 1928 when the Adel Meeting was settled here.***

### **Aesthetic value**

***The meeting house, the adjoining caretaker's cottage, stone boundary wall and gate piers at the entrance of the site are an attractive Victorian group and collectively make a positive contribution to the street scene. The interior of the meeting house has been altered, but retains some nineteenth century features. The extension of 2007 is sympathetic to the simple form of the meeting house. The large burial ground is lined with simple rounded headstones following Quaker tradition, which adds to the aesthetic value of the site. Overall, the meeting house and the burial ground have high aesthetic value.***

### **Communal value**

***The Meeting house has high communal value as a building in use by Quakers since 1870. The building now provides a local community focus and its facilities are well used by different groups.***

## **Part 1: Core data**

- 1.1 Area Meeting: *Leeds*
- 1.2 Property Registration Number: 0007170
- 1.3 Owner: *Area Meeting*
- 1.4 Local Planning Authority: *Leeds City Council*
- 1.5 Historic England locality: *Yorkshire*
- 1.6 Civil parish: *Leeds*
- 1.7 Listed status: *Not listed*
- 1.8 NHLE: *Not applicable*
- 1.9 Conservation Area: *No*
- 1.10 Scheduled Ancient Monument: *No*
- 1.11 Heritage at Risk: *No*
- 1.12 Date(s): *1870; 20th century; 2007*
- 1.13 Architect (s): *Edward Birchall; not established; M.H. Bayliss*

1.14 Date of visit: *16 March 2016*

1.15 Name of report author: *Emma Neil*

1.16 Name of contact(s) made on site: *Edwina Beier*

1.17 Associated buildings and sites: *Caretaker's cottage and Adel & Ireland Wood Community Centre*

1.18 Attached burial ground: *Yes*

1.19 Information sources:

Adel Preparative Meeting, *Adel Meeting Burial Ground*, 2009

Alan Pickard, *Jean Inebnit*, *The Friend*, 1982

David M. Butler, *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. II, pp. 817-818

David Owen, *Local Meeting Survey*, February 2016.

University of Leeds, Brotherton Library, Special Collections, Carlton Hill Collection, Leeds Rawdon Friends Meeting House 1897-2002 (MS/DEP/1979/1/RAW/1/41)  
Rawdon FBG (MS/DEP/1979/1/PLA/23)

Unknown, *A Short History of Adel Friends Meeting and Burial Ground*

*History of Adel Quaker Meeting*: <http://www.leedsquakers.co.uk/meetings/adel-history>

## **Part 2: The Meeting House & Burial Ground: history, contents, use, setting and designation**

### 2.1. Historical background

During the seventeenth century meetings in Leeds were first held within Friends' homes. In 1672, land was purchased in Meadow Lane (now Water Lane) for use as burial ground. A meeting house was built on the site in 1699 and later rebuilt in 1788. The burial ground was closed following an Order in Council dating c1860. Following the closure of Meadow Lane burial ground a new meeting house was built in 1868 in Carlton Hill. In the same year two acres of land were purchased north of Knot Lane (now New Adel Lane) and given to the Friends of Carlton Hill for use as a burial ground by a Quaker named Hannah Baker.

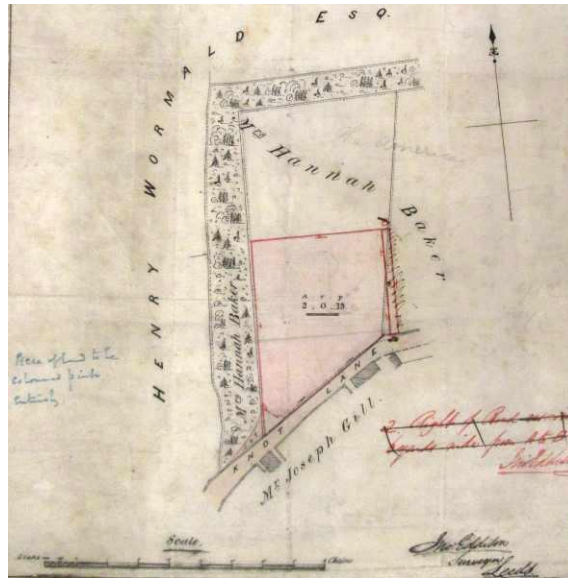


Figure 1: Plan of the proposed burial ground at Adel 1868  
 (Brotherton Library, Special Collections, [MS/DEP/1979/1/RAW/1/41](#) – DD2/6)

