



YorkshireDales *Rivers Trust*

Recruitment Pack

Trustee - Treasurer

Vision: wild, healthy, natural rivers valued by all.

A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Thank you for your interest in becoming Treasurer Trustee of the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust.

As Chief Executive, I am pleased to say I work alongside a passionate and committed team of staff, trustees, partners and volunteers who care deeply about the rivers, catchments and communities in which we work within. The care and determination shown by every individual make a real difference and helping people turn their commitment into positive action is what I find most rewarding. Being part of the wider Rivers Trust movement also keeps me connected to a bigger picture, uniting us with a network of like-minded organisations working together to create meaningful and lasting change for our natural environment.

Over the last few years, I have been proud to lead a period of significant development for the Trust. We have strengthened our organisation, grown our team, diversified our income and increased our capability to deliver meaningful environmental outcomes across Yorkshire. None of this would have been possible without the support, challenge and guidance provided by our Board of Trustees.

The Treasurer plays a particularly important role within that leadership team. Beyond overseeing the charity's finances, they help provide the confidence and assurance needed for the organisation to make strategic decisions, pursue new opportunities and remain resilient in an increasingly complex funding world.

As we begin delivering our new 2026-2030 Strategic Plan, we are looking for someone who can bring financial expertise, sound judgement and a collaborative approach to governance. Whether you are an experienced trustee or looking to take your first step into a board role, what matters most is a willingness to contribute your skills and experience to help us achieve our ambitions.

For me, the greatest reward comes from working with trustees who see their role as a genuine partnership with the organisation. I value people who bring their expertise and perspective, challenge where needed, but are equally committed to finding solutions together. When there is trust, respect and a shared commitment to our purpose, decisions are stronger because they are shaped by different experiences and viewpoints. Being part of that collective effort, and seeing the impact it creates, is what makes serving the Trust so rewarding. I hope our next Treasurer will feel the same.

If you are excited by the opportunity to use your financial skills to support a growing and ambitious charity, I would be delighted to hear from you.



Dr Marie J Taylor
Chief Executive Officer

A Note from the Chair



Jamie has been a Trustee of the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust since 2015 and has been Chair for the past two years. Jamie has a strong connection with Dales rivers, having spent much of his life next to (and in) the River Wharfe, which flows through his family farm. As an avid conservationist, wild swimmer and riparian landowner, Jamie is committed to YDRT and its work: “With rivers under threat as never before, the Rivers Trusts are uniquely positioned to make a tangible difference – YDRT is an exciting boots on the ground organisation that I’m very proud to be a part of, and helping it to grow has been an incredible privilege”

Why Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust?

The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust is at an exciting and important point in its development. Over recent years, the Trust has grown significantly in scale, reputation and impact, delivering ambitious river restoration, natural flood management, biodiversity recovery and community engagement programmes across the rivers Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe and Ouse catchments.

As we look to the future, we are embarking on a new strategic period that will see us build on this success, strengthen our long-term resilience and increase our influence as a trusted, evidence-led voice for healthy rivers. With a strong pipeline of opportunities, growing partnerships and increasing demand for our expertise, now is a particularly exciting time to join the Board.

We are seeking a Treasurer Trustee to help guide the organisation through this next phase of growth. This is an opportunity to play a key leadership role in a respected environmental charity, providing financial oversight, supporting strategic decision-making and helping to ensure that resources are used effectively to maximise impact.

By joining the Board, you will be helping to shape the future of an organisation that is making a tangible difference to rivers, wildlife and communities across Yorkshire, while working alongside a committed and experienced team passionate about creating lasting environmental change.

Role Description

Voluntary Role

Role Title: Treasurer and Trustee

Reports to: Chair of Trustees

Term of Appointment- Initially for 3 years and then subject to the Trust's Articles of Association and Trustee policies.

Time commitment: Estimated commitment: 4–8 hours per month, with additional time during budget setting and annual accounts preparation. Initially there will be additional time required for familiarisation.

Location: Pateley Bridge (hybrid working with attendance at Board meetings, AGM, and key Trust events)

Purpose of the role:

This is an exciting opportunity to join our team of trustees as a Treasurer; this role is for some-one who wishes to make a real difference to the water quality and habitat of rivers in the Yorkshire Dales. You will play a crucial role in developing and overseeing the financial affairs of the Trust, ensuring that effective financial measures, controls and procedures are in place. The Treasurer works closely with the Chair, Chief Executive Officer, Finance Manager, and fellow Trustees to safeguard the Trust's financial sustainability and support the delivery of its charitable objectives.

The Treasurer provides strategic financial leadership to the Board and helps ensure that the Trust complies with all relevant legal, regulatory and financial obligations.

Key Responsibilities

Governance and Financial Oversight

- Serve as a Trustee and contribute to the strategic direction and governance of the Trust.
- Monitor the financial health and sustainability of the organisation.
- Ensure that appropriate financial systems, controls and risk management procedures are in place.
- Advise the Board on financial strategy, budgeting, reserves, investments and financial planning.
- Ensure compliance with charity law, company law, accounting standards and relevant regulatory requirements.

Financial Management

- In collaboration with the Finance Manager, review and present management accounts, budgets and financial reports to the Board.
- Support the Finance Manager with the development and approval of annual budgets and longer-term financial forecasts.
- Monitor income, expenditure, cash flow and reserves against agreed budgets.
- Ensure restricted and project funding is appropriately managed and reported.

- Oversee banking arrangements and ensure financial controls are properly implemented.
- Periodically review financial policies and ensure they are fit for purpose.

