

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 August 2025



Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

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Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees:	Mr R J Bowmer Mrs S D Brown (appointed 16/11/24) Dr F Hogwood Mr J Hughes Mr N Matthews Mr A T T Rottenburg (appointed 16/11/24)
Charity Registration Number	211974
Principal Office	Fairfield House 2 King's Road Sherborne Dorset DT9 4HU
Independent Examiner	Marcus Cridland B.A.(Hons) F.C.A. Scott Vevers Ltd. Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors 65 East Street Bridport Dorset DT6 3LB
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc 10 South Street Dorchester Dorset DT1 1BT

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 August 2025.

Objectives

The objects of the Branch shall be to seek to improve, protect and preserve for the benefit of the public, the countryside and the market towns and rural villages of the County of Dorset. To meet this objective the charity seeks charitable donations and subscriptions from the public. The Charity is regulated by a constitution and is constituted as an un-incorporated association. It was founded in 1937.

Our Mission

As part of our Strategy 2023-26, Dorset CPRE is working tirelessly with all our members, the communities, councils and other stakeholders, to ensure effective stewardship of our precious natural assets, for work and for leisure, and will strive to make Dorset a better place for its people and its environment. Our website has become a repository of the work undertaken by the Charity where members and communities can discover what may interest them and the wider implications for Dorset as a whole.

Branch Trustees

The following officers of the charity held office at 31st August 2025:

Mr. Neil Matthews	Chair of Trustees
Mr. Jez Hughes	Vice-Chair of Trustees
Mr. Bob Bowmer	Hon. Treasurer
Mr. Peter Bowyer	Retired 16 November 2024
Mrs. Sandra Brown	Appointed 16 November 2024
Dr Frances Hogwood	
Mr. David Holmes	Appointed 16 November 2024 and resigned 5 January 2025
Mr. Mike Madgwick	Retired 16 November 2024
Mr. Peter Neil	Retired 16 November 2024
Mr. Alexander Rottenburg	Appointed 16 November 2024

The Trustees are drawn from interested members who can contribute their knowledge and expertise to carrying out the various activities of the Charity. Trustees are elected each year at the Annual General Meeting held in November. The Chair of Trustees is elected at the first Trustees Meeting, held in November or December, following the AGM. The Trustees are the decision-making body for Dorset CPRE.

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Organisation

The Charity is an autonomous branch of the CPRE – Campaign to Protect Rural England. The organisational structure has up to seven Trustees dealing with the finances, administration, and our responsibilities to the Charity Commission and National CPRE. In the Countryside Forum, countryside specialists and invited experts focus on specific problems and priorities. We host monthly online Planning Group meetings focusing mainly on the Local Plans, consultations and related planning matters. The popularity of virtual meetings has enabled volunteers to join in National CPRE, CPRE South West, CPRE Assembly, external meetings and webinars without the need to travel. Our local District Groups also host in person and online committee meetings using Zoom where possible.

Dorset CPRE President, Kate Adie, chairs our Branch AGMs and is a great ambassador for our Charity. She was guest speaker at both the Sherborne and District Society and North Dorset Group AGMs and took the opportunity to meet our members and guests.

At the November 2024 AGM new Trustees were elected to office. Alex Rottenburg brings significant expertise in managing business investments which means he has been a useful collaborator for our Hon. Treasurer, Bob Bowmer. Sandra Brown has returned to the Board of Trustees bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and experience of volunteering with various environmental charities. Having been elected, David Holmes subsequently discovered that he was not able to devote sufficient time to the role and resigned in January. We wish him well for the future.

The Secretary, Linda Williams, runs the office and is recruited by the Branch Trustees on a self-employed basis. The Planning Advisor, Heidi Poole, works on a self-employed basis, supporting our local Groups by monitoring planning applications and coordinating our submissions on land-use planning issues including consultations on local plans and related strategies.

Grants were provided for the following main projects:

Dorset CPRE:

Fingerpost Grants	£1,650.00
Barbara Vance Countryside Prize – Wildlife related projects	£ 249.70
Sponsor Dorset Hedgelaying competition	£ 300.00
The Great Big Dorset Hedge (Dorset CAN project)	£6,000.00
Consultancy work ref Blackberry/Wyke Solar Farm	£ 900.00

Sherborne and District Society CPRE

Consultancy work ref Blackberry/Wyke Solar Farm	£ 900.00
David Birley's Christmas Appeal	£ 300.00
Sponsoring new lime trees in front of the Abbey	£ 500.00

Total	£10,799.70
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Dorset CPRE will consider giving money to causes as well as campaigns that meet our charitable objectives.

