



Suffolk
Wildlife Trust



Gifts for a wilder Suffolk

Inspiring stories of how our nature reserves have been transformed by people who remembered Suffolk Wildlife Trust in their Will.

Gifts for a wilder Suffolk

The generosity of people who have left a gift to Suffolk Wildlife Trust in their Will is etched into the history of these special places. Each reserve is a haven for wildlife and a place we can all cherish, now and for generations to come.

Seizing opportunities to buy or enlarge our nature reserves is one of the most powerful ways in which we secure a better future for Suffolk's wildlife. Legacy gifts make this possible.

Legacy gifts of all sizes have been instrumental in every reserve purchase in recent years, enabling us

to act quickly and with confidence when opportunities arise. These are some of our reserve stories...

Knowing they represent a lifetime of saving, we always try to increase the impact of bequests by using them to inspire more support through local fundraising. The unstinting response to these from members and supporters is inspiring.

We believe life with nature is good for us all. Our sincere thanks for your part in making Suffolk Wildlife Trust the force for good the natural world needs us to be.



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The generosity of nature lovers who remembered Suffolk Wildlife Trust in their Will has created these beautiful nature reserves.

These are their stories.



Knettishall Heath

From purple swathes of heather to riverside meadows, Knettishall Heath has an extraordinary mix of habitat. One of Suffolk's largest surviving areas of Breck heath, it is an ancient place where the past is written into the landscape.

Few places are this special, so in 2012 the chance to buy Knettishall Heath was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. A generous legacy from William and Mary McAtamney provided the foundation for the purchase and helped secure a grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Buying Knettishall Heath meant so much more than just securing the land, it was the chance to restore areas of open heath lost since the 1940s. Over the coming decades we will turn back the clock to a more natural grazed landscape where heathland merges into wood-pasture and woodland.

Mary McAtamney had a deep love of nature, and when William died, he left a gift in his Will to buy land for wildlife in memory of Mary. Knettishall Heath is their legacy to Suffolk.



**William & Mary
McAtamney**

Knettishall Heath is a majestic place – and William's enduring tribute to Mary.



Bradfield Woods

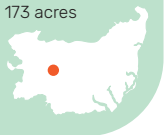
The ancient ash stools at Bradfield Woods, created by centuries of coppicing, are the oldest living things in Suffolk. With over 370 species of flowering plants and around 420 different fungi, Bradfield Woods is one of the richest woods in Britain and a National Nature Reserve.

In 1970, when nature conservation was still waking up to the ecological glory of ancient woodland and Suffolk Wildlife Trust was in its infancy, Bradfield Woods was almost lost. Thankfully, as bulldozers moved in to clear the wood for farmland, the tenacity of local people was rewarded and over half of Bradfield Woods was saved.

Forty years on, we had the chance to buy the one remaining piece of ancient woodland that was not protected as a nature reserve. The generosity of Peter Mitchell in remembering Suffolk Wildlife Trust in his Will allowed us to seize this long-awaited opportunity to ensure all of Bradfield Woods was safe, at last.

Bradfield Woods

173 acres



Peter Mitchell

WHITE ADMIRAL: STEVE AYLLWARD





Captain's Wood

Captain's Wood

155 acres



Captain's Wood is a place of wild beauty and the largest surviving piece of a medieval wood-pasture that once covered many hundreds of acres. The open landscape, with its drifts of bluebells,

ancient pollards and herds of fallow deer offers an experience of nature which is unique in Suffolk.

Wood-pastures are exceptionally important for their ecological, landscape and historic heritage. The gnarled oak pollards, some thought to be more than 500 years old, are a direct link to the past.

The purchase of Captain's Wood in 2005 was made possible by a legacy from Gloria Ford which provided the foundation for our successful application for funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

In the fields alongside the wood, we have planted a new generation of oaks grown from the acorns of the oldest trees. By making it possible for us to buy this beautiful woodland, Gloria has saved it for future generations to treasure.

Snape Marshes

Snape Marshes

57 acres



Buying a new nature reserve is one of the most enduring ways in which we protect wildlife for the future. In 2009 the opportunity to buy Snape Marshes revealed a botanical wonder which surprised everyone.

