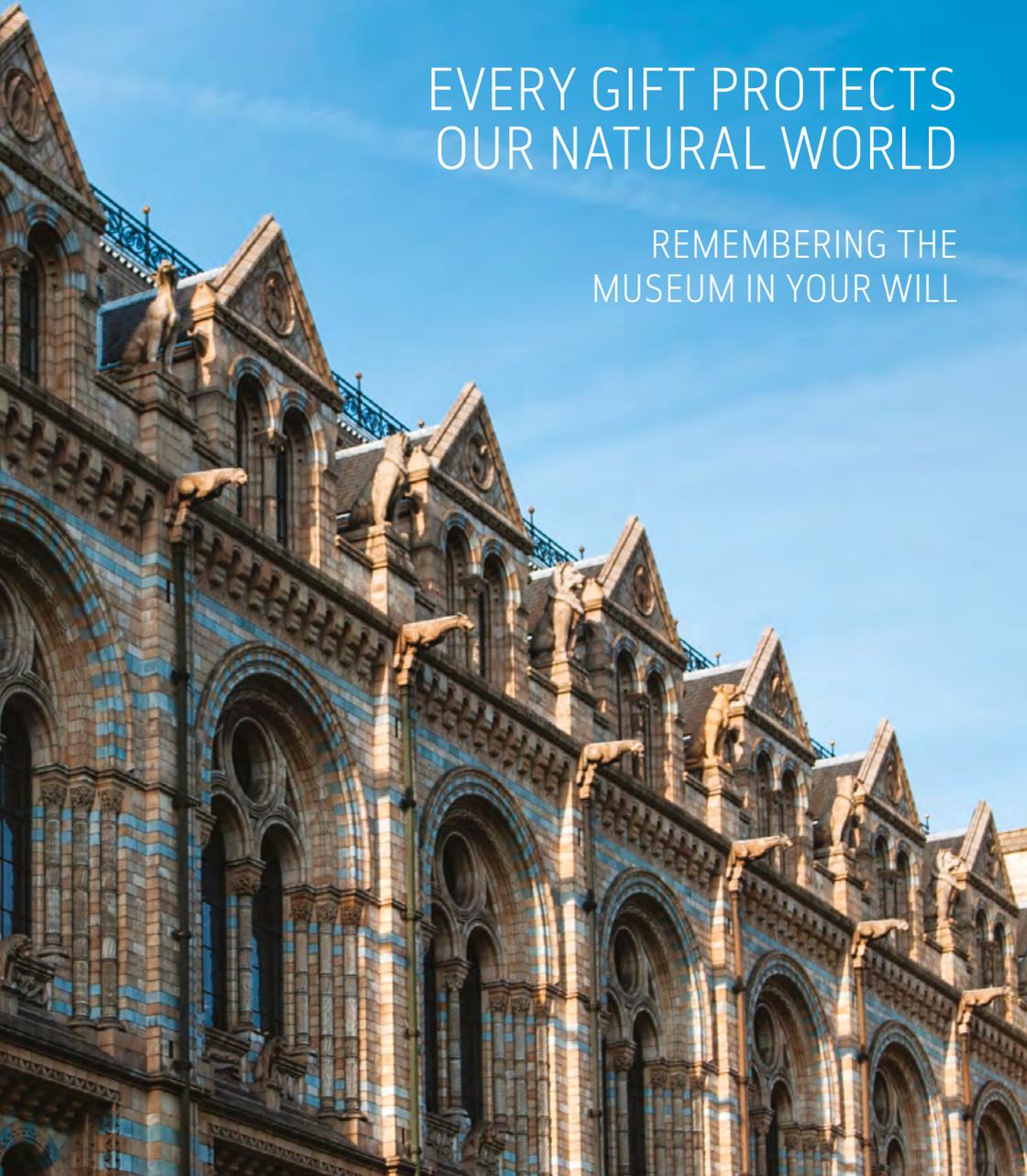




EVERY GIFT PROTECTS  
OUR NATURAL WORLD

REMEMBERING THE  
MUSEUM IN YOUR WILL



Gifts in Wills are crucial to how far the Museum can advance the science of nature for the benefit of both today's society and future generations.



