

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust

Trustee Pack



Yorkshire Wildlife Trust Treasurer Trustee Brief

Help us achieve our vision of a Yorkshire rich in wildlife for everyone

We are looking for new Treasurer and Trustee to join our Board in October when our current Treasurer steps down. In particular, we are seeking a qualified management accountant who can provide insights and leadership to support the financial management and governance of the Trust. The Treasurer works in close co-operation with, and provides support and advice to, the Finance Director and the Chief Executive. Our Trustees have a key leadership role at Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, setting the direction of the organisation and help us to achieve our goals of creating wildlife-rich places and wildlife-rich lives.

Becoming a Trustee means taking on a voluntary role to support and guide a charitable organisation to achieve agreed vision and goals. Trustees are responsible for the overall governance of a charity.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust's Trustees set our strategic direction and provide guidance, support and challenge to the Senior Leadership Team. They are passionate ambassadors for the charity's work, influencing key partners and helping to secure funding. Trustees also contribute through their own professional expertise and background as collegiate members of the team, to ensure the charity is positioned to deliver its strategic priorities. Our Trustees bring strategic vision, independent judgement and a willingness to commit to leading the Trust through challenges and opportunities.

Our Board and Senior Leadership Team are a partnership, with mutual trust and respect – who work together with the shared purpose of achieving the Trust's vision and mission.



Yorkshire Wildlife Trustees should:

- develop real commitment;
- get to know and understand the charity's purpose and mission;
- give counsel (when needed) and support the Chief Executive;
- advise the Chief Executive about advantageous partnerships and contacts that might be able to provide support – financial or otherwise;
- be willing to help with events that might further or support the work of the trust;
- be willing and able to communicate the work of the charity to the community, friends and business contacts.

What's in it for you:

- the knowledge that you're making a real and lasting difference to some of the most amazing green and blue spaces in the country;
- working with a group of like-minded, enthusiastic people;
- training and mentoring opportunities;
- all expenses covered;
- amazing insight into the work of an organisation working at the cutting edge of nature conservation and working alongside experts in their field.

The Charity Commission's Six Essential Duties of a Trustee:

- To ensure your charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
- To comply with your charity's governing document and the law
- To act in your charity's best interests
- To manage your charity's resources responsibly
- To act with reasonable care and skill
- To ensure your charity is accountable.

For more information about our current Trustees please visit
ywt.org.uk/about-us/charity-information/trustees.

Although the Board delegates authority to the Senior Leadership Team, it remains legally responsible for the charity. Trustees are jointly and severally responsible for the overall governance and strategic direction of the charity, its financial health, the probity of its activities and developing the organisation's aims, objectives and goals in accordance with the governing document, legal and regulatory guidelines. This responsibility extends to the charity's culture as well as its performance.

We have a lot of work to do to restore the abundance of nature in Yorkshire and being a Trustee can feel demanding at times, but it is deeply rewarding and you will be part of a friendly and energetic team.

Time Commitment

Trustees should expect to devote at least 5 hours per month (plus any voluntary project and committee work). This time will be spent preparing for and attending Board meetings and one or more Board Committees, as well as volunteering time to help develop the Trust's work and attend other occasional meetings and events. There are currently eleven Trustees, with several serving as Honorary Officers (Chair, Treasurer and Honorary Secretary and Deputies) which require more time commitment but are supported. Under normal circumstances, the Board meets five times a year, mostly on weekday afternoons in different locations across Yorkshire, and committees are held during office hours usually at the Trust headquarters in York or online. Since the pandemic a significant proportion of our meetings are now held online. There is an expectation to attend 75% of Board meetings and the AGM.

Term of Office

Trustees are appointed in a voluntary capacity for a four-year term. Trustees can be reappointed for further four-year terms (most will complete two terms). We provide an induction and opportunities for training and personal development.

To apply to be a Trustee, applicants do not need to be a Member of the Trust at time of application, however, it is an expectation to become a Member if selected.

For more information about our current Trustees please visit www.ywt.org.uk/about-us/charity-information/trustees

About Us

The Wildlife Trust for Yorkshire was founded in 1946 by people who knew they needed to take action to protect the special and diverse habitats in Yorkshire's wild places which our fellow species need.

Today, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust is one of the largest nature conservation bodies in the area working at a grass-roots, local level whilst also being part of a strong cohesive national movement in the federation of Wildlife Trusts. We are a membership organisation and our members support is vital to everything we do.

We have a dedicated team of circa 800 volunteers working alongside our team of 190 staff working in every corner of Yorkshire to make a difference for wildlife.