Lying on the north bank of the River Alde, opposite Snape Maltings, Snape Marshes is a rich mix of wetland habitats, including grazing marsh, reedbed, scrub and wet woodland. With an ideal mix of reptile habitats ranging from dry heathland edge to wet marsh, there are

abundant populations of all four species of reptiles found in Suffolk.

Gloria Ford's generosity had already helped to buy Captain's Wood, and as she knew the area from her childhood, we dedicated the remainder of her gift to the purchase of Snape Marshes. Elizabeth Chrenko was a classically trained musician and so it was particularly fitting for her legacy to help establish this wonderful nature reserve in the shadow of Snape Maltings.

Gloria had many memories of holidays with her grandparents in Tunstall. She would have been thrilled by the nature reserves created in her memory.



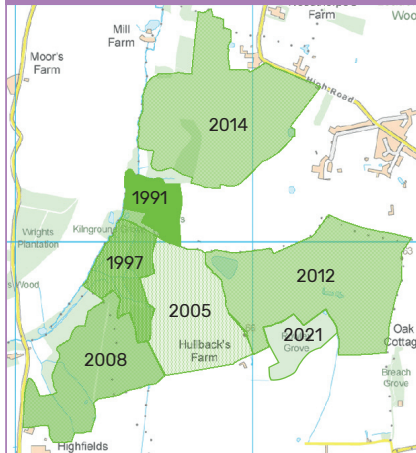
Gloria Ford



Elizabeth Chrenko

Arger Fen & Spouse's Vale

THE GROWTH OF ARGER FEN & SPOUSE'S VALE SINCE 1991



Arger Fen & Spouse's Vale

286 acres



There is no doubt large sites are better for wildlife and few of our nature reserves have grown more than Arger Fen & Spouse's Vale.

We owe this fascinating site to the vision of sisters Frances and Edith Vale. In 1991, they bought a small bluebell wood near their home and gifted it to Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Frances added the wet meadows in 1997 and later remembered the Trust in her Will.

In 2005, with the help of Trust members, her legacy enabled us to buy a large arable field alongside the

reserve. Now nature has reclaimed the field as woodland, linking the ancient woods of Spouse's Grove and Arger Fen.

With its swathes of bluebells and wild garlic, Arger Fen is a beautiful piece of Suffolk, which we were able to add to the reserve in 2008, helped by a legacy from Douglas Maule.

Then in 2012, we were unexpectedly given opportunities to buy two adjoining fields to almost double the size of the reserve. Anthony Wheeler, whose gift enabled us to seize this exciting opportunity, knew this area well.

The growth of Spouse's Vale would have delighted the Vale sisters in its ambition and vision for the reserve they created.



Edith & Frances Vale



Douglas Maule

Two years later when the rolling fields of the north were put up for sale, the generosity of Gerald Ford made it possible for us to buy them. As a life-long naturalist, he would have been delighted to see his legacy used to create a space for wildlife.

In 2021, Anne Walton and Trevor Hickman helped us save Rowley Grove, a beautiful bluebell wood on the southern edge of the reserve. Their gifts helped us safeguard this space for nature.

Frances and Edith Vale could not have envisaged the fabulous wild landscape this reserve would grow into.



STEVE ANLIWARD



Anthony Wheeler



Gerald Ford



Anne Walton



BLUEBELLS: STEVE ANLIWARD; DORMOUSE: ISTOCK



Mary Newman

Black Bourn Valley

Black Bourn Valley nature reserve came to us in 1995 as Grove Farm, a hugely generous legacy gift from Laura Cooper, a former Second World War land girl with a great attachment to the farm she worked on.

Two decades later, the opportunity arose to add the riverside meadows, so that the reserve now sweeps down the valley sides and has the Black Bourn at its heart. Gifts in the Wills of Mary Newman and Gerald Ford enabled us to embark on the land purchase and to begin a journey towards a more naturalistic landscape, where nightingale and yellowhammer can thrive.

In 1984, a captive bred otter slipped into the waters of the Black Bourn, just north of Ixworth, and led the way for their gradual return to all the county's rivers. Fitting then, that the Black Bourn is once again at the forefront of the county's conservation efforts.

