

For keeping your special place, special

For every memory made and every moment yet to come – **leave a lasting gift in your will.**



© Katharine Davies



Dorset
Wildlife Trust

*Protecting
nature forever*

We need nature, and it needs us. Gifts in wills allow us to protect more nature reserves, save more species, and ensure that future generations can experience the wonder of nature, just like we do.



Adonis blue butterfly © Mark Heighes

Gifts in wills protect Dorset's wildlife and wild places

Walking through Powerstock Common – enchanted by carpets of bluebells, ancient oaks and free roaming deer.

Visiting Brownsea Island – spotting a red squirrel dash up a tree, and the spectacle of thousands of birds on the lagoon.

Exploring Kimmeridge Bay – peering into rock pools and snorkelling in the shallows.

Perhaps you too have cherished memories of glimpsing wildlife in these special wild places?

Sadly, as we all know, nature is in decline. Wildlife that was once plentiful across Dorset is now a rarity. The bees and butterflies that danced across our wildflower meadows.

The dormice that made their homes in our hedgerows. The nightjars that flew above our heathlands. And the shoals of bass that swam along our coastlines. All now fewer in number and more difficult to spot.

However, there is still time to change this if we all work together. By leaving a gift to Dorset Wildlife Trust in your will, you can make more space for nature to thrive in the places you love, for years to come.

Together, we can breathe life back into Dorset's wild and wondrous places. And keep your special place, special.

Thank you.



Kimmeridge Bay © Mark Heighes

Every single gift we receive, no matter the size, is hugely important and makes a vital contribution to our work.

What your gift to nature could do



© Katharine Davies

Your gift will enable us to champion Dorset's wildlife and wild places.

To create more habitat for threatened species to thrive and spread.

To make space for nature by working with organisations and landowners across the county, supporting them to manage their land in a wildlife-friendly way.

And to inspire local communities to care for wildlife where they live.

We rely on donations

As a small charity independent of government funding, we rely on donations from people like you, to continue our vital conservation work across Dorset. Wardens and dedicated volunteers work

“ I have left a gift to save our beautiful wildlife, so that my children's children can enjoy nature as I do. ”

Ms L, Dorset Wildlife Trust member

hard to maintain our nature reserves for everyone to enjoy. But managing over 40 reserves isn't cheap. **Every year, this work costs over £750,000.** A gift in your will could pay for essential tools, equipment and people to enable the creation and maintenance of habitats to protect precious wildlife. Or help us secure new sites, where nature can thrive.

Gifts in wills make a huge impact

You can see for yourself the impacts of gifts left in wills across Dorset. Such gifts have enabled us to purchase land at our Kingcombe National Nature Reserve, as well as Lorton Meadows nature reserve. We were also able to kickstart our pioneering rewilding project at Wild Woodbury, thanks to gifts in wills.

Help protect the nature you love

Your act of generosity will ensure that we are able to continue managing our nature reserves, standing up for wildlife, and educating and inspiring people to love nature as much as you do.

Remembering Dorset Wildlife Trust in your will is easy

Writing a will provides peace of mind, knowing that your assets will be distributed according to your wishes. It can also help reduce the amount of tax payable on your estate. If you choose to leave a gift to Dorset Wildlife Trust in your will, it will not be included when valuing your estate for tax purposes.

It doesn't have to be complicated

If you already have a will and would like to make some small changes, you can add a codicil to your existing will and send it to your solicitor. A codicil is a document which allows you to make changes or additions to an existing will, and must be read in conjunction with it.

To make a new will, or update an existing one, we advise that you speak to a solicitor. We are unable to provide specific legal advice but would love to speak to you about how your gift could be used to protect wildlife.

There are three types of gift that you can leave to Dorset Wildlife Trust

- A share of your estate. This is a percentage of your estate after all other gifts and expenses have been paid. These gifts are very important to us as they usually maintain their value or increase over time. This also means you're less likely to need to amend it in the future. Also known as a residuary gift.
- A specific sum. This is a gift of a set amount of money. Also known as a pecuniary gift.
- A specific item. This could be something valuable that we could sell.



Fontmell Down walk © Jack Clarke

“ I am more than happy to leave something for the Trust in my will, as wildlife and nature are extremely important to me. Through my gift, I hope to help support a more stable and diverse natural environment. ”

Ms S, Dorset Wildlife Trust member

Examples of legal wording that you can use when making your will

If you've decided to remember Dorset Wildlife Trust in your will, you can take the following wording to your solicitor. They will make sure your will is valid and that your wishes are followed.