The science and insight which has formed our State of Yorkshire's Nature report, guides how we work to protect wild spaces, support rare and common species and re-introduce species which have been lost. We are protecting and catalysing the recovery of Yorkshire's biodiversity so that nature can recover.

We seek to tell compelling stories, to show people nature's recovery is achievable and to amplify the powerful voices of our 43,000 members for the natural world and wildlife. #TeamWilder is our innovative community mobilisation approach where we enable others to take action for wildlife in their local places.

We work in partnership with other organisations, community groups, landowners and key decision-makers to inspire them to work with and for nature. We are passionate about inspiring people of all ages, with thousands of children and adults reached each year at our education activities, through our visitor centres, events and reserves.



JOHN POTTER

Where we are going

Our Strategy

This is a decisive decade, a tipping point where we have to halt the decline in our habitats and species by 2030, build resilience to the impacts of a changing climate, and catalyse conditions for them to flourish once again.

We are finalising our 2025-2030 strategy, but our ambitions focus on:

■ **Nature's recovery** – more land and sea are positively managed for nature to achieve the 30% by 2030 goal.

■ **Nature-positive system** – active support for wildlife and natural systems are embedded into the framework of society, where nature-based solutions provide opportunities and help to solve societal problems.

■ **1 in 4 people take action for Nature** – individuals, communities and organisations are empowered to make a positive difference for nature and drive the creation of nature positive societal & economic system.

Brigading our expertise and resources to focus on accelerating nature's recovery is critical. Our activities must ensure we see more, bigger, better and joined up places for wildlife, and the Trust in good organisational health.

Our activities

Flagship Programmes

Our nationally significant programmes exemplify the impact we can have when we work in partnership, for example:

■ Yorkshire Peat Partnership has been restoring peatland for more than a decade and is an important member of the Great North Bog initiative.

■ Wilding in the uplands is being delivered through the Wild Ingleborough partnership, with ambitions to extend new forms of land management across Yorkshire's three peaks and beyond.

■ The North Sea, Yorkshire coast and Humber Estuary provide rich and sensitive habitats for the work in our Marine Programme, which is re-establishing species, creating new habitats and helping wildlife adapt to climate change and the development in the North Sea.

Nature recovery network and our Nature Reserves

Since 1946, when Askham Bog became our first nature reserve, we have been acquiring and managing a wide portfolio of special places across Yorkshire. We now own or manage over 3000 hectares of land, our nature reserves are havens for rare and threatened species and habitats. These reserves alongside others owned and managed by other wildlife charities and nature friendly landowners, make up the foundation for the nature recovery network so desperately needed to protect the diversity of habitats and species we have and importantly enable them to reach sustainable population levels across Yorkshire.

Engagement

Involving more people across Yorkshire to take action for wildlife is critical to all of our ambitions.

The #Team Wilder approach to engagement aligns us to the collective work of The Wildlife Trusts Federation to engage and empower individuals and communities to do more for wildlife and so address the ecological and climate emergencies

Our purpose is to make Yorkshire Wilder

Our Vision for Yorkshire

Nature-rich and resilient land and seascapes, stretching from the sea, to cities and fells with healthy, thriving ecosystems meeting the needs of people across Yorkshire.

In short, this means we want Yorkshire to be:



Nature Positive – nature is in recovery and growing



Climate Ready – resilient to and adapting for climate change

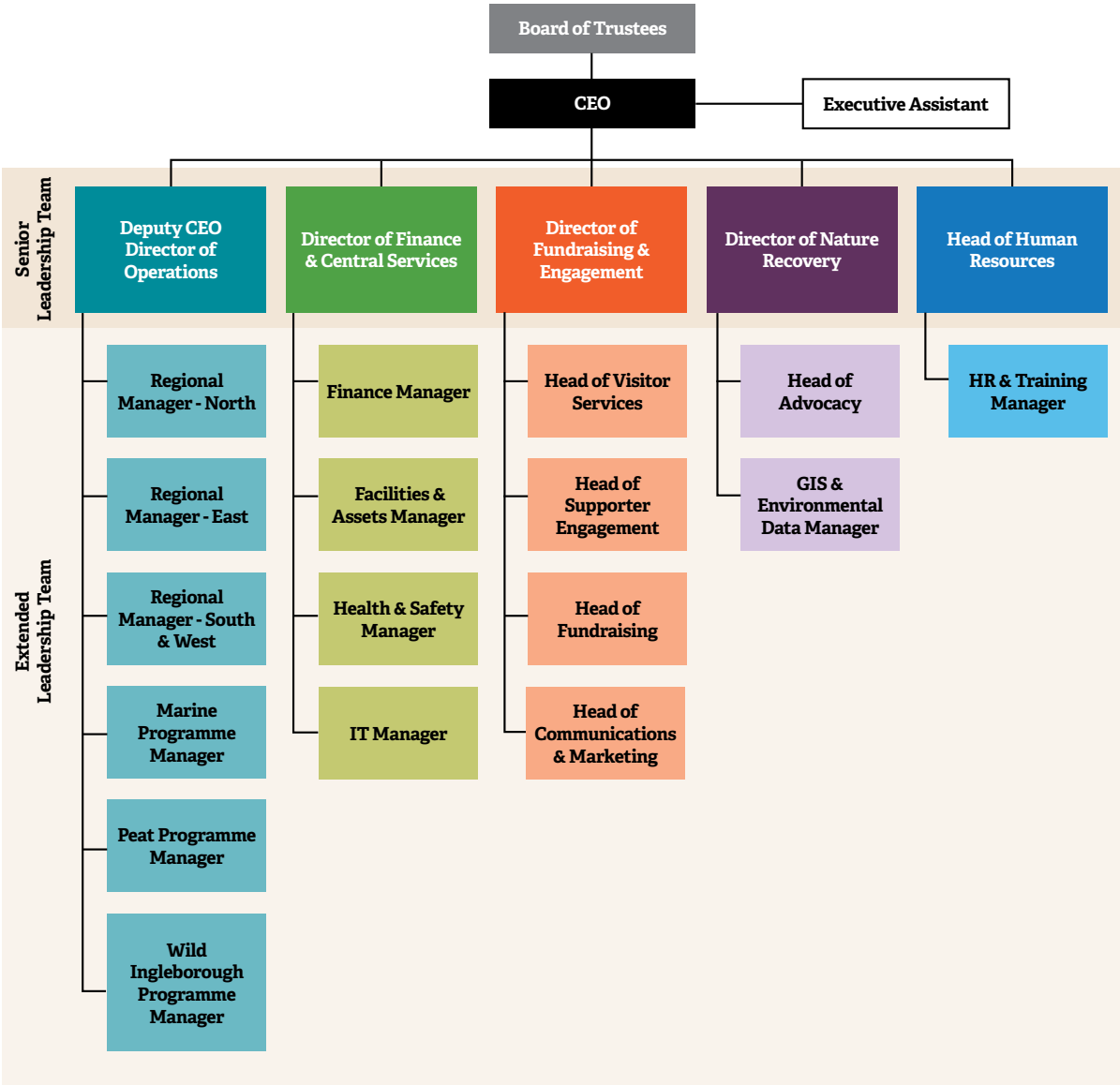


Carbon Negative – mitigating further climate change




Environmentally engaged – where everyone plays their part to deliver the vision


How we are organised




Our values




Courage




Responsibility




Integrity



Trust



Respect



DEMONSTRATE OUR VALUES EVERYDAY: By being involved with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust we are committed to demonstrating these values every day and endeavour to behave in accordance with them in everything we do. Thus, ensuring that we provide exemplar interactions with all our supporters including online or face-to-face, to enable the achievement of Yorkshire being rich in wildlife for everyone.

Role Description

Role	Treasurer and Trustee
Team	Board of Trustees
Salary	Voluntary (unpaid)
Time Commitment	At least 5 hours per month (plus voluntary project work)
Working Base	Yorkshire
Responsible to	Board of Trustees
Responsible for	The strategic direction of the charity
Overall Purpose of Role	To provide governance and strategic leadership for the Trust, ensuring that the Trust pursues its charitable purposes and provides public benefit
Main Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Govern the Trust and provide direction and strategic leadership for it;■ Ensure the Trust's funds and assets are safeguarded and correctly applied;■ Ensure the Trust acts in accordance with its memorandum and articles;■ Monitor risks and the risk control measures in place;■ Ensure the financial stability and solvency of the Trust;■ Ensure compliance with charity law and other applicable legal requirements;■ Protect, manage and correctly apply the Trust's funds and assets;■ Safeguard the Trust's reputation and standing



Role Specification

Management and Supervision:

The Board

- determines the responsibilities and duties of the Chief Executive, and monitors the performance of the Chief Executive and the Senior Leadership Team.

Accountability and Resources:

The Board

- oversees the preparation of and approve the Annual Trustees' Report and Accounts and ensures all other public accountability requirements are met;
- approves the purchase of land and real property.

