Natural Burial

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Stroud District Council

Natural Burial

50 shades of green burial.

- green
- woodland
- nature reserve
- natural

Natural Burial

Ownership

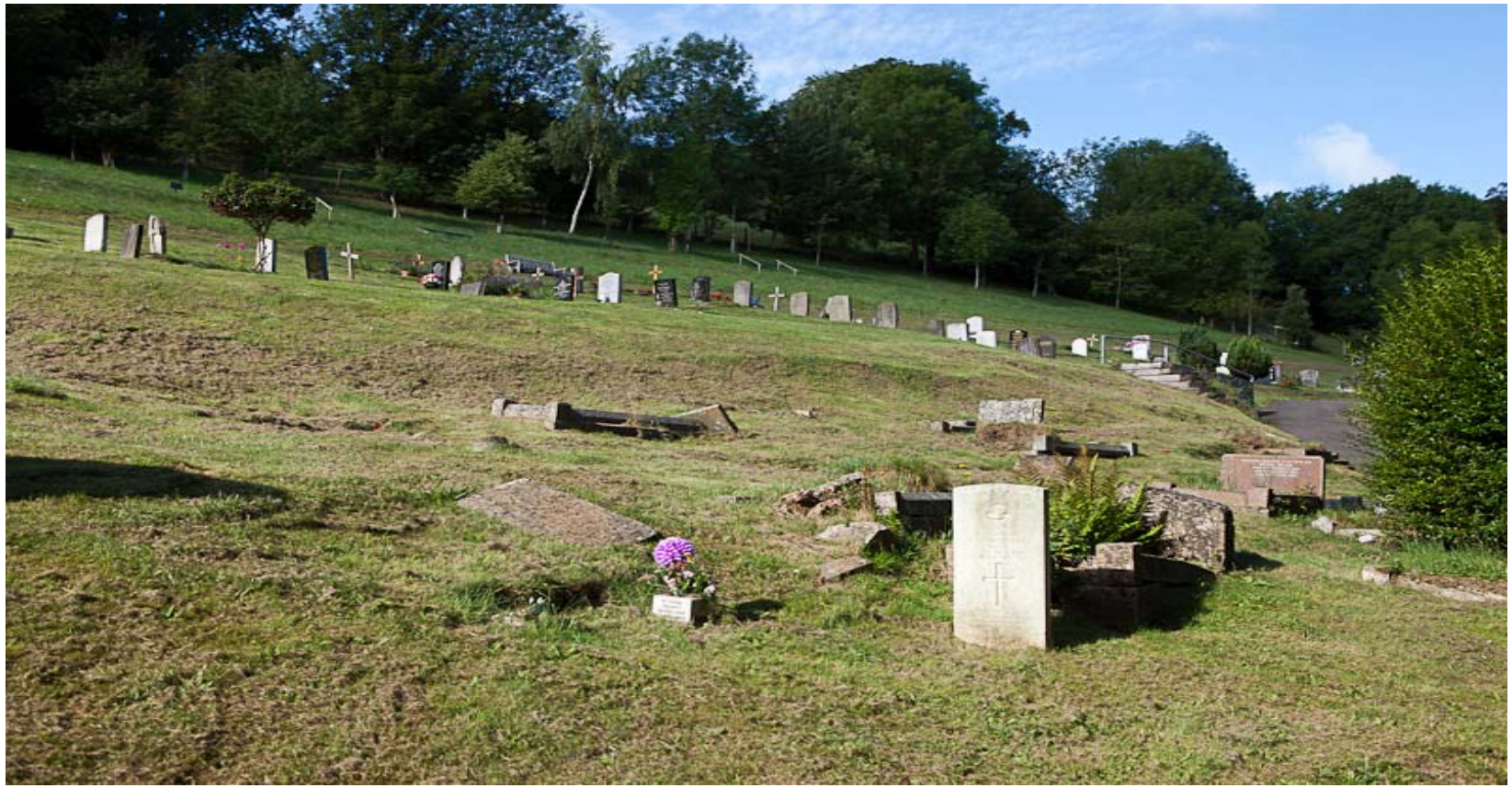
- Private business
- Charitable Trust
- Local Authority

Natural Burial

Some natural burial grounds are very formal in appearance; others are little more than fields.

- extensions of conventional cemeteries
- agricultural fields grazed by sheep
- existing orchards, woodlands or meadows
- developing nature reserves