## PROTECT THE FUTURE OF OUR NATURAL WORLD

The Natural History Museum was founded on the passion and generosity of philanthropists, and continues to rely on the kindness of supporters in order to thrive. The Museum gratefully receives vital support from government funding, trusts and foundations, corporate sponsors, memberships and support from individuals. As public funding has fallen, gifts in Wills are more important now than ever before.

With its outstanding collections and engaging displays, the Natural History Museum is one of the world's best – and most exciting – places to seek information about the natural world. Famous as a Museum, welcoming over 5 million visitors a year, it is also a global centre for scientific research, running a range of initiatives that aim to solve some of the most pressing problems faced by humanity and our planet.

Our scientists work actively with the Museum's vast collections in addressing questions about our understanding of life on the planet and the impact of future change: the delicate balance of our ecosystem and fight against biodiversity loss, the eradication of disease, the security of our food supply and the management of increasingly scarce mineral resources.

By supporting the work of the Museum's expert scientists with a gift in your Will you could unlock a solution to climate change, food poverty or disease migration and inspire the next generation of conservationists, environmentalists and natural scientists to continue this work.

Left  
Dr Sandra Knapp,  
Head of Life Sciences  
Research, identifying  
preserved plant  
specimen samples  
in the Darwin Centre

## HOW YOUR GIFT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

JASMINA LJUHAR,  
supporter who has remembered the  
Natural History Museum in her Will

Right  
Lepidoptera Collection  
Manager, Mr Geoff  
Martin, with a drawer  
of hawk moths.

Your special gift will help challenge the way people think about the natural world, as well as tackle the problems facing our planet, both now and into the future. Donations to the Museum will predominantly be spent on key priority projects, each of which makes a meaningful contribution to a particular area of our work, from research and expeditions to new gallery displays and education programmes.

Monies from gifts in Wills are distributed through our Annual Fund, with spending decisions taken by a panel of scientists and educators drawn from across the institution. In contrast to core funding, gifts in Wills can be allocated relatively quickly, so they enable our staff to make agile and creative choices about how to advance particular areas of work, based on current need.

“I would encourage anyone who has an interest in supporting an institution which works for the benefit of our planet to leave a legacy to the Natural History Museum.”

## DEVELOP OUR COLLECTIONS

The Museum's specimen collections form the bedrock of our pioneering research. Our scientists expand our collections by taking part in global expeditions, making important acquisitions. They are able to make ground breaking discoveries, for example using new DNA technologies to rapidly identify species so they can be catalogued and their habitats protected.

In 2006, a legacy of £1000 helped to buy an important collection of hawk moths. Museum scientists were able to use the 229,000 specimens to help advance DNA-barcoding technology, which allows species to be identified from just a few sample cells. This new technique has had significant benefits in avoiding the 'just in case' crop-spraying with pesticides that results when farmers don't feel able to risk waiting until a caterpillar has grown enough to be confidently identified.

As a species, hawk moths are also an excellent 'alarm bell' for climate change. Researchers have been able to map the global distribution of different types of the insect, illustrating whether they have adapted to warm or cold climates. As a result, monitoring changes in where hawk moth types are found means we are able to alert the world to significant shifts in global temperature.

Your legacy gift could help the Museum acquire new specimens and enable our scientists to make crucial discoveries.





## OPEN NEW EXHIBITION SPACES

The Natural History Museum is always looking to show new and existing collections. The Museum holds the world's finest and most extensive collection of natural history art. Comprising original watercolour drawings, sketches, oil paintings, prints and photography, it includes depictions of now-extinct plants and animals from around the globe.

In 2009, a generous residuary legacy (1/9th of an estate) was used to create the Images of Nature Gallery, which enabled us to put the Museum's artistically, culturally and scientifically significant collection of art works on display for the first time.

This dedicated space's visual displays offer visitors a different means of understanding scientific endeavour, putting beautiful art works into historical context as well as telling the stories of the people behind their creation.

