Wirral Council
Fifteen Years of Excellence: Delivering Exceptional Cremator Lifespan, Carbon Reduction, and Service Innovation at Landican Crematorium

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Serving Our Community

Landican Cemetery and Crematorium, Wirral, opened in 1934 and has served local communities for more than 90 years.

Today, the service supports a population of over 320,000 residents, carrying out more than 3,000 cremations and 400 burials each year.

In 2010, Landican became the first local authority in the UK to install IFZW KE400 freefall cremators.



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The Challenge and a Bold Decision

Initial Objectives of the Freefall Cremator Project

- Achieve 100% mercury abatement compliance and meet the emerging environmental legislation.
- Reducing gas consumption and improve energy efficiency.
- Maintaining existing cremation capacity and service resilience
- Minimising manual intervention through greater automation.
- Enhanced staff safety and working conditions.
- Reduce the services environmental footprint



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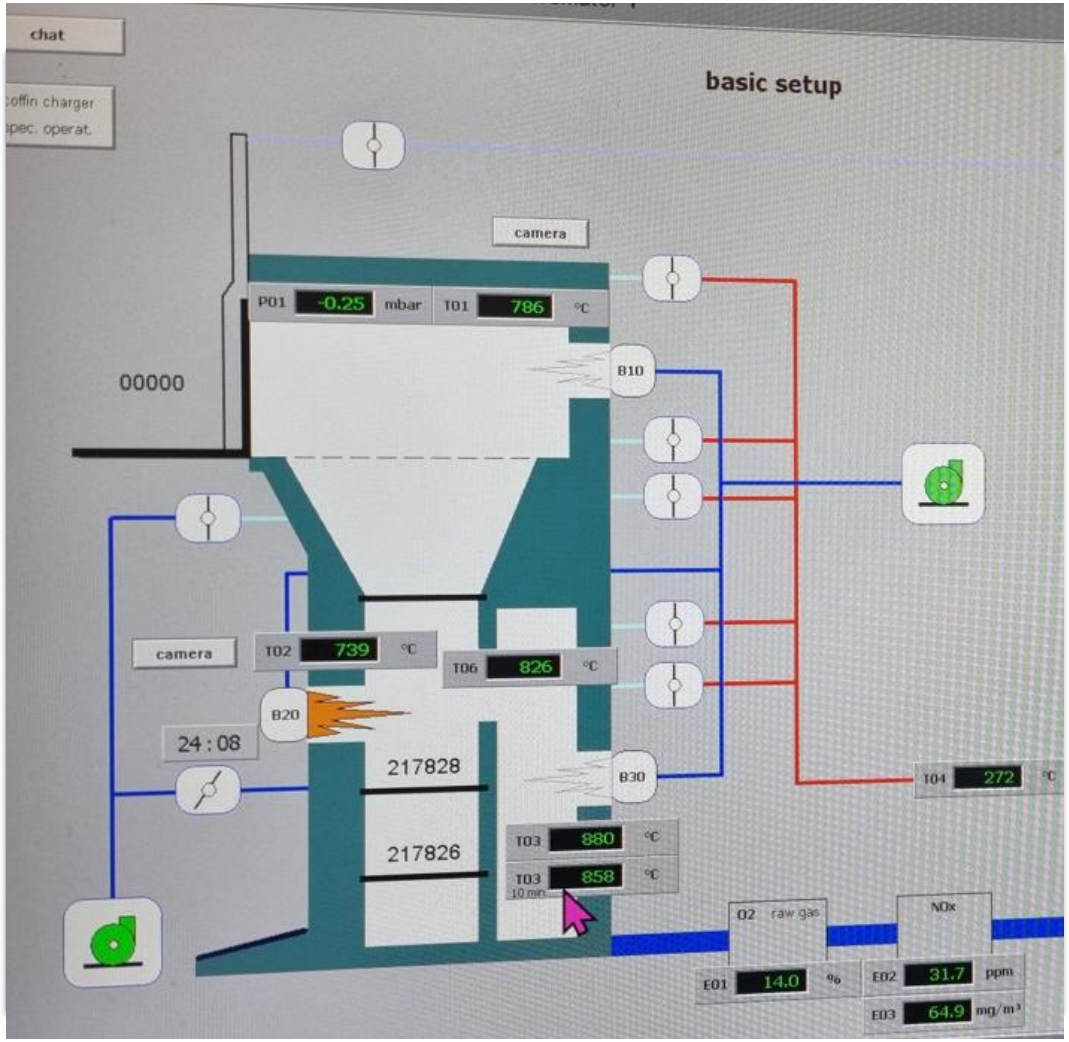
Advantages of the Freefall design

- **Gravity-assisted transfer of remains**, eliminating the need for manual raking
- **Even heat distribution**, reducing thermal shock to refractory linings.
- **Robust Refractory construction,** extending the lifespan and reducing maintenance requirements
- **Enhanced operator safety,** with reduced manual intervention and exposure to heat.
- **Improved operational reliability,** supporting consistent performance and availability



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The Achievement

15 years. 44,000 Cremations. One Reline

- First UK crematorium to install IFZW freefall cremators.
- Over 44,000 cremations completed before the first full refractory reline.
- Exceeding industry expectations compared to a traditional flat bed cremator reline.
- Cremation services maintained throughout reline works.
- Demonstrating durability, innovation and exceptional asset management.

Picture showing the cremation chamber, buttress bricks and location of burner.



