

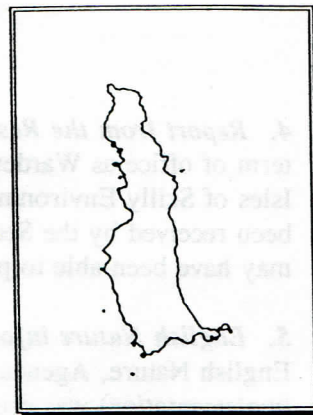
LUNDY MARINE NATURE RESERVE ADVISORY GROUP

Aims of the Group: 1) to provide a nucleus of expertise on the marine habitats and waters surrounding Lundy; 2) to provide a forum for exchanging views on present and proposed activities around Lundy; 3) to safeguard the interests of all those who use the waters around Lundy and its natural resources; and 4) to advise the Management Group for the Reserve.

Established 1985

Please reply to the Hon. Secretary:

Mr Robert Irving,
14 Brookland Way, Coldwaltham,
Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 1LT
Tel. 0798 873581 Fax. 0798 873582



Notes of the 1st meeting of the Advisory Group

(formerly known as the Lundy Marine Consultation Group, of which this was the 19th meeting)

held on Thursday, 29th September 1994 in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bridge Street, Bideford at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Ian Knight	(IK)	Torrige District Council	[Chair]
Keith Bower	(KB)	Devon Sea Fisheries Committee	
Anna Haigh	(AH)	English Nature Marine Unit (Peterborough)	
Steve Mulberry	(SM)	National Trust	
Brian Pointer	(BP)	M.A.F.F. (N. Devon)	
Marcus Heyes	(MH)	Marine Archaeological Interests (Bournemouth)	
Sarah Welton	(SW)	Marine Conservation Society	
Tom Hynes	(TH)	Hartland Heritage Coast Services	
Robert Irving	(RI)	Lundy Field Society	[Secretary]

Welcome to new representatives: Anna Haigh, Brian Pointer, Marcus Heyes and Tom Hynes were all welcomed to the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence: Apologies had been received from Neil Downes (DSFC), Joan Edwards (Devon Wildlife Trust), Andrew Gibson (Lundy Warden), Paul Gilliland (English Nature, Peterborough), Roger Hoad (Lundy/Oldenburg), Chris Mandry (diving interests), John Puddy (Lundy), Siân Pullen (WWF-UK), & David Townshend (English Nature, Okehampton).

2. Notes on the last meeting, held on 24th March 1994: These were accepted as being an accurate account of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising: Chris Mandry (in his absence) had asked it be mentioned that the diving first-aid oxygen equipment which was available for use on the island, and the offer of instruction in its use, had not yet been taken up by the Warden. It was to be hoped that this could be done before next year's diving season got underway.

4. Report from the Reserve: The Group was informed that Andrew Gibson had just ended his term of office as Warden on the island in order to take up an appointment as the Director of the Isles of Scilly Environmental Trust. The Group wished him well in his new post. No report had been received by the Secretary from AG, and no other Lundy representatives were present who may have been able to present his report.

5. English Nature information: In the absence of David Townshend or Paul Gilliland from English Nature, Agenda item 5 (*The new Lundy MNR & SSSI Management Plan: progress on implementation*) was dropped. Instead, Anna Haigh (who had only joined the EN Marine Team in Peterborough some 3 days earlier as the Assistant Marine Designations Officer) brought the Group up to date on various issues concerning English Nature. She agreed to have a number of other points checked by her superiors - please refer to a copy of her subsequent letter addressed to the Hon. Sec., attached to these notes.

i) A new Warden is due to be appointed in the near future, though the exact start date is not known. A large number of applications for the post had been received by the Landmark Trust. Group members stated that it was most important that English Nature be involved with the appointment of the new Warden, being present at the interviews, especially ensuring that sufficient 'marine' expertise in the chosen candidate was apparent.

ii) A new A3 full colour leaflet on the MNR's Zoning Scheme was due out very soon. This would be freely available to Tourist Offices, dive clubs, fishermen, seafarers and other interested parties.

iii) AH showed the Group a new EN video, which had just been produced. It featured the island's wildlife present above and below the water, shots of the coastal scenery being made from a helicopter. The u/w filming was by Jeremy Bates (present at the last LMCG meeting in March), with narration by Alison Dawes. It lasted approx. 13 mins. and will be shown on board the Oldenberg. Group members present were most impressed. Copies are available from EN, P'boro., to any parties that could show it to an audience.

iv) Copies of an A5 b/w sheet *Plants and animals of the snorkel trail* which EN had produced this summer, were handed out by AH to members. Laminated waterproof copies were available for use by snorkellers on the trail.

