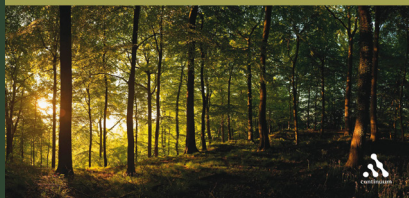


Natural Burial

Traditional - Secular Spiritualities and
Funeral Innovation

Douglas Davies and Hannah Rumble



Since 2002 a registered charity, the Abory Trust, has been offering woodland burials at a site consecrated by the Church of England near Cambridge. Over 225 people have already been buried there and at least 350 are registered to be. This constitutes part of a wider trend in British society to opt for 'natural burials'; a very specific burial innovation that began in England in 1993, but since then has been adopted world wide. Natural burial uptake reflects people's desire "to be of use", "return to nature" and "give something back" (as opposed to cemetery burial or ash scattering). In this way a natural burial site becomes a type of intergenerational legacy and this animate gift changes our understanding of 'to be dead' and the place of the dead amongst the living today.

Before the film, Dr Hannah Rumble will briefly introduce 'natural' or 'woodland' burial; a new practice still finding its way but reflecting changing cultural practices and values in modern Britain around death. The 30 minute film screening will then be followed by a Q & A session. Dr. Rumble thanks Prof. Douglas Davies of Durham University's Centre for Death and Life Studies, and film-maker Sarah Thomas.

● Screening of the documentary film: 'Earth to Earth: Natural Burial and the Church of England'

Dr. Hannah Rumble
University of Bath

29th February 2012

Wednesday 4:00pm – 5:30pm

MA Seminar Room, 43 Woodland Rd