

Making Space for Nature in our Burial Grounds and Churchyards

Wayne Priestley, APSE Associate



Course Brochure

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Course details

The UK is currently in the lowest 12% of global countries and territories for levels of biodiversity. Many local authorities are now declaring ecological emergencies to try to address these losses.

So, it may be asked where does cemeteries and burial grounds come into all of this?

Cemeteries and burial places make up over 4% of the UK's greenspaces and provide vital refuges for many species of flora and fauna, which in some instances are found nowhere else.

This recognition has led many local authorities to consider how best they can use such spaces to protect and enhance the opportunities for biodiversity, whilst importantly, still acknowledging that cemeteries and burial grounds are primarily places of remembrance for bereaved families.

This course explores the historical context of burial grounds and their long-standing association with nature, and the cycle of life, and highlighting how the importance that this link needs to be strengthened in a world where opportunities for nature are increasingly under threat.

We look in depth at the challenges of gaining acceptance to naturalise areas of burial grounds and the approaches some local authorities have taken to successfully overcome such challenges to improve opportunities for biodiversity in these spaces. In addition, the course will provide practical guidance on how to develop action plans to help deliver more biodiversity friendly burial grounds and the benefits this has brought.

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Who should attend?

This course is designed for all those involved in cemetery, crematoria and closed churchyard management. It will also appeal to anybody with a role to play in increasing biodiversity, addressing climate change and developing community engagement.

The course offers a great deal of knowledge and practical experience for officers and elected members alike.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the training, you will:

- Identify the different environmental benefits burial grounds can bring
- Develop an understanding of the role of burial grounds in wider ecosystem
- Recognise the needs and worries of the bereaved when considering naturalising burial grounds
- Appreciate the work carried out by local authorities to improve biodiversity levels in their burial grounds and the successes achieved
- Understand the importance of gaining community support
- Develop an action plan to successfully and sustainably improve biodiversity levels in burial grounds

Course Programme

Course programme -Part 1

For further information, please contact training@apse.org.uk

09:15 - 09:30	REGISTRATION (and Tech Check)
09:30 - 11:00	UNIT 1: Burial grounds - a history <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> How, when and why did burial grounds appear? <input type="checkbox"/> The formalisation of burial grounds. <input type="checkbox"/> The changing face of cemetery landscapes
10:45 - 11:00	COMFORT BREAK
11:00 - 12:15	UNIT 2: Why is biodiversity now an issue for Bereavement Services? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The biodiversity crisis <input type="checkbox"/> The role of burial grounds in the wider green infrastructure. <input type="checkbox"/> The opportunities burial grounds bring for biodiversity
12:15 - 12:30	PART 1 PLENARY

Course programme -Part 2

09:15 - 09:30	REGISTRATION (and Tech Check)
09:30 - 11:00	UNIT 3: Can areas for nature and public burial grounds co-exist? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> How realistic is it to naturalise cemeteries? <input type="checkbox"/> Case studies
10:45 - 11:00	COMFORT BREAK
11:00 - 12:15	UNIT 4: Creating the right environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The 10-point plan to naturalising burial grounds <input type="checkbox"/> Conclusions
12:15 - 12:30	PLENARY, FEEDBACK AND CLOSE

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Trainer Profile

Wayne Priestley








Wayne Priestley was previously the Principal Advisor for APSE's environmental suite of services which included: Parks and Greenspaces, Waste and Recycling and Cemeteries and Crematoria.

Following early retirement, he is now an active APSE Associate with a continuing interest in these areas and environmental issues in general. Before APSE, Wayne had a long career in local government developing a broad knowledge base. During his time, as a member of APSE's secretariat, Wayne was involved in several environment related projects including the development of the new Land Audit Management System (LAMS) and contributed to the development of the National Litter Strategy for England.

He also provided information to support APSE'S contribution to the Government's Parks Action Group. Wayne has also written a number of well-received research papers including the 'State of UK Public Parks 2021'; 'Post Pandemic: Green Urban Spaces' and most recently, 'Making space for nature in our burial grounds'. Wayne continues to keep up to date with the latest environmental developments and has a growing interest in how local authorities are addressing increasing biodiversity, 'rewilding', the glyphosate debate, and the impact of climate change on sustainable green spaces.

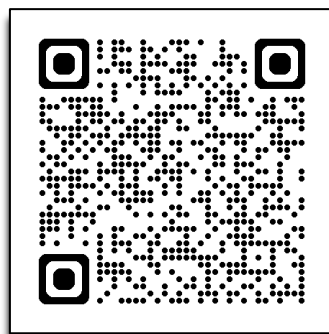
In-house - tailored training to meet your needs.

The package includes:

-  A pre-course consultation so we can tailor the course to meet your needs.
-  Trainee Needs Analysis.
-  Customisation of the slide pack.
-  Delivery of the course on a mutually convenient date and time to meet your authority's needs and working patterns.
-  Analysis of trainee feedback, which we share with you.
-  Trainer feedback, if required.
-  Post-course materials on password-protected hidden webpage.

If delivered online, the course is suitable for up to 15 participants and over two half-days or one full day, via Microsoft Teams

If delivered onsite, it is suitable for up to 20 participants. Trainer travel, subsistence and accommodation is charged at cost.



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About APSE Training

APSE (Association for Public Service Excellence) is a not-for-profit local government think tank, working with over 300 councils throughout the UK, promoting excellence in public services.

APSE is the foremost specialist in local authority front line services, hosting a network for front line service providers in areas such as waste and refuse collection, parks and environmental services, leisure, school meals, cleaning, housing, and building maintenance.

APSE Training aims to provide inspiring and impactful lifelong learning and development opportunities, nurturing talent and enabling growth. A broad range of courses are available via the APSE website and as bespoke in-house courses.

APSE Training is compliant with APSE's Quality Assurance processes under ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 27001 and GDPR. We are also a Platinum Carbon Literate Organisation, which demonstrates our commitment to raising awareness of the climate crisis.

What do participants have to say about APSE's training?

"Well explained and easy to understand."

"It enhances your understanding and removes assumption."

"It's very engaging and interesting. And all questions are encouraged and answered."

"Very informative, delivered in an engaging way."

"Attention was engaged throughout the course. Relative and informative."

"It is a very knowledgeable course and every point explained thoroughly and the slides were very well presented and didn't include too much information."

Contact us

The team is ready to help.

Please direct enquiries to: training@apse.org.uk | 0161 772 1810

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