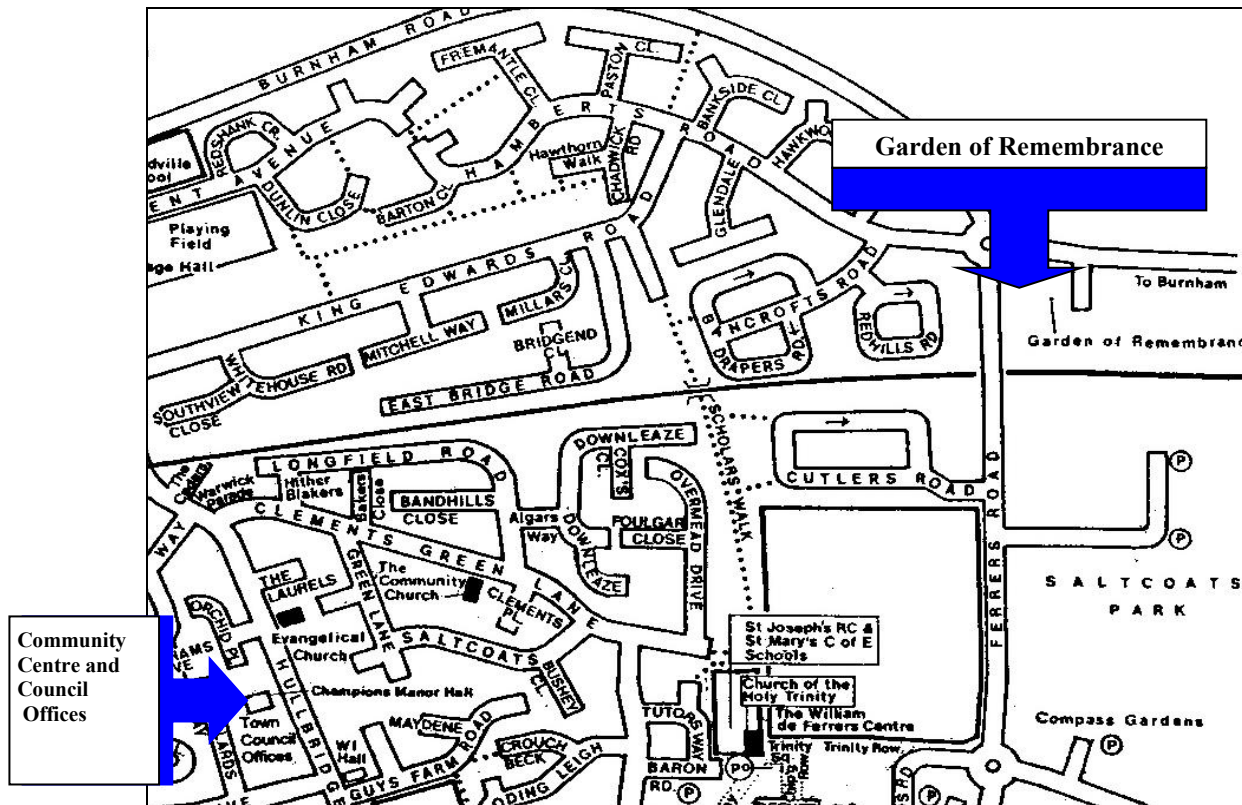




Garden of Remembrance Pet Area

The Garden of Remembrance is situated on Woodham Road just inside the town boundary. It has been laid out to form natural parkland in 1995, with a more formal paved area as the focus. The Garden was extended in 2000 to improve car parking and to create a dedicated Youth Garden. Additional seating is provided. Regulations for the pet area are provided separately with the pet area being added in 2026. Although the car park is closed overnight, pedestrian access is still possible, but request that dogs are not walked in the gardens after dusk.

If you would like more details or wish to discuss your requirements, please contact the Town Council office as shown below.



South Woodham Ferrers Town Council, Champions Manor Hall Community Centre, Hullbridge Road, South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5LJ.

Tel: 01245 429441 Email: david@southwoodhamferrerstc.gov.uk

Opening hours

The Garden is normally open to vehicles as below:

1 April to 30 September

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.30pm
Weekends & General holidays 10.00am to 5.30pm

1 October to 31 March

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm
Weekends & General holidays 10.00am to 4.00pm

These times are subject to change without notice; for current information on opening times, check with the Town Council Office.

Latest time of entry for vehicles is half an hour before closing time. Any vehicles remaining at closing time are liable to be locked in. Under normal circumstances the pedestrian gates by the roundabout and beside the main gate are left open and the public may enter the Garden outside the above time, at their own risk. Wheelchairs, pushchairs etc. will be unable to negotiate the pedestrian kissing gates at the main entrance as the style of gate will not facilitate these chairs easily; however, the entrance at the roundabout has easy access. There is good access to the walls and paved area, but the grassed area may not be accessible to people with mobility difficulties. Care should be always taken at the garden.

