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NATURAL CHOICE

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# Independent accreditations & initiatives

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## The Forest Stewardship Council

The Forest Stewardship Council® [FSC] is an international, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting responsible management of the world's forests. It was founded in 1993 in response to public concern about deforestation and demand for a trustworthy wood-labelling scheme



## Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers Association

FFMA is run to Coffin Certification Standard, where coffins and caskets are tested to ensure best standards and impartiality are applied. The FFMA is a link between manufacturers/suppliers, the Funeral Director and the crematoria. To ensure coffins/caskets are fit for purpose, they are tested to make sure there are no problems with handling, safety, pre-ignition, combustion and ash volume. All coffins within this catalogue have passed the tests.



## Greener Goodbyes

Greener Goodbyes is a service to help families have a greener funeral. It includes a choice of suitable coffin, a carbon rebalancing, not typically offered with a standard funeral. The [GG] symbol indicates coffins suitable to be used with the Greener Goodbyes package.



## Tree Tribute

When a coffin is sold with the Tree Tribute merit, [TT], a sapling tree will be planted to help restore, preserve and sustain wildlife. We can supply the sapling tree(s) to you to plant locally or it can be upgraded into a gift pack for presentation to your family for planting.



## Plastic Free

Where a coffin carries the Plastic Free symbol, the product is guaranteed to be entirely free of plastic. Just another part of our increasing commitment to make our products environmentally friendly.



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The Country Range offers a selection of coffins made using sustainable materials. Readily biodegradable, they are suitable for all types of natural or traditional burials, and have been independently tested and accepted for cremation.

As well as a low carbon footprint, this range offers a social and ethical benefit, be it to a community involved with their manufacture or through our donations to Groundwork UK and Tree Tribute initiatives.

Made by the UK's unrivalled manufacturer of environmentally friendly coffins and caskets, voted *The Sunday Times* 'Best Green Company 2008', the Country Range offers a range of styles suitable for those looking for a softer, gentler more natural choice.



*Oasis Coffins*

The Fair Trade Choice

# Oasis Coffins

The Oasis Coffins enterprise is situated in the Nilphamari district of Bangladesh. The area is 500km north of the capital city Dhaka, and suffers from extreme poverty. Oasis is committed to the Ten Principles of Fair Trade agreed by the World Fair Trade Organisation.



Representatives from Traidcraft, the UK's largest Fair Trade organisation have conducted a rigorous assessment of the business on location in Bangladesh, and are pleased to endorse all of the coffins and urns produced by Oasis as Fair Trade. Ongoing assessments will be made to ensure that these high standards are maintained. Locally, Oasis is an active member of the Fair Trade Forum in Bangladesh.

Our bamboo has been sourced from locally grown bamboo plants, which have been sustainably managed and harvested in Bangladesh according to best practice. We work directly with 40 producer from rural communities in the local area. We ensure that fair prices are paid, and that we have relationships with all of our suppliers.

## Fair Trade Bamboo

A traditionally shaped bamboo coffin which can be interwoven with flowers and foliage.



## Fair Trade Bamboo Ashes Casket

A natural styled Bamboo ashes casket designed to complement the Natural Bamboo coffin.



*Oasis Coffins*



**Willow** canes are from a fast growing trees, coppice grown on a two to three year cycle. The canes are sustainable and benefit the local ecology and the environment in general. The willow used in our coffins is sourced from managed and known sources from the willow town of Linyi in the Shandong province of China.

Chestnut willow is harvested and boiled to remove the bark. The tannin in the bark dyes the willow wood a chestnut brown colour. The natural willow is harvested the same way, but is treated to remove the tannin, restoring the pale natural off white colour of the cane. The willow is hand-woven in Bangladesh, piece-by-piece onto a frame made from locally sourced bamboo.



Natural Willow



Chestnut Willow



### Fair Trade Willow Ashes Casket

A natural styled willow ashes casket designed to complement the Willow coffins. The casket is available in a chestnut and natural white colour.

*Oasis Coffins*



### Fair Trade Oval Willow

Hand-woven on a bamboo frame, this willow coffin has a rounded end casket shape and comes with an engraved wooden nameplate. Available in chestnut and natural white.



