

## *Buying a grave*

The majority of graves are bought at the time of a burial, usually through a funeral director, who will purchase the grave on your behalf as part of the funeral arrangements.

Graves may also be bought many years in advance of a burial and often, people purchase Solid Grave Space if they wish to be buried near loved ones or in a particular part of a cemetery.

To arrange a solid purchase, or for further information, contact the Bereavement Services Section.

## *The Exclusive Right of Burial*

When you buy a grave, you do not buy the land that the grave occupies; you buy what is called the Exclusive Right of Burial. This means that no burials can take place in that grave without your permission; the land itself remains in the ownership of the Council. The Exclusive Right of Burial also entitles you to place a memorial on the grave, subject to the Council's memorial regulations and the payment of cemetery fees. A copy of our current fees is available from the Bereavement Services Section.

The Bereavement Services Section is responsible for five cemeteries within the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees:

- Durham Road Cemetery  
Durham Road  
Stockton-on-Tees
- Oxbridge Lane Cemetery  
Oxbridge Lane  
Stockton-on-Tees
- Thornaby Cemetery  
Acklam Road  
Thornaby  
Stockton-on-Tees
- Billingham Cemetery  
Wolviston Back Lane  
Billingham
- Egglecliffe Cemetery  
Butts Lane  
Egglecliffe  
Stockton-on-Tees

## *Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Bereavement Services*

Nightingale House  
Balaclava Street  
Stockton-on-Tees  
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email:

[bereavement.services@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:bereavement.services@stockton.gov.uk)  
[www.stockton.gov.uk](http://www.stockton.gov.uk)

# *Types of Grave*

*A brief guide  
to buying a grave*



## *Types of Grave*

There are different types of graves available within our cemeteries; however, not all types are available in every cemetery. We respect the individual needs and choice of each family and, wherever possible, we will endeavour to meet their wishes. For further information about the availability of grave types, you should contact the Bereavement Services Section.

### *Traditional Graves*

These graves are suitable for the burial of three adults. A single memorial may be placed on the grave and the whole grave space may be planted with suitable shrubs, plants or flowers.

You may buy the Exclusive Right of Burial for either 50 years or 100 years.

### *Lawn Graves*

This type of grave is suitable for two adult interments, although permission may be given for the burial of a baby or infant before the two adults. A single memorial is permitted on this type of grave and a small bed will be prepared at the head of the grave for planting with suitable shrubs, plants or flowers. The remainder of the grave space will be maintained as a lawn and no plants or other items must be placed in this area.

You may buy the Exclusive Right of Burial for either 50 years or 100 years.

### *Cremated Remains Gardens*

Graves within our Cremated Remains Gardens are suitable for the interment of two sets of cremated remains. A small memorial may be placed on the memorial beam at the head of the grave, but the whole of the grave space will be maintained as a lawn.

You may buy the Exclusive Right of Burial for a period of 25 years.

### *Babies Burial Gardens*

With the exception of Eggescliffe Cemetery, an area has been set aside in our cemeteries for the burial of neonatal, stillborn and infants up to the age of one month. These graves are suitable for one burial only. As with the Cremated Remains Gardens, a single memorial is permitted, and the entire grave space will be maintained as a lawn.

### *Unpurchased Graves*

You do not have to purchase the Exclusive Right of Burial; adult or infant burials may take place in a public or communal grave. It should be remembered, however, that the Council may bury unrelated persons in these graves. Memorials may not be placed upon a public grave. The grave will be maintained as a lawn and nothing must be placed on the grave space although the

planting of spring flowering bulbs would be most welcome.

You may find that a family grave has been reserved rather than purchased, and while you will be able to request a burial, a memorial will not be permitted unless you buy the Right To Erect a Memorial.

### *Woodland Burial*

Many people are concerned at the loss of natural woodland habitat; woodland burial can help to reverse this loss while offering greater choice for the bereaved. An area on the perimeter of Thornaby Cemetery has been set aside for this purpose. Each grave will accept one burial, but partners may be buried side by side. Following a burial, a small native sapling will be planted and the remainder of the single grave space will be sown with wild flower seed. Memorials are not permitted on woodland graves, but a sculpted memorial area will be created. For more information, see our leaflet Woodland Burial.

### *Unauthorised items*

No items other than those specified must be placed on any grave and planting must be confined to the area prepared by cemetery staff. The Council may prune, cut down or remove any unsuitable or overgrown planting, and to remove any plant or other object that hinders grave excavation or contravenes our Rules and Regulations. Contact us if you would like a copy of these.