ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR A TRUSTEE OF THE BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Trustees are the people who share ultimate responsibility for governing the British Ecological Society (BES) and directing how it is managed and run. They ensure that the members’ views shape the direction of the BES and that the breadth of the ecological community is represented.

The duties of a BES trustee are as follows:

- Ensuring that the BES pursues our stated objects (purposes), as defined in our governing document, by developing and agreeing a long-term strategic vision
- Ensuring that the BES complies with the memorandum and articles of association (our governing document), charity law, company law, and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- Ensuring that the BES applies our resources exclusively in pursuance of our charitable objects (i.e. the charity must not spend money on activities that are not included in our own objects, however worthwhile or charitable those activities are) for the benefit of the public
- Ensuring that the BES defines our goals and evaluates performance against agreed targets
- Safeguarding the good name and values of the BES
- Ensuring the effective and efficient administration of the BES, including having appropriate policies and procedures in place to deliver on stated objects
- Ensuring the financial stability of the BES
- Protecting and managing the property of the BES and ensuring the proper investment of funds
- Following proper and formal arrangements for the appointment, supervision, support, appraisal, and remuneration of the Chief Executive

In addition to the above statutory duties, trustees are expected to use their specific skills, knowledge, and/or experience to help the board of trustees reach sound decisions. This may involve scrutinising board papers, leading discussions, focusing on key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, or other issues in which the trustee has special expertise.

Person specification

- A commitment to the BES
- Previous experience of committee membership or as a trustee
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort
- Strategic vision
- Good, independent judgement
- An ability to think creatively
- A willingness to speak their mind
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities, and liabilities of trusteeship
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team
- A commitment to Nolan’s seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.