



# Wimborne Cemetery Regulations



1. The Cemetery is managed by Wimborne Minster Town Council (the Council) and is open to visitors daily between 9am to 5pm and 9am to 8pm during British Summer Time (late March to late October).
2. Unaccompanied minors (under 16) are not permitted except to visit graves.
3. No dogs (except assistance dogs) or horses (except as part of a funeral procession) are permitted in the Cemetery.
4. A speed limit of 10mph applies to all vehicles.
5. It is prohibited to:
  - damage or deface Cemetery property, memorials, or graves.
  - engage in disruptive activities, including playing games or sports, creating disturbances, interfering with funerals or mourners.
  - discharge firearms (except during military funerals).Anyone engaging in these prohibited actions will be subject to prosecution under applicable laws.
6. A digital register of all burials, interments and scatterings in the Cemetery is maintained by the Council. The Council can carry out searches of burial records upon request. Charges may apply.
7. All burials and interments must be booked through the Council offices (The Town Hall, 37 West Borough, Wimborne, BH21 1LT Monday to Friday 9.30am to 1pm, 01202 881655, cemeterymanager@wimborne.gov.uk) giving at least two working days' notice. All fees and charges must be paid in advance to the Council.
8. Interments may take place between 10am and 3pm Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays).
9. All graves must be excavated and backfilled by Council staff or authorised contractors. After a coffin burial, the backfilled grave will be left with a raised mound of earth to compensate for the natural settling that occurs as the freshly excavated soil gradually compacts to its original state. The Cemetery is a lawn cemetery, meaning all graves have flat, grass-covered surfaces. Planting any plants, trees, or shrubs on graves is not allowed.
10. Fresh or artificial flowers may be placed on graves at any time and will be removed when dead or unsightly, at the discretion of Cemetery staff. For graves, flowers should be placed in containers that are part of the memorial or on the memorial base. For cremation plots, they should be placed directly on the memorial. Flowers or containers must not be placed along the plot, as this obstructs grass maintenance. Glass containers are prohibited due to the risk of shattering and endangering visitors, staff and contractors.
11. Cemetery staff will remove all Christmas decorations, including wreaths and related items from graves, starting on or after 7 February each year. Visitors are encouraged to collect any items they wish to keep before this date.
12. No memorial may be erected in the Cemetery without the prior consent of an officer on behalf of the Council and payment of the required fee. Lawn memorials must be made of natural stone and must not exceed 3 feet in height, 3 feet in width, and 18 inches in depth.
13. All new memorials must have the grave number and the memorial mason's name engraved on the back, using letters and numbers no taller than ¾ inch.
14. Lawn memorials cannot be installed on full-size burial plots until 12 months after a burial, even if the memorial has already been approved. This waiting period allows the ground to compact and helps prevent subsidence.
15. Kerbing, fencing, or any form of marking the entire grave space is not permitted. Each grave may only have one memorial, which must be positioned at the head of the grave in the centre of the plot. Wooden crosses are allowed temporarily, for a maximum of 12 months.
16. In sections designated for the interment of cremated remains (our Gardens of Remembrance), only memorial tablets are allowed. These tablets must be made of natural stone and may not exceed 2 feet by 2 feet in size, with a maximum height of 9 inches.
17. Memorial permit applications for new memorials or additional inscriptions must be made on the official form provided by the Council for approval.
18. Only coffins, caskets, or urns made from biodegradable material are allowed to be buried or interred in graves. The scattering of ashes is permitted but requires an application, payment of fees, and must be supervised by Council staff.
19. Human remains may only be removed with an Exhumation Licence from the Ministry of Justice or the relevant Statutory Authority.
20. No grave in which the Exclusive Right of Burial has been purchased shall be opened without the written consent of the registered owner(s) of the Exclusive Right of Burial on the appropriate section of the Interment Notice, unless the deceased being buried in the grave is an owner.
21. Memorials may only be removed and installed at the expense of the grave owner by a stonemason or fixer registered with the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM) or the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) and in accordance with British Standards 8415:2018 and any subsequent changes thereof. Once removed, a kerbstone cannot be replaced or reinstalled.
22. It is the responsibility of the grave owner(s) to ensure their memorial is kept in good repair. The Council reserves the right to take reversible action, including laying a memorial flat on the grave space, which are in a dilapidated or unsafe condition.
23. No tree, shrub, or plant shall be planted in, or removed from, the Cemetery without permission of the Council.
24. The Council cannot be held responsible for any damage to memorials or personal property taken into the Cemetery.
25. The Council reserve the right to make alterations to the foregoing regulations without notice.