

# Board Meeting



## Record of the **Natural England** Board meeting held on 28 June 2023 in The Harbour Hotel, St Ives

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** This is not a full minute of the meeting. This is a brief summary of the attendees, items covered and the outcome of the meeting. A full transcript of the meeting can be obtained by contacting [NEGovernance@NaturalEngland.org.uk](mailto:NEGovernance@NaturalEngland.org.uk)

### Board members in attendance

Dr Tony Juniper	Chair
Prof Mel Austen	
Lord Blencathra	Deputy Chair
Rosamund Blomfield-Smith	
Dr Lynn Dicks	
Dr Clare Fitzsimmons	
Henry Robinson	
Kim Shillinglaw	
Dame Caroline Spelman	
Peter Unwin	

### Apologies received from:

Catherine Dugmore  
Kerry Ten Kate

### Executive Team in attendance

Marian Spain	Chief Executive (and ex-officio Board Member)
Kirsty Carter-Brown	Chief Officer, Business Management
Oliver Harmar	Chief Operations Officer
Tim Hill	Chief Scientist
Navroza Ladha	Chief Officer, Legal, Governance and External Affairs
Alan Law	Chief Officer, Strategy

### Apologies received from:

Kirsty Carty-Brown

### Other Natural England / Defra attendees

Sarah Anthony	Ornithology Senior Specialist
Rachel Ashelford	Protected Sites Designations - Senior Adviser
Mark Beard	Area Team – Lead Adviser
Tylan Berry	Area Team - Adviser
Karen Baxter	Defra group Local Communications Manager

Ilana Conn	Defra group Communications Deputy Director
Sean Cornall	Corporate Governance Director
Iain Diack	Wetlands Senior Specialist
Emma Forsyth	Protected Sites Designations - Lead Adviser
Ben Fraser	Protected Sites Designations - Principal Adviser
David Heather	Invertebrates Senior Specialist
David Harrison	Principal Solicitor
David Marshall	Area Team Operations Manager
Frances McCullagh	Heathlands Senior Specialist
Alex Prendergast	Vascular plants Senior Specialist
Denise Rose	Protected Sites Designations - Adviser Regional
David Slater	Director, South West
Naomi Stratton	Protected Sites Designations - Senior Adviser
Matthew Wainhouse	Lichens Senior Specialist
Helen Wake	Water Quality Senior Specialist
James Wilkinson	Hydrology Senior Specialist

## **Item 1 Welcome from the Chair and Declarations of Interest**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the Board, Executive and guests to the 116<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The purpose of the meeting was for the Board to decide whether or not to confirm the notification of Penwith Moors and Downs Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 1.2 The Chair extended a particular welcome to the guests who were scheduled to make representations: Matthew Fraser, Jonathan Larkin, Jacob Hepworth-Bell, Ann Maidment, Dr Loveluck, Sam Nankervis, Milia Purppura, Jenny Olds, Stephen Horscroft, John Brookes, Iowan Nancarrow, Myghal Angove, Derek Thomas MP, Katharine Heron, Councillor Andrew George, David Collins and Nick Bruce-White.
- 1.3 The Chair enquired of Board members declarations of interest. Henry Robinson stated that he was a member of the National Farmers Union (NFU) and the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) as well as an ex-office holder of the CLA. Rosamund Blomfield-Smith also stated that she was a member of the CLA and a recipient of stewardship monies.
- 1.4 Tony Juniper confirmed that Marian Spain was participating in the meeting today only as an officer advising the board and that she would not take part in the decision-making process.

## **Item 2 Legal Introduction and considerations**

- 2.1 Navroza Ladha reminded the Board of their legal duties. She also detailed the statutory criteria which the Board should apply in order to make their decision.

### **Item 3      Representations**

- 3.1      The Board heard the scientific arguments in favour of the confirmation from Natural England officers.
- 3.2      Representations in favour of the confirmation were then heard from guests Katharine Heron, Councillor Andrew George, David Collins and Nick Bruce-White.
- 3.4      The Board heard objections to the confirmation from Matthew Fraser, Jonathan Larkin, Jacob Hepworth-Bell, Ann Maidment, Dr Loveluck, Sam Nankervis, Milia Purppura, Jenny Olds, Stephen Horscroft, John Brookes and Derek Thomas MP.

### **Item 4      Decision**

- 4.1      After the Board had heard all the representations, and had discussed and deliberated on various details, including by taking legal advice in private, they were asked to vote on the proposal by the Chair.
- 4.2      The Board voted seven to one in favour of confirming the SSSI. There were two abstentions.

### **Item 5      Closing Remarks**

- 5.1      The Chair thanked all present for their representations and engagement. He closed on some personal reflections of his experience of the area and his hopes for the future, whilst reaffirming the need to work together for the good of nature and local people.