

Cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds: devising and applying a significance framework

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Executive Summary

- Burial places have substantial significance, and are often the only evidence for cultures that would otherwise be forgotten. In England, burial evidence dates back to the Neolithic period. Over time, changing funerary practices have left a rich heritage of burial sites as a distinguishable heritage asset.
- This asset is not always well understood, and this lack of understanding has led to difficulties in articulating significance. This report presents findings from activities that have aimed to create a method for assessing significance that can be applied across all types of burial site including 'Deep Time' barrows, churches and churchyards, denominational burial grounds, institutional burial grounds, cemeteries, crematoria, woodland burial schemes, battlegrounds, and mausolea. The chronological spread covers the Neolithic period to the present.
- Twenty-nine burial sites were selected, by English Heritage in consultation with the research team, as case studies where a significance framework could be tested. The case studies represented a broad assortment, and included preserved remains from 'Deep Time' sites that are no longer discernable in the above-ground landscape.
- The activities were ordered into two substantive phases. The first phase, reported in Part One, comprised desk-based activity including research and team discussion – including dialogue with English Heritage – on a set of indicators. It was necessary for the indicators to be congruent with the 'interests' expressed in the *National Policy Planning Framework* (Archaeological, Architectural, Artistic and Historic) and the English Heritage 'values' articulated in *Conservation Principles* (Aesthetic, Evidential, Historical, Communal).
- In addition, it was appropriate to devise indicators that acknowledged the distinctive nature of the heritage asset as burial space. Three 'mortality' indicators were created, that sit within the 'Historic' interest of *NPPF* and the 'Evidential' value in *Conservation Principles*. In total, 26 indicators were devised. This stage of the research also sought to ascribe a robust value score to each indicator, and used the Semple Kerr range spanning 'exceptional', 'considerable', 'some' or 'none'. Care was taken to ensure that the criteria were consistent with the languages of designation applied to commemorative and structures, and sites included on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.
- Part Two reports on the second, fieldwork, stage of the research. Included within this phase was the collection of site data from the Historic Environment Record. It was found that the HER was remarkably variable in its inclusion of data on burial sites, and there were difficulties in recovering data sometimes simply because sites had different appellations. There was a tendency for the HER not to treat sites as coherent units, but rather to reference distinct elements such as listed structures or excavated remains.
- A second element of the fieldwork was contact with site stakeholders to elicit views on the 'spirit of place' of sites in which they had an interest. This activity found difficulties in locating stakeholders, and variability in response dependent on whether the site was still in use for burial. Furthermore, it was not always clear how far the character of the heritage

asset as burial space made a contribution to 'spirit of place' beyond the fact that sites closed to further burial were not always frequently visited and so were commonly regarded as peaceful.

- The third element of the fieldwork was to test the 26 indicators. Visits were undertaken to each of the extant sites by a team of researchers with varied expertise. Where sites were no longer visible above ground, assessment was largely desk-based. The devised system worked, although some changes were thought necessary to some of the indicators. Changes were not substantive, and generally comprised alterations to wording or grading to ensure clarity or consistency of application. A revised set of indicators has been included with some further, minor, development recommended.
- The process of testing disclosed some difficulties. In particular, there were problems in applying the indicators to preserved remains that had been excavated and archived, and where the original setting was no longer visible above-ground; it was not always possible to apply the method consistently where sites had distinctive areas or elements with varying levels of interest and vulnerability; some indicators contributed more to the narrative of the site than to its assessment; landscape-related indicators did not easily capture the dynamic nature of burial space; and anomalies emerged in the application of 'D' and 'N/A' scores. These anomalies tended to be a reflection of the fact that no one individual would have the knowledge required to complete all aspects of the evaluation. Overall, it was concluded to be unlikely that the system could be used by a 'lay' individual, but that the framework assisted the task of co-ordinating appropriate expertise.
- In conclusion the study revealed that the methods devised are ones that can be applied to situations where statements of significance are required for burial sites. Indeed, the framework may have wider application, on replacement of the mortality-specific indicators with others tailored to the heritage asset under consideration.

1. Introduction

This report presents activities addressing the project brief to assess the significance of cemeteries, churchyards and burial grounds and to develop criteria for that assessment. The activities have comprised a combination of desk-top research, extended team discussion and dialogue with English Heritage, stakeholder interviews and site visits. The project has achieved its objective in preparing a set of indicators that can be used across a very broad range of site types.

The report is ordered in two sections. The first considers the desk-based and conceptual phase of the research, leading to the creation and pilot testing of a first set of significance indicators. This section of the report considers the task of classifying burial space, and offers a refinement to the existing categories in the HER listing. This section also reviews the task of creating indicators that are congruent with both the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) interests and the English Heritage Conservation Principles values. A set of 26 indicators and associated value score was created, with grades from 'A' to 'D' and a 'Not Applicable' or 'N/A'.

The second section reports on the substantive fieldwork. Fieldwork relied in part on a desk-based assessment of existing data available principally through the Historic Environment Record (HER), and a chapter reviews issues that were raised by that process. The next chapter reports on qualitative stakeholder engagement on the issue of 'spirit of place'. The section then moves on to detailed assessment of each of the 26 indicators as applied across the 29 case study sites. The section concludes with summary analysis of the indicators in operation and suggestions for a revised set of indicators.

Appendices comprise supporting documentation including an extended essay on reading death in the burial landscape. A dossier for each of the 29 case studies is included as Appendix 2a-2e, and is contained within a separate file. Appendix C gives a summary of recommendations for further heritage evaluation for the sites visited.

PART ONE

2. Classifying burial space

Introduction

This project addresses the task of arriving at a set of significance indicators for burial space as a heritage asset, dating in time from the prehistoric period to the present and encompassing all spaces in which interments have deliberately taken place. Accommodating wide chronological difference means that both archaeological and historical expertise is required, which in itself introduces challenges in terms of discipline differences. Advances in the study of mortality have encouraged interdisciplinary working on this subject: historical archaeologists have made substantial contributions to an understanding of the burial landscape of the nineteenth century¹; and the post-processual turn in archaeology has meant that broader cultural questions are being asked within the exploration of mortuary behaviour including for example the role of memory and emotion.²

In arriving at a significance framework for burial space, it is necessary to consider definition. Without definition, it becomes impossible to consider such elements of historic interest as site distinctiveness. The Historic Environment Record (HER) presents a detailed categorisation of burial sites in the prehistoric period, but is less successful in capturing developments in burial practice in the modern period. This report suggests a slight alteration to the classification framework to ensure that the latter are readily represented.

As a heritage asset, burial space often carries substantial community benefits as an amenity space that also makes an important contribution to local history. It is easy to overlook the fact that burial space offers an eloquent resource for understanding changing attitudes towards mortality. The creation of significance indicators to encourage the exploration of this understanding carries multiple advantages. Assessment using mortality-related indicators increases awareness of the very distinctive nature of this heritage asset and contributes to more nuanced debate on the nature of English burial culture.

¹ Mytum, H. (2004) *Mortuary Monuments and Burial Grounds of the Historic Period*, Plenum: London.

² Tarlow, S. (1999) *Bereavement and Commemoration: An Archaeology of Mortality*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishing; Williams, H. (2003) 'Introduction: the archaeology of death, memory and material culture', in H. Williams (ed.) *Archaeologies of Remembrance: Death and Memory in Past Societies*, Kluwer Academic: New York, NY.

Defining 'burial site'

An assessment of the significance of burial space rests on the ability to categorise with some degree of accuracy the site under consideration. Within this report, the term 'burial site' will be used as a generic term for all the sites included in this study, following Parker Pearson's acknowledgement that the word 'burial' is 'synonymous with the act of disposing of the corpse in western society'.³ The term is used here despite the fact that – strictly speaking – it does not encompass the sites where cremation and scattering only take place.

'Burial site' is in this report also defined as a place in which deliberate disposal of a whole or cremated human body or part of a body has taken place either above or below ground. The site is defined by either a visible boundary or bounded by inference based on the spatial concentration of human remains and its landscape setting. Consequently, fragmented remains with no evidence of deliberate placement in the landscape are not included. However, for the purposes of this project, 'burial sites' will also include curated archaeological assemblages from a defined burial locale.

Excluded from the study are sites that contain only the remains of animals, such as 'pet cemeteries'. In addition, this definition does not include commemorative structures where no interment has taken place, such as war memorials.

Classifying burial sites

It is not necessarily straightforward to arrive at a robust classification of a range of types of burial sites whose usage dates from prehistory to the present. There is a very clear dislocation between the classifications that can be attached to the definition of prehistoric burial space, and those which develop after the period of Roman occupation. Key differences are that earlier sites are generally not supported by written documentation that contributes to the task of interpretation; and intrusive archaeological methods are often required in order to arrive at a chronology of usage. Later sites are frequently – but not always – supported by historical documentation which enable interpretation. Furthermore, in the historical period, this documentary material is often essential to the task of differentiating between sites that are ostensibly similar, such as C19th Anglican churchyards and Nonconformist burial grounds. However, despite the fact that defining the exact nature of the site in question requires different sets of expertise and data, it remains the case that an over-arching classification is required to draw all the sites together in a single assessment framework.

The HER provides an extensive listing which is heavily reliant on archaeological research frameworks, and in some instances uses definitional difference based on whether remains are principally interred or cremated (Box 2.1). This is a useful approach for the prehistoric period sites, but becomes a less useful definition for the post-medieval period. For

³ Parker Pearson (1999) *The Archaeology of Death and Burial*, Sutton Publishing: Stroud.

example, there is no heading for large-scale cemeteries characteristic of the C19th, and there are obvious exclusions such as mausolea. It also seems anomalous to define churchyards – the principal site of burial since the Reformation – as a sub-category ‘mixed cemetery.’

Box 2.1: HER Religious, ritual and funerary category: funerary sites

Barrow Bank

- Chambered
- D-shaped
- Long
- Pond
- Ring
- Round
- Square

Burial cairn

- Chambered
- Long
- Ring
- Round
- Square

Burial pit

- Charnel
- Cremation
- Mass grave
- Plague pit

Burial vault

- Family vault

Catacomb

Cemetery

- Barrow, cairn

- Cremation

- Enclosed cremation cemetery
- Urnfield

- Inhumation cemetery

- Baptist
- Cist grave
- Eastern Orthodox
- Friends
- Huguenot
- Jewish
- Military
- Plague
- Roman Catholic

- Mixed cemetery
- Walled cemetery

- Churchyard

Columbarium

Crematorium

Garden of Rest

The English Heritage Invitation to Tender gave a rather more straightforward listing that included thirteen categories of burial site (Box 2.2). This was not a formal classification, but constituted an attempt at listing which aimed to span as broad a range of site as possible.

Box 2.2: English Heritage site category list

'Deep Time' (including Prehistory, Roman and Anglo-Saxon)
Medieval churchyards
Disaster/catastrophe burials
Nonconformist
Jewish
Anglican
Institutional
Garden Cemetery
Military
Non-Christian and non-Jewish minority faith groups
Modern crematoria
Modern woodland
Private estate

This listing conflated all the prehistoric burial forms into one 'Deep Time' category which extended into the Anglo-Saxon period, and created distinct categories for Nonconformist, Jewish and non-Christian and non-Jewish other faith groups. Churchyards were defined as being pre-Reformation or post-Reformation (i.e. Medieval or Anglican) and there was no acknowledgement of the role of the church itself as a location for interment.

A more robust approach would create a stronger alignment of categories and sub-categories, based on a more uniform application of site typologies (Box 2.3). This categorisation is consistent with the HER periodization but allows for more specific definition. In order to achieve parity with the HER, Anglican churches/churchyards can be defined according to their specific period of establishment, although it is notable that the HER periods do not define a period for 1830-1837. The two decades following the passage of the Church Building Act, 1818 are particularly important for the establishment of new churches in the rapidly expanding industrial areas. The Act allocated £1m funding to new church building, which incidentally expanded the provision of burial space. Indeed, it is likely that the number of new churchyards far exceeded the number of new cemeteries in the first half of the nineteenth century. The lack of a specific periodization for 1830-1837 may lead to a key development being overlooked. As a consequence, it is suggested that churchyards may also be defined as being attached to a 'Million Act' church, this being a common term used for these sites at the time.

Another notable difficulty is the inability to use this framework to define the theological change that introduced the notion of purgatory in the second half of the twelfth century. This key development had a substantial impact on death iconography within churches, and to a number of elements of funerary ritual. Ideally, any classification would take this into account but it is unlikely that the HER framework could be adjusted.

Box 2.3: Revised classifications

'Deep Time'	Neolithic (4,000 BC – 2,200 BC) Bronze Age (2,600 BC – 700 BC) Iron Age (800 BC – 43 AD) Roman (43 AD – 410 AD) Early Medieval (410 AD – 1066)	
Churches/churchyards	Early Medieval (410 AD- 1066) Medieval (1066-1540) Anglican (1540+)	<i>Establishment period e.g. Georgian (1714-1830) or Victorian (1837-1901) OR Million Act church</i>
Disaster/catastrophe	Epidemic Battlefield Disaster	
Denominational, minority, ethnic burial grounds	Huguenot, Eastern Orthodox, Post-Reformation Roman Catholic Muslim Jewish Nonconformist	Quaker
Institutional burial grounds	Monastic, other religious order Hospital, asylum, workhouse Military barracks	
Cemeteries	Joint stock/early municipal Burial Board/Public Health	
War cemetery		
Crematoria		
Gardens of Rest		
Green Burial		
Private estate	Mausolea/chapels	

This refined classification framework has led to some amendments to the case study list proposed by English Heritage. The revised list follows:

Revised site list with sites according to classification

'Deep Time'

Neolithic	<i>East Kennet Long Barrow</i>
Iron Age	<i>Rillington Iron Age Barrow Cemetery</i>
Roman	<i>Eastern Roman Cemetery, London</i>
Early Anglo-Saxon	<i>Saxon Cemetery, Croydon</i>

Churches/churchyards

Medieval	<i>St Andrew's, Penrith</i>
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Georgian Million Act	<i>Holy Ghost/Interdict churchyard St Martin's, Wharram Percy St Mary's, Arlingham St George's detached churchyard extension, Bloomsbury Christ Church, Todmorden</i>
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Disaster/catastrophe

Battlefield	<i>Stoke Field Battleground, 1487</i>
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Denominational/minority ethnic

Jewish	<i>Alderney Road, London Jewish burial ground</i>
Nonconformist	<i>Baptist Burial Ground, Cote</i>
Quaker	<i>Quaker Burial Ground, Coalbrookdale</i>

Institutional

Religious order	<i>Canonesses of the Holy Sepulture RC burial ground</i>
Hospital/asylum/workhouse	<i>Leper burial ground, Reading St Audry's Hospital Burial Ground, Melton Asylum Burial Ground, Leavesden</i>

Cemeteries

Joint stock/private/ early municipal Burial Board/Public Health	<i>London Road Cemetery, Coventry New Southgate Cemetery, London St John's Cemetery, Elswick Tiverton Cemetery Hill Cemetery, Horsham Lawnswood Cemetery, Leeds</i>
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War cemetery

	<i>German Military Cemetery, Cannock Chase</i>
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Crematoria

	<i>Manchester Crematorium, 1892 Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, 1966</i>
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Green Burial

	<i>Yealmpton Woodland burial ground, Devon</i>
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Private estate

Mausolea/chapels	<i>Private mausoleum, Brockley</i>
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Within this listing, sites also offer the opportunity to 'cross' categories: so, for example, the burial ground of the Canonesses of the Holy Sepulture is attached to a school and was also used as an 'institutional' and a Roman Catholic burial ground. The Holy Ghost Chapel and Interdict burial site was later consecrated as a churchyard and then extended and developed into a burial board cemetery. The New Southgate Cemetery, London also contains a Greek Orthodox burial ground.

Mortality in the burial landscape

It is not the purpose of this report to enter into a detailed discussion of historical periodization and the importance of burial sites in illustrating substantive historic developments or events such as the Reformation or the English Civil War. Rather, these classifications have been selected in order to arrive at a fuller understanding of changing attitudes towards mortality in England, from the earliest period up until the present. It seems obvious to stress that burial sites are unique in containing the mortal remains of distant and not-so-distant ancestors. However, it is often the case that some sites are also the best-surviving evidence of past societies, and so may not always be interrogated in order to understand attitudes towards mortality. Williams noted that burial sites are frequently used to analyse behaviour such as settlement and migration patterns, and examination of human remains has contributed to knowledge about subjects such as human evolution, nutrition and disease. These inquiries are by no means unimportant. However, 'key questions about how past populations engaged with their mortality and attempted to deal with, and commemorate their dead are rarely addressed'.⁴

It is for this reason that in order to arrive at a significance framework for this particular heritage asset, the ways in which that asset illustrates changing attitudes towards mortality will be a substantive element in the assessment. 'Death' encompasses many aspects of human experience, including grief and bereavement, remembrance of the dead, beliefs in life after death, the act of dying itself, and the rituals around disposing of the dead. Burial space does not necessarily illuminate all these things, but can contribute substantially to three key areas of interest. Three derived indicators are included within the framework under the category 'Evidential', and will be discussed in the following section. Appendix 1 contains an extended essay discussing each classification and associated evidences of changes in attitudes towards mortality.

Conclusion

Any assessment of the significance of burial space has first to arrive at a classification of that space as a specific type. Although some sites defy classification or indeed change classification over time, the task of definition contributes substantially to an understanding of significance.

⁴ Williams, 'Introduction'.

3. Assessing significance

Introduction

This part of the report describes the approach adopted to establish a framework to assess the significance of Burial Spaces as heritage assets. This has been a two stage process. At Stage 1, consideration has been given to the definitions of significance, as applied in heritage policy documents and advice notes, to determine if the range of factors that these employ in significance assessments for all heritage assets are relevant to burial spaces or, if specific indicators are needed for this asset type. At Stage 2, criteria common to all heritage asset types have been examined and defined together with factors that differentiate burial space from other heritage asset types, leading to a final list of indicators which can be assessed for establishing burial space significance.

