



CMA Annual Report 2019/20

Chair's Report

Looking back on 2019, it was certainly another very busy year for the Countryside Management Association (CMA). Both the Board and National Committee each met four times during the twelve months, discussing and debating everything from training days, Conference, membership, funding and bursaries and, the big one for the Association during 2019, developing a new accreditation system for members, through the Accreditation Review Group. A sincere thank you to Matt Axford from that group, for his considerable input during 2019. The draft competencies were offered at a workshop at our October Conference, to gain some in-depth comments from attendees.

Board member Phil Bolton joined the Trailblazer group working on Countryside Worker and Countryside Ranger Apprenticeship Standards, whilst the Accreditation Review Group fed comments and suggestions to Phil in advance. Phil Bolton decided towards the end of the year, that he would need to step down from the Board and we offer our sincere thanks to Phil for all his input.

The CMA signed up to Greener UK and the Parks Alliance during 2019 and Board member Steve Peach attended Greener UK meetings in London.



Claire Rogers took up the role of our Yorkshire and Humber Regional Co-ordinator during 2019, meaning ten of the eleven CMA regions now has an active Co-ordinator in place. Regions continued to hold regular committee meetings and, as outlined elsewhere in this report, organise many training and study days.

CMA's annual conference was, once again, a thought-provoking event, with over 40 delegates coming together to share good practice and ideas. The three days were spent among fellow rangers and what was striking was the friendliness and camaraderie throughout. Bringing people together from different areas, both urban and rural, and from across the British Isles, proved to be an uplifting and very useful experience.

Held at Ambleside Youth Hostel and organised by the National Trust's Paul Farrington and Joe Williams, the three-day event aimed to build on the 'Bigger, Better and More Joined Up' approach outlined in the 'Making Space for Nature' review carried by Sir John Lawton. It was a chance for CMA members to develop their awareness and understanding of the impacts of countryside management, at a landscape scale.



Michelle Tyrntania was proud to receive the 'Gordon Miller Award' at conference, with colleague Rosie Charter from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust for the TEaM Project, The Environment and Me. The project is a fabulous green therapy project, offering people experiencing mental ill health in Coventry, the opportunity to spend time being active with others in nature to support their well-being, to upskill and build confidence and self-esteem, by making a positive impact upon the environment.

At the AGM, Mark Baker and Linda Nunn were re-elected as Secretary and Chairman respectively, for a further term each and a proposal to convert the CMA into a Community Interest Company was approved.



CMA patron Chris Baines attended and inspired delegates at the 2019 conference and I have to say, the activities of CMA members have been an inspiration to myself and the Board throughout 2019. With a large number of member organised training days, four Ranger magazines packed with articles, news and views, a very active Facebook group and a significant delegation to the World Ranger Congress in Nepal in November, it has certainly been a very active year.

I offer deep thanks to the Board, National Committee, our hard working Admin Contractor Rachel Limb and Ranger editor Liz Bourne. I also send thanks to our many Corporate Members who support CMA throughout each year.

I know 2020 will be a busy and equally exciting year; for that I offer thanks to you, our members, in advance. You *are* the Countryside Management Association, helping it expand and continually develop as the respected industry body. The Board looks forward to working alongside you during 2020.

Linda Nunn, CMA Chairman

April 2020

Treasurer's Report

This year has again seen once again a settled financial position. Our finances are currently stable and we have accrued an increase in reserves to help us in these globally uncertain times. Again a huge thank you to Rachel Limb, admin support, who has been, as ever, very efficient and speedy in processing our book keeping which has made my life so much easier.

During the 2019/20 financial year we had a smaller income of £22,041.74 and also a smaller outgoing of £19,427.13. This has given us a rectified pre-tax surplus of £2,614.61. Our tax bill is therefore estimated as being £496.78 (at 19%), leaving us with a post-tax profit of £2,117.83.

Balances	1st April 2019	31st March 2020
Current (including accruals)	£9,501.11	£12,094.39
Reserve	£5,001.45	£5,022.78
Total	£14,502.56	£17,117.17
		+£2,614.61

This is up from a pre-tax profit of £621.19 in 2018/19. So our finances once more appear to be in good shape and we have a healthy buffer. This will enable us to balance the cash flow impacts of CMA's offer of delaying payment of fees for members under increased financial pressure arising from the effects of COVID-19.