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Finances

The branch finances remain healthy. The Charity receives from National CPRE a percentage of the subscription income paid by members who are registered as Dorset members. The investment income is performing relatively well in comparison to 2023/24. It is hoped there will continue to be better returns on our investments over the next two years. The current investment strategy is for a balanced outcome with an emphasis on security and income in future years. Currently any income generated by the Canaccord Genuity portfolio along with Flagstone IM is reinvested within the portfolio.

Tom Stevens is our new Investment Manager at Canaccord Wealth UK (rebranded from Canaccord Genuity Wealth Management) and no change is recorded in the underlying strategy. There is some environmental focus on the investments and growth will come as companies transition to green energy. Annual fixed income return is likely to be 5% over the next 3 years. Trustees will keep this under review as part of an action to explore ideas for increasing income, taking into account the fees charged by the fund manager; however, our prime focus is the pursuit of secure and carefully considered investment.

We closed our deposit with Teachers Building Society in January 2025 and found a better return on cash deposits at CCLA in the COIF Deposit Fund.

The Reserves and Investment policies were discussed at the 25th September 2025 Trustees Meeting. The Investment Policy was last updated in March 2024. The Treasurer will recommend investments with investment managers or UK regulated financial institutions, with such recommendations agreed and recorded by the Trustees in committee. It is the policy of the Trustees to maintain unrestricted reserves, sufficient to cover 2.5 years of the average 5-year budgeted deficit. Dorset CPRE's policy is that the Barclays current account will accommodate these reserves, and the remainder will be invested according to the branch investment policy.

Our North Dorset Group received a donation of £13,800 from the Save Our Silton Group after they closed their bank account. The group was established around 2008 to campaign against a proposal for four giant wind turbines at Silton near Gillingham. The campaign was successful, and the Inspector upheld North Dorset Council's refusal of the application taking full account of the landscape damage that would have resulted had the turbines been built. The donation came with a proviso that that the group can ask for up to £10,000 in the next five years if needed to fight a new application – there are four years remaining. As a result, the £10,000 is listed under Creditors in our accounts.

Governance

The Trustees of Dorset CPRE are mindful of their responsibility to regularly review the constitution of the Charity and keep it up to date. Dorset CPRE is updating its 2014 Constitution. The changes are administrative in nature to provide clarity and align with Charity Commission advice on best practice. They were approved at the National CPRE Board Meeting on 18th September 2025. The Trustees will recommend the adoption of the updated Constitution at the next AGM being held on 15th November. The proposed updates reflect important clarifications and improvements to our governance, ensuring the Branch's continued effectiveness and compliance with National CPRE requirements.

The Dorset CPRE Policies are recorded in a single file making it easy to share with new Trustees and anyone who would like to receive a copy. The policies are reviewed annually in February, and no new policies have been added during the year.

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We encourage our volunteers to take up free online training organised and promoted by National CPRE to provide helpful skills and knowledge. This included governance webinars, inductions, planning surgery and webinars on planning matters. National CPRE also hosts online networking groups, campaign groups meetings and topic forums.

Review of Activities and Future Development

The statement of financial activities for the year and the balance sheet are set out on the attached pages.

Our Strategy 2023-26 for Dorset's Towns, Villages and Countryside

The Trustees and Countryside Forum members review the Strategy annually as part of a health check and desire for it to be a living document. The Trustees are looking to refresh the Mission and Strategy for 2026, National CPRE's Centenary year.

The Strategy guides the Branch as we address issues including planning, landscape, rural economy and farming, campaigns and projects, membership, organisation, influencing Opinion Leaders and Dorset Decision Makers, and climate change and nature emergency.

Planning

We continue to host monthly online Planning Group Meetings to discuss the Local Plans and consultations. Members have joined in to contribute, ask questions, observe and receive regular planning news updates. This has enabled more volunteers to come forward and make a valuable contribution. This has been another busy year, with Dorset CPRE responding to local and national consultations including:

Consultation on Brownfield Passports: Making the Most of Urban Land – December 2024

Ensuring that local housing need is met firstly through the re-development of previously developed sites is a subject close to our heart. We therefore welcome and support the Government's ambition that development must look to Brownfield first and the proposals set out in this working paper. In our opinion the introduction of Brownfield Passports will make a significant contribution to bringing forward development on Previously Developed Land/Brownfield Sites.

To be most successful it is essential that these are "put together" with inputs from local stakeholders including the local community. We do not support a presumption in favour of brownfield land if it results in building in isolated, unsustainable locations in the countryside. We believe that any Brownfield Passports should therefore be kept strictly under the control of the Local Planning Authority in accordance with the Local Plan.

