



## Minutes of the 140th meeting of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee Confirmed

**Date:** 10 September 2024

**Time:** 15:30

**Venue:** Park Plaza London Riverbank, 18 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TJ

### **Present**

#### **Members**

**Melanie Austen**  
Natural England

**Lord David Blencathra**  
Natural England

**Cath Denholm**  
Independent Interim Chair

**Colin Galbraith**  
NatureScot

**Rebecca Grattage**  
Board Apprentice

**Thomas Meagher**  
Independent Member

**Julian Orford (items 1 and 2 only)**  
Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside

**Steve Ormerod**  
Natural Resources Wales

#### **Attendees**

**Natalie Askew**  
JNCC

**Sallie Bailey (items 1-6)**  
Natural England

**David Collins**  
JNCC

**Pippa Day**  
JNCC

**Tracey Elliott**  
JNCC

**John Goad (items 1-7 only)**  
JNCC

**Samuel Hardman**  
JNCC board observer

**Gemma Harper**  
JNCC

**Lynn Heeley**  
JNCC

**Sara McGuckin**  
Northern Ireland Environment Agency

**Richard Pullen**  
Defra

**Tracey Quince**  
JNCC

Dave Stone  
JNCC

Chris Tuckett  
JNCC

Steve Wilkinson  
JNCC

## Apologies

### Members

Pete Higgins  
Nature Scot

Rhys Jones  
Natural Resources Wales

### Attendees

Nichola Burnett  
JNCC

Nigel Reader  
Interim ARAC Chair

Beth Stoker  
JNCC

Eileen Stuart  
NatureScot

Sarah Wood  
Natural Resources Wales

## 1. Closed session (members only)

1.1. There are no minutes for this item.

## 2. Chairman's opening remarks

2.1. Cath welcomed everyone to the 140th meeting and thanked those involved in arranging the successful ministerial lunch.

## 3. Declaration of interests

3.1 No new declarations were declared.

## 4. Confidential minutes of the June 2024 meeting (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 32D)

4.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **5. Matters arising (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 33I)**

5.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **6. CEO Report (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 34I)**

6.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **7. Update on implementation of strategic roadmaps (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 35P)**

7.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **8. Risk Management update Q1 (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 36D)**

8.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **9. Mid-year report on Joint Committee working objectives 2024/2025 (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 37P)**

9.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **10. Strategic update from around the UK (Official-sensitive)**

10.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **11. AOB**

11.1 There was no other business.



## Minutes of the 140th meeting of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee Confirmed

**Date:** 11 September 2024

**Time:** 09.00

**Venue:** Park Plaza London Riverbank, 18 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TJ

### **Present**

#### Members

**Melanie Austen**  
Natural England

**Lord David Blencathra**  
Natural England

**Cath Denholm**  
Independent Interim Chair

**Colin Galbraith**  
NatureScot

**Rebecca Grattage**  
Board Apprentice

**Rhys Jones**  
Natural Resources Wales

**Thomas Meagher**  
Independent member

**Julian Orford**  
Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside

**Steve Ormerod**  
Natural Resources Wales

#### Attendees

**Natalie Askew**  
JNCC

**Sallie Bailey**  
Natural England

**David Collins**  
JNCC

**Pippa Day**  
JNCC

**Tracey Elliott**  
JNCC

**John Goold**  
JNCC

**Samuel Hardman**  
JNCC board observer

**Gemma Harper**  
JNCC

**Lynn Heeley**  
JNCC

**Sara McGuckin**  
Northern Ireland Environment Agency

**Clive Mitchell**  
NatureScot

**Tracey Quince**  
JNCC

**Nigel Reader**

Interim ARAC Chair

**Dave Stone**  
JNCC

**Chris Tuckett**  
JNCC

**Steve Wilkinson**  
JNCC

## **Apologies**

### **Members**

**Pete Higgins**  
Nature Scot

**Rhys Jones**  
Natural Resources Wales

### **Attendees**

**Nichola Burnett**  
JNCC

**Ruth Jenkins**  
Natural Resources Wales

**Beth Stoker**  
JNCC

**Eileen Stuart**  
NatureScot

**Sarah Wood**  
Natural Resources Wales

## **1. Chair's opening remarks**

- 1.1. Cath returned to the question of meeting formats, which had been discussed at the August intersessional meeting and the July strategy day. Cath reminded members that one of the primary aims was to find the right balance of governance, strategy and science items. Having reflected on the discussions and further feedback from some members, Cath proposed the following approach for 2025:

- i. Two in-person and two online meetings.
- ii. In person meeting in Peterborough to include a strategy day.
- iii. In person meeting hosted in a country to include a field trip.
- iv. Online meetings to include a JNCC team presentation.
- v. Stakeholder events to have a particular purpose (e.g. ministerial engagement) and a clear impact in mind.
- vi. ARAC and People Committee meetings to be decoupled from Joint Committee meetings from January 2025.
- vii. Remuneration Committee to return to be a sub-committee of Joint Committee rather than People Committee.
- viii. Intersessional Joint Committee meetings to be informal catch-ups with the only standing item paper on each agenda being an update on organisational performance.

1.2. The remainder of this item was taken in confidence.

## **2. Declaration of interests**

2.1. No new declarations were made, and no declarations of interest were made in relation to the agenda of this meeting.

## **3. Committee effectiveness Report 2024 (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 38D)**

3.1. This item was taken in confidence.

## **4. Reports from the thematic Joint Committee Sub-groups (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 39P)**

4.1. This item was taken in confidence.

## **5. Audit & Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC) and People Committee updates (Official-sensitive)**

5.1. This item was taken in confidence.

## **6. Report from Chief Scientists Group (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 40I)**

6.1. This item was taken in confidence.

## **7. Q1 performance report 2024 to 25 including update on financial position and spending review (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 41P)**

7.1. This item was taken in confidence.

## **8. Reflections on the Board Apprenticeship Scheme (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 42I)**

8.1. This item was taken in confidence.

## **9. Joint Committee forward programme (Official) (JNCC 24 43I)**

9.1. The forward programme was **noted**.

9.2. An additional paper was added to the December agenda on QQR8. Paper to include a proposal on QQR8 and Defra's response to the last two quinquennial reviews.

9.3. The next main meeting of the Joint Committee will take place online on Wednesday 4 December 2024.

## **10. AOB**

10.1 Cath informed members that this was likely to be Julian's final meeting for JNCC. Cath on behalf of Committee thanked Julian for his contribution to the work of

JNCC and wished him well in his new endeavours. The need to replace Julian quickly on the Committee was noted to retain quoracy.

- 10.2 Cath informed members that this would be the final meeting for the two board observers, Nichola Burnett and Sam Hardman. Sam reflected that he had found the programme a valuable learning experience and thanked the Executive and the Board for the opportunity to learn more about the Joint Committee and how it operates.