



## Regulations

Alne Wood is intended to be a place of peace to remember loved ones in a way which also protects our future by allowing nature to thrive and encourages biodiversity.

The burial ground is set within the tranquil woodland mosaic owned, preserved and maintained by Heart of England Forest (Charity Number 1097110). Alne Wood Park Natural Burial Ground is operated under agreement with Heart of England Forest by Dorsington Farms Ltd. (company number 03137843) which is wholly owned and operated by the Heart of England Forest. All profits made from operating Alne Wood Park goes directly to supporting the charity. Longer term, once all plots have been allocated the site will continue to be owned by the Heart of England Forest as part of its commitment to planting and maintaining 30,000 acres of native broadleaf trees in the Midlands.

Dorsington Farms Ltd. is dedicated to providing a burial ground, memorials and services to care for both the bereaved and the environment. The burial ground is, therefore, managed in such a way as to promote the natural environment and limit human impact on the site. As such, management of these burial grounds is by "light touch" and, with the exception of paths it will be left to nature.

We hope that you and your loved ones will value being a part of preserving this special place and request that you respect the nature of the Alne Wood Park by following these site regulations (the "**Regulations**").

In these Regulations, Alne Wood Park burial ground is referred to as the "**Site**" and Alne Wood Park Limited is referred to as "**we**", "**us**" or "**our**".

### *Your plot*

1. Any purchase of a plot (or plots) is for the exclusive right of burial within that plot only. Buying a plot does not provide ownership of the land the plot lies on, or any other rights in that regard. There is no exchange of ownership of the plot(s). For plots purchased in advance while it remains unused, there is a 365-day period from the date of issue in which the licence holder can change their mind and receive a refund less a 20% administration charge.

2. Where a plot is purchased in advance, a licence will be issued which is valid for a period of 20 years. If the plot has not been used after this 20-year period has elapsed, we will send a letter of notification to the last known address of the person named on the licence to ask whether the grave plot is still required. If the plot is still required, we will reissue the licence for no further charge. However, if we do not receive a response within a reasonable period of having issued such letter, we will assume that the plot is no longer required and may offer it to another party. It is important therefore, that you inform us of any change in address, in writing, so that we can amend our records accordingly.
3. Your exclusive right of burial on the Site is granted for a period of 99 years. After this period has elapsed a letter of notification will be sent to the last known address of the person named on the application form. It is important therefore, that you inform us of any change in address, in writing, so that we can amend our records accordingly.
4. Once your exclusive right of burial has expired, the ownership reverts to us. No further burials can take place unless or until the grave is purchased again. We cannot guarantee that a further sale will be offered.
5. The location of the plot may only be chosen from those available and currently being offered for sale.
6. The location of all plots/graves are effectively marked by us using appropriate technology, with records being kept by us. In accordance with the law a Burial Register is maintained by the site which can be publicly accessed by prior arrangement.
7. Only human remains may be interred the Site. The burial of pets and other animals is not permitted.

### *Burials*

8. We are only able to accept interments which use biodegradable coffins, caskets (without plastic or metal furniture) or shrouds made from natural fibres. Cremated remains may also be interred directly to the earth as well as in biodegradable urns and caskets. Scattering of ashes is not permitted anywhere in the Site as this can negatively affect biodiversity. Only biodegradable clothing must be used to clothe the deceased and any personal effects placed within the coffin/casket must also be biodegradable. Please do get in touch if you have any queries about what is or might be acceptable.

9. For environmental reasons the deceased may not be embalmed (also known as hygienic treatment) prior to the burial. However, in exceptional circumstances we may give our approval for environmentally friendly products to be used (e.g. to enable repatriation). This is at our absolute discretion as knowledge of environmental impacts continues to evolve.
10. A simple plaque, purchased from us, may be used as a memorial. No other marker may be used. It must be noted that plaques may have slight variations in style and/or colour and may have apparent marks or imperfections. Such variations are typical of natural materials and have no impact upon the quality of the memorial. The available memorialisation options are subject to review and as such are not guaranteed as part of a plot purchase agreement.
11. No burial can be conducted until the appropriate paperwork is received, including the Registrars Certificate, Coroners Order or certificate of cremation confirming that burial can take place. Without these and without exception a funeral will be unavoidably delayed. All grave excavations will be conducted by one of our employees or one of our approved contractors. One of our representatives, by law, must be present at every interment conducted at the Site. Interments may only take place once we have agreed a date and time with you.
12. No exhumation will be permitted unless the appropriate application has been submitted and legal documentation authorising the exhumation received (see section 25 of the Burial Act, 1957).
13. We reserve the right to refuse a burial if the above conditions are not met.

### *Visiting the Site*

14. The Site is available to visit during the opening hours listed on the website although staff are not always present during these hours. To enable this, a code to the lock on the gate is provided to families to allow them to enter the site. This is periodically changed and the updated code communicated via email to the burial rights holder. An appointment can be arranged to meet staff on site by contacting us directly.
15. No camping or overnight stays are permitted on any part of the Site.
16. Whilst children are very welcome at the Site, children under the age of 16 must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.
17. Please be respectful of others attending the Site. We ask that you avoid activities which may cause offence or affect other visitors' peaceful enjoyment. Examples

of this would include, but not be limited to, playing loud music or instruments. Exceptions may be made for burial ceremonies being conducted on the site but should be discussed with and approved by Site management prior to the event.

