

National Trust

Regional Advisory Board Application Pack

London and the South East

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Letter from the Regional Director and current Chair

Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our Regional Advisory Board. We are looking for volunteers who are based in the London and South East region who can advise us on leading a large and complex organisation, think creatively about the opportunities the region offers, and bring new connections and perspectives in delivering our strategy and regional plans.



The National Trust was established in 1895 by people who believed that people have a fundamental need for access to nature, space and beauty, and that special places need protection. Today we hold true to those beliefs. We want as many people as possible to feel welcome and connected to our places and to have an opportunity to get involved.

But we're doing this in a period of rapid change. As with other organisations, the coronavirus pandemic has hit the National Trust hard and we are having to re-think how we deliver. Our large ongoing programme of conservation work, continues to invest in looking after our places, caring for our buildings, collections and landscapes. We are developing programmes and activities to appeal to more people and explore how the rich histories of our places are shared; places that we understand hold different meanings for different people at different times.

We will work in partnership to restore and connect habitats, and bring wildlife back to our coast, countryside and gardens. We will explore how we can make it easier for everyone to have access to green space and nature. And we have ambitious plans to become carbon net zero by 2030, planting and establishing 20 million trees to create more woodland, and investing in renewables.

London and the South East is a fantastic and diverse region, with historic houses, parklands, gardens, coastline, archaeology and countryside rich in nature, beauty and history. The region employs around 1,300 people and benefits from the support of over 7,500 volunteers. It's the passion of our people and supporters that makes the National Trust a special place to work and volunteer. People are the key to our success. If you feel you can volunteer your external insights, experience and passion, then we would love to hear from you.

Yours faithfully

Nicola Briggs
Regional Director for London and the South East



A word from current Chair, Jim Smyllie

London and the South East looks after some of the really big hitters in the National Trust: the elegant gardens of Sissinghurst Castle and Sheffield Park, the grand houses of Polesden Lacey, Knole and Basildon Park, the wonderful estates of Cliveden and Osterley, and the smaller gems like Red House and Leith Hill Place. Beyond the houses and gardens are huge swathes of coastline from the White Cliffs in Kent to Birling Gap in Sussex, to crucial bits of ancient heathland in Surrey like Headley Heath and Holmwood Common.



To have had the opportunity to get to know these places better, to understand and support the way they are looked after and presented to the public by passionate National Trust teams, has been a huge pleasure. To lead an advisory group which brings expertise in historic buildings, ecology, farming, planning, visitor management and customer flow has been a privilege too, and I cannot recommend this role highly enough to my lucky successor.

Introduction to the National Trust

About the National Trust

The National Trust protects and cares for places so people and nature can thrive. We look after hundreds of historic houses and buildings, close to a million objects and vast areas of coastline, countryside, woodland and parks - for everyone's benefit. This makes us the biggest conservation charity in Europe.

As a charity completely independent of Government, we rely on income from membership fees, donations and legacies, and revenue raised from our commercial operations. The income generated is re-invested in our conservation work, and in a normal year we would spend around £150m on projects.

We couldn't do what we do without our millions of members, volunteers, staff and supporters. Together we care for more than 250,000 hectares of land, more than 500 historic houses, castles, parks and gardens, over 780 miles of coastline and in excess of one million works of art.

We operate across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We are constituted under a number of Acts of Parliament and regulated by the Charity Commission.

About the London & South East Region

Home to historic estates, glorious gardens, dramatic coastline and countryside, and a varied mix of suburban and city community locations, London and the South East offers a real variety of landscapes, built heritage, important collections and special places. In 2019, 28 million people visited our houses and gardens, not including visits to our open access coast and countryside.

Many of the National Trust's most visited properties are in this region which helps generate a significant element of the organisation's commercial income from those treating themselves in our cafes and shops or enjoying a break in our holiday accommodation.

The region has invested in significant conservation projects, such as a £20million conservation studio at Knole, large scale restorations of historic gardens at Standen and Sissinghurst Castle, and the plans for the future of Clandon Park.