Pet Scattering Area Information and Regulations (2026)

The Pet Scattering Area forms part of the Garden of Remembrance on Burnham Road. Please refer to our main regulations for other details. It has been created to provide a dignified, natural setting for the scattering of pet ashes and for quiet reflection by their owners. These regulations ensure the area remains respectful, safe, and environmentally appropriate for all visitors. These rules apply in addition to the Garden of Remembrance Regulations (April 2026). Where there is any conflict, the stricter rule applies.

1. Purpose of the Pet Scattering Area

The Pet Scattering Area is provided solely for:

The scattering of cremated pet remains with the consent of the Town Council

Quiet remembrance by owners and families

Respectful access by visitors accompanying dogs under strict control

No other use is permitted.

2. Access and Eligibility

The area is open to visitors during the Garden's published opening hours, however we reserve the right to lock the gate at any time, should the need arise.

Scattering of pet ashes must be arranged in advance with the Town Council.

No scattering may take place without the knowledge and consent of the Town Clerk or their representative.

Only cremated pet remains may be scattered in this area to 10kg in weight.

It is illegal to deposit ashes without permission; unauthorised ashes will be removed and disposed of, and are treated as trespass.

3. Dogs – Access and Control Requirements

We have recently relaxed the regulations so that dogs are permitted in the Garden **only** for the purpose of visiting the Pet Scattering Area. To protect the dignity of the Garden and the safety of all visitors, the following rules apply:

Pathway Restriction

Dogs must remain **strictly on the designated pathways** leading to and within the Pet Scattering Area. Dogs must not enter grassed areas, planting beds, memorial zones, or any part of the human committal sections of the Garden.

Prohibited Areas

Dogs are **not permitted** in or near any human committal area, memorial wall, paved ceremonial area, or interment site. Dogs must not approach or enter any area where a human committal or memorial activity is taking place.

Behaviour Around Other Visitors

Dogs must not approach other visitors at any time or cause distress.

Owners must maintain full control to prevent contact, disturbance, or nuisance.

Lead Requirements

Dogs must be kept on a short, fixed lead at all times. Extending or retractable leads are not permitted anywhere in the Garden unless locked short.

Owner Responsibilities

Owners must carry means to clear up after their dog and must remove waste immediately as dogs must not be allowed to foul any part of the Garden. We do not have a 'toilet' area for animals.

Dogs may not run free in the car park or any other area, or be used as a rest break.

Conditional Permission

Permission for dogs to enter the Garden has been granted solely due to the introduction of the Pet Scattering Area. This permission may be withdrawn at any time if misused.

4. Scattering of Pet Ashes

Scattering must be carried out at the location specified by the Town Council, which will always be marked with a marker in a raked/clear area.

Only loose cremated remains may be scattered; no containers, urns, or receptacles may be buried or left in the area.

The scattering must be conducted in a quiet, respectful manner.

Filming or recording is permitted only for personal use and must not disturb other visitors and if council staff are present, you must make them aware of this.

5. Memorials and Tributes

No permanent memorials, plaques, markers, or objects of any kind may be installed in the Pet Scattering Area other than those approved/purchased via by the Town Council. No secondary memorial is permitted.

Artificial flowers, ornaments, toys, ribbons, candles, lights, or any other items are not permitted and will be removed.

Small natural floral tributes may be placed temporarily at the scattering point but will be cleared away from time to time.

No planting of bulbs, seeds, shrubs, or trees is permitted.

6. Conduct and Behaviour

Visitors must behave in a manner appropriate to a place of remembrance. The following are not permitted:

Creating noise, disturbance, or nuisance, illegal activities such as use of drugs.

Excessive barking of a dog

Playing music, radios, or amplified sound

Littering or leaving any materials in the area

Interfering with plants, trees, wildlife, or any part of the Garden

Interfering with any committal or legitimate activity carried out by or with the permission of the Town Council

7. Applications and Records

Applications for scattering and/or memorials must be made on the appropriate form and accompanied by the required fee.

All correspondence will be with the applicant named on the form.

The Town Clerk or delegated officers maintains the Register of Pet Scatterings (electronically held), which may be inspected during office hours.

8. Enforcement and Removal of Unauthorised Items

Any unauthorised items left in the Pet Scattering Area will be removed before disposal. We may hold them in store for 30 days, but cannot guarantee this will happen due to the busy operation of the gardens.

Illegal scatterings will be considered as trespass, and we will use civil recovery to enforce such a breach. We are required by law to record animal type and weight of ashes, which we cannot do if there are illegal scatterings, and must remove them from the gardens.

The Council reserves the right to recover costs arising from the removal of prohibited items or rectification of damage.

Visitors who breach these regulations may be asked to leave the Garden and may be refused future access. We reserve the right to withdraw access for animals if we receive too many complaints.