Natural Burial



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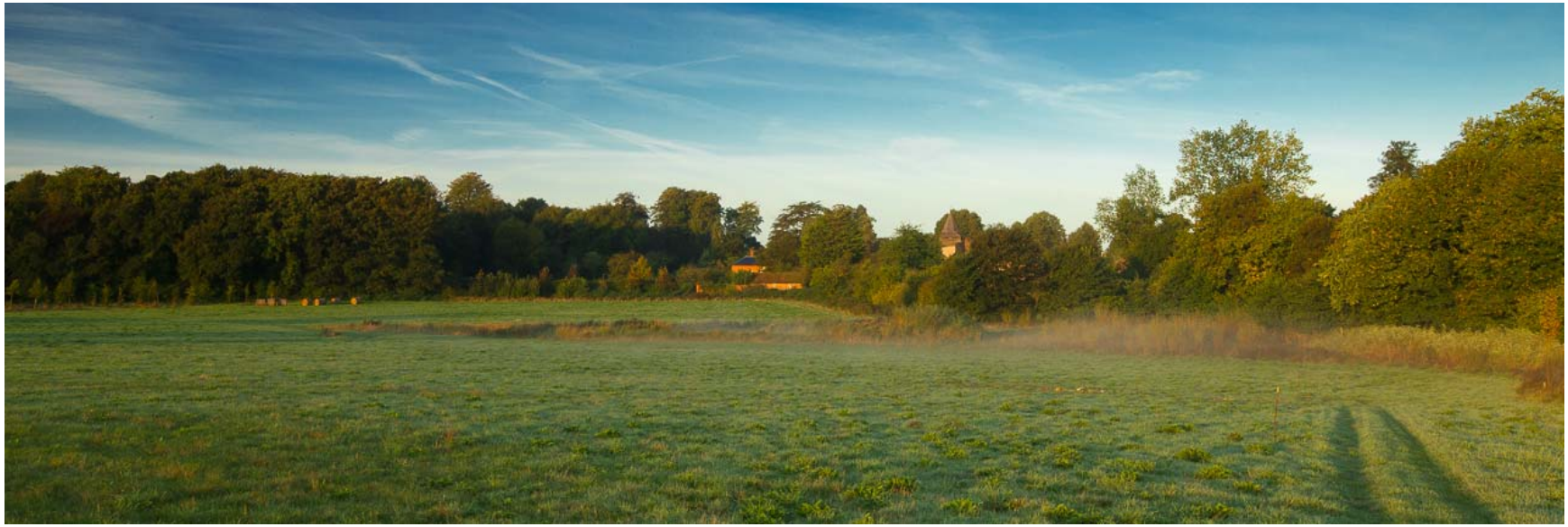

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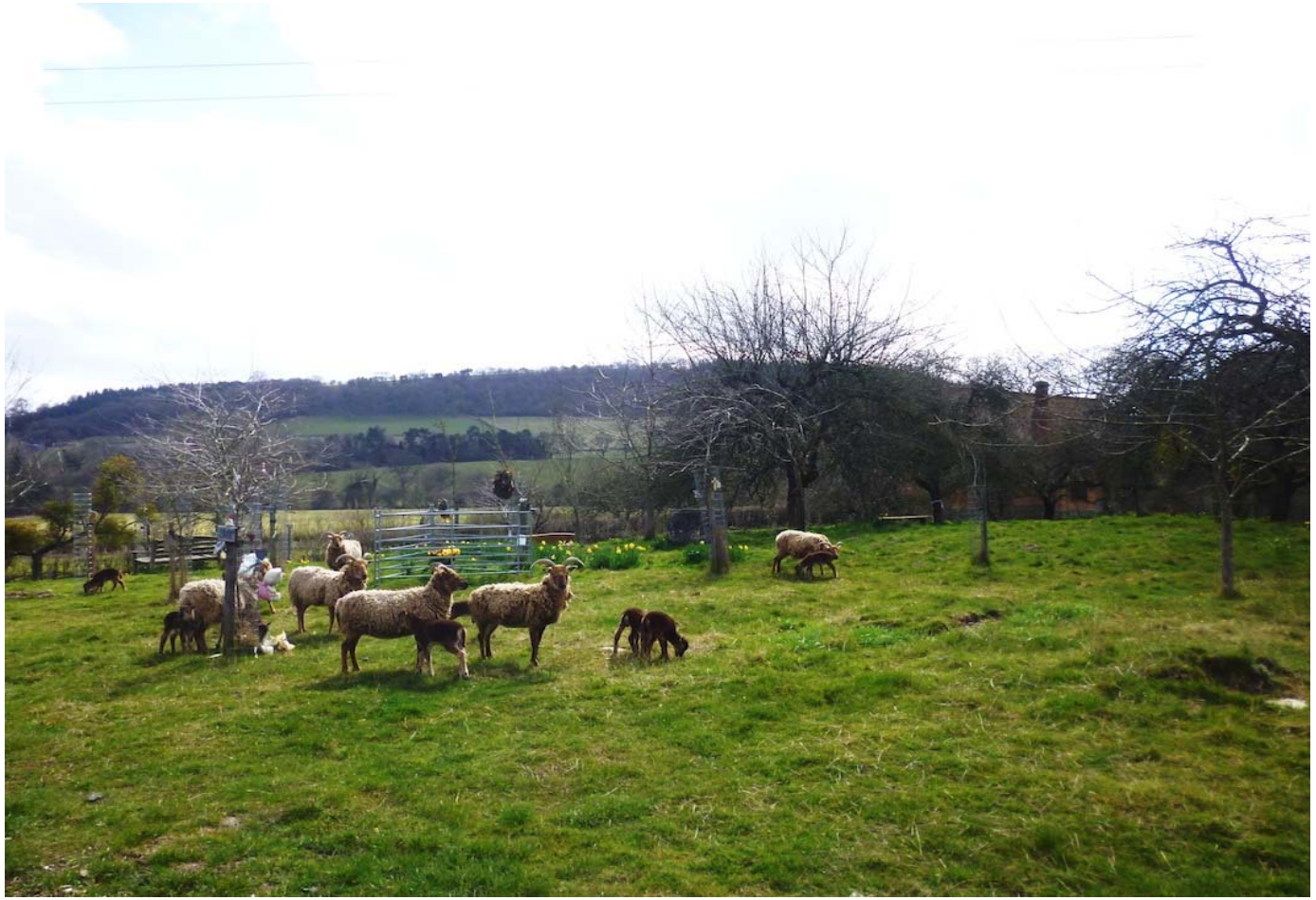

