

Company registration number: 04496754
Charity registration number: 1094975

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

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Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

**Legal and administrative information
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Full name

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Other names by which the charity is known

Friends of the Peak District
CPRE South Yorkshire

Registered Charity Number

1094975

Registered Company Number

04496754

Registered Address

Victoria Hall
37 Stafford Road
Sheffield
S2 2SF

President

Dame Fiona Reynolds

Vice President

Anne Robinson

Ambassadors

Mark Cocker
Helen Mort

Board of Trustees

Chair

Julie Parry (resigned 25 September 2023)
Currently Vacant

Vice Chair

Les Sturch

Honorary Treasurer

Eugene Walker

Other Trustees

Faith Johnson
David Holmes
Janet Haddock-Fraser (resigned 25 September 2023)
Richard Mills (appointed 5 June 2023)
Corinna Lincoln (appointed 25 September 2023)

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

**Legal and administrative information
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Branch Staff

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Ian Thompson | Chief Executive Officer |
| Rebecca Simpson | Communications Officer (from 1 Oct 2023) |
| Tony Wallace | Planning Officer (from 1 Oct 2023) |
| Susan Belt | Administration and Finance Officer |
| Cassa Townsend | Engagement Officer |

Accountants

Seven Hills Accountants Limited
57 Burton Street
Sheffield
S6 2HH

Bankers

CAF (Charities Aid Foundation)
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4TA

HSBC
Fargate Branch
2 Fargate
Sheffield
S1 2JS

**Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Directors' report (incorporating the Trustees' annual report)
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

The Directors, who are also Trustees of the charity, submit their annual report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The Trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charity's governing document and the provisions of the Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP), applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

Structure, governance and management

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England ("The Branch") is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity with the Charities Commission. The business of the Branch is managed by the Board of Trustees according to the powers set out in the Memorandum and Articles of Association (adopted in 2013).

The Board meets every 3 months and there are sub-committees formed as required. The Branch employs one full-time and several part-time members of staff, including the Chief Executive who manages the day to day work of the organisation and has trustee approved delegated authority for operational matters including finance, employment, campaigning activity, engagement and fundraising.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed by the members of the charity for a minimum of three years. At every annual general meeting all Trustees who have completed a three-year term shall retire from office but are eligible for re-election subject to a maximum of three consecutive terms in office.

Trustee Induction and Training

New trustees receive an 'onboarding pack' containing several documents related to their role (including Memorandum, Articles, conflict of interest, expenses etc.). They also undergo an orientation day with the CEO to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law and to discuss the annual and five-year strategy, current campaigns, committee structure, meetings, staff and the last annual accounts and report.

Conflicts of interest

None of our trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Upon appointment to the Board any potential conflict of interest with any individual or organisation must be disclosed. Before each Board Meeting all trustees are requested to declare any conflict of interest with any agenda item.

Ambassadors, Vice President and President

The charity currently has (poet and author) Helen Mort and (writer and conservationist) Mark Cocker as ambassadors. Our Vice President is Anne Robinson. Our President is Dame Fiona Reynolds DBE.

Regional and National CPRE Representation

The CEO attends quarterly meetings of the Yorkshire, Humber and Lincolnshire Regional Group of CPRE. A Trustee attends regular 'Assemble' meetings with National CPRE. We sub-let desk space in our office to National CPRE and benefit from the cross-pollination of having National CPRE staff working alongside us regularly.

Networks

The charity is a branch of the national charity Campaign to Protect Rural England, also known as "CPRE: The countryside charity". The CPRE network operates as a network of over 40 branches, and the chairs of the branches hold voting rights to this centre network. The branding and core purposes are shared across the network. The Branch are also involved at a regional level (Yorkshire and the Humber) and are eligible to receive funds from this group.

**Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Directors' report (incorporating the Trustees' annual report) - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Campaign for National Parks / Friends of the Peak District

As well as being CPRE Peak District and South Yorkshire the charity is 'double-hatted' in that it represents the Campaign for National Parks in the Peak District National Park. In our dealings with the Peak District National Park Authority in this specific role we are known as Friends of the Peak District. We ceased to offer a separate membership for Friends of the Peak District in 2021 because of the cost and administrative complexities.

Objectives and activities

The principal activity of the charity is to promote and encourage for the benefit of the public the improvement and protection of the English countryside and in particular the area within the branch boundaries and its towns and villages and the better development of the rural environment.

