



Ibworth Woodlands Terms and Conditions

This burial ground is managed by Kingsclere Estates Ltd. The following regulations are made to enable the company to shape and preserve a natural area for the benefit of nature and for future generation of visitors. They are essential to combine a proper respect for the dead with a suitable management and planting programme in order to create an area that is peaceful, pleasant and ecologically rich. A fitting memorial to those buried here.

The trustees ask sincerely that all visitors treat the burial ground with care and respect so that it may become a place for quiet, personal reflection.

These regulations apply to the cemetery known as Ibworth Woodlands Burial Ground.

Terms and Conditions Regarding the Funerals

Bodies should not be embalmed, i.e. be free of litres of toxic chemicals; sometimes called hygienic treatment. Good funeral directors will have refrigerated facilities and this process is not necessary or required by law even if you wish to visit or view the deceased.

All coffins and their linings should be sustainably produced from natural, biodegradable materials. These coffins and shrouds are quite mainstream these days and all good funeral directors can source them.

No grave goods should be buried that will release toxins into the soil, batteries for example.

The body should be clothed in natural fibres and wrapped in degradable cloth.

No body shall be buried unless the death has been registered and the correct documentation has been supplied.

No cremated remains shall be buried without the permission of the manager. The scattering of ashes is NOT permitted under any circumstances.

The purchase of a burial plot is for the right of burial in the plot only and does not confer ownership of the ground or any other rights.

If you purchase a plot in advance you will be given a Right of Burial Certificate.

Advance burial plot purchases are not plot specific. Neighbouring plots are not guaranteed if you are purchasing more than one. All burials are single depth.

These reserved plots will be available for a maximum of 20 years and may not be transferred. Application must be made to extend this period, if required, after the initial period is elapsed free of charge. Of course, if you move home you also need to notify us.

We appreciate that sometimes situations change. If you move far away or emigrate, we will refund the original purchase price minus an administration charge, currently £100. If you change your mind, there is a 28 day cooling off period.

All excavations of graves and other works are carried out by contractors on behalf of Kingsclere Estates Ltd. It is possible for families to backfill a grave themselves under the supervision of Kingsclere Estates Ltd.

If you are unsure about anything, please have a chat with our staff on 01256 850221.

No remains shall be removed from any grave in the burial ground, once interred, without a licence from the secretary of State under section 25 of the burial act 1857.

General Care and Behaviour

No seed may be scattered on the burial ground unless approved by the company. Many seeds sold commercially as wildflower or woodland mixtures have inappropriate species or hybrids within them or come from abroad.

Picking of flowers or shrubs or the unauthorised planting of any flowers or shrubs is prohibited because it will prevent the regeneration of a natural landscape. Non-native species will be removed. Construction or maintenance of flower beds is not permitted and no soil, peat or compost may be imported to the site.

No naturally germinated seedlings apart from bramble, thistle, nettle and ragwort may be removed from plots. Visitors should take appropriate measures to prevent injury or poisoning from plants.

Memorial trees are planted on organised days in the early spring. Families who have arranged a funeral in the preceding year are invited to choose a tree species and attend these days. If nobody is able to attend we will plant a tree on your behalf. Only trees sourced and supplied by us can be planted here.

All visitors shall behave in a law abiding and appropriate manner.

Mobile phones should be turned to silent. No amplified music should be played except during funeral services.

Children must be supervised at all times.

Dogs must be kept on leads at all times. This is especially important as we are encouraging rare ground nesting birds to breed here. The burial ground is criss-crossed by a network of permanent pathways. Some species are very sensitive to disturbance, please use the paths at all times.

Litter bins are not provided as we expect visitors to take their litter home, this includes any inappropriate plastic wrapping or fixings to floral tributes that extended family or friends may have unwittingly left on graves.

No grazing animals are allowed unless introduced by the management for conservation purposes.

The burial ground is being redeveloped to encourage a natural landscape therefore the erection of any monuments, markers, crosses, kerbs, fence or railing will not be permitted. Any memorials erected will be removed. This was a condition when gaining our planning permission.

The placing of bird-boxes or seating is only permitted with the strictest guidance and according to availability. Vases sunk discreetly into the soil can drown small animals and will be removed.

Although the greatest care is taken to safeguard the well-being of all the trees, some will fail to thrive and others will need management, including coppicing. We reserve the right to carry out any remedial work.

Only loose cut flowers should be placed on the graves. No plastic packaging should be left and bunches of flowers may not be tied to trees or guards. Nor can any decorative items be hung from trees.

The site is regularly monitored by staff.

Updates to these regulations

We reserve the right to amend, add, remove or change the content of these regulations over time, as circumstances dictate.