The Images of Nature Gallery is also designed to encourage visitors to make their own drawings, and to observe and record specimens around the Museum, promoting the development of the observational skills that successful natural history works are dependent upon.

By leaving a gift in your Will, you could help us open new exhibition spaces for future generations to enjoy.

## OUR PROMISE TO YOU

If you are kindly considering making a gift in your Will to the Museum, we promise to do the following:

- We will answer your questions honestly and without pressure
- We will hold any information you share with us in the strictest confidence
- We will use your gift wisely and ensure it makes a lasting difference

We welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss matters in person and show you the Museum's work. If you would like to arrange a meeting, please make an appointment to come into the Museum using the contact details on the back of this brochure.

Left  
Children enjoying an  
interactive feature that  
draws a Goliath Beetle  
*Goliathus goliathus* in the  
Images of Nature Gallery.

## HOW TO LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

## SUPPORTING A PARTICULAR AREA OF THE MUSEUM'S WORK

There are a number of different types of gift to consider, with the three most commonly used described below.

**A Residuary Gift** is the remainder of your estate, or a percentage of the remainder, after all other gifts to family and friends have been distributed. Even a small percentage of the residue could be of enormous benefit to the natural world.

**A Pecuniary Gift** is a specified sum of money. To ensure that it keeps its value over the years, you can ask your solicitor to include an instruction that it is index-linked.

**A Specific Gift (an object)** is part of an estate which might constitute a collection of specimens, manuscripts, drawings or other valuables. If you are kindly considering this form of gift, please contact the Legacy Team so that we can ensure it is in line with our collections policy and we can conserve and store the items properly.

This document is designed to give you general information about leaving a legacy to the Natural History Museum. It is not intended to provide specific advice about the legal or tax implications of charitable giving. Before making a gift to the Natural History Museum, you should consult with your accountant, solicitor, or financial advisor for a thorough analysis of your individual situation and the tax consequences to decide which of these ways of giving might work best for you.

Many of the gifts we receive are left for unspecified use, allowing monies to be allocated to projects where the need is greatest. If, however, you are interested in supporting a particular area of the Museum's work, this can be reflected in your Will. Please contact the Legacy Team for further information.

## SUGGESTED WORDING FOR A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

**Residuary Gift** 'Subject to the payment of my debts, funeral and testamentary expenses, I give \_\_\_\_\_% of my residuary estate absolutely to the Natural History Museum, HMRC Charities Reference No.X23490/3, of Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Director or other authorised officer of the Museum shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my Executor/s.'

**Pecuniary Gift** 'I give free of tax to the Natural History Museum, HMRC Charities Reference No.X23490/3, of Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD, the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_ [sum in words] for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Director or other authorised officer of the Museum shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my Executor/s.'

**Restricted Gift** A Restricted Gift can be either a Residuary or Pecuniary Gift where the pledger intends the money to be used to support a particular area of the Museum's activities. For a Restricted Gift, our suggested wording is:

'I bequeath to the Natural History Museum of Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD, HMRC Charities Reference No.X23490/3 [specify sum (in £ and words) or share of residue], to be used by the Museum for or toward the upkeep, maintenance or improvement of collections and research in the area of [name your area of scientific interest: Biodiversity and Environmental Change/Human Well-being/Evolution and Space Science]' – or 'for or toward [Education/Collections and Heritage/ the Natural History Museum at Tring]'. If in the event that this project/area is no longer a project/ area supported by the Museum/or is fully funded at the time of my death my gift is to be used to support activities that are as close as possible to my intentions.'

**Specific Gift** If you are considering a gift of this type, please contact the Legacy Team.

## FUND WORLD-CHANGING RESEARCH

From identifying new species to monitoring the impact of climate change, from understanding the origins of humanity to examining the role of insects in disease transmission and its prevention, the Natural History Museum's research teams are constantly helping to change the world for the better. Gifts in Wills can make a significant contribution to the advancement of this vital work.

Previous gifts in Wills have been used to fund the completion of the Museum's Darwin Centre. The Centre provides a home to 20 million specimens from the collection, as well as offering workspaces and up-to-date laboratory facilities to the Museum's 300 scientists. We have also developed our imaging and analytical facilities, including CT scanners, used for creating invaluable 3D models of specimens to make important discoveries without causing damage.