6. The littoral and sublittoral monitoring programme: Full discussion of this item was also not possible for the reasons stated above, though it was hoped it could take place at a future meeting. However, ^{both} the RI and SM expressed their concern that the monitoring programme appeared to be slipping, despite assurances from EN that it would continue. Monitoring work had been planned for this summer, to be undertaken by Devon Wildlife Trust, but it did not take place. An explanation for this was requested. A programme of annual monitoring work is set out in the Management Plan (Projects 1.5.1 - 1.5.8), yet no sublittoral monitoring has taken place since 1990, i.e. a gap of four years. AH did say that an automatic temperature recorder/data logger was now in place in the Devil's Kitchen.

6a. Fisheries Management and the Marine Environment: An additional topic was kindly presented by KB in light of a current consultation paper issued by MAFF concerning the regulatory powers of Sea Fisheries Committees (SFCs) and their role in marine conservation. In essence, a new Bill is being put to Parliament (through the Dept. of the Environment) which would allow the SFCs and the National Rivers Authority new powers to make fisheries byelaws to protect the marine environment. Generally, these proposals have been well received by conservation organisations, and the Group expressed its backing for them too. Another change would be that a person with marine environmental expertise would sit on each SFC. In Devon

this is already done, as Joan Edwards (DWT) is invited to attend meetings. In future, a representative of a government body (e.g. English Nature), rather than an NGO, would be asked onto the Devon SFC. KB went on to explain about how the new Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), to be introduced under the EC Habitats Directive, would affect fisheries and marine wildlife. For marine SACs, English Nature would identify sites and produce management plans, and ask SFCs to introduce appropriate byelaws. Byelaws brought in to control activities within the Lundy MNR were introduced under the 1966 Sea Fisheries Regulation Act. In conclusion, KB pointed out that the new powers would allow SFCs to be *proactive* and not simply *reactive*.

6b. Marine archaeological studies: MH explained that Philip Robertson and he had undertaken a survey of a number of the island's shipwrecks this summer, while assessing the suitability of a new wreck survey form which had been devised by the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments in England. MH showed a number of slides to the Group, contrasting the condition of certain wrecks on the sheltered east side of the island (e.g. the "Robert") to those on the exposed west (e.g. the "Amstelstroom"). They discovered a number of wooden beams at a site off the SE Point which may be from a previously undescribed wreck. Their work was recorded on u/w video and it is hoped that once this has been edited it will be shown to the Group at a later meeting.

7. Discussion of other local marine matters outwith the MNR:

i) *Marine aggregate dredging/gravel extraction* in the outer Bristol Channel. The Group were brought up to date with this continuing saga. A prospecting licence (to extract 500 tonnes) had now been granted to Civil & Marine for the site approx. 15 miles north of Ilfracombe (Area 394). [The Group's Secretary had written a formal objection concerning this to the Minerals Division, Dept. of the Environment, dated 23 March 1993, during the consultation phase]. A full extraction licence (likely to be taken up after the initial prospecting programme is assessed) issued by the Crown Estates would allow 17 million tonnes of material to be extracted over a 20 year period (equivalent to 850,000 tonnes per annum). English Nature consider that the extraction ground is far enough away from Lundy for the island to avoid the sediment plume. SM, however, reported that local diving clubs do not believe this to be the case and are concerned about the impact this might have for the marine life at Lundy. It was not known what environmental monitoring was going to be undertaken once extraction was underway, and whether a halt to proceedings could be made if damage was shown to be being caused. [N.B. Please refer to the letter dated 19.7.94 from the DoE to the Crown Estates, a copy of which was sent to the Group's Secretary and is attached as an appendix to these notes].