This chapter also considers the methods of assessing the relative importance within each indicator, drawing on established methods recommended in policy guidance notes and international advice notes.

Stage 1: Comparison of definitions of significance

There is a consensus amongst agencies involved in conservation that significance- based approaches in generating policy are desirable, founded in the fact that the understanding of the value of historic places to communities is not strong. This is clearly expressed in both Conservation Principles, prepared by English Heritage in 2008 which states that 'understanding significance is vital'⁵ and in the 2012 National Planning Policy Framework that adopts a similar position⁶ and which forms the current basis for planning policy. Both documents enshrine within them the notion that significance is derived from an understanding of multiple factors which operate together to contribute to the importance of a heritage asset. Some of these might be termed objective and others subjective. The *NPPF* terms these factors as 'interests' and Conservation Principles styles them as 'values'. For the purposes of this study it seems reasonable to assume that the words values and interests are synonymous.

Each document also addresses the definition of significance. The *NPPF* (2012) defines significance (for heritage policy) as 'The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic.' The definition of significance adopted in English Heritage's Conservation Principles (2008) is 'the sum of the cultural and natural heritage values of a place' where value is defined as: 'an aspect of worth or importance here attached by people to qualities.' In Conservation Principles four core values that contribute to significance are expressed as aesthetic, communal evidential and historical. These are arguably more wide ranging and less explicit than in the *NPPF*.

⁵www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/conservation-principles-sustainable-management-historic-environment/conservationprinciplespoliciesguidanceapro8web.pdf_p7 (Accessed 28 May 2014).

⁶www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

The first question for the research project is whether significance of burial space can be wholly and adequately assessed using either the interests of the *NPPF* or the values stated in Conservation Principles as its basis. Box 2.1 and Box 2.2, below, compare the 'definitions' implied in the *NPPF* and Conservation Principles which have been summarised from English Heritage's own comparative analysis.⁷ It is important to reconcile the two to avoid confusion over terms and establish if the interests and values of each can adequately provide a framework for analysis the significance of burial spaces. The tables below define what is encompassed in the terms. Definitions in italics are taken from PPS5⁸ which still operates in an advisory capacity although its policy elements have been superseded the *NPPF* guidelines.

Box 3.1: Department of Community and Local Government *NPPF* interests

Archaeological – 'There will be archaeological interest in a heritage asset if it holds, or potentially may hold, evidence of past human activity worthy of expert investigation at some point. Heritage assets with archaeological interest are the primary source of evidence about the substance and evolution of places and of the people and cultures that made them.'

Architectural – '*Interest in the design and general aesthetics of a place. Arise from the conscious design or fortuitously from the way the heritage asset has evolved'..... 'more specifically architectural interest in the art or science of the design, construction, craftsmanship and decoration of buildings and structures of all types'.*

Artistic – '*artistic interest is an interest in other human creative skill, like sculpture'.*

Historic – '*An interest in past lives and events (including prehistoric). Heritage assets can illustrate or be associated with them. Heritage assets with historic interest not only provide a material record of our nation's history, but can also provide an emotional meaning for communities derived from their collective experience of a place and can symbolise wider values such as faith and cultural identity.'.*

National Policy Planning Framework (2012), 50.

⁷ <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/imported-docs/a-e/comparison-pps5-nppf-pt1.pdf> and <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/content/imported-docs/a-e/comparison-pps5-nppf-pt2.pdf>

⁸ <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/pps-practice-guide/pps5practiceguide.pdf>

Box 3.2: English Heritage *Conservation Principles* values

Aesthetic – Value deriving from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place

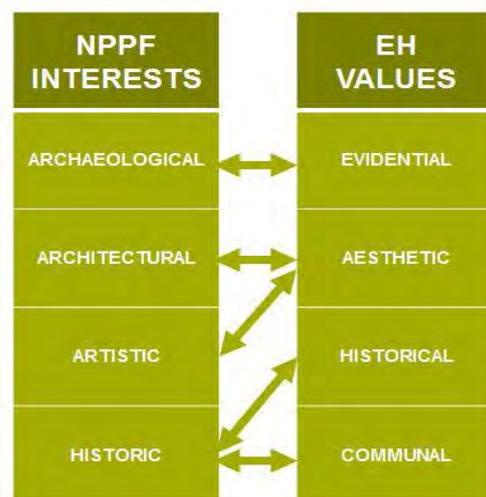
Evidential - Value derived from the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity

Historical - Value deriving from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present

Communal – Value deriving from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory

English Heritage, *Conservation Principles* (2008), 72

Reconciling the two is shown graphically in the diagram below.



(credit: Victoria Thomson, Oxford Brookes University)

The consistent thread running through the *NPPF* is a presumption in favour of sustainable development rather than the thread in *Conservation Principles* which focuses exclusively on conservation matters. The *NPPF* has been drafted to cover all aspects of development. *Conservation Principles* only concerns heritage. Inevitably there will be issues of 'fit' between the two documents in the priorities they emphasise.

One of the most notable differences between the definitions adopted in the two documents concerns *communal* values. The *NPPF* does not explicitly address this at all although *communal value*, has been identified by English Heritage in its 2008 *Conservation Principles* as a key value in determining significance. In this English Heritage can be seen to follow the approach expressed in international conservation charters, notably in the 1979

Burra Charter: The Australian ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance, designed to provide guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance, an approach which increasingly is seen as particularly pertinent as public support for what is valued as heritage is pivotal in policy implementation.

Taking the current *NPPF* interests as a start point for assessing the significance of burial space, or indeed other heritage assets, then *communal interest* can be seen to be represented but within the context of *historic interest* with further references to this *interest* scattered through sections of the framework.

The terms *artistic* and *architectural*, expressed as interests in the *NPPF* are terms narrowly defined. They are embraced by the single value aesthetic in *Conservation Principles* and it is difficult to separate out which aspects of art or architecture are unique to each of the two definitions of interests in the *NPPF*. On the other hand it can be argued that the term, *aesthetic value* is not clearly understood outside art historical circles. In contrast to narrow definitions of art and architectural interest, the term historic in the *NPPF* is wide ranging in what it includes, combining the themes of communal and historical interest, and so is rather used as a 'catch-all' term. The concept of the 'catch-all' term is not however confined to the *NPPF*. *Conservation Principles* overcomes the difficulties in allocating indicators within its value categories by using the generic term *evidential*.

One can argue that the *NPPF* concentrates very precisely on place-based *interests* rather than broader *values* which one might perceive as embodied within *Conservation Principles*. However despite this, the *NPPF* does not clearly address composite landscape which might be defined as sites of historic interest which draw their significance from what may be termed 'the group value' of interrelated elements. Burial sites are often made up of composite elements based in the landscape itself and incorporating archaeological natural history and ecological interest, therefore one needs to consider if the interests of the *NPPF* can provide a framework for significance assessments of such sites.

Towards establishing the application of the *NPPF* for significance assessments for this project and to investigate the degree of fit of interests for composite heritage sites we have considered supporting policy advice which one can draw upon for guidance. The Government has ratified the *European Landscape Convention*⁹ which does cover such interests so although the *NPPF* does not directly encompass composite site value this is covered in the *ELC* and therefore in the *NPPF* by inference. Section 11 of the *NPPF*, *Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment*, effectively replaces PPS 9: *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*. However, government Circular 06/05, 'Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and Their Impact within the Planning System', remains valid and is referenced within the *NPPF*. Furthermore policy practice on conservation matters is covered by practice advice in PPS5 so that despite the assumption in favour of sustainable development in the *NPPF*, a measure of consensus that landscape conservation in its variety of aspects is desirable still is incorporated.

⁹ http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/default_en.asp

Both the *NPPF* and *Conservation Principles* favour the use of *statements of significance* where development affecting heritage assets is involved. Paragraph 128 states 'in determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting' and asserts that detail should be proportionate to the importance and the minimum standard be the consultation of the HER. Arguably therefore, both the *NPPF* and *Conservation Principles* can provide an organising framework for testing the significance of burial space as a heritage asset type. Both the values of *Conservation Principles* and the Interests of the *NPPF* are broad ranging in their inclusivity. Whichever of the two fourfold lists of variables are adopted as the framework for assessing significances of burial spaces, (notably in the *NPPF* *archaeological, architectural, aesthetic and historic, or, in Conservation Principles* *evidential, aesthetic, historical or communal*) definitions need to be attached to them to make them meaningful as a start point.

Finally, care was taken to ensure that the indicators were consistent with existing designation language attached to burial sites. The following documents were scrutinised:

- *Paradise Preserved: Updated List of Cemeteries included in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest (January 2011) and the Register Criteria;*
- *Designation: Listing Selection Guide, Commemorative Structures (2011);*
- *Designation: Listing Selection Guide, Commemorative and Funerary (2012);* and
- *Designation: Listing Selection Guide, Landscapes of Remembrance (2013).*

Where pertinent, the language used in support of designation have been utilised in the site dossier descriptions.

Stage 2: Defining indicators of significance

Applied to burial space, it becomes evident that a much more detailed group of factors, which in this report are called 'indicators' of significance, are needed to create a matrix which can be assessed because both the *NPPF interests* and *Conservation Principles values* are designed to incorporate wide ranging factors which require disaggregation to capture the specifics of places. An early task therefore has been to devise a matrix of indicators that first could be evaluated in a consistent, open and repeatable manner and second encompass aspects of places which explicitly give burial space its distinctiveness. Central to developing a detailed group of indicators has been the objective of selecting a range that can provide a stronger justification for ensuring that historic places in general, and in this case significant burial spaces, remain as a community develops and changes over time. The framework can also be used to guide priorities for conservation and curatorial work.

Through team discussion and peer review, three issues were isolated which needed resolution as a basis for significance assessments for this asset type:

- the establishment of the indicators, both peculiar to the asset type that sets it apart from other heritage asset types, and those applicable to all other heritage assets but which are also relevant to burial space;
- consideration of a method to define the various levels of significance of the indicators selected; and
- consideration of the potential to ascribe a value score to each indicator.

Indicators peculiar to the asset type

Elements that distinguish burial space from other heritage assets have been addressed and articulated in the definitional framework for the study which precedes this analysis. Fundamentally they relate to attitudes, social values and belief systems relating to burial practice traditions and the material culture of these practices. Therefore a development of the framework for assessing significance first addressed how indicators of these aspects of the asset type might be expressed. Whilst the terms may be unfamiliar to heritage professionals they are a central tenet of this distinctive type.

Three indicators have been devised which recognise that space where mortal remains have been interred carries substantial importance in illuminating attitudes towards mortality, beyond archaeological assessment of causes of death. These three indicators are as follows:

- Site morphology and burial practice indicative of religious or spiritual belief

The way in which the dead body is placed within the site, the ownership and management of the site and other site features might constitute material indicators of particular religious or spiritual beliefs relating to the afterlife. Perhaps the most obvious example is burial orientation to the east in Christian burial tradition and towards Mecca within Islamic culture. In many belief systems, the dead are considered to have some degree of agency and benefit from the actions of the living. Changing attitudes towards the afterlife are evident in many types of burial space.

- Death-related iconography present – embedded in both the infrastructure and memorials if present

Burial spaces are frequently the location for iconography relating to mortality. The most obvious dichotomy – from medieval representations of half-decayed corpses to ethereal Victorian angels – represents a strong shift in cultural understandings of death. 'Memento mori' imagery was a reminder that the torments of hell awaited those who died unshriven; during the C19th, iconography was more likely to represent heavenly images or the pain of loss and grief.

- Evidences of particular attitudes towards the dead body

In its principal purpose in disposing of mortal remains, burial space can illuminate attitudes towards the dead body. These attitudes encompass indifference, repugnance, fear, reverence and love. Beliefs and feelings about the dead body will lead to its

abandonment or the institution of such levels of protection that no further disturbance will take place after interment. Ways of thinking are not necessarily dichotomised, and indeed could be contradictory: for example, in the prehistoric period excarnation might be followed by an intensive time and resource investment in protection for the remaining bones. In the modern period, respect for the body has been expressed through setting kerbsets and other such boundary markers around the grave, to prevent the grave being walked over.

Each of these indicators is included within the 'Evidential' element of the assessment.

Indicators relevant to burial space but also relevant to other asset types

A further range of 21 significance indicators has been identified for this project, relevant to the significance of burial space as a heritage asset but which in subject are relevant to all historic assets. The significance indicators were identified and confirmed through discussion between team members, in discussion with English Heritage from varying disciplines and from reviewing case studies of cemetery significances undertaken to reveal what 'values' and 'interests' were embedded within them. The initial list of indicators has been refined and redrafted several times to address to capture interests in archaeology, design matters, the site as an historical resource, the communal and public value of heritage.

The indicators are listed in Table 3.1, below. The 26 have been grouped within the four general interests of the *NPPF*. In parallel with this the four general values encompassed in English Heritage's Conservation Principles are noted in order to assist in the migration of definitions between the two policy documents. The table shows the disaggregation of the interests into relatively precise indicators.

Table 3.1: Interests, values and indicators

<i>NPPF</i> interest	CP value	Indicator
Historic	Evidential	Site morphology and burial practice indicative of religious or spiritual belief
Historic	Evidential	Death-related iconography present and embedded in both the infrastructure and memorials if present
Historic	Evidential	Evidences particular attitudes towards the dead body
Historic	Historical	Historical interest
Historic	Historical	Historic context
Historic	Historical	Association with notable person or events
Historic	Historical	Material record
Historic	Communal	Collective experience
Historic	Communal	Symbolic value
Historic	Communal	Sanctity
Archaeological	Evidential	Archaeological preservation
Archaeological	Evidential	Diversity of potential archaeological evidence
Archaeological	Evidential	Biological anthropology
Archaeological	Evidential	Information
Artistic and architectural	Communal	Spirit of place
Artistic and architectural	Aesthetic	Setting
Artistic and architectural	Aesthetic	Buildings and structures
Artistic and architectural	Aesthetic	Monuments
Artistic and architectural	Aesthetic	Boundaries and entrances
Artistic	Aesthetic	Artistic/creative associations
Architectural	Evidential	Science and technological
Artistic	Aesthetic	Planned landscape
Artistic	Aesthetic	Ornamental landscape design
Architectural	Aesthetic	Structural planting
Historic	Evidential	Current condition
Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (<i>NPPF11</i>)	Evidential	Bio-diversity potential

Ascribing a value score to each indicator

Another major aspect of refining the significances was the definition and determination of levels that might be assigned to each indicator. A detailed definitional table would be required to ensure, as far as possible, that there could be clear understanding of the degree of significance enshrined in each indicator. To this end, a draft table was constructed and tested across six variant pilot sites, including Rillington Iron Age Barrow Cemetery, St Martin's, Wharram Percy, Holy Ghost Chapel and Interdict Burial Ground, St Audry's Hospital Burial Ground, Chilterns Crematorium and Brocklesby Mausoleum in order to establish where problems of interpretation might exist.

Testing on actual examples highlighted further considerations of definitions and in the application whether carefully crafted glossaries of terms or visual examples of the iconography of death would be required. The conclusion on this matter is that ideally supporting notes for certain areas may be required to assist surveyors using the methods beyond the initial definitions criteria explanations provided in Table 2. The testing of the method also demonstrated that for many sites not all the indicators were relevant in which case 'not applicable' was filled in on the form which could be taken into account in evaluating significances for each variable.

Site testing of the significance indicators further revealed issues in scoring levels of significance based in the inherent skills and background expertise of surveyors as no one person has all the relevant expertise to conduct site visits and interpret all the range of indicators. High or low scores were given to sites where knowledge levels were greatest. This issue was particularly notable concerning archaeological significances. Some sites were scored with low levels of significance where it became later apparent that they might have greater significance. To counterbalance this problem it was agreed that an archaeological appraisal of each site would be made by our archaeological team member. Between them, other team members had wide ranging relevant skills in landscape, architectural history, ecological and historic interests specific to the study of mortality which allowed a more even-handed approach. But in general for assessing the significance of burial space in any context a team of surveyors would need to include, or have access to, expertise on history of architecture, landscape, archaeology, social science, ecology and death studies.

On completion of the draft list of significance indicators, Semple Kerr's *Conservation Plans* guidance document was visited and his ideas reviewed as a basis for understanding the range of significances for each indicator.¹⁰ Semple Kerr articulated a range of assessment criteria spanning 'exceptional, considerable, some or none'. Exceptional value is denoted by 'A', considerable value by 'B', some value by 'C' and no value by 'D'. This approach, which is already in use widely, was adopted.

Table 3.2 below presents the 26 current significance indicators which have been identified and discussed with English Heritage as being of particular relevance to burial sites, together with the criteria for the different levels of significance. Most debate arose, both within the

¹⁰ Semple Kerr, J. (2004) *Conservation Plans: A Guide to the Preparation of Conservation Plans for Places of European Cultural Significance*, Sydney: The National Trust.

team and with English Heritage, around the archaeological indicators and criteria, and around the landscape indicators.

The potential to make a quantitative assessment or ranking sites by their relative significance was considered. Ascribing a score to each of the degrees of significance was investigated, such as 20 = exceptional, 10 = considerable 5= some and 0 = none. However, it is apparent that it is not simply a matter of adding up a score to establish significance. In particular instances it might be that a site is unique or specific in a particular way which overrides all other considerations as a significant heritage asset. Each site in the study has been assessed in terms of significances on its own merits rather than through comparison with others. Even within the initially apparently narrow range of burial space, as an asset type, like is not being compared with like.

Table 3.2: Historic indicators: mortality

Significance Indicator	Level of Significance and Criteria			
	Exceptional-A	Considerable-B	Some-C	None-D
Site morphology and burial practice indicative of religious or spiritual belief	A range of evidences of belief clearly visible, allowing sophisticated interpretation	Some evidences of belief clearly visible, allowing limited interpretation	Minor evidence of belief allowing superficial interpretation	Religious belief maybe inferred by is not visible
Death-related iconography present and embedded in both the infrastructure and memorials if present	Two or more strong visual representations of mortality/funerary symbolism	One/partial representation of mortality, limited funerary symbolism	Funerary symbolism present but masked/damaged/compromised	No evidence at all that the site was used for burial
Evidences particular attitudes towards the dead body	Evidence strongly indicative of particular attitudes and the absence/presence of the body is easy to read	Limited evidence of particular attitudes although the absence/presence of the body is easy to read	Some evidence of the dead body, but evidence is subsumed	No evidence at all that the dead body is present in the site.

