

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 | 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. Tweddle

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

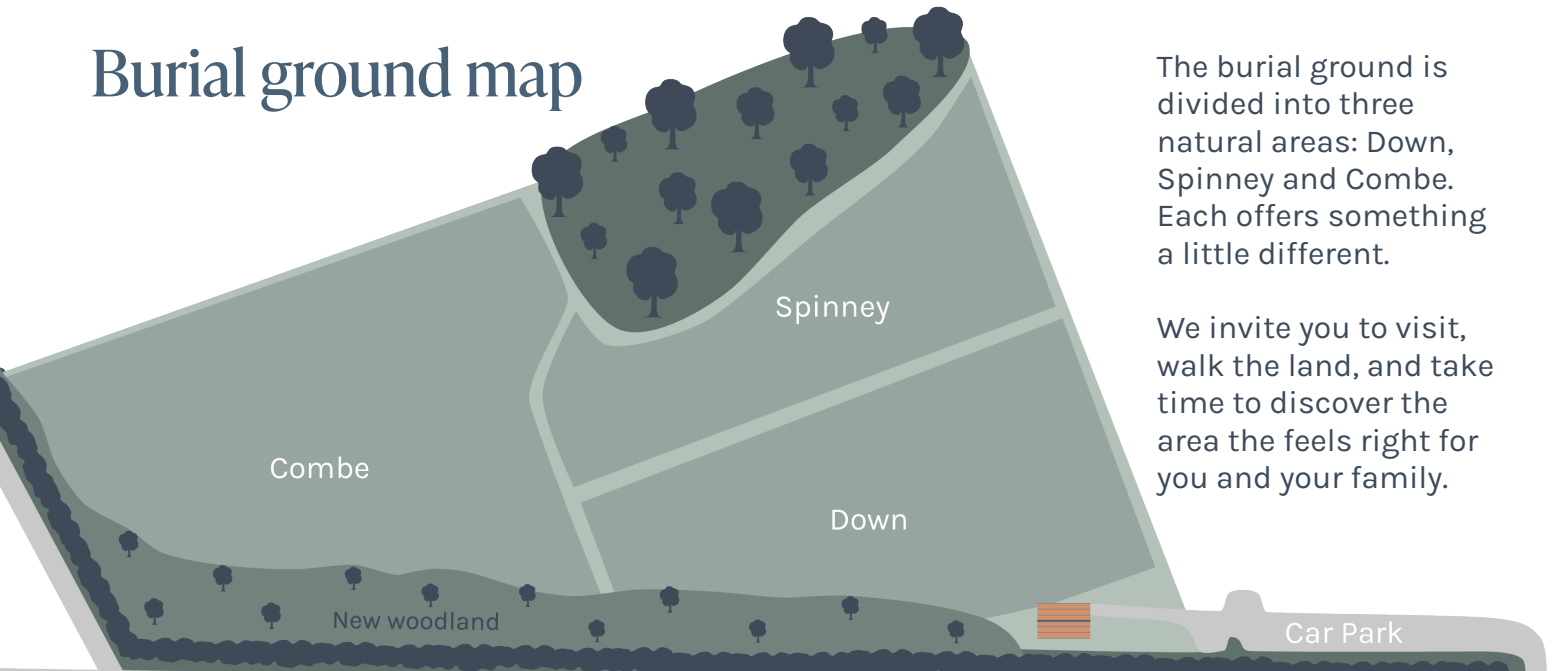
Simon Christopher Cresser

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.

