

Welcome to Thoulstone Park



Natural Burial Meadow

The Burial Meadow sits within the 150-acre site founded on the core principles of sustainability, community and wellbeing.

The Meadow at Thoulstone Park offers a unique resting place — one that nurtures both remembrance and renewal. Here, every farewell contributes to the preservation and enhancement of biodiversity.

In death, there is life.

Life at Thoulstone Park is vibrant and ever-present, from the richness of the surrounding ecology to the laughter of people enjoying games or sharing stories over a cup of tea.

If you see life and death as two sides of the same coin, The Meadow at Thoulstone Park may be the perfect resting place for you or your loved ones

The Meadow at Thoulstone Park provides a natural burial space thoughtfully integrated into the rural landscape, supporting both the environment and the local community. Funerals can be held with guidance from funeral directors/advisers or independently, honouring the departed with dignity. Managed by Mary Cross of Organic Matters, the site embraces sustainable practices — from willow coffins to locally grown flowers — creating a serene, environmentally conscious resting place. Mary makes willow coffins from her workshop in Nunney and is passionate about bringing this part of Thoulstone Park to life!

How to find us

Thoulstone Park
Chapmanslade
Westbury
BA13 4AQ

Opening Hours: *8am-6pm*

Call Mary on 07899 065364
Email: burials@thoulstonepark.com



Ecology

A natural burial is the most ecological funeral option available - an enduring, thoughtful legacy for future generations.

The burial area will be part of the larger Thoulstone Park Meadow, which supports livestock grazing and the conservation of local flora.

Moreover, the natural burial area offers a space that fosters community well-being, encouraging engagement with nature, the outdoors and supporting mental health by providing a dedicated, serene setting for reflection and remembrance.

For Thoulstone Park Natural Burial meadow to maintain a respectful space which allows nature to thrive we ask everyone to abide by our rules and regulations which can be found on our website. By agreeing to these on your 'interment form' you are entering into a burial contract with Thoulstone Park Natural Burial Meadow.

Memorials

To maintain the natural state of the burial meadow, graves are not marked. A memorial plaque bearing the name of the deceased, date of birth and date of death can be purchased and displayed in our Memorial Board situated in the gathering area. This can be done at the time of the burial or later. More information on our website and costs at the end of this information pack.

One of the best pieces of advice we can give is to let your loved ones know what arrangements you want when you die. Visit our website and download a really useful document where you can record your advance funeral wishes.

Natural Burial

Natural burial, sometimes called 'green' or woodland burial, is an environmentally conscious alternative to traditional burial. The practice began in the UK in the 1990s, rooted in the idea that only natural, biodegradable materials are used, and that the burial ground itself is managed to create, preserve, and enhance habitats.

Natural burial offers a gentle, meaningful way to say goodbye—one that leaves a lasting legacy of care for future generations and the world around us.

Key Features

- **Biodegradable Coffins & Shrouds**

Made from natural materials such as willow (wicker), wood or cloth, ensuring they return gently to the earth. Anything placed in the grave must be biodegradable including clothing.

- **No Embalming (unless in exceptional circumstances, please see our [Rules & Regulations](#))**

Bodies are laid to rest without harmful chemicals, protecting the soil and groundwater.

- **Plastic-Free**

From coffin linings to floral tributes, everything is free from plastics and synthetic materials.

- **Unmarked Graves with Digital Mapping**

Graves remain unmarked to preserve the landscape. Families are provided with precise GPS coordinates and what3words addresses for location. Graves can be flagged if advance notice of a visit is given.

- **Landscape Protection**

Burial grounds are carefully maintained as thriving habitats for local wildlife and native plants. At Thoulstone Park there is a permissive footpath for you to access the burial meadow. Dogs must be kept on leads at all times as sheep are free to roam and graze.

- **A Return to Nature**

As the body decomposes naturally, at a shallower depth than traditional burials, it enriches the soil, contributing to the cycle of life.

We welcome people of all faiths and backgrounds. Services here are unhurried, allowing the freedom to create a ceremony that truly reflects the person being remembered — without the constraints often found in traditional burial options.

