



**Protect
the trees and
woodlands you love
today, for tomorrow
and forever**



**WOODLAND
TRUST**

Your woodland, your special place



Think of your favourite woodland... the smells, the birdsong, the soft earth under your feet. Maybe it carries hints of childhood memories, of tree-climbing or den-building. It might be where you walk the dog, or run. Perhaps you visit to spot wildlife or simply for quiet contemplation surrounded by nature.

The woodlands we love are precious places, and they need to be protected. It's up to us, people who care about our natural environment, to ensure woods and trees are here for future generations.

How can we help? One of the most powerful ways is by leaving a gift in your will to the Woodland Trust.

Woods and trees already face huge challenges – and threats are growing. Climate change and loss of biodiversity are escalating. The relentless development to accommodate our growing population places woodlands at increasing risk. Deadly tree diseases and pests are already having a terrible impact – with new ones on the horizon.

Ancient woods and trees are quite simply our most valuable, irreplaceable natural land habitat. By remembering the Woodland Trust in your will, you will preserve these amazing havens for future generations of people and wildlife to enjoy as much as we do. Please consider leaving a gift in your will to the Woodland Trust.

Thank you so much.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials 'DM' and 'R'.

Darren Moorcroft
Chief Executive

Why leave a gift in your will to the Woodland Trust?

One of the most important decisions you'll ever make is who to include in your will. Of course loved ones must come first, but by remembering the Woodland Trust, you will protect the woods you love for future generations.

Your legacy gift will:

- **protect** the places you love. You'll save woods and trees from destruction and help fight against tree pests and diseases.
- **care** for ancient woods which have been here long before us, making sure they'll be here far into the future.
- **make** a lasting mark on the world and create a UK rich in native woods and trees, for people and wildlife.

A third of everything we do is only possible because of legacies – and these generous gifts have made a tremendous difference. Over recent years, legacy gifts have saved hundreds of threatened ancient woodlands, created new habitats for wildlife and planted millions of trees.

Remembering the Woodland Trust in your will is the most significant, lasting way you can have a positive impact on the UK's woods and trees.

**1 out of 3
trees we plant
is funded by
gifts in wills**



BEN LEE / WTMIL

Your impact

Many woodlands only exist because of the passion and generosity of people who choose to remember the Woodland Trust in their will. You too can make a real difference for UK trees and wildlife with a gift in your will. Here are a few examples of what your legacy could achieve.

Plant new trees

Creating new woodland is at the heart of what we do. Your legacy gift could help us plant trees and mobilise communities, landowners and volunteers to get even more trees in the ground. The UK's woodland cover is currently just 13%, making the UK one of the least wooded in Europe; we want to grow tree cover to at least 19%.



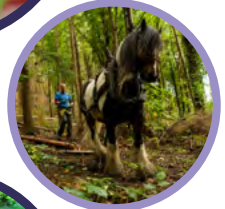
Protect woods at risk

Ancient woods are rare and irreplaceable ecosystems, supporting more wildlife than any other land-based habitat in the UK. It's up to us to protect these unique woods and ensure precious habitats remain for future generations.



Restore woods to their natural state

Many ancient woodlands have been planted with non-native trees and damaged by invasive species. A gift in your will can help sensitively restore these increasingly rare woodlands to their former glory.



Open up woods for people to enjoy

There are over 1,270 woods in our care and your gift could ensure they're kept open for thousands of visitors to explore each year, free of charge.



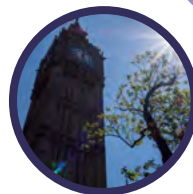
Save trees through research

Your gift could support vital research into land use, tree diseases and woodland management, leading the way in UK conservation and ensuring the Woodland Trust's work has the greatest impact.



Lobby government about tree conservation

Your support means trees and woodland remain on the government's agenda in future, by lobbying for protection and planting schemes.



Woodland protected through the generations

Back in 1972, retired farmer and nature-lover Kenneth Watkins was becoming increasingly alarmed at the destruction of precious woodlands, spinneys and copses around his home in Devon. Clearing woodland to increase the productivity of the land was having a devastating impact – and ancient trees were being lost forever.

So Ken invited some friends over to discuss plans to save a nearby wood. After a long discussion round the kitchen table, the Woodland Trust was created.