### Fair Trade Traditional Willow

Hand-woven on a bamboo frame, this willow (wicker) coffin has a more traditional shape and comes with an engraved wooden nameplate. Available in chestnut and natural white.

**Seagrass** is actually a freshwater plant, known locally as "Hogla". Hogla grows abundantly along the banks of freshwater rivers and flood prone land and is available from managed resources in the Noakhali district of Bangladesh. Local producers harvest the grass twice a year, dry it and spin it into long pieces, often more than 20m in length.

*Oasis Coffins*

As the Hogla dries its colour subtly changes from a green to a rich reddish brown. There is a rich tradition in Bangladesh of making woven products from this beautifully coloured material.

The material is woven in Bangladesh onto a locally sourced Bamboo frame to produce a distinctively beautiful product.



### Fair Trade Seagrass Ashes Casket

A natural styled seagrass ashes casket designed to complement the seagrass oval coffin.

### Fair Trade Seagrass Oval

A freshwater plant, grown in abundance in the Noakhali district of Bangladesh. Sun dried and spun, it is woven onto a bamboo frame to form the seagrass coffin.



This is actually a freshwater plant, known locally as "Hogla". Hogla grows abundantly along the banks of freshwater rivers and floodprone land and is available from managed resources in the Noakhali district of Bangladesh. Local producers harvest the grass twice a year, dry it and spin it into long pieces, often more than 20m in length. As the Hogla dries its colour subtly changes from a green to a rich reddish brown. There is a rich tradition in Bangladesh of making woven products from this beautifully coloured material.