Written Statement in response to the Examination of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Local Plan - December 2024

On 17th December, our Poole and Purbeck Group submitted a detailed Written Statement on behalf of Dorset CPRE focusing on Matter 2, Question 26, which asked, "Are there any 'exceptional circumstances' that justify an alternative approach to the standard method in assessing housing need, as per paragraph 61 of the framework? Is a constraints-based approach justified in this case?".

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Gerald Rigler, Chair of Poole and Purbeck CPRE, and Heidi Poole, Dorset CPRE Planning Advisor, represented Dorset CPRE at the BCP Local Plan Examination Hearing on 22nd and 23rd January 2025. BCP Council argued in defence of adopting an alternative approach to the standard method for assessing local housing need and that the December 2023 version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) did not require them to release land from the Green Belt - preferring a strategy of urban containment.

Following the hearing the Inspectors wrote to BCP Council. They concluded that BCP Council had failed to meet the Duty to Co-operate, engage constructively, actively, and on an ongoing basis with Dorset Council and New Forest District Council (NFDC) regarding unmet housing needs. The Inspectors were not persuaded that there are exceptional circumstances that justify an alternative approach to assessing housing need. The Inspectors recommended that BCP withdraw their local plan from examination, and BCP agreed to the withdrawal in June 2025.

Land Use Framework for England - April 2025

At the end of January 2025, the Government released a consultation on a Land Use Framework (LUF) for England. CPRE has been calling for a LUF for some time. A Framework is much needed in order to make joined up land use decisions, as we do not have enough land to fulfil all the functions that we require from it for example food production, environmental commitments, energy, natural habitats, housing and more.

If done well, the new framework could help us build new homes and infrastructure in the most suitable and strategic locations, support nature's recovery, and tackle the climate crisis. Land is critical to economic growth, but our finite land should not needlessly be taken for development in the name of growth. We discussed the LUF at our March and April Planning Group Meetings and submitted a response before the 25th April deadline.

Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation - July 2025

Dorset CPRE welcomed the opportunity to submit our comments on the draft Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy (DLNRS) and appreciated the hard work that had gone into its preparation. The draft Strategy provides a 10-year framework to enable everyone to work together to achieve a shared vision for nature recovery across Dorset. As mentioned in the introduction to the DLNRS, as a Nation we are committed to protect and conserve a minimum of 30% of land and sea for biodiversity by 2030 (30by30), as agreed at COP 15 and set out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

To be successful the DLNRS needs to provide a clear roadmap setting out how Nature Recovery on the scale required will be achieved. In our opinion the draft strategy is largely a visioning document and lacks a description of how the 30by30 targets will be achieved. Key elements that we would like to see clearly communicated in the DLNRS include:

- A clearly established baseline of the current state of biodiversity in the county against which improvements can be measured. This could take the form of an updated version of the Dorset Local Nature Partnership's Natural Value Report 2022.
- Clearly defined targets, explaining the changes required for 30by30 to be achieved in Dorset.
- Real plans, policies and funding and a timetable outlining targets and monitoring progress.

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Response to Dorset Council Local Plan Consultation on Site Options

In August 2025, Dorset Council launched a consultation on the Local Plan which will underpin future housing and development for 17 years from 2026 to 2043. Dorset Council (DC) and its Ward Councillors called on residents, town and parish councils and local societies to “have your say” by responding to the consultation which closed on the 31st October. We wrote on 10th September to Parish and Town Council on our mailing list inviting them to our Planning Group Meeting and some joined in our weekly discussions to highlight local issues.

Dorset CPRE welcomes the opportunity to respond to this important consultation and looks forward to continuing to work constructively as a key stakeholder concerned with protecting and enhancing the Dorset countryside and helping our communities to thrive.

While Dorset Council’s Vision and Strategic Priorities must sit within the framework of national planning policy, Dorset CPRE believes it is essential that the Local Plan be realistic, deliverable and sound. Dorset needs a Local Plan that identifies appropriate locations for new housing and employment while reflecting the county’s unique environmental, landscape, and infrastructure constraints. Such a plan must meet the genuine, evidenced housing needs of Dorset’s communities - not arbitrary central targets - while protecting the rural character, natural beauty, and biodiversity that define the county.

Dorset CPRE commissioned expert local planning consultant, Jo Witherden, to review some of the Council's proposed development sites. Her report forms part of a suite of inputs to Dorset Council. It is complemented by and should be read alongside the responses, drawing on local knowledge and experience, submitted by Dorset CPRE members and local Groups, as well as those by local councils, communities and individuals.

