

VALE OF GLAMORGAN  
REPLACEMENT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN  
2021 - 2036

# CEMETRIES AND CREMATORIA

November 2025



## BACKGROUND PAPER - BP38



This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg

## **Executive Summary**

- i. This background paper is one of a series produced by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and forms part of the evidence base to inform the policies and site allocations in the Deposit Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). Each background paper can be read in isolation or together with other background papers to gain a wider understanding of the land use issues facing the Vale of Glamorgan.
- ii. This background paper provides an update to the Vale of Glamorgan Burial Land Review of 2008. The 2008 review was undertaken by TACP and provided a comprehensive report on the existing situation, capacity and demand of burial facilities in the Vale of Glamorgan. This paper provides some updated figures to those used in the 2008 report and determines the need for further burial facilities or burial land related policies for the RLDP.
- iii. The results of this study show that while some of the existing facilities in the Vale have adequate provision over the duration of the RLDP plan period. Based on current rates there is inadequate provision at the Town Council run cemeteries of Penarth, Llantwit Major and Porthkerry. In addition, the majority of the community council run cemeteries are projected to run out of burial spaces during the RLDP period. These burial grounds while carrying out much fewer burials than the Town Council grounds, they provide an important local resource for local communities. These, as well as church graveyards, also have very limited opportunities for expansion.
- iv. It is anticipated that with the addition of new housing in Barry, Rhoose and St Athan that the capacity of Town and Community Council cemeteries and Porthkerry cemetery will be a significant problem with increased demand. This study has sought to identify courses of action to address the issue of existing and future demand and capacity. It is anticipated that there are two cemeteries and three community council sites with capacity in addition to the natural burial ground and Memoria site for the plan period, and three cemeteries and five community council sites without capacity for the plan period.
- v. Although some of the existing burial facilities within the Vale will reach or be close to capacity by the end of the plan period, there are opportunities for increasing capacity through either extension to existing sites or developing new ones. This paper finds that where there is little opportunity for expansion new facilities should be considered at application stage. Additionally, expansion of facilities where possible is the option and land has been identified adjacent to Porthkerry Cemetery for additional burial land.

## **Contents**

<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. Background and 2008 review.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. National Legislation and Local Policy.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. New Cemeteries and Burial sites.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5. Burial sites with capacity over plan period .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6. Burial sites without capacity over plan period .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>7. Allocating additional land .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>8. Conclusions.....</b>	<b>19</b>

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP) will guide development in the Vale of Glamorgan between 2021 and 2036. The RLDP will identify locations where new development, such as housing and employment will be permitted, whilst also seeking to protect other areas from development. Once adopted, *inter alia*, the RLDP will establish the level of growth needed within the Vale of Glamorgan over the plan period and will form the basis for decisions on individual planning applications.
- 1.2 The Vale of Glamorgan has a population of 131,900 (Census, 2021) of which approximately 56,500 are located in Barry and a further 60,000 spread amongst the larger settlements within the Vale. Between 2011 and 2021 the population had increased by 4.4% increasing by a greater percentage than that of the population of Wales. Death rates in the Vale of Glamorgan as of 2024 were 1,045 per 100,000 population using Deaths registered monthly in England and Wales: October 2025 provided by the Office for National Statistics.
- 1.3 Existing burial facilities in the Vale include Town Council run public cemeteries, community council burial facilities, church graveyards, a green burial site and a Memorial Park & Crematorium. There are also additional facilities in adjacent local authorities that are used by Vale residents.
- 1.4 The 2013 study as informed by the 2008 study, concluded that no specific burial land policy or site allocation was required for the adopted LDP taking into consideration these two new burial sites as well as the expansion of existing sites and their capacity where possible would be sufficient to meet identified need across the plan period. Any proposals for additional burial land during the plan period could therefore just be assessed against plan policies covering design and environmental factors.
- 1.5 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in this paper provide an update to the 2013 study to determine whether any additional facilities are required for the RLDP. Conclusions from this update inform policies and the safeguarding of land for burial use.

