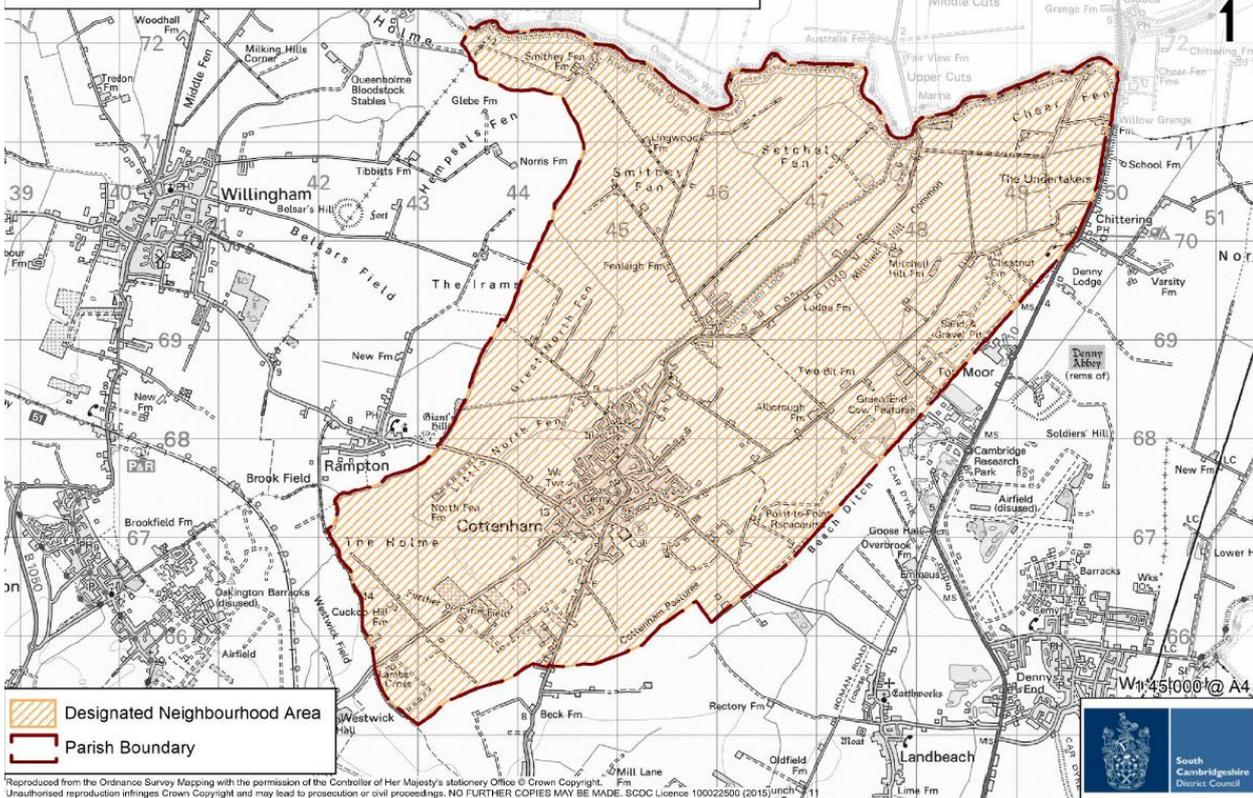


Cottenham Civil Parish

Neighbourhood Development Plan

2017 to 2031

Designated Neighbourhood Area: Cottenham - November 2015



Cottenham Parish Council

NP Evidence – Burial Ground extensions

December 2018

In 2031 Cottenham will still be an attractive safe rural village, proud of its character and retaining its sense of community with improved amenities and facilities, reduced impact of traffic, especially in the centre of the village, and having more affordable housing for the next generation of residents.



Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan Submission Plan – NP Evidence Paper E10



1 Summary

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 Estimates indicate that, even with the existing population, all three burial grounds in Cottenham will fill within ten years.



Cottenham Neighbourhood Development Plan
Submission Plan – NP Evidence Paper E10



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2 Situation

- 2.1 Cemeteries are an important part of the village's facilities. Residents have a right to be buried in the parish where they die.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 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).
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 With a population of around 6,500, current demand is for about 25 interments in Cottenham per year.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 Whether by re-engineering, extension or provision of new space, additional capacity is needed to meet the anticipated demand for about 33 new interments per annum over the plan period – 500 in total.

