



WOODLAND
TRUST



Will your gift save a wood?

Creating a living legacy

Sid Candler has been working with wood for over 60 years and plans to leave his extensive collection of Royal Doulton jugs and his home to the Trust to be sold after his death. Remembering the Woodland Trust in his will is Sid's way of allaying his fears for the future of the woodland he loves. With his pledge, and others like it, the Trust can plan for a future where it can continue to nurture and protect these remarkable places that give so many people so much pleasure.

“I can't think of a better thing to do with my legacy. Woodland is one of the few places that you can escape from this crowded world. I love the changing seasons. The bluebells in spring, the leaf colours in autumn, and a wood is the most beautiful place to go when the snow falls.”



Gifts – in your lifetime or as legacies

This leaflet is designed to help those who are considering the generous step of donating land, property, personal possessions or assets like shares to the Woodland Trust either in their lifetime or through their will as a bequest or legacy.

Whatever and however you decide to give to the Trust you will be helping to create a living legacy for future generations.

Legacies of all sizes play an invaluable role in our work, helping to secure a brighter future for our priceless woodland heritage and the wildlife that relies on it. Without income from legacies hundreds of thousands of trees may not have been planted and hundreds of acres of woodland may have been left unprotected.

N.B. If you wish to leave a legacy to the Trust, we strongly recommend that you consult a solicitor or professional adviser. Please note that the wording of bequests may differ in Scotland and Northern Ireland. Your legal advisor will be able to advise you on the correct terms.

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Save tax

Gifts to charities are tax-free.

You may be interested to know that charitable bequests are exempt from both inheritance tax and Capital Gains Tax.

Lifetime gifts

You can claim income tax relief on donations to charity of land and property, certain shares, securities and other investments providing you have paid a similar amount of income tax on your income in the tax year of your gift. Relief can be claimed at basic rate (22%) or higher rate (40%), subject to your personal tax position. Similarly companies can claim corporation tax relief for donations of these types of assets to charity.

For example, if a higher rate taxpayer gives land to charity worth £100,000, the charity issues a certificate describing the gift and the date it was given and the tax-paying donor will receive a £40,000 deduction in their income tax bill, (providing they had paid at least £40,000 Income Tax on their income in the relevant tax year).



Houndtor Wood Photo ©5/ Stuart Handley

So if you have assets that you are considering leaving to charity through your will, that you no longer require, you may achieve a significant saving in income tax by donating them during your lifetime.

Legacies saved Houndtor wood, an ancient wood in Dartmoor National Park. It was planted with commercial non-native conifers, blocking out the light and suffocating much of the wildlife. But now, all kinds of flora and fauna are poised to colonise once the conditions are right. It's difficult to imagine how a legacy could be better spent.

Inheritance tax



Glen Quey WTPL/Niall Benvie

Inheritance tax is the tax payable on your estate after your death.

If the total net value of your estate comes to more than the tax threshold, currently £285,000 (2006-7)* inheritance tax is payable for every £1 over that threshold. At present, the rate is 40%, which means that the State takes 40p in every £1 over the threshold before those to whom you leave the money can benefit.

The threshold may seem high, but once you've added up the value of your home, contents, vehicles, savings, insurance and pension policies, you could well find that your estate is worth more than you think. Please see overleaf for examples of assets.

Anything over the threshold will incur tax unless left to an exempt beneficiary such as a surviving spouse or registered civil partner or charity. So if you leave a gift to the Woodland Trust in your will, its value will be deducted from your estate before inheritance tax is calculated.

**Yet to be ratified, the 2007/8, 2008/9 and 2009/10 threshold figures, announced in 2006, are: £300,000, £312,000 & £325,000 respectively.*



Bluebell WTPL

SAVE TAX

For example, an estate worth £350,000 will have £65,000 taxed at 40%, with the Inland Revenue taking £26,000. However, if £35,000 was left to the Woodland Trust (see box below), then the taxable estate would be only £30,000 over the threshold and the tax would be reduced to £12,000. So essentially, the £14,000 that would have gone to the Inland Revenue now comes to the Woodland Trust to be used in the way that you chose (see Fig 1).

£35,000 could enable us to plant 3,500 native saplings or to purchase – on average – 14 acres (5.67 hectares) of mature woodland.

