

Members of the Council

All Council members should have or acquire upon appointment or election a good knowledge of:

- The core purpose of the Trust
- The Trust's strategy
- The Trust's governance, in particular the different roles of the Board and the Council

Beyond these fundamental needs, Council members should be able to demonstrate the following:

Qualities

- an understanding of, commitment to, and a passion for, the National Trust and its work
- objectivity, fairness, independence of mind, integrity, wisdom, discretion and good judgement
- a commitment to act solely in the best interests of the Trust and of the wider public without regard to personal interest or benefit
- a readiness to take and be accountable for decisions
- awareness of how the world is changing politically, economically and socially
- the necessary time to be an effective Council member
- a good team player
- ability and willingness to be an ambassador for the Trust and to represent the Trust positively to external audiences
- no significant potential conflicts of interest

- readiness and time to get involved in non-governance Trust volunteer activity

Experience, knowledge and skills

The Council collectively should have all the attributes needed to fulfil its role and responsibilities, including in particular:

- experience, knowledge and skills in a range of areas of the Trust's work
- a range of perspectives and knowledge of the communities with an interest in and a connection with the Trust's work
- volunteer experience of the Trust's work
- an understanding of the current and future needs of the Trust's beneficiaries, including members and the wider public
- knowledge of and skills in a range of the work areas in which the Trust is involved
- sufficient people with the potential to become members of the Board of Trustees

The time commitment for Council members is expected to be approximately 10 days a year.