

Wigton Cemetery Managed by Cumberland Council on behalf of Wigton Burial Joint Committee

Cemetery Rules and Regulations

Wigton Cemetery is operated in accordance with the following rules and regulations. The Rules and Regulations impose certain restrictions and requirements on users of the cemeteries which we expect users to observe. If you need any help interpreting the rules and regulations, please contact staff at the Cumberland Bereavement Services on 07762421072 or email bereavement.services@cumberland.gov.uk

Grave Right / Deed

Please keep the grave deed safe as it is evidence of your ownership of the right. You have purchased a right of burial, which ensures that any further burial must be of the grave owner, or a burial authorised by the owner. A parishioner is defined as someone who has had a permanent residence within Waverton, Wigton or Woodside parishes for at least 6 months.

*** It is important to note that you have purchased a 'right', and not the land, which still remains in the ownership of Wigton Burial Joint Committee***

All new grave rights are purchased for a period of 50 years unless otherwise stated on the deed. There is an option of purchasing a grave right for 75 years. In extremely rare cases the council has the right to change the grave location of any advanced purchased grave right if any unforeseen circumstances are encountered. (E.G. soil condition, flooding, mapping errors, area infringements, insufficient plot width or length). The council will endeavour to work with the purchaser to reach a workable solution whether by way of a refund or an alternative plot.

Transfer of deed Ownership

Where the current grave owner is still alive and wishes to transfer ownership to another person a Form of Assignment must be properly completed and returned to the bereavement services. A Form of Assignment is available upon request from the bereavement services office.

Transfer of Ownership of a grave may take place where the registered grave owner is deceased by submitting a completed statutory declaration form, available from the bereavement services office. This form must be signed by a solicitor or a commissioner of oaths then returned with the appropriate fee to the bereavement services office where a new deed will be issued with the amended information.

Graves – General Information

01-04-2025

ALL memorials etc MUST be authorised by Cumberland Council, on behalf of the burial joint committee before being placed on any grave. Please contact Bereavement Services to discuss what can be authorised.

No unauthorised fences, trenches, enclosures, decorative pebbles, kerb surrounds or border stones are allowed on any grave space.

The burial joint committee has a right to remove from any grave any items that may interfere with the grounds maintenance of that area after serving notice to the registered owner. Any items seen to be causing an immediate hazard or danger will be removed immediately without notice. Please note any items placed on graves are left at the deed holder's risk. Wind chimes, solar lights or any other items that can be inserted into the ground or fixed onto the headstone base are not permitted. Please also note balloons of any type are not allowed on graves within the cemetery.

The burial joint committee has the right to remove and dispose of any floral tributes, flowers, plants etc. that have withered or died or have become unsightly on any grave.

Flower vases and other receptacles must be of a pattern, in an approved position and not put in place until written permission has been given.

Christmas wreaths can be placed on any graves. The burial joint committee reserve the right to remove these wreaths if they cause damage to the turf / grass.

No trees or shrubs shall be planted, pruned or removed without the written consent of the burial joint committee. The committee reserve the right to remove any such items planted without written permission.

Only qualified operators approved and authorised by the burial joint committee can undertake the necessary grave digging services.

After burial all graves will be tidied up and left in an acceptable condition. The levelling of graves during the period of settlement will be carried out on a regular basis for a period of 6 months after the burial.

Adjacent grave spaces will be required for the placing of spoil on occasions and access to graves at these times will be limited. The grave will be fully reinstated to its original appearance once the interment has taken place.

Please note children will not be admitted unless accompanied by a responsible adult.

Winter Conditions

Please do not use glass vases on graves at any time, they freeze and split with the glass shards becoming a safety hazard. We only treat frozen roads and paths to imminent funerals. As anniversaries occur every day of the year, we never close the cemetery even though snow and ice exist please exercise extreme care during visits throughout the winter months.

Dogs in the Cemetery

Except for guide dogs, dogs are not permitted on any of the grassed areas in the cemetery and must be kept on a lead at all times. Owners are responsible for cleaning up any fouling caused by their dog(s).

Cemeteries are included in the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 and under this act owners who fail to clean up after their dogs can be prosecuted. .

The Local Authorities Cemeteries Order 1977

Attention is drawn to the above act and any amendments thereto.

This order provides that no person shall:-

- Wilfully create any disturbance or commit any nuisance in a cemetery
- Wilfully interfere with any burial taking place
- Wilfully interfere with any grave or vault, any tombstone or other such memorial, or any flowers or plants on any such matter
- Play any sport or game

The order provides that every person who contravenes any prohibition specified above together with any prohibition specified in Article 19 of the order shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine.

Fees and Charges

The fees and charges payable to the Council in respect of grave spaces, monuments, inscriptions and other matters in connection with the Cemetery are approved by the burial joint committee. Copies of such fees and charges are available on request from the bereavement services office.

Memorials

No memorial will be permitted on any grave without the consent of the bereavement services office on behalf of the burial joint committee.

The burial joint committee reserve the right to remove any headstone or other memorial erected without the approval of the committee.

Please note as the owner of a grave right, you are responsible for the maintenance and safety of any memorial on the grave. If it becomes loose, leans or otherwise appears unsafe, please contact a memorial mason.

Cumberland Council has a Memorial Masons Registration Scheme which is available from the bereavement services section. Only approved monumental masons are allowed to carry out work in the cemetery.

All new memorials will be erected in accordance to the current British Standard BS 8415.

The council carry out regular checks on all memorials and will make safe any memorial found to be in a dangerous condition. It is then the responsibility of the grave owner to arrange for the appropriate work to be carried out by an approved stone mason.

01-04-2025

Vandalism is rare, but when it occurs it is very distressing. The council are not responsible for vandalism damage. Your memorial mason can offer you insurance against this.

Cemetery records

Grave registers are available for public viewing and are kept together with plans relating to burial sections and individual grave spaces. Copies are available upon request.

Any person who wishes to view the records must first make an appointment to do so.

Please note :

Cumberland Council are not responsible for grounds maintenance. Any queries regarding the maintenance of the cemetery must be directed to the burial joint committee.

Cumberland Council manage the grave digging, administration, memorial applications, installations and inspections on behalf of the burial joint committee.