

# New Southgate

CEMETERY & CREMATORIUM

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## Plans to create new burial space at New Southgate cemetery

New Southgate has gained permission via an Act of Parliament to re-use burial space where a burial has not taken place for over 75 years. Existing space can also be re-claimed. A copy of the Act can be seen by clicking on this [link](#). Paper copies are available from our office. These new powers simply bring New Southgate into line with London Local Authorities who gained these rights in 2007 (The London Local Authorities Act 2007).

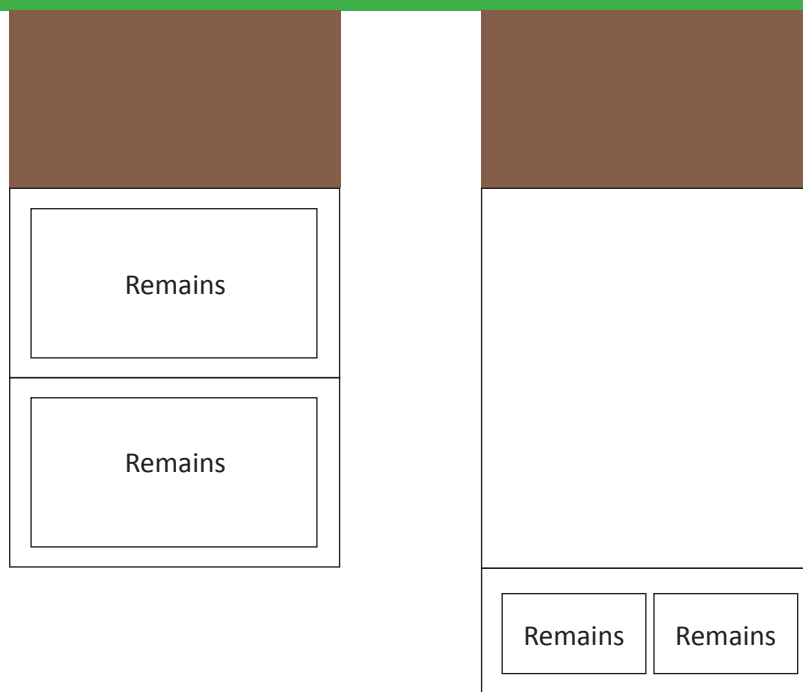
The method that would be used to create this extra space is known as lift and deepen. Graves are excavated to their deepest depth, with all the remains placed in a casket and re-interred at the bottom of the grave.

Without these new powers, remaining space at New Southgate would run out in the next 10 years. The company have tried to acquire additional land but all of the adjoining space is recreational land which the London Borough of Barnet is unwilling to sell for understandable reasons.

The key provisions of the Act are detailed below:

1. The ability to re-use graves where a burial has not taken place for 75 years or more - In these cases, it is proposed that the remains would be reverently gathered together and then re-buried more deeply. The new space on top could then be offered as a grave for today's bereaved. The illustrations below show how the remains would be buried deeper in the same plot:

### i) Re-use



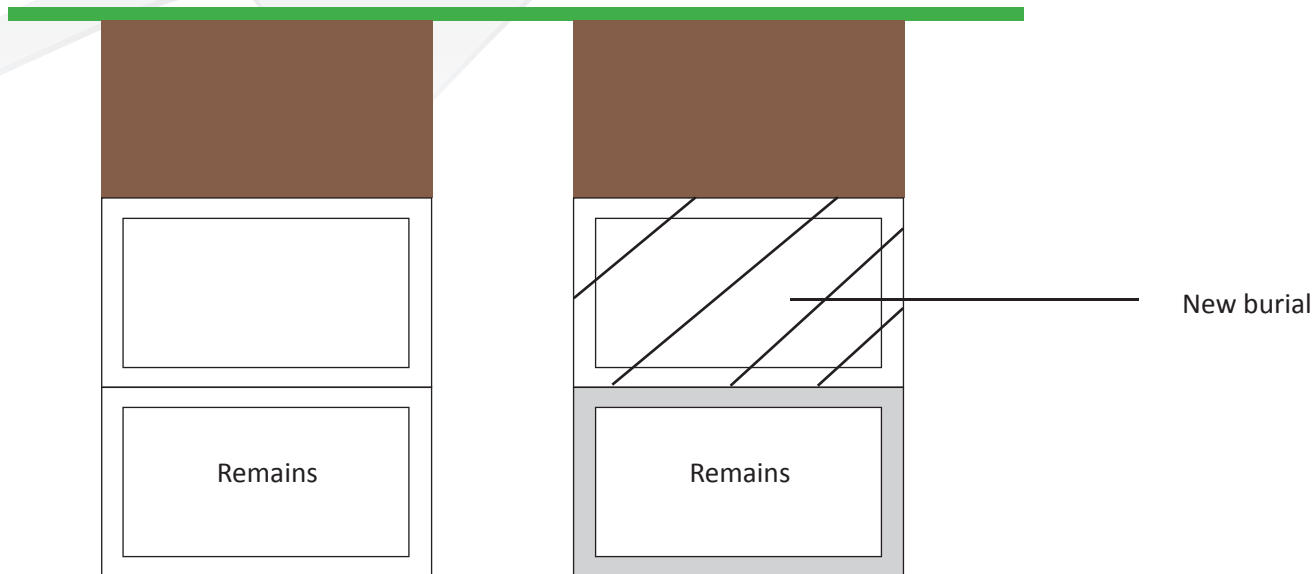
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2. The use of existing space in graves for new burials; In these cases, the grave would have been originally dug for a number of burials which ultimately did not take place. The remaining burial space could then be used for new burials without disturbing any of the original remains. There is an illustration again below:

## ii) Re-claim



All grave owners will be given 6 months' notice to object. Any objection would see any re-use of that grave postponed for a minimum of 25 years.

We will be writing to all grave rights owners so that they are aware of the new Act and how it might affect their plot. In most cases the grave owners have long since died and so we will be putting up notices within the cemetery and in local newspapers to help ensure that anyone who has an interest in the grave is aware of our plans. The cemetery has written to all of the grave owners within the oldest sections of the cemetery in the course of the last ten years (although in many cases the grave owners are no longer alive or have not updated their contact details). Overall, the response to our letters is less than 1% with the vast majority returned by Royal Mail as undeliverable. This is unsurprising as the cemetery was opened in 1856 and many of the families connected with the grave have long since died or moved out of the area. We therefore encourage **anyone who has an interest in a grave within our cemetery to make contact with our office now to ensure that we have your current address and details.**

All grave owners will be given 6 months to reply and can stop the re-use of the grave by objecting. Graves where a burial has taken place within the last 75 years will NOT be disturbed or affected in anyway.

A helpful summary of the current situation of burial grounds and the need for re-use is also provided with the attached [research paper](#) by the Home Affairs section of the House of Commons Library.

We are very interested to hear your views on this matter and please submit any comments via our [contact form](#).

The cost of new graves will be reduced as a result of this Act. More details will follow once re-used graves become available but it is expected that they will be 35% less than the price of an existing new grave.