

An Audit of London Burial Provision

**A report for the Greater London Authority by Julie Rugg and
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report replicates research that was published in January 1997, assessing the provision of burial space in Greater London.¹ At that time it was estimated that in inner London, there was only nine years' supply of burial space; in outer London, supply was uneven: six boroughs would run out of space before 2016, but some boroughs had sufficient burial space for the next hundred years.
- 1.2 Since the production of these reports, there has been change in legislation relating to London to permit the re-use of graves in certain specified circumstances. Under the London Local Authorities Act 2007, burial authorities in the capital were given power to disturb human remains in a grave where burial rights had been extinguished, and where the intention was to increase the space for interments in the grave. It appears that, as yet, no London borough has adopted these powers. However, in 2009, the Corporation of London began a programme of re-use in a specified consecrated section of the City of London Cemetery in Newham, after faculty to do so was granted by the Diocese of Chelmsford. In this instance, the disturbance of graves was permitted provided that remains were removed from one consecrated section in the cemetery to another consecrated section. This practice has not been adopted in any other cemetery in the capital.
- 1.3 The fact that the supply of burial spaces was regarded as highly problematic in the mid-1990s, and the failure of almost all burial authorities to adopt permitted grave re-use measures indicates that strategies have been found to release additional supplies of burial space in London. As this report demonstrates, supply has been for the most part underpinned by the creation of graves in areas of cemeteries where burials were not originally anticipated. However, this strategy is not sustainable. Furthermore, these measures hamper future capacity to introduce grave re-use, and in some cases damage the historic value of Victorian cemetery landscapes.
- 1.4 This report considers the demand for and supply of burial space across London. As with many needs assessment exercises, the calculation of demand for a particular service carries with it some challenges in terms of data manipulation. In addition, the assessment of supply is also problematic. There is incomplete data on the number of burial sites in operation in the capital and in particular, there is no data on the number of open churchyards, which in some locations may make an important contribution to burial space supply.

¹ Halcrow Fox (1997) *Burial Space Needs in London*, LPAC: London.

- 1.5 The report assesses the provision of space borough by borough. A number of boroughs have no supply of burial space at all, some are reliant wholly on created graves or have only limited supply of new grave space, and some have sufficient space for the next twenty years or more. Provision of burial space remains markedly uneven, with inner London boroughs and boroughs in the east being less well-served than outer boroughs and those to the west.
- 1.6 The reports also reviews in detail the processes of reclamation and re-use, as permitted by the London Local Authorities Act 2007 and the alternative re-use measure, supported by faculty, introduced at the City of London Cemetery. Consideration is given to the reasons why the first measure has not been adopted by London Boroughs.
- 1.7 A final section of the report gives recommendations arising from the audit process.
- 1.8 The report's extensive appendix summarises the provision of private and borough cemeteries, borough by borough. This part of the report includes qualitative material from telephone interviews with cemetery managers.

2 The demand for and supply of space for burial

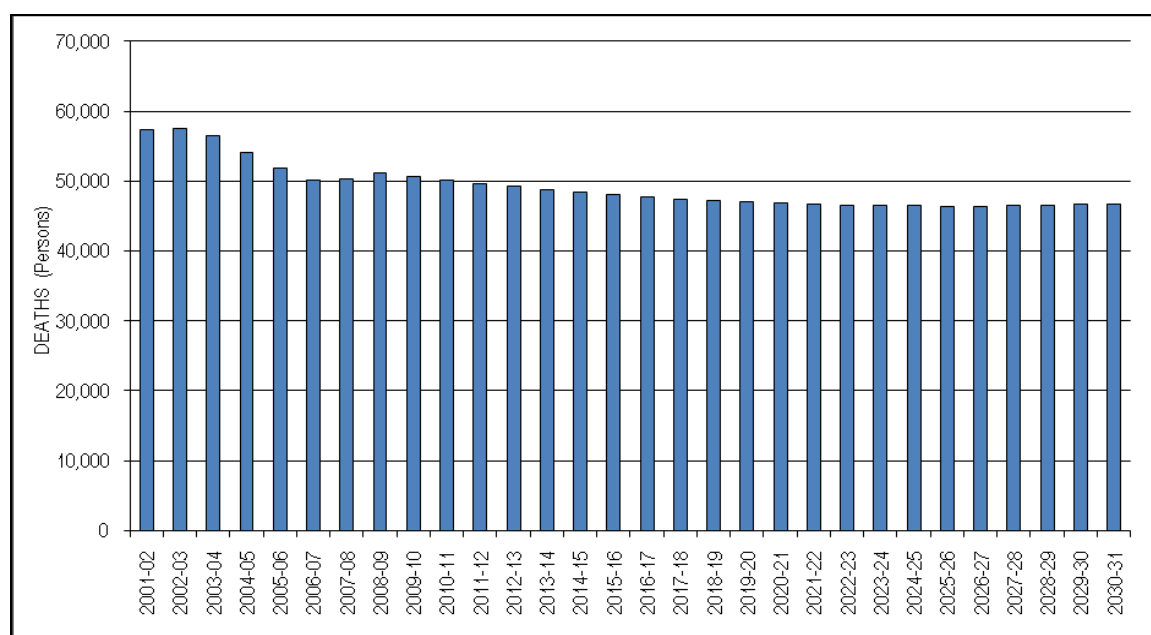
Introduction

- 2.1 The demand for burial space has been assessed by using mortality projections provided by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) via the Greater London Authority (GLA). Using these projections, it has been possible to model demand for burial space for the period 2010/11-2030/31 for each London borough, taking into account the overall incidence of cremation and the preference for cremation or burial amongst particular religious groups.
- 2.2 This section also reviews the supply of burial space across London, using survey returns from burial providers across the capital, and qualitative telephone interviews with cemetery managers. It should be noted that it was not possible to draw together a complete dataset, and there remains one borough for which recent information is absent.

Demand for burial space

- 2.3 ONS data indicate a projected decline in deaths in London between 2010/11-2030/31. It is anticipated that total deaths in the city will fall from 57,400 in 2010/11 to 46,700 in 2030/31, with decline being fairly steady throughout the period (Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1: Projected death rates in London, 2010/11-2030/31



Source: ONS/GLA

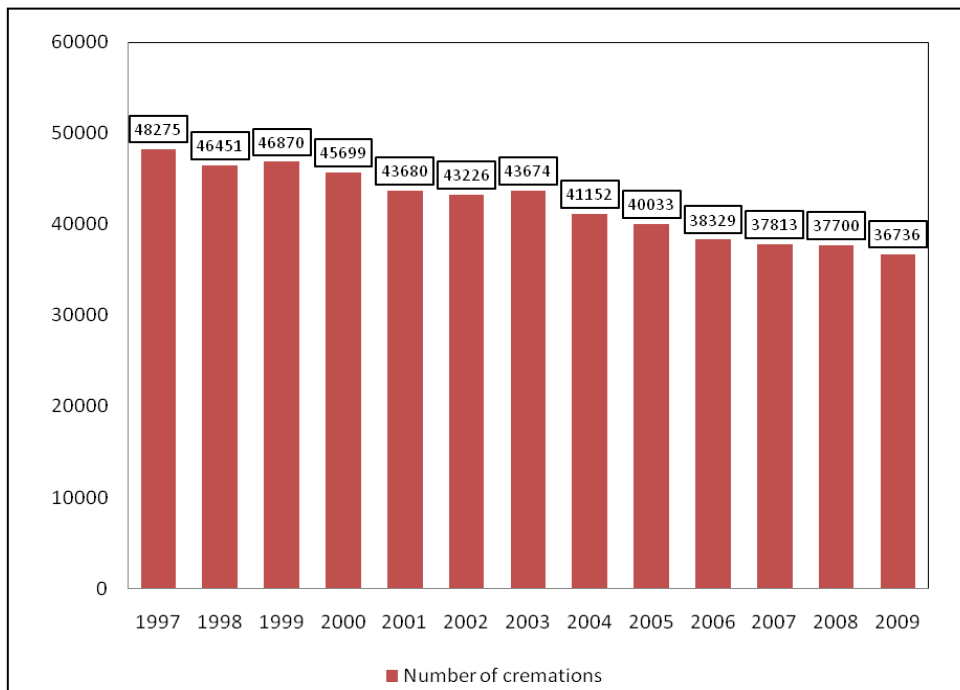
- 2.4 The mortality projections alone are insufficient data on which to calculate demand for burial space. London has a great deal of economic in-migration and the outward migration of households following retirement. It is not possible to estimate the number of deaths taking place in the city of migrants whose bodies are then repatriated, or where a death may take place outside of London but result in a cremation or burial in the capital. The lack of data in this area was not a focus for this piece of research, and until material becomes available this element of analysis has been omitted.
- 2.5 The extent of demand for burial space will evidently be influenced by the incidence of cremation. In the UK, cremation rates first exceeded burial rates in 1968.² In 2008, ONS figures indicate that there were 50,476 deaths in London. In that year there were 37,700 cremations in London crematoria, which indicates a crude cremation rate of 75 per cent. Longitudinal data supplied by the Cremation Society of Great Britain indicate that, in London, cremation numbers have been falling (Figure 2.2). Between 1997 and 2009, the number of cremations in crematoria located in London dropped from 48,275 to 36,736, which was a fall of 24 per cent. In the years 2001-2009, the falling number of cremations was proportionately higher than the falling mortality rate, at 15.9 per cent versus 10.7 per cent. It was not possible during the course of the research to interrogate this reduced incidence of cremation. It may be the case that there was a growing preference amongst Londoners for burial.
- 2.6 A changing preference for burial over cremation may be explained by alteration in the religious and/or ethnic groupings in London. Research by Davies and Shaw on attitudes to grave re-use was able to ask people of different denominations about the nature of funerary arrangements for their deceased relatives.³ It was possible to use this research to estimate the proportion opting for cremation of different ethnic and religious groups. So, for example, 27 per cent of people across all Christian denominations collectively opted for burial, while 73 per cent opted for cremation. An estimated 91 per cent of Buddhists opted for burial, as did 99 per cent of Muslims and 96 per cent of Jews. Sikhs and Hindus had a strong preference for cremation, with 84 per cent and 90 per cent respectively taking that option. The average across all other faiths was that 68 per cent opted for burial, as did 50 per cent of people with no religion.⁴

² <http://www.srgw.demon.co.uk/CremSoc4/Stats/National/ProgressF.html>

³ Douglas Davies and Alastair Shaw (1995) *Reusing old graves*, Shaw and Sons: Crayford.

⁴ *Ibid.*

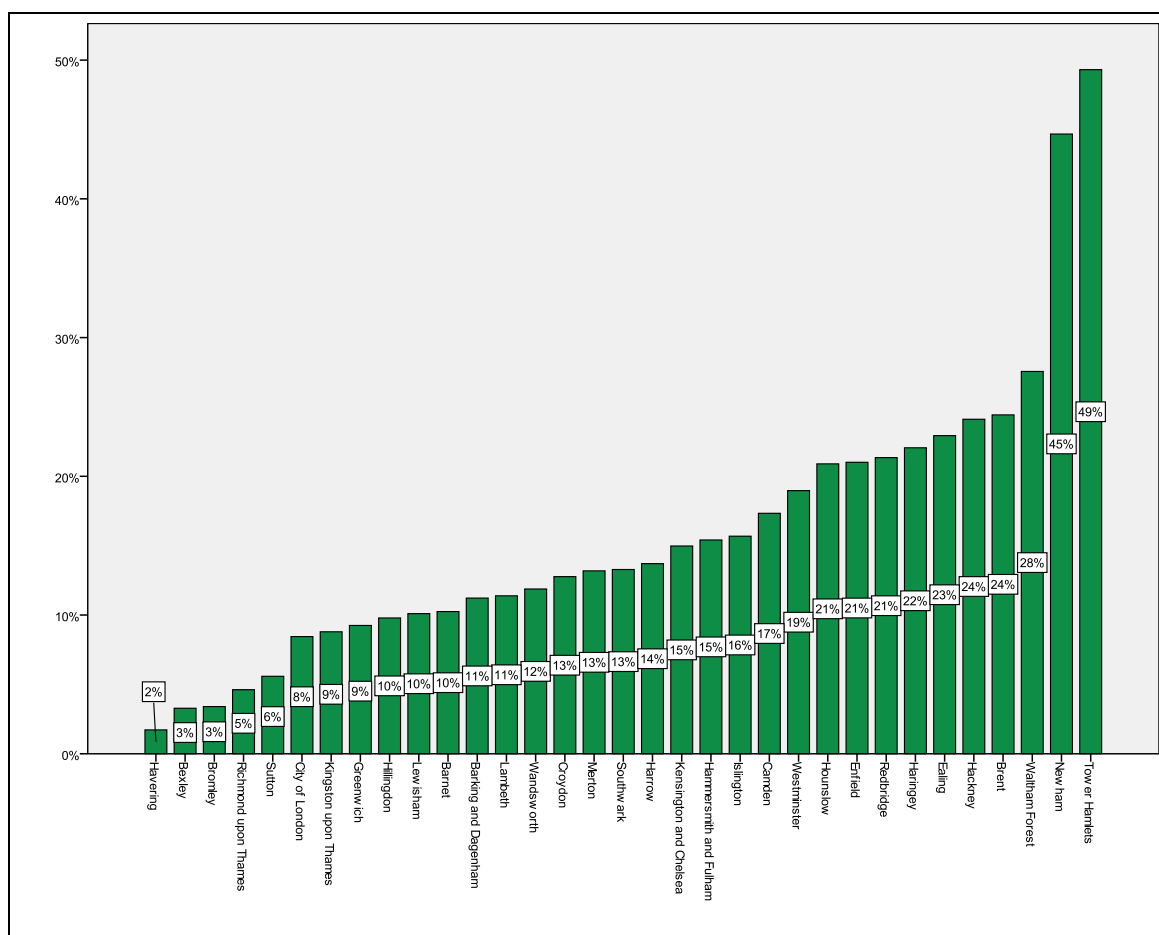
Figure 2.2: Cremation numbers in London



Source: Cremation Society of Great Britain

2.7 These findings indicate that boroughs with a larger proportion of Jewish people and Muslims are likely to face increased pressure for burial space. Generally speaking, these faiths – in addition to requiring burial – tend to seek just one interment in each grave, and certainly would not favour any measure to re-use grave space, or reclaimed unused space in an existing grave. Figure 2.3 uses the deaths by GLA Aggregated Ethnic Group from the R2008 London Plan, with burial rates based on the Davies and Shaw calculations. The figure indicates that substantial demand for Muslim burial space in particular will be evident in Tower Hamlets, in Newham and in Waltham Forest. As table 2.7 indicates, there are two specific burial grounds for the Muslim community in Redbridge and in Waltham Forest.

