



Usk Castle Chase

Natural burial ground

 Leedam





A beautiful view over familiar places

An elevated meadow, surrounded by mature trees on three sides, which frame scenic horizons across the town and the Usk valley towards Twmbarlwm in the west and Wentwood to the south.

The rustic peace and beauty here change with each passing season. Visit the burial ground at any time of year to connect with nature, sense the elements, and feel replenished and revitalised. Find space to reflect on life, love, and loss.

The meadow offers freedom and privacy – a space that's yours when you need it. It's a calm and timeless place to be still, away from the hurry and noise of the modern world.

How it works

A natural burial is the most ecological funeral option, a thoughtful legacy for future generations. At Usk Natural Burial Ground, you can purchase rights for burial or ashes interment...

In advance

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

Complete an online application on our website, or phone us and we'll talk you through the process or send you forms.

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.usknaturalburials.co.uk and we are here in the Leedam office to answer your questions - 01600 716438.

When planning a funeral

Complete our online application 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 on weekdays or Saturdays by arrangement.



Our custodian



Rosie Humphreys

Tel: 01291 792029

Office: 01600 716438

Email: usk@leedam.co.uk



Our custodian at Usk natural burial meadow is Rosie Humphreys. Rosie is also the landowner and has farmed Little Castle Farm since 1991 with her husband Henry. Usk Castle Chase natural burial ground was the first of the Leedam burial grounds to be opened and has been open since 2005.

On the day of a funeral, Rosie or one of her team 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 Usk. If you prefer to explore the burial meadow independently, please feel free to visit and have a wander around.



More time and space

The natural burial ground in Usk is an open meadow, surrounded by mature trees framing scenic views across the Usk Valley.

The burial ground 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 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.

If it rains, the memorial shelter provides space for gatherings and refuge from the weather.



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 roof of the memorial shelter, located below the top ridge of the meadow by the Sedge Bank area.

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. Tweddie

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

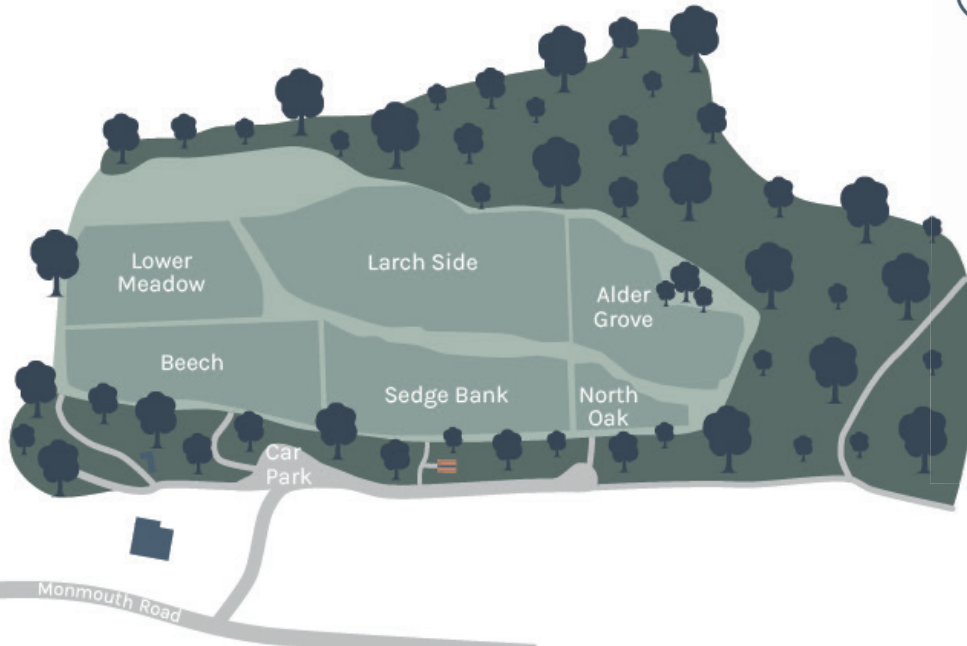
1907 - 2010

Christopher Lowell

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 - call us, we'll help.





Usk Castle Chase Natural Burial Ground

Monmouth Road, Usk, Monmouthshire, NP15 1QX
(not for correspondence)

Google Maps Plus Code: P477+V8 Usk

What3Words: ///flattered.mandolin.decoded

Find us the on the Monmouth Road between Usk and Raglan. A mile from Usk town centre, look for the 'Natural Burial Ground' signs on the left. The car park is through 2 sets of gates up the hill, the memorial shelter is up the track to the right.