Table 3.3: General historic indicators

Significance Indicator	Level of Significance and Criteria			
	Exceptional-A	Considerable-B	Some-C	None-D
Historical Interest	Exceptionally clear evidence of the age and history of the asset over time, the strength of its tie to a particular epoch or event	Some evidence of the asset period of development, association to a particular epoch or event	Age and history of the asset over time unclear	No evidence of the age and history of the asset over time
Historical context	Attitudes and conditions at the time of construction are clearly revealed through the fabric of the place and its historical record	Attitudes and conditions at the time of construction partially evident through the fabric of the place and its historical record	Attitudes and conditions at the time of construction partially revealed through the fabric of the place and its historical record	The site gives no evidence of its historic context
Association with notable persons or events	The site is exceptional in being associated with a notable person or event of international renown	The site is nationally important because of its association with a notable person or event	The site is locally important because of its association with a notable people or events in the community	The site has not particular association with a notable person or event
Material record	Contributes to the international historic record, in comprising a unique or highly distinctive site of its type	Contributes to the national historic record, in comprising an important site of its type	Comprises a fair example of a common site type, with some local importance	Is a poor example of a common site type
Collective experience	Strongly tied to collective memory across the community, with a vibrant and unmediated role in creating a sense of place in the community	Tied to collective memory for local interest groups only, with a mediated role in creating a sense of place in the community	Is a largely neglected site that makes some contribution to a sense of place in the community	Is a wholly neglected site evoking no collective memory and making no contribution to a sense of place in the community
Symbolic value	Has shaped current or past community identity	Contributes strongly to current or past community identity	Has defined but weak linkages to current or past community identity	Has little symbolic value to community identity
Sanctity	Is accorded a high degree of sanctity, and regarded as inviolable	Is accorded a high degree of sanctity but is not regarded as inviolable	Is regarded as being worthy of respect	Is in no sense regarded as inviolable

Table 3.4: Archaeological indicators

Significance Indicator	Level of Significance and Criteria			
	Exceptional-A	Considerable-B	Some-C	None-D
Archaeological Preservation	Above-ground features survive. Likelihood that below-ground deposits remain undisturbed. Limits of burial site or other burial features are clearly understood and defined	Above-ground monuments do not survive but area is otherwise undisturbed and likelihood that below ground deposits remain undisturbed	Area has been disturbed in the past through ploughing or similar surface activity but likelihood that below-ground deposits remain undisturbed	Area has been disturbed in the past and survival of below-ground deposits is uncertain
Diversity of potential archaeological evidence	Site has potential to contain evidence for prehistoric burials and/or burials relating to more than two archaeological or historical periods	Site has the potential to contain evidence for burials relating to two historic or archaeological periods	Site has the potential to contain evidence for substantial and well-documented evidence for burials relating to one historic or archaeological period	Presence of burial activity known or suspected but not clearly or securely dated
Biological anthropology	Documentation suggests a large assemblage and/or relatively good preservation and/or rare attributes – e.g. named individuals, unusual pathology, etc.	Documentation suggests a moderately large assemblage and/or fair or moderate preservation. No rare attributes	Documentation suggests a small assemblage or size is not clear. Preservation is poor or uncertain	Usual searches do not identify any documentation that provides information on size, preservation and/or rarity
Archaeological information	Site is of recognised national, regional or local importance (RPG, LB, SM, WHS, local CC area of archaeological importance, etc). Site has been securely located and mapped by National (English Heritage) and Local (CC) Historic Environment Record. Background information (publications etc) are available	Site has been securely located and mapped by National (English Heritage) and Local (CC) Historic Environment Record. Not recognised as important at a national, regional or local level. Usual searches do not suggest presence of significant background information (publications etc)	Not securely located or mapped but national or regional databases contain evidence (recorded chance finds of burials etc) which suggests presence of burial activity	Not securely mapped or located, some place name or historical evidence for presence (as record by national or regional databases) but no known or suspected burials

Table 3.5: Artistic and architectural indicators

Significance Indicator	Level of Significance and Criteria			
	Exceptional-A	Considerable-B	Some-C	None-D
Spirit of place	Carries strong and immediate emotional resonance, due to the distinctive combination of its composite elements	Carries a degree of emotional resonance due to the distinctive combination of its composite elements	Requires some degree of interpretation to elicit emotional resonance	Carries little or no emotional resonance
Setting	Largely intact and making a positive contribution to the heritage asset with views in out and across the site not marred by unsympathetic elements	Partially intact but still making a positive contribution to the heritage asset with views in out and across the site not marred by unsympathetic elements	Fragmented and detracting in part from the heritage asset with views in, out and cross the site overwhelmed by unsympathetic elements	Value of setting entirely lost because of adjacent development or landscape change
Buildings and structures	Church and church yard/any other building etc. are a unity/all elements of each present/in original use or associated use. Likely to have heritage designations. A coherent assemblage all present	Elements missing. Those survive shows structural damage/ not weatherproof/ inappropriate use/vacant	Evidence of location but structure lost/ change of use has resulted in association with original use is lost	Poor/highly fragmented with the major elements (where these are built form) lost.
Monuments	Reveal work of masons and craftsmen and are an invaluable collection of historic craftsmanship. Inscriptions provide genealogical monuments of great value. Some likely to have heritage designations	Good range of monuments but where kerb sets removed or simplification of layout has occurred	Many Stones/Monuments illegible, removed, broken/moved from original location	Complete clearance of above ground monumentation

Table 3.5: Artistic and architectural indicators, cont

Significance Indicator	Level of Significance and Criteria			
	Exceptional-A	Considerable-B	Some-C	None-D
Boundaries and Entrances	Present and forming part of the whole composition	A compromise or loss to the major element of assemblage	Inference of boundary still evident	Lost
Artistic/creative associations	Associated with well-known designers	Evident as a designed place but not necessarily associated with named designers	Known designers not evident	Known not to be associated with a particular designer
Science and Technical	Exhibits evidence of creative and technical innovation in excellent condition particularly associated with innovation in death related facilities	Exhibits some evidence of creative and technical innovation particularly associated with innovation in death related facilities	Exhibits minor or fragmented evidence of creative and technical innovation particularly associated with innovation in death related facilities	No evidence.
Planned landscape	A fine & intact or largely intact example of its type, e.g. churchyard, chapel burial ground, C19th/C20th cemetery, Picturesque embellishment of an Antiquarian site (i.e. 'Deep Time'/medieval), crematorium, green burial site. Or rare combination of types well preserved	The landscape framework of the type makes a positive contribution to the site's interest; or a fine but partially intact example of its type or rare combination of types	There are parts of the site displaying coherent designed elements but there is little evidence of coherence or completeness	Identifying features lost, highly fragmented or marred by unsympathetic additions, or little or no sign of maintenance. (NB: if planting never part of concept use 'N/A')
Ornamental landscape design	Of national significance (likely to fulfil heritage designation criteria) and complete or largely complete	Of national significance (likely to fulfil heritage designation criteria) & fragmented, or of regional significance & complete	Of regional significance and fragmented, or of local significance and complete	Little artistic interest or poorly executed. (NB: if ornamental design never part of concept use 'N/A')
Structural planting	Widely varied horticultural collection or outstanding framework defined by planting. Survives intact or appropriately restored/replanted	Varied horticultural collection or strong design defined by planting. May have some fragmentation or been largely but appropriately replanted	Design includes evident definition by planting surviving largely intact. Formerly outstanding or strong design fragmented but evident and restorable	Little planting as part of ornamental concept or all planting gone and irreplaceable. (NB: if planting never part of concept use 'N/A')

Current condition (whole site): maintenance/ quality	Well maintained as per original concept. No evidence of neglect or inappropriate long term maintenance/alteration/ development.	Well maintained as per historic design concept. Some residual evidence of historic neglect but no inappropriate long term maintenance/ alteration/ development.	Fair maintenance and evidence of historic neglect and/or inappropriate long term maintenance/ alteration/ development.	Poor maintenance, neglect and / or inappropriate long term maintenance/ alteration/ development
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Table 3.6: Bio-diversity indicator

Significance Indicator	Level of Significance and Criteria			
	Exceptional-A	Considerable-B	Some-C	None-D
Bio-diversity potential	Exceptional as an ecological reserve, with organic links beyond boundary, such as forming part of a green route way in a city. The actual site displays both rarity and diversity. Likely to be a recognised site of conservation importance	Evident as an ecological reserve displaying some rarity and diversity but displays little connectedness with surroundings	Displays some diversity but no connectedness with surroundings. May be fragmented	No evidence of ecological diversity or rarity

Conclusion

At the end of the first stage of the research, a rationale and method for assessing the significance of burial space as a heritage asset had been established. Notably a list of indicators had been devised which could be organised either by the *interests* of the *NPPF* or by the *values* of *Conservation Principles*, a matrix containing guidance to aid assigning an assessment score drafted, and the system has been tested on six sites. In final preparation for fieldwork, a model case study dossier was devised by the team to illustrate the potential format and content of case studies. The format was agreed by English Heritage and forms the basis of the case study reports included in Appendix C.

PART TWO

4 The contribution of the HER to the significance method

Introduction

This brief chapter reviews the contribution made by the Historic Environment Record (HER) to the task of assessing the significance of burial space. It is notable that the research team comprised individuals who had a long professional experience of using the HER to support landscape research, and those who were completely unfamiliar with the process of securing information from that source. There was further challenge in the broad range of case studies included in the study, and the fact that information was being sought that on occasion sat outside what might be regarded as the common purview of the HER: the modern sites in the study would not normally be considered as heritage assets. In this regard, it was appropriate to test how far the HER might be accessible to 'lay' individuals, and how well its information confirmed or indeed overlooked the significances ascribed by this process. The chapter will review some of the difficulties encountered in securing information on burial space from the HER, and also consider some of the recommendations that arose as a consequence of completing fieldwork at the case study sites.

HER issues

It was not the purpose of the study to assess the nature and quality of existing available information on the burial sites in the study, but the presumption was made that reliance would be placed on the HER for site information. It was assumed that information from the HER would be readily available via internet searches, although in actuality access was extremely variable. In some cases, information was only available on payment of a fee, with additional premiums placed if information was needed within a given time frame. Otherwise, it could take some time for information to be available.

Once it had been obtained, HER information proved to be adequate in the cases of St Martin's at Wharram Percy, St George's Gardens, New Southgate Cemetery and Chilterns Crematorium and additions are expected for other sites, including Stoke Battlefield. Conversely, no HER information at all is available on Christ Church, Tordmorden, or Hills Cemetery, Horsham.

However, problems with the HER comprised a substantive issue in the desk-based element of the fieldwork. A dossier of information was prepared on each site prior to the site visits, with reliance placed on principally web-based information. A request was made to each county HER that had a case study for information on that case study. Information was requested for an area around the given boundary of each site in order to establish context, and in case the boundary was not reliable.

The available information was markedly variable, as might be expected given the broad range of site types in the study, and depended very much on whether the site had been subject to archaeological study. Two examples are indicative. HER data was of limited use for the Holy Ghost Chapel and Interdict Burial Ground. The website was searched for 'Holy Ghost' which returned no findings, and 'cemetery' within the site title. Information appeared in the record under 'South View Cemetery'. There was a brief description of the site:

Pope Innocent III issued an interdict against King John in 1208 which closed all churchyards for burial for a period of 6 years. Unconsecrated ground was used during this period and in some cases, after the lifting of the Interdict, a chapel was built and the ground consecrated as appears to have happened at Basingstoke, and the cemetery continued in use.

Of the three remaining references, one related to maps, a second to a nineteenth century history of Basingstoke and a third to a research undertaken by David Meyrick in 1996, updated in 2000, but with no reference. No information was available on the preservation of human remains and how they were buried: indeed, there remained a general statement of the likelihood of earlier remains surviving below and between later burials. There was no statement on the possible existence of medieval documentation that might indicate the scale of use of the site. Only limited detail appeared on the development of the site in the later historic period.

There was, by contrast, a great deal of information on the Saxon Cemetery, Croydon. A summary of 1000+ words detailed findings from site excavations, and references were given to more than 60 published documents. The HER flagged up the fact that the burials had been taking place in that location at two periods, around the end of the Roman period as well as the late C5th to early C8th periods. There have been three episodes of archaeological intervention here, and there are records for each. These explorations, together with negative results from other archaeological work in the vicinity, enabled the likely extent of the cemetery to be established. Archaeological results also gave information on the preservation of remains, likely number of individuals and burial practice. This site was particularly significant in the level of preservation *in situ* and in the regular monitoring of below-ground conditions. However, much as this information was welcome, no attempt could be made to assess the quality of the reports that were referenced. Furthermore, for someone without specialist knowledge of the period, or of remains from it, assessing the significance of the assemblage in relation to similar examples was not so easy.

These examples demonstrate the substantial variety embedded within the HER records. The difference in the level of detail is matched by difference in the level of cross-referencing across records. In addition, the examples also indicate how much the record is tied to reportage of archaeological investigation. The HER is not intended as a historic record of a particular site, and as a consequence is not entirely useful for burial sites from the historic period. Archaeological investigation does take place at burial sites in the post-Reformation period, but a presumption remains that disturbance will be exceptional rather than commonplace.

Even where reliance may be placed on the HER for information relating to the very oldest sites, issues remain. Neither the HER nor its national equivalent – the English National Monuments Record – are necessarily reliable indicators for the extent of a burial site, and mapped extents from two sources may differ; this was the case for the Eastern Roman Cemetery and the Saxon Cemetery, Croydon. This means that HER data needs to be interrogated for a buffer zone around any particular site. A further and associated issue is the lack of synthesis of information on the 'Deep Time' sites which may appear in the HER as disparate elements. This was the case for the Iron Age Barrow Cemetery at Rillington. Overall there was a need for site synthesis of disparately listed elements, also found to be the case at Tiverton Cemetery which had listed monuments on the HER but no entry for the cemetery.

At the same time, the HER might not necessarily provide an alert to broader context. So, for example, reference is made to the fact that the East Kennet barrow sits within the World Heritage Site, but makes no other commentary.

Conclusion

Overall, therefore, it is clear that knowledge of the HER and how it works cannot be assumed for the users of the significance framework, and the HER was not consistent in presenting uniform data on burial sites, although there was wide coverage across site types. The HER was found to be a satisfactory representation for only a small minority of sites in the study. There appeared to be a reliance on the incidence of archaeological investigation and the listing process, both areas where historic burial sites particularly have tended to be under-represented. Furthermore, there was also a tendency for sites to lack coherent synthesised analysis even when a large number of constituent elements from that site might be included.

5. Assessing the 'spirit of place'

Introduction

One objective of this research programme has been to engage with site owners and stakeholders in such a way that their views can be incorporated into the articulation and assessment of significance. This chapter therefore reviews findings from contact made with stakeholders of a selection of the case study sites. The specific purpose of the interviews was to elicit some commentary from respondents on the 'spirit of place' of the case study location with which they were most familiar. A number of issues arose from the exercise, not least of which was the identification of appropriate stakeholders for this exercise. A wide range of individuals was located, and their responses are reported here. The chapter indicates that there are substantial challenges in assessing the 'spirit of place' for burial sites, and that further and more detailed exploration of this issue is necessary.

Sites and stakeholders

It was initially intended to include a total of fifteen burial sites. However, as will be seen, locating stakeholders to comment on ancient sites within the selection proved to be problematic, so much so that this type of site was finally excluded from the survey. The fourteen sites where an appropriate stakeholder could be located constitutes a spread of site type, and are listed in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Sites included in qualitative 'spirit of place' exercise

Quaker Burial Ground, Coalbrookdale	Brocklesby Mausoleum	St Martin's, Wharram Percy
Alderney Road Jewish Cemetery	Chilterns Crematorium	St Mary's, Arlingham
Leavesden Asylum Cemetery	Manchester Crematorium	Christ Church, Todmorden
German Military Cemetery, Cannock Chase	Holy Ghost Chapel and Interdict Burial Ground	St Martin's, Penrith
Stoke Field Battleground	St John's Cemetery, Elswick	

Within this group, the half the sites were places in which the final interment had taken place years or even some centuries previously. In three of the sites there were low levels of continuing burial activity that in some instances largely encompassed the interment or scattering of cremated remains. Three of the sites were fully open for use, including the two crematoria and one of the churchyards.

A principal task for the qualitative exercise was to identify an appropriate stakeholder who would have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the site to be able to comment on the site itself and to reflect on ways in which the site might be viewed by people living nearby. There are perhaps six groups – broadly classified – that might be regarded as being appropriate stakeholders:

- site owners and managers;
- people who have members of their family or community buried at the site;
- people living in the immediate vicinity of a site;
- local 'friends' with an interest in protecting and interpreting aspects of a particular site;
- national 'friends' with an interest in protecting and interpreting aspects of set of sites with a particular unifying characteristic; and
- agencies or individuals with an academic interest.

A particular individual may fall into more than one of these stakeholder types: for example, friends groups often include people with a family member buried at a particular site. As might be anticipated, representatives of this kind of stakeholder can be difficult to locate. Managers may be easier to define than private owners, and there is often no evident representative for people living in the immediate vicinity of a site, especially if the site is either very big or located in a scattered rural location. Studies that have been successful in engaging with site users have often relied on the time-intensive method of being at a site and interviewing people who visit.¹¹ This method was not achievable given the resource constraints of the project. As a consequence, the decision was taken to contact the most readily available stakeholders, who were owners, managers and civic groups that had an internet 'presence' in terms of website pages dedicated to the sites in question. It is acknowledged that this selection is highly partial.

