



Jewish Joint Burial Society Woodland Cemetery Guidance for relatives

The JJBS Woodland Cemetery is designed to be an environmentally friendly way of burying loved ones surrounded by a setting of trees and plants and marked only with a small ground level plaque rather than a full tombstone.

The plan for the Woodland Cemetery is for it to become a natural wood with English woodland trees and plants. It will take a number of years until full tree cover is established and in the meanwhile graves may be marked with suitable plants which will eventually naturalise under the tree cover. Although certain stone memorials are permitted, the aim is to ensure that everything else in the cemetery is natural, with no plastic or other materials on the graves.

For those who want a woodland environment but an upright stone, there is also a lawn area where the grave is marked with a simple upright stone and is surrounded by grass. In addition there is a columbarium where cremated ashes can be interred and marked with a plaque.

In the woodland section, relatives have the choice of two areas: one where the grave area will be seeded with grass and meadow plant seeds and allowed to naturalise immediately with no individual grave spaces delineated, or, two: if so wished, the relatives can arrange for the individual grave to be planted with a selection of woodland plants (see list overleaf).

After an interment in the Woodland Cemetery, a plain wooden frame is placed around the grave while the ground is allowed to settle. The seeding or planting is done a few weeks before the stone setting. To maintain the natural look, only plants from the approved list can be put in or on the grave either by the family or by one of our approved gardeners or by the Woodland Cemetery staff but at the family's own cost. We request that before you plant up a plot you contact our staff who will be happy to advise you. If you wish to plant a memorial tree near the grave, please consult us as no shrubs or trees may be planted on the plot itself. No planting is allowed in the Lawn Cemetery. No other decoration, such as pebbles, gravel or bark, flower vases, additional plaques or surround, may be placed on the grave in either the Woodland or Lawn areas. Any unsuitable addition will be removed. In line with our environmental policy, plastic flowers are not permitted under any circumstance. According to Jewish tradition, small pebbles can be placed on the name plaque, but it is recommended that these are removed periodically as they can damage the stone. Non-Jewish symbols are not permitted.

Once the planting is complete the plants will be allowed to naturalise in the woodland environment under the trees as they are planted. The area around the graves will be kept tidy by the cemetery staff but the family is responsible for maintaining the gravestone and looking after any plants. It must be understood that, as part of tree planting programme and the naturalising process, the nature of the area will change over time as it becomes a mature woodland. Any unmaintained graves will be allowed to naturalise. The location of every grave is marked on our plan of the cemetery.

In all cases, arrangements for stone settings and agreeing the wording on tombstones should be made with the JJBS. Arrangements for the memorial stone should be made with the approved stone masons except for the columbarium where the Sextons contact the masons on the family's behalf.

If an adjacent plot is reserved it will be grassed over until it is required. Where a second person is buried in an existing plot (double depth burial) the same process of settling and replanting (at the family's expense) will occur.

The Sextons will be happy to provide you with more information or guidance

List of approved plants

Spring	
Anemone nemorosa	Wood Anemone
Viola odorata & riviniana	English & Dogs Tooth Violets
Ajuga reptans	Bugle
Lamium maculatum	Spotted Dead Nettle
Sedum anglicum	Mossy English Sedum
Saxifraga granulata	Mossy Saxifrage
Euphorbia amygdaloides	Wood Spurge - Mrs Robb
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	English Bluebell
Convallaria majalis	Lily of the Valley
Digitalis purpurea	Foxgloves
Polygonatum×hybridum	Solomon's Seal
Summer	
Thymus polytrichus	Wild British Thyme
Geranium pratense	Meadow Cranesbill
Papaver nudicaule	Native Poppy
Geranium sylvaticum	Wood Cranesbill
Persicaria bistorta	Dragons Tongue - Bistort
Origanum vulgare	Wild Marjoram
Malva moschata	Musk Mallow
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow
Campanula trachelium	Nettle-leaved Bellflower
Lysimachia vulgaris	Yellow Loosestrife
Campanula glomerata	Clustered Bellflower
Verbascum nigrum	Mullein
Succisa pratensis	Devil's Bit Scabious
Deschampsia flexuosa	Wavy Hair Grass
Lythrum salicaria	Purple Loosestrife
Festuca glauca	Blue Fescue
Autumn*	
Polystichum setiferum	Soft Shield Fern small cultivars please
Winter	
Eranthis hyemalis	Winter Aconite
Galanthus nivalis	Snowdrops
Primula vulgaris & veris	Primroses & Cowslips, Yellow & White please
Asplenium scolopendrium	Hart's Tongue Fern
Helleborus niger	Christmas Rose
Narcissus	Simple Daffodils

