



**TRIMDON FOUNDRY
PARISH COUNCIL**



Guide to Exclusive Rights at Deaf Hill Cemetery

When you buy the exclusive right of burial for a grave plot, this gives you:

- The right to say who can be buried in the plot;
- The right to be buried in the plot yourself, and
- The right to have a memorial installed, and to have this updated as appropriate. Memorials must comply with the Deaf Hill Cemetery Policy, and the holder of the Exclusive Right is responsible for ensuring that all family members and others observe the rules. Most importantly:
 - The memorial must be made of stone, unless permission for another material is granted in advance by the Parish Council;
 - The memorial must not be more than 1 metre high at any point;
 - To enable the cemetery grass to be cut, no kerb stones or surface materials such as pebbles or gravel may be placed on the grave;
 - For safety reasons, no glass items may be placed on the grave.
- The Parish Council may remove any items on graves that do not comply with the rules.

Although you will own these rights over the plot, Trimdon Foundry Parish Council is still the owner of the land itself.

How Much Does It Cost?

Please see current Cemetery Fees and Charges.

Can I reserve a grave ahead of time and how long does the right last?

Grave plot rights can be purchased at any time for future use. They last for 99 years, after which they can be renewed

Can more than one person own the right?

Two or more people can share ownership of the right of burial. Please remember that all owners must agree before a grave can be opened for a burial, or a memorial placed or altered.

As all grave owners have a legal right to be buried in the grave, there is a practical limit on their number. No more than one full burial plus four sets of cremated remains can be interred in a single regular plot, or two sets of cremated remains in a small 'ashes only' plot. When there are multiple owners and one dies, the rights are shared by the remaining owners. Only the last surviving owner can pass on the rights at death.

What happens when the sole owner of the right dies?

After the death of a sole or last owner, the right becomes part of their estate and can be assigned by their executor to someone else. The executor should contact us to arrange a legal transfer of ownership before the grave can be opened again, or any memorial installed or altered.

If you are the owner of the right to a grave, we advise you to make provision for the right in your will. Where there is no probate, we can allow transfer by statutory declaration.

Can I transfer ownership of the exclusive right of burial to someone else?

Yes. Please contact us and we will send you a form. A fee will be charged for the transfer, as stated in current Cemetery Fees and Charges.

The owner of the right died years ago, and the family want to reuse the grave.

Contact us and we will work out how to transfer ownership. You may need to show us the grant of probate or a copy of the will if you have it. If you do not have documentation, you will need to make a statutory declaration in front of a solicitor. Ownership is the family's responsibility and we cannot legally accept a booking for a burial without a legal owner. This means you should contact us as soon as possible after the owner of the right has died - don't wait until you need to arrange a further funeral.

What if the deed to the exclusive right of burial goes missing?

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

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

You may surrender the right to at any time. Please write to us stating that you wish to surrender the right and enclose the deed if you have it. Please note that the grave may then be used for interment of an unrelated person, even if there is an existing burial and memorial in the plot. You will also remain liable for the cost of any work needed to maintain the memorial in a safe condition.

Please inform us of any change of address

The owner of the right to a grave is responsible for informing the Parish Council of any change of address. If a problem occurs with the grave or memorial and we cannot contact you, we have the right to take whatever action is necessary to put the problem right. If this involves a cost to the Council, we may ask you to pay this before we allow any further burials in your grave.