



Trustees of West Dorset Wilding: Role profile

West Dorset Wilding, a landowner and farmer-led charity driving landscape-scale ecological restoration in Dorset, is seeking **two new Trustees**, one with strong business, financial, and governance experience and the other with excellent ecological knowledge, experience and skills.

Location

We are based near Bridport in Dorset, local is preferred but Trustees can be from further afield if they are prepared to meet in person between 2-4 times/year. Remote attendance at meetings can be arranged, but in-person are preferred.

Time Commitment

Depending on role, minimum 1-2 days per month, including quarterly board meetings and relevant committee meetings. We are a small charity, so Trustees still play a strong operational role in supporting the Executive.

Term

3 years, with eligibility for reappointment for one additional term before a break is needed.

Reporting to

Chair of the Board of Trustees

West Dorset Wilding

Established in late 2021, we are a landowner and farmer-led charity taking action to restore ecosystems and increase nature in our wonderful West Dorset, through rewilding and regenerative agriculture. See westdorsetwilding.org for more details.

Nature in the UK is in crisis from years of misguided, destruction of important habitats, lack of investment in conservation, pollution and urbanisation. We are now living in a landscape which not only can't protect us from the effects of flooding, drought and pollution, but has left many animal and plant species on the brink of disappearing from our shores altogether.

Although it may seem a rural idyll, West Dorset is no different from many other parts of the UK and its 'biodiversity' - the variety of life - has been hugely depleted over the last 70+ years. We have set up this charity now because we understand the problems facing nature, how this impacts all of us, and how, as custodians of the land, we can start to make a difference on our doorstep.

In April 2024 we started to deliver a government Landscape Recovery scheme grant, a major commitment and an incredible opportunity; see britvalley.org for more details. To support this work we need new Trustees to help; Landscape Recovery needs excellent institutional governance and rigorous business and ecological oversight. For such a small organisation to be given this scale of grant is quite rare, so we are in a privileged position.

Role Purpose

As a Trustee you will play a crucial role in guiding West Dorset Wilding towards achieving its mission. You will provide strategic direction, ensure robust financial oversight, and help to enhance our fundraising efforts or governance practices, depending on your area of expertise.

We are looking for Trustees with a particular focus on the following skills:

- 1) **Business:** Someone with high level business or charity executive / C-Suite experience and skills, who has an overview of governance, finance, HR, strategy and can also play the role of Treasurer. A former or current CEO / CFO with available time would be ideal. We would look for this role to be a little more hands-on than other trustee roles by providing more frequent support and advice to the Exec Director and Chair.
- 2) **Ecologist:** An ecologist or similar with extensive academic and practical experience of nature restoration in lowland settings. We would be looking for this person to use their ecological expertise to guide the board and team on related issues.

A passion for nature and ecological understanding would also be an advantage for both roles.

Key Responsibilities

General Trustee Responsibilities:

- Attend and contribute to quarterly board meetings and other relevant committees.
- Participate in strategic planning and decision-making processes.
- Ensure the charity complies with its governing document, charity law, and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- Safeguard the charity's assets and ensure proper use of funds.
- Act in the best interest of the charity, its beneficiaries, and future beneficiaries at all times.
- Use specific skills, knowledge, or experience to help the board reach sound decisions.

Specific Responsibilities (Select Focus Area):

Business Focus:

- Oversee the financial affairs of the charity and ensure they are legal, constitutional, and within accepted accounting practice.
- Ensure proper records are kept and effective financial procedures are in place.
- Monitor and report on the financial health of the organisation.
- In collaboration with the executive, liaise with the charity's accountant/auditor to ensure annual accounts are submitted in a timely manner.
- Have a particular financial focus on externally funded projects.
- Ensure the charity has effective governance policies and practices.
- Lead on reviewing and updating the charity's governing documents.
- Ensure the board functions effectively and follows best governance practices.
- Provide guidance on compliance with regulatory requirements and ethical standards.

Ecology focus

- Work with the Chair, Trustees, Executive Director and Landscape Recovery team to ensure that our strategy and work programmes are ecologically sound, and evidence based, and that the information we use and disseminate is accurate and appropriate.
- Provide a strategic lead to the Trustees and Team in respect of our aspirations for proposed nature benefits in West Dorset, and an expert voice in decision-making.

Person Specification:

General essential trustee qualities:

- Commitment to the mission and values of West Dorset Wilding.
- Willingness to devote the necessary time and effort.
- Strategic vision and good, independent judgement.
- Ability to think creatively and contribute to board discussions.
- Understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities, and liabilities of trusteeship.
- Good communication and interpersonal skills.

Specific Skills (Select Focus Area)

Business Focus:

- C-Suite experience for one or more businesses or organisations.
- Professional accounting qualification or significant experience in financial management.
- Understanding of charity accounting principles and financial reporting requirements.
- Ability to analyse financial statements and reports.
- Experience in governance, legal compliance, or board management.
- Knowledge of charity law and regulatory requirements.
- Experience in policy development and implementation.

Ecology Focus:

- Extensive field and desk experience in ecology, nature conservation and/or related
- Current or recent academic role in the ecology or a related field
- An understanding of agri-environment schemes and working with government
- A good knowledge of the biodiversity and ecosystems of West Dorset

Benefits

- Opportunity to make a significant impact on West Dorset Wilding and its mission.
- Develop skills in strategic planning, governance, and nonprofit management.
- Collaborate with a passionate and dedicated team.
- Gain experience and enhance your professional network.
- Reasonable travel expenses can be paid if required

Application Process:

To apply, please submit your CV and a cover letter outlining your interest and suitability for the role to opportunity@westdorsetwilding.org This is a rolling process with no closing date.

Contact Information:

For further information or an informal discussion about the role, please contact:

Luke Montagu, Chair of Trustees – luke.montagu@westdorsetwilding.org

Sam Rose, Exec Director – sam.rose@westdorsetwilding.org

More details about the Charity at westdorsetwilding.org and our major project at britvalley.org
Our constitution is available [here](#) and our annual report and accounts are available on [this page](#).

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