In almost all cases, contact was successfully made with individuals who knew sites well and made frequent visits. In only one instance was it the case that the site had not been visited by the respondent in the last year: the site was part of a much wider management portfolio and it was instructive to see how the burial site had, for the respondent, become lost in the wider landscape and lacked specific definition.

Overall, the stakeholders included in the qualitative survey fell into one of two broad categories: they were either an individual with some management responsibility for the site, or a person representing an organisation with an agenda including protection and interpretation of the site. Three respondents had sole responsibility for the site in question, and care for that site specifically comprised a full-time job. Other managers had the burial space within a wider portfolio of sites and properties for which they had overall responsibility. This included individuals in the heritage industry taking care of larger heritage landscapes and cemetery managers with responsibility for more than one burial space. Respondents also included two Church of England vicars and one church warden, who each had management responsibility for one or more churchyards. None of the individuals in the group representing a more 'civic' agenda had any direct management oversight. In all these cases, the respondents could broadly be construed as 'friends' of the sites on which they were commenting.

¹¹ Buckham, S. (2013) *The Edinburgh Graveyard Project*, Edinburgh: World Monuments Fund; Francis, D. (2005) *The Secret Cemetery*, Oxford: Berg.

The survey

The survey took place by telephone, with the exception of one case where questions were answered via email. Thirteen of the interviews were recorded with the respondent's permission, but in one case permission was not given. The interview timings were remarkably variable, with the longest taking close to 45 minutes, and the shortest little over 15 minutes. The interview questions were devised without substantial prompting, in order to encourage the respondent to interpret the more exploratory questions in their own way. Interview questions are set out in Box 5.1, below. The interviews were analysed using a thematic grid.

Box 5.1: Interview schedule

How did you come to be involved in the site?

- Do you recall what it was like when you first saw it?
- Has it changed?

How do you define your role, currently?

Is there anything important about the site, do you think? What is it? Anything else?

How do you think people locally view the site?

Does it have a particular 'spirit of place', do you think? How would you sum that up?

Does the fact that it's a burial space matter?

How do you think the site will develop in the future?

Survey analysis

Overall, as might be anticipated, the styles of response in the survey analysis reflected the principal concerns of the stakeholder. For example, because of their greater involvement in interpretive activity, 'friends'-type respondents tended to be more aware of the historic nature of site in which they had an interest. Where sites were still being used for interment on a frequent basis, there could be a reluctance to recognise levels of interest beyond the immediate burial function: the emotional status of the site superseded other concerns. In being so familiar with their sites, managers were – again understandably – perhaps least able to 'step back' and consider the emotional impact of a location that they might be seeing every day. As a consequence, the following analysis should be regarded as being in no way definitive, but rather indicative of a need for further and more detailed research.

Site importance

For three of the sites, primary importance was derived from the fact that funerary activity was still ongoing. This was the case for two of the churchyards where space for interment was still available: indeed, St Mary's had recently been extended by an acre. It was felt that the churchyard contained all the generations of the village, and so was highly important locally. For Chilterns Crematorium, significance was lodged in the fact that the site was often actively chosen as a place for an individual's memorialisation, even though their cremation had not taken place there.

'Civic' respondents were less likely to stress the emotional importance of their sites, and instead tended to focus on the historic aspects of their site which could be regarded as having either local or even national importance. Thus, one respondent mentioned that St John's Cemetery had listed buildings and contained the graves of people who were part of the local history of the area.

The possibly unique nature of their site was mentioned by some of the respondents, for example, the respondent discussing the Holy Ghost Chapel and Interdict Burial Ground mentioned its history and its royal connections, and the respondent discussing the Manchester Crematorium noted that it was one of the first to be built in the UK. The two burial grounds in the group were regarded as being of particular importance to denominational identity. The Alderney Road Jewish Cemetery was regarded as being significant, in containing the remains of Chief Rabbis and notaries; and the Quaker Burial Ground, Coalbrookdale was the burial place of the Darby dynasty, which was integral to local industrial development.

For some sites, importance rested largely in the site's aesthetic qualities, and the nature of the space as burial space was largely secondary. This was the case for the mausoleum at Brocklesby, for example, which was thought to contribute substantially to the wider designed landscape. Similarly, the setting of the German Military Cemetery was regarded as having more substantive significance than the burials the site contained. Perhaps surprisingly, the churchyard of St Andrew's, Penrith was regarded as being important chiefly for its amenity value than its historic interest, in comprising a well-used green space at the town centre. This comment was made despite the fact that St Andrew's contains some very early Anglo-Saxon monuments.

Overall, therefore, it is clear that on occasion, even where historic importance is known, aesthetics can play a greater role in site appreciation; and where a site is still used for interment that factor can override any other consideration in viewing significance.

Local attitudes

There was a wide range of responses to the question about local attitudes towards the burial site. There was an immediate problem with the question in instances where the site had no obviously local community. For example, St Martin's at Wharram Percy sits within a Deserted Medieval Village at some distance from the nearest inhabited settlement. Communities of walkers passing through the site and visitors to the DMV were not thought

to spend much 'dwell time' at the churchyard. Similarly, the Stoke Battlefield was not located near a settlement that in any sense laid claim to the site and its history: it was thought that nearby Newark tended rather to stress its English Civil War heritage. In this case, the battlefield was regarded as being perhaps problematic for local farmers since access lay over private ground, and pathways had become ambiguous.

At perhaps the most extreme end of a scale of local engagement were sites that were in some sense 'orphaned' and regarded as being problematic. St John's Cemetery at Elswick had lost its community, as population change in the neighbourhood had altered the ethnic mix of the area. Newer Asian families had no historic or emotional connection with the site, where anti-social behaviour had discouraged use for amenity purposes. Visits were infrequent. By contrast, Holy Ghost Interdict burial ground was used as a thoroughfare and so had a strong local presence but again anti-social behaviour limited the amount of time people were likely to spend there.

Other sites were more strongly rooted in their neighbourhood, and had defined and clear functions in the townscape. The churchyard of Christchurch at Todmorden was used by families taking their children to the adjacent primary school, which also used part of the site for gardening activities. St Andrew's at Penrith was again a focus for amenity activity and in the summer is a popular location for passive recreation. It might be argued that both sites were more strongly knitted into the common spatial fabric of their neighbourhoods by the high level of footfall and by the non-funerary activities they supported than by their status as burial space.

Other locations that carried a slightly higher level of regard were the Brocklesby Mausoleum and the German Military Cemetery. Both were located in highly rural areas, although in both instances their immediate landscape was sufficient of itself to comprise a visitor attraction. The Mausoleum was thought to be well-regarded by the local community who had access to walks through the estate at certain times of the year. It was clear that people travelled some distance by car to access the landscape. The commanding position held by the Mausoleum made it a distinctive local feature and visible from some distance away, and there was a sense in which people were thought to feel proud of its being there: as an impressive and unusual structure, it gave character to the area. The German Military Cemetery is located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The site has no immediate local 'catchment' but activities at the site have created a connection: parties of German schoolchildren visit the cemetery every year to act as volunteers at the site, and local community liaison with schools in the area has enhanced the site's importance as a symbol of loss and reconciliation. The site has therefore been drawn into a local 'calendar' and these distinctive activities re-marked the unique nature of the cemetery as a place for German war dead.

Again, as might be anticipated, where funerary activity continued at a site then the question of local attitude played differently. Indeed, it was hard for respondents even to articulate how local people felt about sites with high levels of this type of emotional interest. Both crematoria were used by both local people and people who had chosen site despite living further afield. In the case of Manchester, this reflected the site's early establishment. Manchester Crematorium tended not to attract 'amenity' visitors: most of the people who came tended to be visiting a memorial. By contrast, the attractive setting

of Chilterns Crematorium meant that it had a higher number of amenity visitors: the particular nature of the site design muted overt evidences of funeral activity. However, these visitors then sometimes opted to use the crematorium and so became connected emotionally. In both cases, the community of 'users' was perhaps more strongly evident than a more typically defined local community. Unlike a cemetery or burial ground, where emotional connection diminishes over time, a strong pool of emotional attachment to a particular crematorium is always likely to exist.

The burial grounds in the case study carried another set of problems in defining local attitudes, and in this instance the problems related to access. Alderney Road Jewish Burial Ground is not open to casual visitors, and it was thought likely that the local community might not even be aware that the site was there. Similarly, the Quaker Burial Ground at Coalbrookdale is not easy to find, and is only accessible via a steep walk through a residential area. It was thought that visits tended to be infrequent aside from 'pilgrims' drawn through the heritage trails attached to the area's World Heritage Site status. Both sites elicited strong levels of commitment from the religious communities they served, but it was difficult to judge local attachment more generally.

Spirit of place

There was wide variation in responses to being asked whether a site had a 'spirit of place', and – as with much of this analysis – reporting is here indicative of useful themes for further research rather than being any kind of definitive commentary. There is a sense in which aspects of 'spirit of place' when it comes to burial sites do not sit easily with the intent to increase visitor foot-fall at a site.

For example, it was evident that where a burial space was still actively being used by a community, the notion that it might have a distinctive 'spirit of place' could be an unwelcome one. There was resistance to the idea that a burial site might have characteristics that would attract visitors: indeed, that kind of visit was deemed not to be wholly appropriate and almost viewed as an invasion of privacy. This attitude of a site 'user' contrasts with a site manager that might consider that management practices enhancing a particular spirit of place was intrinsic to the task of management. Thus, both crematorium managers aimed to produce a space that felt peaceful, safe and calm. However, it was evident that the 'audience' for this management was the user, not casual visitors.

In the case of sites where burials had last taken place a long time previously, there was a greater enthusiasm for discussing the atmosphere of a site, which for respondents was clearly often enhanced by a degree of understanding of the site's history. So, for example, the Stoke Field Battleground was described as being 'numinous', as awareness of the violence and death in the site's past 'makes your hair stand on end.' However, it was acknowledged that this sensibility would be entirely absent without some degree of interpretation. Similarly, the institutional site Leavesden was thought to be 'sombre and moving' when knowledge of its history became evident. However, the atmosphere was dependent on an appreciation of the circumstances in which burial took place, and the marginalised nature of the asylum residents.

For the smaller burial grounds, site atmosphere was to some degree reliant on its isolation. The Alderney Road Jewish Cemetery was rarely visited, which enhanced its 'serene' nature. Similarly, the location of the Brocklesby Mausoleum at the top of the hill added to a feeling of seclusion: 'You don't feel all and sundry are there, even if you're there and walking with other people about.' The Quaker Burial Ground, Coalbrookdale was also thought to benefit from the fact that it was difficult to find. The climb upwards and into the burial site comprised a kind of pilgrimage, and views from the steep acclivity at the site were a 'reward'. This kind of commentary correlates with findings in research by Jolly, which located a 'secret garden' motif in the ways in which Friends groups talked about the attraction of two Victorian cemeteries in Oxford.¹² Sites hidden by high walls were there to be 'discovered', and the fact that many Friends made an accidental discovery was part of a personal narrative that connected people to place.

There were sites where it was clear that there was very limited, if any, sense of a 'spirit of place.' This was often the case for places with higher degrees of footfall – if sites were used as public through-paths, for example – and in busier locations or where the site is hemmed in with buildings. Evidence of anti-social behaviour also had an impact on assessment of whether a site had a particular atmosphere.

Impact of the site as burial space

Respondents were asked the specific question as to whether the fact that burial had taken place at a site contributed to any spirit of place it might have. One respondent said that headstones made their burial site 'creepy' to some people who used it as a walkway, and it was for this reason that consideration was being given to monument clearance. However, burials were not always evident in the landscape. For example, for Stoke Field Battleground 'it's not as if there's a big burial mound with a cross on top.' Where burials were more evident, their presence could still be compromised: for example, at the Quaker Burial Ground, Coalbrookdale, headstones had been moved to the site's periphery. Indeed, it was thought that the burial ground felt more like a garden. This was also the case with the Holy Ghost Chapel and Interdict Burial Ground, where the headstones were considered to be part of the amenity landscape: people often sat on the monuments. There was no sense in which this site was viewed specifically as burial space. In another instance, space for cremated remains was sequestered to the edges of the churchyard, so that its amenity aspects would not be compromised.

In perhaps an exceptional case, it was felt that the Brocklesby Mausoleum was regarded with a degree of reverence because it was a burial space: the site was viewed in a way similar to a church.

So, it would seem that although burials played a role in defining the historic importance of a site, it was not always concluded that physical evidence of those burials contributed to any 'spirit of place' that a site may have. Where the fact of burial did make a contribution to an emotional reaction, there is a sense in which that reaction was provoked by a

¹² Jolly, G. (2013) 'The management of historic cemeteries by friends groups: local narratives and the sense of place', unpublished MPhil., University of Bath.

respondent's imagination, stirred by knowledge of the site, rather than a more direct and unmediated response. In the case study sites, the 'idea' of death was perhaps more powerful than physical evidences of mortality.

Perceived trajectory

Respondents were also asked about their impressions of the site when they first saw it, and how they thought the site might develop in the future. In general, it can be argued that burial spaces are not static: perceptions shift over time, and various factors might influence their changing characteristics, and their being viewed as more or less important over time. At some sites, levels of 'friends'-type interest will increased awareness of importance, so that – at the very least – better interpretative material about the site will be produced and increased local awareness may be effected. This was certainly the case, for example, at Leavesden and at the Stoke Field Battleground. At the Holy Ghost Chapel, funding had been secured for the printing of leaflets, and pathways had been improved to facilitate access.

In some instances, sites were already subject to active conservation plans: for example, St Martin's churchyard at Wharram Percy, the German Military Cemetery and Brocklesby Mausoleum were all under the care of agencies or owners with a strong commitment to conservation and interpretation. For these sites, in the medium term at least, very little change was likely.

There was a sense in which other sites remained in a less benign 'limbo', with no clear strategic purpose for their future development. This was certainly the case at St John's Cemetery, where a minimal maintenance contract offered some protection for listed elements of the site but there was no overall strategy for more active management. Similarly, other respondents reported that maintenance regimes were unlikely to change, but no steps would be taken to reverse or counter natural deterioration. These sites would not be subject to redevelopment, but limited funds meant that a secure long-term future could not be assured.

Where sites were in active use as burial space, then the pace of likely change appeared more dynamic. Both crematoria were considering improvements to the landscape. Little change was envisaged at one churchyard where burials were still continuing frequently. However, as burials at two of the other churchyards was decreasing, some consideration was being given to clearance of the headstones or otherwise changing the landscape, so that the space around the church could be more readily adapted to amenity uses by the local community.

Conclusion

'Spirit of place' is difficult to define, and may encompass aspects of a location that make it distinctive, and which elicit some kind of emotional response. In reviewing the 'spirit of place' as it relates to burial space, there are difficulties in arriving at any level of generalisation because of the very wide variation in site type, in their current status as

burial space and in their management context. Furthermore, the spread of respondent types did not make for easy generalisation: there is a very real issue in terms of the ability to locate appropriate stakeholders.

It could be argued that the aspects of burial space which most likely to convey a 'spirit of place' are those which militate against stronger levels of community engagement that might increase the footfall at the site. The sites that conveyed a spirit of place were places that were in isolated locations or offered quiet within a busy townscape. Enjoyment of this space was a solitary activity: indeed, churchyards and cemeteries comprise a type of amenity space where groups are perhaps more anomalous than people walking alone.

It was difficult to be certain whether and how far the actual or inferred presence of burials at a site had an impact on 'spirit of place'. Leaving to one side those sites with continued funerary activity, it appeared that knowledge of a site's history was more likely to elicit a response than reflection on whatever material remains might be present in terms of headstones or other kinds of funeral monumentation or iconography.

However, this conclusion is challenged to a degree by commentary by one respondent, who was very adamant that in general, Victorian cemeteries carried a very strong 'spirit of place'. However, the Victorian cemetery within the case study selection was perhaps not ideally placed to demonstrate the attraction, being in a 'limbo' status of disrepair.

This exercise has demonstrated the difficulties attached to any assessment of 'spirit of place', which is a largely subjective exercise. The emotional engagement of a location rests very much on a willingness to be engaged and a desire to understand and appreciate a site's history. However, the telephone interviews that comprised this aspect of the study were perhaps a less useful medium than other qualitative techniques that might include focus groups and accompanied site visits.

6. Assessment of indicators in practice

Introduction

All the indicators created at the first stage of the project were tested through application to the 29 burial sites in the study. In order to ensure full representation of issues relating to using the indicators, this chapter includes separate discussion of each indicator in turn, including a brief description of the indicator's purpose and the logic of the applied scale; an assessment of how the indicator worked across the case studies; and discussion of any issues that arose. Each discussion will be preceded by a table which summarises the spread of assessment grades. In some instances, recommendations are made to amend an indicator wording or scale; to remove an indicator; or to add a new indicator.

The cases are grouped roughly into burial site 'types', so that it is more readily possible to make a visual assessment of how particular site types fared under each indicator. Note that the next chapter will discuss some of the broader issues that have arisen from evaluation of the indicators in practice.

Mortality-specific indicators

Site morphology and burial practice indicative of religious belief¹³

A	A range of evidences of belief clearly visible, allowing sophisticated interpretation.	Todmorden CY Lawnswood Cem Southgate Cem Coventry Cem Tiverton Cem	Chiltern Crem Coalbrookdale BG Canonesses BG	Brocklesby Mau
B	Some evidences of belief clearly visible, allowing limited interpretation.	Wharram Percy CY Liten CY Arlington CY St George's CY St John's Cem	Manchester Crem Alderney BG Cote Baptist BG	Leper BG St Audry's IBG German Military
C	Minor evidence of belief allowing superficial interpretation.	Penrith CY	Horsham Cem	Leavesden IBG
D	Religious belief may be inferred but is not visible.	Yealmpton WCem		
N/A	Indicator not applicable.	East Kennet Bw Rillington Bw	E. Roman Cem Saxon Cem	Stoke Field

The principal purpose of this indicator is to examine the ways in which funerary practices might evidence particular religious beliefs and – in particular – beliefs relating to the soul and the afterlife. Higher scores are indicative of sites allowing more sophisticated

¹³ Note in all these tables, the following apply: 'BG' is burial ground; 'Mau' is mausoleum; CY is churchyard; 'Crem' is crematorium, 'WCem' is woodland cemetery; Bw is barrow; IBG is institutional burial ground.

interpretation such as change over time or allowing comparison between groups; lower grade sites indicate that evidences are compromised by development or clearance, or absent. Cemeteries were often assessed at 'A' in this category, largely as a consequence of the degree of extant monumentation with legible inscriptions and funerary symbols.

