



Your open spaces
need you!

Legacies

Help us protect our commons,
village greens and paths for
future generations to enjoy.

**CAMPAIGNING
SINCE 1865**

Our open space heritage

Helping the Open Spaces Society in your will is easy. Just add the paragraph in the box below to a new will or as a codicil to an existing will, filling in the sum or percentage.

Your gift to the society will help ensure that future generations will enjoy commons, open spaces and paths, in town and country throughout England and Wales.

If you intend to leave a substantial legacy to the Open Spaces Society, we advise you to consult a solicitor so that your wishes can be properly described in your will.

I leave to the Open Spaces Society (registered charity no 1144840), 25a Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames RG9 2BA
the sum of

£

or

%

of my residuary estate

free of tax, and declare that the signature of the Open Spaces Society's treasurer or other authorised officer of the Open Spaces Society shall be sufficient discharge to my trustees for this legacy.



Other ways to help us

You could consider the advantages of **making a substantial gift now** instead of (or as well as) a legacy. This enables us to claim the gift aid rebate and you can claim an additional rebate yourself if you pay a higher rate tax. Many older people with incomes between £25K and £30K, whose age allowance is reduced, may also receive a small tax rebate in the year of the gift.

If you are a beneficiary or executor in a will, you can use a deed of variation where there is a wish to benefit a charity but no specific charitable bequest. Where the estate is liable to inheritance tax, the cost to the beneficiaries is much less than the money received by the charity because the gift is taken from the estate before tax is calculated.

Further information

You can contact the Open Spaces Society at:

**25a Bell Street
Henley-on-Thames
RG9 2BA**

**Tel: 01491 573535
Email: hq@oss.org.uk**



Registered charity no 1144840

or you can visit our website at **www.oss.org.uk**



*Scan with your
phone to visit
our website*

We shall be pleased to send a free copy of our latest members' magazine and other information on request. If you are an executor of a will and need advice on a deed of variation in favour of the Open Spaces Society, or if you need help with preparing a codicil to a will, just contact us.

Remember those open spaces

**“The Open Spaces Society
campaigns to create and
conserve common land, village
greens, open spaces and rights
of public access, in town and
country, in England
and Wales.”**

Open Spaces Society's campaign milestones

- 1865** Formation
- 1866** Metropolitan Commons Act stops further enclosure around London. Many important commons were rescued and the principle established that unavoidable land-losses must normally be replaced by exchange.
- 1895** Society's founders form the National Trust.
- 1925** Law of Property Act creates a right to walk and ride on many commons and outlaws buildings or enclosures on most commons without ministerial consent. The Society is an official consultee.
- 1949** Law enacted for national parks and official maps of rights of way. Survey procedure initiated and supervised.
- 1965** Commons Registration Act passed. Society organises registration.
- 1986** Common Land Forum reaches agreement on future of commons.
- 1990** Society acts to get land used for 'lawful sports and pastimes' registered as village greens and thus saved from development.
- 2000** Countryside and Rights of Way Act gives responsible freedom to walk on commons and open country.
- 2006** Commons Act allows for addition of lost commons to the registers and enables the public to enforce against unlawful works on commons.
- 2010** Natural England commissions the society to publish advice for land managers on how to embrace the public interest in commons. Visit www.oss.org.uk/freeadvice and view our leaflet 'Finding Common Ground'.

And the work continues...

At peace with the past

“Commons have meant a huge amount to me all my life,” says Richard Mabey, countryside writer and our vice-president. “I was born and brought up in the Chilterns. I was at school at Berkhamsted, close to the common. This is where in 1866 the Open Spaces Society (then the Commons Preservation Society) organised a trainload of navvies to fell Lord Brownlow’s iron fencing at dead of night. Thanks to that effort and to the subsequent court action by the Society, the common is still open today.

“Commons are vital for their history, natural beauty, flora and fauna. They are places where people can be at peace and link with their past.

“Now I have moved to Norfolk, but still I live next to a common. I feel at home here too.

“I rely on the Open Spaces Society to protect our commons – but I want to know that the society will live on after me. Leaving a legacy to the society will ensure its vital work can continue.”

Richard Mabey

Vice-president, Open Spaces Society



“Commons have meant a huge amount to me all my life”