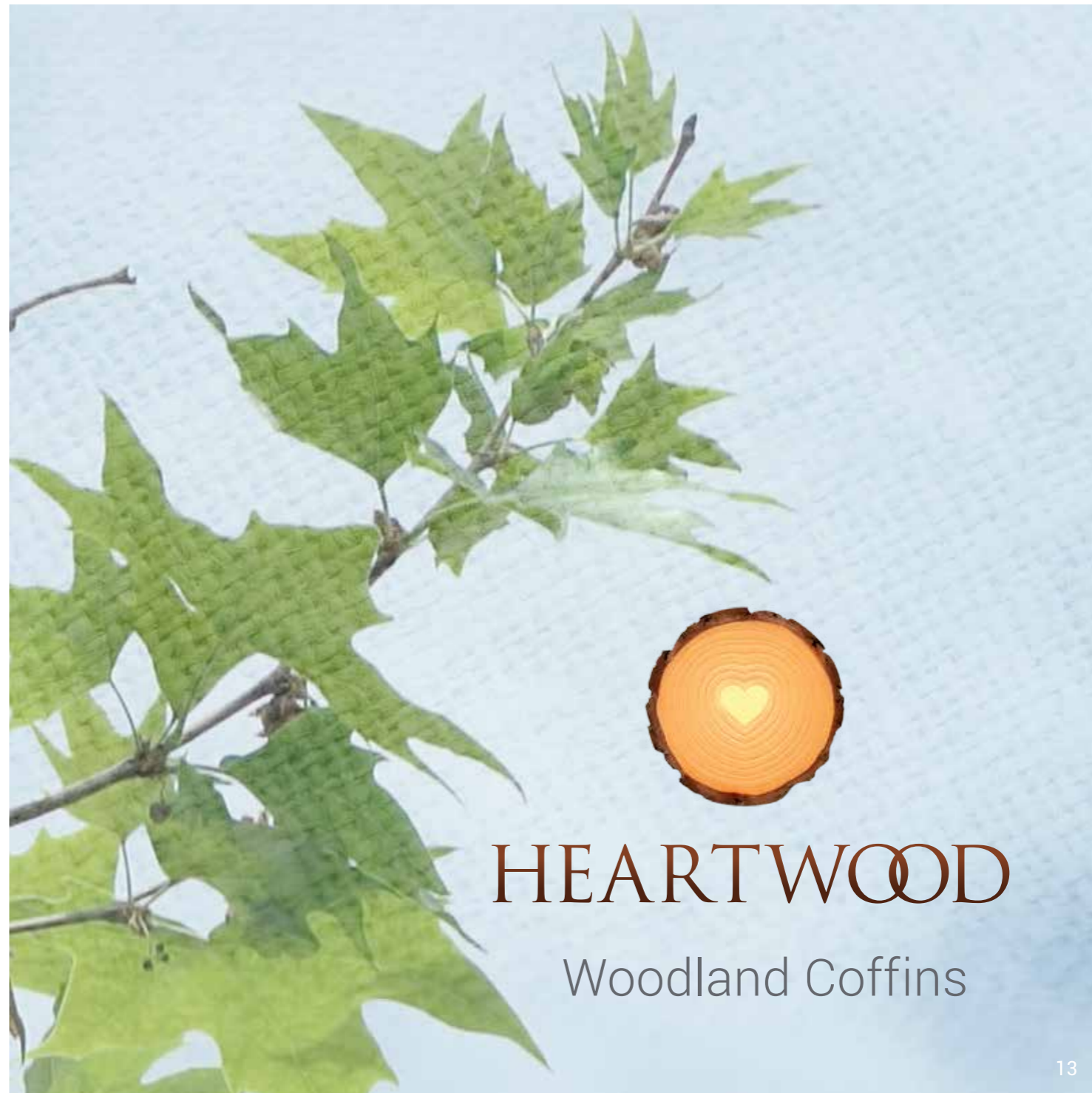
## Mithila's Story

Mithila grew up in a poor, landless family in the rural Nilphamari district. As a result of her family's poverty and the great distance between home and school, she didn't have the opportunity to attend school or receive any formal education. She lost both her parents before she was a teenager and was married shortly thereafter. She gave birth to her daughter at the age of 15, and had a son three years later. Prior to working at Oasis Coffins, she spent many years as a housewife taking care of young children while feeling isolated for want of a community within which she could share her problems and feel supported. Despite the many obstacles she faces, Mithila is determined to provide her two children with a better life than she once had. As a result of her hard work and steady employment with Oasis Coffins, Mithila has been able to send both her children to school where they are doing well and are learning many things she didn't have the chance to learn herself. Although she still faces many difficulties, including being the primary breadwinner for her family, Mithila is grateful for the opportunities that she has at Oasis Coffins. One such opportunity is the ability to interact and develop friendships with co-workers. She enjoys talking with them, sharing her emotions and hearing from others, along with some of the similar life experiences and challenges that they have experienced and been through.



*\* [Photograph and name have been changed to preserve anonymity]*

*Oasis Coffins*



# Woodland Coffins Range



Engraved wood mount available on all wooden coffins



Matching bespoke pine handles



Crafted butt joint ends

## The Woodland Brighton

A beautiful hand crafted solid pine coffin with plain side panels and matching bespoke pine handles. Elegant in its simplicity. The Brighton is hand finished to the highest of standards by the best craftsmen. Comes polished or unpolished, made using the finest FSC certified timber and is suitable for all types of burial and cremation.





## The Woodland Whitby

A natural oak-style veneer coffin with oak matching mouldings to the lid and sides, with a natural finish and a choice of three natural handle options: Wooden bar, Wooden Rings and Rope. Certified by the FSC and suitable for all types of burial and cremation. Fitted with biodegradable cotton lining and frill, the deceased may be dressed in their own clothes or a matching cotton gown set. Can be unpolished or satin. (Please note where ring handles are requested, the satin finish is recommended.)



