

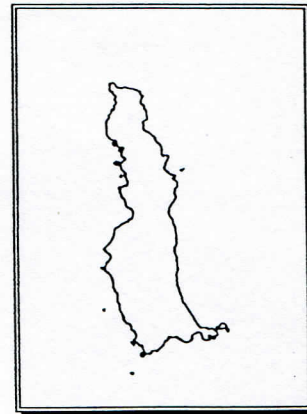
LUNDY MARINE NATURE RESERVE ADVISORY GROUP

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 2nd meeting of the Advisory Group

(formerly known as the Lundy Marine Consultation Group, of which this was the 20th meeting)

held on Thursday, 20th April 1995 in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Bridge Street, Bideford at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Ian Knight	(IK)	Torrige District Council	[Chair]
Mark Winsborrow	(MK)	Bideford Trawlermen's Association	
Laurie Winsborrow	(LW)	Bideford Trawlermen's Association	
Keith Bower	(KB)	Devon Sea Fisheries Committee	
Emma Parkes	(EP)	Lundy Warden	
Paul Gilliland	(PG)	English Nature, Peterborough	
Richard Leafe	(RL)	English Nature, Peterborough	
Steve Waring	(SW)	Marine Archaeological Interests (Swindon)	
John Heath	(JH)	Marine Archaeological Interests (Appledore)	
John Baker	(JB)	Royal Yachting Association	
Rob Walton	(RW)	English Nature (Okehampton)	
Chris Mandry	(CM)	Local diving interests/BS-AC	
Sarah Welton	(SW)	Marine Conservation Society	
Jill Strawbridge	(JS)	North Devon Heritage Coast Service	
Tom Hynes	(TH)	Hartland Heritage Coast Service	
Robert Irving	(RI)	Lundy Field Society	[Secretary]

Welcome to new representatives: Emma Parkes, Richard Leafe, Steve Waring, John Heath, Rob Walton and Jill Strawbridge were all welcomed to the meeting.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Joan Edwards (Devon Wildlife Trust).
- 2. Notes on the last meeting, held on 29th September 1994:** Under section 6a, KB pointed out that Joan Edwards was not just invited to attend meetings of the Devon Sea Fisheries Committee, she was a member of that Committee. Otherwise, the notes were accepted as being an accurate account of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

3. **Matters arising:** EP and CM were presently organising a mutually convenient date when EP could be given training in the use of the diving first-aid oxygen equipment donated for use on and around the island by the British Sub-Aqua Club.

4. **Matters arising from the 1st meeting of the Lundy MNR Management Group:** All members of the Advisory Group had been sent the minutes of this inaugural meeting, held on 30th January. RI wished to clarify how matters arising from meetings of the Advisory Group could be relayed to the Management Group and vice-versa. It was agreed that as representatives of EN, DSFC and LT attended both meetings, there should be no problem in ensuring this happened. Besides, the minutes of meetings held by each Group would be circulated to members of the both Groups. Management Group meetings will be planned to take place soon after Advisory Group meetings. The next is due to take place on 12th May 1995.

5. **Report from the Reserve:** EP took up her post in December 1994. Andrew Gibson had left in September, but EP understood that nothing of great importance relating to the MNR had happened during that 3-month period.

i. The new zoning scheme appeared to be working well, though the increased activity associated with the summer season had yet to begin. EP was handing out the colour leaflets produced by EN to all interested parties. PG stated that a small 'addendum' sticker was now available for these leaflets which provides further information about the regulations regarding diving on protected wrecks.

ii. A large number of unbaited pots were present off the east side of the island. Whose were they? LW reported that they probably belonged to the boat Rosie Jade, that they weren't actively fishing but being kept under water over the winter as this was the best place for them!

iii. EP expressed her concern about the number of large ships that anchor in Lundy Road during adverse weather conditions. These vessels often were within the sanctuary zone of the MNR. JB pointed out that this area was marked as a safe anchorage on the Admiralty Chart, outside that area of the Landing Bay leased for moorings by the Landmark Trust. PG was asked if this had been allowed for on the zoning scheme, and replied that he would look into this matter. Clearly, safety considerations will override all others. It should be possible for EP to call up these vessels on the radio and inform of the MNR, if nothing else.