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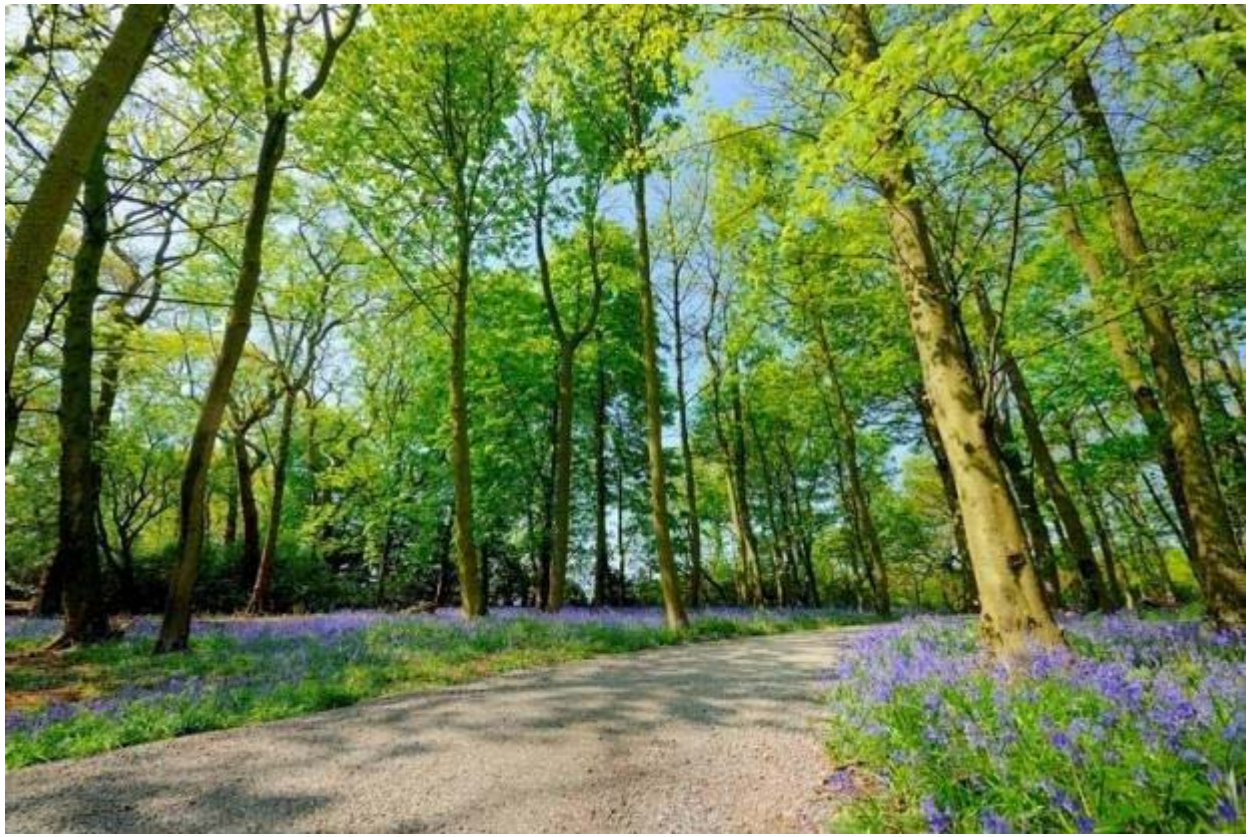

