

Cottenham's Need for improved Community Facilities 2017 – 2031: Burial ground extension

1 Summary

- 1 Expansion of the population, despite the trend towards cremation, will increase the demand for space in Cottenham's three burial grounds, all of which are nearing their capacity.
- 2 Estimates indicate that, even with the existing population, all three burial grounds in Cottenham will fill within ten years.

2 Situation

- 3 Cemeteries are an important part of the village's facilities. Residents have a right to be buried in the parish where they die.
- 4 Cottenham's graveyards are of different ages. All three date back, at least in part more than 100 years so various solutions might be considered for limited re-engineering to extend their life:
 - a. All Saints' Churchyard dates back long before the ½ acre extension added in 1911, so much of it could be re-engineered if appropriate, or another extension considered.
 - b. The Dissenters' cemetery originated from 1845 and extended in 1913, so some could be re-engineered. Land purchased in the 1970s could be brought into use with suitable investment and permissions.
 - c. The Public Burial Ground, ½ acre alongside the All Saints' graveyard and funded by public subscription in 1911, could also be re-engineered progressively.
- 5 For every thousand people, with an average life expectancy of around 80 years, a community can expect 1,250 deaths every hundred years (the age at which the graves, subject to agreement, can be recycled in some way).
- 6 Demand for burials is likely to be about 30% (Constitutional Affairs Select Committee, Eighth Report, 2006) of this number – or around 4 per year per thousand population; this is consistent with recent experience.
- 7 With a population of around 6,500, current demand is for about 25 interments per year.
- 8 Cottenham burials in recent times have been split more or less equally between the Dissenters' cemetery and the two burial grounds at All Saints' church.
- 9 Whether by re-engineering, extension or provision of new space, additional capacity is needed to meet the anticipated demand for about 30 new interments per annum over the plan period – 450 in total.

3 Complications

- 10 Planning permissions granted in 2017 for 376 homes and 70 residential places with care will increase demand for burial space in Cottenham.
- 11 The increased demand is likely to be around 6 per year – 90 over the plan period - based on a population increase of about 1,500.
- 12 Total demand for interment over the plan period is therefore likely to increase to around 36 per year or about 550 between 2017 and 2031.

4 The need

- 13 Demand for additional burials space has been assessed as approximately 0.75 per household per hundred years (cited in SCDC Case Officer report into planning application S/1411/16/OL dated 23rd March 2017
- 14 Cottenham is expected to have around 3,000 homes by 2,031 implying a future “50-year need” for around 1,800 interments requiring 900 plots if each grave takes two burials.
- 15 The indicative graveyard layout below shows that the anticipated demand over a 50 year period could be met with an additional 1 acre of burial space. This could be delivered by extension or re-engineering of existing spaces or development of a new graveyard.
- 16 A lower density, less orthogonal layout is desirable with tree and shrub plantings to make the area more attractive as a public open space.

