

Filming in Cemeteries and Crematoriums

In modern storytelling, the occasional need for location filming inside the grounds or buildings of a cemetery or crematorium is required.

Here is our advice on this matter, which will hopefully be useful if a need for locations like this arises on your production.

Advice and Guidance

You may have scouted, or be about to scout, a cemetery or crematorium for your production. Cemeteries and crematoriums are usually managed by local authorities, in a division that is normally called **Bereavement Services** or something similar.

If you find a cemetery or crematorium that you are interested in finding out more about, please visit central government's webpage on [finding local bereavement services](#) and enter the postcode of the location. Upon clicking 'find', the page should tell you which local authority your location sits in, and there should be a click-link that takes you to that council's webpage on bereavement services.

From here, we would recommend two avenues:

1. Search for a webpage on the same local authority's website regarding 'filming', 'filming permissions' or 'filming permits'. If there is such a page, it will probably have contact details listed to further your enquiry
2. In the instance of a local authority not having a page on 'filming', which could be the case, we recommend contacting them via any other means available; possibly by calling or emailing any details you find, and asking to be put in touch with **Bereavement Services**

It is likely that whoever you might speak to will need to know the following:

- **Filming dates** - these are key, and giving as much notice as possible may help you achieve your aims. As you can imagine, schedules are a key component of the successful delivery of bereavement services in a local area. You may also need to specify any proposed prep or strike days too
- **Times** – as above, but also include and ensure clarity between arrival times, going onto camera, coming off camera and leaving times
- **Personnel** – how many people on-site, on both sides of the camera
- **Production and Action** – what production you are working on behalf of, and what part of your narrative you are shooting
- **Parking** – we recommend having an idea of where you will require parking, and suggesting this to see if it might work
- **Vehicles** – full itinerary
- **Equipment** - full itinerary
- **Vision** – what you aim to achieve and how you safely intend to do so
- **All associated documentation (RAMS, PLI, etc)**



Notes to Remember

- It is likely that your proposals will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with any scheduled burials or planned maintenance work
- There is a chance you may need to reschedule as a result of the above
- It is likely that proposals may be denied if they do not offer a healthy lead-in time
- Filming must not detract from visitor's desire for privacy, not impact too heavily on the sensitive nature of cemeteries and crematoriums
- Cast and crew should be respectful at all times, of their surroundings, and in any instances of dialogue with visitors – including recces, tech recces, prep and strike days
- Cast and crew should not interact with headstones, memorials or graves outside of agreements, in any manor
- It is likely that local authority's Bereavement Services will not permit catering stations in the grounds of any cemeteries or crematoriums
- It is likely that filming of any real headstones (and the personal info that they include) will not be allowed
- It is likely that newer burial areas will be advised as unusable
- Speed limits within cemeteries or crematoriums must be adhered to at all times
- It is likely that the production company would be liable for any damage to headstones, memorials, graves, grass verges, flower beds, buildings, and signage, plus anything else outlined by the local authority's Bereavement Services
- It is likely that leaving rubbish on site will be seen as fly-tipping and fines may be issued accordingly
- It is likely that all cast and crew will need to be familiarised with any protocols set out by the local authority's Bereavement Services, and also included on the callsheets for the shoot days

