

Upminster Cemetery Extension

Project Presentation

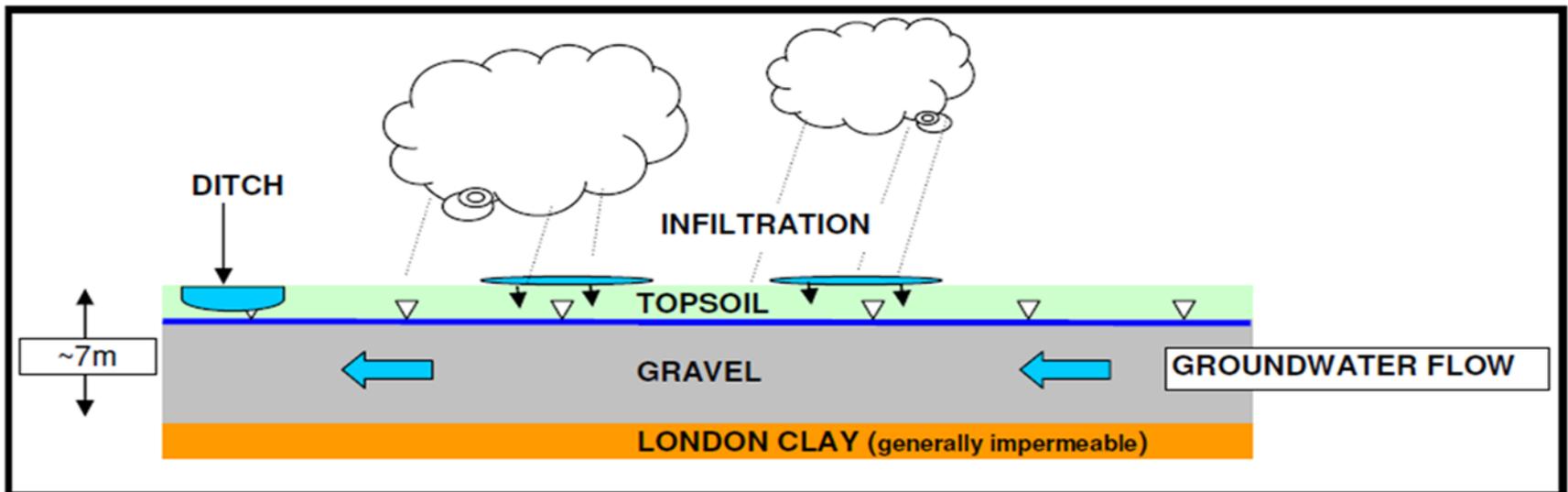
Phase 1- 2008 to 2013

- After two years of monitoring the EA confirmed the proposed extension land drained poorly and groundwater levels were too high for burials.
- Existing cemetery approaching capacity in 2010.
- Options for making the land suitable for burials.

