



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Burial Grounds

The results of a survey of burial grounds
in England and Wales

June 2007

Contents

Introduction	3
Executive summary	4
Methodology, coverage and data quality	5
Survey methodology	5
Coverage and data quality	5
Commentary	7
Location, type and burial authorities	7
Rural / urban classification of burial grounds	8
Operational status	8
Area usable for burials	9
Predicted future period of operation	11
Number of burials	12
Finance	12
Staffing	12
Grounds maintenance	13
Public access arrangements	13
Criminal activity	13
Safety procedures and plans	14
List of tables	15
Further information	33
References	34
Appendix A: Defra rural / urban classification for England	35

Introduction

In 2001, the Environment Sub-Committee of the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Select Committee identified in its eighth report¹ long-term problems with the provision and maintenance of burial space. The report further identified that there was little or no information readily available about the number, condition and operational status of the country's burial grounds, cemeteries and churchyards. In its response² to the Committee's report, the Government undertook to carry out a survey of burial grounds, and to conduct research into their management, in order to attempt to fill this information gap.

The Home Office, which at that time was the government department responsible for burial policy, commissioned research into the management of burial grounds, including training, planning and maintenance standards. This report³ was published in 2004.

In 2005, following a pilot exercise, the Home Office launched a survey with the objective of gathering information on every piece of land in England and Wales which is, or ever has been, used as a burial ground, and which is not now being used for any other purpose. The survey aimed to capture information on all burial grounds of any nature, ranging from fully-functioning modern cemeteries to centuries-old churchyards. Its purpose was to establish the identity, nature, location, operational status, capacity and management arrangements of every burial ground in England and Wales. This is the first time a survey of this type and scale has been undertaken.

Since that time, responsibility for burials policy passed from the Home Office to the Department for Constitutional Affairs and now lies with the Ministry of Justice. Information on some 9,700 burial grounds has been returned in response to the survey. This report presents the survey results. Statistics are shown for England and Wales as a whole, along with separate data for Wales and the nine Government Office Regions of England.

¹ HC 91-I Cemeteries.

² HC 91 Cemeteries – The Government's Reply to the Eighth Report from the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Committee, cm 5281.

³ Wilson B and Robson J, Cemeteries and their management, Home Office online report 1/04, see <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/rdsolr0104.pdf>.

Executive summary

A total of 9,747 burial grounds, cemeteries and churchyards in England and Wales responded to the survey. Of these, 21 per cent were identified as having a first- or second-tier local authority as the burial authority, 70 per cent operated under the Church of England or, in Wales, the Church in Wales, while the remaining 9 per cent includes those owned or managed by other faiths or charitable trusts, woodland cemeteries, and those where the burial authority could not be identified. [see *Table 1*]

Nearly three quarters of local authority burial grounds were open for burials in new graves, with 11 per cent completely closed to new burials and 12 per cent open only for new burials in existing graves. A lesser proportion (64 per cent) of Church of England⁴ burial grounds were open for new burials, while a little under 20 per cent were closed to new burials. Approximately two-thirds of local authority burial grounds located in predominantly major urban areas were open for new burials. [see *Tables 4, 5 and 6*]

For both Church of England and local authority burial grounds it was reported that, overall, approximately 80 per cent of land available for burials was already occupied by graves, with 20 per cent still unused. Twenty per cent of local authority burial land was occupied by graves over one hundred years old, compared to 36 per cent of Church of England burial land. [see *Tables 7 and 8*]

The median predicted time for unused burial land to be filled by new interments was, for those burial grounds that were still open to new burials, 30 years for local authority sites and 25 years for Church of England / Church in Wales locations. In England, burial grounds in mainly urban districts had a slightly lower median predicted period of time until unused land was expected to be filled by new burials than those in principally rural areas. These are aggregate results for England and Wales as a whole, so do not reflect the range of pressures on burial space at more local levels. [see *Tables 7, 8 and 9*]

⁴ Throughout this report, all references to "Church of England" include the Church in Wales unless specifically stated otherwise.

Methodology, coverage and data quality

Survey methodology

The aim of the survey was to identify and obtain information about any area of land that has been specifically set aside for interments. Since there were no central data on the locations of burial grounds in England and Wales, it was decided to post survey questionnaire forms to all Chief Executives of second-tier and unitary authorities in England and Wales, in other words district councils, London boroughs, other metropolitan boroughs and unitary authorities. These were all potentially burial authorities in their own right, and could be expected to be aware of other burial grounds in their area. The forms were then to be forwarded on to officials of first-tier and other authorities known to have responsibility for the management of burial grounds, cemeteries and any non-Church of England churchyards in their area. Following the initial distribution of forms, a further exercise was undertaken to confirm their receipt, and, where appropriate, their onward transmission. There was also some further spot-checking of the receipt and return of the forms. Forms were separately distributed to all clergy in the Church of England through their diocesan network. Separate arrangements were made by the Welsh Assembly for distribution of the questionnaires in Wales.

When the forms were returned, data cleansing was undertaken in order to, for example, correct any obvious response errors, data entry errors occurring when transferring the data into electronic format, and any duplicate returns. Geographical coding of addresses and other location information provided on the survey forms was carried out with support from officials at Communities and Local Government (CLG). MOJ would like to thank CLG colleagues for their assistance and guidance in this work.

Coverage and data quality

In total, over 9,700 unique survey questionnaire responses were received. However, as there is no comprehensive list of burial ground locations to compare the set of returned survey forms against, there is no reliable way of estimating the degree of coverage that has been achieved. The Wilson report (see footnote on page 3) estimated that there are between 16,000 and 18,000 Church of England burial grounds and nearly 2,000 Church in Wales burial grounds. Just under 7,000 survey returns were received from Church of England or Church in Wales sites, suggesting that coverage of these burial grounds could be approximately 35 to 40 per cent of the total.

The degree of coverage is less clear for those burial grounds where the burial authority is some tier of local authority. In London, about 120 survey forms were returned from cemeteries, whereas a report by the London Planning Advisory Committee in the mid-1990s⁵ suggested that, at the time, there were 147 cemeteries in the capital. That would suggest that the survey's coverage in that part of the country is high – although responses were not received from several boroughs and it is known that some responses have not been received for some sites. Elsewhere in England and Wales the coverage picture is less clear. Since either or both first- and second-tier local authorities may provide burial grounds in their areas, but neither are under an obligation to do so, the number

⁵ London Planning Advisory Committee, *Burial Space Needs in London*, 1997.

of local authority burial grounds cannot readily be predicted. However, a total of 1,900 survey forms were returned from areas (other than London) where the burial authority was a local authority.

Another possible indicator of coverage can be derived from the total number of burials taking place. Responses to the survey reported a total of close to 90,000 burials taking place in the financial year 2003/04. There are just over half a million deaths per year in England and Wales, with approximately 30 per cent of them resulting in burial⁶. This suggests that the number of burials in any given 12-month period is roughly 150,000. These figures suggest that the survey has covered somewhere in the region of 60 per cent of overall burial capacity – though not necessarily the same proportion of individual burial sites.

The survey has thus not been able to obtain data from every burial location in England and Wales, as originally intended. Although a significant amount of response chasing was undertaken, the outcome suggests that near-full coverage would only be likely to be achieved if provision of the data were a statutory obligation supported by a well-resourced communications effort including highly pro-active response chasing. Since coverage was not complete, the survey has a number of limitations and biases which should be borne in mind when interpreting the results. It seems probable that responses are more likely to have been received from burial grounds that are still open and actively managed, and that it is those that have been closed and not maintained for many years which will be more poorly represented among the respondents.

Nevertheless, with nearly 10,000 questionnaire responses received in total, the survey results form a significant repository of detailed data covering a large number of burial grounds across the England and Wales. The results appear to provide a good illustration of the wide range of types and size of burial grounds, their operational status, the pressures on burial space, and the different burial authority arrangements, at both a national and regional level.

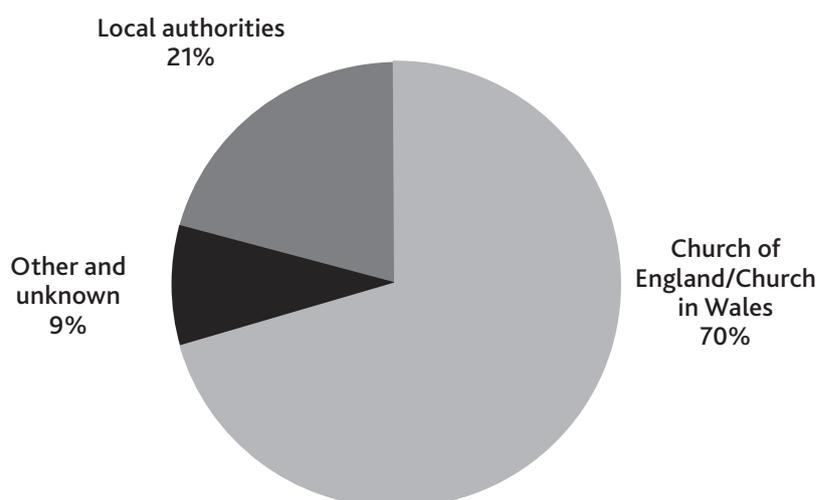
⁶ HC 902-I Constitutional Affairs Select Committee Eighth Report, 2006.

Commentary

Location, type and burial authorities [Table 1, Table 2 and Figure A]

Responses to the survey were received from a total of 9,747 burial grounds, cemeteries and churchyards in England and Wales. Of these, 2,031 (21 per cent) were identified as having a first- or second-tier local authority as the burial authority, be it parish, community or town councils, district councils, unitary authorities or, in London, borough councils. A further 6,840 (70 per cent) operated under the Church of England (or, in Wales, the Church in Wales). The remaining 876 (9 per cent) includes those owned or managed by other faiths or charitable trusts, natural burial grounds, commercial concerns, and those where ownership was not specified or clearly identifiable from the questionnaire response.

Figure A: Number of burial grounds by type of burial authority



Detailed geographic coding was undertaken, with the help of officials at Communities and Local Government, to provide accurate information on the location of burial grounds responding to the survey. For the ten regions of England and Wales, the total number of survey responses ranged from 1,522 in the South West to 330 in London. As has already been noted, it is difficult to know whether, or by how much, the different regional level of survey responses is a reflection of the true picture of the number of burial grounds across the country or rather the result of varying rates of survey coverage.

At a national level, churchyards were the most common type of burial ground, accounting for 7,316, or 75 per cent, of the total. A further 1,819 sites (19 per cent) were identified as cemeteries or other forms of burial ground. The remaining 6 per cent did not specify this on their survey form and could not be clearly identified as one or the other from the other information provided. A similar relative proportion of churchyards was also seen in most of the ten regions, although in London, the North East and Wales the proportion of churchyards was much lower at less than 60 per cent. Some 10 per cent of local authority sites were local authority-maintained churchyards.

Rural / urban classification of burial grounds [Table 3]

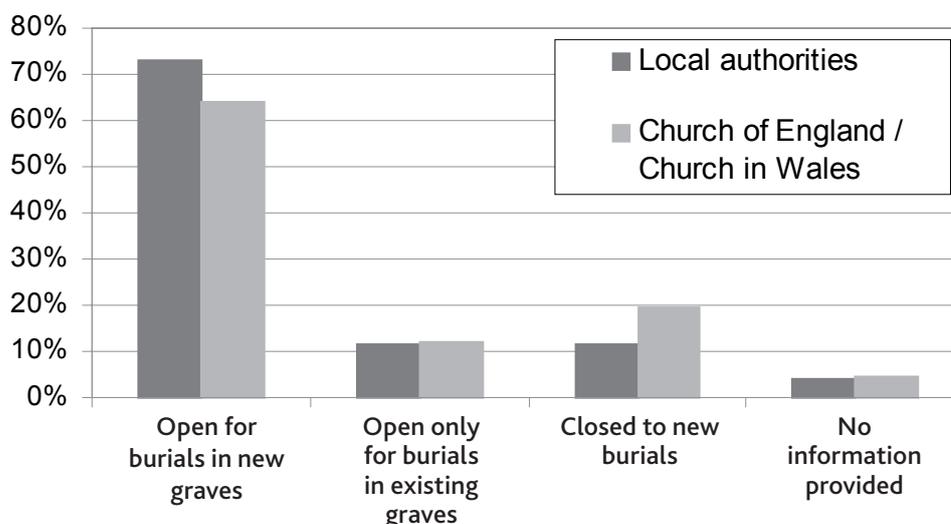
The geo-coded location information was used to estimate a rural / urban breakdown of burial grounds in England. Where possible, each burial ground was assigned one of six classifications of rurality. This was achieved by categorising the rurality of the local or unitary district within which each burial ground was located in accordance with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs’s (Defra) recommended method. (For more information, see Appendix A or the Defra website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralstats/rural-definition.htm>).

It should be noted, however, that it was not possible from the geo-coded information to identify a rurality category for over 40 per cent of burial grounds. This includes all burial grounds in Wales, which are not covered by the Defra classification. Of those burial grounds that could be assigned a rurality level, a third (33 per cent) were located within a “Rural-80” local or unitary authority district (that is, where at least 80 per cent of the population lives in rural settlements and larger market towns). Fifteen per cent were situated in a “Major Urban” area, defined as having either 100,000 people or 50 per cent of its population living in an urban area with a population of at least 750,000. Just under 60 per cent of those Church of England burial grounds that could be classified were in “Rural-50” or “Rural-80” areas, compared to 40 per cent of local authority sites.

Operational status [Tables 4 to 6 and Figure B]

Across England and Wales as a whole, nearly a quarter (23 per cent) of local authority burial grounds were either closed completely to new burials (11 per cent) or open only for burials in existing graves (12 per cent). Over 30 per cent of Church of England burial grounds reported that they were closed to burials in new graves (19 per cent) or permitting only burials in existing graves (12 per cent). Just under two-thirds (64 per cent) of Church of England burial grounds were open for new burials, compared to nearly three quarters (73 per cent) of local authority sites. Information on operational status was not provided by about 4 per cent of respondents.

Figure B: Operational status of local authority and Church of England / Church in Wales burial grounds



There was a significant degree of variation between the regions. In London, the survey results indicate that there is already considerable pressure on the existing burial space. Only half (50 per cent) of local authority burial grounds and fewer than a quarter (21 per cent) of Church of England burial grounds were open to burials in new graves. Forty-one per cent of Church of England sites in the capital were “full” and completely closed to new burials. In Wales, however, 73 per cent of Church in Wales burial grounds and 85 per cent of local authority sites reported that they were open to burials in new graves, with only a few per cent of locations completely closed. It should be noted that these figures present summary data for the burial grounds within each region as a whole, so do not indicate where much more acute pressure on burial land is being experienced on a more localised level.