As we move from being a private company limited by guarantee to Community Interest Company our annual reporting to HMRC should become a little less onerous. We are awaiting clarification on the exact changes in reporting required, however we are reassured that there will be no additional financial burdens placed upon us by the switch.

Therefore things appear to be comfortable financially for CMA. This allows us to once again begin planning how best to deliver our service to members. The global economic situation is obviously especially unpredictable at this time and its impacts on us are unknown, however we are in a better place than before to deal with them and hopefully continue to move forward.

Alan Preece, CMA Treasurer

April 2020

Secretary's Report

Membership has remained stable around the 500 member mark. Rachel Limb continues to do a fantastic job as our Admin Contractor and National Training Co-ordinator, undertaking the admin for all our study days and training events.

2019/20 saw a large number of excellent study days, listed below. Many thanks to everyone who organised study days and once again, a particular mention is due to Phil Bolton who led many of the events in the South East and East of England.

Event	Date	Region
Basic Tree Mechanics and Common Sense Management	7 May 2019	West Midlands
Great Crested Newt Trapping & Survey Methods Training Evening	10 May 2019	South East
Great Crested Newt Survey Morning	18 May 2019	South East
Introduction to Tree Identification (Part 2: Leaves)	21 June 2019	East of England
Introduction to Freshwater Pollution Monitoring	24 June 2019	East of England
Grasslands species identification day with guest appearance from the Large Blue Butterfly	27 June 2019	South West
Introduction to British Bats - Ecology & Conservation	1 July 2019	South East

Creating Wildflower Rich Grasslands	10 July 2019	South West
Ecology and Conservation of Bats	22 July 2019	North West
South East AGM & Veteran Tree Management Day	26 July 2019	South East
Ecology and Conservation Workshop for Dormice	9 Aug 2019	South East
Sustainable Management in the Uplands for Public Goods	23 Aug 2019	North West
Building Resilience in the Bovey Valley	4 Sept 2019	South West
Hedgehog Surveying	18 Sept 2019	Greater London
Spider Identification for Beginners	21 Sept 2019	Greater London
South West Ranger Forum: Taking the pressure off wildlife with a new breed of parks	4 Oct 2019	South West
CMA Conference 2019: Landscapes - the bigger picture	9-11 Oct 2019	North West
Hedge Laying (A Practical Training Session)	10 Jan 2020	East of England
Valuing and Managing Veteran Trees	10 Mar 2020	East of England
Introduction to Rewetting the Moorland Environment	12 Mar 2020	Yorks and Humber
Basic Tree Mechanics and Common Sense Management	7 May 2019	West Midlands
Great Crested Newt Trapping & Survey Methods Training Evening	10 May 2019	South East

Funding is being made available by CMA to support training and study days in 2020 in the regions which have seen few such events in recent years (these being Wales, East Midlands, Yorkshire and Humberside, the North East and Northern Ireland). Up to £200 is available for each region to help with basic costs associated with running a training event (e.g. room hire or trainer's fees). Regional Co-ordinators have been informed about the funding, and if you are based in one of these regions and have an idea for a training event, please contact your regional co-ordinator.



At the 2019 AGM, members voted in favour of a resolution for the CMA to apply to become a Community Interest Company. The required application form and paperwork was completed and sent to Companies House and we have recently received confirmation that the application has been successful.

Members are unlikely to notice any difference in their experience of membership, but we now have a much clearer constitution which is more appropriate to our role as a not-for-profit organisation.

Finally, a big thank you to my fellow board and national committee members for all their hard work this year, and especially to our fantastic Chair, Linda Nunn. Linda has worked tirelessly on a range of CMA projects but in particular the review of the accreditation system. This is a very significant piece of work which the board believes in crucial to the long term success of the association.

Mark Baker, CMA Secretary

April 2020

International Report

The build up to the very successful World Ranger Congress, held in Nepal in November 2019, kept me busy organising information sharing and bursary applications. CMA agreed to sponsor not only a Ranger from within our own regions but also one from three nominated European Countries.

Albania, Georgia and Serbia were asked to nominate one ranger each that would benefit from attending the Congress. Luso (Lucine) Dostibegiani who works in the Algeti National Park, submitted a very good application and was therefore chosen. Hopefully you have all read her article about this experience in a recent edition of the Ranger Magazine.

We had a disappointing number of Rangers apply for our own CMA bursary which is a great shame but does not denigrate the strong applications that were made. Will Stewart was chosen and his report was alongside Luso's. Hopefully both their reports will encourage others to apply for these experiences in the future.