Two further areas, to the west of Baggy Point in Bideford Bay, were also being considered as gravel extraction areas. KB reported that the NRA objected to extraction taking place from the 'Baggy 1' site because of likely alterations to the tidal regime. The company ARC had applied to extract material from the 'Baggy 2' site. A large area, which extended to within 5 miles of the edge of the MNR boundary, was under consideration. BP informed the Group that Bideford & Appledore fishermen had objected to this, writing letters to the Fisheries Minister, Mr Jack.

ii) BP informed the Group that no oil or gas exploration would be taking place in Bideford Bay, as far as is known.

iii) A warden, Jill Strawbridge, had been appointed to the new North Devon voluntary Marine Conservation Area, to start work in October. She had been working as a marine warden at Charmouth, Dorset this summer and was known to SW and RI.

8. Any other business: Andrew Gibson had been looking out for evidence of the pest Japanese

seaweed *Sargassum muticum* around the island this summer, but no attached plants had been found. This species, now well established along much of the south coast, grows quickly, can foul boats' propellers, and may compete with and oust native seaweed species.

RI had prepared a new letterhead for the Lundy Marine Reserve Advisory Group which included the main aims/functions of the Group. (The first page of these notes is printed on the new letterhead).

The Secretary wishes to inform Group members of the sudden death earlier this summer of Peter Cole, Secretary of this Group from its inception in 1985 until 1990. Peter was also Secretary to the Lundy Field Society from 1981-1994, a truly dedicated Lundy enthusiast, and will be fondly remembered by all those who knew him.

IK asked that the Reception and Personnel staff at Torrridge District Council were thanked for providing the video viewing facilities at short notice.

9. Date(s) of the next meetings:

Thursday, 30 March 1995 @ 7.00 pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bideford.
Thursday, 19 October 1995 " " "

Jan [Signature] 20. 4. 95

Mr R Irving
Secretary
Lundy Marine Nature Reserve Advisory Group
14 Brookland Way
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PULBOROUGH
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28.10.94

Dear Robert,

Thank you for the list of addresses for the Lundy video. We are waiting for the video cover to be printed before sending out copies. Hopefully this will be within the next couple of weeks.

Find enclosed the answers to the queries raised at the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve Advisory Group meeting on 29 September. I hope I have addressed all the issues from the meeting, if not please do contact me and I will attempt to "fill in the gaps". I apologise for the delay in sending this, the information has been derived from a number of sources not always immediately available.

Civil and Marine - application to dredge

This is for an area about 40km from Lundy in the Outer Bristol Channel. I have asked Richard Leafe, our Coastal Geomorphologist, for further details about this and the procedure for giving advice for these applications. English Nature is not a statutory consultee on these matters. However, as a matter of course, EN is consulted.

Using the most up-to-date information on the hydrology of the Bristol Channel held by HR Wallingford Hydrological it was predicted that the sediment plume created by the dredging would not reach Lundy. Further the sediment load would be insignificant in terms of the amount of suspended sediment already in the Bristol Channel.

In the case of the above application EN worked very closely with Civil and Marine. The advice from the first appointed environmental consultants was not considered to be up to scratch by EN and a second consultant was appointed, Oakwood Environmental Ltd. EN were particularly concerned with the possible impact on the *Sabellaria* reefs and worked well with the consultants on suitable mitigation.

On granting a licence MAFF lay down certain rules and environmental standards. Should these fail to be met then the licence may be revoked. Therefore in the unlikely event of Lundy being effected by this dredging, operations can be stopped. It should be noted that the Department of the Environment is currently reviewing licensing arrangements for minerals dredging in England and Wales.

If you think it would be useful I can suggest to Richard Leafe that try to attend the next meeting to explain the procedure better, to outline sedimentary processes around Lundy, and to answer any further questions that you may have. Please let me know if you think this would be appropriate as soon as possible.

For interest I have enclosed an extract from an article about marine aggregates. This explains a little about the environmental considerations involved in the licensing procedure with pertinent paragraphs highlighted.

The New Warden

In delaying this letter I am able to report on recent developments. At the moment there is someone working as a temporary Warden. I believe that he is a local man who has been asked by the Landmark Trust to keep the estate work "ticking over". Locally based, he has worked as a "volunteer" warden in the past and knows the island quite well.

On 24th October John Puddy and Rob Wolton (EN Okehampton) held interviews for the post. From 30/40 applicants (not 260 as suggested) 5 interviewees were invited. Two of the candidates were very impressive. The successful candidate has been invited to spend a few days on Lundy before deciding whether to accept the position. If they do, the new Warden should be in post mid-November.

