

Board Paper

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Paper Title: | Report from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Peterborough November 28 th /29 th 2018 |
| Paper Reference: | NRW B 19.12 |
| Paper Sponsored By: | Prof Steve Ormerod, NRW Board Appointee to JNCC |
| Paper Presented By: | Prof Steve Ormerod, NRW Board Appointee to JNCC |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Purpose of Paper: | This paper reminds members of the scope and purpose of the JNCC while also reporting on the meetings in November 2018 |
| Recommendation: | To note |

1. JNCC scope and purpose

For the benefit of new members of NRW, the JNCC was created originally by the Environmental Protection Act of 1990. New bodies with responsibility for nature conservation came into being in Wales (CCW), Scotland (Scottish Natural Heritage) and England (English Nature), thus replacing the previous functions of the Nature Conservancy Council. Their formation brought the need for a unifying organisation to advise the Westminster and devolved governments on nature conservation matters that had a UK wide and international dimension. The same responsibilities continue to this day.

The governing body of the JNCC meets four times per year, and is composed of six independent members (including the Chairman Prof Chris Gilligan, all appointed by Defra), and potentially two members (Chairman and one other) nominated by each of NRW, Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Council for Nature and the Countryside <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5349>. NRW is also supported at JNCC meetings by Mike Evans (Head of Knowledge and Evidence)

2. Report of the JNCC workshops/meetings, Nov 28th/29th

2.1 JNCC heard an oral report from the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Sub-Group on deep-sea marine reserves off Scotland, the Scotland MPA suite, advice on the third tranche of Marine Protected Zone proposals from Defra and on membership of this sub-group. I offered to replace Dr Madeline Havard on this group subject to approval from NRW Board.

- 2.2 There was an oral report from ARAC, with particular focus on risks associated with the UK's exit from the EU, otherwise recording that compliance was in good shape.
- 2.3 The Chief Scientists Group reported on meetings with the National Biodiversity Network where the NBN Atlas, future work and budgets had been discussed.
- 2.4 There was an update on the JNCC's EU exit preparations (eg Day 1 readiness, CITES; Access to EU satellite data). Elsewhere on the agenda, there was also discussion on how JNCC should aim to support the devolved administrations in meeting their international obligations post-Brexit.
- 2.5 The Committee heard a report on Article 17 of the Habitats Directive (2013-18), which requires member states to report on implementation of the Directive. The first report (1994-2000) had described the selection of Special Areas of Conservation, the second provided a first assessment of conservation status, and this third report (due 2019) would assess any apparent change and the possible reasons.