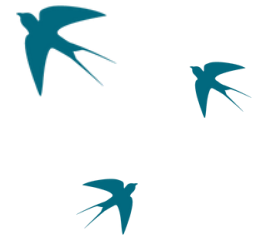




**Hampshire &  
Isle of Wight**  
Wildlife Trust



# **Gift in Wills FAQs**



# Considering leaving a gift in your Will to local wildlife?

All it takes to leave a gift in your Will to local wildlife is a phone call or email to your professional adviser. You can leave us an affordable sum or an affordable % (1% -100% or anywhere in between, whatever suits your circumstances)

You only need our Registered Charity Number: 201081

And the only decision? The gift of your choice.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

By writing a Last Will and Testament you can ensure that your assets pass to the right people in accordance with your wishes. Alongside remembering loved ones, more people are choosing to leave a gift in their Will (also called a legacy) to a charity. It is a way to invest in the sort of world you want your friends, family and future generations to be able to enjoy.

For us here at Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, our vision of the future is a wilder one, where missing species are returning and thriving and wildlife has more space to exist. If you share this vision, please consider leaving a gift to the Trust in you Will.

Gifts are used to help us manage land for wildlife, to buy more land and to inspire ever more people to love nature just as much as we do.

Deacon Hill nature reserve near Winchester was bought in 2020 with the help of a gift left in the Will of Heather Monie and Shirley Bull "Bunny". Heather and Bunny lived in the South Downs National Park and wanted their gift to benefit this landscape. Today Deacon Hill is a haven for the Duke of Burgundy butterfly and the downland flora is being restored by our team of conservation grazing cattle.



Heather & Bunny - flower photography in the New Forest

## If I choose to give:

You do not have to tell us if you decide to leave a gift – but some people do 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.

Most people leave an unrestricted gift, which means we can use the funds where they will have the most impact for local wildlife at the time.

Some people ask that we use their kind gift to support a particular area of our work – perhaps the management of a favourite reserve or a type of habitat particularly close to their heart. Alternatively, some people specify that they would like their gift to be used to contribute towards future land purchase and management. We are happy to accept gifts left with these stipulations but if this is something that you are considering including in your Will, it may be useful for you to get in touch and discuss this with us just to make sure that we fully understand your wishes and will be able to fulfil them.

## What types of gifts do you accept?

There are three main types of gift left in a Will; all gifts are welcome.

A **residuary gift** is a proportion of the value of the estate once all funerary expenses, debts and other gifts from the Will have been paid. People may choose this type of gift as it ensures loved ones are taken care of first. Even a 1% share of a residuary estate can have a great impact on our conservation and education work.

A **pecuniary gift** is a fixed sum of money. All gifts make a difference to our work but with a pecuniary gift you may want to bear in mind that inflation may decrease its value over time.

A **specific gift** is a named item which you own and would like to pass on to the Trust. It can be anything (e.g. jewellery, artwork or property) but the most common specific gift the Trust receives is land. A number of the nature reserves we own today were left to us in a Will. If this is something you are considering please remember if we are to look after land properly there will be a management cost to consider. For this reason, we ask those kind individuals considering leaving us a gift of land to manage for the wildlife that lives there, to also consider including a cash gift or some other means to generate funds to support the site.



Ron Wards Meadow

Ron was a local man with a great love of the countryside and nature. He was also the owner of a meadow to the west of Pamber. During his lifetime, this meadow was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its rich wildflower grassland. Ron's final wish was that his beloved meadow be made into a nature reserve, and so he left it to the Trust in his Will.

## **What will happen when my gift is received:**

Any unrestricted gift left to the Trust will be used where the need is greatest and where it will have the most impact for wildlife conservation and education work at the time.

We are hugely grateful for every gift we receive and we like to acknowledge the receipt of a legacy gift by adding the name of the giver to our remembrance book and annual report. We also like to share stories with our supporters about those people who have left a gift in our supporter's magazine, on the website and in other communications. You can choose for your gift to remain anonymous if you prefer. In this instance you may wish to write a note into your Will to that effect or ask your executors to make us aware.



## Other useful information if you choose to make a gift:

### Does the Trust recommend any particular wording for my Will?

A solicitor or Will writing professional is best placed to recommend the wording for your Will, because you can discuss with them exactly what your wishes are.

All you need to take to the solicitor is our Charity Number although they may ask for our address too.

### 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 us is to be used, please feel free to contact us to record your wishes in writing so that we can be sure we understand them and can comply with them.

### Charitable gifts and inheritance tax

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 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.

### Can an existing Will be amended to include a gift to the Trust?

If you already have a Will you won't need to rewrite it 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.

### **Can the Trust 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](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk/choosingandusing/findasolicitor.law)

020 7242 1222

**Citizen's Advice Bureau,**

[www.adviceguide.org.uk/index/family\\_parent/family/wills](http://www.adviceguide.org.uk/index/family_parent/family/wills)

### **Can the Trust be the executor of my Will?**

Unfortunately the Trust does not have the staff resources to act as executors of a Will.

## **Further Information**

If you have any further questions or wish to talk to someone at the Trust about leaving a gift in your Will please contact us. You can speak in confidence to the Philanthropy Manager, Stephanie Watson by calling 01489 774412 or emailing [Steph.Watson@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:Steph.Watson@hiwwt.org.uk)

## **Thank you**

Thank you – gifts in Wills make a huge impact on what we are able to achieve for local wildlife and we are very grateful that you would consider supporting our work in this way.

The future needs to be wilder – with your support we can ensure that it will be.



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**Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust**

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