

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022

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 2022

Registered Charity No. 1093081

Registered Company No. 04443278

President	John Harwood	
Vice-Presidents	David Astor Dr Peter Collins Gordon Garraway Gillian Salway Bruce Tremayne Brian Wood	*
Chairman of the Executive Committee	Professor Richard Harding	***
Vice - Chairmen	Peter Emery Olivia Field Brian Wood	, **** * **, ***
Executive Committee	Sir David Gilmour Robin Oliver Colin Thomas Dr Lisa Buchan Dr Geoff Botting Peter Emery Olivia Field Heneage Legge-Bourke Philippa Phelan Brian Wood Nicholas Dolden Dorian Grier Susie Mather Simon Warr	***, ***** ***, ***** **,* *** *** ***, **** *** *** *** **,* *** *** *, *** *, *** *, ***
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
Martin Harris – Oxford Green Belt Network
Michael Tyce – Without Portfolio
Lisa Cheung – Planning **

*appointment from 25 June 2022
**appointment to 25 June 2022
***trustee and director
****resigned as trustee 31 December 2022
*****resigned as trustee 4 May 2022
*****appointment from 4 May 2022

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Trustees' annual report for the year end 31 December 2022 (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 754 as at 31 December 2022.

During 2022, the charity had four salaried members of staff i.e. Director, Communications Manager, Administrator and Planning Coordinator, who was recruited towards the end of February 2022. 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 2022

Our countryside continues to face many challenges. In Oxfordshire, CPRE has been incredibly busy responding to threats from proposed solar farms, warehouse developments, a holiday park and the Abingdon reservoir to mention just a few. In addition, we have the development of the next round of Local Plans (with Oxford City and Cherwell leading the charge). I would like to acknowledge the incredible work the staff team has been doing and the dedication of the volunteers who respond to these issues. Prioritising our limited resources is a huge challenge.

We have had some successes in the last year, notably the proposed revisions to the NPPF (the National Planning Policy Framework), which include the dropping of the iniquitous 5-year housing land supply rule. Overall we were sad to see the abandoning of the Oxfordshire 2050

Plan but glad to see the back of the excessive housing growth forecasts it contained and are pleased to see a trend towards more realistic house building plans from some of the Districts (although Oxford City and Cherwell's ambitions remain worrying).

The proliferation of speculative solar farm applications continues, including the massive West Botley proposal. In January 2023 we approved our position paper on renewable energy which confirms our support for renewables but opposes the development of large solar arrays on greenfield sites in landscape sensitive areas, such as Green Belt and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. We do support the development of solar on rooftops and believe this could provide the majority of County's solar energy needs. We have seen success in the refusal of permission for a solar farm near Burcot, South Oxfordshire, on the grounds it was in the Green Belt, but, unfortunately, the permission was narrowly granted for a similar development up the road at Nineveh Farm. We continue to campaign against this development, which is clearly in contravention of South Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan policy.

We are calling for a strategic land use policy which balances the needs of energy production with the need to produce food and improve and protect nature. There are encouraging signs that the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (the old Growth Board) will be taking this on board. We will be pushing for genuine public engagement in the development of such a plan.

In March 2022 we hosted George Eustace (the then Environment Secretary) to a celebration of our hedgerow project in Watlington. National CPRE has been campaigning to extend and protect our hedgerows – which are an important refuge for wildlife and a potent carbon sink – culminating in a launch of a report in the House of Lords in the summer. Since then, the Government has announced a target of creating 30,000 miles of new and restored hedgerows by 2037 and included hedgerows in the new ELMs funding scheme. This just shows the influence we can have.

Our finances always need careful consideration. We are in the lucky position of having some reserves – a result of some past donations and some careful investments. We are currently spending more than our income and eating into our reserves. This is fine provided this resource is well spent but in the longer term we will have to cut our cloth accordingly or find new sources of income. Many charities are struggling at present with the combined pressures of rising costs and falling income. CPRE is not immune; thankfully in Oxfordshire our fall in membership has been limited but this remains a concern. Given the pressures on the countryside we need to increase our support base. I hope we can do this in the coming year with events and campaigns to help us all to continue to protect the countryside.

