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A Bereavement Service Feasibility Report for Chorley Borough Council

**Chorley Cemetery, Southport Road, PR7 1LL, and Adlington Cemetery,
Chapel Street, PR7 4JL**

Date: June 2025

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1 Introduction

- 1 The CDS Group have the pleasure of producing a Bereavement Service Feasibility Report on behalf of Chorley Borough Council. The purpose of this report is to establish a robust evidence base supporting the proposal for cemetery accommodation, by considering current cemetery provision and capacity for additional burial space in the Chorley Borough.
- 2 The expected capacity has been demonstrated against short term (five years), medium term (15 years), and long term (50 years) timeframes.

1.1 Location

- 3 This Feasibility Assessment addresses the proposed development of two cemeteries: Chorley Cemetery and Adlington Cemetery, both of which are within the Chorley Borough.
- 4 The location of the proposed site at Chorley Cemetery (approximately 1 acre) is Southport Road, Chorley, PR7 1LL. Furthermore, the location of the proposed site at Adlington Cemetery (approximately 1.9 acres) is Chapel Street, Adlington, PR7 4JL.
- 5 The red-line boundary locations of the proposed developments can be seen in Figure 1. Additionally, the individual redline boundaries against satellite imagery and immediate amenities can be seen for the Chorley site and Adlington site in Figures 2 and 3, respectively.
- 6 The proposed sites will alleviate pressure from neighbouring existing cemeteries and accommodate for burial need in the Chorley Borough area.

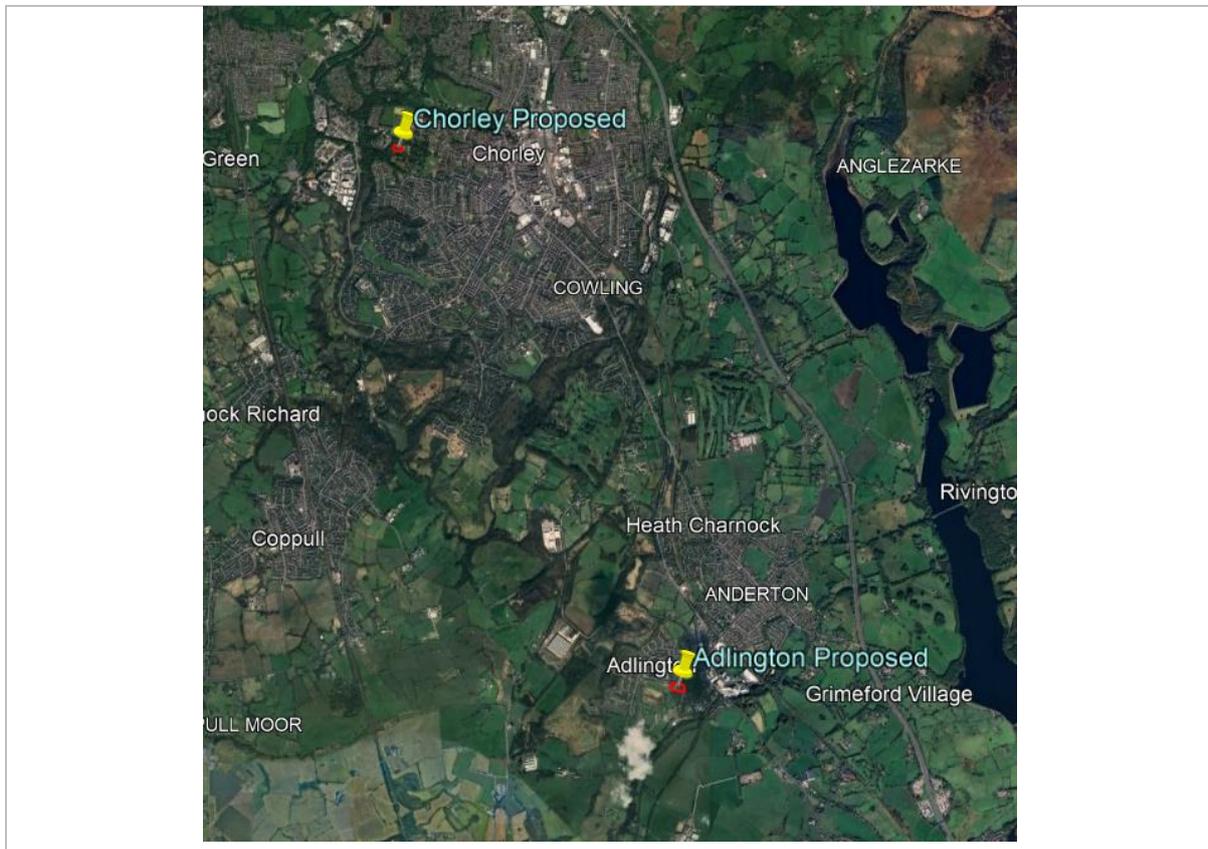
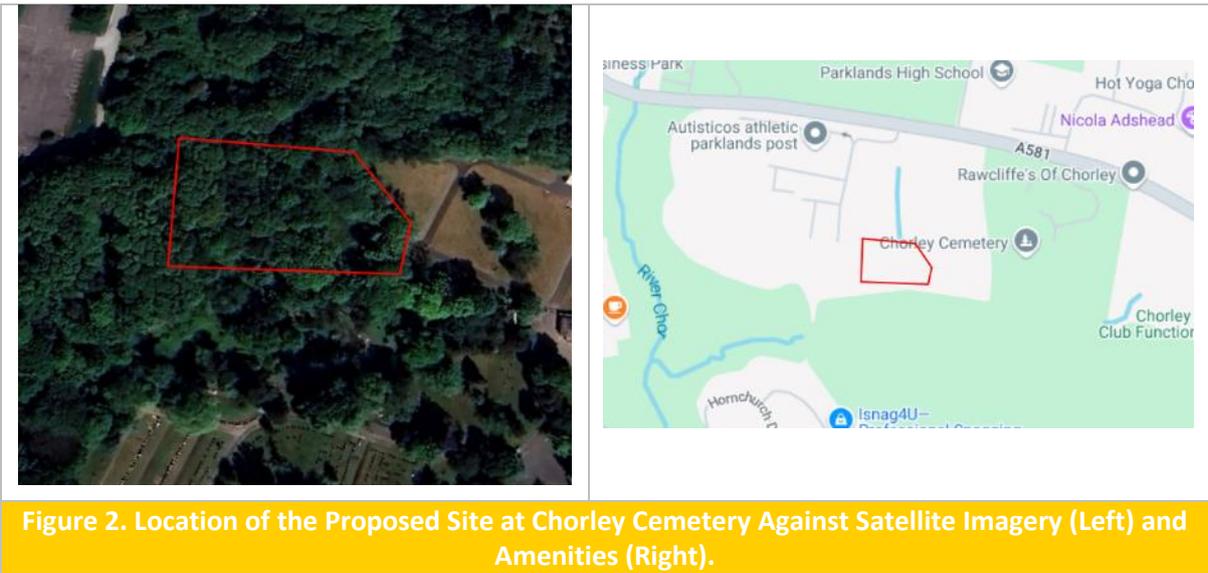


Figure 1. Location of Both Proposed Cemetery Developments.



- 7 This assessment will undergo a review of the existing and projected market analysis including population statistics, a review of the existing crematoria and cemetery provision within the Chorley Borough and neighbouring areas. The report will conclude with an assessed burial capacity at both the proposed Chorley and Adlington sites, the resulting options and facilities, and an overall summary of the estimated burial capacity and the resulting impacts for the proposed cemetery developments.

2 Population Statistics and Projections

2.1 Housing

- 8 Increased housing will likely occur with further urban developments across the Chorley Borough. An increasing population will call for further housing and vice versa, additional housing will lead to an increasing population. Both of these correlations will create a need for further burial plots and cemetery areas as a burden will be placed upon existing space.

2.2 Population Projections

- 9 On page 116 of the Central Lancashire Local Plan, it states:

'The Councils, like many other local authorities within England, are facing a shortage of burial space. This lack of sufficient burial space is expected to worsen as the population of the region grows.'

- 10 This demonstrates that there is an existing concern of population trends across the Chorley Borough affecting burial capacity.
- 11 Using ONS data ¹, CDS demonstrate the population projections for all persons, and the number of individuals aged 65 and above across the Chorley Borough can be seen in Table 1. By 2040 there is to be an expected 51% increase in individuals aged 65 and above from 2018 across the Chorley Borough.
- 12 When assessing against a 50-year goal, CDS calculated the estimated population projections for 2075, this is also shown in Table 1, marked with an asterisk. This evident increasing and aging population in Table 1 demonstrates the impact that will occur against the 5-, 15-, and 50-year timeframes. Remaining burial capacity will decrease at a rapid rate should no intervention occur.

Table 1. Population Projections and Aging Population the Chorley Borough (2018-2040).