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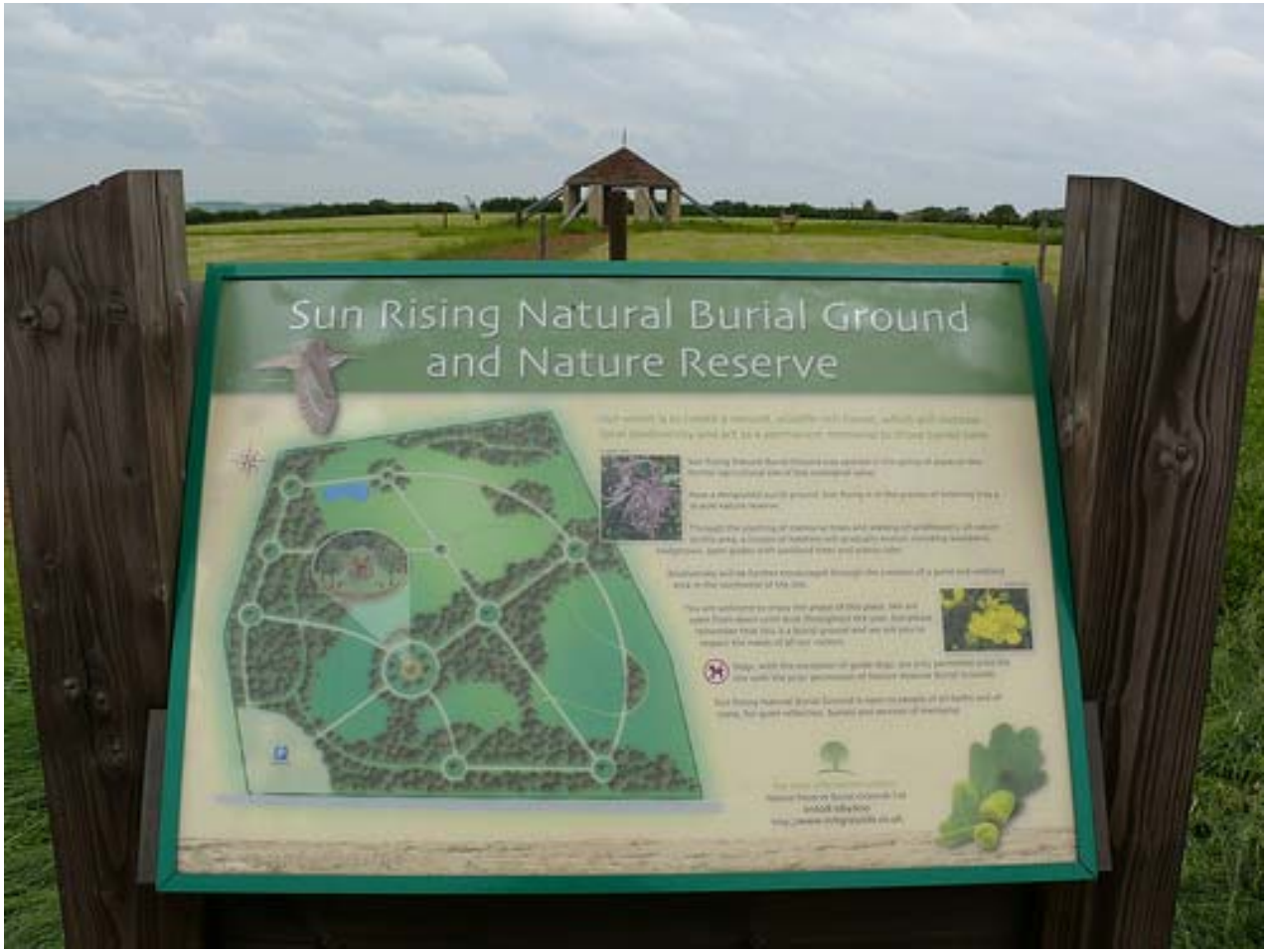

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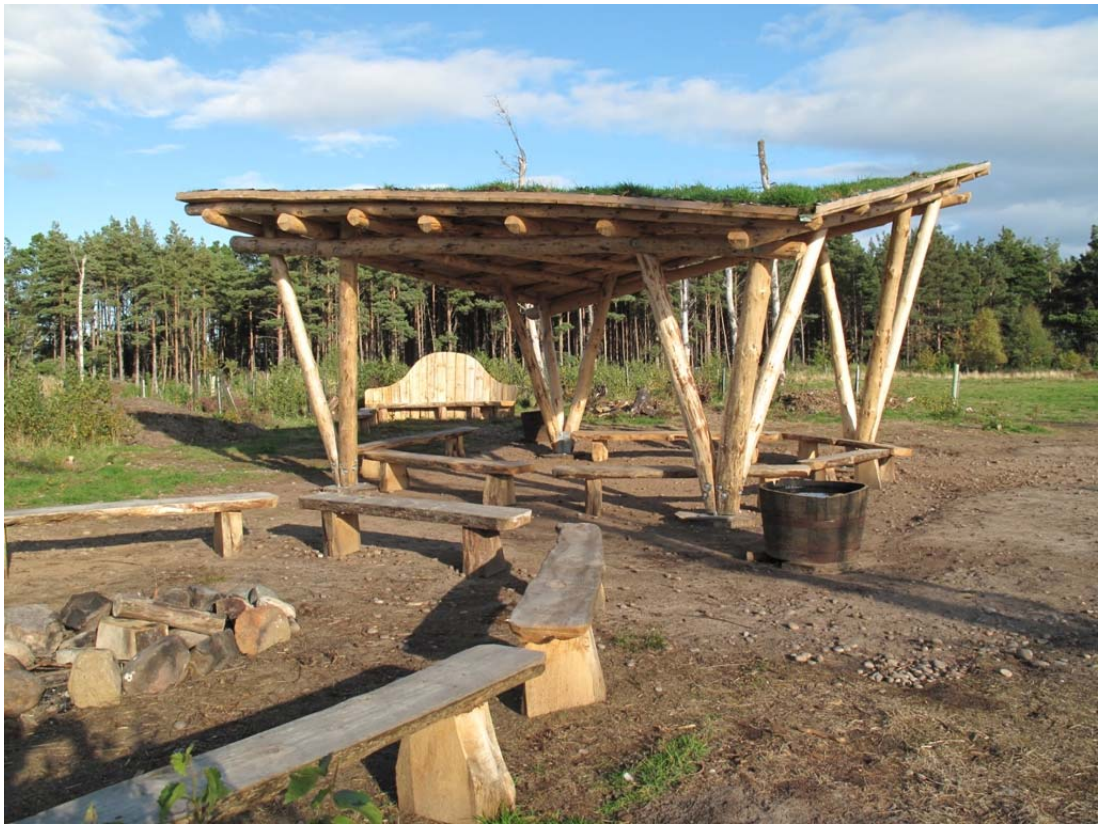

