



Dorset Downs

Natural Burial Meadow

 Leedam





Quintessential downland

The Dorset Downs natural burial meadow sits in the heart of the West Dorset countryside, above the village of Compton Valence, just five miles from the county town of Dorchester. This beautiful land, a designated part of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, is farmed by the Russell family, who have lived here for several generations.

The natural burial ground is restored to pre-war downland having been ploughed for many years in a drive for more home-grown food. The adjacent downland is already a Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) and it is expected that within a relatively short space of time the natural burial ground will become imbued with the same wildflower species.

The wildflower rich mix of seed we have sown, together with the restored and newly planted hedgerows should help encourage wildlife and give shelter to the reborn downland. It's a place that's special to us, which we hope others will share and enjoy.

How it works

A natural burial is the most ecological funeral option, a thoughtful legacy for future generations. The meadow will remain as it is now, permanent pasture - genuine, farmed countryside.

In advance

- Visit the burial meadow and spend time there getting to know it and deciding whether it's right for you.
- Download an application form from our website, or phone us and we'll send you an information pack.
- Pre-purchase at today's rate. Options available to pay by standing order.

Practicalities

We recommend stout footwear as the ground is uneven. A foldable chair is a good idea for those who find it difficult to stand and remember, there's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong sort of clothes...

There is a wealth of information about natural burial on our website www.dorsetnaturalburials.co.uk and we are here in the Leedam Natural Heritage office to answer your questions - 01600 716438.

When planning a funeral

- Complete an interment form to let us know your plans for the day so that we can help you achieve your wishes.
- Make the arrangements yourself or ask your funeral director to do this for you.
- Book the date and time with us. Burials may take place 10am-3pm and at weekends by special arrangement.



Our custodians



Tessa and Jeremy

Mobile: 07818 037184

Office: 01600 716438

Email: dorset@leedam.com



Our custodians at Dorset Downs are Tessa and Jeremy Russell. Tessa grew up on the farm alongside several other Chick family members and continues to live here today.

On the day of a funeral, they will be there to welcome and look after you.

Please contact the office if you would like to arrange a visit or learn more about having a natural burial at Dorset Downs. If you prefer to explore the burial meadow independently, please feel free to visit and have a wander around.



More time and space

The Dorset Downs natural burial meadow lies at the heart of the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

It is tranquil and private. An unhurried and gentle place to get away from it all. It is somewhere quiet to be with your memories, to take one step at a time, close to nature, whatever the weather, throughout the seasons.

A landscape photograph showing a field of tall grass and wildflowers in the foreground. In the middle ground, there is a large, dark, rounded bush or small tree. The background is a flat horizon under a sky with soft, golden light from the setting or rising sun, and some wispy clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and reflective.

“A sad occasion became
full of love, friendship
and time for reflection”

Make the day your own

The meadow gives you the freedom to be yourselves.

Whether you are planning a simple interment with only a few in attendance or a larger funeral event we will offer inspiration, support and guidance, so you can organise the day exactly as you'd like it.





Flowers

Consider using flowers from your garden, or a friend's, or produce from the veg patch to create a hand-tied bouquet. Ask florists to use these or locally grown flowers. No plastic, Oasis foam or wire, please.

Think about scattering petals from a basket or single stems into the grave.



Pets

Dogs offer comfort and companionship, especially at funerals. Dogs on leads are welcome at the burial meadow.

A pet's ashes may be included in its owner's grave at the time of interment.

Memorial plaques

Oak memorial plaques engraved with names and dates commemorate people buried in the meadow.

The plaques are housed between the upright timbers of the walls of the memorial shelter, located within the top corner of the meadow nearest the entrance.

Rights to display a plaque are granted for a period of 25 years after which they can be renewed.

