



LEAVING A GIFT IN
YOUR WILL

*For the love of trees,
forever*

Thank you

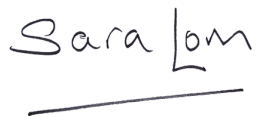
For 50 years, The Tree Council has brought together charities, decision makers and nature-lovers to plant, care for and protect the beautiful trees and hedgerows that safeguard the air we breathe, the soils we farm and the wildlife we cherish.

History has gifted our country more ancient native oak trees than the rest of Europe combined (more than 49,000 ancient and veteran oaks have been counted across the UK), alongside our wonderful hedgerow and orchard heritage. These special treescapes need our protection. At the same time, we need to create new groves and copses, avenues and spinneys, to combat climate change, and offer homes for wildlife and resilience to pests and diseases.

With you as our partner, we can achieve some amazing things to safeguard our country's important environmental and cultural heritage far into the future.

A gift in your Will could unite children and teachers from across the country in the mission of greening their school grounds; it could fund ground-breaking research that brings together the academic rigour of top universities with the powerful force of citizen science to address the most pressing threats to trees and hedgerows; it could support the work of thousands of volunteer Tree Wardens establishing community tree nurseries and caring for the health of their local trees.

Thank you for considering a gift for the future,



Sara Lom,
Chief Executive





A gift in your Will can help safeguard the future of precious trees, hedgerows and the wildlife they support for generations to come.

Why leave a gift to The Tree Council in your Will?

Working together for the love of trees

For 50 years, we have brought people together with a shared mission to care for trees.

Leaving a gift in your Will is the most long-lasting way to help us plant and protect trees for the next 50 years and beyond. Your gift will support our work ensuring habitats, heritage and knowledge continue to thrive in the decades and centuries to come.

At the heart of everything The Tree Council does is collaboration; by working with charity partners, government bodies and our volunteer Tree Wardens to fund, plant and care for trees, we can ensure enduring impact that will stand the test of time.

Tree cover in the UK currently stands at just 13%, compared to a European average of 46%. In the last 100

years, we've lost over 80% of our traditional orchards and around half of our wildlife-connecting, carbon-storing heritage hedgerows.

Our mission is to help reverse this trend and create a greener, tree-filled future for people, wildlife and our planet.



Our promise

We know that leaving a gift in your Will is a personal matter and that first and foremost you will want to provide for your loved ones. We would simply like to ask if you would also consider supporting The Tree Council once such decisions have been made. If you are thinking of leaving a gift to safeguard trees and the natural world for generations to come, we promise that:

- We will value any gift, whatever the size.
- Unless otherwise specified, your gift will be used where we believe it can have the greatest impact.
- Your enquiry will be handled with sensitivity and privacy.
- You can change your mind at any time about your gift to The Tree Council.



How your gift can make a difference

Impact that stands the test of time

For your gift to have the most impact, we would like to be able to use it wherever the need is greatest. But if you feel strongly about a specific area of work, please contact Cat Gransden at cat.gransden@treecouncil.org.uk
Your gift could:



Community action

Plant, care for and raise awareness of trees and hedgerows in hundreds of communities across the country



Important trees

Advocate for and protect the country's ancient and veteran trees and their vital habitats



Young learning

Inspire the next generation of young environmentalists through our education programme



Science & action research

Contribute important scientific research to support policy makers and landowners to make the best decisions for trees and nature



Gillian's gift

"I'm very thankful that my mum's legacy gift has been put towards The Tree Council's work with young people. She was particularly passionate about the benefits of caring for, respecting, and enjoying the natural world, and our woodlands in particular. My son, her grandson, Elliot, was just six years old when she passed away, but we all have wonderful memories of her taking him out for adventures in the countryside with her dog and explaining to him (and, sometimes, to me!) how to identify different plants.

It is extremely fitting that her legacy will introduce people who might not otherwise have the chance to do so to appreciate the importance and joy that can come from a closer relationship with our natural environment, and treescapes in particular."

Types of legacy you may wish to consider

There are three main types of legacy you could consider:

Residuary legacy

Once family and loved ones have been provided for, the remainder or a proportion (i.e. a percentage) of an estate is given to charity. This involves the bequest of all or part of your net estate after other legacies and provisions have been made.

This means that you don't need to quantify the sum you wish to leave, or take into account the effect of inflation in the future.

Suggested sample wording for a residuary legacy –

"I give...(%) of the residue of my estate to The Tree Council of 14 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London, SE16 2XU, Registered Charity Number 279000 to be assigned at the discretion of The Tree Council."

Pecuniary legacy

This is sometimes known as a monetary gift, and is a simple legacy of a specified sum of money. Its value can be negatively impacted by inflation over time. If you wish to avoid this, we suggest setting aside a percentage of your net estate (residuary legacy), rather than a fixed sum.

Suggested sample wording for a pecuniary legacy –

"I give the sum of ...(pounds) to The Tree Council of 14 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London, SE16 2XU, Registered Charity Number 279000 to be assigned at the discretion of The Tree Council."

Specific legacy

It is also possible to leave gifts in the form of shares or other assets such as property, valuables, stocks and other securities which can then be sold.

