

# LUNDY MARINE PROTECTED AREA 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 10th meeting of the Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group

(formerly known as the Lundy Marine Conservation Zone Advisory Group, the Lundy Marine Nature Reserve Advisory Group, and originally the Lundy Marine Consultation Group, of which this was the 67<sup>th</sup> meeting)

held on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019** at 7.00 p.m. on board the MS *Oldenburg* alongside Bideford Quay, Bideford.

### Present:

Keith Hiscock	(KH)	Marine Biological Association	Chair
Robert Irving	(RI)	Lundy Field Society	Hon. Sec.
Andy Bell	(ABel)	UNESCO Biosphere Reserve	
Lauren Parkhouse	(LP)	Devon & Severn IFCA	
Dean Jones	(DJ)	Lundy Warden, Lundy Company	
Chrissie Ingle	(CI)	North Devon Biosphere/Marine Pioneer Project	
Sarah Young	(SY)	WWF (UK SEAS project)	
Alicia Gibson	(AG)	Visitor: Environmental Finance Ltd (c/o WWF)	
Olivia Bennett	(OB)	Visitor: Environmental Finance Ltd (c/o WWF)	

The Chairman (KH) extended a warm welcome to all, especially to those here for the first time. The purpose of the Group, KH explained, was to allow the users of the Lundy MPA to “have their say” and to raise any particular issues they would like to see addressed. Any concerns or matters of importance could then be conveyed to the Lundy Management Forum at its next meeting (usually the following day) by the Group’s Hon. Sec. KH also thanked the crew of the *Oldenburg* for their hospitality.

KH then said a few words about **Chris Mandry**, a long-standing member of this Advisory Group, representing both the British Sub-Aqua Club and the Ilfracombe and N. Devon Sub-Aqua Club, who sadly had passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The Secretary had sent out an email to all members of the Group with the news of his death soon afterwards, and the condolences he received by reply were passed on to his widow Ann by the Chairman.

Chris first attended meetings of the Advisory Group (then known as the Marine Consultation Group) in November 1990, and had been a consistent attendee and contributor ever since. He regularly dived around the island, mostly from Roy Lancaster’s boat *Frolica*, and had a fondness for collecting (and consuming!) scallops. It was he who had suggested the writing of the book (which Keith Hiscock and Robert Irving then authored) on 40 years of marine conservation at Lundy, published in 2012. Over the years, Chris, through the auspices of the

Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club, also provided training for island wardens in O<sub>2</sub> administration and boat handling. KH had dived with Chris on many occasions at Lundy. When under water, he had a good eye for spotting well-hidden wildlife, particularly scallops and crawfish, and on one dive he had found a stone anchor at 30 m depth, an unusual find in that it had the owner's mark on it and apparently only about 2 in 1,000 are found with such marks. His encouragement and ideas will be greatly missed.

### 1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from: Derek Green (Lundy General Manager/Landmark Trust); Mel Parker (Natural England); Hefin Meara (Historic England); Fiona Moffat (Ilfracombe Yacht Club); John Balls (Fisherman/Chair, N Devon Fishermen's Association/NFFO); Rick Morris (MARINELife); Andrew Benguey (Charter boat skipper); Ben Benguey (Charter boat skipper); Leigh Hanks (Charter boat skipper); Robert Durrant (Coastwise North Devon); and Rick Morris (MARINELife).

### 2. **Notes on the last meeting of the MPA Advisory Group, held on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018 (at Ilfracombe SAC Clubhouse, Ropery Road, Ilfracombe)**

- 2.1 Copies of these notes had been circulated by the Hon. Sec. soon after the meeting. No amendments were raised by those present, so the notes were signed by the Chairman as being an accurate record of the meeting.