iv. EP had collected large amounts of litter from the Landing Beach, particularly after easterly winds. This included one or two dead birds, entangled in litter items.

v. At the end of January, a small oil slick was observed off the southern half of the east coast and into Devil's Kitchen. 5 oiled guillemots and 2 gannets were recovered, either dead or dying. The relevant authorities were informed but no action taken due to the rough sea conditions which would disperse the oil naturally in time.

vi. None of the invasive 'japweed' *Sargassum muticum* had been found as attached plants. LW asked if a photograph of this seaweed could be provided for fishermen to be able to look out for it. RI said he would oblige.

vii. A survey of seals was to be undertaken this summer by John Heath & ~~Keith Prescott~~ ^{Steve Westcott}. They planned to identify individual seals using photographs of their head/neck markings.

viii. A certain amount of media attention had taken place recently, with the MNR in general and the snorkel trail in particular: a Channel 4 documentary and a short piece on "Wild West Country".

ix. EP has just started leading shore walks for visitors to the island (usually two per week) and presenting a slide show.

LW expressed his concern that while numerous dive boats were visiting the island, few of their occupants were landing and being informed of the MNR and what it meant. It was suggested that considerable numbers of shellfish were being taken by some of these diving groups (e.g. crawfish off the south coast - 3 years ago he witnessed a whole crate of these being hauled onto a dive boat). He asked whether divers could be made to register before diving within the MNR. It was

thought these boats may be coming from the south Wales coast rather than from north Devon. Were dive clubs there aware of the rules governing activities within the MNR?

SW added that divers were known to have been on the protected wreck site of the *Iona II* without appropriate licences. PG stated that EP would be able to get out to boats that remain away from the shore when she takes charge of a new RIB craft which English Nature are supplying. This should be ready by the end of May and would be emblazoned with the word 'Warden' on her sides. PG also mentioned that monitoring requirements for the MNR would now include counts of the numbers of visiting and residential divers. Requests for licences to dive on the two protected wreck sites within the MNR are vetted by the warden (EP), JH (the licensee) and SW (Royal Commission on Historical Sites in England). SW indicated that, in future, permission to dive on the *Iona II* (of special interest because of her oscillating engines) may be granted by the warden alone. The maximum fine for diving without a licence on a protected wreck is £5000 with possible confiscation of boat and diving equipment. In order to avoid damage to the *Iona* site from boats looking for the nearby wreck of the *Robert* (by dragging anchors), it had been suggested to SW and others that a permanent mooring block/buoy could be fixed to the *Robert*. LW suggested this might be fitted with a flag which would be easier to see from land. An initial approach to Devon County Council has been made to help fund this.

6. The new Lundy Special Area of Conservation (SAC): Dr Paul Gilliland, Marine Designations Officer with English Nature, gave a short presentation with slides about the proposed new Lundy SAC. It was one of 19 marine SACs being put forward under the EC Habitats Directive. Lundy had been proposed on account of its internationally important rocky reefs (both intertidal and subtidal) and for its resident grey seal population. The timetable for the legislation is as follows:

- May 1992: Directive signed by EC ministers
- June 1995: Proposed sites submitted by member states to the EC
- 1998-2004: Designation of sites

This designation would have little, if any, effect on the management of the MNR, as this was already in hand. However, it is gratifying to note that the waters around Lundy are due to receive international recognition, beyond that afforded by still remaining England's only MNR. A 12 week consultation period with interested parties (including all members of the LMNRAG) had just started, running until the end of June. Comments could be directed through the Secretary of the Advisory Group.

