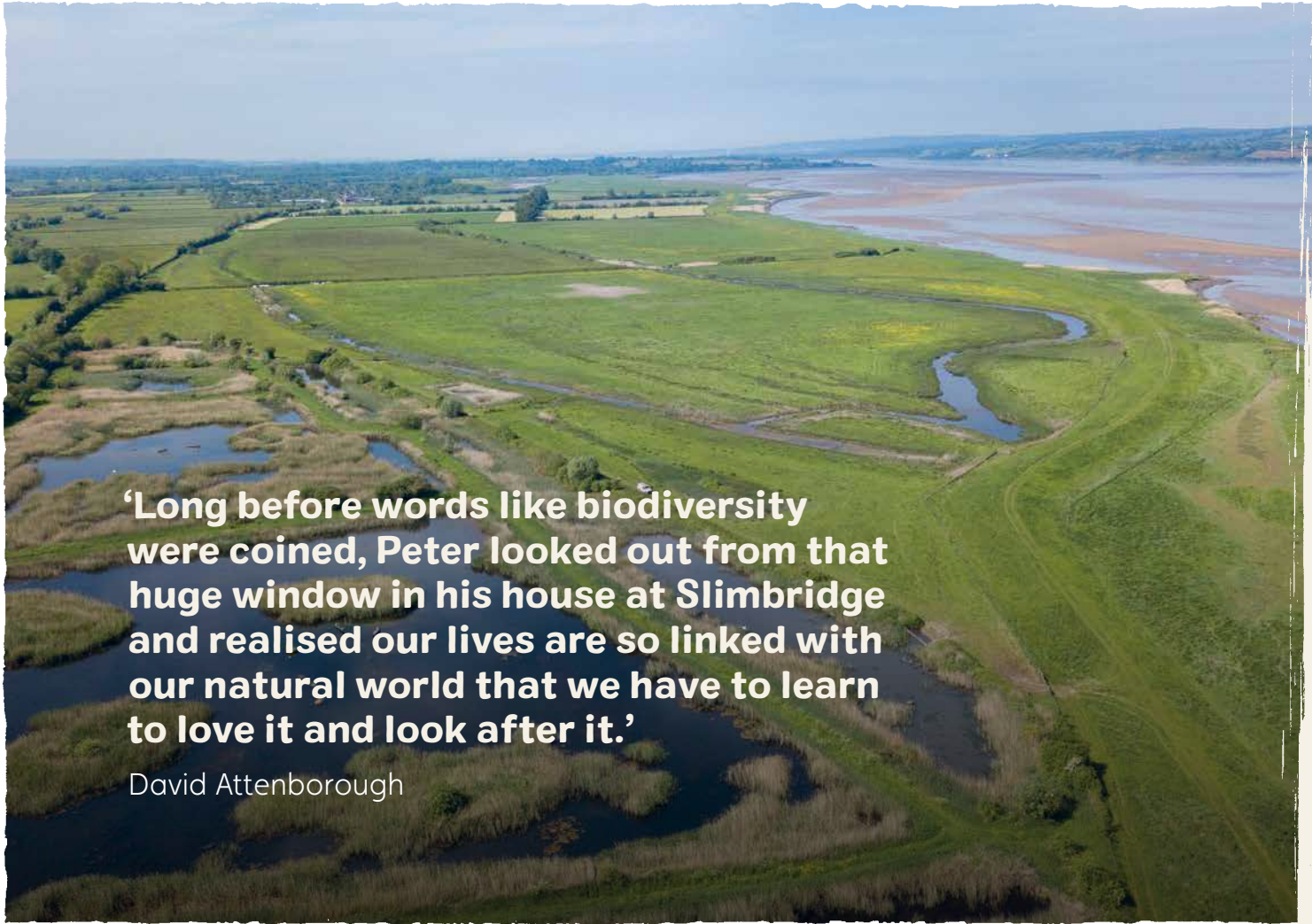


A Guide to Gifts in Wills: how you can pass on the gift of nature





‘Long before words like biodiversity were coined, Peter looked out from that huge window in his house at Slimbridge and realised our lives are so linked with our natural world that we have to learn to love it and look after it.’

