



## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### Introduction

- 1 a) We are eager to ensure that the burial ground remains true to its ethos. Therefore, it is important that at all times it can be enjoyed as a place of peace and quiet reflection. Acorn Ridge is a sanctuary for wildlife and we strive to create a harmonious balance between nature and necessity.

### Definitions

- 2 a) Control of the burial ground is vested in the owners and employees of Acorn Ridge, hereafter referred to as the Company.  
b) The Applicant is either the Funeral Director making arrangements on behalf of the next of kin, or the legal personal representative of the deceased.

### Opening times and visitor access to the site

- 3 a) Visitor access is welcomed 365 days a year.  
b) Suggested visiting times are:  
Spring/Summer 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September – 09:00 – 20:00  
Autumn/Winter 1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> March – 09:00 – 17:00  
c) The main gates will remain padlocked at all times.  
d) Access to the main gates is afforded to all visitors at any time – the padlock code is 2412.  
e) The company understands that for personal reasons friends and relatives of the deceased may wish to visit the site at times other than those suggested in 3b). Whilst the company is very happy for this to occur, it is on the strict understanding that the site has no artificial light and is of natural construction.  
f) Further to 3e), the company will not be held responsible for any injury caused to any visitor (howsoever caused), whilst accessing any part of the site. Visitors should recognise that they need to take care on uneven ground.  
g) All visitors to the site must give due consideration and respect to other ceremonies and services taking place at the time of their visit, regardless of the religious or spiritual persuasion concerned.  
h) Dogs are welcomed to the site. However, any visitors bringing their pet with them must ensure that any mess their dog makes is immediately cleared and then removed from the site upon their departure.  
i) Further to 3h), visitors are reminded that, in keeping with the ethos of the site, no waste receptacles are provided at the burial ground. Therefore, all refuse must be taken away from the site.  
j) Mobile telephones must be either switched off or kept on 'silent' out of respect to other visitors to the site.  
k) Although the company encourages a celebratory atmosphere at the burial ground, activities which may be offensive to others are not permitted without the express permission of the company. Examples are:
  - Ball games or any type of game which emits an unnatural sound (eg. Electronic devices)
  - Radios or other amplified music
  - Barbecues
  - Camping  
l) Children aged under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times, unless the specific permission of the Company has been granted.  
m) The Company reserves the right to close all or part of the site at any time and without prior notice if in the interest of public safety.

### Plot allocation and records

- 4 a) The Company will offer a selection of plots, based on the natural development of the site and the requirements of the Applicant.  
b) All plots are marked by GPS and conventional paper records which are also stored electronically. These records are available for inspection at any time.  
c) A certificate will be issued by the Company, stating the date of interment, plot reference and period of exclusivity.

- d) It is the responsibility of the Applicant to keep the Company updated with a contact address and telephone number.

#### **Definitions and terms of plots**

- 5 a) When a plot licence is purchased from the Company, ownership of the ground is not conferred, neither is any other right granted except those referred to in this document.
- b) A single grave plot is described by the Company as being a defined area suitable for the burial of one coffin at a depth of approximately 4' 6".
- c) When the Applicant purchases a single burial plot licence from the Company, exclusive rights are granted for a period of 50 years from the date of burial.
- d) A double grave plot is described by the Company as being a defined area suitable for the burial of one coffin at a depth of approximately 6' – a further coffin may be buried subsequently or simultaneously.
- e) Further to 5d) only the specific plot purchased may be used for any subsequent burial.
- f) When the Applicant purchases a double burial plot licence from the Company, exclusive rights are granted for a period of 50 years from the date of first burial. At the time of the second burial (or when the original rights expire) the Applicant is able to purchase an additional 50 year licence.
- g) A specified plot for ashes is described by the Company as being a defined area of a size suitable for the interment of ashes. The Company will, on behalf of the Applicant, inter further ashes as required into the same plot.
- h) Further to 5f) and 5g) the subsequent burial or interment will only be carried out by express permission of the original Applicant or their nominated representative.
- i) Acorn Ridge is intended for human burial only. However, pets which have been cremated may be interred with their owners.

