



Woodland Burials offer an environmentally friendly, cost effective, alternative to traditional funerals in cemeteries and graveyards.

Our natural burial ground is managed on ecologically sound lines, to provide an informal nature-rich environment for peaceful reflections on our own lives and those of our loved ones who rest there.

People of all faiths are welcome.

The use of eco-friendly coffins and ashes caskets ensure that no damage is done to the environment.

The sowing of wildflower seeds and the planting of bulbs is encouraged

Throughout all the changing seasons, the beauty of nature is apparent and timeless: the spring of the year, so pretty with blossoms, new green and promise; summer, with sunlit dappled leafy shades; the vibrancy of autumn and drama of the winter landscape.

Wildlife, birdsong and a carpet of wildflowers amid native trees provide a peaceful resting place.

Do Not Stand At My Grave and Weep  
 Do not stand at my grave and weep.  
 I am not there, I do not sleep  
 I am a thousand winds that blow  
 I am the diamond glints on snow.  
 I am the sunlight on ripened grain  
 I am the gentle autumn rain  
 When you awaken in the morning hush  
 I am the swift uplifting rush  
 Of quiet birds in circled flight  
 I am the soft stars that shine at night  
 Do not stand at my grave and cry  
 I am not there, I did not die  
**Anon**

The funeral of a loved one is a time of sadness and grief; however, a natural burial can also be a time to celebrate life in that it is a very positive way in which to put life back into the environment following death

The natural burial ground will be managed ecologically and left an undisturbed haven for flora and fauna.



## What do Natural Burial Grounds Offer?

1. A place for family and friends to visit and be at peace and, as our natural burial ground develops, it will become an increasingly attractive place for friends and family to visit
2. No particular form of service or interment is expected. The choice is left entirely to the family and can be formal or informal.
3. Full or ashes interment.
4. An opportunity for families, or friends, to reserve adjacent plots.
5. A natural reserve and sanctuary for wildlife and wild flowers.
6. Unrestricted access for visitors to visit the burial ground, so that family and friends may visit whenever they choose.
7. There are no by-laws preventing persons from being interred in Rufforth with Knapton Natural Burial Ground.



## RULES GOVERNING RUFFORTH PARISH COUNCIL – BURIAL GROUND

The general rules covering burials within Rufforth & Knapton Burial Ground are contained within the above document. The following conditions apply specifically to the Natural Burial Ground

### SUPPLEMENTARY CONDITIONS NATURAL BURIAL GROUND

1. Graves will be excavated by hand to a sufficient depth to accommodate one burial only, by authorised persons approved by the Parish Council. No family members will be permitted to participate in the excavation process.
2. The graves will be excavated in strict rotation. Plot reservations will be allowed for a fee (adjacent only). Markers will be set into the ground, below the grass, bearing the details of the deceased.
3. The body must be contained in a coffin constructed of Bio-degradable Materials or wrapped in a shroud of natural fibres.
4. No floral tributes are allowed on the grave, but one hand-tied posy with Bio-Degradable trims is permitted at the time of the burial for a period of seven days, after which time it will be removed.
5. The strewing of cremated remains will not be allowed in the natural burial area.
6. Grass cutting will be restricted to two cuts per annum, only grass paths constructed in the area will be cut at regular intervals. No horticultural chemicals will be used.
7. Native trees, shrubs, wild flower seeds and bulbs will be planted by the Parish Council at the horticulturally appropriate time of the year to a managed programme. Planting of specific trees on individual graves will not be permitted.
8. The placement of nest boxes and feeding stations for wild birds may be approved by the Parish Council after due consideration.
9. A Memorial Wall is situated in the formal burial ground at the entrance to the natural burial ground. Application to site commemorative plaques on the memorial wall may be made to the Parish Council. The placement of plaques will be made by a contractor approved by the Parish Council. Such plaques will attract a fee.



**Plots:**  
Available as needed. May be reserved and paid for in advance.

**Coffins:**  
Must be eco-friendly and bio-degradable

**Ashes:**  
Caskets which are eco-friendly containing cremated remains from an approved crematorium may be interred

**Visitors:**  
Welcome at all times and there is adequate parking available.

**Contact:**  
Stephanie Warden  
Clerk to the Parish Council  
01904 738 751

*Photographs courtesy of Conon Barratt*



## Rufforth & Knapton Natural Burial Ground