



Thank you for enquiring about our lovely woodland burial ground.

Enclosed you will find details about the site and all the forms you will need in order to either arrange a burial with us or secure a burial plot in advance. If you do not find the answer you are looking for or need further information please get in touch with our staff.

About Natural Burial

Natural burial is a gentle and environmentally friendly route for those who are unfortunately having to make funeral arrangements. Those of us who are concerned that our final resting place should have as little impact on the environment as possible and those who wish to leave behind a protected corner of England will find this a positive and comforting choice.

Essentially, natural burial is where an un-embalmed body is laid to rest in a biodegradable coffin or shroud in a hand dug grave. The grave is not marked with any man-made object, it is simply planted with a memorial tree which marks the grave, alternatively wild flowers suitable to the area and local soils can be planted over the plot. It becomes a living, breathing legacy, a protected nature reserve to be enjoyed not only by visitors in the future but by the local wildlife.

Eden Valley Woodland Burial Ground

Our 20 acre site is partially covered by ancient, bluebell woodland. The burials take place in an area adjacent to the woodland amongst younger but well established oak trees. Additional memorial trees will enhance this new woodland further and over the years, extending it over the whole site.

Burial plots can be purchased in advance by those wishing to get their affairs in order or they can be chosen at the time of need. All burials are single depth and family members can purchase adjacent plots.

We have plots available for ashes interments and areas where ashes can be scattered.

We have no ceremonial building on site but liaise with local venues where a ceremony and/or wake can be held.

Funerals and the burial process.

We are available immediately, to support and help you arrange a burial or purchase a plot in advance. In either circumstance please phone us to discuss arrangements and to book a visit at which time you can select a plot.

Most families employ a funeral director to assist them when faced with organising a funeral. Funeral directors co-ordinate the funeral and bring the deceased to the natural burial ground instead of going to a conventional cemetery or crematorium. The funeral can be as traditional or as modern as you like.

Some families wish to organise the funeral themselves without an undertaker. If this is what you wish to do, once you arrive at the burial ground our staff will support and guide you.

There are no time limits for services here, we do not want you to feel rushed or hurried.

We welcome people of all faiths and beliefs. There are no fixed rules or format to be followed. Some families choose to hold a ceremony at the graveside. Some arrive for the burial after attending a service in church or at another venue. Sometimes there is no ceremony at all and the coffin is simply brought to the burial ground and interred. Other families have a small private interment followed by a memorial service another day. You should organise whatever is right for you or satisfies the wishes of the deceased. There is no set or correct procedure to follow or order in which things should be done.

The purchase of a burial plot is for the right of burial in the plot only and does not confer ownership of the ground or any other rights. If you purchase a plot in advance you will be given a Right of Burial Certificate. This will show the type of plot chosen and its location, using co-ordinates generated using permanent markers, trig points, within the site. Plots are released in phases and you can choose between several hundred plots at any given time. A plan of the cemetery, showing the position of each grave is open for inspection and may be viewed during normal office hours by appointment. Every family will receive a copy of the plan showing the position of a relevant grave.

As a truly natural burial ground we welcome bio-degradable, non-toxic coffins, shrouds and ashes caskets/urns. Traditional, solid wooden coffins (not chipboard) are acceptable, as long as they are made with wood taken from managed, accredited British forests. We do not permit non-degradable linings or plastic. So all handles, linings and pillows should be made from and stuffed with natural fibres. People can be buried with possessions; letters, jewellery, food and drink, horse shoes, tobacco etc but these must be made from natural materials.

Imposing strict conditions is not something we do gladly, but for several reasons we need parameters, and for these to be clearly explained, for everybody's sake. In particular, they help us stay true to our aims and goals, and allow us to follow the guidelines given to us in the planning consent that allows us to operate the burial ground. In the event of any confusion, please do not hesitate to pick up the phone and speak to us. We will be very happy to clarify any misunderstandings.

Association of Natural Burial Grounds (ANBG)

The site is a member of the Association of Natural Burial Ground Charity run by the Natural Death Centre. All members must comply with the ANBG Code of Conduct, which provides the public with the assurance best practice.