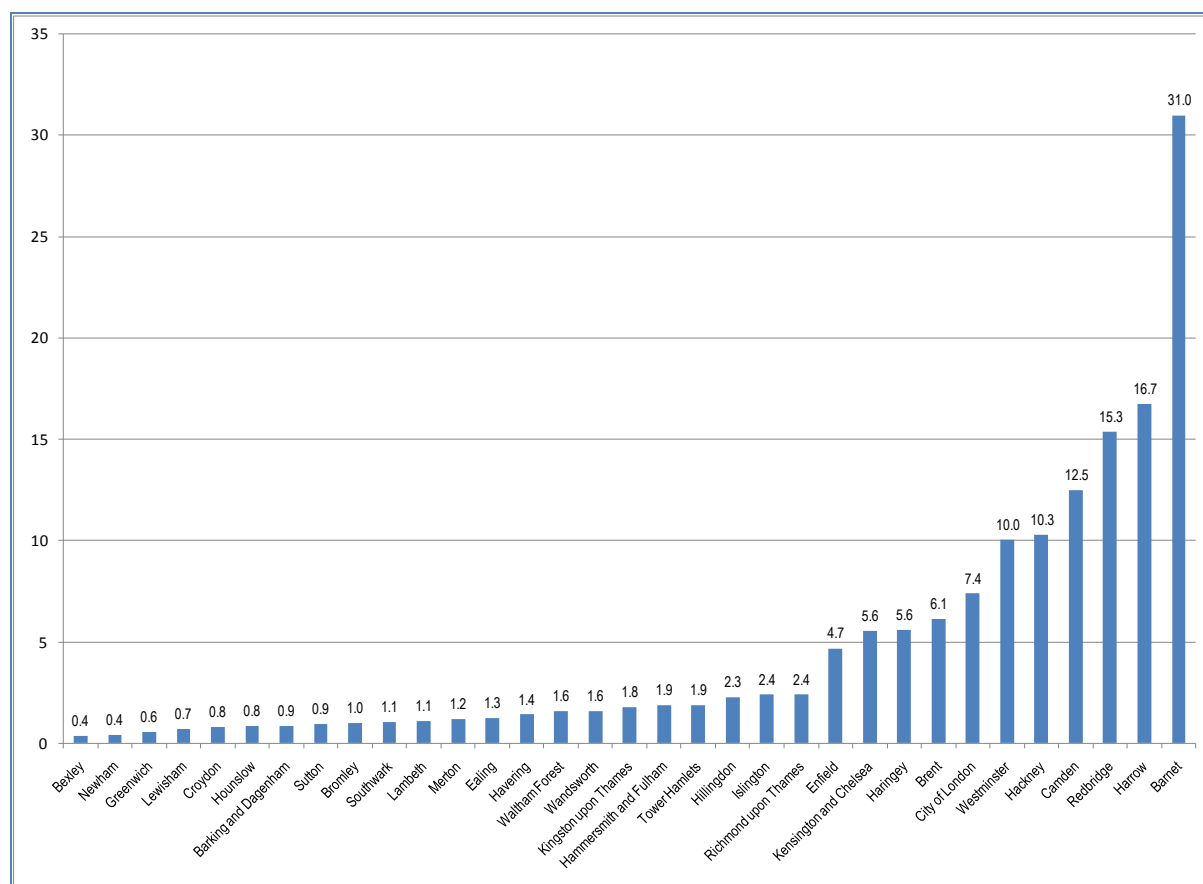
Figure 2.3: London boroughs by the projected proportion of all estimated burials that will be Muslim people, 2010/11-2030/1.



Source: R2008 London Plan; projections derived from Davies and Shaw (2005).

2.8 Figure 2.4 indicates that considerable demand for burial space for the Jewish community will be evident in Barnet, and – to a lesser degree – Harrow, Camden and Redbridge. As Table 2.7 indicates, there are six Jewish burial grounds in Barnet, Brent and Enfield that are supported by Jewish burial societies in addition to a further three burial grounds in Newham and one each in Havering and Enfield.

Figure 2.4 London boroughs by the projected proportion of all estimated burials that will be Jewish people, 2010/11-2030/31.



Source: R2008 London Plan; projections derived from Davies and Shaw (2005).

2.9 One further adjustment needs to be made to the demand statistics. Each burial does not necessarily require virgin burial space. In the UK, it is commonly the case that graves contain more than one interment. Burials can take place in ‘unpurchased’ graves – ie, graves where no right of burial has been bought – with other, unrelated individuals. The number of burials that take place in unpurchased graves are decided by the burial authority, taking into account factors such as soil conditions and the resources available to inter at deeper depths. In the case of purchased graves, family or friends buy the right to be buried in a particular grave, and to be able to specify the other interments in that grave. So, for example, it is commonly the case that purchased graves are dug to accommodate two interments – one on top of the other – often for husband and wife. One consequence of this system is that where an interment takes place, it may be a ‘re-open’, and be a burial where an existing family grave containing space has been ‘re-opened’ to take a further interment or may be a further burial in an unpurchased grave.

2.10 As time goes on and a cemetery becomes full, the proportion of burials in re-opened graves will increase finally to constitute 100 per cent of all interments as virgin space becomes exhausted. The calculations given in Chart 2.4 estimate that 28 per cent of

all interments will go into re-open graves. This percentage was suggested by the cemetery survey returns, which asked for the number of interments taking place in 2009 in virgin and in re-open graves.

- 2.11 Table 2.1 gives figures breaking down projected demand for burial space at the borough level for the period 2010/1-2030/1. For each borough, a cremation rate has been derived from the overall cremation rate adjusted to account for ethnic mix within that borough to give a total estimated number of individuals requiring burial, with an estimate of 28 per cent of interments taking place in re-opened graves.

Table 2.1: Projected total burials and required burial space for inner London boroughs for the period 2010/1-2030/1

Borough	Total estimated deaths	Estimated cremations	Total estimated burials	Estimated re-opens	New burial spaces required
Camden	24,139	12,634	11,505	2,261	9,244
City of London	970	566	404	95	309
Hackney	24,057	12,065	11,992	2,203	9,789
Hammersmith and Fulham	17,737	10,588	7,149	1,656	5,493
Haringey	24,011	12,773	11,238	2,277	8,961
Islington	23,257	13,193	10,064	2,308	7,756
Kensington and Chelsea	16,363	9,583	6,780	1,509	5,271
Lambeth	33,971	20,059	13,912	3,409	10,503
Lewisham	30,704	18,553	12,151	3,035	9,116
Newham	29,621	15,472	14,149	2,176	11,973
Southwark	29,300	17,358	11,942	2,864	9,078
Tower Hamlets	27,367	12,193	15,174	2,074	13,100
Wandsworth	27,669	16,814	10,855	2,630	8,225
Westminster	21,781	12,052	9,729	1,934	7,795
Inner London	330,948	183,904	147,044	30,430	116,614

- 2.12 Table 2.4 indicates that, over the next twenty years, the inner London boroughs will require 116,614 burial spaces. Demand will be heightened by the larger Muslim population in some of the inner London boroughs, which will decrease the proportion of cremations in those boroughs.
- 2.13 Table 2.2 gives the same summary for the outer London boroughs, indicating the need for 198,006 burial spaces for the next twenty years. To meet demand for virgin burial space up until 2031, provision needs to be found in London for a further 314,620 interments.

Table 2.2: Projected total burials and required burial space for outer London boroughs for the period 2010/1-2030/1

	Total estimated deaths	Estimated cremations	Total estimated burials	Estimated re-opens	New burial spaces required
Barking and Dagenham	27,960	17,545	10,415	2,564	7,851
Barnet	43,261	22,250	21,011	3,458	17,553
Bexley	35,167	22,961	12,206	3,293	8,913
Brent	36,591	22,268	14,323	2,785	11,538
Bromley	48,247	31,260	16,987	4,546	12,441
Croydon	50,498	31,801	18,697	4,525	14,172
Ealing	42,474	26,043	16,431	3,488	12,943
Enfield	41,856	24,759	17,097	3,557	13,540
Greenwich	38,927	23,994	14,933	3,771	11,162
Harrow	29,002	17,797	11,205	2,182	9,023
Havering	39,958	26,328	13,630	3,696	9,934
Hillingdon	35,629	22,972	12,657	3,116	9,541
Hounslow	29,340	18,342	10,997	2,410	8,587
Kingston upon Thames	20,833	13,075	7,758	1,942	5,816
Merton	25,203	15,655	9,548	2,288	7,260
Redbridge	36,815	21,251	15,564	2,759	12,805
Richmond upon Thames	22,274	14,005	8,269	2,153	6,116
Sutton	29,372	18,915	10,458	2,737	7,721
Waltham Forest	31,469	17,631	13,838	2,745	11,093
Outer London	664,874	408,852	256,022	58,016	198,006

Supply of burial space

- 2.14 The supply of burial provision in the UK has been subject to an accretion of legislative enactments dating largely from the mid-19th century, none of which imposes a statutory responsibility on any agency to provide burial space. As a consequence, burial provision has expanded piecemeal in Greater London. From the 1850s, vestries will have used the early Burial Acts to close churchyards and establish burial boards. This process did not preclude the continued operation of private cemetery companies, or the laying out of burial grounds by ethnic groups and religious denominations. The Local Government Act 1972 abolished burial boards and created burial authorities: all London boroughs were designated burial authorities. However, legislation remained permissive and London boroughs can choose not to provide burial space.
- 2.15 The survey of burial space in London replicated in method the 1995 survey completed on behalf of the London Planning Advisory Committee by Halcrow Fox and the University of York's Cemetery Research Group. Questionnaires were sent to all burial providers recognised in the original survey.

- 2.16 As in the original survey, Anglican churchyards and Nonconformist burial grounds were excluded as a consequence of limitation in the time for data collection. However, the 2007 Ministry of Justice survey of burial grounds in England and Wales included data from 181 Anglican churchyards in London. Of these, 38 were open for burials in new graves and 40 had space available in existing graves. In 2003/4, all but six of these sites each completed fewer than five interments. However, the data also included four detached churchyard extensions, which are sites owned by the Church of England but not physically attached to a church. A total of 89 interments took place in these sites in 2003/4.⁵ It is evident, therefore, that churchyard provision continues to contribute to the supply of burial space in London, but at a limited scale. In total, the Ministry of Justice figures indicated that there were 149 churchyard burials in London in 2003/4. The following data do not give any estimate for the incidence of churchyard interment in more recent years.
- 2.17 The small number of burial grounds that are owned and managed by Jewish and Muslim communities have been included in the overall London totals but not in borough totals (see 1.37ff). The inclusion of these sites generally is deemed essential, since – as has been noted - Jewish and Muslim beliefs preclude interment and favour the interment of a single body in each grave. However, it would be misleading to include these sites as being 'specific' to a particular borough since it is probable that these sites have a wider catchment area than the borough in which they are located.
- 2.18 In total, 128 private and London borough cemeteries were included in the survey. These cemeteries covered a total of 1,193.5 hectares. A very small number of sites were included in the original survey but excluded from the 2009 survey because burials had not taken place in the sites for some decades. Four new cemeteries have been opened in London since the mid-1990s: Wood Green (1995), Hillview (1995), Strayfield Road (1997) and Forest Park (2005). It is notable that prior to these sites, the last local authority or private cemetery that was laid out in London was in 1974.
- 2.19 Table 2.3 indicates the operational capacity of the private and borough cemeteries in London in 1995 and in 2009.

Table 2.3: Operational capacity of private and borough cemeteries, 1995 and 2009

	1995	2009
Full	5	11
Accommodating re-opens only	41	38
Reliant on created graves	15	14
Virgin land available	63	52
Missing data	4	13
Total	128	128

⁵ Ministry of Justice (2007) *Burial Grounds: The Results of a Survey of Burial Grounds in England and Wales*, London, table 5; with additional analysis of Ministry data by authors.

