

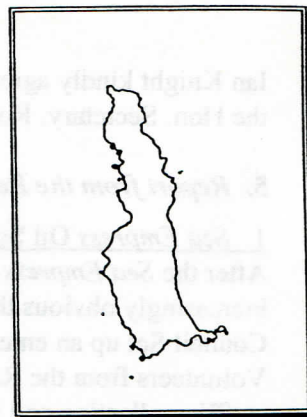
# LUNDY MARINE NATURE RESERVE ADVISORY GROUP

*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 4th meeting of the Advisory Group

(formerly known as the Lundy Marine Consultation Group, of which this was the 22nd meeting)

held on Thursday, 18th April 1996 in the meeting room,  
Torridge District Council Offices, Riverbank House, Bideford at 7.00 pm

### *Present:*

Ian Knight	(IK)	Torridge District Council ( / L.F.S.)	[Chair]
Paul Gilliland	(PG)	English Nature, Peterborough	
Emma Parkes	(EP)	Lundy, MNR Warden	
Rob Walton	(RW)	English Nature (Devon)	
Chris Mandry	(CM)	British Sub-Aqua Club & Ilfracombe and North Devon Sub-Aqua Club	
Pippa Morrison	(PM)	North Devon Heritage Coast Service / N. Devon Vol. Marine Conservation Area	
Nick Phillips	(NP)	N. Devon Sea Angling Assoc. / South-West Federation of Sea Anglers	
Steve Mulberry	(SM)	National Trust	
Len Hawke	(LH)	M.A.F.F. (Plymouth)	
Rev. Bill Blakey	(WB)	Lundy Church	
Keith Bower	(KB)	Devon Sea Fisheries Committee	
Laurie Winsborrow	(LW)	North Devon Fishermen's Association	
John Heath	(JH)	Appledore Sub-Aqua Club	
Steve Waring	(SW)	Nautical Archaeological Society / Royal Commission on Historic Monuments in England	

**1. Apologies for absence:** Apologies had been received from Robert Irving (Lundy Field Society); Sarah Welton (Marine Conservation Society); Tom Hynes (Hartland Heritage Coast Service); Mike Camplin & Richard White (Devon Wildlife Trust); Laurie & Mark Winsborrow (Bideford Fishermen's Association); Neil Downes (Devon Sea Fisheries Committee).

**2. Notes on the last meeting, held on 19th October 1995:** These were accepted as being an accurate account of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters arising:** There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

**4. Matters arising from the Lundy MNR Management Group:** These were not itemised separately but were included within the general discussion of the meeting.

*The following organisations sit on the Advisory Group:* British Sub-Aqua Club \* Devon Sea Fisheries Committee \* Devon Wildlife Trust \* English Nature \* Hartland Heritage Coast Service \* Landmark Trust \* Local Sea Fishing Interests \* The Lundy Company Ltd. \* Lundy Field Society \* Marine Archaeological Interests \* Marine Conservation Society \* Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food \* National Rivers Authority \* National Trust \* Royal Yachting Association \* Torridge District Council \* Worldwide Fund for Nature UK

Ian Knight kindly agreed to take notes of the present meeting which would then be passed on to the Hon. Secretary, Robert Irving.

## **5. Report from the Reserve - Emma Parkes:**

### 1. Sea Empress Oil Spill

After the *Sea Empress* ran aground in Milford Haven on Thursday, 15th February, it became increasingly obvious that Lundy was likely to be affected by the resulting oil spill. Devon County Council Set up an emergency team based at County Hall, Exeter, and began contingency planning. Volunteers from the RSPCA and Devon Wildlife Trust spent a week on the island assisting island staff in collecting and treating oiled seabirds. A total of 165 oiled birds were given first aid treatment on the island and then shipped off for cleaning at one of the RSPCA's centres. Another 56 dead oiled seabirds were found and collected. Small amounts of oil came ashore around the south east corner of the island, a few rock pools were very heavily covered for short periods of time (one tidal cycle). Oil was seen just offshore of the island on several occasions but little actually came ashore. The island is now clear of all signs of oil, and it is over a month since oiled seabirds were last recovered.

An EN-funded survey to check grey seal breeding caves and rock pools that had been oiled has been completed with no signs of oil being observed.

### 2. Unknown oil spill

An oil spill of unknown origin in the Bristol Channel caused large numbers of oiled seabird casualties between November 16th and 20th. Several birds were washed up in the Landing Bay. Five oiled guillemots were found dead. Five live oiled guillemots and one oiled gannet were caught, given first aid and sent off for further treatment.

### 3. Fishing Activity

Cornish Maid continued to pot around the island during November and December, no potting has been observed yet this year. The system of recording pots around the island will be continued this year - using the warden's RIB should make this an easier and more accurate task.

### 4. Snorkelling

A new snorkel trail leaflet containing extra safety information has been produced. This will be given out to people as they book to come on a snorkelling session. The risk assessment for snorkelling has been completed and necessary health and safety measures are now in place. The snorkelling equipment has been serviced and is now ready for the start of the season.

