

Cemetery Excavation

We can provide on-site advice, excavate human remains with you or train your staff in skeletal excavation. This can save costs and improve on-site efficiency



Things to consider when planning a cemetery excavation:

- the likely number of burials (a skeleton contingency may be a safe option)
- is the cemetery consecrated
- are there living relatives
- likely preservation of organic materials, including soft tissue
- artefactual preservation and conservation
- the likely future of the collection (storage, research, reburial)

Recording Human Remains

We need a detailed *in situ* skeleton sheet to understand the context:

- each skeleton should have a skeleton number (this can be additional to the context number)
- orientation (head first); photos should include a north arrow
- position
- a clear description of the skeleton *in situ*, intercutting features, obvious pathology, stratigraphy
- lifting quality
- details of coffins, structures, artefacts



We can provide an *in situ* skeleton recording and crib sheet and undertake *in situ* assessments of badly preserved remains

Processing of Human Remains

We can process human remains for you and advise on best practice for inhumed and cremated remains



- bone takes a long time to dry after processing – allow at least 5 days
- bones should be bagged by skeletal element
- avoid labelling bones prior to analysis and if it has to be done, avoid all joint surfaces
- skeletons should be placed in stackable boxes
- boxes should be clearly labelled, especially if they include two or more skeletons or a skeleton is spread across several boxes
- Cremated bone should be sorted to 2mm fragment size