



The one hundred and seventh meeting of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee to be held at 0845 on 9 June 2016, at SNH Offices, Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7AT

This paper is provided to the Joint Committee for decision/discussion or information. Please refer to the minutes of the meeting for Committee's position on the paper.

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## **Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

### **Matters arising**

There are no matters arising for this meeting.

A report on outstanding action points from the November 2015 and March 2016 meetings is attached at Annex 1. All other action points have been discharged.

## Annex 1. Action points from Committee meetings

### March 2016

Action	Person responsible	Progress update
<b>1.7 Chairman's opening remarks</b> AP01 An illustrative list of the datasets that JNCC has made openly available to be circulated to Committee members.	Dr Gibson	A summary is attached at Annex 2.
<b>7.2 (vii) Risk management in JNCC (JNCC 16 05)</b> AP03 Risk appetite to be further refined by a staff task and finish group. Refined statement to be presented to ARAC for comment and then presented to the Committee for approval in June.	Mrs McQueen	A task and finish group has been established from a cross-section of staff to progress this work. The group will have their first meeting in June.
<b>16.2 Any other business</b> AP11 Professor Bateman to confirm if a report on the role of protected sites in wider landscapes could be circulated to Committee members.	Mr Rose	Professor Bateman to advise.

### November 2015

Action	Person responsible	Progress update
<b>6.4 (iii) Joint Committee effectiveness self-assessment and workshop</b> AP02 Members' skills to be discussed with the Chair and then circulated to the Committee.	All Committee members.	Professor Gilligan to consider the competency documentation and agree for circulation.

## Annex 2. Summary of JNCC's contribution to Defra's open data initiative

1. Defra have instituted a big push to open up its data holdings to encourage innovation and development within the academic and commercial sectors. The Secretary of State for the Environment, Liz Truss, announced that 8,000 datasets would be made available under the Open Government License by June 2016.
2. All Defra bodies were asked to contribute towards the Secretary of State's goal. JNCC initially pledged to release 1,000 datasets. By February we had released 1046 datasets, including the following:
  - i. **Seabirds and cetaceans.** Includes density surface maps (linking regular densities of seabirds to sites), seabird and cetacean data collected using standardised transect methods over more than 30 years, and the largest and possibly most comprehensively analysed dataset on visual aerial surveys of seabirds from 20 inshore areas collected over ten years on behalf of the country conservation bodies. These data have been used to support efforts by the UK governments to identify possible marine Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
  - ii. **Offshore survey data.** The first in a series of batches of detailed species and habitat data from UK offshore waters (beyond 12 nautical miles) in a range of data types including video and still images, sonar maps and seabed samples. These data are the results of years of collaborative effort with partner organisations to survey the seabed. They are key to supporting the selection of marine protected areas around the UK.
  - iii. **Marine Nature Conservation Review.** The entire collection of inshore surveys collected as part of the extensive review of species and habitats around the UK between 1990 and 1998. These data were intended to provide a comprehensive baseline on marine habitats and species in UK seas, support coastal zone and sea-use management, and contribute to the identification of marine natural heritage importance.
3. After further consideration, we have upped our target to 1,200 datasets, which we intend to reach by June.