

Addressing The Issues of Grave Re-Use and Grave Ownership

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Let's Be Specific

Grave Re-Use

To disturb human remains in order to re-bury at a greater depth creating new burial space which may be purchased again

Grave Reclamation

The use of remaining burial space in a grave whereby human remains are undisturbed of which rights may be purchased again

Is There a Need?

Burial space in England 'could run out in 20 years'

By Alex Strangways-Booth
Religious affairs reporter, BBC News

🕒 27 September 2013 🗨️

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- There is **still a demand** for burial
- 25% of 358 Local Authorities reported to have <10yrs remaining
- 44% of 358 Local Authorities reported to have <20yrs remaining

Is This a Surprise?

2001 – Government pledge to conduct a review on burial law

2004 – Burial Law and Policy in the 21st Century - Labour Government Consultation – Lift and Deepen

2005 – Guide for Burial Ground Managers published

2006 – Report on responses published

2007 – Ministry of Justice Burial Ground Survey

2007 – London Local Authorities Act 2007

2014 – Justice Minister Simon Hughes use of statutory powers almost ‘non-existent’ for London burial authorities

2015 – Enacted Church of England Miscellaneous Provisions Measure 2014 – Simplified Licences

2016 – Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act – providing for re-use



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- 2015** – Enacted Church of England Miscellaneous Provisions Measure 2014 – Simplified Licenses
- 2016** – Burial and Cremation (Scotland) Act – providing for re-use
- 2016** – Brexit - 23/06/2016
- 2017** – New Southgate Cemetery – Private Bill
- 2017** – House of Commons Briefing Paper – Reuse of Graves

Pros and Cons

Pros:

Extend the operational life of the cemetery

Enable wider choice for community

Create new, sustainable revenue

Sustain and/or create job opportunities

Reduce the need to establish new cemetery sites

Cons:

Negative public backlash

Heritage Concerns

Current Landscape



Use of Statutory Powers almost 'non-existent'

75+ years have elapsed since rights last exercised

London Local Authorities Act – Private Graves Mainly

- Grave, burial, memorial rights – Powers to extinguish perpetuities
- Period of objection
- No need for MOJ licences

Use of Consecrated, Public Graves

- No associated rights
- Consistory court can deal with objections

Lift and Deepen

The finished article?

Our Options

- 1) Do nothing**
- 2) Reclaim space within public graves without disturbance**
- 3) Reclaim unused, limited period, purchased graves**
- 4) Lift and deepen in public, consecrated**
- 5) Create new burial space within previously unused land**
- 6) Effect change**

The Grey Areas

- Reuse of Public Graves in Unconsecrated Sections
- Expired Grave Rights
 - Is it Legal to re-sell and use?
 - Who to?
 - After how long?
- Are there inconsistencies?

Is It Likely?

Re-using graves means UK cemetery will never run out of space



The Conversation



Losing the plot: death is permanent, but your grave isn't

Environment

The London cemetery pioneering the reuse of its much-needed burial plots



BBC



Lewes graves 'should be reused' as cemetery space runs out -
BBC News

Current Challenges

- CMA Findings - Impact
- Unauthorised Memorials
- Education and Initiative Buy In from Lead Members
- Budgets vs Service Provision/Resource
- Cemeteries more costly to maintain
- Keeping cemeteries open and for your community

Our Options

Bury bodies along UK's motorways to ease burial crisis, expert suggests

New approaches to disposing of the dead needed as graveyards and crematoria are almost full



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Strength In Numbers



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Any Questions?

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