



# Aylesbury Vale

Natural Burial Meadow

Leedam





# Peaceful and Beautiful

The meadow at Aylesbury is rich in natural beauty. A special place to spend time listening to the skylark's song amid the expansive skies and sweeping vales, taking in the fine views of the Chiltern Hills and beyond.

As you enter, we have a beautiful pond to offer encouragement to wildlife and wildflowers. This calming corner is also home to our memorial panel, with slate plaques that commemorate those buried in the meadow.

Burials at Aylesbury Vale are simple, using only natural materials and leaving the lightest of footprints in the picturesque Buckinghamshire countryside.

Ashes can also be laid to rest at the meadow, nestled among vibrant wildflowers and grasses, local wildlife and grazing sheep.

# In memory of Dorothy Brock

This meadow celebrates the vision of Dorothy Brock, whose family has farmed the land for five generations. Dorothy chose to rest here in the landscape she loved and opened Aylesbury Vale to share that possibility with others. The burial meadow is now owned and managed by Dorothy's daughter, Sally Whitworth.



# Our custodian



## **Sally Whitworth**

Tel: 01844 872028

Office: 01600 716438

Email: [sally.whitworth@leedam.co.uk](mailto:sally.whitworth@leedam.co.uk)



Our custodian at Aylesbury Vale is Sally Whitworth. Sally and her husband Craig are actively involved in farming the land, sowing wildflowers and planting trees. They and Sally's cousin Howard jointly look after the burial ground, and will be there to meet families and friends to help with parking and questions on the day of a funeral.

Please contact Sally if you would like to arrange a visit or learn more about having a natural burial at Aylesbury. If you prefer to explore the meadow independently, please feel free to visit at any time and have a look around.

# 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 - preserving its authentic, agricultural character.

## In advance

- Visit Aylesbury Vale Natural Burial Meadow and spend time there getting a feel for whether it's right for you.
- Apply online or download an application form from our website, or phone us and we can send you an information pack via post.
- Pre-purchase at today's rate. Options available to pay by standing order.

## Practicalities

We recommend sturdy footwear for walking in the Meadow. A foldable chair is a good idea for those who find it difficult to stand and please dress appropriately for the weather. We also have composting toilet facilities on site in the car park.

There is extensive information about natural burials on our website [www.aylesburynaturalburials.co.uk](http://www.aylesburynaturalburials.co.uk) and we are here in the Leedam office to answer your questions - 01600 716438.

## When planning a funeral

- Complete an application form to let us know your plans for the day so that we can help you deliver your wishes.
- Make the arrangements yourself or ask your funeral director to do this for you.
- Book the date and time with us. Burials can take place at anytime during the day on weekdays and even on Saturdays by arrangement.



# Simple, natural and beautiful

The concept behind natural burial is one of giving back to nature. The body is returned to the earth in a biodegradable coffin, wearing only natural materials, without toxic preservative treatment and at a shallower depth, to encourage transformation by nature in the living layer of the soil.





## 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.

Choose the best format, music ceremony and style to suit the person who has died. You could celebrate with an open-air picnic; wear bright colours or a favourite team's strip; arrive by motorbike or horse and carriage. You have the time and space to do it your way.





## Flowers

Consider using flowers from your garden, or a friend's, or fresh 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. We know that they help relieve anxiety and stress. They help children who are grieving and dealing with all the emotions that are bought up at funerals.

Dogs on leads are welcome at the burial meadow.



# Memorials

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

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

We also offer a limited number of places where trees can be planted or dedicated to someone's memory within Aylesbury Vale.

# Finding the spot

To preserve the natural landscape, graves do not feature headstones, grave-markers or surrounds; instead, they are carefully mapped and their locations are recorded and shared with you so that you'll know where to visit.

Whichever way you would prefer to share the location, we have got it covered...

- >> Latitude and Longitude
- >> **///** What3Words address
- >> Google Pluscode
- >> Google Maps link
- >> QR Code (scan with your camera app)

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

You'll be able to return to the spot at any time and you will have helped preserve a much loved landscape for future generations to enjoy.





