

CMA Conference Report 2019

Landscapes 'The Big Picture'

OCTOBER 2019

Countryside Management Association



Welcome to **YHA Ambleside**



CMA 2019 Conference Report & AGM



Landscapes – ‘The Big Picture’

Countryside Management Association

Formed in 1966 the Countryside Management Association (CMA) is the largest organisation supporting the work of conservation, access and recreation professionals in the natural greenspace and countryside sector throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

As well as study days and training events, the CMA runs an annual study conference which this year was held at Ambleside Youth Hostel and focused on landscape-level countryside management issues.

Introduction

Building on the ‘Bigger, Better and More Joined Up’ approach outlined in the ‘Making Space for Nature’ review carried by Sir John Lawton, this conference was a chance for CMA members to develop their awareness and understanding of the impacts of countryside management at a landscape level.

Through a series of presentations, workshops and field trips this conference looked at topical talking points such as rewilding, biodiversity connectivity and pollinators, discussed landscape projects that featured conservation, farming, water catchment and heritage protection and also heard about the experiences and best practice ideas from fellow countryside professionals.

The key focus of this conference was to explore a wider vision for countryside management beyond a park or site boundaries. Whether from a rural working environment or an urban greenspace this conference definitely had something for everyone.

Special thanks to Paul Farrington and Joe Williams lead conference organisers; and to all of the speakers, workshop and field trip leaders, the minibuss drivers and the staff of the Ambleside Youth Hostel.

The CMA would especially like to thank the National Trust for their support of this year’s conference.

” An inspiring and thought-provoking conference that has given me the confidence to be bold in reconnecting people to nature for the benefit of both.

Wednesday 9th October 2019 'Understanding the Bigger Picture'

Welcome and Introduction

Linda Nunn, CMA Chairperson, welcomed the delegates. Introduced the main conference organisers and set the scene for the conference.

A special welcome was made to delegates from the Scottish Countryside Ranger Association and the European Ranger Federation.

The first two speakers were tasked with setting the context for the conference and exploring some of the key factors in landscape level management.

Introduction to the Lake District

Liam McAleese – Strategy Officer for the Lake District National Park

As well as a wider introduction to the Lake District National Park, Liam outlined some of the key drivers behind current policies and strategies affecting the Park.

These included climate change, the Glover Report, Brexit, net zero carbon targets. All of these and other concerns have pushed environment much higher up the agenda.

The Lake District National Park was developing a strong cultural landscape approach which was highlighted by the World Heritage Site designation.

Reference was made to the fact that environmental battles are nothing new, with historically both Wordsworth and Ruskin being cited as articulating concerns about the way the Lake District was being treated and used. Ruskin not wanting 'Drunk tourists seeing Helvellyn'.

The Glover Report's call for National Landscape Service along with the emphasis in the importance of the role of Rangers gave call for some optimism and even if the report was not implemented, this positive feedback on Rangers was welcome.

On the wider issue of climate change, Liam highlighted some of the impacts already being observed in the Lake District National Park such as the water temperature rise in Lake Windermere.

The need for the future of farming, the recovery of nature and the mitigation of climate change was brought into focus by the comment that land management decisions needed to be based in evidence, rather than feelings.

Quotes from William Gibson which talked about 'The future being here already, it's just not evenly distributed' and from Contested Landscapes, which suggested that 'often the people who shout the loudest are not here doing it' led to a summing up that focuses on cooperation, not conflict, and the need for resilience as being the way forward for countryside managers.

More Information – www.lakesworldheritage.co.uk

Rewilding in a managed landscape, The Haweswater story so far

Lee Schofield is the Site Manager for RSPB Haweswater

This presentation described the relationship between the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and United Utilities and its development from a project based around the protection of golden eagle nest sites to a landscape level sustainable catchment management programme (SCaMP).

The key objectives of this project were to learn, to trial and to demonstrate how to enhance water quality, wildlife and other ecosystem services within a hill farm system.

