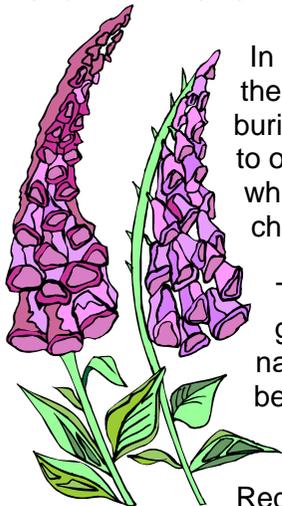


Introduction

High Peak Borough Council is aware of the concern felt by many people at the loss of trees and wildlife.



In order to reverse this loss, the Council has recognised that burial grounds can be designed to offer many benefits to wildlife, whilst also introducing greater choice for the bereaved.

The woodland meadow graves offer a “return to nature”, for those who wish to be buried among native trees, and wild flowers such as Wood Anemone, Daisies, Red Campion, Speedwell, Dog Daisies, Ladies Smock and Field Scabious.

The woodland meadow area will provide a living memorial, one that will offer pleasures and benefits to future generations.

Woodland Meadow Burial

Areas for woodland meadow burial have been set aside at Buxton, Glossop, Thornsett and Hope Cemeteries.

These burial areas have been planned to recreate the traditional woodland scene typical of the area, providing a fine habitat for wildlife. The graves will remain forever, in the newly created woodland.

Grave Design

The woodland meadow graves will be carefully recorded on plans with each grave individually numbered and identifiable by Council staff on site via an unobtrusive buried marker. This will ensure that the Cemeteries Service will always be able to locate graves as the trees and plants grow.

Planting

After a number of burials, and at the appropriate time of year, trees of native species (e.g. alder, rowan, oak, beech, cherry and birch) will be planted, wild flower seeds will be sown and bulbs planted in the area. **Please be aware that not every grave will have a tree planted on it.** It is intended that the trees will be planted in an unregimented manner and therefore over the years a natural woodland will develop.

Coffins & Containers

Preferably burials should take place in a bio-degradable coffin, casket, shroud or other appropriate container. Plastic handles and fittings should not be used. If natural wood coffins are used, they should be made from wood obtained from managed forests. All of these should be available from your funeral director.

You may use a home-made coffin or casket, although you should ensure that this is safe and acceptable to the Council.

Embalming is **not** permitted for woodland burials.

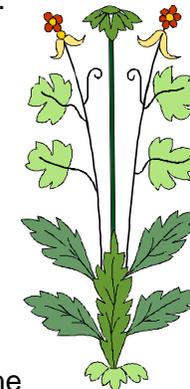
Cremated remains may also be buried in this area.

Maintaining the Area

The woodland meadow area will be mown twice annually and managed for the benefit of the trees planted and wild flora and fauna.

Horticultural chemicals will not be used, except where a serious noxious weed develops. This would only involve spot treatment, a policy endorsed by the Woodland Trust.

It must be appreciated that the “formal, neat and tidy” appearance of other parts of our cemeteries will not apply to this burial area due to the ‘meadow’ maintenance regime.

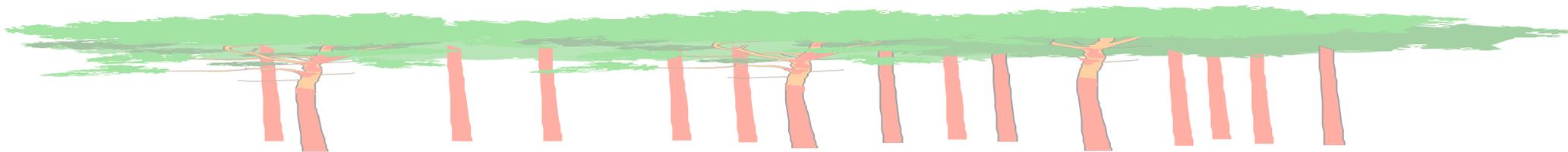


Funeral Arrangements

Graves will not be reserved for people of specific religions and the dead of varying faiths will be buried in the same area. It is your decision as to whether you arrange a religious service, a secular service, or to have no service at all.

Traditional funeral patterns do not have to be rigidly followed, but it is recommended that the funeral is carried out with the guidance of a funeral director or the Natural Death Centre, or that the arrangements are scrutinised by Cemeteries Service staff.

