



Photo: Benchmark Architects

 **Oak Hill**
LAWN CEMETERY & CREMATORIUM





Oak Hill Lawn Cemetery and Crematorium

Located in Hatfield against the backdrop of the beautiful Hertfordshire countryside, the award-winning Oak Hill Lawn Cemetery and Crematorium is owned and managed by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.

The grounds were opened on the 2nd April 1984 by the Lord Bishop of Hertford and cover some 11 acres of land.

At Oak Hill we understand how important it is to find the right place to remember your loved ones.

We will help you to find an option which is just right for you and your loved ones, rather than a 'one size fits all' approach.

Whether you would like to hold a service here, arrange a cremation, burial, or find a place to commemorate a loved one, we will take every step to accommodate you.

The office is located behind the chapel, where our team can answer any questions you may have. We understand that losing someone is never easy, but we hope to provide you with some comfort and support during this difficult time.

Oak Hill Lawn Cemetery

Oak Hill Lawn Cemetery and memorial gardens are beautiful, green and tranquil places to lay loved ones to rest.

In the main section of the cemetery, the size and shape of memorials are constrained to ensure a unified design, by encouraging well maintained grass.

It is among the few cemeteries in the United Kingdom to have been awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award.





Burial options

Lawn Graves

We can provide family burial plots for up to three coffins and eight containers of cremated remains. We take great care with each burial to ensure each plot is prepared and maintained to the highest standard.

Islamic Graves

Part of the cemetery has been specially designed in partnership with the local Muslim community, providing burial spaces which comply with Islamic teachings. These graves are aligned perpendicular to the Qibla (Mecca).

Mausoleums

We have mausoleums situated undercover in our Mulberry Tree Garden, providing the option of above-ground burial. These marble-fronted chambers are a popular alternative way of burial in the Catholic and Italian traditions, for families who prefer not to be buried in the earth or cremated. Each mausoleum can accommodate one coffin or eight sets of cremated remains, and the front marble panel can be inscribed and personalised for your loved one.



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Oak Hill Crematorium

The cemetery hosts a crematorium with a non-denominational chapel, which looks out onto our gardens and the colour-changing water fountain in our Reflection Pond, offering a dignified setting for services to personalise and remember loved ones.

Completed in 2023, the building's design makes it perfect for intimate gatherings, but can also accommodate up to 146 seated guests, on the ground floor and balcony seating area. There is ample standing room at the rear of the chapel and the ability to open the foyer and waiting room to accommodate 360+ mourners.

The chapel is finished in Scandinavian wood and has excellent acoustics. There are large viewing screens and speakers throughout the chapel, waiting room, outside the chapel entrance and in the memorial courtyard, making us ideally equipped for larger services. A state-of-the-art audio-visual system is installed for live streaming, enabling anyone to attend a service remotely.

Our chapel and crematorium is wheelchair-accessible throughout, with step free access. The chapel features induction hearing loops for the hard of hearing. The lectern is height-adjustable, and a portable lectern is also available.



Service dogs are welcome, and accessible car parking near the chapel and around the cemetery is available.

There is underfloor heating throughout the chapel, powered by recycled heat from the cremator. There are also solar panels and green sedum on the roof.

There is a waiting room with indoor and outdoor public toilets for the use of all visitors, and baby changing facilities are available. The newly built car park includes disabled bays and a provision for eight bicycles next to the office reception entrance.

Awards

Our state-of-the-art crematorium has received several notable recognitions and achievements:

- **Highly Commended** in the Best Public or Community Building category for the central region at the **LABC Building Excellence Awards**.
- **Highly Commended** in the Building Project of the Year for the **Herts & Beds Club Constructing Excellence Awards**.
- **Silver Winner** at the **Hertfordshire Building Control Awards** and winning the category for best extension / alteration / conversion / new build – non residential.
- **Highly Commended** in the Project of the Year at the **Eastern Echo Awards**.
- **Winner** of the Matt Batt Award – the People’s Vote at the **Eastern Echo Awards**.
- **Shortlisted** in the Public Category for the 2024 **Brick Awards**.
- **Shortlisted** in the Community and Faith Category for the **Architects Journal Award**.





Oak Hill Cremation Services

We understand how important it is to treat you and your loved ones with respect and offer a service which feels right for you. We have a variety of options to choose from.