Some of the drivers for United Utilities were very much based in the need to improve water management, including water quality and flood management. There was also the realisation that it was more cost effective to make those changes at source rather than at water treatment plants.

There was a strong emphasis that this was ‘rewilding’ but in a managed landscape.

The recently published state of the park report highlighted the scale of the challenge – only 21.6% of designated sites are in favourable condition, a figure below the national average. Only 37% of water bodies are in good condition.

So, the project at Haweswater was very much part of the RSPB’s response local to the biodiversity and climate change crisis.

The presentation also focused on the economics of upland farming with the revelation that RSPB’s farming tenancies in the area report that livestock typically costs more than three times as much to produce as they make from them, when labour is factored in.

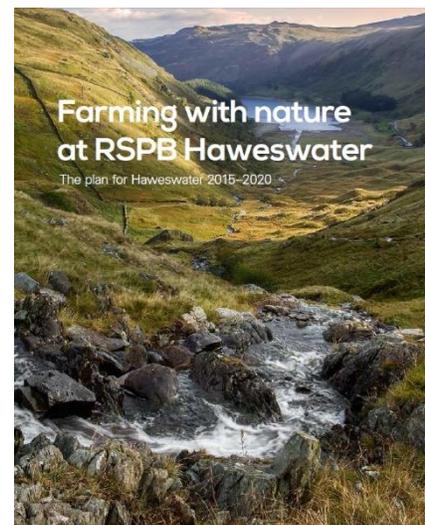
The RSPB’s economic modelling suggests that even with a modest reduction public subsidy, which is very likely post Brexit, their farming enterprise would not be viable.

Therefore, the development of new approaches to managing the land in their care was needed.

Lee discussed the trend for rewilding and the evidence that such approaches could be both better for the environment and also a better business model for farmers. This included an improved work/life balance for farmers.

Any changes to livestock farming needed to be balanced against cultural implications of such a change. Especially with the Lake District’s World Heritage status being so closely linked to the cultural landscape.

Lee went on to discuss sheep numbers explaining that numbers were constant until the 1950s when post-war food needs drove numbers up.



Working together to give nature a home



There was a difference between people's perception of sheep numbers and the evidence.

The changes implemented at Haweswater have seen benefits in terms of biodiversity and seem to be addressing the water catchment issues, but the rewilding approach is not acceptable to everyone in the area.

The RSPB is continuing to evaluate the management at Haweswater and its biological and cultural impact and is working hard to address these issues and secure an ecosystem-based future for land management under their control.

More information - www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/haweswater

Workshops

Eight workshop sessions took place based around four topics: Farmer Clusters, Culture and Nature, Pollinators and Urban Fringe/Parks Accelerator.

Conference participants could choose two topics and, after a short presentation from each workshop leader, had the chance to question and discuss the implications for present and future countryside management.

The following is a synopsis of the workshops.

Farmer Clusters – The role of farmers in conservation

Led by Martin Wain from Butterfly Conservation, this workshop consisted of a short presentation about the role of the organisation in helping to facilitate the Morecambe Bay Facilitation Group. Martin talked about the way the local group was formed and is run, as well as more general information about how the farmer cluster movement originated.

Culture and Nature – Finding the sweet spot, is there a win-win way forward

National Trust archaeologist Jamie Lund and Liam McAleese from the Lake District National Park led an interesting workshop discussion around the factors behind the perceived conflict between culture and nature, the perceptions of both those directing change and those being impacted and possible solutions.

Pollinators as champions of environmental action

This workshop was led by Christa Nelson from the Cumbrian Wildlife Trust and Catherine Mercer from Buglife. Its focus was on sharing the experiences both the workshop leaders and conference participants had in undertaking pollinator-related management, especially in the wider environment, and how this topic had been taken onboard by the public and other organisations.

Urban Fringe – How to take a landscape approach to urban wildlife

Richard Vink talked about the Parks Accelerator Project and showcased some of the projects. Key emphasis was on the idea that there is a need for a landscape-level approach to the management of urban greenspace.

