



CMA Annual Study Conference

Wednesday 23 to Friday 25 September 2026

60 Years of the Countryside Management Association

The Sustainability Centre, East Meon, Hampshire



Programme

Timings and participants correct as at 27 August 2026, may be subject to change.

Wednesday 23 September

12.00pm	Delegates arrive and register (change to explore The Sustainability Centre)
1.00pm	Main Conference starts with a Welcome from Linda Nunn, Chair of the CMA and Director of Cranborne Chase National Landscape.
1.15pm	Welcome and Introduction to the Conference itinerary – Hannah Graves and Steve Peach, Hampshire Countryside Service.
1.25pm	'Welcome to Hampshire and its Countryside Service', Jo Heath, Deputy Director, Universal Services, Hampshire County Council.
1.40pm	60 Years of Countryside Management – Ian Rowat CMA Member and former Director of Malvern Hills Conservators.
2.10pm	Leeds City Council PROW Team – David Preston, CMA Yorkshire & Humber Regional Coordinator.
2.25pm	Key changes in farming over the last 60 years – Colin Hedley, Co-Managing Director, FWAG Southeast.
	Break
3.20pm	Workshop and feedback Session – Learning from the Past – Time to explore what are the key practices, policies and strategies that are either holding us back to helping to drive forward countryside management.
3.55pm	The Squirrel Accord- Kay Hawes reflecting on the success of the species initiative.
4.30pm	Winners and Losers – Dominic Price of the Species Recovery Trust reflects on species that have done well over the last 60 years and those that have not.
4.55pm	Questions and break
5.15pm	CMA AGM
5.30pm	International and other CMA Group Updates
5.45pm	Session ends – free time and networking
6.00pm	Dinner at the Beech Café, Sustainability Centre
7.30pm	Evening Keynote Speaker – Chris Baines, CMA Patron, Naturalist, Horticulturist, Landscape Architect, author, broadcaster and campaigner of environmental issues.
8.30pm	optional evening walk with the South Downs National Park, staff.

Thursday 24 September

7.30am	Breakfast (for residential delegates)
8.45am	Day delegates arrive
9.00am	Field Trips briefings and departure (around 9.30am) Field Trip 1. Hayling Island – Coastal Change, Habitat and Recreation Field Trip 2. Butser and Old Winchester Hills NNRs - Chalk Downland Management Field Trip 3. Yateley Common LNR and Castle Bottom – Protecting Lowland Heaths Field Trip 4. Queen Elizabeth and Staunton County Parks – A tale of two country parks Field Trip 5. Titchfield Haven – Nature Recovery on the Coast Field Trip 6. Blackwater Valley – looking at urban and green space projects
4.30pm	Field Trips return.
5.00pm	Field Trips Feedback – Key take away points, how might what you have seen to day influence your future plans and decisions.
6.00pm	Travel by coach to Queen Elizabeth Country Park for 60 th Anniversary event, includes buffet meal, Special Guest Keynote Speaker (Dr Tom Lewis, Head of Conservation & Research at Longleat), videos messages, presentation of awards and evening walk.
10.00pm	Return to The Sustainability Centre

Friday 25 September

7.30am	Breakfast (for residential delegates)
8.45am	Day delegates arrive
9.00am	Raffle Draw – Raffle in support of the Thin Green Line
9.15pm	Alison Potts, Director of Landscape & Operations, talking about the Future of the South Downs National Park,
10.15am	CMA Futures Session - Exploratory session to consider how our industry, CMA and our profession might evolve over the next 30 years. Led by John Carney & Linda Nunn
11.30am	John Durnell, Director Nature Based Solutions, Hampshire Wildlife Trust
12.00pm	Youth Panel – Focussing on the views of next generation of environmentalists.
12.30pm	Lunch – sandwiches, crisps, cake and fruit
1.00pm	CMA Futures part 2
2.00pm	Thanks, and Closing Remarks – Linda Nunn
	Conference Ends -Conference Tidy up and Networking

