



Considering leaving a gift in your Will to local wildlife?

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why:

1. Why do I need a Will?

By writing a Last Will and Testament you can ensure that your assets pass to the right people in accordance with your wishes.

2. Why should I consider leaving a gift to Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust?

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
- As a way to invest in the sort of world you hope family and future generations will be able to enjoy

If I choose to give:

1. How would my gift be used?

Your gift would be used to support conservation and education projects run by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT) across Hampshire and the Island. When we receive a gift, it is used wherever the need is greatest at that time. For example money gifted to HIWWT has been used to purchase land and manage it to protect and support the wildlife living there.

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

Yes you can, although often the greatest gains for wildlife can be made using unrestricted gifts. This is because we cannot predict our future needs and unrestricted gifts allow us to use the funds where the need is greatest at the time. You can however tell us that you would prefer your gift to be directed towards a certain area of our work – perhaps for the management of your favorite reserve or for the geographical region you love best.

Alternatively, you can specify that you would like to contribute towards the future purchase and management of land where wildlife is threatened.

4. Do I need to tell HIWWT if I am thinking of leaving a gift?

No you do not but some people choose 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.

5. Should I leave a specific amount of money or a percentage of my estate?

It's your choice. All gifts are welcome, and even 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 HIWWT, you might want to bear in mind that inflation may decrease its value over time.

6. Can I leave land or property?

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.

3. 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 and annual report. 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 but it would be best to mention this in your Will or ask your executors to make us aware.

7. Can HIWWT act as Executors of my Will?

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

Useful information if you choose to make a gift:

1. What wording should I use to designate a gift to HIWWT?

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, Curdridge, 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.

2. 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 HIWWT 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.

3. I've already made my Will. How can I change it to include a gift to HIWWT?

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.

4. 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

We do from time to time have partnerships or run Will writing offers with local solicitors. To find out more, please visit our website www.hiwwt.org.uk/leave-gift-in-will.

5. 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.

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

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