The countryside charity
London

Working for a greener city

CPRE London
Operations Director

Candidate Briefing Pack
December 2025

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1. About CPRE London

CPRE London is a leading environmental charity in the capital. We are part of the CPRE network comprising a national charity "the countryside charity", who believe in countryside and green spaces that are accessible to all, rich in nature and play a crucial role in responding to the climate emergency. There are 42 local branches in the network, including CPRE London.

CPRE London's mission is to work to make London a well-planned, greener, climate resilient and nature rich city, which benefits everyone.

Our Vision is that by 2030 London has become a well-planned, climate resilient, nature rich city. It will be surrounded by a flourishing Green Belt, with a ring of trees and other habitats. It has an expanding network of green spaces, which are well used by all. Streets are greener and encourage walking and cycling. Development includes more affordable, well-designed homes with good facilities nearby, to reduce car dependency and support Londoners to live low carbon, healthy lives.

CPRE London operates at the cutting edge of the intersection between green spaces and the environment, housing, transport and planning.

To turn our vision into reality, in the next five years we will:

- **Protect** London's green space and Green Belt; and encourage sustainable development.
- **Enhance** London's green spaces, including creating new parks, greening our streets and surrounding the capital with a ring of trees
- **Engage** a wide range of people to connect with nature and promote equal access to green space and enhanced wellbeing

To enable these goals, we will:

- **Influence** decision makers, and the London and Borough Plans, by promoting understanding of the importance of well-planned, sustainable development, and green space
- **Build** our capacity to deliver our strategy and projects, to better achieve our strategic goals, including raising more funds to support our work
- **Educate** people, politicians, landowners and businesses about the importance of the natural environment and the role it plays in creating a healthy city

Supporters of our work include a strong network of members, trustees, staff, volunteers and a community of friends of parks and campaigning organisations, supported by a range of donors and funders.

CPRE London has a strong reputation for providing evidence-based passionate campaigns which make a difference. In doing this we draw on our core strengths:

- We are recognised as London s leading environment charity in protecting green spaces and promoting better use of land to reduce building pressure on greenfield sites

- We are respected by GLA, London Boroughs and other policy makers and politicians as an authoritative voice in the planning and development of London
- We are trusted by a network of more than 100 community groups to provide critical advice to support their local campaigns
- We are backed by a powerful national organisation that amplifies our voice, enhances our resources, and increases our impact.

CPRE London's 2025 activities included:

- **Through our London Tree Ring project, we identified over 200 potential tree planting sites** to help link existing wooded areas and wildlife habitats and create a continuous treescape around the capital, linking together a rich mosaic of other habitats. We have been consulting with local authorities, landowners, community groups, environmental bodies and philanthropists to find land that can be used for planting trees or rewilding. Having secured funding from a variety of sources we are moving to delivery of up to 10 demonstrator sites during the 2025/26 planting season.
- **We have supported more than 50 local campaign groups standing up for green spaces under threat** over the year
- **We launched in 2024 and now run the Green Defenders Network**. This brings together campaigners from across the capital who met 4 times across the year to learn from one another and share successful approaches.
- **Through our Go Parks London project, we have supported nearly 600 friends of green space groups over the year**. We have increased capacity of these groups by linking them up to funding and free resources, helping form new borough forums for mutual support, providing advice and support.
- **We led the Healthy Streets Coalition** to publish the sixth **Healthy Streets Scorecard.** This prompts London borough councils to deliver action on healthier streets.
- **Alongside local campaigners,** we respond to numerous local plan consultations each year. We actively support some of the largest and most strategic local campaigns. Examples include the campaign to protect Wimbledon Common from development by the All-England Lawn Tennis Association, and the new campaign by Ealing residents to protect its green belt from the establishment of a government proposed 'new town'.
- **We now have more than 30 regular and skilled volunteers contributing more than 140 hours a week**, giving us more capacity to achieve our goals. We also grew our sustainable funding by adding the Big Give Green Match Fund to our funding mix.

Our current focus includes:

1. Highlighting the importance and relevance of Green Belt in a climate and nature crisis
2. Campaigning for action on affordable housing in ways that won't worsen the climate and nature crises
3. Promoting greening the Green Belt and maximising its benefits for people, nature and the planet through the London Tree Ring

Our work is supported by member subscriptions, donations, grants and legacies. We are looking to grow and extend our financial support so we can expand our role and impact. Collaboration and partnership are central to the way we work; we have a growing reputation for co-ordinating and bringing together the range of charities and voluntary organisations concerned with London's environment.

Our work is evidence based and supported by research and strong communications. We work closely with CPRE nationally and with local CPREs around London to extend our impact and to protect and celebrate the countryside around the capital.