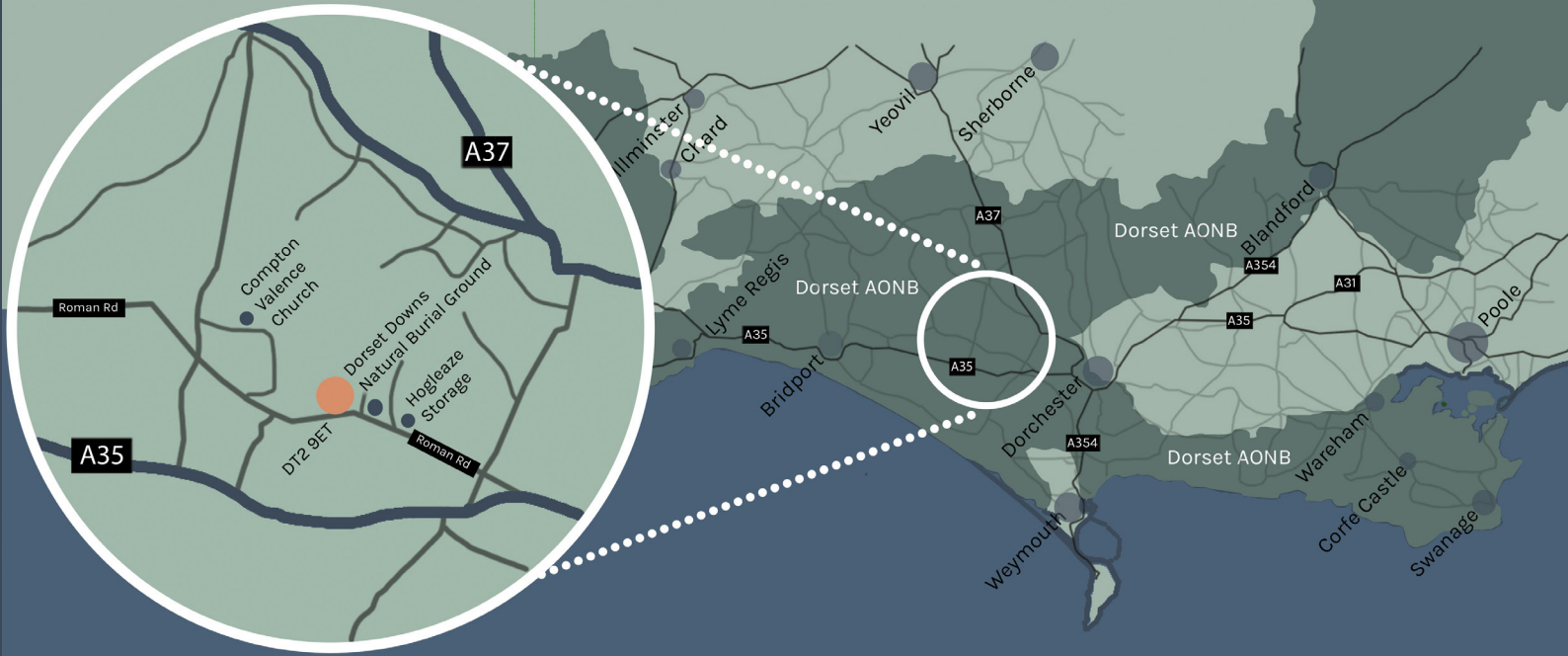
We invite you to visit, walk the land, and take time to discover the area the feels right for you and your family.

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. Who is filling this form in?

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

2. 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 - if you are using one

Company name	
Contact name	
Contact email address	
Contact telephone number(s)	

4. 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	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 -			
Next to an existing grave?	<input type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	
If yes, next to whom?	<input type="checkbox"/>			
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.			

5. The coffin, casket or shroud

What material is it made of?					
What shape is it?					
<i>Please note - NO PLASTIC LININGS or polyester trimmings must be used. Line with canvas or paper.</i>					
Accurate exterior dimensions	Length		Width		Height

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>		
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)			

8. Optional items

<input type="checkbox"/> An oak memorial plaque mounted in the memorial shelter for 25 years (renewable)			
Name to go on plaque <i>(Max 28 letters and spaces)</i>			
Year of birth		Year of death	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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... <i>(full name)</i>			
Year of birth		Year of death	

9. Fee summary - Leedam

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Registration fee	£255	1	£255
Burial - Combe	£1545		
Burial - Down	£850		
Burial - Spinney	£1020		
Ashes - Combe	£775		
Ashes - Down	£425		
Ashes - Spinney	£5110		
Extra human ashes in plot	£255		
Memorial plaque	£360		
Tree Dedication	£1020		
Weekend custodian 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.

10. Fee summary - Grave digging

Item	Cost	Total
Burial - Weekdays	£545	
Ashes - Weekdays	£205	

Burial grave digging is 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)

11. 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

Return form via email to dorset@leedam.co.uk or post to: Leedam Natural Burials, Apex House, Office 16, Wonastow Industrial Estate East, Monmouth, NP25 5JB | 01600 716 438