## **2. Background and 2008 review**

- 2.1 The Vale of Glamorgan has a population of 131,900 (Census 2021) of which approximately 56,500 are located in Barry and a further 60,000 spread amongst the larger settlements within the Vale. Between 2011 and 2021 the population had increased by 4.4% increasing by a greater percentage than that of the population of Wales. Death rates in the Vale of Glamorgan as of 2024 were 1,045 per 100,000 population using Deaths registered monthly in England and Wales: October 2025 provided by the Office for National Statistics.
- 2.2 The original 2008 burial land study identified and assessed the existing capacities of burial facilities within the Vale and the use of these by residents within or outside the Vale. It also assessed the changing requirements for burial facilities, population structure and projections during the LDP period and guidelines for determining locations for additional burial resources including new sites and extensions to existing facilities.
- 2.3 The results of the study showed that although some of the public cemeteries in the Vale of Glamorgan such as The Limes, Cowbridge and Merthyr Dyfan, Barry had adequate land for the duration of the LDP period, there was insufficient capacity in Llantwit Major, Penarth or Porthkerry. The study also expected that most of the Town and Community Council operated burial sites including church graveyards and cemeteries such as Llantwit Major, Penarth and Porthkerry would reach or be close to capacity during the LDP period.
- 2.4 Therefore, the paper identified that there was a need for additional burial capacity in the Vale during the LDP period and presented two main options for expanding capacity. To expand existing facilities where possible and where little opportunity existed for expansion, and there is an identified need, new facilities should be considered. Consideration was also given to burial preferences of residents which may reflect changes in the ethnic and religious backgrounds of the population during the plan period.
- 2.5 TACP also identified an increase in demand for burial facilities and further pressure on capacity through housing growth throughout the plan period. This growth focused on population centres would apply further pressure to existing burial facilities including on St. Athan that does not have a cemetery, and so additional growth here applies pressure on cemeteries in both Barry and Llantwit Major.
- 2.6 Based on the ratio of 30% Burial and 70% cremation that was identified in the Vale 0.25 hectares of suitable land for traditional burial per year would be required or 3.75 throughout the LDP plan period. New sites for burials should be considered in association with potential areas of new development which can additionally serve the existing population of the settlement. The study suggested a site between Penarth and Sully which could then also serve Barry and another associated with developments at St. Athan to provide the settlement with its own local resource of burial land.

2.7 In 2013 an update to the 2008 study was conducted to provide an updated set of burial land data to again inform the LDP. This study provided an update to the figures collected in regard to the space in Town and Community Council run cemeteries and burial grounds. The study also provided information on the Cardiff & Vale Natural Burial Ground (2007/01296/FUL refers) as well as the Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium (2010/00058/FUL refers) which were granted planning permission in December 2007 and April 2010 respectively.

2.8 Much of the data and analysis from the earlier reports remain relevant today and it is considered that the issues identified in the 2008 study and its statistical update in 2013 remain valid and relevant, however, given the extended period of time since the 2013 study was undertaken, a further assessment is required on the burial land and facilities in the Vale of Glamorgan to inform the RLDP.

2.9 A review has been carried out of the existing burial facilities in the Vale of Glamorgan and whether they can sustain the demand for burial spaces. It is still recognised that Vale residents may use facilities in adjacent local authorities however these figures have not been updated with the focus of this paper to identify the capacity of sites within the Vale however they still act as a consideration. This paper is focused on updated information provided by Town and Community Councils and the data they have provided in response to enquiries about the size and capacity of their facilities.