	2018	2030	2040	2075
Chorley All Persons	116,821	129,270	135,756	161,176*
Chorley 65+	23,015	29,719	34,765	60,374*
% 65+ within Whole Population of Chorley	19.7%	22.9%	25.6%	37.5%*

*Not ONS calculations but CDS calculations estimated from the ONS data projections.

- 13 Figure 4 presents the ONS data regarding the population changes (specifically age brackets) across the Chorley Borough between the 2011 and 2021 Census ². The data indicates that Chorley Borough does have a population that would benefit from an increase in amenity services. Between the ages of 5-15, 25-34, and 50- and above the 2021 population exceeds the 2011 population in Chorley Borough. Moreover, between the ages of 35-84 the population per age group is greater in Chorley Borough than the England average, this is signifying Chorley Borough to have an increasing and aging population growing at a faster rate than across England within the majority of older age brackets.

¹ ONS (2020). Available from: [Population projections for local authorities: Table 2 - Office for National Statistics](#)

² ONS (2023). Available from: [How life has changed in Chorley: Census 2021](#)

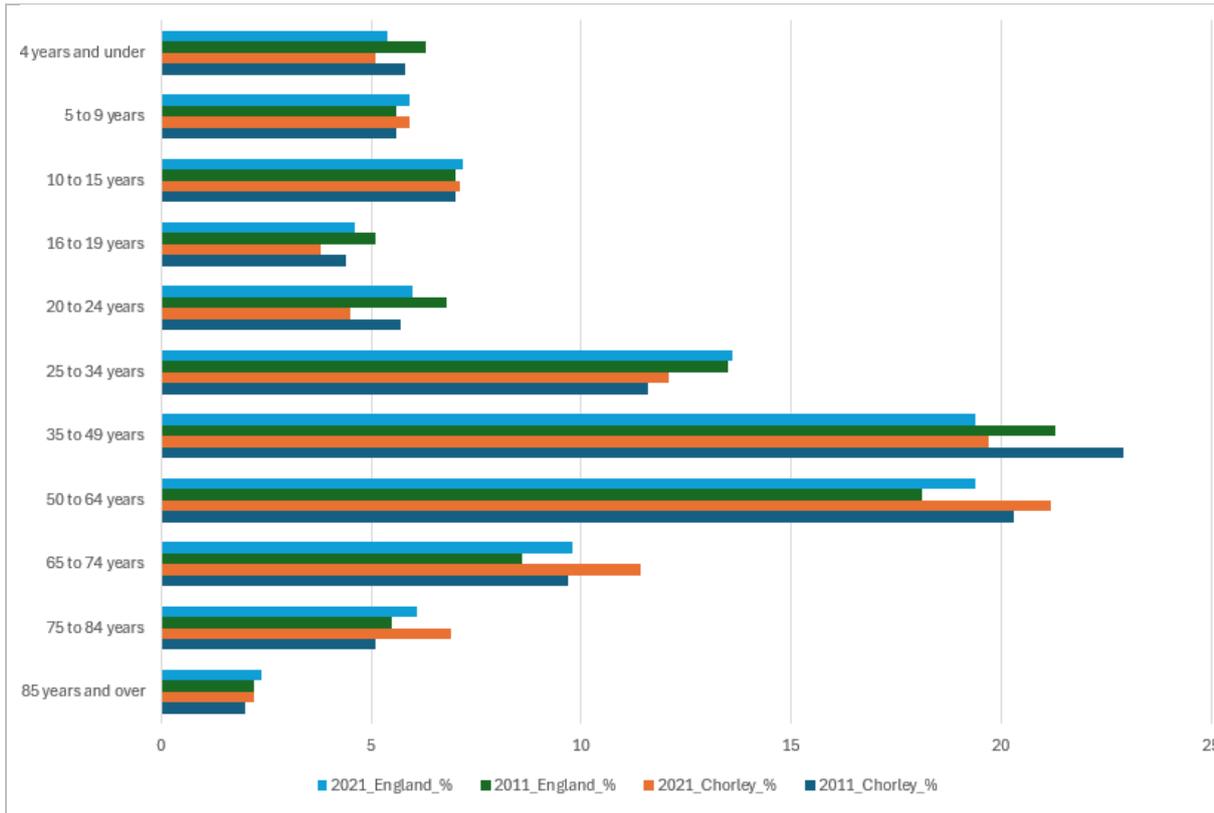


Figure 4. Population Bracket Differences between Chorley Borough and England (2011-2021).

2.3 Religious Demographics

14 Between 2011 and 2021 Census data ³, there was a recorded increase in the Muslim population across the Chorley Borough, this can be seen in Table 2. Additionally, it was recorded in 2021 that there were 1,648 individuals practicing the Muslim faith across the Chorley Borough. The provision of Muslim burials is therefore necessary, furthermore Chorley Cemetery does have an area that accommodates for new Muslim burials.

Table 2. Muslim Population Across Chorley Borough (2011-2021).

	2011	2021
Chorley Muslim Population %	1.1	1.4
England Muslim Population %	5	6.7

2.4 Mortality Rate Across Chorley Borough

15 Increasing and aging populations are generally the reason for cemeteries quickly reaching capacity, this and a positive mortality rate. Across Chorley Borough, the mortality rate has an average of 0.99% over the last ten years (2014-2023). This data has been gathered by the Office for National Statistics, datasets published from 2015-2024.

2.4.1 The Impact of the Pandemic

³ ONS (2023). Available from: [How life has changed in Chorley: Census 2021](#)

16 This has been influenced by the COVID-19 Pandemic, declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on 30/01/20. The impact of the pandemic on the death rate across Chorley Borough can be seen in Table 3, the crude mortality rate is shown from 2014 to 2023 and is presented to be significantly higher from 2019 to 2021. Following this influence, the crude mortality rate is shown to be at 8.4 per thousand population in 2023, post-COVID.

Table 3. The Impact of COVID-19 on the Chorley Borough Mortality Rate.

Year	Crude Mortality Rate (Per Thousand Population)
2023	8.4
2022	9.3
2021	10
2020	11.6
2019	12.6
2018	9.6
2017	9.9
2016	9.5
2015	9.1
2014	9.4

2.5 Burial policy

17 Table 1 above shows there to be an increasing population as well as an aging one. This alongside increasing housing allocation across the Chorley Borough will increase the need for further burial provision. This is reflected in 'Policy HC7: Cemeteries and Crematoria' within the emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of this policy state:

"2. Development will be supported for extensions to the Council's existing burial and memorial sites in preference to developing new sites, where it is demonstrated that existing capacity is not sufficient to meet forecasted capacity requirements

3. The extension of other existing sites for the provision of new burial and/or cremation facilities will be supported where proposals:

a) meet the requirements of the various faith groups or the wider community within the plan area, and

b) appropriately respond to potential flood risk and air and water pollution issues through incorporated mitigation measures and where proposals are located outside of a Groundwater Source Protection Zone"

18 Furthermore, it is likely that additional sites to the existing cemeteries will be required to meet demand, it is therefore stated in Paragraph 4 that:

"4. Where forecasted capacity requirements cannot be met through extensions to existing sites, new burial and /or cremation sites will be supported where proposals comply with criteria (a) and (b) as well as:

a) are appropriately located and are accessible by means of public transport, walking and cycling; and

b) consider landscape integration and do not compromise the openness or visual amenity of the area."

3 Review of Existing Local Burial Provision

- 19 Burial space in the UK is becoming scarce at an ever-increasing rate. Further provision of burial space is required to reduce the burden of limited burial capacity.
- 20 To further understand the burial capacity in the Chorley Borough at both a multi-faith angle and also the provision of Muslim burials, the neighbouring council-owned cemeteries alongside Chorley and Adlington Cemeteries, were located.

3.1 Cemeteries

- 21 There are two existing council-owned cemeteries within the Chorley Borough, and six cemeteries across other local authority areas, the locations have been presented in Figure 5. Table 4 provides a summary of these cemeteries, including the provision for Muslim, faith specific, burials.
- 22 Muslim burials were included in this analysis due to the population requiring burials (cannot be cremated). There are other demographic groups that must be buried and will not undergo another funeral method such as the Jewish population, however this population accounts for 0.1%⁴ of the total Chorley Borough population and therefore have not been included in this analysis.