Within five years, Ken and his team had acquired more than 22 woods in six counties across south-west England. People began to hear about the Trust and lend their support. As more concerned people joined, the work scaled up to protect woods across the whole of the UK, and the first staff were appointed.

From there, the Woodland Trust grew and grew and has now become the UK's largest woodland conservation charity, with more than half a million members and supporters. A respected organisation with a strong reputation, the Trust speaks with a loud and passionate voice for woods and trees.

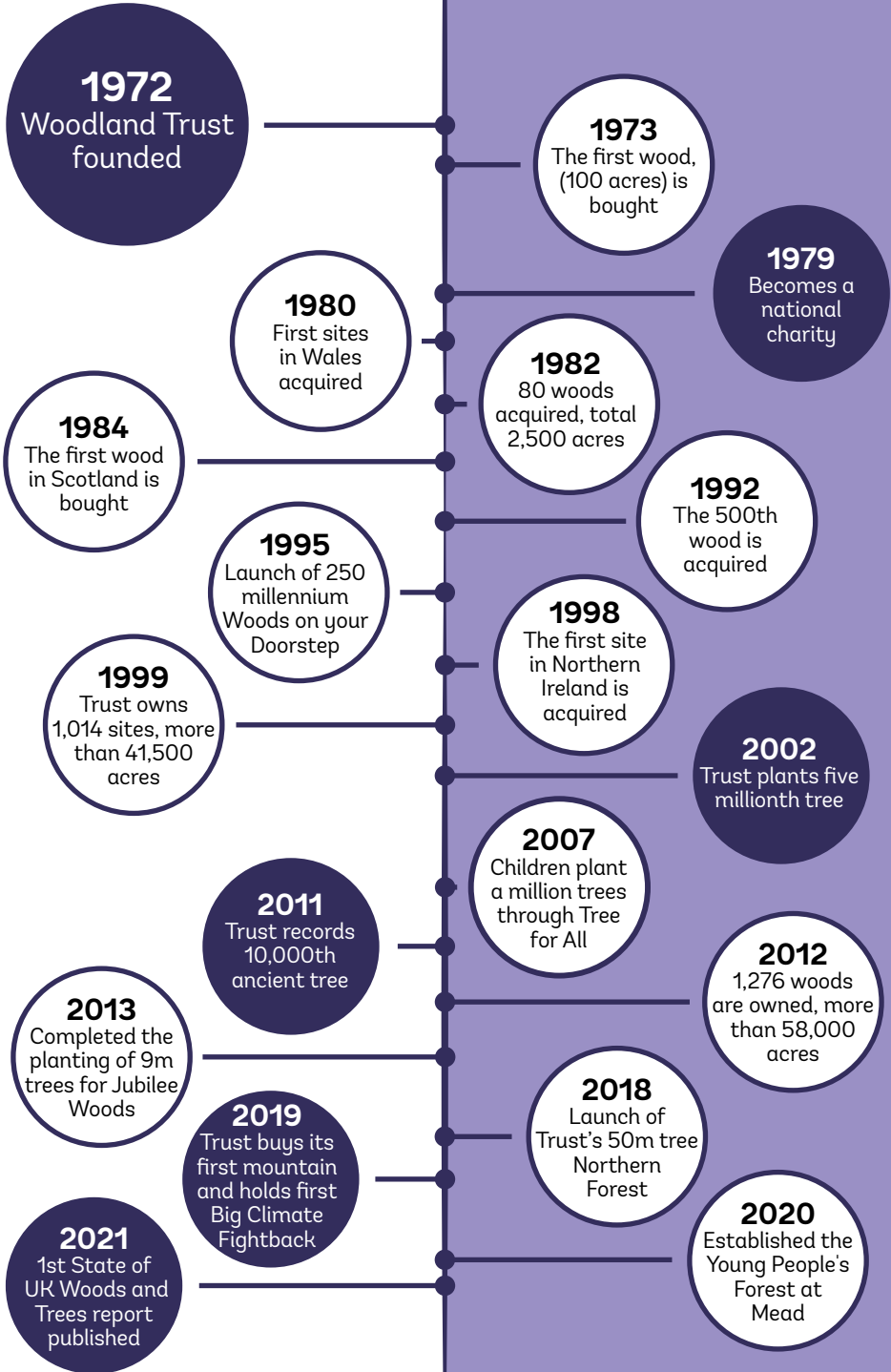
Ken was awarded an OBE in 1989 for his services to conservation, and sadly died in 1996. His ashes were scattered in his favourite place: King's Wood, in Devon.

