

Salisbury City Council Cemetery Regulations

These Cemetery Regulations relate to adult graves and are in place to ensure a respectful, safe, and well-maintained environment across all Council-managed cemeteries: The Avenue, London Road, and Devizes Road in Salisbury, Wiltshire.

We kindly ask that all visitors and grave owners follow these guidelines out of consideration for others and the dignity of the space.

Terminology

- **"The Council"**: Salisbury City Council.
- **"The Cemetery"**: Refers to The Avenue, London Road, or Devizes Road Cemeteries.
- **"Cemetery Office"**: The administrative office overseeing all cemeteries.
- **"Memorial"**: Any headstone, kerb* (London Road & Devizes Road only*), monument, cross, or flat stone placed on a grave.

1. Visiting the Cemetery

- Open from sunrise to sunset (dusk).
- Vehicles are not allowed after dusk unless specifically authorised by the Council.
- Speed limit: 5mph.
- No bicycles, skateboards, or similar may be ridden in the cemetery.
- Children under 12 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
- Dogs must be on a lead at all times and any fouling must be cleaned up.
- Clear signage will be installed at all cemetery entrances to remind visitors that dogs must be kept on a lead at all times.

Please remember: cemeteries are places of reflection, not recreation.

Contact:

Cemetery Office, Salisbury Crematorium
Barrington Road, Salisbury, SP1 3JB

 01722 333632

 crematorium@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk

 www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk

2. Grave Spaces

Type of Grave	Size	Notes
Adult Grave	2.7m x 1.5m (8'9" x 5'0")	Up to 3 full burials, followed by up to 6 cremated remains interments.
Child's Grave	1.2m x 0.9m (4'0" x 3'0")	For children under 12.
Cremated Remains Plot	London & Devizes Road: 0.61m x 0.61m (24" x 24") The Avenue: 0.46m x 0.46m (18" x 18")	Small Headstone & Flat Stones Flat memorials only.

Temporary spoil will not be placed on another grave unless this is unavoidable due to space restrictions. Where this is unavoidable, protective sheeting must be used, and all spoil must be removed the same day or as soon as practicable thereafter.

3. Funerals & Grave Maintenance

- After the burial, the grave will be backfilled and floral tributes placed neatly on top.
- Once the initial tributes have deteriorated or been removed, new tributes must be placed within the footprint of the headstone base only.
- Newly filled graves will be inspected periodically and reinstated promptly if settlement occurs.
- The Council will level and reseed the grave as necessary for up to one year after the burial.
- After that, the upkeep becomes the grave owner's responsibility.

Please note that it is not possible for grass cuttings to be cleared from memorials as part of routine maintenance.

4. Flowers, Wreaths & Other Items

We understand that leaving tributes is an important part of remembering loved ones. To ensure safety and respect for all visitors and maintenance staff:

✔ Allowed (within headstone base area):

- Fresh or artificial flowers (not in glass containers)
- Modest personal mementoes that are weather-safe and non-hazardous

✘ Not Allowed:

- Glass containers, oil burners, solar lights, spikes, wind chimes, flags. These items are not permitted for the following reasons:

Safety hazards: Glass can shatter during grass cutting or high winds, creating sharp fragments that put visitors, staff, and wildlife at risk. Spikes, metal stakes, and solar lights can also injure maintenance staff or damage machinery.

Maintenance obstruction: Items that protrude from the ground or move in the wind make grass cutting and strimming difficult and increase the likelihood of accidental damage.

Windblown debris: Wind chimes and flags can break free in bad weather and become litter or hazards.

Night-time hazards: Solar lights and oil burners can attract vandals or be dislodged and pose trip hazards.

Visual clutter: These items contribute to a cluttered appearance of the cemetery.

- Planting of any trees, shrubs, or flowers. These items are not permitted for the following reasons:

Roots cause damage: Plants can disturb adjacent graves, topple memorials, and interfere with mowing equipment.

Creates uneven risks: Some graves become overgrown or difficult to maintain, which creates unfairness between grave spaces.

Habitat for pests: Shrubs and dense planting attract insects, rodents, or burrowing animals.

Long-term upkeep unclear: Plants require ongoing care, but the Council cannot maintain thousands of individual plantings.

Obscures access: Overgrown plants can encroach onto neighbouring graves, causing distress to other families.

- Artificial turf, fencing, kerbs, or gravel. These items are not permitted for the following reasons:

Trip and machinery hazards: Kerbs, gravel, and artificial turf all interfere with grass-cutting machinery and can cause injuries or damage.

Drainage issues: Artificial turf and gravel can prevent natural soil drainage, causing sinking or pooling.

Creates inconsistency: Items that change the ground surface create an uneven environment that feels unfair to other grave owners.

Obstructs access: Fencing and kerbs make it harder for staff to safely access graves for maintenance or nearby burials.

