



## Memorial and Giving Policy

**The Malvern Hills Trust understands the needs and principles of allowing memorials on the Hills and Commons but is also mindful that these landscapes have many users and are enjoyed by a wide range of people. The Trust must ensure that memorials are regulated for the benefit of all.**

A recent review of the options and discussion with staff has led to the follow memorial policy. Information on the Trust's website has been changed to reflect this.

This policy covers all the Hills and Commons under The Trust's jurisdiction.

### **Memorial benches**

As of 2026, the Trust will no longer accept applications for memorial benches on the Hills and Commons. This followed a survey of the number and condition of benches on the Hills and Commons in 2013 and in 2025. The decision was made based on the results of the survey and the Trust's concerns that there were limited resources to maintain existing seats, and the change to the character of the Hills with a large number of benches in situ.

Benches identified for replacement will be replaced by benches from donors on a waiting list.

All benches will be sourced and installed by the Trust's Staff. The precise location of the bench will be determined by the Trust's Staff. The Trust has offered two types of benches however the type available will depend on the location of the bench.

The total cost of the installation of a memorial bench will be dependent on style appropriate for the site and will be based on cost price plus materials, labour and ongoing maintenance. The Trust will maintain the bench. However, no replacement liability will be accepted at the end of the useful life of the bench or if it is damaged through vandalism.

### **Memorial trees**

No unauthorised planting of trees is permitted on the Hills and Commons. Memorial planting is regulated by staff and any opportunities for making a donation for memorial trees will be advertised.

The black poplar planting scheme on Castlemorton Common ran from 2012 and is now closed. The final round of planting took place during the winter of 2015/16.



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No further applications can be made for the black poplar planting on Castlemorton Common.

No plaques, flowers, or similar memorials shall be permitted to mark the site.

## **Black poplar sponsorship**

No further applications can be made for the black poplar sponsorship scheme.

## **Spreading ashes**

The spreading of ashes is permitted on the Trust's ground but is not encouraged. The Trust ask that the scattering site be away from the more popular areas and the tops of the Hills. Ashes must be well scattered so that they leave no trace. The site must not be marked with stones, flowers, or any other physical memorial objects.

## **Giving and donations**

The public are encouraged to make a donation towards the management of the Hills and Commons in memory of a loved one. This funding may go towards projects such as:

- Paying for habitat management for endangered flora and fauna e.g. Dormice;
- Buying tools for conservation volunteers;
- Improving footpaths;
- Putting up bird boxes;
- Restoring historic monuments.

## **Review date**

This policy will be reviewed following a bench survey across the Hills and Commons in 2026.