

ENGLISH RURAL HOUSING ASSOCIATION

Development Project Manager – September 2024

INTRODUCTION

This is an exciting opportunity to join our small but professional and friendly development team to continue the delivery of our high-quality new build homes programme.

We design our homes to high standards, incorporating local architectural features. Our 'fabric first' approach to design and construction, coupled with our commitment to renewable energy technologies, aims to reduce environmental impact and running costs for our residents. We build beautiful homes that villages can be proud of. Our approach involves forming a community led local partnership to research, enable and deliver affordable rural homes.

Working under the leadership of the Development Director and collaboratively with internal colleagues and external consultants and contractors, the role will be to fully coordinate from inception to completion the day-to-day project management of rural exception site housing delivery (noting, we do deliver some through selective Section 106 planning gain schemes). Our typical sites are around six to ten affordable homes, although we can also develop a small number of outright sale homes through our subsidiary ER Homes Ltd to cross subsidise the affordable homes.

ABOUT US

English Rural is a specialist housing association. We play a leading role nationally in advocating and influencing, to secure support for our work and to promote the opportunities that it secures for rural communities. We work closely with others in the rural and affordable housing sectors, recognising that our impact is greater through the alliances and partnerships that we develop. Our Patron, HRH The Princess Royal supports our work.

We currently own and manage around 1,600 homes in around 200 villages. Our ambition is to build over 160 more homes as part of our Business Strategy 2024-29, (which is typically around 35 homes per year over four or five schemes) supported by our sound financial plans, partnership with Homes England and use of our development subsidiary.

All the homes we build are enabled in partnership with local communities and are designed to enable local people to live in their existing community where they may not be able to buy a property. Our developments are small scale, high-quality and have a small footprint.

Affordable does not mean poor quality as we design and build our homes to high standards, incorporating local architectural features. Our 'fabric first' approach to design and build makes sure that environmental impact is reduced as far reasonably possible. Our ambition is to ensure that both new and existing homes perform well, making them affordable to live in. We do this by innovating and using renewable energy technology. Our approach involves forming a community-led local partnership to research, enable

and deliver affordable homes and we build homes that villages and residents can be proud of.

English Rural was an early adopter of the National Housing Federation 'Together with Tenants' initiative and through this work has started a process of improving resident voice within the organisation. Residents are at the fore of what we do. Our ambition is to listen to residents and work with them to continuously improve the quality of the services we offer.

Fundamental to our success is the commitment of the Board and staff team. Their work makes sure we are well run and financially sound. We also work with Homes England, who invest directly in our ambition to build more affordable homes.

English Rural currently has a Central London office and regional offices near Guildford (Surrey) or Chelmsford (Essex).

ABOUT YOU

To succeed in this role, you will have a proven track record in working and successfully delivering affordable housing development and preferably rural housing. You will need excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with an ability to work both collaboratively and independently. It takes a special project manager with professionalism, enthusiasm, tenacity and a great deal of pride to stay the course and deliver these small, often challenging yet ultimately rewarding community housing schemes. The right candidate will also have sufficient technical expertise, either from a formal qualification or direct experience. English Rural is looking to invest in and develop the right candidate to grow with our business.

More information about English Rural, including our latest Annual Report 2023 and Business Strategy 2024-29 can be seen on our website:

www.englishrural.org.uk

We also have a recent Development brochure aimed at community consultation, but gives an overview of the development team approach and rural exception planning process:

[English Rural Brochure dps Soff.pdf](#)

ROLE OVERVIEW AND TERMS

Job Title:	Development Project Manager
Reporting to:	Development Director
Salary:	£55-£60k (inclusive of £5,200 car allowance)
Hours:	37.5
Pension entitlement:	Generous Company Stakeholder Scheme
Annual leave entitlement:	30 (excluding eight bank holidays)
Place of work:	Hybrid, based out of English Rural's London office one day per week and home based
Other:	Benenden health benefit
Probation period:	Six months
Notice period:	Three months
Job description and person specification:	Can be accessed here

Our Values & Mission

As a non-profit organisation, English Rural exists to provide and manage housing services which help to sustain the economic and social life of rural communities. English Rural works in partnership with those communities, local authorities and other agencies and aims to be the foremost specialist provider of rural affordable housing in England.

Our Vision

Putting rural communities front and centre is key to our vision: *“For rural communities to thrive, we believe local people deserve to live in high-quality, well-managed homes that are comfortable, safe and affordable”.*

Our Mission

So that we can deliver on our vision, we need to be clear about our mission. We need to build more affordable rural homes. We need to build them with and for the local community. Our mission is: *“To build and manage affordable housing for local people in rural communities in England and to be an advocate for affordable rural housing”.*

This mission is underpinned by our five core values:

Our Values



How do we maintain our purpose?

There are a number of fundamental elements that enable our expert team to maintain our purpose, which is as relevant today as it was when the organisation was formed.

These include:

- Good governance which keeps pace with internal and external requirements;
- Sound finances and value for money (VfM);
- The satisfaction of services and relationships from residents and partners on whom we depends;
- Access to capital finance for investment;
- Effective risk management, including stress testing of the Business Plan

How to Apply

To apply for this position, please email the following to Karen Eagles at recruitment@englishrural.org.uk:

- Your latest CV
- A supporting statement explaining your motivation in applying and also addressing how you meet the requirements of the person specification

As part of its commitment to equality and diversity, applicants are also asked to complete the online equality and diversity monitoring form via the following link – [Equality and Diversity Survey](#). English Rural recognises the positive value of diversity and promotes equality. We welcome and encourage job applications from people of all backgrounds

No agencies please

Timescales

The role will be advertised until Friday 25th October with interviews expected to be on 7th or 8th November 2024 in London.

Further Information

Click the links below to access the following:

Annual Report 2024

<https://englishrural.turtl.co/story/annual-report-2023-2024/page/1>

For queries about the recruitment process please contact –
Karen Eagles, Governance & Executive Support Manager,
T. 020 7820 7933
E. karen.eagles@englishrural.org.uk

For an informal discussion please contact Richard DeVillie on 020 7820 7930, or email richard.deville@englishrural.org.uk