

We are committed to reducing our environmental impact and carbon footprint wherever possible, and looking into ways we can continually improve our environmental performance and conservation management. This includes the implementation of an Environmental and Conservation plan focusing on the following areas:

1. Our Environmental Policy
2. Going Paperless
3. Use of Renewable Energy
4. Use of Renewable Water
5. Use of Environmentally Sustainable Products
6. Reduction in Transportation and Fossil Fuels.
7. Sustainable Maintenance and Cleaning
8. Conservation of Native Habitats & Species
9. Conservation of Sites of Historical Importance, Natural Importance and Natural Beauty.
10. Cultural Understanding
11. Monitoring and Improvement

## **1. Environmental Policy**

### **Statement**

Natural burial grounds have a very close relationship with the environment in which they are set and Native Woodland Ltd (trading as Leedam Natural Heritage) is highly conscious of this dependence. NW believes that natural burial grounds should not make changes to the quality or character of a natural landscape but should preserve landscape features, archaeology, heritage and wildlife habitats.

Site management regimes have been planned to respect and preserve the valuable assets of each site and to responsibly enhance the biodiversity on the site using only local native species where planting is undertaken. The starting point from NW's viewpoint is "less is more" - making minimal impact on a landscape, thereby making a positive contribution to the environment. NW is particularly conscious of the value in our natural inheritance.

NW takes advice from landowners, ecological consultants, wildlife trusts and local authority experts on land management, plant selection and protecting, establishing and enhancing habitats. Sustainable forestry practices are supported by purchasing timber from local suppliers whose products are independently certified as coming from well-managed forests. New planting is locally sourced and selected from indigenous species to complement the local wild flora.

### **Policy**

Our policy is comprised of eight essential objectives, covering all operational activities and the creation of new natural burial grounds;

1. Accept only untreated remains and caskets, shrouds and urns constructed of natural, biodegradable, sustainably sourced materials and floral displays that are wholly compostable
2. Where there is no practical alternative, use only biodegradable chemicals for the eradication of invasive or harmful plants
3. Evaluate the relative environmental impact of modes of transport where travel is essential
4. Reduce waste, recycle and reuse
5. Comply with all relevant legislation and planning conditions and seek to exceed minimum statutory requirements

6. Create and foster a culture of continuing environmental awareness and improvement amongst staff, operating partners and customers
7. Monitor environmental performance by annual policy review
8. Minimise the consumption of non-renewable natural resources and conserve energy

## **2. Going Paperless**

### **Statement**

We are committed to 'going paperless' - reducing the use of paper and packaging. We have taken steps to ensure information can be obtained via our website and submitted online. This applies to all our natural burial grounds and includes, but is not limited to:

Brochures, application forms, price lists, guidance for natural burials and submission of the green form.

We are also committed to the use of environmentally friendly office supplies wherever possible.

We manage all our natural burial grounds from one central location ensuring natural burial grounds and natural burials can be managed efficiently in an environmentally friendly manner. This allows the use of resources to be kept to a minimum, using only what is necessary, and for facilities to be shared.

We continue to work towards going paperless including in communications following a burial and encourage all natural burial grounds to use email and paperless communication wherever possible.

We will continue to:

- Minimise the use of paper and packaging.
- Favour environmentally friendly and efficient products.
- Use sustainable, recycled and recyclable paper products wherever possible.
- Reuse and recycle everything we can.
- Encourage paperless communication.

## **3. Renewable Energy**

### **Statement**

We are committed to a reduction in the use of non-renewable energy. Our offices are supplied with 100% renewable electricity and carbon-neutral gas.

We continue to implement and use renewable energy in new projects such as the memorial shelter and meeting room at our new natural burial ground in Pembrokeshire.

We will continue to:

- Reduce the amount of non-renewable energy used wherever possible.
- Encourage our landowners to work towards 100% renewable energy across the burial grounds.

## **4. Renewable Water**

## **Statement**

We are committed to the reduction in the use of non-renewable water resources. Our burial ground schemes are designed not to require the use of water for flowers, plants and WC facilities, which are waterless. Rainwater is harvested from roofs, where required.