There are some difficulties with the indicator in the degree to which religious significance might be applied to sites generically. It therefore may be necessary to disaggregate 'morphology' and 'burial practice'. 'Morphology' is not necessarily helpful. For example, it is possible to argue that all barrows should score a 'D' rather than 'N/A' since barrow location in the landscape could be indicative of particular spiritual belief. Similarly, churchyards and denominational burial grounds in the historic period are indicative of religious belief in their being located close to – or indeed deliberately away from – an Anglican place of worship. Particular grave orientations are generally in evidence in churchyards. Cemeteries established in the nineteenth century will have Anglican and Nonconformist sections. Recent research has indicated that spiritual beliefs do often underpin the individual choices made in woodland burial schemes. Thus, it could be argued, all burial morphology is indicative of religious belief either through inference, actual evidence or indeed a lack of evidence demonstrating deliberately secularised practice.

'Burial practice' carries greater potential, and can include above and below-ground elements in the task of assessment. For sites where there are individual, inscribed above-ground monuments there is a possibility that more detailed exploration of religious belief – for example, conceptions of heaven or hell – may take place through textual and iconographic analysis. This is time-consuming method was outside the bounds of this particular research, although the indicators have noted where extant monumentation supports the potential for this approach. Similarly, for excavated deep-time sites, there remained the potential to interrogate remains for evidences of defined religious belief. It is recommended, therefore, that the indicator is amended to '*Burial practice evidences religious belief*', and that deep-time sites should not be automatically excluded through a N/A assessment.

Death-related iconography present and embedded in both the infrastructure and memorials if present

A	Two or more strong visual representations of mortality/funerary symbolism.	St George's CY Todmorden CY Arlington CY Liten CY	Southgate Cem Coventry Cem Tiverton Cem Lawnswood Cem	Manchester Crem German Military Brocklesby Mau
B	Funerary symbolism present but masked/damaged/compromised.	Wharram Percy CY St John's Cem Horsham Cem	Alderney BG Coalbrookdale BG Cote Baptist BG Canonesses BG	
C	Limited funerary symbolism comprising one/partial representation of mortality.	Penrith CY	St Audry's IBG Leavesden IBG	
D	No evidence at all that the site was used for burial.	East Kennet Bw E. Roman Cem	Chiltern Crem	Yealmpton WCem
N/A	Indicator not applicable.	Rillington Bw Saxon Cem	Leper BG	Stoke Field

This indicator gauges evidences of the iconography of mortality, or visual representations of death. The scale is based on the number of individual images present at the site.

There were a number of issues relating to the implementation of this indicator in terms of clarity of purpose and consistency of implementation. First, it was clear that 'death-related iconography' carried some ambivalence. 'Death-related' was too vague a term. The intent was for the indicator to measure instances of artistic representations of mortality which might, for example, include skulls or angels carved into headstones. This was not to include carving that was simply decorative or burial practice that carried no artistic purpose. It was evident that this indicator was at times implemented in the field as 'number of memorials' or where there was any visual indicator of funerary activity for example in the ephemeral objects at crematoria or cemeteries still in operation.

Isolating the need to concentrate on iconography specifically, it was also clear that scale within the indicator did not adequately represent what was generally encountered on site. The original intent was for the indicator to isolate and score more highly examples where a shift in iconography was in evidence from one period to another such as might be the case in churches or in churchyards where C17th and C18th memorials exist alongside C19th examples. However, it was felt that this approach led to a downgrading of cases where there might be a rich selection of images limited to a single time period. It was also necessary to ensure that higher scores were not given simply for number, since high numbers might carry a narrow range of images with a great deal of repetition.

It is possible, therefore, that this indicator needs to be re-phrased, perhaps more exactly as '*Incidence of artistic mortality iconography*'. A new gradation needs to be devised that encompasses both range and richness. The following is a suggestion:

- A: Two or more strongly differentiated visual representations of mortality from more than one period
- B: Two or more strongly differentiated visual representations of mortality from a single period
- C: A single representation or a number of similar representations of mortality from a single period
- D: No artistic representations of mortality

Evidences particular attitudes towards the dead body

A	Evidence strongly indicative of particular attitudes and the absence/presence of the body is easy to read.	Leper BG Alderney BG Cote Baptist BG Coalbrookdale BG Arlington CY Todmorden CY Liten CY	St John's Cem Southgate Cem Coventry Cem Tiverton Cem Lawnswood Cem	German Military Stoke Field Brocklesby Mau
B	Limited evidence of particular attitudes although the absence/presence of the body is easy to read.	E. Roman Cem Saxon Cem Horsham Cem	St George's CY Canonesses BG	
C	Some evidence of the dead body, but evidence is subsumed.	Wharram Percy CY Penrith CY	Manchester Crem Yealmpton WCem	St Audry's IBG Leavesden IBG
D	No evidence at all that the dead body is present in the site.	East Kennet Bw	Chiltern Crem	
N/A	Indicator not applicable.	Rillington Bw		

A third indicator directly related to mortality is the ability of the site to convey particular attitudes towards the dead body. The intent of the scale was to move from sites where the existence of interments is easy to read in the landscape, through to cases where there was no visual evidence that burials had taken place.

There were difficulties with the implementation of this indicator, again because of the conflation of two issues that in practice needed to be separated: attitudes towards the dead body and the ease with which the presence of the dead could be read in the landscape. The difficulties became most evident with Stoke Field, which scored an 'A', as a consequence of the potential evidence for attitudes towards the dead body following conflict, and despite the fact that no evidence of burials appears in the landscape. There was, in addition, a point to be made about not downgrading sites where evidences of mortality were muted or missing – for example, in Quaker burial practice or at Chilterns Crematorium. There is an eloquence in these absences that needs to be acknowledged.

Furthermore, it was clear that the current scale did not offer a straightforward and logical progression. Examples at either extreme are easy to pinpoint, but the shift from one extreme to another is difficult to devise.

There was also a fine distinction to be made between attitudes towards 'the dead' and attitudes towards the dead body and it may be that this distinction was more readily recognisable in principle than in practice. It might be more appropriate to re-focus the indicator to measure the ability of the site to evidence changing disposal practices, for example in shifts between cremation and inhumation both in the 'Deep Time' and historic sites; and in the 'presence' afforded to the dead in above-ground monumentation. The dynamic nature of ongoing management presents further difficulties: for example, a nineteenth century cemetery should always, in principle, be able to afford extended commentary on attitudes towards the dead. This is not the case if the site has been compromised by extensive grave clearance measures, but those measures are in themselves expressive commentary on attitudes towards the dead in the late twentieth century.

Resolution of the issue might be arrived at through 'unpacking' the indicator to disentangle the 'above/below ground' evidence; the ability to discern changing disposal practices; and the 'visibility' of the dead in the remaining landscape. It could be argued that any burial space with remains that have not been subject to archaeological excavation carry some degree of potential, and this issue is covered in specific archaeological indicator. However, it may be necessary to create two new indicators to accommodate the complex issues of changing disposal practice, and the visibility of the dead in the landscape.

Historic indicators

Historic Interest

A	Exceptionally clear evidence of the age and history of the asset over time, the strength of its tie to a particular epoch or event.	Wharram Percy CY Arlingham CY Liten CY Southgate Cem Coventry Cem Tiverton Cem Lawnswood Cem	Manchester Crem Chiltern Crem Yealmpton WCem Alderney BG Cote Baptist BG Coalbrookdale BG Canonesses BG	St Audrys IBG Stoke Field German Military Brocklesby Mau
B	Some evidence of the asset period of development, association to a particular epoch or event.	Rillington Bw E. Roman Cem	St George's CY Todmorden CY Penrith CY	St John's Cem Leper BG
C	Age and history of the asset over time unclear.	Saxon Cem	Leavesden IBG	Horsham Cem
D	No evidence of the age and history of the asset over time.	East Kennett Bw		
N/A	Indicator not applicable.			

The primary purpose of this indicator is to assess the overall historical value of a site as a burial space. The form of words used for this indicator reflects that one of the bases for 'listing' is that any heritage asset should have both historic and architectural interest. Furthermore this indicator closely mirrors the NPPF criteria 'historical' interest and thus in all cases the indicator was applicable to the case studies.

To ensure clear interpretation of the indicator, it was agreed that the concept of historic interest should be evidence-based. Thus irrespective of the variations of types of burial space or periodization, if the evidence base for the site was clear it would score highly in terms of significance but if this did not exist at all or was hazy it would score less highly. Predictably the greatest majority of the sites fell into the A and B categories as the case studies to be investigated were selected on the basis of known or assumed historic interest. This however might not always be the case if sites are not well known or documented yet for which a statement of significance is required.

The degree of historical interest was differently interpreted between surveyors in the study indicating that consistent interpretation was problematical. For instance Horsham Cemetery which is effectively a 20th design arguably scored a 'C' because of its relatively short life span and a lack of documentary evidence. However it could have equally been categorized as 'A' because there is exceptionally clear evidence of its short history given that other sites which link to short time-phases or single events scored in higher categories, namely Stoke Field and the German Military Cemetery. Overall however it can be observed that burial sites which have evolved over a long period score consistently high on the significance scale implying that generally intrinsic historic interest and longevity of existence are interlinked. On the other hand this will never be exclusively so and sites where that record a specific single event might also score in the highest possible category. The form of words of this indicator does not require change.

Historic Context

A	Attitudes and conditions at the time of construction are clearly revealed through the fabric of the place and its historical record.	Arlingham CY Liten CY St George's CY Southgate Cem Lawnswood Cem	Manchester Crem Chiltern Crem Yealmpton W Cem	Alderney BG Cote Baptist BG Canonesses BG German Military Brocklesby Mau
B	Attitudes and conditions at the time of construction partially evident through the fabric of the place and its historical record.	E. Roman Cem Saxon Cem Penrith CY Todmorden CY	Coventry Cem Tiverton Cem Horsham Cem Coalbrookdale BG	Leper BG St Audrys IBG
C	Attitudes and conditions at the time of construction, as revealed through the fabric of the place and its historic record, is limited.	Rillington Bw	St John's Cem	Leavesden IBG
D	The site gives no evidence of its historic context.	East Kennett Bw	Stoke Field	
N/A	Indicator not applicable			

The purpose of this indicator is to establish the importance of historical context rather than interest in determining the significance of a site as a place.

The distinction between historical context and historic interest has been extensively discussed in ICOMOS documents that focus on the definition of significance principles. The introduction of the idea of context as a factor in significance relates to the perception that in addition to tangible interest it is important to consider less tangible aspects of sites. Led by ICOMOS, views have changed over time. Initially it was the extremely tangible things which were perceived to give sites significance but these have been expanded to include social awareness and social importance of places. It is generally accepted that historical context refers to the social, political, cultural attitudes and conditions as well as economic environment associated or related to historical moments, occurrences and styles and carries equal weight with tangible interests.

Surveyors found this difficult to embrace exactly what was being scored in terms of this significance especially whilst on site visits because it was essential to have documentation to confirm or refute the importance of context. Whether the site was 'one of a kind' or unique in some way could only be assessed from desk studies. This is evidenced by the grouping of the majority of the scores into 'A' and 'B' categories. The sites with least above-ground remains fell mainly into the 'C' and 'D' categories. Context is clearly important, but defining its degree or type is less easy.

The descriptions which accompanied the scores indicate the range of issues that surveyors addressed as context, which varied from local vernacular traditions in materials to periodization. As a consequence it is concluded that the indicator should be retained for statements of significance but that the language of the definitional framework should be

tightened up in order to clarify what was meant by the form of words 'conditions at the time of construction' and to omit or replace the term 'attitude'. This word has a distinctive meaning in archaeological circles meaning orientation of artefacts rather than data that describe how people think, believe and feel.

It is recommended that definitional framework be altered in the following way:

- A: Clearly reveals conditions at the time of site construction through the fabric of the site and/or its historical record.
- B: Partly reveals conditions at the time of site construction through the fabric of the site and/or its historical record.
- C: Limited evidence of conditions at the time of site construction revealed through the fabric of the site and/or its historical record is limited.
- D: No evidence of conditions at the time of site construction either in the fabric of the site and/or its historical record.

To accompany this significance criteria a footnote should define 'conditions' as referring to 'the social, political, cultural conditions as well as economic environment.'

Association with notable persons or events

A	The site is exceptional in being associated with a notable person or event of international renown.	Penrith CY Coventry Cem Lawnswood Cem	Coalbrookdale BG German Military	Brocklesby Mau
B	The site is nationally important because of its association with a notable person or event.	Liten CY St George's CY Southgate Cem	Canonesses BG Alderney BG	Stoke Field Leavesden IBG
C	The site is locally important because of its association with notable people or events in the community.	Wharram Percy CY Arlingham CY Todmorden CY	St John's Cem Tiverton Cem Horsham Cem Cote Baptist BG	Manchester Crem
D	The site has no particular association with a notable person or event.	East Kennet Bw Leper BG	St Audrys IBG	Chiltern Crem Yealmpton WCem
N/A	Indicator not applicable	Rillington Bw	E. Roman Cem	Saxon Cem

This indicator aimed to assess the degree of association the site may have with notable persons or events. Sites scored more highly on the indicator where there was a connection that was regarded as having international significance; the lowest grades were given to sites with no associations.

This significance was regarded as being straightforward to assess its progression from the international to the local. However, in some cases it is possible that lack of information on personal associations led to an assessment of significance lower than it should have been, particularly at regional crematoria.

Material record

A	Contributes to the international historic record, in comprising a unique or highly distinctive site of its type	East Kennet Bw Liten CY Coventry Cem	Manchester Crem Yealmpton WCem Coalbrookdale BG	German Military Leper BG
B	Contributes to the national historic record, in comprising an important site of its type	Rillington Bw E. Roman Cem Saxon Cem	Penrith CY Wharram Percy CY St George's CY Todmorden CY St John's Cem Lawnswood Cem Southgate Cem	Alderney BG Canonesses BG St Audrys IBG Leavesden IBG Brocklesby Mau
C	Comprises a fair example of a common site type, with some local importance	Arlingham CY Tiverton Cem Horsham Cem	Chiltern Crem Cote Baptist BG	Stoke Field
D	Is a poor example of a common site type			
N/A	Indicator not applicable			

This indicator aimed to establish the importance of the site as a material record of its site type. The scale ranged from the site representing an internationally important contribution to the material record or the site being unique or distinctive, down to the site comprising a poor example of a common site type.

The surveyors were not all addressing the same definition of this indicator, in which two aspects were conflated: the richness of the available historic documentary record, and the physical on-site material record of a historic site type. It became clear that these two things should have been clearly defined separately. There was confusion about whether 'material record' was the physical material of the site, as a piece of material as part of the historic environment; or referred to the historic documentation of the site. This confusion highlighted the fact that, in general, terminology is an issue depending on the surveyor's professional discipline. This evaluation method requires transparent and unambiguous terminology and a glossary. It was concluded that 'documentary record' would be a more accurate label than material record, and would certainly be less ambiguous. Thus the data from the assessment of significance for these sites in this project is not consistent. If the indicator is used to address the documentary record it is likely to give a low significance for 'Deep Time' sites where records are absent, but for much later sites allow a better understanding of significance overall. For prehistoric sites other criteria would be more relevant to highlight significance, for example, where a site contains artefacts that underline its importance, but with later sites the documentary record is required as a key aspect to understand significance for example Victorian cemeteries.

It is recommended that revised criteria reflect the documentary record as follows:

'Documentary Record' or 'Historic Documentation'

- A: An extensive documentary record of the site, providing a comprehensive record of an outstanding or highly distinctive site of its type
- B: A relatively complete documentary record of the site providing a good record of the development of a notable site or site type
- C: A fair documentary record which may be patchy but contributes to the understanding of a common type or locally significant site
- D: Poor records, contributing little to understanding the significance of the site

Collective experience

A	Strongly tied to collective memory across the community, with a vibrant and unmediated role in creating a sense of place in the community.	Southgate Cem Tiverton Cem Lawnswood Cem	Manchester Crem Chiltern Crem	German Military Stoke Field
B	Tied to collective memory for local interest groups only, with a mediated role in creating a sense of place in the community.	East Kennett Bw E. Roman Cem Wharram Percy CY Penrith CY Arlingham CY Liten CY St George's CY	Coventry Cem Horsham Cem Yealmpton WCem	Alderney BG Cote Baptist BG Coalbrookdale BG Canonesses BG Brocklesby Mau
C	Is a largely neglected site that makes some contribution to a sense of place in the community.	Todmorden CY	St John's Cem	St Audrys IBG Leavesden IBG (north)
D	Is a wholly neglected site evoking no collective memory and making no contribution to a sense of place in the community.	Rillington BW East Kennett Bw	Leper BG	Leavesden IBG (south)
N/A	Indicator not applicable	Saxon Cem		

The purpose of this indicator is to score the significances of attitudes towards the site held by the community.

Although the nature of community is difficult to assess, place in community and thus collective interest is a key significance of burial space spanning localized significances to the much wider community where knowledge of past perspectives on humanity are important. There was considerable debate about interpretation of collective value. The form of words was discussed. It is recommended that the form of words be changed so that category 'A' prompts the assessor to consider the national and international significance, with more local collective value graded on the scale A-D whatever the nature of the community interest might be in a particular site. The indicator becomes not applicable where there is no site and therefore no 'sense of place' in evidence. Thus the Saxon Cemetery which is wholly buried beneath buildings was not one where there was a

collective interest. To grade significance between national to local significance as a basis would result in some reworking of the case study grades. For instance at Leavesden which in the pilot study scored C and D in its two parts might require to be re-graded because of its high significance for national disability/medical interest groups even though it is apparent that there is only minimal local interest.