### 3. **Matters arising from the last meeting of the MPA Advisory Group (2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018)**

- 3.1 (13.1) KH asked if the report from **MARINELife** was available. RI confirmed that a short pdf summary report had accompanied the distribution of the notes of the last meeting, and that Rick Morris had now sent RI a full report of the 2018 sightings, so this will accompany the distribution of the present notes.
- 3.2 (3.6) Updating the **Zoning Scheme** map. This matter has been on-going for some time now. SY explained that, recently, help had been offered from Plymouth University's GeoData unit. However, staff turnover has meant that progress had been on hold. LP pointed out that several of the IFCA's GIS layers had been passed on to Plymouth some time ago, with other maps awaiting completion. These maps were now ready. AB added that a draft map had been produced and forwarded to SC at the IFCA, but he'd received no reply. SY had recently sent the latest draft to RI & DG for comment. RI pointed out that he thought where the two protected wrecks were positioned was incorrect. He also suggested the location of the *HMS Montagu* wreck be added.

KH added that for a chapter he had recently written for an academic book about MPA management, the publisher (Elsevier) had stipulated that greyscale (black and white) illustrations rather than colour had to be used. His use of the old Lundy MPA Zoning Scheme meant that (1) it was out of date; and (2) that the different areas did not contrast with each other very well. This latter point should be incorporated into the design of the new Zoning Scheme map. ABel also added that allowance should be made for those who were colour-blind and unable to distinguish green from red shading.

CI pointed out that at this stage it was the accuracy of the map which was being produced which was important. It was up to a designer to then work on the actual presentation of the graphic, which could be incorporated into various publishing media. She asked, for instance, if voluntary measures (such as inclusion of the ray box) should be incorporated alongside the statutory measures.

3.6 **Matters arising from the last Lundy Management Forum meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2018**

[As DG, who would normally present these matters arising, was absent, RI briefly summed up what was discussed at the last Management Forum meeting]. Meetings of the Management Forum are usually held the day after the Advisory Group meetings. The meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October was held at the National Trust offices at Baggly Point, Croyde, N. Devon.

- 3.1. RI had reported on what had been discussed at the Advisory Group meeting the previous evening.
- 3.2. The new underwater data loggers had now been put in place (on the wreck of the *Iona II* at about 20 m depth and at the end of the jetty at about 2 m depth).
- 3.3. A discussion took place with regard to anchoring around the island and the possible damage to seabed species, as had been raised at an earlier Advisory Group meeting. It was questioned whether more visitors' moorings could be set in the Landing Bay. DG explained that the Lundy Company's public liability insurance would not cover the installation of any further moorings, particularly in light of the yacht which had been wrecked on the shore earlier in the summer.
- 3.4. Helen Booker of the RSPB reported on the surveys undertaken last summer on the island's Manx shearwater and storm petrel populations. The Manx shearwaters population had shown a remarkable increase in numbers – up to 5,436 pairs – from the pre-rat eradication survey of about 300 pairs. A paper has been submitted on this topic to *British Birds* and is due for publication in the spring.
- 3.5. The long-time surveyors of the Lundy cabbage population, Roger & Rosie Key and Steve Compton, had decided to end their annual surveys of the plants after 24 years. Alan & Sandra Rowland of the LFS offered their services to take over these surveys, given the necessary training with regard to the standardized methodology which had been adopted, alongside Janet Lister of the National Trust and Dean Jones.
- 3.6. The new water treatment plant was due to be installed on the island in the near future [this has now been completed and the need for bottled water is no more!].
- 3.7. Trinity House were planning to carry out certain upgrades and alterations to the North Light. They had been in discussions with Derek Green and others with regard to the planning of their work and exactly when it would be carried out (May-August 2019).
- 3.8. Regarding the future governance of the island, Derek Green was pleased to announce that the National Trust and the Landmark Trust had agreed that the lease of the island would be extended for a further 50 years from 2029. This commitment would now enable major investment in a number of projects including the future maintenance of the *Oldenburg*. The Landmark Trust were also planning to celebrate their 50 years of running Lundy in September 2019.
- 3.9. ABel asked if the minutes of the Management Group could be made available to members of the Advisory Group. RI pointed out that this hadn't been done to date on account of 'sensitive' issues which the Management Forum might discuss from time to time. ABel indicated that any such issues could be redacted from the minutes before distribution, if this was felt necessary. RI agreed to put this to the Forum meeting tomorrow and that he would report back. KH added that the Management Forum discussed a wide range of issues, many of which would be irrelevant to this Advisory Group which should just be concerned with the MPA. SY pointed out that such an open, two-way sharing of information could only bode well for future management of both the MPA and the island as a whole.