- 2.20 Table 2.5 indicates that the number of cemeteries deemed to be full had more than doubled. However, the amount of burial space in this category is small. In 2009, all eleven cemeteries deemed to be full comprised just 36ha, which constitutes just over three per cent of all local authority and private burial space in the capital. Cemeteries that close tend to be small in extent. With the exception of Chadwell Heath Cemetery in Barking & Dagenham, which is 8ha and Wandsworth Cemetery at 16.2ha, the remaining full cemeteries were all two hectares or less in size.
- 2.21 The vast majority of cemeteries in London were open for burial, although it was clear that there is substantial pressure on the existing burial space. In 38 cemeteries there was space in re-opened graves only, and a further 14 were reliant on created graves. Virgin burials space was available in just under half the private and local authority cemeteries for which information is available.
- 2.22 The demand calculations have taken into account the number of interments in re-open graves, which means that an assessing burial supply can focus on the number of available virgin grave spaces. As might be anticipated, this process is not straightforward. Virgin space includes three types of burial land: land *external* to the existing cemetery that has been reserved for future interment, and is either adjacent to the cemetery or in some other location; sections *within* the cemetery that have not yet been used for interment; and land in 'created' graves, using space not originally planned for when the cemetery was first laid out.
- 2.23 There were thirteen cemeteries which boroughs indicated could be extended, although in one of these cases it was unclear whether an existing extension had already been brought into use. In some instances, an extension date had been planned and was imminent, as at the Merton & Sutton Cemetery, which is likely to be extended in 2013. In other cases, the extension was anticipated as being some decades in the future: for example, it was planned that Teddington Cemetery would not be enlarged until around 2030. The planning process had not been finalised for the thirteen possible extensions, and in at least one case it was anticipated that the application would be protracted and problematic.
- 2.24 With respect to as yet unused burial space, cemetery managers generally expect to achieve c.4,000-5,000 grave spaces per hectare, dependent on soil type, the size of the graves, the mix of purchased and unpurchased graves, and on the capacity of the burial authority to dig for deepest depth where there is an unpurchased grave.
- 2.25 For the purposes of this survey, the assumption has been made that it would be possible to bring all planned extensions into use. This space would bring an estimated additional minimum of 14.78ha to the overall supply of private and borough cemetery land, providing an estimated 66,510 grave spaces. This total comprises 21 per cent of the estimated required grave spaces needed for London over the next twenty years.

- 2.26 Just under half the private and borough cemeteries had virgin land available for interment. Assessing the number of burials this land could accommodate is not necessarily straightforward. The majority of local authorities will have a burial plan which details which graves have been used, and which remain unused. It might be anticipated that once a plan has been created, then the number of plots or graves might be fixed and the unused space be readily identifiable. However, it is clear that in a handful of cases, London boroughs have been able to add to their supply of virgin space in a cemetery without bringing an extension into use. Virgin sections have been 'found' by demolishing unused chapels, greenhouses or other work buildings, by clearing scrub or by using land that had been ornamentally planted near the site entrance. Thus, at Ladywell/Brockley Cemetery in Lewisham, which had re-opens only 1995, had virgin space available in 2009 following building demolition.
- 2.27 Generally, the amount of available virgin land varied substantially and in some instances comprised just a handful of graves offering limited ongoing capacity. As a consequence, the borough summary table includes in its 'Category 2' and 'Category 3' boroughs those where virgin land is likely to be exhausted within the next twenty years.
- 2.28 A more problematic issue is the number of cemeteries that are reliant on 'created' grave spaces. The following strategies are included under this heading:
- adding top soil and so creating depth above existing graves;
 - finding space between existing graves;
 - using as yet unused capacity above common graves;
 - building burial chambers above existing graves or on land otherwise unusable for burial; because of unsuitable soil conditions; and
 - reclaiming unused space in private graves.
- 2.29 These strategies are largely incremental, and a cemetery owner might introduce one or more of these options as pressure for space increases. Furthermore, pressure on space might make the more expensive options – such as the construction of burial chambers, or investment in office time to recognise unused grave spaces in private graves – more palatable as other alternatives are exhausted.
- 2.30 It also cannot be expected that each borough would be able to introduce each measure in each of their cemeteries. Not all the strategies are viable for each site. So, for example, using space between existing graves may be inadvisable if the soil is too friable and an 'intermediate' grave liable to collapse; incomplete or inadequate burial registers may mean that grave reclamation becomes problematic because of the inability to be clear about unused space; and the addition of top soil is

considered to be an extreme measure with adverse consequences for natural elements of the landscape.

- 2.31 As a consequence, it becomes very difficult for a cemetery owner to make an accurate assessment of exactly how many grave spaces may be available in an existing cemetery. It is for this reason that the final assessment of the amount of space available in a given borough is very much an estimate, and depends on cemetery managers' largely qualitative reporting and their understanding of which grave creation measures may release further space, and which measures have been exhausted or are not viable.
- 2.32 One final point to make about the assessment of burial space remaining, is to underline the fact that supply can be inelastic. In the Victorian period, burial legislation required burial boards to consecrate at least half of the site, which places that land under Church of England control. There has been no research that has disclosed Londoner's preference for consecrated or unconsecrated burial space, but in some boroughs there is anecdotal evidence of unequal use of the two types of space. As a consequence, some cemeteries may have excess capacity in a less popular type of burial space.
- 2.33 Similarly, local authorities often create dedicated separate sections within cemeteries, usually for the use of Roman Catholics, Muslims or Jews. Again, these sections may be less popular than might be anticipated, and local authorities may find that they have grave spaces in a dedicated section which are unavailable for 'general' use. Again, it is difficult to quantify how much burial space is located in specialised sections or its rate of use.

Table 2.4: Borough capacity status

Borough area	Total cemetery space (ha)	Interments 2009	Estimated virgin grave spaces required, 2010-11 - 2030-1	Capacity	Capacity status
<i>Barking & Dagenham</i>	22.0	na	7,851	na	2
<i>Barnet</i>	135.9	865+	17,553	60+years	4
<i>Bexley</i>	21.0	300	8,913	4,080	3
<i>Brent</i>	17.3	203	11,538	Reclaiming	2
<i>Bromley</i>	32.3	103+	12,441	9,080+	3
<i>Camden</i>	30.0	111e	9,244	FULL	1
<i>City of London</i>			309	NO PROVISION	1
<i>Croydon</i>	25.0	300e	14,172	Reclaiming	2
<i>Ealing</i>	51.8	549+	12,943	3,200	3
<i>Enfield</i>	40.0	na	13,540	na	3
<i>Greenwich</i>	61.0	471	11,162	7,480+	4
<i>Hackney</i>	13.4	6	9,789	FULL	1
<i>Hammersmith & Fulham</i>	51.5	267	5,493	5,340	2
<i>Haringey</i>	24.3	na	8,961	2 years	2
<i>Harrow</i>	19.4	158	9,023	200+	2
<i>Havering</i>	17.0	419	9,934	na	2
<i>Hillingdon</i>	70.0	359	9,541	18,250	4
<i>Hounslow</i>	36.9	433e	8,587	20,418	4
<i>Islington</i>				NO PROVISION	1
<i>Kensington & Chelsea</i>	16.2	na	5,271	FULL	1
<i>Kingston upon Thames</i>	16.1	105	5,816	1,966+	3
<i>Lambeth</i>	17.0	56	10,503	FULL	1
<i>Lewisham</i>	39.7	na	9,116	20+years	4
<i>Merton</i>	53.5	429+	7,260	20,996	4
<i>Newham</i>	120.7	777+	11,973	Re-using	5
<i>Redbridge</i>	18.7	205	12,805	13,800	4
<i>Richmond upon Thames</i>	73.3	879	6,116	26,600	4
<i>Southwark</i>	50.9	na	9,078	INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION	
<i>Sutton</i>	16.23	196+	7,721	30+years	4
<i>Tower Hamlets</i>	0	0		NO PROVISION	1
<i>Waltham Forest</i>	21.7	171	11,093	5,200	2
<i>Wandsworth</i>	77.5	372+	8,225	2-3years	2
<i>Westminster</i>	0	0	7,795	NO PROVISION	1
Total	1,190.3	7,734+	293,766	136,610+	

Table 2.4 assumptions

For all columns, 'na' indicates not available due to limited data, and 'e' indicates an estimate.

Total cemetery space (ha)

This column indicates the total space available in each borough for burial in cemeteries. This total does not include burial grounds that are totally dedicated to the use of a specific group or religious denomination including Roman Catholics, Jews or Muslims. However, this total *does* indicate space *within* cemeteries that may be used by specific denominations only.

Also excluded from the hectarage is the space within existing cemeteries that is taken up by crematoria or gardens of rest where there is no full-body interment.

Space is also available in cemeteries owned by London boroughs but outside the London boundary; these sites have also been excluded at this stage.

Interments

This column indicates the number of interments in total taking place in the borough. The total includes interment in new graves and in existing graves (re-opens). Where a '+' is given, this total indicates that it is likely that more interments than the figure given took place, but data for the borough is incomplete.

Estimated virgin grave spaces required, 2010-1 – 2030-31

For each borough, demographic projections have been used to calculate the total number of individual grave spaces required. The sources include deaths by GLA Aggregated Ethnic Group from R2008 London Plan with burial rates based on data on religious denominations from Davis and Shaw, *Reusing Old Graves* (1995). Estimated cremations, adjusted for ethnicity, have been calculated for each borough. For each borough this figure has then been reduced by 28 per cent, to accommodate burials in re-opened graves, which is a proportion suggested by GLA 2010 survey returns.

Capacity

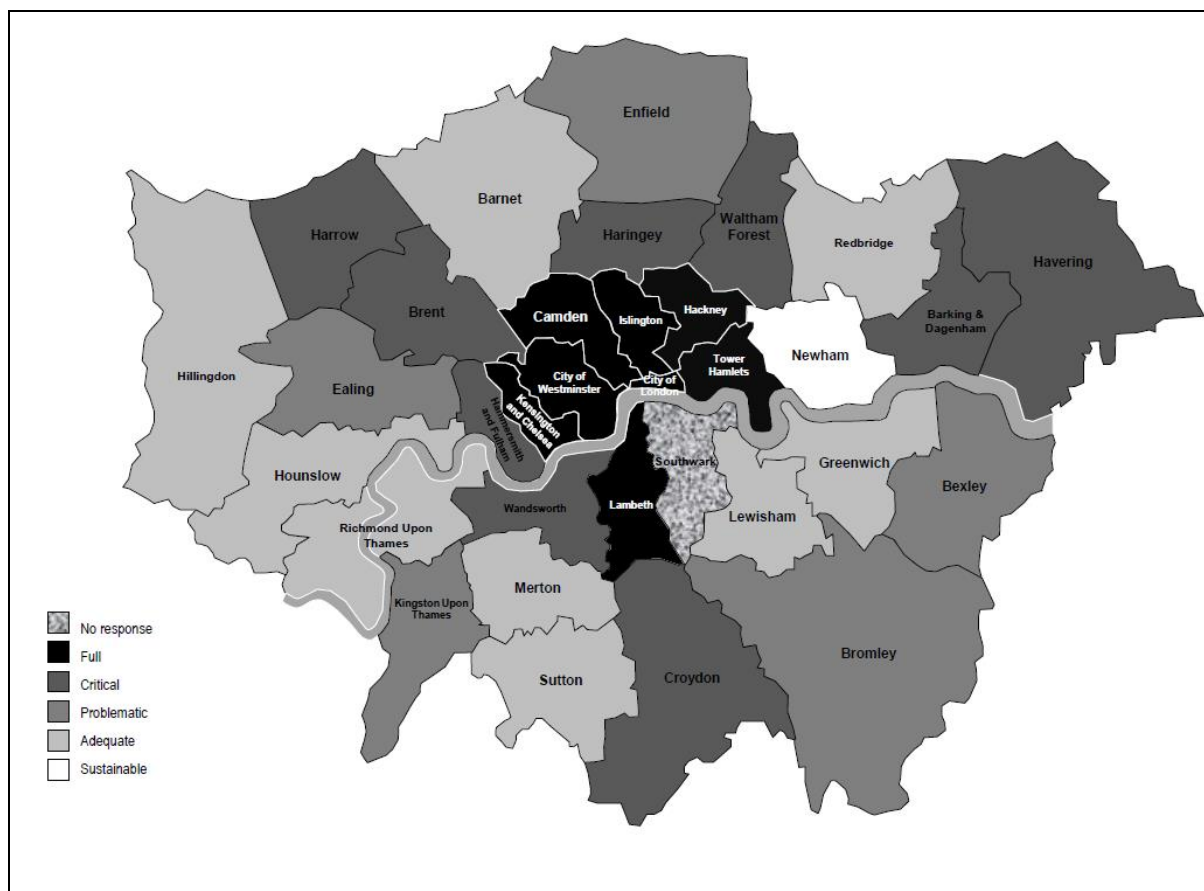
This column estimates the number of virgin grave spaces remaining, by doubling the total of unused graves given in the GLA 2010 survey returns. The doubling reflects the fact that most interments take place in graves dug to accommodate two coffins.