Following the gift of £550 from a Friend a new small meeting house (for use as a mortuary chapel) and cottage were built to the designs of Edward Birchall in 1870. The builders for the project are named as John Hall Thorpe and John Wood. The central passage way of the meeting house was tiled to accommodate the weight of the coffins and the windows consisted of dark green glazing to provide privacy. Figure 2 reveals the internal layout of the meeting house with an Elder's stand to the west and rows of benches facing west.

During the twentieth century Friends settled new Meetings in the expanding suburbs of Leeds, including at Adel. In 1928, the Meeting was settled and Friends met at the meeting house once a month until 1938 when they became a full Preparative Meeting, which allowed Friends to meet on a weekly basis. A small extension to the south is likely to date from this period. An undated plan (Fig.2) reveals proposals for a boiler room and toilet facilities which involved alteration of the windows to the south wall of the meeting room. The plan shows a women's waiting room between the caretaker's cottage and main meeting room.

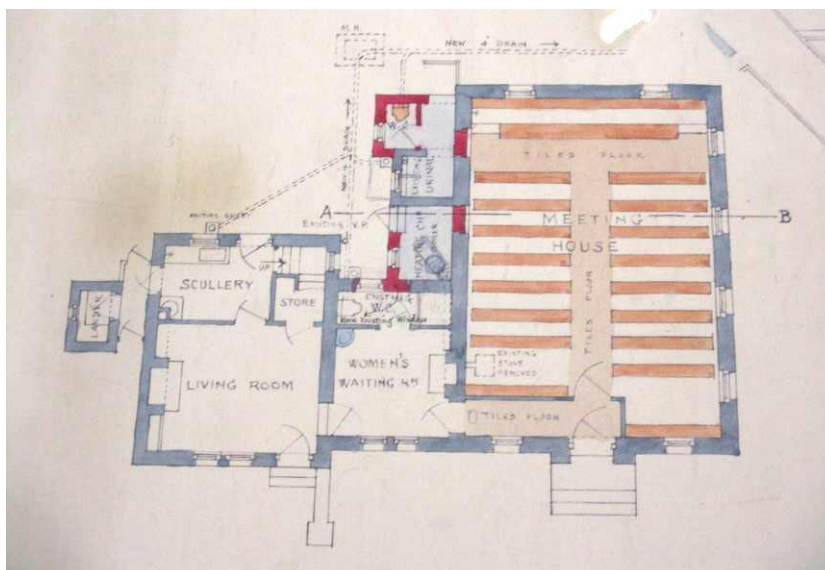


Figure 2: Plan of proposed south extension to meeting house 1920s/1930s  
 (Brotherton Library, Special Collections, [MS/DEP/1979/1/RAW/1/41](#) – DD2/10)

As a result of the growing Meeting, proposals for an extension to the west of the meeting house to accommodate a children's room were designed by Joseph J Woods in 1939. This plan includes details of an existing boiler house and toilet facilities to the south of the meeting house. The building of the extension for a children's room was halted on the onset of the Second World War and the extension was not built.

