



Cothiemuir Hill

Natural Burial Ground


Leedam





An enchanting place

The woodland at Cothiemuir Hill is a peaceful, natural place. Somewhere special to spend time listening to the birdsong in the surrounding woodland, admiring the Neolithic stones, and taking in the view towards Bennachie. A place of escape, away from it all.

The burial ground is a central part of the historic Forbes Estate, located within the beautiful Strathdon landscape.

As the hardwood trees in the burial ground next to the ancient pinewood have matured, a variety of wildlife has been attracted to it including red squirrels, pine martens, both red and roe deer, badgers and foxes. Overhead you may see ospreys and buzzards.

The site is managed to encourage wildflowers in the spring and summer.

How it works

You can purchase rights for a full burial, ashes interment or ashes scattering at the burial ground...

In advance

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

Complete an online application or download a pdf form from our website. If you'd like a printed information pack, please contact the office.

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 leedam.com/locations/cothiemuir-hill and we are here in the Leedam office to answer your questions - 01600 716438.

When planning a funeral

Complete an online application form, or download 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 custodian



Malcolm Forbes

Phone: 01975 562524

Office: 01600 716438

Email: cothiemuir@leedam.co.uk



Malcolm, 23rd Lord Forbes (Premier Lord of Scotland) is the Landowner and custodian at Cothiemuir Hill. Castle Forbes has been the seat of Premier Lord of Scotland for almost six hundred years.

On the day of a funeral Malcolm, or a member of his team will be there to welcome and look after you.

Please contact Malcolm if you would like to arrange a guided visit or would just like to learn more about having a natural burial at Cothiemuir Hill. If you prefer to explore the burial meadow independently, please feel free to visit and have a wander around.

More time and space

An unhurried and private place away from the hustle of daily life. Somewhere to remember, replenish and reflect. A place of peace and solitude, when you need it, and love.

Spend time in nature, experience the weather and watch the seasons change. And for those at rest here, it offers a simple return to nature.



"A sad occasion became
full of love, friendship
and time for reflection"





Make the day your own

The burial ground 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 ground.

A pet's ashes may be included in its owner's grave at the time of interment.

Memorial stones

Memorial rights are granted for the display of a memorial stone on the grave. In keeping with the wild and natural character of the burial ground, memorial stones need to be rustic in shape and laid flat to the ground.

Letter cutting can be undertaken by a family member, local stonemason or memorial mason. In keeping with the natural setting, the stone should not be cut or polished, and no paint should be used in the letters.



Memorial trees

We have a number of spaces where we can offer a place to plant a native tree at the natural burial ground in memory of someone special. New native trees will enhance the development of the extended woodland, improving biodiversity and encouraging more wildlife to visit.



Finding the spot

The plots are carefully mapped and their locations 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. You'll be able to return to the spot at any time and you'll have helped preserve a much loved landscape for future generations to enjoy.



Burial ground map

The burial ground is divided into areas, so you can choose the place that feels right.

You can find the current prices on the forms and prices page on our website:
leedam.com/locations/cothiemuir-hill



Scan the QR code to view the forms and prices page.



Cothiemuir Hull Natural Burial Ground

Castle Forbes, Keig, Alford, AB33 8BL

(not for correspondence)

Google Maps Plus Code: 7999+34 Alford

[what3words.com/bloomers.softly.seasick](https://www.what3words.com/bloomers.softly.seasick)

Find us as you leave Keig, head north and take the right turn towards Glenton. Continue for just under a mile and there will be a left hand turn for the burial ground. Follow the track and you will arrive at the burial ground car park.

Custodian

Malcolm Forbes

01494 881 586

cothiemuir@leedam.co.uk

Office

Leedam Natural Heritage

26 Agincourt Square

Monmouth, NP25 3BT

01600 716 438

Facebook [@cothiemuirnaturalburials](https://www.facebook.com/cothiemuirnaturalburials)

Instagram [@cothiemuir_natural_burials](https://www.instagram.com/cothiemuir_natural_burials)

leedam.com/locations/cothiemuir-hill




Leedam

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

Cothiemuir Hill

Natural burial ground prices - *Valid from 1 April 2026 - 31 March 2027*



Burial options	Price
Burial Plot - Ash	£1,500
Burial Plot - Beech	£1,145
Burial Plot - Blackthorn	£1,145
Burial Plot - Oak	£1,050
Burial Plot - Rowan	£1,145
Registration Fee	£255