Figure 1.a

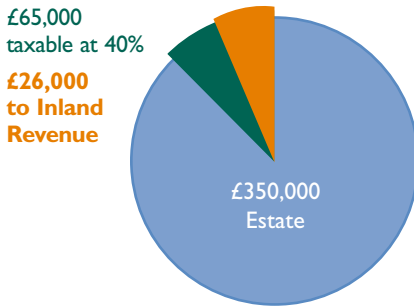
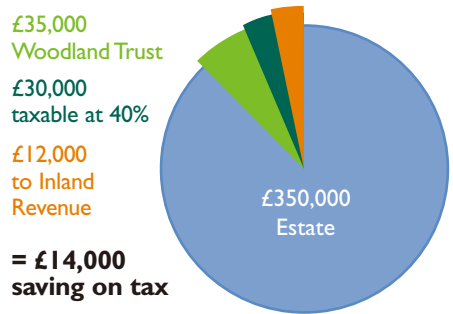


Figure 1.b



Your solicitor or financial adviser should be able assess your inheritance tax position and indicate ways in which this might be improved.

*(Examples of Assets: house, car, furniture, jewellery, clothing, sculpture, paintings, antiques, collections, bank accounts, building society accounts, stocks and shares, unit trusts, bonds and savings certificates, insurance policies, pension benefits).

For more information about calculating your assets please ask for a copy of our free brochure “Are you willing to save a wood?” or visit our dedicated website www.legacies.org.uk

Gifts of woodland, land and property

Many people kindly think of the Woodland Trust when they are planning the future of their own woodland and we are very grateful to be considered in this way. There are, however, certain factors we need to consider before accepting a gift of this nature. Whether a lifetime gift or a bequest, the Trust will assess your proposed gift in the same way, although funding for future management costs may require different approaches.

If you are thinking of donating land to the Trust, please contact us at an early stage so that we can understand your wishes and explain the options available.

The factors we need to consider are:

Our acquisition policy

The Trust wishes to create networks of valuable wildlife habitats throughout the country that can assist wildlife to survive the impact of accelerating climate change. As a charity we have a responsibility to direct our limited resources in the most effective way to protect native woodland. The Trust's acquisition policy is currently geared towards conserving substantial areas of ancient woodland under threat and acquiring land for tree planting.

Counting the cost

We have to consider how we will pay for the future maintenance of any land we accept. Site maintenance costs are often affected by location, visitor numbers, and neighbouring land uses as well as the size and shape of the site.

The most secure method of ensuring the future maintenance of a wood is to earmark a capital sum at acquisition, the income from which can pay for the maintenance costs in

To date, the Woodland Trust has planted over 6 million native trees. Without income from legacies hundreds of thousands of trees may not have been planted and hundreds of acres of woodland may have been left unprotected.



GIFTS OF WOODLAND, LAND AND PROPERTY

perpetuity. In some cases the Trust can raise some or all of the funds required from sources such as public appeals and grants. However, many of the sites we are offered cannot be funded in this way and therefore we will need to seek an appropriate contribution towards their future costs from the prospective donor.

Drumlamph was the Trust's first ancient woodland acquisition in Northern Ireland. This 46-acre (19-hectare) wood is thought to be one of Northern Ireland's few remaining ancient woods.



Drumlamph Woodland, Lderry Paul Haigney



Green Castle Woods, Carmarthenshire WTP/LSteven Kind

An example of mature native woodland at Green Castle Woods in Carmarthenshire

What we need to know

First, we will need a clear map of the site itself, a location plan showing the nearest village or town and a general description of the land concerned. We would also like to know about your needs and aspirations for the site.

If we can meet each other's needs and aspirations in principle, then we can proceed to discuss any practical, legal or management issues such as access.

Even if we conclude that the Trust isn't the most appropriate recipient of your land, we may be able to help you identify who is.

What happens next?

We will address the potential future funding of the management works, including any sources of funds that we may be able to secure ourselves. Once we agree that the Trust is likely to be the best future owner of your site and sources of funding are confirmed, the formal procedure of handing over ownership can begin.

With a lifetime gift of property, essentially the procedure is much the same as if you were selling it. You may require advice from an accountant and will almost certainly need a solicitor to ensure your interests are represented appropriately. We will agree the timing for transfer and work together to ensure that the site is appropriately funded for the future.

If you have decided to 'bequeath' land to the Trust – you need either to create a new will or to make a codicil (amendment) to your existing will, again taking appropriate professional advice.

Please see the back page for contact details.



