



Woods Round Nettleham

Registered Charity Number 1129705

Chairman Chris Williams

Policy on Monks Wood as a place for memorials and the scattering of ashes

Preamble

Nettleham Woodland Trust (NWT) is delighted that Ashing Lane Nature Reserve has developed so well since the first trees were planted in February 2009. We are also pleased that local residents enjoy visiting the area, and that increasing numbers of individuals and families are keen to use the wood to provide a tranquil setting for memories and indeed the ashes of deceased relatives. The well-being of our community is at the centre of what we do.

This document has been prepared in autumn 2019 in response to a number of enquiries. It has been written and agreed by the committee so that we can respond more quickly to these expressions of interest and have an agreed approach when we are contacted.

This document will be placed on the website and made available to anyone who asks about these matters.

It will provide the basis of any conversation between NWT and any enquirers.

Statements of practice

1. Restrictions

This policy only applies to Monks Wood for which NWT has a management agreement with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, the owners, until c2125.

2. Memorial trees

We have a modest number of memorial trees and shrubs among the 20,000 planted in Monks Wood. There are both individual ones sponsored by a family and smallish groupings such as Jubilee Walk (60 in 2012) and Cathedral Copse (c120 in 2017). The Minutes Secretary has a complete list of donors. The Woodland Adviser has the record of the memorial trees.

Looking after the individual trees, and memorial plaques, has created some challenges. NWT will continue to maintain those trees which were purchased through the sponsorship scheme, but cannot accept new commitments.

If friends of Monks Wood wish to plant additional trees, requests will be considered by the committee as there is a limited amount of space. Potential locations need to be discussed with our Woodland Adviser. Our trees are almost all native species typical of woodlands in the East Midlands. However, a few attractive non-native trees such as red oak or maples do create interest and can be easily located by donors. This would also eradicate the need for a location marker. Memorial plaques cannot be placed. NWT would have to approve the chosen species to ensure that they have a chance to thrive but would not regenerate throughout the wood.

The care of any trees planted after 1st November 2019 will be the responsibility of the donor.

3. The scattering of ashes

A number of families have scattered ashes of loved ones in Monks Wood. We are pleased to provide support at these difficult times, but we cannot guarantee that locations will be undisturbed over the years, either by plant growth, wildlife or indeed woodland management activities. However, some places will probably be better than others. NWT will of course offer appropriate guidance on request.

We do ask that ashes are not scattered into areas of water or onto paths.

4. Donations

NWT is a not-for-profit-organisation run by volunteers. At present we receive annual payments from the Forestry Commission for woodland creation, which will cease by 2027. We also apply for grants for specific items such as the display boards and starting specific projects e.g. planting buckthorn clusters for butterflies.

Our annual costs include insurance, servicing of our brushcutter and other equipment, fuel and so on. These come to around £2000. Without income we would be unable to maintain Monks Wood at a high standard while preserving, indeed developing, its top quality environment and unique atmosphere. We would therefore ask those planting trees and leaving ashes in Monks Wood to make a donation to NWT to help us continue our work.

5. Green burials

NWT does not have the capacity to organise green burials.

6. Responsibilities of NWT

As explained in earlier paragraphs, the NWT committee cannot take responsibility for every aspect of actions in Monks Wood beyond our duties as managers of the woodland. Our priority is in ensuring that it remains an accessible, attractive and beautiful place.

This policy was approved by the NWT committee on 18th November 2019.