Planning Ahead

As we get older many of us wish to get our affairs in order. Writing a will and a set of advance decision documents (used to be called living wills) is a good start. Some people take this one step further and want to plan their funeral and pay for it in advance. Most do this to secure the send off they want and to make sure they do not leave a burden or worry for their family. Money in funeral related saving plans are not counted as part of an estate, ie they are tax and means-test exempt.

Our fees compare very favourably with other provision and we do not penalise anyone from outside our area with multiple fees as other cemeteries do, we have one price for everyone.

When planning ahead a good place to start is with the cemetery fees. Purchasing a plot in advance gets a big chunk of the eventual funeral costs out of the way and secures it at today's price. If you wish to purchase the right to be buried at Eden Valley please contact the staff and come and select your plot. It may seem like a strange thing to do but many people find it comforting to know where they will be laid to rest. Knowing too that they will be part of a nature reserve is also a positive contribution. Furthermore, it also sends a clear message to your family that this is where you want to be.

Prices 2023

Plots:-

Adult grave space for one person	£1675
Ashes plot	£400
Ashes scattering	£400

We also have a charge which is paid into a ring fenced fund, covering the long term management and protection of the site once all the grave spaces are sold. This maintenance fund will ensure that the site remains an accessible, safe and pleasant place to visit, long into the future. This fund will cover maintenance, insurance and habitat management once the site is full.

Minimum contribution	£20
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Grave preparation and administration: – payable at the time of a funeral only.

Interment Fee*	£695*
Ashes interment	£400

**Any coffins 7ftin or more in length or 30in or more in width with incur a surcharge to cover the additional grave preparation. NB. All our graves are neatly and carefully dug by hand. Weekend Funerals will also incur an additional surcharge.*

Children's Funerals:-

The Children's Funeral Fund for England will cover the costs of the plot and internment (in addition to other costs) for the funeral for a child under 18 or a baby stillborn after the 24th week of pregnancy. For earlier miscarriages some support is available from the Children's Funeral Charity.

Memorial Trees:-

The above prices include the provision and planting of a memorial tree (30- 60cm whip) - on or near the grave, a tree guard and stake (full burials only). The interment of ashes takes place around existing trees unless a full plot is purchased.

If families wish to plant something bigger than a whip we will arrange this as part of 'tree planting day' in late winter and will endeavour to source the best saplings, at the best prices, each year. At a cost of somewhere between £40 to £100 depending on the size and species.

You are purchasing a 'right of burial' on your chosen plot. You have secured it whether you occupy it immediately or in 10, 20 or 60 years time. The grave preparation and administration fees will of course rise over time and are payable when a burial takes place. However if your plot is not occupied within 30 years from purchase we require that you contact us and re-sign, at no extra cost, to confirm that you still wish to be buried with us. Of course if you move home you also need to notify us.

Individuals buying a pre-purchase plot must appreciate that if their plot is not occupied for many years, that their neighbours' trees may have developed to the extent that the canopy may have closed in. The burial can still take place but there may not be enough light for their own memorial tree to flourish. Some species like hazel will do better in these circumstances. As would ferns and woodland flowers.

Refunds

After purchasing a plot, if you change your mind we have a 28 day cooling off period for pre-purchase plots. After this 'Rights of burial' to specific plots can be sold on the open market and transferred to a new owner. We charge a £100 admin fee for transferring ownership. New owners must sign the Terms and Conditions.

Planting

Our vision is to create and protect a nature-rich woodland that eventually covers the whole site.

Memorial trees are planted on organised days in the late winter/early spring. Families who have arranged a burial in the preceding year are invited to choose a tree species and attend these days, when help will be available for those with less than green thumbs. If nobody is able to attend we will plant a tree on your behalf. Please indicate which species you would like on the 'application to occupy' or 'notice of interment' form.

Only trees sourced and supplied by us can be planted here. This is to ensure that all trees are of the correct provenance and are not garden hybrids or trees from foreign nurseries that could introduce disease to the area as has recently happened with Ash trees to the UK. We are not planting species that will become tall standard trees as this would mean that only one in 30 or so families could have a memorial tree. Instead we are planting species that grow to a shrub level. This creates what is known as an understory which is a secondary and very important layer of the woodland canopy. Some of the species planted in the understory will be coppiced on a regular cycle every ten years or so. This is a healthy way to manage the woodland that does not kill the trees, on the contrary, it prolongs their life and encourages far more species of flower, insect, bird and mammal into the woodland.

