

THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

England & Wales · Charity number 1202399

Details

Other names	CPRE BEDFORDSHIRE
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2023-03-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Room 2/4 43 Bromham Road Bedford Bedfordshire MK40 2AA
Phone	01234880624
Email	info@cprebeds.org.uk
Website	www.cprebeds.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE BRANCH ARE TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE IMPROVEMENT AND PROTECTION OF THE ENGLISH COUNTRYSIDE AND IN PARTICULAR THAT OF BEDFORDSHIRE AND ITS TOWNS AND VILLAGES AND THE BETTER DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Activities: We work with communities, businesses and local government to find positive and lasting ways to help the countryside thrive and protect it - today and for generations to come. This is through workshops, advice and guidance, community projects and community and digital engagement.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bedford
- Central Bedfordshire
- Luton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£32,166	£34,244	-	-
2024-12-31	£50,981	£33,194	-	-
2023-12-31	£0	£0	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Martin Graham Christopher	Chair	2023-03-20
Alice May Wiggins		2025-11-26
Colin Haine		2024-06-18
Glenn Eric Hayward		2025-05-14
John Derek English		2023-03-20
SUSAN CLAIRE LYNCH		2024-06-18
Simon Grantham		2024-01-01

THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

England & Wales - Charity number 1202399

Accounts

THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
Charity No: 1202399



REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2025
FOR BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1202399

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Dr Martin Christopher (Chairman)
Colin Haine (Secretary)
Glenn Hayward (Treasurer) - appointed June 2025
John English
Susan Lynch
Simon Grantham
Alice Wiggins – appointed November 2025
George Karaïskou – resigned June 2025
Gabriella Davis (Treasurer) - resigned June 2025

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

43 Bromham Road
Bedford
MK40 2AA

REGISTERED CHARITY NO.

1202399

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Gerald Bygrave FMAAT
GB Accounting Solutions
Millennium Studios
Bedford Technology Park
Thurleigh
Bedford
MK44 2YA

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission – Charity number 1202399 - and controlled by its governing document,

Organisational, structure and accountability

The Board of Trustees have overall responsibility for the Charity and operate a system of accountability. This includes the three-year Strategic Plan and an annual budget. Performance is evaluated against the plan regularly during the year at Trustee meetings and a complete review takes place annually.

The Board of Trustees consists of seven members. All, except Alice who joined in late 2025, were elected at the Annual General Meeting in September. They meet formally at least six times per year.

The day-to-day operations are delegated to the Manager, who is employed on a part-time paid basis. The Manager manages any occasional paid staff and volunteers. All vacancies for Trustees, paid staff and volunteers are openly advertised, utilising specific descriptions that have regard to the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary for each role.

Induction and training of new trustees

New Trustees are provided with the Charity Commission's "The Essential Trustee" which focuses on the main duties and responsibilities of the role, along with CPRE Bedfordshire's Constitution, Three Year Strategic Plan, and other documents pertaining to the Charity's history and current activities. New Trustees visit the Charity's small office in Bedford, meet with the staff, and become familiar with the Charity's operations.

All new Trustees are invited to participate in the national CPRE organisation induction process. Depending upon the Trustee's specific role and interests, additional training is available including an extensive curriculum hosted by the national CPRE organisation and local Community and Voluntary Service.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Risk Assessments are in place for all activities involving volunteers and members of the public.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Mission and aims

Our mission is to enhance, promote and protect the Bedfordshire countryside, and the ability of local communities to enjoy and value the natural world. To achieve our mission, we work with a range of organisations and communities in Bedfordshire.

We respond to our mission through a series of aims detailed in our Strategy:

- ***Connect people and countryside***
- ***Promote the countryside and waterways***
- ***Working Together***
- ***Grow and sustain our capability***

Public benefit

In planning the charity's activities for the year, the trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Connect People and countryside

Hedgerow Heroes

We completed the first phase of our Hedgerow Heroes project in the New Year 2025. In total for the 2024/25 season, we planted 1220 metres of new hedgerows and over 200m of hedge was restored by hedge laying. In November and December 2025, we planted around 700 m of new hedge. We incorporated specimen trees where possible to increase biodiversity and variety.