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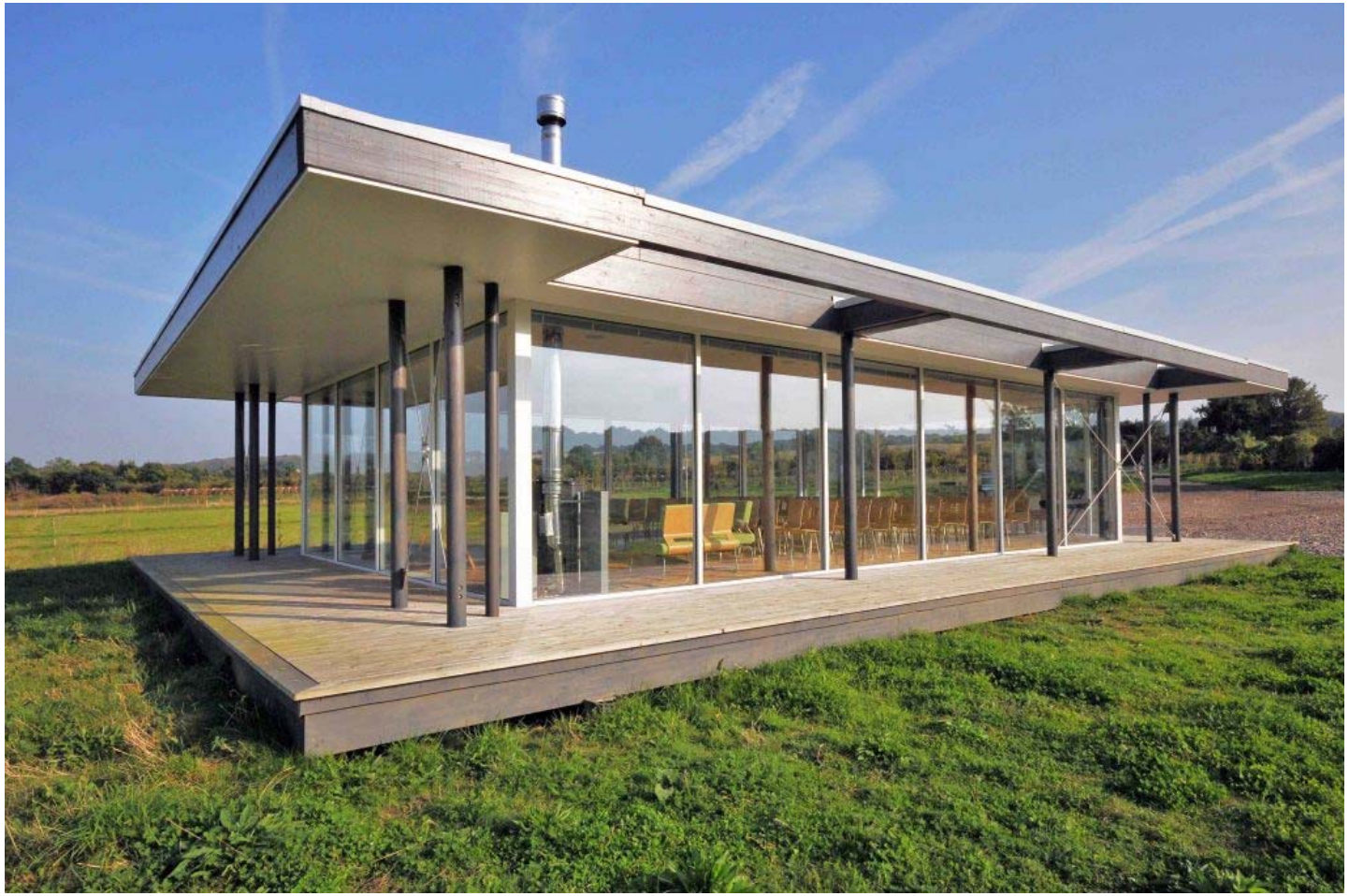


Natural Burial

Irrespective of their approach, natural Burial grounds should be places where bodies are buried in a natural setting, in a manner that creates a positive impact on the environment.

Natural Burial

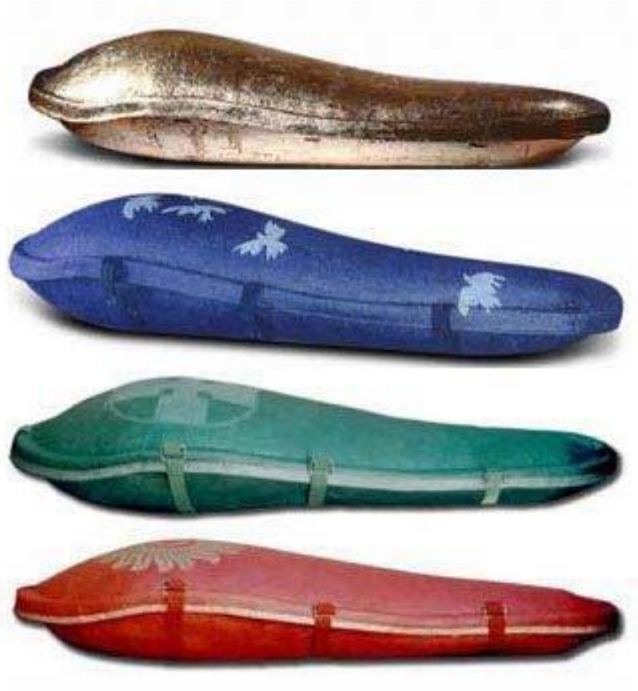
How does a Natural Burial Ground
Differ from a conventional Cemetery?

