



**Leicestershire
& Rutland**
Wildlife Trust

2026 New Trustee Biographies



Nikki Dutton

Nikki was born and educated in Essex, where she began a career as a Research Chemist and gained a degree in Chemistry through a combination of vocational training and day release study at Suffolk College and Anglia Polytechnic. The manufacturing site where Nikki worked was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to the presence of Hog's Fennel, the food source for the Fisher's Estuarine Moth and becoming a member of the staff environmental group gave an opportunity to learn about habitat management of sites at risk from sea-level rise.

After leaving the chemical industry, Nikki started a second career as a civil servant working for the Ministry of Defence in corporate services and gained Chartered Member of The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. Nikki's current focus is on leading communications through a period of significant organisational change, both internally to staff and externally to stakeholder.

Nikki moved to Rutland in 2022 after several years living in Scotland and as a keen wildlife photographer has developed a passion for the unique natural history of the county. Becoming a Trustee for LRWT provides the opportunity for Nikki to utilise her business skills to contribute to work of LRWT in engaging people and communities in securing a sustainable future for the diverse natural heritage that forms Leicestershire and Rutland.



Stephanie Walker

Stephanie is the Founder and Director of Leadertree Consulting, a marketing, partnerships and insight consultancy specialising in nature and nature finance. She is passionate about enabling nature recovery and resilience, through both her work, and her contribution as Trustee to the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

Stephanie began her career as a graduate trainee consultant with PwC before holding marketing positions with PA Consulting Group, Deloitte and agency-side, managing clients Hewlett-Packard and Microsoft. Stephanie moved into nature conservation with the Woodland Trust in 2010, leading new corporate partnerships and strategic fundraising projects, before founding Leadertree Consulting in 2019. Her clients include Ecosystems Knowledge Network, National Parks Partnerships and Palladium.

Stephanie became a Chartered Marketer in 2009. She achieved distinction in both Business Sustainability Management with the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL) and her Post-Graduate Certificate in Forestry from Bangor University. She has studied ecology, climate change, soils and agroforestry. She is also a Level 3 Forest School Teacher.

Stephanie has lived in Rutland for over fifteen years and in her free time loves hanging out with her husband, kids, cats and goats, roaming around beautiful Rutland Water and beyond!