



SHALLOW GRAVES

A shallow grave situation occurs where a grave space is reopened to allow a second burial to take place, but where the original burial was insufficiently deep to allow a second burial to take place on top without breaching legal minimum burial depths. As part of their permission to dig graves in the cemetery all gravediggers must immediately report an instance of a shallow grave, whereupon the following procedure must be followed:

1. Excavate to maximum depth achievable leaving 6+ of soil above the last coffin buried.
2. Ensure that the length and width of the excavation are sufficient to allow the construction of the walls of a cell or compartment and allow the coffin free passage at the committal.
3. Construct a solid foundation in the bottom of the grave by either the preparation of footings around the perimeter of the bottom of the grave or by inserting a pre-formed concrete foundation slab. Alternatively a layer of dry mix concrete can be spread over the bottom of the grave.
4. Construct 4.5+brick walls around the inside the grave (alternatively a proprietary preformed concrete sleeve can be lowered into the grave).
5. Ensure that there are no gaps in the mortar between bricks.
6. Carry out the interment with the coffin coming to rest within the brick cell or compartment formed.
7. Seal the top of the cell or compartment by bedding concrete slabs of at least 2 %in thickness onto mortar ensuring that no gaps exist.
8. Backfill remaining depth with soil.

The Town Council is not responsible for any additional costs arising from this procedure needing to be enacted.