It is in large part because of this outstanding research space and technology that our scientists are able to explore and discover more about life on Earth and, ultimately, answer the big questions that challenge human society and its relationship with the planet.

At the heart of both our educational and research programmes is the ambition to stimulate public debate about humanity's future.

## CHANGING OR UPDATING YOUR WILL

If you already have a Will but are thinking about leaving a gift to the Natural History Museum, it is very easy to make a simple addition. All you are likely to need is a simple legal document called a Codicil, an example of which is included as an insert at the back of this brochure. Your accountant, solicitor, or financial advisor will be able to give you more information.

## DISCOVER THE IMPACT YOUR GIFT COULD MAKE

If you'd like to see what your gift could help to achieve, we'd be delighted to invite you to an event at the Museum. We organise regular events, each of which offers real insights into our wide-ranging work, and how important legacy gifts are. To find out when the next event is, please contact the Legacy Team.

## INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF NATURAL SCIENTISTS

For many children, their first sighting of a dinosaur skeleton or the iconic Blue Whale model at the Museum is truly a light-bulb moment. We have an instrumental role to play in helping those who are intrigued by the Museum early in their lives to become champions of the natural world.

Each year nearly 250,000 young people visit the Museum on School trips, designed to increase scientific literacy. We also support Masters students in partnership with Imperial College London and UCL, and provide a base for over 100 PhD students. In addition, the Museum offers short courses and traineeships that support career development in areas where there are a shortage of skills, for example wildlife identification.

Our citizen science programme invites the general public to actively contribute to our science research. By recording observations of wildlife, collecting samples, or transcribing handwritten records, they can unlock the potential of our collections and gather vital data for our scientists, helping them to better understand the natural world.

By leaving a gift in your Will you could help maintain this proud tradition of inspiring and educating young people in natural sciences.