The wording for this would be similar to a pecuniary legacy but with a full description of the item/s.

Frequently asked questions

Is a legacy gift exempt from inheritance tax?

Legacies left to The Tree Council can be tax effective, as gifts to charities are currently exempt from inheritance tax. At time of publication, the inheritance tax threshold is £325,000. Legislation allows for further tax benefits on legacies as for anyone leaving more than 10% of the net value of their estate, the tax rate on the rest of your estate can be reduced from 40% to 36%. Please check for current legislation.

Why do you ask for unrestricted gifts?

Unrestricted gifts enable us to put your donation to the most effective use at the time at which it is received.

However, you can certainly request that your gift is used for a specific purpose. We would be very grateful if you could please share these intentions with us, either by contacting the team or completing our legacy pledge form.

I can't make a large gift, is it still worth making a legacy?

Absolutely! We are hugely grateful for donations of all sizes – all are valuable in supporting our work and helping us to achieve our charitable mission of creating a tree-filled future.

Should I seek professional advice?

The information we provide about legacies is not intended to constitute legal or taxation advice by The Tree Council.

We strongly advise anyone wishing to make or update their Will to seek independent professional advice from a solicitor.

Lifetime giving

While considering making a gift to charity in your Will, you may also be interested to know more about lifetime giving.

Lifetime giving can often play an important part of legacy planning, as charitable gifts made during your lifetime can help reduce the inheritance tax that would be payable on your estate. As well as having significant tax benefits, lifetime giving also allows you to witness the impact of your support on The Tree Council's work and, if you choose, to become more closely involved with the charity.



Lifetime giving

Gifts of shares

As an alternative to cash gifts, shares can be donated to The Tree Council. This can be a very tax-efficient way of supporting a charity; you don't have to pay any capital gains tax on shares that you give to charity, and this is immediately effective for inheritance tax purposes. A gift of shares can also help mitigate your income tax liabilities, especially if you are a higher rate tax payer.

It is important to note that not all shares are eligible for tax relief and a full list can be found on the HMRC website at www.gov.uk/recognised-stock-exchanges. Please seek professional advice from your investment advisor before donating shares.

Find out more

If you are interested in making a lifetime gift to The Tree Council please do get in touch and we'd be happy to discuss further with you.

Get in touch

Next steps

If you would like to leave a gift to The Tree Council in your Will here are some suggested next steps:

- If you have already made a Will naming The Tree Council as a beneficiary but have not yet told us about it, we would love you to let us know. You can do this by either contacting us or by completing and returning the enclosed pledge form.
- If you have not yet made a Will, please consider contacting a solicitor for professional advice.
- If you have already made a Will and would like to make an alteration to include a gift to The Tree Council, please contact a solicitor to complete a simple codicil.

Our confidential pledge form

We understand that many people prefer for their Will to remain a private matter. On the other hand, we value the opportunity to say thank you during your lifetime.

If you would like to let us know that you have included a gift to The Tree Council in your Will, please complete the enclosed pledge form and return it to us by post, or complete it online by visiting:

www.treecouncil.org.uk/who-we-are/support-us/legacies

Your legacy pledge

Thank you for letting us know of your intention to leave a gift in your Will to The Tree Council. The information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence, and this pledge is not binding in any way. You can change your mind at any point in the future should your circumstances or priorities change.

Your details

Title

First name

Surname

Home address

Postcode

Contact phone number

Email

Your connection, if any, to The Tree Council

Your legacy intentions

Please tick all that apply

- ☐ *I have included a legacy to The Tree Council in my Will.*
- ☐ *I intend to include a legacy to The Tree Council in my Will but I have not yet changed my Will to reflect my wishes.*
- ☐ *I intend to include a legacy to The Tree Council in my Will but have not yet written my Will.*
- ☐ *I would like someone to contact me to discuss my legacy plans.*
- ☐ *Other (please specify below).*

I would like my legacy to:

- ☐ *Be an unrestricted gift: I trust The Tree Council to dedicate my gift to the area / project which needs most support and will have maximum benefit at the time of its receipt.*
- ☐ *Other (please specify below).*

(Optional) The estimated value of my proposed legacy is:

More overleaf



Your legacy pledge

Keeping in touch

- ☐ *If you would like a member of the team to contact you to discuss your legacy gift, please tick here.*
- ☐ *If you would like to find out more about lifetime giving, please tick here and a member of the team will be in touch.*
- ☐ *If you would like your legacy to be anonymous, please tick here.*
- ☐ *You can stay up-to-date with The Tree Council's work by subscribing to our free, friendly, newsletter, The Leaflet. To opt-in please tick here (you can unsubscribe at any time).*





Get in touch

Our team would be pleased to talk with you in confidence about leaving a gift to The Tree Council in your Will and to answer any questions you may have.

If you would like to speak directly to a member of our team, please send an email to our Head of Development, Cat Gransden, and we will promptly be in touch.

@ cat.gransden@treecouncil.org.uk

✉ The Tree Council, 14 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London, SE16 2XU

🌐 www.treecouncil.org.uk



*Every gift helps to grow an
enduring legacy*



The Tree Council is a Registered Charity, number 279000



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**