Natural Burial

Coffins/caskets/shrouds

- veneered chipboard X
- solid wood ?
- wicker ✓
- Cardboard ✓
- woollen shrouds ✓

Natural Burial



Natural Burial

Embalming ?

Key Issues	Cremation - Negative and Not Sustainable		Green Burial -Positive and Sustainable
Energy Consumption	At an average of 1000°C for 75 minutes per person, cremation uses about the same amount of energy as a household might use in a month.		There is no comparable energy consumption for natural burial.
Global Warming	Crematoria generate a huge amount of CO_2; they are very seldom run for fuel efficiency, and waste heat is not captured and re-used.		Burial is carbon-capture, releasing no CO_2 at all. The planting of trees Further balances the human impact.
Pollution	Despite modern standards, crematoria still generate pollution. Pollution is decreased by raising temperatures, but this increases fuel use and emissions of CO_2.	When buried, non-biodegradable coffins, synthetic clothing and embalmed bodies add to soil pollution.	When using only natural and biodegradable materials for burial, there is no comparable pollution
Embalming	Embalming is the replacement of the body's blood with a formaldehyde-based fluid. It is usually unnecessary, contributes to pollution and adds to the funeral bill	Embalming using biodegradable chemicals – this is equally invasive, more expensive and seldom available as an option.	No embalming.
Coffins	Veneered chipboard coffins made with formaldehyde resin: manufacture, burial or cremation of these is polluting. Other non-biodegradable coffins, plastic liners, varnishes, nameplates and other coffin furniture.	Solid wood or otherwise biodegradable coffins that are manufactured with poor social and environmental ethics and imported to Britain.	Biodegradable coffins or shrouds from ethical manufacturers and distributors.

Natural Burial

Funerals

- More DIY funerals
- Families backfilling

Natural Burial

Habitat Features – Mosaic

- Woodland
- Meadow
- Parkland trees
- Water feature
- Hedgerows (species rich/native)
- Paths/buildings
- Scrub

Natural Burial

Woodland

- Locally Native Species
- Canopy and Understory
- Ground Flora
- Whole Wood Memorial – not individual trees

Natural Burial

Meadow

- Soil inversion/low fertility
- Wildflower strips
- Meadow Management
- Use of volunteers

Natural Burial

Parkland Trees

- Memorials
- Heritage
- Landscape features

Natural Burial

Water Features

- Ponds
- Streams/ditches
- Rivers
- Abstraction of ground water

Natural Burials

Hedgerows

- Existing/new
- Species rich
- Wildlife corridors
- Hedge bottoms

Natural Burial

Paths/buildings

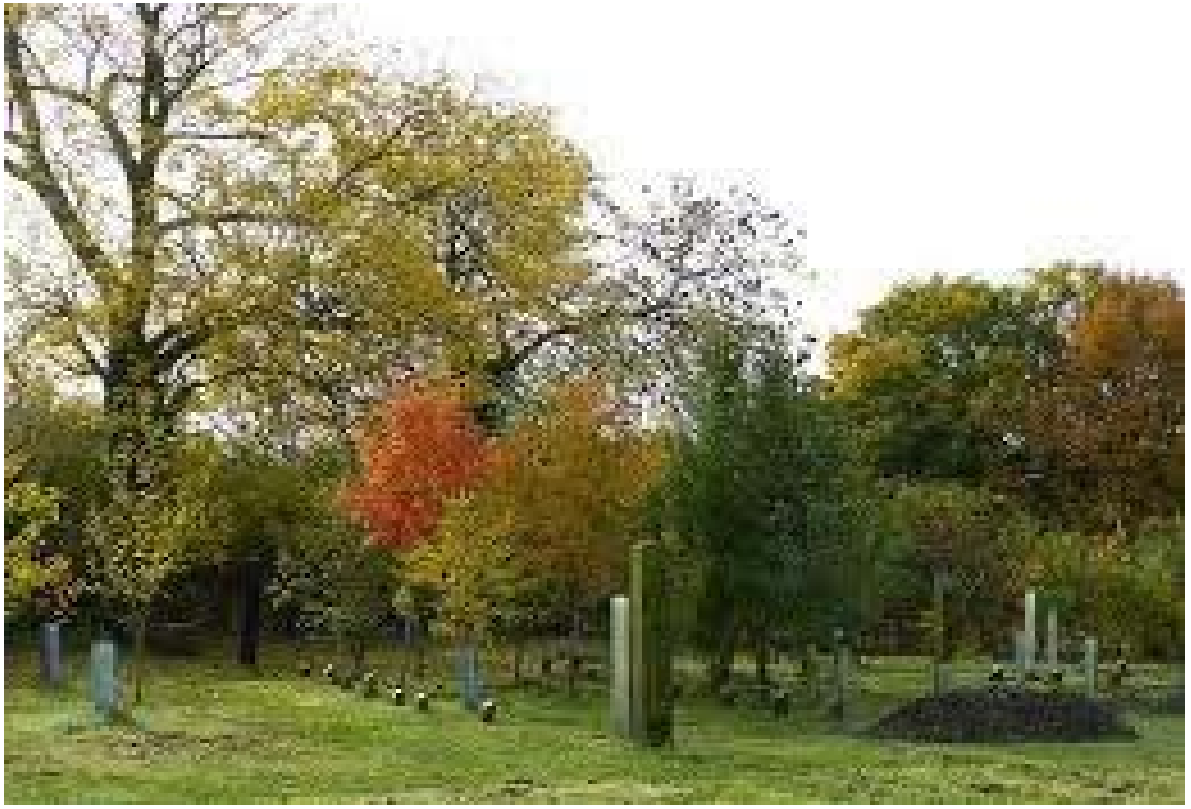
- Mown grass paths
- Drying areas for insects
- Nesting and roosting sites

