

Countryside Access Team

Memorial benches

The Countryside access team recognises the importance of countryside sites and nature reserves to the quality of life of visitors, and the impact that these special places can have on individuals. A memorial bench can provide a comfort and a means connecting the loved ones with their favourite location, place, or viewpoint. Families find that the benefits that other people gain from the bench constructive during the period of bereavement.

In broad terms the Countryside Team supports memorial benches on our sites. However, It is not always practical to erect a memorial bench at the persons requested location, or favourite spot; this may be because it is difficult to access, not a suitable location, out of keeping with the integrity of the reserve, or that it duplicates an existing bench. Where this is the position then the planting of a memorial tree will be suggested by the appropriate Countryside Officer. The precise location and type of tree will have to be agreed with the Countryside Access officer

The Countryside Access Team promote the planting of memorial trees on the nature reserves and countryside sites, as these aid the conservation value of the sites, provide a long lasting benefit to the site, carrying on growing and living whilst benches tend to deteriorate over time and some benches suffer from vandalism which can be upsetting for the family. It is also evident that some of the plaques can be subject to vandalism.

Even when the preferred choice is a bench a memorial tree will be suggested for the reasons outlined above.

Each countryside site / nature reserve has an agreed optimum number of seats and appropriate location for these to be sited. When this is the case the applicant will be informed and a memorial tree suggested instead.

Memorial benches placed on a nature reserve or countryside site, without written permission, will be removed.

General rules

The application for the memorial bench should be made in writing, with a clear location being agreed between the applicant and the Countryside Access Officer

The bench must be paid for by the applicant, although once installed would be maintained by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

The East Riding of Yorkshire Council would make the cost of purchase and installation clear to the applicant prior to ordering the bench

The style and material of the bench must be appropriate to the site and match existing benches.

The size of the plaque must be of an appropriate size, and must not exceed 10cm in height and 20cm in length. The material must be agreed with the Countryside Access Officer.

Frequently asked questions

FAQ Whose responsibility would the bench be?

A: once installed and inspected the bench would become the responsibility of the council

FAQ What happens when the bench can no longer be economically repaired?

A: the bench would be removed.

FAQ Can I choose where the bench will be placed?

A: Generally yes, but if it is not an appropriate place then you will be informed.

FAQ What happens if the bench is vandalised

A: the Council would determine if a repair was economic and sensible, given the level of vandalism at any particular site, at that particular time