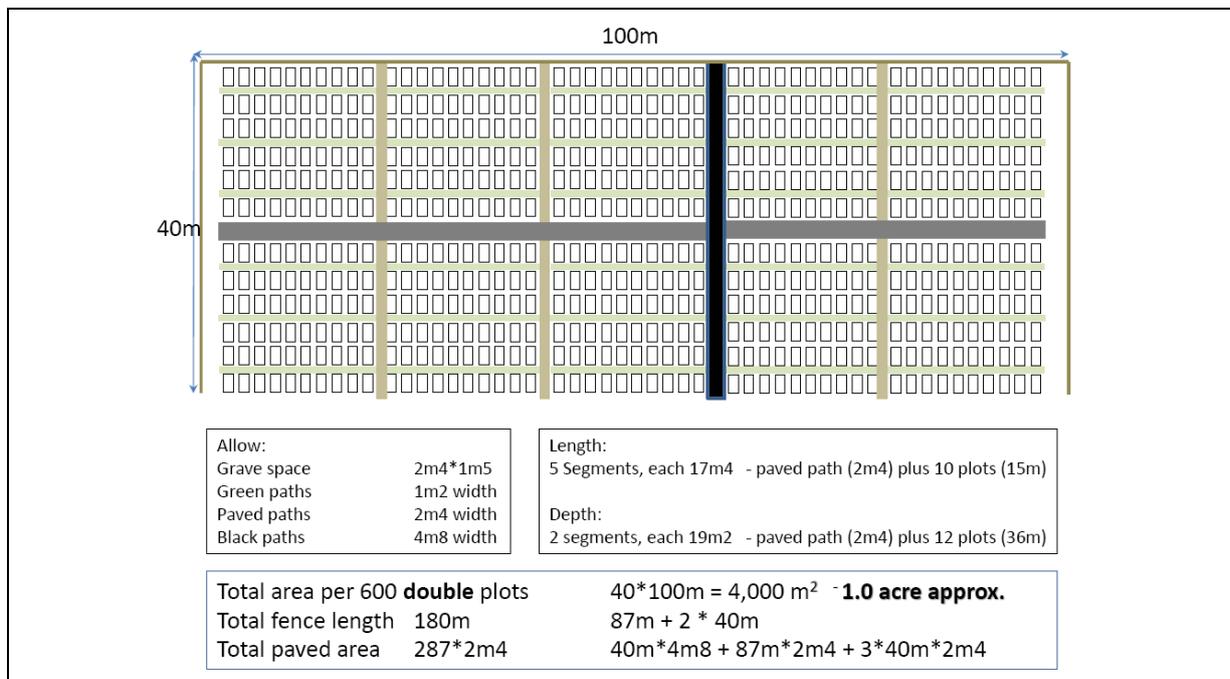


Figure 1: Indicative dense layout of a 600 double plot graveyard.

5 Possible solutions

- 17 With graveyard capacity estimated to be 1,250 graves per acre, a 1 acre total expansion would provide capacity for at least 50 years within an additional public open space at the Church End of the village.
- 18 Each of Cottenham's three burial grounds has potential for expansion:
 - a) A possible plot has been identified (X8 in figure 2 and details in figure 3) adjacent to the existing burial grounds at All Saints' Churchyard; this could provide extensions to both the church and public burial grounds.
 - b) Land adjacent to the Dissenters's cemetery has already been procured (X2 in figure 2 and detail in figure 3), although it has not yet been prepared as a burial ground and planning permission will be required.

6 Criteria

- 19 The new facility must meet a number of design and location criteria:
 - a. comply with groundwater, ecology and archaeology requirements, and
 - b. contribute to the village's accessible open space, and
 - c. be enclosed by a suitable robust fence and/or hedge, and
 - d. include footway extensions from the existing burials provision, and
 - e. include planting of several native tree species with the burial ground, and
 - f. create safer traffic movements by including appropriate on-site parking and access facilities