3 Complications

- 3.1 Planning permissions granted in 2017 for 530 homes and 70 residential places with care will increase demand for burial space in Cottenham.
- 3.2 The increased demand is likely to be around 9 per year – 135 over the plan period - based on a population increase of about 2,000.
- 3.3 Total demand for interment over the plan period is therefore likely to increase to around 35 per year or about 500 between 2017 and 2031.

4 The need

- 4.1 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)
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 A lower density, less orthogonal layout is desirable with tree and shrub plantings to make the area more attractive as a public open space.

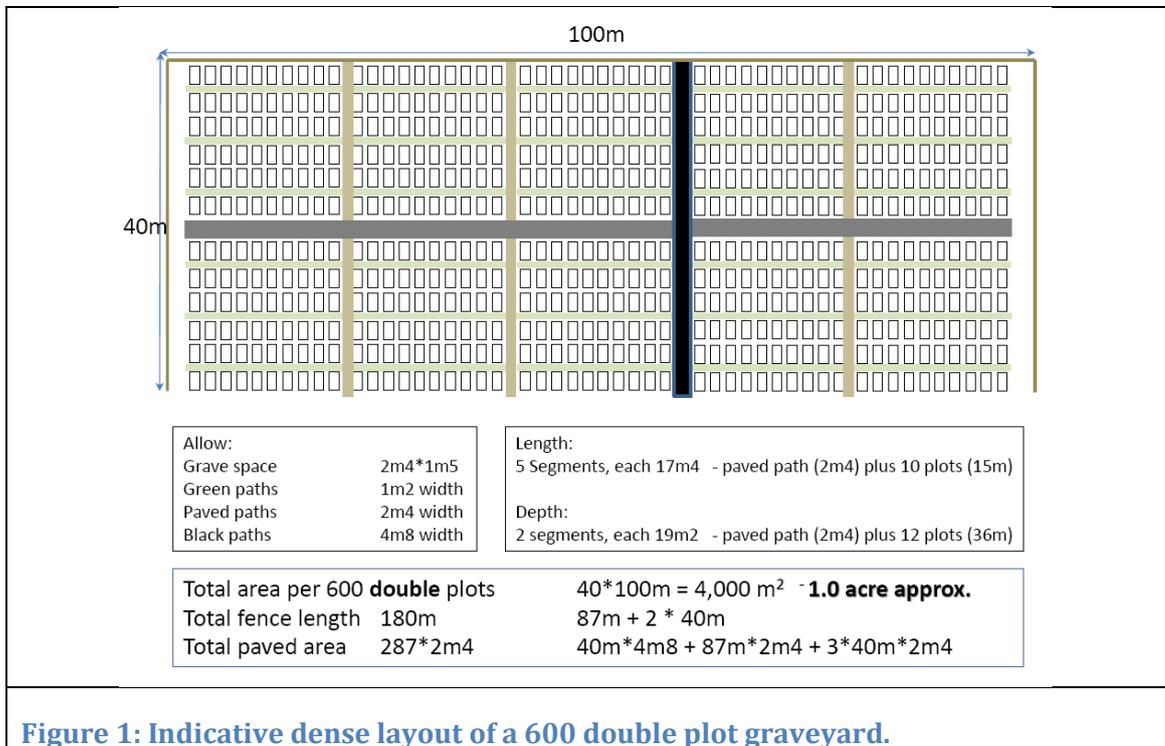


Figure 1: Indicative dense layout of a 600 double plot graveyard.

5 Possible solutions

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 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

- 6.1 The new facility should 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

7.1 Although not allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan, a possible site-specific policy was considered:

Policy GF/4: Land in the vicinity of All Saints' Church (X8 in Figure 2)