Any whips that fail to thrive will be replaced at our expense for the first 5 years, larger saplings will have to be replaced by the family. Failure rate is low with the whips and slightly higher with larger saplings.

If a family prefer they can simply cover their plot with wild flowers or plants from permitted suppliers. The staff will give you contact details for some excellent nurseries.

You can choose from the following memorial tree list:-

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Hazel | A nut producing shrub level tree. Loved by dormice and squirrels. Our number one choice and very typical of traditionally managed woodland in England. When mature, the Hazel will be coppiced. This not only produces useable forest products but means that the Hazel memorial trees will live a very long time potentially for hundreds of years. This coppiced woodland also supports the highest diversity of wildlife and the cyclical felling and regrowth opens the woodland up, bringing warmth and light to the forest floor. This encourages flowers to flourish along with insects and birdlife. |
| Spindle | A shrub with unusual and pretty pink, geometric shaped berries. |
| Guelder Rose | Not a rose but a Viburnum with wonderful autumn colour and shiny, bright red berries. |
| Crab Apple | A wild apple providing spring blossom and small colourful crab apples in autumn. |

Wild Cherry	Another blossom producing tree. N.B cherry trees do not live very long (20-30 years only).
Sweet Chestnut	Produces edible nuts and will be coppiced every few years. (Only available as a sapling for an additional cost – not guaranteed availability)

Flowers

Many families wish to inject some instant colour onto the burial plots. This is possible but has to be tightly controlled. Without guidance and regulations the land could be covered with non-native species and garden invaders which could cross pollinate and damage the natural status of the site.

Advice and sources of permitted plants can be obtained from the staff. Please do not spend money with nurseries who market 'wildflowers', they are unlikely to be of the right provenance and we may well have to remove these plants from the site.

Obviously flower beds cannot be established and soils from elsewhere may not be spread over the graves. Flowers may not be tied to trees or stakes and vases may not be secretly sunk into the ground; they become death traps for small animals. Please ensure that your family and friends who may visit the grave understand this. We wish to avoid any upset.

Visiting

The burial ground is open at all reasonable times. It is not a manicured park and the ground surface is uneven; therefore please ensure that everyone wears sensible footwear and is also dressed appropriately. Wellington boots at funerals are perfectly acceptable. If the gate is locked and you need vehicle access please contact the staff and we will give you the combination code for the padlock. Following adverse weather conditions vehicle access might be restricted, please contact the staff for an update.

Please be aware that there is open water and a stream that could pose a danger to children.

Dogs should be kept on leads as we have ground nesting wildlife on site. Particularly our wonderful Nightingales who you may hear singing from deep within the blackthorn bushes. They sing in the daytime too throughout springtime.

If you wish to be shown around the site and discuss the options available and understand the management of the burial ground, please make an appointment with the staff who will be pleased to meet you. If you are a disabled visitor and wish to bring your car into the restricted vehicle, burial area, please phone ahead to ensure that the staff are expecting you and that there is no funeral taking place.

Loose cut flowers, which are not wrapped in cellophane, can be left on the graves. Please do not bring plants to the site without first consulting the staff, any unsuitable offerings will unfortunately have to be removed.

Directions

The burial ground lies on the Kent, Surrey border to the north west of the small market town of Edenbridge.

Crouch House Road

Edenbridge

Kent

TN8 5LQ - postal address

TN8 5LG - nearest postcode to burial ground entrance

It is a 12 minute drive south from junction 6 of the M25. 1hour 10 minutes from south central London, avoiding rush hours.

As part of our commitment to environmental issues we wish to encourage you to use public transport when visiting the site and also would like you to suggest group travel to mourners when making funeral arrangements. A minibus or coach from a central collection point to a funeral can become an important and positive part of the mourners' experience, giving additional time to chat and reminisce.

Trains

Edenbridge is served by two railway stations on different lines connecting Tonbridge to London and Uckfield to London. Trains runs three times an hour to Edenbridge or Edenbridge Town station direct from London Bridge. The burial ground is approximately a 20 minute walk from Edenbridge Town station and a 25 minute walk from Edenbridge station. Please always check national rail before making your journey as there are frequent rail works at weekends.

Buses

Direct buses run to Edenbridge from a large number of local towns including Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Hever, Oxted, Crawley, Lingfield and East Grinstead however they do not run on all days. For local service information please see links on our website.

Directions from Stations:

Edenbridge: this is the furthest (on foot) of the two stations

PLEASE BEAR IN MIND THIS TRAIN MAY SPILT INTO THREE BEFORE REACHING EDENBRIDGE SO PLEASE ENSURE YOU LISTEN FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS.

When arriving at Edenbridge make your way to Platform One and down the pathway to exit the station.*

Turn right at the end of the pathway along Station Road (not under the bridge). You will go past EASISTORE on the right, Fircroft Way on the left then a petrol station on the right. At the first roundabout carry straight on, signposted Edenbridge.

Keep going straight, passing the Eden Centre on your left and Four Elms Road. Pass under a railway bridge. The Leisure Centre will be on your right, continue past this and past the traffic lights, continuing forward up the hill alongside the park. **At the next set of traffic lights turn right into Stangrove Road. Follow this road to the end where it meets Crouch House Road. Turn right. Follow this road all the way to the burial ground passing the following roads on the right - Pine Grove, Stanbridge Road and Orchard Drive. The path will continue down a hill, past Greshams Way on your right and you should see an old golf club on the left. To get to the Woodland Burial Ground continue past this club, under the railway bridge and the cemetery is the first gateway on the left.

*(Disabled visitors arriving on Platform 2 can go through the car park and follow the road round to the right to meet the main road. Cross over the road and turn right down the hill under the railway bridge then follow the other directions. You will however be on the opposite side of the road so please cross over when you get to the first crossing.)

Edenbridge Town Station

Visitors on the London train will need to cross under the underpass when arriving at the Station.

Exit the station and follow Station Approach to the end passing Grange Close on the left. You will see a Scout Hut directly in front of you. Turn right onto Station Road and walk down to the main road opposite Eden Leisure Centre. Cross over the road and turn left up the hill. (**follow Edenbridge directions above)

Driving directions

!! Warning. Sat Nav and Google maps may direct you into a neighbours private drive. Please do not leave Crouch House road unless you can see our sign.

From the M25 (12 minutes from motorway, 8 miles)

Exit Junction 6, A22, direction Eastbourne but **turn left** at the first roundabout direction Oxted A25.

Follow A25 eastbound for 3 miles, passing Oxted, go under the viaduct and pass Limpsfield. **Turn right** at the traffic lights on the hill, into Wolfs Row, signed Hurst Green and Lingfield.

Follow this road for 2.6 miles, **ignore** first left turn signed to Edenbridge. Continue straight on. Pass under railway bridge with traffic lights, carry straight on, passing heavily wooded areas.

Take left signed Crockham Hill, passing more heavily wooded land.

In one mile you go over a narrow, angled railway bridge immediately after this **take another left** signed to Edenbridge and Marlpit Hill.

Bend right into Little Browns Lane passing Gardiner Business Park on the right.

After a sharp right hand bend you will find Eden Valley Woodland Burial Ground Car park on the right before a railway bridge.

From the south (East Grinstead and Tunbridge Wells)

Take the A264 to its intersection with the A2026 and turn north following the A2026 towards Edenbridge.

As you get into the town take the **left exit** at the little roundabout, signed 'through traffic' (this is Mont St Aignan Way). Waitrose is on your right.

At the next traffic lights **turn left** onto Lingfield Rd, signed Haxted

Immediately on your right is a little village green. Turn **right here** into Crouch House Road.

The Burial Ground is on the left once you have gone past the houses, about 0.7 of a mile out of town, under the railway bridge.

Directions from the west (South Godstone and Lingfield)

Take the Haxted Rd towards Edenbridge.

On entering the town look carefully for Crouch House Rd **on the left**, there is a little village green at its junction. If you get to the traffic lights at the end of the road you have just missed it (never mind) just turn left and then left again into Stangrove Rd, this will bring you onto Crouch House Rd.

Follow Crouch House Rd, we are under the railway bridge on the left.

Approaching Edenbridge from the east (Tonbridge)

Get on to the B2027.

