

The Leedam logo features a stylized white bird icon above the word "Leedam" in a white serif font.

Leedam

A wide-angle landscape photograph of Dorset Downs at sunrise. The sun is a bright yellow orb in the center of the sky, casting a long shadow of a dog across the grassy field in the foreground. The background shows rolling hills and a line of trees under a clear blue sky.

Dorset Downs

Natural Burial Meadow





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. At Dorset Downs 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.

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.

Further Information

There is extensive information about natural burials on our website and we are here in the Leedam office to answer your questions.

Visit: leedam.com/advice | Email: dorset@leedam.com | Call: 01600 716438



Visiting the meadow

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.

There is a memorial shelter just inside the burial ground to the left of the entrance, which offers cover in wet weather. However, we still advise dressing appropriately for the conditions, as the site is open to the elements.

Arrange a meeting

If you would like to arrange a visit to have a look around the burial ground and learn more about natural burial, please contact our office (01600 716 438) and we will arrange for our custodian to meet you.

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 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

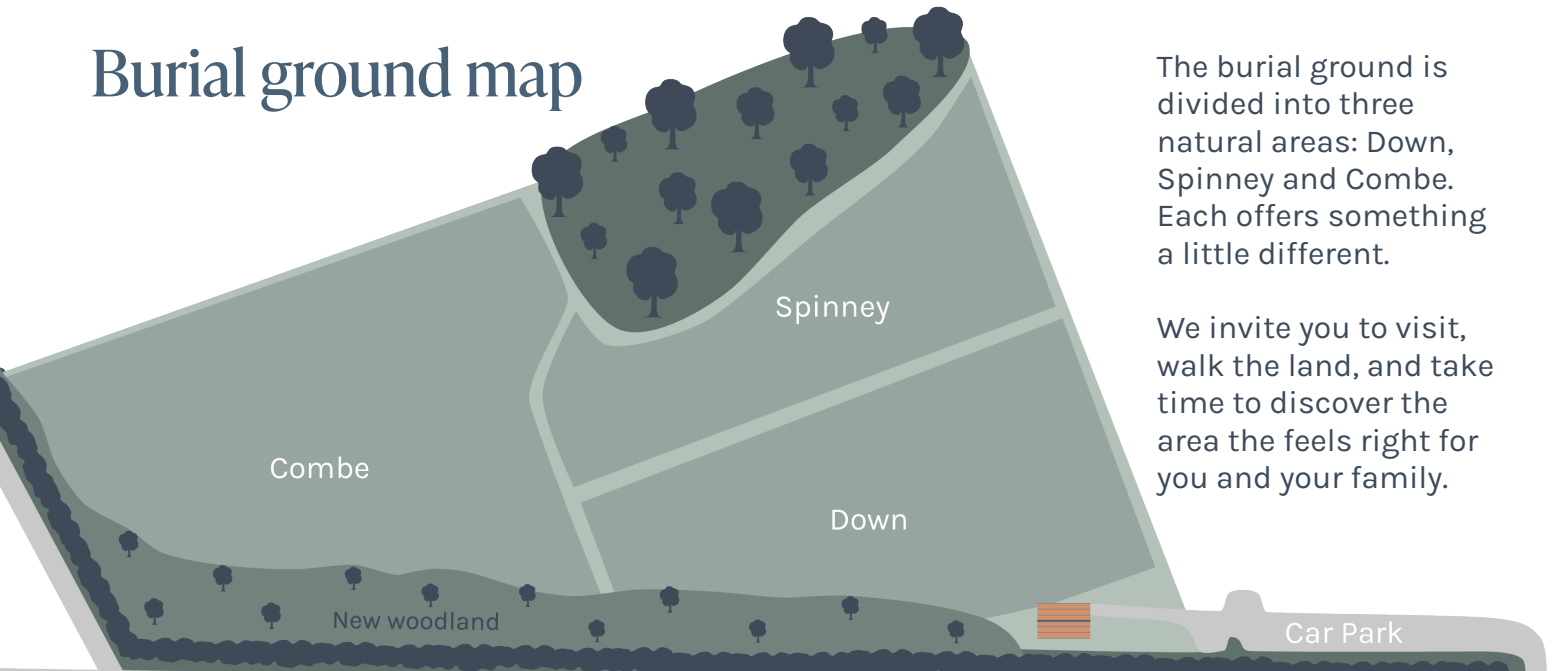
Simon Christopher Cresser

1988 - 2010

Elsie Rabjohns

1907 - 2010

Burial ground map



The burial ground is divided into three natural areas: Down, Spinney and Combe. Each offers something a little different.