Small tortoiseshell WTPL/Peter Paice

Specific gifts



This is a specified item such as property, jewellery, stocks and shares or other valuables. If you decide to leave items such as this to the Trust in your will these are known as specific bequests. Generally, these items are unlikely to be of practical benefit to us and our normal approach will be to sell specific items in order to fund urgent projects.

Pensions and life assurance policies

If you belong to a pension scheme or have life assurance policies, and if you so choose, you can complete an 'expression of wish'/nomination form to benefit charity. In the event of your death, part or all of the pension or life assurance benefit will be paid to your chosen charity(ies). This form notifies the trustees of your wishes and it is simple to do with no legal complications. However, not all pension schemes or life policies are set up to do this so you will need to check with your provider.

Unwanted bequests

Have you ever been left a gift in a will that you don't really want but are unsure what to do with for the best? It may be that the Trust could use this gift to benefit woodland – and so create a lasting memorial for the well-meaning person who remembered you. If inheritance tax was payable on their estate then it may be possible to reduce the inheritance tax liability through a deed of variation.

Find out more

- For more information about leaving a gift(s) in your will to the Woodland Trust please contact Vicky Furnival on 01476 581151
- If you have any queries regarding legal or tax issues please contact Helen Billing on 01347 810076
- To discuss potential gifts of land and/or woodland please contact Peter Leeson on 01768 775060
- Alternatively please e-mail legacies@woodland-trust.org.uk

Why not visit our website www.legacies.org.uk to find out more about how legacies are helping to save and protect our woodland heritage? Or request our free 36-page booklet “*Are you willing to save a wood?*”

Thank you



Acorns in hands WTPL

If you have decided to give a gift to the Trust – thank you. We are indebted to everyone for their thoughtfulness in considering the work of the Trust in this very special way.

We would be grateful if you could please complete the confidential pledge form on the open-out page. This is tremendously useful in helping us to plan for the future and gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation for your generosity.

This places you under no obligation whatsoever and is not binding in any way. Any information supplied will of course be treated confidentially.

Site details form

If after reading this leaflet, you feel that your potential gift of land might be suitable for the Woodland Trust, please complete the details below and return the form to the address overleaf.

Contact Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone No Day

Evening

Site location (Including Grid reference if possible)

Size (hectares/acres)

Description of site

(Including details of any existing tree cover)

Access availability

Buildings or any other features

Endowment available

A copy of the Ordnance Survey plan or a sketch of the site would be much appreciated.

Thank you for your kind offer. We will be in touch soon.

CONFIDENTIAL

How to pledge your bequest to the Woodland Trust

If you would like to find out more, or plan to remember the Woodland Trust in your will, it would be a great help if you could let us know by completing and returning this form.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Telephone _____

I plan to/have included a legacy to the Woodland Trust in my will (please delete as appropriate).

If you would like to please provide details

- land
- property
- stocks/shares
- other (please specify)

Please send me a copy of your free legacy booklet which contains a simple guide to making or updating a will

As a gesture of our appreciation

When you pledge to remember the Woodland Trust in your will, we will send you a key ring made from oak from our own woods and printed with our web address and telephone number.

Please tick here if you do not wish to receive the key ring:



If you are NOT a member of the Woodland Trust and would prefer not to receive further details about our work and that of associated organisations, please tick this box:

**Once complete, please return form to: The Legacy Team,
the Woodland Trust, Autumn Park, Dysart Road, Grantham,
Lincolnshire, NG31 6LL**

DETACH FORM ALONG PERFORATION



A helping hand with your legacy

If you think you could help with a legacy, thank you.

Leaving a gift to the Woodland Trust in your will is simple and straightforward. Please take a look at our easy to follow guide about updating or making a will either by visiting our website at www.legacies.org.uk or requesting a free copy of our 36-page brochure.

We would be happy to help you with any information, advice or practical assistance you may need. Please either:

Phone: 01476 581129

E-mail: legacies@woodland-trust.org.uk

Write to: The Legacy Team The Woodland Trust Autumn Park Grantham Lincolnshire NG31 6LL

Or use the contact forms on our website at: www.legacies.org.uk

We would also be happy to arrange for a member of staff to call and see you at home, if you prefer.

Cover images, left to right – Frosty leaves WTPL/EAJanes Autumn colours WTPL/Faye Lawrence
Wild service tree WTPL/Alex von Koettlitz Bluebell WTPL

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