

An Easy Guide to Natural Burial for Professional Advisers

As a professional who may have to deal with an 'end of life' conversation, natural burial could be the simpler, more discerning choice your client wants. This guide aims to help you understand the practice better and how it can benefit you and those you're working with.

WHAT is natural burial?

A natural burial interrs a body into the earth in a way that does not inhibit decomposition. Instead, the body is allowed to recycle naturally to the benefit of the soil. A biodegradable coffin or urn is used so that nothing interred harms the environment. This option is a gentler, more manageable one and is usually a more memorable experience compared to a regular cemetery or cremation.

"A sustainable alternative that gives more choice to the families involved. Afterwards it provides a naturally beautiful surrounding in which to replenish and reflect."

WHY choose it?

- A thoughtful and discerning choice, leaving in the most ecologically benign way.
- The experience is more rewarding, more individual and more memorable.
- The mood is unhurried, more relaxed, informal, peaceful and private.
- The setting is natural, healing and timeless – a beautiful place to be at peace.

"More space, more time, more meaning."

WHERE do I go to find out more?

- Our website can answer any questions you or your client may have about natural burial. The pages you may find helpful are 'Your Stories' and 'Practical Advice'.
- We also advise people to visit the burial ground so they are certain it is 'for them'. Our custodians will personally show them round the burial ground and get to know them.

"The personal touch."

HOW do I take this further?

- Download the application form from our website found on each grounds' 'arrangements' page.
- Send it to us with payment. This can be one single payment by cheque or BACS or via standing order over 10 or 20 months.

Please contact us, we are happy to answer any more queries you or your client may have. Our wealth of natural burial experience means we can help you organise the funeral you want.

"We're here to help."

WHO does what?

You:

- Talk to the family about what they would like. Ask them to write down their funeral wishes and tell people where to find them. A new resource that has some merit is www.comparethecoffin.com/create-plan which takes you through a set of detailed questions that might not otherwise come up.
- You are also more than welcome to visit the burial ground to familiarise yourself with the place. Again, our custodian would be more than happy to walk you round.

Us:

- What does your client buy from us? The right to be buried in a full burial or ashes burial plot at a meadow or woodland burial ground. These are charged at the prevailing rate meaning there will be no further increase in the price. Only the grave-digging fee and the burial registration fee are payable at the time of need.
- James or Melissa in the office will answer any further questions on the phone.
- Sound, expert advice and inspiration from real people not a call-centre.

The Funeral Director:

If your client chooses to use a Funeral Director:

- They may offer a bespoke funeral plan so that costs can be paid for in advance.
- What a funeral director will normally include in their fee is care of the deceased, help with forms and arrangements, a biodegradable coffin and transport to the grave.

Forms and Costs

All costs are reviewed annually on the 1st April. Up to date costs are detailed on the forms.

- **Application form:** This is used to purchase a plot or group of plots for now or later. The cost of a plot depends on which burial ground and which area (where applicable) a client chooses.
- **Interment form:** This needs to be completed at the time of the funeral to provide the arrangements for the day. Both the burial registration fee and grave digging charges are outlined on this form. These are payable at the time of the funeral.
- **Memorial form:** There is a variety of memorials available across our burial grounds, including native British trees, heritage apple trees, oak plaques, slate plaques and flat stone memorials. The options a client has depends on the burial ground they wish to be buried in. All information concerning memorials can be found on our websites, on the 'memorials' page of each burial ground. Memorial application forms are sent out after the funeral has happened.

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THE GOOD FUNERAL AWARDS

Cemetery of the Year 2013
Henley-on-Thames

Gravedigger of the Year 2014

Jonny Yaxley of Henley-on-
Thames & Aylesbury Vale



Cemetery of the Year 2008
Usk Castle Chase