



**75** YEARS  
For wetlands,  
wildlife and people

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## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

## **Trustee**

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The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) is a conservation charity that protects wetlands for wildlife and people. At WWT we believe wetlands are key in helping us meet our most pressing environmental challenges. Wetlands can help us repair our environment by boosting biodiversity, storing carbon and protecting us from flooding and pollution. Managed sustainably for both nature and people, wetlands can support livelihoods and local economies. This is why for over 75 years, we have been pioneers in saving threatened wetland wildlife across the globe and are experts in wetland management and creation.

We believe that showing people first-hand some amazing wetlands so that we can ignite their passion to help conserve them. We provide unique experiences at our ten UK wetland centres for nearly a million visitors every year (in normal times).

### **Why do we need you?**

Experienced and committed Trustees play an essential role in the governance of the charity, and we are now looking for a number of new Trustees to serve on the WWT Council on a voluntary basis. We have an ambitious vision for the next 25 years and to help us fulfil these ambitions we are looking for new Trustees with skills and experience in one or more of the following areas:

- Successful delivery of on-the-ground conservation
- Inspiring education and engagement
- Improving results in commercial operations particularly retail, catering and visitor attractions
- Achieving results in fundraising and marketing

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### **What will you be doing?**

#### **1. Providing strategic direction**

Together with the other Trustees on Council, you will have ultimate responsibility for the strategic direction of the charity and for ensuring WWT is effectively delivering wetland conservation. You will use reasonable care and diligence, based on your own skills and experience, to ensure WWT is well-run and efficient. The senior management team, paid members of staff who run the charity on a day to day basis, make recommendations to the Council on policies, budgets and strategies, but all strategic decisions are made by Trustees.

#### **2. Ensuring compliance**

You will ensure that WWT complies with charity law and meets the requirements of the charity regulators (the Charity Commission in England and Wales, OSCR in Scotland and the Charity

Commission for Northern Ireland). The charity is also a registered company and some of the Trustees act as directors for Companies Act purposes, so you will ensure company law requirements are also met, following professional guidance where necessary.

### 3. Acting in the best interests of WWT

You must act in the best interests of WWT, with integrity and avoiding any personal conflicts of interest or undue risks.

#### Where do we meet?

You must be willing and able to travel to WWT's sites around the UK, where the meetings are held – although online meetings are now frequent too. Trustees usually meet at least once per year in London, and at least once per year at the WWT HQ in Slimbridge, Gloucestershire. Once or twice a year the meetings may necessitate overnight stays.

#### How much time will it take?

Trustees meet formally as a Council four times per year (usually March, July, October and December) with papers to read before each meeting. Trustees are also expected to attend the AGM, usually held on a day immediately preceding the autumn Trustee meeting. Dates for these meetings are provided many months in advance. Periodically, Trustees are also asked to attend fundraising and other stakeholder events, or to actively support other governance structures such as the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. A full induction will be provided and Trustees are also encouraged to visit WWT sites and to find out more about the work of the charity outside of the scheduled meeting times.

#### Who are we looking for?

We are looking for people with a fascination in the natural world – particularly wetlands.

You need not have been a charity trustee before, but you will have experience of participating at a senior level. You are able to follow, participate and influence complex strategic discussions and make pragmatic decisions. You might find your employer supports you having a strategic role with another organisation.

We are looking for people with very high levels of integrity and to be appointed as a Trustee you cannot have been disqualified from acting as a charity trustee or serving as a company director, been convicted of dishonesty or fraud or be an undischarged bankrupt.

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#### General notes:

This position is entirely voluntary and is unpaid. Full travel and accommodation expenses will be reimbursed.

If selected, you will be appointed as a Trustee with the charity regulators and as a Director with Companies House. You will then need to be formally elected as a Trustee at the next AGM (November 2021) to serve a term of three years. You may then be considered for re-election for a further term of three years.

**Date:** 01/07/2021