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?



- 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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- **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



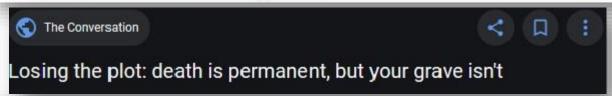
The Grey Areas

- 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?



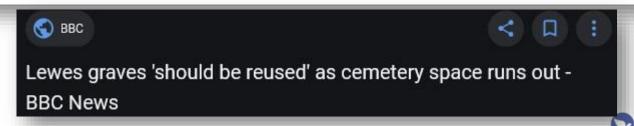
Is It Likely?

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



Environment

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





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?



