

Burial Regulations

Cemeteries Registrar, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW
Phone: 01227 862 490 Fax: 01227 862 020
www.canterbury.gov.uk
DX 99713 CANTERBURY-3 Minicom: 01227 781 313



Burial Regulations

for Canterbury Herne Bay and Whitstable

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Canterbury City Council has three cemeteries to serve the community within the administrative area. These are:

Canterbury Cemetery	off Westgate Court Avenue, Canterbury
Herne Bay Cemetery	Canterbury Road, Herne, Herne Bay
Whitstable Cemetery	Millstrood Road, Whitstable

All administration in connection with cemeteries matters is done from the Cemeteries Office, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW, phone 01227 **862 490**.

The Cemeteries Registrar is always pleased to advise on any matters concerning the cemeteries.

The city council seeks excellence in the provision of all of its services to the public.

If you have any complaint about the standard of service in the cemeteries, please put your complaint in writing to the:

Environmental Services Manager
Canterbury City Council
Military Road
CANTERBURY
CT1 1YW

Details of current fees for cemeteries services can be obtained from the cemeteries office. All remittances should be made payable to Canterbury City Council.

City of Canterbury Cemeteries

Burial Regulations

1.1 These regulations shall apply to the council's cemeteries at

Canterbury
Herne Bay
Whitstable

and any burial ground or cemetery for the time being owned, provided or maintained by the council and in these regulations these are referred to as 'the cemetery' or 'the cemeteries'.

1.2 In these regulations the following expressions shall have the meanings hereby assigned to them:

'the council' means the Canterbury City Council;

'LACO' means the Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977;

'purchased grave' means a grave in respect of which a grant of exclusive right of burial has been granted;

'the Cemeteries Registrar' means the office appointed by the council for the management of the cemeteries.

2.1 The cemeteries are open to pedestrians throughout the hours of daylight. Vehicular access is available during daylight hours but may be restricted when funerals are taking place.

3. Arrangements for interments

3.1 No interment shall take place on Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Day, Good Friday or bank holidays except with the consent of the Cemeteries Registrar who shall give due consideration to the circumstances of the request or; unless it be shown by the production of a medical certificate from the Community Health Physician that the body cannot, on grounds of public health, be kept until the next day permitted for interments.

3.2 Prior telephone booking to the cemeteries office is required for every interment and this must be confirmed in writing on the Notice of Interment which must be delivered to the Cemeteries Registrar, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW so that it is received at least two clear working days before the time agreed for the funeral to take place.

- 3.3 These periods of notice shall exclude Saturdays, Sundays or any public holiday applicable to England and any other days when the council's offices are closed for the transaction of business.

The cemeteries office is open for the receipt of Notices of Interment between the hours of 9.30am and 4pm Mondays to Fridays.

- 3.4 Before a burial can take place one of the documents listed below must be delivered to the Cemeteries Registrar at or before the time when the funeral cortège enters the cemetery.

Certificate for Burial or Cremation issued by the Registrar of Births and Deaths;

Coroner's Order for Burial

Registrar of Births and Deaths Certificate of No Liability to Register;

For the burial of a foetus the medical practitioner's Certificate of Delivery of Non-Viable Foetus will be required.

For the interment of cremated remains a Cremation Authority Certificate that the death has been registered is required.

- 4.1 Except where the person to be buried is the last person registered as the owner of the exclusive right of burial:

(a) Where a purchased grave is to be re-opened the Deed of Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial shall be produced with the Notice of Interment.

(b) Where the Deed of Grant has been lost the person applying for the grave to be re-opened must sign a form indemnifying the council against any possible liability claims or action.

(c) Subject always to (a) above the owner of the purchased grave shall give consent to the grave being opened by signature on the Notice of Interment.

- 4.2 A grave may only be reopened for (a) burial or (b) exhumation provided that all necessary consents have been obtained.

- 4.3 Except for unavoidable cases, the time notified to and accepted by the council for interment must be punctually observed, otherwise the interment may be postponed until after other funerals have taken place. An additional fee may be charged for any funeral arriving after the notified time which will be directly related to any extra costs which may

be incurred as a result of the late arrival. Whilst the council will give sympathetic consideration to the circumstances for the late arrival, it can only do so in relation to any increased time and expense incurred by directly employed council officers.