Job Impact

The Board

- has significant and wide-ranging impact both internally and externally through its approval of Trust policies and its strategic decision-making, which can significantly affect organisation-wide results, including financial stability.

Independence and Judgement

The Board

- determines strategy, in pursuit of the Trust's charitable purposes;
- approves the 5-year Strategic Plan and the Annual Plan, and monitors progress against them;
- approves policies for the Trust.

People and Contacts

Board members

- develop and maintain relationships for the Trust and successfully influence people externally at all levels.

Creativity and Innovation

Board members

- apply creative thinking to influence the development and implementation of Trust policies and strategy.



Person Specification

Role Title

Treasurer and Trustee

Team

Board of Trustees

Experience

We are seeking a new Honorary Treasurer to join our board of Trustees; ideally a qualified management accountant who can provide insights and leadership to support the financial management and governance of the trust. The Treasurer works in close co-operation with, and provides support and advice to, the Finance Director and the Chief Executive. Specific duties include:

- Guide and advise the Board in the approval of budgets, accounts and financial statements, within a relevant financial policy framework.
- Keep the Board informed about its financial duties and responsibilities.
- Advise the Board on the financial implications of the Trust's strategic plans and key assumptions, including the operational plan and annual budget.
- Confirm the financial resources of the Trust meet its present and future needs and that there are appropriate reserves and investment policies.
- Understand the accounting procedures and key internal controls, to be able to assure the Board that the Trust's financial integrity is sound.
- Lead the open tender process of independent auditors, ideally at least every five years.
- Ensure the accounts are properly audited, that accepted recommendations of the auditors are implemented and provide financial expertise to the Finance and Risk committee, as appropriate.
- Ensure that the annual accounts are presented at the AGM.
- The Treasurer will be a member of the Finance and Risk committee and act as its Chair.
- Through the Finance and Risk committee, monitor the Trust's investment activity and ensure that its investment policy is consistent with the organisation's values, policies, aims, objectives and legal responsibilities.

- Ensure that all financial activity takes account of ethical fundraising and investment policies that are in place.
- Assist and advise in the recruitment and appointment of any new Finance Director as required.
- Act as one of the bank signatories for cheques, online banking etc.

Competence, Knowledge and Skills:

- Experience of the financial management of a large organisation with appropriate accounting qualifications.
- Ability to build and sustain relationships with key stakeholders and colleagues to achieve the Trust's organisational objectives.
- Good, independent judgement and strategic vision.
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team.
- Ability to understand and accept the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship and the respective roles of the Chair, Trustees and Chief Executive.
- Dedication to impartiality and fairness and the ability to respect confidential information.
- Commitment to the seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.
- Commitment to promoting equality, diversity, inclusion and safeguarding.
- Commitment to the Trust and a willingness to devote the necessary time and effort.
- A willingness to bring a diverse range of perspectives to the table.
- Willingness to be available to members of the Leadership Team for advice and support on an ad hoc basis

Personal Qualities:

Trustees are expected to:

- Act in the best interests of the Trust.
- Exercise due care and attention and use reasonable skill in dealing with the Trust's affairs.
- Apply personal skills, knowledge and experience to help the work of the Board and assist in decision-making.
- Declare any potential conflicts of interest.
- Attend Board meetings and play an active part in discussions and decisions.
- Serve on Board committees and working groups as required.
- Have a strong empathy with our vision to make Yorkshire rich in wildlife for everyone

Above all applicants should show enthusiasm and commitment to work with a team of others for the benefit of the Trust and its object.



ANDY CHILTON

If you feel you have the **skills** we are looking for, as well as the **drive** and **commitment** to make a real contribution to our charity, the work it does to **inspire, engage** and **protect** Yorkshire's wildlife and are aged over 18 we would love to hear from you.

How to Apply

To make your application, please submit a CV and a covering letter outlining why you consider you are suitable for the role to our Honorary Secretary Trustee, Ceri Williams: ceri.williams@ywt.org.uk

For further information please contact Julia Simpson, Executive Assistant: julia.simpson@ywt.org.uk

Timetable

- Application closing date - 30 August 2025
- Interview candidates informed mid-September
- Interviews to be held 24 September 2025
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust AGM – Saturday 4 October 2025. Candidates may like to attend, information on the Trust's website: [AGM 2025 | Yorkshire Wildlife Trust](#)
- New Trustees co-opted on to the Board at the board meeting on 23rd October 2025

ywt.org.uk