Custodian

Rosie Humphries
Tel: 01291 792029
Email: usk@leedam.co.uk

Office

Leedam Natural Heritage
26 Agincourt Square
Monmouth, NP25 3BT
Tel: 01600 716438

Facebook @usknaturalburials
Instagram @usk_natural_burials
www.usknaturalburials.co.uk



Leedam

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

Interment 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. The person who has died

Their full name			
The deceased's address			
Their date of birth		The date of death	
Your relationship to the deceased?	<i>You are the deceased's...</i>		
Who is the deceased's primary representative?			
Their telephone number			
Their email address			

3. Funeral director (FD) - if you are using one

Company name	
Contact name	
Contact email address	
Contact telephone number(s)	

4. The coffin, casket or shroud

What material is it made of?					
<i>Please note - NO PLASTIC LININGS or polyester trimmings must be used. Line with canvas or paper.</i>					
Accurate exterior dimensions	Length		Width		Height

5. The grave

Type of grave	<input type="checkbox"/> Burial		<input type="checkbox"/> Ashes	
Are the rights pre-purchased?	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
If yes, the Register Number	01 -			
Next to an existing grave?	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
If yes, next to whom?				
Would you like to reserve the adjacent plot?	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Provisional (for 1 year)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - burial plot	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes - ashes plot
If yes, please provide their:	Name			
	Address			
	Date of birth			
	Phone no.			
	Email			

6. Extra ashes within the coffin/casket/grave

Extra ashes?	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Human ashes	
			<i>Human ashes require an additional registration fee.</i>	
For extra human ashes, please provide their:	Name			
	Their last address			
	Date of birth			
	Date of death			

7. The event

Requested date <i>(burial on weekdays only)</i>			
Requested arrival time: <i>(11am-2pm in winter / 11am - 4pm in summer)</i>		Estimated departure:	

What type of event are you planning?	<input type="checkbox"/> Simple committal with a graveside service <input type="checkbox"/> Committal after a service elsewhere <input type="checkbox"/> A longer celebration of life <input type="checkbox"/> Other...		
Who will carry the coffin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Funeral director's staff <input type="checkbox"/> Family and friends <input type="checkbox"/> A combination (FD + Family and friends)		
Number of people expected		Number of cars:	
Name of officiant (if any)			
Special requests (e.g. bier)			

8. Optional items

An oak memorial plaque mounted in the memorial shelter for 25 years (renewable)			
Name to go on plaque <i>(Max 28 letters and spaces)</i>			
Year of birth		Year of death	

9. 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	
Full name	
Date	

How did you find out about the Natural Burial Ground?

Continued overleaf...

Valid from 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025

Payment options

Item	2024-25 Price	£
Ashes Plot - Alder Grove	£740	
Ashes Plot - Beech	£1,225	
Ashes Plot - Larch Side	£740	
Ashes Plot - Lower Meadow	£490	
Ashes Plot - North Oak	£795	
Ashes Plot - Sedge Bank	£960	
Burial Plot - Alder Grove	£1,475	
Burial Plot - Beech	£2,460	
Burial Plot - Larch Side	£1,475	
Burial Plot - Lower Meadow	£980	
Burial Plot - North Oak	£1,595	
Burial Plot - Sedge Bank	£1,915	
Registration Fee	£240	£240
Optional		
Reserve the Adjacent Plot	<i>Please insert price:</i>	
Extra Ashes In Same Plot	£240	
Memorial Plaque	£335	
Weekend Custodian Fee	£75	
TOTAL:		
Payable to Leedam Natural Heritage, Account No: 06006136, Sort Code: 80-02-38		
Grave digging charges	2024-25 Price	£
Grave Digging	£540	
Grave Digging Weekends	£780	
Grave Digging Ashes	£200	
Grave Digging Ashes Weekends	£270	
Payable to R E Humphreys, Account No: 69204306, Sort Code: 51-61-02		

Who will be responsible for payment?

- Applicant
 Funeral Director
 Other (please provide name & address)

Data protection

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 withdraw your consent at any time. View our privacy policy for further information

www.leedam.co.uk/privacy-policy.

Return by email to usk@leedam.co.uk

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

Funeral arrangements



Burial ground name:	Usk Castle Chase Natural Burial Meadow
Location:	Monmouth Road, Usk, NP15 1QX. We recommend using What3 words for navigation. Follow this link - https://w3w.co/lost.optimally.yourself
Access:	Open year-round. Sheep may sometimes be grazing, so please keep gates shut when accessing the burial ground. Please let wheelchair users know that there are no paths across the meadow, but access is achievable (with assistance) up the slope to the shelter and ridge along the top of the meadow.
Description:	An elevated meadow, enclosed by mature trees on three sides, framing far-reaching views across the Usk valley.
Ethos:	Keep things simple, natural and sustainable. Real countryside preserved for future generations.
On-site facilities:	Car parking, an open sided memorial shelter. Toilet facilities and a small on-site venue is available on request - Please contact custodian, Rosie, for more information.
Operator and Owner:	Operator: Leedam Natural Heritage. Owner - Rosie Humphreys.
Custodian:	Rosie Humphreys, tel 01291 672563

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.
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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 usk@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/usk-castle-chase/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 (01291 672563) who will show you the options available. 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 track up to the memorial shelter will be prioritised 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: The ground is uneven, so the usual church trolley won't work. Carry the coffin underarm rather than on shoulders, feet-first. Set up trestles at regular resting points if the carry distance is long.

Webbing: Funeral Directors - 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 roof 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 is available [here](#).

Plants and trees: To conserve the landscape and the natural habitat, no trees are planted on graves. 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: Wales 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.

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. Sheep may be brought in to graze the land and when they do, be careful where you tread.

Long term security: The land protected by a 99-year covenant. It is also part of the Little Castle Farm Estate. 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: usk@leedam.com
Website: www.usknaturalburials.co.uk
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/usknaturalburials>