Full Service

For a full service, families are given an hour slot, with 40-minute services in the chapel that can be booked Monday to Saturday. Longer time in the chapel is available at an additional cost.

Weekday Early Morning Service

Time slots for weekday early morning services are available at 9.30am and 10am, Monday to Friday and allows a 20-minute service in the chapel.

Child Funeral

For young people under the age of 18, family can select burial or cremation.

Free live and on-demand streaming, a single photo and basic slide show of up to 25 photos is free of charge, with the use of our chapel.



Direct Cremation and Virtual Memorial Service (VMS)

With a direct cremation, the funeral itself is unattended, but family can arrange a memorial service after the cremation with the ashes present, at a venue of their choice and personalised in a way that suits.

At Oak Hill, our direct cremations can include a Virtual Memorial Service (VMS) package. This is available at no extra cost when a direct service is chosen. If a family wish to include this package, either they, or the funeral director will complete the necessary form with the personal touches, which can include a single photo, a poem, entrance music and a visual tribute.

The direct service will be conducted in the morning. The recorded footage will be professionally edited into a video and sent to the funeral director within two working days, who will then forward it to the family. Families can order a recording of the Virtual Memorial Service on a range of keepsake options, providing a unique, personal memento of their loved one to cherish forever.

Witness Room

The crematorium features a carefully designed Witness Room. The room next to the crematory is where families can witness the coffin being placed into the cremator. One wall is made of glass, covered by a curtain, which is drawn when the family are ready. There is also the ability to watch the charge on a screen in the chapel.

We must be informed if a family wish to witness the committal when the cremation is booked, so that we can make the necessary preparations for the day.



Memorial Service

Our chapel can be used for memorial services. Different from a funeral service, a memorial service is a ceremony for the mourners to honour their loved one, but no burial or cremation is involved.

Music and hymns can be played, and our large catafalque can be dressed in photos, flowers or some of your loved one's favourite possessions.

Memorial Courtyard

After a service, you will be able to reflect and view floral tributes with friends and family in our memorial courtyard. The flowers remain on display for up to two days after the service, giving time for them to be collected.

Webcasting and audio visual tribute

We offer a range of webcasting, audio and visual tribute options for during and after the service. Talk to your funeral director about including this in your service.

Our chapel is equipped with the latest audio-visual technology, allowing you to live stream the service to anyone wanting to view remotely.





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Personalising your funeral

Every life story is unique, and we understand that each person needs to say goodbye in their own way. There are lots of ways to personalise a funeral service that is truly memorable. This could be by having songs, eulogies, readings, poems, hymns, or by asking people to dress a certain way.

We have a large catafalque that can be dressed in photos, trophies, flowers or anything else that reflects their life which people will fondly associate with their loved one.

We offer a range of music, live streaming, tributes and keepsakes that can reflect a life lived. You can make sure that everyone can access the funeral, even when they can't be there

in person, through world-wide live streaming and re-watch. Visual tributes and slideshows of photos can fill the room with their personality, and using photos from early childhood up until present day can make an amazing portrayal of someone's life.

Families have the choice of voiles or curtains to close when they wish during the service, or if preferred, they can be left open.

Each funeral service is as special and personal as can be and we are here to ensure that you have the service that you want. We will work alongside your Funeral Director and help in any way we can.

Gardens of Remembrance

The grounds also contain various options to commemorate cremated remains, including our Rose Garden, The Mulberry Tree Garden, The Jasmine Garden, The Lily Garden and our Communal Garden area for scattering ashes. These offer a choice of memorials in an area that encourages quiet contemplation.







Wildlife at Oak Hill

Set in green open space, Oak Hill is a tranquil place that is also a wonderful home for wildlife. Our memorial attenuation pond, The Lily Garden, attracts wildlife, including herons, common linnets and other unusual birds that are becoming regular visitors.

Bats have been sighted in the area and we have put up special bat boxes at the crematorium for them to roost in. We also have a nest box for our resident kestrel.

Our beautifully landscaped gardens and pond also provide a lovely setting for local biodiversity.



Surrounded by green open space, Oak Hill is in a lovely setting. It is located less than 1 mile from Junction 2 on the A1M, Northbound and 1.5 miles from Junction 3, Southbound.

The grounds can also be accessed via public transport with a bus stop situated a five-minute walk from the cemetery gates. The cemetery is open to the public from 9am and closing hours change through the seasons.



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