Capacity status

This column indicates the capacity status of each borough using the following classifications:

1. FULL: No burial space available/existing cemeteries deemed to be full or there are fewer than 100 interments a year in the borough in cemeteries, mostly re-opens and in created graves.
2. CRITICAL: Reliance on created graves only (ie graves only available in parts of the cemetery not originally designed to accommodate interment; in space created through the addition of topsoil or constructed above-ground burial vaults; in existing capacity above common graves; or in reclaimed graves) and/or space is limited and unlikely to meet demand as indicated in the estimated demand for virgin space 2010-1 – 2030-1. Space is likely to be exhausted within the next ten years.
3. PROBLEMATIC: The borough has some virgin space remaining, but insufficient to meet demand for the next twenty years.
4. ADEQUATE: There is sufficient new space is available to meet the estimated demand for virgin space 2010-1 – 2030-1, and/or an extension is likely to be brought into use
5. SUSTAINABLE: Grave re-use in the borough has extended capacity of an existing cemetery infinitely.

Map 2.1: Capacity status of London boroughs



- 2.34 Map 2.1 indicates that the capacity to accommodate further interments is extremely uneven. There is no significant burial provision in eight Inner London boroughs. Demand from these areas has been traditionally been displaced to outer London boroughs: for example, a great deal of 'East End' burial demand has been served by cemeteries in Newham. However, it has been noted that the growing Muslim population in Inner London will increase pressure on burial space in boroughs where there is already heavy 'non-parishioner' demand and reliance on created graves.
- 2.35 There are boroughs in all quarters of the capital where supply is deemed to be critical, and where demand is likely to be exhausted within the next ten years. It is possible that the diminution of supply in the critical boroughs will displace demand to areas deemed 'problematic,' and so increase the use of space in those boroughs which otherwise may have met burial need for the next 10-20 years.
- 2.36 The western Outer London boroughs are adequately served: Hillingdon, Hounslow and Richmond-upon-Thames have capacity for continued interments for some decades. However, this provision may not be necessarily available to overspill demand from other boroughs, since access may be restricted to use by 'parishioner' residents.

2.37 Overall, for London, the supply of burial space is augmented by the provision of land by religious denominations, where the catchment might be presumed to extend beyond the borough boundary in which the burial ground is located. As Table 2.5 indicates, these sites add at least a further 123.4ha to burial provision in the capital. However, site usage is generally restricted to the denominations noted.

Table 2.5: Additional burial grounds

<i>Borough</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Burials 09</i>
Jewish burial grounds				
Barnet	Edgwarebury	1976	na	55
Barnet	Hoop Lane, NW11	1895	6.7	na
Brent	Pound Lane, NW10	1914	1.6	na
Brent	Glebe Road or Willesden, NW10	1873	9.3	na
Enfield	Edmonton/ Western Synagogue, Montagu Road, NW18	1884	22.7	10
Enfield	Carterhatch Lane	na	na	1
Havering	Rainham	1938	21.9	182
Merton	Rowan Road, SW16	1915	2.2	3
Newham	Plashet, E6	1896	5.7	na
Newham	Marlow Road or East Ham, E6	1919	10.1	na
Newham	Buckingham Road or West Ham, E15	1857	4.3	na
Muslim burial grounds				
Redbridge	Garden of Peace	C1998	8.7	na
Waltham Forest	Muslim Burial Ground		1.0	150
Roman Catholic burial grounds				
Waltham Forest	St Patrick's	1868	17.4	170
Hammersmith and Fulham	St Mary's	1858	11.8	208
Total			123.4+	779+

2.38 Burial information is available from eight of the fifteen denominational sites, indicating that altogether the sites accommodated at least 779 interments between them in 2008. Overall, it is reasonable to estimate that denominational burial grounds accommodate perhaps 5-8 per cent of all interments in the capital. As with other burial space in the borough, the owners of these sites also indicated that space was under pressure. Grave creation measures had been taken in the Roman Catholic burial grounds, and some owners of Jewish burial grounds had begun to seek land outside the Greater London boundary. One Muslim burial ground provider had sought planning permission to expand their site.

2.39 In addition, there are three sites owned by London boroughs but located outside the Greater London boundary (Table 2.6). In actuality, this provision comprises two sites, but Carpenter's Park – in Three Rivers district – has an extension owned by the London Borough of Harrow.

Table 2.6: London Borough provision outside Greater London

Site	Owned by	Located in	Size
Carpender's Park	LB Brent	NORTH WEST: Three Rivers	19.0
LB Harrow extension to Carpenders Park	LB Harrow	NORTH WEST: Three Rivers	na
Greenlawn Memorial Park	LB Croyden	SOUTH EAST: Tandridge	9.72e

2.40 It is not possible to estimate what proportion of interments at these sites are residents of Brent, Harrow or Croyden, and what percentage of burials may be of local residents in Three Rivers or Tandridge.

Conclusion

2.41 An audit of the demand for and supply of burial space in London, and projected capacity to accommodate further interments rests on a number of assumptions. These assumptions, particularly with regard to the supply of burial space within existing cemeteries, means that estimates of capacity must be treated with caution. It is for this reason that broad timescales have been adopted in this assessment. As comparison between the 1995 and 2009 surveys indicates, cemetery owners in London may be compelled to introduce more or less desperate measures to extend the working capacity of their sites, which distorts the ability to arrive at accurate short-term capacity projections.

2.42 It is notable that eight boroughs in London contain no significant burial space, and a further fifteen are reliant on created graves or would be unable to meet projected demand for burial provision over the next twenty years. These borough assessments take into account the supply of land reserved for extensions to existing cemeteries. Although denominational burial grounds are not included in these totals, the overall number of interments accommodated by these sites is small.

2.43 The amount of land held in reserve by London boroughs is sufficient to accommodate an estimated minimum of 21 per cent of demand for burial space over the next twenty years. It should be noted that not all land designated as reserve burial space has secured planning permission.

3 Reclamation and re-use

- 3.1 The audit suggests that the majority of boroughs in London lack the capacity to supply sufficient burial to meet the level of demand suggested by mortality projections over the next twenty years. However, recent change to burial legislation gives London boroughs the authority to re-use graves in certain defined circumstances. In addition, one London borough – the Corporation of London – has begun a programme of grave re-use in a consecrated area, after applying for a faculty to do so from the relevant diocesan authorities. The Audit process included questions related to burial providers' views on these options which extend the working capacity of existing sites.

Grave reclamation and re-use

- 3.2 Restrictions on the disturbance of human remains were introduced in s25 of the Burial Act 1857.⁶ This act specified that

It shall not be lawful to remove any body, or the remains of any body, which may have been interred in any place of burial, without licence under the hand of one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

It remained possible to apply for a licence to permit disturbance, but the Home Office, and latterly the Ministry of Justice, has not issued licenses for the purpose of disturbing remains in order for graves to be re-used.

- 3.3 Legislation to permit reclamation of grave space was established under S9 of the Greater London (General Powers) Act 1976, which permitted burial authorities in London to extinguish burial rights in graves where no interment had taken place for 75 years. As yet unused space within the grave could then be used for the purpose of further interment. This process did not disturb any existing remains in the grave, and has been termed 'reclamation' (see table 3.1).
- 3.4 The Audit of burial provision indicated there was limited take-up of the option to reclaim unused space in graves: just four London Boroughs were actively pursuing this policy. It should be noted that private sector cemetery providers can be restricted in their ability to implement reclamation, since the Greater London (General Powers) Act – which sets out the procedure for extinguishing grave rights – does not extend to companies established under private acts of parliament.

⁶ An act to amend the burial acts, 21&22 Victoriae, cap LXXXI.

- 3.6 The audit survey asked London Boroughs why they had decided not to pursue a programme of reclamation. Around half the Boroughs answered this question. The clearest trend was for Boroughs with adequate capacity to view the policy as simply unnecessary. Four Boroughs specified particular problems including difficulties with disposing of monuments, and the administrative complexity of the reclamation process.
- 3.7 A further option was opened to London boroughs by s74 of the London Local Authorities Act 2007, which permits burial authorities – following the notification procedure set out in the 1976 Act – to use the full depth of any reclaimed grave in order to permit more interments. The provision relates to graves that are at least 75 years old, but does not require a licence to be sought from the Ministry of Justice. It was anticipated that this amendment would facilitate what has been termed a ‘lift and deepen’ approach to grave re-use, whereby any disinterred remains from a particular grave would be placed in another container and re-interred deeper in the same grave, freeing the desired depth for re-use. This change in legislation therefore offers local authorities the option to re-use *purchased* graves where the right has been extinguished and where the necessary faculty has been secured. The regulation does not apply to unpurchased or ‘common’ graves since no rights exist in those graves (see table 3.1).
- 3.8 London Boroughs were also asked if they had given any consideration to the possibility of re-using graves. Again, the majority of responses were from London Boroughs that had not considered the policy because they already had sufficient space. However, in a small number of Boroughs, the issue had been discussed at committee level, but with no decision having been made.

Re-use under faculty jurisdiction

- 3.9 S25 of the Burial Act 1857 does not apply ‘in cases where a body is removed from one consecrated place of burial to another by faculty granted by the Ordinary for that purpose.’ The Corporation of London has used this legislation to introduce a system of grave re-use in a consecrated section of the City of London Cemetery in Newham. This process of re-use does not use a ‘lift and deepen’ method, since the legislation specifies the removal of remains from one consecrated place to another. Rather, the process disinters remains and relocates them to a ‘designated grave’, which is situated at the end of the row of re-used graves (see table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Reclamation and re-use summary

Process	Legislation	Function	Applicable to	Disturbance of remains allowed?
Reclamation	S9, Greater London (General Powers) Act, 1976	Burial authority able to extinguish burial rights	Purchased grave where the last interment was 75 years previously Unconsecrated ground; consecrated ground <i>if</i> faculty secured	No
Reclamation and re-use	S74, London Local Authorities Act, 2007	Burial authority able to disturb remains in graves where right had been extinguished	Purchased grave where the last interment was 75 years previously Unconsecrated ground; consecrated ground <i>if</i> faculty secured	Yes
Re-use under faculty jurisdiction	Permitted under s25 Burial Act, 1857	Disturbance of remains permitted in consecrated land where body is moved from one consecrated place to another, under faculty	No time limit on previous burial Consecrated land only, if faculty secured	Yes

3.10 Both this process and the ongoing reclamation programme at the City of London Cemetery have been subject to the scrutiny of a Heritage Advisory Panel, which considers the conservation impact of both policies. It is notable that there has been no marked adverse public response to the policy and by the time of the survey, the rights in more than 100 re-used graves had been sold.

3.10 The Audit process did not ask London Boroughs about their response to re-use under faculty jurisdiction, which would permit the re-use of *common* or unpurchased graves in consecrated sections of the cemetery (see table 3.2). However, it should be noted that the majority of cemeteries in London were established initially under the nineteenth-century Burial Acts, and so will contain – as required by that legislation – both consecrated and unconsecrated portions. In addition, through much of the nineteenth century, common graves will have comprised by far the larger proportion of types of grave sold.⁷

⁷ F. Stirling (2009) 'Grave re-use: a feasibility study', unpublished PhD thesis, University of Sheffield, 136ff.

Table 3.2: Grave types and re-use applicability

	Consecrated ground	Unconsecrated ground
Unpurchased	Possible with faculty jurisdiction only	Not permitted
Purchased	Reclaim and re-use with faculty	Reclaim and re-use without faculty

3.11 Thus the faculty jurisdiction option offers local authorities access to a larger supply of graves for possible re-use. Furthermore, these graves are more likely to be free of above-ground monumentation since many local authorities had policies which forbade the erection of memorials over common graves.

Conclusion

3.12 London Boroughs have not taken advantage of the new powers introduced by the London Local Authorities Act, 2007. There was limited response within the surveys on this question and so it is not possible to be categorical about reasons. However, for some Boroughs, dealing with monumentation and administrative complexity were both noted as being problematic. In addition, the powers only apply to purchased graves in which burial rights have been extinguished, and are not applicable to the much larger number of unpurchased graves.

3.13 At the time of the research, the option of re-using graves under faculty jurisdiction had not been considered by boroughs other than the Corporation of London. However, many Boroughs and private companies expressed interest in the process, and it was evident that further information on the process of re-use under faculty and on public response to the policy would be welcomed.

4. Recommendations

4.1 The shortage of burial space in the capital is reaching a critical stage in many boroughs, and in the last fifteen years many local authorities have augmented their existing provision through a selection of strategies to 'create' graves within the existing landscape. No local authorities have exercised the option of granted by legislation to permit the re-use of reclaimed graves in their entirety. The recent introduction of a re-use scheme at the City of London offers an alternative option, and merits further exploration.

4.2 The following recommendations are therefore made:

- The Greater London Authority should encourage local authorities to share good practice on grave re-use including consideration of the obstacles to introducing the policy.
- English Heritage should be encouraged to contribute guidelines on the impacts of grave re-use on the historic cemetery landscapes.
- The cemetery management profession should review its training around various 'grave creation' strategies, including the construction of above-ground chambers and other methods for creating additional depth and using space between existing graves, and by path and roadways. These measures, together with grave reclamation, could preclude the later introduction of a more effective and sustainable re-use policy.
- Again, English Heritage should be encouraged to provide guidance on the historic conservation impacts of all these measures.
- Future audits of burial provision in London should extend scrutiny to Anglican churchyards, and also to provision just outside the edge of the Greater London boundary.
- Further and more detailed work needs to examine the 'fit' between mortality projections on burial need in the capital and the actual number of burials and cremations in and around London.