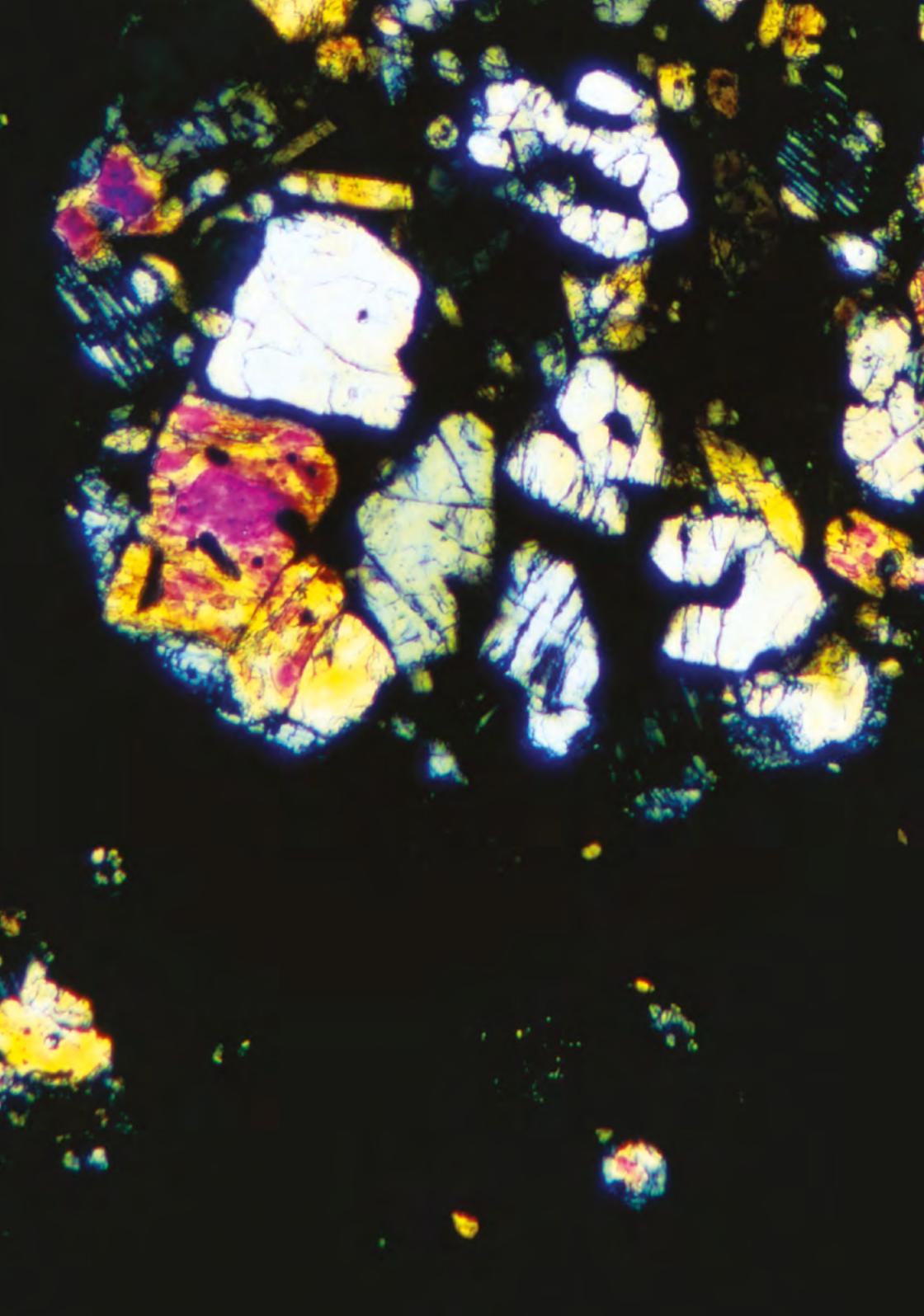
## THANK YOU

Every gift we receive makes a valuable contribution to our work. By leaving a gift in your Will to the Museum, you will help advance the science of nature, benefitting future generations.

If you have left a gift to the Museum in your Will, it is incredibly helpful if you can let us know. This will enable us to thank you and keep you informed and involved with the Museum's activities and developments. Please complete the 'Confirming Your Support' form at the back of this guide, and return it to us in the enclosed BRE envelope.

We take honouring the generosity of our pledgers very seriously, and welcome opportunities to demonstrate that the Museum's scientists and educators are the very best people to spend gifted monies wisely.

Right  
Thin section of the Cold  
Bokkeveld meteorite in the  
petrological microscope,  
showing a near circular  
chondrule about 1mm  
in diameter.



## GETTING IN TOUCH

If you have any questions, please contact us  
(in the strictest confidence):

Carla Dormer, Legacy Manager

T +44 (0)20 7942 6044

E [legacies@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:legacies@nhm.ac.uk)

The Legacy Team

Development and Communications Group

Natural History Museum

Cromwell Road

London

SW7 5BD

## CONFIRMING YOUR SUPPORT

Letting us know either that you intend to or already have included the Natural History Museum in your Will enables us both to thank you for your generosity and to plan more effectively for the future. We treat this information in the strictest confidence and it is not legally binding in the absence of formal legacy documentation.

Please fill in the relevant sections of the form on the right and send it in the envelope provided to:  
The Legacy Team  
Development and Communications Group  
Natural History Museum  
Cromwell Road  
London  
SW7 5BD

You can also contact us at [legacies@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:legacies@nhm.ac.uk) or on +44 (0)20 7942 6044

Thank you for your support.

I have already left a gift in my Will to the Natural History Museum.

Residuary % \_\_\_\_\_

Pecuniary £ \_\_\_\_\_

Specific \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I intend to leave a gift to the Natural History Museum in my Will.

I would like to attend an event to see how gifts in Wills can help.

### Your details

Title \_\_\_\_\_

First name \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Membership number (if applicable)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By providing your details, you agree that the Natural History Museum may contact you by post, email, phone and SMS with news and information about our events, activities, products, services and fundraising, unless you tick the relevant box(es) below.

