

## Leaving money in your Will

Most of us would like to be certain that after our death, some or all of our money and property can be given to the causes we wish to help. When you die, if the value of your assets including your home, exceeds the tax-free limit laid down by the government, your estate will be liable to pay Inheritance Tax (for 2021/22, the threshold for this tax is currently £325,000).

However, all donations to charity are completely exempt from Inheritance Tax; and if you leave more than 10% of value of your estate to charity, the amount of tax due is reduced to 36% of the remaining value of your estate. Therefore, for anyone with assets exceeding the threshold, the amount that has to be paid to the tax man can be significantly reduced.

The Middle Marches Community Land Trust (the Trust), is a Society for the Benefit of the Community, and is recognised as a Charitable Trust by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs, (Registration No. ZD07863).

### How to make a tax-effective donation to the Trust

If you are considering making or changing your Will, please take legal advice. If you do decide to make a tax-effective donation to the Trust, the following suggested clauses may be of assistance to you and your solicitor:

- For a residuary bequest, i.e. what remains after specific bequests to your family and friends, the wording to use is:

***“I give to the Middle Marches Community Land Trust all (or % share) of the residue of my estate and I declare that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper officer of the Trust shall be sufficient discharge of the same.”***

- For a specific legacy i.e. a fixed amount, a property or other specific item, the wording to use is:

***“I bequeath to the Middle Marches Community Land Trust the sum of £.... and I declare that the receipt of the Honorary Treasurer or other proper officer of the Trust shall be sufficient discharge for my Trustees”.***

## **The Middle Marches Community Land Trust**

The CLT is formed for the benefit of the community to operate in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Powys. The primary objective of the Trust is to safeguard the environmental value of land, especially where other organisations are unable or unwilling to act. Since our inception in 2019 we have purchased, using funds raised by public appeals, two valuable sites for wildlife in the Shropshire Marches, Cudwell Meadow and Norbury Hill.

The primary objectives of the Trust are to:

1. Protect, conserve, restore and enhance the environment through the purchase, lease and management of land
2. The advancement of education through the encouragement of community involvement in sustaining and enhancing landscapes
3. Promote the bio-diversity of the land through its sustainable management
4. Act as a hub to share information, advice, skills and expertise for those seeking to conserve land

As a small independent Trust, we don't receive government funding, and our main source of income is derived from gifts and bequests from members of the public. Any donation you can give will greatly assist us in securing a more wildlife friendly environment in the Middle Marches, one which is capable of inspiring and reinvigorating both local residents and visitors to the area.

Any donation you can give will greatly assist us in helping support a thriving local community which has good access to a healthy natural environment. We have already lost Black Grouse from our hills and we want to do what we can to retain the bubbling cry of the curlew.

For further information on how you might help the Trust, or to discuss a potential legacy in confidence, please contact the Treasurer – Louise Robbins, via:

- email; [louise.robbins@btinternet.com](mailto:louise.robbins@btinternet.com)
- Post, by writing to the Trust, c/o Enterprise House, Station Street, Bishops Castle SY9 5AQ
- Phone/text on 07940 808 610.

In preparing this guidance, we are very grateful for the expert advice given by Joe Cobb, who is a partner at JMW Solicitors in Manchester. He specialises in Wills, Trusts and Estate Planning, and says that he is very happy to be contacted at:

<https://www.jmw.co.uk/services-for-you/wills-and-estate-planning/people/joe-cobb>