

# Leave a legacy that lasts for generations



Game & Wildlife  
CONSERVATION TRUST

“As farmers, the research conducted by the Trust is central to understanding the environment in which we work and play. Solid information is important if we are to continue to preserve the wonderful countryside and wildlife abundant in this country, and therefore protect our surroundings and way of life.”

**Robert & Claire Smith,  
GWCT Members and legators**

---

# Thank you for considering a gift in your Will

Like you, I am incredibly passionate about our countryside.

In my time as Chief Executive, I've seen many changes to the way in which it is managed, how it is viewed and the challenges it has faced.

One constant has been the dedication and loyalty of our supporters. The science you support has been proven to have an impact time and again. Today we face increased challenges to conservation practices we have shown to work for wildlife. Legal challenges to general licences, a growing movement arguing for a ban on burning, and debates over the future of grouse shooting and pheasant releasing.

When these issues are discussed, our peer-reviewed research comes to the fore. Much of this research was conducted 10, 20 or 30 years ago and we didn't ever think it would be needed in this way. It's difficult to know what other challenges are around the corner, but I know that the Trust, with your help, will be leading the way in providing innovative solutions and anticipating change for generations to come.

It's what people like you have helped us to do for many years.



Mrs Teresa Dent CBE  
Chief Executive



---

# How you can help us to leave Britain's countryside in a better place

Today, our work can be seen throughout the fields, farms and moors of Britain. By leaving a gift in your Will, you can make the countryside thrive for generations to come.

Our team of 80 scientists undertake research throughout England, Scotland and Wales, covering subjects ranging from pheasant releasing to soil health, and the importance of predator control through to sea trout survival.





**Working with local farmers, we have recovered lapwing in the Avon Valley from 61 pairs to over 100, despite national declines**

For almost 100 years, our findings have played an important role in informing how the landscape is managed alongside ever-changing demands. We demonstrated the impact of predators such as foxes on ground-nesting birds; we showed how well-managed shoots can offer a genuine boost to biodiversity; we showed how farmers are helping our environment, and how they can do more.

Today, we are leading the way – not only in research but in giving those who manage the countryside the tools they need to help wildlife thrive in a working landscape. Our submissions to the government help politicians make better-informed decisions, whether on snaring or songbirds.

We have only been able to achieve this thanks to our members and supporters who have helped fund our ground-breaking work. We hope you will consider joining the hundreds of people who have made a difference by leaving us a gift in their Will. Your legacy has the potential to make our countryside a better place for both the wildlife and the people who enjoy it for years to come.

Legacies have helped us to support over 100 successful PhD students - many of whom are now staff at the GWCT and other conservation bodies.

---

## **Legacies have helped make our ground-breaking research possible**

Legacies are an increasingly important source of funds for us. They have supported our findings and allowed us to further our research throughout our history, providing a better understanding of our countryside and improving the fate of many species.



The grouse counts undertaken by the GWCT over 30 years provide a vital insight into our uplands.

---

Legacies have helped us to make the Allerton Project one of the leading centres of farmland research in Britain. They have helped us to build on that success at Auchnerran, our Scottish demonstration farm which is tackling the real-life problems of running a profitable wildlife-friendly farm in a completely different and challenging setting. Legacies also support our education programme, not only going into universities and colleges but hiring undergraduate, master's and PhD students – many of who go on to become experts in their field.

### **We are the voice of working conservation**

The impact of a legacy doesn't stop there. The research it supports goes into policy, informs the best practices guidance and ends up in the hands of those who deliver success on the ground through our advisory courses. Thanks to research like ours, farmers are now incentivised for doing the right thing for the environment, such as planting conservation

headlands and the importance of managing predators is accepted by organisations across the country. There is still work to be done. Many traditional management tools, from heather burning to controlling pest species, are being challenged and a robust evidence base is needed.

### **That's why leaving us a gift in your Will makes a difference.**

It means we can look forward and invest in our research so that those who can improve the situation in our countryside – gamekeepers, farmers, landowners, communities and politicians – have the power to do so. If we can inform the debate with reasoned fact rather than emotion, they can be free to put those findings into practice.

---

**“I can think of no better way to demonstrate a true respect for the British countryside and its wildlife than to say ‘I am a supporter of the GWCT’**

Richard Negus, writer and hedgelayer

---

# Over 80 years of leading the way

Our research, informing government policy and inspiring land managers, has helped to shape the landscape for decades and, with your support, will continue to do so.



**1930s-50s**

The ICI Game Research Station funded the launch of Britain's first partridge counting scheme, led by Doug Middleton at Oxford University's Bureau of Animal Population.

At our Game Research Station headquarters in Knebworth, practical research was performed by gamekeepers and advisory officers aimed to “make two birds fly where one flew before” through sensible conservation and game management.



**1960s**

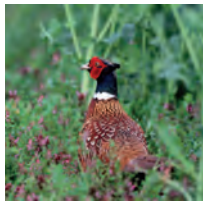
We launched the Sussex Study - now the longest-running monitoring project in the world looking at the impact of farming on fauna and flora. This has been instrumental in the development of conservation headlands and beetle banks – helping insects and birdlife on Britain's farms.