Local Transport Plan (LTP4)

The Joint Dorset Council and BCP Council LTP consultation was also released in August 2025. Since the last Local Transport Plan (LTP3) was produced in 2011 a lot has changed. Dorset CPRE supports the vision of a cleaner, safer, and more inclusive transport system but urges Dorset Council to move from aspiration to delivery and accountability. The LTP must commit to firm requirements, measurable targets, and real investment in public, community and active transport options.

We notified all those on our e-newsletter list about these consultations and included a summary of our views. Our responses to consultations are posted in the Resources webpage on the Dorset CPRE website. A big thank you to all our hard-working volunteers for contributing their input to the Dorset CPRE responses

Landscape

Dorset has a distinctive rural character that we need to nurture for future generations to allow everyone to enjoy the countryside for its health and wellbeing benefits. We wish to see planning and development which deliver the right houses in the right places, through Local Plans which are appropriate to their areas and communities.

Dorset CPRE maintains that excessive local housing targets are wrong, since they lead to planners being compelled to allocate sites for market housing on precious Green Belt land. We know that our communities need some development to support economic and community growth. This includes both market and truly affordable homes. But these need to be homes that reflect genuine local need not an arbitrary central government target. Dorset Council has been set an undeliverable target of

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3246 houses per year or 55,000 over the 17 year term of the plan. This is nearly twice the previous target and almost three times Dorset's average rate of house building of around 1,300 houses per year.

Developers will simply not build what they cannot profitably sell. Any Local Plan based on unachievable housing numbers would soon fail the government's housing delivery test and result in a planning free-for-all under the so-called presumption in favour of sustainable development. This would allow developers to cherry pick sites throughout Dorset and severely weaken the Council's ability to control development.

We continue to promote the Great Big Dorset Hedge (GBDH) survey - a Dorset Climate Action Network (CAN) campaign to map, plant and rejuvenate sections of hedgerows across Dorset. Currently, there are 92 farmers participating in the project. CPRE volunteers help with hedgerow surveys as part of the GBDH initiative and meet the landowner where possible. We are delighted that John Calder, GBDH Manager, is our guest speaker for our 88th AGM on 15th November.

In April 2025, Dorset CPRE agreed another £6,000 funding request for the GBDH project to sustain the momentum as they manage further growth and in recognition of the ambition and potential of the project.

Climate Change and Nature Emergency

Dorset CPRE fully support net zero. We have been actively promoting solar rooftop energy for some years to fight climate change. In June, the Government announced that from 2027 solar panels will be required on all new-build homes in England.

Large scale solar and on-shore wind farms would cause huge damage to Dorset's internationally and nationally important landscape, not only harming the environment but also impacting on the important tourism economy. We support policies that encourage micro-generation of renewable energy through the placement of solar panels on roof tops and community energy schemes.

Some solar farms cause harm to protected landscapes, such as National Landscapes (formerly Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), heritage assets such as historic churches, and are being built on the best agricultural land which is inappropriate at a time of rising food prices. However, we are well aware that more solar farms will be needed to combat net zero and we particularly support small community funded ones, such as the Dottery Solar Array near Bridport. Please also see the separate update on our 2025 Planning Conference: 'Net Zero Homes. Can Dorset do it?'

We welcome (subject to further information) the proposed Dorset Clean Energy Super Cluster that includes deployment of Small Modular Reactors at Dorset Innovation Park and offshore wind turbines in the English Channel outside Lyme Bay.

State of Nature

As the "Dorset – State of Nature" reports have shown, habitats and biodiversity in Dorset have suffered serious decline for several decades, and this decline continues. We support efforts, for example through the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy (see above) to address and reverse this decline.

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At our 16th November 2024 AGM, Roger Morgan-Grenville, Curlew Action Chair, gave an excellent talk on nature education, including sobering data on how much young people know about nature. He spoke about the work of Curlew Action and his feelings about the state of nature and nature literacy in Britain following four years when he has walked a total of 10,000 miles around all corners of the country researching and writing about local activism.

Roger read a 1968 quote from Senegalese environmentalist, Baba Dioum, "In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." Protecting and enhancing nature does not cost too much money and is good value. We need to reconnect with nature, protect what we have now and enable nature to recover.

