

Civil Cemeteries and Burial Grounds

Background

By the 1850s, churchyards across the country were becoming full. This posed a serious health risk. The 1853 Burial Acts allowed the creation of public cemeteries. These new cemeteries were run by Burial Boards. A burial board was elected by the vestry of the parish. Sometimes several smaller parishes joined together to share a burial ground. In 1894 power was taken from the vestries and given to the new parish councils. In towns and cities, powers were given to the borough councils or urban district councils from 1934.

As civil cemeteries replaced the churchyard some burials are still recorded in the parish register. If no registers for the civil cemetery survive, check the parish register (see our "Parish registers" research guide).

What records are there and what information do they contain?

As each burial ground kept their own records, they will vary slightly. Some early records contain less detail than later ones. Some records described as registers are really just notebooks of the burial ground clerk. For cemeteries one or some of the following has survived:

Registers of Burials

These are a list of people buried in the cemetery. The entries are in date order and are not usually indexed by name. Most registers contain:

- Name, age and occupation of deceased
- Date of burial
- Name of minister
- Number of grave
- Some registers give the place and date of death

Register of Graves

These vary greatly in the detail they contain. Some are similar to burial registers but contain information about the purchase of the grave. Others are a list of graves by number with the names of those buried in the grave.

Notices of Interment

These were documents sent to the clerk of the cemetery so that they could arrange for the burial to take place. They contain:

- Name, age and occupation of deceased
- Date and place of death
- Date and time of funeral
- Name of minister
- Number and description of grave

Lists or Registers of Purchased Graves

These record the purchase of graves. This could be just before a burial or many years before. They usually note:

- Date of purchase
- Name and residence of buyer
- The fee paid
- Number of the grave
- Religion
- Details of the burial including name of deceased and date of burial.

These can be useful as they tell you who paid for the grave. This is usually the next of kin.

Plan of the cemetery

Plans show the layout of the graves. Usually this gives the plot numbers. Some plans are marked up with the name of the person who is buried there or has purchased the grave. These may still be held by the burial authority. They have not survived for all cemeteries.

How to find the Records

A list of the records of civil cemeteries in Gloucestershire that are held at Gloucestershire Archives is provided at the end of this guide, along with other useful information. (A hard copy version is held at Gloucestershire Archives. Please ask staff if you would like to see it).

If we do not hold records, you will need to contact the council that runs the cemetery. Where contact details are not given, researchers should contact the parish or town council in which the cemetery is located. Please note that some councils may charge you to look up entries in records, especially if a date of burial or death is not known.

All documents, and many microfilms (MF references) held at Gloucestershire Archives need to be ordered from the strongrooms.

The online catalogue can be accessed at <https://catalogue.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>. Use the references given in the list below as your search terms if you are trying to locate these examples. You can also refine or sort your search by other search categories, such as date created. For more guidance on using our online catalogue please see the Help page and FAQs.

Want to know more?

The Gloucestershire Family History Society have transcribed and indexed the cemetery registers for Gloucester crematorium from 1953-1975.

See their website for more details www.gfhs.org.uk

Civil Cemeteries List

The records listed in this guide are only those deposited at Gloucestershire Archives, which show the **names of people** buried in that cemetery. Due to the nature of these records, they may not indicate **where** in the burial ground they were buried. But they should be enough to confirm that the person was buried there.

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Berkeley

Opened: c. 1857

1857-1871	Registers of burials in the new burial ground (some entries up to 1902 in existing plots)	P42/IN/1/49
c.1942-1982	Burial register	D6253/4/3
1871-1875	Notices of interment	D6253/4/1
1875-1878	Notices of interment	D6253/4/2
1866	Plan of cemetery	D6253/5/1

Berkeley Town Council have digitised additional records that they hold and have made them accessible via their website: <https://www.berkeley-tc.gov.uk/council-services/cemetery/>

Location: Cemetery Lodge, Station Rd, Berkeley GL13 9AY

Contact Details: Email: cemeteryofficer@berkeley-tc.gov.uk
Phone: [07712 341577](tel:07712341577)

Bledington

Opened: 1903

1902-1924	Receipt and payment book under Burial Acts	P51a/PC/31/2
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Location: Church Road/Church Lane, next to St Leonards Church

Blockley

Opened: 1891

c1890-1900	Register of Graves – No dates given but plot numbers are noted.	P52/IN/4/5
1891-1947	Rough register of deaths and graves	P52/IN/4/6
1955-1963	Burial Grants (Purchase of Graves only, no dates of burial)	P52a/PC/31/2
1891	Plan of church cemetery consecrated 1891	P52/CW/3/4

N.B. Burials at the cemetery are also noted in the parish register.