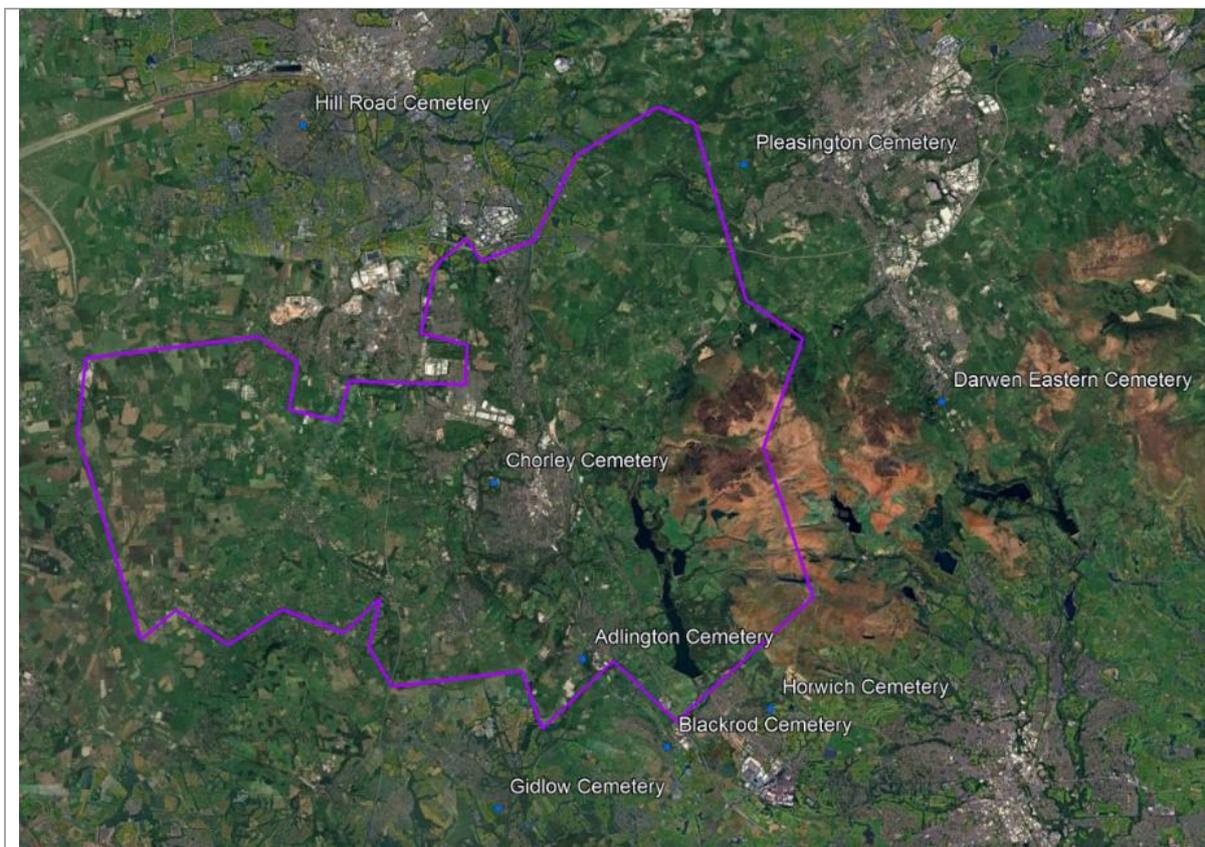


Figure 5. The Locations of the Neighbouring Cemeteries Including the Existing Chorley and Adlington Cemeteries.

- 23 Through queries sent to Chorley Borough Council and neighbouring councils, it is estimated that seven of the eight cemeteries provide new burials. This has been further assessed through visual judgement of capacity via satellite imagery, approximately half of the below listed cemeteries

⁴ ONS (2023). Available from: [How life has changed in Chorley: Census 2021](#)

appear to be nearing burial capacity. Additionally, 50% of the cemeteries are confirmed to provide Muslim faith burials.

- 24 It can therefore be identified that with the existing cemeteries visually nearing capacity, there is a potential strain on burial provision across Chorley Borough and surrounding areas. This need for additional burial spaces is further emphasised by the increasing and aging population across the borough, as presented in Table 1 and Figure 4 above.

Table 4. Summary of the Existing Neighbouring Cemeteries.

Cemetery	Local Council	Accepting New Burials?	Services for the Muslim faith?	Notes
Chorley Cemetery	Chorley Borough Council	Yes	Yes	There is approximately 2 years of remaining burial capacity.
Adlington Cemetery	Chorley Borough Council	Yes	No	There is approximately 1 year of remaining burial capacity.
Gidlow Cemetery	Wigan Council	Yes	Yes	Looks to be nearing capacity from satellite imagery except Muslim section.
Blackrod Cemetery	Bolton Council	Yes	-	'Each site has new grave plots' Looks nearing capacity from satellite imagery.
Horwich Cemetery	Bolton Council	Yes	-	'Each site has new grave plots' There appears to be remaining capacity from satellite imagery.
Darwen Eastern Cemetery	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	No	Yes	'Darwen old cemetery has reached its capacity only pre-purchased graves can now be used.'
Pleasington Cemetery	Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	Yes	Yes	'New graves are available for purchase at: Pleasington cemetery'
Hill Road Cemetery	Penwortham Town Council (South Ribble)	Yes	No	The council site states that 'It is no longer possible to purchase a plot at Hill Road Cemetery in advance of a bereavement'. However further discussion with the bereavement team suggests there is accommodation for new burials with a capacity for several years.

4 Review of Existing Crematoria Provision

25 The neighbouring existing crematoria have been located and their details, including capacity, have been presented in Table 5. The locations of the existing crematoria and proposed cemetery development are shown in Figure 6. The yellow pins signify the locations of the proposed Chorley and Adlington cemetery development, the blue dots signify the existing, surrounding crematoria. The existing crematoria will impact capacity for ash interment.

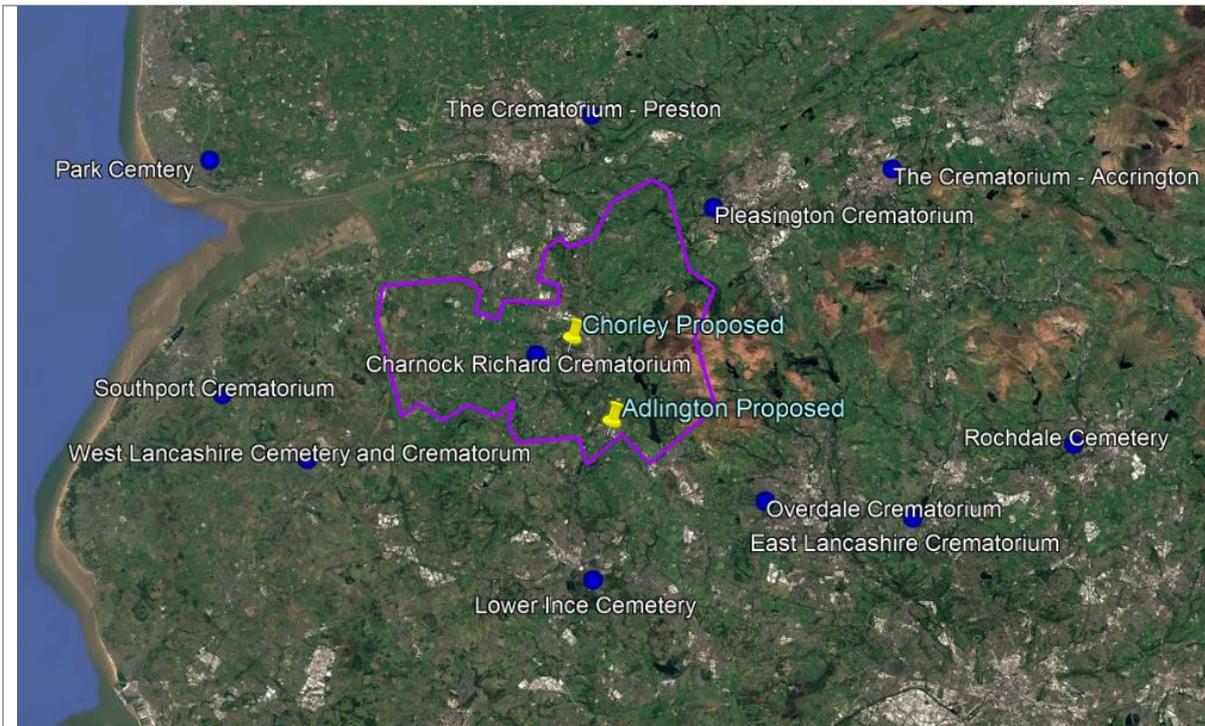


Figure 6. The Locations of the Neighbouring Crematoria and the Proposed Sites at Chorley and Adlington Cemeteries.

Table 5. Summary of the Neighbouring Crematoria.