CMA AGM

For notes from this year's AGM please see **Appendix 1**

Reports from other Ranger Associations - SCRA

Chris Jones from the Scottish Countryside Ranger Association

The conference heard from Chris Jones, Ranger on the Balmoral Estate, who outlined some of the issues confronting Rangers in Scotland.

In February 2018 SCRA presented a petition to the Scottish Parliament.

The petition urged the government to instruct the implementation of a strategic framework for the network of Countryside Ranger Services as first set out in the 2008 document, 'Rangers in Scotland', produced by Scottish Natural Heritage.

To better inform the petition, SCRA undertook a survey of all Ranger services across Scotland, to assess their current status and gather the following information. How many Rangers are currently employed in Scotland?

How many Ranger posts, at different grades, have been lost since 2008?

What have Rangers across Scotland delivered in their key duties of connecting people and nature?

Chris went through the results of this exercise and shared his conclusion with conference participants. SCRA continue to push the Scottish government and SNH to set up an independent working group to look at the future of Ranger services in Scotland.

He also updated participants on other SCRA activities, including their ongoing support for Rangers in Malawi, their registration as a partner for the ERASMUS+ programme and continuing development of the Scottish Ranger Award programme.



More Information – www.scra-online.co.uk

Reports from other Ranger Associations – Swiss Ranger Association

Urs Wegman from the Swiss Ranger Association



Urs Wegman from the Swiss Ranger Association gave an entertaining presentation about the work of Rangers in Switzerland.

This included looking at the decline and recovery of the Eurasian Beaver (*Castor fiber*) and Urs' role in managing this flagship species.

Urs also talked about his role within the European Ranger Federation and urged all Rangers present to get more involved with the ERF and to attend the European Ranger Conference next May.

More information - www.swiss-rangers.ch/fr/verband

Keynote Speaker

Landscape Scale Management: The pros and cons for upland farmers – Dr Lois Mansfield

Dr Lois Mansfield is Professor of Upland Landscapes and Director of the Ambleside Campus.

This keynote presentation proved to be both challenging and entertaining. Professor Mansfield started outlining the background and context of the current conservation trend of landscape scale management, citing the progression from Nature Improvement Areas through to the Lawson Report and Nature Recovery Networks.

Included within landscape management were catchment areas and natural character areas.

This was followed by an explanation of the farming between enclosed in-by fields and unenclosed common or upland fields, and in-depth analysis of the hefting behaviour of Lakeland sheep.

The importance of the stratification of sheep was also highlighted as a key part in the national interdependency of all sheep breeds, and illustrated how the upland was inextricably linked to livestock farming in other parts of the country.

This was followed by a discussion of both the economic and social importance of sheep farming to the Lake District and warned about the damage being done to the social cohesiveness and sense of shared heritage the current and future changes to livestock farming would bring.

The challenge issued was how the trend in ‘rewilding’ and other landscape management ideas could be supportive of those who live and work in the uplands.

This presentation was a thought-provoking and strong defence of the importance of an historic way of life and gave conference participants much to think about prior to their field trips the following day.

More Information - <https://theecologist.org/2018/may/17/managing-uplands-need-fresh-approach>

Thursday 10th October 2019 – ‘Landscape Management in Practice’

Field Trips

Four field trips looked at a range of landscape scale countryside management initiatives. They looked at the Wild Ennerdale Partnership Project, Upland farming and the Goldrill River Naturalisation, Ruslands Horizons Project and the West Cumbria Rivers Trust – Natural Flood Management.

Each field trip was led by a representative from the case study projects.

The following are key themes from each of the field trips.

Wild Ennerdale Partnership Project

The most remarkable thing about Wild Ennerdale was that it did not start as a 'rewilding' project, but rather the solution to a series of landscape scale land management issues, that ends up being an exemplar of 'future natural' management.