Any additional claims for costs made by the council's contractor will have to be met in full. No burial may take place before 9.30am or after 2.30pm during winter, extended to after 3pm during summer. The Cemeteries Registrar shall have discretion to vary these times.

- 5.1 All funerals must be under the overall control of the Cemeteries Registrar. The funeral director has responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and any other current health and safety legislation for the funeral director's staff and the cortège.
- 5.2 The selection of grave spaces shall be at the discretion of the Cemeteries Registrar and all grave spaces shall be excavated in rotation and no person shall have the right to select a grave. The council may grant the right of selection to individuals from time to time and fix fees therefor.
- 5.3 The council will provide areas within the cemeteries where exclusive rights of burial may not be purchased. The council will maintain those areas and plant shrubs, trees and turf to enhance the environment. Within these areas:
 - (a) the council may authorise interments of the bodies of unrelated people within the same grave space;
 - (b) there will be no specified time limits between interments;
 - (c) memorials may not be erected on any grave.
- 6.1 Graves shall only be excavated and opened by contractors in the employ of the council. Where there is no other space available the council may erect timbers and stagings over existing graves and place soil from the excavation of a grave upon any adjoining grave without notice to grave owners. The council will reinstate the surface of any grave so used as soon as possible.
- 6.2 Subject to the discretion of the Cemeteries Registrar a body should always be received for interment in a properly made and secured wooden or biodegradable coffin. The names and age or date of death of the deceased must be shown on a plate fixed to the lid of the coffin.

Details of any special type of coffin or container must be advised to and approved by the Cemeteries Registrar at the time when the initial telephoned booking is made to confirm its acceptability. The opening of any coffin or other container is not permitted within the grounds of the cemetery except at the discretion of the Cemeteries Registrar. Shrouded bodies are only accepted discreetly for Muslim or natural burials in designated areas and with permission of the Cemeteries Registrar. The containers of cremated remains may be opened for the purposes of interment.

A coffin or other container may only contain one body except in the case of a parent and baby or babies. In such case the funeral director must deliver with the Certificate for Burial a statement signed by him certifying that the coffin or other container contains two (or more) bodies and give their full names.

The funeral director shall inform the Cemeteries Registrar if the body is that of a person who has died from a notifiable disease and such precautions as may be required to be taken within the cemetery must be complied with.

- 6.3 No new vaults or bricked graves are permitted in the cemeteries.
- 6.4 Subject always to regulation 7.2:
 - 6.4.1 All new graves with the exception of infants half graves will be dug to a maximum depth dependent upon available methods of excavation, prevailing soil and weather conditions, and subject always to the discretion of the Cemeteries Registrar.
 - 6.4.2 Re-opened graves will be dug to the maximum remaining available depth, such digging to be charged at the prescribed fees where these apply.
- 7.1 The removal of any monument, headstone, vase or similar structures from a purchased grave to permit the interment shall be carried out to the order and at the expense and risk of the person requiring the burial in good and sufficient time for the grave to be opened by the council and replaced by and at the expense and risk of that person as soon as practicable after the interment. The complete memorial including landings and foundations must be removed from the cemetery during the time when the grave is settling after the interment. Where it is necessary to dismantle a memorial to permit an interment then the complete memorial shall either be:

- (a) removed from the cemetery;
- (b) taken by the memorial mason to the storage area within the cemetery for a period of no more than six months or until such time as the soil in the grave is once more sufficiently stable to support the memorial, whichever may be the shorter. The council will charge a fee for such storage but accepts no responsibility for the memorial during storage.

The council reserves the right to remove any memorial from the cemetery once the said period of time has elapsed. No part of any dismantled memorial shall be placed or stored in any other part of the cemetery for storage other than the said area or on any other grave space.

- 7.2 No coffin shall be placed in any grave so shallow that the depth of cover between the top of the coffin and the surface of the surrounding grave is less than 0.91 metres (three feet).

A grave for one adult shall not be less than 4'6" deep;

A grave for two adults shall not be less than 6'6" deep;

A grave for three adults shall not be less than 8'6" deep;

A grave for four adults shall not be less than 10'6" deep.