Alwyn Littlewood

1943 - 2010

Peter J. Twedde

1938 - 2008

Susan Patricia Ravenhill

1949 - 2010

Doreen Waring

1924 - 2010

John Desmond Newton

1935 - 2007

Stan R. L. Westacott

1927 - 2010

Barry Rees

1973 - 2010

Robert L. H. K. Pattinson

1930 - 2009

Felicity Nash

1927 - 2009

Simon Christopher Cresser

1988 - 2010

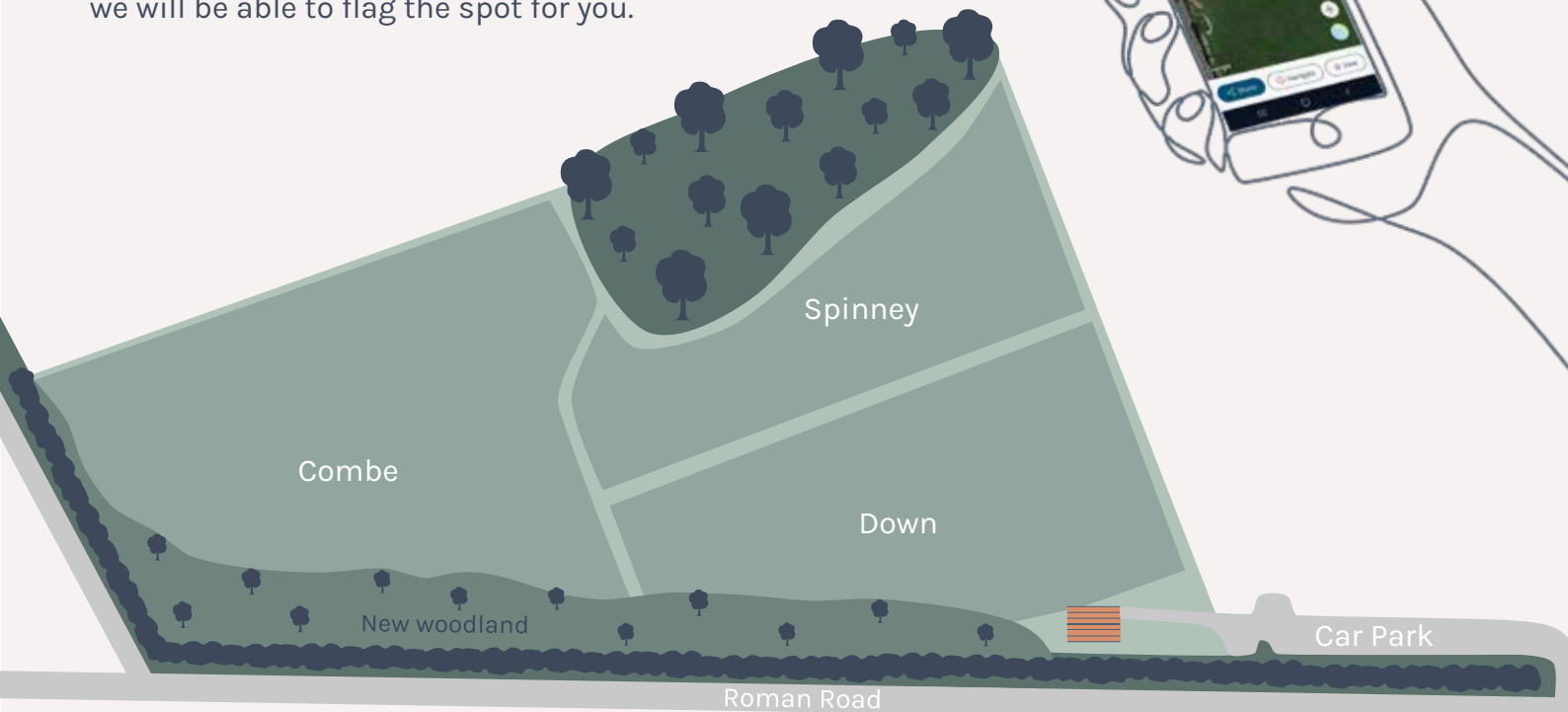
Elsie Rabjohns

1907 - 2010

Finding the spot

Graves are carefully mapped and their exact GPS locations and What3Words addresses are recorded and shared with you so that you'll know where to visit.

If you struggle with any of these, don't worry, we will be able to flag the spot for you.





