

World Heritage UK Annual General Meeting 2025 03 December 2025

Item 5: 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 Tony Crouch who has served three terms and is retiring from the Board and Teresa Anderson and Graham Thompson who are both retiring. Amanda Chadburn, Ashleigh Taylor and Steve Ratcliffe are all seeking re-election, and are supported by the Board. There will therefore be six 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 Ashleigh, Amanda and Steve, three further nominations have been received to stand as Trustees, Tim Stanley, Graham Neville and Michael Burton. Candidates were asked to supply a statement to support their election and these are presented below in surname alphabetical order.

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

Election Statements:

Michael Burton

I am the Director and Chief Executive of the Armagh Observatory and Planetarium (AOP) in Northern Ireland, the UK's oldest continuously operating astronomical observatory, as well its longest running planetarium.

My background is as a research astronomer and university educator. Previously I was Director of Teaching in Physics at the University of New South Wales in Sydney. I now lead the delivery of Armagh's research, education and outreach programmes in astronomy and the public communication of science, as well being the custodian of the Observatory's deep and living scientific heritage.

I am leading the aspiration of the Astronomical Observatories of Ireland (a partnership between the observatories of Armagh in NI and Birr & Dunsink in Ireland) to seek UNESCO World Heritage inscription as a transnational nomination between Ireland and the UK. Earlier this year Birr and Dunsink were placed on the UNESCO Tentative List of Ireland by the Irish Government.

In addition to Armagh's core scientific research programme in astronomy, I have introduced a heritage strand to our academic endeavours, with the third PhD student recently enrolled into our heritage programme involving Queen's University Belfast.

I am President of the International Astronomical Union's Commission for "World Heritage and Astronomy", which oversaw the ICOMOS thematic study of heritage sites in astronomy and archaeoastronomy which has led to several successful nominations with an astronomical connection over

the past decade.

As Chief Executive of AOP I am also responsible for the governance and operation of the organisation as a public body in the Northern Ireland Executive.

I would bring this broad range of skillsets and experience to WHUK if elected as a Trustee.

Amanda Chadburn

I am an archaeologist and heritage adviser, with detailed knowledge of the management of British archaeology and World Heritage Sites gained through senior positions in English Heritage, Historic England and the DCMS (2021-22). I have been closely involved in World Heritage management in the UK since 1996, have written WHS Management Plans and managed Coordinators. I have worked in the World Heritage and International Policy Team at English Heritage and have extensive experience of planning in relation to the historic environment. I retired from Historic England in 2022 after 35 years and now undertake consultancy on WHSs, research, teaching at the University of Oxford and voluntary work.

I have now served for one term for WHUK during which time I worked on the Events Committee as well as sitting on the Board as a Trustee. More recently I have taken on the role of Charity Secretary, working with our excellent core team and other volunteers. I am also a member of our Risk and Resources Committee.

I remain passionate about World Heritage and strongly believe it has an important role to play in our society. As well as the economic and educational benefits it can bring, it also allows a greater appreciation of human history, the natural world, and has well-being benefits. However, as members know, its potential cannot be fully realised unless it is given the recognition it deserves. I would be honoured to serve for another term to help champion these wonderful UK sites through the charity.

Graham Neville

I am pleased to submit my nomination to serve as a Trustee of World Heritage UK. As Head of Operations North for NatureScot, I bring over twenty years of senior leadership experience in nature conservation, landscape-scale partnership working, and strategic project delivery across Scotland's most iconic natural landscapes.

I currently chair and am a founding trustee of The Flow Country Partnership SCIO, where I led the successful bid that secured UNESCO World Heritage Site status for The Flow Country in 2024. This involved complex stakeholder engagement across multiple sectors, the production of a globally significant nomination dossier, and steering a diverse partnership to a landmark outcome for the UK's natural heritage. This experience gives me deep, practical knowledge of the World Heritage system, its expectations, and the lived realities of managing a natural site before and after inscription.

As NatureScot's Head of Operations North, I lead a team of around 50 colleagues delivering national priorities across protected areas, land management and nature restoration. I also direct major programmes including nature finance initiatives, large-scale peatland restoration, and invasive species eradication, with a strong emphasis on governance, risk management, and partnership collaboration.

I am keen to contribute this experience to WHUK's strategic development, particularly in strengthening support for natural Sites and helping the organisation champion their significance, challenges and opportunities. I would welcome the opportunity to support WHUK's mission and the wider UK World Heritage community.