You may wish to employ the services of a funeral director or advisor, but this is not a legal requirement. We have a list of recommended funeral directors who abide by our '**Code of Conduct**' which can be found on our website.

Arranging a burial

At Thoulstone Park Natural Burial Meadow we accept full coffin/shroud burials and ashes interments.

Before the burial
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you haven't already visited the Thoulstone Park Natural Burial Meadow, then we suggest you do that at your earliest convenience by contacting Mary to arrange a suitable time. We are 4.2 miles, about 10 minutes from Westbury or Frome train stations and from Bath station, 17 miles about 40 minutes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Once a death has been certified a representative (the 'applicant') would let Mary know<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the name of the deceased,○ a preferred date for the funeral,○ their own contact details and○ any prior purchase information such as a reserved plot.This can be done by submitting the contact form on the website or by calling her on 07899 065364.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You will need to decide if you would like to make the arrangements yourselves or ask a funeral director to do this. We have a list of funeral directors & advisors on our website who adhere to our 'code of conduct' with regards to coffin & shroud manufacture and embalming prohibitions. If you choose to arrange the burial yourselves, please take some time to familiarise yourselves with what is involved, you will find a wealth of information on the Natural Death Centre website.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provisional confirmation - If the preferred date is free and the gravedigger is available, you would be informed of any events at Thoulstone Park which may affect your decision. If we are all in agreement, we would provisionally confirm the booking.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Submit relevant forms - <u>You will find our 'burial rights and interment form' at the end of this information pack,</u> or it can be completed as an online form on our website. This needs to be completed by the 'applicant', this is the person who is responsible for any further contact. This form gives us all the details we need to proceed with a burial and this should be completed as soon as possible, at least three days before the event.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alongside your interment form, we need the following documents where relevant, scanned and emailed to Mary to proceed -<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A copy of the Registrar's Certificate for burial or cremation (Green form) - essential○ A cremation certificate for ashes interment - if required○ Coroners order for burial if necessary - if required
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full payment is required by bank transfer before a burial or ashes interment can take place. A receipt will be issued to confirm all in order. <u>Our price list can be found at the end of this document and should be completed with the relevant information and returned with the interment form</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Once payment is confirmed, the applicant will be sent a letter detailing 'What to expect on the day' information such as, where to meet and any advice such as suitable clothing and footwear. They will be given and asked to share information relevant to the day

such as to bring foldable chairs for those who may have trouble standing and instruction on parking for those less able.

- Choose your **ancillary services** from our list of **recommended local providers** on our website, coffin and shroud producers, celebrants and florists. Alternatively, you may have a personal connection or choose to do your flowers or lead the ceremony yourselves. You can obviously let a funeral director do all of this for you or personalise as much as you please. A good funeral director should allow you make these choices if important to you. Please note any funeral director you choose must adhere to our 'code of conduct'

- **Grave digging and preparation for interment** - We need to know the exact true measurements of the coffin or ashes casket to give to the grave digger. This information will be requested on the interment form. The grave will be prepared by our grave digger at a depth of 1.3 metres generally the day before and for ashes 0.5 metres.

- **Wakes** can be arranged in various formats at Thoulstone Park and would be booked through our events team. hello@thoulstoneevents.co.uk
 - The Pavillion Café - who offer a hot or cold finger buffet for up to 50 people
 - Hire of the Range for a more formal event
 - Hire of the Marquee for the ceremony and/or wake

- **Embalming** involves preserving the body with chemicals and is generally incompatible with natural burial due to its environmental impact. We would only accept embalmed remains in exceptional circumstances, e.g. repatriation.

- **Plot allocation and reservation of an adjacent plot** - Our plots are available as single-depth. Double plots are available arranged side by side, offering families the option of adjacent graves. For double plots, payment for the second plot may be made in full or through a monthly standing order over 10 or 20 months. Please note that an additional administration charge applies to instalment plans. If undecided, we can provisionally reserve it for 1 year, after which it may be offered to others. We will allocate plots unless a reserved plot is required. Religious burial directional requirements will be honoured. The plot will be located for you if you would like to visit before the day of the burial.