2.10 To support this work, Town and Community Councils were contacted to provide a factual update regarding burial grounds in their ownership. This included a request for information on:

- Number of burials per year (e.g. over the last 5 years)
- Number of cremations (where applicable) per year
- Current capacity (number of remaining plots)
- Possible area for additional burial land (for potential extension)

2.11 In terms of the study's overall conclusions that additional burial land capacity is likely to be required by the end of the plan period to extend capacity, it is considered that an extension to Porthkerry Cemetery is required together with the expansion of capacity in the Vale where possible should meet the identified need over the RLDP period. As a result, a specific burial land policy has been recommended for inclusion in the RLDP. This safeguards the land adjacent to Porthkerry for an extension of the cemetery and future proposals for burial land and extensions can be assessed against a set of policies that identify suitable areas for these uses.

2.12 Furthermore, it is considered that the four-yearly major Plan reviews will enable the burial land position to be reviewed allowing for any potential significant shortfalls towards the end of the Plan period to be addressed where required.

2.13 This Background paper also provides an update to the assessment of need, changes in demand for burial space, potential sites and planning policy around burial land. Changes in the conclusions from these in addition to the factual

updates will inform whether a policy or site allocation is included in the Vale's RLDP.

### **3. National Legislation and Local Policy**

#### **Planning Policy Wales (Edition 12) (February 2024)**

3.1 Burial spaces and cemeteries act as community facilities as well as open greenspace for the population. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) states that these types of spaces are a key element in creating sustainable and viable places and makes clear that people should not be excluded from places because the facilities they need are not available. Paragraph 4.4.2 states

*'Planning authorities should develop a strategic and long-term approach to the provision of community facilities when preparing development plans based on evidence . . . When considering development proposals, including those associated with asset transfer, planning authorities should consider the needs of the community and ensure that community facilities continue to address the requirements of residents in the area'*

3.2 PPW also recognises the importance that cemeteries and graveyards can play in the provision of open space and green infrastructure and its role in protecting greenspaces. In regard to this paragraph 6.2.4 states that they play '*a fundamental role in shaping places and our sense of well-being and is intrinsic to the quality of spaces we live, work and play in' and that the planning system 'should maximise its contribution to the provision of green infrastructure assets'*

3.3 Cemeteries are also important in the role it has in protecting green wedges from the development of inappropriate buildings. Paragraph 3.75 of PPW emphasises this importance and deems buildings inappropriate unless it is for a purpose outlined in the policy. One of these uses that is deemed appropriate is essential facilities for outdoor sport, recreation and cemeteries which maintain the openness of the land and do not go against the role of the green wedge.

#### **Technical Advice Note 16 – Sport, Recreation and Open Space (TAN16) (January 2009)**

3.4 Technical Advice Note (TAN) 16 – sport, recreation and open space includes cemeteries and churchyards as one of the typologies for open space. This means cemeteries and churchyards count towards the total area of open space and is considered in any open space assessment as a contributing use. Paragraph 3.36 states:

*'The finite capacity of cemeteries means there is a requirement to identify areas for future need and demographic data can provide local planning authorities with information to forecast future provision. Such areas need to be accessible to all'*

#### **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

3.5 The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 ensures that future generations have the same quality of life as those of us today and that they have at least an equal provision of and access to local facilities. The Act provides seven well-

being goals for Wales that aim to achieve this and five ways of working that will help progress towards each of the goals. The seven goals are set out below:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of more cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

3.6 The key goal that provision of burial land works towards is 'A Wales of more cohesive communities' which aims to provide attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities. Provision of burial land with lasting capacity through the plan period and beyond is key to creating viable communities and helps sustain growth in and around those communities.

### **Local Policy**

3.7 The Vale of Glamorgan's adopted LDP 2011-2026 contains no specific policy regarding provision and development of burial land as informed by the 2013 Background Paper update. Development for burial land is set against policy MD2 – Design of new development, which aims to create high quality, sustainable and locally distinct places, MD4 – Community infrastructure and planning obligations ensuring that demand for burial space would be met and MD7 – Environmental protection.