A partnership involving the National Trust, Forestry England, United Utilities and Natural England, the project encompasses restoring the natural flow of The Liza river – or as one of the project officers explained, allowing the river to become “self-willed” – creating a more sustainable and dynamic woodland and forest management system, including allowing cattle to roam freely through part of the woodland and developing an approach to farming that balances the need for tenants to make a proper living from the land and the desire to increase biodiversity.



The result is an amazing example of partnership working which is driving a both a cultural and scientific change to the way uplands can and should be managed.

More information - www.wildennerdale.co.uk

Goldrill River Naturalisation

The National Trust-led project looks at the re-connection of rivers in Ullswater with their floodplains, with a view to alleviating the flood risk, creating water sustainability and improving biodiversity.

Other partners include the Eden Catchment Management Group, the Environment Agency, Natural England, the Lake District National Park and Cumbria County Council.

Goldrill Beck is a small part of the River Eden SSSI and SAC, and much of the focus here is on allowing a more natural flow and spilling over of the river, resulting in improvements in the quality and quantity of freshwater species.

This visit also included a look at some National Trust farms, to see how they were contributing to the National Trust's wider agenda on landscape management and their outdoor agenda.

More information - www.nationaltrust.org.uk/aira-force-and-ullswater

Ruslands Horizons Project

This is a community-led landscape partnership project which aims to support and maintain 'A real living, working landscape'.

Local people, and agencies such as the Lake District National Park, Forestry Commission, Cumbria Woodlands and Natural England, have come together to create a series of activities that tries to revive local skills and heritage as well as enhancing the habitats and wildlife in this part of the Cumbrian Fells.

Much of the success of this project is down to the strong emphasis on public engagement and participation and this was illustrated by the visits to the Greenwood trails project which focused on allowing sustainable access to the woodlands.

More Information - www.ruslandhorizons.org

West Cumbria Rivers Trust – Natural Flood Management

Like at several of the other field trips, the 2015 storm Desmond was very much at the heart of this field visit.

Places like Keswick were severely affected by flooding and this has concentrated the minds of those charged with alleviating the continuing issue with water volume management.

The West Cumbria Rivers Trust, along with partners like the Environment Agency, Cumbria Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust, is working with farmers and landowners to create a natural flood management project in the Glenderamackin catchment area.

This project has undertaken tree planting, soil erosion and improvement and other traditional land management techniques to try and build more flood water storage capacity and resilience to the area. The results need to deal with the flooding issues whilst ensuring that local farming is not adversely impacted. There is also the need to protect and enhance local biodiversity as well.

All four field visits clearly showed the impacts climate change, land management practices and ill-conceived infrastructure has had on both the natural environment and social and physical well-being of people.

They also highlighted the connectivity between ecological or biodiversity-led landscape conservation schemes and the need to mitigate for or solve human induced climate change and historic land use issues.

The Gordon Miller Award -

Voted for by CMA members, this award is presented to the most deserving countryside management project of the year.

This year's recipient was 'The Environment and Me (TEaM)' (Bringing People, Nature and Well Being Together). A partnership including Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Coventry City Council and Whitefriars Housing, this deserving award winner provided the local community with a myriad of opportunities to get practically involved in conservation, horticulture and other activities in local green spaces.

As well as a PowerPoint presentation, a moving video clearly illustrated why this project meant so much to the people who had been touched by it.

European Ranger Federation – Roger Cole, CMA Vice President

CMA Vice President, Roger Cole informed the conference of the work of the European Ranger Federation and some of the initiatives being planned for the coming year.

Key amongst these initiatives was the European Ranger Congress taking place in May and being hosted in Germany.

Roger also talked about his work in encouraging the development of new national Ranger associations, including Georgia.

More information - www.europeanrangers.org

Keynote Speaker

Unholy Alliances –CMA Patron, Broadcaster and Writer - Chris Baines

(Review by Steve Peach – CMA Board Member)

Chris Baines has for many years been a strong environmental advocate. With a background in horticulture and a career in writing and broadcasting, Chris is always an entertaining and imaginative speaker.

