



The countryside charity
Lancashire, Liverpool City Region
and Greater Manchester



CPRE Walking Route Researcher for the Liverpool City Region Walking and Cycling Ringway R&D Project

(this is one of four part-time freelance roles for the R&D project, the others being:
Cycling Route Researcher; Researcher - Heritage; Community Engagement Specialist)

CPRE campaigns for a better future for the countryside. We work locally and nationally to protect, shape and enhance our beautiful countryside and green spaces for everyone to value and enjoy.

The LCR (Liverpool City Region) Walking and Cycling Ringway project is intended to be a new route or routes around the region that will connect residents of all six LCR boroughs with their natural and cultural heritage.

Before a full bid for the project is submitted, CPRE wish to undertake a six-month Research & Development process. This will result in a comprehensive feasibility study whose findings will help us get to the next stage of work to implement and deliver the LCR Walking and Cycling Ringway. It will also ensure that we can meet our primary objective of increasing the number of people who walk and cycle in the region in the most user-friendly, impactful, inclusive and sustainable way.

The R&D project, which has been made possible with the support of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, will ensure that the LCR Walking and Cycling Ringway is implemented effectively as a permanent resource for the Liverpool City Region.

Project elements include:

- Mapping the walking and cycling route(s)
- Scoping of the major natural, industrial and cultural heritage of the region through which the route(s) might pass
- Delivering an extensive community engagement programme
- Working in partnership to build a robust network of stakeholders and collaborators
- Scoping the sustainability and legacy of the project
- Exploring a volunteer programme and skills development opportunities
- Exploring the potential for guided walks, information platforms, waymarking initiatives, public talks and workshops, and other ways in which people can access the route(s) easily

Main purpose of the role:

We are recruiting a Walking Route Researcher to design, research, and document engaging, safe, and accessible walking routes for the LCR Walking and Cycling Ringway. The role will focus on uncovering scenic, heritage-focused, and culturally significant paths while ensuring routes cater to a diverse range of abilities and interests. A Cycling Route Researcher will be engaged alongside the Walking Route Researcher.

The results of the Walking Route Research will feed into a final feasibility report for the LCR Walking and Cycling Ringway at the end of the six-month R&D.

Main responsibilities:

Route research

- Identify, evaluate, and document walking routes that will make up the final LCR Walking and Cycling Ringway, combining on-the-ground walking exploration with detailed desk-based research to produce accurate and informative research results.
- Establish objectives, targets, processes and evaluation methods that align with overarching Project objectives, supported by Project Lead and Project Manager
- Work with the Community Engagement Officer to identify potential collaboration with community groups, environmental and nature groups, and local authorities to ensure routes are well-connected, well-informed, accessible, inclusive and sustainable.
- Work with Heritage Researcher to identify the history, landmarks, and points of interest that reflect the natural, historical or industrial heritage, and environmental significance of specific areas

Accessibility

- Conduct on-the-ground assessments to evaluate terrain, accessibility, safety, and logistical considerations
- Ensure routes are inclusive by considering varying levels of ability, mobility, and interests, establishing considerations around accessible transport links, and nearby amenities to accommodate a diverse range of walkers
- Identify alternative paths or adapt routes for users with accessibility needs

Volunteers

- Recruit volunteers as needed to help test potential walking routes, ensuring health and safety, risk assessments and any insurance considerations are taken into account
- Track and respond to feedback from volunteer walkers to improve the quality of the routes

Documentation

- Document routes clearly, including detailed maps, step-by-step directions, and safety advice
- Provide additional content, in liaison with Heritage Researcher, such as historical anecdotes, wildlife spotting tips, or cultural insights, especially with regard the heritage along the routes
- Liaise with local authorities and landowners to confirm route ownership, permissions and to identify any potential challenges

Monitoring and reporting

- Monitor, track and evaluate the research work effectively and clearly; update Project Manager and Project Board at scheduled meetings to ensure Project objectives are being met

- Liaise with Heritage Researcher, Community Engagement Officer and Cycling Route Researcher to ensure smooth communication and alignment with their outputs
- Attend team meetings with wider Project team and Project Manager as and when required

Required skills and competencies:

- Strong knowledge of and passion for walking, hiking, or outdoor activities
- Proven experience in route planning, outdoor research, or related fields
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills to create clear, engaging research results
- Competence in using mapping tools (eg GIS, Ordnance Survey, or Google Maps) to plot and analyse routes
- Ability to conduct detailed on-site surveys, including assessing terrain and measuring distances
- A strong understanding of safety, accessibility, and environmental considerations in outdoor activities

Essential

- Knowledge of the geography and natural environment of the Liverpool City Region
- Experience of working with community groups or public engagement initiatives

Desirable

- Basic photography or videography skills to document routes visually
- Familiarity with digital platforms for route sharing or guide creation

Key Employment Terms

- Fee £7,000
- Six-month contractual period
- You must be able to travel to and within the region as part of your research. All reasonable travel expenses will be paid

How to apply

- Please email a CV (maximum 2 pages of A4) and covering letter (maximum 2 pages of A4) setting out how you meet the requirements of the post to: info@cprelancashire.org.uk, or if you would like to talk to someone about this role, contact Nickthompson1947@gmail.com
- We are also open to applications from people with the skills and experience to take on two of the four part-time freelance roles (listed at the top of this document). If this is you, there's no need to apply separately for each role. Simply state clearly that you are applying for both.

Closing date: Monday 19th May, 6pm

The English countryside is wonderful - help us look after it.

This R&D project has been made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund, with thanks to National Lottery players.