Wooden Bar



Wooden Rings



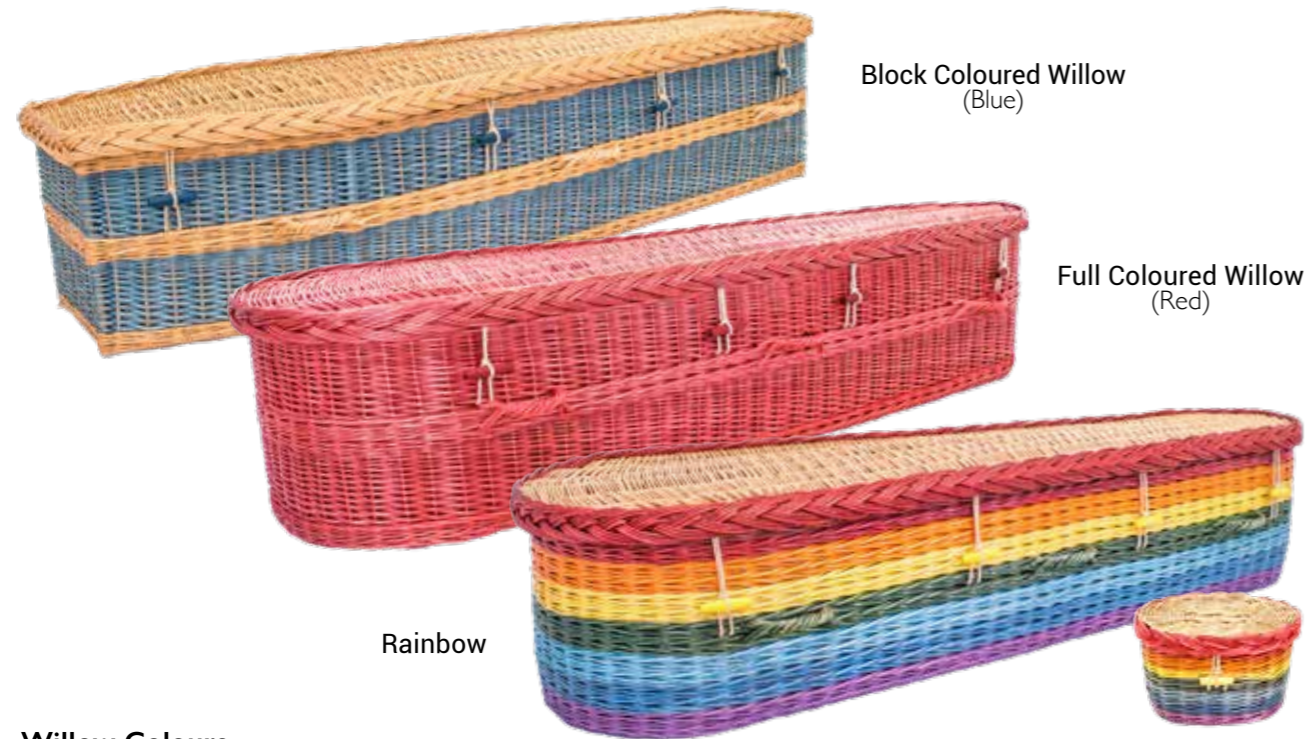
Rope Handles



English Willow Coffins

# English Willow Coffins

A range of willow 'wicker' coffins that reflect the unique landscape of the Somerset Levels and the surrounding areas where the willow is farmed. Available in our traditional or oval shape, in white, buff and steamed with a variety of willow colour options. Ashes Caskets also available to match each coffin.



### Willow Colours



Our Traditional shaped coffins are all made from natural willow home grown here on the Somerset Levels. They are all 100% natural and biodegradable and can be bespoke in size and design. Rope handles and banding can be incorporated on any coffin style.



### Haymoor



### Moorland



Avalon



Wickmoor



Blackdown



Handle Options -



Willow Handles



Hemp Handle



# Daisy Coffins

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Daisy Coffins are the natural alternative to the traditional style coffin. Designed with beauty and strength in mind, Daisy Coffins combine sophistication with quality.

Hand crafted from 100% natural products, the coffin panels are woven on a sustainable, soft wooden frame, making it a robust, stylish coffin that doesn't creak or sag.

## Premium Bamboo Cremation Urn

This biodegradable cremation urn is an attractive choice for the ashes of a loved one, and compliments our Premium Bamboo Coffin.



## Premium Bamboo Coffin

Created with hand woven bamboo panels, this traditionally shaped coffin is lined with an elegant natural calico interior and comes with a choice of personalised nameplates and footplate.





## Water Hyacinth Traditional Coffin

Our Water Hyacinth coffins are biodegradable and come with a tasteful natural unbleached calico lining, a choice of personalised nameplates and a footplate.