Follow through Leigh, Bough Beech and **turn left** at Four Elms still on the B2027 into Edenbridge.

At the end of the road turn left towards the town go under the railway bridge and at the traffic lights follow the signs for 'through traffic'.

At the next lights turn right into Stangrove rd.

At the end of Stangrove rd turn right, you are now in Crouch House Rd.

The burial site is on the left once you are past all the houses and go under the bridge.

Approaching from the north (Bromley, Biggin Hill, Westerham, Crockham Hill, Sevenoaks)

Take the A2026 down through Crockham Hill.

On entering Edenbridge town having gone under two railway bridges, follow signs for through traffic at the lights.

At the next set of lights turn right into Stangrove Rd

At the end of this road turn right into Crouch House Rd.

The burial site is on the left once you are past all the houses and under the bridge.

Travelling from Central London (1hr 10 min), Croydon, Warlingham, Caterham

From central London pick up the A3 then the A23 Brixton rd at Kennington.

South of Croydon pick up the A22 at Purley.

Pass under the M25 at junction 6 and take the **first left** onto the A25 direction Oxted.

Follow the A25 eastbound for 3 miles, passing Oxted, go under the viaduct and pass Limpsfield. **Turn right** at the traffic lights on the hill, into Wolfs Row, signed Hurst Green and Lingfield.

Follow this road for 2.6 miles, **ignore** first left turn to Edenbridge. Go straight on. Pass under railway bridge with traffic lights, carry straight on, passing heavily wooded areas.

Take left signed Crockham Hill, passing more heavily wooded land.

In one mile you go over a narrow, angled railway bridge immediately after this **take another left turn** signed to Edenbridge and Marlpit Hill.

Bend right into Little Browns Lane passing Gardiner Business Park on the right.

After a sharp right hand bend you will find Eden Valley Woodland Burial Ground Car park on the right before a railway bridge.

Terms and Conditions regarding the management of the burial ground.

The following regulations are made to enable the company to shape and preserve a natural area for the benefit of nature and for future generation of visitors. They are essential to combine a proper respect for the dead with a suitable management and planting programme in order to create an area that is peaceful, pleasant and ecologically rich. A fitting memorial to those buried here.

We sincerely ask that all visitors treat the burial ground with care and respect so that it may become a place for quiet, personal reflection.

These regulations apply to the cemetery known as Eden Valley Woodland Burial Ground.

General Care and Behaviour:

No seed may be scattered on the burial ground unless approved by the company. Many seeds sold commercially as wildflower or woodland mixtures have inappropriate species or hybrids within them or come from abroad.

Picking of flowers or shrubs or the unauthorised planting of any flowers or shrubs is prohibited because it will prevent the regeneration of a natural landscape. Non-native species will be removed. Construction or maintenance of flower beds is not permitted and no soil, peat or compost may be imported to the site.

There can be no demarcation of graves.

No naturally germinated seedlings apart from bramble, thistle, nettle and ragwort may be removed from plots. Visitors should take appropriate measures to prevent injury or poisoning from plants.

All visitors shall behave in a law abiding and appropriate manner.

Mobile phones should be turned to silent. No amplified music should be played except during funeral services.

Children must be supervised at all times. There are several water features on the site which are deep and have slippery edges.

All visitors must keep their distant from the site beehive and dress appropriately if allergic.

Dogs must be kept on leads at all times. This is especially important as we are encouraging rare ground nesting birds to breed here. The burial ground is criss-crossed by a network of permanent pathways. Some species are very sensitive to disturbance, please use the paths at all times.

Litter bins are not provided as we expect visitors to take their litter home, this includes any inappropriate plastic wrapping or fixings to floral tributes that extended family or friends may have unwittingly left on graves.

No grazing animals are allowed unless introduced by the management for conservation purposes.

No shooting or hunting is permitted.

The burial ground is being redeveloped to encourage a natural landscape therefore the erection of any monuments, markers, crosses, kerbs, fence or railing will not be permitted. This was a condition when gaining our planning permission.

The placing of bird-boxes or seating is only permitted with the strictest guidance and according to availability. Vases sunk discreetly into the soil can drown small animals and will be removed.

Although the greatest care is taken to safeguard the well-being of all the trees, some will fail to thrive and others will need management, including coppicing. We reserve the right to carry out any remedial work.