CPRE London runs a small office with five part-time staff, headed by an Operations Director who reports to the Chair. We benefit from the support of volunteers and interns who work under the leadership of the staff, and lead volunteers on specific projects and initiatives.

Location

We are based at 70 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6EJ. Our office in Farringdon is a shared workspace alongside other professionals/organisations involved in the built environment, including architectural practices, urban designers, and other special interest groups. This helps us maintain links with other organisations working on related issues in London and further afield.

CPRE is a registered charity and a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Trustee Board

We have ten trustees including our Chair, Suzanne Wise, who meet at least on a quarterly basis and who support the charity in a variety of operational ways as and when appropriate. Our trustees are a talented group who are hugely supportive of the staff and volunteers, they bring a wide range of experience and work well as a team to make CPRE London a great place to work and volunteer. We hold an annual Strategy Day to which all trustees, staff and key volunteers are invited and take part.

2. Job Description and Person Specification

Reports to: Chair (Suzanne Wise / Board of Trustees)

Responsible for: 4 part-time Staff members and volunteers (c30-35 at any one time)

Purpose of role: To lead CPRE London towards its vision ensuring operational delivery of the plan and priorities.

Key responsibilities

- Work with trustees to deliver CPRE London's Strategy and Operational Plan
- Line manage CPRE London's staff team
- Support, manage and maintain our volunteer capacity
- Develop CPRE London's financial base, to include delivery of a broad-based fund-raising strategy embracing grants, earned income, legacies and member and supporter appeals and donations. It is expected that fundraising activity will account for up to 20% of the role
- Oversee the management of CPRE London's income and expenditure, including its financial records, ensuring compliance, and collaborating with staff and trustees to maintain accurate and timely financial operations
- Coordinate the CPRE communications strategy, in collaboration with staff, trustees and volunteers, promoting CPRE London, enhancing its profile, reputation and reach
- Oversight of health and safety, safeguarding, IT, Data Protection and cybersecurity.
- Foster a culture of shared ambition, effective delivery and collaboration, including through coalitions, partnerships and relationships with the wider CPRE network
- Embody and foster CPRE London's values and behaviours: Influential, Inclusive, Integrity
- Work to improve CPRE London's diversity and inclusion, both within the organisation and it volunteers but also in terms of access for all to London's green spaces
- Work with trustees to ensure appropriate risk management and good governance of CPRE London, including regular and timely reporting to the Board.

Desirable skills and experience

- Ability to take on organisational leadership and management, including working with trustee Boards on strategy development and delivery, ideally within the environmental charity sector
- Demonstrable impact through managing, maintaining and growing financial and volunteer organisational capacity
- Understanding of, and experience within, the planning sector would be very advantageous
- Experience of generating and securing external support and funds
- Whilst a financial qualification is not a requirement, you must be numerate and capable of understanding simple financial accounts, and maintaining oversight of income and expenditure
- Understanding and experience of the role of campaigning charities
- Integrity, passion and dedication to CPRE London's mission, with a strong affinity for London. Ideally you will live in London or able to commute easily to our London office
- Outstanding communication, interpersonal, networking and persuasion skills
- Understanding of and insight into the cultural, social, economic and political influences that impact CPRE London's mission; particularly the intersection between housing, planning and the protection and enhancement of green spaces.

Experience working within the environmental charity sector is desirable although other charity sector experience will be considered.

Main terms and conditions

- Salary will be in the range £40,000 - £50,000 per annum FTE, depending on experience and paid pro rata for 0.8 full-time hours
- Hours will be the equivalent of a four-day week (28 hours). Some occasional evening and weekend work will be required for which time off in lieu is available
- CPRE London encourages flexible working, but the Operations Director will need to be in the London office at least 3 days a week. For the right candidate, a focus on a Term Time working pattern will be considered.
- Holiday entitlement will be 20 days per year plus public holidays
- This is a permanent role
- Appointment is subject to a thirteen-week probationary period
- The appointment may be ended by three months' notice given by either side
- A pension scheme with NEST is available

3. How to apply

To apply for the role of CPRE London Operations Director, please submit both a CV and a personal statement explaining your motivation for the application and why you are well placed to take up the role. It would be helpful if you addressed how your skill set matches the job description in the information you provide.

Your personal statement should be no more than 2 sides of A4.

References

Please provide details for two referees *and let us know if we are free to approach them.*

Applications should be sent to hr@cprelondon.org.uk

The deadline for applications is Monday 5th January 2026

Panel Interviews and shortlisting for final interview: 12th/13th/ 14th January 2026

Final interviews: to be confirmed, options being 19th/20th/21st January 2026

Our chair Suzanne Wise is available for an informal conversation about the role if that would be helpful.

She can be contacted via hr@cprelondon.org.uk in the first instance.