



Leave a lasting

LEGACY

# WESTONBIRT

## THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Westonbirt, the National Arboretum is a landscape full of life. With 600 acres to explore and over 15,000 specimen trees there is something new to discover on every visit.

Caring for this world-renowned tree collection is a big task, only possible thanks to our incredible supporters.

When you visit to enjoy the tranquil landscape, magnificent trees and beautiful walks, have you ever stopped to consider the arboretum's wider impact?

Thanks to our dedicated team, the arboretum continues to be a place where people are able to get outdoors and experience the very best of nature.

Our work has local, national and worldwide significance. We are experts in our field when it comes to tree conservation and research.

We also run outdoor programmes that engage the more vulnerable members of our community, providing a sense of belonging, whilst improving mental wellbeing and quality of life.



Westonbirt Arboretum  
is world-renowned  
for its **collection of**  
**Japanese Maples**



### WHY I'LL BE LEAVING A GIFT IN MY WILL

“ I have been coming to Westonbirt Arboretum for many years, both as a Friend and a volunteer. I can honestly say that it is my favourite place in the UK. Whatever the season, it has so much to offer – fun, tranquillity, beauty.

I have recently been reviewing my Will – I'm getting to that age when these things come to the forefront of one's mind! Even after all these years visiting the arboretum, I still love watching the seasons change.

The Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum is a charity that means a great deal to me. I've always been a huge supporter of their work helping to conserve this precious environment and its trees.

Westonbirt Arboretum is definitely top of my list for leaving a gift in my Will. It is a stunning landscape that must be preserved! ”

# GIFTS IN WILLS

CAN MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE

## WHY WE NEED TREES

Trees are vital to our planet. They are the lungs of the Earth, providing oxygen and storing carbon. They are home to the world's wildlife, facilitating complex microhabitats.

They are providers of essential materials for tools and shelter. They strengthen communities, actively contributing to better physical and mental health.

They help prevent flooding and soil erosion, improve air quality and contribute to climate control.

They are the longest living species on Earth, providing a link with our past and a connection to our future.

However, our precious trees are threatened, at risk from climate change, disease and urban development. More than ever, we need to ensure that trees are valued and protected.



Over 9000 tree species, **16% of the planet's trees**, are threatened with extinction

As a charity, Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum relies entirely on income from gifts and membership donations.

Our vision is of a long and sustainable future for Westonbirt Arboretum, for the good of the environment and people. If you believe in this vision, one of the greatest contributions you can make is a gift in your Will, protecting the arboretum for generations to come.

We continue to care for over 15,000 trees and 600 acres of woodland. We fund the recruitment and support of over 260 volunteers. We fund developments and activities for over 500,000 visitors each year. We support environmental conservation and programmes to help people experiencing disadvantage to get outdoors.

If you choose to leave a gift in your Will, we recommend seeking legal advice to ensure your Will is set up correctly and expresses your personal wishes.

# SAFEGUARDING SPECIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Westonbirt Arboretum's experts work with partners across the globe to extensively research and collect seeds from warmer climates.

They then bring them home to test how they'll perform in the UK. We are working to combat the depletion of woodland coverage, as native species die out due to increasing threats from climate, pests, disease and deforestation.

Our experts work to propagate these new specimens, caring for them in Westonbirt's glasshouses before planting them out in the wider arboretum where they can be monitored.

With certain species taking hundreds of years to mature, it's vital that we act now to conduct this essential research.

We also contribute to the Millennium Seedbank Partnership, coordinated by Kew Gardens. This provides a safety net against any species' extinction in the wild.



In the 1930s,  
**40%** of the Cotswolds were  
covered in wildflower-rich  
limestone grassland.

**Today it is just 1.5%**

# CONSERVING PRECIOUS FLORA & FAUNA

Westonbirt Arboretum is home to at least 236 different plant species – around 8.1% of all UK flora! But in recent decades, this type of limestone grassland has been in rapid decline.

At Westonbirt, we're striving to reverse this trend. Our restored downland continues to be monitored each year and is an important Biodiversity Action Plan habitat.