A highlight was hedgerow planting with the help of around 100 school children in Campton. Every student, aged between 4 to 10 years old, came out to plant a whip. The children will be able to watch the hedgerow establish over the coming years around the new wildlife field being created by the parish council.

The project wouldn't have been possible without the help of our committed volunteers who turned out in all weathers. They have become a great team and welcomed newcomers. In the autumn and winter of 2025, we established new hedgerows in Campton, Stondon, Southill and Gravenhurst.

We are grateful to the Forest of Marston Vale which helped to make this project happen. The Hedgerow Heroes project enables hedgerow planting in places that may not necessarily have been planted up by the parish council without our help – so enhancing communities and extending the hedgerow network of the county.

Promote the countryside and waterways

Living Countryside Awards

In 2025, we celebrated some visionary community projects and organisations with our Living Countryside Awards. There were fewer entries than in previous years, but the enthusiasm and efforts of individuals was still outstanding.

We visited community gardens and allotments supporting a range of individuals and giving them opportunities to get involved and appreciate greenspaces, all brought about by some dedicated volunteers. We also explored some lovely countryside and areas being transformed for the benefit of visitors and nature, as well as meeting businesses embracing sustainable practices and showcasing great produce.

Bedfordshire through fresh eyes - website features

To help people explore our county, we continued our series of web features, an A-Z of Bedfordshire's landscapes, places and history. Each post includes links to walks, places to visit and lots of ideas to help people discover more about Bedfordshire. As well as highlighting some familiar places, it puts the spotlight on some lesser-known locations and encourages people to appreciate our county.

Work Together

Rooted in communities

We have over 13 planning volunteers across the county who have scrutinised all main planning applications in 2025, which could impact on the Bedfordshire countryside. Where appropriate, we responded directly to the relevant council and worked with local communities to forge campaigns to help protect the countryside and green spaces.

In October, we held a planning workshop to help parish councillors and residents gain the knowledge and an understanding of the planning process and how to respond to planning applications.

We have also worked with several Local Action Groups, helping them to consider local planning applications for houses, and increasingly, solar farms. We have continued to support a group in Shefford that focuses on the consequences of flooding from house building applications on floodplains upstream - an issue we highlighted after flooding in late 2024. In Harlington, we were instrumental to setting up and have been working very

closely with a local action group after the announcement of a significant housing development.

Major projects and campaigns

Our planning volunteers continue to keep an eye on the progress of currently active local Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs); East West Rail and East Park Energy.

We produced our “Seven Key Asks” document following more detailed plans to build the Universal Destination theme park.

After the long-awaited announcement by the New Towns Task Force, it was confirmed that Tempsford was on the list. We produced a guide on what we might expect and called for MPs to push for this major development to contribute to house building targets in the area.

Associated with the major developments in the county we explored the issue of water supply and treatment after a meeting with the council highlighted the lack of infrastructure. We produced a briefing document detailing concerns about the continued pollution of the River Great Ouse and how new housing developments are being held up because of inadequate provision by Anglian Water.

We accepted the offer of a place on the Bedford Borough Water Management Partnership, a strategic group established to address water quality, sewage, and flooding issues, particularly concerning the River Great Ouse, chaired by Professor Paul Leinster. It brings together the Borough Council, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, and local representatives to coordinate efforts on pollution control and flood risk.

All our responses and briefing documents to significant consultations and applications are published on our website, along with Explainers on key planning issues. This helps organisations and individuals understand both our concerns and how to make their own responses more effective.

On social media, we have been rebuilding the numbers of followers to our Facebook and Instagram pages after the accounts were unexpectedly taken down towards the beginning of 2025. These are important tools communication tools, and we have continued to share stories, campaigns and countryside news.