Whether or not the team was adopting an effective approach to grading collective interest was discussed amongst the project team members. In particular, the potential to measure significance, as demonstrated by expressions of interest manifesting itself in 'Friends Groups', was debated but it the consensus of the team was that the existence of such groups can indicate that a site needs rescuing as much as demonstrating collective experience being vibrant. Constructing significance criteria around the existence of such groups as an indicator of collective interest was abandoned.

It is recommended that definitional framework be altered in the following way:

- A: Strongly tied to collective memory across the community, with a vibrant and unmediated role in creating a sense of place in the community at an international and national level and in non-place based communities
- B: Tied to collective memory for local interest groups with a mediated role in creating a sense of place in the community
- C: Is a largely neglected site that makes some contribution to a sense of place in the community
- D: Is a wholly neglected site evoking no collective memory and making no contribution to a sense of place in the community

Symbolic Value

A	Has shaped current or past community identity.	Wharram Percy CY Coventry Cem Manchester Crem Chiltern Crem	Alderney BG Coalbrookdale BG Canonesses BG	German Military Brocklesby Mau
B	Contributes strongly to current or past community identity.	Penrith CY Todmorden CY Arlingham CY St George's CY Liten CY	Tiverton Cem Southgate Cem Lawnswood Cem	Cote Baptist BG
C	Has defined but weak linkages to current or past community identity.	East Kennet Bw	Horsham Cem St John's Cem	
D	Has little symbolic value to community identity.	Rillington Bw	Yealmpton WCem	St Audrys IBG Leavesden IBG
n/a	Indicator not applicable.	Saxon Cem E. Roman Cem	Leper BG	Stoke Field

This indicator aimed to assess the degree to which the site had contributed to the shaping of community identity.

The criterion was too close in definition to 'collective experience' to give a distinct score. The two indicators generally were given the same level of significance on a particular site. Unless very pronounced, this indicator was difficult to assess.

It is recommended that this definition is removed and this aspect of significance assessed solely under 'collective experience'.

Sanctity

A	Is accorded a high degree of sanctity, and regarded as inviolable	Arlingham CY Tiverton Cem	Manchester Crem Yealmpton WCem	Alderney BG <i>Cote Baptist BG</i> German Military
B	Is accorded a high degree of sanctity but is not regarded as inviolable	Todmorden CY Penrith CY	Coventry Cem Lawnswood Cem	Canonesses BG <i>Cote Baptist BG</i>
C	Is regarded as being worthy of respect	Wharram Percy CY Liten CY St George's CY Horsham Cem Southgate Cem	Chiltern Crem Coalbrookdale BG	St Audrys IBG Leavesden IBG (north half) Brocklesby Mau
D	Is in no sense regarded as inviolable	Rillington Bw East Kennet Bw	St John's Cem	Stoke Field Leavesden IBG (south half)
N/A	Indicator not applicable	E. Roman Cem	Saxon Cem	Leper BG

This indicator aimed to record whether the site was afforded some degree of sanctity, measured in terms of its being regarded as worthy of respect and as a consequence not subject to 'violation' in terms of inappropriate development.

Respect and sanctity accorded a site by locals and stakeholders was assessed in two ways. One was a visual assessment of the site and the other was interaction with stakeholders, including those who gave permission for site access and people who were met on site. Material from stakeholder interviews also contributed to the assessment. The condition of the site reflected in particular the attitude of the owner/management to this aspect. The interviewees provided a strong sense of the way in which the site is regarded – as being worthy of respect or not. In the case of the Baptist Burial Ground, Cote, variation within the site created difficulties in deciding on whether category 'A' or 'B' should apply.

One of the issues that was integral to this assessment was clarity on site boundaries. For example, at Stoke it was difficult to assess the level of respect/sanctity afforded the site as the actual site of the battle is unclear. The presently-identified site could be in the wrong place. This highlights an issue where boundaries are unclear. A further example was the 'Deep Time' site at Rillington, where there was no evidence on the ground to indicate the

existence of the barrow. These difficulties again highlighted the issue of when to conclude that an indicator is N/A for a particular site.

Archaeological indicators

Archaeological preservation

A	Above-ground features survive. Likelihood that below-ground deposits remain undisturbed. Limits of burial site or other burial features are clearly understood and defined.	E. Roman Cem Saxon Cem St Audry's IBG Leavesden IBG	Wharram Percy CY Penrith CY Liten CY Arlington CY St George's CY Todmorden CY Alderney BG Cote Baptist BG Coalbrookdale BG Canonesses BG	Brocklesby Mau German Military Southgate Cem St John's Cem Coventry Cem Tiverton Cem Lawnswood Cem Horsham Cem Manchester Crem Yealmpton WCem
B	Above-ground monuments do not survive but area is otherwise undisturbed and likelihood that below ground deposits remain undisturbed.	East Kennet Bw Rillington Bw	Stoke Field	
C	Area has been disturbed in the past through ploughing or similar surface activity but likelihood that below-ground deposits remain undisturbed.			
D	Area has been disturbed in the past and survival of below-ground deposits is uncertain.	Leper BG		
N/A	Indicator not applicable	Chiltern Crem		

The intent of this indicator was to establish the degree of preservation of both above and below-ground remains. The scale aimed to establish the degree of disturbance. As the table indicates, the majority of the historic period case studies in the selection fell into the 'A' category, with the exception of the Leper Burial Ground, which – as an 'emergency' burial site was less likely to be formally established and subsequently protected.

There are a number of issues relating to the application of this indicator, largely as a consequence of its containing too many elements. First, the notion of 'preservation' is in itself problematic. The term can be interpreted in two different ways within the indicator as it currently stands: first, 'preserved' can imply that there has been a limited amount of decomposition. It is generally acknowledged that where remains have not been excavated,

then the status of below-ground deposits cannot be known with any degree of certainty. 'Preserved' is also used in the sense of a set of remains having been excavated and stored and protected against further deterioration. Within the indicator as it stands, high scores are afforded remains that have been excavated and are securely archived, implying that these remains are 'undisturbed'. This scoring might appear anomalous, and begs a return to the issue of whether even a coherent collection of archived human remains can be regarded as a 'burial site' rather than *from* a burial site. Perhaps one way of resolving this issue is to acknowledge that this task of evaluating the significance of burial space is being undertaken largely as a consequence of the need for an assessment process that can be used within the planning framework. It is not likely that excavated remains will be subject to planning enquiry. Indeed the sites of the Eastern Roman Cemetery and the Saxon Cemetery have already been subject to recurrent development.

This argument suggests the need to amend this indicator or create a new one that captures the degree to which below-ground deposits remain in-situ and not subject to archaeological investigation or similar intrusive activity. The indicator title should be amended to '*Archaeological preservation below ground*'. The following is a suggested scale:

- A: as far as is known, no archaeological investigation or similar intrusive activity has taken place
- B: some archaeological investigation or similar intrusive activity has taken place, and the place and circumstances of any re-burial have been recorded
- C: burials been entirely excavated, and have been preserved through recording/archiving
- D: human remains no longer in situ, and have not been recorded/archived.

This amendment underlines the need to integrate the presence of human remains in any assessment of burial space.

A second issue with the indicator is the need to provide a more nuanced assessment of above-ground preservation. Almost all the historic period sites sit within the category 'A', largely as a consequence of the degree of integrity. An assessment taking into account above-ground features only would have resulted in a very different grading. For example, the fact that East Rillington Barrow has been ploughed out and is largely absent to the untrained eye would have given the site a lower score. It would have been possible to afford a more nuanced assessment of the historic period sites which on the current indicator are all given 'A'. So, a discrete '*Archaeological preservation above ground*' indicator might therefore measure the extent to which the site retains visible coherence and integrity as a burial space:

- A: All major elements largely in place with limited disturbance/clearance
- B: Some clearance or movement of elements but site largely coherent
- C: Much of the site has been subject to extensive disturbance/clearance and little above-ground evidence remains
- D: No above-ground evidence that the site has been used as burial space.

Both these indicators used in conjunction are needed to create a more accurate assessment of preservation.

Diversity of potential archaeological evidence

A	Site has potential to contain evidence for prehistoric burials and/or burials relating to more than two archaeological or historical periods.	Rillington Bw	Penrith CY	
B	Site has the potential to contain evidence for burials relating to two historic or archaeological periods.	Saxon Cem	Wharram Percy CY Arlington CY Liten CY	Leavesden IBG
C	Site has the potential to contain evidence for substantial and well-documented evidence for burials relating to one historic or archaeological period.	East Kennet Bw E. Roman Cem Leper BG St Audry's IBG Brocklesby Mau	Stoke Field St George's CY Todmorden CY Southgate Cem St John's Cem Coventry Cem Tiverton Cem Lawnswood Cem Horsham Cem	Alderney BG Cote Baptist BG Coalbrookdale BG Canonesses BG German Military Manchester Crem Yealmpton WCem
D	Presence of burial activity known or suspected but not clearly or securely dated.			
N/A	Indicator not applicable	Chiltern Crem		

This indicator assesses the degree to which burials at the site encompass very early, prehistoric burials and/or burials from more than one period. The scale within the indicator gave higher significance to very early burials and/or sites where there was a spread of evidence in chronological terms.

The indicator has importance in recognising the significance of the 'Deep Time' sites, but does not contain sufficient nuance in application to sites in the historic period. Burial practice has changed considerably from the eighteenth to the early twentieth century, and grading needs to encompass those shifts. For example, below-ground archaeology is likely to reveal change in practice with regard to the interment of still births, infants and children, in the use of bricked vaults and chambers, and in decreased use of very deep shaft burials for pauper/unpurchased graves. The growing practice of interment of cremated remains within existing family graves, or in specified sections would also be evidenced through below-ground study. Acknowledging these shifting practices within the historic period would lead to some regrading of the churchyards, cemeteries and burial grounds where usage may have spanned a century or more. For example, Lawnswood Cemetery carries considerable evidence for changing burial and cremation practice from its inception to the present day.

No change is suggested to this indicator, attention perhaps could be paid to careful grading for changing burial practice in the later historic period.

Biological anthropology

A	Documentation suggests a large assemblage and/or relatively good preservation and/or rare attributes – e.g. named individuals, unusual pathology, etc.	E. Roman Cem Liten CY	<i>Stoke Field</i> St Audry's IBG Leavesden IBG	Coalbrookdale BG St John's Cem Horsham Cem
B	Documentation suggests a moderately large assemblage and/or fair or moderate preservation. No rare attributes.	Rillington Bw Saxon Cem Wharram Percy CY Penrith CY Arlingham CY St George's CY Todmorden CY	Southgate Cem Coventry Cem Tiverton Cem Lawnswood Cem Manchester Crem	Alderney BG Canonesses BG Leper BG German Military
C	Documentation suggests a small assemblage or size is not clear. Preservation is poor or uncertain.	East Kennet Bw Yealmpton WCem	<i>Stoke Field</i>	Cote Baptist BG Brocklesby Mau
D	Usual searches do not identify any documentation that provides information on size, preservation and/or rarity.			
N/A		Chiltern Crem		

This indicator measures the degree to which the site could support substantive biological anthropological study of remains, either through the distinctive nature of the group buried at the site, or through the scale of interments. The scale reflects potential as registered through known documentation. For the most part, this indicator assesses the nature of the assemblage divorced from its location.

There are questions about whether this particular indicator carried the potential to convey significance, given uncertainty about the degree of below-ground preservation. *Stoke Field*, therefore, scores 'A' or 'C' as a consequence of limited knowledge on the size of the assemblage. There were also questions about use of 'scale' as a measurement. As it stands, the current indicator gives no parameters for 'large', 'moderately large' or 'small'. A medieval churchyard may well have accommodated thousands of interments, particularly where located centrally in an urban settlement. Rural cemeteries, larger in area, may very well have more limited assemblages. For the prehistoric period, an assemblage of 50 skeletons is deemed large, but would be small in the historic period. Geographic location is also a factor: poorly preserved skeletons from the South Wes are more significant because they tend not to survive well in this part of the country where the soils are more acidic.

As it stands, the indicator is useful but could perhaps needs more detailed definition to ensure consistent application in future.

Archaeological information

A	Site is of recognised national, regional or local importance (RPG, LB, SM, WHS, local CC area of archaeological importance, etc). Site has been securely located and mapped by National (English Heritage) and Local (CC) Historic Environment Record. Background information (publications etc) are available.	East Kennet Bw E. Roman Cem Saxon Cem	Wharram Percy CY Todmorden CY Liten CY Coalbrookdale BG Manchester Crem	Brocklesby Mau Coventry Cem Lawnswood Cem Stoke Field German Military
B	Site has been securely located and mapped by National (English Heritage) and Local (CC) Historic Environment Record. Not recognised as important at a national, regional or local level. Usual searches do not suggest presence of significant background information (publications etc).	Rillington Bw Leper BG St Audrys IBG Leavesden IBG	Penrith CY Arlingham CY St George's CY	Alderney BG Cote Baptist BG Canonesses BG St John's Cem Southgate Cem Coventry Cem Horsham Cem Tiverton Cem
C	Not securely located or mapped but national or regional databases contain evidence (recorded chance finds of burials etc) which suggests presence of burial activity.	Yealmpton WCem		
D	Not securely mapped or located, some place name or historical evidence for presence (as record by national or regional databases) but no known or suspected burials.			
N/A	Indicator not applicable	Chiltern Crem		

This indicator aims to establish the level of available archaeological information available on a given site, and the scale describes a transition from recognition at a national level, conveyed through designation and publications, to a site 'known' through historical reference but lacking a clear location.

Almost all the case studies fell into the 'A' or 'B' categories. One anomaly – Yealmpton Woodland Cemetery – should have been graded 'A' since as a modern site still in use there could be no question as to its location. There was a sense in which information informing the categorisation was perhaps less useful as a means of assessment, than more simply serving as part of the narrative account of a site. Using available information as a measure of significance was more likely to represent the process of designation and publication than standing as a useful assessment framework for sites themselves. Sites may well have significance without having been designated. Furthermore, it was evident that any designation within a particular site – for example, the listing of an individual memorial within a churchyard or cemetery – would automatically place that site within the 'A'

category. It could also be argued that a site being on the HER record is more of an indication of risk than an absolute commentary of significance.

Furthermore, it is not clear that the scale attached to this indicator operates effectively, since there is no clear progression. It is problematic to anticipate the usefulness within the planning framework of identifying sites that might fall into the 'D' category. For example, the original site listing for the project included a Quaker burial site known to be in Thirsk but where there is no evidence for exact location. It is difficult to establish the purpose that would be served by assessing the significance of a site the location of which is uncertain.

It is recommended that this indicator be removed from the assessment.

Artistic and architectural indicators

Spirit of place

A	Carries strong and immediate emotional resonance, due to the distinctive combination of its composite elements.	Liten CY Penrith CY Todmorden CY	Coventry Cem Lawnswood Cem Tiverton Cem Southgate Cem	Manchester Crem Alderney BG Canonesses BG German Military
B	Carries a degree of emotional resonance due to the distinctive combination of its composite elements.	Wharram Percy CY Arlingham CY St George's CY Chiltern Crem	Coalbrookdale BG Cote Baptist BG	St Audrys IBG Brocklesby Mau
C	Requires some degree of interpretation to elicit emotional response.	Rillington Bw East Kennet Bw	St John's Cem Horsham Cem Yealmpton WCem	Leavesden IBG
D	Carries little or no emotional resonance.		Stoke Field	
N/A	Indicator not applicable.	E Roman Cem	Saxon Cem	Leper BG

The 'spirit of place' indicator aims to establish whether the site evokes a strong emotional response from visitors, and whether any response is dependent on some degree of site interpretation.

Chapter 5, reflecting on stakeholder responses to the notion of 'spirit of place' introduces interesting comparative material for the formal assessments that were made as part of the evaluation. Given the varied nature of the sites in question, and of the types of respondent, it is not possible to generalise widely. However, there were some areas of agreement, including the degree to which the condition of St John's Cemetery compromised its atmosphere; and the need for interpretation at Leavesden Asylum burial ground. There was

substantial interpretation at the Holy Ghost Chapel and Interdict Burial Ground, and the assessor visit rated the site highly. However, it was felt by a local stakeholder that the site's use as an amenity walkway meant that it did not necessarily carry a strong 'spirit of place,' and any resonance that might be evident was threatened by the incidence of anti-social behaviour.

Perhaps this indicator – more so than any others in the list – is the one where it is least likely that any objective assessment can be made, since so many factors could influence the final judgement. However, this is not necessarily a recommendation for its removal, but rather a signal that perhaps the views of more than one assessor and/or lay opinion might be useful in arriving at some level of robust consensus.

Setting

A	Largely intact and making a positive contribution to the heritage asset with views in out and across the site not marred by unsympathetic elements.	East Kennet Bw Penrith CY Wharram Percy CY Southgate Cem Horsham Cem	Chiltern Crem Yealmpton WCem Coabrookdale BG	Leavesden IBG German Military Brockelsby Mau
B	Partially intact but still making a positive contribution to the heritage asset with views in out and across the site not marred by unsympathetic elements.	St George's CY Todmorden CY	Lawnswood Cem	Alderney BG Canonesses BG
C	Fragmented and detracting in part from the heritage asset with views in, out and cross the site overwhelmed by unsympathetic elements.	Rillington Bw Arlingham CY Liten CY	St John's Cem Coventry Cem Tiverton Cem Manchester Crem	Cote Baptist BG St Audrys IBG
D	Value of setting entirely lost because of adjacent development or landscape change			
N/A	Indicator not applicable	Cem		Leper BG

This indicator seeks to establish the degree to which setting contributes to or detracts from the heritage asset, and assesses the present day setting of the asset.