18. Guide dogs and well-behaved dogs that are kept on a lead are allowed in the burial ground. Any fouling must immediately be cleared up and removed. Dogs must be kept to paths only and we ask that every effort is made to ensure they do not walk on graves.
19. Please park any motor vehicles in the car park provided and be considerate of other visitors. Other than by prior arrangement vehicles are not allowed on the track in the burial area itself.
20. All litter must be removed from the Site or placed in bins provided if litter cannot be taken with you.
21. Sunbathing, recreational play, ball games or other activities that may have a negative impact upon visitors to the Site or which are not respectful to the Site or the environment are not permitted.
22. We request that you do not consume alcohol on the Site. In certain circumstances, we may approve alcohol being consumed as part of a toast at the time of burial or at a picnic during or after a funeral service. In such a case please be considerate of other visitors to the burial ground and the environment.
23. Due to the potential danger for wildfire both on the site and in the semi-ancient woodland surrounding it, no fires or other activities/ objects involving naked flames are permitted on the Site at any time. This includes but is not limited to paper lanterns, fireworks and candles.
24. You are welcome to take photographs and videos at the Site, but please do respect the privacy and dignity of others at the burial ground at all times. Please do not take any photograph or image of any other visitor without their permission.

### *Managing your plot*

25. Floral tributes and flowers placed on graves must not be wrapped in cellophane, tied with florist ribbon, in oasis (florist foam), or plastic trays, as these items are not compostable. Cut flowers are welcome, tied with natural twine or other compostable fibre. Floral tributes and flowers placed on graves will be removed after they are no longer in bloom. Vases and other containers cannot be placed on or sunken into plots and any non-compostable objects are strictly forbidden

as they pose a threat to wildlife, this includes but is not limited to toys, balloons and ornaments.

26. The integrity of the natural burial ground, the environment and local wildlife are paramount. Graves may not be personalised with markers, monuments, vases, statues, stones, fences, or other such items. It is also not allowed to cut flowers or foliage around the grave. We reserve the right to remove unauthorised items and/or manage, re-seed or plant a grave if it is not in keeping with the Site aims.
27. Only wildflower seeds supplied by Alne Wood Park may be scattered or planted, to ensure that they are native to the Site. This is extremely important as the semi-ancient woodland that surrounds the Site contains protected and vulnerable species that could easily be negatively impacted by planting unsuitable seeds, flowers, or bulbs.
28. It is not permitted to prune trim, lop, stunt, fell, uproot, chemically treat or otherwise interfere with trees, plants, grass, shrubs or flowers on the Site. If you see something that requires maintenance, please contact Site management through the contact details on the website.
29. We do not allow the planting of memorial trees on a grave as this density of planting is not in-line with the long-term sustainable development of woodland on the Site. There is some limited availability for families to dedicate a tree in other areas of the burial ground at a fee and by arrangement with management.
30. Once an area of the Site has been fully used then managed tree planting will be put in place based on the long-term woodland growth plan for the Site.
31. Please note that we cannot be responsible for damage or loss to any items placed upon graves or in any area of the burial ground.

#### *Our management of the Site*

32. Whilst efforts will be made to keep soil away from graves, please understand that on occasions when neighbouring graves are excavated, spoil from that grave may temporarily cover other graves. Every effort will be made to minimise this, reduce the time any such action is required, and to make good all graves once the interment is complete. Graves may from time to time also be "topped up" by us if required or deemed appropriate. Once settled grave sites will either be left to seed naturally or may be planted by us with an appropriate wildflower mix.
33. Other than access paths, the Site will, in the main, be left to nature throughout the year. Accordingly, areas may be overgrown with plants, flowers and grasses

as nature intends, this allows biodiversity to thrive. Whilst some plants may be considered weeds by gardeners, they remain beneficial to nature and the environment, therefore they are welcomed. The Site will be sympathetically mowed at the end of the growing season.

34. As an area left to nature, the burial grounds may have uneven and overgrown paths, and there may be various natural hazards. In addition the Site is situated on a hill so some areas may be challenging to access. Paths can also become damaged and/or challenging due to weather conditions or wildlife. Suitable clothing and footwear for weather and ground conditions is recommended both for general visits and also burial ceremonies. Save in respect of any liability that we cannot legally limit or exclude, we cannot accept any liability for accidents, injury, or damage to any visitor to the burial grounds or cars entering, leaving, or parking at the Site.

#### *Other*

35. Please inform us by telephone on 01789 400 203 or by email: [info@alnewoodpark.co.uk](mailto:info@alnewoodpark.co.uk) if you are aware of any issue or concern regarding the Site.
36. We ask that complaints are initially directed to site management by contacting us directly. These can be further escalated if needed to the Estates Manager/Chief Operating Officer of the Heart of England Forest and ultimately the board of trustees if required, whose decision will be final.
37. We reserve the right to amend these Regulations at any time if appropriate. A copy of these Regulations shall be available to read on each burial ground noticeboard and on our website <http://www.alnewoodpark.co.uk> Paper copies are also available upon request from our head office.
38. Adherence to these Regulations is essential to maintaining the integrity of the natural burial grounds and to ensure nature can thrive. Accordingly, it is our duty to enforce the above regulations without notice if necessary.
39. Our team are here to help protect the environment and provide the most appropriate, natural burial ground for those in our care to rest in peace and for visitors to remember in peace and tranquillity. As such, our team must be respected and inappropriate words or behaviour towards them, or about them to others, is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

[April 2025]