- 7.3 After an interment has taken place the council will regularly fill the grave up to the level of the surrounding ground. During this period nothing should be planted in the grave and no vases, jars, bottles or glass containers should be placed as this would impede the work of refilling the grave. One unlettered temporary vase of metal or stone may be placed on the grave for up to a period of six months following the most recent interment.

- 7.4 The council accepts no liability for any such vase placed on the grave.

- 7.5 The surface of every grave shall be flush with the contours of the surrounding ground and turf mounding of graves is not permitted.

7.6 **Cremated remains**

The scattering of cremated remains over graves is not permitted, except over graves and areas of the cemetery particularly designated for the purpose. Cremated remains may only be interred in the cemeteries loose or in containers of wood, metal or biodegradable ecological

materials and approved by the Cemeteries Registrar. Containers made from plastics or other non-biodegradable materials are prohibited.

(The unauthorised disposal of cremated remains within the council's cemeteries is deemed a criminal offence and those found to be carrying this out will be prosecuted.)

Note: Schedule 2 to LACO contains provisions relating to interments which must be complied with.

8. Lawn cemeteries and lawn cemetery memorials

8.1 On those sections of the cemeteries laid out as lawn sections all graves will be turfed flat and mown by the council.

8.2 In these sections the only permitted memorials are headstones which shall not exceed 1200mm (four feet) in height measured from ground level, 750mm (two feet six inches) in width and 300mm (12 inches) in thickness and vases shall not exceed 200mm (eight inches) in height. Unless the Cemetery Registrar notifies otherwise memorial stones with bases shall be fixed with the base fully bedded and doweled on a concrete or hardstone foundation slab which is at least 75mm (three inches) longer all round than the base. The structure must be ground anchored by an approved method and most suitable for the soil condition. Fixings generally shall be in accordance with the current Code of Working Practice of the National Association of Memorial Masons. The council will seek to provide a continuous soil border, 900mm (three feet) wide which will be planted at the head of each row of graves.

8.3 The headstone are to be set in straight lines and up to three flower vases may be incorporated within the base of the headstone. No other planting, vases, railings or other artefacts which will impede mowing are permitted on the grave.

8.4 At appropriate times the council will introduce a layout where headstones are placed back to back at the head of each two rows of graves with burials placed facing east.

9. Full memorial sections – future management

9.1 The council will designate sections within the cemeteries where memorials may be erected without regulation as to size or material. Kerbstones are to be restricted to these areas.

The council may take specialist advice when considering the suitability of any memorial to be placed in the full memorial section of the cemetery and the cost of this advice must be paid by the person applying for permission to place the memorial in the cemetery.

The council may reject any application.

If the council give approval to any application the memorial must not be taken into the cemetery until the council's approval in writing has been delivered to the applicant.

10. Memorials generally

- 10.1 The construction and the material from which any memorial is made should be sound and durable and must not affect any other memorial in the cemetery.
- 10.2 The fixing on site, method of construction and quality of materials of every stone material shall be in accordance with the relevant Code of Working Practice of the National Association of Memorial Masons.
- 10.3 Before any memorial is placed in the cemetery a drawing showing the dimensions, integral doweling of all components, ground anchoring method, type of material and finish and the inscription and type of lettering to be inscribed on the memorial shall be submitted to the Cemeteries Registrar at least one month prior to the intended fixing in the cemetery.
- 10.4 The memorial to which the application relates shall not be taken into the cemetery until the Cemeteries Registrar has issued a written permit and the fees have been paid to Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury.
- 10.5 Memorials are not allowed on unpurchased graves.
- 10.6 A headstone or vase may be placed on lawn sections in the cemeteries only in the soil border provided. Where no such soil border is provided, it shall be placed in such position at the head of the grave as shall be approved in writing by the Cemeteries Registrar. The approval will indicate a date after which the memorial may be erected. Monumental masons should satisfy themselves as to the stability of the soil and its ability to support a memorial before the memorial is erected.
- 10.7 Every memorial shall be placed on the grave space so that the centre of the memorial shall be in line with the centre head position of the grave.

