Gynaecology department
Early pregnancy unit/pregnancy advisory service

Barton Glebe woodland burial site

Who is the leaflet for? What is its aim?
The loss of a baby can evoke numerous emotional reactions whatever the circumstances surrounding the loss. Individual parents are to make their own funeral arrangements, however, in many cases, the hospital will make these arrangements for you.

This leaflet explains the process put in place at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for the interment of babies/fetal tissue less than 24 weeks gestation for those women seen within gynaecology services and explains what is meant by woodland burials.

Introduction
The hospital has established an area for the interment of babies/fetal tissue at the Barton Glebe woodland burial site. This is situated just west of Cambridge between the villages of Barton and Comberton on the B1046, the nearest postcode being: CB23 7BN. The site is managed by The Arbory Trust.

Woodland burial
Woodland burial is a centuries-old practice that is undergoing a revival and is an alternative concept of interment to traditional burial and cremation. It provides a permanent and undisturbed resting place in increasingly beautiful surroundings with a low environmental impact. The idea is to create a living memorial by encouraging new woodlands and in doing so leave something that will be enjoyed by future generations. It will always be an attractive place to visit and will also present a peaceful and tranquil environment for reflecting and remembering.

Anyone is welcome regardless of race, religion, geographical or theological boundaries and is assured of a warm, caring service at all times.

After the burial when the grave has been filled, a mixture of grass and wild flower seeds is scattered over the area to continue the development of the woodland.

Arbory Trust woodlands are open 365 days a year. The gates are never locked, but visitors are asked to shut the gates to make sure that the access of animals such as deer is minimised. Families and friends are welcome to visit at any time of their choosing.

Barton Glebe
Barton Glebe is an area of approximately 40 acres; the area currently in use for burial has nearly 10,000 trees which have been planted since the year 2000, all of which are species indigenous to the local area. Burials at Barton take place in the glades surrounded by trees, the graves ultimately becoming part of that glade or meadow in
time, with the surrounding trees creating a living memorial to those who lie there. Hence individual graves are not marked with their own tree; simple wooden markers that are flush with the graves are used. The Arbory Trust does not permit decoration of graves with memorabilia as this would be inconsistent with the natural setting being created. Cut flowers are permitted on the graves but any cellophane, ribbon and foil must be removed. All unauthorised items are quickly removed for the sake of those who support the Trust and other visitors. The Arbory Trust does, however, operate a tree sponsorship scheme, whereby existing trees may be sponsored, perhaps in memory of someone special, or simply as a significant gesture towards the work and long term aims of the Trust.

The memorial lodge
The lodge provides facilities, such as toilets for visitors in addition to shelter on inclement days. It is always open when funerals take place.

The memorial lodge is always staffed on Wednesdays between 10.00 and 14.00. If you intend to visit and are coming from some distance, it is advisable to call in advance, not only to check that someone is available (staff commitments can vary), but also so they will stay on should you be delayed. They are happy to meet you at other times by appointment (Monday to Friday).

The interment
The interments happen at regular intervals, generally once a month, and will be attended by one of the Hospital chaplains and will be conducted in a dignified, sensitive and respectful manner. Although the setting is less formal than a church or crematorium, proper care and attention are assured.

It is a condition of the Arbory Trust that all coffins are biodegradable with no handles or plaques and the hospital adheres to this.

The area reserved for the interment of babies/fetal tissue is divided into small areas of land, each marked with a plaque that will identify the area. This will ensure that all remains are traceable but only to the hospital staff who are involved in the pseudo-anonymisation of babies/fetal tissue of less than 24 weeks gestation. Families will be able, subject to normal hospital confidentiality rules, to obtain the name of the relevant area and then the Arbory Trust will be able to assist in locating this area of land in years to come.

Contacts/Further information
For further information please contact the following:

**Clinic 24 (early pregnancy unit)**
01223 217636
Monday to Friday 08:00 to 20:00
Weekends 08:30 to 14:00
Closed: Bank holidays

**Daphne ward**
01223 257206 - at any time

**Bereavement lead and lead chaplain**
01223 245151 ext 3664

**Specialist midwife - bereavement and birth after thoughts**
01223 245151 ext 3882
References/ Sources of evidence

The Arbory Trust – Barton Road Burial site

We are now a smoke-free site: smoking will not be allowed anywhere on the hospital site. For advice and support in quitting, contact your GP or the free NHS stop smoking helpline on 0800 169 0 169.

Other formats:

If you would like this information in another language, large print or audio, please ask the department where you are being treated, to contact the patient information team: patient.information@addenbrookes.nhs.uk.

Please note: We do not currently hold many leaflets in other languages; written translation requests are funded and agreed by the department who has authored the leaflet.

Document history
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Contact number: Ext 3755, bleep 154-554
Publish/Review date: January 2015/January 2018
File name: PIN3687_Barton_Glebe_Woodland_Burial_V1
Version number/Ref: V1/PIN3687