

Make a Will for Wildlife



Cornwall



Protecting wildlife for the future.

Cornwall Wildlife Trust's vision

Cornwall Wildlife Trust is a registered charity formed in 1962 by a group of enthusiastic volunteers who wanted to safeguard the county's unique wildlife and natural environment for future generations.

Our vision is for Cornwall to be richer in wildlife, and for that wildlife to be cared for and appreciated by one and all.

We want to involve the community in rebuilding Cornwall's biodiversity by engaging everyone in the natural environment.



Windmill Farm Nature Reserve. Photo by Ben Watkins.

A gift in your Will counts

Remembering Cornwall Wildlife Trust in your Will is one of the most valuable ways that you can help save our wildlife. You really can make a difference.

Gifts in Wills to a registered charity are tax-free, which helps to reduce inheritance tax liability. Different types of legacy allow you to ensure that your friends and relatives are provided for, as well as any organisations or charities that you wish to support.



Hedgehog. Photo by Tom Marshall.

Types of gifts in Wills

Residuary bequest:

When you wish to give whatever is left (or a share of what is left) after all costs have been met and all pecuniary and specific bequests have been deducted. This is known as the 'residue' of your estate.

Pecuniary bequest:

When you leave a specific sum of money to a person, organisation or charity. Please remember that inflation can reduce the value of the amount specified.

Specific bequest:

When you choose to leave a specific item, such as a painting, jewellery or even your home.

Gifts in Wills have already helped us to...

- Provide protection for endangered species
- Buy and manage nature reserves and landscapes
- Educate and inspire children
- Encourage volunteers to help conserve local areas
- Campaign on behalf of wildlife

Here are some examples of how you could make a difference:

£500 could buy pond dipping and other equipment for children.

£1,000 could enable volunteers to build otter holts.

£5,000 could pay for paths and boardwalks for visitors with wheel chairs.

£10,000 could restore a wildflower meadow to its former glory.

£50,000 could help us to acquire an important wildlife site and save it from development, forever.

You may prefer to specify the area of work you would like your gift spent, whether it be towards land purchase or a specific project, however **unrestricted gifts** will guarantee your gift would be used efficiently and for the maximum benefit of nature conservation locally.



Volunteers at Breney Common Nature Reserve. Photo by Simon Stuart-Miller.

Taking the next steps

Why do I need a Will?

Making a Will ensures that your possessions are given to the people and charities that you have chosen. If you do not have a Will, the legal system will decide how your estate should be divided.

Making a new Will

It is a good idea to seek legal advice when making a Will. However, you can save time and money by considering a few things before you visit a solicitor. You should make a list of your assets, think about how you would like to divide your estate and decide who you will appoint as executors of your Will to ensure that your wishes are carried out.

Updating an existing Will

It is important to review your Will regularly to ensure that it reflects your current wishes. You may need to update your Will following major events such as births, marriage, deaths, buying property or a change in financial circumstances. You can make small changes or additions to a Will using a Codicil. This is an instruction that is added to your existing Will, and needs to be witnessed in the same way.



The jargon

- **Beneficiary:** someone who benefits in your Will.
- **Bequest/legacy:** a gift made in your Will; it can be in the form of money, property, stocks and shares or possessions.
- **Codicil:** any change or addition that you make to your Will.
- **Estate:** the total sum of your possessions, property and money (after debts have been paid) left after your death.
- **Executor(s):** person(s) appointed by you to make sure the wishes in your Will are carried out.
- **Inheritance Tax:** a tax paid on estates above a certain value.
- **Probate:** the legal procedure after death which confirms your Will is valid.
- **Pecuniary bequest:** a gift of a specific sum of money.
- **Residue:** what is left after payment of all debts, costs and taxes and after pecuniary and specific bequests have been made.
- **Residuary bequest:** all or a share of the residue of your estate.
- **Specific bequest:** a gift of a particular item or possession.
- **Testator:** a person who has made a Will.

We advise that you seek advice from your solicitor when making or updating your Will.



Pendarves Wood Nature Reserve. Photo by Ben Watkins.

Suggested wording

If you decide to help us to protect Cornwall's wildlife with a gift in your Will, the following is some suggested wording:

Pecuniary bequest

I give Cornwall Wildlife Trust (charity number 214929) of Five Acres, Allet, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 9DJ, the sum of £ for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other property officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge for the said Legacy.

Residual bequest

I give Cornwall Wildlife Trust (charity number 214929) of Five Acres, Allet, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 9DJ, the whole (or a per cent share) of my residuary estate for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other property officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge for the said Legacy.

(Please seek advice from your solicitor if you wish to split your residuary estate between charitable and non-charitable beneficiaries, as this may affect any inheritance tax exemption).

Specific bequest

I give Cornwall Wildlife Trust (charity number 214929) of Five Acres, Allet, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 9DJ, my (description of item or property) for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other property officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge for the said Legacy.



Upton Towans Nature Reserve. Photo by Ben Watkins.

Anthony's gift to Cornwall Wildlife Trust



Pied Flycatcher. Photo by Tom Hibbert.

Anthony Aston (known to his family as George) was a long-standing member of Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

Anthony was born in 1942 and (sadly) died at the age of 73 in February 2016. He had three brothers, and left each of them an equal share of his estate. After looking after his family, Anthony also left a very kind gift in his Will to Cornwall Wildlife Trust, to help protect the nature he loved.

Anthony's brother Nigel commented, "Anthony would draw the most

amazing illustrations of birds and moths and keep recordings of all his sightings. He was naturally a shy man, and I think his connection with nature was integral to him. We never discussed things like Wills. My brothers and I were really touched that he thought of us in his Will. We were also really pleased he left a gift to Cornwall Wildlife Trust. We knew how close the work of the charity was to his heart."

"In his Will Anthony was specific about how he wanted Cornwall Wildlife Trust to spend his legacy. He suggested the money be used for the purchase of property, to use as a nature reserve. In particular, he was keen the Trust buy woodland to establish breeding Flycatchers.

"The Trust did look at options. But at the time no suitable properties were for sale, and they have to take into consideration ongoing management costs when buying new land. So we took a different approach.

"We agreed to split Anthony's legacy between three projects that fitted best with Anthony's core interests. We went for a two year project investing in the capital infrastructure of Looe Island including a visitor centre and bird observatory. A four-year woodland management project with potential benefits for Pied Flycatchers in Cabilla and Redrice Woods, and some land acquisition at Helman Tor.

"The Trust will recognise Anthony's legacy with some memorial plaques at these locations. It's comforting to think his name and gift to nature will be marked in the Cornish countryside where he spent so much of his free time."

Other ways to help us

Donate in memory

If you are arranging a funeral, you may like to ask friends and relatives to make a donation to Cornwall Wildlife Trust instead of giving flowers. This is a wonderful way to celebrate the life of a loved one, as a lasting gift that will help protect the natural world for future generations.

You might also consider creating a dedicated 'in memory' page through Just Giving online. This is an increasingly popular way to record personal messages and tributes, whilst collecting donations for Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

By donating in memory of a loved one, you are able to support a cause that is important to them. Individual donations can be made through our webpage, where you can also include a personal message.

www.cornwallwildlifetrust.org.uk/donate



Grey Seal. Photo by Neil Aldridge.

Contact Us

If you would like further information, to seek advice or talk to someone on the team please don't hesitate to get in touch with us here:

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