### **Aylesbury Vale Natural Burial Meadow**

Stockwell Lane, Aylesbury, HP17 9UG

*(not for correspondence)*

Google Maps Plus Code: [Q43R+R7 Aylesbury](#)

What3Words: [///knee.rooster.modifies](#)

Find us on Stockwell Lane, one mile along from Meadle and just past Orchard View Farm Shop and Cafe. Look out for signs on the left side of the road when heading away from Meadle towards Ford. Use the What3Words for precise entrance location.

### **Custodian**

Sally Whitworth

01844 872028

[sally.whitworth@leedam.co.uk](mailto:sally.whitworth@leedam.co.uk)

### **Office**

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**Leedam**

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

Pre-purchase form - Valid from 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025

## 1. The applicant (the person who will be responsible for payment)

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Your name                |  |
| Your address             |  |
| Your email address       |  |
| Your telephone number(s) |  |

## 2. For whom is the right of burial being purchased?

|                                 |                  |   |                                 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Their full name<br>(☐ as above) |                  |   |                                 |
| Their address<br>(☐ as above)   |                  |   |                                 |
| Their date of birth             |                  | Relationship<br><i>You are their...</i> |                                 |
| Selected area                   | (not applicable) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ashes          | <input type="checkbox"/> Burial |

## 3. OPTIONAL - Purchase an adjacent right of burial

|                            |  |                                |                                 |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Their full name            |  |                                |                                 |
| Their address (☐ as above) |  |                                |                                 |
| Their date of birth        |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Ashes | <input type="checkbox"/> Burial |

## 4. Applicant's signature and declaration

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 in the table below and agree to be bound by Leedam's Terms and Conditions ([www.leedam.co.uk/burial-contract](http://www.leedam.co.uk/burial-contract)) and the Burial Ground Regulations ([www.leedam.com/rules-and-regulations/](http://www.leedam.com/rules-and-regulations/)) which apply.

|   |  |      |  |
|---|--|------|--|
| Signature                                 |  | Date |  |
| Full name                                 |  |      |  |
| How did you hear about the burial ground? |  |      |  |

## 5. Payment options

At this stage only the right of burial (or ashes interment) can be reserved; the registration fee, memorial rights and the gravedigging charges are always paid at prevailing rate at the time of the burial.

| Item  | 2024-25 Price | Quantity | £ |
|---|---------------|----------|---|
| Burial Plot - Meadow  | £1,320        |          |   |
| Burial Plot - Owlswick End  | £995          |          |   |
| Ashes Plot - Meadow   | £720          |          |   |
| Ashes Plot - Owlswick End   | £450          |          |   |
| <b>Optional</b>   |               |          |   |
| Extra human ashes in same plot  | £240          |          |   |
| Standing order admin fee*   | £75           |          |   |
|   |               | TOTAL:   |   |
| Payable to Leedam Natural Heritage, Account No: 06006136, Sort Code: 80-02-38 |               |          |   |

\*Please add the Standing Order Admin Fee if you wish to spread payments over 10 or 20 months and make arrangements with your bank to pay monthly instalments to Leedam Natural Heritage a/c 06006136, s/c 80-02-38, quoting ref: AyVa+Yourname.

Please note - At the time of the burial or ashes interment there will be two additional charges: (i) the Registration Fee, and (ii) the gravedigger's charges.

## 6. Updates and how we use your personal data

We would like to be able to contact you about future matters concerning the burial ground and any new options that might become available. If you agree to being contacted this way please tick the relevant boxes:  Email  Post  Phone (you can opt out at any time).

Personal data you supply will be used to confirm the purchase and to register rights sold at the burial ground. We share details of the event and the people involved with the custodian to prepare them for your arrival. We may also use it for statistical analysis. We will not share your data with other organisations. View our privacy policy for further information ([www.leedam.co.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.leedam.co.uk/privacy-policy)). We are obliged to keep a register of all burials and interments, recording the date of burial, names in full, age, address and grave number. By law, this data must be accessible to the public.



# For when I die...



## Message

TIP - Write a message here to the person who reads this document

My full name

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My home address

---

My date of birth

---

The key person/people to contact in case of my death

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They are my... (son, daughter, executor etc)

---

Their contact details are...

