Leaving a Legacy to WFN

Information Pack

The Whitley Fund for Nature is a Registered Charity No. 1081455
Registered Office: Calder & Co., 16 Charles II Street, London SW1Y 4NW

www.whitleyaward.org
Legacies: Frequently Asked Questions

What type of legacy most benefits WFN?
A residuary legacy is the most beneficial because it is not lessened by the rate of inflation. A residuary legacy is when you make a gift of the remainder or part of the remainder of your estate after all other specific gifts and costs have been deducted. You can leave part of the residue of your estate simply by stating the percentage or fraction of the residue that you would like to be left to WFN.

Can I leave a specific sum of money to WFN?
Yes, a specific sum (sometimes called a pecuniary legacy) is the simplest form of legacy. You can speak to your solicitor about protecting the value of your gift to WFN by directly linking it to the cost of living, so that it doesn’t reduce over time.

Can I leave specific items to WFN?
Again these types of gift are very much appreciated. You can leave WFN gifts such as property, antiques, jewellery, stocks and shares. Simply state this within the wording for a ‘specific gift’ in your Will. The money that can be released from these gifts will make a huge difference to conservation.

How often should I update my Will?
Solicitors advise that you should update your Will every few years to make sure that it reflects your changing circumstances. It is important to change your Will if your circumstances change significantly, such as through marriage, divorce, or through having children.

Can I save tax by leaving a gift to charity in my Will?
Yes. A gift in your Will to a registered charity is exempt from Inheritance Tax and is deducted from the value of your estate before taxation. For example, if your estate is worth £10,000 more than the tax threshold (currently £325,000) and, assuming Inheritance Tax is at 40% (its current rate) at the time of your death, there would be Inheritance Tax of £4,000 to be paid out of your estate. But if you made a gift to WFN of £10,000, the notional value of your estate would be reduced by that amount and there would be no tax to pay.

If you leave 10% or more of the net value of your estate to charity, then the rate of Inheritance Tax you pay on anything over the taxation threshold reduces from 40% to 36%.

Can I keep the contents of my Will private?
It is entirely up to you if you wish to share the contents of your Will during your lifetime. WFN will never ask you to tell us your wishes, but if you would like to share your intentions we’d love to hear from you. Knowing in advance gives us the opportunity to extend our thanks to you for your invaluable support.
If you have any general questions about leaving a legacy to WFN, please do not hesitate to contact WFN’s Head of Partnerships, Georgie White (georgie@whitleyaward.org). However, WFN is not qualified to give legal advice and therefore we recommend contacting a solicitor.

**Finding a solicitor**

To find a local will and probate solicitor in **England and Wales**, contact The Law Society [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)

In **Scotland**, contact The Law Society of Scotland [www.lawscot.org.uk](http://www.lawscot.org.uk)

In **Northern Ireland**, contact The Law Society of Northern Ireland [www.lawsoc-ni.org](http://www.lawsoc-ni.org)
Legal terms you might need to know when making a Will

Administrators The people appointed to sort out your estate according to law in the absence of executors, and usually in the absence of a Will. They will often be your next of kin.

Beneficiary or legatee The individual(s) or organisation(s) you have nominated to receive gifts in your Will.

Chattels and moveables These are all your personal possessions i.e. car, furniture, jewellery, etc.

Codicil An instruction which amends a previous Will rather than replacing it.

Crown or Treasury If you do not leave a valid Will and do not have identifiable heirs, the Treasury Solicitor will act for the Crown to administer your estate, which by law will pass to the Crown.

Estate Everything you own at the time of your death.

Executor The person(s) appointed by you, in your Will, to look after your affairs and ensure that your wishes are carried out. It is wise to appoint two executors in case one is unable to act for you for any reason.

Inheritance Tax A tax deducted from estates (currently 40% on anything above £325,000). Money left to your spouse or civil partner or a charity is not taxed.

Intestate and Intestacy If you die without having made a valid Will, the law declares you to be intestate. Intestacy is the term used to describe the situation.

Legacy Gifts offered in your Will or Codicils.

Pecuniary Bequest A specific sum of money that you wish to gift.

Probate The legal procedure to establish the title of your Executors to administer your estate.

Residue or Residuary Estate The remainder of your estate once all debts, costs and specific gifts have been deducted.

Specific Gift A specific item that you wish to gift, e.g. property or jewellery.

Testator or Testatrix The person making the Will – you.

Trust An arrangement you can make in your Will to administer part of your assets after your death.