- 10.8 There shall be no advertisement or trademark on the memorial except the name of the memorial mason who has supplied it which shall be inscribed on the side or on the reverse of the headstone as appropriate to suit the alignment of the grave, and in lettering similar to the main inscription and not more than 15mm (½ inch) high. The section letter and number must be positioned and inscribed in this matter on **all** memorials to be installed in the cemeteries.

On kerbstones the position for a memorial mason's name and section letters and grave number shall be on the left hand and right hand side of the foot kerbs.

- 10.9 The right to place and maintain a memorial will only be granted for the same period of time that the exclusive right of burial which has been granted in respect of any grave has left to run and will not continue after the exclusive right of burial has terminated.
- 10.10 Work people and materials will only be admitted to the cemeteries between 8am and 5pm on Mondays to Fridays. They will not be admitted on Saturdays, Sundays, Christmas Day or on any other day when the cemeteries are closed to the public unless it is necessary to:
- (a) remove or repair a danger or potential danger; or
 - (b) remove a memorial for an urgent burial.
- 10.11 Works of every description on graves or memorials shall be completed as quickly as possible to the satisfaction of the Cemeteries Registrar or other duly authorised officer of the council.
- 10.12 All memorials or other materials for any memorial or grave shall be taken into the cemeteries, where practicable, by a light motor vehicle to a maximum laden weight of 3.5 tonnes along the main roads in the cemetery in such a manner as the Cemeteries Registrar may direct. Any such vehicle is to be removed from the cemetery immediately on request from the Cemeteries Registrar. Any damage which may be caused to the grounds, walls, trees, buildings or memorials or any other part of the cemetery shall be repaired by and at the expense of the person responsible for carrying any such materials.
- 10.13 The supplier and fixer of any memorial to be erected in the cemeteries must be on the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons and must maintain a policy of public liability insurance in the minimum sum of five million pounds indemnifying against all claims and actions for

accident, materials and workmanship resulting from the memorial being placed in the cemetery.

The council will not be responsible for any damage to monuments, gravestones or other structures other than damage shown to be occasioned by the negligence of its employees, agents, servants or work people.

- 10.14 No person shall manufacture any memorial in the cemeteries. Only work to clean, repair or letter is permitted upon permission being obtained from the Cemeteries Registrar.
- 10.15 All memorials erected within the cemetery shall be kept in good repair by and at the expense of the owner. The council reserve the right to repair or make safe any memorial which is allowed to fall into disrepair or become unsightly or dangerous and, if deemed practicable, recover expenses thus incurred from the owner or the owner's beneficiaries.
- 10.16 The council may require the owner of any monument, gravestone or other structure which in their opinion has become unsafe to remove it from the cemetery at the owner's expense. The person who makes the application for permission to erect and maintain a memorial on the grave shall authorise the council to take this action in the application.
- 10.17 If the owner fails to comply with any such requirement within 14 days or if in the opinion of the Cemeteries Registrar the removal should be effected immediately then the council may carry out the work without incurring any liability for any damage arising and the costs of doing this shall be recoverable from the owner as a simple contract debt in any court of competent jurisdiction.
- 10.18 Soliciting for orders within the cemeteries for the erection or repair of any monument, headstone, or other structure, or for any other work connected with graves, is strictly prohibited. The council reserve the right to exclude from the cemeteries any person or company or firm on whose behalf any person has been found so soliciting.
- 10.19 The contractors, employees, servants and officers of the council are not permitted to take any gratuity or to carry out privately any work of any kind in connection with the cemeteries.

11. Temporary markers

- 11.1 The council will provide on loan and fix at its expense a temporary marker in the form of a wooden cross or single wooden post at the head of a grave as soon as practicable after the interment.
- 11.2 The temporary marker will be loaned for the purpose of marking the grave until the placing of a headstone, permanent vase or memorial or the expiration of a period of one year from the date of the last interment, whichever shall first occur.
- 11.3 The temporary marker shall remain the property of the council.