Today, many of the woods we enjoy are part of Ken's legacy. Ken took his responsibilities seriously as a caretaker of the natural world. Millions of trees have been planted and hundreds of woods protected as a result of his vision and passion.

When you leave a gift in your will to the Woodland Trust, you build on the legacies of Ken and many others who've gone before us. You play a vital part in the stewardship of the UK's special woods, and you stand up for trees far into the future.



*Kenneth Watkins,
Woodland Trust founder*



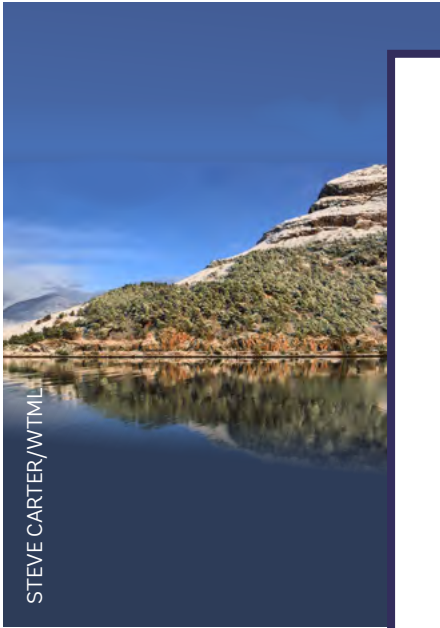
Gifts in wills are vital for everything we do

Every single one of our woods across the UK has been supported by wonderful forward-thinking people who kindly left a gift in their will.

From fighting development threats and restoring damaged ancient woodland, to acquiring new sites and planting native trees, gifts in wills are essential for our work.

The following amazing sites, alongside many other special woods across the UK, have been created, safeguarded or restored thanks to those individuals whose love of trees and woods meant they remembered the Trust in their will.

Discover more about all of those woods that have benefited from gifts in wills by visiting the website **[woodlandtrust.org.uk/giftsinwills](https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/giftsinwills)**

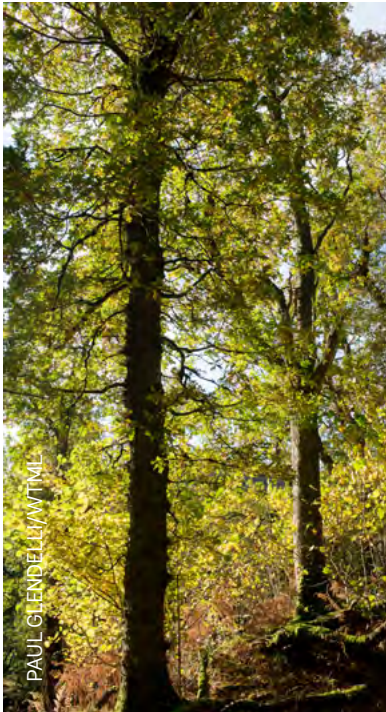


STEVE CARTER/WTML

Scotland

In the breathtaking north west Highlands, our first mountain Ben Shildaig rises from the shores of Loch Torridon. Two different types of ancient woodland can be found spread over its 3,800 acres (1,540 ha), survivors from when the west coast of Scotland was one giant rainforest. We have embarked on a 20 year restoration plan here that will include increasing native woodland and creating new havens for wildlife.

A generous gift in a will, alongside support from players of People's Postcode Lottery and a national well-supported fundraising campaign, was instrumental in Ben Shildaig's purchase.



PAUL GLENDELL/WTML

Glen Finglas lies at the heart of Loch Lomond and at 12,000 acres (4,870 ha), it is a wonderful expanse of ancient woodland, lochs, open heathland and wood pasture.

We are working with The Great Trossachs Forest National Nature Reserve to help restore the landscape and create one of Scotland's largest broadleaved forests.

For almost 400 years Glen Finglas was a royal hunting forest and today it is home to some of Scotland's most iconic wildlife including red deer, golden eagles, red squirrels and black grouse. Its dramatic landscape has been immortalised by poetry and paintings from Sir Walter Scott to Sir John Everett Millais.

Three specific gifts kindly left in wills and restricted to our work in Scotland have been critical to our work here.



MARK ZYTYSKI/WTML

Wales

In years gone by, Wentwood was part of the hunting grounds of Chepstow Castle; sadly in the 1950s and 60s many of its deciduous trees were felled and it was replanted with conifers.