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

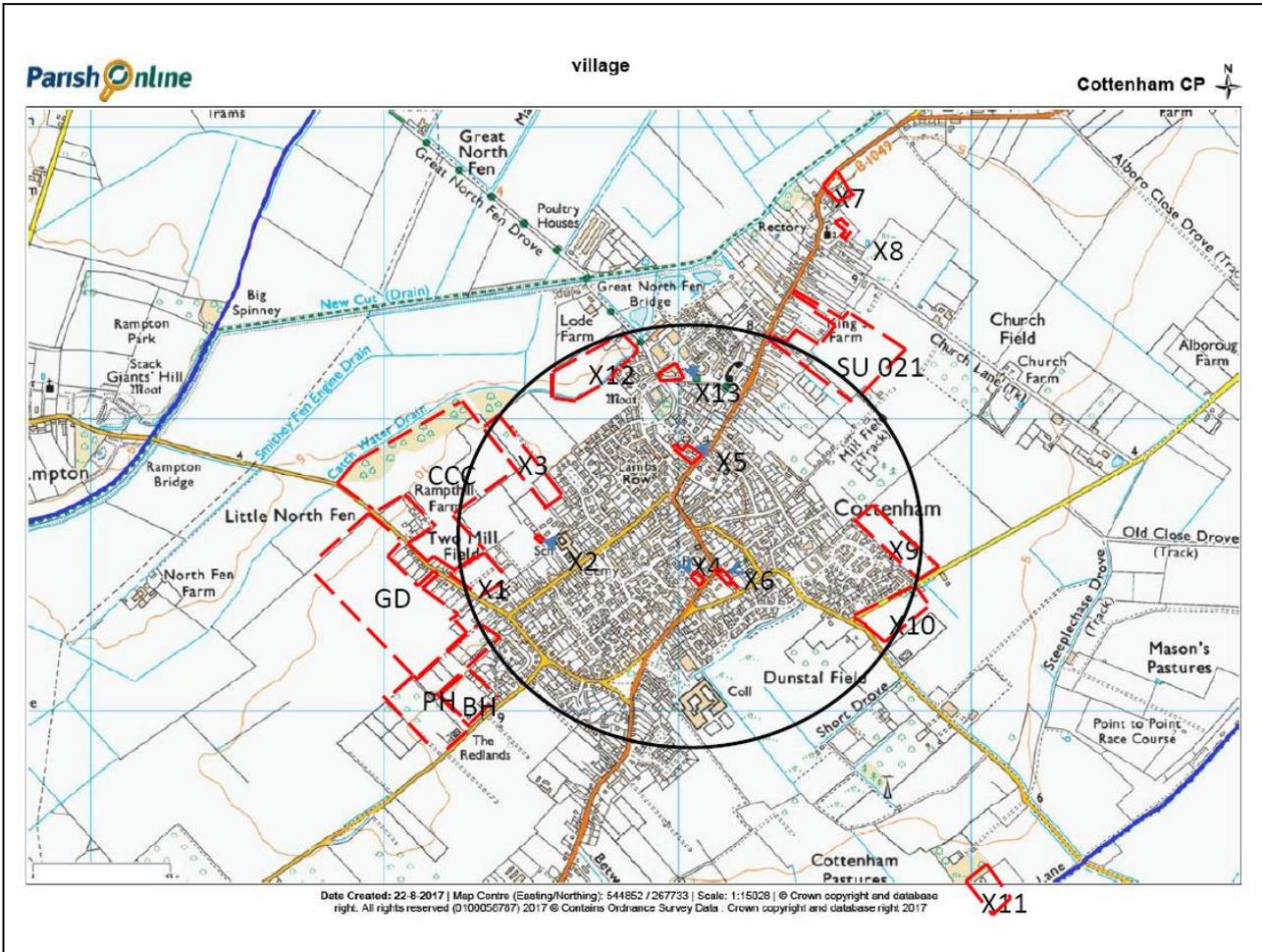


Figure 2: Cottenham assessed and potential sites



Figure 3: Sites reviewed as potential locations for burial ground

Appendix A: General References

Reference	Paper
B1	Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan Survey – Final Report (NPS)
B2	Cottenham draft Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan v2.1
B3	Cottenham draft Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan v3.1
B4	AECOM Housing Needs assessment
B5	AECOM Site assessment
B6	AECOM Heritage & Character assessment
B7	Evidence Paper E1 Housing need and supply
B8	Evidence Paper E2 Brownfield sites
B9	Evidence Paper E3 Rural Exception Sites and Community Land Trust
B10	Evidence Paper E4 Recreation Ground
B11	Evidence Paper E5 Village Hall
B12	Evidence Paper E6 Nursery
B13	Evidence Paper E7 Medical and Drop-in & Chat Centre
B14	Evidence Paper E8 Village heritage and character
B15	Evidence Paper E9 NP Golden thread
B16	Evidence Paper E10 Burial ground extensions
B17	Evidence Paper E11 Drainage & Flooding
B18	Evidence Paper E12 Village Design Statement 2007
B19	Evidence Paper E13 Traffic & Transport Strategy
B20	Evidence paper E14: Community Transport
B21	Evidence paper E15: Play
B22	Evidence Paper E16: Open Space
B23	Cottenham draft Pre-submission Neighbourhood Plan v4.2
B24	Strategic Environment Screening Opinion
B25	Consultation statement
B26	Cottenham Submission Neighbourhood Plan v5
B27	Strategic Environment Assessment
B28	Basic Conditions Statement