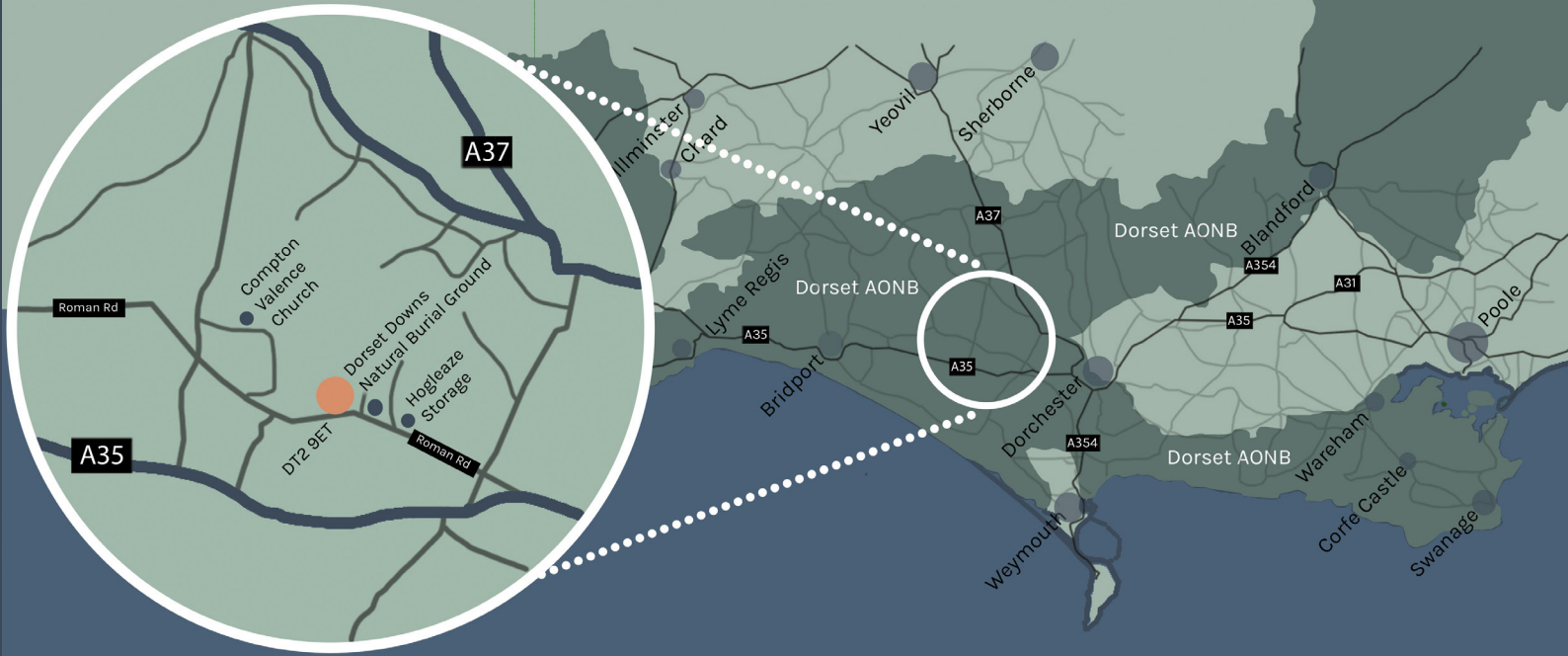
We invite you to visit, walk the land, and take time to discover the area the feels right for you and your family.

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*)
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
01305 564075
dorset@leedam.com

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



Price list

| Burial options | Price |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Burial Plot - Combe | £1,545 |
| Burial Plot - Down | £850 |
| Burial Plot - Spinney | £1,020 |
| Registration Fee | £255 |

| Grave digging | Price |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Grave Digging (Mon-Sat) | £545 |
| Grave Digging Ashes | £205 |
| Grave Digging Ashes Saturday | £305 |

| Ashes options | Price |
|----------------------|-------|
| Ashes Plot - Combe | £775 |
| Ashes Plot - Down | £425 |
| Ashes Plot - Spinney | £510 |
| Registration Fee | £255 |

| Optional extras | Price |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Extra ashes in same plot | £255 |
| Memorial Plaque (25 year term) | £360 |
| Tree Dedication | £1,020 |
| Standing order admin fee* | £85 |
| Weekend Custodian Fee | £85 |

Interment form - Valid from 1 April 2026 - 31 March 2027

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet ashes |
| | | <i>Human ashes require an additional registration fee.</i> | <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 2026 - 31 March 2027

Payment

| Item | Price | £ |
|--|-----------------------------|------|
| Ashes Plot - Combe | £775 | |
| Ashes Plot - Down | £425 | |
| Ashes Plot - Spinney | £510 | |
| Burial Plot - Combe | £1,545 | |
| Burial Plot - Down | £850 | |
| Burial Plot - Spinney | £1,020 | |
| Registration Fee | £255 | £255 |
| Optional | | |
| Adjacent plot | <i>Please insert price:</i> | |
| Extra ashes in same plot | £255 | |
| Memorial Plaque (25 year term) | £360 | |
| Tree Dedication | £1,020 | |
| Weekend Custodian Fee | £85 | |
| TOTAL: | | |
| Payable to Leedam Natural Burials, Account No: 47269136, Sort Code: 04-00-06 | | |
| | | |
| 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.