There were problems in interpretation of this indicator because the form of words infers that it is the setting in the past and its degree of intactness rather the present form it takes that was under consideration, a confusion derived from the use of the word 'intact'. At Liten where the burial ground was historically part of open space within a picturesque design, the setting scored 'C' on the basis of its loss. However, it is unclear if the redesigned setting detracts. London Road Cemetery, Coventry also scored 'C' but here this is because the setting combines major arterial roads and housing which is dislocated in its orientation to the cemetery. The question is a simple one: does the present setting detract or contribute to aesthetic significance of the burial space in question? The issue embraces views into and out of the site as well as scale and linkages in and out of the site.

In team discussions, the notion of rephrasing the question was raised to better express the degree of quality in the setting and how this affects the aesthetic value of the whole site. It is recommended that the term 'intact' be omitted from the definitional framework which would remove the inference that it is the historical setting which is important to significance whereas this may not be the case.

The following re-wording is recommended:

- A: Setting makes a positive contribution to the heritage asset with views in out and across the site not marred by unsympathetic elements.
- B: Some unsympathetic elements in the surrounding of the site but where the setting still makes a positive contribution to the heritage asset with views in out and across the site not marred by unsympathetic elements.
- C: Setting fragmented and detracting in part from the heritage asset with views in, out and cross the site overwhelmed by unsympathetic elements.
- D: Value of setting entirely lost because of completely unsympathetic adjacent development or landscape change

Buildings and structures

A	Church and church yard/any other building etc. are a unity/all elements of each present/in original use or associated use. Likely to have heritage designations. A coherent assemblage all present.	Penrith CY Arlingham CY Todmorden CY Southgate CY	Lawnswood Cem Manchester Crem Cote Baptist BG Coalbrookdale BG	German Military Brocklesby Mau
B	Elements missing. Those survive shows structural damage/ not weatherproof/ inappropriate use/vacant	Wharram Percy CY Liten CY St George's CY	St John's Cem Coventry Cem Tiverton Cem	Canonesses BG Alderney BG St Audrys IBG
C	Evidence of location but structure lost/ change of use has resulted in association with original use is lost.	Leavesden IBG	Horsham Cem	Chiltern Crem
D	Poor/highly fragmented with the major elements (where these are built form) lost.	Yealmpton WCem		
N/A	Indicator not applicable	East Kennett Bw Rillington Bw	E. Roman Cem Saxon Cem	Stoke Field Leper BG

All buildings within any burial space are addressed in this indicator. It forms the second element in the group of indicators related to architectural and artistic value as defined by the NPPF criteria. The grading reflects the degree to which the buildings and structures within the site have been compromised through degradation, redevelopment or inappropriate use.

This significance was regarded as being straightforward to assess and the degree of completeness and the definitional framework was not generally considered problematic.

However, complex sites however with more than one building are more likely to score as less significant than sites with a single intact building of architectural merit using the framework. Thus at London Road, Coventry, where there is a range of buildings comprising two chapels, gate houses and ornamental buildings in various states of repair the site scored 'B' yet in terms of compositional value, the buildings are highly significant in the group value of the site, perhaps more so than where there is a single building in good order such as at St Mary's, Arlingham.

It is notable that only ten sites, or approximately one third of the 29 surveyed, scored 'A'. Even taking into account that six of the sites did not have above ground buildings at all, it can be inferred that there is a combination of conservation issues which require to be addressed in relation to the individual and group value of buildings associated with burial sites. More sites had elements missing, vacant or in poor condition than did not. Where buildings make a key contribution to the overall aesthetic value of site the results of even this small sample of sites indicates condition problems with this heritage asset type.

Monuments

A	Reveal work of masons and craftsmen and are an invaluable collection of historic craftsmanship. Inscriptions provide genealogical monuments of great value. Some likely to have heritage designations	Arlingham CY Liten CY Lawnswood Cem Manchester Crem	Cote Baptist BG Canonesses BG	German Military Brockelsby Mau
B	Good range of monuments but where kerb sets removed or simplification of layout has occurred.	Arlingham CY Wharram Percy CY Penrith CY St George's CY Todmorden CY	Coventry Cem Tiverton Cem Horsham Cem St Johns Cem	Cote Baptist BG Alderney BG Coalbrookdale BG
C	Many stones/monuments illegible, removed, broken/moved from original location	Southgate Cem Yealmpton WCem	St Audrys IBG Leavesden IBG	Stoke Field
D	Complete clearance of above ground monumentation	East Kennett Bw	Chilterns Crem	
n/a	Indicator not applicable	Rillington BW Eastern Roman Cem		Leper BG

The purpose of this indicator is to assess the contribution monuments make to burial space. Monuments are a key element in all post medieval burial spaces indicating the location of plots. The aim in constructing this indicator was to combine, in the criteria statement, wording that can reveal representative examples of groups of quality and exceptional, individual monuments. The bar between 'A' and 'B' was set high to differentiate sites where very high quality collections of monuments survive, and in the instances of Arlingham CY and Cote Baptist BG it was not possible to make a distinction because of site variation.

Where sites were particularly significant for their memorials it was hoped that it might be possible to identify priority sites where there should be increased protection of individual monuments.

The significance scores show that only a small number of the cases there were highly significant monuments. The accompanying texts which justify the scoring in particular categories indicate that condition and clearance of sites have compromised the significance of many burial grounds as collections of monuments with art historical and genealogical interest as well as being examples of excellent craftsmanship. The key reasons for this are natural weathering, site clearance, heritage crime and vandalism. At St John's, Elswick many monuments, particularly in the Jewish part of the cemetery, have been smashed. At London Road, Coventry graffiti had taken its toll and at Todmorden, weathering of the stones, possibly attributable to past levels of pollution in this mill town, have degraded the value of monuments although they remain in situ.

It is not considered necessary to alter this indicator.

Boundaries and entrances

A	Present and forming part of the whole composition	Penrith CY Arlingham CY Liten CY St George's CY Tiverton Cem Lawnswood Cem Manchester Crem Horsham Cem	Chiltern Crem Yealmpton WCem Alderney BG Cote Baptist BG Coalbrookdale BG Leavesden IBG	Brocklesby Mau German Military
B	A compromise or loss to the major element of assemblage.	Southgate CY	St Johns Cem Coventry Cem	St Audry's IBG Canonesses BG
C	Inference of boundary still evident	Wharram Percy CY Todmorden CY		
D	Lost	East Kennett Bw		
N/A	Indicator not applicable	Rillington Bw	E. Roman Cem Saxon Cem	Leper BG Stoke Field

The boundaries and entrances formed the final element in the subset of criteria which when taken together reveal the significance of architecture and art historical interest in sites. There were no problems in applying these criteria which in many cases demonstrated that even where the internal elements of sites were compromised, the boundary of the sites survived indicative of the significance placed on burial space in the local community. It is not considered necessary to amend this significance indicator.

Artistic and creative associations

A	Associated with well-known designers.	Penrith CY	Southgate Cem Coventry Cem Tiverton Cem Lawnswood Cem	Chilterns Crem German Military
B	Evident as a designed place but not necessarily associated with named designers.	Wharram Percy CY Arlingham CY Liten CY St George's CY	St John's Cem Cote Baptist BG	Brocklesby Mau
C	Known designers not evident.	St Audry's IBG	Todmorden CY	Horsham Cem
D	Known not to be associated with a particular designer.		Manchester Crem Yealmpton WCem	Alderney BG Coalbrookdale BG Canonesses BG Leavesden IBG
N/A	Indicator not applicable.	Rillington Bw East Kennett Bw	E. Roman Cem Saxon Cem	Stoke Field Leper BG

This significance indicator has been included because it is generally agreed that known designers can elevate works of art, in this case the whole composition of a site, to a more significant position than one where the designer is unknown. In other words, associated aesthetic sophistication adds to significance. There is no easy way of making an empirical judgment of quality therefore known designers have been selected as an indicator which might tease out design significances of burial grounds. Because almost all the C19th cemeteries were designed landscapes, they fall into the first category and score 'A', whereas churchyards, which although they emit a quality because of their association with a building and its architect, fall into the second category and generally scored 'B'. The indicator is not applicable to sites where either the designer is not known or there was no design intention in the original, for instance at Stoke Field.

Surveyors encountered few problems in scoring this element in the significance assessment. The association with designers however can often only be established from desk research and are not always evident at the site itself. Those sites in the pilot work which were considered 'known not to be associated with a particular designer' have the potential to be re-allocated in terms of significance if research were to reveal they were associated with a key designer.

No changes are recommended in the phrasing of this significance indicator.

Science and technical

A	Exhibits evidence of creative and technical innovation in excellent condition particularly associated with innovation in death related facilities.	Lawnswood Cem Manchester Crem	Yealmpton WCem	
B	Exhibits some evidence of creative and technical innovation particularly associated with innovation in death related facilities.			
C	Exhibits minor or fragmented evidence of creative and technical innovation particularly associated with innovation in death related facilities.	Coventry Cem		
D	No evidence.	East Kennet Bw	Horsham Cem Tiverton Cem Chiltern Crem	
N/A	Indicator not applicable	Rillington Bw E. Roman Cem Saxon Cem Wharram Percy CY St George's CY Todmorden CY Penrith CY Arlingham CY Liten CY	St John's Cem Southgate Cem Coalbrookdale BG Cote Baptist BG Alderney BG	Leper BG Canonesses BG St Audrys IBG Leavesden IBG Stoke Field German Military Brocklesby Mau

This indicator reflects the significance of the site of creative and technical innovation in death-related facilities. The indicator is graded to reflect the integrity of the remaining evidence on site.

This significance indicator will always be a rarely used one. Generally, the indicator relates particularly to modern assets, post-1800, which forms a distinctive sub-set within the category of burial space but even so are not always likely to have facilities which make the indicator applicable. Specifically, crematoria are most likely to be identified with this significance, and both Manchester and Lawnswood here score an 'A': Manchester is one of the UK's earliest crematoria, and Lawnswood was an established centre of cremation innovation in the inter-war period. However, no assessment was made of cremation facilities in situ by the assessor.

However, it should be noted that very little research has been completed on the industrial heritage of cremation, and the lack of contextual data undermines the ability to apply this indicator accurately. Cemeteries may also have significance such as relating to machinery in chapels. Coventry is of some interest because the under storey of the terrace which

provided accommodation for hearses and equipment was a novel solution to providing space for the necessary but preferably unseen aspects of cemetery activity. It is notable that Yealmpton Woodland cemetery was graded 'A' in this exercise, as a consequence of its supposed innovation. It should be noted that the assessor in this case had limited knowledge of green burial, and presumed that the site was unique.

Planned landscape

A	A fine & intact or largely intact example of its type, e.g. churchyard, chapel burial ground, C19th/C20th garden cemetery, Picturesque embellishment of an Antiquarian site (i.e. 'Deep Time'/ medieval), crematorium, green burial site. Or rare combination of types well preserved.	Arlingham CY Liten CY St George's CY Coventry Cem Lawnswood Cem	Chiltern Crem Cote Baptist BG	German Military Brocklesby Mau
B	The landscape framework of the type makes a positive contribution to the site's interest; or a fine but partially intact example of its type or rare combination of types.	St John's Cem Southgate Cem Tiverton Cem	Manchester Crem Yealmpton WCem	Alderney BG Canonesses BG
C	There are parts of the site displaying coherent designed elements but there is little evidence of coherence or completeness.	East Kennet Bw St Audrys IBG Leavesden IBG Todmorden CY	Penrith CY Horsham Cem	
D	Identifying features lost, highly fragmented or marred by unsympathetic additions, or little or no sign of maintenance.			
N/A	Indicator not applicable	Saxon Cem Rillington Bw E. Roman Cem Wharram Percy CY	Coalbrookdale BG Stoke Field	Leper BG

Many burial sites were devised as planned landscapes which were not intended to be ornamental, but they have their own identifiable functional design typology. It is important to indicate a strong example of a particular type of burial ground. This significance category is intended to identify particularly those sites which display a degree of planning and definition by a boundary and may be of a particular type such as a medieval parish churchyard (St Mary's Arlingham, Penrith) or post-medieval denominational burial ground (Cote, Alderney Road), whether they do or do not display an ornamental layout. Those which were planned landscapes but were not initially designed with an ornamental element are highlighted in **bold**.

Some sites laid out to a purely functional design acquired a degree of ornamentation such as specimen trees (particularly yew, for example at Cote and St Mary's Arlingham), but this was not a key element integrated into the design. Yealmpton WC has a typical planned woodland burial site layout but its planned nature is not strongly evident, as the design criterion is to retain a rural character that fits seamlessly with its surroundings. In some cases a combination of two or more phases of planning occurred: Liten CY combined the briefly used C13th parish burial ground which continued in use during the medieval period, and the mid-C19th Burial Board ornamental cemetery layout. St George's planned parish burial ground was remodelled ornamentally as a public open space in the C19.

This significance could also relate to 'Deep Time' sites if sufficient is known about their layout (for example, the Saxon Cemetery and Eastern Roman Cemetery), but in this selection of sites it seems that there is insufficient information. East Kennett Long Barrow was awarded significance level 'C' for its C18/C19th tree planting rather than its more ancient layout which is unclear. This planting is a feature of many of the oldest sites which were planted in this period for ornamental or economic purposes by estate owners and are now at the point of maturity and require replanting policies. While the trees have come to form a strong element of the rural character, replanting may conflict with the conservation of ancient archaeological evidence.

Some sites are, of course, designed with a strong ornamental driver. These show high significance in this category unless badly damaged, and overlap with the following indicator 'Ornamental landscape design' (German Military, Liten CY, Chiltern Crem).

Ornamental landscape design

A	Of national significance (likely to fulfil heritage designation criteria) and complete or largely complete.	Liten CY St George's CY	Chiltern Crem	German Military
B	Of national significance (likely to fulfil heritage designation criteria) and fragmented, or of regional significance and complete.	Southgate Cem Lawnswood Cem	Manchester Crem	
C	Of regional significance and fragmented, or of local significance and complete.	East Kennet Bw	Penrith CY Arlingham CY Coventry Cem Horsham Cem St John's Cem Tiverton Cem	Yealmpton WCem Cote Baptist BG St Audrys IBG Leavesden IBG
D	Little artistic interest or poorly executed. (NB: if ornamental design never part of concept use 'N/A'.)	Todmorden CY		
N/A	Indicator not applicable	Rillington Bw E. Roman Cem Saxon Cem	Wharram Percy CY Coalbrookdale BG Canonesses BG	Leper BG Stoke Field

		Alderney BG	Brocklesby Mau
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As outlined in the previous indicator – ‘Planned landscape’ – a distinction was required between sites with designs that were and were not initially planned to be ornamental. This category supports the previous indicator criterion which relates to those site types whose initial ornamental design makes them potentially eligible to fulfil the Parks & Gardens Register criteria. It also covers those planned functionally which acquired an ornamental layout or structure planting in a later phase.

Most notable was level ‘C’ which contained the largest number of sites and a variety of types of ornament: either originally highly significant sites which were fragmented and in poor condition (St John’s Cemetery); locally significant designs which were intact (Horsham, St Audry’s, Leavesden, Tiverton Cemetery); or those where a veneer of ornamentation was applied to an otherwise functional plan (St Mary’s Arlingham, Cote, East Kennett, Yealmpton).

The criteria were defined as clearly as possible, but required specialist knowledge to apply them in the context of designed landscape history and the Parks & Gardens Register.

Structural planting

A	Widely varied horticultural collection or outstanding framework defined by planting. Survives intact or appropriately restored/replanted.	Liten CY Coventry Cem Chiltern Crem	Coalbrookdale BG	German Military Brocklesby Mau
B	Varied horticultural collection or design strongly defined by planting. May have some fragmentation or been largely but appropriately replanted.	East Kennet Bw	St George’s CY Tiverton Cem Lawnswood Cem	Alderney BG Leavesden IBG St Audrys IBG
C	Design includes evident definition by planting surviving largely intact. Formerly outstanding or strong design fragmented but evident and restorable.	Penrith CY Arlingham CY Todmorden CY	Horsham Cem Southgate Cem St John’s Cem Yealmpton WCem	Cote Baptist BG
D	Little planting as part of ornamental concept or all planting gone and irreplaceable. (NB: if planting never part of concept use ‘N/A’)			
N/A	Indicator not applicable	Rillington Bw E. Roman Cem Saxon Cem	Wharram Percy CY Manchester Crem	Canonesses BG Leper BG Stoke Field

This indicator supports the two previous indicators, 'Planned landscape' and 'Ornamental landscape design'.

Again, a distinction is evident between planting that formed part of the original ornamental concept (Southgate) and that applied in a later phase (East Kennett). The criteria were specified as simply as possible to enable non-horticulturists to apply them visually, but a degree of understanding of planting and designed landscape history enables a more accurate identification.

This indicator amplifies two categories above and gives a greater depth of understanding for that level of significance.

Current Condition (whole site)

A	Well maintained as per original concept. No evidence of neglect or inappropriate long term maintenance/alteration/development.	St George's CY Wharram Percy CY Manchester Crem Chiltern Crem	Yealmpton WCem Canonesses BG	Stoke Field German Military
B	Well maintained as per historic design concept. Some residual evidence of historic neglect but no inappropriate long term maintenance/alteration/development	Arlingham CY Todmorden CY Penrith CY Liten CY	Tiverton Cem Horsham Cem Lawnswood Cem	Coalbrookdale BG Cote Baptist BG Brocklesby Mau
C	Fair maintenance and evidence of historic neglect and/or inappropriate long term maintenance/alteration/development.	East Kennet Bw E. Roman Cem Saxon Cem	Coventry Cem	Leper BG Alderney BG Leavesden IBG
D	Poor maintenance, neglect and/or inappropriate long term maintenance/ alteration/ development	St John's Cem Southgate Cem	St Audrys IBG	
N/A	Indicator not applicable	Rillington Bw		

This indicator does not address significance. Rather, it identifies issues relating to the long-term conservation of the site and its trajectory, which may be of interest to English Heritage or other conservation organisations. In reflecting this purpose the criteria worked well and were easy to apply and provided useful data for identifying sites at risk of deterioration and damage/fragmentation.

The only anomaly was Rillington which should have been assigned a significance level.