A diverse region, we look after:

- 829 listed buildings
- 180 scheduled ancient monuments
- 38 registered parks and gardens
- 52 miles of waterways
- 48 miles of coastline
- 5 castles
- 2 lighthouses
- 2 medieval barns
- 1 historic battlefield
- 1 working hop farm
- 1 duck decoy
- 1 listed dog kennel
- The largest concentration of ancient woodlands under the Trust's care



The region covers London and the counties of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex and Kent. A map of the region showing our properties is attached at annex A.

The National Trust's strategic priorities

The Trust's core purpose, to care for nature, beauty and history throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland, continues to guide us as it has for the past 126 years. Our overall strategy remains the same, but our organisation has changed. It has been a challenging year but we are more flexible and ready to focus our efforts on our biggest priorities: caring for places and giving them a sustainable future, improving the state of nature in the UK, addressing unequal access to nature, beauty and history where people live, making sure our places keep evolving - attracting people to care for them and inspiring them, giving people more opportunities to get involved and support our work, and being an inclusive, welcoming and sustainable organisation.

You can read more about our strategy [here](#)



London & South East Regional Advisory Board

The Regional Advisory Board

The London & South East Regional Advisory Board has up to ten members. It advises, supports and challenges the Regional Director and her team to develop their thinking on strategic priorities, themes or projects. Group members bring their knowledge of the region, as well as insights, networks and innovation from external organisations and sectors to help the National Trust deliver its strategy in London and the South East.

Current members bring a wide range of experience to the Board – land and building management, finance, fundraising, leisure and heritage attractions, local and central government, planning policy, research and retail.

Chair of the Regional Advisory Board

As Chair you will work closely with the Regional Director and will also provide clear leadership to the Regional Advisory Board. Appointments are made for three years and administration is kept light-touch, in keeping with the purely advisory role of the group. The Chair may be reappointed once i.e. for a maximum of six years.

The Advisory Group generally meets up to four times a year, which could be through WebEx, face-to-face or a site visit, depending on the external context. Members can also be asked to offer advice individually or as part of a small group, or to use their expertise to support specific projects or initiatives. Occasionally they may be invited to attend workshops, webinars or events. The overall time commitment is a minimum of five days per year, with meetings held during the working week.

Each year the Board Chair provides a written report for the Board of Trustees highlighting key issues or concerns in their region. Regional Advisory Board Chairs meet twice a year with the Trust Chairman and Director-General.

The London and South East Advisory Board is one of four regional and two country groups across the National Trust in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the Chairs of the six advisory groups meet twice a year.

The Chair is asked to be open about any relevant responsibilities and positions and declare any conflict of interest. The Regional Director and her team may share confidential or sensitive information with the Advisory Group, so members are also required to maintain confidentiality when requested.

Who are we looking for

We are looking for a Chair who:

- Lives in London and the South East and is knowledgeable about the region, its organisations, networks and communities
- Is passionate about the historic and natural environment and the National Trust's core purpose of looking after nature, history, beauty, for everyone, for ever
- Is well networked and can help to develop new and existing partnerships and collaborations regionally, helping to open doors, working alongside the Regional Director to influence others
- Has great leadership and will help get the best out of our Regional Advisory Board as individual members and a collective group
- Will push and challenge the Regional Director and her team, encouraging them to find bold, creative and pragmatic solutions, supporting them to make the right decisions
- Can act as a sounding board for the Regional Director personally, enabling her to explore ideas and think through tricky issues facing the region
- Understands current economic, environmental and/or social trends and the challenges and opportunities they present in London and the South East
- Can share and demonstrate our values (annex B)

What's in it for you?

