



Considering leaving a gift in your Will to local wildlife?

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. How would my gift be used?

Your gift would be used to support conservation and education projects run by the Wildlife Trust across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. When we receive a gift, it is used wherever the need is greatest at that time. For example money gifted to the Wildlife Trust in Wills has been used to purchase land and manage it to protect and support the wildlife living there. Sandown Meadows nature reserve on the Isle of Wight was purchased with the help of a gift in a Will, and we now manage this fabulous reserve to benefit birds such as kingfishers and barn owls, and mammals like water voles and mice. Winnall Moors nature reserve in Winchester has also been supported by gifts in Wills helping us to do more to protect and enhance this beautiful green oasis so close to the bustling city centre of Winchester.

2. Can I decide how I want my gift to be spent?

Yes. You can tell us that you would prefer your gift to be directed towards a certain area of our work – perhaps for the maintenance of a reserve local to you, or protection of a certain species. Alternatively, you can specify that you would like to contribute towards the future purchase and management of land where wildlife is threatened. However we cannot predict what our future needs will be. For this reason, most people choose to leave an ‘unrestricted’ gift. This is most helpful to us as we can put towards the greatest need at the time the gift is received.

3. Why might I want to leave a gift to the Wildlife Trust in my Will?

There are many answers to this question, since making a Will is highly personal.

Common reasons include:

- A desire to preserve wildlife and wild places and for the love of local nature
- A way of giving more generously than possible in your lifetime
- Reducing or eliminating inheritance tax liability

4. Is a legacy the same as a gift in a Will?

Yes, both terms refer to any gift made in a Will. The term bequest is also used to mean the same thing.

5. What wording should I use to designate a gift to the Wildlife Trust?

Your solicitor is best placed to recommend the wording for your Will because you can discuss with them exactly what your wishes are. You will need to take the following information about us to your solicitor.

Full Address: Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane,
Curdrige, Hampshire, SO32 2DP.

Charity Number: 201081

If you have specific wishes about how any money you leave to us is used, please feel free to contact us to discuss how to record those wishes in writing so that we can be sure we understand them and can comply with them.

6. Should I leave an amount of money or a percentage of my estate?

It's your choice. Any gift is welcome, and a 1% share of a residuary estate can have a great impact on our conservation or education work. If you choose to leave a fixed sum of money to the Trust, you might want to bear in mind that inflation may decrease its value over time.

7. What effect will my gift have on my inheritance tax status?

Any gift given to charity in your Will is deducted *before* your estate is valued for tax purposes. This means that a gift to the Wildlife Trust will reduce the amount of inheritance tax your beneficiaries will need to pay. Some people even choose to donate the value of their estate above the inheritance tax threshold to charity – meaning that no inheritance tax is payable at all.

8. I've already made my Will. How can I change it to include a gift to the Wildlife Trust?

You won't need to rewrite your Will unless you want to. A qualified solicitor can draft an amendment (a **codicil**). It is simple and inexpensive to make a change that will benefit wildlife.

9. Will people know I've left you a gift?

We acknowledge the receipt of a legacy gift by mentioning the giver in our remembrance book. We sometimes also tell our members about people who have left us gifts by writing about them in our supporters magazine. You can of course choose to remain anonymous if you prefer.

10. Can I leave land or property to the Wildlife Trust?

Yes. Some of the land we currently own was left to us in a Will, but if we are to look after the land properly there is a management cost to consider. For this reason it is best to also consider including a cash gift as well. If we are left land with accompanying property, the property will most likely be sold to pay for the conservation of the land.

11. Can you recommend a solicitor?

So that we remain impartial, we are not able to recommend a solicitor. For help finding a local solicitor please refer to the following organisations:

Law Society, www.lawsociety.org.uk/choosingandusing/findasolicitor.law, 020 7242 1222

Citizen's Advice Bureau, www.adviceguide.org.uk/index/family_parent/family/wills

12. Can the Wildlife Trust act as Executors of my Will?

No, unfortunately we do not have the staff resources to act as the executor of a Will.

13. Do I need to tell the Wildlife Trust if I am thinking of leaving a gift?

No you do not but some people chose to. We would love the opportunity to say thank you and keep you informed about our work but we appreciate that for many people writing a Will is a very personal undertaking. If you are thinking of leaving a gift to a particular area of work or a specific nature reserve some people choose to make contact with us so that they can be sure we fully understand their wishes and are able to fulfil them.

14. I have questions that are not answered here, what should I do?

Please contact us and speak in confidence to the Fundraising Officer, Stephanie Watson by calling 01489 774412 or emailing Steph.Watson@hiwwt.org.uk



**Do something amazing for local wildlife,
leave a gift in your Will**