Campaigns and Projects

Please see separate updates on planning, Local Plans and hedgerows. Examples of significant planning applications we have campaigned against include:

Wyke Farm/Blackberry Solar Farm

In late 2024, RWE (a specialist solar farm developer) announced they propose to construct ground mounted solar arrays, battery storage and associated infrastructure on an area of land amounting to about 250 acres on a total site of 400 acres. The site is within the Parishes of mainly Castleton, but also Bradford Abbas, Nether Compton, Yeovil and Over Compton. Yeovil is included as the grid connection is intended to run down the A30 into Yeovil. Thornford Parish is also materially affected and residents hold strong views on the proposed solar farm due to its detrimental effect on the landscape.

Our local group, the Sherborne and District Society strongly support the action group, Wyke Against Solar on Arable Land (WASA) in their fight against this proposal. In December 2024, the Trustees approved £3,000 of funding and the Society raised £13,900 following an appeal for donations in February to support the action group. This recognises the importance we attach to the need to object to this proposal.

Dorset CPRE contributed £900 towards the costs of a consultancy report. WASA are awaiting the requested Environmental Impact Statement which must precede a planning proposal.

Portland Waste Incinerator

The Stop Portland Waste Incinerator Action Group and supporters attended the Court of Appeal hearing on 7th October 2025, at The Royal Courts of Justice, in their final bid to overturn the Government's decision to grant planning permission for a waste incinerator to be located at Portland Port - in the immediate setting of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site and in the setting of the Dorset National Landscape. The judges' decision will be known at some point within the next six months. Dorset CPRE Trustees agreed £1k of funding, bringing our overall financial contribution to the campaign to £4,500 since 2021.

Dorset Council had refused the plan in March 2023, voicing concerns over its visual impact, pollution and lorries. However, in 2024 the government approved the proposal. Dorset Council decided not to challenge the decision, leaving local campaigners to sustain opposition to the proposed development.

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Solar Farm Hearing for North Farm (near Horton Tower)

Rupert Hardy (Chair North Dorset CPRE) and local members spoke at the Solar Farm Hearing for North Farm (near Horton Tower) application P/FUL/2023/02829. We objected to two greenfield solar farm sites in Horton in August 2023 (*both now approved*) and contributed funding for a Landscape Objection Statements. We are disappointed that the proposal was approved 6-1, the local Dorset Councillor, the local Parish Council and 74 objections had no bearing on the Councillors present. Seven Dorset councillors attended, with only one councillor voting against the application and there were five abstentions. Our Group was very disappointed at the number of councillors who failed to attend.

Grants and Sponsorship

Dorset CPRE is one of the sponsors of the annual Dorset Hedge Laying Competition held in September and organised by the Melplash Agricultural Society who are committed to keeping the traditional skill of hedge laying alive. We attended the 2025 event and continued with support during the 2024/5 financial year. Some of the prize winners are featured in an article for our Autumn 2025 magazine.

We continue to offer grants of up to £200 per request for Fingerpost repairs and this is advertised in the Dorset National Landscape Fingerpost Project webpage. As of August 2025, we have spent £22,837.50 on grants for 164 fingerposts, since the scheme was launched in 2017. Our February press release on the grant scheme was well received, and two volunteers came forward to offer their skills as Fingerpost Champions. Roger Bond, who co-ordinates the Dorset National Landscape Fingerpost restoration project, undertook interviews and his workshop was featured on ITV Meridian on Sunday 23rd March. The programme included a visit to a newly restored fingerpost in Lytchett Matravers which Dorset CPRE provided funding for.

In 2020, Dorset CPRE received a very generous legacy from Barbara Vance and explored specific projects that her legacy might in future be associated with. Following visits to primary schools, in Spring 2024, Trustees agreed to set aside £2,500 for a 'Barbara Vance Countryside Prize', enough to fund a minimum of 10 schools to receive up to £250, for wildlife related projects with evidence of outdoor learning and introducing children to the countryside/rural life. So far three projects have been completed. This year we paid a grant to The Prince of Wales School. Mr. Gary Sparcklen, Headteacher, wrote an article on 'Growing Minds: Life in Our Vegetable Plot and Wildlife Area' for our Spring 2025 magazine. A grant has been approved for another primary school in Dorset.

The Sherborne and District Society sponsor the Gryphon School Geography Award, which is presented at the school's annual prize giving ceremony in September.

Rural Economy and Farming

Our commitment to the local economy is not just about securing appropriate, and opposing inappropriate, development. It is also to give our support to local farmers. In September George Hosford, from Traveller's Rest Farm near Durweston, addressed our Countryside Forum. We are delighted to have George as our new Agricultural Advisor. Our farmers need all the support they can get as they seek to stay in business, not least when the Government subsidy system is uncertain. It was good to hear that Traveller's Rest has joined in the Great Dorset Hedge Project which Dorset CPRE is proud to sponsor.