- **The death of a child is something no parent should have to deal with.** You may choose to enlist the services of a funeral director to support you, but we are here to help in any way we can if you choose not to. The cost of the plot and grave digging are covered by the Children's Funeral Fund for England. You will find more information www.gov.uk/child-funeral-costs. We or a funeral director can claim this back on your behalf. Only administrative costs and optional services are payable.

On the day of the burial

- The funeral party will be met in the main Thoulstone Park car park and shown where to go relevant to their choice of proceedings, i.e. graveside or gathering area ceremony. Mary will remain on hand at all times. Currently the only available toilet is at the Pavillion Café.
- If arranged by a funeral director, they would generally manage proceedings with regards to the hearse, carrying the coffin and instructing any relatives in how to do this if appropriate. If no funeral director involved, then Mary would assist with this.
- If the family choose to, they can assist with back filling the soil, this process will be finished off by the grave digger and the turf re-laid. You may wish to add petals or flowers into the grave before interment.
- Ceremonies can be held either at the graveside or in the existing mown gathering area that overlooks the meadow. There is a small, covered area with a firepit that can be used should the weather be against you. There will be no time limit on these areas other than the park opening hours although an estimate of time will have been requested on the Interment form. If one of our partner venues have been pre-booked, then time constraints may apply.
- **Dogs** can offer great comfort at funerals and are allowed in the Meadow but must be kept on a lead at all times as sheep are free to graze. Please clear up any waste. A pet's ashes may be included at the time of interment at no extra cost, this must be stated on the interment form.
- **Music** - there is no power at the burial meadow or the gathering area so please ensure your speaker system is loud enough to be clearly heard. Acoustic music is always a beautiful accompaniment to a ceremony.
- **Sensible attire** - Please bear in mind that you are walking into a sheep grazed meadow via a mown sloping path from the gathering area, so suitable footwear is a must and sensible clothing to cater for our British weather. As Alfred Wainwright once said, 'There is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing'.
- **Tributes** - floral tributes or other objects can be placed **inside** the grave with the coffin/shroud or ashes casket but nothing non-biodegradable - no plastic, wire or oasis is permitted. Why not take your flowers home with you to enjoy! A simple posy of flowers can be left on the grave as long as the strict guidelines of [point no 11 of Burial Ground R&R's](#) have been adhered to.

After the event

- Mary will email the applicant with the following;
 - Two copies of the Certificate of Interment which will include the exact location of the grave. Both should be signed and one returned to Mary in the provided SAE.
 - A location map of the grave. Information on how to locate the grave can be found on our website.
- Mary will post you a feedback form with an SAE from the Association of Natural Burial Grounds which should be returned to them directly. However, should you have any concerns at all we would ask you to please let Mary know as quickly as possible so any issues can be resolved.
- There is year-round access to the burial meadow and the memorial board in the gathering area within the opening times of Thoulstone Park via a permissive footpath.



Thoulstone Park Natural Burial Meadow

Price list		
Burial	Please enter below	
Right of burial - single plot	£1,200.00	
Additional plot*	£1000.00	
Interment fee**	£750.00	
Ashes interment		
Single ashes plot	£700.00	
Family ashes plot***	£2100.00	
Ashes interment fee	£200.00	
Sub total		£
*When purchased at the same time as initial plot		
** Interment fee covers grave digging, administration and onsite attendance by the Burial Meadow Manager. It is payable only at time of booking a burial or ashes interment. These charges apply when a burial is made between the hours of 10 am and 3pm (2 pm in winter), Monday to Friday. Extra charges apply for a weekend burial by special arrangement.		
*** Up to four interments		
Add-ons/Extras		
Memorial plaques	£450	
Additional charge for weekend burial or ashes interment	£250	
Additional admin charge for change to burial rights	£80	
Standing order admin fee for pre-purchased plots*	£80	
Supplement for large coffin**	£100	
Additional registration fee for extra human ashes to be added to grave	£200	
Sub total		£
Total		£
An invoice will be emailed to the person responsible for payment as detailed in point 10 of the interment form. Full payment must be cleared at least 48 hrs. prior to a burial or ashes interment to proceed.		
*Please add this admin fee to your total if you wish to spread payments over 10 or 20 months and instruct your bank to pay monthly installments to the bank details above with your name as the reference. You will be sent a statement every 5 months.		
**Please discuss with Mary if you think this will be necessary.		

