

The Leedam logo features a stylized white bird or wing 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. A small green lens flare is visible in the middle ground.

# 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](http://leedam.com/advice) | Email: [dorset@leedam.com](mailto: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

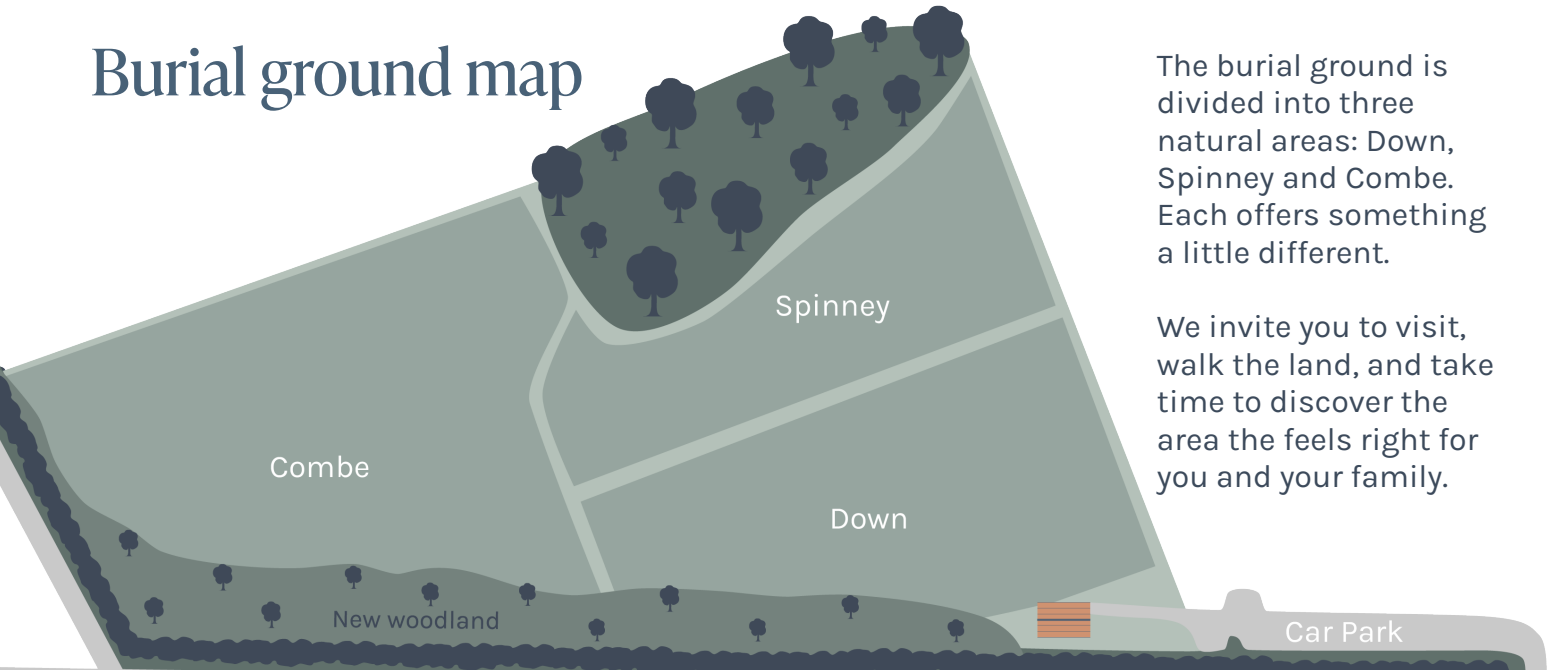
**Simon Christopher Cresser**

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.

