

LUNDY MARINE CONSERVATION ZONE ADVISORY GROUP

The Aims of the Group are: 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 Forum for the island.

Established: 1985

Please reply to the Hon. Secretary:

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Notes of the 3rd meeting of the Lundy Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group

(formerly known as the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve Advisory Group, of which this was the 33rd meeting, and prior to that the Lundy Marine Consultation Group, of which this was the 51st meeting)

held on **Tuesday, 19th April 2011** on board the island's passenger ferry MS *Oldenburg*, berthed alongside the quay at Bideford at 7.00 p.m.

Present:

Keith Hiscock	(KH)	Marine Biological Association – Chair
Robert Irving	(RI)	Lundy Field Society/Marine Conservation Society - Secretary
Andrew Bell	(AB)	UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, Braunton Burrows
Mel Parker	(AK)	Natural England
Andrew Bengey	(AB)	<i>Obsession</i> Charters
John Balls	(JB)	local pot fisherman
Bob Gotts	(BG)	Chair, North Devon Fishermen's Association
Ed Salter	(ES)	English Heritage
Chris Mandry	(CM)	British Sub-Aqua Club
Sarah Clark	(SC)	Devon & Severn Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority
Mel Parker	(MP)	Natural England
Derek Green	(DG)	Lundy Manager
Nicola Saunders	(NS)	Lundy Warden
Gill Moore	(GM)	RWE npower renewables ('Atlantic Array')
Robert Thornhill	(RT)	RWE npower renewables ('Atlantic Array')
Clive Pearson	(CP)	Local charter skipper (<i>Jessica Hettie</i>)

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, especially those attending for the first time. He also thanked Derek Green for making the MS *Oldenburg* available for the meeting for the first time.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: Tim Robbins (Devon Sea Fisheries Committee); Keith Denby (Ilfracombe & N Devon Sub-Aqua Club); Alison James (née Hamer) (English Heritage); Geoff Huelin (lobster fisherman) and John Butterwith (N. Devon Fishermen's Association). John Butterwith would no longer be representing the N. Devon Fishermen – Bob Gotts would be taking over from him.

2. Notes on the last meeting, held on 20th October 2010

Copies of these had been circulated prior to the meeting. Those present agreed the notes were a correct representation of the meeting and they were signed as approved by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising from the meeting held on 20th October 2010

Following the RSPB's proposal that the boundary to the Lundy MCZ (& other ones which also had marine bird interest) should be extended to include a buffer zone extending some 4 km all around the island, KH pointed out that MCZs cannot be identified for their bird interest alone, but that bird interest can be included as a means of supporting the MCZ application.

KH informed the Group that 'all had gone quiet' regarding the cup coral samples he had submitted for DNA analysis to a colleague in Liverpool.

4. Matters arising from the last Lundy Management Forum meeting

DG summarised the agenda items which were discussed at the last meeting of the Forum which took place on 21st October 2010 at Natural England's offices in Exeter (the day after the last meeting of the Advisory Group). RI had also been in attendance and had passed on the outcomes of the previous evening's Advisory Group meeting. KH had represented the Lundy Field Society. The main points discussed were:

- Terrestrial monitoring on the island had included assessments of the domestic stock and the rabbit population.
- Seabirds and the MCZ by Helen Booker (RSPB).
- The terrestrial Conservation Management Plan by Footprint Ecology consultants, the final draft of which was due in one month's time.
- Waste-water run-off.
- An update on archaeological matters by English Heritage.
- The new building(s) being erected as volunteer accommodation are progressing well.
- The future of the Church and its current condition.
- An appraisal of the latest activities of the Lundy Field Society (KH).
- Keith Bower, retiring Chief Fisheries Officer for the Devon Sea Fisheries Committee, was thanked for his years of service to the Forum (and its predecessor groups).

5. Report from the Reserve

The report attached as Annex A was presented by NS.

Points addressed during and after NS's report:

- CP pointed out that the Gannets' Bay Seaflex mooring is no more! NS & DG were aware of this (the buoy had separated from the flexible strop which had sunk to the seabed) and had matters in hand to sort out the mooring.
- RI thanked NS (and also DG) for all of the work they have put in for the Marine ID Guide and the forthcoming Lundy MCZ website. DG pointed out that the Lundy website was also getting a 'facelift'.

6. Natural England's interests (MP, Natural England)

MP had received a final report from Sea-Scope following their diving survey in September last year, looking at populations of sea fans and sunset cup corals in particular. Regular monitoring of these communities was a requirement of the MCZ. She summarized the findings thus:

- Overall numbers of the sunset cup coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti* had declined by 4% since 2007, though there was evidence of recruitment in some areas and greater losses in other areas. Counts were undertaken at the Knoll Pins, Gannets' Rock Pinnacle and Anchor Pinnacle.
- Overall numbers of the pink sea fan *Eunicella verrucosa* had declined by 15% since 2003, for the area between the Quarries and Gull Rock off the east coast. The condition of the sea fans was slightly better than the figures recorded in 2003 and in 2005, but not as good as the figure recorded in 2001.
- The survey found that the proportion of the southern kelp *Laminaria ochroleuca* to the northern kelp *Laminaria hyperborea* had increased dramatically at two shallow water sites off the east coast (Gannets' Bay and north of Rat Island). This could well have implications for the composition of the communities present within the kelp forest.