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This year we arranged two farm visits for our members. The first was to Coppet Hill/Purcombe Farm located in Whitchurch Canonichum, Bridport, for a talk and tour looking at Regenerative Agriculture. The second was to Eastbrook Farm, a Dorset Council Country Farm in Shillingstone. In addition to being organic, Eastbrook farm is also in the mid Stour catchment area and subscribes to both the Countryside Stewardship scheme and the Sustainable Farming Incentive. The farm has invested in a variety of complimenting environmental schemes which have seen a growth in wildlife diversity in the last decade.

Influencing

Local Plans

As mentioned earlier, the BCP Council Local Plan was withdrawn in June this year and we recently responded to the Dorset Council (DC) Local Plan Consultation on Site Options.

In conclusion, Dorset CPRE urges both Councils to develop a Local Plan that reflects what Dorset can sustainably deliver, not what national targets demand. The Local Plan must be sound, evidence-based, and faithful to Dorset's landscape and community character. We remain ready to work constructively with the Council and its officers to help achieve that outcome.

Currently planning applications are being assessed against adopted Local Plans for West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland, Purbeck, North Dorset, East Dorset and Christchurch.

Dorset CPRE will continue to seek to influence the thinking of DC and BCP Council on their Local Plans and will monitor and respond to consultations on Local Plans and on proposed developments.

Dorset Wildlife Trust

Last year, the Trustees decided we should reach out to Dorset Wildlife Trust (DWT). As two Dorset-wide voluntary organisations with nature at their heart, we have many similar aims, and where these overlap, there may be opportunities to collaborate.

On 14th March, representatives of our Branch visited Lyscombe, DWT's newest large-scale acquisition. The purchase of Lyscombe was made possible through funding from Natural England's National Nature Reserves programme, and planned Nutrient Mitigation Credit Scheme, alongside generous donations from DWT members and supporters.

Members of Dorset CPRE had raised some concerns about the implications for the wider landscape as the Credit Scheme allows developers to purchase such credits to offset the nitrogenous waste from new houses built in the Poole Harbour catchment. In a thorough discussion of the issues, we were reassured that purchasing nutrient credits did not in itself guarantee that any particular site would be developed: all existing checks and balances would need to be satisfied. On the other hand, the gains for wildlife from Lyscombe's restorative farming model would be considerable.

2025 Planning Conference: 'Net Zero Homes. Can Dorset do it?'

In June, our planning conference looked at how Dorset can rise to the challenge of ensuring that all new homes achieve Net Zero. The event brought together industry experts, policy makers, developers and academics to discuss the latest innovations and challenges in zero carbon sustainable housing. The goal of achieving Net Zero homes is vital. Buildings account for 39 per cent of energy-related carbon emissions, which come from their construction, operation and maintenance – they are a major driver of global warming and climate change.

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One of the presenters, Sam Goss, Founding Director of Barefoot Architects, shared the story of Bridport Cohousing, now named Hazelmead – a pioneering low-carbon development of 53 Net Zero affordable homes built on land crowdfunded by members. Developed to address the severe shortage of affordable, sustainable and community oriented housing in Bridport, the project was designed to foster sociability and help reduce loneliness.

All present agreed on the urgency of the challenge, echoing Sir David Attenborough's words: "What we do in the next ten years will profoundly affect the next few thousand." Copies of the presentations and a link to the recordings can be found on the Dorset CPRE website.

Meeting with CPRE South West Branches

In August, Dorset CPRE organised a Zoom meeting with local CPRE representatives from Hampshire, Devon, Wiltshire, Somerset, Avon and North East Somerset and Gloucestershire to discuss the planning issues, and the impact of the Government's new housing targets. Councils in Somerset, Gloucestershire, Devon and Hampshire are all at different stages in the process of undergoing re-organisation. CPRE Somerset reported planning problems following the council announcing a 12 week shutdown from 25th July 2025.

Devon and Hampshire CPREs reported that New Towns are planned for their counties. All the Counties are suffering from the Government's new housing targets and where local plans are out of date, they are seeing applications for development being granted consent on appeal.

There was a consensus that the Government's housing policy poses a great threat to the countryside and National CPRE have been made aware of the strength of feeling that this needs to be campaigned against. A further meeting is envisaged.

Other related activities

Members continue to be kept informed of our work through the well-received bi-annual magazine 'The Dorset Review' (a 24 page publication with illustrated articles on our various campaigns and on Dorset history and the countryside), social media, e-newsletters, events, website updates, monthly article in Blackmore Vale magazine, and press releases. We continue to send monthly e-newsletters to our members, Parish and Town Councils, Dorset Councillors, like minded organisations and those who sign up to receive our e-newsletter.

