



Cothiemuir Hill

Natural Burial Ground

 Leedam





An enchanting place

The woodland at Cothiemuir Hill is a peaceful, natural place. Somewhere special to spend time listening to the birdsong in the surrounding woodland, admiring the Neolithic stones, and taking in the view towards Bennachie. A place of escape, away from it all.

The burial ground is a central part of the historic Forbes Estate, located within the beautiful Strathdon landscape.

As the hardwood trees in the burial ground next to the ancient pinewood have matured, a variety of wildlife has been attracted to it including red squirrels, pine martens, both red and roe deer, badgers and foxes. Overhead you may see ospreys and buzzards.

The site is managed to encourage wildflowers in the spring and summer.

How it works

You can purchase rights for a full burial, ashes interment or ashes scattering at the burial ground...

In advance

Visit the burial ground and spend time there getting to know it and deciding whether it's right for you.

Complete an online application or download a pdf form from our website. If you'd like a printed information pack, please contact the office.

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 leedam.com/locations/cothiemuir-hill and we are here in the Leedam office to answer your questions - 01600 716438.

When planning a funeral

Complete an online application form, or download 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 custodian



Malcolm Forbes

Phone: 01975 562524

Office: 01600 716438

Email: cothiemuir@leedam.co.uk



Malcolm, 23rd Lord Forbes (Premier Lord of Scotland) is the Landowner and custodian at Cothiemuir Hill. Castle Forbes has been the seat of Premier Lord of Scotland for almost six hundred years.

On the day of a funeral Malcolm, or a member of his team will be there to welcome and look after you.

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

More time and space

An unhurried and private place away from the hustle of daily life. Somewhere to remember, replenish and reflect. A place of peace and solitude, when you need it, and love.

Spend time in nature, experience the weather and watch the seasons change. And for those at rest here, it offers a simple return to nature.



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





Make the day your own

The burial ground 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 ground.

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

Memorial stones

Memorial rights are granted for the display of a memorial stone on the grave. In keeping with the wild and natural character of the burial ground, memorial stones need to be rustic in shape and laid flat to the ground.

Letter cutting can be undertaken by a family member, local stonemason or memorial mason. In keeping with the natural setting, the stone should not be cut or polished, and no paint should be used in the letters.

Memorial trees

We have a number of spaces where we can offer a place to plant a native tree at the natural burial ground in memory of someone special. New native trees will enhance the development of the extended woodland, improving biodiversity and encouraging more wildlife to visit.



Finding the spot

The plots are carefully mapped and their locations 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. You'll be able to return to the spot at any time and you'll have helped preserve a much loved landscape for future generations to enjoy.



Burial ground map

The burial ground is divided into areas, so you can choose the place that feels right.

You can find the current prices on the forms and prices page on our website:

leedam.com/locations/cothiemuir-hill



Scan the QR code to view the forms and prices page.



Cothiemuir Hull Natural Burial Ground

Castle Forbes, Keig, Alford, AB33 8BL

(not for correspondence)

Google Maps Plus Code: [7999+34 Alford](#)

what3words.com/bloomers.softly.seasick

Find us as you leave Keig, head north and take the right turn towards Glenton. Continue for just under a mile and there will be a left hand turn for the burial ground. Follow the track and you will arrive at the burial ground car park.

Custodian

Malcolm Forbes

01494 881 586

cothiemuir@leedam.co.uk

Office

Leedam Natural Heritage

26 Agincourt Square

Monmouth, NP25 3BT

01600 716 438

Facebook [@cothiemuirnaturalburials](#)

Instagram [@cothiemuir_natural_burials](#)

leedam.com/locations/cothiemuir-hill



**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 (☐ as above)			
Their address (☐ as above)			
Their date of birth		Relationship You are their...	
Selected area		<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) and the Burial Ground Regulations (www.leedam.com/rules-and-regulations/) which apply.

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

Continued overleaf...

Return by email to cothiemuir@leedam.co.uk

or by post to Leedam, The Market Tavern, 26 Agincourt Square, Monmouth, NP25 3BT | 01600 716 438

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	£
Ashes Plot - Ash	£535	
Ashes Plot - Beech	£535	
Ashes Plot - Blackthorn	£535	
Ashes Plot - Oak	£535	
Ashes Plot - Rowan	£535	
Burial Plot - Ash	£1,075	
Burial Plot - Beech	£1,075	
Burial Plot - Blackthorn	£1,075	
Burial Plot - Oak	£1,075	
Burial Plot - Rowan	£1,075	
Adjacent plot	Please insert price	
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: CoHi+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.

We will send you a certificate (or certificates if you are also reserving the adjacent plot) confirming your reserved right(s) of burial and a receipt for your payment.

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). 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

My home address

My date of birth

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

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

Their contact details are...

I have made a will, it is kept here¹

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

¹ Edit or delete as necessary

I have a pre-paid funeral plan²

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 -

I have set aside money to pay for my funeral

Bank:

Account No:

Sort code:

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.

Newspaper ? Online announcement

No | Yes * (say where) | No Preference

I have decided to be

Buried | Cremated *

Name of natural burial ground, cemetery or crematorium

² 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)

Funeral director

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

First choice

Second choice

Preferred coffin / shroud

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

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

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