Our burial grounds are all managed with suds schemes, required by local councils, which ensure that runoff water is managed properly, this includes, in the first instance, re-use of natural water sources. This will continue to be implemented across any new natural burial sites.

We will continue to:

- Use renewable water wherever possible.
- Improve the efficiency of renewable water, harvesting rainwater across existing natural burials and new natural burial sites.
- Manage water use efficiently
- Manage any renewable and non-renewable water supplies to ensure that only what is needed is used and water is not wasted.

## **5. Environmentally Sustainable Products**

### **Statement**

We are committed to the use of environmentally sustainable and friendly products. We require coffins to be of natural biodegradable materials. Flowers brought to our natural burial grounds should have no plastic components or oasis foam and should be fully biodegradable in non-landfill conditions.

We aim to use sustainable wood sources for any new development that may take place at the natural burial grounds, while use sustainable natural materials for our memorials that are environmentally friendly.

We have made positive steps to move towards natural sustainable products, moving away from plastic. This includes innovative ideas such as providing families with reusable natural keychains which allow them to find the plot of their loved one easily online, without the use of paper instructions. We use natural, environmentally friendly and biodegradable products wherever possible in the care and management of the natural burial grounds.

We will continue to:

- Use natural, environmentally friendly and biodegradable products wherever possible.
- Consider the sustainability of products used and use environmentally sustainable products wherever possible.
- Continue to recycle and reuse materials from the natural burial grounds.
- Encourage the use of sustainable materials by our clients and request use of natural environmentally friendly materials across the natural burial grounds.

## **6. Transportation and Fossil Fuels**

### **Statement**

We are committed to reducing the use of fossil fuels including in the creation and management of our natural burial grounds, and in transportation to the natural burial grounds. While are also committed to supporting the current global warming and climate change crisis.

We are aware that the creation of facilities at natural burial grounds creates a carbon footprint. We aim to minimise this as much as possible in the creation of every natural burial ground, ensuring that fossil fuels have minimal use. We manage the development in the most environmentally friendly way to ensure unnecessary fossil fuels are not used. We leave the lightest of carbon footprints using locally sourced materials to discourage unnecessary transportation. Each natural burial locks away 18% of carbon stored in the body, which helps to offset the initial use of fossil fuels. The continuing use of the natural burial ground then supports the climate change crisis and allows the natural burial grounds to become carbon friendly. It also encourages the use of environmentally friendly materials and creates a sustainably managed ethos for burial as a general practice.

We do not allow large memorials for headstones, this discourages the use of granite often sourced from the other side of the world, reducing the need for transportation and therefore fossil fuels. Instead, we encourage the use of locally sourced, simple natural memorials which are carbon friendly.

The fossil fuels used after the creation of the natural burial ground are then minimal. While Natural burials offset the management of the land which would have already been present, creating a positive carbon impact.

Non-essential travel to burial grounds is discouraged. While the use of simple memorials, that do not need attending to, this means that travel is only essential when families wish to visit a loved one.

We will continue to:

- Encourage the use of local suppliers where possible across our natural burial grounds, reducing the need for fossil fuels.
- Discourage the use of non-essential travel.
- Ensure that the burial grounds are managed in a way that is carbon-friendly.
- Ensure that any new natural burial grounds are developed in a way that uses minimal fossil fuels.
- Support the climate change crisis by reducing the use of fossil fuels wherever possible, including the use of carbon friendly renewable energy and fuels.
- Make additional effort to accommodate the need of those using public transport, cycling or walking.
- Increase awareness of the positive carbon-friendly impact natural burial has on the environment.

## **7. Maintenance and cleaning**

### **Statement**

We are committed to using natural and environmentally friendly products in the maintenance and care of the natural burial grounds and our office. This includes the use of natural cleaning products and the use of natural maintenance products wherever possible.

We have sustainable management plans in place across the natural burial grounds which ensures the burial grounds are managed in the most environmentally friendly way, using natural locally sourced materials. While materials obtained from the management of the natural burial grounds are reused and recycled.

We will continue to:

- Use natural and environmentally friendly products in the cleaning and management of both the natural burial grounds and office wherever possible.
- Continue to reuse and recycle materials obtained from the management of the natural burial grounds.
- Encourage the use of locally sourced materials at the natural burial grounds.

