

Trustees Annual Report for the period 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

The Somerset Branch of The Campaign to Protect Rural England

Objects and Activities

The Somerset Branch of The Campaign to Protect Rural England (The Charity) is established for the promotion and encouragement for the benefit of the public the improvement and protection of the English countryside and in particular that of the Administrative County of Somerset and its towns and villages and for the better development of the rural environment.

The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

Achievement and Performance

The charity has 10 Trustees through the year, one of which is paid as the charity's planning consultant. The charity also pays for the services of a freelance administrator.

Our planner advises the Trustees, reviews planning applications which may affect the Somerset countryside, liaises with members of CPRE Somerset and members of the public. Our planner submits comments and objections to the local authority and attends and speaks at planning committees and public inquiries. There has been some notable success in the past year.

The charity supports sustainable initiatives to reduce global warming including solar but is concerned with the growing number of commercial solar farms which are being introduced and which impair the enjoyment of the countryside and reduces the land available for food production. It however supports the installation of solar on brownfield sites such as the roofs of commercial buildings.

The introduction of biomass digesters has been of particular concern in Somerset causing traffic problems due to material being imported from long distances and problems with enforcement.

The charity seeks avenues of funding from public bodies and from donations from members.

In 2024 the charity continued with its successful Litter Pick Project which has now supplied Litter Pick kits to over 300 volunteers, the Fingerpost project which continues to support Parish Councils in the refurbishment of traditional, cast-iron fingerposts across Somerset and the annual photo competition.

In 2024 we organized several events for CPRE members and the public, often in partnership with other organisations, local and national. These included a stargazing event, a talk about West Country Myths & Legends, a guided walk in the Quantock Hills and a seminar about how to design better housing developments.

Financial Review

The approved accounts for 2024 follow and have been verified by an independent examiner.

SOMERSET BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

A company limited by guarantee, registered in England number 06755452 and registered charity number 130895

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024			BALANCE AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024		
INCOME	2024	2023	CURRENT ASSETS	2024	2023
Share of subscriptions etc	14119	15436	Fixed Assets	0	0
Finger Posts	0	0	Cash in Bank at 31st December	1804	2907
Branch Appeal	0	0	Less unrepresented cheques	0	0
Interest received Redwood	1563	1364	Cash	0	0
Deposit Acct	742	0	Postage stamps	0	0
Giftaid	2711	2127	Sub Total	1804	2907
Donations	0	2000			
Litter pick 2 project	1385	898			
Lottery	1030	686			
AGM and events	2214				
Shudrick Valley Reserved Account	13132				
Specialist Advice	36896	22511			
			Savings Deposit Account (Redwood Bank)	46852	48289
			Savings Deposit Account (Redwood Bank)	0.00	
			Restricted funds Finger Post		
			Total	£48,656	£51,196
TOTAL	£36,896	£22,511	LIABILITIES	£0	£0
OVERHEADS			NET ASSETS	£48,656	£51,196
Administrator	16797	13695	NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-£2,540.29	
Events	371	220			
Finger Posts 2 project	498	554			
Insurance	296	293			
Miscellaneous	344	1257			
Planner	4900	5000			
Postage	760	331			
Printing	336	417			
Room hire and premises	52	168			
Stationary	58	203			
Travel	189	179			
Lottery	229	292			
Litter pick 2 project	72	57			
AGM	414	160			
Office equipment (includes storage units)	751	382			
Specialist Advice	13370	0			
OVERHEADS	£39,436	£23,208			
TOTAL OVERHEADS	£39,436	£23,208			
NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-£2,540.29				

For the year ending 31/12/2024 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Director's responsibilities:

- 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 acknowledge their responsibilities for the complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to the accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the Board of Directors on 14/7/2025 and signed on their behalf by

J. Roberts

John Roberts, Treasurer and Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Somerset Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

I report on the accounts of the Charity for year ended 31st December 2023 which are set out above.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent Examiner.

As the Charity's Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 [the Act] does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts kept with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement.

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

a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Act, and

b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act 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.

Phil Michael
Auditor Address
Wistena House
West Pennard
Somerset
BA6 8NL

Phil Michael

Dated

1/7/2025

Income has increased this year mainly through Specialist Planning Advice to local groups who campaigns against planning applications from developers for housing projects and commercial solar farms

Overheads have grown to mirror the increase in Planning Advice but these have been offset by crowd funding activities which have received very positive results covering in the main the increases expenditure.

The finances of the charity are in good order going into 2025 and will enable us to continue supporting our efforts to protect Somerset's countryside.

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is governed by a Memorandum of Association and is a company limited by guarantee.

Trustees are selected by invite after having discussions with the chair and having attended a committee meeting(s). They are nominated and elected at each AGM.

Reference and Administrative Details

The Somerset Branch of The Campaign to Protect Rural England

Charity Registration No: 1100860

Sanctuary Cottage West Pennard Glastonbury BA6 8NL

Trustees

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
Hugh Williams	Chair		CPRE Somerset
Gerhard Hattingh			CPRE Somerset
Vernon Hughes			CPRE Somerset
David Julian			CPRE Somerset
John Roberts	Treasurer		CPRE Somerset
Fletcher Robinson		Until 28/11/24	CPRE Somerset
Janette Ward			CPRE Somerset
Sarah Hutchison			CPRE Somerset
Jan Owen		Until 14/11/2024	CPRE Somerset
Jenny Raggett			CPRE Somerset

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (eg Secretary,
Chair, etc)

Date