12. Exclusive right of burial

- 12.1 The council may grant the exclusive right of burial in an individual grave space for a period of 50 years from the date of the grant upon payment of the prescribed fee.
- 12.2 At or before the end of the fifty year period the exclusive right to burial may be renewed by the then owner of the right. A renewal fee will be payable and the new grant will be subject to the burial regulations then in force.
- 12.3 The council reserve the right, which shall be exercised only with the utmost sensitivity and discretion, to permit further burials in the available space remaining in a grave in respect of which the exclusive right of burial has expired, with the agreement of the persons arranging an interment, notwithstanding the body to be buried therein is not connected in any way with the previous interment.
- 12.4 A grant of exclusive right of burial will not be issued in the name of a funeral director; memorial mason; partner or shareholder in such a firm unless written evidence satisfactory to the council is submitted to show that the grave is required for use by the applicant as a private individual and not for the purpose of the firm or for the use of another person.
- 12.5 No person with the exception of the designated head of any religious house will be allowed to hold at any one time the exclusive right of burial in more than two graves except with the special consent of the council. A double width grave will, for this purpose, be regarded as a single grave.
- 12.6 The owner of the exclusive right of burial in a particular grave space shall have the privilege of transferring the right of burial therein to any other member of his/her family.

- 12.7 Written notice of any proposed transfer or assignment of an exclusive right of burial must be submitted to the council within 28 days of the assignment together with the deed document and the prescribed registration fee.
- 12.8 The council will not recognise any assignment whether by deed or otherwise of an exclusive right of burial without proof of such assignment except where the owner of the right is the person to be buried and in any event, will not recognise the assignment if it has not previously been submitted to the council for registration.

13. Purchase of exclusive right of burial in advance of interment

- 13.1 The council do not operate a grave reservation system. The exclusive right of burial may be purchased in advance of an interment which effectively reserves that grave for the specified number of years. It should be noted that at the time of grant the council may not be aware that the space is unsuitable because of soil conditions, positions of tree roots or other matters.

The council give no undertaking that at the time of interment the grave space will be suitable to permit grave excavation.

In cases where the grave space is unsuitable an alternative grave will be prepared and the exclusive right of burial assigned to the purchaser without additional fee. The exclusive right of burial in the original grave space must then be surrendered to the council.

14. Regulations for gardens of remembrance

- *14.1 Wall plaques and cremation memorial vaults shall be leased for an initial period of ten years. The lease may be extended for successive periods beyond the original ten years term for the payment of a renewal fee.
- 14.2 If application for renewal of the lease in a cremation memorial vault is not made within 28 days following the expiry date and no instructions have been given for the disposal of the remains, the cremated remains will be placed in the Garden of Remembrance or in the cemetery and the memorial tablet will be destroyed.
- 14.3 Where flower holders are provided as part of the memorial they must be used only for cut flowers. Flower vases must not be placed in the lawns of gardens of the Garden of Remembrance.

* The Council meeting on 19 January 1994 amended the Regulations by introducing a reduced lease period for vaults of seven years (Minute No 857 (1993/94) and Schedule refer).

- 14.4 Flower and/or vases placed on lawns or gardens will be removed because of the danger to visitors to the cemetery and to the turf or plants.
- 14.5 Artefacts of any kind must not be secured to plaques on the memorial wall because of the danger of damage to surrounding plaques and their wall fixings. Cut flowers and plants will be removed by cemetery staff as they fade or die.
- 14.6 The council will supply all wall plaques, cremated remains vaults, memorial vases and other memorials to be placed in the Garden of Remembrance.
- Application for any of these items must be made to the Cemeteries Registrar. No other memorials of any kind may be placed in the Garden of Remembrance under any circumstances.
- 14.7 Rose borders and shrub beds planted in the Garden of Remembrance may incorporate memorial plaques. No individual plant shall be available for leasing. The council will provide and maintain the gardens as part of the Garden of Remembrance.
- 14.8 Seats and trees shall be provided by the council and memorial plaques may be fixed on or near to seats and trees.

The seats and trees remain the property of the council.

15. General rules of management

- 15.1 Children under twelve years of age will not be admitted to the cemeteries unless they are in the charge of an adult.
- 15.2 Where an interment or religious service is taking place anyone involved in any work or activity which may interrupt or cause offence to any person at the service shall comply with all instructions given by the Cemeteries Registrar.
- 15.3 Visitors to the cemeteries shall not pick, cut, fell or remove from the cemeteries any flower, tree or shrub, nor sit on any memorial, monument, headstone or structure other than a seat provided for the purpose.
- 15.4 Flower displays of cut flowers shall not be placed in glass containers.
- 15.5 The council does not recommend the use of artificial flowers and plants in the cemetery and any such decoration is left at the owner's risk.
- 15.6 All dead flowers, wreaths, weeds, rubbish and other decorations which have become unsightly shall be removed from graves and disposed of at

the places provided for the purpose. The Cemeteries Registrar is authorised to remove flowers, plants, wreaths or decorations which have become unsightly and the Cemeteries Registrar's decision in this matter shall be final.

