

**The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England**

**Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021**

**Registered Company No 04443278**

**Registered Charity No 1093081**

**Registered Office**

**First Floor  
20 High Street  
Watlington  
Oxfordshire  
OX49 5PY**

## REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

**Registered Charity No. 1093081**

**Registered Company No. 04443278**

President	John Harwood	
Vice-Presidents	David Astor	
	Dr Peter Collins	*
	Gordon Garraway	*
	Gillian Salway	*
	Mr Bruce Tremayne	*
Chairman of the Executive Committee	Professor Richard Harding	*,***
	Dr Peter Collins	**,***,****
Vice - Chairmen	Gillian Salway	**
	Bruce Tremayne	**
	Brian Wood	*,***
Executive Committee	Sir David Gilmour	***
	Colin Thomas	***
	Dr Lisa Buchan	*,***
	Dr Geoff Botting	*,***
	Peter Emery	*,***
	Olivia Field	*,***
	Heneage Legge-Bourke	*,***
	Philippa Phelan	*,***
	Professor Richard Harding	**,***
	Brian Wood	**,***
Secretary	Dorian Grier	***
Treasurer	Nicholas Dolden	*,***
Director	Helen Marshall	
Independent Examiner	Kelvin Barnes of Barnes4Business Limited	
CPRE Oxfordshire Buildings Preservation Trust Ltd	John Alexander	
Honorary Consultants	Angus Dart – Farming	
	Jim Fletcher - Transport	
	Professor Richard Harding - Water	
	George Lambrick – Archaeology	
	and Historic Buildings	
	Nick Moon and Gordon Garraway –	
	Rights of Way and Footpaths	

Dr Ian Scargill – Oxford Green Belt Network \*\*  
Martin Harris – Oxford Green Belt Network \*  
Michael Tyce – Without Portfolio  
Lisa Cheung - Planning

\*appointment from 19 June 2021

\*\*appointment to 19 June 2021

\*\*\*trustee and director

\*\*\*\* The then Chairman covered the role as Treasurer until the new Treasurer's appointment on 19 June 2021.

## **The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England**

### **Trustees' annual report for the year end 31 December 2021 (Incorporating the Directors' Report)**

#### **Governing Document**

The memorandum and articles of association were incorporated as of 21 May 2002 as amended by special registration registered at Companies House on 4 August 2018.

#### **Structure and Management**

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England is currently supported by four active districts committees i.e. Cherwell, South Oxfordshire, West Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. It is also the intention to establish a fifth district committee covering Oxford City in the near future. Each of the districts meet separately and have their own chair, treasurer and secretary. Trustees comprise branch appointed trustees as well as the district chairs. Each trustee is elected annually. The trustees are also directors of the charitable company. They meet four times a year, in addition to the AGM. In addition, there is a small network of specialist advisors that provide pro bono advice to the charity in their areas of expertise. The Branch had a membership of 787 as at 31 December 2021.

During 2021, the charity had three salaried members of staff i.e. Director, Communications Manager and Administrator. The Director reports to the Chair of trustees, with remaining staff reporting to the Director.

The Branch is also supported by a President, and currently five Vice-Presidents.

An Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is open to all members, is held once per annum, normally in the Summer months.

#### **Objectives**

To promote and encourage for the benefit of the public, the improvement and protection of the English countryside and in particular that of Oxfordshire and its city, towns and villages and the better development of the rural environment.

#### **Public Benefit**

The trustees have complied with their duty in having due regard to the guidance on public benefit, as published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties.

#### **Activities in 2021**

2021 saw our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. Despite the Covid restrictions we celebrated with style, with a garden party (socially distanced), in the garden of one of our founders, and a fascinating four part webinar series on the future of the English Countryside. Our 90<sup>th</sup> birthday appeal exceeded our expectations (raising over £16,000) and will secure our finances in the coming years. Thank you for everyone who contributed to our appeal and our activities throughout the year.

It's been a busy year, with many successes and setbacks. Of our many successes our Hedgerow Project stands out. Hedgerows are important for carbon storage, flood prevention and to provide wildlife refuges and corridors, but, perhaps most importantly, they are a

quintessential part of our modern landscape and add considerably to the beauty of our countryside. The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and Wild Oxfordshire have been working with the community groups and parish councils of Kidlington, Watlington and Eynsham to plant new hedgerows and rejuvenate ancient ones. This is a real community effort to protect and enhance our environment.