The activity pillars within the current five year strategy (which is employed to achieve the charity's objectives and activities) are:

- Tackle the Climate Emergency
- Connect People and Countryside
- Promote Rural Life
- Empower Communities
- Grow Our Capacity

The two major campaigns (see later) that the charity has undertaken in this reporting period have been carried out within the context of these pillars. One to prevent the damage from unnecessary road building and the other to prevent biodiversity loss. Any spare resource after the campaigning activity has gone in to preparations for the centenary of the charity in 2024.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

Achievements and performance

Our work in protecting the landscapes of South Yorkshire and the Peak District did centre around two major campaigns in 2023 – the A57 Link Roads campaign (and the resultant judicial review in the High Court) and the campaign to prevent changes to water storage (and biodiversity loss) in the Upper Derwent Valley. In addition to this we undertook our 'normal' work around a gamut of planning issues, engagement opportunities and smaller campaigns. We have also been additionally involved in 'non-traditional' work around access, litter, fire, and communicating 'best practise' in the outdoors in conjunction with partners in South Yorkshire and the National Park.

Local Plans

Having published our initial response to the Sheffield Plan we are actively seeking to grow a network of stakeholders involved with and concerned about the evolution of Sheffield as a City over the next 30 years. We have also continued to monitor the development schedules of the other six local authorities for any significant threats or opportunities. Our planning officer and volunteers are involved in submitting letters (both in support and opposition) to applications and proposals monthly.

Community Energy Visioning Projects

With the financial support of National CPRE we led 'community energy vision' projects in two local communities - Bonsall and Woodsetts. These were opportunities for the community to engage with experts to consider alternative renewable energy sources for their communities. Those ideas were then 'realised' in report form with local artists contributing work. At the Community Energy England awards in November 2023 we were awarded 'Highly Commended' in the Community and Engagement Inclusion field for this work. Our thanks to Andy Tickle for leading this work for us. We have submitted funding applications to National CPRE so that we can continue this engagement strand for the next three years.

**Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Directors' report (incorporating the Trustees' annual report) - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Transport

By far the most significant part of our campaigning effort during this reporting period has been focussed on the A57 Link Road campaign. Having published our 'Low Carbon Travel Plan' and submitted an objection to the scheme in 2021 we were dismayed to learn that the government gave the green light to the project as part of the 'Trans Pennine Upgrade Programme'. In 2022 the trustees of the charity, having sought legal advice, agreed to challenge the decision made by the Secretary of State for Transport (Mark Harper) to consent the A57 Link Roads Scheme – a proposed dual carriageway at Mottram on the eastern edge of Greater Manchester.

Our case is that it is unlawful for the government to allow such road schemes (1) without assessing the cumulative effect of carbon emission and (2) failing to consider alternatives which would not harm the green belt, the national park, or our climate. Our grounds (1) is, in law, very similar to an earlier case brought by Dr Andrew Boswell. Having found against his case, a subsequent appeal by Boswell was approved and heard in January 2024. The result of his appeal will directly influence whether or not our grounds (1) progresses (we should know in Feb / March 2024). Our grounds (2) was heard in the High Court in early October 2023 and subsequently dismissed in the judge's finding (in mid November).

Our case had two Grounds: (1) that the Government's approach of allowing large road schemes to go ahead without assessing the cumulative impact of carbon emissions was unlawful, and (2) that in approving the Link Roads project they had failed to consider alternatives which would avoid harming the Green Belt, the National Park and the climate.

We filed our claim with the High Court in late 2022. Mrs Justice Thornton heard our claim at the High Court on October 3rd and 4th 2023 and published her verdict on our Ground 2 in late November 2023. She found against us.

The process for Ground 1 on climate emissions was more complicated. Ground 1 was adjourned (neither heard nor dismissed) due to its similarity to the Ground used in another live legal case (the Boswell case). Essentially, we were told (in October 2023) that we would have to wait for the Court of Appeal to hear the Boswell case before our Ground 1 could be heard in the High Court. The Boswell case subsequently failed in the Court of Appeal. The Boswell legal team then decided to take their case to the Supreme Court. We prepared papers for a further stay on our case pending the Supreme Court hearing of Boswell.

However, in March 2024 Mr Justice Holgate (the senior Planning Court Judge) made an order on another road building challenge case (Stonehenge) which applied directly to our case. He refused the application for a further stay in that case on the basis that the Boswell Ground was materially the same as the one that was unsuccessful in the Court of Appeal in Boswell and, because the Planning Court is bound by the Court of Appeal, he could not come to a different conclusion.

