

President Elect 2027 - 2028

The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) is seeking a President Elect to join the Board. The President Elect will join the Board of Trustees for a six-year term: two years as President Elect (2027 – 2028), two years as President (2029 – 2030) and two years as Past President (2031 – 2032).

BSSS is the UK's leading body in the area of soil science with a global reach. We strive to secure the future of soils by promoting an enhanced understanding of the critical importance of soils in delivering the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and supplying knowledge through our science to support efforts to halt and repair soil degradation. We aim to make a positive difference in the sustainable management and long-term security of soils that is critical to solving the environmental and societal challenges we face today.

Mission and Vision:

Our mission is to support and promote the discovery of new knowledge of soils and their role in global sustainability.

Our vision is to ensure sustainable soils for people and planet.

We will achieve our mission and vision by:

- promoting scientific study and discovery of new knowledge about soil and ensuring it is accessible to a wide audience
- influencing policy and legislation through evidence-based advocacy
- supporting our members to develop and continue professional and academic excellence.

As a registered Charity, trustees are responsible for:

- ensuring the Society complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations
- providing firm strategic direction to the Society, setting overall policy, defining goals and setting targets, and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- safeguarding the good name and values of the Society, and ensure effective and efficient administration and governance
- ensuring the financial stability of the Society, protecting and managing property and assets, and ensuring proper investment of the charity's funds.

As a member of the Board, of which there are four meetings each per year, the trustee would be expected to provide advice and guidance, to guide Board in its decision making.

The President Elect is also expected to be part of the Society's Publications Committee and Council, both of which meet quarterly.

It is expected that successful delivery in the post would require approximately 25 days per annum.

The role is unremunerated, although reasonable expenses will be paid.

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President Elect

During their time as President Elect, the post-holder will be expected to play an active role within the Society and shadow the current President where required.

On becoming President (1 January 2029), the post-holder will be expected to:

- lead the trustees and members of the executive in the development of strategic plans for the charity
- provide leadership and support to the Executive Director and ensure that the charity is run in accordance with the decisions of the trustees, the charity's governing documents and appropriate legislation
- ensure the business of the Society is discussed efficiently and effectively at Council, Board and Annual General Meetings
- represent the Society at functions, meetings and in the media in line with the agreed strategy
- maintain the trustees' commitment to board renewal and succession planning, in line with best practice.

Person Specification

The applicant must be eligible to become a trustee and must be a Society member.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate that they have:

- an understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship
- commitment to the Society and its objectives
- willingness to devote the required time and effort to fulfil their duties as a trustee
- strategic vision
- good independent judgement and the ability to think creatively
- willingness to express their opinion, whilst working constructively as part of a team.

Further Information

For an informal discussion about the role and its responsibilities please contact Paul Hallett, President via paul.hallett@abdn.ac.uk or Jack Hannam, Past President via jack.hannam@greenwich.ac.uk.

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