This precious grassland provides a home for hundreds of species, including 267 types of butterfly and moth. At least 29 bird species also call the arboretum their home, which will be no surprise to those who visit early on a summer morning to experience the orchestra of birdsong.

The arboretum is an important location for various rare and endangered species, such as the garden tiger moth whose numbers have declined by 90% in the last 30 years, and the downland villa bee-fly which until recently was considered almost extinct in the UK.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

At Westonbirt Arboretum, we are continually striving to ensure nature is accessible to all. Projects such as the STIHL Treetop Walkway are helping to inspire the next generation, and they're only the beginning...

Increasingly, families are choosing to spend their days out at the arboretum, ensuring that children have the chance to be inspired by the natural world. We are leading the way for the next generation of botanists, arborists and environmentally responsible citizens.

We continue to fund projects that mean limited mobility is never a barrier to visiting, with hard paths, mobility scooters and a shuttle buggy enhancing the arboretum's accessibility.

We are always working on new developments that will educate, engage and enhance the visitor experience. We are incredibly grateful for the support of our members and donors, who help us on our ongoing journey to connect people with trees.



Over **5,500 people**  
have participated in  
beneficial community  
sessions

## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Increasingly, research is proving the huge benefits that getting out into the woods can have for people's wellbeing.

Since 2013 we have been running community programmes to help the more vulnerable members of our community to connect with nature.

From bushcraft skills with youth groups, to natural arts and craft projects with disadvantaged adults, these sessions have facilitated environments of belonging, equality and learning.

Now, with several years' experience delivering sessions that promote wellbeing, confidence and quality of life, we are continuing to champion the importance of engaging harder-to-reach community groups.

Not only are we continuing the programme at Westonbirt, but creating resources that inspire and support other organisations to develop similar projects.

## A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

“It’s a privilege to care for Westonbirt Arboretum, and a responsibility we all take very seriously.

We’re incredibly lucky to have the dedication and expertise of our tree team. Our committed staff ensure the site runs smoothly and that people have an array of opportunities to learn about, and engage with, the natural world.

Without charitable gifts, such as those left in Wills, Westonbirt Arboretum would undoubtedly face an uncertain future.

Gifts and membership donations to the Friends of Westonbirt Arboretum provide over 25% of the funds needed to keep the site running.

A gift to support the arboretum does so much. It helps us plant and care for our trees, protect wildlife habitats and contribute to global conservation efforts. It also ensures that people, like you, can continue enjoy the arboretum, experiencing the proven positive impact on mental and physical wellbeing.”



Andrew Smith



Already have a Will?

It's good practice to review your Will regularly. This provides opportunity to add a gift to charity.

A simple codicil may be all you need.

WHAT TO DO  
NEXT?

We’re incredibly grateful that you’re considering supporting Westonbirt Arboretum by remembering us in your Will.

However you choose to go about leaving a gift, you can be sure it will play a key role in supporting vital work at Westonbirt Arboretum.

Many of the gifts we receive are unrestricted. This means we can direct your support where it's needed most.

You may have an interest in a specific area of work, such as learning and participation activities. You're very welcome to leave a gift in support of one of our projects or work areas - simply get in touch to discuss what's possible.

Whatever you decide, don't forget to keep your Will up to date, as circumstances can change. We also really appreciate you letting us know your intentions, as this helps us to plan ahead.

Thank you for choosing to be a part of Westonbirt's future.

# THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Westonbirt, The National Arboretum, is located in Gloucestershire, three miles from the Cotswold market town of Tetbury.

Within the 17 miles of accessible paths and five national collections, children can become young adventurers and adults can connect with trees through guided walks, workshops, self-led trails or volunteering.

Westonbirt Arboretum is a vibrant and living world of trees, a centre for conservation, historic garden, and a place for healthy and inspiring recreation.

the friends  
of Westonbirt  
Arboretum

If you would like to talk through leaving a gift in your Will, or if you have any questions, please contact us. We would love to speak with you.

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