Senior legal advisers to the charity recommended that we did not challenge the issue of the stay. Furthermore we were advised that because our Ground 1 was indistinguishable from that in the Boswell Case (and that the High Court in that case had already found against it) it was agreed that there would now be no legal basis upon which to have our Ground 1 heard by the High Court. This is why our Ground 1 was labelled as 'totally without merit' – it is the 'value' of having the High Court hear a case (ours) indistinguishable from a Ground in the Boswell case (which it had recently found against) which, in legal terminology, is 'totally without merit'. That terminology does not relate in any way to the value of our having brought the Ground to court in the first place.

With both our Grounds now having failed in the High Court we were left with the option of progressing to the Court of Appeal (to appeal against the High Court verdict). The board of trustees voted against this option.

This was an enormous undertaking for the charity. The costs of the action are very significant and an online fundraising campaign using the 'Crowd Justice' platform was used to raise donations. Additionally there have been some pledges of financial assistance to support this campaign (from private individuals) which persuaded the Board to tolerate the significant financial risks of proceeding with the undertaking. The final costs will be accounted for in the 2024 accounts.

**Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Directors' report (incorporating the Trustees' annual report) - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

The A57 Link Roads project is but the start of the ongoing threat to the Peak District National Park. Plans for a bypass of Hollingworth and Tintwistle and dualling of the trunk route through the National Park remain live. We will be seeking to ensure that the future roads programme does not include such schemes. They would do irreparable harm to our most treasured and highly protected landscapes as well as worsen the climate and nature crises. The new duty which requires National Highways to 'seek to further National Park purposes' should set a higher bar to progressing such development.

In the shorter term, we remain unconvinced that the A57 Link Roads scheme will solve the problems of chronic road congestion in the Mottram and Glossop area. Modelling prepared for us by transport experts suggests that new roads like this will simply move heavy traffic from one place to another – in this case, from Mottram to Glossop, Hollingworth and Tintwistle where through traffic will increase. We will continue to work with local transport groups to promote alternative low-carbon travel plans that provide viable alternatives to ever more private car journeys.

We have also had representation at a local and regional level on several panels and focus groups on sustainable public transport and we are represented on the Transport Policy Committee at National CPRE.

Reservoirs

The second significant part of our campaigning effort during the reporting period has been the work to protect the Upper Derwent Valley (UDV) in the Peak District. The charity has a 90 year long history in opposing the use of the area for reservoir building and in campaigning to stop the expansion of the project. Severn Trent Water (STW) published a proposal (in late Dec 2021) that listed a number of possible options for expanding water storage in the UDV. The charity believes that fixing the existing leaks in the water distribution system and implementing controls to reduce water usage should come before damaging the UDV in order to store more water.

A number of meetings with STW and the local community took place during the reporting period. In Spring 2023 we led on the formation of a 'coalition of opposition' to the STW plan which included the likes of the British Mountaineering Council, The Ramblers, The National Trust, The Peak District National Park and others. We were regularly on radio and television and received widespread coverage of the campaign in local and regional media. Having prepared the coalition for a major press release and campaign launch in early July 2023 we were notified (2 days beforehand) that STW had retracted their plans. A period of consultation followed. The charity is currently monitoring both the future ambitions of STW and announcements from Yorkshire Water regarding where their additional water requirements are going to come from.

Peak District Boundary Walk (PDBW)

The PDBW is a walk that was conceived and launched by the charity and it continues to grow in popularity. We published the reprint of the guidebook in this reporting period (which was published by a local publisher and is retailed via an e-commerce platform by the publisher with the charity receiving a share of the profit). The social media community directly engaged with this walk numbers in excess of 1000. We are launching a 'walk the PDBW' fundraising option for our centenary in Spring 2024.

The 'Ethel's'

The 'Ethel's' was an idea of Doug Colton during the pandemic. He mapped the 95 high points of the National Park and South Yorkshire and named them after the founder of the charity and then went on to design and launch a tick-list app of the hills for walkers. The app has brought significant interest to the charity, and we are very grateful to Doug Colton for all that he has done. There have been approximately 35,000 downloads of the app since its creation in 2021. We are launching a 'walk the Ethels' fundraising option for our centenary in Spring 2024.

**Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Directors' report (incorporating the Trustees' annual report) - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Ethel Haythornthwaite Biography

After a selection process the author and poet Helen Mort was commissioned to write the biography of the founder of the charity (Ethel Haythornthwaite). Helen delivered the manuscript in August 2023 and we are working with Vertebrate Publishing on the format of the book which will be launched on 7 May 2024.

