

## Cemetery records at Wirral Archives Service

This leaflet gives an introduction to the records of the municipal cemeteries of Wirral, held on microfilm by Wirral Archives Service. These records contain information about where individuals are buried, as well as recording brief personal details.



### Wirral Archives Service

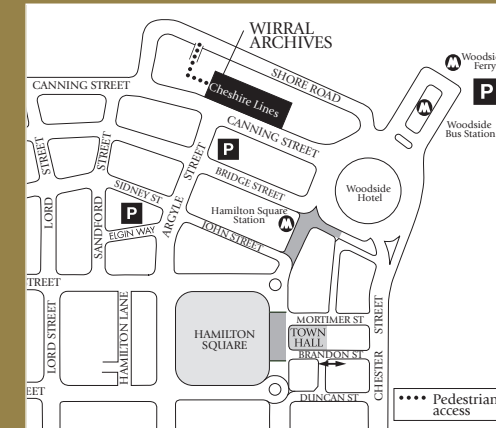
Contact Details  
Wirral Archives Service  
Cheshire Lines building  
Canning Street  
Birkenhead  
Wirral CH41 1ND  
Tel: 0151 606 2929  
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Email: [archives@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:archives@wirral.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk)  
(please go to Leisure and Culture -> Records and Archives).

### Opening hours

Monday - Friday, 9.30 - 16.30  
Saturday, 10.00 - 13.00

Please note that access to the Service is via Shore Road.



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## Cemetery records

A guide to cemetery records at Wirral Archives Service



## Brief History

Until the population growth of the nineteenth century all burials in England took place in parish churchyards, and were recorded in church burial registers (parish registers for Wirral are held at Cheshire Record Office).

From the 1820s public cemeteries began to be established, originally as commercial ventures. The first in England was the Necropolis in Liverpool, which opened in 1825. The growth in the population of Birkenhead led to the opening of the first municipal cemetery in Wirral, Flaybrick Cemetery (originally Birkenhead Cemetery), in 1864.



Other municipal cemeteries followed: Bebington Cemetery (or Town Lane Cemetery) in 1868, Wallasey Cemetery (or Rake Lane Cemetery) in 1883, and Grange Cemetery in 1923. Frankby Cemetery and Plymyard Cemetery both opened in 1940.

Landican Cemetery was opened in 1934. This was also the first crematorium for Wirral and, at the present time, is the main cemetery for Wirral.

## Cemetery records at Wirral Archives Service

Wirral municipal cemeteries are managed from Landican Cemetery Office, which is also used to store all cemetery records. Many of these records have been microfilmed and Wirral Archives Service holds a set of these microfilms for public use.

These microfilms comprise two different types of record: Burial Registers and Grave Registers.

Burial Registers are the daily record of burials in the order that they took place. To locate an individual burial you will need to know an approximate date of death as there are no surname indexes for these registers. Separate burial registers were kept for each religious denomination, i.e. Church of England, Roman Catholic and Nonconformist.

The following details can be found in burial registers:

- Date of burial
- Age
- Rank or profession
- Abode
- Mode of burial (i.e. public or private grave)
- Grave number
- By whom the ceremony was performed

Grave Registers are organised by section of cemetery and grave number and are used to record who is buried in each grave. Again, there are no surname indexes for these registers and only private graves were recorded in the grave registers.

The following details can be found in grave registers:

- Name
- Age
- Date of burial for each person interred in the grave
- Depth of each burial

(The original Grave Registers hold details of the person who initially purchased the plot: these details do not appear on the microfilms in order to protect personal privacy.)

Wirral Archives Service holds only Grave Registers for Flaybrick and Plymyard cemeteries. Please contact Landican Cemetery Office for other grave registers and records of cremations.

## List of Municipal Cemetery Records

Bebington Cemetery (Town Lane)  
Burial registers:  
Church of England (1868-1957)  
Roman Catholic (1868-1960)  
Nonconformist (1868-1969)

Eastham Cemetery (St Mary's Church)  
Burial registers:  
All sections (1889-1965)

Flaybrick Cemetery, Birkenhead  
Burial registers:  
Church of England (1864-1960)  
Roman Catholic (1864-1960)  
Nonconformist & General (1863-1959)

Grave registers:  
All sections (1863-1990)

Frankby Cemetery (Wallasey Corporation)  
Burial registers:  
Church of England (1940-1960)  
Roman Catholic (1940-1960)

Grange Cemetery  
(Hoylake and West Kirby UDC)  
Burial registers:  
All sections (1923-1974)

Landican Cemetery, Birkenhead  
Burial registers:  
Church of England (1934-1962)  
Roman Catholic (1935-1962)  
Nonconformist (1934-1963)

Plymyard Cemetery, Eastham  
(Bebington Borough)  
Burial registers:  
All sections (1940-1964)

Grave registers:  
All sections (1940-1990)  
Roman Catholic (1950-1990)

Wallasey Cemetery (Rake Lane)  
Burial registers:  
Church of England (1883-1973)  
Roman Catholic (1884-1960)  
Nonconformist & General (1883-1959)



## Records Held Elsewhere

Birkenhead Reference Library also holds municipal cemetery records on microfilm as well as microform copies of burial registers for a number of Wirral parishes. The address is:

Birkenhead Reference Library  
Borough Road, Birkenhead  
Wirral CH41 2XB  
Tel: 0151 652 6106 ext. 7  
birkenhead.ref@wirral-library.net

Landican Cemetery Office holds the records that have not been microfilmed and are therefore not listed in this leaflet. You may also wish to contact them for general enquiries concerning the municipal cemeteries of Wirral. The address is:

Landican Cemetery Office  
Arrowe Park Road, Birkenhead  
Wirral CH49 5LW  
Tel: 0151 677 2361