MP then outlined Natural England's survey plans for 2011. These would include a survey of the intertidal sea caves and rockpools; a survey reassessing the distribution of intertidal biotopes; and a desk-based study as to why certain species are in a state of decline within the MCZ.

KH pointed out that he considered one of the outstanding projects to be tackled was that of assessing contaminants within the soft sediments around the island. MP pointed out that this project was likely to require funding in the region of £45k and that the Natural England budget for 2011 did not cover this.

The Warden's work plan for 2011 included certain monitoring studies including grey seals, *Sargassum* and rockpools.

There was to be no monitoring of the No Take Zone in 2011, but there were plans to do this next year (2012).

MP informed the Group that a revised and updated Management Plan for the MCZ would be produced as a draft for consultation towards the end of the year. This would set out the priorities for the MCZ and the conservation objectives.

7. Celebratory activities for 2011 (40th/25th Anniversaries)

KH informed the Group that plans were well underway for celebrating these two (joint) anniversaries.

- having Lundy's marine life featured in the first programme of the forthcoming BBC series 'Britain's Secret Seas' (to be shown in May);
- KH had written a feature article to appear in the Wildlife Trusts' 'Natural World' magazine;
- KH had written a feature article to appear in May's issue of 'Diver' magazine, and another in May's issue of 'Dive' magazine;
- a celebratory party was to be hosted by the Lundy Company/Landmark Trust (c/o Derek Green) on board the *Oldenburg* alongside at Bideford Quay on 3rd July; the local MP for Torridge, Geoffrey Cox, had been invited to say a few

words, as had the Minister for the Environment Richard Benyon.

- the Marine Field Guides, currently being prepared by Nicola Saunders and Sophie Wheatley, are due to be launched at the event on 3rd July;
- already in use since January 2011, a special “Lundy – 40 years of Marine Conservation” cancellation frank on all mail leaving the island;
- KH and RI have paired up to write a small book on the history of marine conservation at Lundy, which would be published towards the end of the year.
- the annual underwater photographic ‘Splash-In’ is due to take place on 18/19 June 2011;
- it was suggested that Ilfracombe & Appledore dive clubs could exhibit their members underwater photos of Lundy’s marine life at the event on 3rd July, together with the winning shots from the Spalsh-In.

A programme of events would be put up on the Lundy Field Society’s website:

[<http://www.lundy.org.uk/island/mnr.html#mcz40>]

8. **Any Other Business**

- SC reported that she had recently managed to obtain 10 years’ worth of diary data (logbooks) from local fishermen operating within the Marine Nature Reserve/SAC/MCZ, which would make a very valuable contribution to her study on the island’s lobster population. She had approached both WWF and Natural England for funding assistance to continue the tagging project.
- ES reported that two students from Bournemouth University were planning to undertake a marine archaeological survey of the two protected wreck sites at Lundy: the *Iona II* and the Gull Rock wreck site, if funding could be found. He confirmed that for other dives wishing to visit the Iona II site, licences could be applied for on the English Heritage website.
- AB reported that a local fisheries action group had recently been part of a bid to the Rural Development Fund for a share of £1.3m. The money was to be spent within communities associated in some way to fisheries. A business plan was currently being written and was due to be completed by the end of May.
- RI passed on the concerns of Keith Denby regarding the apparent lack of development of a website for the MCZ. Fortunately, RI would be able to report back to KD that the new MCZ website which NS and Sophie Wheatley have been working on, is due to go live sometime during the summer.

[<http://www.lundymcz.org.uk>]

9. **The Atlantic Array wind farm proposals**

Following discussion of the Atlantic Array wind farm at the previous meeting of the Group, representatives of RWE npower renewables had been invited to put forward their proposals. Consequently, RWE npower renewables’ Gill Moore (Offshore Consents Manager) and Robert Thornhill (Project Manager for the Atlantic Array) shared presenting their company’s proposals (as Powerpoint slideshows) which included summarising the research already undertaken into the environmental impacts of such a scheme.

The questions which followed, and the ensuing discussion, included the following points:

- What account has been taken of other baseline studies which have been undertaken at other windfarm sites? KH made mention of a recently published book entitled *Understanding the environmental impacts of offshore windfarms*, edited by Joyce Huddleston and published by COWRIE (Collaborative Offshore Wind Research into the Environment) in 2010. He pointed out that he had been sent a number of free copies of this book which he could send on to anyone interested.
- What was the likely impact of drilling the piles into the seabed, especially with regard to noise and vibration levels?
- Has the company actually put forward any potential environmental benefits of the scheme, other than simply producing 'clean' energy?
- Would all shipping be excluded from the outer boundaries of the windfarm, or would passage amongst the turbines be allowed for certain vessels?
- There was considerable concern over the visual impact of the array of turbines as seen from the north end of Lundy, as well as the potential noise which would be created both during construction and during operation.
- Would lights be present on the tops of all the turbines or only on those at the corners?