I don't know whether it is a 'success' but our report on flooding and sewerage pollution (<https://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/care/water-matters/>) invoked a lot of interest. The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England sent a survey to the 235 Parish Councils, 15 Town Councils and 68 Parish Meetings in Oxfordshire. The report showed that at least 17% of towns & parishes in Oxfordshire experience flooding problems and at least 20% of towns & parishes experience issues with sewage/sewerage infrastructure. This is a shocking conclusion and there is a growing demand that our rivers need cleaning up. In many ways the River Thames and tributaries define the Oxfordshire countryside. Throughout Covid times many people discovered our rivers, for swimming, boating, walking and nature, and there is an increasing demand that they be made 'fit for purpose' and, practically, sewerage discharges should be stopped and our rivers have designated bathing water status.

Through 2021 the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan has been developed and consulted on. We welcome strategic planning, but it is vital it is got right! We have made robust representations, covering, for example, the growth forecasts and the need to protect our existing designated landscapes (the Green Belt and AONBs) and expand this protection to the Nature Recovery Networks. We have serious reservations about the methodologies used to project future populations and the decision making processes. Who decides what growth Oxfordshire will aim for in the future? Is it the communities or developers? We will be following the plan very closely in 2022.

A major concern across the county is the rash of applications to build solar farms in our open countryside. These are big developments, typically exceeding 100ha. Most worrying is a recent application, which was approved at a site near the Baldons, South Oxfordshire, within the Oxford Green Belt.

The 2021 Pathways to Zero Carbon Oxfordshire report (<https://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/publications/downloads/PazCo-final.pdf>) suggests we might need 60 such farms across Oxfordshire. The same report suggests we might have to reduce the amount of food we grow as land is diverted to other purposes. I should emphasise we are not against renewable energy but there are other ways (one is to put solar panels on all the industrial warehouses popping up over the county). What we do need is a detailed land use plan and a public debate on how to use and nurture our countryside.

Many of us have developed a new appreciation of our green spaces and countryside in last two years. Despite the gathering storms (both real and metaphorical) I would encourage everyone to step back and marvel at our woods, hedgerows, rivers and vistas. They are worth protecting.

As part of longer term planning, the Branch will be organising a Strategy Day to take place in early 2022 to enable trustees and District committee members to consider the priorities for campaigning and resources.

## **Impact of COVID**

In March 2020, the country entered a period of social distancing and self isolation in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. During 2021 the Branch office was closed for some

of the time. Furlough payments were received for a period to cover payment for the Branch's employed Communications Manager who was not able to work from home for that period. Most trustee meetings in 2021 were held virtually, including the AGM.

The Branch's share of membership income from the National Charity has remained broadly at previous year levels. There was a downturn in income received from donations in 2019 but this revived last year due in part to money received for the Branch's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England has adapted to the continued challenges presented by COVID and its activities have been largely unaffected from the impact of COVID.

## **Financial Review**

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England has continued to manage its investments to provide funds in the pursuit of its objectives.

The 2021 accounts have been reformatted in line with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). This has meant a restatement of the prior year accounts (2020) to enable a meaningful comparison to be made between the 2020 and 2021 accounts.

There was a net excess of income over expenditure before gains/losses on investments on unrestricted funds of £4,880 (net expenditure of £14,922 in 2020) and net income of £40,876 on restricted funds (net income of £67,854 in 2020). After adjustments for transfers between funds and the unrealised increase in value of investments, there was a net gain in unrestricted funds of £56,014 (net gain of £3,669 in 2020) and a net gain of £40,056 in restricted funds (net gain of £70,612 in 2020). Total unrestricted funds as at 31 December were £455,249 (£399,234 in 2020) and restricted funds were £126,726 (£86,670 in 2020). Total funds were represented by investments and bank and building society accounts and other assets totalled £581,975 (£485,905 in 2020).

The trustees have determined that a reserves policy is not required at the present time. The Charity is in receipt of a regular income and holds an accumulated fund which is sufficient to meet all identified present and future commitments.

## **Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements**

The Trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK Accounting Standards and applicable law). The financial statements are required to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue operations.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015), and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

## **Small company provisions**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies' subject to the small companies' regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Executive Committee and signed on their behalf.

Professor Richard Harding

Chairman and Director

Date: 29 March 2022

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
THE OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England for the year ended 31 December 2021.

**RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER**

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT**

I have completed my examination. In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 130 of the Charities Act 2011 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kelvin Barnes FCCA  
Barnes4Business Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
12 Murdock Road  
Bicester  
Oxfordshire  
OX26 4PP

Date: 31 March 2022



The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021  
(including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Restricted Fund 2021 £	Unrestricted Fund 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	Restricted Fund 2020 £	Unrestricted Fund 2020 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>Income from:</b>							
<b>Donations and legacies</b>							
National subscriptions - branch share	4		25,934	25,934	-	24,934	24,934
Donations grants and local support		89,818	49,405	139,223	107,575	15,306	122,882
<b>Other Trading Activities</b>							
Sale of books			2,376	2,376	-	1,638	1,638
Sundry			1,749	1,749			
<b>Investments</b>							
Dividends COIF Charities Investment Funds - Income Units			11,391	11,391	-	11,107	11,107
Bank Deposit interest			238	238	-	93	93
<b>Total income</b>		89,818	91,093	180,911	107,575	53,079	160,654
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
Raising Funds					-	0	0
Direct Costs of Fundraising			612	612			0
Indirect Costs			1,572	1,572			
Charitable Activities	5	48,941	84,029	132,970	39,721	68,001	107,722
<b>Total expenditure</b>		48,941	86,213	135,154	39,721	68,001	107,722
<b>Net gains(losses) on investments</b>			50,314	50,314	-	21,349	21,349
<b>Net Income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>40,876</b>	55,194	96,071	<b>67,854</b>	6,427	74,281
<b>Transfers between funds</b>		(820)	820	0	2,758	(2,758)	0
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		40,056	56,014	96,071	70,612	3,669	74,281
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>							
Fund balances at 2020		86,670	399,234	485,904	16,058	395,565	411,623
<b>Fund balances at 31 December 2021</b>		126,726	455,249	581,975	86,670	399,234	485,904

**The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England**

**BALANCE SHEET**  
**as at 31 December 2021**

	Notes	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Investments	7	<u>465,691</u>	<u>403,982</u>
		465,691	403,982
<b>Current assets</b>			
Barclays Bank – Branch		106,325	69,402
Banks & Building Societies – Districts		4,420	5,375
Debtors		<u>7,295</u>	<u>7,146</u>
		118,040	81,923
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year		<u>(1,755)</u>	<u>(0)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		116,285	81,923
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>581,976</u>	<u>485,905</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	8		
Unrestricted Fund		167,800	162,100
Revaluation Reserve		<u>287,448</u>	<u>237,134</u>
		455,248	399,234
Restricted Fund		126,727	86,670
		<u>581,975</u>	<u>485,904</u>

For the year ended 31 December 2021 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

The Directors/Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors/Trustees on 29 March 2022 and signed on their behalf.

Professor Richard Harding – Chair

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements

## **The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England**

### **Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2021**

#### **1. Accounting policies**

##### **(i) Basis of accounting**

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

##### **(ii) Fund accounting**

The Unrestricted fund is available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

##### **(iii) Income recognition**

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The Oxfordshire share of subscription income received from the National Office of CPRE is accounted for on an accruals basis. Income from events is treated as income when the events actually occur. Dividends are credited to the revenue account as they are received. Donations and legacies are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the resource and it is probable that the resources will be received.

##### **(iv) Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

The charity is not registered for VAT and where applicable, expenditure is shown inclusive of VAT. Campaign costs have been apportioned between expenditure on charitable activities and costs of raising funds based on an estimated percentage.

##### **(v) Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year**

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

##### **(vi) Tax**

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

## 2. The Company

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England is formed under the Companies Act and has no share capital, being a company limited by guarantee. The maximum liability of each of its members is £1.

## 3. Directors/trustees information

Directors/trustees received no remuneration for their services (2020: £nil).

Expenses of £ nil for mileage, parking, other travel, and subsistence were reimbursed to directors/trustees (2020: directors/trustees reimbursed £nil. There were no other related party.

## 4. Share of subscription income

Members of CPRE, who are resident in Oxfordshire, and those wishing to support Oxfordshire are automatically members of the Oxfordshire Branch of CPRE which is funded by a variable percentage of subscriptions and linked donations which National Office pass on quarterly.