Natural Burial

Memorials

- Trees
- Plaques
- Benches
- Bird/bat boxes
- Bird feeders

Natural Burial



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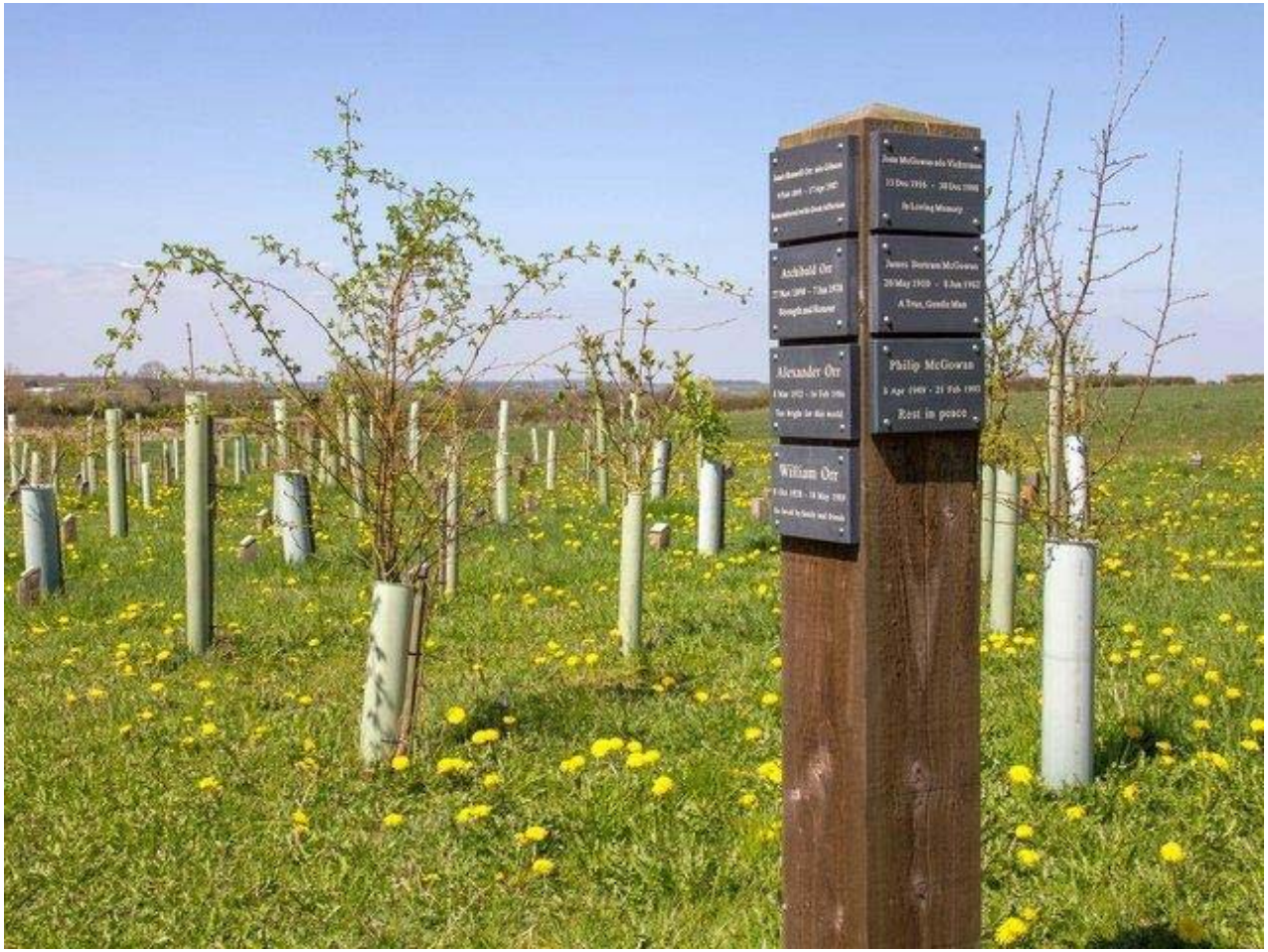

