



# Gifts for a wilder Suffolk

These inspiring 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.

Indeed legacy gifts 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.

If you choose to remember Suffolk Wildlife Trust in your Will, your gift will be kept separate from the Trust's day to day finances, for projects which have a direct and lasting impact on the county's wildlife.

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.





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.**



Knettishall Heath

414 acres



# 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 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.



Peter Mitchell



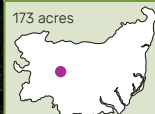
OXLIP:  
STEVE  
AYLWARD

GERALD LACZ FLIPA



Bradfield Woods

173 acres





STEVE AYLLWARD

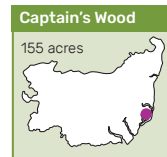
# Captain's Wood

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

75 acres



Buying a new nature reserve is one of the most enduring ways in which we protect wildlife for the future and 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



STEVE AYLLWARD

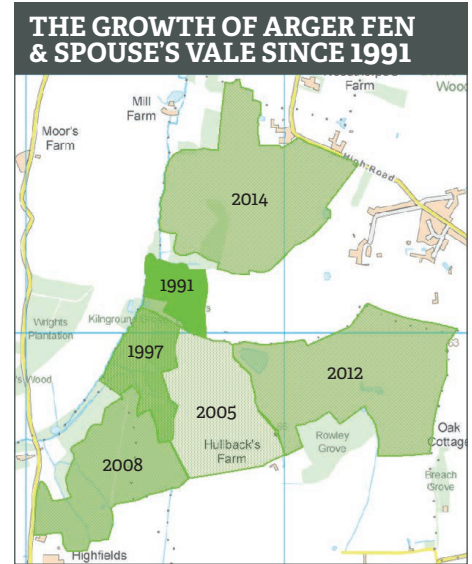
# Arger Fen & Spouse's Vale

**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, just two decades after the last wheat crop, 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



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



opportunities to buy two adjoining fields to almost double the size of the reserve. We save legacies for landmark projects like this and Anthony Wheeler, whose gift enabled us to seize this exciting opportunity, knew this area well.

Two years later when the rolling fields to the north were put up for sale, the generosity of Gerald Ford made it possible for us to buy them. He was a life-long naturalist and would have been delighted to see his legacy used to create a space for wildlife. This lovely patch of wildlife-filled countryside is his gift to Suffolk.

In gifting Spouse's Grove to the Trust over 20 years ago, Frances and Edith Vale could not have envisaged the fabulous wild landscape it would grow into.



Edith & Frances Vale



Douglas Maule



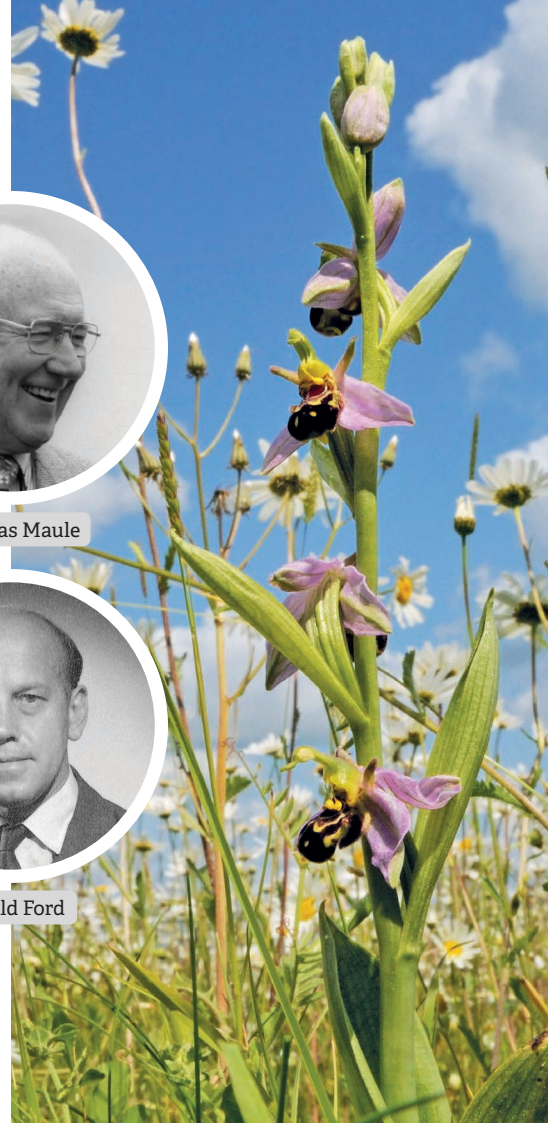
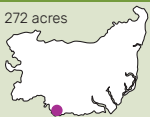
Anthony Wheeler



Gerald Ford

Arger Fen &  
Spouse's Vale

272 acres





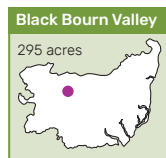
Mary Newman

# 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 yellow hammer 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.



