



CMA Annual Conference 2023

Achieving Nature Recovery

YHA Ilam Hall – Peak District National Park



Nature Recovery has become the cornerstone policy for improving nature, its benefit to people and its capacity to be the natural solution to environmental issues such as climate change. One of its main elements is the improving, increasing and joining up of land at a landscape level.

The CMA’s annual conference addresses what is meant by Nature Recovery, what does it look like in practice and how can it be resourced.

Monday 9th October 2023 – ‘What do we mean by Nature Recovery?’

12.00pm to 1.00pm	Registration and networking opportunities.
1pm	Conference Start – Opening Ceremony & Welcome Linda Nunn, Chairman of CMA
1.10pm	Conference Introduction Conference timetable and venue information, welcome from local partner organisations and CMA board members, housekeeping and welcome photo. This is the first “face to face” conference post Covid! Launch of Raffle.
1.20pm	Exploring Nature Recovery and Natural Solutions. Following an introduction to national and international definitions of what Nature Recovery is we will explore the current DEFRA & Government approach and ask what it means for our sector. We will then break into some group work to find out how countryside services and organisations are beginning to incorporate it into their work and explore if there is anything new to learn, illustrated by some projects that have put natural solutions at their heart. Please bring your own experiences and examples along to this discussion.

2.20pm	Communicating Nature Recovery Derbyshire Wildlife Trust – Ben Carter, Director of Development. Communication is a key Ranger skill, and we are pleased to welcome Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to hear how well their campaigns are landing and what seems to work best to get different audience interested and engaged in nature.
2.50pm	Panel Session – defining the Ranger Role in Nature Recovery. Delegates opportunity to discuss the role of the ranger in this area and also ask the speakers and CMA board questions
3.10pm to 3.45pm	Coffee Break & Networking
3.45pm	Shoots Along the Roots – a local example of a “nature recovery project” Hannah Groves, Hampshire County Council - Hampshire Forest Partnership Hampshire County Council (hants.gov.uk) & Nature recovery Hampshire County Council (hants.gov.uk) Followed by questions
4.30pm to 4.45pm	Ask the Audience Session – what do you think about Nature Recovery! Views from the floor
4.45pm to 5pm	Comfort Break
5pm to 5.30pm	CMA AGM: Agenda Rerpots/Items and election of officers.
5.30pm to 6pm	Discussion & short presentation by Georgia Ranger Association Signing of twinning agreement between CMA & Georgia.
6.30pm to 7.30pm	Dinner
8.00pm to 8.30pm	Evening Social Quiz and chance to chat with colleagues

Tuesday 10th October 2023 – Field Trip Day

7.30am to 9am	Breakfast
9.15am to 9.30am	Field Trip Intro Activity – clarify group leaders and transport, plus briefing and for feedback, collect Lunches. Minibuses depart 9.30am sharp. Bring suitable clothing & kit to be out in the field for most of the day!
9.30am to 5.00pm	Field Trips
<p>1. Community Rewilding at Allestree Park <i>with Derby City Council and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust</i></p> <p>A site visit to find out how a local authority partnered with a wildlife trust to manage a park in a different way and realise its potential for both wildlife and people. Rewilding Allestree Park is a partnership between Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Derby City Council and the University of Derby and is the largest urban rewilding project in the UK. It will see vital habitats connected throughout the city.</p>	

Wildlife will flourish and species will return, the people of Derby and surrounding areas will have an even more beautiful, wild, and natural space to visit, and the nature-rich park will store more carbon and other emissions - directly helping with the climate and nature crisis.

Find out more about this project: [Rewilding Allestree Park | Derbyshire Wildlife Trust](#)

2. Eastern Moors Partnership *with Danny Udall & Team, Barbrook Cottages*

For the last 13 years a site-based countryside team of staff and volunteers (an NT & RSPB partnership) have been carefully restoring an area of degraded moorland on the edge of the Peak District NP into a conservation, access and upland farming success. Degraded and sheep wrecked peat bogs have slowly been restored to active habitats, new woodland and carefully managed extensive grazing by cattle and deer. The partnership team have taken people with them on this quiet restoration journey that champions natural solutions and uses sound evidence-based decision making from their years of impressive conservation monitoring data.