Chris expertly told of his father's interest in visiting the countryside, his own upbringing and interest in all things growing and society's growing need for green spaces.

Stories about sunflowers surviving riots in Brixton, his pioneering of wildlife gardening at the Chelsea Flower Show, his work in development mitigation and understanding of the importance of wild places in terms of the nation's social well-being illustrated how Chris has always been and still remains an innovative thinker about the environment.

The secret to Chris's brand of environmental message is the fact that he leaves his audience with a sense of optimism.

With so much climate-related doom and gloom, the need to find solutions rather than simply scaring people leaving them feeling helpless is essential if we are going to get greater public support and buy in.

The showing of a photo David Attenborough with the quote *'No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced'* and the following superimposed image of Greta Thunberg looking at Attenborough saying *'How Dare You'* was typically provocative.

Whereas his examples showing how nature had brought communities together were inspiring.

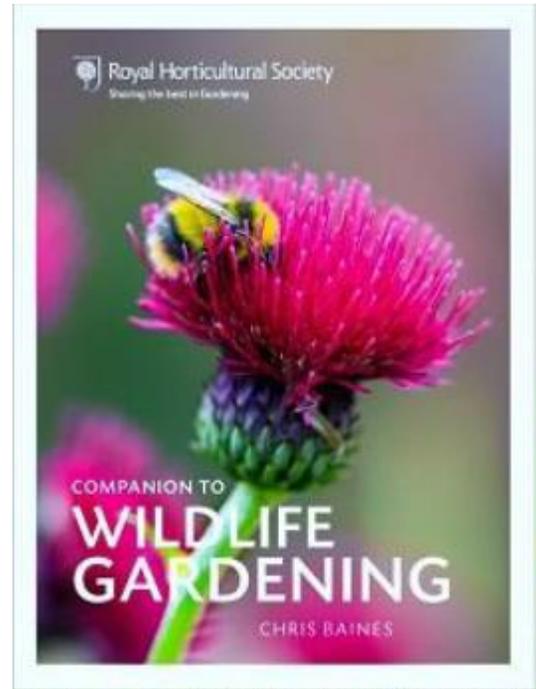
Probably the thing that sums up Chris's talk and his wider philosophy was the work he has been involved in at Trafalgar Place in London.

During this redevelopment of tower blocks the suggestion of keeping the larger pre-existing trees, rather than the usual removal and replacement with 'landscape trees' was simple but effective.

The photo illustrating this showed trees almost as big as the new buildings, and nearby some tiny newly planted trees.

Often the answers to complex environmental issues are actually quite simple, you just need someone brave enough to highlight the obvious.

Chris Baines always highlights the issues and solution.



Friday 11th October 2019 – 'Conference Summary and CMA in Focus'

Butterflies and Green Spaces

Butterfly Conservation and Landscape Management – Chris Winnick, Chairman of Butterfly Conservation Cumbria

Looking at landscape-level management from the perspective of species conservation, Chris started his presentation with some sobering facts from the State of Nature report.

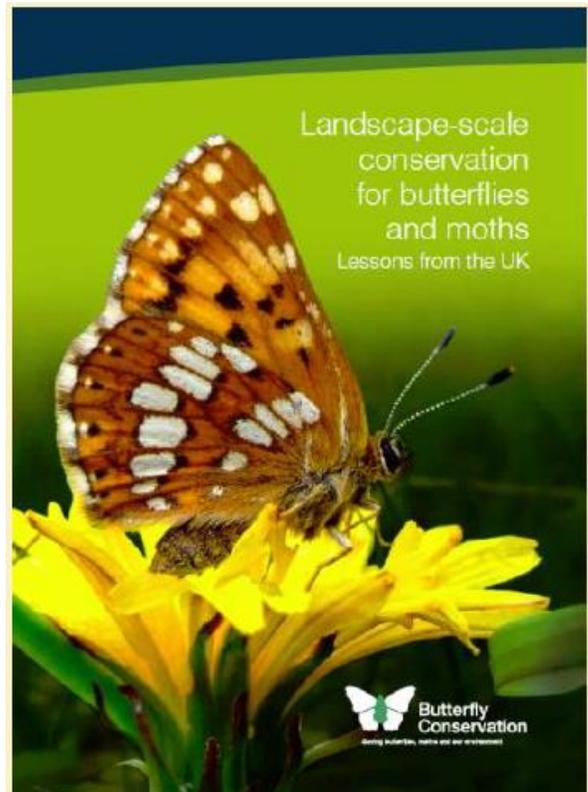
This was balanced by looking at the role volunteers play in nature conservation and how much this was worth to Butterfly Conservation.

