



# The countryside charity Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

## **Volunteer with CPRE, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is our local branch of CPRE, a national charity. It was set up over ninety years ago, to ensure the countryside is protected for all to enjoy for now and future generations. We speak up for the English countryside to protect it from the threats it faces, and to shape its future for the better.

We campaign nationally and locally for positive solutions to safeguard the long-term future of the countryside. Nationally, we produce in-depth research and sound arguments to press the government, Parliament and other decision-makers to support the countryside – by protecting precious green belts, promoting urban renewal and restricting development on greenfield sites, and campaigning for the protection of our most important national landscapes as well as the countryside on our doorstep.

### **Volunteer job title: Planning Volunteer**

**Purpose of role:** To assist the Branch Committee; to help us monitor and respond to planning applications for the development of housing, business or industry.

### **Tasks:**

- Look into the progress of Local Plans, planning applications and other proposals which may have a significant impact upon the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough countryside and help us to influence their outcome
- Review plans, applications and other consultations online
- Site visits, where appropriate
- Liaise with parish councils, district councils and other conservation bodies
- Share information and advice with CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's committee and other volunteers

As your understanding develops we will encourage and support you to:

- Draft letters to the local planning authority
- Research planning policy and best practice
- Assist in the preparation of responses to wider consultations, including planning appeals
- Assist CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in planning research

### **Skills needed:**

- A strong interest in the countryside
- Experience and understanding of the planning system, ideally professional experience
- An interest in investigative work, with an eye for detail
- A desire to share your knowledge with others in the branch
- Good communication skills - written and verbal
- Where appropriate, attend Committee meetings or provide updates for meetings (via Zoom)
- Computer literate - the internet, e-mail and MS Word or equivalent

**Support and supervision:**

You will be supported and supervised by the Branch Committee. Induction training will be provided by National CPRE and you will have the opportunity to attend other training and events as appropriate.

**Location:**

The role is home-based.

**Benefits of the role:**

- an opportunity to use your existing skills and experience and to develop new skills
- working with like-minded people and being part of a friendly and active team
- opportunities to attend local and national CPRE activities, events and workshops (usually online)
- attendance at Branch meetings (via Zoom) and contributing to the decision-making process
- training and development opportunities, based on individual and branch needs
- an opportunity to participate in local government and to make an impact on decisions affecting the countryside and your community

All activities are voluntary, although we will pay all out-of-pocket expenses with prior agreement, in line with our Volunteer Policy.

**Deadline for application:** Ongoing

**How to apply:** For an application form and further information, or just for an informal chat about the role, please contact Jo McGowan, initially by email at [office@cprecambs.org.uk](mailto:office@cprecambs.org.uk).

For further information about CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough please see our website [www.cprecambs.org.uk](http://www.cprecambs.org.uk) or join the discussion on X (@CPRECambs) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/CPRECambridgeshireAndPeterborough>).