7. An initial investigation of the protected wreck site at Gull Rock: John Heath, Appledore Sub-Aqua Club, gave a short presentation with slides about the survey he undertook in 1993 on the 'Gull Rock' protected wreck site. The site was first located by John Shaw in 1968. The wreckage is thought to date from the same period as the Mary Rose - i.e. 1545. There is little sign of ship's timbers, but there are two large cannon, one breech gun and 8 stone cannonballs, spread over a small area of seabed. It is possible these items were simply jettisoned from a boat. Unfortunately, the site appears to be contaminated by wreckage from at least two other vessels. By comparing the site with photographs taken 20 years ago, it appears that very little silt has accumulated on these artifacts. The cannonballs had been fashioned from limestone and had been colonised by small phoronid worms which, to RI's knowledge, were not found elsewhere within the MNR.

8. Marine aggregate dredging - nature conservation implications: Richard Leafe, English Nature's coastal geomorphologist, gave a short presentation on the nature of sediment movement within the Bristol Channel, especially in regard to proposed aggregate extraction in Area 394 north of Ilfracombe. RL kindly provided some figures relating to total sediment movement, which helped put the whole matter in context. Within the Bristol Channel there are 17m tonnes of material in motion during a spring tide. The suspended load can range from 100mg/l to

10,000mg/l. There appear to be two gradients: from inner to outer; and from north to south. At Lundy though, these concentrations are drastically lower, yet there can be wide variations in 'natural' turbidity as divers and fishermen can testify. Studies have shown that from the proposed extraction Area 394, fine sediment can travel 21 km in a south-westerly direction and 22 km in a north-easterly direction, within the course of one tidal cycle. However, the quantity of this fine, re-suspended material is insignificant when compared to the natural load. RL stated therefore that he saw no threat to Lundy emanating from this site. Greater concern would derive from the ARC proposals to extract material from the Baggy 2 site, which extends over much of outer Bideford Bay. The north & west boundaries of this site are only 8 km (5 nautical miles) away from the MNR boundary. The consultation procedure regarding this site was still at an early stage and RL stated he was not in a position to comment further on the proposals. In the Area 394, EN had insisted that some areas of seabed be kept as refuge areas in order to protect the *Sabellaria* reefs.

EN had been pressing the Dept. of the Environment for some time to carry out a study of sediment movement within the region. The question was asked if holes created by extraction of material would draw sand away from neighbouring areas. Yes, this could result, but it would depend on the size and extent of the hole amongst other factors. Was enough known about currents within the Bristol Channel? Yes, the Severn Barrage feasibility study had produced a lot of data on currents. However, hydrodynamic models gave information on currents but not sediment movement. CM pointed out that about 12 years ago, the underwater visibility at Lundy appeared to worsen and silt deposition increased. Two years ago, the visibility improved and the silt was far less. The only change in circumstances that CM can link to this is that the practice of dumping sewage in the outer Bristol Channel stopped a few months before the improvement in visibility. He admitted this was merely circumstantial evidence, but others agreed there could well be a link.

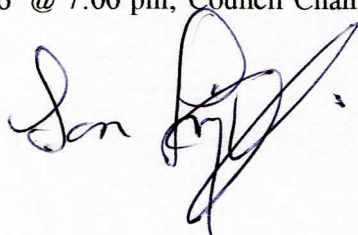
9. Marine Conservation Society's Working Party to the MNR, 3-10 June 1995: Robert Irving informed the Group that he would be taking a group of 14 divers to the island in June to undertake a number of conservation tasks, agreed by English Nature. These would be reported on at the next meeting of the Group.

10. Discussion of other local marine matters outwith the MNR: Jill Strawbridge, Ranger for the north Devon voluntary Marine Conservation Area, reported that the MCA was now up and running. She indicated that she would be willing to offer help with matters relating to Lundy if called upon.

11. Any other business: CM asked if English Nature could write a short article for the diving press setting out the 'rules' of the MNR. It appeared that several divers visiting the reserve were still unaware of the requirements of the Code of Conduct and byelaws.

12. Date(s) of the next meetings:

Thursday, 19 October 1995 @ 7.00 pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bideford
Thursday, 11 April 1996 @ 7.00 pm, Council Chamber, Town Hall, Bideford (*provisional*)



19. 10. 95.