I would prefer not to be contacted with news and information by

post  email  phone  SMS

The Natural History Museum will use your personal information in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. We will use it to administer your donation, improve our understanding of our target audiences and supporters, and (if you agree) to send you news and information as set out above. Find out more in our privacy notice [www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/privacy-policy.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/about-us/privacy-policy.html)

## CODICIL FORM

If you have already made a Will you can still benefit the Natural History Museum – you simply need to add a codicil to your existing Will. We would recommend that you consult with your solicitor or legal advisor before completing this form. Please do not write on or amend your current Will, as it will become invalid.

### Codicil to an existing Will

I [full name] \_\_\_\_\_ of

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

declare this to be a [first/second/third] Codicil to my Will dated \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

In addition to any legacies given in my said Will I give to the Natural History Museum, HMRC Charities Reference No.X23490/3, of Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD, a [share of \_\_\_\_\_ % residuary estate absolutely] [the sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ (sum in words)] [and/or] [a specific item \_\_\_\_\_] \_\_\_\_\_ ]\*

to be used for general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Director or duly authorised officer of the Museum shall be a full and sufficient discharge to my Executor/s.

[\* Please cross out those options that are not required]

In all other respects I confirm my said Will and all other Codicils thereto.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by the above-named in our presence and witnessed by us in the presence of him/her and each

Witnessed by \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed by \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NB Your two witnesses must be over 18 and must not be beneficiaries (or their spouse or civil partner) under your Will or any other Codicils you have made.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q** Can I talk to someone about Will-making and leaving a gift to the Museum?

**A** The Legacy Team are always happy to answer any questions you may have.

If you would like to talk to someone you can call us on +44 (0)20 7942 6044 or email [legacies@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:legacies@nhm.ac.uk)

Alternatively, you can write to us:

The Legacy Team  
Development and Communications Group  
Natural History Museum  
Cromwell Road  
London  
SW7 5BD

We also run an annual programme of events for those interested in finding out more about the impact of gifts in Wills to the Museum. Please do get in touch if you are interested in attending an event.

**Q** Can I choose how my gift is used?

**A** Yes you can. While we welcome gifts that can be spent wherever the need is greatest, we are also very happy to discuss gifts for a specific use. Previous gifts have been specified for education and particular scientific fields.

If you are considering leaving a restricted gift to the Museum please get in touch with us so that we can explore the correct wording for your Will and ensure your wishes are met.

**Q** Can you advise on appropriate wording to use in my Will to include a gift to the Natural History Museum?

**A** You'll find our suggested wording for gifts in Wills on page 9 of this guide. If you feel that the suggested wording does not cover your intentions then please contact the Legacy Team. Once we have provided you with suggested wording we strongly advise that to ensure your wishes are properly recorded that you use a

qualified solicitor or other legal advisor to either amend an existing Will or include a gift in a new Will.

**Q** Can I leave a specific item or collection to the Natural History Museum?

**A** You can offer items to become part of our collections to support the Museum's research and visiting scientists. Whenever the Museum accepts the gift of an object or a collection we undertake to care for that gift in perpetuity. If you are kindly considering this form of gift, please contact the Legacy Team so that we can ensure it is in line with our collections policy and we can conserve and store the items properly.

**Q** How does the Natural History Museum record and acknowledge gifts in Wills?

**A** Unless there has been a request made for anonymity, we acknowledge all gifts of over £1,000 in the Natural History Museum's Annual Report. We also feature stories about the work that gifts have funded in newsletters for Museum supporters and on the Museum's website.

**Q** Can gifting money to the Museum help reduce my Inheritance Tax liability?

**A** The Inheritance Tax (IHT) threshold is currently set at £325,000. If your estate is worth more than this – and given what many properties are now worth, it may well be – your loved ones will have to pay 40 per cent tax on the difference. However, as you can leave money to charity (or to your wife, husband or civil partner) without paying IHT on it, you can use this kind of gift to make your Will more tax efficient – essentially, by planning ahead you can choose to leave an amount of your money to a charity whose work is important to you, rather than to the tax office. Please ask your accountant, solicitor, or financial advisor for a comprehensive overview on gifting and tax.