David Attenborough

In 1989 Sir Peter Scott left a priceless gift for us all to enjoy.

Before sitting down to write this, I took a short walk.

I'm fortunate to be based here at WWT Slimbridge and, as I write this, we are on the cusp of autumn, my favorite time of year. This magnificent landscape will soon be alive with thousands of overwintering lapwing, golden plover, pochard, pintail, white-fronted geese and many more. As if that weren't enough, our beloved Bewick's swans will soon be joining us after their long migration from their summer breeding grounds. To be so immersed in the sights and sounds of nature was simply breath-taking.

What a wonderful gift it is, I thought to myself, to be part of this natural landscape.

Sir Peter Scott, the founder of WWT, is widely remembered as one of the fathers of modern conservation. Throughout his life he was determined not only to protect and restore our wonderful natural world, but also to make sure that each and every one of us could enjoy and appreciate it. That's why he built his work on three key pillars: conserving species, restoring and protecting the wetland habitats they rely on, and connecting people directly with nature.

It was that drive to connect people that led him to create WWT Slimbridge, along with the other nine sites that followed. So in a very real sense, the type of gloriously uplifting experience I had this morning – and that I am sure you must have had yourself on many occasions – truly was a gift. A gift from Sir Peter to us all.

Through your involvement with WWT – however you've chosen to support us – you have helped to keep the spirit of Sir Peter's work alive.

Your support has enabled us to draw on over seven decades of experience in wetland conservation pioneered by Sir Peter, so that we can continue to work to put wetlands centre stage. Now I am hoping you will consider going one step further. By including a gift to WWT in your Will, you can do exactly what Sir Peter did. You can pass on the gift of nature to the next generation.

With our natural world threatened by environmental crises on an unprecedented scale, I am sure I don't have to tell you just how fragile that gift is and how much it needs our dedication. I hope this guide will be helpful as you consider whether including WWT in your Will is the right decision for you.



Lucy England, Legacy Manager
Tel: 01453 891150 Email: giftsinwills@wwt.org.uk

Through your love of wetland nature, you've continued Sir Peter's legacy.

Sir Peter Scott was one of the first naturalists to recognise the vital part that wetlands play in the world's ecosystem. From the mightiest river estuary to the smallest farmland pond, wetlands are some of the most biodiverse habitats on the planet, providing homes for many thousands of endangered species.

Opening WWT Slimbridge in 1946 was the first step in Sir Peter's mission to make these beautiful natural environments open and available for us all to enjoy. He knew that fostering that connection was a vital step towards protecting and restoring wetlands and the wildlife they support.