Black Bourn Valley

297 acres



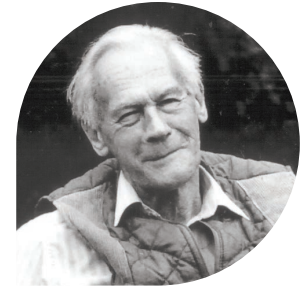
Mickle Mere

Mickle Mere, just 2½ miles downstream on the Black Bourn, is a veritable oasis for wetland birds. Easily seen from Ixworth bypass, the site's mosaic of wet meadows, open water and sedge-fringed ditches attract wetland birds throughout the year and have made it well known amongst local birders.

A legacy gift from William (Bill) Payn enabled us to buy Mickle Mere in 2002. Bill was one of the Trust's founders and the author of *The Birds of Suffolk*. As a lifelong bird lover, Bill had asked that his gift should be used to buy a nature reserve with ornithological importance.

Brought up in a time when Suffolk's countryside was idyllic, Bill was ideally placed to recognise the destruction and degradation that began just after the Second World War. By remembering the Trust in his Will, he made sure the conservation effort that was such an important part of his life would continue.

Bill's great passion was birds and so it is fitting that his last gift has created a delight for birdwatchers.



Bill Payn

Mickle Mere

42 acres



Church Farm Marshes

Suffolk Wildlife Trust's involvement at Church Farm began with a wildlife survey. We advise many farmers and landowners, providing guidance on conservation issues and sharing a common enthusiasm for wildlife. So it was with Philip Elsey.

Church Farm sits on a minor tributary of the River Blyth and has the wonderful variety of habitats typical of a traditional Suffolk farm. He bequeathed Church Farm to Suffolk Wildlife Trust to secure its future as a wildlife haven.

Under Philip Elsey's stewardship, nature had been allowed to take the lead and wildlife had flourished. Our ownership of the farm since 2003 has fulfilled the wishes of a man who cared about the natural world.

Thanks to Philip Elsey's generosity, in 2009 we were able to buy the neighbouring flower-rich marshes, to bring them into our care and extend his farmland nature reserve further down the valley.



Philip Elsey



Church Farm Marshes
91 acres

STEVE ATILWARD

Market Weston Fen

There are a handful of places in Suffolk that are nothing short of exceptional in their biological richness. Market Weston Fen is one of them.

Lying in a shallow valley created by a tributary of the Little Ouse and fed by chalk springs, Market Weston Fen avoided the onslaught of 20th century drainage and agricultural improvement that damaged so many fens. It is one of the finest fragments of valley fen in East Anglia.

For 25 years we owned just one piece of the fen jigsaw until, in 2006, a generous legacy from David Feavearyear helped to buy the adjoining blocks of fen to more than double the size of the nature reserve.

Small wetlands are particularly vulnerable to damage from changes in water level or water quality on neighbouring land. By ensuring the majority of this unique fen is under our protective ownership, David Feavearyear's gift has ensured its future.

Market Weston Fen

179 acres



FOUR-SPOTTED CHASER / MARSH FRAGRANT ORCHID. STEVE ALYWARD



Carlton Marshes

Buying Carlton Marshes has secured a future for some of the UK's rarest wildlife, forever.

With their mix of wet woodland, grazing marsh, dykes and fen meadow, our Broadland reserves are an ambling water-filled landscape awash with wildlife. Yet this was so very nearly lost to us in Suffolk.

Since 2008 we have pieced the landscape back together, through 18 different reserve purchases. One by one, each fragment of marsh or fen has restored a vital piece of the

wetland jigsaw, and together they mark a turning point for wildlife conservation in East Anglia. Now stretching for 2 miles from north to south, Carlton Marshes is the largest nature reserve in the southern Broads.

The transformation of this precious landscape was made possible by legacy gifts – that enabled us to grow our ambitions and complete the largest land purchase in the Trust's history.

In the early 1970s, marsh harrier numbers in the UK were perilously low and their breeding success at Carlton Marshes bolstered their UK recovery.

These magnificent birds are now an everyday sight in the skies over the marshes – a remarkable turnaround in fortune for the natural world in this part of Suffolk, and a tribute to the many people who have helped to make it happen.