3.8 The Vale of Glamorgan Corporate Plan presents four key well-being objectives that the Council believe will collectively contribute towards the seven national well-being goals and sets out how these objectives will be achieved. Under Objective 4: Respect, Enhance and Enjoy our Environment action 2 states that the Council will '*work with and empower community groups and other partners to sustain local facilities including public toilets, libraries, parks, play areas and community centre*'. Cemeteries and burial land are considered important community facilities that need to be sustained and therefore should work towards this objective.

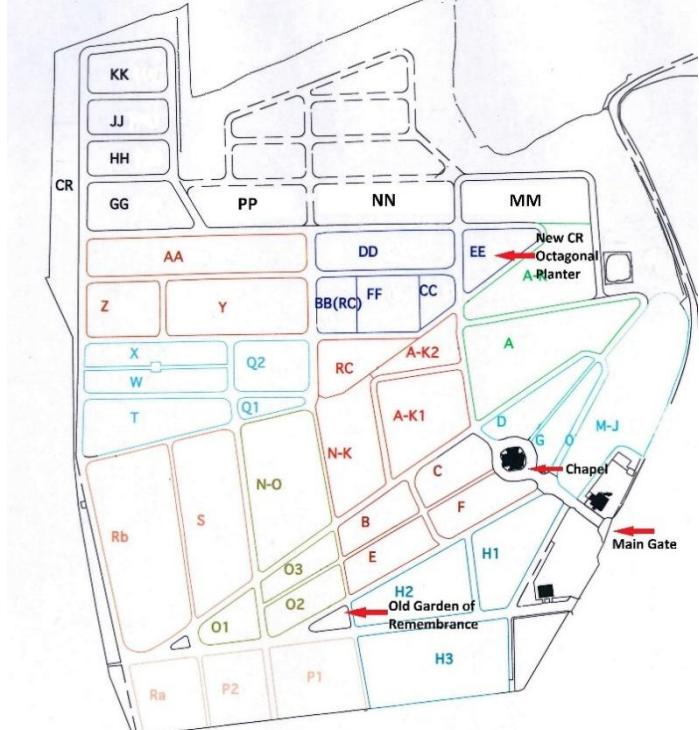
#### **4. New Cemeteries and Burial sites**

- 4.1 Since the 2008 burial land study two new burial grounds have been developed which in part address local issues and demand for burial land capacity. This relates to the development of the Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium which was granted planning permission in April 2010 (reference 2010/00058/FUL) and opened in 2011. Additionally, the Cardiff & The Vale Natural Burial Meadow which was granted planning permission in December 2007 (reference 2007/01296/FUL) and opened in 2008. While the Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and the Natural Burial Meadow added capacity in the Vale there's been nothing since to accommodate ongoing demand.
- 4.2 Over time there has been an increase in use of cremations over burials. Cremation has continued to be a more cost-effective option in most of the UK with the cremation rate at 78.4% as of 2022. Due to the benefits that cremation provides including affordability, potential environmental benefits and greater flexibility this figure is so high and is likely to remain the preferred method for burials. Natural Burial has become a popular method of interment in more recent decades reaching a rate of 59% in 2019 with 270 natural burial sites currently across the UK. Green burials provide a way of returning the body to the earth with minimal environmental impact removing the need to use chemicals, non-renewable materials, caskets or headstones.
- 4.3 Families and communities are a key part in participating in green burial advocacy. Community involvement drives change and encourages more providers to offer sustainable options for burials. Collective efforts can enhance their popularity further and enable space for new natural burial sites. Innovations in technology, changes in legislation and increases in public demand for this type of burial space will all help change trends that can then be addressed through consideration for new sites. Since both the Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Cardiff and Vale natural burial ground have opened since the original study proformas both have been completed

