



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.com



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.



Coffins & Caskets

Coffins and caskets should be made from and lined with natural, biodegradable materials.

Nothing harmful goes into the ground. No plastics, MDF or chipboard should be used.



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. 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

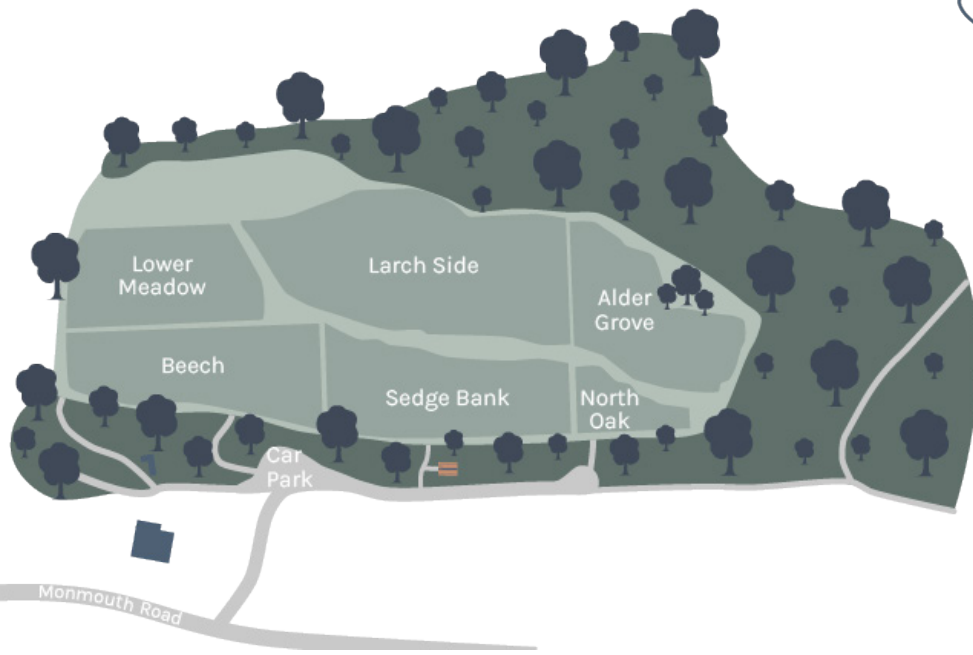
Elsie Rabjohns

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 - call us, we'll help.





Usk Castle Chase Natural Burial Ground

Monmouth Road, Usk, Monmouthshire, NP15 1QY
(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

Pre-purchase 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. 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 usk@leedam.co.uk

or by post to Leedam, The Market Tavern, 26 Agincourt Square, Monmouth, NP25 3BT | 01600 716 438 1/2

5. Payment options

Item	Price	£
Ashes Plot - Alder Grove	£645	
Ashes Plot - Beech	£1,260	
Ashes Plot - Larch Side	£515	
Ashes Plot - Lower Meadow	£435	
Ashes Plot - North Oak	£820	
Ashes Plot - Sedge Bank	£990	
Burial Plot - Alder Grove	£1,285	
Burial Plot - Beech	£2,535	
Burial Plot - Larch Side	£1,030	
Burial Plot - Lower Meadow	£870	
Burial Plot - North Oak	£1,645	
Burial Plot - Sedge Bank	£1,975	
Optional		
Reserve the Adjacent Plot	Please insert price:	
Standing Order Admin Fee*	£80	
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: UsCa+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