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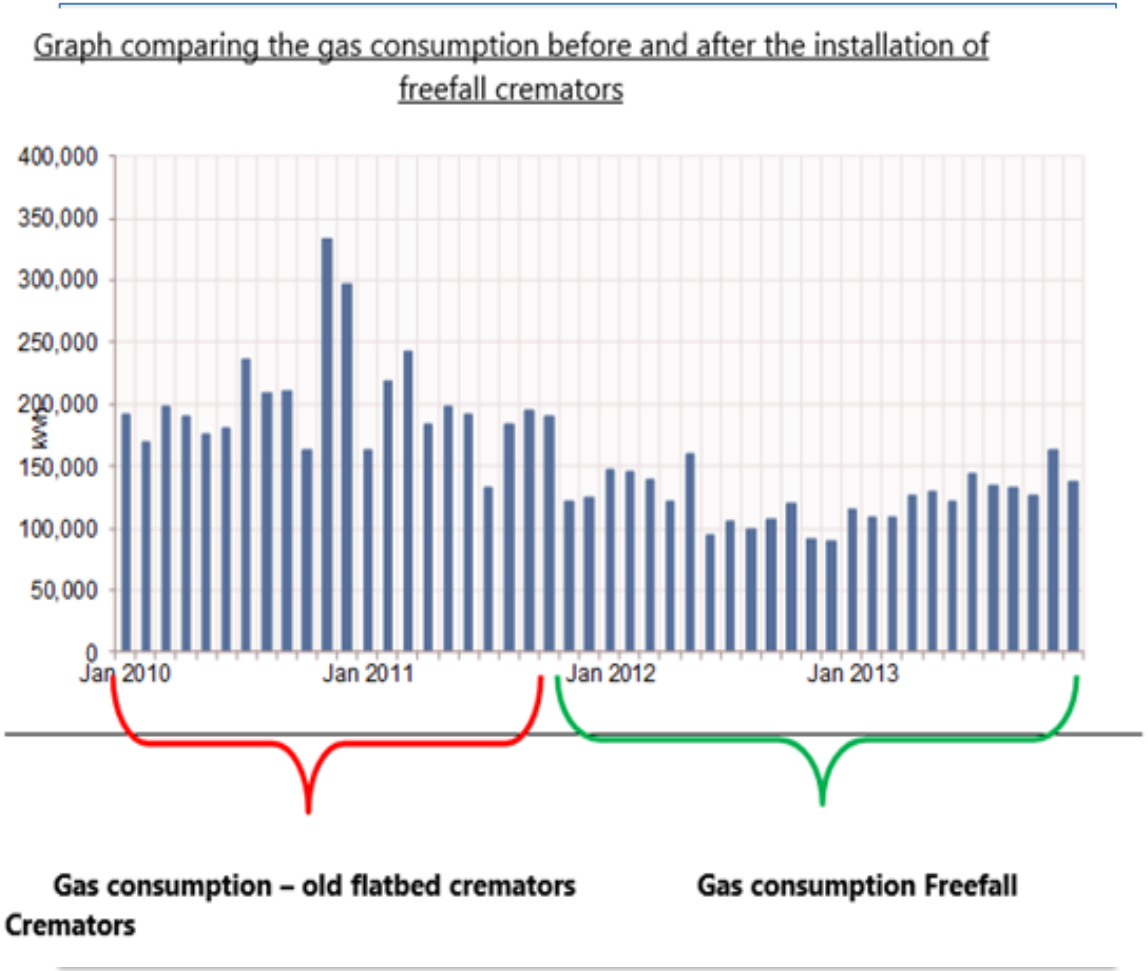
Delivering Environmental Benefits

- **50% reduction in gas consumption** compared with our previous traditional cremators.
- **Reduced carbon emissions** despite increasing cremation numbers.
- **Significantly fewer refractory materials required**, resulting in less waste and lower environmental impact.
- **Advanced heat-recovery technology** helps reduce chapel heating demand.
- **Minimal operational downtime** reduces maintenance interventions.
- **Extended asset life** supports long-term sustainability



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Staff Excellence

Achieved through disciplined operating practices and proactive maintenance

Daily checks and performance monitoring undertaken by experienced technicians

Strong culture of care, professionalism and continuous improvement

All operational staff are CTTS qualified

Regular ICCM refresher training undertaken to maintain skills, compliance and best practice



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Operational Excellence

Enhanced Safety and Working Environment

- Automated coffin charging reduces manual handling.
- No manual raking required, minimising physical effort and injury risk.
- Reduced staff exposure to high temperatures and challenging working conditions.
- Elimination of thermal shock helps extend refractory life.
- Cleaner crematory environment.



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Financial Benefits

Exceptional Return on Investment

- Multiple relines avoided over the asset life
- Approximately 50% reduction in gas consumption
- Weekly preventative maintenance protected critical assets
- Over 85% of reline costs funded through accumulated maintenance budget savings.
- No loss of service income during the reline projects.
- Long term savings generated through reduced energy use and extended asset life.



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Looking Forward – What Next

Building on Success

- Maintain compliance with emerging environmental standards and remain ahead of future regulatory requirements.
- Deliver the planned restructuring of cemetery services to create a more integrated and resilient borough-wide operation.
- Progress plans for the Landican Cemetery extension, combining future burial provision with biodiversity and sustainability enhancements.
- Invest in staff development, succession planning and technical excellence to safeguard future service delivery.
- Continue pursuing Charter for Bereaved and Green Flag standards together with environmental best practice across the service

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