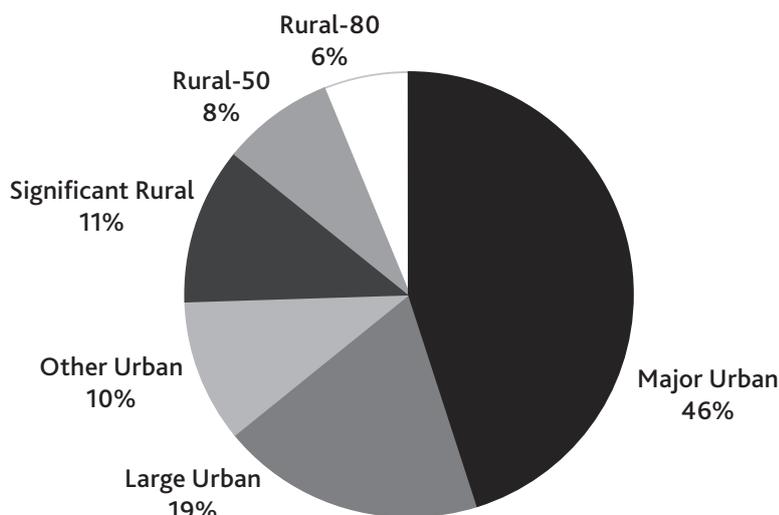
A much smaller proportion of Church of England burial grounds in predominantly urban areas were open to new burials than those in mainly rural districts. Around 40 per cent of Church of England burial grounds in districts classified as urban were open to new burials, while around 30 per cent were closed to new burials. By contrast, approximately 70 per cent of Church of England burial grounds in rural districts were open to new burials with about 17 per cent closed. Sixty-one per cent of local authority burial grounds in “Major Urban” districts were open for new burials, a lower proportion than in the other five rural / urban classifications.

Area usable for burials [Tables 7 to 9, Figure C and Figure D]

Many burial grounds include areas set aside for the interment of cremated remains. The information on the area of burial grounds still available for use for burials presented in this section and the predicted future period of operation of burial grounds in the following section, relates specifically to burial plots and land set aside for burials, not to areas set aside for cremation.

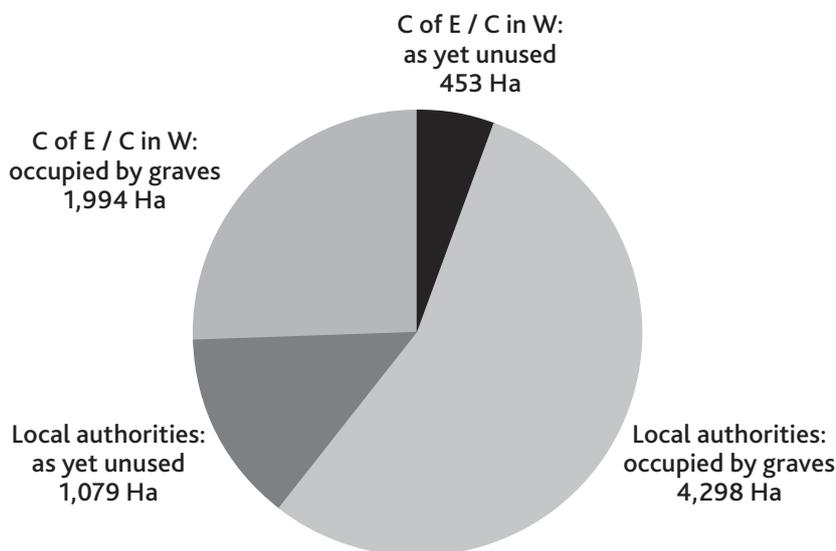
Some 1,757 of the 2,031 local authority burial grounds responding to the survey gave details of the area of burial land at the site. These sites had an estimated total area of 5,378 hectares of land suitable for burials (i.e. excluding land which is part of the burial ground but is unsuitable for burials, for reasons such as being prone to waterlogging, too steep, or set aside for the burial or scattering of cremated remains). Their average size was therefore just over three hectares (seven to eight acres) each. Overall, eighty per cent of the land was occupied by graves with twenty per cent set aside for burials but as yet unused. Of those local authority burial grounds in England that could be assigned a rural / urban classification, sites located in “Major Urban” and “Large Urban” districts accounted for just under two-thirds (64 per cent) of the total area usable for burials.

Figure C: Total area of local authority burial grounds in England usable for burials, by rural / urban classification (where known)



Church of England burial grounds are on average much smaller; their 5,497 sites able to provide area information totalled 2,400 hectares of land suitable for burials, an average of just under half a hectare, or a little over an acre, each. However, the proportion of land already occupied by graves was very similar to that of local authority burial grounds, at 81 per cent.

Figure D: Total area of local authority and Church of England / Church in Wales burial grounds usable for burials, in hectares



Perhaps unsurprisingly, given its high proportion of burial grounds closed to new burials, London overall had the smallest proportion of land available for new burials: just 4 per cent of Church of England and 14 per cent of local authority burial land is available for new burials there. In the South West, a quarter of local authority burial land and a fifth per cent of Church of England burial land was unused at the time of the survey. Burial grounds in predominantly urban areas of England had, overall, a lower proportion of land available for new burials than sites in rural parts of the country.

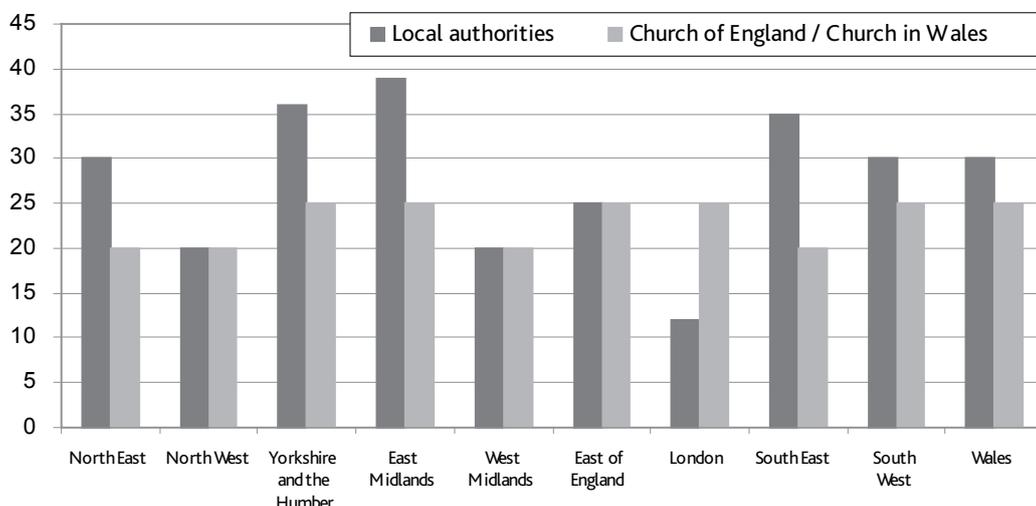
The survey also requested an estimate of the proportion of burial land that was occupied by graves that were greater than one hundred years old. Overall, 20 per cent of all local authority burial land was so utilised, close to the same total area of land as still available for new burials, and amounting to roughly a quarter (26 per cent) of used land. Thirty-six per cent of Church of England burial land in total was occupied by graves greater than one hundred years old, which comprised 46 per cent of the land already in use.