[The response from the Forum meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 to this suggestion was that Forum members were happy for the written minutes of their meetings to be shared with the Advisory Group, on the understanding that any sensitive issues be redacted].

#### 4. Warden's Report

DJ presented his Conservation Team's report. A pdf file of his report accompanies these notes. The following points were raised.

- 4.1 **Grey seals.** KH pointed out that it was highly likely that seals were pupping in caves along the island's west coast, which would add to overall numbers. DJ explained that he was aware that certain caves (such as Aztec cave near St Mark's Stone and Seal Hole on the south coast) had been inspected in the past, but these required benign sea conditions, which were a fairly rare occurrence. ABeI asked if all of the seal ID work was done manually (DJ confirmed that it was, by Cornwall Seal Group) and whether DJ had looked into using software to assist with this process. ABeI suggested that Google Platforms might be interested in sponsoring such a project.

KH pointed out that there was a lack of information about what the Lundy seals are eating, as there are few records of them eating at the surface. To date there are two observations of conger eels being eaten, and one of a wrasse. DJ added that there was a record of a great northern diver eating a monkfish/anglerfish. Efforts to collect seal poo left in the intertidal a few years ago had failed – they appear to prefer to poo in the water!

- 4.2 **Climbing restrictions.** DJ has established close communication with the British Mountaineering Council which allows for adaptation of the closure periods for certain climbs around the island, in light of seabird fledging times. Those present welcomed this management incentive, especially where on-the-spot observations of nesting sites could lead to immediate opening or closing of climbs.
- 4.3 **New weather station.** KH asked how available the data were to one and all and how immediate. DJ explained he had been having some trouble in getting the station accessible via the internet, so that data could be immediately available to one and all (as was the original intention). KH wondered if longer-term data could be produced in the form of histograms or charts and DJ confirmed it could be.
- 4.4 **Lundy Ambassadors.** This scheme has only been running for a year or so and already it is proving very popular and worthwhile. Volunteer 'experts' are regularly on hand to assist in helping the Conservation Team with interpretation when on the island; they also undertake visits to local schools and help with the day trips for school parties to the island. There's currently 13 people signed up and trained as Ambassadors.
- 4.5 The **Splash-In!** is being run again this year and is planned to take place on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, a little earlier than in past years. The two local dive clubs are planning to participate and any others are welcome along too.
- 4.6 The island has appointed a **Lundy Ambassador**, David Lindo, also known as the Urban Birder (note that this is quite separate from the Lundy Ambassadors scheme) (see his webpage at <https://theurbanbirder.com>). DJ is looking forward to David visiting Lundy and being enthused by its wildlife. The idea is that through his media connections, he will be able to help promote the island in various ways.
- 4.7 RI asked what the current situation was regarding the **Warden's RHIB**. DJ explained that although it had been over on the mainland this past winter for repairs, the work to fix various items hadn't been completed, and so it currently resides out of the way on top of the island. DJ and his colleagues have still not managed to get on a RHIB-training course. RI agreed to follow this up with Derek Green at tomorrow's Management Forum meeting.
- 4.8 KH asked if DJ was planning on getting to the **Skomer MCZ** anytime soon. DJ was surprised by this suggestion and said that he didn't have this within his work programme at present! RI added, by means of explanation, that he was keen to see greater liaison between the two MCZs, and had invited Phil Newman, the Skomer MCZ Warden, across to Lundy in the autumn. KH added that Phil's team set the standard for monitoring studies of marine life within the UK and have built up an impressive range of

datasets over the years. They have many reports up on the NRW website, eg:

<https://cdn.naturalresources.wales/media/686279/eng-report-250-skomer-mcz-annual-report-2017.pdf>

## 5. **D&SIFCA update (Lauren Parkhouse)**

5.1 LP explained that, within the D&S IFCA region, it was now a statutory requirement for all fishing vessels between 6.99 m and 15.24 m, which possessed a valid Mobile Fishing Permit, to have fully functional **IVMS (Inshore Vessel Monitoring System)** or **VMS** on them. A location 'ping' is received from each vessel every 10 minutes, although this can be enhanced to being every 3 minutes when necessary. The older VMS system for boats over 12 m in length produced a ping every 2 hours, so the new system was a considerable improvement. The new system could be interrogated historically, so it is possible to find out where a vessel was on a particular date at a particular time and to have a strong indication of what it was doing (typically the boat's track will show if fishing gear is deployed).