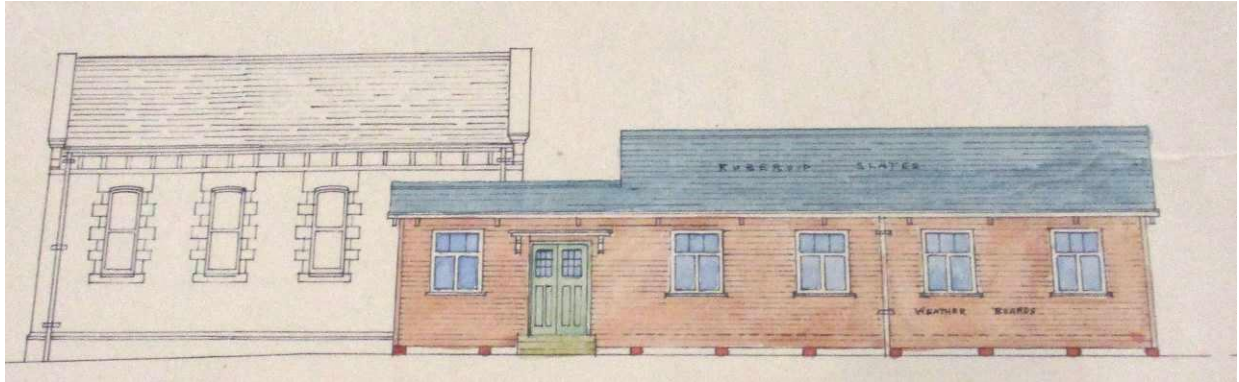


Figure 3: Plan of proposed west extension to meeting house, Joseph J Woods, 1939 (Brotherton Library, Special Collections, [MS/DEP/1979/1/RAW/1/41](#) – DD2/17)

Following the Second World War funds from the Friends Extension Committee were given for the construction of a Community Centre to the east of the site, opened in 1947 and now known as the Adel and Ireland Wood Community Centre.

By 2007, the needs of the Friends were changing and additional space was required. A garden room extension with link block to the west of the meeting house was designed by M. H. Bayliss. The principal access into the building was altered from the east gable to the west gable end which involved the creation of a new door opening, the removal of the Elders' stand and the infilling of the lower sections of the two sash windows to accommodate a link block between the meeting house and the new extension.

Finally, in 2013 due to structural issues to the north wall of the meeting house, tie bars were installed.

## 2.2. The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

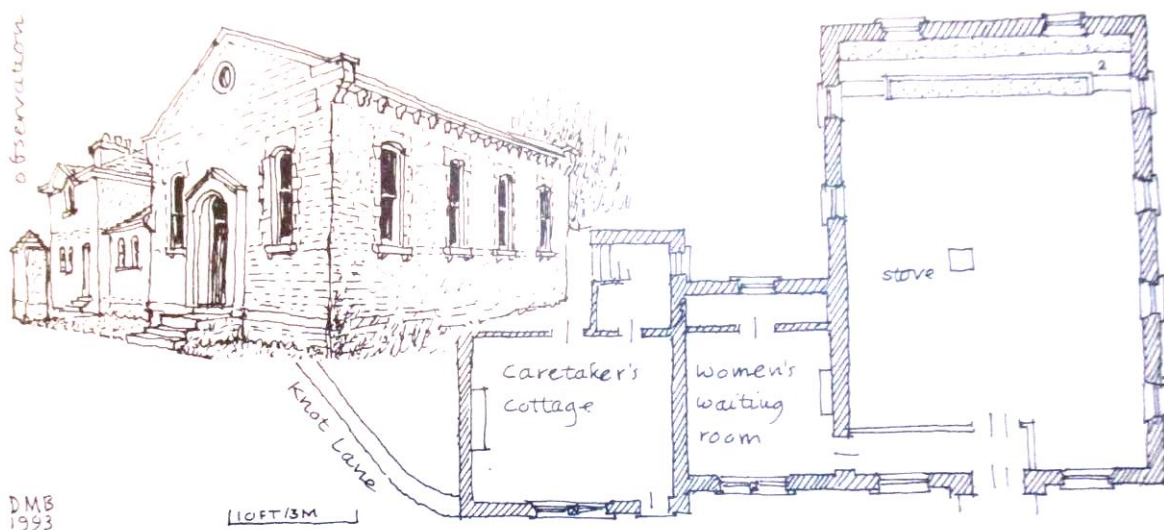


Figure 4: Ground floor plan (not to scale) and perspective prior to additions (North is to the right on the plan) (Butler, *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain*, 1999, vol. 2, p. 817)