Precise answers to many of these questions were unknown, which rather frustrated some of those present. It was agreed that these questions (and others) would be raised at the meeting of the Management Forum tomorrow, to be added to a written list of concerns which would be compiled and put to the developers.

10 Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25th October 2011

19:00 hrs on board MS *Oldenburg* moored alongside **Ilfracombe** Quay.

N.B. note the change of venue!

Annex A

Warden's Report (October 2010 – April 2011)

1 Staff

- 1.1 Chris Flower left Lundy in January after almost five years as island Ranger.
- 1.2 Steve Pratt has now been appointed Ranger. He was the seasonal volunteer last year and stayed on Lundy over winter to work with the maintenance team.
- 1.3 Sophie returned to Lundy on 14 March after a four month sabbatical. With several staff changes and a team member down over the winter months, it has been an extremely busy winter.
- 1.4 Reece Woolgar has been appointed the seasonal volunteer. He joined the team on 29th March and has already settled in well.

2 Marine

- 2.1 RIB – frustratingly the RIB was out of service for the entire season last year, so we fully intend to make the most of it in 2011.
- 2.2 Grey Seals: Sophie and I will be doing RIB based seal surveys this season. This has been highlighted as a high priority, so hopefully I will have some more data to report in October.
- 2.3 Cetaceans: No reports over winter. I have purchased 2 C-Pods, which are acoustic monitoring systems that detect porpoises, dolphins and toothed whales by recognising the trains of echo-location clicks. These will be deployed over the next few weeks and should add to our current monitoring and supplement that data that is gathered from the local vessels taking part in ongoing recording.

On Friday 15th April Sophie saw a small pod of common dolphins off the North West of Lundy with one bottlenosed dolphins and two Minke Whales.

- 2.4 Seaflex moorings. Appledore SAC with Derek visually checked the Visitors' Mooring and the Warden's Mooring; both require maintenance on the mooring lines and will need to have their anchor eyelets replaced. Replacement parts are on order and I hope to have the work done within the next few weeks.

3 Survey & Monitoring

- 3.1 Seabirds: The first puffin of the year was seen by Grant on 25th March, on the water at Jenny's Cove and we have begun surveys. Early signs are looking positive with eight active burrows identified at Jenny's so far and a highest count of 18 puffins on 18th April.

Manx Shearwaters have been heard at night, Tim Guilford's survey team are planning to return to continue the tracking survey.

Sophie and I have scaled down our annual productivity surveys and will not be monitoring the Guillemots or Fulmar this year, but we will continue with Puffin surveys

and Kittiwake productivity.

4 Interpretation & Events

- 4.1 The 2011 Lundy Splash-IN been scheduled for 18 – 19 June. We have once again received generous sponsorship.
- 4.2 Leaflets: Sophie is currently working on a Seal leaflet that should be finalised and ready for production this summer
- 4.3 Marine Guide: We have almost completed the Marine Guide. As with all of the interpretation we have produced, the design and content management and proofing takes a considerable amount of work and more so with a detailed guide. The guide has been split into three sections; a 56 page guide booklet and two ID guides, a 24 page underwater species ID guide and an 18 page intertidal & snorkelling species ID Guide.
- 4.4 The MCZ Website is under production and I am hoping to have it completed and ready for launch at the 40th anniversary celebrations on 3 July. Again, the production is taking a considerable amount of work and we may have to prioritise the content in order to come in on time & on budget.
- 4.5 Beach Building: The new 'sturdier' dibond boards have been put up in the beach building & the original boards have been relocated to the Hartland heliport.
- 4.6 Logo boards in the Beach Building & Hartland and all the leaflet logo straplines have been updated to remove DSFC which has been replaced with DSIFCA.
- 4.7 Six new boards have been designed for the mainland and we have had 17 panels printed for various locations in Bideford, Ilfracombe and Clovelly.
- 4.8 Mainland school visits took place in October last year and again in March. Unfortunately we may not be able to do further visits in 2011 due to other work commitments.

5 Media

- 5.1 Devon Life are running a 'Lundy Special' in their May issue.
- 5.2 Diver magazine have a feature article on Lundy in their current issue.
- 5.3 At the end of March, the BBC were over with Chris Packham filming for a three part series. Lundy features in part 2 on 23rd May on BBC.
- 5.4 BBC Oceans were filming last year and have now confirmed the series is called Britain's Secret Seas and the series starts broadcast Sunday 8th May at 8pm on BBC2. Lundy features in the first episode 'Giants of the west'.
- 5.5 Coastwise were over filming on Lundy at the beginning of April. The series began on 5 April and Lundy will feature in episode 6 which will be broadcast ITV on Tuesday 10 May.