Dorset Downs Natural Burial Meadow

Roman Road, Winterbourne Abbas
Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9ET (*not for correspondence*)

[Google Maps Plus Code: PCGQ+8G Dorchester](#)

[What3Words.com/#!/delighted.sundial.compress](https://www.what3words.com/#!/en/delighted.sundial.compress)

You can find us on the Roman Road just off the A35 Bridport Road, west of Dorchester. Look out for the large entrance signs.

Contact the office for the code to access the burial meadow car park.

Custodians

Tessa and Jeremy Russell
t. 07818 037184
e. dorset@leedam.com

Office

Leedam Natural Heritage
26 Agincourt Square
Monmouth, NP25 3BT
t. 01600 716438

Facebook [@dorsetnaturalburials](#)

Instagram [@dorset_downs_nbg](#)

www.dorsetnaturalburials.co.uk



Leedam

Leedam Natural Heritage is a trading name of
Native Woodland Ltd, registered in Scotland
Company No. SC240278

Dorset Downs Application for Burial or Interment – continued...

1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023

1. Full name of the person who has died

Address _____

Postcode _____ Date of birth _____

Date of death _____ Age _____

2. What do you wish to arrange?

A Burial An Ashes Interment

The rights are pre-purchased, Reg No. _____
next to _____

Please reserve an additional right of burial for

Full name _____

Address [as above] _____

Postcode _____

Date of birth _____ Ashes or burial?

3. Form giving authority to bury/inter

Please scan and email the original form(s) to us

- Form 14, or Received
 Procurator Fiscal's Certificate, or
 Cremation Certificate, or
 Other _____

Form Ref. No. /date _____

Office use:

Plot Ref: _____

PGM PGM PGM

Notes _____

Added to Calendar; Coffin size OK; BN issued

Res plots on plan; Certs issued; Inv.# _____

Paid £ _____ by FD, Appl, by BACS/Chq/Cash?

Payment OK? Date _____

4. Requested date: (weekends by arrangement only)

Day: _____ GD; Cust

Arrival time _____ departure _____

5. Funeral Co. _____

Contact _____

Tel _____

Email _____

6. What type of event are you planning?

- Simple committal with a graveside service
 Committal after a service elsewhere
 A longer celebration of life
 Other _____

Numbers expected: people _____ / cars _____

Special requests: _____

Tell people to wear suitable clothes and shoes (or wellies),
and perhaps to bring folding chairs and blankets.

7. The family representative on the day will be:

Mobile (optional) _____

8. Will you use a celebrant or minister? Yes / No

Name _____

9. Who will bear the coffin?

- Funeral director's staff, or Friends and family, or
 A combination of these

Please read and circulate our guide to health and safety
<http://www.leedam.com/health--safety.html>

10. Type and size of coffin, shroud or casket

Materials: _____

Max. external size - leave blank if not actually measured

Length: _____ Width: _____ Height: _____

Confirmed by: _____

11. Environmental responsibility

- No embalming chemicals are being used
 Coffin/casket is made from only natural materials
 Coffin/casket is lined with calico, not plastic
 No unspecified objects are inside the coffin/casket

Dorset Downs Application for Burial or Interment – continued...

1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023

- No unspecified objects are inside the coffin/casket

12. Payment options

Full payment is required two days before the burial or interment.

RIGHT OF BURIAL (plots are single occupancy only)

<input type="radio"/> in the Spinney area, £855	£	
<input type="radio"/> in the Down area, £1070	£	
<input type="radio"/> in the Combe area, £1345	£	
<input type="radio"/> Additional burial rights	£	
<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Fee, £215	£	215
<input type="radio"/> Memorial Rights (25yrs), £300	£	
TOTAL:	£	

ASHES INTERMENT

<input type="radio"/> in the Spinney area, £425	£	
<input type="radio"/> in the Down area, £535	£	
<input type="radio"/> in the Combe area, £670	£	
<input type="radio"/> Additional ashes rights	£	
<input type="checkbox"/> Registration Fee, £215	£	215
<input type="radio"/> Memorial Rights (25yrs), £300	£	
TOTAL:	£	

Paid to Leedam Natural Heritage Paid by bank transfer to A/c 06006136, S/c 80-02-38, quoting ref: DoDo+Yourname

13. Signature and declaration

I declare that the information given on this form is accurate. I am the person to whom all correspondence should be sent and am responsible for paying the amounts shown above and confirm that I have read, printed or saved a copy of the Terms and Conditions which apply (<http://www.leedam.com/burial-contract-terms.html>) and understand that on completing this application I am bound by the Terms and Conditions.