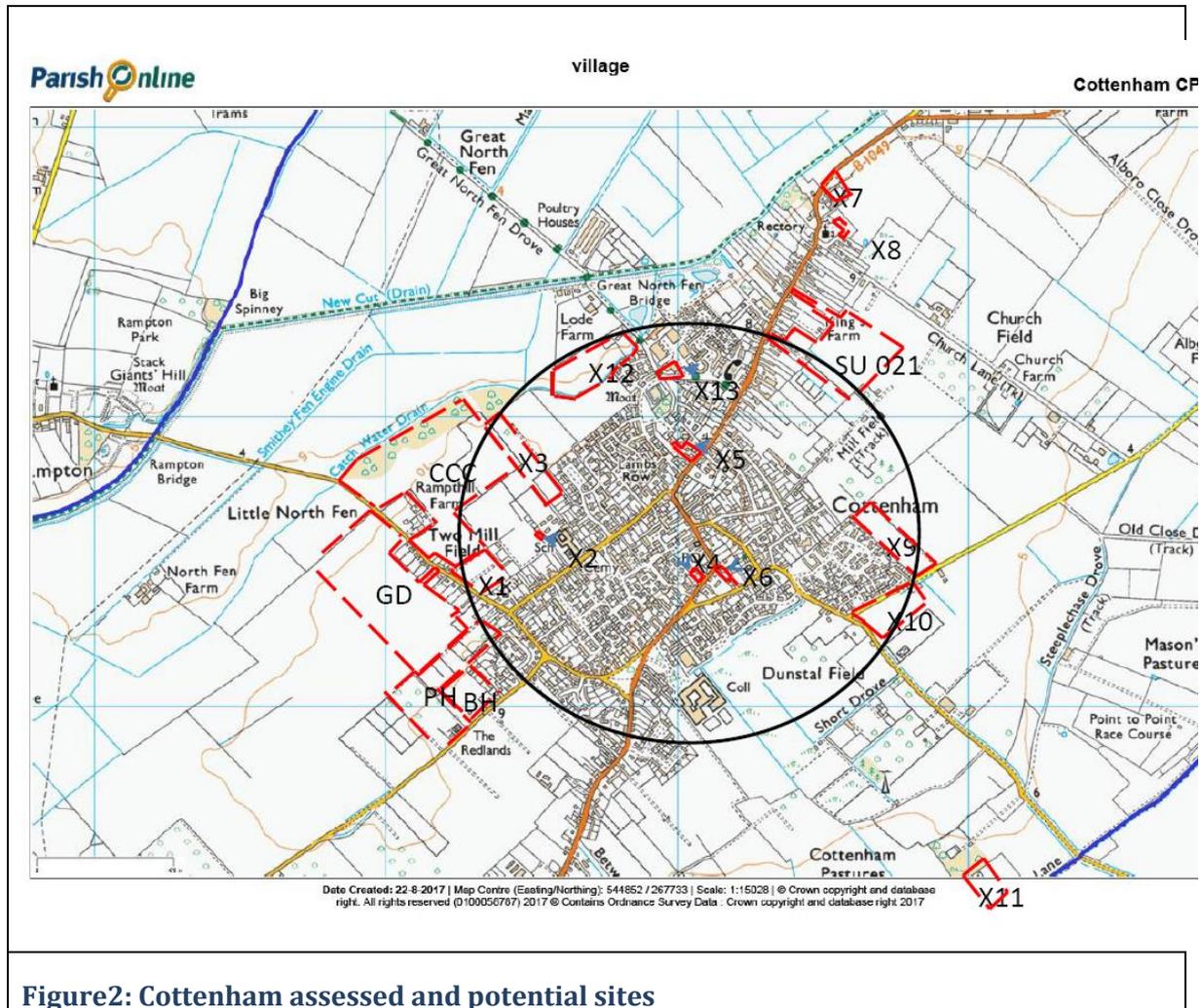
7 Possible Planning policy

Policy GF/4: Land in the vicinity of All Saints' Church (X8 in Figure 29)

Support development to provide a small (1 acre) extension to the Village's Public Burial ground, provided that the area:

- a) is enclosed by a suitable robust fence and/or hedge to blend with the immediate surroundings, and**
- b) includes footpath extensions for the existing burials provision, and**
- c) includes planting of several native tree species with the burial ground**

8 Site considerations



NP Evidence E10: Cottenham Burial Ground extensions v1



Figure 3: Sites reviewed as potential locations for burial ground

9 References

- 1 Cottenham draft Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan
- 2 Cottenham Village Design Statement 2007
- 3 Cottenham Vision Plan Survey 2014
- 4 Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan Survey
- 5 Cottenham NP "7 Issues" Survey
- 6 CNP Evidence paper E1: Housing need and supply
- 7 CNP Evidence paper E2: Brownfield sites
- 8 CNP Evidence paper E3: Rural exception sites and Community Land Trust
- 9 CNP Evidence paper E4: Recreation Ground
- 10 CNP Evidence paper E5: Village Hall
- 11 CNP Evidence paper E6: Nursery
- 12 CNP Evidence paper E7: Medical Centre
- 13 CNP Evidence paper E8: Village Heritage & Character
- 14 CNP Evidence paper E9: NP Golden Thread
- 15 CNP Evidence paper E10: Burial Ground extensions
- 16 CNP Evidence paper E11: Drainage & Flooding
- 17 CNP Evidence paper E12: Design
- 18 CNP Evidence paper E13: Traffic & Transport
- 19 CNP Evidence paper E14: Community Transport
- 20 CNP Evidence paper E15: Play
- 21 CNP Evidence Paper E16: Surveys to Key Issues
- 22 AECOM Heritage& Character assessment
- 23 AECOM Housing needs assessment
- 24 AECOM Sites assessment