



The
countryside
charity

Network Assembly Chair Volunteer Recruitment Pack

January 2023



CPRE overview

CPRE, the countryside charity, has been standing up for the countryside for almost 100 years.

We believe the countryside is for everyone, and that a thriving, beautiful countryside rich in nature will play a crucial role in our nation's response to the climate emergency. We work hard to enhance, promote, and protect the countryside, including the communities within it.

CPRE has always punched above its weight. From our earliest days we've shaped government policies about the countryside, from the creation of National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and the Green Belt in the 1950s, through to recently leading a coalition of organisations to prevent damaging deregulation of the planning legislation that would have badly affected the countryside.

CPRE is a federated network of charities comprising national CPRE and 41 local CPREs in the counties of England. Together, the CPRE network combines equally-valued national parliamentary and media influence, with local activism which supports and enables the delivery of our vision and strategic aims:

1. **Connect People and Countryside** – We're promoting the value and benefits of the countryside so that far more people engage with, understand, and enjoy it.
2. **Promote Rural Life** – We're bringing together solutions for the rural economy, housing, farming, transport and the natural environment to achieve positive progress for our countryside and those who live and work in it.
3. **Empower Communities** – We're working with local CPRE groups to help them engage with their communities and involve more people in improving their green spaces through volunteering and local action.



Background to the role

The countryside continues to face multiple challenges, including responding to the climate emergency, the consequences of intensive farming, the expansion of urban communities, the impact of potential deregulation and uncontrolled development, and the lack of affordable housing and transport for rural and remote communities. Dealing with these issues in an environment of rapid political, social and technological change brings added levels of complexity.

We've recently formed a Network Assembly aimed at sharpening the alignment of the wider CPRE community around the key strategic issues, creating a more coherent approach to developing and implementing our campaigns and maximising the value of working together. The Assembly enables every CPRE group, national and local, to have an equal voice in shaping, advising, and achieving consensus on these important matters.

Who we're looking for

For this new and exciting opportunity as first chair of the Assembly, we're seeking a candidate with excellent skills in leadership, influencing and communication.

In particular, we're looking for someone who'll be motivated by playing a leading role in maximizing the potential of the whole CPRE community to strengthen its voice and activities for the benefit of the countryside.

The Assembly meets quarterly, usually mid-week, for about three hours. The meetings are a mix of online and in-person and travel expenses are provided. There'll be preparation and liaising to undertake ahead of meetings, so we expect this role will require a time commitment of half a day a week, two to three days a month.

The chair of the Assembly is elected annually, can serve for a maximum of three years, and also attends the trustee board meetings of the national CPRE charity.



What you'll be doing

The main areas of responsibility include:

- Working in partnership with members of the Network Assembly to shape, influence and advise CPRE's work
- Fostering an environment for the Network Assembly to co-operate in a spirit of reciprocal partnership, trust and respect to support the fulfilment of our charitable objectives and the delivery of our strategy
- Overseeing the consideration of matters of key interest to the CPRE network and providing advice and perspective to the boards of the national and local CPRE charities
- Identifying and ensuring significant issues of concern to local or national CPRE charities are openly discussed and addressed
- Supporting good communication between all CPRE charities and facilitating joint working wherever this would be beneficial
- Safeguarding the reputation and values of CPRE
- Occasionally representing CPRE at meetings and functions and acting as a spokesperson
- Joining sub-group activity based on own interests and experience

There are many benefits to this volunteering role. Our experience from similar roles indicates that people have learnt new skills and that the role complemented their professional and family life. Many also report that it's made them happier and they've gained confidence to help with future aspirations.



The candidate

To enjoy, and be successful in this role, the skills and experience you need are:

- The ability to chair large meetings efficiently and effectively
- Excellent communication skills, including tact and diplomacy
- An impartial and objective approach
- The ability to guide discussions without dominating and to blend differing views to achieve consensual agreement
- Emotional intelligence to read people and manage constructive challenge
- An ability to network and build relationships at all levels across the CPRE movement
- A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion and its importance both within CPRE and in the countryside, including the willingness to role model inclusive and accountable leadership
- An understanding and passion for the countryside and what it means to those who live in it and those who depend on it
- A motivation for the challenge of maximizing the potential of the CPRE movement in protecting and enhancing the countryside

CPRE – our commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion

At CPRE we believe it is our responsibility to strive for a society where all of us can be ourselves and feel able to reach our full potential, whatever our identity and background. We'll ensure that our organisation and all we do is open to everyone and that we actively address any barriers to participation by any group.

Our case for the countryside depends upon having the broadest and most diverse and inclusive public support possible, because the countryside will benefit from the engagement and attention of people from all backgrounds.

We value everyone who supports CPRE through volunteering and we want everyone to be able to reach their potential with us. This means listening to and understanding people's views, creating an environment where everyone is treated with respect and able to contribute fully. And it means making sure everyone feels included and valued for their talent, knowledge, and experience.

How to apply

If you'd like a pre-application chat, then please email Danny Garvey, interim Network Assembly chair, at chairofassembly@cpred.org.uk.

You should apply [online](#) via the volunteer hub where you can share your motivation for the role with us. You'll also be required to upload your CV.

The deadline for applications is Monday 13 March 2023.

Once we receive your application our Nominations Committee will carry out a short-listing process and identify the candidates who most clearly match the requirements of the role. These candidates will be invited for an informal interview, either online or at our office in London.

If you require any special arrangements or assistance in making your application, or at interview, then please include this in your online application. If you've any queries, please email the volunteering team at volunteeringteam@cpred.org.uk.

Useful links

[Our vision](#)

[Our achievements and history](#)

[Our strategic plan 2020-2026: a summary](#)

[Our year: a review of 2021-22](#)