Although the post is fully funded by EN only 80% of the Wardens work time will be spent on EN duties, the rest will be devoted to Landmark Trust working to the management plan. Under the new set up, still to be agreed, LT will only receive funding for the Warden on production of satisfactory, regular reports to EN.

Monitoring

The Warden kept up terrestrial and intertidal monitoring this year and will continue to do so.

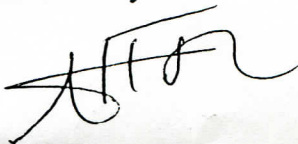
Sublittoral monitoring to date was designed to answer some very specific questions about recruitment and the rate of growth of various organisms. These questions have essentially been answered. Therefore there is no longer any justification for such detailed and specialised study. Also EN is unable to resource such research from the financial and manpower side.

However, on a more general level, EN is to continue monitoring in some way. Research to date has suffered from a lack of physical data. EN has recently acquired temperature data-loggers to record water temperature. These have yet to be deployed as Andrew was pushed for time towards the end of his stay. Previously this data was only available from the nearest weather centre (not very satisfactory). EN has also been exploring options for continuing monitoring. The suggestion has been to direct work with other organisations who would use their manpower to do the work, with appropriate input from EN. This did not come to fruition in 1994, despite best intentions, but is being worked on for 1995.

Funding for Lundy monitoring has to be bid for on an annual basis . The bids for next year have already been submitted for Lundy.

I hope the above answers the points raised at the meeting. Again apologises for the delayed response but I wanted to ensure that as much information as possible was enclosed for inclusion in your minutes, which I look forward to receiving.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Haigh', written in a cursive style.

Anna Haigh
Assistant Marine Designations Officer

cc Paul Gilliland

LICENCE APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Obtain prospecting licence

↓
Submit prospecting report

↓
Decision to proceed

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Step 1 | Informal meeting with Crown and DoE |
| Step 2 | Crown engage hydraulics research scope of EA determined |
| Step 3 | Formal decision to proceed |
| Step 4 | Formal application submitted to Crown |
| Step 5 | Application advertised — formal consultation undertaken |
| Step 6 | Crown submit application with EA and results of consultation to DoE/Welsh Office |
| Step 7 | DoE/Welsh Office consultation on EA |
| Step 8 | Formal application to DoE/Welsh Office for 'Government view' |
| Step 9 | DoE/Welsh Office consult within Government and other interested parties |

Decision

TYPICAL SCOPE OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR AN AGGREGATE DREDGING LICENCE

- 1 *Licence application details*
 - (a) Proposed dredging areas
 - (b) Volume and type of sediment to be extracted
 - (c) Timescale of proposed extraction
 - (d) Method of dredging and vessel movement
 - (e) Project related employment
- 2 *Physical and biological considerations*
 - (a) Geological data, evolution and thickness of deposits, characteristics of seabed sediments
 - (b) Seabed stability/mobility in relation to wave and tidally driven currents
 - (c) Benthic communities — food chains, species types and abundance, fishery resources
- 3 *Assessment of the effects of proposed dredging*
 - (a) Effects on waves and coastal sediment budgets — Hydraulics Research Ltd
 - (b) Potential effects on fish stocks — short and long term
 - (c) Potential benefits from the proposed dredging
- 4 *Mitigation measures*
 - (a) Limiting extraction to discrete areas
 - (b) Controlled extraction plan
 - (c) Monitoring and management proposals

areas spent considerable amounts of money on prospecting, only to determine that there was virtually no material present on the seabed.

The establishment of a workable system for the granting of prospecting licences which meets the requirements of the Crown Estate Commissioners and also satisfies the requirements of industry is, therefore, seen as paramount and is the number one objective which the industry is pursuing at the moment, because without such a system the industry's future is going to be difficult to predict.

Production licences

The procedures for obtaining a production licence are similar to those which have to be followed to obtain a land-based planning permission. Following the issue of a prospecting licence and the successful proving of a deposit, an application must then be made to the Crown Estate for an extraction licence. Before the application is made, the applicants must submit a detailed management plan supported by the results of their prospecting. The Crown Estate will then undertake consultations with local coastal protection authorities and other bodies with statutory responsibilities for sea defence, flood protection, local fisheries and appropriate sea fisheries committees, local offshore operators, the Department of Transport and the Hydrographic Department of the Ministry of Defence, English Nature, other environmental interests and relevant mineral planning authorities.