<b>Name:</b> Cardiff & The Vale Natural Burial Meadow	<b>Location:</b> St Nicholas, Cardiff CF5 6SG
<b>Managing Authority:</b> Native Woodland Ltd. (Trading as Leedam Natural Heritage)	<b>Size (Ha):</b> 4.3
<b>Types of provision:</b> Natural Burial Ashes Interment	<b>Facilities:</b> Car park Memorial shelter
<b>Approx. number of burials per year:</b> 45 natural burials per year 11 ashes internments per year	<b>Current capacity:</b> 10,714 burial plots OR 2x ashes plots per burial plot (21,428) (capacity to at least 2261)
<b>Area of possible additional land:</b> Unknown	<b>Capacity of possible additional land:</b> Unknown
<b>Additional comments:</b>	<b>Photograph:</b>   

<b>Name:</b> Memoria at Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Memorial Park & Crematorium	<b>Location:</b> Port Road East, Barry, vale of Glamorgan CF62 9PX
<b>Managing Authority:</b> Memoria	<b>Size (Ha):</b> 8.0
<b>Types of provision:</b> Burials & Cremations	<b>Facilities:</b> Chapel Crematory Benches
<b>Approx. number of burials per year:</b> Burials – 4 in total Cremations – 1300 average per year	<b>Current capacity:</b> 500 natural burials (capacity to approx. 2148 at current internment rate).
<b>Area of possible additional land:</b> N/A	<b>Capacity of possible additional land:</b> N/A
<b>Additional comments:</b>	<b>Photograph:</b> 

## 5. Burial sites with capacity over plan period

<b>Name:</b> Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery	<b>Location:</b> Cemetery Road, Barry, CF62 8BP
<b>Managing Authority:</b> Barry Town Council	<b>Size (Ha):</b> 12.5
<b>Types of provision:</b> Burials Cremations	<b>Facilities:</b> Chapel Public Toilets Benches
<b>Approx. number of burials per year:</b> 95 Burials	<b>Current capacity:</b> 1804 Burials (capacity until approx. 2042 at current internment rate)
<b>Area of possible additional land:</b> N/A	<b>Capacity of possible additional land:</b> N/A
<b>Additional comments:</b>	<b>Photograph:</b> 

<b>Name:</b> The Limes Cemetery	<b>Location:</b> The Limes, Cowbridge
<b>Managing Authority:</b> Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council	<b>Size (Ha):</b> 0.47
<b>Types of provision:</b> Burials Cremations	<b>Facilities:</b> Benches
<b>Approx. number of burials per year:</b> 15	<b>Current capacity:</b> 715 (capacity until approx. 2070)
<b>Area of possible additional land:</b> 800m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Capacity of possible additional land:</b> 172
<b>Additional comments:</b>	<b>Photograph:</b> 

**Community council burial grounds with capacity**

Community Council	Name of Facility	Average burial rate	Existing capacity	Potential additional capacity	Comments
Hancarfan	St Cadoc's Burial Ground	4 per year	302 full burial plots, 56 cremated remains spaces (capacity to approx. 2113)	N/A	
Welsh St Donats Churchyard	Welsh St Donats	1 per year	Capacity to approx. 2083	None	Full burial/cremation £650 for VoG residents. Managed by East Vale Rectoral Benefice.
Pendolyan	St Cadoc Church	1-2 per year	Capacity to approx. 2050	None	Managed by Pendolyan Church

## 6. Burial sites without capacity over plan period

<b>Name:</b> Porthkerry Cemetery	<b>Location:</b> Rhoose
<b>Managing Authority:</b> Barry Town Council	<b>Size (Ha):</b> 0.44
<b>Types of provision:</b> Burials Cremations	<b>Facilities:</b> Portaloo Shelter Benches
<b>Approx. number of burials per year:</b> 14	<b>Current capacity:</b> 4 burial plots 40 cremated remains plots (capacity to approx. 2027)
<b>Area of possible additional land:</b> 0.32ha	<b>Capacity of possible additional land:</b> Unknown
<b>Additional comments:</b> Ongoing work regarding extension to cemetery. Unlikely to be realised unless the funds are allocated.	<b>Photograph:</b> 