Thanks to four gifts in wills, and a hugely successful fundraising appeal, Wentwood's 870 acres (350 ha) of precious woodland, is regenerating beautifully and is now home to a huge variety of wildlife. Without our generous supporters the chance to restore this vast area of woodland may have been lost forever.



JOHN BRIDGES/WTML

Northern Ireland

Brackfield Wood is a tribute to those who lost their lives across Ireland during the First World War. Nestled in the Faughan Valley, and just outside Derry/Londonderry, the site boasts mature and ancient woodland as well as thousands of young trees.

The wood is a living legacy to those affected by the conflict and is a beautiful, peaceful place for quiet reflection. The area supports an impressive array of wildlife including red squirrels, otters and kingfishers. Gifts in wills were vital in making our vision a reality in this wonderful place.

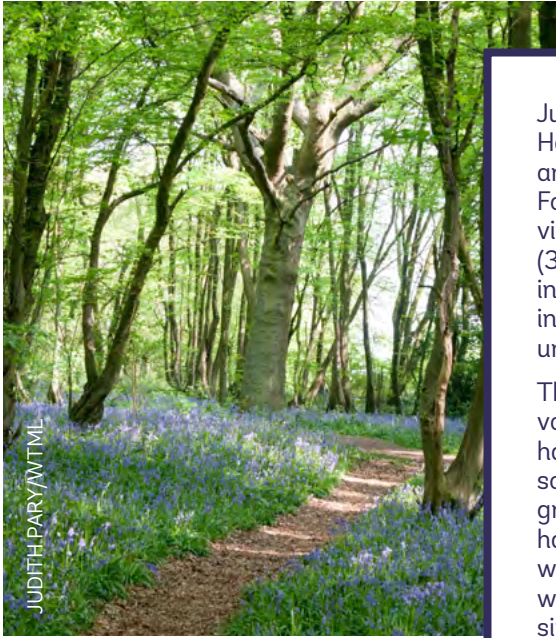


DANIEL ROMANI/WTML

England

At Low Burnhall, in County Durham, ancient woodland cloaks some of the steep slopes alongside the River Wear and now vibrant, young woodland protects this special habitat and provides space for nature to thrive.

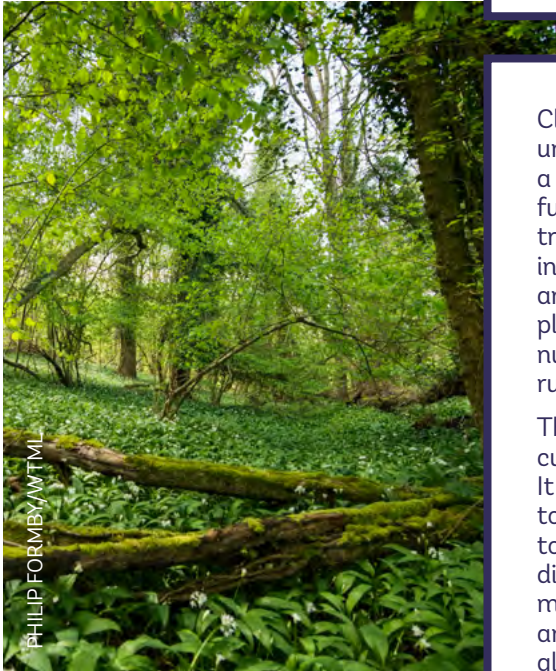
Three crucial legacies, gifted without restrictions, were essential in securing the land at auction. Gifts like these are particularly crucial in urgent situations when other fundraising simply can't be completed in time and enable us to move quickly when special sites come on the market.



JUDITH PARY/WTML

Just north of St Albans in Hertfordshire is Heartwood Forest, an extraordinary and special place. Four gifts in wills were absolutely vital in acquiring this 860 acre (370 ha) site, and a fifth has been instrumental in its transformation into England's largest area of uninterrupted woodland.

Thanks to tens of thousands of volunteers, over half a million trees have been planted and meadows sown. Whilst it's still young and growing, the mosaic of connected habitats – rare ancient woodland, wildflower meadows and new woods – makes it one of our top sites for people and wildlife alike.