- 15.7 All planting and cultivation shall be subject to the approval of the Cemeteries Registrar and the council reserves the right to prune, cut down or dig up and remove any flowers, shrub or plant at any time when, in the opinion of the Cemeteries Registrar, it has become unsightly or overgrown, or where necessary for the purpose of allowing the grave or adjacent graves to be used again. No tree may be planted without the written permission of the Cemeteries Registrar.
- 15.8 Permission must be obtained from the Cemeteries Registrar before any photographs intended for publication may be taken of or within the cemeteries.
- An application for permission shall be accompanied by written confirmation from the owner of the exclusive right of burial in any grave to be photographed, that the photography is being undertaken with their approval.
- 15.9 All persons admitted into the cemeteries shall conform to these regulations and the Cemeteries Registrar or other duly authorised officer of the council may remove from the cemeteries any person infringing any regulation or otherwise misconducting themselves. The council reserves the right to refuse admission to the cemeteries.
- 15.10 With the exception of Recognised Assistance Dogs, animals will not be permitted in the cemeteries and they must not be tied to the gates, fences or buildings in the cemeteries.
- 15.11 The council is committed to ensuring that only the highest quality standard of service is provided. Any complaint about the quality of service should be made in writing to the Environmental Services Manager, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW.
- 15.12 The council reserves the right to alter or add to these regulations.
- 15.13 The byelaws and rules and regulations made by the former Burial Authorities of Canterbury City Council, Herne Bay and Whitstable Urban District Councils in respect of cemeteries provided and maintained by them shall cease to have effect upon the coming into operation of these regulations.

15.14 It should be noted that in all matters of day to day administration of the cemeteries and the general interpretation of these regulations any decision of the Cemeteries Registrar shall be final.

16. **Green/Natural burial**

Green/natural burial is designed to sensitively lay to rest someone in an ecologically friendly way. This is carried out with the least detrimental effect on the environment. The burial of the body is performed using only biodegradable materials – shrouds, body wrappings/clothing must be of natural fibres, the container is of cardboard, bamboo, pandanus, willow or pine – obtained from ecologically managed sources. The use of embalming fluid except aard balm is discouraged but a flexible policy on this will be practised to assist funerals directors. Anatomical implants must be removed.

The grave is prepared to the maximum available depth which means land is saved. The grave can be prepared by hand if preferred which means that no petrochemicals are used to contaminate the atmosphere. The treatment of the grave's surface will provide a habitat for flora, fauna, insects and mammals. Interment arrangements and documentation will conform to regulations 1.2 to 7.6 inclusive.

Lowering the coffin: For safety reasons, only authorised persons may lower 'coffins' or the deceased into graves.

16.1 **Green/Natural burial at Canterbury City Cemetery**

The remaining space in unpurchased graves will be used for green burial and will be prepared to the maximum available depth, thus using the land ecologically. If there is remaining space in that grave it will be available for lease by the family. If no space is left, the family may lease a space adjacent or nearby for a 50 year period, renewable after that time if there remains space in the grave they want to use.

Alternatively, no grave space need be leased unless other members of the family wish to be buried nearby. In this case, remaining space in any grave will be occupied by unrelated persons and, therefore, no land is wasted and a truly ecological area is maintained.

Grave space will be offered in rotation and interments will take place in accordance with the Cemetery Burial Regulations.

Grasses and a wild flower mix and bulbs will be planted on the grave at the appropriate time. This will allow the grave, and others adjacent, to

be reopened, as necessary, without obstruction of tree roots. This is why your council have decided not to provide woodland burial as this style of burial creates difficulties for reopening and providing new graves as tree roots and their canopies spread and prohibit access. If any existing tree roots cause a difficulty with preparation of a leased grave, another 'green' burial space, as near the original as possible, will be offered to the customer.