5.2 There is a small area at Lundy within the MCZ/SAC which is open to **towed gear** at present, allowing for possible trawling for squid. Use of this area is being monitored by means of IVMS to assess whether or not the area should remain open for towed gear or, if it is being over-used, whether it should be closed to such vessels.

5.3 **Crawfish** numbers have been steadily increasing in recent years throughout the south-west, it would appear. LP had received reports that off Devon's south coast, small crawfish (carapace length between 60-80 mm) had been being caught in open sandy areas in the vicinity of the 6-mile offshore line. The IFCA are keen to establish whether a re-measurable parameter could be determined for some part of the head, so that divers could measure this parameter when viewing a crawfish in its hole, rather than have to entice the beast out of its hole in order to get a carapace length measurement.

A meeting concerning possible **conservation measures for crawfish** was recently held (which KH had attended) with representatives from Isles of Scilly, Cornwall and Devon IFCA's, Exeter & Plymouth Universities, fishermen, Seasearch divers and other interested parties attending. Encouragingly, fishermen are keen to see positive measures (e.g. increasing min. landing size, or having more closed areas) brought in now in order to avoid any possible collapse in the fishery as it grows. Currently the min. landing size is 110 mm within the 6 mile line, and 95 mm outside it (regulated by Defra). Exeter University had been asked to undertake a study of the genetic makeup of the populations off the south Devon coast and off the north Devon coast (and elsewhere) to see if there were identifiable differences.

5.4 LP added that, although not of particular relevance to Lundy, Exeter University were currently undertaking a study looking at the re-appearance of **Atlantic bluefin tuna** in the south-west. The study involves acquiring new and old sightings/catch data and instigating a tagging programme.

## 6. **Natural England (NE) update (Mel Parker – report sent in absentia)**

6.1 MP had sent her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. She had e-mailed a short report which RI read out:

6.2 **Staff Update.** Mel Parker and Ruth Porter continue as Lead Advisers for marine sites in Devon (with additional part-time input from Alex Goodman); and Ruth Crundwell works in the Adviser Delivery Team. Sangeeta McNair & Andrew Knights continue to work as Senior Advisers across Devon, Cornwall & IoS, having widened their remit to include terrestrial protected sites and the freshwater environment.

6.3 **Conservation Advice Packages.** Natural England is working to improve and update all our conservation advice packages for Marine Protected Areas. View the index map which shows our progress, and the draft and formal packages here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/western-channel-and-celtic-sea-marine-area-index-map-and-site-packages>

- 6.4 As a quick summary, the following sites had draft advice packages published in March 2019:

Falmouth Bay to St Austell Bay SPA  
Isles of Scilly Complex SAC  
Lizard Point SAC  
Upper Fowey and Pont Pill MCZ  
Newquay and The Gannel MCZ

In addition the following formal packages have been updated: Plymouth Sound and Estuaries SAC – to reflect condition assessment; and Lundy SAC - minor background Grey Seal seasonality adjustment.

- 6.5 **Monitoring and Survey work.** There hasn't been any recent marine survey work around Lundy and there is none planned by Natural England this year.

Cefas are still currently writing the Lundy SAC Site Report which draws on the data collected during their 2017 grab sampling and drop down video surveys. Realistically, with the number of reviews these reports go through, I would expect it to be 6-12 months before the Site Report is published externally. The survey report is expected to have Defra sign-off in the next month although this will only report on survey details and not results of any analysis.

Natural England has contributed £4.5k to the organisation and delivery of a Lundy marine Bioblitz in 2020. This funding is to help ensure that some of the long term datasets of marine habitats and species around Lundy can be updated through repeat surveys. The funding will also be used to pay for the Lundy Marine Management Plan to be updated to include condition assessments for some of the marine features as a result of the surveys.

