



APPOINTMENT OF FORESTRY AND WOODLANDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

A recruitment pack for
potential applicants

(June 2023)



Forestry & Woodlands Advisory Committees

The Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committees (FWACs) advise the Forestry Commission on implementing forestry and related regulations and policies in nine regions including London.

FWAC Regions

- North East & Yorkshire and the Humber
- North West & West Midlands
- East England & East Midlands
- South East & London
- South West



FWACs also participate in a national urban forestry network with members selected with particular knowledge and expertise in this field.

Role of the FWACs

The role of the FWACs is to help shape the way the Forestry Commission (FC) leads the expansion, protection, improvement and connection of people to the trees, woodlands and forests in each region of England and the delivery of these benefits with our partners.

FWACs work with us in the context of the [England Trees Action Plan](#) and Government's long-term vision for the sector and England's treescape. The Committees consist of an independent Chair and up to 11 volunteer members who bring a range of interests to the Committee.



East Midlands FWAC Aveland Dunsby Lincs

FWAC REMIT

The remit of FWACs is to:

- advocate and champion forestry interests and woodlands partnership-working for woodland resilience and sector development at local level, providing independent insight into local needs and priorities
- provide advice, expertise and challenge on the application of national policies into area and local programmes, and assist in aggregating local priorities into national programmes
- support the government's interests by developing strong local connections and networks to enhance synergies across the forest and woodland sector, including the public forest estate
- conciliate in disputed applications for grant aid and felling licences, and the approval of forest plans where there's a sustained objection by a statutory body
- The role of FWACs is advisory, not promotional or executive.

FWAC Recruitment 2023

We are looking to appoint individuals with expert knowledge and a passionate interest in forestry and woodlands issues into vacancies we have on the Forestry Commission's FWACs. The appointments will commence from 1 December 2023 for a period of up to three years.

There is a total of 9 FWACs across our 5 Forest Services Areas and each Committee normally meets three times a year, including occasional joint meetings of Committees where there are common business priorities and networking benefits. There are occasional ad hoc meetings of Committees, depending on local demands. Members should therefore be in a position to be able to volunteer up to 5 days per annum on FWAC work.

In considering the membership of each committee, we aim to ensure that there is an appropriate balance of interests, in three broad categories.

FWAC Recruitment 2023 Continued

Members of the FWACs include representatives from three chambers of interest:

Forestry and Agriculture, Landowners and Managers including professional and representative bodies

Social and Environmental Interests and Education including NGOs and Charities

Communities, Business and the Economy, National and Local Government bodies

Members are appointed in a personal capacity, whether or not they are nominated by a representative body. Members are expected to be well informed of the interest they represent, but not to act as official representatives of their nominating bodies. The Chairs are consulted on all committee appointments.

Members, including the Chairs, are normally invited to serve for three years and the service is normally limited to two terms. A third term may be served in some circumstances, such as unique and valuable expertise or to help ensure continuity.

All members are unpaid, but travelling expenses are reimbursed at standard Forestry Commission rates.

FWAC Recruitment 2023 Continued

Current Member vacancies of the Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committees across England

	FWAC Members Recruitment		
	Forestry and Agriculture, Landowners and Managers, including professional and representative bodies.	Social and Environmental Interests and Educations, including NGOs and Charities	Communities, Business and the Economy, National and Local Government bodies.
NE	2	1	1
YH	2	1	1
NW	2	1	1
WM	0	1	1
EE	2	2	2
EM	2	1	0
LON	2	2	2
SE	2	2	0
SW	2	0	2

Diversity on the FWACs

During this FWAC recruitment round we are particularly keen to increase diversity and inclusion within our FWAC memberships.

We would like encourage nominations from:

- Different age profiles especially encouraging younger people to apply
- people from different ethnic backgrounds and genders to apply

Where people cannot commit to serve an initial three-year term we are prepared to consider a lesser term of 2 years.

FWAC Code of Conduct

This Code describes the responsibilities of members in relation to their individual conduct. The role of Chair is also described. On appointment all members will be required to declare that they will be guided by the Code.

Principles

The following principle shall guide the conduct of members:

- Members should act with integrity.

Responsibilities and Conduct of Individual Members

Members need to draw a distinction between their position as the Commission's appointees and their activity in other capacities. Membership is not an impediment to participation in other forms of public work or in the work of forestry and countryside organisations but the position imposes some obligations. Individual members should at all times act with awareness of their wider responsibilities. They should at all times:

comply with this Code;

act in good faith and in the best interests of furthering the aims of the Forestry Commission.

Members should not:

- act in a way which may bring the Forestry Commission into disrepute;

FWAC Code of Conduct Continued

- use information gained in the course of their public service for personal gain;
- disclose confidential information received by virtue of their appointment;
- use the opportunity of public service to promote their private interests.

As a general guide members should not take any action which cannot be publicly explained

Public criticism of the Commission by a member would not be compatible with membership of a Forestry Commission Committee unless the member made it clear that they were expressing a personal opinion, not as a consequence of or in relation to their role as an appointee of the Forestry Commission'

- **Attendance**

- Members are expected to attend meetings. The office of a member of a Committee shall become vacant if he/she has been absent from more than two consecutive meetings of the Committee, otherwise than by reason of illness or some other cause approved during the period by the Chair.

Declaration of Interests

Formal Business

Any member who has a clear and substantial interest in a matter under consideration by the Forestry Commission should declare that interest at any meeting where the matter is to be discussed. Such declaration should make clear the interest and whether it carries

FWAC Code of Conduct Continued

either direct or indirect financial interest to the individual.

Where such an interest constitutes a direct or indirect financial interest, the member involved should withdraw from any meeting and not seek to influence any decision taken by the Committee relating to the matter under discussion.

In all circumstances, members should ask themselves whether members of the public, knowing the facts of the situation, would reasonably conclude that the interest involved might influence the approach taken or the actions of the Committee. If so, the interest is sufficient for the member to withdraw. Members who have any queries or concerns about these matters should discuss them with the Chair.

Informal and other business

Members should apply the same standards regarding the declaration of interests and non-involvement in relevant business in their dealings with the Forestry Commission's staff and in informal meetings of members.

Gifts, Hospitality and Fees

Members should treat with caution any offer of gifts, favours, hospitality or fees arising from their position in the Forestry Commission. Members should consult the Chair in cases of doubt.

Role of the Chair

The Chair has particular responsibility for providing effective leadership on matters such as:

- encouraging high standards of propriety, in particular ensuring that individual members comply with this Code;
- providing an assessment of performance of individual members on request when they are being considered for reappointment or appointment to the Board of some other public body.

FWAC Code of Conduct Continued

The Chair will ensure the Committee meets at regular intervals throughout the year and that the minutes of meetings accurately record decisions taken and, where appropriate, the views of individual members.

Resolution of Difficulties

If members have difficulty in complying with this Code or believe that their Committee is proposing to act improperly, they should raise the issue with the Chair who will advise on its resolution. If a Committee member remains concerned they may seek guidance from the Chair of the Forestry Commission.

Commissioners' Office
Forestry Commission
October 2019





Join SE & SW FWAC visit to Dorset & Wiltshire, July 2022