Predicted future period of operation [Tables 7 to 9 and Figure E]

The burial ground survey questionnaire asked for information on the expected number of years remaining before any land that was available for burials in new graves but not yet used would be filled by new interments. The average (mean) predicted remaining period of operation of both local authority burial grounds and Church of England burial grounds surveyed was 45 years. The median predicted remaining lifetime, however, was in both cases much lower, at 30 years and 25 years respectively. These differences between means and medians indicate that the predicted future period of operation data are positively skewed: many burial grounds’ predicted period of operation are lower than the mean, which is pushed upwards by a relatively small number of burial grounds with a comparatively large unused capacity for new interments. All the regions also show this marked positive skew seen at the national level. Note that these figures relate solely to those burial grounds that are still open for burials in new graves and reported a predicted future period of operation. Burial grounds completely closed to new burials or open only for burials in existing graves are excluded.

Church of England burial grounds had a very similar pattern of predicted future periods of operation across the regions. Most regions had a median figure of 20-25 years and a mean figure of a little over 40 years. There appeared to be more variation in the predicted remaining future period of operation between regions for the local authority burial grounds. Those in the East Midlands had a mean predicted remaining period of operation of 52 years and a median of 39 years. By contrast, local authority burial grounds in London had a mean of 37 years and a median of just 12 years.

Figure E: Median predicted future period of operation of local authority and Church of England / Church in Wales burial grounds, by region



Burial grounds in urban districts appeared to have a slightly lower median predicted future period of operation than those in rural areas.

The data presented in this report are aggregate results for England and Wales and their constituent regions, and so do not reflect the range of pressures on burial space at a more local level. Nevertheless, the figures show that across the country there will be heightened pressures on space in burial grounds across all sectors over the next 10 to 20 years.

Number of burials [Table 10]

The large majority of burials in recent years have taken place at local authority burial grounds. In England and Wales as a whole, a total of nearly one million burials took place in the 10 years preceding the survey at local authority or Church of England / Church in Wales burial grounds providing a response. The large majority, accounting for over three-quarters (77 per cent) of the total, were undertaken at local authority burial grounds. The results also show a significant regional variation in the proportion of burials taking place at local authority burial grounds, ranging from 59 per cent in the South West to 95 per cent in London. It is difficult to say, however, if and by how much these differences are the result of varying rates of survey coverage rather than a reflection of genuine regional patterns.

The total number of burials reported as taking place during the financial year April 2003 to March 2004 at burial grounds responding to the survey was approximately 87,000. This is lower than the overall annual average of 98,000 reported during the 10 years preceding the survey. The proportion of those burials occurring in local authority burial grounds was 79 per cent, slightly higher than the overall proportion for the previous decade. It is not possible to deduce from the survey results whether or not the 2003/04 figures indicate a trend towards fewer burials overall and a greater proportion of burials in local authority burial grounds in recent years.

Finance [Table 11]

In general, in the 2003/04 financial year, the most recent complete financial year at the time the survey was launched, a higher proportion of the costs of local authority burial grounds were met by income such as fees or a local authority budget, than in the case of Church of England burial grounds. Just under a half (44 per cent) of local authority burial grounds in England and Wales were reported to have more than 75 per cent of costs met by income, compared with a little under a quarter (24 per cent) for Church of England sites. Many Church of England burial grounds benefited from voluntary financial contributions: 35 per cent were reported to receive income in this form. Only three per cent of local authority burial grounds were reported to receive voluntary financial contributions.

Staffing [Table 12]

A quarter of the survey responses relating to local authority burial grounds reported that no staff were directly employed, either relying on voluntary help or not being actively maintained. More than three-quarters (79 per cent) of the Church of England responses reported that no staff were directly employed, and nearly as many (74 per cent) reported that they received practical help and assistance from volunteers. The figures in respect of burial grounds not directly employing any staff are likely to be an underestimate; an additional 11 per cent of local authority responses and 14

per cent of Church of England responses in the survey did not provide any information in relation to this issue, which in many cases is expected to indicate that no staff are employed.

In some 60 per cent of local authority burial grounds, some, but fewer than five full-time equivalent (FTE), staff were employed. This compares with an equivalent figure of just 7 per cent for Church of England burial grounds. Fewer than 100 burial grounds in total in England and Wales were staffed by five or more FTE staff members, most of which were run by local authorities.

Grounds maintenance [Table 13]

Many burial grounds are actively maintained. This is usually done either by staff employed to do so or by volunteers. The large majority of burial grounds (79 per cent of local authority and 63 per cent of Church of England or Church in Wales) operate a “traditional” maintenance policy – regularly cutting the grass, pruning hedgerows, planting flowers, and so on – across the entire site. A quarter of Church of England burial grounds reported operating a deliberate policy towards allowing plants to grow freely and wildlife to thrive in at least a part of the burial land, including those that operate as part of the Living Churchyards and Cemeteries scheme. Some 11 per cent of local authority burial grounds also operate a deliberate policy towards allowing plants and wildlife to flourish on some or all of the site.

Public access arrangements [Table 14]

The large majority of burial grounds for which survey responses permit public access to the site at any time. This was the case for over 90 per cent of Church of England burial grounds and nearly two-thirds (62 per cent) of local authority sites. In a further 29 per cent of local authority burial grounds, public access is allowed only during the daytime, while in a further 6 per cent of sites access is permitted only by visitors making a prior arrangement. A significantly higher proportion of burial grounds in London were reported to permit access only during the daytime than in other parts of the country.

Criminal activity [Table 15]

The survey also asked whether there had been any incidents of criminal activity that were known to have taken place at each burial ground during the previous twelve months. For many burial grounds (43 per cent of local authority respondents and 57 per cent of Church of England respondents), no criminal activity was reported to have taken place. It is likely that most, if not all, of the further 15 to 16 per cent of burial grounds for which no information on criminal activity was provided also experienced no criminal activity. One third of local authority burial grounds had been the scene of disorderly or anti-social behaviour, such as drinking or drug use, in the year preceding the survey, with a similar number reported to have had at least one incident of theft or other criminal damage. Burial grounds in London were reported to have experienced a higher incidence of violent crime than the other regions. Note that these figures do not indicate the number of criminal incidents that took place at burial grounds, but the different forms of criminal activity known to have occurred.

Safety procedures and plans [Table 16]

For the large majority of local authority burial grounds in England and Wales, safety procedures were reported to be in place. Over three quarters (77 per cent) had safety procedures for memorials, covering the design, installation, foundations and repair. Inspection and audit plans existed for 81 per cent, while 79 per cent had safety plans for plot layouts, grave digging and ground care. Proportionally fewer Church of England burial grounds had such safety procedures in place than at local authority sites; for example, just over half (55 per cent) had safety procedures for memorials.

The large majority of burial grounds had an up to date diagrammatic plan of burial plots at the site. However, approximately one in eight of local authority burial grounds and one-third of Church of England burial grounds had no up to date diagrammatic plan of burial plots, with a further four to five per cent providing no information.