The National Trust also offer their own bursaries for these international experiences, so it is wonderful to see such a large contingent of Rangers from the UK going to these events.



Of equal importance was our own CMA Chairman Linda Nunn being successfully elected at the Congress as the new Vice President of The International Ranger Federation (IRF) She faced some stiff opposition including from the previous incumbent of the post, but overcame this with a superb speech and plenty of discussions beforehand!

Due to the WRC bursaries and the forthcoming European Ranger Congress (now sadly postponed) it was felt the CMA could not offer another bursary for the Portuguese Rangers Conference held in early February. However, their generous offer of a free place at the conference was taken by Richard Webster (NT Ranger) and Linda Nunn also attended wearing both her CMA Chairman's hat and her new IRF Vice president's hat.

Unfortunately, we haven't been able to progress the twinning of associations with the reestablished Ranger Association of Ireland (RAI) which received approval to go ahead from the CMA Board. A change in leadership has frustratingly resulted in a lack of communication with anyone on their managing committee, so we will have to wait and see if things improve in future months.

Georgia however, is still on the books and now that their association has full membership of the IRF, we were hopeful to start a meaningful dialogue about a twinning arrangement at the May, ERC Conference. We knew they were sending representatives to attend, so again it is a great shame that this event has been postponed until probably autumn 2021. However, some discussions may

occur in the interim. I am very grateful to those that have shown an interest in European and International Ranging for their help and guidance in pursuing these ideas.

World Ranger Day on 31st July, witnessed many more Rangers in the regions celebrating what they do and reflecting on those that have made the ultimate sacrifice in protecting the world's wildlife. Many used the opportunity to raise funds for the Thin Green Line Foundation (TGLF) which helps support a number of Rangers teams throughout the world and their families.



Ian Brooker, CMA International Coordinator

March 2020

Regional Reports

South West

The region has had another successful year in terms of training/study days and has had regular quarterly committee meetings, although recent ones were cancelled/postponed due to Corona virus. Meetings over the last year have been kindly hosted free of charge by Dartmoor National Park, the National Trust and the Tamar Valley AONB Service.

Emma Jones our regional newsletter editor (NT Killerton) has produced our seasonal Sou'wester regional newsletters and continues to collate articles prior to editorial role being managed by Richard Brook's MoD team in the near future. Many thanks to Richard and his team for taking on future production of The Sou'wester, once we are through these uncertain times...

Dave Ellacott our regional coordinator has managed to provide/organise various training/study days including a particularly successful Grassland ID Study Day Collard Hill in Somerset last June, where a number of Large Blue Butterflies were seen.



Continuing the popular theme of grasslands, another fully booked day was held at Cookworthy Forest Centre in mid-Devon in July hosted by the Devon Wildlife Trust looking at practical demonstrations and use of habitat management kit.

Clive Whitbourn kindly hosted a committee meeting and study day at Stourhead last autumn, it is important to try and spread our meetings and events into the different corners of the region where possible. We also hosted

a very well attended South West Ranger Forum study day at Dawlish Warren in early October with over 40 attendees. Again many thanks to the team at Teignbridge Ranger Service for hosting this (now traditionally very well attended event).



We have four new committee members:

County Rep for Dorset, Clive Whitbourn (from the National Trust), Rhys Parry (Cormac Ltd), assisting Jenny Heskett in Cornwall, Julian Gurney (NT North Devon, new Devon Rep) and Jack Siviter (NT Somerset), taking over from Rebekah West as the NT Rep for the east of our region. Rebekah decided to leave the National Trust to follow her work/involvement with Extinction Rebellion.

Most of our regional committee meetings have an attendance of around a dozen members including National Trust Corporate Partnership representatives. Mark Baker and Ian Brooker kindly attend

our meetings to update us on the national and international CMA issues respectively, their attendance and updates are hugely appreciated.

I have now secured a full-time post as Recreation & Access Projects Officer with Dartmoor National Park; this is obviously great news but my increased workload has meant that I will be standing down as Regional Chairman at our Annual Regional Meeting in the summer, after the doing the job for nearly a decade. Emma Jones has very kindly agreed to take on the role and we will be reviewing a shorter Chairmanship role of one to two years at a time.

I was very humbled to have been made an Honorary Fellow of the CMA last year and will be making sure that I still keep involved in the organisation which is very important to me having been an active member since 1986.