The present meeting house was built in three phases. The meeting house and cottage were first built to the designs by Edward Birchall and opened in 1870, as a mortuary chapel. Collectively the meeting house and cottage formed an L-plan, built of coursed squared gritstone, with ashlar dressings to windows, copings, and stone kneelers and the pitched roof is covered in Welsh slate. The original main entrance is to the east gable end. The double panelled doors are set within a gabled stone aedicule with moulded semi-circular arch, accessed by three stone steps. The entrance is flanked by narrow sliding sash windows with ashlar window surrounds and sills supported by two corbels. Set high towards the apex of the gable is a circular louvre with stone surround. To the south of this elevation a shallow linking range forming the former women's waiting room (now in use as a kitchen), adjoins the contemporary warden's cottage, which is in Italianate style. The north elevation consists of four segmental-headed plate glass sliding sash windows with ashlar window surrounds. Above the windows are six small circular patterned plates (modern). Below the eaves are stone corbels. The west elevation consists of a circular window within the gable apex and the upper half of two sash windows; the 2007 extension abuts the lower part of this elevation. Abutting the south elevation is the flat roofed extension of late 1920s or early 1930s

The 2007 addition to the west gable-end of the meeting house accommodates an additional meeting room, with kitchen and toilets separated from the building by a shallow flat-roofed link. The new extension designed by M.H. Bayliss is built in stone with a pitched roof taking characteristic features from the main meeting house including gable parapets with stone copings and kneelers, four similar windows and stone corbels under the eaves.

Access into the meeting room is via the shallow flat-roofed link on the north elevation. Inside, the meeting room has a coved ceiling with six drop pendant lights along with tie bars running from north to south. The tiled floor is covered in carpet and the walls are plastered and plainly painted. The walls to the east, north and south have painted panelling to dado height. The room contains four cast iron radiators by Moffitt & Son, Leeds. The room is well lit from windows on four sides. The windows to the west are within recessed arches but the lower section of the windows were infilled as a result of the 2007 extension. A projection to the south east corner to picture rail height contains a four panelled door and fire exit door which both lead into the original foyer with the floor covered in red and black quarry tiles, along with panelling to dado height. The foyer also leads into the former women's waiting room, now in use as a kitchen with access to a toilet. This room has timber boarded floor, a modern suspended ceiling and is lit by two arched sliding sash windows to the east. The 2007 extension contains an additional meeting room known as the garden room which is spacious and light.

### 2.3. Loose furnishings

In the main meeting room, the seating consists of modern chairs and painted open-backed pine benches with turned front legs, probably Victorian.