Water Hyacinth is a fast growing aquatic plant, with a flower that sits on the surface of the water. The long, spongy stems that grow underneath the surface are harvested, dried and then woven using different patterns to ensure our coffins are both elegant and strong. The coffins are finished with bespoke handles and hand carved wooden peg screws.

## Water Hyacinth Cremation Urn

Our Water Hyacinth Cremation Urns are designed to compliment the Water Hyacinth coffins.

They come with a natural calico liner and are an elegant resting place for your loved ones ashes.





## Water Hyacinth Half Round Coffin

As with our traditional Water Hyacinth coffin, our half round coffin is biodegradable and comes with a tasteful natural unbleached calico lining, a choice of personalised nameplates and a footplate. The rounded end provides a softer and more contemporary feel to this beautifully woven coffin.



Bespoke handles



Hand carved wooden screw pegs



Personalised nameplate



Our **Wicker** coffins are made from Rattan. Rattan is a vine that grows around tree trunks and branches. By providing an alternative to loggers, the economic value of rattan can help protect forest land. It is much easier to harvest, as it requires only basic tools, and is easier to transport. It grows a lot faster than most tropical wood, making it a profitable crop for locals and the communities it supports.



### Premium Wicker Coffins

Our 100% biodegradable traditional shaped coffins come in a choice of styles: Golden Wicker and Grey Wicker. The wicker is carefully woven onto a strong wooden Albasia frame and finished with bespoke wooden handles and hand carved wooden peg screws. Each coffin comes with an unbleached calico lining and a choice of personalised nameplate and footplate - which can be engraved.

Traditional Golden Wicker



Traditional Grey Wicker



Daisy 



## Banana Leaf Coffins

Our banana leaf coffins come in a traditional shape or a square end shape. The square end has a similar look and feel to an English casket. The banana leaves support both the structural design of the coffin and the environment, while providing a beautiful finish. Based around a sturdy timber frame, the leaf rope retains its shape with a subtle elegance.

They are finished with an unbleached calico decorative interior, bespoke handles, carved wooden screw pegs and a personalised nameplate.





**Banana Leaf** is fast growing and freely available, meaning that the plants are continually sustained. The banana leaf used in our premium coffins is actually strips of bark peeled off the trunk of the banana tree.

The strips of banana leaf are dried and made into fine rope, before it's woven around a sturdy timber frame. Only the finest quality banana leaf from sustainable plantations is used to make Daisy Coffins.



## Banana Leaf Cremation Urn

Made from natural and environmentally friendly materials, the ash casket is finished with a natural calico liner.

A stylish biodegradable funeral urn, designed to compliment our premium Banana Leaf Coffins.



natural legacy

Comforting Wool Coffins

# Natural Legacy

Natural Legacy is the beautiful and comforting alternative to a traditional coffin or casket. Gentle on the eye and soft to the touch, Natural Legacy coffins and ash caskets are loved by families.

Suitable for both burial and cremation, the more rounded coffin shape combined with the soft strokable finish can be particularly comforting to sensitive or younger members of a congregation.



“At Arka Original Funerals we have found the Natural Legacy coffin to be very popular with our customers, in particular they like the beautiful design, the skill with which it’s made and the soft British wool which is so comforting for people. We love them because they are made from a sustainable source and have very little impact on our beautiful world.”

**Arka Funerals.**

**natural legacy**

Plastic Free<sup>®</sup> tree tribute FFMA<sup>™</sup>  
Federal Funeral Manufacturers Association  
Company ID 001009 Product ID 000013

## Natural Legacy Coffin

The Natural Legacy coffin is made in Yorkshire using pure new wool, supported on a strong recycled cardboard frame. The interior is generously lined with organic cotton and attractively edged with jute and has a waterproof base which is biodegradable.

Available in Natural (White) or Limestone (Grey).

## Using pure British Wool

Stitch options available...



Natural stitch (standard)



Sage stitch (optional)



Heather stitch (optional)

natural legacy



## Ashes Casket

The Natural Legacy ash casket is designed to complement the Natural Legacy coffin. Made from pure new wool to the same exacting environmental standards, the woollen casket is personalised with an embroidered name plate.

