

MANSFIELD WOODHOUSE CEMETERY

‘CREATING A LIVING HERITAGE’

Mansfield District Council is concerned to pursue sustainability in all the services that it provides and recognises that the community wants the local environment to be protected and nature to be conserved for future generations. We also recognise that this task is an ongoing shared activity where everyone has a part to play.

In developing our Woodland Burial Site as part of Mansfield Woodhouse Cemetery the opportunity has been taken to start to create an area where optional burial arrangements will be allowed to bring benefits to wildlife and nature and introduce greater choice to bereaved families. Woodland graves offer a ‘return to nature’ for those who wish to be buried with trees and amongst birds, mammals and wild flowers/grasses. The resultant new woodland will provide a living memorial, one that will offer pleasures and benefits to all and create a truly living heritage for future generations.



The woodland graves are arranged in clusters to permit the development of an appropriate woodland copse. Guidance has been taken from the Woodland Trust as to the management and development of the area which will be planted with oak, ash, birch and rowan planted in species blocks. You will find similar trees elsewhere within the cemetery, which will eventually create a balanced landscape.

Following Burial

After the burial of your loved one, the soil will be allowed to settle prior to tree planting. At the appropriate time of the year, a small native sapling of the species for that area will be planted. Gradually nature will create the woodland over a period of many years. Whilst a native tree will be planted on every grave, where the tree growth and overlying canopy permits, it should be understood that not all trees planted would survive in the long term. Some trees will simply not be able to compete whilst others will have to be removed to achieve an acceptable density to permit the woodland and supporting flora to flourish. Those who have chosen woodland

graves must accept that their contribution to a ‘living heritage’ will be created through the growth of the woodland as a whole and not from the survival of a single symbolic tree.

Maintenance of the area and memorialisation

The woodland burial site will be managed for the development of the trees and the benefit of wildlife. Grass mowing will be reduced to encourage species diversity and horticultural chemicals will not be used, except where a serious noxious weed develops. It must be appreciated that the traditional manicured appearance of a conventional burial area will not apply in the woodland area. In order to help and encourage wildlife, flora and trees it is necessary to impose a number of restrictions. People walking to individual graves would create paths and trample the area destroying the living memorial it is hoped to create. In order to leave flowers/mementoes it would be appreciated if people would refrain from draping items on the trees which will cause damage

and leave them by the memorial wall (memorial plaques can be arranged through the Cemeteries Office as can entries in the Book of Remembrance located in the Cemetery Chapel)

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