

CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND SHROPSHIRE BRANCH (Registered charity no 1184133)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

The Trustees of CPRE Shropshire present their annual report for the year ended 31 December 2025, together with the independently examined financial statements, which are set out on pages 4 to 8.

Objects

CPRE Shropshire (the Shropshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England) is constituted as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Under that constitution our charitable objects are “to promote and encourage for the benefit of the public the improvement and protection of the English countryside and in particular that of Shropshire and its towns and villages and the better development of the rural environment”. Our registered address is c/o Stags Head, New Invention, Bucknell, SY7 0BS.

Trustees and organisation

The charity is run by its volunteer trustees, with the help of one part-time paid Branch manager and a volunteer management committee. The trustees who served during the year, and up to the date of this report, were Sarah Bury (resigned July 2025), Peter Day, Charles Green, Elizabeth Jones (resigned March 2026), Susan Lockwood, Selby Martin (died April 2026), Greg Sinclair (resigned July 2025), Sue Steer, Robin Thompson (resigned July 2025) and Stella Voysey. Trustees are recruited from the active membership of the charity.

CPRE is a federation of independent charities. National CPRE, based in London, has paid staff who concentrate on national issues. There are also Branches representing each English county, each a separate charity, of which CPRE Shropshire is one. Within CPRE Shropshire there are also active District Groups, based on the old pre-unitary District Council areas.

Activities

Our regular activities include planning and heritage related work, liaising with and supporting other like-minded organisations, issuing printed newsletters to our members, issuing other publicity via social media and our website, attending shows and events, giving talks, providing sponsorship and donations, and responding to national CPRE initiatives and campaigns. All of this has the public benefit of standing up for the countryside when its effects in helping the climate and biodiversity crises and mental health are increasingly recognised.

For the last five years we (and other County Branches) have been running the very successful and popular Hedgerow Heroes project, with funding via national CPRE from a generous donor. To date, CPRE Shropshire has planted 24km of native hedgerows in the Shropshire countryside with the help of an army of volunteers and run many hedge-related training and art courses and workshops and carried out engagement with primary schools.

Also this year we have run the well-received Sense of Place photographic exhibition, with associated workshops. The printed entries will remain a legacy resource. A small deficit has been funded from unrestricted reserves.

We are planning for events celebrating the centenary of the founding of CPRE nationally in 2026 and have begun work on a series of “Geology Walks through time in Shropshire” and associated art courses and school talks, and on a Hedgerows in the Hills two-day special event in autumn 2026. The rich geology of Shropshire (which underpins the beauty of the countryside) is also celebrated with Dr Sally Green’s annual on-line lectures for CPRE Shropshire; the 2025 lecture (the fifth in this series) was on Vulcanism in Shropshire.

Financial review

The financial effect of our regular activities is shown in the “Unrestricted Funds” items of the financial statements. Income is derived mainly from our Branch share of membership subscriptions as paid to

national CPRE, augmented by generous donations and bank interest. Much of our expenditure, as is the case with all organisations, results from running the day-to-day administrative tasks. Added to that is the cost of our Shropshire Voice newsletters, planning consultancy work, our AGM, attendance at shows and events, and sponsorship and donations.

The "Restricted Funds" represent specific projects straddling more than one financial year, or funds held for others. These are expected to be neutral to our overall financial position.

For the last few years we have operated at a small loss which has been funded from our still-healthy reserves. Our policy is to invest as much of our funds as is sensible for cash flow purposes into a bank deposit account, and to continue to maintain our reserves at a healthy level.

Funds held as a custodian trustee

CPRE Shropshire acts as banker for CPRE West Midlands Regional Group and for two of the District Groups.

Approved by the Trustees on14/5/2026..... and signed on their behalf by:

S.C. Lockwood

.....
Susan Lockwood
Chair

Charles Green

.....
Charles Green FCA
Treasurer