### 5. Diving

There has been little diving activity over the winter as the weather has not been favourable. Diving information for next year has been updated and an attempt is being made to contact all visiting diving groups before they come to Lundy, each group being sent diving information and copies of the zoning scheme. Groups are required to fill in and return a form before their visit to the island. These forms will hopefully produce accurate records of numbers of divers visiting the reserve each year. Due to lack of a suitably experienced skipper on the island, *Islander* will not be used for diving groups this coming year.

### 6. Diver Questionnaire

Alterations are currently being made to the diver questionnaire. Once complete, questionnaires will be sent out to all groups known to be planning diving trips, so that even if groups cannot be contacted during their visit, they will hopefully fill in and return the questionnaire to Lundy.

### 7. Grey seals

The grey seals around the island seem to have been totally unaffected by oil resulting from the *Sea Empress* spill. Large numbers have been observed hauling out during March. John Heath hopes to continue his photographic monitoring of the seals this summer.

### 8. Marine litter

Easterly winds have again been dominant this quarter. Strong easterlies often result in quite large amounts of litter being washed up in the Landing Bay. A basic litter recording system is in place.

9. Summer assistant

A student from Bournemouth University doing a Heritage Conservation B.Sc. is planning to undertake a five week work placement on the island this summer. We are still looking for other similar long-term volunteers.

10. Rigid-hull Inflatable Boat (RIB)

The new Humber RIB has now arrived safely on the island, though we have as yet to try it in the water. Additional safety and navigational equipment (such as VHF, GPS, and crew life jackets) is to be bought in the new financial year.

11. Risso's dolphins

A pod of between 25 and 35 Risso's dolphins spent 3 days in the Landing Bay (1-3 November). There have been two dolphin sightings off the west side during March.

12. Beach Road

Easterly storms coupled with high spring tides undermined and eroded large sections of the road during January. This has been temporarily repaired whilst plans are drawn up for permanent repair.

13. Lundy Agent

Tony Blackler left the island in early March. Reg Lo-vel is once again acting Agent.

14. Landmark Trust Director

A new director to the Trust, Peter Pearce, has recently been appointed.

**6. Discussion of other matters relating to the MNR:** PG reported that EP's Warden contract had been revised and redesigned. He also reported that Lundy had been put forward to the EU in Brussels as a candidate Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the Habitats Directive (see also note 6, 2nd meeting, LMNRAG). English Nature's monitoring lists have been lengthened to include a number of extra species. EN's information for divers has been revised and a questionnaire has been formulated. CM suggested that dive boat operators should be supplied with these as they will be able to have personal contact with a wide range of divers. Last season's questionnaire is being re-issued and a second questionnaire has now been produced. Information regarding the MNR is now on display in St Helena's Church on the island and WB was most complimentary about it. He asked if, as it was to be the Church's centenary next year, whether the size of the display could be increased.

EP gave a report on the *Sea Empress* oil spill, and she was thanked by PG for all her hard work relating to this. He also thanked John Heath for the time he had spent checking the seal caves, in which, fortunately, no oil was found. In all, 7,000 birds had been affected by the oil (mostly in Carmarthen Bay), 4,500 of which had been scoters. On Lundy, the most affected birds were guillemots: 197 were found to be oiled. KB asked PG if a wash-up (de-brief) could be held to discover the lessons to be learnt from the spill.

LUNDY: No. of OILED BIRDS			
	No. of LIVE oiled birds rescued	No. of DEAD oiled birds collected	Totals
Red throated diver	1	1	2
Shag	1	0	1
Oyster catcher	1	0	1
Guillemot	151	46	197
Razorbill	11	6	17

PG reported that a submersible ROV (remotely-operated vehicle) and a sophisticated echo sounder system (RoxAnn) will be used to assist survey work this summer. The Iona wreck will be one site

to be surveyed. EN will hopefully use some of the footage to upgrade the video. SW asked if signs would be erected this summer with regard to the historic wrecks. CM asked again for articles in the diving press about the historic wrecks and prohibited anchorage areas. PG replied that he was in the process of completing the articles. A leaflet and questionnaire about wreck sites will hopefully be out later this year.

A discussion was held on the promotion of the unique importance of the MNR. RW pointed out that EN now lease the whole of the seabed of the MNR (excluding the Landing Bay which is leased by the Landmark Trust) from the Crown Estates. PG acknowledged that yachtsmen in particular knew very little about the MNR, so publicity for them is now a high priority. NP pointed out that angling on Lundy had increased last year.

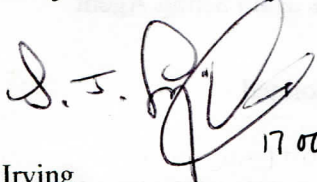
9. **Any other business:** There was no other business to report

The Committee wished it to be minuted that they send their very best wishes to Robert Irving and their deepest condolences with regard to the death of his father. They look forward to seeing him at the next meeting.

10. **Dates of the next meetings:**

Thursday, 17th October 1996, 7 p.m.

Thursday, 17th April 1997, 7 p.m. (provisional)



17 Oct. '96.

Robert Irving  
15 July 1996

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