Membership

Total membership as at 31st August 2025 is 588, a 3% decrease on last year's membership which was 609. The total is based on the number of Households, Organisations and Parish/Town Council who pay a monthly or annual subscription.

Fifteen Dorset CPRE volunteers manned our stand at various times over two days at the annual Stock Gaylard Oak Fair during the August Bank Holiday weekend. Our presence was productive in engaging with visitors, recruiting new members and collecting e-mail addresses to expand our contact with the general public. We provided displays on Renewable Energy and Housing. The Dorset Council Local Plan, mentioned earlier, was the big discussion item.

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Thank you to all our members. We extend our heartfelt thanks to members who have supported us through their volunteering efforts during this year, we are very grateful. We're all volunteers doing our bit. We hope that the inspiring work carried out by our local Groups and volunteers will encourage more to join us. If not already a member, please do join us. Add your voice for appropriate, sustainable economic development for Dorset that protects our amazing countryside.

We are very conscious that we do not currently have an active local Group covering Bournemouth, Christchurch and East Dorset. During the year we made some new contacts at Bournemouth University and look forward to building on these in the year ahead.

We welcome new members, new trustees and more volunteers who can bring enthusiasm and new energy and help us to find positive solutions for the issues and threats facing our beautiful Dorset countryside and our communities. Working together for a better Dorset is our aim and we would like to thank all of you for making Dorset CPRE effective and influential.

During the year, we said goodbye to three past active volunteers, Peter Bowyer (former Chair), Dick Heaslip (former Chair and Vice-President) and Michael Fulford-Dobson (former President). Their obituaries can be found in the Autumn issue of our magazine 'The Dorset Review'.

We are looking forward to a landmark year ahead with CPRE's National Centenary in 2026. Our centenary will mark 100 years of championing the English countryside, from National Parks and the Green Belt to dark skies and local planning. Hopefully it will provide an opportunity, not only to commemorate the last 100 years of protecting the countryside, but also to engage the public and create a stronger future for CPRE. We will be organising our own centenary celebration event with details to be confirmed in early spring 2026.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 15th November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr J Hughes
Vice Chair of Trustees



Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025, which are set out on pages 15 to 25.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act') and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. The accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. The accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
Marcus Cridland B.A.(Hons) F.C.A.

Scott Vevers Ltd.

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

65 East Street

Bridport

Dorset

DT6 3LB

Date: 26/11/25.....

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	2	39,275	39,275	21,551
Activities for generating funds	3	255	255	2,363
Investment income	4	24,708	24,708	24,164
Total Income		<u>64,238</u>	<u>64,238</u>	<u>48,078</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	5	(57,740)	(57,740)	(58,239)
Charitable activities	5	(12,448)	(12,448)	(12,853)
Total expenditure		<u>(70,188)</u>	<u>(70,188)</u>	<u>(71,092)</u>
Gains/losses on investment assets		<u>12,337</u>	<u>12,337</u>	<u>34,843</u>
Net movement in funds		6,387	6,387	11,829
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		760,642	760,642	748,813
Total funds carried forward	13	<u>767,029</u>	<u>767,029</u>	<u>760,642</u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 14.

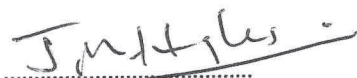
The notes on pages 17 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

(Registration number: 211974)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	8	35	71
Investments	9	<u>605,086</u>	<u>538,124</u>
		<u>605,121</u>	<u>538,195</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	10	206	-
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>189,610</u>	<u>224,360</u>
		<u>189,816</u>	<u>224,360</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(17,908)</u>	<u>(1,913)</u>
Net current assets		<u>171,908</u>	<u>222,447</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>777,029</u>	<u>760,642</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	12	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Assets		<u>767,029</u>	<u>760,642</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted		<u>767,029</u>	<u>760,642</u>
Total funds	13	<u>767,029</u>	<u>760,642</u>

The financial statements on pages 15 to 25 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 15.11.25 and signed on their behalf by:



Mr J Hughes
Vice Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 17 to 25 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements 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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Basis of preparation

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. The accounts (financial statements) 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.