#### **Funerals and Services**

- 6 a) Persons of any religion or persuasion may use Acorn Ridge – the site is unconsecrated, but you may arrange for your individual plot to be blessed according to your preference.
- b) Burials and interments are performed between Monday and Friday. They are also possible on some weekends and religious holidays, in which case the Company reserves the right to make a surcharge.
- c) The Applicant may make arrangements with a Funeral Director or directly with the Company.
- d) Usually a minimum of 48 hours notice is required to prepare a plot, but the Company will make every effort to accommodate the needs of the Applicant.
- e) The Company will only accept a maximum of 4 funerals or services per day. Bookings will be made in such a way that no funeral or service will overlap with another, allowing complete peace and privacy.
- f) The Company must be in possession of the statutory paperwork, plus Acorn Ridge application form prior to any interment or burial taking place.
- g) The back filling of plots will be carried out by the Company after the funeral or service has been completed, and all members of the party have left the site. If any members of the party wish to be involved in the back filling, the Company is happy to make arrangements.
- h) No body may be exhumed from the site without a licence granted by the Secretary of State.

#### **Conservation, wildlife and maintenance**

- 7 a) A body that has been subject to embalming or treated with formaldehyde may not be interred at the site.
- b) Persons who have had a notifiable disease at the time of death may not be interred at the site. In such cases, the local council will advise an appropriate site for burial.
- c) Visitors are welcome to plant bulbs of their own supply on or around the Applicants plot, provided the selections are made from the published planting lists.
- d) No trees may be planted on the site, except those purchased from, supplied by and maintained by the Company.
- e) Inappropriate items will be removed by the Company without notice. This will include plastic flowers and containers etc. See section 8
- f) No hunting is permitted on the site. Visitors must take care to create as little disturbance as possible to the wildlife.
- g) The Company will carry out all required maintenance at the site.

#### **Flowers and other memorials**

- 8 a) Only fresh flowers may be left at the site, and no containers or vases are permitted, except immediately after a funeral or service when floral arrangements are accepted.
- b) Any memorials left at the site (apart from fresh flowers) may be removed by the Company without notice. This includes any item found hanging from trees. The Company will store any removed memorial items for a short period before disposal.
- c) The Company will remove flowers after 3 days or when they are past their best (whichever is sooner).
- d) Trees planted by the Company on behalf of the Applicant are guaranteed for a period of 10 years. Should the tree die during that period, it will be replaced without charge. The guarantee does not, however, cover trees which are affected by drought more than 5 years after planting. Trees planted outside of our

specified 'dormant' period and against our recommendation are not guaranteed in any way.

- e) Any tree showing signs of disease or encroaching on a plot may be removed by the Company without notice. If the tree is still under guarantee (see 8d) it will be replaced.
- f) Longevity of trees – all of the trees we recommend have an estimated lifespan of up to 200 years (depending on species chosen). However, it must be remembered that they are grown as a wild, not cultivated specimen and therefore may not be as long-lived as a nurtured garden tree.
- g) Should a tree be purchased and planted next to a double depth plot, it is most likely that the tree will die after the 2<sup>nd</sup> burial takes place due to root damage. Acorn Ridge will not replace any tree which fails under these circumstances. Any guarantee provided will expire upon the date of the 2<sup>nd</sup> burial (if earlier than the certificate date, as specified in 8d).
- h) Memorial benches are only allowable in certain areas, should be kept free from preservative treatment and there is a strict limit to the amount which will be permitted on site. They are a natural, non-permanent memorial, and cannot be expected to remain viable for more than 3 years. As soon as a memorial bench becomes unsafe or unsightly, it will be removed and disposed of.

**Coffins, urns and shrouds**

- 9 a) All burial or interment vessels must be of biodegradable construction. The Company will provide details of suitable suppliers.
- b) Cremated remains may also be poured directly into a specified plot or scattered above ground.
- c) Wedding rings and similar objects may be interred with burials or ashes.

**Miscellaneous**

- 10 a) A new price list will be published annually, but the Company reserves its right to amend fees more frequently if necessary.
- b) These Terms and Conditions are subject to change without notice.