Borough summaries

The following pages summarise the supply of burial space for each borough, including private and borough cemeteries only since interment in these sites is not restricted by religion. The vast majority of cemeteries created in the nineteenth century will contain consecrated and unconsecrated burial space. Specific sections within cemeteries are also often made for Roman Catholics, Jews and Muslims.

These summaries comprise an amalgamation of survey return data from the 1995 and 2010 surveys, and telephone interviews with London cemetery managers.

Table conventions

The listing includes the cemeteries located in each named borough only. There are no operational cemeteries in the City of London, Tower Hamlets, Westminster, Hackney or Islington although some of these London Boroughs do own cemeteries elsewhere.

Owner

It should be noted that cemeteries are not always located in the 'home' borough of the owning London Borough.

Name

Individual cemeteries may have a number of names. Where alternative names for a site are known, they are included. An '&' indicates where two neighbouring cemeteries originally separately established are now jointly managed.

Date

There is no general agreement on how to date the 'opening' of a cemetery. In some instances, the date of consecration of a site is used and in other cases the date of first interment. For consistency, dates given here are all taken from Meller and Parsons' *London Cemeteries*.⁸

Area

The area is given in hectares. Where a site has a defined crematorium and/or garden of remembrance covering a known size within the site, this has been indicated with a '+'.

Status 95

This is the status of the site as indicated by survey returns in 1995.

⁸ Hugh Meller and Brian Parsons (2008) *London Cemeteries*, Averbury Publishing: Amersham.

Status 10

This is the status of the site as indicated by survey returns and telephone interviews with cemetery managers in 2010.

Total burials 95

This gives the total number of burials in the site in 1995. An 'e' indicates an estimate.

Total burials 09

This gives the total number of burials in the site in 2009. An 'e' indicates an estimate.

Capacity

This gives the capacity of the site as recorded on the 2010 survey returns and through telephone interviews with cemetery managers in 2010. In some instances, managers indicated a number of graves, which has been doubled to indicate grave spaces. Some managers have indicated a number of years remaining.

In all cases 'na' means that the information is not available, and a '+' indicates that the figure is a minimum and lack of information precludes the calculation of a total.

Barking and Dagenham

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB B&D*	Rippleside	1886	12.7	Created graves only	Re-opens only	606e	na	Re-opens only
LB B&D*	Eastbrookend	1914	4.5	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	336e	na	na
LB B&D*	Chadwell Heath	1934	8.0	Re-opens only	Closed for burial	85e	na	Closed
No reserve land available								
			25.2			1027	na	na

*LBB&D = LB Barking & Dagenham

All three cemeteries in the borough are owned by the LB Barking & Dagenham.

The borough's oldest and largest cemetery, Rippleside, has a Muslim section: in 1995, 56 of its 96 places had been used and in 1995 it was estimated that there had been 11 interments in that section. In 1995, the site was reliant on space in 'time-expired graves', which were still available in 2009 but not proving to be popular because of the expense. These were single grave spaces remaining in the site's common graves, which had last been used over a century ago. The majority of the sites' interments were re-opens.

In 1995 the only cemetery with virgin burial space was the smallest, Eastbrookend. The cemetery has a well-used Roman Catholic section. In 1995 the site had an estimated 8-10 years remaining. In 2009, new land was still available, but the remaining space was limited.

Chadwell Heath Cemetery, had in 1995 85 re-opens with a further unspecified number of re-opens in the Roman Catholic section. There was at that time no virgin land available. There were in 1995 no plans to create new graves, as problems with spring water restricted the ability to dig. A recent extension to the site – amounting to some 3.2ha – also has substantial water table problems, and now as a consequence the whole site is closed to further burials despite the fact that there is space remaining.

Overall, the difficulties relating to Chadwell Heath Cemetery mean that the borough has limited capacity for interment, and is as a consequence reliant on burial provision outside the borough boundary.

Barnet

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Barnet	Hendon*	1899	16.7	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	329	na	c25 years
LBs Islington and Camden	Islington & St Pancras	1854	73.5+ 0.4	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	941	865	na
LB Westminster	East Finchley	1855	19.0	Created graves only	Virgin land available	56	23	na
LB Westminster	Mill Hill	1937	8.5	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	65	20	na
Westerleigh	New Southgate	1861	18.2 +1.2	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	479	na	35 years
*Possible extension								+
			135.9			1,870	908+	60 years+

There are three burial authorities operating in Barnet. The LB Barnet owns Hendon Cemetery and Crematorium, opened in 1890 and with no consecrated space: the site had been opened by the largely Nonconformist Abney Park Cemetery Company. In 1995 there were plans to create new graves within the existing cemetery infrastructure, and there were an estimated 1,343 graves remaining. In addition, there was 0.49ha of space adjacent to the cemetery; this land was purchased by the cemetery company originally but never brought into use, and was bought by Hendon Corporation along with the cemetery. In 2009, the site itself still had unused areas, but had also completed an exercise to establish where space might be available between graves and 'half-spaces' suitable for children's interments. Overall, it was estimated that around 25 years' use was left, but it is uncertain whether the extension was brought into use.

St Pancras Cemetery was opened in 1854, soon after the passage of the first of the Burial Acts, and originally comprised 36ha. A further 38ha were added in 1877, and the site was split between the LB Islington and LB Camden respectively. The sites are now managed as a single entity by LB Camden. The site has a section for the Roman Catholic community. Half a hectare of ground has been set aside for the scattering of cremated remains. In 1995, the cemetery accommodated 941 interments, and was taking into use land adjacent to paths or roadways although virgin land was still available. In 1995 there were plans to develop a new cemetery at Edgewarebury Lane, but these appear not to have come to fruition. There are currently plans to use capacity above existing common or unpurchased graves, but no plans to reclaim or re-use. The size of the site means that clearance of scrub and the deconstruction of very large memorials can bring into use previously unused sections and grave spaces, which means that there is still virgin land available. The cemetery is also using above-ground mausolea which are popular with certain communities in London, and are considering the introduction of pre-cast vaults above existing common graves. As a consequence of these varied measures, it is extremely difficult to assess capacity.

The City of Westminster also owns two cemeteries in the borough: Mill Hill (Paddington) Cemetery and East Finchley (St Marylebone). These sites are now managed by Continental Landscapes Ltd on behalf of the borough. In 1995, East Finchley was reliant on created graves, although Mill Hill had virgin land available. In 2010, it appeared that both Mill Hill and East Finchley had new plots, although the reason was uncertain. The exact size of New Southgate Cemetery remains a little unclear, since at some time after 1995, part of the site was given to the Jewish community; statistics on the size of the cemetery therefore tend to be contradictory. The cemetery is owned by the Westerleigh group. In 1995, the owners were using space between existing graves and at the edge of pathways, and in 2009, it new land had become available with the addition of topsoil. However, it remains the case that the site has virgin land for interment.

Incomplete information is available on the borough, but substantial capacity at Hendon and New Southgate indicate that the borough is not likely to be reliant on burial provision outside its boundary.

Bexley

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Bexley	Bexleyheath	1879	3.8	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	59	35	Re-opens only
LB Bexley	Erith	1894	8.5	Created graves only	Re-opens only	207	48	Re-opens only
LB Bexley	Sidcup	1912	3.2	Virgin land available	Re-opens only	143	102	Re-opens only
LB Bexley	Hillview	1995	5.5	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	4	115	4,080e
No reserve land available								
			21.0			413	300	4,080e

Bexleyheath is the oldest cemetery in the borough, and in 1995 was taking re-opens only. The site has a Roman Catholic section. There were no plans to create or reclaim graves in 1995. There have been no changes to this site, and there are no plans to extend its use capacity.

Erith Cemetery is the borough's largest, and in 1995 had started to bring into use space located between grave and adjacent to path and roadways. The site has specific sections for the Roman Catholic and Muslim communities. The Roman Catholic section was deemed to be full in 1995, and there were nine unused spaces in the Muslim section. In 2009, there were a total of 48 full-body interments, but there were no further plans to create, reclaim or re-use graves largely because space is available at alternative LB Bexley sites in the borough.

Sidcup is the borough's smallest cemetery, at 3.0ha; it also contains a section for Roman Catholics. In 1995, the site still had space remaining for an estimated 500 further interments in virgin land. Total burials in 1995 were 143. The site was extended by 0.2ha in 2003. In 2009 there were 102 interments. As with other cemeteries owned by the borough, there are no plans to extend the capacity of the site.

The borough's newest cemetery, Hillview, comprises 4.9ha, and has no consecrated section. In 1995, the site had only just been brought into use, and had 4 interments. The cemetery also has a Muslim section, with space for 41 interments; this section had not yet been used. In 2009, the cemetery had 115 interments, 5 in the Muslim section. An estimated 4,080 unused grave spaces remained, indicating that the borough is unlikely to be self-sustaining in terms of burial space for the period to up to 2030-31.

Note that 9.8ha of LB Greenwich's Woolwich New Cemetery is within Bexley, but is discounted from the cemetery land total for the borough.

Brent

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Brent	Paddington Old	1855	9.7	Re-opens only	Created graves only	1	55	Reclaiming
LB Brent	Willesden Old	1868	2.0	Re-opens only	No graves available	1	0	FULL
LB Brent	Wembley Old	1887	0.4	Re-opens only	No graves available	1	0	FULL
LB Brent	Willesden New	1891	1.1	Created graves only	Created graves only	111	69	Reclaiming
LB Brent	Alperton	1917	4.1	Virgin land available	Reclaimed graves only	26	79	Reclaiming
No reserve land available								
			17.3			140	203	Reclaiming

All five cemeteries in the borough are owned by the LB Brent, which is actively pursuing a series of measures to create new grave space within the existing cemetery boundaries.

Paddington Old Cemetery is 9.7ha. In 1995 just one interment took place, although the average over the previous four years was around four. In 1995 it was noted that the site had 'very few' graves remaining. However, in 2008 the Borough began to reclaim graves and in 2009 a total of 55 interments in reclaimed graves took place. Willesden New Cemetery was opened in 1891; it is part-consecrated and is 10.5ha. No extension has been added to the cemetery. By 1995, the site was already totally reliant on graves created between existing graves and adjacent to pathways. In 2008, the local authority began reclaiming graves, and relies on this source for new burials in addition to constructed burial vaults built into new depth created by adding topsoil. Alperton Cemetery, opened in 1917, was 4.1ha in size in 1995; part of the site is consecrated. In 1995, virgin land was still available, and a total of 26 interments took place. Now the cemetery is open for re-opens and reclaimed graves only. There are limited graves available for reclamation at present, because the cemetery is still fairly modern; however, it is intended that the pace of reclamation will increase in the future.

The borough has two largely disused burial sites, both of which comprise extensions to existing churchyards: Willesden Old Cemetery, located in Church End in Willesden, which is an extension to the churchyard of St Mary's; and Wembley Old Burial Ground, on High Road, Wembley, which again is another small burial site attached to an existing churchyard. As with Willesden Old Cemetery, in 1995, no new ground was available for interment, and a single burial took place; no graves are now currently available.

LB Brent has a further cemetery in Three Rivers DC. Carpenders Park contains a Roman Catholic and Muslim sections, and accommodated 231 interments in 2009. This site has an as yet unused extension currently being used as a nursery garden. The site has an estimated capacity of a further 2,000 interments. LB Harrow owns a cemetery attached to Carpenders Park, and this 'extension' is maintained by LB Brent, which takes the burial fee and charges Harrow for maintenance. LB Harrow retains the burial rights fees. Harrow residents are charged parishioner rates for Carpenders Park.

Since 1995, the LB Brent has increased the number of interments taking place in its sites. Reclamation is likely to extend the working capacity of the cemeteries, but the borough remains reliant on burial space outside its boundary, in Three Rivers District.

Bromley

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Bromley	London Road	1877	1.9	Reclaiming graves	Re-opens only	26	10	Re-opens only
LB Bromley	St Mary Cray	1881	2.6	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	23	16	4,476
LB Bromley	Plaistow	1893	1.7	Created graves only	Re-opens only	33	1	Re-opens only
LB Bromley	St Luke's	1894	1.2	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	49	39	na
LB Bromley	Chislehurst	1912	5.1	Virgin land available	Re-opens only	144	8	na
LB Bromley	Biggin Hill	1930	2.0	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	23	29	4,604
Dignity	Crystal Palace/ Beckenham C & C	1876	17.8	Virgin land available	na	150	na	na
No reserve land available								
			32.3			448	103+	9,080+

There are seven cemeteries in Bromley, six of which are owned by the LB Bromley. In 1995, the LB Bromley sites were taking 298 interments; in 2009 this figure had dropped to 103: reduced burial was evident in all the cemeteries, including those with virgin land available. LB Bromley's London Road Cemetery comprises 1.9ha. In 1995 it was reliant on space created by using land between graves and adjacent to paths and roadways. It had begun reclaiming graves in 1980, but altogether just 26 interments took place in 1995. In 2009, this total was 10 and it noted that no new space was available at all. The policy of reclaiming graves was deemed to be too complex in administrative terms.