- 6.6 **MCZs.** Defra's public consultation on the third tranche of MCZs closed on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018. Sites will be designated within 1 year of the start of the public consultation, so by 8<sup>th</sup> June 2019 (World Oceans Day).
- 6.7 **Fisheries.** Natural England staff continue to work closely with Devon and Severn IFCA as they continue their assessments of fishing in MPAs, moving to focus on MCZ sites. Andrew Knights is the NE representative on the Devon and Severn IFCA.
- 6.8 KH pointed out that over the last few years, Natural England's funding had been halved, so it was not surprising they were not doing as much as they once did with regard to the Lundy MPA. Their staff are also having to produce background information for all of the newly proposed MCZs.
- 6.9 KH also wanted to add that he had been trying to get some context with regard to delays in the results of the 2017 grab & drop-down video survey and has spoken to a few people about this. Clare Miller (Natural England) has asked for a 'letter' expressing the MPA Advisory Group's frustration, as there is an upcoming meeting of the Defra Marine and Fisheries Evidence Steering Group. KH's initial (for starters) view is:

*"Over the past two meetings of the Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group, members have expressed frustration at the delay in releasing the report of the surveys of sediment habitats around the island undertaken in 2017.*

*We would like to see the results and interpretation of the surveys in 2007, 2012 and 2017 of sediment habitats around Lundy being used to inform the MPA condition assessment and any appropriate management action especially with regard to the use of mobile bottom fishing gear.*

*Our enquiries to Natural England have always been answered rapidly and courteously and, in March 2018, we were sent maps of survey sites for information. Our understanding is that the survey report is under review at Cefas where there is a*

*considerable backlog of reports being checked. Whilst recognizing that data need validation, we felt that the results of the survey should feed information into the management of the MPA as soon as the report is completed. Perhaps the process relevant to MPA management needs a 'light touch' or 'streamlined' review and not, perhaps, some across-the-board rigor developed for reports that inform policy."*

Those present thought that the above statement was appropriate and agreed that KH send it to those concerned. LP added that the D&S IFCA is also frustrated with how long it seems to take Cefas to complete reports which the IFCA need for management purposes. SY also pointed out that adaptive management for MPAs couldn't be carried out without the data, so these delays were hindering the overall management effort. ABeI added that he understood there were other institutions and laboratories which could do the work equally as well – possibly just the data validation. LP pointed out that Cefas do contract out some of their work, but there are strong contractual controls on what can be done with the data.

## **7. The N Devon Marine Pioneer Project (Chrissie Ingle – N Devon Biosphere Reserve)**

- 7.1 The background to this project has been covered in earlier meetings, so won't be reported here. CI firstly acknowledged the input she had received from the UK SEAS Project.
- 7.2 The project now has a Marine Natural Capital Asset and Risk Register (which includes Lundy). This was a large piece of work undertaken by Plymouth University (c/o Dr Siân Rees). A Natural Capital Plan exists for the Terrestrial Pioneer project (also being run in N. Devon), and CI explained that this will now be attempted for the Marine Pioneer. Basically, she explained, it's a local marine plan and a bit more, but at a higher resolution. The original idea had been for the plan to fit into the SW Marine Plan (being drawn up by the MMO), but the MMO would first like to see how the N Devon plan evolves.
- 7.3 The Asset Risk Register (as drawn up by Plymouth University as part of the Southwest Partnership for Environmental and Economic Prosperity (SWEEP) project), as a concept, is now being tested by the Isles of Scilly, to see if it can become a 'plug and play' version that could be rolled out to other areas of the country. The process by which the Asset Risk Register was drawn up showed how difficult it is to obtain data from the marine environment, not just from the large organisations but also from smaller ones. The Register is now a document comprising over 200 pages. CI was reassured when the opinions of members of the Marine Working Group aligned with the findings set out in the Register.
- 7.4 The Project is producing a number of leaflets, summary sheets and infographics to help explain the work being undertaken.
- 7.5 In partnership with the UK SEAS project, the Marine and Landscape Pioneers have commissioned six short video films entitled 'From Source to Sea'. The films will be about the value of nature to people and linking sea to land – we are trying to avoid technical jargon in them and make them about how people see nature.

## **8. The WWF UK SEAS Project (Sarah Young)**

- 8.1 Again, the background to this project, which is closely aligned to the Marine Pioneer project, has been covered in earlier meetings.  
  