University of Sheffield Medical Students

We have been working with a local GP surgery to incorporate medical students in to outdoor access and wellbeing projects that we are involved with. In this reporting period they (with our guidance) have helped us design a 'get outdoors' advice poster for local GP surgeries, and assisted with the content on a free to access online tool for accessing local countryside.

Heritage Lottery Fund supported CPRE Archive Project

We were finally able to welcome back our volunteers onsite to help with cataloguing and digitisation work. Caroline Bolton returned to complete the great cataloguing work and lead with the plan for off-site digitisation of some of the gems within the archive. It's not as we'd hoped or planned but the revised plan will mean that we will still be able to safeguard the archive and make it accessible to future generations. As we approach our 100th anniversary we are in discussions with the City Archive as to how the collection can be most accessible within available resources. A lot of the work done by the archive volunteers is on our website.

Haythornthwaite Wood

Haythornthwaite Wood is a small copse in the village of Dore. Gerald Haythornthwaite purchased a 99 year lease on the wood and there are memorial stones therein to mark the contribution to local landscape protection that he and his wife (Ethel – our founder) made. National CPRE (via their 'Hedgerow Heroes' fund) and Dore Village Society have both kindly financially supported our work to reinvigorate the Wood and the surrounding wall and hedgerow. During 2023 Cassa Townsend planned, organised and led a series of volunteer and engagement activities at the wood including an event in November which the Lord Mayor attended. We are grateful to Sheffield City Council Park Rangers Service for all their help, work and guidance. There is an engagement programme being arranged for the next few years in the wood.

Volunteers

The charity continues to receive support in a number of aspects of our work from volunteers – these are an intrinsic part of the charity. A team of volunteers came together to work on the aforementioned archive project and another team is currently being formed to provide support and extra resource to our centenary plans. Additionally we have University of Sheffield Planning Students volunteering with us on planning issues. We also have volunteers involved in campaigning, administration and access. In Easter 2024 a Sheffield University Geography Dept student will join us for 10 days to digitally map our centenary of campaigning work. Anne Robinson volunteers nigh on full-time and is our highly regarded transport campaigns lead.

Across all aspects of volunteering (including trustees) the charity receives approximately 280 days of volunteer support per year.

**Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Directors' report (incorporating the Trustees' annual report) - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Conclusions

2023 was our 99th year protecting the landscapes of the Peak District and South Yorkshire. We want to record our thanks to our hard working staff and volunteers, and to our Trustees, as well as to all of our members, supporters and advocates, without whom we would not be able to undertake our vitally important work.

A long and overly expensive relationship with a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software provider has been ended and we are in the process of joining the same CRM provider as National CPRE (which will allow a greatly enhanced ability to administrate the membership database and communicate with members, followers and stakeholders alike). Unfortunately the National CPRE roll out has been delayed. We are also adopting the same volunteer management tool as National CPRE ('Assemble').

The A57 legal case was almost 'all consuming' for the charity and severely impacted our ability to undertake our normal campaigning work and it also impacted our preparations for the centenary! With the court case verdict now public (albeit not financially resolved) and the 100th main event passed we can focus on promoting the charity through a variety of projects in the remaining months of the centenary year. At the Sept 2024 board meeting we will begin to craft the 2025-2030 strategy which will provide our strategic direction for the next 5 years.

Other than that there are a number of causes, campaigns and issues that we 'took our eye off' during the court case which need our attention eg on planning, minerals, access, the Sheffield Plan, changes to Green Belt legislation etc.

Plans for the Future

Our centenary was 'soft launched' on 10 January 2024. We curated a series of community events, a book launch, membership activities, access to the archive and other events in to a centenary programme. The charity hosted a major celebration on 7 May 2024 at Whirlow Brook Hall with circa 100 invitees.

The over-arching short term goal of the board and staff is to maximise the long-term stakeholder developments from our centenary. This series of events has the potential to guarantee the success of the charity going forward.

We wrote and published the 5-year strategic plan (2020 – 2025) in the first half of 2020. This directs the charity to and through its centenary in 2024. A key challenge of the near future is continuing the work of the charity in 2024 whilst simultaneously delivering a series of events (centred on 7 May 2024) that do justice to our one hundred years work protecting the landscapes of the Peak District and South Yorkshire.