Our monthly e-newsletter is emailed to over 1300 supporters keeping them up to date with key news items, features on our website and how to get involved in our work.

Grow and sustain our capability

We welcomed two new Trustees this year, each bringing their own skills and experience to help grow and promote our charity.

Our new manager started in the Spring after our long serving Director retired – her legacy continuing through established projects and fundraising activities. At the very end of 2025 we said goodbye to our marketing and communications expert who had developed many areas of the charity over the years, particularly creating an extensive and interesting website with news items and information about Bedfordshire.

Future Activity

Our activity will be guided by a Strategic Plan, following an annual review, and will develop our main areas of expertise, working around our four main aims. The activity will include:

- Facilitating and supporting Local Action groups and communities - empowering people and ensuring that they have the skills and confidence to speak out on planning issues. Offering workshops on planning and other topics to share knowledge and skills.
- Providing information and guidance on planning issues, for example the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Local Plan developments. As well as monitoring and responding to major infrastructure projects and developments, including the Universal Destinations Park, that are likely to affect local communities.
- Continuing our Hedgerow Heroes project, planting hedgerows locally to enhance biodiversity and local green spaces.
- Showcasing community and environment initiatives, and the uniqueness of Bedfordshire through our marketing and communication channels, and our 40th anniversary activities.
- Meeting with MPs and councillors on a regular basis to hold them accountable and raise issues that are important to our communities.
- Continuing to campaign against developments on the Green Belt and AONB, and those that impact on rural communities and village life.
- Continuing to develop the long-term sustainability of the organisation, improving income generation and developing the board of Trustees.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves in unrestricted funds at a level that equates to twelve months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The Trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to cover fixed costs including salaries and rent and governance costs. At the end of the year, our unrestricted reserves were below the level required and this has informed our budgeting process for 2026.

Financial report

A summary of the charity's accounts is presented in the financial statement in Appendix A

A statement from the Independent Reviewer can be found in Appendix B

ANNUAL REPORT APPROVAL

This annual report has been approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 28th April 2026 and signed on its behalf by:



Martin Christopher – Chairman

APPENDIX A - Copy of the Independent Examiner's Report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CPRE BEDFORDSHIRE Number 1202399

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025, which are set out on page ten.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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.

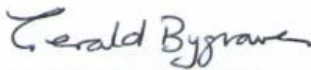
Independent examiner's statement

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:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



Gerald Bygraves FMAAT

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MK44 2YA

Date: 24-Apr-26

THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025
Charity No: 1202399



APPENDIX B - Summary of Accounts (December 2025)

	Non- Restricted	Restricted Hedgerow	Restricted Centenary	2025 Total	2024 Total
Receipts					
Grants	12,600	2,066	5,000	19,666	34,670
Membership	9,013	0	0	9,013	8,315
Workshop Income	550	0	0	550	1,150
Donations	2,616	0	0	2,616	6,366
Gift Aid	0	0	0	0	156
Bank Interest	321	0	0	321	298
Other Income	0	0	0	0	25
Total Income	25,100	2,066	5,000	32,166	50,981
Payments					
Salaries	-22,990	0	0	-22,990	-26,289
Office – rent	-3,358	0	0	-3,358	-2,774
Office - Insurance	-548	0	0	-548	-522
Workshop Expense	-397	0	0	-397	-275
Governance	-180	0	0	-180	-152
Sundries	-29	0	0	-29	-79
Office Expenses	-297	0	0	-297	-160
Marketing	0	0	0	0	-236
Living Countryside Awards	-275	0	0	-275	0
Hedgerow project	0	-6,171	0	-6,171	-2,708
Centenary project	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenditure	-28,074	-6,171	0	-34,244	-33,194
Net Flow of cash	-2,974	-4,105	5,000	-2,078	17,786
Assets & Liabilities					
Barclays Bank accounts	21,266	5,478	5,000	31,744	33,821
Petty Cash	0	0	0	0	0
Total Assets	21,266	5,478	5,000	31,744	33,821
Funds					
Brought forward from previous year	24,239	9,582	0	33,821	0
Net Flow of cash	-2,974	-4,105	5,000	-2,078	17,786
Transferred from CPRE Charity No: 1023435	0	0	0	0	16,035
Carried forward	21,266	5,478	5,000	31,744	33,821

THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

England & Wales - Charity number 1202399

Accounts

**THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
Charity No: 1202399**

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
FOR**

**BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1202399

**THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
Charity No: 1202399**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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**THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
Charity No: 1202399**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

TRUSTEES

Dr Martin Christopher (Chairman)
Colin Haine (Secretary)
Gabriella Davis (Treasurer)
John English
Susan Lynch
Fred Motson
George Karaiskou
Simon Grantham

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

43 Bromham Road
Bedford
MK40 2AA

REGISTERED CHARITY NO.

1202399

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Gerald Bygrave FMAAT
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**THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
Charity No: 1202399**

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims.

The objects of the branch are to promote and encourage for the benefit of the public the improvement and protection of the English countryside and in particular that of Bedfordshire its towns and villages and the better development of the rural environment.

Public benefit

In planning the charity's activities for the year, the trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

The Charity Incorporated Organisation was established with the Charity Commission on 20th March 2023 with a view of transferring from the Registered Charity with the same name (Reg No **1023435**) on 1st January 2024. A partial transfer took place at this time but some of this was delayed by issues with the banking arrangements which were finalised by 31st December 2024. Over the year the CIO continued the work started by the registered charity as shown below.

Hedgerow Heroes

The launch of the Bedfordshire Hedgerow Heroes project has been a real highlight of the year. This is the first year of a 3-year project that aims to plant or restore 3000m of hedgerow. In 2024 our brilliant team of volunteers have planted 730 metres of hedgerow at sites in Goldington, Maulden, Flitton & Greenfield and Gravenhurst. There's also been hedge-laying in Gravenhurst, teaching traditional skills to a small group.

We are pleased to work with the Forest of Marston Vale, National CPRE and a number of parish councils to make this project happen and look forward to continuing these partnerships.

We created our Hedgerow Heroes Explorers Guide, a free activity booklet, helping children and families learn about hedgerows and have fun at the same time.

Rooted in Communities

2024 saw CPRE Bedfordshire continue to work with Local Action Groups, Parish Councils and other grass roots organisations. Whether it's on National Infrastructure Projects like East West Rail and East Park Energy, or on local planning applications, the CPRE Bedfordshire team have helped people understand how to have their say and worked with them to navigate the planning system.

The floods that hit Bedfordshire in September formed the basis of a photo story, where we shared stories from Local Action Groups dealing with developments on flood plains. In March we helped a number of Local Action Groups publicise their peaceful protest walks, designed to help raise awareness of threats to local green spaces.

**THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
Charity No: 1202399**

This year we've been delighted to be able to share success stories of different kinds from several groups including the Shillington and Gravenhurst Local Action Group, Save Steppingley Road Field, Cranfield and the No To Greenwoods campaign.

Bedfordshire through fresh eyes

As part of our mission to promote the countryside, we launched our new series of web features, an A-Z of Bedfordshire's landscapes, places and history. Each post includes links to walks, places to visit and lots of ideas to help you discover more about Bedfordshire. As well as highlighting some familiar places, we hope it will help people find new inspiration.

Digging deep

From Local Plans to Universal Studios, this year we've continued to make our responses to significant consultations and applications available via our website. This helps organisations and individuals understand both our concerns and how to make their own comments more effective. We've also helped demystify the planning system – including updating our Greenbelt Explained feature and explaining the East West Rail consultation process. One of our most comprehensive explainers this year looked at where power lies in the planning system and where and how decisions are made. It also explored the ways in which, with support from CPRE Bedfordshire, local people can make their voice heard.