There are four main themes to the project: (1) Improving governance for MPAs; (2) Sustainable finance for MPAs; (3) Improving community awareness of local MPAs; and (4) Ensuring Government provides sufficient finance for MPAs. WWF are keen to assist with existing projects that are sustainable in the long-term.

- 8.2 The project has been pioneering the use of a 'waste shark' in Ilfracombe harbour launched on 4th March. This is a fully automated robotic craft (an aqua drone), about 80 cm x 60 cm in size, which propels itself on the surface of the water gobbling up litter. It is the first time in the UK such a drone has been used. It has been invented by a Dutch engineer. Any plastic debris that is collected is offloaded on to the quayside and is then utilised by a company set up to make kayaks out of recycled plastic waste. The 'waste shark' can also be used to collect data, such as seawater temperature and salinity as well as video, so WWF have teamed up with Plymouth University and the Blue Marine Foundation to see what can be done with these data too. The waste shark is available to be used at other locations, so SY said it would be great to get it out to Lundy. A display on its use is being put together by Lawrence Raybone at the Ilfracombe Aquarium.
- 8.3 WWF are also producing some of the 'Source to Sea' video films, and some early clips from these are available on Twitter (c/o #marinepioneer).
- 8.4 The results of the MPA management assessment, as obtained from the on-line questionnaires undertaken last summer, are now on the project's website. The compass pilot has proved to be a good way of presenting these results.

<https://ukseasproject.org.uk/marine-governance>

RI added that he thought the Advisory Group ought now to be looking at ways in which to improve the poor scores from a few of the categories for the Lundy MPA compass assessment. SY agreed this would be an excellent way to move forward, as one of the main objectives of her project was to increase the management effectiveness of local MPAs. SY added that the Lundy MPA scored about 70% overall on its management compass, whereas some of the more recently designated local MCZs had scored about 24%, unsurprisingly given their short existence. One way, she suggested, to improve the Lundy MPA score would be to reinvigorate the charter boat accreditation scheme (WISE).

With the Taw-Torridge Estuary Forum ([www.ttef.org.uk/forum](http://www.ttef.org.uk/forum)), WWF are looking at ways to improve the management of dog walkers along the coast path, in order to reduce disturbance to feeding birds on the mudflats.

- 8.5 The project is also going to be looking at national advocacy of monitoring within MPAs.
- 8.6 SY also mentioned that her project will be hosting a gathering of all MPA managers from all over the country in September (17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>) in N. Devon, and that she is keen to take them all (15-20 people) over to Lundy for a day trip. She suggested that members of the Advisory Group might like to meet up with these managers one evening while they are here to share experiences. Those present thought this was a good idea.
- 8.7 Sustainable finance. Last year, the UK SEAS Project had commissioned a report from Eftec which looked at the funding that was required to manage MPAs effectively in N. Devon. This report had come up with the figure of £156k/annum, required to manage an MPA effectively, it being the funding gap between the average annual spend/N Devon MPA (£44k) and the average annual cost/N Devon MPA (£200k). This is a considerable sum which doesn't exist at the moment! The question that now needs to be addressed is how can that money be raised? This is where the firm Environmental Finance comes in.

Olivia Bennett and Alicia Gibson then explained the task which Environmental Finance had been asked to do. They were seeking out businesses operating in the marine and coastal environment with the intention of developing a large fund (~ £3m) to invest in these businesses, with the proceeds from the fund being used to help manage local MPAs. Environmental Finance has had experience of doing this on the terrestrial side, having set up a fund, PICINIC, which invests in community businesses that deliver social and environmental impact through parks and green spaces in the UK. Their plan is to host a conference in September to explain this way of thinking to interested parties and to see what response they get back from local businesses. OB & AG would be

keen to hear from any interested party in order to explain the concept more fully and to investigate if there are local marine and coastal businesses seeking investment opportunities.

KH questioned whether there was backing and/or interest from Defra or other government departments in this initiative. SY explained that this way of thinking was at the cutting edge in this country and these were exciting, albeit unpredictable, times. CI backed this up by explaining the Marine Pioneer project was already starting to export some of its findings to other parts of the country which were showing an interest in what was happening in N. Devon, which was encouraging. SY added that the project(s) tied in with Defra's 25 year Environment Plan, although the predicted funding required for management of marine areas appeared to be woefully underestimated.