IMPORTANT Please let us know if your contact details change

Signature _____ Full Name _____

Home address As above] _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

Date _____ Relationship to 1. _____

How did you find out about us?

14. How we use your personal data and updates

Please keep me updated about changes at the burial ground, your products and services by email by phone
Personal information you supply will be used to record and confirm the details of the purchase and to record statutory records of the burials and interments. We may share the details overleaf with the burial ground's custodian and gravedigger at the time of a funeral. We may also use it for our own statistical analysis. We will not share your data with other organisations. After death, we are obliged to keep a register of the date of burial, names in full, age, address and grave number. By law, this data must be accessible to the public.

15. Separate grave digging charges (Please do not combine these with the payment above)

GRAVE DIGGING FOR BURIAL

Single depth grave weekdays £400

Burial at weekends by arrangement only

by bank transfer to Nigel Whitefield, ####, quoting ref: DoDo+Yourname

GRAVE DIGGING FOR ASHES INTERMENT

Weekday interment weekdays £185

Weekends by arrangement only

by bank transfer to #####, ####, quoting ref: DoDo+Yourname

Funeral arrangements



Burial ground name:	Dorset Downs Natural Burial Ground
Location:	Roman Road, Compton Valence, Dorchester Nearest postcode DT2 9DX (not accurate when used with SatNav) Instead use this what3words.com/sweeter.extension.noticing
Access:	Open year-round 9am-5pm. The pedestrian gate into the meadow is not locked. The car park is locked after 5 pm overnight. Please let wheelchair users know that there are no paths across the grass.
Description:	Elevated, picturesque downland with far-reaching views across the combe and rolling downs. The burial ground is divided into three named areas, each of which offers something different.
Ethos:	Keep things simple, natural and sustainable. Real countryside preserved for future generations.
On-site facilities:	Car parking and memorial barn. A WC can be organised on request. No meeting rooms, chapels, or mortuary facilities.
Operator and Owner:	Operator: Leedam Natural Heritage. Owner – CV Farms.
Custodian:	Tessa Russell, tel 07818 037 184

Procedures

Provisional booking: Call 01600 716438 to make a provisional funeral booking, after the death has been certified, and let us know the requested date, name of the deceased, your own contact details and any prior purchase information.

Confirmation:	We will check the calendar to make sure it's not already taken, then contact the gravedigger and custodian to make sure they are available before confirming the booking.
Submit forms:	Download the Interment Form and complete the details as soon as possible and <u>at least two days before the event</u> . Email it to dorset@leedam.com with a scanned copy of the Coroner's Order for Burial or a Registrar's Certificate (or cremation certificate for an ashes interment).
Payments:	Payment by bank transfer is required before the event. The gravedigger is paid separately, but also before the event. We will send you a receipt and confirm that everything is OK.
Prices and forms:	A price list and all forms are available on the website www.leedam.com/locations/dorset-downs/forms-and-prices/
Embalming:	Embalming fills the body with toxic chemicals which we do not wish to introduce into the soil. We would only accept embalmed remains in exceptional circumstances, e.g. repatriation.
Choosing a plot:	Arrange a family visit to the burial ground with the Custodian (07818 037 184) to select the area that suits you. Liaise with the office directly (01600 716438) using the mobile app What3Words.com to make sure the location is right.
Double plots:	Plots are single depth. Double plots are arranged side by side. Choose which side is which. The second plot can be paid for in full or costs can be spread over 10 or 20 months by setting up a monthly standing order (extra admin charge applies). If undecided, we can provisionally reserve it for 1 year, after which it may be offered to others.
Coffins etc:	Choose an eco-coffin, casket or shroud. All materials, including linings and clothing, should be natural and biodegradable. No veneered MDF or chipboard, please. Standard nameplates are OK or a handwritten card label with the deceased's name and dates. <i>TIP - Use calico canvas instead of polythene Crem Film.</i>

Coffin size:	Please measure and include the true maximum external dimensions of the coffin on the Interment Form. If in doubt please call us.
Grave digging:	Our nominated gravedigger will prepare the grave ready for your arrival. Graves are single depth 1.3m; double plots are arranged side by side. Families can backfill the soil to cover the coffin if they choose, but the gravedigger will complete the work.