Crematorium	Postcode	Chapel Number	Average Capacity (2019-2023)	Capacity Percentage
Charnock Richard Crematorium	PR7 5JP	1	1,883	117%
Southport Crematorium	PR8 5JQ	1	1,492	92%
Preston Crematorium	PR2 5BY	1	1,353	84%

Lytham Park Cemetery and Crematorium	FY8 4AB	1	1,492	92%
West Lancashire Cemetery and Crematorium	L40 7SP	1	1,530	95%
Wigan Crematorium and Lower Ince Cemetery	WN3 4NH	1	1,212	75%
Overdale Crematorium	BL1 5BU	2	2,094	87%
East Lancashire Crematorium	M26 4EU	1	1,399	87%
Rochdale Crematorium	OL11 4DG	1	1,211	75%
Pleasington Crematorium	BB2 5LE	1	1,222	76%
Accrington Crematorium	BB5 6HA	1	1,209	75%

- 26 The average capacity across all 11 neighbouring crematoria is 87%. Only Charnock Richard Crematorium is operating over capacity at 117%. The crematorium is located within the Chorley Borough and would therefore have a greater impact on ash interment and ash scattering at Chorley and Adlington Cemeteries.
- 27 Additionally, in relation to the increasing and aging population, shown in Table 1 (Chapter 2), should no additional crematorium be developed, Charnock Richard Crematorium will experience further capacity constraints as the Chorley Borough population grows.

5 Drivetime Analysis – Crematorium Feasibility

5.1 Methodologies

- 28 To investigate into the efficiency of developing a new crematorium within the Chorley Borough, three test locations have been used to calculate the likely number of cremations per annum each location would attain. This is calculated through drive-time analysis.
- 29 30-minute drive-time rings are calculated from the proposed test locations and the surrounding existing crematoria. The population of the unique catchment is recorded, the unique catchment refers to the population within a 30-minute drive-time catchment (at cortege speed) of the test location who are not within the 30-minute drive-time catchment of any existing crematoria. This population is therefore not currently being served by existing crematoria.
- 30 The Minimum Distance Catchment (MDC) is also recorded, this refers to the population within a 30-minute drive-time catchment who are likely to choose the test location, out of ease, drivetime distance, and accessibility, over the other surrounding crematoria options. With the MDC, qualitative factors such as family location and other significance of location are not accounted for, which is worth noting as this can impact these figures.
- 31 The unique catchment and the MDC catchment are multiplied by the death rate of the area, the average death rate of Chorley Borough (2014-2023) is 0.99%. This calculation produces the total number of deaths per annum for the unique and MDC catchments. In the UK, as stated by the Cremation Society, approximately 80% of deaths result in cremation (20% result in burials). To calculate the likely number of cremations according to the test location and surrounding crematoria, the unique catchment and MDC total deaths are multiplied against the percentage of cremations (80%).

5.2 Test Locations

- 32 The Chorley Borough is made up of a mix of rural and more urban areas. The test locations have been sourced according to the more urban areas of the borough and access to greater population settlements, and therefore likely greater unique and MDC populations. The locations have been chosen from a desk-top perspective; these locations are therefore only approximate but should aim to evaluate the more efficient areas for a new crematorium location over less efficient areas.
- 33 The test locations can be seen in Figure 7, they consist of:
- Adlington, south of the borough, PR6 9SL.
 - Chorley, centre of the borough, PR6 8LD.
 - Withnell, north-east of the borough, PR6 8AY.

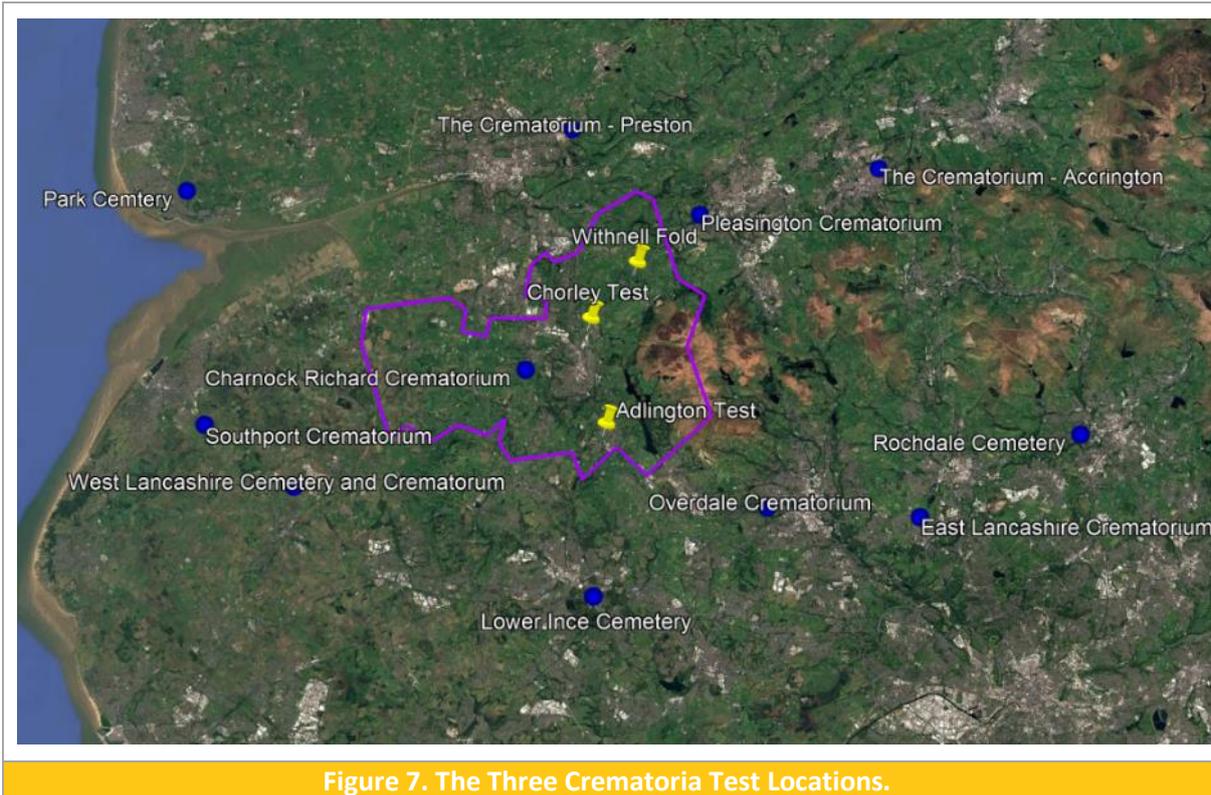


Figure 7. The Three Crematoria Test Locations.

34 Each test location will now be assessed against the drive-time analysis, to determine the most beneficial area for a proposed crematorium.

5.3 Adlington Test Location

35 The 30-minute drive-time rings, set to cortege speed, for Adlington Test location can be seen in Figure 8. The test location is the purple area shaded in red. The unique catchment is the cross-hatched area, currently unserved by existing crematoria.