*Autumn is the ideal time to plant spring bulbs or some primulas, White & yellow cultivars please

Letter to those who have made a reservation

We are writing to you as you have made a pre-payment for a Woodland funeral, to advise you that the Governors of JJBS have been discussing the management of the JJBS Woodland Cemetery.

The Woodland Cemetery is designed to be an environmentally friendly way of burying loved ones surrounded by a setting of trees and plants and marked only with a small ground level plaque rather than a full tombstone.

The plan for the Woodland Cemetery is for it to become a natural wood with English woodland trees and plants. It will take a number of years until full tree cover is established and in the meanwhile graves may be marked with suitable plants which will eventually naturalise under the tree cover. Although certain stone memorials are permitted, the aim is to ensure that everything else in the cemetery is natural, with no plastic or other materials on the graves

The location of every grave is marked on our plan of the cemetery

In line with this policy, the Governors have made the following changes:

1. New guidelines (attached) have been drawn up for the planting and management of grave spaces. Planting individual plots will continue to be allowed, subject to using plants from the approved list. All costs of planting and maintenance will be the responsibility of the family.
2. Part of the Woodland area will be dedicated as a natural area. Here the graves will be seeded with grass and meadow plants but individual graves will not be delineated with specific plants. There will still be a small memorial stone but we expect this area to naturalise quite quickly.

In order that your wishes can be followed, would you please complete the form below and return a copy to the JJBS office. We suggest that you also keep a copy with your will and with your synagogue office. You can amend your choice at any time.

Delete which does not apply

1. I would like my grave space to be planted with British natural woodland plants. I understand that it will be the responsibility of my family to maintain the grave.
2. I would like my grave to be seeded. I understand that the individual grave space will not be delineated but just marked with a small memorial stone.

Name

Spouse/partner for double depth grave

Address

Next of kin

Synagogue
Return to.....

Letter to next of kin for those who have a relative buried at the Woodland Cemetery Cheshunt.

We are writing to you about the grave of XXX who is buried at the JJBS Woodland Cemetery.

The Governors of JJBS have been discussing the management of the Woodland Cemetery and have introduced new guidelines (attached) for the planting and management of grave spaces. The JJBS Woodland Cemetery is designed to be an environmentally friendly way of burying loved ones surrounded by a setting of trees and plants and marked only with a small ground level plaque rather than a full tombstone.

The plan for the Woodland Cemetery is for it to become a natural wood with English woodland trees and plants. It will take a number of years until full tree cover is established and in the meanwhile graves may be marked with suitable plants which will eventually naturalise under the tree cover. Although certain stone memorials are permitted, the aim is to ensure that everything else in the cemetery is natural, with no plastic or other materials on the graves

In particular we would point out that only native British woodland plants from our approved list, which is available in the Cemetery office, can be placed on graves. No other decoration, such as gravel or bark, additional plaques, ornaments, flower vases, or surrounds may be placed on the grave in the Woodland or Lawn areas. In line with our environmental policy, plastic flowers are not permitted under any circumstance. Small pebbles can be placed on the name plaque according to Jewish tradition but it is recommended that these are removed periodically as they can damage the stone.

The area around the graves will be kept tidy by the cemetery staff. You are responsible for maintaining the gravestone and looking after any plants. It must be understood that, as part of tree planting programme and the naturalising process, the nature of the area will change over time as it becomes a mature woodland. Any unmaintained graves will be allowed to naturalise. The location of every graves is marked on our plan of the cemetery

We would ask for your cooperation in ensuring your relative's grave meets these standards which are designed to ensure that the Cemetery meets our environmental aims and remains attractive and dignified for all the families. We would be grateful if you would remove any inappropriate items. In future, any inappropriate items such as plastic flowers will be removed. The cemetery staff will be happy to help and advise you.