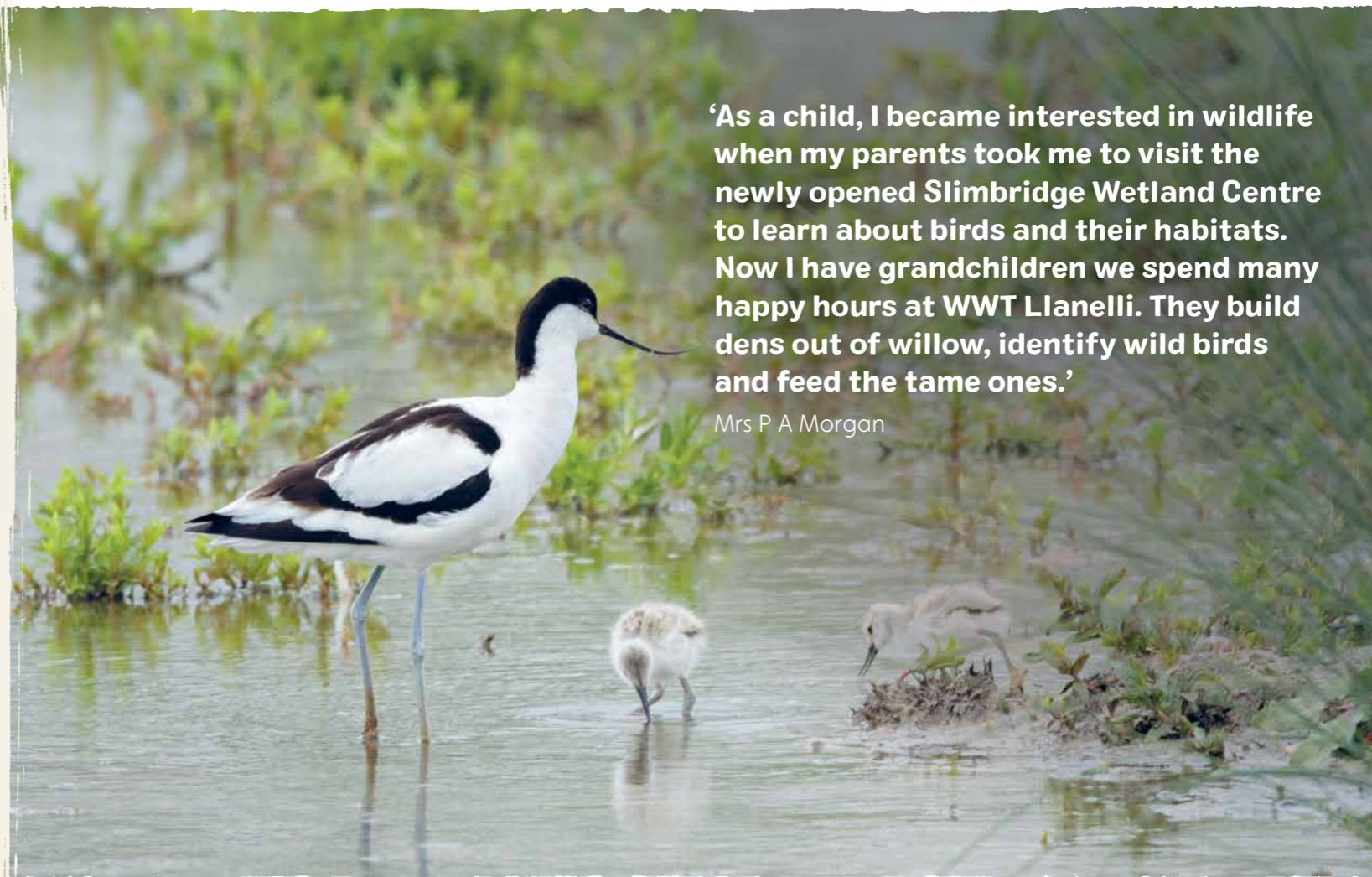
Today our ten sites stretch right across the UK.

By visiting any one of them, or donating time or money to support them, you are helping to protect and restore the world's wetlands and the wildlife that relies on them. It is your contribution that makes WWT's pioneering conservation work possible, both here in the UK and around the world.



Right now, our wetlands – and with them our whole natural environment – are facing a greater danger than at any other time in human history. If the next generation is going to enjoy the gift of nature as we have all been able to do, WWT's work must continue into the future.

Thankfully there is something we can all do today to protect our natural world tomorrow.



'As a child, I became interested in wildlife when my parents took me to visit the newly opened Slimbridge Wetland Centre to learn about birds and their habitats. Now I have grandchildren we spend many happy hours at WWT Llanelli. They build dens out of willow, identify wild birds and feed the tame ones.'

Mrs P A Morgan

‘I want to know that when I am gone I am helping WWT to continue their work and that the birds I love do not become extinct!’

Margaret Ireson



By including WWT in your Will, you can pass the gift of nature on to future generations

When you read about the climate crisis, the loss of our biodiversity and the destruction of the natural world, the future can seem very bleak. However WWT's work, the work you have been supporting, proves there is real cause for optimism – and it resides in our wonderful wetlands.

