



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, dense bush or small tree. The background is a flat horizon under a sky with soft, golden light from the setting or rising sun, with some wispy clouds and a few thin white lines (possibly power lines or contrails) visible. 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

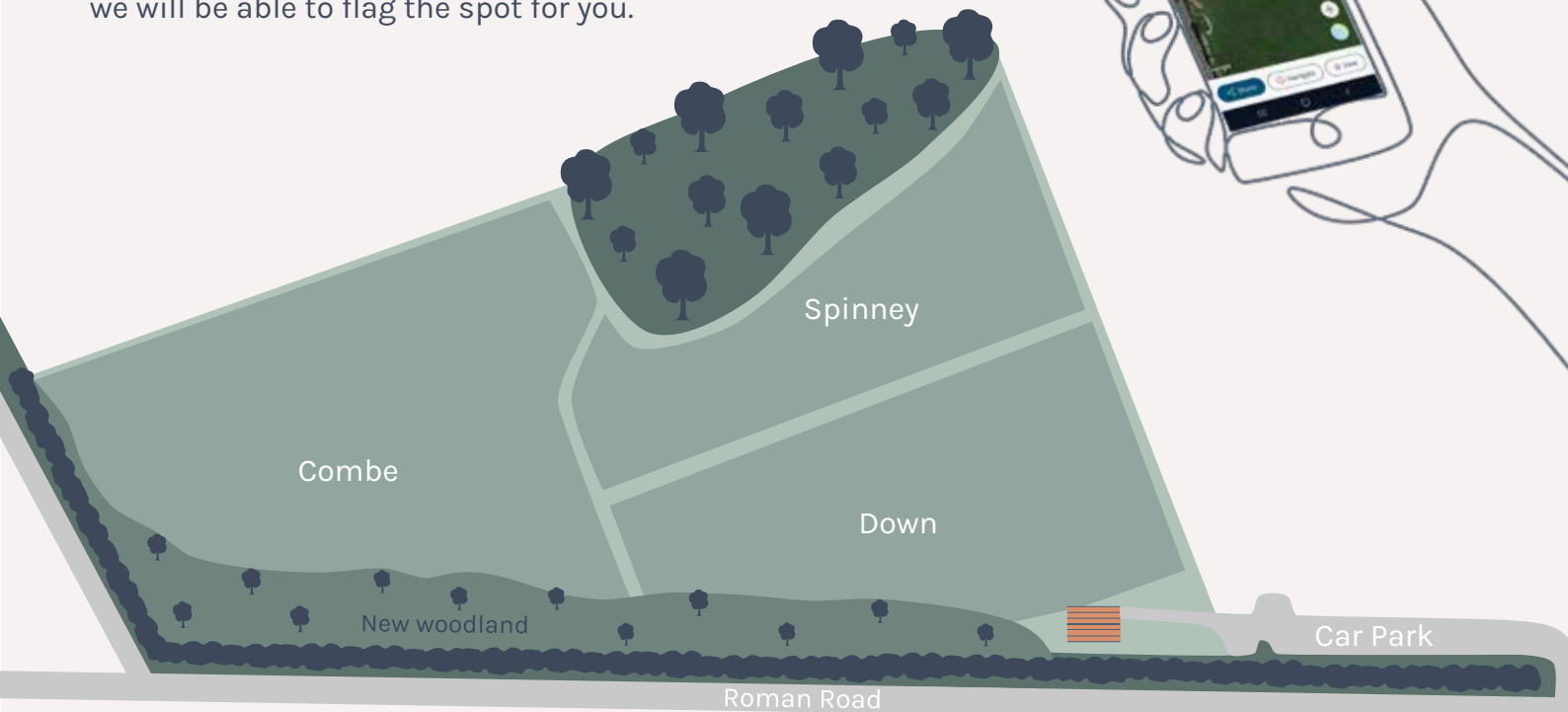
Elsie Rabjohns

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](https://www.google.com/maps/place/PCGQ+8G/Dorchester)

[What3Words.com/#!/delighted.sundial.compress](https://www.what3words.com/#!/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
07818 037184
dorset@leedam.co.uk

Office

Leedam Natural Heritage 26
Agincourt Square
Monmouth, NP25 3BT
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

Interment form - Valid from 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

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	10 -			
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>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pet ashes <i>Pet's ashes require a separate fee to cover APHA costs.</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
(Max 28 letters and spaces)

Year of birth

Year of death

Dedicate a tree in memory of someone. The type of tree and position will need to be agreed with the custodian. The sapling will be planted in the next dormant season and will be supported by a stake and tie and protected by a tree guard/shelter.