Location: Station Road (B4479) heading towards Paxford

Charlton Kings

Opened: 25 September 1909

No registers have been deposited but the following may be useful:

1911-1947	Grants of sole right of burial in grave spaces, with assignment of grant, 1942 (NB does not contain date of burial, date of purchase only)	DA3/209
1927-1949	Account of ministers' fees for interments (includes names of deceased)	DA3/201/1

For **Church of England** burials see:

1813-1836	Register of burials – Available on Ancestry	P76/IN/1/22
1836-1851	Register of burials – Available on Ancestry	P76/IN/1/23
1851-1864	Register of burials – Available on Ancestry	P76/IN/1/24

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1865-1890	Register of burials – Available on Ancestry	P76/IN/1/25
1891-1920	Register of burials – Available on Ancestry	P76/IN/1/26
1920-1935	Register of burials – Available on Ancestry	P76/IN/1/27
1964-1973	Cemetery and crematorium funerals	P76/IN/1/50
1973-1979	Cemetery and crematorium funerals	P76/IN/1/51

From 1974, the administration of Charlton Kings Cemetery was taken over by Cheltenham Borough Council.

Location: Horsefair Street, Charlton Kings
Contact details: see Cheltenham.

Cheltenham

Opened: 1687, 1823, 1831, 1864

There were 4 main burial grounds in Cheltenham. The first was the churchyard attached to St Mary's. The second burial ground opened nearby on High Street in 1831, although the churchyard was still used. The new burial ground had a small chapel - St Mary's cemetery chapel, later St Mary's Mission (this is now known as the Winston Churchill Memorial Garden). In 1864 the Civil Cemetery was opened at Bouncers Lane and both previous burial grounds were closed to new burials. Burials still took place in pre-purchased or used graves, i.e. a family grave.

There was also a small burial ground for Holy Trinity (**P78/4/IN/1/8** - 1823-1911, available on Ancestry). See Memorial Inscriptions for Holy Trinity Cheltenham for more details (**GAL/K3**).

A few non-conformist churches also had burial grounds, e.g. St Andrews Congregationalist Church. For more information see the Genealogical Handlist.

In the Cheltenham St Mary's collection (**P78/1**) there are the following registers for the burial grounds:

Churchyard	1687-1898
Burial Ground	1831-1935
Civil Cemetery	1864-1921

[See Parish Register Guide for references]

For the Civil Cemetery, we also have the following Bishop's transcripts.

1857 A-N	Available on Ancestry
1857 N-Z	Available on Ancestry
1863	Available on Ancestry
1864-72	Available on Ancestry
1873	Available on Ancestry
1874-76	Available on Ancestry
1876-82	Available on Ancestry
1882-86	Available on Ancestry
1887-88	Available on Ancestry
1889	Available on Ancestry
1889-90	Available on Ancestry
1891-92	Available on Ancestry
1892-93	Available on Ancestry

1893-95	Available on Ancestry
1895-98	Available on Ancestry
1899-1900	Available on Ancestry
1916-1918	Available on Ancestry
1921-1928	Available on Ancestry
1929-1932	Available on Ancestry

You can access Ancestry for free at any Gloucestershire Library, or at the Gloucestershire Family History Centre, who are also based at the Heritage Hub.

Please note that the Civil Cemetery Registers in **P78/1** and the Bishops Transcripts contain references to **Church of England burials only**

For **all burials** in Cheltenham Civil Cemetery see:

1864-1908	Index of Burials	CBR/D2/3/1
1864-1884	Burials	CBR/D2/3/1
1884-1903	Burials	CBR/D2/3/2
1873-1876	Drawings of tombstones with details of the inscription	CBR/D2/3/3
1884-1889	Internments at new cemetery (Index)	P78/1/CW/3/6/7

Location: Bouncers Lane [see above]

Contact Details: Cheltenham Cemetery and Crematorium
Bouncers Lane
Cheltenham
GL52 5JT

Tel: 01242 244245

Email: Cemetery@cheltenham.gov.uk

Cinderford

Opened: c.1957

1957-1996	Burials in the Cemetery of Yew Tree Brake	GE166/149aGS
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Records can be searched at: https://apps.fdean.gov.uk/OnlineCemeteries_Live/

Location: Speech House Rd (B4226 between Cinderford and Coleford)

Contact Details: Cinderford Cemetery
Yew Tree Brake
Cinderford
GL14 3HU

Email: bereavement@fdean.gov.uk

Tel: 01594 812514.