RI asked if the yachting fraternity and local marinas were to be included in possible business investors. OB & AG agreed that they would. KH added that Princess Yachts had recently stepped in to act as sponsors to the Marine Conservation Society to assist with looking after the Eddystone Reef (15 miles south of Plymouth), part of the Start Point to Plymouth Sound and Eddystone Special Area of Conservation (see <https://www.mcsuk.org/mpa/future-for-underwater-eddystone>). CI pointed out that in N. Devon, there was an absence of the wealthier yachting scene which is present in S. Devon.

## **9. The proposed Marine Bioblitz project for 2020 (Robert Irving)**

- 9.1 Some 18 months ago, DJ had suggested the idea of holding a marine bioblitz on Lundy. RI explained that the bioblitz concept involved knowledgeable volunteers (both professionals and amateurs) descending on a particular shore and recording as many species as possible within a given timeframe (usually a single day or over a weekend). RI pointed out that whilst this timeframe could be achieved at mainland sites whatever the weather, the same was not possible for Lundy, as sailings to and from the island could be cancelled at short notice if adverse weather struck. It would be a great shame if a lot of planning came to nought on account of a sudden unexpected easterly blow.
- 9.2 He therefore wanted to put forward a proposal of extending the timeframe to a whole month. This might lessen the 'blitz' impact a little, but it would allow for two spring tide periods (for those wanting to get access to lower shore sites) and for two neap tide periods (for divers wanting minimal currents around the island). He also suggested that the concept should be widened, with the aim of not just producing a species inventory from a bioblitz but of running a number of marine-related projects which would all serve to highlight the MPA. Thus there could be seal counts and seabird studies; assessments of invasive seaweed species in rockpools; assessments of kelp populations; studies of sea fans and of branching sponges; etc.
- 9.3 RI had already spoken with representatives of a number of natural history societies and groups (such as Seasearch; Porcupine Marine Natural History Society; Lundy Field Society; Coastwise; Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club, etc.) who had all offered their support and participation. He also thought there was a good opportunity to get national and local media involved too, especially through Sky's sponsorship of the WWF UK SEAS programme.
- 9.4 Natural England (through the foresight of Mel Parker) had committed £4,500 towards the organisation and planning of the event, as well as ensuring that some of the projects were geared towards assisting with the condition assessments of certain features, and that they were written up afterwards.
- 9.5 It was proposed that in the first instance a small committee be formed of key players who could then agree a way forward for development of the project and a timetable. KH suggested that this project could form a focus for the autumn meeting of the Group and encourage a few more people to attend.

## 10. Historic England update (*Hefin Meara* – report sent in absentia)

### 10.1 HMS *Montagu*

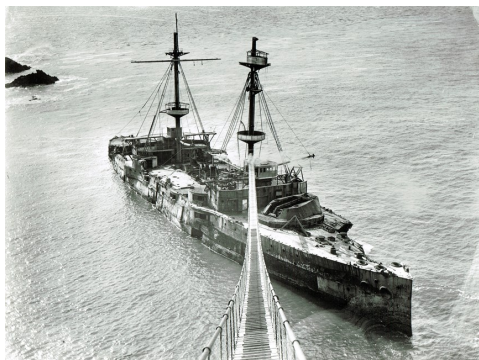


Image © Historic England

- Historic England commissioned Wessex Archaeology to undertake an assessment of the wreck of HMS *Montagu*, a Duncan-class, pre-dreadnought battleship, which grounded on rocks at Shutter Point due to navigational error while undertaking radio trials on 30 May 1906.
- The wreck was subsequently sold to a private salvage company. In 1907, as part of the salvage process, rock-cut steps and an aerial walkway were constructed leading from the island to the wreck. The remains of the rock-cut steps, known as the Montagu Steps, are also being considered for designation.
- Wessex Archaeology undertook a diver survey in April 2018. Wessex Archaeology returned to the site to conduct further fieldwork in July 2018 with a team of wounded veterans, as part of Operation Nightingale, a project to aid the recovery of wounded, injured and sick service personnel by getting them involved in archaeological investigations.
- The consultation to designate both the wreck of the Montagu and the Steps on Lundy Island has closed. We are now preparing our final advice to DCMS; our recommendation is that both are protected as scheduled monuments. For the wreck, this means that, should the Secretary of State be minded to agree with our recommendation, the site will be protected from unlawful damage, but access will not be restricted.