- Encourage the use of natural and biodegradable products so that the creation of waste sent to landfill is minimal, ideally non-existent.

## **8. Conservation of Native Habitats & Species**

### **Statement**

We are committed to the conservation of the existing natural habitats and the encouragement of new native habitats to support wildlife. In conjunction with this, we are committed to the conservation of native, endangered and protected species of fauna and flora across all our natural burial grounds.

We aim to use species native to the UK, and if necessary to the local area, when planting new flora. Native animals are encouraged with the use of wildways and naturally occurring habitats. We aim to support the growth of protected, endangered and native species by supporting diverse ecosystems and habitats that may have been lost or need management to allow them to establish again. These are an integrated part of our management plan for each of the burial grounds, including suds schemes that allow water to drain naturally and establish diverse habitats that would have naturally occurred. We encourage the use of the natural burial grounds by local fauna by making them as wildlife friendly as possible. During the planning process, we consult with ecologists and wildlife trusts to ensure that the creation of a natural burial ground is not harmful to surrounding ecosystems. We manage the natural burial grounds in a way that ensures habitats are not damaged but instead are healthy, supporting native species of both flora and fauna, allowing them to thrive in the most productive way possible.

We will continue to:

- Use native plants and wildflower seeds across the burial grounds wherever possible.
- Support the restoration of woodland, dwindling habitats and ecosystems following guidance from consultants.
- manage the natural burial grounds to ensure habitats are healthy and native flora and fauna can thrive.
- encourage the use of the natural burial grounds by local fauna.
- continue increasing awareness of conservation of protected, endangered and native species and the importance of the habitats we provide at our natural burial grounds.

## **9. Conservation of Sites of Historical Importance, Natural Importance and Natural Beauty**

We are committed to the preservation and conservation of sites of historical importance, natural importance and natural beauty.

As stated within our environmental policy NW believe that natural burial grounds should not make changes to the quality or character of a natural landscape but should preserve landscape features, archaeology, heritage and wildlife habitats. With a number of our natural burial grounds set within or near historically important sites, areas of outstanding natural beauty or national parks we are aware of how important the conservation and preservation of these sites are. Each of our natural burial grounds are unique and different, managed individually to ensure that plans followed are suitable. We follow guidance and guidelines as set by the area of outstanding natural beauty, national park or governing historical society to ensure that the landscapes and historical monuments are preserved

and well cared for. Safeguarding sites so they remain an important part of our landscape for many generations to come.

We will continue to:

- work to ensure areas of historical importance, natural importance and natural beauty are managed correctly so they are protected.
- Follow guidelines and management plans so that sites are preserved and well cared for.
- increase awareness of the importance of these sites and why they need to be respected and protected.

## **10. Cultural Understanding and Awareness**

### **Statement**

We are committed to increasing cultural understanding of environmentally friendly practices and the benefits of natural burial to the environment. This includes educating others about the availability of environmentally friendly materials that can be used not only at natural burial grounds but across the funeral industry, although it is something we request at our natural burial grounds. We encourage the use of environmentally friendly products with our suppliers as well as encouraging clients to use local suppliers. We are committed to increasing awareness of the climate change crisis and how natural burial and sustainably managed burial grounds can help to support this.

We are continually adding new information to our website about environmentally friendly practices, suppliers and the ways you can plan an environmentally friendly natural burial. We have also been approached by local councils and bodies such as the ICCM to discuss the benefits of natural burial and sustainably managed burial grounds, which is something that we will continue to increase awareness of.

We will continue to:

- Update our website with the best environmentally friendly practices.
- Research and publish information such as blogs to increase cultural understanding and awareness.
- Increase our own awareness by learning about new practices, ideas and technology that may help with our own environmental and conservation management.
- Work with clients such as funeral directors, suppliers, and contractors, and interested parties such as councils and the ICCM to improve environmental performance and awareness wherever we can.

## **11. Monitoring and Improvement**

### **Statement**

We are continually looking at ways we can improve our environmental impact and performance and will continue to do so.

We will continue to:

- Improve and monitor environmental performance.
- Improve and reduce environmental impact.
- Assess environmental factors and impact into business decisions.
- Increase employee and landowner awareness of environmental and conservation issues.