<b>Name:</b> Boverton Road Cemetery	<b>Location:</b> Boverton Road, Llantwit Major
<b>Managing Authority:</b> Llantwit Major Town Council	<b>Size (Ha):</b> 0.84
<b>Types of provision:</b> Burials Cremations	<b>Facilities:</b> Benches
<b>Approx. number of burials per year:</b> 13 new cremated remains 10 reopen cremated remains 9 new full interments 5 reopen interments	<b>Current capacity:</b> 60 cremated remains plots within centre circle (capacity until approx. 2027) (other space can be used if needed) 90 full plots (subject to test digs in various places) (capacity until approx. 2032)
<b>Area of possible additional land:</b> None. Llantwit Major Town Council have been actively looking since 2008, including writing to landowners, VOGC, MOD and WG. The Town Council put money into the budget each year for new cemetery land should some become available.	<b>Capacity of possible additional land:</b> N/A
<b>Additional comments:</b>	<b>Photograph:</b> 

<b>Name:</b> Penarth Cemetery	<b>Location:</b> Castle Avenue, Penarth
<b>Managing Authority:</b> Penarth Town Council	<b>Size (Ha):</b> 2.0
<b>Types of provision:</b> Burials Cremations Scatter Lawn	<b>Facilities:</b> Chapel Toilets Benches
<b>Approx. number of burials per year:</b> 34 full burials 29 cremations	<b>Current capacity:</b> No new burial plots available, only capacity to re-open existing family graves 250-300 cremated remains plots (capacity until at least 2031 at current internment rate)
<b>Area of possible additional land:</b> N/A	<b>Capacity of possible additional land:</b> N/A
<b>Additional comments:</b> Capacity of possible additional land: Much greater capacity for cremated remains and the Town Council is looking into the possibility of the use of columbaria as a way of prolonging the life of the cemetery.	<b>Photograph:</b> 

**Community council burial grounds without any capacity**

Community Council	Name of Facility	Information received			
		Average burial rate	Existing capacity	Potential additional capacity	Comments
Dinas Powys	St Andrews Cemetery	18 full burials, 11 cremations annually (combined new plots and re-openings)	68 full burial plots, 12 cremated remains plots (additional occupied plots with available space) (capacity to approx. 2025)	N/A	Additional capacity added in 2020
Wenvoe	Wenvoe Community Cemetery	5 full burials, 5 cremations annually	17 full burial plots, 33 cremated remains plots (capacity to approx. 2028)	N/A	
Peterston-super-Ely	St Peter's Churchyard	4 per year	47 unoccupied plots (capacity to approx. 2035)	N/A	
Hlandough	St Dochdwy's Church	<1 full burial, 5 cremations annually	No capacity for full burials, 25 cremated remains (capacity to approx. 2028)	Possibility for further cremated remains plots if need arises	Managed by the Church in Wales. Only accepts burials for parish members.
St Nicholas and Bonvilston	Trehil Presbyterian Church		15 cremated remains plots	None	All plots are pre-allocated for members of the community.
	St Nicholas Churchyard	<6 per year	Some capacity	None	Managed by CIW East Vale Ministry Area/St Nicholas

## 7. Allocating additional land

7.1 Additional burial land can be allocated through the provision of new sites or extensions to existing sites. An extension to an existing burial site is the most pragmatic option, as they will likely already have the relevant on-site infrastructure and no new facilities would need to be provided and the new land can form logical extensions to the existing site. Furthermore, existing burial site unlike new ones will not require significant areas of greenspace or open countryside that are easily accessible to be allocated for this use which can often be difficult and resource consuming to find and deliver. Issues to be considered when identifying potential sites for burial land should include the following:

- Legislation and Best Practice – all burial provision, new and extensions to existing, shall be in accordance with relevant legislation and best practice.
- Statutory Designations – these include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves; Listed Buildings, Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Conservation Areas that burial site should not be located on.
- Non-Statutory Designations – these include Heritage Coasts, Special Landscape Areas, Historic Landscapes, Green Wedges etc. which should be avoided when designating new burial land.
- Mineral Resources – these include mineral resources (e.g. sand & gravel), existing quarry extensions, and old railway lines. These are inadequate areas of land to use for burials.
- Agricultural Land – whilst burial grounds may be considered on low-grade agricultural land and green burial facilities within set aside land, burial facilities should not be considered on high quality agricultural land (grades 1, 2 and 3a in particular).
- Allocated and Proposed Land Use – especially in terms of proximity to transport routes, areas identified for residential development etc.
- Accessibility – consideration must be given to proximity of settlements, main roads and access by public transport.
- Location – proximity to existing settlements and should be considered along with accessibility. Generally, it is considered appropriate for burial grounds to be located in semi-rural, urban fringe locations. However, facilities should not damage the recreational amenity of the area or damage/detract from features with archaeological or historical interest.

- Proximity to Other Burial Grounds / Crematoria – wherever possible the extension of existing burial grounds should be given preference. Where these are full, additional sites in the vicinity should be considered. Sites near to crematoria where there is no full burial facility should be considered.
- Hydrology – all applications must take into consideration the Environment Agency (EA) Guidelines for location of burial grounds and crematoria especially in terms of minimum distances between burial sites and water courses, wells, boreholes, springs etc. The EA must be consulted in the preparation of proposals.
- Air Quality – all applications for crematoria shall be in accordance with EA and DEFRA guidelines to prevent, minimise and render emissions harmless.
- Setting – facilities should fit into the surrounding land use, landscape and consideration should be given to visual impact and opportunities for screening. The location of crematoria should consider in particular the suitability of the setting, compatibility with existing activities, proximity to housing and highways.
- Consideration for Dual Uses – dual use of proposed sites could include nature conservation, children's play areas, use of contaminated land and other community uses. Where appropriate, opportunities for crematoria developments involving co-location deploying innovative technology for wastes, innovative business and developments in the social economy should be encouraged.

7.2 The RLDP candidate site register and relevant supporting materials have been reviewed for the potential for additional burial land sites and additional capacity. As part of the first call for candidate sites for the RLDP one site was submitted with a proposed use for a cemetery. This site, Land adjoining the Heritage Business Park to the northwest of Llantwit Major, comprises 5.3 hectares of mostly greenfield land north of Wick Road. However, no additional information was submitted in support of the candidate site and therefore there is no evidence that this site is deliverable. No further candidate sites were submitted with a proposed use for a cemetery or burial land.

7.3 Extensions to the existing Town and Community Council run cemeteries and burial grounds have also been considered. Possible land for extensions has been identified in the proformas for each of the cemeteries in chapters 5 and 6. Only two of these cemeteries identified potential land for an extension.

7.4 The Limes cemetery in Cowbridge has potential additional land of 800m<sup>2</sup> that could add an additional 172 burial plots which, at a rate of 15 burials a year as identified in the Limes Cemetery proforma, enables capacity for approximately an additional 11.5 years giving the site capacity until 2081. This would provide a minor increase in capacity to a cemetery with existing capacity beyond the plan period.

7.5 A further and larger extension option is available at Porthkerry Cemetery where 0.32ha of land to the east could provide an extension to the existing burial ground \*Figure 1). Porthkerry Cemetery does not have the current capacity to last through the plan period. Should an application be put forward for an extension on this land then the cemetery's capacity would be extended to beyond the plan period.

7.6 With only two town council run cemeteries having additional capacity (Merthyr Dyfan and The Limes) to last throughout the plan period there is a demonstrated need for additional burial land. An extension at Porthkerry would continue to provide for Barry in addition to further settlements without sizeable cemeteries or have ones that have reached capacity including Rhoose, St. Athan and Llantwit Major that are within reach of Porthkerry.