List of tables

Table 1	Number of burial grounds, by region and type of burial authority
Table 2	Burial grounds by region, type and burial authority
Table 3	Burial grounds by rural/urban classification, type and burial authority
Table 4	Operational status of local authority burial grounds, by region
Table 5	Operational status of Church of England burial grounds, by region
Table 6	Operational status of local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by rural / urban classification
Table 7	Estimated total area usable for burials, and predicted future period of operation of local authority burial grounds, by region
Table 8	Estimated total area usable for burials, and predicted future period of operation of Church of England burial grounds, by region
Table 9	Estimated total area usable for burials, and predicted future period of operation of local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by district rural / urban classification
Table 10	Burials in previous ten years and in 2003/04 financial year at local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by region
Table 11	Proportion of costs met by income in the financial year 2003/04, for local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by region
Table 12	Staffing and volunteer support of local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by region
Table 13	Grounds maintenance policies of local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by region
Table 14	Public access to local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by region
Table 15	Local authority and Church of England burial grounds reporting criminal activity in 2004, by region
Table 16	Safety procedures and burial plot layout plans of local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by region

Note: As throughout the rest of this report, all references in the tables to “Church of England” include the Church in Wales unless specifically stated otherwise.

Table 1: Number of burial grounds, by region and type of burial authority

England and Wales							Number of burial grounds
Region	Burial authority						Total
	Parish, Community or Town councils	District, Borough or Metropolitan Borough councils	Unitary authorities	London boroughs	Church of England ¹	Other, and burial authority unknown ²	
North East	18	78	30	-	222	14	362
North West	11	109	8	-	532	37	697
Yorkshire and the Humber	32	189	36	-	551	27	835
East Midlands	138	97	6	-	716	57	1,014
West Midlands	51	78	18	-	684	30	861
East of England	129	72	10	1	1,020	68	1,300
London	-	-	-	130	181	19	330
South East	141	146	18	1	1,136	61	1,503
South West	152	76	31	-	1,176	87	1,522
Wales	114	-	111	-	622	476	1,323
Total	786	845	268	132	6,840	876	9,747

¹ In this and all other tables, data for the "Church of England" include the Church in Wales.

² Includes burial grounds owned or managed by other faiths or charitable trusts, woodland cemeteries, commercial concerns and those where ownership was not specified or clearly identifiable.

Table 2: Burial grounds by region, type and burial authority

England and Wales		Number of burial grounds						
Region	Type of burial ground	Burial authority					Total	
		Parish, Community or Town councils	District, Borough or Metropolitan Borough councils	Unitary authorities	London boroughs	Church of England		Other, and burial authority unknown ¹
North East	Burial ground / cemetery	17	72	30	-	-	6	125
	Churchyard	-	4	-	-	222	5	231
	Not known	1	2	-	-	-	3	6
	Total	18	78	30	-	222	14	362
North West	Burial ground / cemetery	8	92	8	-	-	7	115
	Churchyard	-	6	-	-	532	8	546
	Not known	3	11	-	-	-	22	36
	Total	11	109	8	-	532	37	697
Yorkshire and the Humber	Burial ground / cemetery	29	137	28	-	-	11	205
	Churchyard	1	25	8	-	551	6	591
	Not known	2	27	-	-	-	10	39
	Total	32	189	36	-	551	27	835
East Midlands	Burial ground / cemetery	119	79	6	-	-	21	225
	Churchyard	10	11	-	-	716	12	749
	Not known	9	7	-	-	-	24	40
	Total	138	97	6	-	716	57	1,014
West Midlands	Burial ground / cemetery	47	73	15	-	-	9	144
	Churchyard	2	-	1	-	684	10	697
	Not known	2	5	2	-	-	11	20
	Total	51	78	18	-	684	30	861
East of England	Burial ground / cemetery	108	63	8	1	-	19	199
	Churchyard	11	2	2	-	1,020	19	1,054
	Not known	10	7	-	-	-	30	47
	Total	129	72	10	1	1,020	68	1,300

Table 2, continued: Burial grounds by region, type and burial authority

England and Wales		Number of burial grounds						
Region	Type of burial ground	Burial authority					Total	
		Parish, Community or Town councils	District, Borough or Metropolitan Borough councils	Unitary authorities	London boroughs	Church of England		Other, and burial authority unknown ¹
London	Burial ground / cemetery	-	-	-	97	-	17	114
	Churchyard	-	-	-	14	181	-	195
	Not known	-	-	-	19	-	2	21
	Total	-	-	-	130	181	19	330
South East	Burial ground / cemetery	115	96	17	-	-	14	242
	Churchyard	13	29	1	-	1,136	13	1,192
	Not known	13	21	-	1	-	34	69
	Total	141	146	18	1	1,136	61	1,503
South West	Burial ground / cemetery	125	48	25	-	-	36	234
	Churchyard	13	19	-	-	1,176	13	1,221
	Not known	14	9	6	-	-	38	67
	Total	152	76	31	-	1,176	87	1,522
Wales	Burial ground / cemetery	64	-	83	-	-	69	216
	Churchyard	22	-	4	-	622	192	840
	Not known	28	-	24	-	-	215	267
	Total	114	-	111	-	622	476	1,323
Total	Burial ground / cemetery	632	660	220	98	-	209	1,819
	Churchyard	72	96	16	14	6,840	278	7,316
	Not known	82	89	32	20	-	389	612
	Overall total	786	845	268	132	6,840	876	9,747

¹ Includes burial grounds owned or managed by other faiths or charitable trusts, woodland cemeteries, commercial concerns and those where ownership was not specified or clearly identifiable.

Table 3: Burial grounds by rural/urban classification, type and burial authority

England		Number of burial grounds							
Burial authority	Type of burial ground	Rural / urban classification ¹						Total	
		Major Urban	Large Urban	Other Urban	Significant Rural	Rural-50	Rural-80		Could not be identified ²
Local authorities	Burial grounds / cemetery	263	123	77	143	155	207	642	1,610
	Churchyard	28	9	7	9	36	36	73	198
	Not known	34	4	12	12	20	25	116	223
	Total	325	136	96	164	211	268	831	2,031
Church of England	Burial grounds / cemetery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Churchyard	469	275	282	682	936	1,499	2,697	6,840
	Not known	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	469	275	282	682	936	1,499	2,697	6,840
Other, and burial authority unknown ³	Burial grounds / cemetery	15	8	8	6	17	30	125	209
	Churchyard	10	4	5	5	13	18	223	278
	Not known	7	9	8	24	34	36	271	389
	Total	32	21	21	35	64	84	619	876
Total	Burial grounds / cemetery	278	131	85	149	172	237	767	1,819
	Churchyard	507	288	294	696	985	1,553	2,993	7,316
	Not known	41	13	20	36	54	61	387	612
	Overall total	826	432	399	881	1,211	1,851	4,147	9,747

¹ Classes are according to the Defra Classifications of Local Authority districts and Unitary Authorities in England.

See Appendix A or the Defra website (http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralstats/rural-defn/LAClassifications_introguide.pdf) for more information."

² Includes burial grounds in Wales, which are not covered by the classification.

³ Includes burial grounds owned or managed by other faiths or charitable trusts, woodland cemeteries, commercial concerns and those where ownership was not specified or clearly identifiable.

Table 4: Operational status of local authority burial grounds, by region¹

England and Wales									
Region	Open for burials in new graves		Open only for burials in existing graves		Closed to new burials		No information provided		Total
	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	
North East	108	86	12	10	6	5	-	0	126
North West	94	73	20	16	13	10	1	1	128
Yorkshire and the Humber	161	63	40	16	50	19	6	2	257
East Midlands	193	80	12	5	29	12	7	3	241
West Midlands	100	68	22	15	16	11	9	6	147
East of England	162	76	26	12	22	10	2	1	212
London	65	50	30	23	13	10	22	17	130
South East	211	69	29	9	46	15	20	7	306
South West	195	75	27	10	29	11	8	3	259
Wales	191	85	20	9	8	4	6	3	225
Total	1,480	73	238	12	232	11	81	4	2,031

¹ This table relates to local authority burial grounds only.