Tim Russell, South West Region Co-ordinator

March 2020

East of England

Committee: Ash Robinson joined us to fill the Essex County Rep position. We now have a very healthy group of county reps, with only Bedfordshire County standing vacant. Many thanks to all of the new and existing committee members for all of your support with CMA in the East region.

Current regional committee:

Regional Coordinator – Tom Heenan

Regional Newsletter Editor – Tom Heenan

Bedfordshire Representative – Vacant

Cambridgeshire Representative – Matthew McGettigan

Essex Representative – Ash Robinson

Hertfordshire Representative – Derek Evans

Norfolk Representative – Will Stewart

Suffolk Representative – Colin Hart

Newsletter: We have continued to publish our regional newsletter during the 2019-20 year, with issue #15 (June 2019), issue #16 (Oct 2019) and issue #17 (March 2020) sent out to members. Many thanks to everyone who has contributed. We are always looking for photos and articles from the region to put in our next issue, so please don't be shy about getting in touch: eastengland@countysidemangement.org.uk.

Events: We continue to hold a number of study days and training events in the region for our members. This wouldn't be possible without the support of so many people, so many thanks to everyone who has hosted and led an event this year, including:

- 21th June 2019: Intro to Tree Identification (Part 2: Leaves), Langdon Hills Country Park in Essex. With thanks to Phil Bolton and Nick Stanley.
- 24th June 2019: Intro to Freshwater Pollution Monitoring, Belhus Woods Country Park in Essex. With thanks to Phil Bolton and Tarnya Haliti.
- 10th Jan 2020: Hedgelaying (A Practical Training Session), Hadleigh Park in Essex. With thanks to Gary King.
- 10th Mar 2020: Valuing and Managing Veteran Trees, Blickling Estate in Norfolk. With thanks to Stuart Banks.

The study day planned for 28th Apr 2020, "Beautiful Broads: A New Reserve and a Practical Approach to Climate Change" unfortunately had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We look forward to rescheduling this event when the situation allows.

Tom Heenan, East of England Co-ordinator

April 2020

Wales

Membership is very scattered and low across Wales, but have been in contact with all and had a couple of responses. The articles in the Ranger from my Local Authority have been well received and had CMA members following up with the authors. So some stats:

- Denbighshire County Council my host authority is a Corporate Member and I consider this to be the best membership category, especially for new starters on low pay.
- One of my members of staff organises the North East Wales Countryside Officers Forum (NEWCOF) open to all Rangers from the 4 Local Authorities, NRW, Wildlife Trust and other interested parties. It is free and 30 people attended a training session on upland management.
- Two of our Rangers attended the Annual Ranger Training Conference in the Lake District
- Co-ordinator attended CMA Regional Meeting in Dudley.

Objectives for CMA in Wales

- Follow up with CMA members where possible.
- Keep pressure on Local Authorities and others to join where possible.
- Encourage Welsh Co-ordinator for NAAONB who has links to Wildlife Trust to get involved
- Create a career grade Trainee to Assistant Ranger generic post in Denbighshire Countryside Service
- Would like to meet face to face with colleagues in 2020/21
- Link to the new CMA Lead in Cheshire

Howard Sutcliffe - Welsh region co-ordinator

April 2020

Greater London

London's third National Nature Reserve (NNR) was designated, a partnership initiative involving Natural England (NE), the City of London Corporation and Croydon Council. The 417 ha South London Downs comprises 153 ha of SSSI.

July saw London designated the first ever National Park City. Events celebrated the diversity of London's green spaces, promoting activities for a greener, healthier and wilder city for the enjoyment of all.

Summer saw a conservation grazing trial take place on Hampstead Heath, helping our staff and volunteers to engage many hundreds of people about urban conservation and dog control, and demonstrated the power of collaboration between different partner organisations.

Colin Houston, Greater London Co-ordinator

April 2020

Northern Ireland

The regions activity continues to tick over with the 3 individual members + circa 45 employees of corporate members and some good articles coming out of the region for Ranger Magazine.

- 4th Sept 2019 Rangers bash in the Mourne Mountains. National Trust rangers and volunteers from across Northern Ireland, the North Lakes National Trust footpath team, Mourne Heritage Trust and a mountain path specialist from Upland Access Ltd
- Spring 2020 March gatherings have unfortunately had to be cancelled due to Covid-19

Toby Edwards, Northern Ireland Co-ordinator

April 2020

West Midlands

Things have been very quiet in the region this year. With other commitments I have not had as much time as I would have liked to invest in promoting and supporting regional CMA activities. However huge thanks go to Matt Wilcoxon and Shrewsbury Town Council for arranging and hosting the very interesting and useful Basic Tree Mechanics and Common Sense Management event in May, led by the excellent Bob Watson.

