



National Heritage Science Forum - Chair of the Board of Trustees

(UK-based, voluntary)

The National Heritage Science Forum (NHSF) is looking for a Chair to lead its active Board of Trustees, for appointment at the next AGM in January 2027. The Chair will lead an organisation that is at the forefront of strategic developments in UK heritage science. In 2027, NHSF will lead the development of the next [Strategic Framework for Heritage Science in the UK](#) and deliver its second **Trends in Heritage Science** conference in Oxford.

We are looking for an engaging leader who will guide our board of trustees and champion heritage science for our members and the wider heritage science community. We seek someone who can:

- be an ambassador for NHSF and more broadly for heritage science in the UK
- inspire us to think creatively about the opportunities to develop as an organisation
- help us to develop new strategic partnerships and funding streams

About the National Heritage Science Forum

NHSF was created in 2013. It has its roots in the recommendations of the [House of Lords Select Committee report on Science and Heritage \(2006\)](#), the Science and Heritage Programme (AHRC/EPSRC 2007-13) and the National Heritage Science Strategy (2010). NHSF is a membership organisation and is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO, registered in England & Wales no. 1154160).

Our member organisations are the driving force behind everything we do. They shape the Forum's strategy, lead its workstreams and deliver its programmes. NHSF membership is an investment in impact, enabling member organisations to develop collaborative projects across traditional boundaries, enabling research, practice and innovation. For more detail on the history and operating arrangements of NHSF, visit www.heritagescienceforum.org.uk.

Our current priorities are to:

- encourage sector-wide participation in the delivery of the [Strategic Framework for Heritage Science](#) in the UK, 2024-27
- promote the societal relevance of heritage science
- develop NHSF as a vibrant and sustainable organisation that champions heritage science and supports its members

The role of the Chair

The role of Chair of the Board of Trustees is open to everyone who is eligible to act as a Trustee, and the Chair will be appointed as a Trustee of NHSF. As a Board of Trustees, Trustees are collectively responsible for the actions of the NHSF, providing financial control and oversight to ensure that NHSF complies with its governing document (its [Constitution](#)), complies with any other relevant legislation or regulation, and that NHSF applies its resources to the pursuit of its charitable purpose. Trustees are also responsible for the strategic direction of the Forum and identifying opportunities for the development and growth of NHSF.

The role of Trustee, including Chair, is voluntary but trustees may apply for reimbursement of expenses in line with NHSF's financial policies. Trustees are appointed for an initial term of three years and may reapply to serve a second term up to a maximum of seven consecutive years. The Board of Trustees meets virtually

four times a year, in addition to the in-person AGM, which is typically held in London. The time commitment is estimated at the equivalent of up to three days per month, though this does not fall equally throughout the year; key months for engagement are typically January, March, June, September and December.

NHSF currently has ten trustees including an Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary, and a link to their biographies can be found [here](#). Operational and administrative functions are outsourced to a third party at approximately two days per week.

Specific responsibilities of the Chair

- Act as a senior ambassador and a spokesperson for NHSF, working with the Chair of the Member Council (the representative body of NHSF's member organisations), trustees, members and external stakeholders to strengthen NHSF's position as a clear, nuanced, trusted and influential voice for heritage science across the UK.
- Chair meetings of the NHSF Board of Trustees and ensure NHSF develops appropriate strategic priorities and monitors progress towards them.
- Maintain an effective working relationship and ensure structured communication, consultation and reciprocal reporting between the NHSF Board of Trustees and the NHSF Member Council.
- Oversee the Board of Trustees' development and succession arrangements.
- Oversee the delivery of operational activities of the organisation.

What we're looking for

We're looking for someone with demonstrable capability in the following areas:

- A credible leadership voice in heritage science or a closely related field, bringing an existing, active, diverse network of colleagues from across the sector.
- Excellent relationship-building and communication skills.
- Experience of chairing a committee or organisation.
- Ability to listen to and synthesise a broad range of interests in an inclusive and collaborative manner.
- Tact and sensitivity to balance personal leadership with leadership by others.
- Clear strategic vision and nuanced judgement.

In addition, we expect all trustees to be able to demonstrate:

- Commitment to the aims and objectives of the National Heritage Science Forum.
- An understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of being a trustee.
- The ability to work strategically and work to ensure the long-term sustainability of NHSF.
- Good judgement and the willingness to voice their own opinions whilst also taking into account the opinions of others.
- Time to commit to the role.

We welcome applications from people with diverse backgrounds and we can put you in touch with an existing trustee if you would like to find out more about the role. Guidance about the responsibilities of acting as a trustee is available from the [Charity Commission](#). Please check that you are eligible to act as a trustee by reading the Charity Commission [declaration of eligibility and responsibility](#) (the successful applicant will be required to sign this form before appointment).

How to apply

Please apply by submitting a CV and covering letter outlining why you are interested in the role of Chair of the National Heritage Science Forum by email to Caroline Peach administrator@heritagescienceforum.org.uk by 23:59 on 16th November 2026. Note that all applications will be treated in confidence and will only be seen by the appointments panel and administrator.

Please let us know by email if you need any reasonable adjustments to enable your participation in this recruitment process.

Applicants will be informed by 19th November whether they have been invited to an interview with NHSF's appointments panel, and may be asked to provide two references.

We expect interviews to take place in the week starting 23rd November 2026.

The successful candidate will be proposed to (i) the Board of Trustees and then (ii) the membership for appointment at NHSF's AGM on 26th January 2027.