

Successful surveying even in cemetery forests

Cemetery forests also need to be surveyed in order to relocate the graves and to create an overview of the whole area. Customers can then choose the preferred tree or burial place based on the overview map.

For the surveying of the cemetery forest, the NATURRUHE Friedewald Bestattungswald COSWIG (Sachsen) used the GeoMax GNSS receiver Zenith35 in combination with the X-PAD software.

A popular alternative to urban cemeteries

Cemetery forests became a popular alternative to urban cemeteries since they provide tranquillity and natural surroundings. Additionally, such cemetery forests do not cause any reoccurring costs or the maintenance of graves by the surviving dependants.

It was in 2002 when Rüdiger Prinz von Sachsen in Germany, who is the great-grandson of the last king in Sachsen, bought the district Kreyern back from the State, which is part of the Friedewald. Since 2010, his son,

Daniel, pursues the idea of realising a cemetery in that particular forest.

Surveying is crucial

As customers can choose the tree under which the deceased shall be buried, the administration and guided tours need to be planned and organised. The forest needs to be marketed, and an accurate management of the forest is necessary. Hence, the forest as well as its places where the departed can be entombed need to be surveyed. Ekkehard Aurich, director of Mitteldeutsche Vermessungstechnik



NATURRUHE Friedewald Bestattungswald COSWIG (Sachsen)

The **NATURRUHE Friedewald Bestattungswald COSWIG (Sachsen)** in Moritzburg, Germany is a cemetery forest owned by Daniel Prinz von Sachsen.

Since 2010, von Sachsen is pursuing the idea of realising a cemetery forest after his father Rüdiger Prinz von Sachsen bought part of the Friedewald back from the state in 2002.

Cemetery forest became a popular alternative to urban cemeteries due to its tranquillity and natural surroundings.

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Aurich & Hallbauer GmbH as well as dealer of GeoMax in Sachsen explained to the son Daniel Prinz von Sachsen the advantages of the tool and the simple usage of the software X-PAD Survey.

“The usage of these userfriendly and easily understandable products from GeoMax simplified the surveying of the cemetery forest substantially,” highlights the younger von Sachsen. Together with Klaus Kaiser, sales manager of GeoMax Germany, part of the forest was used for surveying training after the acquisition.

Shape-data of the GeoSN in Dresden, which is the geographical based information provider and surveying operator of the state of Dresden, was used as a database. The shape data was copied on a Getac Z710 Tablet and the software X-PAD Survey was imported on the device. The simple usage of the software enables the viewing of the site plan instantly and in a comfortable way on a easy-to-read screen. The selection of elements, such as end points or lines from the map, is realised by tapping on the touchscreen. Furthermore, the current position of the user is shown in real time on the tablet. Afterward, the area of the forest that should be used for future burials was determined.

High accuracy even under difficult situations

The next step in surveying the cemetery forest was the calibration and coordination of the selected trees. The GeoMax Zenith35 provides high accuracy even under difficult situations, such as shadowed surroundings. During the surveying of the forest, the Zenith35 reached a position accuracy of 10 to 30 cm, which was perfectly sufficient for von Sachsen. The coordinates were saved and displayed on the site plan. Consequently, surviving dependants can always relocate the gravesite.

The coding possibilities of the X-PAD software are an additional advantage for the surveying of the cemetery forest. For each tree it was determined whether it was a beech or an oak, which are the

two preferred species for burials. Codes as well as attributes were added on the site plan through the data export.

The GNSS receiver possesses the option of using it as a base and smart antenna. The base was permanently installed on a rooftop to ensure the best satellite reception and the highest radio range. During the surveying, the correct data was sent to the smart antenna by radio, which was then used in the forest for surveying the places for the burials.

Overview map as base for the future

The recorded points now complete the overview map and can be used as a base for the marketing of the cemetery forest. After a guided tour through the forest, visitors and interested people can then choose a place for a future grave for themselves or their loved ones, based on the overview map. The GeoMax Zenith35 with the software X-PAD Survey does not only enable a professional management of the cemetery forest but also offers customers security and an overview of all available spaces.

“The surveying of the cemetery forest enabled us to simplify our internal process while simultaneously increasing our efficiency,” said von Sachsen.

The modern and easy to handle surveying tools of GeoMax enable the realisation and the management of the forest. Aurich and Kaiser are delighted to assist regarding arising questions to the application of the tools.

More information regarding the GNSS receivers and other surveying tools of GeoMax can be found at geomax-positioning.com, www.g-nestle.de and www.vermessungsinstrumente.de

“I was impressed how easy it was to use the Zenith35 as well as the X-PAD Survey Software. We were able to survey successfully, even under the most challenging conditions,” explains Daniel Prinz von Sachsen.