Table 5: Operational status of Church of England burial grounds, by region¹

England and Wales									
Region	Open for burials in new graves		Open only for burials in existing graves		Closed to new burials		No information provided		Total
	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	
	North East	106	48	31	14	74	33	11	
North West	321	60	91	17	101	19	19	4	532
Yorkshire and the Humber	329	60	57	10	122	22	43	8	551
East Midlands	433	60	79	11	182	25	22	3	716
West Midlands	473	69	80	12	103	15	28	4	684
East of England	680	67	104	10	201	20	35	3	1,020
London	38	21	40	22	74	41	29	16	181
South East	738	65	131	12	215	19	52	5	1,136
South West	820	70	122	10	184	16	50	4	1,176
Wales	451	73	83	13	67	11	21	3	622
Total	4,389	64	818	12	1,323	19	310	5	6,840

¹ This table relates to Church of England (and Church in Wales) burial grounds only.

Table 6: Operational status of local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by rural / urban classification¹

England									
Rural/urban classification	Open for burials in new graves		Open only for burials in existing graves		Closed to new burials		No information provided		Total
	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	
	Local authority burial grounds								
Major Urban	197	61	71	22	33	10	24	7	325
Large Urban	106	78	17	13	11	8	2	1	136
Other Urban	64	67	10	10	17	18	5	5	96
Significant Rural	133	81	12	7	15	9	4	2	164
Rural-50	145	69	21	10	25	12	20	9	211
Rural-80	204	76	18	7	38	14	8	3	268
Church of England burial grounds									
Major Urban	173	37	110	23	149	32	37	8	469
Large Urban	116	42	63	23	76	28	20	7	275
Other Urban	104	37	65	23	97	34	16	6	282
Significant Rural	432	63	82	12	130	19	38	6	682
Rural-50	665	71	91	10	154	16	26	3	936
Rural-80	1,104	74	83	6	259	17	53	4	1,499

¹ The data in this table relate only to burial grounds in England, and exclude those for which a rural/urban classification could not be identified.

Table 7: Estimated total area usable for burials, and predicted future period of operation of local authority burial grounds, by region¹

England and Wales									
Region	Estimated total area of burial grounds usable for burials (Ha) ²	Area occupied by graves		Area occupied by graves more than 100 years old		Area as yet unused		Median predicted period of operation of burial grounds (yrs) ^{3,4}	Mean predicted period of operation of burial grounds (yrs) ^{3,4}
		Area (Ha)	Percentage of total	Area (Ha)	Percentage of total	Area (Ha)	Percentage of total		
North East	606	489	81	144	24	117	19	30	41
North West	804	692	86	210	26	112	14	20	38
Yorkshire and the Humber	580	455	78	114	20	125	22	36	50
East Midlands	469	352	75	80	17	117	25	39	52
West Midlands	585	462	79	92	16	123	21	20	33
East of England	444	337	76	66	15	107	24	25	38
London	650	562	86	178	27	88	14	12	37
South East	533	413	77	99	19	120	23	35	50
South West	373	279	75	64	17	94	25	30	44
Wales	333	257	77	49	15	76	23	30	53
Total	5,378	4,298	80	1,096	20	1,079	20	30	45

¹ This table relates to local authority burial grounds only.

² For the 1,757 out of 2,031 local authority burial grounds that were able to provide information on area and occupancy, in hectares.

³ Predicted period of operation is the expected time before unused land available for burials is filled by interments.

⁴ Median and mean estimates exclude: those burial grounds already closed to new burials, those open only to burials in existing graves, and those not providing information on predicted period of operation.

Table 8: Estimated total area usable for burials, and predicted future period of operation of Church of England burial grounds, by region¹

England and Wales									
Region	Estimated total area of burial grounds usable for burials (Ha) ²	Area occupied by graves		Area occupied by graves more than 100 years old		Area as yet unused		Median predicted period of operation of burial grounds (yrs) ^{3,4}	Mean predicted period of operation of burial grounds (yrs) ^{3,4}
		Area (Ha)	Percentage of total	Area (Ha)	Percentage of total	Area (Ha)	Percentage of total		
North East	84	73	87	25	30	11	13	20	46
North West	236	198	84	78	33	37	16	20	45
Yorkshire and the Humber	245	196	80	102	42	49	20	25	44
East Midlands	214	180	84	94	44	34	16	25	44
West Midlands	258	210	82	88	34	47	18	20	43
East of England	324	259	80	116	36	65	20	25	45
London	72	69	96	26	36	3	4	25	60
South East	408	332	81	142	35	76	19	20	42
South West	364	290	80	134	37	74	20	25	47
Wales	243	187	77	83	34	56	23	25	54
Total	2,447	1,994	81	888	36	453	19	25	45

¹ This table relates to Church of England (and Church in Wales) burial grounds only.

² For the 5,497 out of 6,840 Church of England and Church in Wales burial grounds that were able to provide information on area and occupancy, in hectares.

³ Predicted period of operation is the expected time before unused land available for burials is filled by interments.

⁴ Median and mean estimates exclude: those burial grounds already closed to new burials, those open only to burials in existing graves, and those not providing information on predicted period of operation.

⁵ Median and mean predicted period of operation data for Church of England burial grounds in London should be treated with caution as these figures are based on responses from only 22 locations. 1. This table relates to Church of England (and Church in Wales) burial grounds only.

Table 9: Estimated total area usable for burials, and predicted future period of operation of local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by district rural / urban classification^{1,2}

England									
Region	Estimated total area of burial grounds usable for burials (Ha) ³	Area occupied by graves		Area occupied by graves more than 100 years old		Area as yet unused		Median predicted period of operation of burial grounds (yrs) ^{4,5}	Mean predicted period of operation of burial grounds (yrs) ^{4,5}
		Area (Ha)	Percentage of total	Area (Ha)	Percentage of total	Area (Ha)	Percentage of total		
Local authority burial grounds									
Major Urban	1,773	1,469	83	390	22	305	17	25	49
Large Urban	758	624	82	118	16	134	18	19	32
Other Urban	412	315	77	109	27	97	23	20	32
Significant Rural	450	354	79	91	20	97	21	25	42
Rural-50	314	234	74	43	14	80	26	40	50
Rural-80	244	184	75	51	21	60	25	30	40
Church of England burial grounds									
Major Urban	227	208	92	83	36	19	8	20	37
Large Urban	100	89	89	32	32	11	11	20	32
Other Urban	117	94	80	55	47	23	20	20	32
Significant Rural	261	215	82	97	37	46	18	25	37
Rural-50	309	253	82	118	38	57	18	25	40
Rural-80	533	428	80	195	37	105	20	25	55

¹ Classes are according to the Defra Classifications of Local Authority districts and Unitary Authorities in England. Does not include burial grounds in Wales. See Appendix A or the Defra website (http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralstats/rural-defn/LAclassifications_introguide.pdf) for more information."

² Data in this table exclude those for which a rural / urban classification could not be identified.

³ For those burial grounds that were able to provide information on area and occupancy, in hectares, as well as a rural / urban classification.