Going Concern

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

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of the staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Support costs

Support cost include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Fixed assets for charity use are capitalised at cost. They are stated in the accounts at cost less depreciation.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follow:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	20% straight line basis

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted General	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;			
Appeals and donations	17,894	17,894	199
Legacies	-	-	-
Subscriptions	21,381	21,381	21,352
	<u>39,275</u>	<u>39,275</u>	<u>21,551</u>

3 Income from activities for generating funds

	Unrestricted General	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Events income;			
Fund raising activities	255	255	2,363
	<u>255</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>2,363</u>

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted General	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Income from fixed asset investments	18,696	18,696	16,079
Bank interest	6,012	6,012	8,085
	<u>24,708</u>	<u>24,708</u>	<u>24,164</u>

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

5 Total resources expended

	Charitable activities	Costs of generating funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Subcontract cost	-	41,080	41,080	41,308
Travelling	-	287	287	380
Insurance	-	465	465	451
Telephone and fax	-	209	209	201
Room hire	-	415	415	435
Printing, postage and stationery	-	3,395	3,395	3,470
Advertising	-	374	374	190
Branch news letter	-	3,980	3,980	4,004
Other expenses	-	513	513	404
Accountancy fees	-	2,056	2,056	1,895
Management charges	-	4,485	4,485	4,420
Bank charges	-	126	126	169
Depreciation	-	36	36	36
Professional fees and subscriptions	-	-	-	495
Computer software	-	319	319	381
Shows and functions	708	-	708	1,940
Campaigns	11,740	-	11,740	10,913
	<u>12,448</u>	<u>57,740</u>	<u>70,188</u>	<u>71,092</u>

Included in the above figure, £57,740 (2024: £58,239) relates to support costs, and £12,448 (2024: £12,853) relates to direct costs.

Accountancy fees are wholly in respect of an independent examination.

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Mr R J Bowmer

£nil (2024: £40) of expenses were reimbursed to Mr R J Bowmer during the year.

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any other reimbursed expenses or other benefits from the charity during the year.

7 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

8 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation		
As at 1 September 2024	2,168	2,168
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
As at 31 August 2025	<u>2,168</u>	<u>2,168</u>
Depreciation		
As at 1 September 2024	2,097	2,097
Charge for the year	36	36
Eliminated on disposals	-	-
As at 31 August 2025	<u>2,133</u>	<u>2,133</u>
Net book value		
As at 31 August 2025	<u>35</u>	<u>35</u>
As at 31 August 2024	<u>71</u>	<u>71</u>

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

9 Fixed asset investments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other investments	605,086	538,124
	<u>605,086</u>	<u>538,124</u>

Other investments

	Listed investments £	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation			
As at 1 September 2024	246,067	292,057	538,124
Revaluation	15,643	(3,306)	12,337
Additions	114,991	-	114,991
Disposals	(60,366)	-	(60,366)
As at 31 August 2025	<u>316,335</u>	<u>288,751</u>	<u>605,086</u>
Net book value			
As at 31 August 2025	<u>316,335</u>	<u>288,751</u>	<u>605,086</u>
As at 31 August 2024	<u>246,067</u>	<u>292,057</u>	<u>538,124</u>

10 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Prepayments	206	-
	<u>206</u>	<u>-</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	15,025	610
Accruals	2,883	1,303
	<u>17,908</u>	<u>1,913</u>

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2025

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	10,000	-
	<u>10,000</u>	<u>-</u>

During the year, the North Dorset Group received a donation of £13,800 (2024 - £nil) from the Save Our Silton Group following the closure of their bank account. The Save Our Silton Group had originally been established to campaign against the proposal of wind turbines at Silton, near Gillingham and their campaign was successful. The donation was made on the understanding that, should the Save Our Silton Group need to be re-formed to oppose a new application within the next five years, £10,000 of the funds would be returned to them. This five year period will conclude on 25 November 2029.

13 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2025 £
Unrestricted					
General	(614,398)	(64,238)	70,188	-	(608,448)
Designated	(62,047)	-	-	-	(62,047)
Revaluation reserve	(84,197)	-	-	(12,337)	(96,534)
Total funds	<u>(760,642)</u>	<u>(64,238)</u>	<u>70,188</u>	<u>(12,337)</u>	<u>(767,029)</u>

Campaign to Protect Rural England Dorset Branch

**Notes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 August 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	35	35
Fixed asset investments	605,086	605,086
Current assets	189,816	189,816
Current liabilities	(17,908)	(17,908)
Long term liabilities	(10,000)	(10,000)
Total net assets	767,029	767,029

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 31 August 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	71	71
Fixed asset investments	538,124	538,124
Current assets	224,360	224,360
Current liabilities	(1,913)	(1,913)
Long term liabilities	-	-
Total net assets	760,642	760,642

15 Financial instruments

	2025 £	2024 £
Categorisation of financial instruments:		
Financial assets that are debt instrument measured at amortised cost	189,816	224,360
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	(27,908)	(1,913)