Cirencester

Opened: Chesterton (opened May 1872) & Stratton (opened July 1888)

1875-1888	Cirencester Burial Board register of approvals by the board of erection and inscriptions pursuant to regulation. Gives: date; members of the board present; applicant's distinctive letter and number of grave; description of statue and inscription	D1388/box9476/6
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Location: Chesterton Lane, Cirencester
Stratton: Off the road to Daglingworth

Contact Details: Cotswold District Council,
Trinity Road,
Cirencester,
Gloucestershire,
GL7 1PX
Tel: 01285 623 000 Email: bereavement@cotswold.gov.uk

Coleford

Opened: 18th January 1868

1868-1908	Register of burials	DA25/204/2
1908-1948	Register of burials	DA25/204/3
1928-1932	Register of burials of still-born children	DA25/204/1
1868-1973	Register of purchased graves, arranged in date order	DA25/204/4
1868-2001	Register of graves in unconsecrated ground within sections C and D of cemetery, arranged in plot order	DA25/204/5
1868-2003	Register of graves in consecrated ground within sections A and B of cemetery, arranged in plot order	DA25/204/6
1921-1995	Register of graves within section B of cemetery, arranged in plot order	DA25/204/7
1953-2001	Register of graves sections E, F and G of cemetery, arranged in plot order	DA25/204/8

Location: At the end of Victoria Road, Coleford

There is a separate cemetery at Mile End, please see [Mile End, Coleford](#) for details.

Dursley

Opened: c.1934

1934-1997	Copy of the registers recording interments in the cemetery	RR115.59GS
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Location: Kingshill Road (A4135) towards Cam

Contact Details: Dursley Town Council
Jacob's House
Castle Street
Dursley

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GL11 4BS

Email: Clerk@dursleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 01453 547758

Filton

Opened: 1947

No records deposited.

Location: Coldharbour Lane,
Stoke Gifford,
BS16 1QD

Contact Details: South Gloucestershire County Council
Tel: 01454 865831
Email: cemeteries@southglos.gov.uk

Gloucester

Opened: 1857

1857-1877	Registers of purchased graves	GBR/L4/4/1a
1877-1882	Registers of purchased graves	GBR/L4/4/1b
1857-1869	Registers of common graves	GBR/L4/4/2a
1869-1880	Registers of common graves	GBR/L4/4/2b
1880-1889	Registers of common graves	GBR/L4/4/2c
1857-1880	Registers of pauper graves	GBR/L4/4/3a
1880-1889	Registers of pauper graves	GBR/L4/4/3b
1863-1920	Register of grants of right of burial	GBR/L4/4/4
1914-1947	Register of burials in war graves, including prisoners of war, 1940-47 (indexed). Also includes list of earlier war graves (1914-21)	GBR/L4/4/5
1905-1914	Plans of Tredworth new burial ground	GBR/L4/6/14

The corporation constituted the burial board for the city in 1856 and laid out a cemetery on a 13-acre site at Tredworth, which was opened in 1857 when burials in the old city churchyards ceased. The cemetery was extended in 1857, 1909 and 1911, the final extension enlarging it to 35 acres. A second city cemetery at Coney Hill was laid out in 1934 but not opened for burials until 1939. A crematorium, added to the cemetery chapel at Coney Hill, was opened in 1953.

Location: Tredworth Road
(See below for Coney Hill)

Contact Details: Coney Hill Cemetery and Crematorium
Coney Hill Road
Gloucester
GL4 4PA

Tel: 01452 396902 (9:00-4:30 Mon to Fri).

Email: crematorium@gloucester.gov.uk

For more information see: <https://www.gloucester.gov.uk/media/rc5eqdx2/genealogy-services-pdf-118-kb.pdf>

Kemble

Opened: Cemetery Trust was passed to Parish Council in 1947. Land was given to church in 1882

1949-1978	Register of purchased graves	P186a/PC/31/4
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For information about the gift of land see:

1882	Burial Ground at Kemble – Conveyance of land from Miss Gordon; related declaration of trust; Counsel's opinion thereupon; correspondence	D1348/28
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Location: Church Road, behind the Lych Gate

Kingswood (Near Bitton)

Opened: 2010

No records deposited.