Bob's depth and breadth of knowledge and experience was obvious and his delivery was enjoyable and accessible to all. Everyone who attended will have benefited and hopefully be able to apply something new to their daily professional practice especially with regard to tree management and safety.

The West Midlands were also able to host the national committee meeting in Dudley this February. Thank you to Dudley Council for the kind use of their facilities. It was a very productive day and I

think we can all agree it was valuable to be able to actually meet each other in person, rather than as a voice in a teleconference or name on an email. Hopefully we will be able to meet once a year to aid the committee and board's work.

Moving forward in the coming months regionally will be a challenge with the national restrictions placed on travel and meetings. That said if anyone is interested in either putting on a study day or increasing CMA activity locally please get in touch! I hope that we can use this enforced pause positively to move forward once it lifts, however this is only possible with your help.

Alan Preece, West Midlands Co-ordinator

April 2020

South East

This year hasn't been quite as active as the last. We held two Great Crested Newt trapping and survey training events at the beginning of the year. These were hosted by National Trust Nymans and Bracknell Forest Council. Unfortunately a few of our events programmed in late 2019 had to be cancelled.

Burnham Beeches was the venue for the South East AGM. The day started with a talk by Dr Mike Garratt from Reading University, who introduced delegates to the amazing world of bees. He presented the latest research on these fantastic pollinators and how we can further protect them. Following lunch Helen Read author of *Veteran Trees: A guide to good management and Conservation Officer for the City of London*, graced us all with a thoroughly fascinating guided walk of the veteran trees at Burnham Beeches.



Ashlea-Marie Walters and Michael Edwards joined the South East committee representing their counties. We still have vacant county positions for Oxfordshire, West Sussex and Isle of Wight.

Current regional committee:

Regional Rep and Berkshire County Rep: Richard Westwood

Training Officer, Regional Newsletter Editor and Kent County Rep: Phil Bolton

Instagram Editor and East Sussex County Rep: Deborah Carter

Hampshire County Rep: Ashlea-Marie Walters

Surrey County Rep: Emma Goodwin

Buckinghamshire County Rep: Michael Edwards

Phil Bolton produced three cracking issues of the Beautiful South newsletters. Topics included, Emma Goodwin (Surry Rep) work and tales from the river bank, Phenology is it important to Rangers, and The Power of trees in Folklore. We also announce the launch of the South East Instagram account, thanks to Deborah Carter for setting it up and running it.

In August, I joined Wokingham Borough Council managing the Countryside Service estate team. The last few months have been a great challenge and I have thoroughly enjoyed the change in roles. Unfortunately during this period I haven't been able to spend as much time as I'd hoped on my CMA duties. Once we're through lockdown and back to some sort of normality I'm looking forward to organising more events for the South East region, I hope you see there.

Richard Westwood, South East Co-ordinator

May 2020

CMA contacts

CMA Board of Directors

Linda Nunn	Chairman	chairman@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Alan Preece	Treasurer	treasurer@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Mark Baker	Secretary	secretary@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Steve Peach		steve@countrysidemanagement.org.uk

CMA National Committee

Ian Brooker	International Advisor	international@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Toby Edwards	Northern Ireland Co-ordinator	nireland@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Tom Heenan	East of England Co-ordinator	eastengland@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Colin Houston	Greater London Co-ordinator	london@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Chris Lockyer	East Midlands Co-ordinator	eastmidlands@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Claire Rogers	Yorkshire and Humber Co-ordinator	yorkshire@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Howard Sutcliffe	Wales Co-ordinator	wales@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Tim Russell	South West Co-ordinator	southwest@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Ted Talbot	National Trust Corporate Representative	ntrust@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Richard Westwood	South East Co-ordinator	southeast@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Joe Williams	North West Co-ordinator	northwest@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Vacant	North East Co-ordinator	

Other key CMA roles

Rachel Limb	Admin Contractor	admin@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Liz Bourne	Ranger Editor	ranger@countrysidemanagement.org.uk
Lynn Crowe	Academic Advisor	c/o admin@countrysidemanagement.org.uk