Figure 5: Open backed painted pine bench

#### 2.4. Attached burial ground

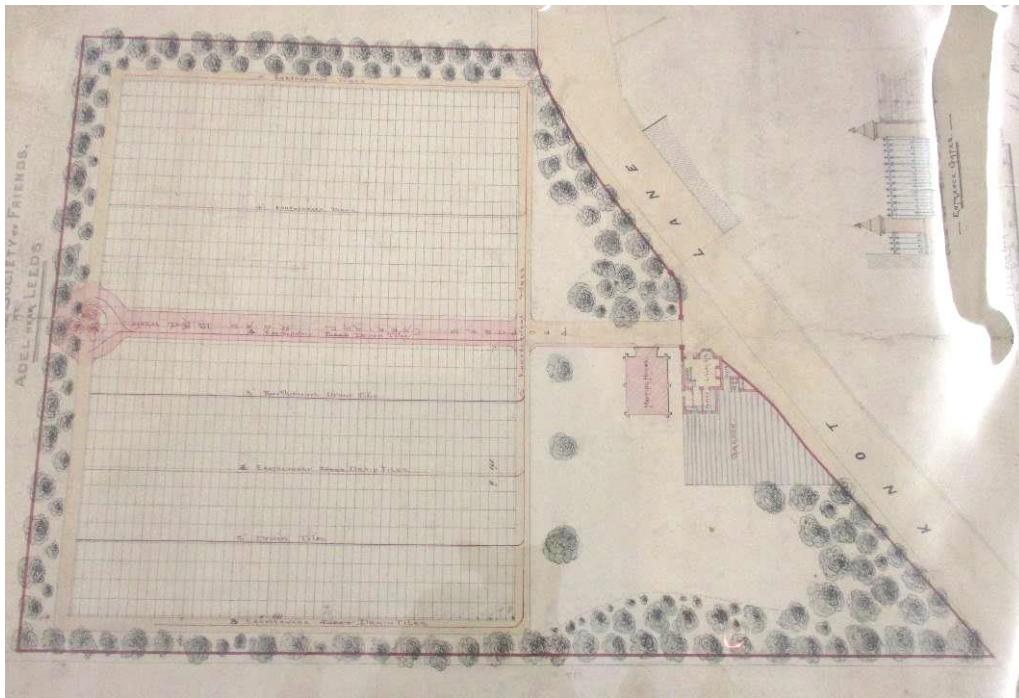


Figure 6: Proposed burial ground at Adel, John Wood 1868  
(Brotherton Library, Special Collections, [MS/DEP/1979/1/RAW/1/41](#))

The land was specifically purchased in 1868 by Hannah Baker for use as a Quaker burial ground. The burial ground was in use shortly after the acquisition of the site in 1868. A plan of 1868 (Fig.6) of the burial ground reveals rows of forty-eight graves and a carriage passage way from New Adel Lane with a turning circle at the western end. All the gravestones have a uniform character, with rows of small round headed headstones with basic information inscribed including name, date of death and age only. The graves initially each had a small mound, but these were levelled in the 1950s to allow for improved maintenance of the burial ground. The rows of graves are marked with roman numerals located on the edging stones.

The burial ground is enclosed by a stone boundary wall, with gate piers and iron gates at the entrance into the site off New Adel Road. The burial ground is still in use for burials. The burial records covering the period from 1868 are located at Brotherton Library (University of Leeds). In the mid-1960s a rose bed was created to the west of the meeting house as a place for scattering ashes.



Figure 7: Grave mounds, nd. (Adel Preparative Meeting, 2009)



Figure 8: Roman numeral markers

The burial ground includes the graves of Hannah Baker (1780-1871) who donated the land for the burial ground to Carlton Hill Friends, which is unusually located to the northwest corner of the site. Isabella Ford (1855-1924, was a key individual campaigning for women's rights, and was a member of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and the Independent Labour Party. Jean-Philippe (1890-1982) and Lucile Inebnit (1891-1979, originally from Switzerland Jean-Philippe worked alongside Pierre Ceresole in the work of Service Civil International. Following this a British branch of the movement called the International Voluntary Service for Peace was established after the Second World War and following the establishment of United Nations Jean-Philippe's vision was to create an international service. Godfrey Wicksteed (1899-1997) was a master mariner and was the first mate on a voyage of the Mayflower II a replica commemorating the voyage of the Pilgrim Fathers in 1620. There are also two war graves; Allan Cox (1898-1915) and Haydn Derek Ryder (1922-1943).





Figure 9: Headstone of Hannah Baker (1780-1871)

## 2.5. The meeting house in its wider setting

Adel is located approximately 6 miles north of Leeds. The site is bounded by a stone wall with stone gate piers and cast-iron gates to the entrance at New Adel Road; hedgerows and mature trees line the boundaries of the site. Adjoining the meeting house to the south is the caretaker's cottage built at the same time as the meeting house in 1870, also by Edward Birchall. To the east is the Adel and Ireland Wood Community Centre, a linear one-storey range built of red brick part clad with tongue and groove panelling. A car park is located to the north east corner of the site. The wider area is predominately residential. To the north of the site is inter-war housing characterised by two storey, semi-detached dwellings, with hipped roofs and concrete canopies. To the south of the site is a mixture of nineteenth century cottages and short terraces along with later twentieth century infill. Behind this housing is Lawns Wood Cemetery; part of the area is a Grade II listed Registered Park and Garden, including a Grade II listed chapel and columbarium.

## 2.6. Listed status

The meeting house is currently not listed. Collectively, the stone boundary wall and gate piers, meeting house and adjoining caretaker's cottage form a group of architecturally and historically interesting buildings. Unlike other Quaker meeting houses, this is an example of a meeting house purpose built as a mortuary chapel and was not in use for Meetings until the beginning of the twentieth century. The buildings are considered to be a possible candidates for statutory listing. The meeting house has been subject to some alteration in the twenty-first century, however the principal elevations of the exterior retain original fenestration and architectural features of interest whilst the interior of the meeting room retains original panelling along with a tiled floor which contribute to its character. The main loss to the building is some historic fabric to the west gable and the Elders' seating.