Always popular, our Understanding Planning workshop was attended by 35 representatives from town and parish councils and community groups. They shared knowledge and information while learning more about the planning system and how we can all work together to protect our countryside.

During 2024 we welcomed 4 new Trustees who added new skills to CPRE Bedfordshire to help the organisation develop and become more sustainable.

Future Activity

Our future activity will be guided by a Strategic Plan and will develop our main areas of expertise, particularly in the area of environmental planning but the strategy also highlights the need to:

Continue to develop our work supporting Local Action groups and empower communities.

Continue developing our marketing activity to promote our messages to the wider public.

Promote the Living Countryside Awards to celebrate the people and projects that have a positive impact on Bedfordshire's rural environment and urban green spaces.

Work to develop the local hedgerow project as part of the national Hedgerow Heroes initiative.

Increase our efforts to recruit and retain supporters and volunteers and develop diversity across the organisation.

Continue to develop the long-term sustainability of the organisation improving income generation and developing the board of Trustees.

**THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
Charity No: 1202399**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves in unrestricted funds at a level that equates to twelve months of unrestricted charitable expenditure. The Trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to cover fixed including salaries and rent and governance costs. At the end of the year, our unrestricted reserves were in below the level required to provide this cover.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission (Reg Charity No. 1202399) and controlled by its governing document,

Organisational, structure and accountability

The Board of Trustees have overall responsibility for the Charity and operate a system of accountability. This includes the three-year Strategic Plan and an annual budget. Performance is evaluated against the plan regularly during the year at Trustee meetings and a complete review takes place annually.

The Board of Trustees currently consists of eight members all of whom are elected at the Annual General Meeting, including the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Treasurer. They meet formally at least six times per year.

The day-to-day operations are delegated to the Director, who is employed on a part time paid basis. The Director manages the Digital Engagement Officer (salaried role) and volunteers, all of whom are part time. All vacancies for Trustees, paid staff and volunteers are openly advertised, utilising specific descriptions that have regard to the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary for each role.

Induction and training of new trustees

New Trustees are provided with the Charity Commission's "The Essential Trustee" which focuses on the main duties and responsibilities of the role, along with CPRE Bedfordshire's Constitution, Three Year Strategic Plan, and other documents pertaining to the Charity's history and current activities. All new Trustees are invited to participate in CPRE Bedfordshire's local induction as well as an induction by the national CPRE organisation. New Trustees are encouraged to visit the Charity's small office in Bedford, meet with the staff, and become familiar with the Charity's operations. Depending upon the Trustee's specific role and interests, additional training is available including an extensive curriculum hosted by the national CPRE organisation and local Community and Voluntary Service.

Risk management.

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

**Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 27th March 2025 and signed on its behalf
by:**

Martin Christopher – Chairman



**THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
Charity No: 1202399**

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT
RURAL ENGLAND BEDFORDSHIRE**

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on page eight.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 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:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



Gerald Bygraves FMAAT

GB Accounting Solutions Limited
Millennium Studios
Bedford Technology Park
Thurleigh
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Bedfordshire
MK44 2YA

Date: 3rd March 2025

**THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
Charity No: 1202399**

Statement of Accounts (31st December 2024)

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	<u>Non-Restricted</u>	<u>Hedgerow Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
RECEIPTS				
Membership fees	8,315		8,315	0
Donations	1,424	4,942	6,366	0
Grants	17,170	17,500	34,670	0
Workshop Income	1,150		1,150	0
Gift Aid	156		156	0
Bank Interest Interest	298		298	0
Other Income	25		25	0
Total Income	28,539	22,442	50,981	0
PAYMENTS				
Salaries	-16,137	-10,152	-26,289	0
Office cost				
- Rent	-2,774		-2,774	0
- Insurance	-522		-522	0
Marketing	-236		-236	0
Workshop Expense	-275		-275	0
Governance	-152		-152	0
Office Expenditure	-160		-160	0
Sundries	-79		-79	0
Hedgerow project		-2,708	-2,708	0
Total Expenditure	-20,335	-12,860	-33,194	0
Net Flow of cash	8,204	9,582	17,786	0