## 5. Expenditure on charitable activities

	Restricted 2021 £	Unrestricted 2021 £	Total 2021 £	Restricted 2020 £	Unrestricted 2020 £	Total 2020 £
<b>Campaign Costs</b>						
Staff Salaries		57,277	57,277	9,600	45,149	54,749
Projects		5,434	5,434	-	10,105	10,105
Subscriptions and donations	18,761	1,490	20,251	30,121	429	30,550
Bank Charges		260	260	-	177	177
Travel/Expenses		274	274	-	479	479
Telephone/Internet		1,109	1,109	-	1,207	1,207
Stationary/Office Expenses		1,147	1,147	-	901	901
Web/Email Expenses		3,667	3,667	-	57	57
Rent Insurance		5,295	5,295	-	5,250	5,250
Sundry		1,290	1,290	-	80	80
Contractors Costs	30,180		30,180			-
	48,941	77,242	126,184	39,721	63,833	103,554
Allocated to expenditure on raising funds		(1,572)	(1,572)			
	48,941	75,671	124,612	39,721	63,833	103,554
<b>Members newsletters</b>		98	98	-	573	573
<b>Governance</b>						
AGM and Annual Report		7,361	7,361	-	3,594	3,594
Independent Examination Fees		900	900			-
	0	8,261	8,261	-	3,594	3,594
<b>Total Expenditure on charitable activities</b>	48,941	84,029	132,970	39,721	68,001	107,722

**6. Employee Information**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Salary	56,073	52,946
Employer's National Insurance	-	857
Employer's Pension Contributions	<u>1,204</u>	<u>946</u>
Total	<u><u>57,277</u></u>	<u><u>54,749</u></u>

The average number of employees in the year was 3 (2020: 3).

All employees have opted in to the National Employment Savings Trust (NEST) pension scheme.

**7. Investments**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>COIF Charities Investment Fund</b>		
As at 1 January 2021	372,423	351,074
Revaluation for the year	<u>50,314</u>	<u>21,349</u>
As at 31 December 2021	422,737	372,423
<b>COIF Charities Deposit Account</b>	<u>42,954</u>	<u>31,559</u>
<b>Total as at 31 December 2021</b>	<u><u>465,691</u></u>	<u><u>403,982</u></u>

The company holds 135,288.78 Income Units in COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund (held in the UK). One unit was valued at pence 312.47 (2020:275.28 pence) as at December 2021.

<b>8. Analysis of movements in funds</b>	<b>Funds 1 Jan 2021 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Gains/ (losses) on Investments £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Funds 31 Dec 2021 £</b>
<b>2021</b>						
<b>Restricted Fund</b>						
Need not Greed NNG)	7,001	1,568	(101)			8,469
Group Against Reservoir Development (GARD)	11,750	56,250	(15,000)			53,000
Donation in Memory of Margot Collins	62,500					62,500
Cherwell Development Watch Alliance (CDWA)	2,661	1,000	(3,661)			0
Vale District	2,758					2,758
Hedgerow Heroes		31,000	(30,180)		(820)	-
	86,670	89,818	(48,941)	-	(820)	126,727
<b>Unrestricted Fund</b>						
Income Reserve Fund	162,100	91,093	(86,213)		820	167,800
Revaluation Reserve Fund	237,134			50,314		287,448
	399,234	91,093	(86,213)	50,314	820	455,248
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>485,904</b>	<b>180,911</b>	<b>(135,154)</b>	<b>50,314</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>581,975</b>

£820 is contribution from Hedgerow Fund contract towards CPRE Costs

<b>2020</b>	<b>Funds 1 Jan 2020 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Gains/ (losses) on Investments £</b>	<b>Transfers £</b>	<b>Funds 31 Dec 2020 £</b>
<b>Restricted Fund</b>						
Need not Greed	8,058	8,665	(9,721)			7,001
Group Against Reservoir Development	8,000	33,750	(30,000)			11,750
Donation in Memory of Margot Collins	-	62,500				62,500
Cherwell Development Watch Alliance	-	2,661				2,661
Vale District	-				2,758	2,758
	16,058	107,576	(39,721)	-	2,758	86,670
<b>Unrestricted Fund</b>						
Income Reserve Fund	179,780	53,079	(68,001)		(2,758)	162,100
Revaluation Reserve Fund	215,785			21,349		237,134
	395,565	53,079	(68,001)	21,349	(2,758)	399,234
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>411,623</b>	<b>160,655</b>	<b>(107,722)</b>	<b>21,349</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>485,904</b>