Complicates reinstatement: Anything covering the soil makes future ground levelling much more difficult.

- Benches (these are not permitted anywhere in the cemetery without permission) These items are not permitted for the following reasons:

Obstruction risks: Privately installed benches often block paths or access to neighbouring graves.

Safety & stability: Benches not installed to a standard may tip, rot, or become unsafe, exposing the Council to risk.

Maintenance difficulties: Benches impede mowing and grounds work, slowing maintenance and increasing the risk of damage.

Visual inconsistency: Without a standard design, benches can create visual clutter and reduce the sense of dignity within the cemetery.

Fairness: Council-installed benches ensure equal access to seating, avoiding the perception that some graves receive preferential treatment.

Unsafe items may be removed immediately. For other non-compliant items, the Council will use a phased and compassionate enforcement process, placing a notice on the grave and/or emailing the grave owner if details held, allowing 28 days for the owner to respond or remove the item.

All tributes are the responsibility of the grave owner(s). Please dispose of waste using the bins provided.

5. Memorials

Only those who have purchased the Exclusive Right of Burial may install a permanent memorial.

Temporary Markers

- A wooden cross may be placed temporarily until a permanent memorial is installed.
- The temporary marker must be removed once the permanent memorial is in place.

Memorial Installation Guidelines

- Only one memorial per grave is allowed.
- Memorials must not be installed until at least 6 months after burial (preferably through a winter season), to allow soil to settle. This waiting period is required to allow the soil to settle properly and ensure the stability and long-term safety of the memorial.
- All memorials must be installed by a qualified stonemason registered with the National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM) and must comply with their Code of Practice.
- Work may only be carried out between 8:30am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays), or until sunset, whichever comes sooner.
- No work is permitted during funerals or without Council consent.

Memorial Size Limits: Please note the Avenue Cemetery is a Lawn Cemetery

Area	Maximum Height	Maximum Width	Maximum Length
Full Grave	Headstone: 0.91m (3'0")	0.75m (2'6")	
	Kerb: London Road & Devizes Road <u>Only</u> *	0.75m (2'6")	2.04m (6'7")
Children's Section	0.7m (2'3")	0.61m (2'0")	0.75m (2'6")
Cremated Remains	London Road & Devizes Road <u>Only</u> *: Small Headstone*: 0.7m (2'3")	0.61m (2'0")	
	Flat Stones*:	0.61m (2'0")	0.61m (2'0")

Area	Maximum Height	Maximum Width	Maximum Length
	The Avenue (Flat Stone <u>Only</u>):	0.46m (1'6")	0.46m (1'6")

- Memorials must include a stainless steel ground anchor system in line with NAMM/BRAMM standards.
- The grave number must be engraved clearly on the reverse lower left corner of the memorial.

Maintenance & Safety

- Memorial upkeep is the responsibility of the grave owner not the Council.
- It is recommended that owners take out memorial insurance.
- The Council conducts routine safety inspections:
 - Unsafe memorials may be supported, laid flat, or removed.
 - If no contact can be made with the grave owner, the Council reserves the right to act.

The Council is not responsible for any damage or loss to memorials. Unauthorised memorials may be removed and costs recovered from the grave owner.

Where a memorial is found to be unsafe, the Council will attempt to contact the grave owner before significant remedial action is taken, except in cases of urgent danger.

6. Council Rights

Salisbury City Council reserves the right to:

- Update or revise any regulation at any time
- Address situations not specifically covered in this document
- Remove or manage any item, memorial, or structure deemed unsafe, inappropriate, or obstructive
- Temporarily remove fixed memorials to facilitate nearby burials

These regulations are issued under the Council's General Powers of Management as the statutory burial authority.

7. Cultural & Religious Practices

The Council will consider requests for cultural or religious practices on a case-by-case basis, provided they do not create safety risks, obstruct access, or impact maintenance.

8. Communication & Signage

- New signage will be installed where rules are commonly misunderstood (e.g., dogs on leads, cycling restrictions).
- Noticeboards will be updated more frequently with burial information, maps, and regulations.
- QR codes will be placed at entrances linking to the regulations and updates.
- Email update lists will be created for grave owners who wish to receive changes or announcements.

8. Enforcement Procedure

Enforcement will be proportionate, transparent, and phased.

- Immediate removal for genuinely unsafe items only.
- For all other issues, a 28-day notice will be issued.
- Owners may request more time in compassionate circumstances.
- Appeals are available via the new Appeals & Review Procedure.

9. Appeals & Review Process

- Grave owners may appeal decisions relating to item removals, memorial safety actions, or interpretation of the regulations.
- The Council will respond within 20 working days.
- A second-stage review may be undertaken by a senior manager not involved in the initial decision.
- Compassionate circumstances will be considered.

10. Accessibility & Site Improvements

- Paths will be maintained to ensure safe access where reasonably possible.
- Benches may only be installed by the Council in approved locations.