

Margaret Clark CBE

Chair

Rural Coalition

Margaret Clark spent her career working in national government agencies, concerned with rural development, where she was responsible for advice, research and the development of rural policy and practice and for managing a range of social and economic programmes aimed at improving the wellbeing of rural communities in England.

From the early 1990s, she represented the UK on the OECD's Rural Working Party and was its Chair from 2000 until November 2007.

Since retiring, she has continued to be involved in rural development policy and delivery. Margaret has a particular interest in the provision of rural affordable housing and for a number of years was a board member and then Chair of the Hastoe Housing Group, the leading provider of rural social housing in England. She is currently Chair of the Rural Coalition, an alliance of 12 national organisations who share a vision for a living and working countryside. She also chairs the Plunkett Foundation, which promotes and supports community businesses and community ownership, and she chairs the Rural England Community Interest Company Stakeholder Group, which aims to improve the rural evidence base through sharing knowledge and undertaking research into rural issues. Margaret is also a Board member of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). She is an honorary fellow of the Centre for Rural Economy at the University of Newcastle. Margaret was awarded a CBE in the Queen's 2015 New Year's Honours' List for services to rural communities.