### 10.2 Protected Wreck site licensees for *Iona II* and Gull Rock

- Below is a list of everyone who holds licences for the two protected wreck sites around Lundy. Under the terms of the licence agreed with DCMS, the main licence holder or an additional licensee must be on site for diving to take place.

#### *Iona II*

- Location: off Tibbett's Point, Lundy Island
- NHLE Entry: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000051>

Licensee	Additional Licensees
Michael Deaton	Ben Hill, Mark Lavington
Fiona Hampton-Matthews	
The Lundy Island Company	Clive Pearson, Andrew Benghey, Colin Eastman, Dean Jones, Ben Benghey, Leigh Hanks, Stuart Carpenter, Derek Green

#### Gull Rock

- Location: off Gull Rock, Lundy Island
- NHLE Entry: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000053>

Licensee	Additional Licensees
Michael Deaton	Ben Hill, Mark Lavington
The Lundy Island Company	Clive Pearson, Andrew Benguey, Colin Eastman, Dean Jones, Ben Benguey, Leigh Hanks, Stuart Carpenter, Derek Green

## 11. **Any other business**

- 11.1 KH informed the Group that within the Lundy Field Society he acted as Report Editor and that he is currently collating reports of species recorded during 2018. In order to get hold of marine sightings, he trawls through the Marisco Tavern Logbook (many thanks to DJ for his many and detailed sightings), but he feels that many of the sightings by divers go unreported. Not many seem to be using the Facebook page, set up last year. DJ commented that he has got a board up in the diving part of the Beach Hut so that snorkelers and divers can add their observations, but few make use of it. AG suggested that an Instagram page may achieve more success. The 2018 LFS Annual Report is due to be published in the late summer/autumn. KH also added that the Society offers grants to those intending to carry out fieldwork on the island.
- 11.2 KH wanted to inform the Group that all historical marine records from the 1970s onwards have now been added to the NBN (National Biodiversity Network) database (after some considerable time), which means that distribution maps (the NBN Atlas) will now include occurrences at Lundy. These records went 'live' on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019. KH had spent some considerable time allocating precise location data to specified sites, such as 'Devil's Kitchen' or 'Gannets' Rock', so that records could be mapped accurately. Access to the searchable NBN database is free of charge and it can be found at: [www.nbn.org.uk](http://www.nbn.org.uk) and the NBN Atlas at: [www.nbnatlas.org](http://www.nbnatlas.org)
- KH should like to express his thanks to Esther Hughes and Kevin Paxman at the Data Archive for Marine Species and Habitats (DASSH), based at the MBA in Plymouth, for help with this.
- 11.3 ABel was delighted to report that a Heritage Lottery bid for a project to look at tourism management within the Biosphere Reserve had been successful. The project is to be split into 3 phases. Phase 1 would look at tourism pressures and where enhancement might be needed to help alleviate such pressures. Phase 2 - tourism accreditation. Phase 3 - implementation and demonstration. A portion (amounting to £55k over 3 years) of the total bid was to be used towards developing a bio-cultural tourism package at Lundy, which would involve marine as well as terrestrial interests.
- 11.4 RI asked DJ about the state of play regarding the Brazen Ward scaffolding. DJ didn't think anything had happened since the last meeting. Poles accessible from land had been removed, but he thought those under water remained in place. RI agreed to raise it with DG at tomorrow's Management Forum meeting.

**Date of next meeting:** **Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019** at 7:00 pm at the Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club Clubhouse, Ropery Road, Ilfracombe EX34 9EF

[The next Management Forum meeting has been arranged to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019]

Please note that these Notes are accompanied by the following pdf files:

- *Conservation Team's Report (October 2018 - April 2019)*
- *Seabird productivity on Lundy, 2018*
- *MARINELife\_Lundy 2018 Annual Summary*