Chris highlighted the need for connectivity at a landscape scale and importance of science and evidence collection to inform future management, illustrated by the organisation's 'Butterfly for a new millennium' and the 'National Moth Recording Scheme'.

The work of Butterfly Conservation in managing threatened species and projects such as the Farmland Butterfly Initiative was explored, as was engagement with local communities, especially children.

The talk culminated in looking in detail at projects based in the Lake District, especially work on small blue and marsh fritillary, and perfectly illustrated what can be achieved when partnerships are formed at a landscape level.

More information – www.butterfly-conservation.org/in-your-area/cumbria-branch



Pioneering Urban Green Space initiative – Victoria Bradford-Kegan, Delivery Director, Future Parks Accelerator

Future Parks is a unique and exciting collaboration between the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and the National Trust (NT). The partnership will generate new ways to protect and enhance access to parks and urban green spaces. It is the first truly joint initiative between these organisations and combines the best of skills, resources and leadership to deliver a shared cause.

The project work is in eight areas, Birmingham City Council, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole unitary authority, Bristol City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council (and the six other associated local authorities), London Boroughs of Camden and Islington, City of Edinburgh Council, Nottingham City Council and Plymouth City Council. In addition, the project continues to work in Newcastle Parks and Allotments Trust.

The conference was asked to take part in a workshop session exploring the most efficient ways of disseminating the lessons from Parks Accelerator project with the countryside management sector and this was followed up with a question and answer session.

More information - www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/our-vision-for-the-future-of-parks

The CMA Workshops

The final session of this year's conference featured the work of the Countryside Management Association, with four workshops focusing on areas the Association is keen to develop and improve.

The Accreditation Process

Looked at the redevelopment of the CMA's accreditation process. CMA Chair Linda Nunn outlined the reasons for the changes being made, progress to date and timeline for the likely implantation of the new system.

All the comments made during the workshops were noted and would inform future Board and National Committee developmental agenda items.

Future Conference and Study Days

This workshop provided opportunities for delegates to comment upon the way CMA runs its study days, training events and national conference.

The emphasis being on how we can build on CMA successes and support regions where there is currently less activity.

The Ranger Magazine and CMA Promotion

Led by Ranger Editor Liz Bourne, this workshop looked at the present and future format of *Ranger* magazine, the regional newsletters and the way in which CMA promotes itself.

The workshop also discussed the need for an updated communication strategy, to take in to account the growing influence of social media.

International Rangers

The work of the International Ranger Federation, The Thin Green Line Foundation and the European Ranger Federation was highlighted in this workshop.

The upcoming IRF World Congress and the ERF Conference in May 2020 as well as the opportunities through CMA bursaries and twinning arrangements also featured.

Conference Summary and Close

In summary Paul Farrington reviewed the highlights of the Conference and the key aims of providing conference delegates with the opportunity to discuss, experience and learn about developments in landscape-level countryside management.

It was felt by all who had attended that these aims had clearly been met and exceeded.

During the course of this conference, a wide range of issues had been addressed ranging from species conservation to large scale rewilding of rivers, the historic nature of upland sheep farming to the

social implications of changing landscape use, and climate change issues to current conservation trends.

The Conference had also attracted some very high-quality speakers which illustrates the growing influence and industry recognition of the importance of the CMA.