To find out more about this project: [Home Page | Welcome to the Eastern Moors Partnership \(visit-eastern-moors.org.uk\)](#)

3. Companion FiPL projects at Whitle and nature recovery on the Warslow Estate

With Jess Coatesworth, Ranger Team Leader, Peak District National Park Authority

A visit to two different sites in the Peak District National Park to see how the authority is supporting landowners towards nature recovery both on the National Park Authority's properties and also via the Farming in Protected Landscape scheme (FiPL).

AM - Visit neighbouring farms in the beautiful Dove Valley that are all involved in nature recovery through FiPL. Here FiPL has funded work to maintain unimproved grassland, create scrapes, restore ponds, and protect river quality, all for the benefit of wildlife and to improve habitat. Permissive paths and interpretation have also been created as part of the scheme. One of the FiPL advisors will join us to discuss how the projects were developed in close partnership with the landowners. Depending on the weather, it may also be a good opportunity to view some rare waxcaps.

PM - Visit PDNPA's Warslow Estate, with the Estate Ranger, where we will look at some of the work that has been undertaken to improve the status of this Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation. There will also be the opportunity to see some of the conservation work on field barns undertaken as part of the Southwest Peak Partnership Project, which finished in 2022.

4. Dovedale National Nature Reserve – A walk from the YHA

(With Andy Gibb and NT Ranger staff)

Rewilding the river where Izaak Walton wrote the "Compleat Angler" and managing Ash dieback in a limestone ravine environment. A good walk up the dale to low and high points discussing the removal of weirs in the river to re-naturalise it for wild trout (partnership with the Wild Trout Trust) and using Ash dieback as an opportunity to restructure the ravine woodland – utilizing an EU LIFE grant.

To find out more about this project: [Wild Trout projects, rivers, fishing, advice in UK and Ireland. WTT | Wild Trout Trust](#) & [Important LIFE in the Ravines Partnership Project 2021 \(letsgopeakdistrict.co.uk\)](#) [I lam Park to Dovedale Stepping Stones trail | National Trust](#)

4.30pm to 5.30pm

Return from Field Trips, Time for changing from wet gear, or networking etc.

5.30 pm	Quick Field Trip Feedback Sessions – 5 mins summary of learning from each group.
5.45pm – 6.15pm	Gordon Miller Award & Presentation Plymouth Natural Grid Project.
6.20pm to 7.20pm	Dinner
7.30 pm	Keynote Speaker - CMA Patron, Chris Baines ‘The Natural Grid’ – Delivering new infrastructure needed to link in the emerging sources of renewable energy, and what opportunities for nature recovery and habitat restoration this offers through long stretches of the English and Welsh countryside and also between windfarms on the seabed.
8.30 pm onwards	CMA Social Event & Raffle concludes

Wednesday 11th October 2023 – Nature Recovery in Practice

7.30am to 9am	Breakfast
9.15am	Biodiversity Net Gain – exploring how to implement the new legislation and make it work for nature.
10am	Nature Recovery and How to Pay For It Chris Dean, Moors for the Future - Peak District National Park “Nature recovery on Victorian climate change and how to pay for it – an update on the biggest upland conservation initiative in Europe” HOME Moors for the Future
10.45am	Q&A with speakers
11am to 11.20am	Coffee and Networking
11.20am to 12.00pm	What Next? Interactive Workshop Session. What do you need to champion and deliver Nature Recovery? What 3 things will you do when you get back to work?
12pm	Conference Summary Sessions – a round up of the 3 days.
12.15pm	Thank you and Conference Ends
12.30pm to 1.30pm	CMA Development Sessions An opportunity for members to give their views and ideas on development of their organisation, training, events and greater involvement with the CMA. Please stay if you can and share your views with the committee.

Please bring with you an item for our raffle - perhaps something with a flavour of, or made in, your area. All proceeds from the raffle will go to the Thin Green Line UK