

Leaving a Legacy to the NMCT

Over the years a number of very generous individuals have left legacies to the NMCT. As a result of their generosity we have been able to help conserve many irreplaceable manuscripts and collections.

If you would like to leave a legacy to the NMCT we would be enormously grateful. The notes below give you a little information on how to go about it and where to seek additional advice.

I do not have a Will, how do I leave a legacy?

If you have not made a Will it is very sensible to do consider doing so. Putting your wishes in a Will ensures that you can make provision for your family and friends in exactly the way you wish to.

Making a Will also enables you to leave a legacy to a charity that you support, such as the NMCT.

Your legacy should state the full name of the charity – *National Manuscripts Conservation Trust* – and also the NMCT's Registered Charity number: 802796.

It is best to consult a solicitor who can help you draw up your Will and ensure that it is clear and exactly reflects your wishes. If you do not have a Will then your estate will be distributed under the rules of intestacy and not according to your precise wishes.

The [Direct.gov website](https://www.direct.gov.uk) has lot of useful information about how to leave a gift to a charity.

I already have a will, how can I add a legacy to it?

You can make changes to your Will – such as adding a bequest to the NMCT - by adding a 'codicil'. This should be drawn up by a solicitor; it needs to be signed and witnessed just like a Will, but it is a much simpler process.

What are the options?

Your solicitor can advise in detail, but when you draw up a Will there are a number of ways you can leave a legacy to the NMCT:

- You can leave a specific amount of money
- You can leave a percentage of your residuary estate (residuary estate is what is left after all the gifts set out in your will have been paid).

Can I specify what I would like NMCT to use my gift for?

Yes you can, for example you could state that you wish your legacy to be used to support the acquisition of modern literary archives. However, if you do not specify how you wish us to use any gift that you may generously leave us then this allows us to apply it to where it is most needed.

Inheritance Tax

Gifts to charities are entirely exempt from IHT regardless of the value of the gift. While the 'headline' rate of IHT is 40%, your estate will be charged a reduced IHT rate of 36% by leaving at least 10% of the taxable value of your estate to charity or for philanthropic activities.

National Manuscripts Conservation Trust

Reg. charity no.: 802796