- You will gain or develop your experience of playing an advisory role in a large, complex organisation, with commercial, charitable and public benefit roles
- You will be contributing to the work of Europe's largest conservation charity and helping to shape our response to the challenges of the 21st century
- You will be playing a part in restoring and protecting some of London and the South East's finest historic houses, archaeological remains, scheduled monuments, coastline, woods, farmland, nature reserves, gardens and landscapes
- You will be thinking about how to make these special places more accessible to everyone, broadening our appeal and delivering more public benefit
- You will enjoy debating issues and problem solving with a diverse group of committed enthusiasts: your fellow Board members, National Trust staff and volunteers

To help Advisory Group members perform their role, the National Trust offers:

- Induction for new members and access to our volunteering intranet
- Dates for meetings identified in advance, to enable you to plan into your agenda and/or working life
- Reimbursement of reasonable expenses incurred on Trust business



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How to apply

We are looking for a Chair to be appointed from 1 January 2022. We hope that our successful candidate will be able to join our meeting on 9 December 2021.

If you are interested, please send a CV and covering letter to Laura Wareing, Business Services Manager – laura.wareing@nationaltrust.org.uk

Please make clear in the covering letter what you expect to bring to the work of the Board, based on the contents of this application pack.

Closing date Friday 19th November 2021

Shortlisting 25th November

Interviews 2nd December in London

Further information

There is a wealth of general information about our work on the Trust's main [website](#). You will also find further information about Governance [here](#)

You may wish to talk the role over with our current Chair who would be very pleased to talk either on the phone or via email. Please contact Laura Wareing, Business Services Manager on laura.wareing@nationaltrust.org.uk to arrange this.

Our National Trust

The National Trust means all kinds of things to all kinds of people. So, inside the Trust, it's important that we share a clear understanding of who we are and what we stand for.

Every organisation has to be clear about its purpose and communicate it as simply and effectively as possible to the world outside. The words in the pink box are designed to enable us all to do this.

The challenges and opportunities facing us are greater than ever. We have a renewed focus on the crisis facing nature. We have urgent work to do today and long-term plans for a better tomorrow. Together, talking in one clear voice and living our values, we can achieve a huge amount.



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What we do

We protect and care for places so people and nature can thrive. Many millions share the belief that nature, beauty and history are for everyone. So we look after the nation's coastline, historic sites, countryside and green spaces, ensuring everyone benefits.

Why we do it

Nature and the historic environment are under threat. They're essential to everyone, they enrich people's lives and are part of the fabric of society and they urgently need more care.

Where we do it

From wild and precious places to the world outside your window, the National Trust offers access, enjoyment and a chance for everyone to help out.

Who we are

With our staff, members, volunteers and supporters, we are the biggest conservation charity in Europe. Everyone can get involved, everyone can make a difference.

How we do it

We live by four key values:

We love people and places

People and places need each other to thrive. We care for nature, beauty and history for everyone, for ever.

We welcome everyone

We are for everyone. We play a positive role locally and nationally connecting and inspiring people.

We think now and for ever

Be part of creating a lasting legacy for the future by valuing what we have, embracing change and moving forward.

We make it happen

We move forward with purpose and focus, always aiming to simplify and improve.

What we believe in

Nature, beauty, history. For everyone, for ever.

Our values

Love people and places

People and places need each other to thrive. We care for nature, beauty and history for everyone, for ever.

- We care about places and nature for people
- We inspire people through our knowledge, enthusiasm and actions
- We work together to bring places to life for people
- We champion the variety of places and the people who connect with them



Think now and for ever

Be part of creating a lasting legacy for the future by valuing what we have, embracing change and moving forward.

- We respect and learn from the past to inform the decisions we make today
- We embrace change and think creatively so we're always relevant
- We act responsibly and sustainably, avoiding waste
- We consider the impact of everything we do on people, the planet and our financial health



Welcome everyone

We are for everyone. We play a positive role locally and nationally connecting and inspiring people.

- We are understanding and respectful
- We are curious and learn from others
- We collaborate, proactively considering different perspectives
- We are welcoming and value difference



Make it happen

We move forward with purpose and focus, always aiming to simplify and improve.

- We act efficiently and keep it simple
- We deliver great service and quality
- We prioritise effectively and own our actions
- We lead where we should, and support where we can

