

About Natural Burial

There are now hundreds of beautiful natural burial sites all around the UK. Many of them are members of the Association of Natural Burial Grounds, the organisation established by The Natural Death Centre in 1994.

The aims and objects of the ANBG have remained unchanged. It seeks to assist people in the process of establishing natural and woodland burial grounds, to provide guidance to operators and to represent its members as a whole and not least, the Association has a Code of Conduct for members, thus providing the public with assurance of best practice.

In addition to complying with all relevant legislation, and specifically that concerned with planning, record keeping and the financial probity of directors and trustees, each Association member undertakes to adhere to the ANBG Code of Conduct.

Copies are available from each member site or from The Natural Death Centre.



Higher Ground Meadow, Dorchester, Dorset.

Why would I choose a natural burial?

People choose this style of burial because they want to leave a positive, living legacy for future generations. Many people nowadays are conscious of our impact on the environment and wish to be as careful in death as they have been during their lives to be as environmentally friendly as possible.

Why should I choose a natural burial ground belonging to the ANBG?

We recommend choosing an ANBG member because, by agreeing to abide by the Code of Conduct, members are committed to ensuring the best possible service for families.



Westall Park Woodland Burial, Redditch, Worcestershire

For example, members have agreed to allow the use of simple, cardboard coffins and allow families to organise a funeral without a funeral director if they so wish. They also guarantee long-term security for the graves and have pledged to manage their sites sustainably and ecologically.

All of our members also offer families the opportunity to share their experience with others via the exclusive feedback system operated by The Natural Death Centre.

Does it matter what coffin I choose?

We do not want to bury coffins that are going to release toxins into the ground and that are produced in an inconsiderate or unsustainable way. We want them to degrade naturally. Association members will be able to advise you of suitable coffin types.

Why are embalmed bodies not usually accepted ?

Embalming (or the process of replacing many pints of

blood with usually highly toxic chemicals) is thought of as dangerous to human health and the environment. In most instances it is completely unnecessary for either the safe handling of the body or viewing by relatives. N.B. Embalming is sometimes misleadingly called 'hygienic treatment'.

Why are only single depth burials available?

The shallower a burial is, the less likely the body is to release methane. This is a powerful greenhouse gas that can be produced by deep, anaerobic burials. A shallow burial is the quickest way for a body to naturally degrade.

Why are natural burial grounds managed so differently?

Sustainable methods are used in maintaining natural burial grounds and the surroundings are kept as natural as possible to encourage biodiversity. Land used for natural burials continues to benefit the community, either through its eventual use as a wildlife reserve and green space or its continued agricultural or forestry productivity.



Great Bradley Cottage NBG, Tiverton, Devon

Will we be able to have a headstone?

Member sites provide alternative types of memorials to

traditional headstones; to protect the natural appearance of burial grounds, most member sites do not encourage memorialisation, nor leaving of items on the grave. This approach not only preserves the beauty of the landscape, but prevents complicated and costly maintenance issues, as well as avoiding hazards to wildlife and waste disposal problems.

How can I find a natural burial ground?

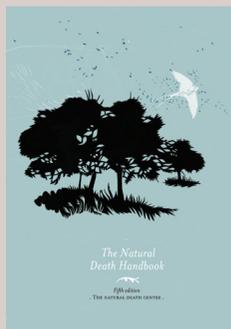
To find your nearest natural burial ground, look at the Natural Death Centre's Burial Ground Directory, either on the website or in the Natural Death Handbook, or call us on the Helpline. Members of the Association are clearly indicated in bold.

How can I find out more?

You can contact the Natural Death Centre for guidance, or get in touch with one of the members of the Association. You will find ANBG managers are keen to show you their sites and explain how they function. They will tell you all about the wildlife they support and all about the different styles of funerals and ceremonies that you can arrange there. They will be able to discuss and advise you on other subjects too, such as finding a good local funeral directors, coffin choices and funeral plans.

All of the issues surrounding natural burial are also contained within our iconic Handbook; now in its fifth edition.

The Natural Death Handbook also includes chapters covering subjects such as:- Caring for someone dying at home. Funerals and funeral director- how to organise a better funeral. DIY funerals. Preparing for dying. Aspects of keeping a body at home.



The Natural Death Handbook (fifth edition)

The latest edition of this essential and influential guide covering the practical, emotional and spiritual aspects of death and dying.

Completely revised and expanded into a three book box set, the **Natural Death Handbook** now includes a collection of essays on death by eminent writers and a directory of natural burial grounds in the UK and Ireland, progressive funeral directors and suppliers of green coffins and urns.

Together these three books make an indispensable guide for anyone in need of practical advice, reassurance and inspiration. *Fifth edition published June 1st 2012

Receive a complimentary copy: Join the new **Natural Death Society** and receive the Handbook free of charge or

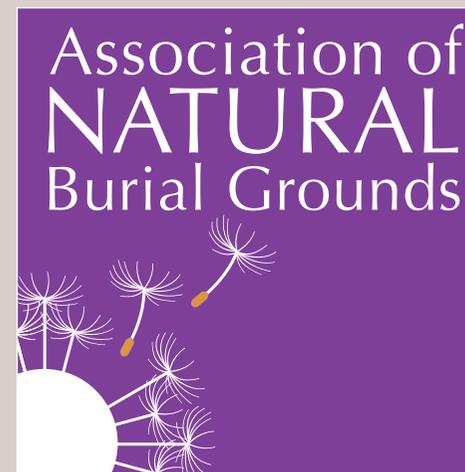
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Buy by post: Send a cheque for £24.00 made payable to The Natural Death Centre.



Natural Death Centre
& **Association of**
Natural Burial Grounds

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the natural choice

Frequently Asked
Questions about
Natural Burial