Reporting and Compliance

- Lead Trustee oversight of the annual accounts and independent examination or audit process.
- Present annual financial statements to the Board for approval.
- Ensure timely submission of statutory returns and reports to relevant regulators.
- Work with external accountants, auditors or independent examiners as required.

Strategic Development

- Support fundraising, grant applications and income diversification initiatives by providing financial insight and scrutiny.
- Contribute to business planning and organisational development.
- Assist the Board in evaluating financial risks and opportunities associated with new projects and partnerships.

Board Participation

- Attend and actively contribute to Board meetings and the Annual General Meeting.
- Participate in relevant committees or working groups.
- Act as a financial sounding board for the Chair and Chief Executive Officer.

Finance Committee

- Chair the finance committee, providing leadership to the group.
- Reporting recommendations and key financial matters from the group to the board.

Remuneration Committee

- Chair the remuneration committee.
- Review current remuneration policy and implementation thereof.
- Oversight of annual pay review.
- Present pay review analysis to the board.

Person Specification

We are looking for someone who has the following personal qualities, that align with our values, and mission.

- Integrity and sound judgement
- Commitment to good governance.
- Attention to detail while maintaining a strategic perspective.
- Collaborative and constructive leadership.
- Enthusiasm for protecting and enhancing the rivers, streams and catchments of the Yorkshire Dales.

Time Commitment

- Attendance at approximately 4 Board meetings per year.
- Attendance at up to 4 finance meetings per year.
- Attendance at the Annual General Meeting.
- Review of financial reports between meetings.
- Monthly catchups with Finance Manager

- Authorising payments
- Liaison with Trust staff, accountants and auditors as required.

Skills and Experience

Essential

- Professional accounting qualification or equivalent financial experience
- Strategic thinking and sound judgement.
- Experience of grant-funded projects and environmental or conservation organisations.
- Understanding of governance responsibilities and fiduciary duties.
- Commitment to the charitable aims of the Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust.
- Strong communication skills and the ability to explain financial matters to non-financial audiences.

Desirable

- Experience or familiarity with green finance
- Ability to identify, develop, and implement diversified income streams
- Experience in securing corporate funding or sponsorships
- Previous experience as a Trustee, Treasurer or Board member.
- Knowledge of charity finance and regulation.
- Understanding of river conservation, fisheries, natural flood management or catchment-based environmental work.

About Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust

The Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust is an ambitious and growing environmental charity dedicated to restoring, protecting and enhancing the rivers, streams and freshwater environments of the Swale, Ure, Nidd, Wharfe and Ouse catchments, together with neighbouring river systems across Yorkshire.

Our vision is simple: **wild, healthy, natural rivers valued by all.**

We work at the heart of some of the country's most important river landscapes, bringing together communities, landowners, farmers, businesses, public bodies and environmental organisations to deliver practical solutions that benefit both people and nature.

From tackling water pollution and restoring river habitats to improving climate resilience and removing barriers to fish migration, our projects help create healthier rivers, thriving wildlife and stronger communities. We also inspire future generations through education and engagement programmes that connect people with their local rivers and the important role they play in everyday life.

Partnership is central to everything we do. Alongside delivering our own projects, we host and facilitate catchment partnerships as part of the Catchment Based Approach, helping to coordinate action, share knowledge and deliver collective environmental outcomes across our river catchments.

What began as a small group of passionate volunteers has evolved into a respected and influential organisation with a growing team of 17 staff and a dedicated board of volunteer trustees. Despite our growth, we remain rooted in the values that have shaped us from the start: collaboration, practical action, scientific evidence and a commitment to delivering lasting environmental change.

We are entering an exciting new phase of development. Building on the success of our recent strategy, we are expanding our impact, developing larger multi-benefit projects, strengthening partnerships and increasing our influence across the region. As the challenges facing our rivers continue to grow, so does the opportunity to create meaningful and lasting change.

Whether through governance, volunteering, partnership working or project delivery, everyone involved with the Trust plays an important role in helping to shape healthier rivers and more resilient catchments for future generations.

To learn more about our work, visit:

<https://www.ydrt.org.uk/>

Our Values

- Ensure Growth - keep learning, improving and helping the organisation progress.
- Promote the Trust - act in ways that build reliability, fairness and confidence.
- Be Passionate - show commitment and pride in work that benefits people and communities.
- Take Initiative - step forward, take ownership and act before being asked.
- Deliver Excellence - set high standards in how you plan, deliver and review your work.
- Open Communication - share information openly, listen well and help others stay informed.

Our Ambition

By 2030, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust will be recognised as a leading catchment-based environmental charity delivering significant and measurable improvements for rivers, communities and nature across Yorkshire. Success will mean:

For Rivers and Catchments

- Over 100km of river habitat improved.
- 400km of rivers connected through barrier removal and easement.
- Increased delivery of multi-benefit catchment projects.
- Strong evidence demonstrating improvements in biodiversity, water quality and climate resilience.

For Communities and People

- More than 800 volunteers and citizen scientists engaged by 2030.
- One thousand school pupils engaged each year.
- Connected with over 65 new schools, universities and community organisations by 2030.
- Increased public participation in river conservation.

For the Trust

- Diversified, recurring and resilient income streams.
- £200,000+ unrestricted reserves.
- Reduced dependency on single funders.
- A highly skilled and motivated team.
- Strong governance and succession planning.
- A safe, resilient and professionally run organisation.

For Influence and Reputation

- Recognition as the leading partnership and delivery organisation for rivers across our operational area.
- Strong strategic partnerships.
- Increased use of YDRT evidence to influence policy and investment decisions.
- Greater public awareness of rivers and YDRT's impact on improving their status.

Team Structure

