



World Heritage UK Annual General Meeting 2024 4th December 2024

Item 6: Trustee Elections to the Board

Under the CIO's Constitution a proportion of the Trustees must step down each year but are eligible for re-election if they have not served three terms. Three of the present Trustees are stepping down; they are Max Bryant and Lesley Garlick who have served three terms and are retiring from the Board and Justin Scully who has served one term and is seeking re-election, supported by the Board. There will therefore be three Trustee places to be determined.

Nominations were invited from the membership for persons who would like to stand for election to the Board. In accordance with the Constitution all candidates follow the same procedure for election and submit a statement for consideration. In addition to Justin, two further nominations have been received to stand as Trustees, Graham Thompson and Adam Wilkinson. Candidates were asked to supply a 250-word Statement to support their election and these are presented below in surname alphabetical order.

With the three nominations, this could now form a full complement of twelve Trustees on the Board. Therefore, a block vote to approve the three candidates is proposed. Should this be contested, there will be an individual vote for each candidate.

Election Statements:

Justin Scully

I am General Manager of the Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal WHS, one of the busiest properties in the National Trust welcoming 600,000 visitors per year. Fountains attracts significant numbers of domestic and international tourists as well as visitors from across the North of England.

I have worked for the National Trust for 15 years and in my four years at Fountains have overseen multi-million-pound investment in visitor infrastructure, significant investment in programming as well as the £2.5m Skell Valley landscape scale conservation project.

Prior to the Trust I worked in the charity sector in the UK and Africa, after a ten-year career in the private sector. I'm a Trustee of Love Leeds parks, part of a growing network of UK parks foundations and I chair the internal working group of the National Trust's World Heritage Sites. I have championed Fountains as a WHS, working closely with WHUK, raising the profile of WHS status with visitors, wider stakeholders and internally within the Trust. We have hosted academic and professional placements from other WHS and ensured that World Heritage is central to our brand.

Graham Thompson

Graham Thompson is the Director of Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust. CCGHT, on behalf of DAERA(NI), is responsible for the development, implementation and scrutiny of the Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast WHS management plan.

Graham was the National Trust's Project Director for the Giant's Causeway (2002-2012). He successfully lobbied for the introduction of the 1st management plan for the Causeway, eventually implemented 19 years after the site's inscription in 1986. During the development of the plan Graham proved his ability in effective partnership building with stakeholders and the local community to achieve an agreed plan. The plan was controversial in many ways, most significantly relating to the identification of an appropriate buffer zone. This was agreed without compromising the site's OUVs. Graham then successfully led the Trust's input in transposing the proposed buffer zone into the statutory development plan. This plan sets out stringent detail regarding permissible development in the distinctive setting of the site.

As Director of CCGHT, which looks after 3 AONBs in the area, Graham is leading on seeking two further UNESCO designations: a UNESCO Global Geopark for Co. Antrim (covering most of the county) rooted in the geology of the Causeway; and the Binevenagh Man and Biosphere reserve.

Graham is responsible for ensuring CCGHT's financial viability. This involves partnership funding arrangements with statutory partners and a close relationship with National Lottery Heritage, but also the identification and receipt of significant additional finance from foundations, trust, the private sector and many other sources.

Adam Wilkinson

I am writing to offer my services as a trustee of WHUK. I believe that I bring a range of relevant skills and experience, in terms of both organisational management and World Heritage.

I have been directly responsible for the management of two world heritage sites (The Old and New Towns of Edinburgh, and At-Turaif district in Ad'Diriyah), and well understand the practical challenges faced by site managers on the ground, as well as the wider policy ecosystem at national and international level. I have been particularly active in the implementation of the Historic Urban Landscape approach internationally, supporting different cities and areas.

Across my career I have had the privilege of taking on and leading organisations in need of support, giving them clear purpose, strategy and plans – and consequently locating funding to ensure the execution of their missions.

With both these areas I bring links through to networks and individuals representing a richness of approaches to World Heritage from across the globe.

As a trustee of WHUK I would hope to bring my methodical, business-like approach to organisational strategy, planning and execution to give further confidence to the board and additional support to the executive. My networks are perhaps less relevant in the face of the board members' formidable firepower but would hopefully complement these.

Finally, my experience in running charities in the UK, and of charity boards (from the other side of the table) would hopefully add value to both board and office teams.