

The Butler Memorial Trust
Westcombe Hill
Nature Reserve Burial Ground

Westcombe Hill Burial Ground is situated within a hilltop smallholding which had been managed for over thirty years by the donors, Olive and Arthur Fevin, and is already a haven for native flora and fauna. Most of the eleven acres will continue to be grazed as at present, while in the longer term it will be managed as a nature reserve. One field has been set aside as a burial ground providing approximately 300 graves.

Although there are a growing number of green and woodland burial grounds in the UK, some provided by local councils, often in designated areas in existing cemeteries, Westcombe Hill is set in a particularly beautiful setting in a rural location. It is run by a Trust, with all the officers being volunteers, and is therefore run on a not-for-profit basis.

The Westcombe Hill Burial Ground is a “green” ground, where every care is taken to maintain an eco-friendly approach to burial, including the nature of materials used.

We hope that the tranquillity and the natural beauty of the area will make a resting place where loved ones can be remembered in peace.

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What you need to know

ABOUT THE SITE:

- Coffins must be quickly biodegradable. Materials such as wicker, bamboo, cardboard, softwood are acceptable. Hard woods, metals and plastics are entirely unacceptable. Shrouds or clothing should be of natural fibres. Bodies may be buried without the use of coffins.
- Wild flower seeds or indigenous plants such as primroses, cowslips, violets, wild daffodils may be planted on the graves on the understanding that they may be grazed or cut as the overall management plan of the grave site requires.
- Memorial native trees are planted by the Trust and we invite memorial donations. Such trees will be stock-proofed and spread in the adjoining fields as part of the overall programme to create a woodland pasture.
- In order to accommodate the site maintenance, memorial plaques made from native wood or natural stone, not more than 12 inches by 8 inches, may be placed flat on the graves but may not be affixed. The Trust may remove or lay flat non-compliant plaques.
- Clients should note that this is a natural burial with the emphasis on natural.

- Footwear and clothing suitable for crossing fields should be worn when visiting the site. During certain periods wellingtons are essential footwear. Access to the site may be difficult for the elderly and infirm.

- It is quite normal for subsidence to take place some weeks after a burial, which is caused by the soil settling. This will normally be dealt with during routine maintenance when extra infill will be added to level the grave.

Grave Digging

- You may arrange your own grave-digging or ask us to provide this service.
- Standard plot size is 4 feet by 12 feet and the permitted depth for grave digging is 4 foot 6 inches.
- Sods should be cut as deeply as possible in order to safeguard any plants already there and should be carefully replaced afterwards on the spoil.
- All spoil should be replaced above the grave. There is a designated area for surplus soil.
- Mechanical diggers will not be allowed on the site except by prior agreement and allowed to take only the route agreed.

Please read this before completing the application form

- Orders will be accepted from clients only after confirmation from The Butler Memorial Trust.
- Burials will take place only in a designated area at the Plot No.as advised.Plots are allocated in a sequential manner by the Trust.
- Parking space is limited and provides for **no more than six vehicles** plus two funeral vehicles. No vehicles are permitted to enter the fields. These restrictions are in place

because of the terms of our planning permission. If you need to convey more people to the site than this would allow, it is suggested you arrange to park in a local car park and use a taxi service as a shuttle.

- The site may be visited between sunrise and sunset.
- All fees and the relevant forms must be received by an Officer of the Trust before any burial may take place.
- As this is a natural burial site run by a Charity we do not employ any staff, but we will do our best to help you with any needs you have.

How to apply for a burial space

1. Contact us as quickly as possible. You may telephone one of our trustees on 01458 272848 or 01643 822035, or if you get no answer on those number ring 01458 272148.
2. Complete the application form and send it with the appropriate forms and your cheque. Remember we cannot permit you to go ahead with a burial unless we have the correct paperwork.
3. If you want us to arrange gravedigging please notify us as soon as possible.
4. You should consider whether you want to use the services of an undertaker to assist with arrangements, but you do not have to use any official service if you prefer not to.

Application for Burial

Please use BLOCK CAPITALS throughout. It is essential that the information provided is accurate as it is needed for legal purposes.

Full name of Deceased	
Last address of Deceased	
Place of Death	
Cause of Death	
Date of Birth of Deceased	
Date of Death of Deceased	
National Insurance No. of Deceased (if known)	
Requested Date of Funeral	
Requested Time of Funeral	

CUT

**More to complete
overleaf**

Name and address of person authorised to request the burial.	
Contact No. of above.	
Name of officiant at burial (if any)	
YOUR ORDER (Please tick what you require)	
Single burial plot cost £450	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gravedigging if arranged by us, cost £230	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interment of ashes plot cost £50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gravedigging if arranged by us, cost £50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gift towards planting and stockproofing memorial trees. (optional)	<input type="checkbox"/> £.....
Certificate for Burial or Cremation enclosed	<input type="checkbox"/> Please note that we cannot authorise a burial without this.
Total amount enclosed:	

Your completed form should be sent with your remittance to
The Treasurer, Butler Memorial Trust,
End O' Lane, Somertonfield Road, Westcombe, Somerton TA11 6HZ

GENERAL INFORMATION

The objectives of The Butler Memorial Trust are:

1.
 - (a) To make provision for burials whether secular or otherwise, within the framework of relevant laws, with a view to the burial sites being ultimately used as woodland, nature reserves or pastureland.
 - (b) Directly or indirectly to provide care for the elderly and terminally ill anywhere in the world.
 - (c) It is the aim of the Trust to provide affordable burial sites to those in need of them with the aim of returning those sites to countryside use. The sort of uses the Trust would approve would be woodlands, nature reserves or pastureland for animals such as sheep.
 - (d) The Trust's aim is to veer away from the tomb-like reservations cemeteries have become and to provide burial sites which are more natural and personal. The emphasis of The Butler Memorial Trust is on the "green" aspects of burial sites.
 - (e) To be self sustainable and as such although the Trustees do not take any salaries and provide their time on a voluntary basis there is a charge for burials in order that the Trust can set aside funds for the ongoing management of the site and to allow it to purchase further sites.
2. The Trust, although registered several years ago, began provision of this service in earnest following the donation to it of The Westcombe Hill Burial Ground by Olive and Arthur Fevin. The area looks out over Somerton and surrounding areas and Glastonbury Tor can be seen from the fields.

3. Westcombe Hill has been managed for over 30 years on organic principles by the donors. One field has been set aside as a burial ground, while another field is being planted with trees, creating an Avenue of Remembrance, and an area for quiet contemplation and enjoyment of the natural habitat. It may be possible for individuals to make a contribution towards a specific part of the overall plan if this is appropriate at the time. Contact the Trust directly to discuss this.
 4. The Trust cannot for legal reasons book any plots in advance. If in your Will you request to be buried on the Somerton site you should provide an alternative as it is possible that there may be no room on the site at the time of your death. In that case you might request to be buried on a similar site.
 5. All bequests are gratefully received and will help in making sure that sites such as the Somerton site are there for the use of future generations. Any bequests should be made payable to The Butler Memorial Trust under Charity No. 1076810.
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