Our work on pesticides helped to bring in a ban on the use of harmful seed dressings such as dieldrin. This ban was a recovery of bird populations, particularly birds of prey.



**1970s**

We developed beetle banks - havens for insect-eating ground beetles and conservation headlands - similar “wild” areas on the edges of fields, where pesticide use is restricted – which are now commonplace in the environment.



**1980s**

We were registered as a research & education charity under the name The Game Conservancy Trust.

Our Cereals and Gamebirds Research Project redefined the use of agricultural pesticides – encouraging the industry to think about their impact on beneficial insects for the first time.

Our scientists demonstrated the impact of predation on the breeding success and population density of grey partridges. The Salisbury Plain Study was a landmark moment in the national understanding of predator control.



**1990s**

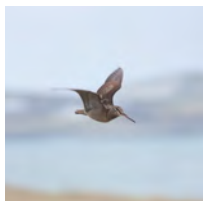
Our work began at Allerton Project, advancing public education on farming methods and their impact on the environment and wildlife.

The Joint Raptor Study provided a scientific examination of the relationship between birds of prey and red grouse for the first time.



**2000s**

We conceived and tested the GWCT Mink Raft – now a vital tool used across the globe to monitor and control the species. Its use on the River Monnow helped to eliminate mink and re-introduce water voles.



**2010s**

Our Woodcock Watch project tracked more than 65 birds on their migratory journeys – some as far as Western Russia.

Following over 30 years of discussion, we played an important role in getting the Hen Harrier Joint Action Plan published. Focusing on six key areas, the plan aims to produce a self-sustaining and well-dispersed breeding population in England.



## Helping the countryside to thrive beyond your lifetime

If we are to tackle the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, we need a well-managed active countryside.

Right now, there are increasing challenges to the traditional and proven ways of managing the countryside for wildlife. Our research provides a robust, peer-reviewed case for doing what works.

No other organisation has the same relationship with those working on the ground delivering real change. Without the GWCT, who would provide the scientific argument that puts facts at the centre of policy and practice in our countryside?

Your legacy will not only support the future of the GWCT, but the future of our countryside and the practices and wildlife we hold dear.

---

# How to leave a gift in your Will

Making or amending your Will is a big decision but with the guidance of a solicitor, it needn't be difficult. Your solicitor can use the wording and details below to ensure that your wishes are carried out.

Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust of Burgate Manor, Fordingbridge, SP6 1EF, Registered Charity Number in England and Wales 1112023, in Scotland SC038868.

---

**“I am leaving a gift as a thank you to the GWCT for providing the independent data to Government and other bodies to support shooting and fishing and all the benefits it brings to the countryside and wildlife itself. I hope it will be a small help that it will continue into the future.”**

David Ramply, GWCT member, committee member and legator



Your legacy can support our research across the British countryside.



---

# Our mission

- We use science to promote game and wildlife management as an essential part of nature conservation.
- We develop scientifically researched game and wildlife management techniques.
- We promote our work to conservationists, including farmers and landowners and offer an on-site advisory service on all aspects of game and wildlife management, so that Britain's countryside and its wildlife are enhanced for the public benefit.
- We influence government policy with sound science that creates progressive and effective policies.
- We support best practice for field sports that contribute to improving the biodiversity of the countryside.

**Your legacy can help us to achieve these goals.**

---

**"I have taken part in and thoroughly enjoyed field sports for over 60 years and I consider it is right and proper to put something back so that others may enjoy sports in the future. With this in mind, I feel that the GWCT is the only organisation that will positively help to progress these sports into the future."**

John Turner, GWCT member and legator

**"The work of the GWCT is extremely important in maintaining the countryside & promoting the scientific basis of country sports showing that they should be encouraged & supported for the benefit to all including the wildlife itself"**

Ian Wilson, GWCT member and legator



# Our promise to you

Making a gift to the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust in your Will shows your dedication to protecting the British countryside for generations to come. We understand the importance of this decision and will ensure that:

- We will respect your privacy. A Will is a personal document and we will not ask you for any details.
- Your gift will be used to support our charitable objects – promoting a countryside rich in game and other wildlife. Our Trustees will ensure your money is used where it will have the most impact.
- If you choose to tell us that you are leaving a gift to the GWCT, we will keep you informed about our latest work and include you as an Honorary Fellow. Honorary Fellows are a special group of supporters who have pledged their support in their Will and are invited to bespoke events.
- We are here to help you. If you would like to know more about our work and how we use legacies, please get in touch with us at any time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call our Legacy Officer, James Swyer, for more information. You can contact James by calling 01425 651021 or emailing [legacies@gwct.org.uk](mailto:legacies@gwct.org.uk).



If you have any questions about leaving a gift in your Will, or the impact these can have on the countryside, please get in touch.

Call our Legacies Officer on:  
**01425 651021**

Email:  
**legacies@gwct.org.uk**

Visit:  
**gwct.org.uk/legacy**

Write to:  
**Legacies Team  
GWCT  
Burgate Manor  
Fordingbridge  
SP6 1EF**

Charity registered in England and Wales,  
1112023, in Scotland SC038868



**Game & Wildlife**  
CONSERVATION TRUST