The charity has for a long time struggled with the imbalance of doing an awful lot of important and necessary work with very little *actual* resources. We have spent about 2 years recruiting talent in to charity in the areas of planning, engagement and communications and we now need to turn these appointments in to enduring commitments. The emergence of one or more major issues (eg A57 or reservoirs) and the resultant campaign effort *still* places enormous strain on a small team (e.g. our planning officer is only on a one day a week contract). We need to reinforce our planning staff (beyond 1 dpw) and also look to diversify the Board and Ambassadors.

Significant effort by Rebecca Simpson (communications lead) has allowed the charity to get much much better at digital engagement. We have a centenary sub-site to the website and are now much more able to articulate all aspects of our work as well as fundraise better online. We have elected to stop printing and distributing the Peakland Guardian journal and are posting campaign updates online and sending out e-newsletters.

**Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Directors' report (incorporating the Trustees' annual report) - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Financial review

Our total income for the financial year was £429,827 compared with £511,980 in the previous year. The largest proportion of our income was legacy income which totalled £317,333 (2022: £456,730) including the second significant portion of the legacy from the Estate of the Late Mr David Rose.

Total expenditure for the financial year was £221,002 compared to £205,320 in the previous year. The majority of costs are related to staff and office costs, with direct activity costs (Campaigning and project costs) varying from year to year.

The overall net movement in funds for the year was a surplus of £208,825 (2022: £306,660) primarily due to the legacy income. The unrestricted funds were £517,550 at the beginning of the year and £728,868 at the end of the year.

Legacy from the Estate of the Late Mr David Rose

The Trustees are extremely grateful to the Estate of the Late Mr David Rose for the significant legacy. The Trustees have agreed that legacy income must be broadly safeguarded for specific agreed projects, not to be used simply to plug budget gaps. It remains essential and our top priority, to achieve sustainable fundraising to secure the Charity. A percentage of the legacy money will be moved to an appropriate interest bearing bank account as soon as possible.

Reserves Policy

The trustees require that the equivalent of a years planned operational expenditure should be kept in reserve to ensure that the charity could continue to work through a period of unforeseen difficulty. The planned operational expenditure for 2024 is £224,000.

As at 31 December 2023 Free reserves (unrestricted funds excluding fixed assets) were £719,695, which significantly exceeds the reserves target, but only due to the legacy income received in this and the previous year. As noted above the Trustees have agreed that legacy income must be broadly safeguarded for specific agreed projects but have not formally designated any monies towards this in the accounts.

The trustees assess the reserves policy on an annual basis and will do so as part of work on the budget early in the current financial year with a view to ensuring that the charity both protects the legacy and remains viable over the longer term.

Investment Policy

The charity policy is to hold cash reserves rather than an investment portfolio. As there is now a surplus of cash due to the recent legacy an amount of this is in the process of being moved to a high interest cash account.

Principle Risks

The charity has a risk assessment policy and a live risk register which is maintained by the CEO. The high impact risks include (but are not limited to): multiple paid personnel leaving; litigation by developer/landowner e.g. planning application we've opposed; negative publicity nationally about organisation's work; poor governance from trustees and loss of future legacies. The Board review the risk register annually.

**Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England
Directors' report (incorporating the Trustees' annual report) - continued
For the year ended 31 December 2023**

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.


The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Small Company provisions:

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies' subject to the small companies' regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the board on 3 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Name:  LES STURCH
Position: Vice Chair Trustees

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England ("the Company")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement


Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or 4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.

Signed: _____


Sarah Lightfoot, FCA DChA
Seven Hills Accountants Limited
57 Burton Street
Sheffield
S6 2HH

Date: _____

4 June 2024

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Statement of financial activities (incorporating the income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 December 2023

