

# CHAPTER vii

An Act to amend the National Trust Acts 1907 to 1939 to confer further powers upon the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty and upon the council thereof and for other purposes.

[6th May 1953.]

THEREAS by the National Trust Act 1907 (in this Act called "the Act of 1907") the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty (in this Act called "the National Trust") was incorporated:

And whereas the National Trust was established for the general purposes of promoting the permanent preservation for the benefit of the nation of lands and tenements (including buildings) of beauty or historic interest and as regards lands for the preservation (so far as practicable) of their natural aspect features and animal and plant life:

And whereas by the National Trust Charity Scheme Confirmation Act 1919 the National Trust Act 1937 and the National Trust Act 1939 the purposes of the National Trust were extended and further powers were conferred on the National Trust:

And whereas provisions are contained in the Act of 1907 with regard to the minimum subscriptions of ordinary subscribing members of the National Trust and the liability for and the payment of such subscriptions:

And whereas it is expedient that the said provisions should be amended as by this Act provided and the provisions contained in this Act with regard to the subscriptions of ordinary subscribing members should be enacted:

And whereas the powers of investment vested in the council of the National Trust under the National Trust Acts 1907 to 1939 are unduly restricted and it is expedient in order to carry out more effectively the objects and purposes of the National Trust that the powers of investment of the said council should be enlarged and extended as provided by this Act:

And whereas the objects of this Act cannot be attained without the authority of Parliament:

May it therefore please Your Majesty that it may be enacted and be it enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows:—

Short and collective titles.

- 1.—(1) This Act may be cited as the National Trust Act 1953.
- (2) The National Trust Acts 1907 to 1939 and this Act may be cited together as the National Trust Acts 1907 to 1953.

Interpretation.

- 2. In this Act unless the subject or context otherwise requires—
  - "the Act of 1907" means the National Trust Act 1907;
  - "the council" means the council of the National Trust;
  - "the National Trust" means the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty.

Subscriptions of ordinary subscribing members.

- 3.—(1) The council may by resolution from time to time determine the minimum amount of the annual subscription required for qualification as an ordinary subscribing member of the National Trust and as from the coming into operation of the first such resolution as aforesaid paragraph (A) of section 14 (Constitution of National Trust) of the Act of 1907 is hereby repealed.
- (2) Nothing in the last foregoing subsection shall affect the status of a person as an ordinary subscribing member of the National Trust during the currency of an annual subscription of his (whether paid before or after the repeal effected by the last foregoing subsection) if at the time when the subscription was paid it was not less than the minimum annual subscription then required for qualification as an ordinary subscribing member.
- (3) Section 15 (Subscriptions) of the Act of 1907 is hereby repealed.

Powers of investment.

- 4.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 27 (Application of revenue) or section 28 (Capital) of the Act of 1907 the council may invest—
  - (a) any such balance as is referred to in the said section 27; or

(b) any other moneys from time to time received or held by the National Trust on capital account;

in all or any of the following investments securities and obligations subject in the case of any such moneys as are referred to in the foregoing paragraph (b) to the provisions of any trust affecting the same or to any directions conditions or restrictions attached thereto or imposed by the donor thereof:—

- (i) investments in which trustees are for the time being authorised by law to invest trust funds;
- (ii) public stocks or funds or government securities of any part of Her Majesty's dominions or of the territories under Her protection or the United States of America;
- (iii) deposit receipts bonds debentures debenture stock mortgages or securities of any corporation company or body whether municipal railway public-utility commercial industrial investment-trust mortgage insurance banking or of any other class registered or incorporated in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland or any part of Her Majesty's dominions or of the territories under Her protection or the United States of America or guaranteed lien preference or preferred or ordinary or deferred or common stocks or shares of any such corporation company or body or any securities whatsoever issued or guaranteed by any such corporation company or body and in the case of banks and insurance companies whether there is or is not liability for calls or other payments.
- (2) The National Trust may retain and hold any investments which may be transferred to the National Trust otherwise than by way of purchase notwithstanding that such investments may not be of the nature authorised by the foregoing provisions of this section.
- (3) All investments made by the council shall be made with the advice and under the direction of a finance committee appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1907.
- (4) Paragraph (b) of section 4 (Extension of powers of National Trust) of the National Trust Act 1937 shall be read and have effect as if for the words "the general law for the investment of trust funds" in that paragraph there were substituted the words "section 4 (Powers of investment) of the National Trust Act 1953".
- 5. The costs charges and expenses of and incidental to the Costs of Act. preparation of the applying for and the obtaining and passing of this Act or otherwise in relation thereto shall be paid by the National Trust and may in whole or in part be defrayed out of income.

# Table of Statutes referred to in this Act

Short title	Session and chapter
National Trust Act 1907	7 Edw. 7. c. cxxxvi.
National Trust Charity Scheme Confirmation Act 1919	9 & 10 Geo. 5. c. lxxxiv.
National Trust Act 1937	1 Edw. 8. & 1 Geo. 6. c. Ivii.
National Trust Act 1939	2 & 3 Geo. 6. c. lxxxvi.

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