Steve Ratcliffe

I am Director of Sustainable Development and Assistant Chief Executive of the Lake District National Park Authority, with considerable experience of national and local government, and strategic and detailed knowledge of both planning and heritage sectors. I am Chair of the English Lake District WHS Steering Group, and have been in this privileged position since the site's inscription in 2017. During this period, I have gained considerable understanding of World Heritage Site management, including the preparation of Management Plan and Periodic Reports, creation of State of Conservation submissions, and continuous dialogue with the State Party and UNESCO and the challenges this presents to all.

I am passionate and proud about World Heritage and our family of sites and I'm a firm believer that our sites deserve a stronger voice within government. I've been a Trustee with WHUK for two terms and for the last three years have had the honour of being Chair of our Events Committee. I sincerely hope I add value to our hard-working Board of Trustees and our brilliant team, and constantly aim to deliver events and webinars that you, our Members, find useful and enjoyable. As Chair I've also worked hard to gain sponsorship for our events and conferences, ensuring the Committee exceeds our annual financial targets, thereby helping to assist both WHUK and making it possible to offer great value for money events.

Please be assured, if selected for my third and final term, I'll try to ensure our sites get the recognition that they truly deserve.

Tim Stanley

I have an undergraduate degree in language and literature from Oxford and an MBA from a leading US program. I have lived and worked in the Caribbean/Latin America, the US, Russia, Hong Kong and Switzerland, as partner and country head of specialised professional services consultancies so am used to running budgets and teams, setting strategy, taking responsibility for delivery of results and acting as the organisation's public face. I have organised and lead internal and external events for stakeholders; acted as a trusted advisor to clients (including C-suite) on specific risk issues; and provided media commentary on relevant topics. My professional areas of expertise have been in governance, risk and compliance matters for corporates, but I also have experience sitting on the board of a small healthcare charity during the pandemic.

I take a great interest in heritage, completed Bocconi's MOOC in Art and Heritage Management, and am currently an online student of the World Heritage Studies master's degree programme at BTU-Cottbus. As such I am exposed to a wide range of relevant heritage topics and professionals, both academic and field practitioners, which would provide a useful network, if successful. I am a private member of a number of heritage organisations such as the National Trust, English Heritage, Friends of Czech Heritage, and since 2024, World Heritage UK. What I can offer as a trustee is a non-heritage practitioner view, but one rooted in decades of experience in professional services and a keen amateur interest in heritage topics.

Ashleigh Taylor

My name is Ashleigh Taylor, and I have worked in the heritage sector for 20 years — as an archaeologist, in various museum posts, as a county heritage and cultural manager, a trustee and chair of several local heritage organisations, and now as a charity director, overseeing major grant programmes and the award-winning UK World Heritage Youth Ambassadors.

For the past 13 years, I have worked in Blaenavon World Heritage Site, leading on learning and engagement, chairing several groups, and most recently serving as temporary site coordinator, guiding the site through a governance review.

While I am perhaps best known for my work in youth and community advocacy, audience development,

and engagement, over my career I have developed a wide range of professional skills that I believe would benefit WHUK and the wider sector. I have managed numerous heritage and cultural sites, giving me strong working knowledge of development, regeneration, planning, building conservation, commercial operations, business planning, capital refurbishment, and governance.

My current role encompasses HR, governance, policy, public and business development, grant applications, and community programme delivery. Working across both the third sector and local government, I have directly secured over £6m in revenue and capital heritage funding over the past decade.

I became a trustee for WHUK three years ago, bringing my expertise in community and youth engagement as well as governance. During this time, I have served on the Risk & Resources Committee, chairing the group and acting as Treasurer for the past year — supporting policy reviews, strengthening governance processes, and maintaining financial oversight. I have helped secure £90,000 in project funding and played a key role in developing our current project exploring the benefits of World Heritage for local communities, which I continue to work on.

I am keen to continue this work over the next three years, helping to grow WHUK's support for our UK World Heritage Sites and their communities. My passion for using the inspirational power of World Heritage to engage, support, and empower communities continues to grow. I believe I have the skills and experience to help WHUK and the wider World Heritage sector reach new and diverse audiences, and to realise UNESCO's goals for the World Heritage Convention.

By voting for me as a trustee, you will gain a dedicated advocate for helping stakeholders understand, connect with, and care for heritage in new and inspiring ways — empowering people to create positive, lived experiences with the places that matter most.