| | Notes | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | 2023 Total £ | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | 2022 Total £ |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Income from: | | | | | | | |
| Donations, grants and legacies | | 327,893 | 27,658 | 355,551 | 468,646 | 25 | 468,671 |
| Subscriptions | | 17,229 | - | 17,229 | 17,064 | - | 17,064 |
| Total donations and legacies | 2a | 345,122 | 27,658 | 372,780 | 485,710 | 25 | 485,735 |
| Charitable activities | 2b | 25,416 | 12,435 | 37,851 | 4,050 | 12,310 | 16,360 |
| Other trading activities | 2c | 6,144 | - | 6,144 | 6,188 | - | 6,188 |
| Investments | 2d | 10,895 | - | 10,895 | 1,540 | - | 1,540 |
| Other sources | 2e | 2,157 | - | 2,157 | 2,157 | - | 2,157 |
| Total income | | 389,734 | 40,093 | 429,827 | 499,645 | 12,335 | 511,980 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 3a | 25,128 | - | 25,128 | 23,824 | - | 23,824 |
| Charitable activities | 3b | 147,305 | 48,569 | 195,874 | 145,375 | 36,121 | 181,496 |
| Total expenditure | | 172,433 | 48,569 | 221,002 | 169,199 | 36,121 | 205,320 |
| Net income/(expenditure) | | 217,301 | (8,476) | 208,825 | 330,446 | (23,786) | 306,660 |
| Transfer between funds | 10 | (5,983) | 5,983 | - | (4,323) | 4,323 | - |
| Net movement in funds | | 211,318 | (2,493) | 208,825 | 326,123 | (19,463) | 306,660 |
| Reconciliation of funds: | | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 517,550 | 8,712 | 526,262 | 191,427 | 28,175 | 219,602 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 728,868 | 6,219 | 735,087 | 517,550 | 8,712 | 526,262 |

All of the charitable company's operations are classed as continuing.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Balance Sheet
As at 31 December 2023

| | Notes | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|--|-------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Fixed assets | | | |
| Tangible assets | 7 | 9,173 | 8,684 |
| Total fixed assets | | <u>9,173</u> | <u>8,684</u> |
| Current assets | | | |
| Debtors | 8 | 15,104 | 16,049 |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 758,290 | 509,497 |
| Total current assets | | <u>773,394</u> | <u>525,546</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 9 | (47,480) | (7,968) |
| Net current assets | | <u>725,914</u> | <u>517,578</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | 735,087 | 526,262 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after one year | | - | - |
| Total net assets | | <u><u>735,087</u></u> | <u><u>526,262</u></u> |
| Represented By | | | |
| FUNDS | | | |
| Unrestricted income fund | | 728,868 | 517,550 |
| Restricted fund income | 10 | 6,219 | 8,712 |
| Total charity funds | 11 | <u><u>735,087</u></u> | <u><u>526,262</u></u> |

For the year ending 31 December 2023 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- The director's acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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

Approved by the board on 3 June 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Name: 
Position: vice chair trustees

LES STURCH

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of preparation

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England is a charitable company in the United Kingdom limited by guarantee. In the event that the charity is wound up the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The address of the registered office is given in the company information on page 1 of these financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and with the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have taken advantage of the exemption to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity as defined under FRS102. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and are rounded to the nearest £1.

(b) Income

Income is recognised in the SOFA when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the monies have been met, the receipt of the income is probable and its amount can be reliably measured.

Legacy income is recognised at the earlier of receipt of any monies or on receipt of the estate accounts, when the amount due to the organisation can be quantified.

Subscription income for CPRE membership and FOPD membership is treated as a donation and recognised as income on receipt in the year it becomes due.

Income from local government and other grants is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Investment income is included when receivable.

(c) Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be reliably measured. All expenditure is reported gross of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure is either directly allocated to funds, or apportioned to the applicable funds on a line by line basis, based on staff time and use of office.

(d) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Any assets purchased below £500 are written off at the time of purchase. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off cost of those assets, less their residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:
Equipment - 25%

(e) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are donations and other income receivable or generated for the objects of the organisation without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds are either donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or grant income sought for specified activities.

(f) Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables.

(g) Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the company does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

(h) 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.

(i) Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme for the benefit of the employees. The pension costs charged against net incoming resources are the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period in accordance with FRS102.

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2023

(j) **Operating lease rentals**

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

(k) **Taxation**

As a charity, the organisation is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within the available tax exemptions to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

(l) **Going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The trustees have plans in place to address the budgeted deficits by significant fundraising and controlling costs.