16.2 **At Whitstable Cemetery**

At Whitstable Cemetery some natural burial graves are provided along the western boundary where it adjoins Millstrood Road at the bottom of the slope on Section 6. This small area contains new, unoccupied graves for 50 year lease (reservation) and immediate use as required. The treatment of the graves will be the same as for Canterbury City Cemetery (16.1); sowing of wild flowers in oval shaped graves and as formations of graves are completely occupied, some additional trees may be planted in the area. If you want to reserve the remaining space in the grave after the first burial for future use by you or your family or friends, you must purchase a lease of the exclusive right of burial in the grave, or the city council has the right to carry out unrelated interments in the remaining grave space as the grave would be prepared to the maximum available depth for land ecology reasons.

16.3 **The Herne Meadow at Herne Bay Cemetery – Terms and conditions of use**

16.3.1 The Herne Meadow is designated solely for natural burial with no individual grave markers, headstones or identification. The formal burial registers and plans at the council offices are maintained to enable identification of every grave. Approximately 800 graves are available and will be managed by Canterbury City Council.

16.3.2 **Grave spaces**

May be 'advance purchased' but will be allocated in rotation.

16.3.3 **Right of Burial purchase**

You must purchase the Exclusive Right of Burial in the grave even if only a single depth grave is required. The purchase is, initially, for 50 years, and can be renewed on expiry. This will protect your right to the lease owner's exclusive use of the grave;

If a partner or relative wants to be buried nearby, then the Right of Burial will need to be purchased in a near, or adjoining grave, to reserve the grave for burial in the future;

If two people want to eventually be buried together, it is better to have a double depth grave prepared to allow for a second interment when required. The Right of Burial in the remaining space in the grave would have to be purchased at the time of the first interment, or any remaining space could be used for an unrelated burial.

16.3.4 **Grave preparation**

Graves can be dug to double or single depth by mechanical or manual means. The client must state if they want the grave dug by hand, otherwise the graves will be machine dug. The relevant fees will apply and an additional fee will be payable for hand dug graves.

16.3.5 **Grave dressing**

Graves will automatically be dressed with green matting to all sides and immediate surrounds, there will be a soft cushion of straw, hedge trimmings or the like on the floor of the grave, and coffin lowering tapes with put log/bearer poles will be provided.

16.3.6 **Cremated remains**

The burial of cremated remains loose, or in biodegradable, eco-containers is accepted where a partner, friend or relative wishes to be reunited with someone already buried in Herne Meadow. The Natural Death Centre support this practice. No facilities are provided in the meadow for graves for interment of cremated remains only, or as 'first burial' in a 'green' grave. In the traditional cemetery there are facilities available for the need to bury cremated remains in existing family graves, half graves, Garden of Remembrance plots or to be strewn, in the Woodland Glades (or Woodland Copse at Canterbury Cemetery). The interment of cremated remains must only take place by appointment with the cemeteries office.

16.3.7 **No tributes**

No tributes will be allowed on graves. Tributes must be placed in space provided at the memorial wall only.

16.3.8 **Floral tributes**

Must only be left in the troughs at the memorial wall and not on graves and be free of cellophane and similar wrappings and no artificial flowers or plants will be allowed.

16.3.9 **Wildflowers**

Donations of indigenous, and normally accepted wildflower species are welcome but are dependant on being planted during appropriate planting seasons.

16.3.10 **Grave markers/tributes**

There will be no 'on site of grave surface' markers of any kind.

16.3.11 **Access to a grave at the funeral**

It is recommended that visitors and mourners may need to wear flat shoes within the meadow area. When an interment is due, a pathway to the grave will be cut, depending on the length of vegetation at the time.

Wheelchair access should be possible via the net paved grass path. Due to the nature of the burial ground, persons in wheelchairs may not be able to access the grave side directly without assistance and must not be so close to an opened grave so as to cause a danger to themselves or others. Persons in wheelchairs must not be left unattended. The city council cannot be held responsible for irresponsible actions at an open graveside. The requests of the Funeral Attendant and funeral directing staff regarding health and safety issues must be adhered to.

16.3.12 **Aftercare**

Opened graves will be reverted to wildflower meadow and maintained to appropriate levels.

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