We will be seeing some changes in the coming year. Two trustees, Peter Emery and Dorian Grier, are leaving us (and many thanks to them) and we are actively recruiting replacements. Also, unfortunately, Judy Crockett is stepping down as event's organiser. Our events are not only really rewarding but a good way of getting to know our supporters and encouraging new members. I hope the Districts will pick up the baton. I must finish by thanking our staff, Helen, Becky, Julia and Lynda, our Trustees, volunteers and many supporters for their unstinting work in the past year. Our countryside is changing and CPRE is having a strong voice in how it should look in the future.

Financial Review

There was a net excess of expenditure over income before gains/losses on investments on unrestricted funds of £26,123 (net income of £4,880 in 2021) and net expenditure of £35,062 on restricted funds (net income of £40,877 in 2021). After adjustments for transfers between funds and the unrealised increase in value of investments, there was a net loss in unrestricted funds of £81,162 (net gain of £56,014 in 2021) and a net loss of £32,515 in restricted funds

(net gain of £40,057 in 2021). Total unrestricted funds as at 31 December were £374,086 (£455,248 in 2021) and restricted funds were £94,212 (£126,727 in 2021). Total funds were represented by investments and bank and building society accounts and other assets totalled £468,298 (£581,975 in 2021).

The Trustees have determined that the level of unrestricted reserves should be set at the equivalent of around six months annualised expenditure (£45,000). The Trustees have set out a future Branch Strategy and designated funds will be set up as appropriate to fund key priorities identified as part of the Strategy. In addition, the trustees are anticipating that current unrestricted reserves will be required to meet costs arising from as yet unidentified challenges and threats to the Oxfordshire Countryside. Trustees have produced a future finance plan and are anticipating that current reserves will be required to fulfil future identified shortfalls in resources to enable it to support its current activities.

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: 11 April 2023

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT TO THE TRUSTEES OF
THE OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

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 2022.

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: 11 April 2023

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022
(including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Notes	Restricted Fund 2022 £	Unrestricted Fund 2022 £	Total Funds 2022 £	Restricted Fund 2021 £	Unrestricted Fund 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies							
National subscriptions - branch share	4		24,599	24,599	-	25,934	25,934
Donations grants and local support		21,846	18,079	39,925	89,818	49,405	139,223
Other Trading Activities							
Sale of books			1,308	1,308	-	2,376	2,376
Sundry			800	800		1,749	1,749
Investments							
Dividends COIF Charities Investment Funds - Income Units			11,554	11,554	-	11,391	11,391
Bank Deposit interest			509	509	-	238	238
Total income		21,846	56,848	78,694	89,818	91,093	180,911
Expenditure on:							
Raising Funds					-	0	0
Direct Costs of Fundraising			301	301		612	612
Indirect Costs			826	826		1,572	1,572
Charitable Activities	5	56,908	81,844	138,752	48,941	84,029	132,970
Total expenditure		56,908	82,971	139,879	48,941	86,213	135,154
Net gains(losses) on investments			(52,492)	(52,492)	-	50,314	50,314
Net Income/(expenditure)		(35,062)	(78,615)	(113,677)	40,877	55,194	96,071
Transfers between funds		2,547	(2,547)	0	(820)	820	0
Net Movement in Funds		(32,515)	(81,162)	(113,677)	40,057	56,014	96,071
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 2021		126,727	455,248	581,975	86,670	399,234	485,904
Fund balances at 31 December 2022		94,212	374,086	468,298	126,727	455,248	581,975

The Oxfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 December 2022

	Notes	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Fixed Assets			
Investments	7	<u>425,237</u>	<u>465,691</u>
		425,237	465,691
Current assets			
Barclays Bank - Branch		39,153	106,324
Banks & Building Societies - Districts		1,698	4,420
Debtors		<u>6,449</u>	<u>7,295</u>
		47,300	118,039
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year		<u>(4,239)</u>	<u>(1,755)</u>
Net current assets		43,061	116,284
Total net assets		<u><u>468,298</u></u>	<u><u>581,975</u></u>
Total Funds	8		
Unrestricted Fund		139,130	167,800
Revaluation Reserve		<u>234,956</u>	<u>287,448</u>
		374,086	455,248
Restricted Fund		94,212	126,727
		<u><u>468,298</u></u>	<u><u>581,975</u></u>

For the year ended 31 December 2022 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.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with FRS102 SORP.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors/Trustees on 11 April 2023 and signed on their behalf.

Professor Richard Harding - Chair

The notes on pages 10-13 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 2022

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 (CPRE Oxfordshire) 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 (2021: £nil).