2 Analysis of income

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | 2023 Total £ | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | 2022 Total £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 2a Income from donations, grants and legacies | | | | | | |
| Donations | 10,560 | 27,658 | 38,218 | 11,916 | 25 | 11,941 |
| Legacies | 317,333 | - | 317,333 | 456,730 | - | 456,730 |
| Subscriptions | 17,229 | - | 17,229 | 17,064 | - | 17,064 |
| | <u>345,122</u> | <u>27,658</u> | <u>372,780</u> | <u>485,710</u> | <u>25</u> | <u>485,735</u> |
| 2b Income from charitable activities | | | | | | |
| Grant income | 25,000 | 12,435 | 37,435 | 4,000 | 12,310 | 16,310 |
| Events income | 416 | - | 416 | 50 | - | 50 |
| | <u>25,416</u> | <u>12,435</u> | <u>37,851</u> | <u>4,050</u> | <u>12,310</u> | <u>16,360</u> |
| 2c Income from other trading activities | | | | | | |
| Merchandising income | 644 | - | 644 | 688 | - | 688 |
| Rental income | 5,500 | - | 5,500 | 5,500 | - | 5,500 |
| | <u>6,144</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>6,144</u> | <u>6,188</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>6,188</u> |
| 2d Investment income | | | | | | |
| Bank interest | 10,895 | - | 10,895 | 1,540 | - | 1,540 |
| | <u>10,895</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>10,895</u> | <u>1,540</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,540</u> |
| 2e Income from other sources | | | | | | |
| Student placements | 2,157 | - | 2,157 | 2,157 | - | 2,157 |
| | <u>2,157</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2,157</u> | <u>2,157</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>2,157</u> |

3 Analysis of expenditure

3a Raising funds

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | 2023 Total £ | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | 2022 Total £ |
|--------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Fundraising | 141 | - | 141 | 263 | - | 263 |
| Staff costs | 5,247 | - | 5,247 | 6,080 | - | 6,080 |
| Consultancy | 19,560 | - | 19,560 | 17,280 | - | 17,280 |
| Bank charges | 180 | - | 180 | 201 | - | 201 |
| | <u>25,128</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>25,128</u> | <u>23,824</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>23,824</u> |

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2023

| 3b Charitable activities | Unrestricted | Restricted | 2023 | Unrestricted | Restricted | 2022 |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | Funds | Funds | Total | Funds | Funds | Total |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Campaigning costs | - | 38,749 | 38,749 | - | 12,600 | 12,600 |
| Boundary Walk costs | 403 | - | 403 | 2,960 | - | 2,960 |
| Other project costs | 6,361 | 9,738 | 16,099 | 4,142 | 23,294 | 27,436 |
| Staff costs (salaries) | 75,304 | - | 75,304 | 86,483 | - | 86,483 |
| Staff costs (consultancy) | 18,571 | - | 18,571 | 1,821 | - | 1,821 |
| Other staff costs (including expenses, payroll fees and training) | 1,775 | - | 1,775 | 1,846 | - | 1,846 |
| Office costs | 11,112 | 82 | 11,194 | 13,929 | - | 13,929 |
| Other costs | 1,060 | - | 1,060 | 1,752 | - | 1,752 |
| Premises/utilities | 22,738 | - | 22,738 | 22,411 | 227 | 22,638 |
| Promotion costs | 14 | - | 14 | 540 | - | 540 |
| Depreciation | 4,022 | - | 4,022 | 2,895 | - | 2,895 |
| Legal and professional fees | 3,712 | - | 3,712 | 4,199 | - | 4,199 |
| Governance costs | 2,233 | - | 2,233 | 2,397 | - | 2,397 |
| | <u>147,305</u> | <u>48,569</u> | <u>195,874</u> | <u>145,375</u> | <u>36,121</u> | <u>181,496</u> |

4 Fees paid to the independent examiner's organisation

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Independent examination fee - included within governance costs | <u>2,070</u> | <u>2,280</u> |
| Other fees paid to independent examiner's organisation for Other services | 203 | - |
| | <u>203</u> | <u>-</u> |

5 Staff costs and numbers

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Salaries | 74,030 | 83,960 |
| Employer's NI | 7,323 | 8,575 |
| Employer's allowance | (5,000) | (5,000) |
| Employer's pension contributions | 4,198 | 5,028 |
| | <u>80,551</u> | <u>92,563</u> |
| Split of salaries by activity: | | |
| Raising funds | 5,247 | 6,080 |
| Charitable activities | 65,472 | 76,129 |
| Governance costs (included within staff costs in note 3b) | 9,832 | 10,354 |
| | <u>80,551</u> | <u>92,563</u> |
| Average number of employees | <u>2.3</u> | <u>2.8</u> |

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 in either year.

6 Trustees remuneration, benefits and expenses and the cost of key management personnel

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year. 1 trustee was re-imbursed travel expenses totalling £16 (2022: 1 trustees reimbursed travel expenses totalling £104). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: £nil).

The key management personnel comprise the trustees and the chief executive officer. Total employee benefits of the key management personnel was £57,671 (2022: £54,838).