At the same time, the proposals will be referred to consultants for professional advice on the possible effects dredging may have on the coastline. The consultants will examine whether the area of extraction is far enough offshore so that beach draw-down into the area of the excavated area will not take place, whether extraction will interrupt the supply of material to adjacent beaches, whether extraction will reduce the banks that provide protection to the coast by absorbing wave energy and whether extraction will cause or have an impact on the refraction of waves and thus lead to significant change in the wave pattern. If the investigations demonstrate an unavoidable risk of coastal erosion, the Crown Estate will reject the application without further consideration; however, the consultants may suggest amendments to the application which may include restrictions on the area and depth of working, thus removing the risk of adverse effects. The Crown Estate will consider all representation received from consultees on the outline proposals. Government departments will be consulted to establish if potential impacts are significant enough to warrant an environmental

From:

Marine Aggregates today
and into the 21st Century

C. Hollinsworth

Quarry Management Agency
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assessment in accordance with the European Community directive. If the application progresses successfully through these lengthy procedures and the Crown Estate believe that the proposal to dredge will be favourably received, the applicant will then be advised to prepare a formal application. This will then be considered by the DoE under the Government View Procedure.

On receipt of the application the DoE will consult other Government departments who will have the opportunity to consider the proposals, the representations made and any other relevant issues. If a Government department raises an overriding objection to the application which cannot be resolved through further discussions, research or amendments to the proposal, an unfavourable Government View will result. If, however, after these very lengthy procedures, which normally take many years, the Government View is favourable, the Crown Estate can then issue a formal extraction licence. This is a complex document resembling a lease on land and this normally grants permission to extract up to a fixed tonnage per year for a 10-year period. Furthermore, if at any period during the life of the licence evidence appears which proves that dredging activity is causing some environmental damage, the licence can be revoked at six months' notice without any compensation being paid.

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS

The industry is committed to reducing the impacts of marine aggregates extraction and, with the strict controls now in place, it is possible to ensure that material can be extracted with the minimum effect on the environment.

The industry has adapted quickly to ensure that all environmental issues are handled professionally, and there have been several major important agreements made with national bodies to ensure that misunderstandings are minimal.

In 1987 a Code of Practice was established with MAFF and in 1993 one was established on marine archaeology. At the end of 1992, the marine interests of BACMI and SAGA came together as BMAPA (British Marine Aggregate Producers Association) to present a united front for the industry, and to improve its image.

It was recognized that the marine industry had to become proactive to ensure that a balanced view of the industry was presented.

As with land-based operations, there has been a tremendous upsurge in objections to marine aggregate extraction. Much of the comment has been emotional, and often has been aimed at seeking publicity rather than attempting to present factual statements.

It is now a norm for Environmental Impact Assessments to be presented with applications for extraction licences, and the main areas of attention are:

- (a) the effect on the coastline in terms of protection and stability, and other interests
- (b) the effect on commercial fishing
- (c) the effect on marine ecosystems

- (d) the effect on archaeological sites
- (e) the effect on other sea users
- (f) the effect on navigation.

No proof has ever been forthcoming that dredging for aggregates has caused any coastal erosion. Building sea walls and groynes, harbour developments etc certainly do cause changes in coastal sediment patterns, but dredging in deep water several miles offshore has been shown to have no impact on shoreline sediments, as there is almost imperceptible movement of material in deep water.

It is regrettable, therefore, that MPG6 states that there is a presumption against extraction unless the environmental and coastal impact issues are satisfactorily resolved, rather than a more positive commitment in favour of development unless environmental problems were proven.

Of the 350,000km² of seabed on the English and Welsh continental shelf, only 1,652km² are licensed for aggregate extraction. It is widely published that marine aggregate extraction disturbs 0.03% of the seabed annually in the North Sea, while fishing disturbs 54%.

The industry is now geared up to monitor all extraction and its effects on the seabed. All operating companies keep very detailed records of their operations.

The industry wishes to live in harmony with the other users of the sea, and is now equipped to deal with all environmental challenges, which will become greater as we move into the next century.

The wheelhouse of a modern aggregate dredger

