

Members' AGM 2026

Saturday 7 November – Online or at STEAM Museum, Swindon

Vote online or by post by Friday 30 October

Welcome

Welcome to your 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM) booklet. The AGM is your chance to tell us what matters to you and help shape our work, now and for generations to come.

You can vote on topics (members' resolutions) that have been proposed in advance by fellow members, vote on the candidates standing for election, and attend the AGM either online or in person.

Front cover Spring tree tops at Winkworth Arboretum, Surrey

©National Trust Images/ James Dobson

Contents

Get involved

Pages 4 to 6

Our year in numbers

Pages 7 to 10

Members' resolutions

Pages 11 to 15

Election and candidates

Pages 16 to 30

Voting and registration

Pages 31 to 35

Get involved

Participate in the 2026 AGM – either online or in person at the STEAM Museum in Swindon, at 10am on Saturday 7 November 2026. See you there!



Right Planting snowdrops at Bodnant Garden, North Wales

©National Trust Images/ Paul Harris

Get involved

Dear members

It is with pleasure that I invite you to be part of your 2026 AGM.

Our Director-General, Hilary McGrady, and I will report on highlights and activity over the last year that has been undertaken with the support of you, our members. Whether you join us online or in person, there will be the opportunity to ask questions and share your views. Find out more about **getting involved online** on page 34.

See pages 11 to 15 for the **members' resolutions** – these will be included in business of the meeting and will have been submitted ahead of the meeting. Members will also be asked to consider the **Annual Report and Financial Statements**, and the **appointment of an external auditor**, following a tender process undertaken this year (see page 8, you can also find details on **the Trust's website**). You can vote on these items in advance of the AGM, or on the day. If you join us in person, bring your smartphone to ensure you are able to cast your vote using the secure online platform.



Above National Trust 130th birthday event, College Garden, Westminster Abbey, London
©National Trust Images/James Dobson

If you'd like to vote on the **Council election candidates**, standing this year, you will find the information beginning on page 16. Votes for the candidates can only be submitted in advance of the AGM. Guidance on **voting arrangements** can be found on pages 31 to 35.

I look forward to meeting with you at the AGM in November.



René Olivieri CBE Chair

Get involved *continued*

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions from the Chair
- Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8 November 2025. See **the Trust's website**
- **Adoption of the Annual Report** and Financial Statements for 2025–26. See page 8
- **Appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers** (PwC) as external auditor to the National Trust for the period until the next Annual General Meeting. See page 8
- Members' questions
- **First members' resolution** about the nomination and seconding of Council election candidates by other members. See page 12
- **Second members' resolution** about the Trust's banking partner. See page 14
- Result of the ballot for the election of Council members



Jo Cooke FCG *Secretary*

Attendance

Where and when – register to attend

Join us online or at the STEAM Museum, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2EY on Saturday 7 November 2026. Doors open at 9am for registration. The event starts at 10am and we hope to finish by 1.30pm.

You can register to attend the meeting online or in person from 7 September until 30 October via the **Civica Election Services website**.

If you wish to attend in person, we recommend you register your interest as soon as possible. If interest to attend in person exceeds venue capacity, places will be allocated by ballot and some members may be asked to join online. Full joining instructions will be available closer to the event.

Bring your card and mobile device

If you attend in person, please bring your membership card with you. If you wish to vote on the day, please bring your smartphone. See page 32 for **voting arrangements** using your smartphone or mobile device.

Filming

By attending the meeting, members consent to being filmed and/or photographed for National Trust purposes.

Accessibility

The venue is equipped to welcome members with special access requirements. Assistance dogs are welcome inside the venue. Pets are not permitted. Please contact us ahead of time if you have any access requirements.

Contact us

To find more information about the AGM go to **the Trust's website**.

For membership or any other enquiries please call our Supporter Services Centre on **0344 800 1895**.

For AGM matters, or to request this booklet in an alternative format, you can **email the Trust** or write to us at: The Secretary, National Trust, Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon, SN2 2NA.

You can view the **Annual Report for 2025–26** on the Trust's website and you can also review the **minutes of the previous AGM**.

Our year in numbers

An overview of our finances in 2025–26, including where our money has come from, and how we've spent it. Information about the appointment of our external auditor is also included.



Right Conservator cleaning a red-figure skyphos at Powis Castle, Welshpool, Wales

©National Trust Images/ Paul Harris

Our year in numbers

The National Trust is pleased to report ongoing stability in income and support from members, donors and volunteers.

The Trust's financial approach during 2025–26 was shaped by a continued commitment to balancing long-term conservation objectives with the need for financial sustainability. Investment in property conservation and acquisitions remained substantial at £211.3m (2024–25: £221.2m). Prior year expenditure had been boosted by a drawdown of the reserves built up in earlier years. The Trust is now returning its programme of projects to levels that more closely balance in-year income and expenditure.

The continued delivery of the Trust's ambitious ten-year strategy requires both reliable income generation and action to address the pressures of rising costs. Against this backdrop, the focus has been on reshaping costs to ensure that resources remained aligned with the Trust's charitable purpose. During the year, the Sustainable Future Programme was delivered. This was a significant organisational restructure designed to support the ten-year strategy and reduce ongoing operating costs. The programme was a critical step in safeguarding the Trust's long-term financial health. The cost of the programme was £16.4m and partially covered by in-year spending controls. The savings generated by the programme will help direct more funds to core work.

Alongside managing costs, income growth is crucial to the delivery of the Trust's cause. Membership income continues to provide a financial foundation for the Trust – membership numbers remained stable in 2025–26 and income grew to £324.2m (2024–25: £309.4m). The breadth and loyalty of the membership base help deliver a stable source of unrestricted income, enabling the Trust to take a long-term view of conservation.

Thanks to strong ongoing support from donors, the income from fundraising, appeals, gifts, legacies and grants amounted to £124.7m in the year (up from £123.1m in the prior year). This income played an important role in delivering conservation at scale, enabling the Trust to progress significant conservation programmes, invest in specialist skills and respond to urgent risks arising from climate change and nature loss.

Commercial income (rising from £221.9m to £236.5m) remained a vital contributor to the Trust's overall financial resilience. Revenue generated through the Trust's trading subsidiaries, food and beverage, holidays and other trading activities conducted through the charity, is reinvested into properties' conservation and presentation. This helps the Trust enhance the visitor experience while supporting the upkeep of the estate, helping to fund conservation activity that might otherwise be unaffordable.

Overall movement in funds comprises:

	2025–26 £m	2024–25 £m
Net expenditure	**(50.5)**	(58.2)
Net gains on investment assets	**111.2**	84.7
Actuarial loss on defined benefit pension scheme	**(6.1)**	(0.3)
Overall movement in funds	**54.6**	26.2

Appointment of the external auditor

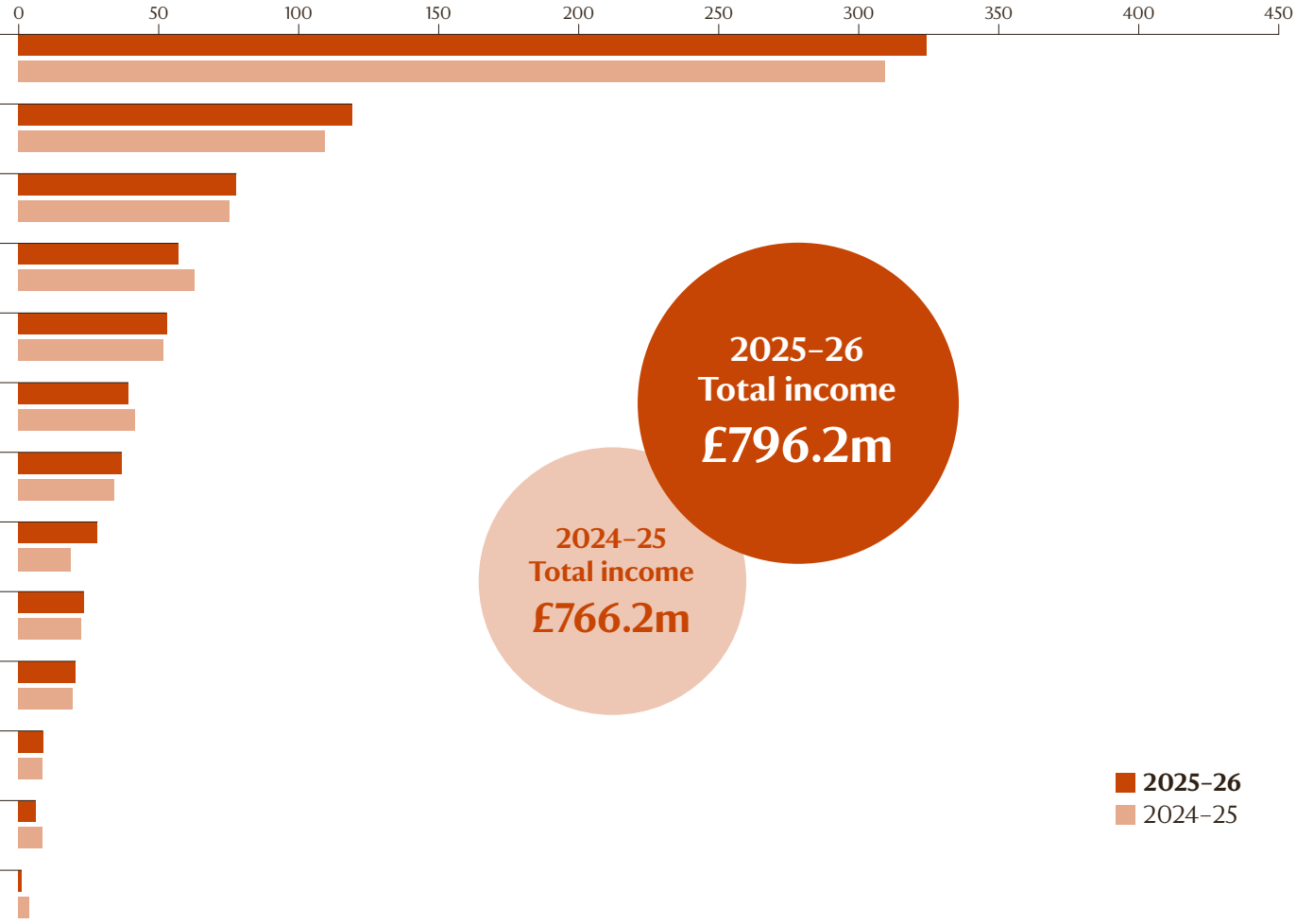
The Trust's Audit & Risk Committee is responsible for overseeing the effectiveness of the external auditor and, in line with regular practice, has re-tendered the Trust's external audit contract. A shortlist of audit firms were invited to set out their proposals. These proposals were reviewed by the Committee and a recommendation made that the Board appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Trust's external auditor for the 2026–27 financial year. This recommendation was accepted by the Board and is put to the AGM for member agreement. The performance of the external auditor will be monitored by the Audit & Risk Committee on behalf of the Board.

The external auditor's report for 2025–26, which was produced by KPMG, is included within the **Annual Report and Financial Statements**.

Our year in numbers *continued*

Where our money came from

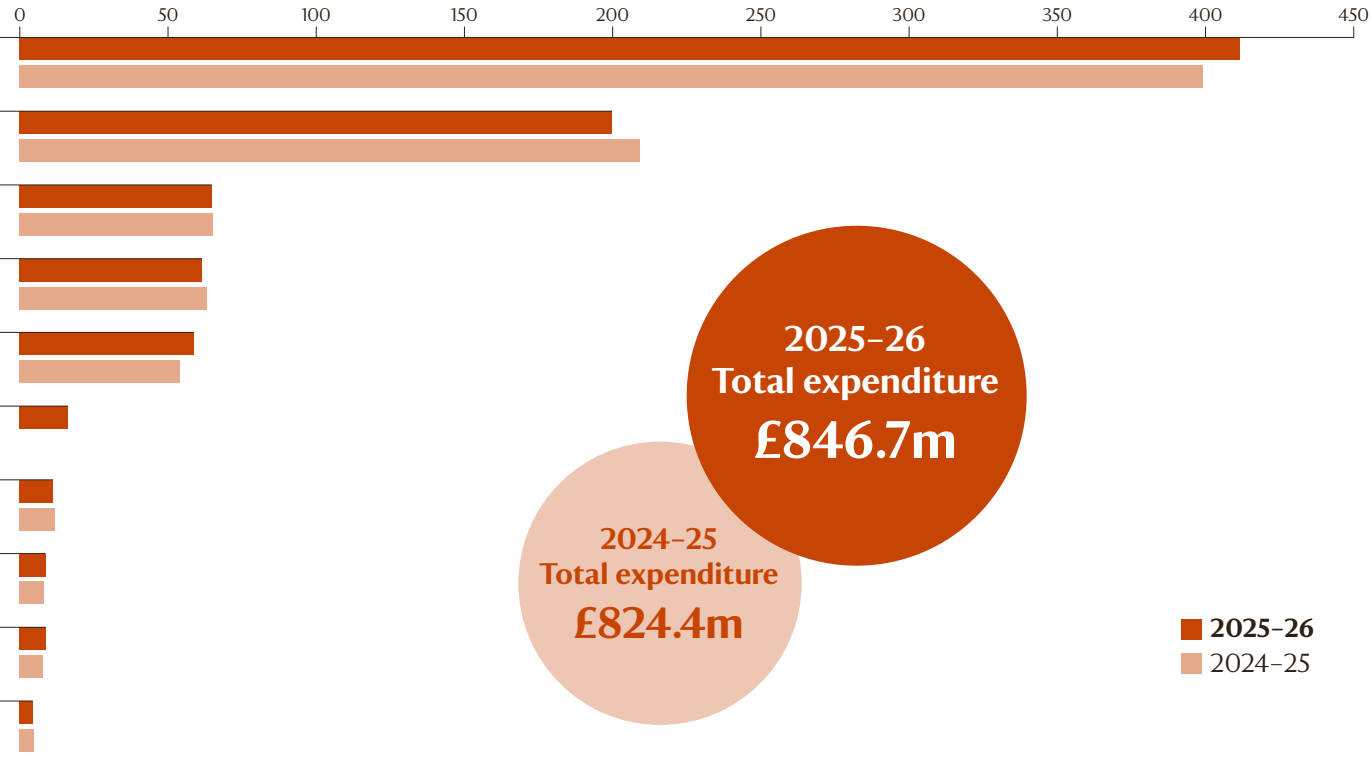
	2025–26 £m	2024–25 £m
Membership	**324.2**	309.4
Food and beverage	**119.2**	109.4
Enterprise and renewables	**77.9**	75.4
Legacies	**57.1**	62.8
Rents	**53.0**	51.7
Grants and contributions	**39.3**	41.7
Admission fees	**37.0**	34.1
Appeals and gifts	**28.3**	18.6
Other property income	**23.4**	22.4
Holiday cottages	**20.5**	19.5
Historic House Hotels	**8.9**	8.6
Investment income	**6.2**	8.6
Other incoming resources	**1.2**	4.0



Our year in numbers *continued*

How we spent our money

	2025–26 £m	2024–25 £m
Property operating costs	**411.6**	399.4
Expenditure on property projects	**199.9**	209.3
Internal conservation and advisory services	**64.9**	65.3
Membership	**61.6**	63.2
Enterprise and renewable energy costs	**58.8**	54.1
Sustainable Future Programme	**16.4**	–
Acquisitions	**11.4**	11.9
Historic House Hotels operating costs	**8.8**	8.4
Fundraising costs	**8.8**	7.8
Investment management fees	**4.5**	5.0



More information

Full financial results and performance for 2025–26 are in **the Trust's Annual Report** on our website.

Members' resolutions

Use your voice to vote on these resolutions proposed by members. Cast your vote on the resolutions in advance of the AGM, or on the day if you register to attend.



Right Community blossom planting at Spark Green Park in Birmingham, West Midlands

©National Trust Images/ Trevor Ray Hart

Members' resolutions

Members' resolution about the nomination and seconding of Council election candidates by other members

Any member who wishes to stand for election to the Council of the National Trust should be nominated and seconded by other members.

Supporting statement

The Council of the National Trust should have a strong mandate from the members. However, governance is currently suffering from member disengagement. Between 2023 and 2025, voter turnout fell by about 60%, partly due to an overly-long ballot that makes meaningful scrutiny of candidates nearly impossible. Currently, any individual can appear on the ballot via an online form with no prior commitment to the Trust.

In contrast, members wishing to bring a resolution must show the support of 50 members of 17 months' standing. This disparity is illogical.

Requiring a proposer and seconder is a standard democratic safeguard. It ensures candidates have a baseline of support and have engaged with the wider membership before seeking a seat on the Council. This minor change will improve candidate quality, shorten the ballot to a manageable length, and help build confidence in the Trust's democratic process.

Resolution proposed by: Cornelia Van der Poll, John Hayward, Patrick Streeter, Dr Simon Colson and Roger White.

The Board of Trustees' response is shown on the following page →

Members' resolutions *continued*

Board of Trustees' response

The Board recognises the intention behind this proposal – to strengthen member engagement and confidence in the Trust's governance. However, with the support of Council, the Board does not believe that requiring Council election candidates to be nominated and seconded by other members is the right way to achieve that aim.

Context

The National Trust exists for everyone, for ever, and we believe the same principle should apply to opportunities to contribute to its governance. All Council election candidates must already be members of the Trust. Council members derive their mandate from being elected by the membership, not from being nominated by two individual members. Requiring candidates to secure a nominator and seconder would introduce an additional barrier to standing for election. It could discourage capable candidates who are newer to the Trust, geographically isolated or without established networks. We want Council elections to attract the widest possible range of candidates, reflecting the diversity of the people and places the Trust serves.

The Board also does not believe that a nomination requirement would improve member engagement or voter turnout. It believes, based on recent evidence, that this can be better addressed by improving the information given to potential candidates about the role of the Council and its responsibilities.

The information provided to Trust members this year includes clearer explanations of the Council's and Nominations Committee's roles in the election process. With fewer candidates standing this year, members have a more concise set of election statements to review when making their voting decisions. Recent changes to the application process have already resulted in a more focused field of candidates without introducing additional barriers to the election process. For these reasons, the Board believes the proposal would reduce accessibility without delivering the intended benefits.

The comparison with the requirement for 50 members to support a members' resolution is not directly equivalent. A resolution seeks to change the Trust's policies or direction and therefore requires evidence of wider support before being put to the membership. Council elections have a different purpose: enabling members to choose from the broadest possible field of candidates.

We recommend that members vote against the resolution.

Members' resolutions *continued*

Members' resolution about the Trust's banking partner

This meeting demands that the Trustees instruct our finance officers to begin a competitive tendering process for banking arrangements as soon as practicable. The criteria used must seek a bank which has a moral and ethical outlook in keeping with National Trust core values, and whose corporate lending and underwriting practices demonstrate a positive commitment to safeguarding biodiversity and reducing human-induced climate change.

Supporting statement

Climate contradiction: The Trust calls climate change the greatest challenge facing our heritage and the natural world. Since the main cause is the burning of coal, oil and methane gas, it makes no sense for the Trust to partner with Barclays – which is Europe's largest bankroller of fossil fuel industries in the energy and power sectors.

Damaging nature: While the Trust works to restore nature, Barclays has spent billions (especially between 2024 and 2026) supporting fracking and methane gas pipelines in North America. These activities fuel the very ecological crisis that destroys the habitats we are trying to save.

A lack of review: Good management means large charities should check their banking options every three to five years to ensure they are getting the best deal and staying up to date. The Trust hasn't done this for a long time, which is a missed opportunity.

Legal duty under the 1907 National Trust Act: Trustees have a legal duty to protect our land and wildlife forever. By staying with a bank that funds environmental degradation, they side with those who put our gardens, houses, and landscapes at risk.

Double standards: The Trust already ensures its suppliers and investments are 'green'. It is inconsistent to hold our bank to a lower standard than our builders or our stock market portfolio. In 2022 and 2023 the Trust published advice which encouraged readers to bank ethically, and yet now in 2026 it still has not embraced this for itself.

Failed conversation: Despite mounting concern at AGMs since 2022, our executive team argue that "influence takes time", but years of discreet engagement with Barclays board have failed to curb its appetite for high-carbon industries. This carries reputational risk for the Trust, especially as climate-related events increasingly damage public health, agriculture and Trust properties such as Avebury Manor, Charlecote Park, Quarry Bank and Bodnant Gardens.

Greenwashing concerns: We shouldn't take Barclays' 'Net Zero' claims at face value. Their in-house 'bluetrack' evaluation ignores the support it is giving to a massive rollout of methane gas infrastructure in the USA. To be a leader in conservation, the Trust's money needs to be as green as its fields.

The bottom line: We need a bank that helps us protect nature, not one that profits from its destruction.

Resolution proposed by: Andrew Henry James, Annette James, Katharine Mary Fallon, David Whiting and John Rodney Clements.

The Board of Trustees' response is shown on the following page →

Members' resolutions *continued*

Board of Trustees' response

The Board of Trustees supports this resolution and believes it represents a proportionate response to an issue that has been of legitimate interest to a number of National Trust members. The proposal to undertake a competitive tender process in a practicable timeframe is, in principle, consistent with good governance and procurement practice.

Context

The Trust seeks to adhere to best practice procurement principles when making decisions about the suppliers it selects to support its operations and deliver its cause. Whilst the Trust's core cash management services have not been formally competitively tendered, it is important to recognise that this does not mean that the wider banking relationship has not. Over the last 10–12 years, the Trust has competitively tendered or market-tested a number of significant banking and financing arrangements, including its Revolving Credit Facility, card payment services, private placement agent bank arrangements and payment gateway services.

Support for this resolution should also be accompanied by recognition of several important caveats.

First, any tender process must be conducted in accordance with procurement best practice that enables the Trustees to exercise full and proper stewardship over charitable resources. The objective of any tender should be to secure the best overall outcome for the charity across a balanced set of criteria. The process should therefore be fair and evidence-based, with clearly defined evaluation criteria, appropriate weighting of environmental, social and governance factors, proper assessment of operational, technological and financial risks and benefits and a demonstrable focus on value for money. Trustees must ultimately balance ethical considerations with their responsibility to safeguard the charity's assets, its resilience and long-term effectiveness.

Secondly, the scale and complexity of the Trust's banking requirements must be acknowledged. The Trust handles hundreds of millions of pounds of receipts and payments, manages extensive physical cash collections across more than 200 locations, operates sophisticated treasury and cash pooling arrangements and requires substantial credit facilities. Any banking transition would therefore be a major operational programme that must be carefully managed.

Thirdly, the tender must remain open to the major UK clearing banks. While some members may understandably aspire to the use of a specialist ethical bank, the evidence presented to the Board of Trustees indicates that no such provider currently has the combination of cash handling capability, lending capacity, payments infrastructure and operational scale required to support an organisation of the Trust's size and complexity. The key question is therefore not whether a bank has no connection whatsoever to fossil fuel financing, but which institution can demonstrate an overall alignment with the Trust's strategy and a proven ability to provide a high quality, secure and value for money service.

By calling for a tender "as soon as practicable", this enables the Trust to time such a process in a way that suits its needs to deliver the best outcome for the charity's cause.

We recommend that members vote for the resolution.

Election and candidates

This section shares the profiles of the candidates standing for election to the Council. Read about their interest in supporting the Trust's strategic ambitions, and the skills they can bring.



Right Silver-studded blue (*Plebejus argus*) butterfly

©National Trust Images/ Rob Coleman

Council election

A ballot is held each year for the election of Council members.

All Council members are volunteers and serve a term of three years, with approximately one third of the elected positions being filled each year. This year we expect five vacancies, with successful candidates joining the Council from the date of the AGM.

About the Council

The Council appoints the Board of Trustees (the Trust's governing body) and holds them to account for the fulfilment of the charity's statutory purpose. The Council also reviews the Trust's strategy against this purpose and ensures the Board is managing the long-term interests of the Trust.

The Council is composed of 36 members; 18 are elected directly by you and 18 are appointed by organisations ('Appointing Bodies') which you elect every six years. The Chair is also a member of the Council.

For more information about the Council and who its members are, visit **the Council pages** of the Trust's website.

The annual report from the Council is also published within the Trust's Annual Report.



Above National Trust Council members during a visit to County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland
©National Trust Images/Ronan McGrade

About the Nominations Committee

The National Trust's constitution requires the Council to hold an election each year, to identify members who would meet its needs over the next three years. The election process is managed on behalf of the Council by a Nominations Committee appointed for this purpose.

This year's members of the Committee were: Jane Dean (Chair), Ros Farrell, Joshua Rice, and Nigel Hallam (independent external member).

The Committee's task is to make arrangements for elections, assess applications from all candidates and to recommend those who most closely meet the published criteria for the role.

During the year, the Committee introduced a clearer explanation of the role of Council and its members to help manage application volumes, and implemented an online application form to streamline the recruitment process.

Council election *continued*

How the Nominations Committee reaches its recommendations

The Committee determines how candidates will be assessed. The criteria for the role of Council is described in the **Governance Handbook (Appendix d)** and includes:

- Understanding the core purpose of the Trust, its strategy and governance.
- Having knowledge/skills in areas of the Trust's work.
- Understanding of the Trust's stakeholders, such as volunteers, members, diverse communities and also an understanding of the Trust's wider beneficiaries.
- Being an ambassador for the Trust.

In addition, this year candidates were asked to submit a **CV and election statement** (see pages 19 to 30), and to respond to the following two questions:

- With reference to the Trust's core purpose and strategy, explain how, as a Council member, you would support the Council to fulfil its key governance responsibilities.
- Please describe the experience, knowledge and skills you would bring to understanding the needs of the Trust's stakeholders – including diverse communities, members, volunteers and partners – and how you would use these to represent the organisation positively to an external audience.

CVs and responses to these supplementary questions were collected to support the election process and provide additional context for the Committee. They are not published, as they are not part of the formal election materials.

The Committee reviews all applications. This year, 17 candidates (including those seeking re-election) were shortlisted and interviewed over three days.

The five recommended candidates are:

- Gemma Britton
- Monique Cleary
- Jim Dixon
- Sarah Hollingdale
- Simon Kearey

While the Nominations Committee has made its recommendations you can, of course, vote for whoever you choose.

The Committee was impressed by the level of support for, and interest in the Trust, and would like to thank all members who submitted an application.

About voting

The **profiles of all candidates** standing for election to the Council are set out on pages 19 to 30.

Voting in this election can only be done in advance of the AGM.

Voting closes at **11.59pm** on Friday **30 October 2026**. See pages 31 to 35 for **voting details**.



The candidates

These statements represent the views of the candidates – they do not necessarily represent the views of the National Trust.

Simon Abbott
London and South East

I became a lifelong member of the National Trust in 2023, and I am motivated to play a more active role in protecting the landscapes, heritage, and biodiversity that define our national identity.

As a Chartered Geologist working in the engineering sector, I bring over 20 years of experience in stewarding large, complex, and environmentally sensitive assets. My professional career has centred on balancing operational needs with long-term sustainability, risk management, and responsible land use, principles that strongly align with the Trust's mission.

I am standing for Council because I believe the Trust must continue to evolve its approach to climate resilience, land management, and public engagement. My background in geoscience and infrastructure gives me a unique perspective on the challenges facing our natural and historic environments, from increasing weather impacts to pressures on finances and skills. I would contribute technical insight, strategic thinking, and a deep personal commitment to conservation.

As a lifelong member, I care deeply about the future of the Trust and ensuring it remains an organisation that people of all ages and backgrounds feel proud to support. I would be honoured to serve and help shape its direction for the years ahead.

Mash Bonigala
London and South East

I have been a National Trust member for over 15 years. In that time the Trust has given me access to places and stories that have shaped how I think about England.

For the past two years I have been building The England Archive, a documentary photography project registered as a Community Interest Company (CIC), structured around one question: who is keeping England alive, and what happens when they stop? That work has taken me to endangered craftspeople on the Heritage Crafts Association's Red List, to churchwardens who are the sole reason a medieval building is still standing, and to elderly community members whose knowledge exists nowhere else.

That experience has taught me that heritage is not a building. It is the person inside it. When the human chain breaks, no amount of conservation work replaces it.

I am standing for Council because I believe the Trust needs people who are actively out in the field, building relationships with the makers, carriers, and keepers of English heritage, and who can bring that intelligence to governance.

My professional background is in brand strategy. I understand how organisations make the case for why they matter to people who haven't yet decided to care.

Gemma Britton
Midlands and East

I'm standing for Council because I care deeply about the future of the National Trust, not only the places it protects, but the role it plays in people's lives and communities.

Professionally, I bring over 12 years' senior leadership experience across large charity and public organisations, specialising in governance, risk and organisational resilience. I'm used to asking difficult questions, making accountable decisions and helping organisations navigate change while staying true to their values.

I grew up in a livestock farming family, where caring for land and understanding its pressures were part of everyday life. That perspective has stayed with me, alongside a lifelong connection to the work of the Trust. I understand the responsibility of stewardship and the need to balance nature recovery, public access and working landscapes.

The Trust's ambitions matter hugely to me, and I believe delivering them will require clear thinking, strong governance and an ability to connect with a changing society. I believe I can help deliver these objectives through independent judgement and strategic insight, and above all, I want to help ensure the Trust remains relevant, inclusive and resilient so that nature, beauty and history truly belong to everyone, now and in the future.

The candidates *continued*

Jonathan Causton
Midlands and East

I am very keen to join the National Trust Council. I hope my experience would be beneficial for the Trust Council to ensure the Trust's values are upheld and that I can advise, support and challenge the Trust when appropriate as a constructive, critical friend.

I have over 23 years of finance, audit and governance experience, working in the local government and Higher Education sector. I am an accountant by profession and have experience of governance, risk management, strategic leadership and managing stakeholder partnerships.

I serve on two local authority audit committees as an Independent Member in Nottinghamshire where I have oversight of governance, risk management, review of internal audit reports for front line operational services and external audit reports for finance scrutiny. As an Independent Member I also challenge local authority council officers on decision-making and meeting reports content in order to improve service delivery for the tax payer. I am also a school governor at a local primary school where I support and challenge the Head Teacher.

Thank you for taking the time to read my election statement and hopefully my experience will benefit the Council.

Marco Ciancia
London and South East

I have been a National Trust member since 2024, and I am keen to join the Council to help strengthen the Trust's connections with the diverse communities it serves.

I grew up in the countryside in Argentina, where my connection with nature, outdoor life and rural communities first took shape. This upbringing instilled in me a deep appreciation for landscapes, wildlife and the role that protected spaces play in shaping identity and belonging.

After over seven years in the UK, I have recently moved from London to Buckinghamshire, where I happily live with my partner Andrew, also a Trust member. This transition has strengthened my engagement with the countryside and with local heritage, reinforcing my desire to support the Trust's work at both national and community levels.

As a younger member with an international perspective, I want to help broaden participation and ensure the Trust continues to be welcoming and relevant to future generations. I would bring curiosity, energy and a collaborative approach to supporting community engagement and long-term stewardship.

Monique Cleary
South West

I am applying to join the National Trust at a time when questions of identity, access, mental health and belonging are increasingly important.

As the culture and demographics of the nation evolve, heritage can feel distant or exclusionary to some. I believe the Trust holds a powerful role in changing this, through the stories it curates and the spaces it protects, creating shared experiences that bring people together.

As a parent, I recognise the practical barriers many young families face, particularly increasing costs, and how entry fees to some green spaces can create barriers and contribute to exclusion.

My work across healthcare, education and the third sector has focused on widening access and addressing inequity, including designing initiatives and working with national stakeholders to align provision with need.

I would bring an independent perspective, grounded in lived experience and professional insight, contributing to thoughtful debate and supporting the Trust to remain relevant, accessible and aligned to its core purpose.

The candidates *continued*

Georgia Cristea
London and South East

In recent years the National Trust has given the impression of not loving its historic buildings. I would advocate for the Trust to show its commitment to protect, maintain and enrich the historic houses, collections, and gardens in its care, and to pass them on to future generations.

The handling of the fire at Clandon Park has damaged public confidence in this commitment. The scheme to keep the house as a ruin is contrary to the Trust's mission and sets a dangerous precedent. We need to go back to the drawing board and find a way to bring back what made the house special, while promoting heritage crafts.

In a fast-changing world, historic houses have stood the test of time. Although their uses have evolved, their 'spirit of place' remains intact, able to inspire and uplift visitors, provoking their own imagination rather than imposing contemporary narratives.

New technologies and critical interpretation have their uses, but these tools should be non-intrusive and fully reversible, enhancing visitors' experience without compromising heritage integrity. Interpretation should reveal, not overshadow, intrinsic meaning.

I would also advocate for greater member democracy, ending the Quick Vote and trusting and respecting each member's individual judgement.

Jim Dixon
Midlands and East

My time on the National Trust Council has been incredibly rewarding. I renewed my love for historic houses, gardens and landscapes, from the Lake District and Northumberland to Cotswolds, Wiltshire, Devon and Cornwall.

I have been to fabulous estates such as Dyrham, Belton, Beningbrough, Mount Stewart and Mottisfont and particularly loved the smaller properties such as Hill Top, Greenway and Montacute. I love Trust landscapes and have walked across heaths and moors in Herefordshire, Shropshire, Surrey, Yorkshire and at home in the Peak District. Being on Council brings purpose to these visits, encouraging me to observe, talk to staff and volunteers and learn how the Trust works in practice.

I have been a full, enthusiastic and active member of Council, attending all of the meetings, additional events and visits. As a former member of the Nominations Committee for two years, I have read over 500 applications and loved honing these down to two great sets of recommendations to the membership. In the coming year I expect to play a full part appointing new Trustees.

I have played a small part in crafting the Trust's strategy. I am enthusiastic about making this real, using my expertise and experience to make a difference.

Candidate standing for re-election.
Attendance in last term: 9 out of 9 meetings.

Lawrence Goldman
Midlands and East

The National Trust preserves and passes on our nation's history. It requires the guidance of academic historians, therefore, and I am putting myself forward for this role in particular.

I was educated in Cambridge and taught history in Oxford for 29 years before becoming the Director of the Institute of Historical Research in the University of London. For ten years I was also the overall Editor of the (Oxford) Dictionary of National Biography, the most important source on the lives of notable figures in British history, and the longest publication in the history of the English language.

I would like to use my expertise and my experience as a public lecturer and broadcaster who has always sought to spread historical interest and engagement to assist the Trust to reach, enthuse and inform people about its properties and about British heritage in general.

When? Who? and What? are crucial questions everyone asks when visiting a property: When was it built and inhabited and what does it tell us about the past? Who lived there and why are they significant? What did they do in their lives? Trust members and visitors should enjoy themselves and also receive good answers to these questions.

The candidates *continued*

Huntley Hamilton
London and South East

I want to preserve the traditions of the National Trust and will work to that result. The Trust was set up to preserve our heritage by saving our historic buildings and land from destruction.

Our founders did not intend any other cause and did not intend the Trust to become political in any way nor to support other causes.

We need to return to those original aims.

Catrin Harrison
London and South East

I have been a lifelong member of the National Trust, and its places have always been my happy place. I visited many Trust properties as a child, and that sense of joy and belonging has stayed with me ever since. With more than 60 Trust properties visited so far (and a personal goal to explore them all!) I have experienced first hand the importance of protecting these places and ensuring they continue to inspire future generations.

I would be honoured to join the Council to give back to an organisation that has shaped so much of my life. I hope to support the Trust in reaching younger members, widening participation, and strengthening its connection with diverse communities. I worked in the widening participation team at university, and I would bring this experience, alongside strong communication, teamwork, organisation and event management skills.

Professionally, I work in risk advisory, and I believe my expertise in identifying and mitigating risk would add value to the Council's strategic oversight.

Above all, I care deeply about the Trust's mission. I welcome the opportunity to help safeguard its future, while encouraging more young people to discover the same lifelong love for its places that I have.

Peter Hawes
North

I am putting myself forward for Council as a long-standing supporter of the National Trust with a deep passion for engineering, heritage and the protection of special places for future generations.

Throughout my 30-year career in utilities and operations management, I have developed a strong appreciation for the vital role that engineering plays in safeguarding historic and environmentally sensitive assets – something reflected across many of the Trust's unique properties and landscapes.

My professional background has equipped me with extensive experience in asset management, safety leadership and sustainability within complex, high-risk environments. I believe these skills can positively contribute to the Trust's long-term planning, operational resilience and commitment to caring for nature, beauty and history for everyone, for ever.

Volunteering has strengthened my connection to the Trust. Through Manchester Airport Group's volunteering scheme, I have spent time assisting with groundwork activities at the Alderley Edge site. This hands-on involvement has given me a deeper appreciation of the day-to-day challenges and opportunities faced by staff and volunteers who care for these treasured places.

I would be honoured to contribute my expertise, enthusiasm and practical experience to help the Council continue guiding the Trust's mission and future strategy.

The candidates *continued*

Martyn Hewett
South West

I am a lifelong visitor to National Trust properties, a Life Member for over 20 years and a volunteer.

After 30 years working as a General Practitioner, I understand the benefits to health of spending time outside. Being away from screens and social media, enjoying exercise and engaging with the beauty and wonder of the natural landscape, with woodlands and with wildlife – something that I am passionate about – can be lifechanging.

The Office for National Statistics reports that, nationally, personal wellbeing trends have been deteriorating, with average ratings for life satisfaction declining and anxiety increasing. Social Prescribing programmes offer hope in addressing health inequalities by encouraging lifestyle changes and avoiding unnecessary medicalisation. As a volunteer at a Trust countryside site that has made increasing access a priority, I have seen the potential role the Trust could have in enhancing personal wellbeing, but at present only a minority benefit. There is so much more that could be done, but to achieve change the Trust needs to better support its greatest resource – its staff members and volunteers.

I have experience of building effective teams and leading change and innovation – skills which I am happy to place at the disposal of the Trust.

Sarah Hollingdale
Midlands and East

I love the National Trust. It permeates into my work, my weekends, and even my studying. Through my recent MA in History, Place and Community, I have conducted in-depth research into Octavia Hill and have been inspired afresh by her vision, audacity, and resilience.

In my day job, I work with at-risk heritage churches and their communities, so I understand the strong personal feelings that people have towards historic places – they are not just bricks and mortar, but touchstones in our lives. I can think of many Trust sites that have been these personal touchstones for me– walking at Charlecote Park, living in Styal, paddling at Rhossili.

I care deeply about the Trust's purpose, and ensuring that it has the greatest impact for the most people. As such, I take my role on Council seriously, attending all meetings, thanking donors at legacy events, and serving on numerous Nominations Committees. For the last year it has been my privilege to be Senior Council Member, and I hope that I have helped to make new members feel welcome and empowered to join straight in.

And for those keeping track – I'm now up to over 200 different properties visited!

Candidate standing for re-election.
Attendance in last term: 9 out of 9 meetings.

Lyndon Howson
North

I am standing for election to the National Trust Council because nature has shaped my life from the very beginning. Growing up in rural Cumbria, Trust places were where I first felt at home outdoors, learning the names of trees, watching wildlife and discovering the stories held in the landscape. Those early experiences shaped my belief that everyone should feel welcome in nature.

My career as a conservationist and environmental educator has grown from that belief. I have led community conservation projects, supported nature connection workshops and worked closely with young people to help them take action for wildlife in ways that feel meaningful to them.

My work has been recognised internationally, as a finalist through the Environmental Educator 30 Under 30 programme and nationally, for my leadership in hedgehog conservation and public engagement.

Empowering young people is central to who I am. I have served on youth advisory boards and as a town councillor, representing community voices, contributing to strategic decisions and helping create spaces where younger perspectives are genuinely heard.

I would be honoured to support the Trust in inspiring future generations, just as its places have inspired me.

The candidates *continued*

Malcolm Jackson
North

Growing up in the Lakes instilled in me a love of our natural countryside and heritage and a recognition of the need to protect it. I share the National Trust Council's strategic goals to restore nature and end unequal access, having seen first-hand how overcrowding and poor development threaten our countryside.

My background as a respected international scientist, leading a major UK research centre where we pushed the boundaries of scientific knowledge together with actively promoting public understanding of science, brings an analytical rigour with strategic planning experience. I am proud of the many young people who I have mentored into senior scientific roles.

I have served on several charity and NHS boards and demonstrated my ability to balance strategic and operational priorities giving me oversight and governance experience to bring to the Trust Council.

My experience of life in the Lakes brings an understanding of the importance and risks of opening up nature to all.

As a Trust member for over 40 years, I will bring my excellent communication skills and an engaged and collaborative approach to the Council in its roles to develop strategy, hold the Board to account, and champion inclusive access for everyone.

Gauthier Jacqmin
London and South East

I am an environmental, climate change and human rights lawyer with a strong commitment to nature conservation.

Growing up in South Africa, I quickly fell in love with wildlife and the natural world, inspired by the work of conservationists and park rangers. I have since supported charitable organisations focused on wildlife conservation, climate change and sustainable development by producing research reports and providing legal training.

Now living in London, I go for hikes outside of the city whenever I can to visit national parks.

Through my work I have learned about the challenges posed by climate change and biodiversity loss. I am eager to contribute to solutions by using my experience engaging with sustainability, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and climate change laws and my experience advising multinational organisations on regulatory compliance and risk management.

I hope to use my experience and background to support the vital work of the Trust and represent all of its members. Protecting and restoring the UK's landscapes and enabling its wildlife to thrive is essential to preserve natural beauty and inspire future generations to value and care for nature.

Terence Jagger
London and South East

I have been a member of the National Trust most of my adult life, and a volunteer at Osterley for the past year or so. I have always been interested in both the natural environment – birdwatching, trees, landscape – and the arts and architecture (currently studying for an MA in History of Art).

I think it important that the Trustee Board has the benefit of a group of varied individuals who can bring their own skills, and their local knowledge as volunteers and members to help with the formulation and implementation of strategy.

I have worked on boards in the public, private and charitable sectors, and have a great deal of practical knowledge as to managing change and tricky budgets across national organisations.

I am outgoing, energetic and articulate, so I could contribute to, and support the Trust constructively and practically in many ways. I am used to complex organisations with challenging objectives and limited resources, and I have extensive experience of working at board level in an executive and non-executive capacity, so I am confident I understand all the various cogs in the Trust machine – money, wonderful sites, staff, volunteers and visitors – and could help them turn more smoothly!

The candidates *continued*

Gareth Jones
Wales

I am applying to join the Council of the National Trust because I care deeply about protecting the places that shape our history, landscapes and shared identity. The Trust plays a vital role in looking after these special places and ensuring they remain accessible and meaningful for everyone, for ever. I would value the opportunity to support the Trust in continuing that work.

What particularly inspires me about the Trust is its ability to connect people with nature, heritage and place. At a time when environmental protection and cultural heritage matter more than ever, the Trust has an important role in preserving the past while remaining relevant to future generations.

Through my professional experience I have developed strong skills in leadership, collaboration and decision-making. I understand the importance of independent judgement, integrity and working in the best interests of the organisation and the wider public.

If elected, I would contribute thoughtfully to Council discussions and act as a positive ambassador for the Trust, supporting its mission and ensuring it continues to thrive for generations to come.

Micah Judish
London and South East

I had not heard of the National Trust when I moved to England from Northern California over seven years ago. Soon after arriving, I recall downloading the application on a whim and being unexpectedly struck by the clarity of mission and strength of community surrounding this humble institution.

Perhaps I ought to have read history rather than finance, but my background in accounting and investment banking has taught me that great causes do not succeed when resources are poorly governed. I have been privileged to work with some of the most well-known charitable organisations in the world, including The Salvation Army and a major hospital provider, which taught me that questions of sustainability and fiduciary responsibility are immediate and consequential.

I have served as a Church of England parish council member where I learned that the principles of good oversight and respect for human dignity do not apply only to the largest and most well-funded bodies but also to the meek and small.

I would bring to the Council financial discipline, long-term thinking and a deep respect for the Trust's purpose, to preserve what has been entrusted to us while ensuring that it remains accessible for future generations.

Simon Kearey
London and South East

Election to the Council in 2023 was the pinnacle of my aspiration to serve the National Trust at the highest levels.

Since starting as a volunteer on Acorn Camps at 17, I have been involved as a visitor, supporter and volunteer most of my life. Working in corporate, public and charity sectors (including BBC, Social Services and the National Health Service) has provided me with the credibility and confidence to support the Council and its role.

My experience included operational and strategic planning/management plus a track record, not only in developing strategies, but also in delivering them. Involvement in leading other organisations with environmental and conservation objectives at their heart (including Chair of National Trails UK and Vice President of the Chiltern Society) aligns with the Trust's objectives and mirrors my own conviction that there is a responsibility to protect places of beauty, history and nature for all and champion nature recovery at scale.

I believe that decisions made today build long-term resilience for these landscapes and heritage for the future. My experience in governance, community engagement, connecting with diverse communities and change management are all valuable in supporting the Trust through a period of significant organisational and social change.

Candidate standing for re-election.
Attendance in last term: 9 out of 9 meetings.

The candidates *continued*

Fiona Kinghorn
Wales

I am inspired by the National Trust's vision to connect us around a common cause for nature, fair access to the beauty and heritage it preserves and the call for everyone to get involved. I feel I have a strong contribution to make.

Growing up in the rural Scottish Borders instilled in me a passion for nature. The pursuit of study and work has given me experience in London, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Cardiff. A nursing role taught me effective team work, meaningful communication and the importance of tackling inequalities between people.

My public health career in the National Health Service as a Practitioner, Consultant, Deputy Director and Executive Director of Public Health spanning nearly 30 years in Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan and other areas of South Wales enabled me to lead diverse partnerships; build consensus and make difficult decisions including through the pandemic; manage conflicting opinions; negotiate common goals and deliver evidence-based change; and measure impact of collective efforts. I believe all of these skills could be useful in a Council role.

I'd like to give something back – it would be a privilege to serve as a Trust Council member as it drives forward its strategy with us all.

Daniel Littler
Midlands and East

I moved from central Manchester to the East Midlands in 2020, arriving the same weekend the first national COVID lockdown began. As restrictions eased, my wife and I discovered Calke Abbey, our nearest National Trust property. During a time when I was working in hospitals across Staffordshire and Derbyshire, supporting colleagues facing the pressures of the pandemic, and my wife was working from home in increasing isolation, Calke became our sanctuary. It offered space to reconnect, breathe, and restore our wellbeing at a time we needed it most.

Only after leaving Manchester did we learn of the Trust's investment in Castlefield Viaduct – proof that the Trust continues to create access to nature for people wherever they live. That mission resonates deeply with me.

Now a father to two young girls, I want to help shape the Trust's future for the next generation. I bring over 11 years of NHS management experience in leadership, strategic planning, and system-wide collaboration.

The Trust has been central to my family's wellbeing for six years. Standing for the Council is my way of giving back to an organisation that has supported me, inspired me, and become part of our family story.

Duncan Mackay
London and South East

Long before the National Trust became one of the largest landowners in England, its founders had a simple, brilliant idea; to create green spaces to enjoy quiet nature close to where people lived.

If elected I want to rekindle that flame and add sparkle to the redoubtable strategy that the Trust has embarked upon since 2025.

This is as much a public health issue today as it was in the crowded cities of late Victorian times. Every community deserves accessible green spaces and heritage, safe play parks for children, natural habitats for wildlife and quiet routes for dog-walkers. Every city and town, both rural and urban, deserves a 'green belt' protected from swarming, unrelenting development.

These were the ideas of the Trust's founders and now, supported by Natural England research tracing how far from home most people go to get their nature dose and improve their mental and physical health, still valid. As the world becomes uglier, both physically and morally, the need for more sustainable natural beauty on the doorstep becomes more acute.

Join me as your ambassador in graciously urging the Trust to strategically reanimate these founders' ideas and bring its next estate closer to its members.

The candidates *continued*

Noaman Malik
London and South East

I read History at Glasgow and that passion of the past led me to practise at an independent legal firm whose heritage and arts work reflects why the National Trust's work matters to me.

I am also a magistrate in the Surrey Family Courts and Director and Secretary of a London-based professional association society.

The world is changing rapidly. Artificial Intelligence and algorithmic technology are reshaping how people, particularly younger generations, experience and relate to the world around them. Attention is increasingly captured by screens and curated digital environments. In that context, the Trust's work becomes more important, not less – but it cannot be passive. Heritage and green spaces must be actively woven into people's lives, not simply preserved and made available to those who already seek them out.

The Trust's strategy to end unequal access and engage millions more people is the right response to that challenge. I would like to contribute to it by bringing legal and governance rigour, an understanding of the communities the Trust is trying to reach, and the perspective of someone for whom that mission is genuinely personal. At 24, I have much to learn but am ready to give everything.

Alexander McNeill
London and South East

I am a long-standing member of the National Trust and care deeply about its role in protecting places of historic and natural significance for everyone, for ever.

My interest in heritage is also personal; my late father worked in building restoration and stone masonry, instilling in me a lasting appreciation for stewardship, something I will pass on to my children.

I am an Associate Partner and Chartered Management Consultant at a global management consulting firm, advising senior leaders across the UK public sector. I specialise in digital transformation, operating model change and investment appraisal, helping organisations deliver better outcomes while ensuring strong financial planning and long-term value for money.

I am standing for Council because I believe the Trust is at a pivotal moment. Expectations of how people engage with heritage and nature are evolving, and the Trust must continue to adapt, embracing digital opportunities, improving productivity and ensuring resilience, while remaining true to its core purpose.

I bring strategic perspective, independent judgement and experience of governance in complex organisations. I would work collaboratively to support the Trust in delivering its strategy, ensuring that investment decisions, transformation programmes and risks are aligned to its purpose and deliver lasting public benefit.

Anthony Mealing
London and South East

I am a practising Conservation Architect, an Architect Accredited for Building Conservation (AABC) and a member of RIBA. I studied Architecture at Thames Polytechnic (Greenwich University) and Hammersmith School of Art. I have always worked in conservation.

Awards include the 2006 RIBA Downlands Prize and several Chiltern Conservation Board, Conservation/ Traditional Architecture awards.

I am a trustee of my local Heritage Society.

Until 2006 I was external examiner at Oxford Brookes University School of Architecture, and an Oxford Diocese Quinquennial Inspecting Architect, dealing with older churches in the southern part of the Diocese. I am also working on one of Scott the Elder's London buildings and Scott the Younger's work. I have lectured on building conservation, management and its living preservation.

I firmly believe our built heritage should be managed as a living legacy, not just preserved.

If elected I could bring to the Council my extensive working experience and knowledge of management and conservation of historic buildings and landscapes. It is essential this heritage is kept as a properly managed asset, not shelved and catalogued. It is not only the buildings, but the communities they supported, and the landscapes that developed and were managed; it is the sense of place that has meaning.

The candidates *continued*

Bijan Omrani
South West

It is difficult to express how precious is the treasure in the hands of the National Trust. The Trust is the guardian not only of landscapes shaped by nature and generations of human endeavour, but also some of the nation's most historically and artistically significant properties. Beauty and the story of a past are two fundamental human needs.

For many years, I have lived close to a Trust property, Shute Barton. I have seen how great the need is for the good work of the Trust: preservation of the buildings, expert curation and scholarly research, interpretation for the public through well-supported volunteers, ensuring that the public can access the properties as much as possible, and the responsible maintenance of land and property and good relationships with neighbours and communities as a great landowner.

Having seen from personal experience how important these duties are, I hope to join the Council to play a part in helping the Trust fulfil these duties and its original mission at a broader level.

Amit Rama
London and South East

I have been a member of the National Trust for more than a decade, and its sites and stories have shaped my family's connection to nature and heritage.

With 19 years of investment experience in renewable energy and natural capital, and as treasurer of two education charities, I bring a blend of collaborative financial stewardship, environmental insight and governance experience.

I want to support the Trust in delivering its ambitious, inclusive strategy and ensuring its impact reaches far beyond its properties. If elected, I will champion long-term sustainability, strengthen the Trust's ability to protect nature and heritage, and help inspire future generations.

Laura Robinson
London and South East

I am applying to join the National Trust Council because I believe in the Trust's purpose and its responsibility to protect nature, heritage and access for future generations.

My career has centred on strategic sustainability, operational excellence and stakeholder engagement and I would bring this experience to the Council's role in advising, scrutinising and championing the Trust's long-term direction.

As Head of Sustainable Operations, and previously through programme leadership roles across the UK and internationally, I have delivered complex governance, risk management and sustainability strategies that balance ambition with practical delivery. I am committed to ensuring that environmental stewardship, community benefit and financial resilience work hand-in-hand – an approach I would bring to Council discussions.

I am particularly motivated by the Trust's focus on ending unequal access to nature, beauty and history. My work in responsible travel, youth development and inclusive programme design has shown me how transformative these experiences can be when barriers are removed and communities are genuinely engaged.

I would bring curiosity, challenge, empathy and strategic discipline to the Council, using my networks and experience to support the Trust in delivering its purpose with integrity, transparency and impact.

The candidates *continued*

Enrico Romano
London and South East

As a long-standing National Trust member, I value how its places bring nature, beauty and history into everyday life. Since moving to the UK, I've visited widely, and often stayed in Trust holiday cottages, experiences that keep the Trust's purpose real and personal for me.

Professionally, I lead complex finance and data change in regulated organisations, bringing strong governance, clear reporting and practical delivery.

Through a public-sector board learning and apprenticeship programme, including work with an audit and risk committee, I've learned how to ask constructive questions and help charities steward resources responsibly, transparently and in the public interest.

I also bring a hands-on love of craft and heritage, through traditional woodworking and conservation courses, which deepens my appreciation of the skills behind the Trust's work.

On Council, I would combine this passion with modern technology and data to support better decisions and widen inclusive access, so more people feel welcome and benefit from the Trust's places. I would be an active ambassador, ready to give time beyond meetings through practical volunteering at Trust properties.

Anthony Smith
Midlands and East

I completed a Master of Arts with Honours in History, a Doctor of Philosophy in History, and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education with Qualified Teacher Status in History.

I worked for many years as a history teacher at a sixth form college, where I taught history courses on civil rights in the USA, the Indian independence movement, the Korean and Vietnam wars, colonisation and decolonisation in Africa, and 20th-century international relations.

I am now a civil servant at the Land Registry where I conduct map searches on a modified computerised version of the Ordnance Survey map of England and Wales.

Heritage has always been a passion of mine. Achieving my teaching qualification, and teaching history, have given me knowledge, experience, and insight into making heritage accessible, which I believe would enable me to make valuable contributions to the work of the National Trust.

As a longstanding Trust member, I believe accessibility and sustainability are key to the Trust's future. I would like to play a part in ensuring the Trust fulfils its mission, to be for everyone, for ever. With sustainability at its heart, the Trust could mobilise its stakeholders to fight for a sustainable future.

Philip Smith
London and South East

Having grown up near the Devil's Punch Bowl and Hindhead Commons, one of the National Trust's first and largest estates, I quickly developed a love of the countryside, special landscapes and wildlife.

I have subsequently been a supporter of the Trust for many years. However, my support and interest has been reinvigorated by the new strategy, which emphasises the Trust's role in nature recovery, reducing inequalities in access to nature, beauty and history, and building a more engaged membership.

I very much share these ambitions, which are closely aligned to work I have undertaken over the last 40 years as an environmental planning consultant.

I am also familiar with the recent changes to planning and environmental legislation, including the government's Environmental Improvement Plan, local Environmental Delivery Plans, Local Nature Recovery Strategies and the Nature Restoration Fund. These present a great opportunity for the Trust to work in partnership, with enhanced funding, to achieve its aims, many of which are shared with a wide range of stakeholders. The Trust could also provide national leadership, for example regarding regional parks.

For these reasons I am very keen to join the Council and believe that I could help the Trust to deliver its strategy.

The candidates *continued*

Ben Sutcliffe
Midlands and East

Recently living and working abroad in the Netherlands and Switzerland, I came to appreciate more clearly the unique role of the National Trust in caring for places, landscapes and stories that define the UK's identity.

I am standing for the Council to offer a balanced perspective, combining strategic thinking, marketing insight, and a strong commitment to public value.

In my professional experience, as a consultant in growth and marketing, I help organisations better understand and serve people; whether their team members, their customers or visitors, or the wider public. For example, I recently supported a cultural organisation to carefully balance the way their teams blend traditional communications with new digital experiences, enabling them to engage new, more diverse groups.

I have an academic background combining geography and social impact, developing a broad understanding of the rigorous governance required to ensure a sustainable long-term footing for organisations such as the Trust.

I would bring a practical, balanced perspective – combining commercial awareness, a strong belief in public value, and understanding of the Trust's diverse stakeholders from member to tenant farmer – with willingness to contribute thoughtfully, independently and in the best interests of the Trust.

Alex Troman
London and South East

My desire to join the National Trust Council comes from a lifelong love of nature, admiration for the work of the Trust, and the combination of my business experience and skills.

I passionately believe in preserving and restoring our nature, landscapes and heritage for future generations. As a young child I loved everything to do with 'outdoors', and this interest grew through my Masters in Environmental Science, where I undertook research into botany, land use and climate change in Nigeria, Krakatoa and Iceland.

In my early career I learnt valuable skills as a public sector-focussed consultant, before senior commercial roles in delivering large change programmes and strategies.

I am delighted to now be working at Royal Botanical Gardens Kew, as Head of Planning and Strategy. Kew is aligned in purpose to the Trust and faces some similar challenges, and the role brings together my business, governance and communication skills with my heartfelt values around nature.

With two children and three stepchildren, we spend many weekends in Trust properties (with Cliveden and Montacute House being firm favourites!).

I am highly motivated to make a positive contribution towards a successful future Trust, for everyone, for ever.

Bridget Woods
London and South East

The National Trust has always been a part of my life. As a child, I would regularly visit Wimpole Hall, our local Trust property, with my family for a walk up to the Folly.

Now, with a family of my own, Trust membership allows us to combine our interest in heritage with the children's need to run around. It also allows us access to nature which is so important for children growing up, as mine are, in urban areas. I notice how time in nature calms us and resets our equilibriums.

I am applying to be a Council member because I believe I can bring the voice and perspective of families. These members are so important as we represent the Trust's future.

From my professional background I bring knowledge and skills in financial management, governance and controls. In my current role, I regularly interact with Executive and Board members, to advise them on governance requirements set by government and how we need to apply them, while my background in audit brings the ability to scrutinise information.

I have served as a trustee in the past, albeit on a much smaller scale, as well as volunteered in arts organisations.

Voting and registration

The following pages explain how to cast your vote on the AGM resolutions, in the elections and how to join your AGM. Find out more about using your mobile device to vote during the meeting.



Right Walking in the Brecon Beacons National Park, South Wales

©National Trust Images/ Paul Harris

Voting and registration

Voting and registering to attend the AGM

- You can only vote in the Council election in advance of the AGM.
- You can vote on resolutions in advance, or on the day if you register to attend.
- Voting is open to all eligible members and you do not have to attend the AGM in order to vote.
- If you wish to attend the AGM, you must register in advance.
- The deadline for advance voting by post or online, and registering to attend the AGM is 11.59pm on Friday 30 October 2026.
- Advance (proxy) votes will be cast at the AGM on 7 November or at an adjournment of the meeting thereof.

How to vote

It's easy to vote or register to attend online. If you've received an email from us about AGM voting, follow the personalised link in that email for a fast login experience.

How to register to attend

Alternatively visit the **Civica Election Services website** and enter with your membership number.

You are able to vote and/or register to attend by post if you have requested a paper copy of this booklet and a postal voting form in advance. The deadline to make this request is 5pm on 14 October. Make a request and find out more on **the Trust's website**.

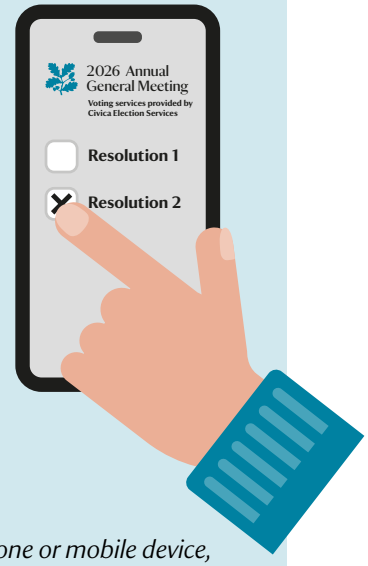
Voting deadline

Make sure your online or postal vote reaches us by 11.59pm on Friday 30 October 2026.

Bring your mobile device to vote on the day

If you register to attend the AGM in person and would like to vote on the resolutions on the day, please bring a smartphone or mobile device* to access the CESjoinIN secure voting platform. Handheld voting devices are no longer in use.

Details of how to use the platform will be emailed to you by Civica Election Services before the AGM, including your security codes to join the event.



** If you do not have a smartphone or mobile device, please cast your vote in advance by 11.59pm on Friday 30 October 2026 – this is also the deadline to vote in the Council election. Alternatively, Civica, our elections provider, can assist you on the day.*

For all details about attending the AGM and voting, please scan this QR code or visit **the Trust's website**.

Voting and registration *continued*

Attending the AGM

The AGM will take place in person at STEAM Museum in Swindon on Saturday 7 November 2026 at 10am. You can also participate online via CESjoinIN, including asking questions and voting on the resolutions.

Please tell us if you plan to join the meeting by providing an email address (or telephone number) when you register with **Civica Election Services**.

Spaces at the AGM venue may be limited and registering your interest does not guarantee an in-person place.

If you wish to attend in person, we recommend you register your interest as soon as possible. If interest to attend exceeds venue capacity, places will be allocated by ballot and some members may be asked to join online.

There is no limit on the number of people that can join online.

Civica Election Services is our independent vote services provider and will contact all attendees in late October to confirm their registration, provide details of how to use CESjoinIN, and issue personal security codes.

Vote on the resolutions

Please vote on the resolutions if you are not attending the AGM, or if you are attending and prefer to vote in advance. AGM attendees will have the option to cancel their advance vote and vote again on the day.

If you attend in person and wish to vote on the day, please bring your mobile device or smartphone to access the CESjoinIN secure voting platform. Hand-held voting devices are no longer in use.

If you wish to cast your vote on each resolution individually, please select (X) in the for/against/abstain box for each resolution. This is known as a specified proxy vote.

If you wish to give the chair of the meeting discretion on how to cast your vote, please select (X) in the discretionary box for each resolution this applies to. This is known as a discretionary proxy vote.

If you wish to support the Board of Trustees' position on all resolutions, please select the Quick Vote box, leave the rest of the section blank and proceed to the next section.

The **members' resolutions and responses** from the Board of Trustees' are set out on pages 11 to 15.

The terminology on the next page explains your voting options.

Vote for up to five Council election candidates

The **profiles of all the candidates** can be found in this document, on pages 19 to 30.

You can vote for up to **five** candidates by selecting (X) in the relevant boxes.

Alternatively, you can vote for the **five** candidates recommended by the Nominations Committee by selecting the Quick Vote option and proceeding to the next section.

For a reminder of the **recommended candidates**, see page 18.

Voting and registration *continued*

Your voting options for the resolutions

If you are not attending the meeting, or wish to vote ahead of time on resolutions, you can cast a **proxy** vote. The chair of the meeting will be the nominated proxy and will vote as directed by you. This ensures all advance votes cast on the resolutions are registered and counted. There are two types of proxy voting:

- **Specified vote** This where you specify how you want your vote to be cast by your proxy (the chair) and they act as your representative and vote as directed by you.
- **Discretionary vote** This is where you give authority to your proxy (the chair) of the meeting to vote on your behalf in a way they see fit.

Voting on the resolutions and elections

We encourage you to read the information provided about the resolutions and Council candidates before casting your votes.

The **Quick Vote** option can be used if you wish to vote to support the Board of Trustees' recommendations on all resolutions, and/or vote for all the Council candidates recommended by the Nominations Committee. Quick Vote is a type of specified vote.

Get involved online

As well as asking questions via the CESjoinIN chat function, you can now request to come on screen live at the AGM to ask your question. Register to attend the AGM and information will be shared with you in advance, as well as explained by your host on the day.



Eligibility to vote and attend

- You are eligible to vote in the Council elections if you joined the National Trust on or before 20 August 2026.
- You are eligible to vote on the resolutions if you joined us on or before 28 August 2026.
- We check all voting returns against our membership records for eligibility. This helps us to ensure that all votes are valid as part of our voting security arrangements. If a member votes more than once in advance, only the first valid votes recorded will be counted.
- If you have recently become a member, you may be unable to log in via the website to vote and register to attend using your membership number. If this is the case, wait until at least 28 September 2026 before visiting the website. Please **email the Trust** if you require additional support.

Civica Election Services

Our voting arrangements are managed independently by Civica Election Services. Civica operates the voting website and the participation platform CESjoinIN. If you have any queries about either of these websites, please contact **Civica's customer services team**.

Fair processing notice

The National Trust will only process your information for the purpose of managing AGM voting and analysis of voting matters (not how individuals cast their votes). This data will be retained for 14 months before being deleted.

For more information about how we look after your personal data please see our **Privacy Policy**.

Any queries?

If you have any other queries not addressed in this booklet, please call our Supporter Services Centre on **0344 800 1895**.

Updates at your fingertips

Keep up to date with AGMs and elections by adding an email address for your membership to *My Account*. For all the details scan this QR code, or visit **the Trust's website**.

With *My Account*, you can make changes to your membership online and if you provide an email address, you will receive personalised emails about the AGM and elections as a core part of your membership. You can also let us know your email address by contacting our Supporter Services Centre on **0344 800 1895**.

With *My Account*, you can choose to receive other emails from your local properties and region, and monthly member emails giving you first look at member-only competitions, discounts and previews. You can also choose how you'd like to receive your *National Trust Magazine* and, if your *Handbook* still has plenty of wear left, you can opt out of receiving a new one.



Make sure your online or postal vote* reaches us by 11.59pm on Friday 30 October 2026.

*** Postal voting forms must be requested by 5pm on 14 October. You can make a request on the Trust's website.**

Design: TRUE www.truedesign.co.uk