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2023

7 Tangible fixed assets

| | Equipment £ | Total £ |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Cost | | |
| As at 1 January 2023 | 11,579 | 11,579 |
| Additions | 4,511 | 4,511 |
| Disposals | - | - |
| As at 31 December 2023 | <u>16,090</u> | <u>16,090</u> |
| Depreciation | | |
| As at 1 January 2023 | 2,895 | 2,895 |
| Charge this period | 4,022 | 4,022 |
| Disposals | - | - |
| As at 31 December 2023 | <u>6,917</u> | <u>6,917</u> |
| Net book value | | |
| As at 31 December 2023 | <u>9,173</u> | <u>9,173</u> |
| As at 31 December 2022 | <u>8,684</u> | <u>8,684</u> |

8 Debtors

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Trade debtors | 12,865 | 11,849 |
| Tax recoverable on gift aid donations | 786 | 875 |
| Other debtors | - | - |
| Prepayments | 1,453 | 3,325 |
| | <u>15,104</u> | <u>16,049</u> |

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Trade creditors | 45,045 | 5,688 |
| Accruals | 2,070 | 2,280 |
| Other creditors | 365 | - |
| | <u>47,480</u> | <u>7,968</u> |

10 Restricted funds

| | Balance b/fwd £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers £ | Balance c/fwd £ |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Challenge Road Building | 4,497 | 20,888 | (37,749) | 5,503 | (6,861) |
| Green Belt | 2,204 | - | - | - | 2,204 |
| CEV Projects | 2,011 | - | (2,011) | - | - |
| Haythornthwaite Wood | - | 18,685 | (7,809) | - | 10,876 |
| 4th Reservoir Opposition Appeal | - | 520 | (1,000) | 480 | - |
| | <u>8,712</u> | <u>40,093</u> | <u>(48,569)</u> | <u>5,983</u> | <u>6,219</u> |

Challenge Road Building:

Member and public appeal for funds to assist our work in challenging the policy of road building. The transfer of £5,503 and the balance b/fwd of £4,497 represents the charity's match funding contribution of £10,000 to the A57 appeal. The fund is in deficit at the year end due to timings of pledged donations and final bills.

Green Belt:

Member and public appeal for funds to assist our work to protect green belt in the Branch area.

CEV projects:

Grants provided to run Community Energy Visioning workshops in the areas of Bonsall and Woodsetts.

Haythornthwaite Wood:

Money raised to improve the wood.

4th Reservoir Opposition Appeal:

Money raised towards objecting to a new reservoirs The transfer of £480 represents the charity's match funding contribution.

Peak District and South Yorkshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

Notes to the Accounts (continued)
for the year ended 31 December 2023

11 Restricted funds - continued

| Prior year comparison | Balance b/fwd £ | Income £ | Expenditure £ | Transfers £ | Balance c/fwd £ |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Challenge Road Building | 17,097 | - | (12,600) | - | 4,497 |
| HLF Archive | 7,005 | 3,910 | (15,238) | 4,323 | - |
| Lakeland PDBW Project NW | 227 | - | (227) | - | - |
| Ethel Plaque appeal | 642 | 25 | (667) | - | - |
| Green Belt | 2,204 | - | - | - | 2,204 |
| CEV Projects | - | 8,400 | (6,389) | - | 2,011 |
| AESSEAL | 1,000 | - | (1,000) | - | - |
| | <u>28,175</u> | <u>12,335</u> | <u>(36,121)</u> | <u>4,323</u> | <u>8,712</u> |

11 Split of net assets by fund

| | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | 2023 Total £ | Unrestricted Funds £ | Restricted Funds £ | 2022 Total £ |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Tangible fixed assets | 9,173 | - | 9,173 | 8,684 | - | 8,684 |
| Net current assets | 719,695 | 6,219 | 725,914 | 508,866 | 8,712 | 517,578 |
| | <u>728,868</u> | <u>6,219</u> | <u>735,087</u> | <u>517,550</u> | <u>8,712</u> | <u>526,262</u> |

12 Operating lease commitments

At the year end the charity was committed to making the following payments under operating leases as follows:

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Operating lease payments: | | |
| Within 1 year | 11,468 | 11,669 |
| Within 2 to 5 years | 451 | - |
| | <u>11,919</u> | <u>11,669</u> |

13 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions, other than those included in note 6.

14 Contingent asset

The charity was notified of a legacy due them in December 2021. The first distribution of £400,000 was received in February 2022. The second distribution of £310,326 was received in April 2023 and a final distribution is due in 2024 - in accordance with the accounting policy, no provision for the remaining distributions have been made in the 2023 accounts.