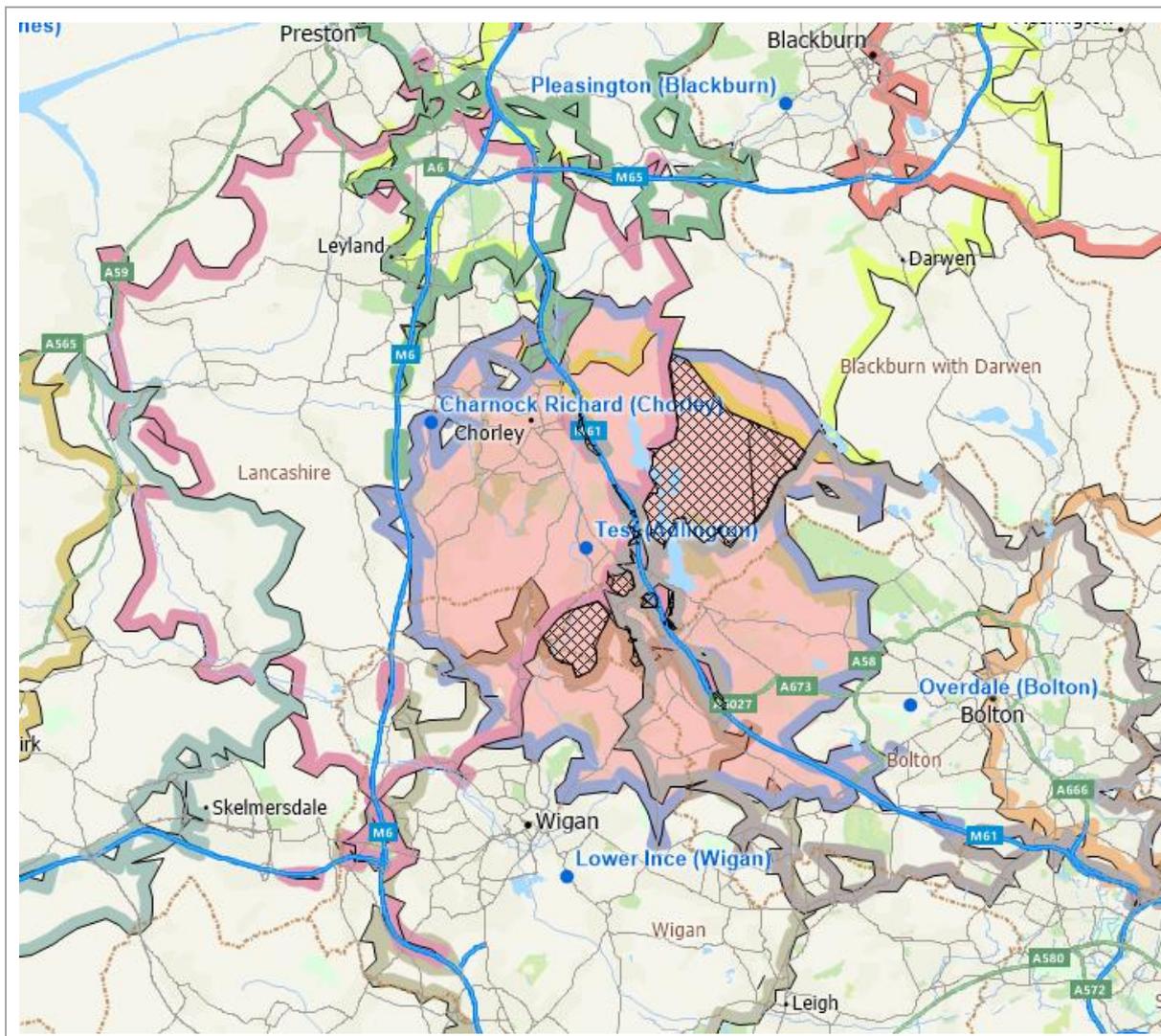


Figure 8. The Unique Catchment and Drive-time Rings for Adlington Test Location.

36 The MDC catchment of test location and surrounding crematoria can be seen in Figure 9 via the red polygons. The Adlington Test MDC is shaded in red. The MDC expands into the neighbouring authority areas of Bolton and Wigan, south-east of the Chorley Borough. Areas of the unique population, the cross-hatching, are within the MDC with the exception of an area to the north-east.

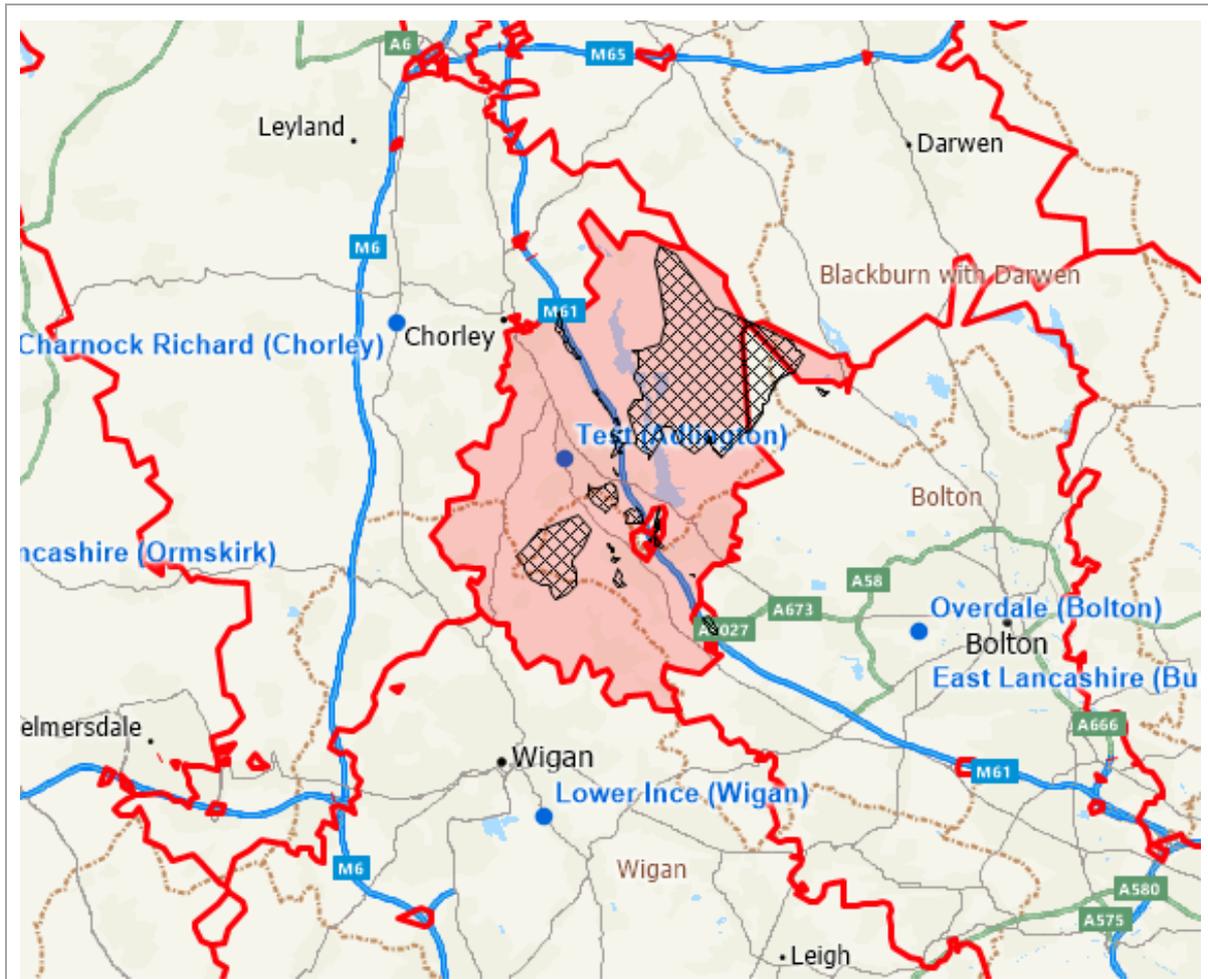


Figure 9. The MDC for Adlington Test Location.

37 It has been calculated from this drive-time analysis that the annual cremations within the unique catchment would equate to 58, the cremations within the MDC catchment would equate to 357, with the total forecast cremations for this location at 415, see Table 6.

Table 6. Calculated Cremations Per Annum for the Adlington Test Location.

	Population	Deaths	Cremations
Unique	7,315	73	58
MDC	44,979	447	357
Total	52,294	519	415

5.4 Chorley Test Location

38 The 30-minute drive-time rings, set to cortege speed, for the Chorley Test location can be seen in Figure 10. The test location is the purple area shaded in red. The unique catchment is the cross-hatched area, currently unserved by existing crematoria.

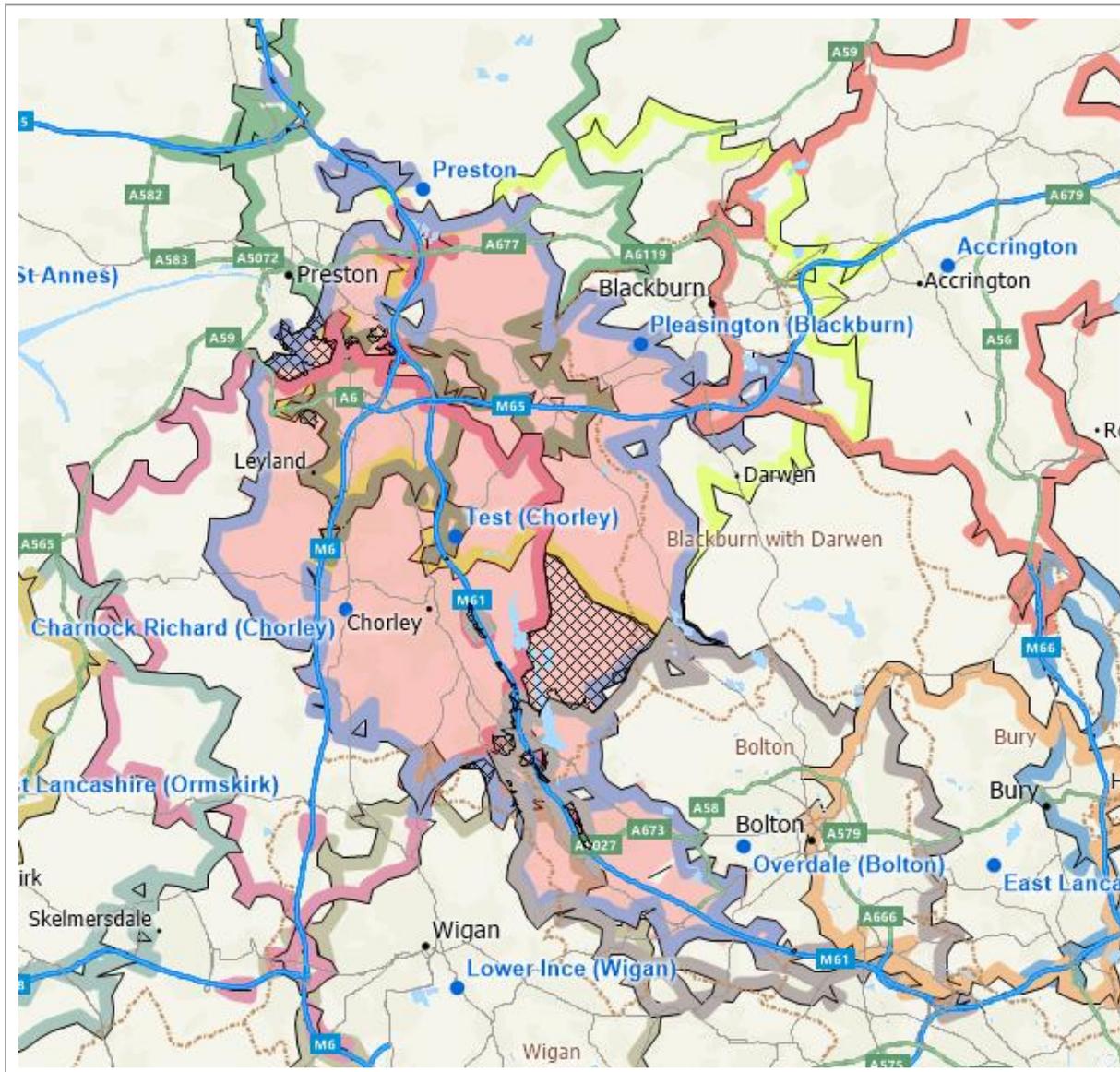


Figure 10. The Unique Catchment and Drive-time Rings for the Chorley Test Location.

