



ARNOS VALE

ARNOS VALE CEMETERY TRUST

East Lodge · Bath Road · Bristol · BS4 3EW · Tel. 0117 971 9117 · Email [info@arnosvale.org.uk](mailto:info@arnosvale.org.uk) · [www.arnosvale.org.uk](http://www.arnosvale.org.uk)

## Arnos Vale Natural Burial Woodland Guidance notes and fees

Arnos Vale Natural Burial Woodland is situated at the top of Arnos Vale cemetery adjacent to Arnos Park. The atmospheric five acre woodland coombe was originally used as an orchard space by the Victorian owners. The orchard has grown naturally over time to become a wildlife haven for many birds and animals and offers a peaceful space for those wishing to have a more natural final resting place.

### **What is Natural Woodland Burial?**

Natural woodland burial is simply the choice to be buried in an environmentally friendly woodland setting rather than a traditional cemetery plot.

### **Why choose a natural woodland burial?**

Natural woodland burial is an environmentally friendly way to bury your loved in a natural peaceful setting.

### **Are there any restrictions to a natural woodland burial?**

Yes, there are two main restrictions:

1. Burials must take place in coffins or shrouds made of sustainable biodegradable materials such as natural wood, woven materials (bamboo, willow, seagrass, wool) and cardboard. You do not need to use a coffin, many people prefer to use a shroud.
2. We do not allow the burial of embalmed bodies because the chemicals used in the process can pollute the surrounding soil. We do however, understand that in rare cases that it may become necessary for this to happen and we are open to discuss the circumstances with you or your funeral director.

### **Can anyone have a natural woodland burial?**

Yes, the ground in the woodland is open to everyone. We embrace people of all beliefs, persuasions or values. If you would like a consecrated grave (grave usually dedicated as sacred by a specific religion) then please enquire with our cemetery services coordinator as we may have consecrated graves elsewhere in the cemetery. These graves may not be subject to the natural burial requirements and as such may not be in a natural setting.

### **Can I choose a Natural woodland grave in advance?**

Yes, we do allow the pre-purchase of graves in the woodland. However, pre-purchase only secures a grave in the woodland and not a particular space within the woodland.

### **Can I have a natural woodland double grave?**

No, we do not offer double depth graves due to environmental reasons.

### **Can I purchase the grave next to my loved one?**

No, we are unable to offer the pre-purchase of an adjacent grave if you wish to be buried next to somebody. However, you can pre-purchase a grave within the woodland, just not a particular space.



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### **Can I arrange an interment of ashes?**

Yes, we have spaces available for the burial of ashes on the slopes above the grave areas. The plots are available for one set of ashes contained in a sustainable biodegradable casket made of materials such as natural wood, woven materials (bamboo, willow, seagrass, wool) and cardboard. We are happy to inter ashes without a casket. Please note that the ashes interment areas are steeper than the burial areas, so may not be as accessible if you wish to have a ceremony. Small ceremonies can be conducted in the lower part of the woodland.

### **Can I arrange for my pet to be buried with me?**

No. There are strict laws governing the interment of pets ashes and we are not licensed to do this.

### **Can flowers be put on the grave or within the Natural Burial Woodlands?**

Yes, but please remember that this is a Natural Woodland. Only cut fresh flowers may be placed on graves after any cellophane, ribbons and non-biodegradable wrappings have been removed.

Artificial flowers, ornaments, balloons, lanterns, vases, flowerpots, containers and other tributes are out of keeping with the natural woodland setting so will be removed.

Florists' tribute created in an oasis block will be left on a new grave for a short period. The oasis, wire and plastic holders will eventually be removed but any flowers still in bloom will be left on the grave.

### **Can I plant a tree or bulbs within the Natural Burial Woodlands?**

No. However, within the first year of a burial or interment of ashes, the Trust will arrange for native bulbs to be available for planting with families on an arranged day during the following year. The Trust will also arrange for each burial area to have at least one tree planted over time to promote biodiversity, ecological sustainability and overall enhancement of the woodland.

### **How are the graves located or marked?**

Each area will have natural wooden triangulation markers and records will be kept detailing the location of each grave within that area. The records will be updated each time a new burial or interment takes place and a map of the location of the grave or plot will be supplied at the time of the burial along with the grave deeds. In keeping with the Natural Woodland setting the graves will not be permanently marked by any type of memorial. Memorials placed will be removed.

### **How do I arrange a Natural Woodland burial grave or ashes interment plot?**

You can arrange to purchase a grave or ashes plot directly from the cemetery – please ask to speak to our Cemetery Services Coordinator who will be pleased to book an appointment with you to show you the Woodland and options available. Alternatively, your funeral director will be pleased to liaise directly with our Cemetery Services Coordinator to make arrangements for you.

### **How much is a Natural Woodland burial grave or ashes interment plot?**

Prices are supplied on the adjoining sheet along with the length of term for Rights of Burial. The fees will be subject to a yearly review and are set at a level to cover the costs of developing and maintaining the Woodland.