In 1995, the small St Mary Cray Cemetery had just 23 interments and there was substantial capacity, with over 2,000 grave spaces still available. In 2009, usage rates continued to be low, with just 16 interments taking place. Similarly, Plaistow Cemetery had just 23 interments in 1995, but in 2009 had just one re-open interment; new graves were no longer available. There have been no plans to extend the working capacity of either site.

In 1995, St Luke's Cemetery had substantial capacity in its unconsecrated section, with over 500 graves as yet unused. A total of 49 interments took place in that year. In 2009, the number of interments was 39 altogether. A separate Muslim section has been created with further capacity for perhaps 60 interments.

Chislehurst Cemetery is the largest cemetery in the borough, and in 1995 had 144 interments with sufficient virgin land for a further 280 interments. By 2009, there was no virgin land remaining, and burials were in re-opened graves only: indeed, just 8 interments took place in that year.

Similarly, Biggin Hill in 1995 had capacity for a further 5,000+ interments; in that year it had just 23 burials. By 2009, it appears that demand had remained low, and some 4,604 grave spaces remained as yet unused.

Beckenham Cemetery and Crematorium is a private sector concern, and is currently owned by Dignity. In 1995, it had around 150 interments with capacity for a further 420 in as yet unused ground. No current information is available on the site.

Overall, the borough appears to have sufficient burial capacity to accommodate the borough's need for the next twenty years, at its current use rates. However, it is surprising that demand for burial space is low in the borough, falling well below projected demand derived from demographic statistics.

Camden

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Islington	Hampstead	1876	14.6	Virgin land available	Re-opens only	123	41	Re-opens only
Highgate Cemetery Trust	Highgate	1839	15.4	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	100	40	na
No reserve land available								
			30.0			223	81	na

Hampstead Cemetery, the only site owned by LB Camden in the borough, is 14.6ha in size. Although a small number of new graves – around 80 – were available in 1995, this provision had been exhausted by 2009 and space was available in re-opens only. In 2009, 41 re-open burials took place. The borough had as far as possible created additional graves at the site – through using up areas originally planned as pathways; land between graves and adjacent to paths, and new depth created by adding topsoil. However, no attempts had been made to reclaim or reuse graves as a consequence of administrative complexity and issues surrounding memorials.

Highgate Cemetery, opened in 1839, continues to sell burial space and still has capacity in its East section. In the 1990s, there were around 100 interments a year, and in 2009 the total was 40. The space for interment is also found along pathways and between graves.

Given the limited capacity at both sites, and the fact that fewer than 100 interments have taken place in the entire borough, it is concluded that Camden should be categorised as having 'no burials'.

Croydon

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Croydon	Queen's Road	1861	8.3	Re-opens only	Reclaiming	12	20e	Reclaiming
LB CRoydon	Croydon	1897	16.7	Re-opens only	Reclaiming	73	280e	Reclaiming
No reserve land available.								
			25.0			85	300e	Reclaiming

The two cemeteries in Croydon, both owned by LB Croydon, had capacity for re-opens only in 1995. By 2009, a process of reclaiming grave space had begun which increased the number of interments at the sites substantially. Public acceptance of the strategy has been slow, but most people have been persuaded that they are as close to other sets of remains in adjacent graves as they are when buried on top of used graves. Because of the reliance on reclaimed graves, it is not possible to estimate site capacity.

Despite the introduction of reclamation, the borough is largely reliant on its site outside its boundary, at the LB Croydon's Greenlawn Memorial Park in Tandridge and at the Bandon Hill Cemetery, located in Sutton and jointly owned between Sutton and Croydon. There are few new grave spaces left at Greenlawn – perhaps about 20 – and the LB Croydon is looking to secure land for an extension.

Ealing

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 10	Capacity
LB Ealing	South Ealing	1861	9.7	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	38	39	Re-opens only
LB Ealing	Havelock	1890	2.2	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	6	3	Re-opens only
LB Ealing	Acton	1897	6.7	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	60	22	Re-opens only
LB Ealing	Greenford Park*	1900	13.5	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	355	373	na
LB Ealing	Hortus Road	1944	2.9	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	29	88	120
LB K&C*	Kensington Hanwell	1855	7.5	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	15	24	1,080e
City of Westminster	Westminster Hanwell	1854	9.3	Virgin land available	Created graves only	84	15	na
*Extension likely to be brought into use in 2025								2,000
			51.8			587	564	3,200+

*LB Kensington & Chelsea

South Ealing Cemetery, opened in 1861, has an area dedicated for use by Roman Catholics. In 1995, it accommodated re-opens only, and no new spaces were available. In 2009, a similar level of interment was continuing to take place, and it was estimated that there was substantial capacity in existing family graves. A similar trajectory has also taken place at both Havelock and Acton, with no attempt to extend the working capacity of the site but a presumption of sufficient land being available in existing family graves. It has been calculated that over 13,000 grave spaces exist in family graves, suitable for reclamation.

In 1995, the scale of burials was greater in Greenford Park, but there was a heavy reliance on graves that had been created by utilising an yet unused space originally designated a common grave section. By 2009, a portion of this section had been dedicated for use by the Muslim community.

Hortus Cemetery is wholly unconsecrated, and in 1995 took 29 interments. The local authority was using created space, but not wholly reliant on this source of land. In 2009, there was an evident increase in use of the site, with 88 interments taking place, three in a specific Jewish section. The cemetery has an area designated for the scattering of cremated remains, but the size of this area is not specified.

The LB Kensington & Chelsea's Kensington Hanwell Cemetery and the City of Westminster's Westminster Hanwell Cemetery were both opened in the 1850s, and now together are part of the Hanwell Cemeteries Conservation Area. Kensington Hanwell Cemetery comprises 7.7 hectares, and in 1995 took 15 interments in total. There was at that time an estimated 25 years' space remaining in the site. In 2010, there were 24 interments and the site had estimated capacity for a further 1,080.

Westminster Hanwell Cemetery, owned by the City of Westminster had virgin land available in 1995. It is currently maintained by 'Continental Landscapes' on behalf of the borough. Fifteen interments took place in 2009, and the cemetery is now reliant on created graves, principally in capacity above existing commons.

An as yet unused extension is available at Greenford Park, which will give an estimated 2,000 additional burial spaces. The extension has planning permission for use as a cemetery and is planned to be brought into use in 2025. However, even with this extension, the borough is unlikely to meet demand for interment space for the next 20 years.

Enfield

Owner	Name	Date	Area Ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 10	Capacity
LB Enfield	Lavender Hill	1871	11.6	Virgin land available	na	230	na	na
LB Enfield	Southgate	1880	5.4	Re-opens only	na	47	na	na
LB Enfield	Hertford Road	1881	4.4	Re-opens only	na	5	na	na
LB Enfield	Edmonton	1884	11.8	Created graves only	na	143	na	na
LB Enfield	Enfield C+C	1961	2.4	Re-opens only	na	96	na	na
LB Islington	Trent Park*	1960	2.4	Virgin land available	Virgin space available	105	75	na
Badgehursts	Tottenham Park	1906	2.0	Reclaiming graves	Reclaiming graves	141	na	na
Extension available, from c2020							na	40,000
			40.0			767	na	na

Limited information is available on the current status of the cemeteries in Enfield, since neither the LB Enfield nor the private company operating in the borough have returned survey information.

The LB Enfield owns four cemeteries in the borough and a cemetery and crematorium. The majority of interments take place in the oldest, Lavender Hill Cemetery, which in 1995 had perhaps 210 grave spaces remaining. The site also had a Muslim section with 25 unused spaces. It appears that in 1995 there had as yet been no interments in the section. There were plans to extend this cemetery, with the extension adjacent to Strayfield Road opening in 1997 and by 2009 evidently managed as a separate cemetery. At Edmonton Cemetery in 1995, there was complete reliance on space created between graves and adjacent to path and roadways.

Southgate Cemetery was, in 1995, accommodating re-opens only, and there appeared to be no plans to create any new graves in the site; this was also the case at Southgate Cemetery. According to the manager at Haringey, space is becoming problematic at this borough, which had hoped to contribute to and benefit from the development of built vaults at Enfield Cemetery and Crematorium.

Enfield Cemetery and Crematorium is managed by LB Haringey on behalf of the LB Enfield. The site is 20h but most of this comprises gardens of remembrance. A total of 2.4ha is given over to lawn burials. The site is unconsecrated, and in 1995, there were 96 re-opens.

The LB Islington owns Trent Park Cemetery, a lawn cemetery which opened in 1960. The site has no consecrated section, and in 1995 had 105 interments; there was no indication of the site's capacity at that time. In 2009, the site had 75 interments, and no measures were being taken to extend the working capacity of the site because sufficient land was available. In addition, the site has the capacity for expansion, to accommodate a further 40,000 graves spaces. However, some difficulties were anticipated with planning permission.

Tottenham Park Cemetery is owned by a private company, Badgehursts.

Greenwich

	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 10	Capacity
LB Greenw	Charlton	1855	5.9	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	88	40	Re-opens only
LB Greenw	Eltham C+C	1935	7.7+ 0.41	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	299	138	2,440
LB Greenw	Greenwich	1856	8.6+ 0.41	Virgin land available	Re-opens only	226	39	800
LB Greenw	Plumstead	1890	13.9	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	153	153	640
LB Greenw	Woolwich Old	1856	5.2	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	2	1	Re-opens only
LB Greenw	Woolwich New	1884	19.7	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	99	100	3,600e
Extension likely to be brought into use, size and date uncertain								+
			61.0			867	471	7,480+

Charleton Cemetery was opened in 1855, and comprises 5.9 hectares. In 1995 there were 88 interments, all of which were re-opens. They had used up all the available area originally designated as path and roadway. In 2009, there were 40 interments. LB Greenwich has chosen not to pursue a policy of grave reclamation because of the cost of disposing of the monument. Woolwich Old Cemetery accommodated re-opens only in 1995. The site is 5.1ha in extent and just two interments took place in 1995; in 2009 the figure was one. Land adjacent to the cemetery may be brought into use, but the exact date is uncertain. Interment has taken place in land originally designated as path or roadways; there are no plans to pursue reclamation because of soil conditions.

Greenwich Cemetery, which was opened in 1856, covers 9.2ha; 0.41ha of this is designated as garden of remembrance. In 1995 all its interments were in unconsecrated ground, although the site does have a consecrated section. In 2009, interments were in re-opened graves only and totalled 39. Estimated capacity is 400, although in 1995 this figure was 112 indicating that some of these graves may have been created.

Woolwich New Cemetery was opened in 1884, and covers 19.7 acres. Nearly half the site – 9.8ha – is within Bexley. In 1995, it was anticipated that there was substantial remaining interment space – over 4,000 graves. A new Muslim section was opened in 1994, containing over 700 spaces. In 1995, there were 13 interments in the section. In 2009 there were 471 interments. It is anticipated that the site has a capacity to take interments for a further 18 years.

Plumstead Cemetery, opened in 1890, has a Roman Catholic section. In both 1995 and 2009, 153 interments took place. The site has an estimated 320 spaces remaining, fifty of which are in the children's section. Although the site does not have crematorium facilities, the interment of cremated remains was taking place in land that would be suitable for full-body interments. Again, there were no plans to reclaim graves at this site.

Eltham Cemetery and Crematorium was opened in 1935, and covers 8.1ha. It is uncertain how much of this space is taken up by the crematorium and any garden of remembrance. In 1995 virgin land was still available for interments, and 299 burials took place. A total of 1,220 spaces were thought to remain. Areas originally designated as pathways are being used for interment, although there is virgin land available. Cremated remains are being interred in land suitable for full-body interments.

Insufficient space is available for interment in the borough for the next twenty years. It is notable that there has been a substantial reduction in burial numbers between 1995 and 2009 which indicates that the borough may be reliant on cemeteries in neighbouring boroughs.

Hackney

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Hackney	Abney Park	1840	13.4	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	13	6	FULL
No reserve land available								
			13.4			13	6	None

Abney Park Cemetery was opened in 1840 by a private company controlled principally by Nonconformists. The site is wholly unconsecrated. Although it is still owned by the LB Hackney, day to day management is undertaken by a charitable trust, which manages the site to promote environmental diversity. In 1995, 13 re-opens took place; in 2009 the figure was 6. It is probable that no attempt will be made to reclaim or re-use graves at the site, which is considered, for all intents and purposes, to be full. As a consequence, Hackney remains totally reliant on burial space outside its boundaries.

Hammersmith & Fulham

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB H&F	Fulham Palace Road	1865	5.2	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	5	na	Re-opens only
LB H&F	Margravine Hammersmith	1869	6.7	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	3	na	Re-opens only
General CC	Kensal Green	1833	39.6+ 1.6	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	515e	267	10 years
No reserve land available								0
			51.5			523e	267+	10 years

LB H&F = LB Hammersmith & Fulham

The two LB Hammersmith & Fulham cemeteries were, in 1995, at the end of their operational capacity. Fulham Palace Road Cemetery had, in 1995, three re-opens with a further two interments in new plots in the Roman Catholic section. There was no further space for new interment in virgin land. The Margravine Hammersmith Cemetery, similarly, had three interments in 1995. It appears that no strategies have been undertaken to extend the working capacity of either site. The LB Hammersmith & Fulham webpages indicated that no new graves were available at either site, and which could accommodate re-opens only.