ASSETS & LIABILITIES

Barclays	24239	9582	33821	-
Petty Cash	0	0	0	
Total Assets	24239	9582	33821	

FUNDS

Brought forward from previous year	0	0	0	
Balance transferred from CPRE				
Charity Number 1023435	16035	0	16035	
Carried forward	24239	9582	33821	

**THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024
Charity No: 1202399**

THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND

England & Wales - Charity number 1202399

Accounts

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023
FOR**

**BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND**

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1202399

**THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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**THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

TRUSTEES

Dr Martin Christopher (Chairman)
Paul Jenkins (Vice Chair)
Juliet Ware (Treasurer)
John English
Susan Lynch
Fred Motson

PRINCIPAL ADDRESS

43 Bromham Road
Bedford
MK40 2AA

REGISTERED CHARITY NO.

1202399

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims.

The objects of the branch are to promote and encourage for the benefit of the public the improvement and protection of the English countryside and in particular that of Bedfordshire its towns and villages and the better development of the rural environment.

Public benefit

In planning the charity's activities for the year, the trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

The Charity Incorporated Organisation was established with the Charity Commission on 20th March 2023 with a view of transferring from the Registered Charity with the same name (Reg No **1023435**) on 1st January 2023. However, the transfer was delayed due to an issue with banking arrangements and has not yet been resolved at the time of writing this report (May 2024).

All relevant paperwork is in place and the transfer of assets and liabilities will take place once banking arrangements are finalised.

Charitable activities

As the CIO has not been operational during the reporting period there is nothing specific to report.

**THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
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Our future activity will be guided by a Strategic Plan and will develop our main areas of expertise, particularly in the area of environmental planning but the strategy also highlights the need to:

Continue to develop our work supporting Local Action Groups and empower communities.

Continue developing our marketing activity to promote our messages to the wider public.

Promote the Living Countryside Awards to celebrate the people and projects that have a positive impact on Bedfordshire's rural environment and urban green spaces.

Work to develop a local hedgerow project as part of the national Hedgerow Heroes initiative.

Increase our efforts to recruit and retain supporters and volunteers and develop diversity across the organisation.

Continue to develop the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The CIO has no financial assets or liabilities for the period 20th March- 31st December 2023.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission (Reg Charity No. 1202399) and controlled by its governing document,

Organisational, structure and accountability

The Board of Trustees have overall responsibility for the Charity and operate a system of accountability. This includes the three-year Strategic Plan and an annual budget. Performance is evaluated against the plan regularly during the year at Trustee meetings and a complete review takes place annually.

The Board of Trustees currently consists of five members including the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Treasurer. They will meet formally at least six times per year.

The day to day operations are delegated to the Director, who is employed on a part time paid basis. The Director manages the Digital Engagement Officer (salaried role) and volunteers, all of whom are part time. All vacancies for Trustees, paid staff and volunteers are openly advertised, utilising specific descriptions that have regard to the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary for each role.

Induction and training of new trustees

New Trustees are provided with the Charity Commission's "The Essential Trustee" which focuses on the main duties and responsibilities of the role, along with CPRE Bedfordshire's Constitution, Three Year Strategic Plan, and other documents pertaining to the Charity's history and current activities. All new Trustees are invited to participate in CPRE Bedfordshire's local induction as well as an induction by the national CPRE organisation. New Trustees are encouraged to visit the Charity's small office in Bedford, meet with the staff, and become familiar with the Charity's operations. Depending upon the Trustee's specific role and interests, additional training is available including an extensive curriculum hosted by the national CPRE organisation and local Community and Voluntary Service.

**THE BEDFORDSHIRE BRANCH OF THE
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Risk management.

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 26th May 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Martin Christopher – Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MC', with a large loop on the left side.