

Leaving a Gift in your Will

Why should I leave a gift for Sylva Foundation in my will?

Leaving a legacy gift to Sylva Foundation is a powerful way to ensure your commitment to our charitable work continues beyond your lifetime. Sylva Foundation believes that trees and forests underpin life on earth, and, if cared for as part of a dynamic living landscape, they will benefit both people and nature. If you share this belief then leaving a gift in your Will could make a transformative difference to our ongoing work to achieve a sustainable society and environment.

Will my family and friends miss out if I leave a gift to Sylva Foundation?

No. Family and friends come first. After making provision for family and friends, it's simple to leave a legacy gift and, by doing so, you will help support the Sylva Foundation, well beyond your lifetime.

Will I have to pay tax on my gift to Sylva Foundation?

No. Legacies are currently exempt from Inheritance Tax, and with 80p in every £1 donated going directly to our work, you can be sure that your gift will be used wisely.

Can I reduce my inheritance tax by giving to Sylva Foundation?

[Gifts to charities in Wills](#) are altogether exempt from inheritance tax. And if you give over 10 per cent of your estate to charity, you can benefit from a discounted inheritance tax rate of 36 per cent across the remainder of your estate.

This can bring not only the tax payable down significantly but also benefits both loved ones and charities. As such, it can pay to remember a charity.

How can I leave a gift to Sylva Foundation?

We are pleased to provide three options for you to consider if you may wish to leave a legacy gift to Sylva Foundation in your Will.

1. Contact a Solicitor.
2. You can contact your own solicitor or find one through [The Law Society](#) to discuss your needs.
3. If you already have a Will and want to leave a gift to us, contact your solicitor and let them know your intentions. You can work with them either to (a) make a new Will, or (b) write a shorter and less expensive 'Codicil'.

4. Please ensure that your solicitor uses our full name: 'Sylva Foundation', our charity number: 1128516 (for England and Wales) or SC041892 (for Scotland), and our registered address: Sylva Foundation, Sylva Wood Centre, Little Wittenham Road, Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire, OX14 4QT.
5. Make a Will by booking a home visit.
6. You can make a fixed-price simple Will in the comfort of your own home through The Goodwill Partnership. [Click on this link to take you to a page that Sylva Foundation has created with The Goodwill Partnership](#). This will help you make an appointment to discuss making a Will at your convenience.
7. Make a Free Online Will
8. If you are a resident in England or Wales, we offer a free online Will writing service with Make a Will Online. [Click on this link to take you to a page that Sylva Foundation has created with Make A Will Online](#).
9. [Please note, due to different Laws which apply in Scotland, we are unable to provide this service to Scottish residents.]

Can you tell me more about making a free online Will?

All Wills made using the [Make A Will Online](#) service are checked by a fully-qualified solicitor, and if you have a question you can call their helpline. To help us with our campaign, details of your gift will be shared with us: the amount of any gift and the date you made the Will. We would be very grateful if you also choose to share your name and your contact details, but this is optional. We may contact you to thank you and to keep you updated with information about us.

If you prefer, you can make a Will and leave a legacy to us without sharing this information by paying for the Will directly yourself here:

www.makeawillonline.co.uk/online-wills. Whether or not you choose to share information about your gift with us: we are enormously grateful to your decision to help us with a gift in your Will.

What happens if I don't have a Will?

If you haven't already made a Will you can make one and leave a gift of a specific amount of money or a proportion of your estate to us and other charities. Once your family and friends are catered for, anything you can provide us will make a huge difference to our work.

What are the different types of Legacies?

Residuary legacies

A residuary legacy is where you leave whatever is left over from your estate once all other gifts and expenses have been deducted. You can leave the entire residue to one beneficiary (a person or charity for example), or it can be divided among a number of beneficiaries. An important aspect of residuary legacies is that they do not lose their value over time, so it is not so important to review your Will regularly.

Suggested wording for your Will:

"I give to the Sylva Foundation, Sylva Wood Centre, Little Wittenham Road, Long Wittenham, OX14 4QT (Registered Charity 1128516 in England and Wales, and in Scotland SC041892) all of the residue of my estate for its general purposes."

Specific legacies

A specific legacy is an individual item of value, such as land or property. Please do discuss this with us before making your Will.

Reversionary legacies

Here you can leave assets to be used by a named beneficiary during their lifetime, after which the assets pass to the Sylva Foundation.

Conditional legacies

This would name the Sylva Foundation as a beneficiary should any or all of your other named beneficiaries die before you.

How can I find out more about leaving a gift to Sylva Foundation in my Will?

If you are considering leaving a gift to Sylva Foundation in your Will and would like to discuss it first, you can contact us **01865 408018**