Kensal Green Cemetery remains in the ownership of the General Cemetery Company. In total, 39.6ha is available within the site for interment; a crematorium and garden of remembrance takes up 1.6ha. Virgin land is still available for interments, despite intensive use: in 1995, and estimated 515 burials took place at the site; in 2009, this figure was 267. In 1995, the site had an estimated 1,000 grave spaces remaining, and in 2009 there was capacity for a further ten years' burial. Kensal Green is part-consecrated, and has sections for Hindus, Buddhists, Baptists and Roman Catholics. Use of this latter section is intensive, comprising around a third of the total interments in 2009. The Company has no reserve land, and remains the principal source of non-denominational burial space in the borough.

Haringey

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Haringey	Tottenham	1858	22.7	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	88	na	na
LB Haringey	Woodgreen	1995	1.6	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	36	na	2 years
No reserve land available								
			24.3		na	124	na	2 years

Haringey has two cemeteries, both owned by the LB Haringey. The oldest site, Tottenham Cemetery had, in 1995, space in existing graves only and completed 88 interments. In 2009, the situation had not changed: all interments were still re-opens.

Woodgreen Cemetery, opened in 1995, is completely unconsecrated and in 1995 had had 36 interments. Prepared space in the cemetery ran out in April 2010, and new vaults were in the process of being developed. It was hoped that they would be available from November in the same year. The new development would create 88 vaults and 72 traditional graves to give an estimated additional two years' capacity.

In 2005, plans had been proposed to make new space at Enfield Crematorium which is managed by Haringey. However, the plan to create vaults above existing graves required substantial investment – of an estimated £3-5m – and the council chose not to take that route. It is likely that later in 2010 the LB Haringey will take the decision to sell its Bereavement Services to the private sector.

Harrow

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Harrow	Paines Lane	1877	1.0	Re-opens only	Full	0	0	Full
LB Harrow	Harrow	1888	2.8	Re-opens only	Full	5	0	Full
LB Harrow	Wealdstone	1902	2.6	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	0	3	Re-opens only
LB Harrow	Roxteth Hill	1902	0.7	Full	Full	0	0	Full
LB Harrow	Eastcote Lane	1922	1.4	Full	Full	0	1	Full
LB Harrow	Pinner New	1933	6.5	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	96	46	200
LB Harrow	Harrow Weald	1937	4.4	Created graves only	Created graves only	1	108	na
No reserve land available								
			19.4			102	158	200+

All seven cemeteries in this borough are owned by the LB Harrow. The majority of the LB Harrow's cemeteries had extremely limited capacity for further interment in 1995. In Paines Lane, some space has in the past been created through the use of capacity above existing unpurchased graves but in 2009 there were no interments at all. Harrow, Wealdstone and Eastcote Lane appear to have Roman Catholic sections, in which one or two interments have taken place a year since 1995. At Roxteth Hill Cemetery, the last interment took place in 1973.

In 1995, Pinner New Cemetery had capacity to provide around 300 new graves and contained a substantial Roman Catholic section, which was very much in demand. By 2009, new space was only available in the Greek section. Harrow Weald Cemetery had a single interment in 1995, but in 2009 had 108. Many of the interments were in a newly-created Muslim section.

Within the cemeteries, capacity above existing common graves is being used for the interment of cremated remains.

There are no plans to reclaim or re-use graves in the borough since it is considered that, overall, space issues are not at critical level despite the fact that the borough is reliant on burial space outside its boundary. LB Harrow owns a cemetery attached to LB Brent's Carpenders Park Cemetery, which is only just over the border in Three Rivers District. The 'extension' is owned by Harrow but maintained by LB Brent, which takes the burial fee and charges Harrow for maintenance. LB Harrow retains the burial rights fees. Harrow residents are charged parishioner rates for Carpenders Park.

Havering

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Havering	Romford	1871	8.1	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	302	126	na
LB Havering	Rainham	1902	1.3	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	30	8	Re- opens only
LB Havering	Upminster	1902	4.3	Re-opens only	Virgin land available	283	267	na
LB Havering	Hornchurch	1932	3.3	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	36	18	Re- opens only
Extension currently planned but will require planning permission								
			17.0			651	419	na

There are four cemeteries in Havering, all owned by the LB Havering. The oldest site, Romford Cemetery, was opened in 1871. Its 8.1h accommodated 242 interments in 1995 and it had capacity for a further estimated 850 interments. More than half of these spaces were in the Roman Catholic section and a new Muslim section was due to be opened in 1996.

Rainham Cemetery had in 1995 no further space for new graves, and had 30 re-opens. Upminster Cemetery and Hornchurch Cemeteries were similarly placed.

All the LB Havering's cemeteries had Roman Catholic sections. Only the Roman Catholic section at Romford Cemetery had remaining capacity for new graves.

Upminster Cemetery was extended after 1995, and the LB Havering is looking to effect a further extension since they now have capacity for a further 2-3 years only. If the further extension is permitted, it will give the borough an additional 25 years' burial space. However, the Environment Agency is currently questioning the application and there are doubts as to whether the plans will be carried through.

Overall, the borough is deemed to have insufficient space to meet its burial needs for the next twenty years, if no extension is brought into use.

Hillingdon

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Hillingdon	Hillingdon & Uxbridge	1856	18.5	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	60	57	Re-opens only
LB Hillingdon	Harlington Burial Ground	1871	1.3	Full	Full	0	1	Full
LB Hillingdon	Victoria Lane Burial Ground	1871	0.2	Full	Full	0	2	Full
LB Hillingdon	Harmondsworth	1905	2.5	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	6	11	Re-opens only
LB Hillingdon	Northwood	1915	15.8	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	89	121	1,240e
LB Hillingdon	Cherry Lane	1937	24.5	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	131	127	15,010e
LB Hillingdon	West Drayton*	1939	7.2	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	50	40	2,000e
*Extension available, date uncertain								+
			70.0			336	359	18,250+

There are seven cemeteries in Hillingdon, all owned by the LB Hillingdon. Of these, four are full or have capacity to accommodate re-opens only. There appears to be extensive space in the remaining cemeteries, which have been extended within the last twenty years.

Cherry Lane has a Muslim section.

At West Drayton, there are plans to extend the part of the cemetery offering woodland burial.

The borough is deemed to have sufficient capacity to accommodate its burial demand for the next twenty years.

Hounslow

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Hounslow	Isleworth	1880	2.6	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	14	5	Re-opens only
LB Hounslow	Feltham	1886	2.8	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	32	24	Re-opens only
LB Hounslow	Chiswick Old	1888	3.0	Virgin land available	Re-opens only	17	7	Re-opens only
LB Hounslow	New Brentford*	1903	3.3	Virgin land available	Re-opens only	0	36	Re-opens only
LB Hounslow	Chiswick New*	1932	6.2	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	91e	76	1,000
LB Hounslow	Bedfont	1942	1.4	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	31	22	3,000
LB Hounslow	Hatton*	1974	9.1	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	3	43	12,350
LB K&C#	Gunnersbury Kensington	1929	8.5 +0.4	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	226	203	1,818e
*Extensions available								
			36.9			414e	416	18,168

#LB K&C = Kensington & Chelsea

Seven of the borough's eight cemeteries are owned by the LB Hounslow, and are managed by John Laing Integrated Services. The majority of these are small sites, two of which were in 1995 taking re-opens only. In 1995, there was substantial space remaining in the Borough's cemeteries given the small number of interments taking place annually.

In 2009, according to the LB Hounslow website, both Chiswick Old Cemetery and New Brentford Cemetery had no new space remaining. However, Hatton Cemetery and Chiswick Old Cemetery together had 7.8ha of as-yet unused cemetery space. Further reserves are owned by the LB Hounslow in Richmond-upon-Thames.

Hatton Cemetery contained 0.8ha of space laid out for use by the Muslim community, with graves oriented towards Mecca. This site is particularly popular with the Muslim community, and the LB Hounslow is looking to secure an extension, despite the fact that capacity remains in the Muslim section at Powdermill Lane. There is reserved land attached to Hatton Cemetery which is currently being used as an urban farm, and has been since the site was laid out in 1962; it is anticipated that there would be resistance to bringing this farm land into use for burial space.

LB Kensington & Chelsea also owns a cemetery in Hounslow. Gunnersbury Kensington Cemetery was opened in 1929 as space became depleted in the Hanwell Kensington Cemetery. In 1995, there was an estimated 12-15 years' capacity left in the site; in 2009 there were an around 909 grave spaces remaining.

The borough is deemed to have sufficient capacity to meet its burial needs for the next twenty years.

Kensington and Chelsea

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 10	Capacity
Royal Parks	Brompton	1840	16.2	Created graves only	na	37	30-35	FULL
No reserve land available								
			16.2			37	Na	na

Brompton Cemetery is the only cemetery owned by a central government agency, since it was compulsorily purchased in the 1850s. In 1995, the site was reliant on capacity above common graves, and still uses this space in addition to a portion of the site that was destroyed in Second World War bombing raids. The site is continuing to accommodate burials and at its current low usage rate has no more than five or ten years remaining. However, for the purposes of this survey the low usage rate of the site and its minimal contribution to serving burial demand in the borough leads to the conclusion that Kensington & Chelsea should be regarded as having no significant space for burial.

Kingston upon Thames

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 10	Capacity
LB KuT*	Surbiton#	1918	4.5	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	113	39	1,366
LB KuT*	Kingston	1855	11.6 +1.6	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	120	66	600
#Extension available								+
			16.1			233	105	1,966+

*LB Kingston upon Thames

Both the cemeteries in this borough are owned by the LB Kingston upon Thames.

The older site, opened in 1855, comprises 8.9 ha. The site contains a crematorium and garden of remembrance, and the total area of the site includes these. In 1995, pressure on space was evident: there were plans to bring into use sections of the site not originally designated for burial space. In 2009 an extension was added to the site, but the size of the extension is uncertain. New depth has also been created with the addition of topsoil. In 2010 there were new plots still available.

Surbiton Cemetery, opened in 1918, is wholly unconsecrated. In 1995 there were 73 interments, and it was anticipated that there was space for a further 865 burials. By 2010, this figure had reduced to 585. Part of the site was designated for use by the Muslim community, and contains 40 graves which were in 1995 as yet unused; in 2010 the reserved area had evidently been extended, and contained space for a further 98 interments.

There is capacity for further extension to the cemetery, to add another 0.5ha; it is intended to bring this extension into use in the near future. Despite this extension, however, it seems unlikely that Kingston upon Thames will meet its demand for burial provision in the next twenty years.

Lambeth

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Lambeth	West Norwood	1837	17.0	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	219	56	Re-opens only
No extension available								
			17.0			219	56	Re-opens only

West Norwood Cemetery was originally owned by a cemetery company, and remains the only cemetery in the borough. The site is now owned and managed by the LB Lambeth. For some time there has only been space available in re-opens at the site, and the number of these has dropped substantially from 219 in 1995 to 56 in 2009. The low use and capacity of the site leads to the conclusion that the borough should be considered as having no significant burial provision.

Lewisham

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Lewisham	Brockley and Ladywell	1858	14.9	Re-opens only	na	9	na	15 years
LB Lewisham	Hither Green/Lewisham*	1873	12.1	Virgin space remaining	na	447	na	4 years
LB Lewisham	Grove Park	1935	10.1	Virgin space remaining	na	305	na	22 years
LB Bromley	Bromley Hill	1907	2.6	Created graves only	Re-opens only	54	5	Re-opens only
*Reserve land available								15 years
			39.7			815	na	56+ years

The LB Lewisham has three sites in the borough. Brockley and Ladywell were separate sites originally, but are now managed as one. In 1995 these sites together took a handful of re-opens and had no new space remaining. Capacity to create graves between existing graves and by path and roadways had been exhausted. However, by 2010 the demolition of unused buildings on the site released fresh ground, and added an estimated 15 years' capacity to the site.

Space remained in the Lewisham Crematorium/Hither Green Cemetery. In 1995, 447 interments took place, and there were over 1,100 remaining grave spaces. A specific Roman Catholic section was available, which had approximately 75 spaces. By 2010, there was an estimated four years remaining at the site, but there was the option of bringing into use adjacent land which would also add a further 15 years' capacity.

The LB Lewisham's newest cemetery, Grove Park, had remaining space for interment in 1995, and in 2010 still had at least 22 years' space remaining with the capacity for further expansion. In addition to a Roman Catholic section, the site also has space dedicated to the use of the Muslim community, and a small section for Buddhists.

The LB Bromley also owns a small cemetery in Lewisham. In 1995, Bromley Hill Cemetery was already reliant on created graves, and accommodated 54 interments. By 2009, the site's operation had reduced substantially, with five interments taking place in re-opens only.

Although insufficient information is available on the current use of Lewisham cemeteries, the amount of reserve land indicates that it is probable that demand for burial space over the next twenty years in the borough will be met.

Merton

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 10	Capacity
LB Merton	Mitcham Church Road	1883	2.7	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	1	0	Full
LB Merton	Gap Road	1888	8.3	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	34	24	Re-opens only
LB Merton	Mitcham London Road	1926	6.0	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	215	174	2,896
LB Merton	Merton & Sutton*	1947	8.8	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	287	231	3,766
LB Wandsworth	Morden	1891	3.4	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	599	na	60 years
Dignity	Streatham Park	1908	24.3	na	na	na	na	na
*Extension to be brought into use c2013								14,400
Total			53.5			1,136+	429+	20,996+

There are three cemeteries wholly owned by LB Merton. Two of these – Mitcham Church Road Cemetery and Gap Road Cemetery are able to take re-opens only. Mitcham London Road Cemetery is still fully operational, although the scale of interments appears to have dropped between 1995 and 2009.

