

## REGULATIONS FOR USE

All visitors are asked to comply with our Terms and Conditions for the burial ground which have been set out to ensure that the ethos of a natural burial is maintained.

With these Terms and Conditions in place we will endeavour to create a natural and peaceful environment for the deceased and those who mourn them.

- All visitors to the burial ground are requested to give due consideration, privacy and respect to any funeral, memorial ceremonies or services taking place at the time. It is requested that mobile phones be switched off or kept on silent out of respect to others.
- In harmony with the aims of a natural burial ground, no gardening of burial plots or planting will be allowed. This includes grass cutting or removal of turf on or around graves or trees.
- No ornaments, toys, photographs or other memorials may be placed upon graves, with the exception of stone plaques provided by our specified supplier.
- Containers such as vases, pots, bottles or baskets are not permitted.
- NO artificial flowers or similar are to be left. To preserve the natural appearance no items such as flower pots, wind chimes, wooden crosses, pebbles, garden ornaments, ribbons, flower containers, photos, soft toys etc. are to be placed on graves or hung in trees. We reserve the right to remove anything found on the Site that is deemed inappropriate to the ethos and aims of a natural burial ground. Our manager will endeavour to contact you to inform you that any items removed will be held for a period of one month for you to collect, or will be disposed of after that time.
- Whilst we do appreciate that families may feel the need to bring their loved one flowers, please consider just picking one or two from your garden. If you bring bunches of flowers all wrappings must be taken away and dead flowers cleared.
- The picking, cutting or pruning of flowers, shrubs and trees is prohibited. Only the Estate or those employed by the Estate are permitted to carry out planting, pruning etc. Visitors may not plant bulbs, flowers, shrubs or grasses on the plots. No seed may be scattered on the burial ground unless approved by the Estate. Many seeds sold commercially as 'wild' or 'woodland' have inappropriate species within the mixture or come from abroad. Construction or maintenance of "flower beds" is not permitted. Visitors are requested to strictly adhere to this rule which, is solely to preserve the natural species and the appearance of the landscape. Anything which is planted and not considered to be appropriate will be removed.
- No naturally germinated seedlings apart from bramble, thistle and nettle may be weeded from the plots.
- *Please note that the defacing of trees can cause serious damage to the growth of the tree and you are not permitted to mark the trees in any way.*
- In order to provide for a more natural environment, the Site will be mowed at the discretion of the Estate. Paths will be mowed on a more regular basis allowing visitors access to the various burial areas within the site.
- Litter is to be disposed of in the litter bin provided in the Car Park.
- Dogs are permitted but they MUST be on a short lead at all times even in the car park. NO dog fouling. Please ensure you have bags with you and that you clear up after your dog.
- Children under 16 years of age are not allowed on the site without an accompanying adult.
- No ball games or electronic games that emit noise are allowed on any part of the Site.

- Amplified music is prohibited at the Site except by permission of the management of the DHNBG. Acoustic instruments may be played only when they will not disturb other visitors, ceremonies or services.
- No camping or overnight stays are permitted on any part of the Site, including the car park.
- Visitors must not unnecessarily disturb the wildlife.

## Grave Plots and Burials

1. **Burials and coffins:** only one body may be interred in one grave.
2. The burial of pets and other animals is not permitted.
3. Each full grave plot measures 3m x 1.5m and can accommodate one coffin, or four cremated remains only. Cremated remains may also be interred together with the planting of a memorial tree.
4. When purchasing in advance, it is possible to allocate whether a grave plot is to be in the meadow or woodland areas. Family plots, or groups of graves bought in advance, are available.
5. Only fully biodegradable and environmentally-friendly coffins may be used. These include coffins made of wicker, bamboo, softwood, recycled paper (papier-mâché) and recycled board. Shrouds, ideally in natural fibres, are also acceptable. All burial or interment vessels including fixtures, fittings, liners and pillows must be of biodegradable construction; the Estate can provide details of suitable suppliers. Coffins made of veneered chipboard or MDF are banned as are coffins made from tropical hardwoods, even those from assumed sustainable sources.
6. Personal possessions may be interred with the body but must be of biodegradable materials.
7. A body that has been embalmed, or otherwise treated with noxious and toxic chemicals, cannot be interred at the Site
8. The ONLY exception to point 7 is that of repatriated bodies and with prior consent of the Estate.
9. Interments cannot take place at the Site until the death has been legally registered and the appropriate documentation received by the Estate at least 48 hours in advance of the interment.
10. Cremated remains may not be scattered at the Site. Allowing this practice would alter the chemical balances needed to support the nature reserve.
11. Cremated remains must be interred in biodegradable caskets or boxes, or poured directly into the grave plot. Plastic urns provided by some crematoria are not biodegradable and therefore cannot be interred.
12. Flower offerings and other tributes may be placed on graves at the time of a funeral or memorial ceremonies and services. These will be removed after five days (or when deemed appropriate by the management) in order to ensure that any non-biodegradable matter is taken from the Site and natural ground cover is allowed to develop.
13. Trees acquired as living memorials in the woodland area of the Site are guaranteed for 5 years; if a tree dies during that period, it will be replaced at the appropriate season. After that time, the woodland will begin to develop naturally, and will be managed by the Estate in accordance with good silvicultural practice. As some trees grow more vigorously than others, the management encourages an understanding that the woodland *as a whole* is the lasting memorial.

## Notes

All vehicles must be parked in the car park but are left at the owner's risk.

Children are of course welcome, please ensure they are accompanied by an adult and that they behave respectfully, especially as there could be newly bereaved visiting.

DHNBG is available to all faiths religions or beliefs. The land is not consecrated but families are welcome to make their own arrangements to have individual graves blessed if desired.

## Opening times and visitor access to the site

**Pedestrian access** is available 365 days a year at any time. Please note however that at certain times access to individual graves may be restricted, for instance when an adjacent grave is being dug, but any disturbance will be kept to a minimum.

The Estate reserves the right to close all or part of the site at any time and without prior notice in the interest of public safety.

Please note that currently there are no facilities at the site.

## Health & Safety

Typical hazards that might be encountered at the burial ground are uneven ground, muddy conditions, open grave excavation, and vehicle movements. You should be aware of these and take extra care to avoid tripping, slipping or falling.

Those bearing the coffin need also take particular care. If you have engaged a funeral director, they will supervise the funeral and guide any inexperienced bearers.

We would advise that you visit beforehand to assess conditions and to discuss your proposals and any special requirements with our manager.

Visitors should recognise that they need to take care on uneven and possibly muddy or slippery ground; suitable footwear such as sturdy shoes, walking or Wellington boots should be worn. Please use common sense and avoid the woodland in storms or periods of high winds.

## Miscellaneous

A new price list will be published annually, but the Estate reserves its right to amend fees more frequently if necessary. These Regulations are subject to change without notice.

Visitors to the Site must comply with the Criminal Damages Act 1971, Article 1, Section 1. (see notes below).

### Criminal Damages Act, 1971 Article 1, Section 1

A person who without lawful excuse destroys or damages any property belonging to another intending to destroy or damage any such property or being reckless as to whether any such property would be destroyed or damaged shall be guilty of an offence.

These Regulations may, from time to time, be altered according to need, and such alterations may be carried out at the discretion of the management.