Cost of a child's funeral: The cost of the plot and grave digging are covered by the Children's Funeral Fund for England. You will find more information www.gov.uk/child-funeral-costs. We or a funeral director can claim this back on your behalf. Only administrative costs and optional services are payable.



Thoulstone Park Natural Burial Meadow

Interment form and exclusive right to burial

1. The applicant – (The main contact for future correspondence)	
Your name	
Your address	
Your email address	
Your telephone number(s)	
Your relationship with the deceased?	<i>You are the deceased's...</i>
Deceased's next of kin (Same as above) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Their telephone number	
Their email address	
Permission to share details: Yes, I have permission <input type="checkbox"/>	<i>I confirm I have permission from the deceased's next of kin to share the following information with Thoulstone Park Natural Burial Meadow and to be the main contact regarding the day of the funeral if necessary.</i>

2. The person who has died					
Their full name					
Their address					
Their date of birth		Their date of death		Age	

3. Funeral director (FD) - if you are using one	
Company name	
Contact name	
Contact email address	
Contact telephone number(s)	
If you plan to 'direct it yourself'	

4. The coffin, shroud or ashes casket						
Which will you be using?	Coffin		Shroud		Ashes casket	
Accurate exterior dimensions	Length:		Width:		Height:	
What is the main material of the coffin, shroud or ashes casket?						
Permitted materials	<i>I confirm all materials used in the construction of the coffin, shroud or ashes casket will biodegrade naturally in the ground and that NO PLASTIC LININGS or polyester trimmings will be used. (Coffins can be lined with canvas or paper as an alternative).</i>					
Yes, I confirm the following: <input type="checkbox"/>						

5. The grave				
Type of grave	Burial		Ashes	
Are the rights pre-purchased?	No		Yes	
If yes, Register Number?				
Next to an existing grave?	No		Yes	
If yes, next to whom?				
Would you like to reserve the adjacent plot?	No	Provisional (for 1 year)	Yes - burial plot	Yes - ashes plot
If yes, please provide their:	Name			
	Address			
	Date of birth			
	Phone no.			
	Email			

6. Extra ashes within the grave		
Extra ashes?	No	Human ashes <i>Human ashes require an additional administration fee.</i>
For extra human ashes, please provide their:	Name	
	Their last address	
	Date of birth	
	Date of death	
A pet's ashes can be added at no extra charge	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

7. The event			
Requested date:			
Requested arrival time: (11am-2pm in winter / 11am - 5pm in summer)		Estimated departure:	
What type of event are you planning?	Simple committal with a graveside service		
	Committal after a service elsewhere		
	A longer celebration of life		
	Other...		
Who will carry the coffin? (If applicable)	Funeral director's staff		
	Family and friends		
	A combination (Funeral Directors + Family and friends)		
Number of people expected:			
Name of officiant (if any):			

8. Optional items			
A memorial plaque mounted in the memorial frame for 25 years after which you are welcome to take your plaque away.			
Name to go on plaque			
Year of birth		Year of death	

9. Applicant's signature and declaration	
<p>The information given on this form is accurate. I am the person to whom all correspondence should be sent and am responsible for ensuring payment of the amounts shown on the attached Price List and agree to be bound by Thoulstone Park Natural Burial Meadow's rules and regulations (www.naturalburials.thoulstonepark.com/rules-and-regulations) which apply particularly those appertaining to the placement of memorials and flowers on graves. Also, to the environmental suitability of coffins and their fixtures thereby entering a burial contract with Thoulstone Park Natural Burial Meadow.</p>	
Signature	
Full name	
Date	

10. Who will be responsible for payment?

The attached price list must be completed and returned with this interment form. An invoice will be issued, and funds must be cleared at least 24 hrs. prior to a burial to proceed.