Inscription for the circular tree plaque (slate) mounted on the tree guard/shelter for 10 years:

Dedicated in memory of...
(full name)

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

Valid from 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

Payment

Item	Price	£
Ashes Plot - Combe	£770	
Ashes Plot - Down	£420	
Ashes Plot - Spinney	£490	
Burial Plot - Combe	£1,545	
Burial Plot - Down	£845	
Burial Plot - Spinney	£980	
Registration Fee	£245	£240
Optional		
Adjacent plot	<i>Please insert price:</i>	
Extra ashes in same plot	£245	
Extra pet's ashes with owner	£65	
Memorial Plaque (25 year term)	£345	
Tree Dedication	£975	
Weekend Custodian Fee	£80	
TOTAL:		
Payable to Leedam Natural Heritage, Account No: 06006136, Sort Code: 80-02-38		
Grave digging	Price	£
Grave Digging (Mon-Sat)	£545	
Grave Digging Ashes	£205	
Grave Digging Ashes Saturday	£305	
Payable to Nigel Whitefield, Account No 38116510, Sort Code 60-07-01		

Who will be responsible for payment?

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

Updates and how we use your data

We would like to be able to contact you about future matters concerning the burial meadow and any new options that might become available. If you agree to be contacted this way please tick the relevant boxes:

Email Post Phone

You can withdraw your consent at any time. Your data 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.

Return form via email to dorset@leedam.co.uk

or post to: Leedam, The Market Tavern, Monmouth, NP25 3BT | 01600 716 438

Dorset Downs

Natural burial ground

Contact details

Company name	Leedam Natural Heritage
Head office	The Market Tavern, 26 Agincourt Square, Monmouth, NP25 4JP
Office telephone	01600 716438
Dorset telephone	01305 564075
Email	dorset@leedam.co.uk
Website	www.dorsetnaturalburials.co.uk
Facebook	facebook.com/dorsetnaturalburials

Funeral arrangements

Burial ground name	Dorset Downs Natural Burial Ground
Location	Roman Road, Compton Valence, Dorchester Nearest postcode DT2 9ES (postcode not accurate when used with SatNav) Google Plus Link: PCGQ+9F Dorchester (Most accurate) What3Words Link: 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. Beautiful 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	Jeremy Russell. Tel: 01305 564075 / 07818 037184

Procedures

Prices and forms	A price list and all forms are available on the website: www.leedam.com/locations/dorset-downs/forms-and-prices/
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	Complete an online application form, or download a PDF from the website and at least two days before the event email it to dorset@leedam.co.uk with a scanned copy of the Coroner's Order of 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.
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	Arranging 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 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 Forms. If in doubt please call us.

<p>Grave digging</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>On the day</p>	<p>There is usually only one burial on the day and time is not limited. The Custodian will be there to meet and direct you.</p> <p>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. <i>TIP - Estate cars are popular with families instead of the formal hearse.</i></p>
<p>Dogs and pets</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Music</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>What to wear</p>	<p>Wellies/hiking shoes (not high-heels); warm, windproof clothes. <i>TIP - Bring folding chairs, scarves, hats and blankets for the elderly.</i></p>
<p>Carrying the coffin</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Webbing</p>	<p>Please bring your own webbing. The custodian or gravedigger will have a backup set in case you come without.</p>
<p>Flowers</p>	<p>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. <i>TIP - Bring a basket of petals from the garden to scatter into the grave.</i></p>
<p>Items in the grave</p>	<p>Additional cremated remains can be included in the grave, even those of a pet; please include details on the application form. You can also include natural tributes e.g wooden boat, sea shells; a sealed museum jar with significant pieces, or other inert objects.</p>

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	<p>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.</p> <p>Memorial rights to display a plaque are granted for 25 years (renewable). The memorial can be ordered using the online application form or download a PDF from the website.</p>
Plants and trees	<p>There is an opportunity to plant trees at the roadside margin of the meadow, more information can be found at www.leedam.com/locations/dorset-downs/memorials</p> <p>To protect wildlife and bereaved families from unwanted change, nothing should be planted and no seeds should be scattered without our consent.</p>

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 cost 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 - www.leedam.com/rules-and-regulations
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.