39 The MDC catchment of test location and surrounding crematoria can be seen in Figure 11 via the red polygons. The Chorley Test MDC is shaded in red. The MDC expands from Preston south-east towards Bolton. The majority of the unique population (the cross-hatching) is within the MDC.

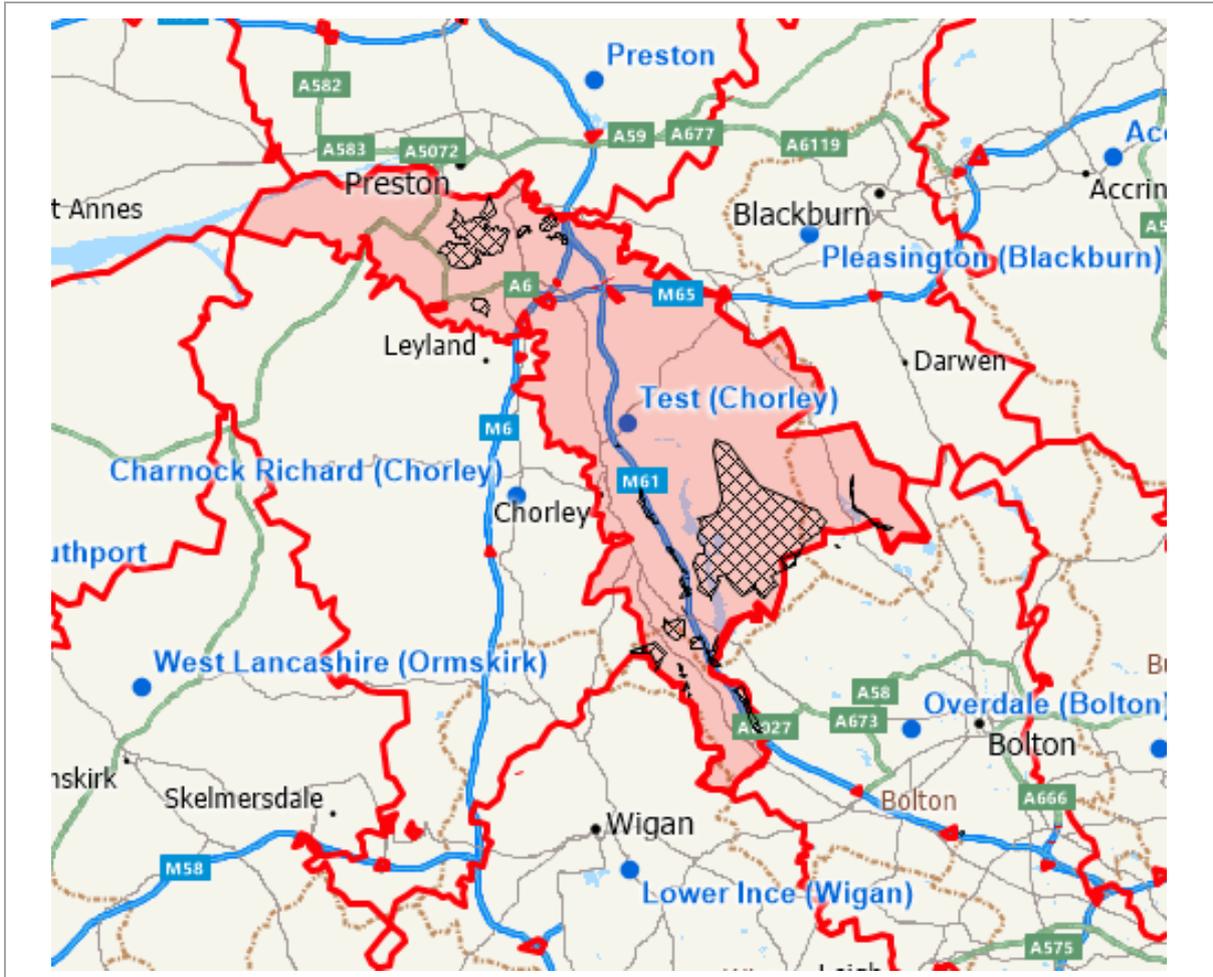


Figure 11. The MDC for the Chorley Test Location.

40 It has been calculated from this drive-time analysis that the annual cremations within the unique catchment would equate to 118, the cremations within the MDC catchment would equate to 928, with the total forecast cremations for this location at 1,046, see Table 7.

Table 7. Calculated Cremations Per Annum for the Chorley Test Location.

	Population	Deaths	Cremations
Unique	14,803	147	118
MDC	116,789	1,160	928
Total	131,592	1,307	1,046

5.5 Withnell Test Location

41 The 30-minute drive-time rings, set to cortege speed, for Withnell Test location can be seen in Figure 12. The test location is the purple area shaded in red. The unique catchment is the cross-hatched area, currently unserved by existing crematoria. This unique population is the largest of all four test locations.

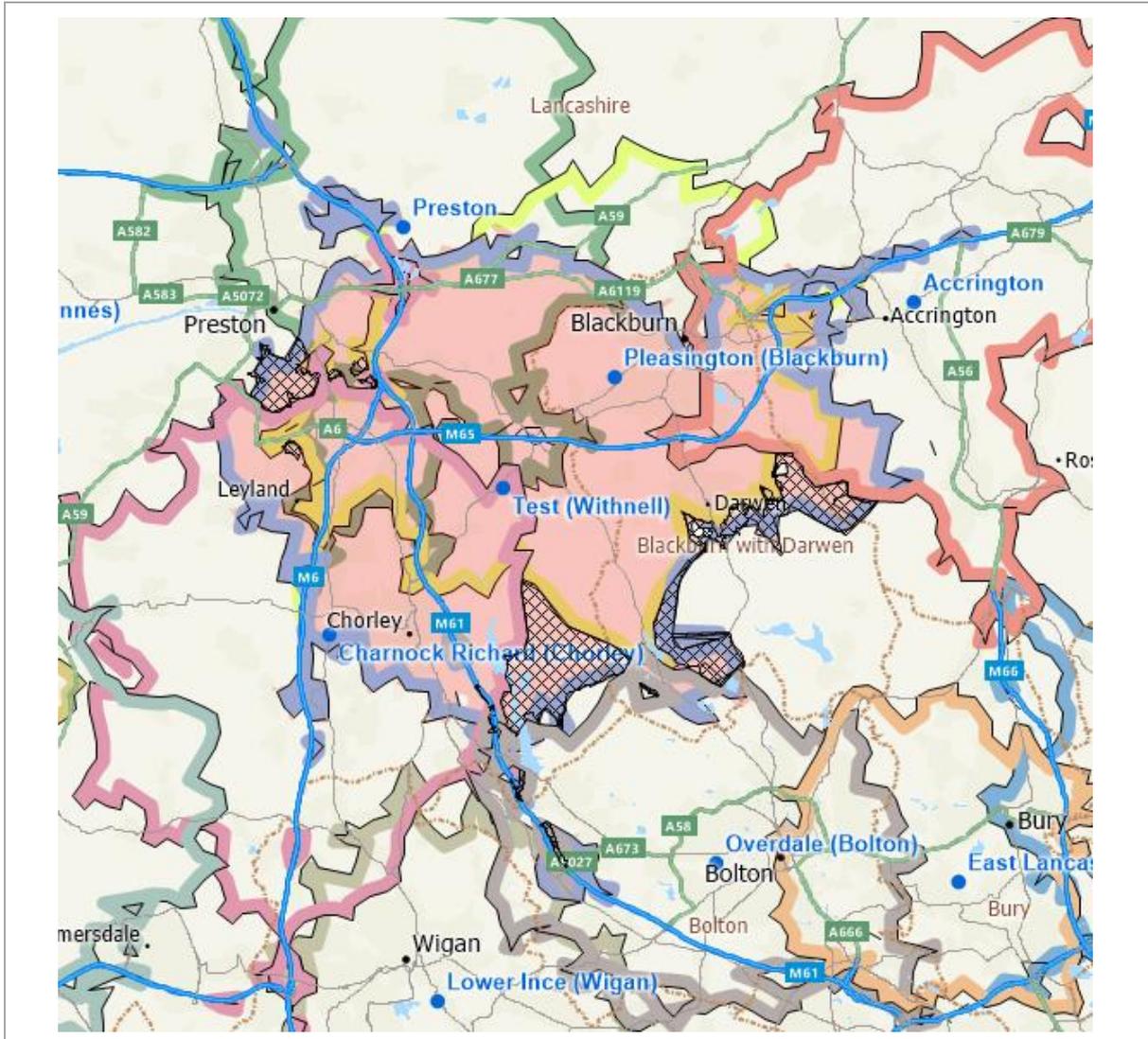


Figure 12. The Unique Catchment and Drive-time Rings for Withnell Test Location.