As always, the success of CMA conferences is routed in the key desire to find practical solutions based on sound theoretical knowledge.

Paul thanked all who had taken part, especially the key speakers and contributors, colleagues who had helped with the logistics and all the conference participants.

The Conference was closed by CMA Chair Linda Nunn.

CMA AGM

Held at Ambleside Youth Hostel – Wednesday 9th October 2019

Meeting Chaired by Linda Nunn, CMA Chairperson

Assisted by Mark Baker, CMA Secretary

AGM Notes taken by Steve Peach, CMA Board Member

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome and Apologies

The AGM started with a welcome and introduction from Linda Nunn, CMA Chairman.

Linda introduced Board and National Committee Members.

Mark Baker read out the list of apologies which included Phil Bolton, Alan Reece, George Mist and Rachel Limb.

Agenda Item 2 – Appointment of Directors

Mark Baker explained that the Articles of Association (constitution) required there to be a rotation of the term of office Directors served. This was to ensure that not all Directors finished their term of office at the same time.

This meant that both Linda Nunn and Mark Baker have now come to the end of their term of office.

The Articles did allow for both to stand again for office and both had indicated that they wanted to stand.

No other nominations had been received so the reelection of Linda and Mark was put to a simple vote of the members.

Linda Nunn's reelection was proposed by Dave Solly and seconded by Richard Westwood.

There was a unanimous vote in favour of Linda's reelection.

Mark Baker's reelection was proposed by Roger Cole and seconded by Ian Brooker. There was a unanimous vote in favour of Mark's reelection.

Mark Baker explained the rules regarding the reappointment of Directors which under the current Articles was time limited. Mark requested that a vote take place confirm that in the event of the CMA becoming a CIC Dave Solly would be reappointed as a Director of CMA.

The motion to reappoint Dave Solly was proposed by Ian Brooker and seconded by Michelle Tyrtonia. The motion was unanimously supported by the members.

Agenda Item 3 – Appointment of Chair

Mark Baker explained that the AGM was now required to vote on the appointment of Chair of CMA. Linda Nunn had agreed to continue as Chair and there were no other nominations for Chair so again this was put to a simple vote.

Linda Nunn's appointment as Chair was nominated by Derek Evans and seconded by Nick Stanley. There was a unanimous vote in favour of Linda's appointment as chair.

Agenda Item 4 – Brief Updates on membership, finance, training and international matters

Mark Baker introduced the CMA Annual Report. Linda Nunn asked for any comments or questions, there were none.

Linda asked for her thanks to Mark and all those who had contributed to the Annual Report to be recorded.

Linda Nunn introduced the minutes of last year's CMA AGM. Again, there were no comments.

Linda asked for her thanks to Rachel Limb in preparing the minutes to be recorded.

Linda Nunn read out a report from the treasurer. Key points being income was down on the previous accounts because of a tax payment. This year purchases had been made that would reduce any tax burden. This included flipcharts and other equipment that would be useful at study days, training events and conference.

Also, the CMA had made some bursary payments to support attendance at IRF events. This included support for a CMA member to attend the forthcoming IRF World Congress.

The Reserve account remained static.

Membership was around 502, there was some concern over some nonpayment of membership fees. This was being chased up by Rachel Limb.

Roger Cole asked a question about organisations paying individual membership fees and that it might be that some people did not know that the membership had not been paid.

Rachel would be asked to investigate this.

Training events were discussed with Linda Nunn reporting that there had been 16 training events planned for the period since April, although three of these had been cancelled.

Training organisers were reminded that Rachel Limb needed a lead in time of at least 6 weeks in order to get events on Eventbrite and advertised.

Michelle Tyrtonia clarified the position surrounding Risk Assessments and Safe System of Work relating to running training events. The key point being that SSW and RAs should be sent to Rachel Limb who will then forward them on to Michelle.

Each Regional Committee Member gave a short report about their region.

Claire Rogers from Yorkshire and Humberside introduced herself and explained she was new to the post and would be working hard to increase networking and membership numbers. Claire talked about making better connections with some of the colleges and also about some of her ideas for study days.