PHILIP FORMBY/WTML

Close to Bath, Avoncliff has been untouched for many years. It is a peaceful 75 acre (30ha) wood full of ancient ash coppice and oak trees, with carpets of wild garlic in the spring. Bordering the wood are grassland fields, newly planted woods and orchards with numerous footpaths, including one running alongside the River Avon.

The ancient woodland area is currently closed to the public. It has become a living laboratory to help us fight tree disease and to see how it flourishes without disturbance. However, there are many paths that skirt the wood and cross fields around it, allowing glimpses into its hidden wonder.

You'll join other generous supporters



JOHN BRIDGES/WTML

“Without trees, there would be no life.”

Christopher and Ann, from Lancashire, have been Woodland Trust supporters for decades – and when it came to writing their wills it seemed only natural to protect woods and trees in the future. “Leaving a gift to the Woodland Trust doesn’t just support the important environment and ecological benefits, but also the health benefits of being in a woodland too. Without trees, there would be no life. After all, we are just tenants of the land we live in; it’s so important to save woodlands for future generations.”

“Peace of mind knowing a wood will be protected.”

David, from Colwyn Bay, vividly remembers his first trip to a Trust wood in 1976.

“Walking through dappled shade on that sweltering day inspired my love of woodland, and seeing it protected remains very important to me. I want ancient trees and woods to have the same protection as listed buildings in future, if not more, as they can never be replaced. Knowing that a small area of woodland is preserved by my legacy gives me great peace of mind.”



EDWARD PARKER/WTML

“Think about the future – not just now”

Derek and Fiona from London, simply state that **“You can plant gardens for today and next week but you plant trees not for now but for children and grandchildren. That’s really important to us, that legacy, and making a commitment to the Woodland Trust is an opportunity really to think about the future and not just now.”**



JUDITH PARY/WTML

“Woods are part of our history.”

Ian, from Leicestershire, spent many happy childhood hours exploring Sherwood Forest – and has loved woodland ever since. **“Woods are nature’s cathedrals. They are part of our history, offering so many benefits, and they must be preserved. I hope the gift in my will can maintain the history that woodland provides, and keep that heritage alive for future generations.”**



TESS CHAN/WTML

“Future generations can climb trees like I did.”

Alan, from The Wirral, grew up in Surrey and became a Woodland Trust supporter after dedicating a tree in memory of his Aunt Muriel. **“I hope my legacy will help preserve woodland for future generations, so they can climb trees and explore like I did. I know my daughter, who loves the countryside too, will fully support my legacy.”**

What your legacy could achieve

Every legacy makes a difference, however large or small. Think what yours could do!



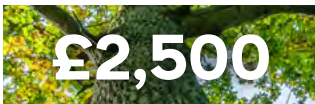
could allow us to plant and care for **20 new native trees on our land.**



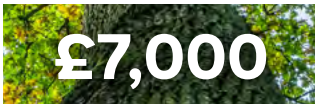
could fund an important butterfly and botanical survey, giving us the knowledge to **protect rare and vulnerable species** and ensure they have the habitat they need.



will **restore a small woodland pond**, helping support a multitude of wildlife species.



could help us **create a beautiful wildflower meadow** offering shelter and food for butterflies and pollinators.



will enable us to use horses for low impact thinning of conifers on difficult terrain, **letting in light and encouraging natural regeneration.**



could fund the building of a bridge in one of our woods – **opening up access for people to come and explore.**



brings 74 acres (30 ha) of damaged ancient **woodland into management by the Woodland Trust.**



could fund one mile (2km) of an all-weather access track, **helping people of different abilities to enjoy our woods.**



could **fund the purchase of 70 acres (28 ha)*** of land for native broadleaf planting – buffering and protecting nearby ancient woodland.

Of every pound we received in 2021/22, 88p went towards our charitable objectives. This amount fluctuates year on year, depending in particular on how much we spend on buying woods and land.

*depending on location and existing use of the land

Thank you so much for thinking about leaving a gift in your will to the Woodland Trust.

Legacies fund a third of everything we do for woods and trees. That's one in every three of the millions of trees we plant each year; a third of all the ancient woods we fight to save; and one in three of all the wildlife havens we create and protect. Your support is invaluable, and helps us protect the woods and trees you love for generations to come.

Thank you.



Discuss your wishes

Our friendly team is on hand to talk things through and help you make the choice that works for you.

Call
0330 333 3300

or email
giftsinwills@woodlandtrust.org.uk

for a confidential chat.