NIGHTINGALE:  
ADOBE STOCK

# Mickle Mere

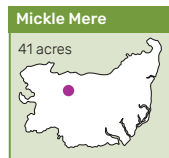
Mickle Mere, just 2½ miles downstream on the Black Bourn, is a veritable oasis for wetland birds. Easily seen from Ixworth bypass, the site's mosaic of wet meadows, open water and sedge-fringed ditches attract wetland birds throughout the year and have made it well known amongst local birders.

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 *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 Payn



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



# 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.

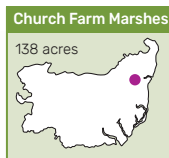
Church Farm sits on a minor tributary of the River Blyth and has the wonderful variety of habitats typical of a traditional Suffolk farm. He bequeathed Church Farm to Suffolk Wildlife Trust to secure its future as a wildlife haven.

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.

In 2009, thanks to Philip Elsey's generosity in his Will 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.

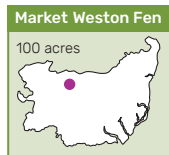


Philip Elsey



# 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.



MARSH FRAGRANT ORCHID:  
STEVE AYLWARD



FOUR-SPOTTED CHASER: STEVE AYLWARD

# Carlton Marshes



STEVE AXFORD, MARSH HARRIE  
PAUL SAWER, EPA

**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.

This transformation was driven by legacy gifts – enabling us to act quickly and to dare to think big when the most recent of these in 2018 was the largest land purchase in the Trust’s history.



Jean Hannaford



George Ford



Tony Marshall

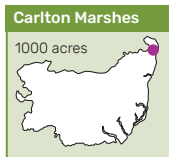


Peter Lawson

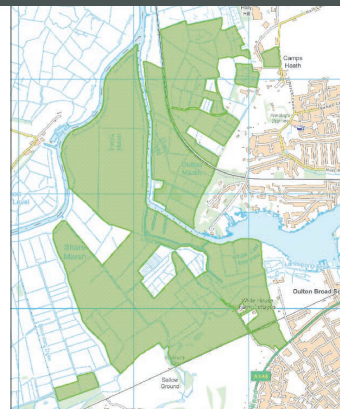
## THE GROWTH OF CARLTON MARSHES

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.



2008



2019



SOUTHERN MARSH ORCHID: STEVE AYLWARD

# Carlton Marshes

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

For Tony Marshall, it was a lifetime of birding. Whilst Tony enjoyed birding, he was also generous with his time, 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, so it was fitting that 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. Suffolk changed so much during her lifetime and so many wild places were lost. She would be thrilled to see how her last gift to the Trust is helping to bring back the wildness she cherished, for others to enjoy.

George Ford was a keen amateur naturalist with a special interest in botany. He supported the Trust for many years and as a former biology teacher he would be happy to have safeguarded something so special for the next generation of naturalists to enjoy.

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



LAPWING: DAVID TIPLING



# Their lasting gift to Suffolk

Buying land is one of the most powerful ways we can secure a better future for wildlife – but it is a huge financial undertaking, only made possible by legacy gifts.

Suffolk Wildlife Trust's approach of saving legacy gifts for significant wildlife projects, means a bequest of any size will directly help to buy land for wildlife or safeguard threatened species.



# Brooke House



Mary Brooke

Mary Brooke's gift of her cottage was a far sighted gesture that has 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.**

**This is Mary Brooke's legacy.**



PAUL HOBSON





WATER VOLE: TERRY WHITTAKER ALAMY

## 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

Thank you



## Remembering Suffolk Wildlife Trust in your Will, will have a direct and lasting impact on local wildlife.

The contents of your Will are, of course, confidential, but if you would like to make us aware of your plans, please do telephone, email or return the form below. Please be assured this information will be kept in confidence.



I would like you to know that I have remembered Suffolk Wildlife Trust in my Will

Name

Address

Postcode  Tel

Email

Informing us of your intentions puts you under no obligation to Suffolk Wildlife Trust – it simply enables us to thank you and involve you in our plans for the future.

Please return to:  
**Suffolk Wildlife Trust**  
Brooke House, The Green,  
Ashbocking, Ipswich IP6 9JY

**email [christine.luxton@  
suffolkwildlifetrust.org](mailto:christine.luxton@suffolkwildlifetrust.org)**

**Or call 01473 890089**



WHITE ADMIRAL: STEVE AYLWARD

**We believe life with  
nature is good for us all**



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JOHN FERGLISON



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