## 2.7. Archaeological potential of the site

The West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service was consulted and no Historic Environment Records are associated with the site. No former buildings were present on site prior to the present meeting house being built. Overall, the archaeological potential of the site, including the burial ground, is considered to be medium.

## **Part 3: Current use and management**

*See completed volunteer survey*

### 3.1. Condition

i) Meeting House: Good

ii) Attached burial ground (if any): Optimal / satisfactory. The burial ground is well maintained.

### 3.2. Maintenance

The last quinquennial inspection took place in October 2012. The following recommendations from the quinquennial inspection have been undertaken; in 2013 structural work to install tie bars and pattress plates to provide support to the north wall was undertaken, re-decoration of the meeting house, positive pressure pumps installed to tackle condensation and mould issues, repairs to the rainwater goods and roof, all undertaken under the direction of Peter J Rice Architects. Work not yet undertaken relates to electrical work. The meeting has sufficient funds to maintain and repair the building. Friends receive significant income from the letting of the cottage and the garden room extension. The Friends have a five year maintenance and repair plan for the building.

### 3.3. Sustainability

The Meeting does use the Sustainability Toolkit. The following measures have been implemented to reduce its environmental impact. These include:

- Climate change and energy efficiency: Upgrading of insulation levels in the roof space.
- Building maintenance & refurbishment: Maintenance programme is in place.
- Resource use, recycling and waste management: use of council recycling scheme.
- Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation: the grounds are well planted with trees and shrubs which provide wildlife habitats.

### 3.4. Amenities

The meeting house has all the amenities it needs, including a kitchen, spacious foyer, toilets and an additional meeting space located within the extension. There is no resident warden, the former caretakers' accommodation is now privately let. An on-site car park is available for twenty cars and secure bicycle parking is available. The meeting house is served by a local bus service.

### 3.5. Access

The meeting house is accessible to people with disabilities. There is level access into and throughout the building, an accessible toilet, a hearing loop installed and facilities for the

partially-sighted. A Disability Access Audit was conducted in 2007 which recommended level access into the main meeting room and installation of a fully accessible WC which have all been implemented by the Friends.

### 3.6 Community Use

Friends use the meeting house for about 4 hours each week. The meeting house is theoretically available for community lettings for a maximum number of 75 hours per week and is used for an average of 50 hours each week. There are two rooms available to hire; the main meeting room and the garden room both of which accommodate up to 30 people. The meeting has a formal lettings policy. Organisations and individuals who are engaged with ethical pursuits are welcomed. Free use of the meeting house can be used for Quaker events. Users value the building for its peaceful location and availability of on-site car parking.

### 3.7. Vulnerability to crime

The meeting house has been subject to both anti-social behaviour and heritage crime in the past. In the past a sundial which came from a meeting house at Dacre was stolen. The Friends have not reported any crimes or incidents of anti-social behaviour to the local police. The locality is generally well-cared for, has low crime levels, low deprivation and high community confidence. Friends have not developed a liaison with the Local Neighbourhood Policing Team but would consider making contact in the future.

### 3.8. Plans for change

No future plans for change.

## **Part 4: Impact of Change**

### 4.1. To what extent is the building amenable or vulnerable to change?

*i) As a Meeting House used only by the local Meeting:* The meeting house has already been altered and extended in 2007. At present it fulfils the needs of the Meeting.

*ii) For wider community use, in addition to local Meeting use:* The meeting house is well used by a number of local groups and following the extension in 2007 the building now has all the facilities to support these groups.

*iii) Being laid down as a Meeting House:* In the unlikely event of closure, the meeting house could continue to provide a venue for community groups which would provide a sustainable future for the building. Demolition would be regrettable as the building is a local community heritage asset. Appropriate provision would be required for the future management of the attached burial ground.

## **Part 5: Category: 2**