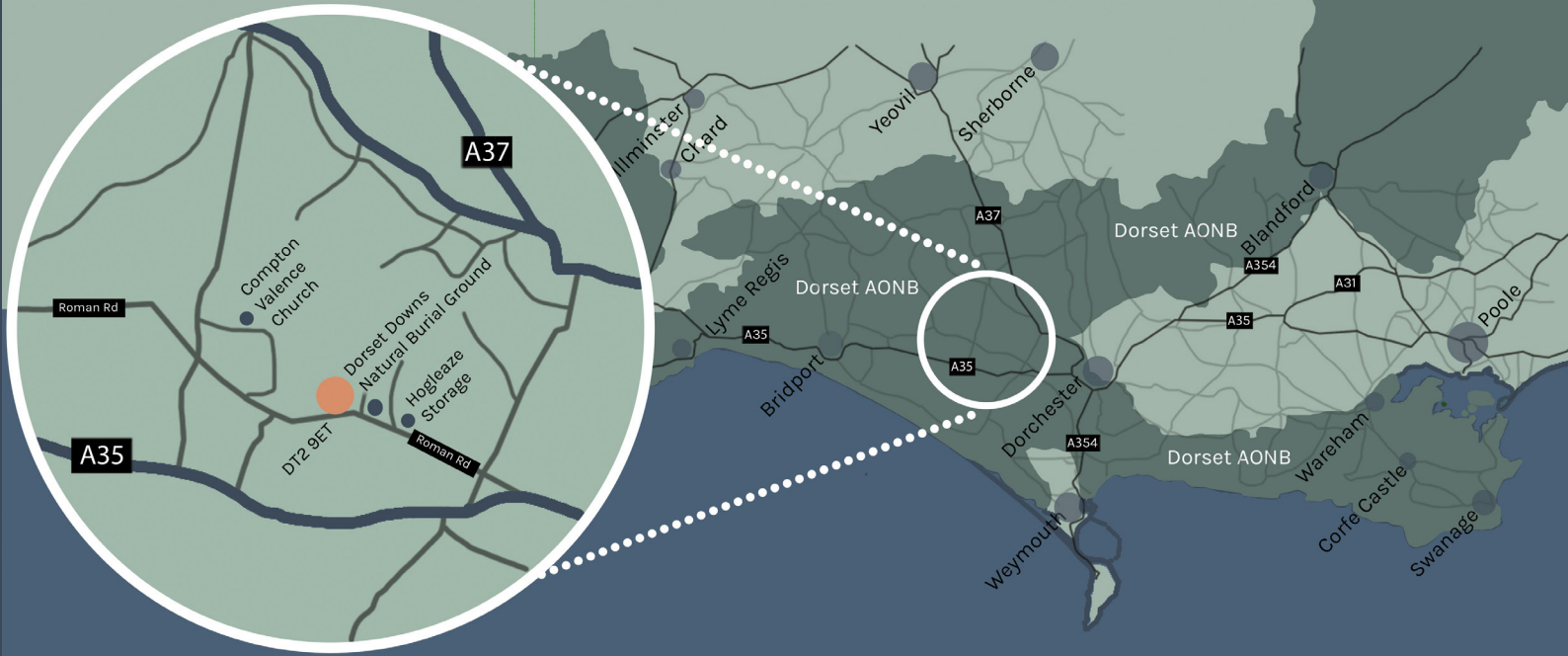
We invite you to visit, walk the land, and take time to discover the area the feels right for you and your family.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.dorsetnaturalburials.co.uk)



The logo for Leedam, featuring a stylized leaf or canopy icon above the word 'Leedam' in a serif font.

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

Pre-purchase 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. 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](http://www.leedam.co.uk/burial-contract)) and the Burial Ground Regulations ([www.leedam.com/rules-and-regulations/](http://www.leedam.com/rules-and-regulations/)) which apply.

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

Continued overleaf...

## 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	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	
<b>Optional</b>		
Reserve the Adjacent Plot	Please insert price:	
Standing order admin fee*	£85	
	TOTAL:	
Payable to Leedam Natural Burials, Account No: 47269136, Sort Code: 04-00-06		

\*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 Burials a/c 47269136, s/c 04-00-06, quoting ref: DoDo+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](http://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.