



## **Terms and Conditions regarding the Management of the Site**

The following regulations are made to enable The Windmills NGB 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.

We 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 The Windmills Natural Green Burial Ground.

## **Memorials, Flowers, and Tributes**

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

Bespoke wooden memorials can be made to order and purchased through The Windmills. These will be installed in certain area upon the grave or within The Windmills Memorial Shelter.

Loose cut flowers, bouquets tied with raffia bows and bio form oasis can be placed on the graves. Any floral tributes containing oasis, plastic, wire, ribbon, foil, or tape will be removed. No plastic packaging should be left and bunches of flowers may not be tied to trees or guards.

Any decorative tributes must be minimal, bio-degradable and removed after a few days. Ornaments, greetings cards, photographs, balloons, lanterns, toys, vases, and other such items are not permitted and will be removed immediately. No items to be hung from trees or attached to tree guards. We do not allow edging, fencing, flowerpots, or other such garden items.

These rules are enforced on a day-to-day basis. Any unauthorised items will be removed swiftly to protect the surrounding wildlife and to preserve the natural beauty of the grounds for all who visit.

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

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.

Blisworth Wildflower <https://www.blisworthwildflowers.com> and Nature Scape <https://www.naturescape.co.uk> are approved nurseries. Both have a comprehensive variety of wildflowers native to the UK.

Examples of the type of wildflower we encourage - Foxglove, primrose, dog violet, sweet woodruff, dog rose as a climber, birds foot trefoil, wild narcissus, cowslip, ladies smock(cuckoo flower), red campion, celandine, heartsease, speedwell, stitchworts, wild garlic, wood anemone, fumatory, native bluebells, herb robert, yellow rattle in the meadow areas (known as 'the meadow maker' as it parasises grasses and suppresses them so that other wild flowers can get established) field poppy and cornflower in the meadow area. Buttercups will come on their own as well as scarlet pimpernel.

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. 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.

No gardening of the woodland, meadows, graves, or any part of the grounds is permitted, including the picking of wildflowers and fungi. Construction or maintenance of flowerbeds is not permitted and no mowing or strimming around the graves. No compost or soil should be brought in from outside the site.

Grass pathways are cut when necessary and other areas are cut yearly to allow wildlife habitats to remain undisturbed.

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.

### **General Care and Behaviour**

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.

On-site car parking is available. No vehicles, including bicycles, are permitted beyond the car park.

You have total control of your service, but any ceremony performed at The Windmills Natural Green Burial must be dignified.

Children must be supervised at all times.

Dogs must be kept on leads at all times. This is especially important as there may be livestock in the fields surrounding our site and we are encouraging wildlife & nesting birds to breed here. Owners assume responsibility for cleaning up after their dog and must be respectful of all burial plots.

Litter bins are not provided as we expect visitors to take their litter home, including any dog fouling, plastic wrapping or fixings to floral tributes.

Barbeques are not permitted at The Windmills Natural Green Burial.

No grazing animals are allowed unless introduced by the management for conservation purposes. No shooting or hunting is permitted.

### **Terms and Conditions Regarding Burials**

No interment is permitted without the appropriate Registrar's certificate or Coroner's order for burial, or cremation certificate for interment. All forms must be received by The Windmills Natural Green Burial at least two working days before the burial is to take place.

Ashes must be interred and cannot be scattered anywhere on the grounds.

Bodies should not be embalmed (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.

Biodegradable coffins can be buried at The Windmills Natural Green Burial, such as willow, seagrass, cardboard, bamboo, and other eco-friendly materials. They must not be decorated with any oil-based paints and as far as possible, the use of preservatives is discouraged. These coffins and shrouds are quite mainstream these days and all good funeral directors can source them.

We cannot bury metal caskets or zinc-lined coffins and do not permit non-degradable linings or plastic. All handles and name plates must be biodegradable. Linings, and pillows should be made from and stuffed with natural fibres.

Burial clothes must be made of natural fibres, such as cotton, wool, and linen. They should not include artificial materials such as plastic, synthetic linings, buttons, or zips. No grave goods should be buried that will release toxins into the soil, batteries for example.

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 or the Burial Act 1857.

Reserved plots are not refundable. The Windmills may, under exceptional circumstances e.g. death overseas, will allow a refund. The difference in the cost of a burial or ash plot at time of occupation is payable at time of interment.

The Windmills Natural Green Burial reserves the rights to refuse the Right of Burial.

**More Information**

The main gates do not get locked. Access is available out of hours, from dawn to dusk.

These rules are enforced on a day-to-day basis. Any unauthorised items will be removed swiftly to protect the surrounding wildlife and to preserve the natural beauty of the grounds for all who visit.

If you are unsure about anything please have a chat with site owner Jo Painter on 07891214564. Please sign on the dotted line below to confirm you agree to and will abide to our terms & conditions.

Signed .....

Name (printed) .....