

MEMORIAL INFORMATION

MEMORIALS

Please Note:

The Town Council does not take any responsibility for loss, damage or theft to memorials. It is advisable to insure a memorial against accidental damage and vandalism.

All memorials have to be authorised. Any unauthorised or authorised Memorial not compliant will be removed at the Memorial Masons expense and the Applicant will be notified.

Ornaments: The use of fencing, glass and plastic ornament is not permitted in the Cemeteries due to the possible damage to them and for the safety for the maintenance personnel.

Unauthorised benches are also not permitted.

FORDINGTON CEMETERY
KING'S ROAD
DORCHESTER
DORSET DT1 1LB

DORCHESTER CEMETERY
31 WEYMOUTH AVENUE
DORCHESTER
DORSET DT1 2EN

POUNDBURY CEMETERY
POUNDBURY ROAD
DORCHESTER
DORSET DT1 2PW



19 North Square
Dorchester
Dorset
DT1 1JF

Email: j.hollings@dorchester-tc.gov.uk
www.dorchester-tc.gov.uk

EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL INFORMATION



Tel: 01305 266861

INFORMATION

What are 'Exclusive Rights of Burial'?

Legally you can purchase the 'Exclusive Right of Burial' in a grave, for a period not exceeding 100 years.

Purchasing the 'Exclusive Rights of Burial' means that the grave may not be reopened and no one may be buried there or install a memorial without your permission.

In Dorchester you may initially purchase this right for fifty years. At the end of this time you may extend the right in twenty five year intervals, for which further fees are payable. After the rights have lapsed the grave ownership reverts to Dorchester Town Council and we may reuse or resell any unused grave.

What happens if the owner of these rights dies?

If the owner of the Exclusive Rights dies, it is assumed that they give permission to have themselves interred in their grave. After this time the Rights become part of their estate and may be left in a will to someone else. If the Rights are not specifically mentioned in the will, they will form part of the 'residue' of the will, usually willed as 'and all my other worldly goods' at the end of the will. Whoever inherits the Rights will need to contact our office and arrange a transfer of ownership before the grave can be opened again. As paperwork can go missing it is best to do this as soon as possible after inheriting the Rights, a small fee will apply.

Can I transfer the ownership to someone else?

Yes, simply contact us and we will send you a form.

Can two people own these Rights?

Ordinarily we will only grant Exclusive Rights to an individual, as ownership by more than one person can cause legal problems that may result in delays. Occasionally Rights may be left to two or more people in a will, in this case, one person will have to be chosen as the owner and the others must renounce their ownership (we have a form for this).

Can I reserve a grave ahead of time?

Yes, you may purchase Exclusive Rights of Burial for a grave or ashes plot at any time in Poundbury Cemetery. The plot will be allocated next in line.

Fordington Cemetery and Dorchester Cemetery are closed cemeteries and only have Ashes Plots available.

What if the Deed to the Rights goes missing?

If you are the registered owner of the Rights we will send you an official letter to confirm this. If you are entitled to be the owner through inheritance, we will guide you through the correct transfer procedure and then issue a letter stating your position.

Capacity of Grave

Unless specified, a private grave will normally hold two adult interments or two ashes caskets, but no absolute guarantee can be given. The reason being, conditions vary from time to time and from place to place in a cemetery and there are other variable factors that can affect the capacity of a grave. The capacity is not affected by the burial of small caskets containing cremated remains.

Please note that when a grave is re-opened for another interment to take place, the soil from this grave may be placed on the adjacent graves. The inconvenience to people visiting these graves is unavoidable but temporary. Staff will place a soil box on the nearby graves to protect them and to protect memorials.

What are Monumental Rights?

All memorials are the sole responsibility of the Grant of Exclusive Right purchaser. The Town Council will periodically inspect the cemetery to determine the condition of memorials. Any memorial classified as unsafe will be reported to the purchaser in order for them to arrange repair, with permission to be sought from us for the works to be carried out. In the interim, the memorial will either be supported or laid down to avoid any possible accident or injury. This will be made safe without prior notification. Permission must be sought for the erection of a memorial, or to add an inscription. Only the Exclusive Right purchaser may apply for this.

What if I inherit the Rights to a grave that I do not wish to maintain?

You may surrender the Rights to the Council at any time. Simply put this in writing and return the deed(s) to us if you have them. If the grave is in Poundbury Cemetery and is empty we will be able to refund the original purchase price less an administration cost.

Please Note:

As owner of the Rights to a grave you are responsible for informing the Council of any change of address. If a problem occurs with the grave or the monument and we cannot contact you, we have the right to take whatever action is necessary to rectify the problem.

Interments

Please note that it is Council Policy that plots are given out by us, and will be the next one in sequence on the cemetery map. This means it will be allocated at the time when it is needed.