Biodiversity potential

A	Exceptional as an ecological reserve, with organic links beyond boundary, such as forming part of a green route way in a city. The site displays both rarity and diversity. Likely to be a recognised site of conservation importance.	Wharram Percy CY Yealmpton WCem	German Military	Brocklesby Mau
B	Evident as an ecological reserve displaying some rarity and diversity but displays little connectedness with surroundings.	Rillington Bw Todmorden CY St George's CY	Coventry Cem Lawnswood Cem Chiltern Crem	Canonesses BG Stoke Field
C	Displays some diversity but no connectedness with surroundings. May be fragmented.	East Kennet Bw Arlingham CY Liten CY	Southgate Cem Tiverton Cem Horsham Cem	Cote Baptist BG Coalbrookdale BG Alderney BG St Audrys IBG Leavesden IBG
D	No evidence of ecological diversity or rarity.	Penrith CY	St John's Cem	Manchester Crem
N/A	Indicator not applicable	E. Roman Cem	Saxon Cem	Leper BG

This indicator does not relate specifically to the historic environment but was included as biodiversity is an acknowledged, potentially significant, aspect of burial grounds. The specified search of information sources for this project did not include data on biodiversity and habitats to underpin the site inspection and so the level of significance assigned was based on a superficial visual assessment combined with information on this aspect obtained during information searches on historic environment aspects. The surveyors did not have expertise in this discipline but the largely visually-based criteria were devised to allow for this and obtain the optimum from the surveyor.

In order to make better informed assessment it is recommended that, during the information-gathering stage before a site visit, data should be obtained the wildlife and habitat status from the MAGIC web site to identify wildlife designations and BAP habitats. The indicator requires some clarification/simplification to ensure that it is accurately applied. The following are recommended revisions, based on data search and visual appraisal:

- A: Exceptional ecological rarity or diversity, with organic links beyond boundary. Likely to be a recognised site of high/national conservation importance
- B: Considerable rarity and diversity. May be a recognised site of regional conservation importance. May display little connectedness with surroundings
- C: Displays some diversity. May be a recognised side of local conservation importance. May display no connectedness with surroundings. May be fragmented.
- D: No evidence of ecological diversity or rarity.

7 Summary analysis and revised indicators

Introduction

The aim of this project has been to arrive at a set of indicators that can be used to assess the significance of burial space across a range of types, and encompassing an exceptionally broad time frame. A set of 26 indicators has been devised and each set tested in 29 separate locations. The overall approach taken has been effective in defining significance, but some modification of individual indicators is regarded as necessary to add refinement and facilitate more consistent interpretation. The process of applying the indicators also raised some broader issues, which are discussed here and include difficulties with regard to inclusions and exclusions of particular cases, site definition, distinguishing between narrative and assessment, accommodating dynamism, 'negative' findings, and expert knowledge and subjectivity. These issues do not substantially undermine the process as devised, but signal the need to adjust the method to ensure consistent application. The chapter concludes with a revised set of indicators, and it is this set of indicators that is recommended for further development and use.

General issues with indicators and application

Exclusions and inclusions

One of the principal questions informing the creation of indicators is the need to ensure that the indicators are applicable across a broad range of site types, and in particular whether it was feasible to include Saxon or earlier sites within the framework. It is worth stressing that although it was clearly the case that it was possible to apply the framework as devised over a very broad range of site types, its application was most effective where the burial ground comprised a definite and extant physical location. For the pre-Saxon sites, where the burial ground comprised a collection of preserved remains, the fact that the large majority of the indicators were returned 'N/A' signalled a poor fit. It should be noted that the creation of this framework of indicators has been prompted by the need for a process that will work within the NPPF, and principally be used to guide planning decisions. Archived sets of remains are unlikely to be vulnerable to development. It is suggested, therefore, that these be excluded from this assessment framework.

A notable omission has been the exclusion of church buildings themselves as sites of burial. The indicators were not applied across the church and churchyard as a coherent burial landscape, since there was no assessment of the degree of archaeological preservation likely in any crypts and vaults in the church. Churches made a substantial contribution to the need to meet burial space in the post-Reformation period, and some decisions need to be made on how to integrate church burial into the existing framework.

Defining the assessment boundary

Another attached issue related to site definition, and the boundary of the assessment. It was not always the case that the boundary of the site could be defined exactly, and this was especially so with the oldest sites. Assets such as mausolea can also be problematic, given their placement within a wider planned landscape; and battlefield sites can also carry challenges where the extent of the combat area is not known. The issue was less marked in burial sites of the historic period.

Definition also proved problematic where sites had two or more distinct areas. Indeed, this was more often the case than not. Where a site remained in single ownership it was easier to arrive at a common assessment particularly on issues such as vulnerability. However, where site ownership and/or management had become fractured, then evaluation could be problematic. This was particularly the case with assessment of vulnerability. This issue arose at Leavesden Asylum burial ground where ownership of one portion of the site is not certain, and at Cote Baptist Burial Ground where protection of the chapel was more assured than elements of the burial ground.

A further issue relating to site definition was the need to integrate more fully the internal/external elements of the more complex sites that included buildings. Not all elements within the assessment boundary were subject to the same level of scrutiny. For example, chapel condition was recorded but there was no assessment of cemetery chapel interiors. This is particularly pertinent given the high level of vulnerability of cemetery chapels more generally. This issue also extended to crematoria, where no assessment was made of the 'industrial' elements of sites.

Narrative and assessment

A third broader issue was the need to distinguish between the creation of a narrative for each site, and the inclusion of narrative information as an indicator. Each case study dossier includes an 'Overview' statement on the site, which should include a clear definition of the site as a site type and a summative assessment of its value as a funerary landscape. It is acknowledged that defining the site as a site type is not always straightforward, and difficulties sometimes arise. The Holy Ghost Chapel and Interdict Burial Ground sit outside any easy definitional framework, and may indeed be unique. In addition, more recent research has indicated that people working at Leavesden and local villagers were often buried in the institutional burial ground, which could mean that the site may more accurately be defined as detached churchyard. This fact has implications for any assessment of the below-ground assemblage as being medically distinctive. Attention to definition in the 'overview' statement concentrates assessment on whether a particular site is more or less common.

Accommodating dynamism

There was a tension in application of the historic and landscape indicators that reflected the fact that burial space – like any other heritage asset – is dynamic. There are difficulties in defining original design intent, ongoing changes to landscape that are themselves worthy

of note, and changing conceptions of historic importance that emerge as research on this asset type continues. It would be instructive to consider how this issue is understood and accommodated across other site types.

'Negative' findings

One of the more marked issues arising with team working on assessment was consistent application of the 'N/A' categories, particularly as it related to 'Deep Time' sites, and to take into consideration any original intent that might be discernable. Ambivalent instances include the degree to which religious/spiritual belief may be inferred in pre-Saxon sites: ongoing work in this area is disclosing the ritualistic activity that accompanied burial practices in these early periods.

Flexibility needs to be applied where there is an apparent absence. For example, crematoria landscapes are not devoid of commemorative activity, which is extant in plaques and items such as trees and benches rather than as headstones. New research is enabling closer readings to be made of the woodland burial landscape.

With more exact definition of what defines a site, it should rarely be the case that 'N/A' is applied. This is with the exception of the problematic category of 'Science and technology', where there it is unlikely that a grading would be made for sites in the earlier period.

Expert knowledge and subjectivity

The assessment framework relied very much on the application of expert knowledge. The assessment team included experts in historic landscape assessment, planning and conservation legislation, archaeology and the history of mortality and even so further research on individual site cases was often required. It would not be possible for the framework to be used by 'lay' individuals although it would guide non-experts in the co-ordination of a team with appropriate skill sets. It was clear that a glossary should also be compiled from existing sources, to ensure common use of particular terms across disciplines: for example, 'preservation', 'context' and 'attitude' carry particular archaeological meanings that created some confusion in application of the indicators.

Conversely, there were also indicators that relied on a degree of subjectivity that might best be guided through more active engagement with local 'lay' stakeholders. Issues relating to 'sanctity', 'communal significance' and 'spirit of place' and could more usefully be addressed through community engagement exercises such as focus groups. A single site visit by one individual – however expert – is insufficient basis for an assessment on these indicators.

Revised indicators

The following is a set of revised indicators, reflecting the recommendations made in the previous chapter. Indicators marked with an asterisk will require some further work as

outlined in the section on that indicator in Chapter 6. *Following some minor further development, it is this revised set of indicators that is recommended for use.*

It should here be stressed that the indicators should not be used as a means of comparing sites. Rather, their value lies in their comprising a comprehensive framework of assessment that assists in the task of isolating elements of a site's importance and any associated risks and vulnerabilities in order to create a robust statement of significance.

As with earlier indicators, this revised framework has been constructed to be congruent with the NPPF interests. Application of the framework could extend across other asset types, with the removal of the mortality indicators and creation of 'bespoke' alternatives.

7.1: Revised historic indicators: mortality

Significance Indicator	Level of Significance and Criteria			
	Exceptional-A	Considerable-B	Some-C	None-D
Burial practice evidences religious belief	A range of evidences of belief clearly visible, allowing sophisticated interpretation.	Some evidences of belief clearly visible, allowing limited interpretation.	Minor evidence of belief allowing superficial interpretation.	Religious belief maybe inferred by is not visible.
Incidence of artistic mortality iconography	Two or more strongly differentiated visual representations of mortality from more than one period.	Two or more strongly differentiated visual representations of mortality from a single period.	A single representation or a number of similar representations of mortality from a single period.	No artistic representations of mortality.
Evidences particular attitudes towards the dead body*	Evidence strongly indicative of particular attitudes and the absence/presence of the body is easy to read.	Limited evidence of particular attitudes although the absence/presence of the body is easy to read.	Some evidence of the dead body, but evidence is subsumed.	No evidence at all that the dead body is present in the site.

7.2: Revised general historic indicators

Significance Indicator	Level of Significance and Criteria			
	Exceptional-A	Considerable-B	Some-C	None-D
Historical Interest	Exceptionally clear evidence of the age and history of the asset over time, the strength of its tie to a particular epoch or event.	Some evidence of the asset period of development, association to a particular epoch or event.	Age and history of the asset over time unclear.	No evidence of the age and history of the asset over time.
Historical context	Clearly reveals conditions at the time of site construction through the fabric of the site and/or its historical record.	Partly reveals conditions at the time of site construction through the fabric of the site and/or its historical record.	Limited evidence of conditions at the time of site construction revealed through the fabric of the site and/or its historical record is limited.	No evidence of conditions at the time of site construction either in the fabric of the site and/or its historical record.
Association with notable persons or events	The site is exceptional in being associated with a notable person or event of international renown.	The site is nationally important because of its association with a notable person or event.	The site is locally important because of its association with a notable people or events in the community.	The site has not particular association with a notable person or event.
Documentary record	An extensive documentary record of the site, providing a comprehensive record of an outstanding or highly distinctive site of its type.	A relatively complete documentary record of the site providing a good record of the development of a notable site or site type.	A fair documentary record which may be patchy but contributes to the understanding of a common type or locally significant site.	Poor records, contributing little to understanding the significance of the site.
Collective experience	Strongly tied to collective memory across the community, with a vibrant and unmediated role in creating a sense of place in the community at an international and national level and in non-place based communities.	Tied to collective memory for local interest groups with a mediated role in creating a sense of place in the community.	Is a largely neglected site that makes some contribution to a sense of place in the community.	Is a wholly neglected site evoking no collective memory and making no contribution to a sense of place in the community.
Sanctity	Is accorded a high degree of sanctity, and regarded as inviolable.	Is accorded a high degree of sanctity but is not regarded as inviolable.	Is regarded as being worthy of respect.	Is in no sense regarded as inviolable.

7.3: Revised archaeological indicators

Significance Indicator	Level of Significance and Criteria			
	Exceptional-A	Considerable-B	Some-C	None-D
Archaeological preservation below ground	As far as is known, no archaeological investigation or similar intrusive activity has taken place	Some archaeological investigation or similar intrusive activity has taken place, and the place and circumstances of any re-burial have been recorded	Burials have been entirely excavated, and have been preserved through recording/archiving.	Burials no longer in situ, and have not been recorded/archived.
Archaeological preservation above ground	All major elements largely in place with limited disturbance/clearance.	Some clearance or movement of elements but site largely coherent.	Much of the site has been subject to extensive disturbance/clearance and little above-ground evidence remains.	No above-ground evidence that the site has been used as burial space.
Diversity of potential archaeological evidence	Site has potential to contain evidence for prehistoric burials and/or burials relating to more than two archaeological or historical periods.	Site has the potential to contain evidence for burials relating to two historic or archaeological periods.	Site has the potential to contain evidence for substantial and well-documented evidence for burials relating to one historic or archaeological period.	Presence of burial activity known or suspected but not clearly or securely dated.
Biological anthropology*	Documentation suggests a large assemblage and/or relatively good preservation and/or rare attributes – e.g. named individuals, unusual pathology, etc.	Documentation suggests a moderately large assemblage and/or fair or moderate preservation. No rare attributes.	Documentation suggests a small assemblage or size is not clear. Preservation is poor or uncertain.	Usual searches do not identify any documentation that provides information on size, preservation and/or rarity.

7.4: Revised artistic and architectural indicators

Significance Indicator	Level of Significance and Criteria			
	Exceptional-A	Considerable-B	Some-C	None-D
Spirit of place	Carries strong and immediate emotional resonance, due to the distinctive combination of its composite elements.	Carries a degree of emotional resonance due to the distinctive combination of its composite elements.	Requires some degree of interpretation to elicit emotional resonance.	Carries little or no emotional resonance.
Setting	Setting makes a positive contribution to the heritage asset with views in out and across the site not marred by unsympathetic elements.	Some unsympathetic elements in the surrounding of the site but where the setting still makes a positive contribution to the heritage asset with views in out and across the site not marred by unsympathetic elements	Setting fragmented and detracting in part from the heritage asset with views in, out and cross the site overwhelmed by unsympathetic elements.	Value of setting entirely lost because of completely unsympathetic adjacent development or landscape change.
Buildings and structures	Church and church yard/any other building etc. are a unity/all elements of each present/in original use or associated use. Likely to have heritage designations. A coherent assemblage all present.	Elements missing. Those survive shows structural damage/ not weatherproof/ inappropriate use/vacant.	Evidence of location but structure lost/ change of use has resulted in association with original use is lost.	Poor/highly fragmented with the major elements (where these are built form) lost.
Monuments	Reveal work of masons and craftsmen and are an invaluable collection of historic craftsmanship. Inscriptions provide genealogical monuments of great value. Some likely to have heritage designations.	Good range of monuments but where kerb sets removed or simplification of layout has occurred.	Many Stones/Monuments illegible, removed, broken/moved from original location.	Complete clearance of above ground monumentation.

7.4: Revised artistic and architectural indicators, cont

Significance Indicator	Level of Significance and Criteria			
	Exceptional-A	Considerable-B	Some-C	None-D
Boundaries and Entrances	Present and forming part of the whole composition.	A compromise or loss to the major element of assemblage.	Inference of boundary still evident.	Lost.
Artistic/creative associations	Associated with well-known designers.	Evident as a designed place but not necessarily associated with named designers.	Known designers not evident.	Known not to be associated with a particular designer.
Science and Technical	Exhibits evidence of creative and technical innovation in excellent condition particularly associated with innovation in death related facilities.	Exhibits some evidence of creative and technical innovation particularly associated with innovation in death related facilities.	Exhibits minor or fragmented evidence of creative and technical innovation particularly associated with innovation in death related facilities.	No evidence.

7:4: Revised artistic and architectural indicators, cont.

Significance Indicator	Level of Significance and Criteria			
	Exceptional-A	Considerable-B	Some-C	None-D
Planned landscape	A fine and intact or largely intact example of its type, e.g. churchyard, chapel burial ground, C19/C20th cemetery, Picturesque embellishment of an Antiquarian site (i.e. 'Deep Time'/ medieval), crematorium, green burial site. Or rare combination of types well preserved.	The landscape framework of the type makes a positive contribution to the site's interest; or a fine but partially intact example of its type or rare combination of types.	There are parts of the site displaying coherent designed elements but there is little evidence of coherence or completeness.	Identifying features lost, highly fragmented or marred by unsympathetic additions, or little or no sign of maintenance. [NB if planting never part of concept use 'N/A']
Ornamental landscape design	Of national significance (likely to fulfil heritage designation criteria) and complete or largely complete.	Of national significance (likely to fulfil heritage designation criteria) and fragmented, or of regional significance and complete.	Of regional significance and fragmented, or of local significance and complete	Little artistic interest or poorly executed. [NB if ornamental design never part of concept use 'N/A']
Structural planting	Widely varied horticultural collection or outstanding framework defined by planting. Survives intact or appropriately restored/replanted.	Varied horticultural collection or strong design defined by planting. May have some fragmentation or been largely but appropriately replanted.	Design includes evident definition by planting surviving largely intact. Formerly outstanding or strong design fragmented but evident and restorable.	Little planting as part of ornamental concept or all planting gone and irreplaceable. [NB if structural planting never part of concept use 'N/A']
Current condition (whole site) maintenance /quality	Well maintained as per original concept. No evidence of neglect or inappropriate long term maintenance/alteration/ development.	Well maintained as per historic design concept. Some residual evidence of historic neglect but no inappropriate long term maintenance/ alteration/ development.	Fair maintenance and evidence of historic neglect and/or inappropriate long term maintenance/ alteration/ development.	Poor maintenance, neglect and / or inappropriate long term maintenance/ alteration/ development

7.5 Revised bio-diversity indicator

Significance Indicator	Level of Significance and Criteria			
	Exceptional-A	Considerable-B	Some-C	None-D
Bio-diversity potential	Exceptional ecological rarity or diversity, with organic links beyond boundary. Likely to be a recognised site of high/national conservation importance.	Considerable rarity and diversity. May be a recognised site of regional conservation importance. May display little connectedness with surroundings.	Displays some diversity. May be a recognised site of local conservation importance. May display no connectedness with surroundings. May be fragmented.	No evidence of ecological diversity or rarity.