Despite currently taking up only 3% of the planet's surface, wetlands store almost a third of the world's soil carbon. That makes them a vital ally in our effort to combat climate change. And it's just one of the reasons why, over the coming years, we have set ourselves the goal alongside others, to create and restore over 100,000 hectares of wetland habitat across the UK.

This 'blue recovery' will mean greater biodiversity, better flood management, more carbon storage, cleaner water and more nature for all future generations to enjoy.

At the same time we have equally ambitious plans to share our wetland expertise around the world.



In Madagascar, on the shores of Lake Sofia, we are already showing how a vulnerable community and the world's rarest duck, the Madagascar Pochard, can both live and thrive alongside each other when we respect and harness the power of wetlands.

With our work stretching from China to Cambodia and Russia to Myanmar, this is just one example of how we are using wetlands to ensure people and wildlife live and work in mutually sustainable ways.

In years to come, this work really can help to create harmony between humanity and nature. With a gift in your Will, that can be your legacy.

Your Will is a declaration of who you are and what you care about

Whatever your circumstances, everyone should have an up to date Will. From a practical point of view, a legally drawn up Will is the only way of ensuring that your wishes are met in the event of your death. Considering these decisions now can save your loved ones a great deal of unnecessary distress at what will inevitably be a difficult time for them.

Your Will is more than just a legal document. It is also a unique opportunity to recognise and appreciate everything that has been important to you in your lifetime. For most of us, that will mean taking care of our family and friends first and foremost.

Once you have accounted for the people closest to you, you can also pass on a gift to the rest of the world.

Many WWT supporters, when they reflect on the things that have enriched their life, realise the most precious gift they can pass on is the gift of nature – and that the best way to do that is by including WWT in their Will. If that is something you would like to consider too, you'll find it is easy to do.

If you are drawing up a new Will, we strongly recommend you use the services of a solicitor or professional Will writer. If you already have a Will, it will be easy for your solicitor or Will writer to include WWT by adding a simple amendment known as a codicil.

The size and type of gift you leave is, of course, entirely up to you. We're here to help if you'd like to discuss some options.



'I've decided to remember WWT in my Will so that its valuable work can continue to benefit nature and people in the present and in the future. I hope my grandchildren and great grandchildren will benefit from similar donations left by other people who find WWT wetland centres to be precious places of beauty, relaxation and mindfulness.'

Mrs P A Morgan





Any gift, large or small, will make a huge difference

We value every gift, of every size, and at WWT you can rest assured it will be used wisely and cost-effectively, to enable the greatest impact to our vital wetland conservation work.

There are actually three types of gift you can consider:

- A **'residuary gift'** is a share of what remains of your estate once your other wishes have been carried out.
- A **'pecuniary gift'** is a financial donation of a fixed amount.
- A **'specific gift'** is a possession or item such as jewellery, property or shares.

Many of our supporters choose to include a residuary gift as this ensures that your loved ones take priority. Even a small percentage of what remains can then make a difference to our work. Also, unlike a pecuniary or specific gift, the value of a residuary gift is less likely to decrease as a result of inflation.

Including a charity such as WWT in your Will can also reduce inheritance tax implications for your other beneficiaries. This is something you will be able to discuss with your solicitor or Will writer. If you do decide to include WWT, here is the information you will need to give them:

Name and address:

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT),
Slimbridge,
Gloucestershire,
GL2 7BT.

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust Limited is a registered charity (1030884 England and Wales, SC039410 Scotland).
Registered address Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT.

We're here to help

We hope this booklet has been helpful as you consider what is right for you and your Will. If you have any questions or would like to talk things over in person, please feel free to contact Lucy and her team in complete confidence using the details below. If you've already decided to include WWT in your Will, do let us know so we can take the opportunity to thank you. We can also make sure we only send you appropriate communications in future.

Tel: 01453 891150

Email: giftsinwills@wwt.org.uk



Lucy England,
Legacy Manager



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REGULATOR**



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