The Merton & Sutton Cemetery, owned jointly by the two boroughs, has large Jewish and Muslim sections. A new extension comprising 3.7 ha is planned for the cemetery, which will be brought into use c2013.

Morden Cemetery, also known as Battersea New Cemetery, had over 7,000 grave spaces remaining in 1995, and in this year completed 599 interments. In 2010, it was reckoned to have around 60 years' capacity remaining.

Merton is likely to meet its burial needs for the next twenty years.

Newham

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Newham	West Ham	1857	9.0+ 0.1	Reclaimed graves only	Reclaimed graves only	86	35	Reclaiming
City of London	City of London	1856	69+12	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	946	358	Re-using
East London CC	East London	1872	13.4	Created graves only	Created graves only	670	384	na
Manor Park CC	Manor Park	1874	20.2	Virgin land available	Re-claiming	648	na	Re- claiming
Badgehursts	Woodgrange Park	1889	9.1	na	na	93	na	na
No reserve land available								
			120.7			2,443	777+	Re-using

There is extensive cemetery provision in Newham, with a range of providers.

West Ham Cemetery was opened in 1857, and currently comprises 9.1ha. Around 0.1ha of the site is designated a garden of remembrance. Grave reclamation began in the cemetery in 1978, and by 1985 comprised the only source of space for interment. In that year, 86 burials took place. In 2010, 35 interments took place at the site, in reclaimed graves. The cemetery also contains a Muslim section with capacity for around 130 graves. However, this section has not proved to be popular, and in 1995, and from 2008-10 there were no interments. The LB Newham has no land in reserve within or outside the borough.

The largest cemetery in the borough is owned by the Corporation of London. The site was opened in 1856, and intended to serve the East End of the city. It is part consecrated, and contains an extensive garden of remembrance. In 1995, the cemetery provided for 946 interments. In that year it was anticipated that the site had thousands of graves remaining, but the policy of reclaiming graves had not yet commenced. By 2009, policies of re-using and reclaiming graves were well in hand. Although just 100 spaces remained in virgin ground, the site's capacity was deemed to be unlimited. The Corporation of London does not hold any other land in reserve inside or outside the borough.

The private sector has three cemeteries in the borough. Woodgrange Park is owned by Badgehursts. In 1995 the vast majority of interments were Muslims; there were a small number of re-opens. East London Cemetery and Crematorium was reliant on created graves in 1995. Additional capacity on commons graves had already been exhausted since the introduction of this policy in the 1970s. In 2009, the company was still using space between existing graves. Manor Park Cemetery reported that it also had limited space, and was reclaiming grave spaces.

It is notable that the number of interments in the borough has dropped substantially between 1995 and 2009, taking into account the incomplete data. The introduction of a re-use programme by the City of London carries the possibility that the borough may become self-sustaining in burial terms, but perhaps only if other burial providers in the borough follow suit.

Redbridge

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 10	Capacity
LB Redbridge	Buckingham Road	1881	2.9	Virgin land available	Re-opens only	5	3	Re-opens only
LB Redbridge	Barkingside	1923	3.4	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	13	7	Re-opens only
LB Redbridge	Roding Lane	1940	0.5	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	5	5	800
LB Redbridge	Barkingside Garden of Rest	1954	5.4	Virgin land available	Re-opens only	276	90	Re-opens only
LB Redbridge	Forest Park*	2005	6.5 +0.8	na	Virgin land available	na	100	13,000
*Extension may become available								+
			18.7			299	205	13,800

Management of the cemeteries owned by LB Redbridge is undertaken by the Westerleigh Group. Buckingham Road Cemetery – the oldest in the borough – had in 1995 just a handful of unused grave spaces remaining. No attempts were being made to create further graves because space was available at Forest Park Cemetery. Similarly, Barkingside Cemetery had a small hand of remaining grave spaces, including some space in the Roman Catholic section. For the most part, the site was taking re-opens only. Both sites were deemed to be full.

The Roding Lane Cemetery is unconsecrated, and in 1995 had five interments. The site had an estimated 1,350 unused graves. This small site was originally laid out to accommodate the high numbers of anticipated civilian deaths as a consequence of aerial bombardment. At that period the number of interments was very small, and it is only in more recent years that the decision was taken to resume use of the site. The site now has a dedicated Muslim section.

Barkingside Garden of Rest has a substantial Roman Catholic section, which in 1995 took perhaps two thirds of the interments in the site. By 2009, the estimated 731 remaining graves had been exhausted, and the cemetery was accommodating re-opens only.

Forest Park Cemetery was opened in 2005. The site comprises 7.3 ha; 0.8 ha are taken by a garden of remembrance. The site has no consecrated ground. There is a possibility that in the future the site may be extended.

Richmond upon Thames

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 10	Capacity
LB RuT#	Richmond/East Sheen	1839	20.3	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	172	250	2,000e
LB RuT#	Twickenham	1868	8.1	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	111	104	500+
LB RuT#	Hampton	1883	0.3+0.1	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	9	3	Re-opens only
LB RuT#	Mortlake Burial Ground	1887	1.6	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	2	8	Re-opens only
LB RuT#	Teddington*	1879	6.1	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	76	76	1240e
LB Hounslow	Hounslow	1869	3.6	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	51	22	1,200
LB Hounslow	Borough/Powdermill Lane/Heston and Isleworth	1942	13.0	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	64	65	17,600
LB H&F†	North Sheen	1909	12.3	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	264e	338e	6,760e
LB H&F†	Mortlake	1926	8.0	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	356		
*Extension available, c2030								1100
			73.3			1,105	866	30,400

#LB RuT = LB Richmond upon Thames; †LB H&F = LB Hammersmith & Fulham

In 1995, Richmond Cemetery comprised the largest cemetery in the borough, taking the largest number of interments. However, there were plans to create graves between graves and by pathways, indicating that the existing space was under pressure. In 2009, 250 interments took place at the site, with no indication given as to the number in re-opened graves, or whether graves had been created. New plots were apparently available.

Twickenham Cemetery has been extended since 1995, by 0.405ha. The cemetery contains an area set aside for the interment of cremated remains, but the size of this section is uncertain. Land for an extension is also available at Teddington Cemetery, and will be brought into use in 2030.

LB Hounslow has two sites in Richmond. Both have virgin land available, and Borough Cemetery has 8.9ha in reserve. There is a Muslim section in Borough Cemetery, but its use is restricted to Hounslow residents only.

The LB Hammersmith & Fulham also has two cemeteries in Richmond. Both had virgin land available in 1995, and still have as yet unused space. North Sheen has a Muslim section and Mortlake a section dedicated for the use of the Roman Catholic community. Both sections have an estimated 15-20 years' space remaining.

Both Barnes Common Cemetery owned by the LB Richmond upon Thames and Mortlake Roman Catholic Cemetery, owned by the Roman Catholic Diocese were included in the 1995 survey; both had were at that time full and with the last interment some years previously, and so were excluded from the survey in 2009.

Ostensibly, the borough is capable of meeting its burial demand for the next twenty years. However, it should be noted that some of the provision lies in cemeteries where use is restricted to residents from outside the borough.

Southwark

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 10	Capacity
LB Southwark	Nunhead	1840	21.1	Virgin land available	na	71	na	na
LB Southwark	Camberwell Old	1854	17.0	Created graves only	na	74	na	na
LB Southwark	Camberwell New	1927	12.8	Virgin land available	na	512	na	na
Uncertain if reserve land available								na
			50.9			657	na	na

There are three cemeteries in Southwark, all owned by the LB Southwark. Nunhead Cemetery was opened by the South London Cemetery Company. When it was taken over by the LB Southwark, all the available land had been used. Further capacity was released through the demolition of greenhouses on the site. In 1995, the cemetery had a Muslim section.

Camberwell Old Cemetery was in 1995 reliant on graves created from space between existing graves. The borough's principal burial space in 1995 was Camberwell New Cemetery, which had a recently-opened extension.

No information was available on the sites' status in 2010.

Sutton

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Sutton	Sutton*	1889	8.6	Virgin land available	Virgin land available	100	na	12
LB Sutton	Cuddington	1902	1.1	Re-opens only	na	2	na	Re-opens only
JCC	Bandon Hill	1900	6.5	Virgin land available	Reclaimed graves only	268	196	Reclaiming
*Reserve land available								30 years
			16.2			370	196+	30 years+

The LB Sutton owns two cemeteries in the borough. Cuddington Cemetery – a small and recent site – was in 1995 taking re-opens only, and in 2010 this remained the case.

The larger Sutton Cemetery still had capacity in 1995, with well over 2,500 graves remaining. In 2010, this number had diminished substantially, but it was reported that further space had been found at the site, and there were six plots yet to open. In addition, the cemetery had the capacity to add an extension to one side. The site was thought to have capacity for at least another 30 years.

Bandon Hill Cemetery, owned by the Bandon Hill Joint Cemetery Committee, was opened in 1900. The Committee comprises members from the LBs of Croydon and Sutton. The cemetery contains a consecrated section. In 1995, there were plans to create graves by using space between existing graves, and by using pathways; in 2010 these plans were not in train, but remained an option being considered. In 1995, the Cemetery Committee began to reclaim graves in the cemetery, and these now comprise the principal source of new grave spaces. The 1995 report indicated that some consideration was being given to the acquisition of the adjacent allotments, but in 2010 this action had not been taken.

Waltham Forest

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 10	Capacity
LB Waltham Forest	Chingford Mount	1884	16.8	Virgin land available	Created graves only	244	166	5,200
LB Waltham Forest	Walthamstow	1872	4.9	Re-opens only	Re-opens only	40	5	Re-opens only
No reserve land available								0
			21.7			284	171	5,200

Chingford Mount Cemetery is owned by the LB Waltham Forest was in 1995 the principal source of graves for the borough, and had a projected capacity of a further sixteen years. In 2010, the projected space remained sixteen years: new graves have been created through adding topsoil. The site has no consecrated section since the cemetery was originally intended to serve the Nonconformist community as Abney Park Cemetery became full. Interments of cremated remains are taking place in land suitable for full-body interments. The LB Waltham Forest does not now to sell common or unpurchased graves because demand for this type of graves is served largely by Manor Park Cemetery. The option of grave reclamation is complicated by the fact that many graves were sold in the past on short or 'probationary' leases, of 15 years. This option was open to poorer families unable to purchase full burial rights; they retained the option to purchase the right after fifteen years, or the grave rights would revert back to the local authority and its unused space used for other unpurchased interments.

LB Waltham Forest also owns Chingford Mount Cemetery. This much smaller site was providing re-opens only in 1995, with no plans to create or reclaim graves. The site's use continues a slow decline, with a drop in interments to five in 2009. Steps have already been taken on the site to create graves in and adjacent to path/roadways, between graves and in capacity above existing common graves. Some of the ground has also been built up with new earth. Grave reclamation has taken place at the site, but is regarded as being problematic: some of the site's records were destroyed in a fire.

The borough has insufficient burial space to meet its projected demand for the next twenty years.

Wandsworth

Owner	Name	Date	Area ha	Status 95	Status 10	Total Burials 95	Total Burials 09	Capacity
LB Wandsworth	Putney Lower Common	1855	2.0	Full	Full	0	na	Full
LB Wandsworth	Battersea Rise	1860	6.1	Re-opens only	Virgin space remaining	12	na	100
LB Wandsworth	Wandsworth	1878	16.2	Virgin space remaining	Virgin space remaining	373	na	2-3 years
LB Wandsworth	Putney Vale	1891	17.4	Virgin space remaining	Virgin space remaining	611	na	10 years
LB Lambeth	Lambeth	1854	20.0	Created graves only	Created graves only	286	272	na
LB Lambeth	Streatham	1893	15.8	Re-opens only	Created graves only	65	55	na
Extension available								na
			77.5			1,347	327+	na

The LB Wandsworth owns four of the six cemeteries in the borough. In 1995, Putney Lower Common cemetery was full, and this remains the case. However, in Battersea Rise where in 1995 only re-opens were possible, around 100 further graves have been located.

In 1995, there was space remaining at Wandsworth and Putney Vale, the latter taking a large proportion of the interments in the borough in 1995. These sites still had space in 2009, but it is limited: Wandsworth has an estimated 2-3 years' burial space remaining, and Putney Vale 10 years.

LB Lambeth also owns two cemeteries in the borough. In 1995, Lambeth Cemetery had 286 interments, ten of which were in a specific Muslim section. All the graves in the cemetery were using land adjacent to pathways and between existing graves. In Streatham Cemetery in 1995, there was only space available in re-open graves. In 2009, additional space had been created through the installation of above-ground burial vaults. In Streatham Cemetery, the vaults were constructed on land in the cemetery that had originally been the location of borough greenhouses. In Lambeth, the vaults were located above existing common graves where alternative use was limited because of ground conditions. It was not possible to estimate capacity.

No information was available on the current status of the cemeteries owned by the LB Wandsworth, which means that it is not possible to estimate capacity for the borough.