On the day: There is usually only one burial on the day and time is not limited. The Custodian will be there to meet and direct you.

The vehicular gate into the meadow will be open for the hearse, limousine and family mourners with limited mobility who display the priority parking sign in the windscreen.

TIP - Estate cars are popular with families instead of the formal hearse.

Dogs and pets: Dogs offer comfort and companionship, especially at funerals. Dogs on leads are welcome at the burial meadow. A pet's ashes may be included in its owner's grave at the time of interment.

Music: There is no electrical power supply in the burial ground. Make sure that battery-powered speakers are powerful enough to deliver good sound quality. Live, acoustic music is always beautiful.

What to wear: Wellies/hiking shoes (not high-heels); warm, windproof clothes.
TIP - Bring folding chairs, scarves, hats and blankets for the elderly.

Carrying the coffin: We have a wooden bier available upon request at the burial ground. The ground is uneven, so it is recommended to carry the coffin underarm rather than on shoulders, feet-first. Set up trestles at regular resting points if the carry distance is long.

Webbing: Please bring your own webbing. The custodian or gravedigger will have a backup set in case you come without.

Flowers: Seasonal flowers from the garden or produce from the veg patch are perfect. Let florists know it is for a natural burial, so no plastic,

Oasis foam or wire, please. Arrangements should be taken away at the end of the event. Please let the custodian know if a posy of flowers is to be left on the grave. *TIP - Bring a basket of petals from the garden to scatter into the grave.*

Items in the grave: Additional cremated remains can be included the grave, even those of a pet; please include details on the application form. You can also include natural tributes e.g. a wooden boat, sea shells; a sealed museum jar with significant pieces, or other inert objects.

After the funeral: We will issue a certificate of interment, by email, with the precise grave location details. This will be in pdf format for sharing.

Finding the grave: The certificate of interment will include links to Google Maps, GPS coordinates and the What3Words address of the grave. The What3Words mobile app is an easy way to navigate to the grave. If there is ever concern, we can flag the spot.

Memorials: To keep the land sustainable for the future as pasture, individual graves are not marked. Instead, oak plaques inscribed with the names and dates are mounted between the upright timbers of the memorial shelter. Memorial rights to display a plaque are granted for 25 years (renewable). The memorial can be ordered on the Interment Form or a [separate application form](#).

Plants and trees: To conserve the downland landscape and the natural habitat, no trees are planted on graves. There is an opportunity to plant trees at the roadside margin of the meadow. To protect wildlife and bereaved families from unwanted change, nothing should be planted and no seeds should be scattered without our consent.

Further Information

Baby & infant funerals: England has a scheme in place, whereby no fees should be charged for the burial of a child or person under the age of 18, which we support. Unfortunately, the scheme does not include babies lost before 24 weeks, however, we will not charge for the grave, although the administration and digging costs will apply.

Direct burials: A direct /simple natural burial can be arranged for families who do not wish to attend the burial. Full grave location details will be provided on the burial certificate.

Burial Ground Rules: Outlined in full [here](#).

Maintenance: The burial ground is maintained as agricultural grassland. It will be mown periodically and paths will be cut. Sheep may be brought in to graze the land and when they do, be careful where you tread.

Long term security: The land is within the Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is noted as being of national importance. This gives it a very high level of protection. There is no real chance of the land being redeveloped at any time in the future.

Contact us: Office: Leedam Natural Heritage, tel 01600 716438
Email: Dorset@leedam.com
Website: www.dorsetnaturalburials.co.uk
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Dorsetnaturalburials>