

Chapter 13: Burial Space

Introduction

- 13.1 The Local Government Act 1972 provides burial authorities (defined to include district councils of London boroughs and parish councils) with a general power to provide and maintain public cemeteries, but there is no statutory duty to provide burial space. Specific powers and duties of burial authorities are set out in the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977.
- 13.2 Cambridge City council provides details on its [bereavement services website](#). The area is serviced by the Cambridge Crematorium, and a number of cemeteries. In South Cambridgeshire most villages have churchyards or cemeteries, with varying amounts of future capacity.

Policy Context

Cambridge

- 13.3 Cambridge Local Plan 2018 Policy 85: Infrastructure delivery, planning obligations and the Community Infrastructure Levy, although provision for burials is not specifically listed.

South Cambridgeshire

- 13.4 South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2018 Policy SC/4 Meeting Community Needs states that all housing developments will include or contribute to the provision of the services and facilities necessary to meet the needs of the development. The community facilities and services to be provided include provision for provision for burials. For large strategic developments this may require onsite provision. Policy SC/4 requires detailed assessments for sites over 200 dwellings.

Development types from which Obligations will be sought

- 13.5 Major residential developments within the administrative boundary of South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Form in which contributions should be made

- 13.6 Burials in South Cambridgeshire are provided in a variety of ways. New settlements have been required to deliver new burial space, for example at Cambourne. Most burial space in villages is provided through churchyards,

Parish Council owned facilities or through trusts. Many of these cemeteries are operating at or near capacity.

- 13.7 Proposals for sites over 200 dwellings should be accompanied by assessments of need and strategies regarding how the need will be addressed.
- 13.8 Each hectare of a cemetery can accommodate around 3,000 burial plots (equivalent to around 3.33m² per each plot).
- 13.9 Presently the ratio between cremations and burials is 70/30 (source: Constitutional Affairs Select Committee Eighth Report, 2006) equating to a standard of around 0.1ha per 1,000 people.

Table 13-1: Burial space required per dwelling size

Dwelling size	Burial space required (m ²)
1 bed	1.23
2 bed	2.06
3 bed	2.83
4 bed+	3.26

- 13.10 For smaller developments, where it can be demonstrated that existing burial provision is insufficient to meet the needs of the development, a planning obligation will be sought towards the improvement of existing or provision of new burial space.
- 13.11 The cost of acquiring new land for burials is around £240,000 per hectare and the cost of preparing that land for burials is £100,000 per hectare meaning a contribution of £34 per m² of burial space.

Table 13-2: Burial sites contributions by dwelling size

Dwelling size	Cost by dwelling size (£)
1 bed	41.82
2 bed	70.04
3 bed	96.22
4 bed+	110.84

Exemptions

- 13.12 No specific exemptions.