Only loose cut flowers should be placed on the graves. No plastic packaging should be left and bunches of flowers may not be tied to trees or guards. Nor can any decorative items be hung from trees.

The track can only be used for cars by pre-arrangement and never from November to April.

Terms and Conditions Regarding the Funerals.

Bodies should be not be embalmed, i.e. be free of litres of toxic chemicals; sometimes called hygienic treatment. Good funeral directors will have refrigerated facilities and this process is not necessary or required by law even if you wish to visit or view the deceased.

All coffins and their linings should be sustainably produced from natural, biodegradable materials. These coffins and shrouds are quite mainstream these days and all good funeral directors can source them.

No grave goods should be buried that will release toxins into the soil, batteries for example.

The body should be clothed in natural fibres and wrapped in degradable cloth.

Please ensure if there is a possibility you would like additional plots this is discussed before the plot is chosen.

If you are unsure about anything please have a chat with the staff.

No remains shall be removed from any grave in the burial ground, once interred, without a licence from the secretary of State under section 25 or the burial act 1857.

Updates to these regulations.

We reserve the right to amend, add, remove or change the content of these regulations over time, as circumstances dictate.



OFFICE USE ONLY

FOLDER: <input type="text"/>			
EMAIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	EV I P R	SS <input type="checkbox"/>
MAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	PW <input type="checkbox"/>	TREE <input type="checkbox"/>

Application for a Licence to Occupy a Burial space / Pre-payment form

Full name of applicant / applicants	<input type="text"/>		
Full address	<input type="text"/>		
Postcode	<input type="text"/>	Telephone	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>		

Preferred Area for Grave	<input type="text"/>		
Type (single / double / family)	<input type="text"/>	Preferred Tree	<input type="text"/>
Type of coffin	<input type="text"/>		
Certificate to be left in the care of:	<input type="text"/>		

Next of Kin	<input type="text"/>		
Next of Kin Address	<input type="text"/>		
Contact Number	<input type="text"/>		
Email address	<input type="text"/>		
Relationship to Plot Owner	<input type="text"/>	Religion, Faith / Other	<input type="text"/>
Specific Requests / Instructions	<input type="text"/>		

I / (we) being the applicant; have read, understood and agree to abide by the cemetery terms and conditions, particularly those appertaining to the placement of memorials, flowers, plants and trees on graves, also to the environmental suitability of coffins, their fixtures, grave goods and embalming.

I understand Eden Valley are not responsible for any family / funeral director led activities on the site.

Print name Signed Date
 (Applicant)



OFFICE USE ONLY

FOLDER:					BR					
EMAIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	EV	I	P	R	GF	R	S	SS	<input type="checkbox"/>
MAP	<input type="checkbox"/>	HCM	I	P	R	PW	<input type="checkbox"/>	TREE		<input type="checkbox"/>

Interment form

Full name of the deceased			
Full address of the deceased			
Date of death		Age	
Choice of tree		Pre-purchase No. (if known)	

Please note, it is the next of kin's responsibility to contact Eden Valley to confirm a tree choice by 31st December of the same year as the interment. If a tree is not specified, a hazel whip will be planted. Tree planting normally takes place in Jan/Feb over one weekend. All trees will be whips unless specifically requested.

Full name of Next of Kin (NOK)			
Full address of NOK			
Relationship		Contact number	
Email address			

Please note that the tree planting information will come out by email, so please ensure you complete this correctly otherwise there may be a delay in contacting you.

Name of funeral director		Contact number	
Description of coffin		Coffin shape	
<small>Please measure coffin by hand and give exact external measurements including handles (in feet and inches)</small>			
Length		Depth	
Width at head		Shoulder	Foot

Certificate presented by (coroner / registrar)		Name of officiator / celebrant	
Date of interment at Eden Valley		Time of interment at Eden Valley	

*I / we being the NOK / executors; have read, understood and agree to abide by the cemetery terms and conditions, particularly those appertaining to the placement of memorials, flowers, plants and trees on graves, also to the environmental suitability of coffins, their fixtures, grave goods and embalming.
I understand Eden Valley are not responsible for any family / funeral director led activities on the site.*

Print name Signed Date
 The Next of Kin / Executors