- 42 The MDC catchment of test location and surrounding crematoria can be seen in Figure 13 via the red polygons. The Withnell Test MDC is shaded in red. The MDC expands from Present in the west through to the Bury authority area in the east. The majority of the unique population, the cross-hatching, is within the MDC.

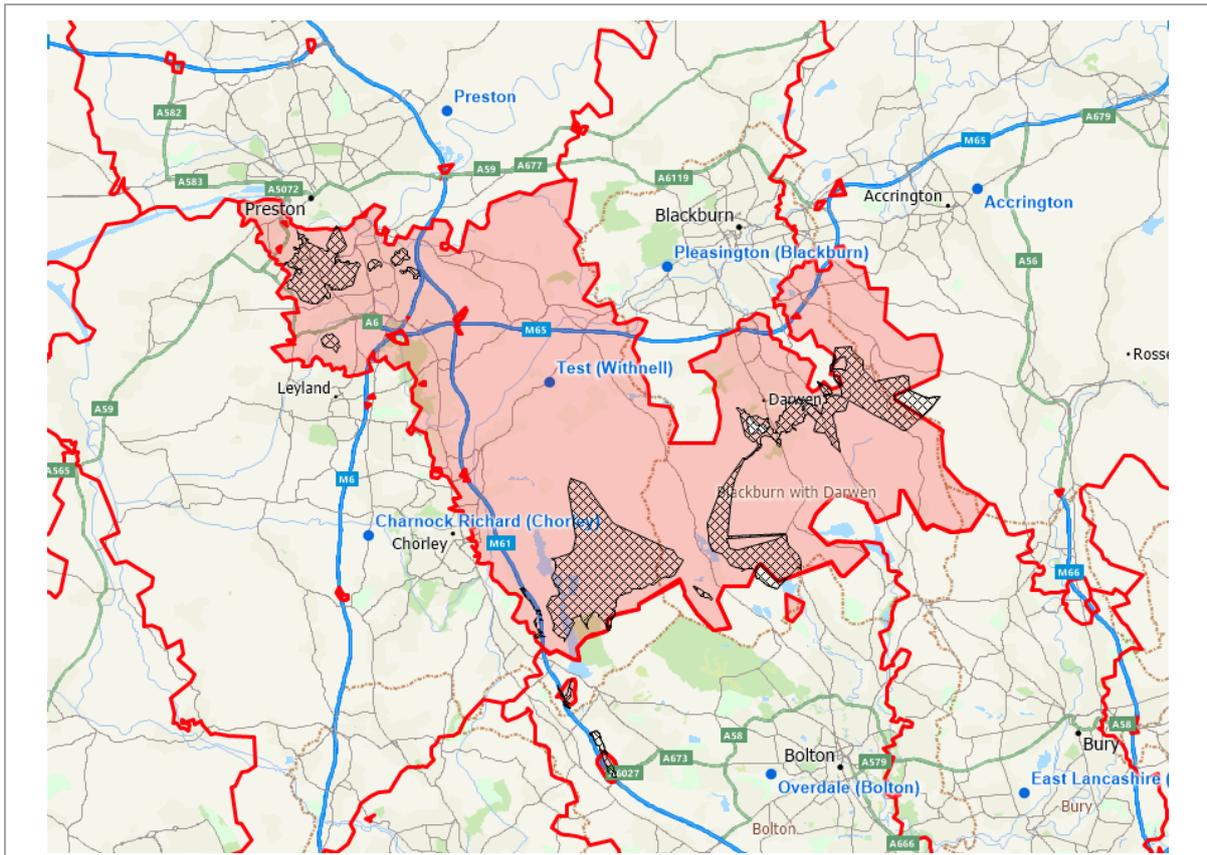


Figure 13. The MDC for the Withnell Test Location.

43 It has been calculated from this drive-time analysis that the annual cremations within the unique catchment would equate to 198, the cremations within the MDC catchment would equate to 845, with the total forecast cremations for this location at 1,043, see Table 8.

Table 8. Calculated Cremations Per Annum for the Withnell Test Location.

	Population	Deaths	Cremations
Unique	24,906	247	198
MDC	106,385	1,057	845
Total	131,291	1,304	1,043

5.1 Drivetime Analysis Summary

44 Across the three test locations, the Chorley and Withnell Test locations have the highest total estimated annual cremations of 1,046 and 1,043 respectively. The Adlington Test location has a much lower total of 415 annual cremations, this would not be sufficient especially with estimated annual cremations from the unique (unserved) population of only 58. With regards to a test location that would benefit the unserved population, the total annual cremations for the Withnell Test unique population came to 198 (with the Chorley Test at 118).

45 The Chorley test location is centre of the borough but it is in proximity to the existing crematorium (Charnock Richard). However, as Charnock Richard crematorium is operating over capacity at 117%, it could be argued that the Chorley test location would reduce the existing burden and that ultimately a need can be argued. The Withnell Test location (although greater cremation numbers) is closer to Pleasington Crematorium, currently operating at 76%. It could therefore be argued that there is less of a need.

6 Burial Capacity Within the Chorley Borough

6.1 Burial Numbers Across Chorley Borough

46 The current number of burials across Chorley Borough can be seen in Tables 9 and 10. This includes full body interment and ash interment.

6.1.1 Chorley Cemetery

Table 9. Recorded Annual Interments in Chorley Cemetery.

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average per Annum
New Coffin Grave	38	31	29	24	39	32.2
New Cremation Grave	16	26	28	22	43	27
Reopen Coffin Burial	48	48	45	40	36	43.4
Reopen Ashes Burial	15	18	33	32	28	25.2

47 Between 2020 and 2024, the full body interment number at Chorley Cemetery was 161 new graves (an average of 32 per annum), which equates to just over approximately 2 new burials per month. The total ash interment was 135 new burials (an average of 27 per annum).

6.1.2 Adlington Cemetery

Table 10. Recorded Annual Interments in Adlington Cemetery.

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average per Annum
New Coffin Grave	4	7	5	3	5	4.8
New Cremation Grave	2	5	4	4	1	3.2
Reopen Coffin Burial	4	2	9	13	11	7.8
Reopen Ashes Burial	4	8	2	8	7	5.8

48 Within the same time period (2020-2024), the full body interment rate at Adlington Cemetery was 24 new graves (an average of 4 per annum). This cemetery, as previously mentioned, is now no longer able to accept new burials. The total ash interment was 16 new burials (an average of 3 per annum).

6.1.3 Both Cemeteries

49 The average number of new full body-interment burials per annum across Chorley Borough (both Chorley and Adlington Cemeteries) equates to 37. This number will be utilised to calculate burial capacity across Chorley Borough. The average across Chorley Borough is used for both, as opposed to each cemetery's individual average, because individual averages assume that a smaller proportion of individuals will utilise Adlington over Chorley. Whereas the Adlington cemetery development will serve the community as efficiently as the Chorley development would. An average is therefore used to calculate a representative burial capacity for both cemeteries.

50 Additionally, the average number of new ash-interment burials per annum across Chorley Borough (both Chorley and Adlington Cemeteries) equates to 30.

6.2 Burial Capacity at the Chorley Proposed Site

51 The proposed burial space adjoining to Chorley Cemetery is approximately 1 acre, when accounting for planning buffers such as tree protection, infrastructure, and potential limitation of topography, there is approximately 0.4 acres of land (using a 60% contingency). With the assumption that there are 700 burials an acre, this area would provide 280 burials. Against an approximate 37 burials per annum this provides an estimated **7 years of space**.

6.3 Burial Capacity at Adlington Proposed Site

52 The proposed burial space adjoining to Adlington Cemetery is approximately 1.9 acres, when accounting for planning buffers such as tree protection and infrastructure, there is approximately 1.3 acres of land (using a 30% contingency). With the assumption that there are 700 burials an acre, this area would provide 910 burials. Against an approximate 37 burials per annum this provides an estimated **24 years of space**.