Ashes options	Price
Ashes Plot - Ash	£750
Ashes Plot - Beech	£575
Ashes Plot - Blackthorn	£575
Ashes Plot - Oak	£525
Ashes Plot - Rowan	£575
Registration Fee	£255

Optional Extras	Price
Extra Ashes in Same Plot	£255
Standing Order Admin Fee*	£85
Tree Dedication	£560
Memorial Rights	£360
Custodian Weekend Attendance Fee	£85

Grave Digging	Price
Gravedigging - Weekdays	£545
Gravedigging Ashes - Weekdays	£210

Pre-purchase form - Valid from 1 April 2026 - 31 March 2027

1. Who is filling this form in?

Your name	
Your address	
Your email address	
Your telephone number(s)	

2. Who is the application for?

Their full name (☐ as above)			
Their address (☐ as above)			
Their date of birth		Relationship <i>You are their...</i>	
Selected rights	<input type="checkbox"/> Ashes	<input type="checkbox"/> Burial	

3. Do you want to apply for a second person?

Their full name	
Their address (☐ as above)	
Their date of birth	

4. Payment options

At this stage, only the right of burial (or ashes burial) can be reserved; the registration fee, memorial rights and the gravedigging charges are always paid at the prevailing rate at the time of the burial.

Continued overleaf...

Fee summary - Leedam

Item	Cost	Quantity	
Burial - Ash	£1500		
Burial - Beech	£1145		
Burial - Blackthorn	£1145		
Burial - Oak	£1050		
Burial - Rowan	£1145		
Ashes - Ash	£750		
Ashes - Beech	£575		
Ashes - Blackthorn	£575		
Ashes - Oak	£525		
Ashes - Rowan	£575		
Standing Order Fee*	£85		

Total price:

Payable to: Leedam Natural Burials, Account No: 47269136, Sort Code: 04-00-06

Call us (01600716438) if you are unable to pay by bank transfer, and we will share a card payment link.

*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: CoHi+Yourname.

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.

5. 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			

Updates and how we use your personal data

Marketing preferences (you can withdraw consent at any time): Email Post Phone

Your personal data will be used to confirm your purchase, register your rights, and share relevant details with our site custodian. We may also use it for anonymised statistical analysis. We will not share your data with third parties. View our privacy policy at leedam.com/privacy-policy. Please note that burial law requires us to maintain a public register recording the date of burial, full name, age, address and grave number of the deceased.

Terms & Conditions

Your Rights of Burial

Your Selected Rights of Burial give you the right to have remains interred in your chosen area of the burial ground. They do not confer land ownership, cannot be sold or transferred without our written consent, and remain personal to you. Rights must be exercised within 50 years of purchase.

Payment and Certificate

Your Certificate will be issued once payment is received in full. Full payment is required at least two working days before the funeral date. The Certificate (and any duplicates) must be surrendered to us before burial can take place.

Cancellation and Refunds

Refunds are available for five years from the date of full payment, as follows: Within 14 days: full refund | 15 days to 3 months: 90% refund | 3 months to 1 year: 75% refund | 1 year to 5 years: 50% refund. No refund is available after five years, or after the death of the Nominee. To cancel, notify us in writing and return the Certificate.

Transfers

Rights may be transferred to a new Nominee before burial, subject to our written consent and a fee of £200 per right. The original purchase date is retained for any future refund calculation.

Conditions of Burial

Only biodegradable coffins, urns or shrouds from sustainable sources may be used. Embalmed remains cannot be interred. We must receive at least three clear working days' notice before interment, along with the completed Interment Form, Certificate, and all relevant fees. No memorials, markers or plantings are permitted unless specifically agreed by us.

Site Management

The burial ground is managed primarily for wildlife and agriculture. We retain sole discretion over planting, landscaping and maintenance. Only the Nominated Grave Digger may excavate graves. Grave excavation costs are not included in the purchase price.

Availability

In the event that ground conditions or other circumstances make your selected area unavailable, we will offer reasonable alternatives. If alternatives are not accepted, a full refund will be issued within 28 days.

Your Responsibilities

You and your Representatives are responsible for complying with all relevant legislation and our reasonable site instructions, and for the conduct of all persons attending the burial ground with your consent.

Full terms and conditions can be viewed at: www.leedam.com/burial-contract