Expenses of £ nil for mileage, parking, other travel, and subsistence were reimbursed to directors/trustees (2021: directors/trustees reimbursed £nil. There were no other related party transactions.

4. Share of subscription income

Members of CPRE who are resident in Oxfordshire, and those wishing to support CPRE, 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 2022 £	Unrestricted 2022 £	Total 2022 £	Restricted 2021 £	Unrestricted 2021 £	Total 2021 £
Campaign Costs						
Staff Salaries	8,483	59,778	68,260		57,277	57,277
Projects	4,888	3,870	8,758	-	5,434	5,434
Subscriptions and donations	25,000	535	25,535	18,761	1,490	20,251
Bank Charges		218	218	-	260	260
Travel/Expenses	57	951	1,008	-	274	274
Telephone/Internet	47	1,378	1,425	-	1,109	1,109
Stationary/Office Expenses	13	1,562	1,576	-	1,147	1,147
Web/Email Expenses		55	55	-	3,667	3,667
Rent Insurance		5,320	5,320	-	5,295	5,295
Sundry		850	850	-	1,290	1,290
Contractors Costs	18,359		18,359	30,180		30,180
Events/ Meeting Expenses*		665	665		60	60
	56,847	75,181	132,028	48,941	77,303	126,244
Allocated to expenditure on raising funds		(826)	(826)		(1,572)	(1,572)
	56,847	74,355	131,202	48,941	75,731	124,672
Members newsletters*		5,954	5,954	-	7,323	7,323
Governance						
AGM and Annual Report*	61	635	696	-	75	75
Independent Examination Fees		900	900		900	900
	61	1,535	1,596	-	975	975
Total Expenditure on charitable activities	56,908	81,844	138,752	48,941	84,029	132,970

* 2021 figures comparatives have been re-presented for areas of expenditure shown.

6. Employee Information

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salary	66,745	56,073
Employer's National Insurance	230	
Employer's Pension Contributions	<u>1,285</u>	<u>1,204</u>
Total	<u><u>68,260</u></u>	<u><u>57,277</u></u>

The average number of employees in the year was 4 (2021: 3).

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

7. Investments

	2022	2021
	£	£
COIF Charities Investment Fund		
As at 1 January 2022	422,737	372,423
Revaluation for the year	<u>(52,492)</u>	<u>50,314</u>
As at 31 December 2022	370,245	422,737
COIF Charities Deposit Account	54,992	42,954
Total as at 31 December 2022	<u><u>425,237</u></u>	<u><u>465,691</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 273.67 pence (2021:312.47 pence) as at December 2022.

8. Analysis of movements in funds

	Funds 1 Jan 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (losses) on Investments £	Transfers £	Funds 31 Dec 2022 £
2022						
Restricted Fund						
Need not Greed NNG)	8,469	1,255	(149)			9,575
Group Against Reservoir Development (GARD)	53,000	-	(25,000)			28,000
Donation in Memory of Margot Collins	62,500		(11,050)		-	51,450
Cherwell Development Watch Alliance (CDWA)	-	-	-			-
Vale District	2,758		(118)			2,640
Cherwell District					2,547	2,547
Hedgerow Heroes		20,591	(20,591)			-
	126,727	21,846	(56,908)	-	2,547	94,212
Unrestricted Fund						
Income Reserve Fund	167,800	56,848	(82,971)		(2,547)	139,130
Revaluation Reserve Fund	287,448			(52,492)		234,956
	455,248	56,848	(82,971)	(52,492)	(2,547)	374,086
Total Funds	581,975	78,694	(139,879)	(52,492)	-	468,298

	Funds 1 Jan 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains/ (losses) on Investments £	Transfers £	Funds 31 Dec 2021 £
2021						
Restricted Fund						
Need not Greed	7,001	1,568	(100)			8,469
Group Against Reservoir Development	11,750	56,250	(15,000)			53,000
Donation in Memory of Margot Collins	62,500					62,500
Cherwell Development Watch Alliance	2,661	1,000	(3,661)			-
Vale District	2,758					2,758
Hedgerow Heroes		31,000	(30,180)		(820)	-
	86,670	89,818	(48,941)	-	(820)	126,727
Unrestricted Fund						
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
Total Funds	485,904	180,911	(135,155)	50,314	-	581,975