Figure 1: Outline of Porthkerry Cemetery and identified area for possible extension

7.7 An extension to Porthkerry Cemetery is considered the most viable option to provide for burial land and increase capacity in the Vale of Glamorgan, particularly within the Barry area, and provides a logical extension to the

existing facility. It is therefore considered that the land identified in Figure 1 should be safeguarded in the Replacement Local Development Plan and shown on the Proposals Map for an extension to the Porthkerry Cemetery that could come forward during the plan period (subject to a planning application can be submitted and determined by the Council).

7.8 Where possible, smaller Community Council provision should be expanded. Although, the numbers of burials are much lower, they form an important component of the overall burial provision especially in the more rural north and western Vale and allow choice for those residents who do not live near to the town council run public cemeteries.

## **8. Conclusions**

8.1 The main form of burial provision within the Vale of Glamorgan are the Town and Community Council run cemeteries and church graveyards within Barry, Penarth, Llantwit Major, Cowbridge, and St. Nicholas and which provide a vital local source of burial land across more rural parts of the Vale especially where access to the larger cemeteries is more difficult. The results of this paper indicate that many of the existing burial facilities are reaching maximum capacity and will not have enough to last the duration of the RLDP period.

8.2 Out of the large cemeteries that provide most of the burial land in the Vale of Glamorgan, Merthyr Dyfan, The Limes, the Cardiff and Vale natural Burial Meadow and Memoria at Cardiff & Vale of Glamorgan Memorial Park & Crematorium all have capacity over the plan period. Given the capacity at these facilities, it is not considered necessary to provide additional quantity of land to accommodate for the expected number of burials and cremations that will occur over the plan period. Furthermore, there is unlikely to be a need for additional green burial facilities or Memoria within the Vale of Glamorgan. However, there is a need for increased capacity to accommodate population growth in the Vale of Glamorgan as well as to improve capacity at burial sites that are due to be full during the plan period.

8.3 With the most suitable option for additional capacity considered to be an extension to existing facilities, opportunities for extensions have been identified at Porthkerry and The Limes cemeteries. The land that could provide an extension to Porthkerry cemetery can provide much needed capacity to address the capacity concerns that exist at most of the Town and community Council run cemeteries and graveyards.

8.4 The Vale of Glamorgan Council should encourage continued burial provision across facilities in the administrative region. Therefore, it is recommended that a policy on cemetery and burial provision should be included in the RLDP that supports an extension to Porthkerry Cemetery and provides guidance on proposals for burial land/cemeteries.

8.5 Land is to be safeguarded for the extension of Porthkerry Cemetery, Barry and proposals for the provision of additional burial land or crematoriums will be supported where:

- The site is located close to public transport routes and provides sufficient on-site car parking to meet peak demand;
- It is demonstrated that the proposal would not adversely affect ground water sources or flood risk and that any potential sources of contamination can be mitigated.
- The proposal does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a), or on areas of importance for biodiversity, landscape, archaeology and geology; and
- The proposal would not have an unacceptable effect on the amenities of neighbouring occupiers by reason of noise, pollution, privacy and visual obtrusiveness, and would not impact on highway safety.

8.6 Proposals for a new crematorium will be expected to meet the requirements of section 5 of the Cremation Act 1902 with regards to the siting of the crematorium.

8.7 Proposals for new cemetery or crematorium facilities should be situated within a sustainable location. Whilst locations outside of a defined settlement boundary would be acceptable in principle, sites should have good access to the road network as well as public transport routes, to enable ease of access for mourners and visitors.

8.8 As well the potential impact on amenity of neighbouring uses, proposals must ensure proposals for cemeteries, including the extension of existing facilities to give specific consideration to flood risk, groundwater contamination issues, any existing land contamination, and (as appropriate) the requirements of the Cremation Act 1902 which requires that no crematorium shall be constructed nearer to any dwelling-house than two hundred yards, except with the consent, in writing of the owner, lessee and occupier of such house, nor within fifty yards of any public highway, nor in the consecrated part of the burial ground of any burial authority.



**The Vale of Glamorgan Council**  
Directorate of Place  
Civic Office  
Holton Road  
Barry CF63 4RU

LDP@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk  
[www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