Tony Marshall



Peter Lawson



Jean Hannaford



George Ford

Carlton Marshes

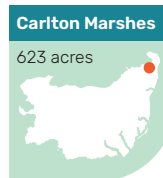
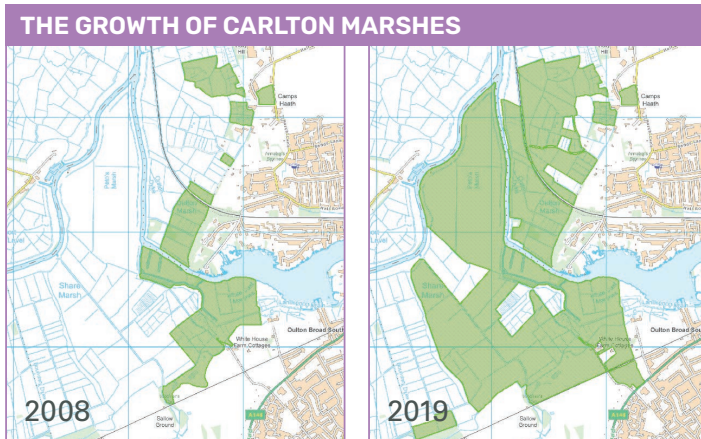
Every legacy gift has a story behind it – and Carlton Marshes has many.

Tony Marshall spent a lifetime birding and volunteering on nature reserves in Suffolk and Essex. Remembering the Trust in his Will reflects the way he lived.

Peter Lawson was one of Suffolk's foremost botanists. His legacy saved some of the most precious fragments of fen meadow, now wet and flower rich once again.

Jean Hannaford was a member of the Trust for 42 years and wildlife brought her great joy. She would be thrilled to see how her last gift to the Trust has brought back the wildness she cherished.

George Ford was a keen amateur naturalist and supported the Trust for many years. He would be happy to have safeguarded something so special for the next generation of naturalists to enjoy.



Martlesham Wilds

Martlesham Wilds sits within the Suffolk & Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape and across the River Deben from the burial site of Anglo-Saxon Royalty at Sutton Hoo. This is a landscape rich in nature and brimming with history.

In 2022, a wonderfully kind legacy gift from Pam and George Ford helped us to buy the land and create a new nature reserve.

An organic farm for many years, the land is already home to a wonderful array of plants, animals and invertebrates. Protecting this beautiful place and giving nature more space to thrive will bring back the abundance of wildlife that is missing from our countryside.

Pam and George would be thrilled by the astonishing opportunity for nature their legacy gift has made possible.



Pam & George Ford



Martlesham Wilds

289 acres



Brooke House



Mary Brooke

Mary Brooke's gift of her cottage was a far-sighted gesture that proved to be a turning point for Suffolk Wildlife Trust. In 1993, Brooke House became our office base.

By giving us our first ever permanent home, and space for our staff and volunteer team to grow, her gift laid the foundations for the transformation of the Trust.

Two decades on, we are supported by 27,000 members, manage 7,160 acres of nature reserves and work with farmers, community groups and dedicated individuals across Suffolk to create more opportunities for nature to flourish.

Year on year, in every corner of the county, Suffolk Wildlife Trust is making Suffolk better for wildlife.



PAUL HOBSON

REYDON WOOD: SARAH GROVES





A gift in your Will to Suffolk Wildlife Trust will help secure a wilder future for us all.

Legacy gifts to Suffolk Wildlife Trust are exempt from Inheritance Tax, so the full value of your gift will go straight to wildlife conservation.

If you need to make a Will you should talk to a solicitor to ensure your Will is legally correct and that all your wishes are clear.

If you have already made a Will and would like to add a gift to Suffolk Wildlife Trust, your solicitor can add your request to your existing Will.

Your solicitor will need the following information about Suffolk Wildlife Trust:

- Registered name: Suffolk Wildlife Trust
- Registered office: Brooke House, The Green, Ashbocking, Ipswich IP6 9JY
- Charity number: 262777
- Telephone: 01473 890089

To find out how a gift in your Will could help Suffolk's wildlife, please contact us:

01473 890089

teamwilder@suffolkwildlifetrust.org

or go to our website

suffolkwildlifetrust.org Thank you



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