Simple errors in wording can create confusion and delay in carrying out people’s wishes. It is important, for instance, that the RSPB’s name, address and registered charity number are put properly into a Will.

For the convenience of a solicitor who may be helping you draw up your Will, here are examples of useful and accurate wording, covering two different kinds of legacy:

Legacy of all or part of net estate

‘I give to The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Registered Charity Number 207076, of The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, (hereinafter called the RSPB) the residue (or % share of the residue) of my estate absolutely and I direct that (i) the proceeds may be used for the general purposes of the RSPB and (ii) a receipt signed by a person for the time being authorised by the Council of the RSPB shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my executors.’

Fixed sum legacy

‘I give to The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Registered Charity Number 207076, of The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL, (hereinafter called the RSPB) the sum of £______ and I direct that (i) The proceeds may be used for the general purposes of the RSPB and (ii) a receipt signed by a person for the time being authorised by the Council of the RSPB shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my executors.’

(continued overleaf)
The RSPB as Executor

In certain circumstances, the RSPB will be happy to act as your executors, and we are very experienced at doing this. IMPORTANT: please call me first, using the number on my card, to let us know your plans. If it is appropriate to proceed, we will be happy to provide you with the suggested wording for this part of your Will.

Gifts in Memoriam

Many people prefer to see donations made to the RSPB in lieu of floral tributes. If this is stated in your Will the executors can make sure that your wishes are known.

The following wording will ensure that your wishes are met:

‘I request my executor to ensure that instead of flowers at my funeral donations are made to The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Registered Charity Number 207076, of The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL and sent for the attention of the RSPB In Memoriam Officer at this address.’

An inscription in one of the RSPB’s Books of Remembrance can also be arranged depending on the total donation amount.

If you have any queries please contact the RSPB Legacy Adviser as detailed in this pack, or on telephone number 01767 680551.