6.4 Summary of Burial Capacity

53 The total of burial capacity from both the proposed areas at Chorley and Adlington Cemeteries equates to an estimated **31 years**. The burial capacity has been calculated for both proposed sites with only full-body interment in mind (approximately 700 burials an acre). Should ash interment also be considered, then this capacity will change slightly. Three ash burials would make up approximately one squared metre of land.

54 While an ageing population and expanding population may contribute towards an increase in the burial rate in the future, it is suggested that the proposal will act to secure an essential service for the community for the short- and medium-term goals.

6.4.1 5-year Short-term Goal

55 Alongside a 5-year timeframe, both sites would provide burial capacity for this period of time individually and collectively for Chorley Borough. This is assuming that there is sufficient availability (remaining new burial capacity at Chorley Cemetery) while planning and construction is underway to officially provide burial capacity at these sites.

6.4.2 15-year Medium-term Goal

56 Alongside a 15-year timeframe, only Adlington Cemetery would provide burial capacity for this period of time individually and collectively for Chorley Borough. Chorley Cemetery would not meet this 15-year goal with an estimated burial capacity of 7 years.

6.4.3 50-year Long-term Goal

57 Alongside a 50-year timeframe, neither sites would provide burial capacity for this entire period of time individually and collectively for Chorley Borough. With a total estimated burial capacity of 31 years, it is expected that both sites would not have enough capacity.

58 To meet burial capacity for 50 years, further space should be considered, whether this is development at either, or both, cemeteries, or to conduct a planning application for a change of use at a new site entirely.

7 Proposed Facilities On-Site

7.1 Facilities On-Site

- 59 It is natural for burial grounds across the UK to provide a service hall and associated facilities, to hold a burial service of religious (or non-religious) significance prior to the burial of the deceased.
- 60 The potential features for a multi-faith cemetery development can include:
- Porte Cochere / External canopy
 - Prayer Hall Lobby / Guest Entrance
 - WC inside and outside
 - Body washroom / cold storage (with capacity for storage of 4 corpses)
 - Staff / admin entrance
 - Office / reception
 - Storage / cleaner's store
 - Staff WC
 - Celebrant's room / preparation area
 - Coffin Storage.
 - Workshop.
 - Parking and storage for the parking of machinery.
- 61 As the proposed sites are adjoining to existing cemeteries, development would mainly consist of infrastructure to provide pedestrian access to burials, and landscaping to enhance the local landscape and biodiversity.
- 62 Due to Charnock Richard Crematorium operating over capacity and the likely impacts this will have on ash interment and scattering at the cemeteries, memorial walls are proposed. These would provide an area for mourning loved ones that have been cremated.
- 63 Due to the concerns of topography and dense woodland at the proposed Chorley Cemetery site, there may be constraints on the feasibility of full-body interment. A memorial garden and landscaping may be possible to make use of these constrained areas. Furthermore, as the proposed site at Adlington Cemetery is larger with fewer constraints, there may be a better achievability for both full body interment, ash interment, and areas of memorialisation.

8 Need and Feasibility

8.1 Existing Cemeteries and Crematoria

8.1.1 Cemeteries

64 It has been established that seven of the eight neighbouring cemeteries (including Chorley and Adlington) provide new burials, however approximately half of them appear to be visually meeting capacity via satellite imagery analysis. This shows that existing cemeteries are under strain, and with an increasing and aging population across Chorley Borough, this strain will increase.

8.1.2 Crematoria

65 The existing, neighbouring crematoria have an average capacity of 90%. Charnock Richard Crematorium, within Chorley Borough, is operating at over capacity (117%). This shows that there is likely a higher need for areas for ash interment and ash scattering, proposed memorial walls would accommodate towards this need.

8.2 Need for the Adlington Cemetery Proposal

66 From the qualitative and quantitative analysis, it can be determined that there is a need for development to accommodate further burials, and that the proposed locations at Chorley and Adlington Cemeteries would be beneficial to the local community. The Adlington proposal would be more beneficial due to its size, fewer constraints, and resulting greater capacity. However, the location of Adlington Cemetery to the south of the borough provides a limitation as it is not in an easily accessible proximity to the Chorley residents.

8.3 Need for a New Site

67 With this in mind, and the long term 50-year timeframe (which would not be met by the Adlington and Chorley proposals) a new site should be considered that is further to the north of the Borough. A new site would not only provide a more suitable location, but it would add to the burial capacity of the borough. A 5-acre site, for example, would provide an additional 3,500 burials, and against an average of 37 burials annually, an additional 94 years of capacity. Thereby meeting and exceeding the 50-year timeframe.

8.4 Feasibility

68 With regards to planning, both sites have been briefly assessed for feasibility against the Chorley Borough Local Plan Policies Map (including both the Chorley Inset Map 2⁵ and the Adlington Inset Map 5⁶). Each site is followed by a list of potential constraints regarding local policy.

8.4.1 Chorley Cemetery

- There is a previous planning application at the proposed site for a change of use to cemetery (REF: 02/01124/CB3). This application was withdrawn in 2003 due to its designation as a Biological Heritage Site and the resulting conservation implementation that would be

⁵ Chorley Borough Council (2015). Available from: [chorley-inset-map-2](#)

⁶ Chorley Borough Council (2015). Available from: [adlington-inset-map-5](#)

required. This Biological Heritage Site is unclear (presence of designation not located) in the current policies map.

- Following this, there is a previous planning application at the proposed site for a change of use to cemetery (REF: 03/01004/CB3). This application was granted planning permission subject to conditions regarding the biological heritage of the site and the protection of the water environment.
- This site heavily consists of dense woodland. Furthermore, there is Ancient Woodland (Wallets Wood) in close proximity, to the south-west. An arboriculture, Biodiversity and Ecology assessments will be necessary.
- The site is located within a Mineral Safeguarding Area (Waste Safeguarded Facilities) and the northern part is within Further and Higher Education Facilities (Building safeguarding). These areas of safeguarding should be considered.
- The southern part of the site is within an Open Space designation, this is suitable for a cemetery development.
- The site is within the Lancashire Coal Mining Reporting Area. Landscape mitigation may be necessary.

8.4.2 Adlington Cemetery

- The site is located within a Mineral Safeguarding Area (Waste Safeguarded Facilities) and Safeguarded Land (Road Safeguarded Land). These areas of safeguarding should be considered.
- The site is within Crematoria and Burial Facilities (Building Safeguarding). This is in support of cemetery development.
- The site is within the Lancashire Coal Mining Reporting Area. Landscape mitigation may be necessary.

9 Conclusion

- 69 A Bereavement Service Feasibility Report was carried out for the proposed sites at Chorley Cemetery and Adlington Cemetery, to establish the current cemetery provision in relation to the proposed developments and determine remaining and projected burial capacity in the Chorley Borough.
- 70 The average full-body interment/ new burials from 2020 to 2024 across Chorley Borough equates to 37 per annum. Furthermore, with neighbouring cemeteries reaching (or already having already met) capacity as well as the local crematorium (Charnock Richard Crematorium) operating over capacity, the proposed sites would accommodate the need for a cemetery. This would be for both full-body interment and ash interment.
- 71 Crematorium feasibility has been recognised at the Chorley Test location and the Withnell Test location. Withnell Test location is proximity to Pleasington Crematorium, however, which is operating within capacity at 76%. Chorley Test location is in proximity to the existing Chorley crematorium, Charnock Richard, however it operates over capacity at 117%. A crematorium near the Chorley Test location would therefore arguably accommodate a need for the community.
- 72 When considering burial buffers from hard infrastructure and tree root protection areas etc. there is an estimated 31 years of burial space between both cemeteries (calculated from full-body interment space). The proposed development at both Chorley and Adlington Cemeteries would therefore be sufficient for the short-term goal of 5 years, only Adlington Cemetery would be sufficient for the medium-term goal of 15 years, but neither would provide enough burial capacity for the long-term goal of 50 years.
- 73 To meet burial capacity for 50 years, further space should be considered, whether this is development at either, or both, cemeteries, or to conduct a planning application for a change of use at a new site entirely.
- 74 It can be determined that there is a need for burial accommodation at both existing cemeteries, of which would be beneficial to the local community, the Adlington Cemetery proposal would be more beneficial. However, with a limited location (south of the borough) and an insufficient capacity to accommodate for the next 50 years, a new site is proposed to allow for further burial capacity.
- 75 Planning applications for the proposed sites at Chorley and Adlington Cemeteries should consider the constraints noted in Chapter 8.4. However, as stated in Chapter 2.5 (Local Policy HC7), the Chorley Borough is in need of burial accommodation and that proposals of cemetery development adjoining from existing cemeteries will be favoured.

10 Report Verification

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Date: 30/06/25

Version Control: Version 1.4