Trustee Those executors who obtain probate of your Will and who manage any trust arising under your Will.

If there are any terms that you are unsure about, please speak to your legal advisor.
Suggested wording for your will

We strongly suggest you ask a solicitor or a member of the Institute of Professional Will writers to write or amend your Will. They will be able to provide the best advice on the correct wording.

Please ensure that, whatever wording is used, any legacy to us includes our full name ‘The Whitley Fund for Nature’ and ‘Registered Charity Number 1081455’ as this will avoid any doubt about our identity. If you wish, you can also include our registered office address ‘Calder & Co., 16 Charles II Street, London SW1Y 4NW, United Kingdom’.

There are four main ways in which you can leave a lasting gift to WFN:

1. **Residuary Gifts**
   A gift of a percentage or fraction of the remainder of your estate once all other gifts, costs etc. have been deducted. This can be as little as 1% or as much as 100%. Every gift, no matter what size, makes a big difference.

2. **Cash Gifts**
   A gift of a specific sum of money to WFN. You can speak to your solicitor about protecting the value of your gift by directly linking it to the cost of living, so that it doesn’t reduce over time.

3. **Specific Gifts**
   A gift of a specific item to WFN such as a property or jewellery.

4. **Reversionary Gifts**
   A gift that covers those occasions when you provide for your spouse or friend for their lifetime, giving them the use of a home or other asset, with the capital passing to your selected charity after death of the original beneficiary. Your solicitor will be able to provide you with wording for this form of legacy.

It is important to be clear and precise about the wording you use in your Will. The following words can be given to your solicitor for inclusion in your Will:

**For Residuary Gifts**
“I give to The Whitley Fund for Nature, Calder & Co., 16 Charles II Street, London SW1Y 4NW, United Kingdom, Registered Charity Number 1081455 (England & Wales) ____________________ (1% - 100%, or stated portion) of the residue of my estate for its general charitable purposes and I further direct that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper officer of the charity for the time being shall be a full and sufficient discharge for the said legacy.”
For Cash Gifts
“I give to The Whitley Fund for Nature, Calder & Co., 16 Charles II Street, London SW1Y 4NW, United Kingdom, Registered Charity Number 1081455 (England & Wales) the sum of £_____________________ for its general charitable purposes and I further direct that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper officer of the charity for the time being shall be a full and sufficient discharge for the said gift.”

For Specific Property or Item
“I give to The Whitley Fund for Nature, Calder & Co., 16 Charles II Street, London SW1Y 4NW, United Kingdom, Registered Charity Number 1081455 (England & Wales) my_____________________ for its general charitable purposes and I further direct that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper officer of the charity for the time being shall be a full and sufficient discharge for the said gift.”

If you wish your legacy to be used to support a specific part of The Whitley Fund for Nature’s work, we suggest adding the following words to the end, “and I request that the same be used ideally to further The Whitley Fund for Nature’s work around_____________”

Conservation priorities inevitably change and new critical issues arise over time. Therefore, we do ask that you consider leaving as few restrictions as possible so that any gifts can be directed to where the need is greatest. Every gift is extremely valuable and always gratefully received, and we will always do our best to honour any specific requests.
Letting us know

You don’t have to let us know what your intentions are, but if you do it gives us the opportunity to extend an enormous thank you for remembering WFN in such a valuable way.

This pledge is not legally or morally binding.

You can let us know of your legacy intentions by either contacting us using the form below or contacting me directly at:

Georgie White
The Whitley Fund for Nature, 110 Princedale Road, London W11 4NH
Email: georgie@whitleyaward.org
Tel: 020 7221 9752

(Delete as appropriate)

I have already remembered WFN in my Will
I intend to remember WFN when I write or next update my Will
I would like to know more about leaving a gift to WFN in my Will and how such a gift can support the charity’s work

Title: Mr Mrs Miss Ms Other
____________________________________________________________________
First Name: __________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
Last Name: __________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
Telephone Number: __________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
Email: ______________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________
Town: _______________________________________________________________
County: ______________________________________________________________
Postcode: _____________________________________________________________
Country: ______________________________________________________________

Any information you give us in this form will be treated in the strictest confidence. It will be kept secure and not shared with any third party. This pledge does not place you under any obligation.
Thank you...

Thank you for letting us know your legacy intentions. Gifts in Wills are one of the most valuable ways in which you can support our work to protect wildlife and benefit local communities for generations to come.