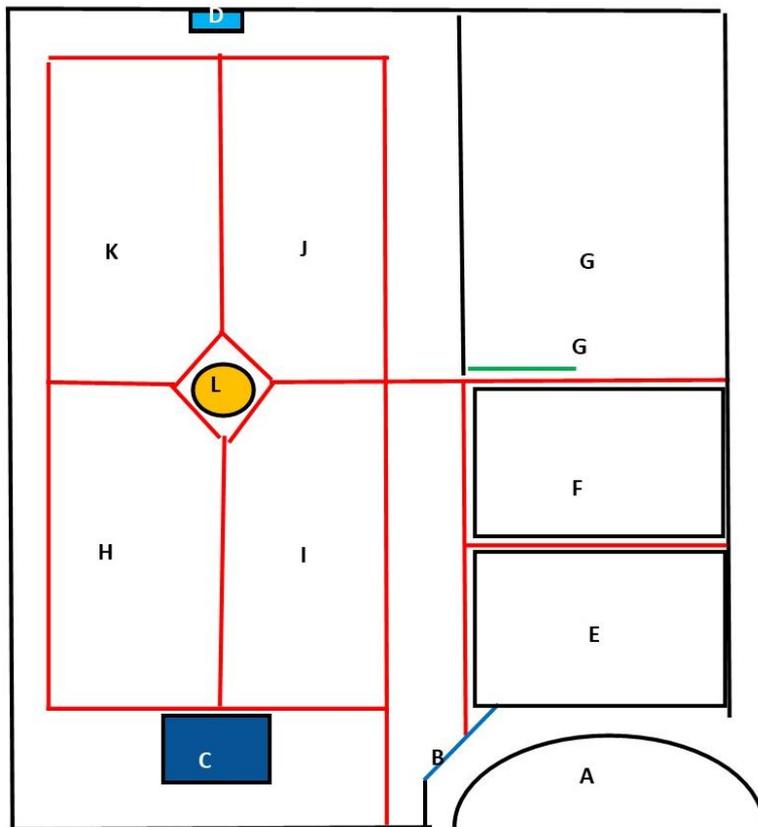


## Weedon Bec Cemetery, Ellands Lane, Weedon Bec.

The cemetery is located on Ellands Lane, approximately 600 metres from the nearest dwelling on Church Street. The Church of St Peter & St Paul is the closest building. The cemetery is outside of the recognised village confines. Ellands Lane is one of the main routes out to the A5 and is also used as a walking route to surrounding villages and access to the canal system. The cemetery is surrounded by farmland.

### Description



Key	
	A: Layby
	B: Gateway, pedestrian/vehicle
	C: Lychgate
	D: Grave Diggers hut
	E: Burial ground in use
	F & G: Burial ground not in use yet
	H, I, J, K: Burial ground in use
	L: Cenotaph

The cemetery covers an area of approximately 3 acres of land, including the extension and layby parking. It is enclosed primarily by trees and hedging with a wooden bar fencing making up the enclosure.

The cemetery is divided into seven distinguishable areas. There is a path leading from the layby (A) through the new extension part where the current burial area is (E). This area is split into three sections with only the first part being occupied at present. (F) will be in use within the next few

years. (G) holds the strip of non-consecrated land. There is a bonfire area towards the rear of this patch.

Following the path, leads to the older section of the Cemetery which is split into quarters. There are burials around the edge The War Memorial (L) in the centre of this section with the Grave diggers hut (D) up the top of the land and the Lychgate (C) off the road.

The majority of graves hold one or two interments. All plots are sold as doubles unless request is just for single. A number were 'pre-purchased' via an exclusive right of burial and some are still vacant at the time of writing. Alongside the grave digger's hut is the current area of cremated remains, the older section of cremated remains runs down the verge adjacent to quadrant J. Children's graves are below the cremated remains in the same area. \* An exclusive right of burial may be purchased under the terms of the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 (SI 1977/204). The owner of these rights may then stipulate who is buried in that grave and have the right to apply to erect a memorial. Exclusive right of burial certificate is issued when an interment occurs, if not purchased in advance. The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 (SI 1977/204) stipulates that memorials cannot be placed on grave unless an exclusive right of burial has been purchased.

#### **Boundaries:**

The cemetery is enclosed by hedging and trees, on the road and field sides, wooden bar fencing runs around the new section.

#### **Facilities**

There are seven benches and many refuse bins for public use. Water for the vases is available in the water run-off container linked to the Grave digger's hut. Outside of the cemetery gate there is a lay-by which will accommodate approximately six parked cars. Public access to the cemetery is through the adjacent gate. The Lych gate is closed for access. There is also a separate pedestrian gate to the right of the Lych gate, at the end of the footpath.

#### **Public Safety**

The cemetery is outside of the village and away from the central focal point. For this reason it is not an area that attracts children. Generally, the cemetery is only visited by those tending graves.

#### **Trees**

The trees within the cemetery are inspected regularly. Any remedial work is undertaken by contractors. A qualified tree arborist was commissioned in 2019 to undertake an inspection of all trees. There are no Tree Preservation Orders at the cemetery.

#### **New graves.**

Graves are excavated the day before the funeral. If the funeral is on a Monday this means the grave may be dug on the preceding Friday. The open grave will be boarded over. The graves need to be excavated prior to the day of the funeral to allow sufficient time for any problems to be resolved ie mechanical failure, ground problems etc. Where there is a second interment in a plot, the grave will only be partially excavated the day before and will be finished on the morning of the burial. Cremated remains plots are generally dug of the day of the interment. Graves are filled once the burial party has left the cemetery.

## Memorials

There are a variety of 'lawn' memorials together with a few cross memorials. Historically there are a few large monuments. A number of graves in areas (H-K) have kerbstones. Kerbstones are no longer allowed. Parish Councillors undertake a visual inspection of headstones on annual basis. The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977 (SI 1977/204) states that memorials should be placed on graves where an exclusive right of burial has been purchased. Currently all headstones should not exceed 91 cm (3') in height, 76 cm (2'6") in width and 7.5 cm (3") in thickness. Wording on inscriptions has to be approved by the Clerk or Council, non-photo-ceramic images are permitted. Headstones are not to be fitted until the settlement period of 6 months has elapsed. The dimensions of a plaque over cremated remains shall not exceed 18 inches (46 cm) wide and 24 inches (61cm) deep and be of a suitable stone (black granite or York stone is preferred. A memorial or flower holder may be placed but must not exceed 12 inches (30cm) in height.

The Cemetery contains War Graves which are maintained generally by the maintenance man. The War Graves commission do inspect and tend them, usually on an annual basis.

## Risk Assessment

Hazard	Who	Level of risk	Action
Trips and falls typically giving rise to minor cuts and abrasions, twisted ankles etc.	Visitors, contractors	Medium	Care to be taken by individuals; should be alert to local surface conditions, vegetation, gravel, headstones etc
Falling trees & branches causing injury	Visitors, contractors	Medium	Regular inspections take place. Qualified tree surgeon to inspect trees every 3-5 years or more frequently if required
Scratches from low hanging branches	Visitors, contractors	Medium	Low Branches to be lifted as required
Falls into graves	Visitors, contractors	Medium	Contractors have systems in place to minimise risk
Falling memorials	Visitors, contractors	Medium	Viewed and tested annually