

Effective From 1 April 2021

1. Access

Access to the New Cemetery is by the existing gate and across the churchyard extension (old cemetery) via a pathway initially of tarmac and then of grass.

2. Unconsecrated Land

The ground in the New Cemetery has not been consecrated. If a burial is required in consecrated ground, the plot should be blessed by a priest before interment.

3. Authority

No burial shall take place, no cremated human remains interred, and no memorial placed in the cemetery, and no additional inscription made on a memorial without the permission of the Parish Council.

The selection of all grave spaces will be subject to the approval of the Parish Council.

4. Records

The Parish Council maintains a plan of the Cemetery and other documents required by law, including a Register of Burials, a Register of Graves, an Index of Graves and a Register of Graves Purchased.

5. Burial Plots

Because of ground conditions, plots are restricted to two burials. A plot can also contain up to six sets of ashes, if required, or a plot without a coffin up to eight sets of ashes. There must be at least 2 feet of soil, preferably 3 feet, over the last coffin, and at least 6 inches of soil between coffins. Plots will be set at 5 feet (1.5 metres) centres along the length of the concrete foundation strips provided.

Any person to whose order a body has been buried in a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted shall, as soon as may be convenient after the subsidence of the earth has been completed, cause the surface of the grave to be covered with fresh turf or to be seeded with grass.

6. Purchase of Plots

Plots will not be sold outright. On payment of the requisite fees, a Deed of Exclusive Rights of Burial will be granted giving the right to be buried in a plot for a term of 99 years. A grave must always have an owner and on death, ownership must be transferred to next of kin.

Plots may be purchased in advance for a close family member of the deceased may purchase an adjoining grave plot for their eventual burial with exclusive rights for specified persons of the family. A close family member shall be interpreted as Mother, Father, Brother, Sister, Son, Daughter, Husband, Wife, Civil Partner – including by necessity Step and demonstrably long-term partners.

For absolute clarity, this does not extend to any person being enabled to buy any burial plot other than in the natural sequence of grave allocations.

7. Memorials

A separate charge will be made for any kind of memorial, be it headstone, plaque, vase etc, per the schedule of charges.

Any memorial or monument should not exceed a total height of 3 feet (including a 4-inch plinth), 2 feet in width, and 3 inches in thickness. The plinth should not exceed 30 inches in width and 12 inches in thickness. It should be made of marble, granite or natural materials (not wood), with no artificial colours, and it must be fixed to the concrete strip provided with NAMM approved fixings. All memorials will state the stone mason's name on the back.

A memorial will also be subject to a Deed limited to a period of no more than 99 years. It remains the responsibility of the grave owner for the duration of the Deed. The Parish Council reserves the right to remove any monument, which in its opinion has become unsafe, dilapidated or unsightly, or not kept in good repair.

There will be no memorial benches and similar allowed in the Cemetery without the express permission of the Parish Council.

8. Cremated Remains

There will be no scattering of ashes within the cemetery. Cremated remains will be interred in a separate area within the Cemetery, in a plot measuring 2 feet by 2 feet, which can contain no more than two sets of ashes. The only permitted memorials on a base slab section (not provided by the Parish Council) will be a flat plaque no more than 18 inches square and 2 inches thick, not exceeding 6 inches at its highest part.

9. Children and Babies

There is no separate section for children and babies. Irrespective of size, a burial will be in the next plot available taken in strict rotation from the Cemetery plan.

10. Burial Arrangements

The funeral director is to take care of all necessary paperwork associated with a

burial. The Parish Council will invoice the funeral director for the plot, so that he can pass on all costs to the relatives of the Deceased. However, the Deed of Exclusive Rights of Burial will be between the Parish Council and the plot purchaser.

11. Blyth Resident

The term 'Blyth residents' includes those who were living in Blyth at the time of their death, or immediately prior to being admitted to a hospital, care home or hospice in which they died. For the burial of children, this term refers to either parent being a resident of Blyth.

Residents from Hodsock Priory are able to be buried or cremated at Blyth New Cemetery as if they are Blyth residents.