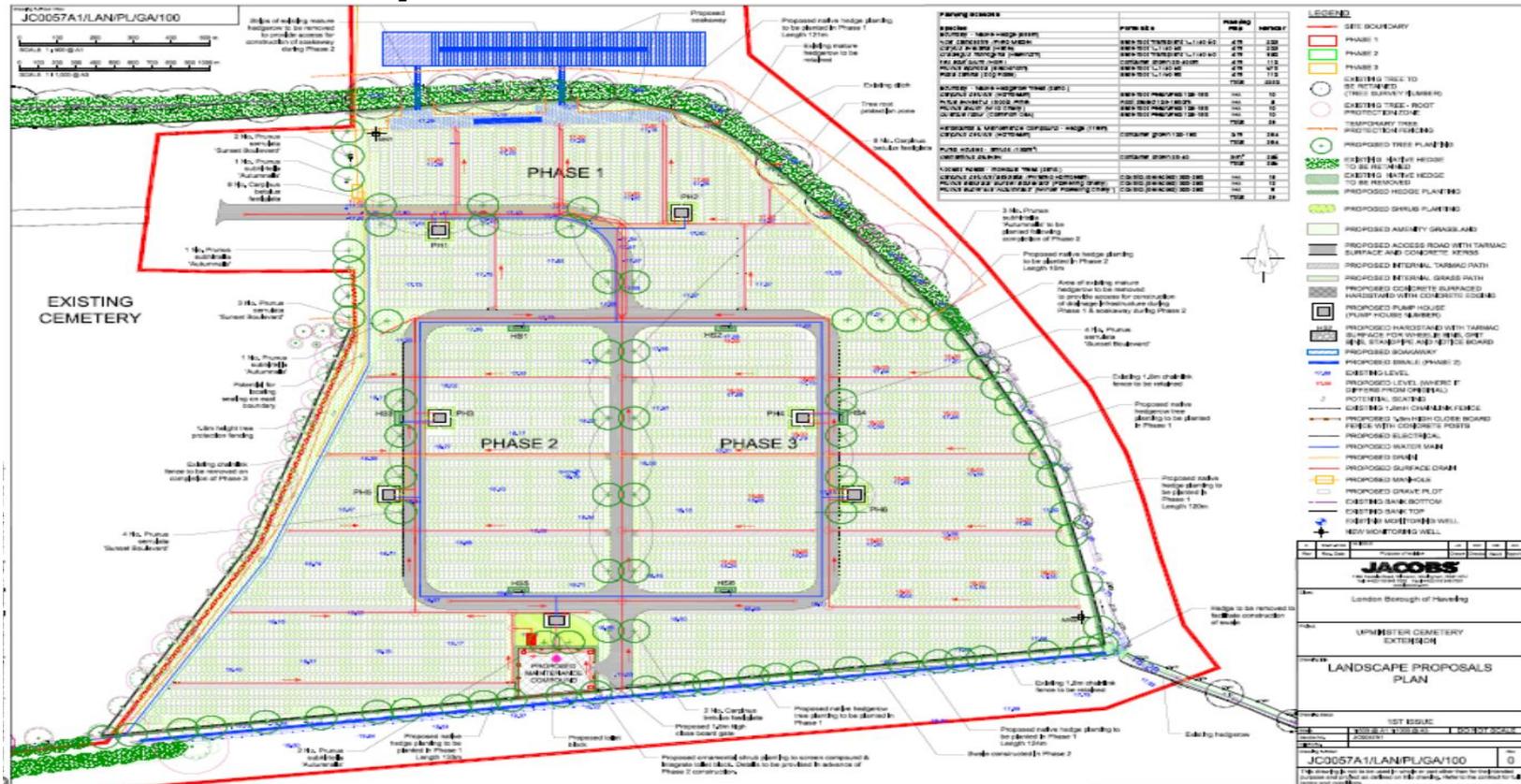
Alternative location, grave re-use, cease to offer new burial provision, raise the ground level, temporary piling then remove after the first burial, permanent piling and pumping stations or underground water diversion system.

- Decision to go with permanent piling and pumping stations.
- Business case approved for £2 million and contractor appointed.
- LBH then carried out a full tender exercise and engaged a contractor.
- Surveys completed - topographical, archaeological, ecological, traffic, planning permission and agree a Thames Water discharge permit.
- Work commenced on phase 1 in April 2013 and was finished five months later.

Site Conditions after Heavy Rain - 2008



Site Outline – All three Phases and Proposed Grave Provision



Phase 1 – 1383

Phase 2 – 1893

Phase 3 – 2440

Total 5716

Steel Sheet Piling Sections and Vibrohammer in combination with hydropress



Proposed Pump House and Actual Building



Phase 2 and 3 – 2019 to 2022

- By 2019 phase 1 of the extension was two thirds full so it was decided to combine phases 2 and 3 and start work on expanding the extension by a further 9.5 acres at a cost of £4.5 million.
- With lessons learnt from phase 1 it was decided to:
 - Clear the land and allow the ground to settle for two years, this had not been an option with phase 1 because the existing cemetery was nearing capacity.
 - To reduce the amount of pumping stations per acre because if anything the ground was too dry and some areas began to crack.
 - The road specifications were also downgraded to reflect the traffic use/weight.
 - Incorporate rainwater gulley's and gradiated lawns to aid water run-off.
- Ecological Impact Assessments, like everything after COVID had trebled in price, and there was a cost of £35,000 searching for, and failing to find, Great Crested Newts. The survey did find four common lizards though.
- Specially designed lights installed to not deter any bats.
- New toilet block to be built.
- A new drainage/soakaway area.
- Work commenced in April 2021 and was completed within 10 months.

Proposed Toilet Block and Actual Building



The only Great Crested Newt found in Upminster Cemetery was in the office on Google.

Phase 4 - 2023 onwards

- Future proofing the cemetery
- Implementation of a woodland burial area.
- Agreed a non-invasive planting scheme with Thameschase Trust which included Pedunculate Oak, Field Maple, Hornbeam and Beech.
- The Thames Water permit is now a lifetime permit.
- Owl boxes have been installed and are in use.
- Land not immediately used allowed to “wild” for ecological habitat.
- New affordable memorials to tackle funeral poverty.
- New childrens section, designed and installed by own staff to be in the appearance of a child's shape sorting toy.
- Bee friendly area now an insect home and bee friendly area to be relocated to nearby boundary fenceline.