Location: Grimsbury Road, Kingswood, South Gloucestershire BS15 9SE

Contact Details: South Gloucestershire County Council
Tel: 01454 865831
Email: cemeteries@southglos.gov.uk

Kingswood (Near Wotton-under-Edge)

Opened: 1932

1950-1954	Notices of interment	P193a/PC/31/8
1934-1945	Interment fees: counterfoils	P193a/PC/31/9
1951-1959	Interment fees: counterfoils	P193a/PC/31/10
1944-1950	Grants of exclusive right of burial	P193a/PC/31/11
1950-1986	Grants of exclusive right of burial	P193a/PC/31/12
1933	Plan showing layout of burial ground site (Plot numbers only given, no names)	P193a/PC/31/7

Location: Hillesley Rd, Kingswood, Wotton-under-Edge GL12 8RU

Littledean

Opened: 1881

None deposited

Location: Grange Lane, Littledean

Lydney

Opened: 1955

No Registers deposited

Location: Church Road (B4231), just off A48. GL15 5EG

Mangotsfield

Opened: c 1880

1880-1909	Burial board register	P212a/PC/31/1
1909-1929	Burial board register	P212a/PC/31/2
1929-1945	Burial board register	P212a/PC/31/3
1882-1890	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/4
1890-1894	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/5
1894-1897	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/6
1897-1900	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/7
1900-1902	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/8
1902-1904	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/9
1904-1905	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/10
1905-1910	Notices of burial and interment	P212a PC 31/11
1910-1916	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/12
1916-1918	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/13
1918-1922	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/14
1922-1925	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/15
1925-1929	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/16
1929-1931	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/17
1931-1934	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/18
1934-1936	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/19
1938-1940	Notices of burial and interment	P212a/PC/31/20

Location: Westerleigh Road
Downend
South Gloucestershire
BS16 6UY

Contact Details South Gloucestershire County Council

Marshfield

Opened: 1932

1932	Plan of burial ground showing arrangements of plots; no names	P213a/PC/31/4
c.1932- c.1981	Plan of burial ground showing arrangement of plots, name of person buried there and date of burial	P213a/PC/31/5
c.1980	Plans of plot "G" giving plot numbers and surnames	P213a/PC/31/8
1930	Block plan showing location of cemetery in village	P213a/PC/31/2
1965-1972	Grants of exclusive rights of burial, 1965, 1971, 1972	P213a/PC/31/7

Location: Tormarton Road, towards Tormarton, South Gloucestershire

Contact Details: South Gloucestershire County Council
Tel: 01454 865831
Email: cemeteries@southglos.gov.uk

Mayshill, Westerleigh

Opened: 1973

No records deposited.

Location: (Off the A432 between Yate and Coalpit Heath)
Badminton Road,
Westerleigh,
South Gloucestershire,
BS36 2NS

Contact Details: South Gloucestershire County Council
Tel: 01454 865831
Email: cemeteries@southglos.gov.uk

Mile End, Coleford

Opened: c.1967

1967-1996	Burials in the cemetery of Mile End Near Coleford	GE166/149aGS – To view this item please email archives@gloucestershire.gov.uk
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Records can be searched at: https://apps.fdean.gov.uk/OnlineCemeteries_Live/

Location: Edge End Road (B4028)

Contact Details: Mile End Cemetery,
Edge End Road,
Mile End,
Coleford,
GL16 7DB

Tel: 01594 832848

Email: bereavement@fdean.gov.uk

Moreton-in-Marsh

Opened: 1867

n.d., 20th Cent	List of graves sections G and H only,	P221a/PC31/4
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Location: A44, towards Chipping Norton

Newent

Opened: 1864

1864-1881	Register of graves	P225a/PC/3/3
1864-1885	Register of burials	P225a/PC/3/4/1
1885-1912	Register of burials (Permanently Withdrawn 1992)	P225a/PC/3/5/1

Location: Watery Lane, Newent, GL18 1QG

Newland & Coleford

See [Coleford](#)

Northleach

Opened: 1888

(compiled 2002)	Record of all gravestones In older part of cemetery	GAL/K3/55186GS (on open shelves)
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Location: Near Mill View, Northleach, Cheltenham, GL54 3HJ

North Nibley

Opened: c.1895

1911-1933	Register of grants of exclusive rights of burial in graves at North Nibley Cemetery	DA26/203
c.1895	Plan of North Nibley Cemetery	DA26/701/1

Location: B4060 towards Wotton-under-Edge

Painswick

Opened: 1863

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1863-1971	Orders to defray expenses of burial 1863-1894, 1925-1971 (issued by burial board to parish overseers until 1894, then to Stroud RDC)	P244a/PC/31/1
1902-1947	Register of purchased graves	P244a/PC/31/2
1948-1964	Register of burials in burial ground	P244a/PC/31/3
1948-1967	Register of graves	P244a/PC/31/4
1964-1984	Register of burials	P244a/PC/31/5

Location: Golf Course Rd, Painswick, Stroud GL6 6RR

Sapperton

Opened: December 1940, the cemetery was created as an overflow to St. Kenelm Parish Church, Sapperton.