A share of your estate:

My bequest to Dorset Wildlife Trust of the residual estate (or a proportion of) – a residuary or percentage legacy: “Subject to the payment of my debts, funeral and testamentary expenses, I give the whole (residuary) or ___% of my estate not otherwise disposed of by this my will to Dorset Wildlife Trust (registered charity number 200222) of Brooklands Farm, Forston, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7AA, for the general purposes of Dorset Wildlife Trust and I declare that the receipt of their Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.”

A specific sum of money:

My bequest to Dorset Wildlife Trust for a set sum – a pecuniary legacy: “I give free of tax to Dorset Wildlife Trust (registered charity number 200222) of Brooklands Farm, Forston, Dorchester, Dorset DT2 7AA, the sum of £___ for the general purposes of Dorset Wildlife Trust and I declare that the receipt of their Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.”

Make your will for free

Dorset Wildlife Trust has partnered with Octopus Legacy to help you write a will for free. Visit will.octopuslegacy.com/DWTguide to write your online will.

You can also make a will over the phone for free or arrange a home visit from one of Octopus Legacy's expert will-writers, by calling them on **020 4525 3605**.



About Dorset Wildlife Trust

Dorset Wildlife Trust is dedicated to helping Dorset's wildlife and wild places to adapt, recover and play their part in tackling the global climate change and ecological crises.

Established over sixty years ago by a small group of volunteers, Dorset Wildlife Trust is now the largest conservation charity in Dorset, managing 40 nature reserves across the county as well as four visitor centres.

We work in partnership with other organisations and landowners to protect and connect wildlife sites across the county. We inspire local communities and young people to care for wildlife where they live, and we stand up for

wildlife in the fight to prevent inappropriate development through influencing decision-makers right up to central government level.

Our role is to lead the recovery and restoration of nature in Dorset and to raise awareness of the diverse range of opportunities available to everyone to benefit from, and protect, the nature around us. Whether that's volunteering on a reserve, joining a youth activity group, attending an

online talk or a guided walk, taking part in a wildlife survey or a community planting day; nature is for everyone.

Our vision is A Wilder Dorset. A Dorset rich in wildlife, valued and nurtured by everyone will safeguard our natural world for future generations and enable people to live healthier and more fulfilling lives.

“

Anyone who cares about wildlife has a marvellous opportunity to do something quite unique, by remembering their local Wildlife Trust in their will. This generous act is one of the most important things you can do to make sure the species and habitats we love will be there for future generations to enjoy.

”

Sir David Attenborough

Did you know?

75p of every £1 donated to us directly funds vital conservation work.

The remainder is used to support our membership base and generate funds, so we can continue to protect Dorset's wild places for years to come.

Gifts in wills often provide a vital source of unrestricted funding, allowing us to allocate resources where they are needed most.

Over the last five years, 12% of our overall funding has come from gifts in wills.



Red squirrel
© Alison Copland

We're always happy to hear from you

Should you have any questions at all, we'd love to speak to you; whether it's time to make or review your will, or if you just need some information. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time.



© Katharine Davies

Our promise to you

Leaving a gift to Dorset Wildlife Trust in your will is an important decision. To anyone considering leaving a gift in your will, we promise that:

We will treat you fairly and won't intrude on your privacy

The decision to leave a gift in your will is personal to you. We will never pressure you but from time to time, may be in touch with updates on our work and invitations to events. There is no obligation for you to let us know if you have left a gift in your will. However, if you would like to do so, it allows us to recognise your pledge and thank you for your generous support.

We promise to use your gift wisely, in line with your wishes

Should you wish to discuss your gift and how it might benefit wildlife and wild places in Dorset, we would be very pleased to speak to you before you write or update your will. This enables us to have an open conversation about how your gift might be used, and to ensure that your wishes can be upheld.

You are entitled to change your will, as and when you want to

We understand that circumstances change and there may be a time where you need to take us out of your will. Many people elect to review their will at important points in their life such as buying property, getting married, or having children and grandchildren. Should you choose to take us out of your will, there is no obligation to let us know. However, by doing so, we can ensure that our records are kept up to date and that we do not contact you unnecessarily.



Photo credits (from top left)

Holway Woods bluebells

© John Crossley, **Dormouse**
© Tony Bates, **Great tit** © Steve Davis, **Willow weaving** © Tyler Nottley, **Kingcombe wildflowers**
© James Burland, **Little tern project** © Angela Thomas.

“ I have benefitted so much from Dorset Wildlife Trust and it seemed natural that, when the time came to write my will, I should include them. The Dorset countryside is very important to me and I love the idea that after I've gone, I'll be able to help provide for the wildlife and environment that have given me so much joy in my lifetime. ”

Miss D, Dorset Wildlife Trust member



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Dorset
Wildlife Trust

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Find out more about
leaving us a gift in
your will. Scan with
your phone camera. ➔

