

Cherry Ann Knott trained as an architect at University College London and Edinburgh University, and worked in town planning during the early years of Conservation Areas designations. She then spent five years heading both the Regional Services and Conservation sections at the Crafts Council.

In 1979 she moved to Derbyshire to be the National Trust's Property Manager at Sudbury Hall, the most richly decorated Charles II house to have survived in England. Living and working in the Hall sparked her ongoing interest in its creation in the last four decades of the 17th century, and in its former owners, the Vernon Family; on both of these she has done extensive archival research, initially as a post-graduate student at the Courtauld Institute of Art. Her resulting book was short-listed for the 2011 Berger Prize for British Art History and formed the basis of her PhD in the History Department at Warwick University, where she now holds an associate fellowship. She is a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Other published research projects undertaken include *Adult Education in the Crafts* (1984-85) and *A Socio-economic Study of Craftspeople in England, Scotland and Wales* (1993-94). Cherry Ann was the first director of the Gulbenkian Craft Initiative (1986-87) and was Displays and Research Co-ordinator in the team setting up Stroud's new Museum in the Park (1997–2000). From 2010 to 2016 she was a member of the Heritage Lottery Fund's South West committee.