(1986?)	Sapperton cemetery, Transcript of monumental inscriptions.	GAL/K3/47212GS (on open shelves)
[1968]-1986	Sapperton Cemetery - includes two plans of burial ground, one plan with gravestones numbered 1985; plan and index 1986	P282/CW/3/8
(1929)	PCC minutes – includes photocopy of conveyance for additional burial ground made in 1929; plan of burial ground (n.d.)	P282/VE/2/3

Location: Off the road to Frampton Mansell (SW of Sapperton), GL7 6LH

Stow-on-the-Wold

Opened: 1856

1856-1878	Burials	P317a/PC/31/13
1894-1907	Burials	P317a/PC/31/14
1907-1924	Burials	P317a/PC/31/15
1924-1942	Burials	P317a/PC/31/16
1942-1957	Burials	P317a/PC/31/17
1856-1932	Graves	P317a/PC/31/18
1878-1933	Graves, 1878-1908	P317a/PC/31/19
1916-1953	Graves	P317a/PC/31/20
1911-1920	Deaths and burials	P317a/PC/31/21
1920-1947	Deaths and burials	P317a/PC/31/22
1948-1963	Deaths and burials	P317a/PC/31/23
1962-1970	Details of burials	P317a/PC/31/24
1897	Plan of cemetery showing grave numbers	P317a/PC/31/29

Location: Back Walls, Stow-on-the-Wold, Cheltenham, GL54 1AG

Stroud

Opened: 1855

1856-1861, 1863-1882, 1885, 1891, 1894-1908, 1912-1940	Stroud Joint Burial Committee register of graves Covers plot areas G10-N only	DA16/204/1
1857-1940	Stroud joint burial committee register of graves covering areas A1 to E12 of cemetery	DA16/204/2
1858-1940	Stroud joint burial committee register of graves covering areas E13 to G9 of cemetery	DA16/204/3
1856-1902 1903-1939 1951-1954	Notices of interment at Stroud Cemetery	DA16/205 (See catalogue)
(1867)- c.1917	List of purchased graves still to be used	DA16/209/22

Location: 2 parts, one on Bisley Road (Bisley Rd, Stroud GL5 1HJ), the other on Horns Road (GL5 1EE)

Tewkesbury

Opened: 1856

1856-1866	Register of graves	TBR/A11/9, 10
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Location: Off Gloucester Road

Contact Details: Tewkesbury Borough Council
Council Offices
Gloucester Road
Tewkesbury
GL20 5TT

Tel: 01684 295010

Email: customerservices@teewkesbury.gov.uk

There is a fee for a genealogical search of records. Please contact the council for more information.

Thornbury

Opened: 1896

1948-1972	Register of burials	DA38/204/1
1897-1907	Grants of exclusive right of burial: counterfoils of grants issued	P330a/PC/31/1
1919-1924	Grants of exclusive right of burial: counterfoils of grants issued	P330a/PC/31/2
1931-1939	Grants of exclusive right of burial: counterfoils of grants issued	P330a/PC/31/3
1957-1961	Grants of exclusive right of burial: counterfoils of grants issued	P330a/PC/31/4

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1961-1965	Grants of exclusive right of burial: counterfoils of grants issued	P330a/PC/31/5
1966-1971	Grants of exclusive right of burial: counterfoils of grants issued	P330a/PC/31/6
1971-1975	Grants of exclusive right of burial: counterfoils of grants issued	P330a/PC/31/7
1951-1975	Receipts for burial fees and upkeep of graves	P330a/PC/31/11

Location: Kington Lane, Thornbury, South Gloucestershire BS35 1NA

Westerleigh

See Mayshill, Westerleigh

Winchcombe

Opened: 1857

1926-1936	Register of burials	P368a/PC/3/2
1918-1972	Fees book	P368a/PC/31/1

Location: Greet Rd, Winchcombe, Cheltenham GL54 5JT

Wotton-under-Edge

Opened: c.1915

1920-1937	Register of burials	P379a/PC/31/1
1937-1944	Register of burials	P379a/PC/31/2
1942-1945	Register of burials (war graves) (2 entries only - Eyles 1942 & Simmonds 1945)	P379a/PC/31/3

Location: Wortley Rd, Wotton-under-Edge, GL12