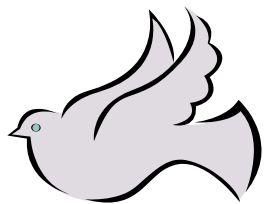


Information for Cemetery Users



A natural burial area is available in the North-western corner of Amble West Cemetery to give people more choice on where their own or their loved one's final resting place may be. The site is a peaceful and tranquil place with views of meadows, Warkworth Castle and the Coquet Estuary. By choosing a 'green funeral' it can be comforting to know that you are helping to allow nature to thrive, wildlife to flourish and preserving a natural site for future generations.

It is a place to come, remember the past, enjoy the present and look forward to the future. Families who choose this kind of grave for their loved ones find it soothing to be somewhere beautiful. Their loss is put into the perspective that death is a natural part of life and the planet's life cycle. In an endeavour to keep the habitat as natural as possible there is no physical identification at the site of burial, but accurate recording will be undertaken allowing current and future generations to locate the place of burial.

What is a green funeral?

Many people have different concepts of green or natural burials but generally it can be defined as an environmentally-friendly way of committing human remains to the ground and is becoming more popular with those looking for an alternative to a traditional burial.

The body is prepared without chemical preservatives and disinfectants and is then buried in a biodegradable coffin/casket. In our natural burial area, a small shrub will be planted as a

living memorial instead of erecting a traditional memorial.

Shrubs are selected to be attractive to birds, insects, butterflies and wildlife to provide a nurturing habitat.

Once a burial has taken place the grave remains "forever" in the natural setting of a copse. The shrub we plant will be located within the grave spaces and planting will take place at an appropriate time once the land has had adequate time to settle. To ensure the long term health of the area it will have to be managed. This will entail trimming down or even removal of shrubs to ensure an ongoing cycle of growth.

After a short period, native wild flowers will be planted amongst the grave plots. This will provide a beautiful carpet of colour and deter people from walking over the graves. As the area matures these should join together to cover the ground; however small access areas will need to be left to enable appropriate maintenance of the copse. Your legacy will be one that future generations enjoy forever.

Only single burials are allowed in our Natural Burials section in order that the natural habitat can be established undisturbed however we will consider the scattering of ashes or burial of cremated remains within a 5 year period at an additional cost provided the casket meets environmental requirements.

We only allow floral tributes to be placed on the grave at the time of the interment; thereafter we cannot allow any type of planting nor any flowers to be placed on graves, nor can any vases, jars, containers, mementoes or planting be placed on the grave. At Christmas we will allow wreaths to be placed round the memorial wall, these will be removed after 1 month.

Natural burials can only take place in Amble West Cemetery when organised by a Funeral Director who will be able to advise on the environmental aspects of preparation, the materials available for the coffin/casket, the service and the costs of these. As in other parts of the cemetery, there is a charge for the grave space; however the Natural burial interment fee includes the digging and filling of the grave and the planting and maintenance of the shrub.

We have constructed a Memorial wall following a bequest made to the Cemetery by the late Councillor John M Hedley. We therefore offer a lease to have a slate plaque placed on our Memorial Wall. (This incurs a separate charge)

The granite plaques can be purchased through a Memorial Mason and are made to order. They come in 2 sizes Large 20.3cm x 30.5cm or Standard 15.2 x 20.3cm.



Note: The Council can prune or remove any plant, shrub, grass or tree without notice or compensation if it considers it necessary for the good order and running of the Cemetery.

The Council acts under the Local Authorities Cemetery Order 1977 (as amended). In any matter relating to the Cemetery, the Council's decision is final.