

## **Trustee (Fundraising)**

Earth Trust is an environmental learning charity, no. 1095057, founded by our patrons Sir Martin and Lady Audrey Wood, which began operating in 1982. Earth Trust owns and manages 1,200 acres of farmland and forestry which includes Wittenham Clumps, a national research woodland, a wetland on the banks of the River Thames, and a visitor and education centre (Earth Trust Centre). It also manages community reserves in Didcot, Abingdon and Wallingford. Earth Trust hosts a full programme of events and activities including school visits providing access and engagement for over 150,000 visitors a year. We have c21 FTE staff and around 200 active volunteers. In 2016, Earth Trust received The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - the MBE for Voluntary Groups.

The Earth Trust has a new strategic plan which will establish the Trust as a champion of accessible, natural green spaces. Through access to green spaces people enjoy and learn to appreciate as well as benefit from the environment that supports us. By developing a greater awareness of what it takes to look after our planet, we will have more knowledge about the impact of our decisions and actions. Today in Oxfordshire this agenda is highly relevant.

Our major challenge in the short term is to address the functional visitor facility and visitor management issues on the Earth Trust Farm. We plan a gateway with a new dedicated approach road, car parking, café, farm shop and loos, along with Earth Lab (a new skills and learning building) and interesting, engaging activities for the general public. This gateway will be a welcoming and functional destination that will enable us to engage with our visitors giving them a much better experience initial experience of the Earth Trust and sign post them across the farm to all that we have to offer.

We are governed by a Trustee Board, consisting of up to ten trustees, chaired by Graham Shaw, covering the duties set out by the Charity Commission:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3>

Trustees are also company directors.

### **This role:**

Different trustees take a specific interest in, or overview of, different areas of Earth Trust work and we are looking for a trustee who is interested in helping steer the development of the Gateway with particular experience of fundraising for capital projects as well as raising funds for the running costs of charities.

Generally, trustees do not need to be fundraising experts, but they do need to know that it is being done properly. Trustees also want to be confident that the charity's fundraising strategy will secure a sustainable future and enable the organisation to achieve its objectives.

This role will be more of an expert in fundraising and have oversight of the fundraising programme, supporting fundraisers in their role and ensuring that everyone within the organisation understands its importance and impact.

Trustee Role – Key words: charity fundraising, capital build, donations, grants and trusts, green spaces, environmental learning

Understanding of fundraising for charities, membership schemes, major capital appeals and development of donation pathways for small charities would be beneficial especially if your experience has been for environmental learning organisations. We have ambitious plans to develop the visitor facilities at the Earth Trust Centre establishing a café, farm shop, new skills and learning building and activities such as 'history street' made up of Iron Age round houses, Roman building playground and a Saxon building. Engaging people and communities in the building of these facilities (where applicable) and the running of the new Centre is a critical factor in our plans.

This trustee will sit on our Gateway Steering Group, a sub group of the main Board, which is chaired by a trustee, Lynda Atkins.

Supporting the Chief Executive and the Head of Fundraising, advising on the strategy and implementation of our plans, you will become an important voice for fundraising at the Earth Trust which we will value.

**Time commitment:** Quarterly Board meetings, quarterly Gateway Committee meetings, attendance at some events, volunteer work groups etc in order to observe engagement in action.

**Location:** Meetings generally held at the Offices at the Earth Trust Centre at Little Wittenham in South Oxfordshire. Activities at Little Wittenham or community reserves sites in South Oxfordshire.

**Remuneration:** Voluntary. Trustee expenses only.