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### **Do I have to use a funeral director for a natural woodland burial?**

No, but most families do employ a funeral director to assist them with organising a funeral. Funeral directors coordinate the funeral and bring your loved one to the cemetery and the natural burial ground. Some families wish to organise the funeral themselves without a funeral director, if this is what you wish to do once you have made arrangements with the cemetery there will be a staff member to greet you on arrival on the day of the funeral. Please note we do NOT provide a funeral director service. We would be happy to provide you with a list of local funeral directors should you wish or just as happy to make arrangements with a funeral director of your choice if you are using one.

### **Do I have to have a funeral service?**

No, you do not have to have any service at all although most people choose some form of ceremony to mark the burial of a loved one.

### **Do you have indoor space for a funeral service?**

Yes, we have two grade II listed buildings in the lower part of the cemetery. The Anglican chapel can hold up to 100 people seated with room for standing and the Spielman hall can hold up to 70 seated with room for standing – both chapels are fully accessible. For a more natural intimate setting for a service, we have the Underwood Centre which has a small outdoor covered area amongst the trees and can hold up to 50 people seated with room for standing – please enquire about access to this area as there may be limitations.

### **Is there access in the Natural Burial woodland for disabled visitors?**

There is open access to the natural burial woodland. However, the woodland area pathways are sloped and may not be suitable for all types of mobility equipment – visitors are strongly advised to dress accordingly for the setting and make sure that their mobility equipment is suitable for the environment. Access to a specific grave in the woodland may not be possible due to its natural setting and location.

### **Is there parking on site?**

Yes, we have availability for approximately 30 cars on site in the lower part of the cemetery. Parking in this area can be reserved for those with disabilities but otherwise parking is provided on a first come first serve basis. A limited number of cars can be driven closer to the Natural burial woodland and the Underwood Centre but the majority of the access will need to be by foot or mobility equipment.

### **Do you have facilities for a funeral reception or wake?**

Yes, the Spielman centre hall is available to hire for your funeral reception or wake.

### **Can I arrange food and drink for a funeral reception or wake?**

Yes, our caterers can accommodate a wide range of catering options for mourners, from a simple cup of tea and slice of cake to more formal arrangements. The cemetery services coordinator will be happy to provide you with sample menus or you can contact our caterers – Kate's Kitchen - directly on 0117 330 8189. Please note, we do not allow outside caterers.



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### **Who manages Arnos Vale Natural Burial Woodland?**

Arnos vale natural burial woodland is an extension to Arnos Vale Cemetery, both are managed by the Arnos Vale Cemetery (Charitable) Trust. Arnos Vale Cemetery Natural Burial Woodland is a member of the Association of Natural Burial Grounds.

### **Is the Natural Burial Woodland secure for the future?**

Yes, Arnos Vale Cemetery was compulsory purchased by Bristol City Council from the previous owner and is managed as a going concern by Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust.

### **When can I visit the Natural Burial Woodland?**

Arnos Vale Cemetery is open between the hours of 9am to 5pm daily.

### **Are dogs allowed on site?**

Yes, the woodland is a place where the public including responsible dog owners are welcome. However, all dogs must be kept on a lead and under control at all times. Owners are expected to understand that burials will have taken place in the Woodland and to pick up and deposit all dog waste and litter in the nearest bin.



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# FEES and TERMS

## BUYING A GRAVE

When buying a grave it is important that you understand what it is that you are actually purchasing.

### Purchased Grave

You are not purchasing any land and no ownership of land is transferred to you. What you will be purchasing is the **Exclusive Rights of Burial** for a grave for an agreed period of time. These Rights will be assigned to you by a Deed of Grant which is a legal document. The Deed grants you the right to be buried in a grave within the Natural Woodland Burial Area and runs from the time of your purchase or first burial – whichever is soonest. The Rights of Burial are terminated and transferred back to the cemetery on the death of the original purchaser unless the Rights have been transferred by legal process to another family member.

### Pre-purchasing a grave

If the grave has been pre-purchased for future use but has not been occupied for a twenty five year period, you will need to contact us and re-sign to confirm that you still wish to be buried with us. We will also need to be notified if you change your address. Please note that you do not have the right to sell your Rights of Burial to anyone other than the cemetery. If you decide that you no longer wish to be buried in the Woodland please contact us as we may be able to offer you a fee to purchase the Rights back.

## Prices from April 2017

<b>Natural Woodland Burial Grave for 50 years</b>	<b>£1225.00</b>
A hand dug grave for one burial only for a 50 year period. This type of grave can be pre-purchased.	
<b>Ashes interment plot for 25 years</b>	<b>£350.00</b>
A hand dug grave for the interment of one set of ashes for a 25 year period.	
<b>Grave preparation</b> – payable at the time of a funeral only	
<b>Grave digging fee for a coffin or shroud*</b>	<b>£450.00*</b>
<b>Ashes interment digging fee</b>	<b>£175.00</b>

\*Any coffins exceeding 6ft 9in in length or 26in in width will incur a £150 surcharge to cover the additional grave preparation.

Please note that your funeral director fees and other funeral fees will be in addition to the above costs.