



**Postbridge**

**Cemetery**

**Contact details:**

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council  
Coombe Farm  
Sourton  
EX20 4HQ  
07480 834523

Clerk@dartmoorforestparishcouncil.gov.uk  
[Dartmoor Forest Parish Council](http://Dartmoor Forest Parish Council)



## **Council Cemetery**

Dartmoor Forest Parish Council owns Postbridge Cemetery. The burial ground was opened in 1901. Until then, coffins were carried across the moor to Lydford and resting places are still visible.

There are two sections to the cemetery. Standing with the entrance gate behind you (facing North) the ground on the left hand (West) side is consecrated and that on the right (East) is not. Historically, those being buried in the un-consecrated area were not allowed through the gates and coffins were passed through a hole in the wall into the cemetery. This practice ceased some decades ago.

Additional land over the North bank at the bottom of the area was purchased in 2004 as an extension, but since the rhododendrons were cleared there is sufficient space in the original enclosure for the foreseeable future.

The Parish Council is responsible for all aspects of managing the ground. The grass is cut by local volunteers organised by the Postbridge Ward Parish Councillors. When this is not possible, the work is done by the Parish Lengthsman. Tree surgery is necessary from time to time, for which a Tree Surgeon is contracted in. The Lengthsman usually completes any bank and wall maintenance and repair. Penlee Lane is maintained by Highways.

## **Cemetery Regulations**

The Council believe in offering as much choice as possible to bereaved people and have attempted to keep regulations to a minimum. It is recognised, however, that some regulations are necessary in order to ensure that the cemetery is a safe, attractive, and fitting place for all those who visit and work in them.

Full copies of the Council's Rules and Regulations, together with its Memorial Management Policy, are available from the Parish Clerk. They can also be viewed online at [Policies, Procedures and Other Documents](#)

A brief summary of some of the regulations and other factors relating to the upkeep and working of the cemetery are given here.

Postbridge Cemetery is a place of peace and quiet reflection. It is also a workplace. Visitors to the cemetery are welcome, but please respect the special nature of the site, the needs of all users, and safety factors.

Memorials on graves must be of good quality, hard-wearing materials and must be approved by the Council before being fixed. It is recommended that accredited memorial masons are used. More information is available from the Parish Clerk.

We require cooperation in keeping the graves free of pots, plants, and other artefacts. This is so that the grass can be cut without causing damage or risking injury to the operator and visitors from glass or plastic shards.

We recognise that you may wish to leave tributes, therefore we allow pot plants and suitable artefacts to be placed at the head of the grave where they are at less risk of damage by mowing. We ask that vases are made from non-breakable material, as glass or ceramic pots will shatter during winter due to the freezing of any water in them. Broken glass or pottery presents a danger to visitors, staff, and wildlife in the cemetery. Plastic flowers are not permitted. Please think carefully about your choice of container and seek advice from the Parish Clerk if necessary.

Please note that if you place articles along the length of the grave, we will not be able to cut the grass and the grave may look untidy compared to those around it. We reserve the right to remove the articles and place them at the head of the grave. Please be aware that the cemetery is a community asset and choose items for your grave that are in-keeping and appropriate.

Please note that it may be necessary at some point in the future to excavate the graves surrounding yours. If so, we will need to place boards over the grave and a box to accommodate the soil, and you may therefore not be able to visit the grave for a short while. Please be assured that this will only be necessary where there is no other option, and that the grave will be cleaned and tidied and returned to its usual condition as soon as the burial has taken place.

### **Exclusive Rights of Burial**

When you purchase a grave, you do not actually buy the land that the grave occupies – that remains in the ownership of the Council. Purchasing a grave means that you purchase the Exclusive Right of Burial of the grave. This means that no burials can take place in the grave without your permission. In Postbridge Cemetery, purchasing the Exclusive Right of Burial also gives you the right to have a memorial placed on the grave, subject to current memorial regulations and the payment of a permit fee.

If the Exclusive Right of Burial of a grave is not purchased, the Council retains the rights, and may use any remaining space in the grave for further unrelated burials. No memorials are allowed on unpurchased graves.

The purchase of a grave gives you:

Control over who is buried in the grave

The right to place a memorial stone or other type of memorial

You can choose to transfer the rights to the grave to another person, but this must be done using an official form available from the Parish Clerk, and it is subject to an administration charge. You may bequeath the rights in your Will, but the Executor will need to contact the Parish Clerk in order to effect the Transfer to the new owner. If you do not leave a will, your next of kin will need to contact the Parish Clerk for advice on how the rights can be transferred.

## **Deed of Grant**

When you purchase a grave, the Council will issue you with a Deed of Grant. The Deed is proof of your ownership and is a very important document. You should keep the Deed in a safe place as you may be asked to produce it when you ask for a burial to take place in the grave.

### **Length of purchase**

You may purchase a grave in Postbridge Cemetery for a period of 30 years. At the end of the lease the rights to the grave will revert to the Council, and any memorial on the grave may be removed. Leases may be extended during their lifetime but can only be extended back to the original 30 years.

## **Responsibilities of Owners**

As the owner, you are responsible for the safety and condition of any memorial on the grave.

Although the Council has responsibilities under Health and Safety legislation to ensure the safety of visitors and staff in cemeteries, the responsibility for the safety of individual memorials rests with the owner. If a memorial becomes dilapidated and/or unsafe, the Council has the right to remove it or make it safe. The cost for any such work can be claimed from the grave owner.

The Council undertakes regular safety checks on all the memorials in the Cemetery. Where possible, the grave owner will be contacted if a memorial is found to be in need of work. The owner would then be given the option of having the work done themselves using a mason of their choice or paying the Council to do the work for them. If neither option is chosen, the Council retains the right to remove the danger presented by the memorial.

In order to keep our records up to date so that we may contact you, if necessary, it is important that any changes of address are notified to us as soon as possible.

## **Responsibilities of the Council**

The Council will carry out periodic testing of the stability of any memorial on the grave and will contact you if there are any problems. The Council is not responsible for the maintenance of individual memorials.