



CPRE Hampshire

Trustee Recruitment

Information Pack

100
YEARS



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
Hampshire

www.cprehampshire.org.uk
Registered charity number: 1164410

Who we are

Hampshire is a remarkable county. It's home to two National Parks (the New Forest and the South Downs), internationally rare chalk streams, ancient woodlands, thriving farmland, historic market towns and a rich mosaic of habitats that support an incredible diversity of wildlife. We believe this landscape is special and worth safeguarding for generations to come.

Our mission is to promote, enhance and protect a thriving countryside.

As a local branch, we champion the issues that matter most to communities across Hampshire. We work with volunteers, partners and residents to scrutinise proposals that could damage our countryside, be they for housing or infrastructure, that could be accommodated elsewhere. We also work in partnership to deliver benefits for the countryside, including caring for our hedgerows and precious chalk meadows.

But we're also part of a much bigger nationwide team: the **Campaign to Protect Rural England**.

Follow us on social media

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Celebrating a century of standing up for the countryside

For 100 years, the Campaign to Protect Rural England has helped shape the laws and policies that protect rural England - from tackling unplanned development and pollution to safeguarding nature and peaceful places.

Nationally, CPRE played a crucial role in the creation of Green Belts and National Parks, and after World War II, helped bring in the legislation that established protected landscapes such as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (now National Landscapes). Over the decades, CPRE has spoken up for clean air, quiet spaces and rural homes that genuinely meet local needs.

Long before environmental issues were mainstream, CPRE raised concerns about plastic waste and coastal erosion in the 1960s. In the 1980s, the organisation helped stop harmful power stations, saved fragile wetlands and brought an end to straw burning. CPRE has championed dark skies, hedgerows, local food, better recycling, brownfield-first development, litter reduction, and the protection of public forests. It has also been a strong voice against fracking and fossil fuel expansion.

By working together, local branches like CPRE Hampshire and the national organisation, we make sure the countryside has a powerful voice at every level. From grassroots campaigns to national policy change, we help people protect the landscapes they love. And we'll keep doing it, because the countryside matters and when it needs defending, CPRE speaks up.

About the trustee role

As a trustee, you can make a real difference by shaping our direction, championing local voices and helping protect Hampshire's countryside for future generations.

You'll be part of a team guiding our strategy, strengthening our governance and making sure we continue to uphold the highest standards of charity practice.

We're looking for trustees who can bring organisational insight, a passion for the countryside and a commitment to rural communities. We also warmly welcome people at the beginning of their careers or still at university as fresh perspectives help broaden and strengthen our movement.

What you will be doing?

As a member of the Board of Trustees, you will share collective responsibility for:

- Shaping and delivering our long-term strategy to protect Hampshire's countryside
- Supporting the smooth, effective administration of the charity
- Helping safeguard our financial sustainability
- Encouraging and supporting the recruitment of volunteers and staff
- Ensuring we meet all legal and regulatory responsibilities
- Acting as a positive ambassador for CPRE Hampshire in the community
- Upholding and promoting our values, purpose and reputation

In addition to these core duties, our new trustee will support our fundraising activities, helping to secure the income we need to expand our vital conservation, campaigning and community projects.

Skills and experience we're looking for

Becoming a trustee is a chance to use your skills for something meaningful - shaping real conservation work, influencing positive change and helping to safeguard the landscapes you love.

And don't worry if you don't tick every box below, we know that people bring different strengths, perspectives and life experiences. If you care about the countryside and want to make a difference, we'd love to chat about what you can bring to the board.



Skills and experience

- An interest in the charity sector and its role in environmental protection and enhancement
- Experience of strategic thinking, either paid or voluntary
- Independent judgement and a creative, constructive approach to solving problems
- A willingness to learn about trustee responsibilities and charity governance
- Strong written and oral communication skills
- Confidence using basic digital tools (Word, PowerPoint, MS Teams etc.)
- Available to attend meetings



What's in it for you?

