



Time to rest



The view from burial ground

The Fevin

NATURE
RESERVE
BURIAL SITE

WESTCOMBE HILL
SOMERSET

The Fevin Nature Reserve Burial Ground

Westcombe Hill

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. 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.

Before requesting a burial at the site please consider the following points relating to the future maintenance of plots.

The site is administered by the Butler Memorial Trust and the aim of the trustees is to provide a more natural, tranquil and environmentally friendly ALTERNATIVE to conventional burial rather than to create a cemetery or a memorial garden.

The burial ground lies within a nature reserve. The aim of the trustees is that plots return to nature and are not carefully tended graves. To facilitate maintenance and to minimise impact on the natural environment (including the visual environment) it is necessary to impose some 'rules' pertaining to the marking and maintenance of plots:

- appropriate NATIVE plants may be planted on graves but please be aware that future maintenance may include mowing or grazing over plots. It may also be necessary to 'top up' a plot that has sunk, potentially covering anything planted on the grave. The trust does not guarantee the success of any plants on a plot or undertake to alter the maintenance regime to accommodate them.

Advice should be sought from the Trust if you are unsure what plants are appropriate.

'Weeding' of plots is discouraged. A weed is simply a plant in the wrong place, in this setting grass, plantains etc are not weeds but desirable native plants.

- any marker placed on the grave must be flat, of wood or natural stone and must not exceed 12" (30cm) in any direction.
- markers must be placed flat on the grave. UPRIGHT MARKERS ARE NOT PERMITTED. This is partly to facilitate maintenance of the site and partly to preserve its unspoiled visual character.

The burial ground will be maintained by the trust as befits a nature reserve and any plants or objects considered inappropriate may be removed.

Please contact the trust if you would like more information or guidance.

Planting on Graves

**Please remember that the burial field forms
part of a nature reserve.**

The burial plots are situated within a species rich meadow. In time, plots will be colonised naturally by wild plants. Native wild flowers can be planted on graves but please note that (as is stated in our literature): **ONLY** native wild flowers should be planted and these should be appropriate to the site.

WILD primroses – *Primula vulgaris*, **Cowslips** – *Primula veris*, and **ENGLISH bluebells** – *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, for example, are all suitable and are found growing naturally at the site. Garden varieties of primulas (even the yellow ones), hyacinths and daffodils are not native and should not be planted.

Garden flowers and shrubs must not be planted.

Why only native?

Non-native or garden varieties, apart from looking inappropriate in a natural setting, can constitute a threat to native species. Spanish bluebells in particular will crossbreed with and outcompete our native ones and will be removed if found on the site.

As well as aiming to provide a facility for those seeking an alternative to conventional burial, the trustees are charged with running the site as a Nature Reserve. The burial field **and all the plots within it** will be subject to the mowing regime needed for maintaining a wild meadow. The trustees may, reluctantly, find it necessary to remove or replace inappropriate plantings.

NB It is also necessary to top up sunken plots, which can affect plantings.

What is native?

If you are in doubt about the suitability of a plant, please seek advice from the trustees before planting.

NB wild plants within the meadow **MUST NOT** be dug up and transferred to plots.

The trustees are aware that this is an emotive subject. **PLEASE** do not put us in the position of having to cause offence by removing inappropriate plants from graves.



View from Burial Site

What you need to know

ABOUT THE SITE:

- Coffins must be quickly biodegradable. Materials such as wicker, bamboo, cardboard, and softwood are acceptable. Hard woods, metals and plastics cannot be used. 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.

- 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.

- Sodds 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

You should consider whether you want to use the services of a funeral director to assist with arrangements, but you do not have to use any official service if you prefer not to. You are they should then do the following:

1. Contact us as quickly as possible. You may telephone one of our trustees on 01458 272848, or if you get no answer ring 01458 251856.
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.

Fevin Nature Reserve Burial Ground

Application for Burial

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

NB Please read the advice for prospective users before applying for a burial at the site

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	

More to complete on next page

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 £550	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gravedigging if arranged by us, cost £275	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interment of ashes plot cost £50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Digging of ashes plot if arranged by us, cost £50	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gift towards tree planting and maintenance. (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:	

Cheques should be made payable to Butler Memorial Trust
Please send your completed form 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 but the whole site is managed as a nature reserve to create an

area for quiet contemplation and the enjoyment of nature. 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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View from Burial Site



Westcombe Hill

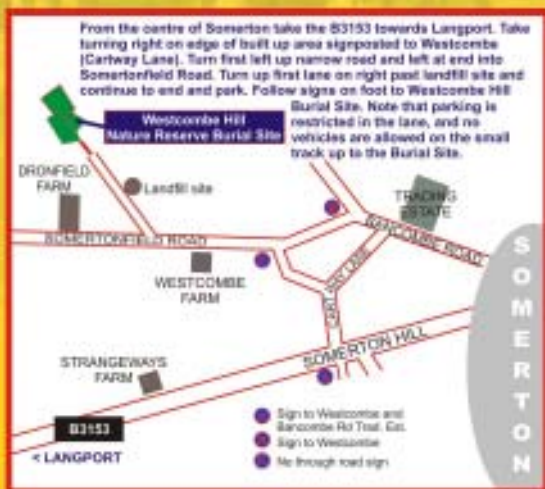
SOMERTON, SOMERSET

The Butler Memorial Trust

The Butler Memorial Trust is a registered charity administered by volunteers and committed to the provision and maintenance



A corner of the Westcombe Hill Nature Reserve Burial Ground



THE FEVIN NATURE RESERVE BURIAL GROUND

www.woodlandburials.org

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
please contact

The Butler Memorial Trust
End O'Lane, Somertonfield Road
Westcombe, Somerton TA11 6HZ

Email: admin@woodlandburials.org

Butler Memorial Trust Registered Charity 1076810