
HACKPEN NATURAL BURIAL GROUND

Hackpen Cross, near Ashill, Devon, EX15 3LU



Custodians: Tim and Teresa Pointing

We offer affordable natural burials in a meadow on the southwest side of Hackpen Hill. This is a beautiful and quiet location, with diverse grassland and abundant wildlife including a small herd of roe deer. Situated at the edge of the Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, there are far-reaching views across the Culm Valley.

A natural burial ground preserves the landscape, ecology and biodiversity of the site with minimal impact on the land, so there will be no gravestones or mementos on the graves themselves, and no built paths or tarmac. The burial allows a body to be naturally recycled and for the area to revert back to as natural a state as possible. All materials used in a burial or interment of ashes need to be biodegradable and will become part of the meadow, which will flower each year before being cut for hay.

We provide a peaceful space with no time limit on burial day, so families can plan a day that feels right for their ceremonies and reflections, as long as the low-impact principles of the site are respected. Ceremonies can include any religious service and tradition or none at all – all are welcome. We are happy to help with more 'individual' ceremonies, as some families will find it helpful to design their own. Parking is available onsite and we can help with a shelter canopy for ceremonies if required.

As graves are not visibly marked they are located and recorded by a digital system. A small memorial plaque may be placed on the shared memorial board or in a memorial tree. Family and friends are welcome to plant a memorial tree in the developing woodland which is alongside the

burial area. Together we will create a new community woodland, and we can help with advice or sourcing for trees likely to thrive in the local conditions. The site will eventually be re-wilded and always remain peaceful.

We will maintain the burial ground as part of Mellow Grove, our sustainable smallholding and social enterprise, where we are developing a market garden and orchard, with therapeutic activities alongside in nature, such as bereavement support and volunteering. Our ethos has come from our own experience of bereavement and natural burial, when our daughter Hannah died in 2015 at the age of 23.

The burial ground will generally remain open during daylight hours for any visitors who respect the nature of the site. It offers a place for quiet contemplation in nature both for those grieving and for local residents.

To arrange a burial you can contact us directly or through your chosen funeral director. We welcome enquiries and are happy to talk through any questions and thoughts you may have before or after bereavement occurs. We can also take reservations for future burials, and many people find advance planning for the time of death can be really helpful, and comforting for the family in the future.

Telephone: 07759 839877

Email: hello@mellowgrove.org.uk

We provide further information such as FAQs and Terms/Conditions, on our website:

Website: www.mellowgrove.org.uk

More general information on natural burials and our code of conduct can be obtained from the

Association of Natural Burial Grounds (ANBG)

Email: contact@naturaldeath.org.uk

Telephone: 01962 712690

Website: www.naturaldeath.org.uk