Richard Westwood from the South East thanked Phil Bolton for his efforts in leading efforts in running training events. Some of this training included great crested newt training and bat licence training. 12 members attended the regional AGM at which they looked at veteran tree management.

Joe Williams from the North West also talked about trying to make connections with schools and colleges. They had also run a couple of very good study events and were enjoying support especially from the National Trust.

Toby Edwards from Northern Ireland said they were building links with other organisations, including the Ulster Wildlife Trust and Ranger Association of Ireland. Toby had attended a regional ranger event in Monaghan.

Tom Heenan from the East of England talked about the regional newsletter, and the success of their study days. Tim also Thanked Phil Bolton for his help with training events. Tom reported that they now had reps for most counties and were in the process of planning next year's regional AGM.

Ian Brooker reported on international activities, including the IRF World Ranger Congress which had 10 people from the UK attending.

The AGM was informed that CMA Chair, Linda Nunn was standing as Vice-President of the IRF.

Ian also talked about the bursaries being offered by the CMA, one of which had been granted to Will Stewart and another to a Ranger from Georgia to support their attendance at the World Ranger Congress.

Ian also reported on the European Ranger Federation including the close cooperation between national associations with Rangers from different countries, including CMA members attending national AGMs.

Ian also mentioned there was an invitation for someone from CMA to attend the Portuguese Ranger Association AGM.

It was announced that there would be an ERF Ranger Conference next May and CMA were keen to encourage people to attend this, with the possibility that a bursary would be offered.

Ian was hoping to coordinate those going and perhaps finding an eco-friendly way of travelling to and from the conference.

Those interested were asked to get in touch with Ian. The date would be 11–16 May.

A website with information would be available soon.

Agenda Item 5 - Resolutions relating to proposal for CMA to become a Community Interest Company (CIC)

Mark Baker outlined the reasons for the proposal for CMA to become a Community Interest Company. Copies of the new Articles of Association had already been made available to the membership but in summary the new CIC would be a better organisational fit for CMA and enable the Association to adopt some changes to their mode of operating which were long overdue.

So the CMA board was now asking the membership to support the motions for CMA to become a CIC. Before a vote was taken Mark asked if anyone had any questions, there were no questions so the motion was put to the vote.

There were 31 votes in favour of the motions and none against, so it was confirmed that the CMA would seek to become a CIC.

Agenda Item 6 – Update on Accreditation Review

Linda outlined the progress to date. The Board and National Committee had met several times to discuss this and comment on proposals. The Accreditation Review Group had also had input and this all meant that a new draft was close to being agreed.

Linda apologised for the time the review was taking but explained the importance for getting this right.

She asked for those attending the accreditation workshop at the Conference to pass their comments back to her or any Board member.

Agenda Item 7 – Any Other Business

Promoting regional study/training events – Mark Baker explained that the Board had agreed to assign £1,000 towards supporting the development of events in regions that were currently struggling to organise anything.

Mark asked regional reps contact him for details of what the funding would be for and how to access it.

Roger Cole asked if the current regional structure was fit for purpose. Linda Nunn replied that the Board would be looking at this issue with a view to seeing if changes could or should be made.

Linda would be working with Rachel Limb to analyse numbers and locations of members.

Steve Peach asked question of Phil Bolton about the use of the membership database by regional reps so that they could better target their efforts. Several members present talked about better use of cloud-based systems and other ideas for sharing information.

Linda explained that there were some issues around data protection, but she would be talking to Rachel and Board members about how regions could make better use of membership information. There were also discussions about the use of Web Collect and other systems used by CMA. Linda said that Rachel and the Board were always monitoring things and looking at ways in which we could improve our admin systems.

Finally, Linda Nunn announced that Tim Russell was being made an Honorary Fellow of the CMA in recognition of his long service and support to the CMA, especially as South West Region Coordinator.

There being no other business the 2019 AGM was closed.