For those who have no relatives to care for a traditional grave and memorial, a woodland grave is an ideal choice. Nature will care for the grave and the neglect of an unvisited memorial will not arise.



In addition, the woodland grave area offers a new option for those who do not wish their children or relatives to have to care for their graves in the future.

Memorials

To encourage wildlife, wild flowers and the planted trees, it is necessary to impose a number of restrictions. **Wreaths and floral tributes may be laid on the grave only at the time of the burial and these will be removed after two to three weeks.** We ask that relatives and friends respect the ethos behind these natural areas by not memorialising the grave or trees in any way after this time, as people walking to and from individual graves will trample wild flowers and plants, destroying the living memorial we propose to create.

If you require a memorial, a bronze plaque (details can be obtained from our offices) can be placed in the garden of remembrance and can be used as a place to leave wreaths and flowers at anniversaries, for example. Your co-operation in this matter will help to maintain the woodland areas with nature in mind.

Fees

Woodland meadow graves may be purchased for future use by submitting the prescribed fee to Cemeteries Service, Town Hall, Market Place, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6EL. Please note that purchase fees are doubled for non-High Peak residents.

The fee includes a contribution towards the planting of trees and bulbs on the grave and continuing maintenance.

The fees for preparing a grave for burial (interment fees) are additional and payable at the time of the funeral.

A deed of ownership will be prepared and issued within one month, covering a period of 80 years. Unlike other graves, this period is not significant as each grave is for one interment only.

In Conclusion

Woodland meadow burial is not for those who require a formal, neat and tidy grave with a traditional headstone, nor for those who wish to visit the grave frequently or leave flowers and wreaths regularly.

It will be chosen by those who love wildlife and are concerned with the environment, and who wish to create a woodland for future generations.



Please address all enquiries to:

Cemeteries Service, Town Hall, Market Place, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6EL.

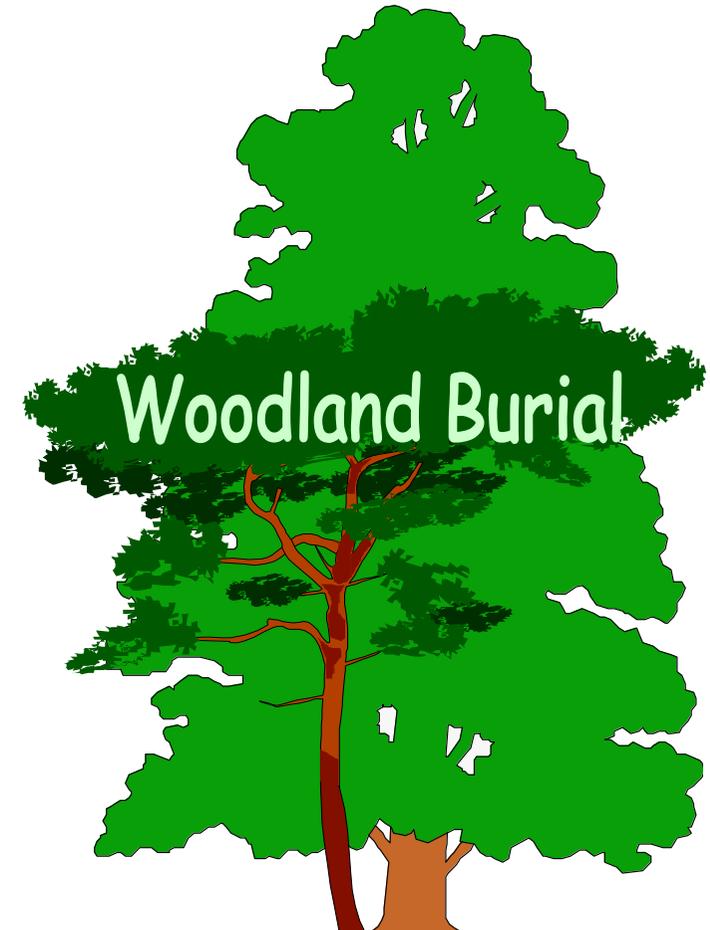
Tel: 0845 129 7777 (ext. 2067)

Fax: 01298 27639

Textphone: 0845 129 4876

Email: customer-services@highpeak.gov.uk

Cemeteries Service
αβγ
working for our community



A Return to Nature

0845 129 7777

High Peak Borough Council

www.highpeak.gov.uk

