

Allum Lane Cemetery: Frequently Asked Questions

How do I buy a grave?

Normally, your funeral director will help to make the necessary arrangements for buying a grave at the time of the funeral, however you may organise this yourself. Contact us on 020 8207 7497 or email parks@hertsmere.gov.uk Please note you cannot reserve a grave at the cemetery.



Who can buy a grave?

Anyone can buy a grave at Allum Lane Cemetery, but if you do not live in Hertsmere the fees are tripled.

What types of grave are available?

We provide lawn-type graves, which are maintained by us. After approx. six months the grave is made level and grassed over. One flat plaque and one floral tribute (restrictions apply, see 'memorial tributes' on our [cemetery webpage](#)) can be placed on the grave. Nothing else is allowed to be placed or grown on or around the grave i.e. no headstones or upright memorials.

What is an unpurchased grave?

An unpurchased grave, sometimes known as a public or common grave, is where the right to burial cannot be bought and the council has total control of the grave.

What is a purchased grave?

A purchased grave is where the right of burial can be bought for a period of 99 years. The owner of the right of burial can decide who will be buried in the grave and memorials are allowed in line with our cemetery regulations (see 'memorial tributes' on our [cemetery webpage](#)).

What is consecrated and unconsecrated ground?

Consecrated ground has been blessed by the Bishop of St Albans. Unconsecrated ground has not. Depending on your religious belief you may have a preference as to which area of ground you wish to purchase a grave in, your funeral director will arrange this.

What is a personalised or independent funeral?

Although a funeral director will be invited to organise the majority of funerals, some people prefer to organise funerals themselves. These are called personalised or independent funerals.

Where can I find a funeral director?

These sites may be helpful:

- [National Association of Funeral Directors](#)
- [Society of Allied And Independent Funeral Directors](#)

Your funeral director can make all the arrangements for the funeral, burial or cremation, religious or secular service. The funeral director can also advise on all the procedures and documents needed to register the death.

After the funeral, when can I lay my plaque?

We advise you to wait around six months before placing it, but you should contact your monumental mason as soon as possible to avoid any unnecessary delay after this waiting period.

Why do exhumations happen?

Exhumations occur for a number of reasons, including:

- movement from the original grave to a subsequently acquired family plot in the same or other cemetery
- repatriation overseas to be buried along with other family
- transfer from one cemetery scheduled for development to another
- court orders requiring further forensic examination

Exhumation of both buried and cremated remains on unconsecrated ground requires a [Ministry of Justice licence](#). If the grave is on consecrated ground the legal secretary for the [Bishop of St Albans](#) must be contacted.

It is an offence to exhume any human remains without first obtaining lawful permissions.