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I have made a will, it is kept here<sup>1</sup>

TIP - if you haven't, you probably should get a solicitor-written will, a service which is often offered in return for a charitable donation

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<sup>1</sup> Edit or delete as necessary



## I have a pre-paid funeral plan<sup>2</sup>

TIP - Don't feel pressured into taking out a pre-paid funeral plan, it can be just as good to keep your money in a savings account, because of the fees charged by the plan provider and commissions paid out to the person who arranged it.

Plan details -

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## I have set aside money to pay for my funeral

Bank:

Account No:

Sort code:

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## Telephone tree – who to call

I attach a list of people to call and have highlighted those who should be asked to let others know.

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## Newspaper ? Online announcement

No | Yes \* (say where) | No Preference

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## I have decided to be

Buried | Cremated \*

Name of natural burial ground, cemetery or crematorium

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<sup>2</sup> Edit or delete as necessary

## Have I reserved a plot?

No | Yes\* - the papers relating to this are attached

Location:

No, I would like my ashes to be scattered. (TIP - this requires the landowner's consent and is not great for the environment or ecologically sound)

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## Funeral director

None if possible (using a FD is not a legal requirement in the UK)

First choice

Second choice

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## Preferred coffin / shroud

(TIP - locally made from biodegradable materials such as wicker, wood, wool, or recycled fabrics like cotton sheets)

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## Before the funeral

**Embalming** - An unnatural, invasive and toxic process, also called hygienic treatment by some FDs. If you are having a natural burial you should ask not to be embalmed - the poisonous chemicals will kill soil microbes and leech into groundwater)

I do | I do not \* wish to be embalmed

## Where to rest

before the funeral for some or all of the period

## I would like to be buried with / next to

(TIP - You can reserve an adjacent plot in most cases. Also, extra cremated remains can be included as part of a burial, even your pet's ashes can go in with you.)

## Viewing

(TIP - for some this is important, but don't delay viewing)

I am happy for my body to be viewed: No | Yes \* | No Preference

Instructions for laying out

My family may/may not\* help lay me out if they wish

## Hair

## Clothes, glasses etc.

(TIPS - it's a struggle to dress a dead body which you might prefer to avoid.

For natural burial, choose natural, biodegradable fabrics like cotton, silk, wool, leather etc.)

## Make-up

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## The funeral

Think about what's important when organising your funeral...

## Funeral Service

### Who to invite

### Type of service

(Tip: Services at crematoriums, natural burial grounds, and cemeteries can be religious and non-religious or of mixed religion. You can also choose to have no service at all.)

### Dress code

**Arrival** perhaps you would like to arrive on a hay-trailer behind a vintage tractor...

**Venue** (Tip: You can have a funeral service anywhere - at your local pub, hotel, your home, or even outdoors with a simple committal beforehand, and maybe a wake there too after the funeral.)

### Celebrant / Minister

**Words...** provide some help with an outline of your life, special events (we have collected some here <http://www.leedam.com/words-and-music.html>).

## Order of ceremony sheet

Folded A4 card with a paper insert sheet? (TIP: why not include a seed card, pack of seeds or acorn to take away to plant?)

## Photograph

## Readings

## Music

## Video

**Flowers** (TIP - instead of florist's flowers, gather flowers from the garden or specimens from the veg patch. Alternatively suggest a favourite item like a hat, flag, fishing gear, model boat, remote-controlled car etc. to be placed on the coffin)

## Photos

Photography/video recording

**Special things** - like a hat, emblem, craftwork, baking, scent, tipple, crossword...

**Collection** – which charity?

**Special instructions**

**Vehicles** (hearse, limo, own cars etc)

**Bearers** (list if there are any people you would like to be asked to bear the coffin)

## Gathering after funeral service

Place

Instructions

## Newspaper report

## Memorial

Type of memorial  
(if any is permitted)

Inscription

## Anniversaries

## Tree Planting

## FINANCIAL MATTERS

I attach a list of my bank accounts, building society accounts, savings bonds, insurance plans, pension plans, shares and investments etc

## BUSINESS MATTERS

I attach a list of my Business partners, Solicitor, Accountant, Landlord(s), Tenant(s) etc