

Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

Frequently asked questions

Q. Would my estate have to pay tax on the value of any gift I make to Butterfly Conservation in my will?

A. No. Butterfly Conservation is a registered charity, therefore a gift made to Butterfly Conservation in your will would be exempt from Inheritance Tax.

Q. Can I leave a gift to be used towards a specific area of Butterfly Conservation's work, such as education for young people?

A. Yes. But please remember conservation priorities do change over time. If possible please discuss your ideas with us first, especially if you are thinking of leaving Butterfly Conservation land, or a gift towards land purchase, as we would need to plan how the future ongoing costs of managing that land can be met.

Q. Can I make Butterfly Conservation an executor of my will?

A. Yes, but we recommend that you consider appointing your solicitor or bank as the other executor.

Q. Is there a recommended form of wording I should use if I decide to include a legacy to Butterfly Conservation in my will?

A. We have provided a suggested form of wording, which is downloadable from this website. Please see How to include Butterfly Conservation in your will.

However, we strongly advise that you use a qualified solicitor or professional legal adviser when making or amending a will. If you decide to leave a gift to Butterfly Conservation please ensure you include our correct charity number and address in your will.

Q. Must I tell Butterfly Conservation if I am planning to leave the charity a gift?

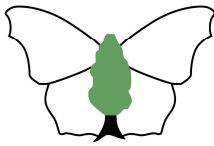
A. No. We would like to thank you if you are planning to leave a gift to Butterfly Conservation, but we recognise that writing a will is a private matter, so please do not feel you have to let us know. However, if you plan to leave Butterfly Conservation an inkind gift, especially land, it would be helpful if you could discuss your intentions with us first.

Q. Why do I need a will?

A. There are several good reasons!

1. If you do not make a will, the rules of intestacy will apply, which means that your assets will be divided between your relatives according to statutory rules, and therefore may go to people you do not wish to benefit when you die. In the event that you die without relatives then your estate would go to the Crown instead of, for example, to favourite charities if you had made a will.

2. You can appoint your own executors, who will put into effect the terms of your will and these will be people you trust implicitly.



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3. You can appoint guardians for any minor children you may have should you die before they reach 18 years of age.
4. Making a will also enables you to put in hand tax planning measures to avoid, as far as possible, inheritance tax depleting your estate.
5. If you are neither married nor in a civil partnership your partner will not inherit automatically on your death and therefore if you make a will you can ensure that your partner is provided for.
6. In a will you can leave bequests of certain items or cash legacies to people who have been important to you during your lifetime.

Q. Is it expensive to make a will?

A. The cost for making a will can be around £100 for a single will and £150 for mirror wills. Contact your own solicitor to discuss your requirements, but make sure the solicitor is a specialist in this area of work.

Q. How can I reduce the amount of Inheritance Tax on the value of my estate?

A. If the value of your estate is greater than £325,000, anything above that sum is potentially liable to inheritance tax at 40%. By including a legacy to a registered charity, such as Butterfly Conservation, you will reduce the amount of your estate taken by the government. Remember that your estate includes everything you own, including your home and car, investments, life insurance policies and any valuables. Leaving a gift to Butterfly Conservation in your will costs you nothing in your lifetime and all bequests to charities are free of inheritance tax.

Q. What is the difference between a pecuniary legacy and a residuary legacy?

A. A pecuniary legacy or gift is for a specific sum of money. The relative value of this type of legacy will decrease over time if inflation rises. A residuary legacy or gift is where you leave all or part of the value of your estate once all other legacies and liabilities have been paid. This is the most effective gift you can make whilst also ensuring that friends and family are also properly provided for, as proportionally its value does not devalue over time.

Q. If I need more information, is there anyone I can ask for advice?

A. We strongly advise that you use a qualified solicitor or professional legal adviser when making or amending a will. They will be able to provide you with up-to-date information on how to draw up your will. However, our Head of Fundraising, David Bridges, will be happy to try to answer any questions you may have. Contact David by telephone on 01403 256175, by email legacies@butterfly-conservation.org or write to him at Butterfly Conservation, Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP.