# ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR ORDINARY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## Ordinary Members of the Board of Trustees enable the breadth of the ecological community to be represented at the highest level within the British Ecological Society. They ensure that strategic decisions taken by the BES take into account the voices of our diverse membership.

The duties of Ordinary Members and the personal specification are set out in the ‘Role Description for a Trustee of the British Ecological Society’.

There are three Ordinary Members of Council and they represent specific ecological communities:

**Early Career**

The Early Career Representative (ECR) is 10 years or less from the start of their PhD at the point they are elected to the Board of Trustees. As well as joining the BES Board of Trustees, the ECR is part of the Early Career Working Group, which is a discussion and networking forum for early career researchers who are members of BES Committees or part of the organising committee of a BES Special Interest Group. Early career ecologists are a significant part of BES membership and it is important that their needs and concerns help shape BES strategy. The ECR needs to be well connected to the early career community and to be able to represent their views.

**Ecologists working outside HEIs and research institutes**

Ecologists work in a range of settings from statutory agencies, national government and local authorities, through to NGOs and environmental consultancies. It is important that the BES understands their needs, and provides support and opportunities for them. The Ordinary Member representing this community is expected to demonstrate how their wide network and experiences enables them to advocate for this diverse and dispersed ecological community.

**Ecologists working in academic research**

Most BES members are tenured ecologists working in HEIs and research institutes on fundamental and applied ecological research. To continue to thrive and grow the BES needs to be relevant to, and supportive of, that community. The person representing this group will have extended links to the national and international ecological academic community, and be able to represent the views of ecologists working in areas beyond their own sub discipline.

## The term of office for Ordinary Members is 3 years and the maximum number of terms of office that can be served consecutively is 1 term.

Ordinary Members are expected to attend 4 meetings of the Board of Trustees each year plus an annual joint strategy day.