



## Minutes of the one hundred and thirty-eighth meeting of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee Confirmed

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (Day one of a two-part meeting)

**Time:** 11.00

**Venue:** Hilton Hotel, Kingsway, Greyfriars Rd, Cardiff

### Present

#### Members

Melanie Austen  
Natural England

Charles Banner  
Independent Interim Chair

Lord Blencathra  
Natural England

Cath Denholm  
Independent Member

Pete Higgins  
NatureScot

Aoife Martin  
NatureScot

Tom Meagher  
Independent Member

Julian Orford  
Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside

Steve Ormerod  
Natural Resources Wales

#### Attendees

Natalie Askew  
JNCC

David Collins  
JNCC

Pippa Day  
JNCC

John Goold  
JNCC

Rebecca Grattage  
Boardroom apprentice

Gemma Harper  
JNCC

Jane Hawkrige  
Joint Committee Observer

Lynn Heeley  
JNCC

Ruth Jenkins  
Natural Resources Wales

Sara McGuckin  
Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Jem Powell  
Joint Committee Observer

Tracey Quince  
JNCC

Nigel Reader  
Independent ARAC member

Beth Stoker  
JNCC

Dave Stone  
JNCC

Eileen Stuart  
NatureScot

Chris Tuckett  
JNCC

Steve Wilkinson  
JNCC

## Apologies

### Members

Rhys Jones  
Natural Resources Wales

### Attendees

Sarah Wood  
Natural Resources Wales

## 1. Closed session (Part 1)

- 1.1. The minutes for this item are included in a separate confidential addendum.

## 2. Closed Session (Part 2)

- 2.1. There are no minutes for this item

## 3. Chair's opening remarks

- 3.1. Charles welcomed everyone to the 138<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee.
- 3.2. Members noted this was Aoife Martin's last meeting. Committee thanked Aoife for her contribution to JNCC's work.
- 3.3. Charles noted this was the final meeting for the two Committee observers Jane Hawkrige and Jem Powell who had completed the six month programme. A new cohort of observers would begin in April.

## 4. Declaration of interests

- 4.1 No declarations of interests for this meeting were declared. No new interests since the last meeting were declared.

## **5. Confidential minutes of the November 2023 meeting (Official-Sensitive) (JNCC 24 03D)**

5.1. This item was taken in confidence.

## **6. Matters arising (Official) (JNCC 24 04I)**

6.1. Members **noted** the paper and implementation of actions.

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

## **7. CEO Report (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 05I)**

7.1. This item was taken in confidence.

## **8. Update on the UK's revised National Biodiversity Species Action Plan (NBSAP) (Official) (JNCC 24 06I)**

8.1. The item was taken in confidence.

## **9. Update on activities and a forward look into work in the UK Overseas Territories (Official) (JNCC 24 07I)**

9.1. The item was taken in confidence.

## **10. Risk Management in JNCC (Official-Sensitive) (JNCC 24 08D)**

10.1. The item was taken in confidence.

## **11. Joint committee working objectives (Official) (JNCC 24 09D)**

11.1. This item was moved to the intersessional meeting on May 13.

## **12. Briefing for engagement event and introduction to SP6 (Official) (JNCC 24 10P)**

12.1. This item was taken in confidence.



## Minutes of the one hundred and thirty-eighth meeting of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee Confirmed

**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (Day two of a two-part meeting)

**Time:** 09:30

**Venue:** Hilton Hotel, Kingsway, Greyfriars Rd, Cardiff

### Present

#### Members

**Mel Austen**  
Natural England

**Charles Banner**  
Independent member

**Lord Blencathra**  
Natural England

**Cath Denholm**  
Independent member

**Aoife Martin**  
Nature Scot

**Tom Meagher**  
Independent member

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

**Steve Ormerod**  
Natural Resources Wales

#### Attendees

**Natalie Askew**  
JNCC

**David Collins**  
JNCC

**Tracey Elliot**  
JNCC

**John Goold**  
JNCC

**Rebecca Grattage**  
JNCC

**Gemma Harper**  
JNCC

**Jane Hawkrige**  
JNCC observer

**Lynn Heeley**  
JNCC

**Tim Hill**  
Natural England

**Ruth Jenkins**  
Natural Resources Wales

**Sara McGuckin**  
Northern Ireland Environment Agency

**Jem Powell**  
JNCC observer

Tracey Quince  
JNCC

Dave Stone  
JNCC

Chris Tuckett  
JNCC

Steve Wilkinson  
JNCC

## Apologies

### Members

Pete Higgins  
NatureScot

Rhys Jones  
Natural Resources Wales

### Attendees

Sarah Wood  
Natural Resources Wales

## 1. Closed Session

- 1.1 The minutes for this item are in a separate confidential addendum.

## 2. Chairman's opening remarks

- 2.1 Charles welcomed members and attendees to the second day of the two-part meeting.

## 3. Declaration of interests

- 3.1 No declarations of interests for this meeting were declared. No new interests since the last meeting were declared.

## 4. Feedback on SP3 Engagement Event (Official) (Oral)

- 4.1 Chris Tuckett reflected on the engagement event the previous day. On the positive side, there had been an encouraging buzz in the room; informative presentations that had been well delivered; good attendance and positive connections made with colleagues in Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Welsh Government. On the negative side, the acoustics in the room could have been better and given the topic, there could have been more decision makers amongst the audience.
- 4.2 In discussion on the event, Committee made the following comments: -
  - i. 40 minutes for the breakout session had not been sufficient time to explore the questions in detail.

- ii. It was unclear how the outputs from the event would be used going forward.
- iii. A larger scale event might have worked better for the topic and drawn in a wider audience.

4.3 In conclusion, Committee agreed that such events are good networking opportunities, but different fora might work better to explore these kinds of issues in more detail e.g. roundtables with ministers or invited industry representatives. There was a need to rethink how these events should be undertaken, disentangling networking from more in-depth discussions on particular topics and to consider where such events are held to maximise their reach and impact and to target key stakeholders on the ground. Members agreed that actions and outputs from this event should be captured and disseminated.

Action point(s)
AP09. ELT to rethink engagement event formats and purpose to maximise their reach and impact.
AP10. Chris Tuckett to disseminate actions and outputs from the March engagement event.

## **5. Delivering *Together for Nature* (Official-Sensitive) (JNCC 24 11D)**

5.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **6 JNCC's Business Plan 2024/25 (Official-Sensitive) (JNCC 24 12D)**

6.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **7 Reports from the three thematic Joint Committee sub-groups (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 13P)**

7.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **8 ARAC and People Committee updates (Official-Sensitive) (Presentation)**

8.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **9 Strategic updates from around the UK (Official-sensitive) (Oral)**

9.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **10 Report from the Chief Scientists Group (Official-Sensitive) (JNCC 24 14D)**

10.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **11 Q3 performance report (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 15P)**

11.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **12 JNCC reserves policy (Official-sensitive) (JNCC 24 16P)**

12.1 This item was taken in confidence.

## **13 Joint Committee forward programme (Official) (JNCC 24 17D)**

13.1 Committee noted the forward programme.

13.2 The next meeting will take place 18 and 19 June in Quay House in Peterborough.