Applicant	
Funeral Director	
Other (please provide a name, address and contact details)	

11. Updates and how we use your personal data

We would like to be able to let you know about future matters concerning the burial meadow and any new options that might become available. If you agree to being contacted this way please tick the relevant boxes:

Email Post Phone (you can opt out at any time).

Personal data you supply will be used to confirm the purchase and to register rights sold at the burial meadow. We may also use it for statistical analysis. We will not share your data with other organisations.

We are obliged to keep a register of all burials and interments, recording the date of burial, names in full, age and grave number. By law, this data must be accessible to the public upon request.

12. How did you find out about us?

Please let us know how you found out about the Thoulstone Park Natural Burial Meadow...

13. Sharing images/video of the burial

Yes

No

We appreciate this can be a sensitive topic and totally understand if images or video are taken at the burial, that you wish to keep them private. However, if you are happy to share these it would really help us with promoting the burial meadow. We would use our discretion, and the name of the deceased would not be shared, we can use initials and 'family of ...' If you are happy for us to contact you after the burial regarding this please circle the relevant answer above.

Please return the form by email or post to Mary Cross

Email: burials@thoulstonepark.com

Post: 5 Flowerfield, Nunney, Frome BA11 4NF

For office use only

Payment received	R.O.B certificate sent	R.O.B signed certificate received	
Plot type	Plot register number	Plot reference points	



Thoulstone Park Natural Burial Meadow

Application to purchase an exclusive right of burial or ashes interment - Pre-purchase form

1. The applicant (the person responsible for payment)	
Your name	
Your address	
Your email address	
Your telephone number(s)	
Right of burial certificate to be left in the care of...	

2. For whom is the right of burial/ashes being purchased?			
Their full name (same as above) <input type="checkbox"/>			
Their address (same as above) <input type="checkbox"/>			
Their date of birth		Relationship <i>You are their...</i>	
Type of rights	Burial	Ashes	

3. OPTIONAL - Purchase an adjacent right of burial/ashes			
Their full name			
Their address (same as above) <input type="checkbox"/>			
Their date of birth		Relationship <i>You are their...</i>	
Type of rights	Burial	Ashes	

4. Applicant's signature and declaration

The information given on this form is accurate. I am the person to whom all correspondence should be sent and am responsible for paying the amounts shown on the attached Price List and agree to be bound by Thoulstone Park Natural Burial Meadow's rules and regulations (www.naturalburials.thoulstonepark.com/rules-and-regulations/) which apply

Signature		Date	
Full name			

5. Payment

By completing this form and making payment, you will be invoiced for the total amount, you are securing the right of burial (or ashes interment) at the current rate.

The interment fee which includes grave digging charges, administration and memorial rights will be payable at the prevailing rate at the time of the burial or ashes interment.

*Please add the Standing Order Admin Fee if you wish to spread payments over 10 or 20 months and Mary will contact you with instructions on how to set up a standing order.

6. Updates and how we use your personal data

We would like to be able to let you know about future matters concerning the burial meadow and any new options that might become available. If you agree to being contacted this way please tick the relevant boxes:

Email Post Phone (you can opt out at any time).

Personal data you supply will be used to confirm the purchase and to register rights sold at the burial meadow. We may also use it for statistical analysis. We will not share your data with other organisations.

We are obliged to keep a register of all burials and interments, recording the date of burial, names in full, age and grave number. By law, this data must be accessible to the public upon request.

7. How did you find out about us?

Please let us know how you found out about the Thoulstone Park Natural Burial Meadow.

Please return the form by email or post to Mary Cross

Email: burials@thoulstonepark.com

Post: 5 Flowerfield, Nunney, Frome BA11 4NF

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Payment received	R.O.B certificate sent	R.O.B signed certificate received	
Plot type	Plot register number	Plot reference points	