⁴ Predicted period of operation is the expected time before unused land available for burials is filled by interments.

⁵ Median and mean estimates also exclude: those burial grounds already closed to new burials, those open only to burials in existing graves, and those not providing information on predicted period of operation.

Table 10: Burials in previous ten years and in 2003/04 financial year at local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by region

England and Wales						
Region	Total burials in previous ten years ¹		Total burials in financial year 2003/04 ^{2,3}		Number of burials	
	Local authority burial grounds	Church of England burial grounds	Local authority burial grounds	Church of England burial grounds	Mean number of burials per burial ground in 2003/04 ^{2,3}	
					Local authority burial grounds	Church of England burial grounds
North East	69,500	8,100	5,700	600	46	3
North West	120,500	29,300	11,600	2,600	94	5
Yorkshire and the Humber	73,000	15,100	6,800	1,200	35	2
East Midlands	59,900	18,500	5,200	1,400	22	2
West Midlands	106,200	26,900	9,900	2,200	73	3
East of England	67,700	27,700	6,400	2,200	32	2
London	92,200	4,800	8,500	400	86	3
South East	58,300	32,900	5,500	2,800	21	3
South West	53,900	37,200	4,500	3,100	19	3
Wales	60,300	21,500	4,900	1,700	22	3
Total⁴	761,500	222,100	69,000	18,200	38	3

¹ For those 1,800 local authority and 6,054 Church of England burial grounds providing information on the number of burials in the 10 years preceding the survey.

² Relates to the period April 2003 to March 2004.

³ For those 1,832 local authority and 6,198 Church of England burial grounds providing information on the number of burials in 2003/04.

⁴ Column totals may not sum due to rounding.

Table 11: Proportion of costs met by income¹ in the financial year 2003/04², for local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by region

England and Wales, financial year 2003/04												Number of burial grounds	
Region	None, and up to 25 per cent		26-50 per cent		51-75 per cent		76-100 per cent		No information provided		Receive voluntary financial contributions	Total	
	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number		
Local authority burial grounds													
North East	14	11	23	18	3	2	76	60	10	8	1	126	
North West	28	22	18	14	6	5	53	41	23	18	1	128	
Yorkshire and the Humber	25	10	4	2	60	23	153	60	15	6	3	257	
East Midlands	71	29	28	12	24	10	103	43	15	6	4	241	
West Midlands	16	11	17	12	13	9	77	52	24	16	10	147	
East of England	53	25	22	10	11	5	117	55	9	4	2	212	
London	23	18	20	15	11	8	40	31	36	28	3	130	
South East	85	28	51	17	30	10	96	31	44	14	4	306	
South West	74	29	33	13	24	9	100	39	28	11	11	259	
Wales	45	20	66	29	26	12	77	34	11	5	12	225	
Local authority total	434	21	282	14	208	10	892	44	215	11	51	2,031	
Church of England burial grounds													
North East	80	36	19	9	6	3	44	20	73	33	38	222	
North West	216	41	32	6	21	4	144	27	119	22	215	532	
Yorkshire and the Humber	228	41	26	5	21	4	144	26	132	24	158	551	
East Midlands	311	43	27	4	20	3	160	22	198	28	183	716	
West Midlands	311	45	48	7	27	4	157	23	141	21	264	684	
East of England	445	44	57	6	41	4	221	22	256	25	325	1,020	
London	58	32	7	4	4	2	31	17	81	45	52	181	
South East	514	45	79	7	49	4	286	25	208	18	451	1,136	
South West	498	42	79	7	65	6	262	22	272	23	460	1,176	
Wales	254	41	40	6	41	7	225	36	62	10	277	622	
Church of England total	2,915	43	414	6	295	4	1,674	24	1,542	23	2,423	6,840	

¹ Income in the form of fees, local authority budget, and suchlike.

² Relates to the period April 2003 to March 2004.

Table 12: Staffing and volunteer support of local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by region

England and Wales		Number of burial grounds employing the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff as indicated by column head										
Region	Directly employed full-time equivalent (FTE) staff											Total
	No staff		1 or fewer FTE		1 to 5 FTE		More than 5 FTE		No information provided		Receive voluntary practical help	
	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	
Local authority burial grounds												
North East	3	2	59	47	29	23	9	7	26	21	7	126
North West	14	11	48	38	48	38	11	9	7	5	7	128
Yorkshire and the Humber	21	8	168	65	26	10	18	7	24	9	11	257
East Midlands	85	35	94	39	42	17	2	1	18	7	34	241
West Midlands	29	20	62	42	32	22	6	4	18	12	18	147
East of England	54	25	80	38	52	25	10	5	16	8	37	212
London	10	8	20	15	48	37	20	15	32	25	7	130
South East	125	41	107	35	45	15	2	1	27	9	42	306
South West	92	36	112	43	27	10	6	2	22	8	33	259
Wales	72	32	66	29	53	24	4	2	30	13	29	225
Local authority total	505	25	816	40	402	20	88	4	220	11	225	2,031
Church of England burial grounds												
North East	150	68	17	8	-	0	-	0	55	25	113	222
North West	402	76	35	7	12	2	2	0	81	15	389	532
Yorkshire and the Humber	458	83	17	3	1	0	-	0	75	14	397	551
East Midlands	554	77	36	5	8	1	1	0	117	16	496	716
West Midlands	542	79	42	6	8	1	1	0	91	13	532	684
East of England	799	78	64	6	6	1	1	0	150	15	784	1,020
London	112	62	17	9	3	2	-	0	49	27	112	181
South East	935	82	65	6	12	1	-	0	124	11	906	1,136
South West	924	79	80	7	12	1	-	0	160	14	874	1,176
Wales	559	90	33	5	4	1	-	0	26	4	455	622
Church of England total	5,435	79	406	6	66	1	5	0	928	14	5,049	6,840

Table 13: Grounds maintenance policies of local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by region

England and Wales									Number of burial grounds
Region	Maintenance policy								Total burial grounds in region ¹
	Traditional (over whole of burial ground)		Traditional (over part of burial ground only)		Plants and wildlife, e.g. Living Churchyards		No maintenance policy or no information provided		
	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	
Local authority burial grounds									
North East	107	85	16	13	18	14	2	2	126
North West	100	78	22	17	15	12	6	5	128
Yorkshire and the Humber	237	92	14	5	6	2	5	2	257
East Midlands	185	77	38	16	20	8	15	6	241
West Midlands	124	84	15	10	18	12	7	5	147
East of England	154	73	45	21	33	16	8	4	212
London	82	63	17	13	24	18	29	22	130
South East	241	79	40	13	45	15	15	5	306
South West	178	69	60	23	36	14	14	5	259
Wales	193	86	18	8	16	7	14	6	225
Local authority total	1,601	79	285	14	231	11	115	6	2,031
Church of England burial grounds									
North East	144	65	37	17	34	15	30	14	222
North West	324	61	102	19	112	21	75	14	532
Yorkshire and the Humber	332	60	140	25	126	23	50	9	551
East Midlands	465	65	156	22	139	19	67	9	716
West Midlands	429	63	160	23	178	26	62	9	684
East of England	570	56	308	30	324	32	78	8	1,020
London	96	53	36	20	41	23	35	19	181
South East	715	63	275	24	343	30	65	6	1,136
South West	796	68	218	19	293	25	84	7	1,176
Wales	456	73	104	17	99	16	51	8	622
Church of England total	4,327	63	1,536	22	1,689	25	597	9	6,840

¹ Rows do not sum to totals shown, since some burial grounds employed more than one type of maintenance policy.