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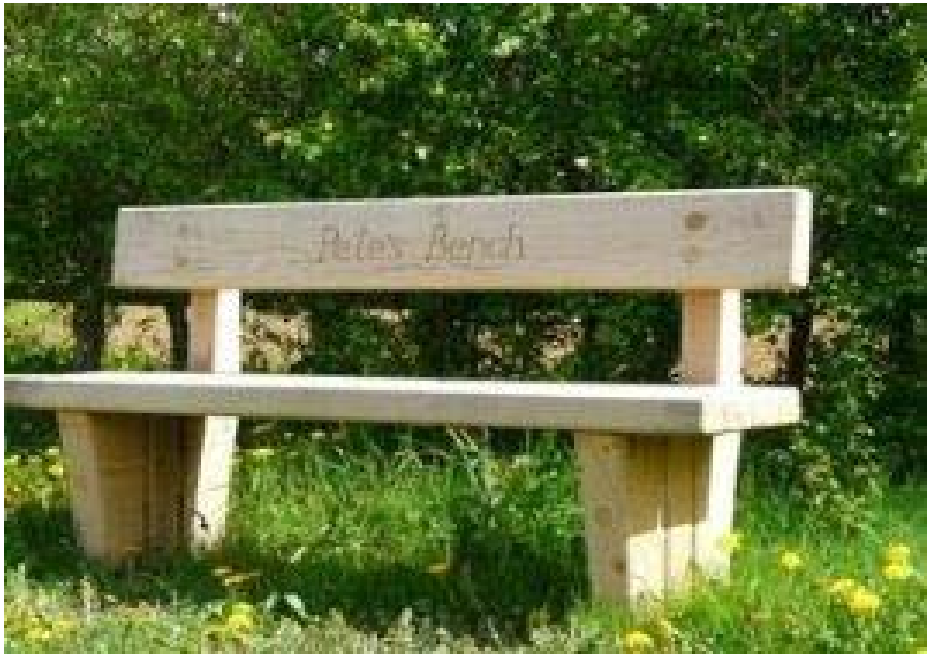

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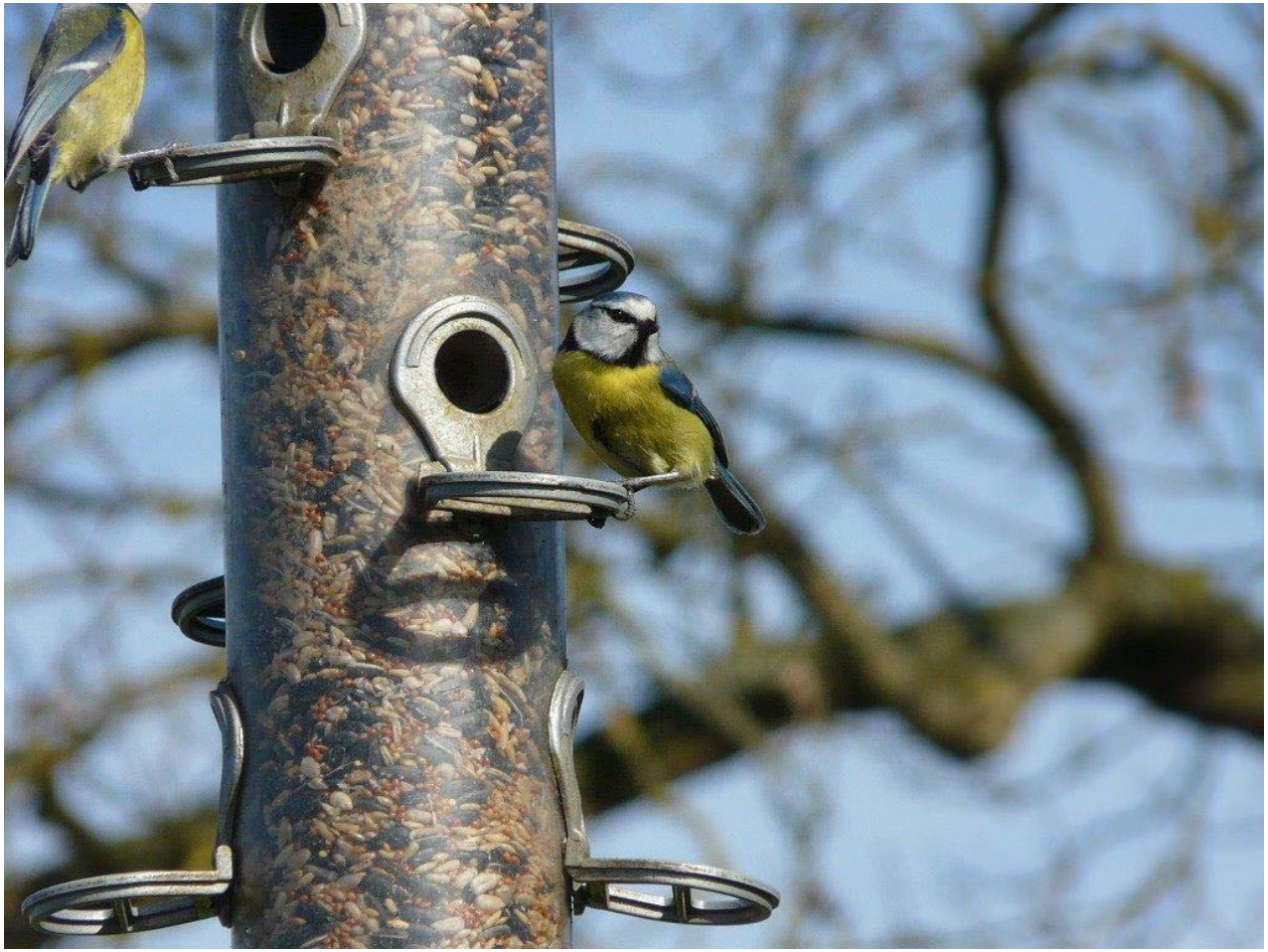

Natural Burial

Management Issues

- Grief litter/unauthorised memorials
- Planting up of graves
- “Looks untidy”
- Finding unmarked graves
- Volunteers

Natural Burial

- Biodiversity resource
- Greater choice for residents
- Establishment costs
- Community involvement/volunteers
- Low cost funerals