Thameschase Trust and LBH staff



Wilding area / Insect home

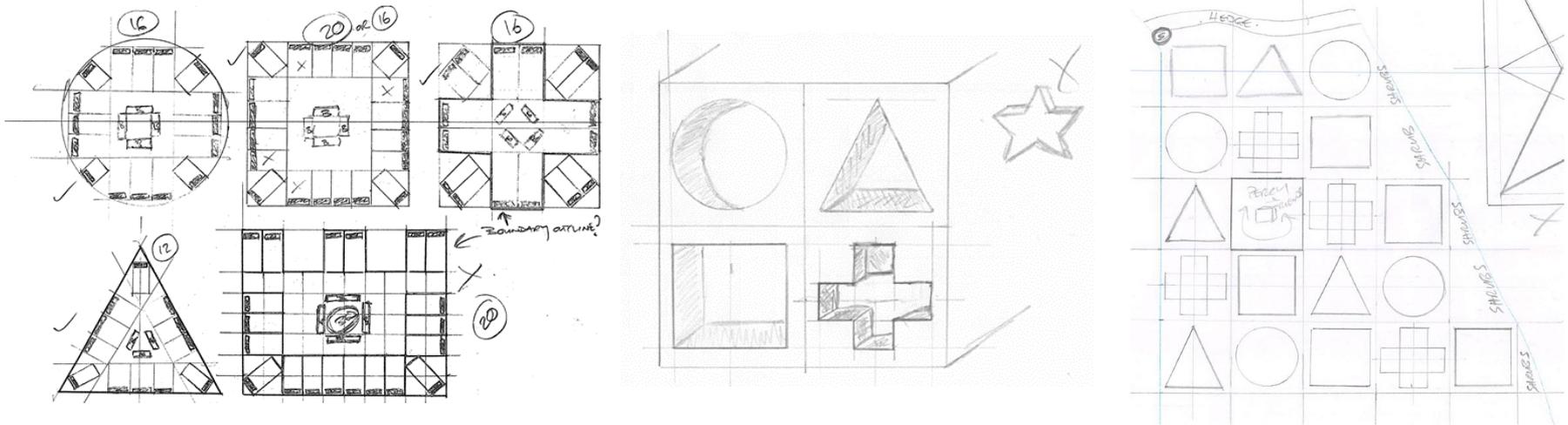


Owl box

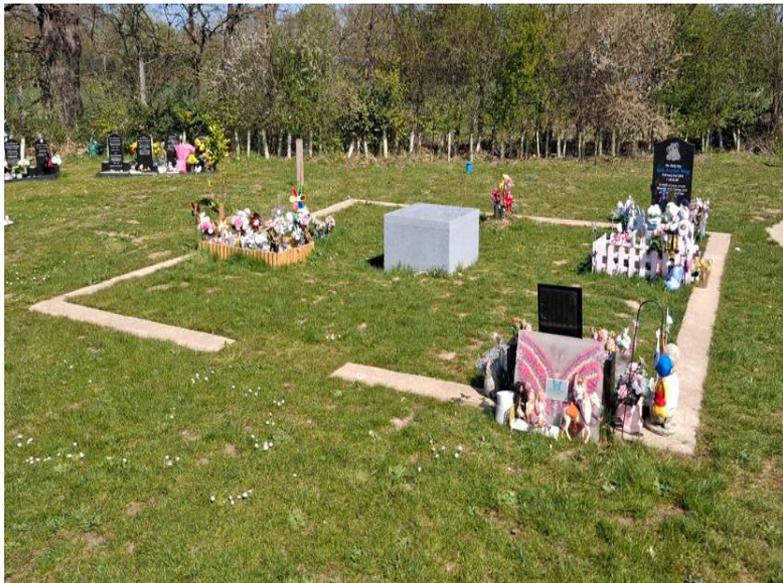


New "all in one" memorials

Initial ideas for the childrens section



How its shaping up



Conclusions

- A cemetery extension project that started in 2008 and is still evolving will leave a legacy for all those who participated in its construction.
- The one concern looking back would be the amount of metal we have drove into the ground but this has also created new habitats because the water levels in the nearest streams have risen and they are now thriving natural environments, especially for Great Crested Newts.
- Overall a real innovative achievement only made possible by a resilient Havering team and a group of consultants who learnt as much about a working cemetery environment as we did about water diversion.
- Questions? No, thanks for coming.....