- Use your expertise and experience to make a meaningful, lasting impact on Hampshire's countryside
- Meet like-minded people who share your passion for nature and rural places
- Develop new skills, strengthen your CV and gain valuable governance experience
- Receive support, training and ongoing development in your role
- Access a reference for future work or volunteering
- Join local and national CPRE events, workshops and our annual conference

Key priorities for CPRE Hampshire

CPRE Hampshire is deeply rooted in local communities. Our impact spans strategic planning, direct collaboration with decision-makers and hands-on conservation projects that bring people together to care for the countryside.

- We want to make sure communities have a real say in how their local areas evolve, encouraging wider participation and bringing younger and more diverse voices into the conversation.
- We also aim to strengthen the connection between towns, cities and the countryside, ensuring everyone has access to green spaces and a healthier natural environment.

At the heart of our vision is a more inclusive, powerful countryside movement that can secure long-lasting change.

How we make a difference locally

We work across Hampshire to protect and enhance local landscapes, championing better planning that supports the countryside and its communities. Our team also carries out a range of hands-on conservation activities, including meadow management to boost biodiversity and traditional hedge laying to restore vital wildlife corridors.



Better planning for Hampshire

- We work to ensure that national planning policy truly works for the countryside, drawing on guidance from CPRE's national office and shaping it for Hampshire's unique landscapes and rural communities.
- We maintain positive, collaborative relationships with local planning authorities across the county, encouraging them to adopt policies that recognise the value of Hampshire's countryside and the need to protect it.
- When major threats arise, we coordinate and support local campaigns to prevent developments that would cause serious harm to our green spaces, wildlife, farmland and rural character.



Delivering practical projects that restore the countryside

- Magnificent Meadows - helping restore and protect species-rich meadows, one of the UK's most threatened habitats. These projects bring communities together to revive wildflower biodiversity and create spaces buzzing with life.
- The Hampshire Hedge - an ambitious county-wide initiative supporting volunteers and landowners to plant, restore and protect hedgerows. These vital wildlife corridors help nature thrive, store carbon and reconnect fragmented habitats across the landscape - from the South Downs to the New Forest National Park.



Frequently asked questions

How much time will be involved?

Trustees usually meet four to six times per year, typically on a weekday during the daytime. Our Annual General Meeting is held either in the evening or at a weekend. However, if these times don't work for you, we're open to discussing alternative arrangements.

Alongside meetings, we ask trustees to contribute to the ongoing work of the charity. This might involve a commitment of up to three to six hours a week but this depends on the role and your own availability.

Where does the work take place?

CPRE Hampshire is based near Winchester, with an office at Sparsholt Agricultural College. Board meetings are usually held in conveniently located village hall venues around the county.

Much of the work, including reading papers, preparing for discussions and supporting projects, can be done from home, making the role flexible and easy to fit around other commitments.

Who do I report to?

All new trustees report to the Chair of CPRE Hampshire, Margaret Paren, who leads the Board and supports trustees in their roles. You'll be welcomed into a collaborative, committed team who care deeply about Hampshire's countryside.

How long is the appointment?

Trustees are appointed for a three year term. On completion of a 3 year term a trustee may, if willing, be eligible for re-election. The maximum period a trustee may serve is 3 terms of 3 years.

Is this a paid position?

No. This is a volunteer trustee role. Like all charity trustees, you'll give your time and expertise to help guide and strengthen our charity. While the role isn't paid, we cover all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, such as travel costs for meetings.

Ready to find out more?

If the information you've read in this trustee pack inspires you, this could be your moment to help shape real, positive change for Hampshire's countryside.

So, if you're interested in becoming a trustee, please send:

- A comprehensive CV
- A supporting statement explaining how you meet the criteria and why you'd like to join CPRE Hampshire
- The names and contact details of two referees

Please email your application to Margaret Paren, Chair of CPRE Hampshire, at: chair@cprehampshire.org.uk

If you'd like to talk things through first, Margaret would be very happy to arrange an informal chat. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, learn more about the role and explore whether trusteeship with CPRE Hampshire feels like the right fit for you.

To learn more about our work visit www.cprehampshire.org.uk