Table 14: Public access to local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by region

England and Wales									Number of burial grounds
Region	Public access permitted at any time		Public access permitted during the daytime only		Public access permitted only by arrangement		No information provided		Total
	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	
Local authority burial grounds									
North East	70	56	52	41	4	3	-	0	126
North West	54	42	43	34	28	22	3	2	128
Yorkshire and the Humber	199	77	38	15	17	7	3	1	257
East Midlands	155	64	65	27	16	7	5	2	241
West Midlands	49	33	82	56	8	5	8	5	147
East of England	125	59	73	34	10	5	4	2	212
London	11	8	89	68	7	5	23	18	130
South East	212	69	76	25	8	3	10	3	306
South West	207	80	31	12	12	7	4	2	259
Wales	174	77	49	22	-	0	2	1	225
Local authority total	1,265	62	598	29	115	6	62	3	2,031
Church of England burial grounds									
North East	196	88	10	5	10	5	6	3	222
North West	484	91	13	2	20	4	15	3	532
Yorkshire and the Humber	507	92	7	1	24	4	13	2	551
East Midlands	652	91	19	3	21	3	24	3	716
West Midlands	621	91	13	2	24	4	26	4	684
East of England	944	93	28	3	22	2	26	3	1,020
London	132	73	23	13	15	8	11	6	181
South East	1,062	93	24	2	31	3	19	2	1,136
South West	1,100	94	23	2	32	3	21	2	1,176
Wales	591	95	13	2	11	2	7	1	622
Church of England total	6,289	92	173	3	210	3	168	2	6,840

Table 15: Local authority and Church of England burial grounds reporting criminal activity in 2004, by region¹

England and Wales											Number of burial grounds	
Region	Violent crime, including robbery		Theft and criminal damage		Other criminal, disorderly or anti-social behaviour		Not aware of any criminal or anti-social activity		No information provided		Total burial grounds in region ²	
	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total		
Local authority burial grounds												
North East	5	4	75	60	81	64	25	20	5	4	126	
North West	7	5	61	48	67	52	34	27	17	13	128	
Yorkshire and the Humber	12	5	118	46	121	47	90	35	20	8	257	
East Midlands	4	2	65	27	74	31	117	49	33	14	241	
West Midlands	6	4	48	33	53	36	60	41	21	14	147	
East of England	12	6	67	32	61	29	86	41	33	16	212	
London	12	9	65	50	59	45	28	22	29	22	130	
South East	3	1	79	26	86	28	139	45	57	19	306	
South West	-	0	43	17	53	20	151	58	45	17	259	
Wales	6	3	27	12	34	15	136	60	48	21	225	
Local authority total	67	3	648	32	689	34	866	43	308	15	2,031	
Church of England burial grounds												
North East	1	0	51	23	79	36	101	45	33	15	222	
North West	12	2	146	27	185	35	231	43	74	14	532	
Yorkshire and the Humber	12	2	134	24	154	28	278	50	80	15	551	
East Midlands	11	2	126	18	143	20	403	56	118	16	716	
West Midlands	14	2	119	17	155	23	381	56	108	16	684	
East of England	9	1	181	18	188	18	563	55	188	18	1,020	
London	21	12	73	40	85	47	59	33	19	10	181	
South East	19	2	183	16	229	20	668	59	170	15	1,136	
South West	7	1	106	9	157	13	774	66	205	17	1,176	
Wales	2	0	54	9	77	12	429	69	92	15	622	
Church of England total	108	2	1,173	17	1,452	21	3,887	57	1,087	16	6,840	

¹ Data relate to the number of burial grounds reporting at least one incident of each type during 2004.

² Row totals sum to more than the total number of burial grounds, because some burial grounds reported more than one type of criminal activity occurring.

Table 16: Safety procedures and burial plot layout plans of local authority and Church of England burial grounds, by region

England and Wales										Number of burial grounds
Region	Safety procedures ¹ in place for:			Existence of layout plans						Total burial grounds in region
				Plan exists		No plan exists		No information provided		
	Memorials	Inspections and audits	Plot layout, digging, ground care	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	Number	Percentage of total	
Local authority burial grounds										
North East	100	110	124	124	98	1	1	1	1	126
North West	113	110	112	115	90	8	6	5	4	128
Yorkshire and the Humber	213	244	203	202	79	49	19	6	2	257
East Midlands	173	172	185	207	86	30	12	4	2	241
West Midlands	121	117	119	130	88	11	7	6	4	147
East of England	163	167	176	180	85	21	10	11	5	212
London	82	79	90	100	77	7	5	23	18	130
South East	216	242	216	227	74	62	20	17	6	306
South West	203	213	195	205	79	38	15	16	6	259
Wales	186	188	193	188	84	32	14	5	2	225
Local authority total	1,570	1,642	1,613	1,678	83	259	13	94	5	2,031
Church of England burial grounds										
North East	121	104	96	115	52	94	42	13	6	222
North West	312	309	303	407	77	108	20	17	3	532
Yorkshire and the Humber	345	341	300	396	72	132	24	23	4	551
East Midlands	340	303	326	448	63	224	31	44	6	716
West Midlands	366	318	329	448	65	203	30	33	5	684
East of England	533	492	495	682	67	294	29	44	4	1,020
London	57	59	59	102	56	60	33	19	10	181
South East	531	489	540	779	69	315	28	42	4	1,136
South West	723	682	700	806	69	331	28	39	3	1,176
Wales	425	435	367	240	39	371	60	11	2	622
Church of England total	3,753	3,532	3,515	4,423	65	2,132	31	285	4	6,840

¹ Number of burial grounds confirming the existence of safety procedures.

Further information

The data presented in this publication are based on survey questionnaires returned to the Home Office and Department for Constitutional Affairs in 2005 and 2006. Thanks are due to all those local authority staff, churchwardens and others for their work in preparing these returns.

This report has been prepared by the Economics and Statistics Division and the Corporate Change Programmes Division of the Ministry of Justice.

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Appendix A: Defra rural / urban classification for England

Tables 3, 6 and 9 assign many of the burial grounds in England a rural / urban classification based on the degree of rurality of the local or unitary authority district within which each is located. This classification of districts was developed for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The criteria for each of the six classes of districts, and examples of where they are to be found, are summarised below. More information on the classification can be found on the Defra website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralstats/rural-defn/LAClassifications_introguide.pdf

Major Urban: districts with either 100,000 people or 50 per cent of their population in an urban area with a population of more than 750,000. Examples: districts of London, Birmingham, Manchester.

Large Urban: districts with either 50,000 people or 50 per cent of their population in an urban area with a population between 250,000 and 750,000. Examples: Bristol, Southampton, Sheffield.

Other Urban: districts with fewer than 37,000 people or less than 26 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns. Examples: Peterborough, Swindon, Torbay.

Significant Rural: districts with more than 37,000 people or more than 26 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns. Examples: parts of Kent, Staffordshire, Cheshire.

Rural-50: districts with at least 50 per cent but less than 80 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns. Examples: rural areas of Hampshire, Nottinghamshire, East Yorkshire.

Rural-80: districts with at least 80 per cent of their population in rural settlements and larger market towns. Examples: rural areas of Cumbria, Northumberland, Lincolnshire, Cornwall.

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