



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
60TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM
OF THE
LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY

23 September 2006

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY

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Edited by
Jennifer George

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*Dedicated with grateful thanks to
Sir Jack Hayward OBE
President of the Lundy Field Society*

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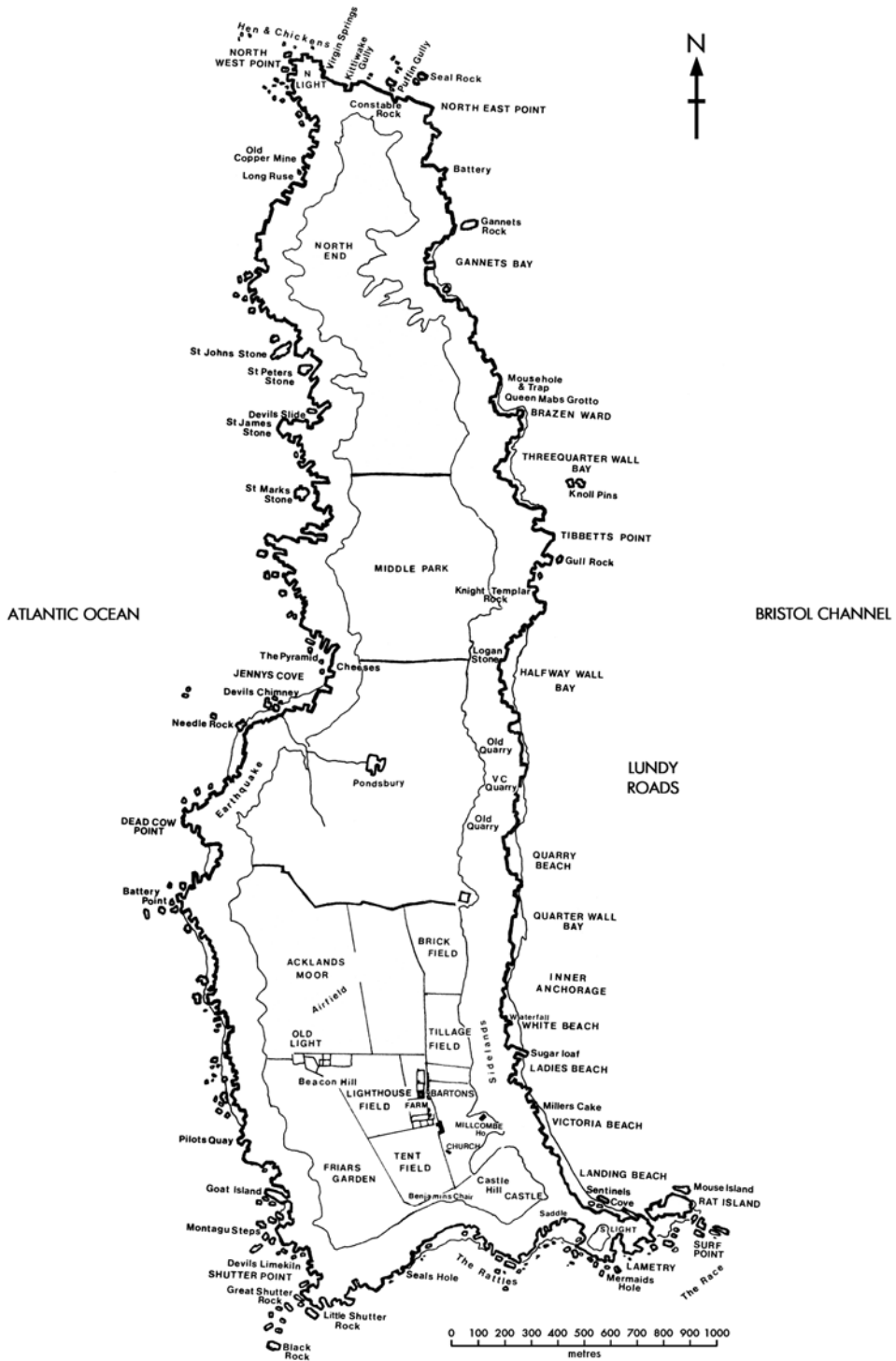
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CONTENTS

Map of Lundy	4
Foreword	5
Introduction to the Symposium <i>Roger Chapple</i>	7
ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY	
Milestones in the Archaeology of Lundy <i>Henrietta Quinnell</i>	9
Patterns of Settlement on Lundy: Putting Lundy's Archaeology on the Map <i>Shirley Blaylock</i>	15
Lundy's History: the course of change <i>Myrtle Ternstrom</i>	31
Discussion	61
MARINE AND FRESHWATER ECOLOGY	
Introduction to the Marine and Freshwater Habitats of Lundy <i>Keith Hiscock</i>	63
Lundy's Marine Life: a balancing act of protecting and promoting <i>Robert Irving</i>	81
Lundy's Lentic Waters: their Biology and Ecology <i>Jennifer George</i>	103
Discussion	129
TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY	
The Terrestrial Ecology of Lundy: Origins, Progress and the Future <i>Tony Parsons</i>	132
The Macrofungi of Lundy <i>John Hedger, J. David George,</i> <i>Gareth W. Griffith & Lewis Deacon</i>	139
Lundy Cabbage: Past, Present and Future <i>Stephen G. Compton,</i> <i>Jenny C. Craven, Roger S. Key & Rosemary J.D. Key</i>	161
Discussion	179
POSTER ABSTRACTS	
Sixty Years of the Lundy Field Society <i>Kate Cole</i>	181
The Birds of Lundy <i>Richard Castle</i>	182
The Lundy Seabird Recovery Project: a Brighter Future for Lundy's Burrow- Nesting Seabirds <i>David Appleton, Helen Booker, David J. Bullock,</i> <i>Lucy Cordrey & Ben Sampson</i>	183
Terrestrial Mammals on Lundy: an Odd, Rich and Dynamic Assemblage <i>David J. Bullock & Lucy Cordrey</i>	184
Lichens of Lundy <i>Peter James, Ann Allen & Barbara Hilton</i>	185
Monitoring the Lundy No-Take Zone - the First Three Years <i>Miles Hoskin,</i> <i>Chris Davis, Ross Coleman & Keith Hiscock</i>	186
CONTRIBUTOR PROFILES	187

SKETCH MAP OF THE ISLAND OF LUNDY



FOREWORD

Lundy is a small island 5 km (3 miles) long and 0.8 km (½ mile) wide situated in the approaches to the Bristol Channel, some 18 km (11 miles) from the nearest North Devon mainland. Its sheer granite cliffs rise from sea level to a fairly level plateau where there is archaeological evidence of habitations from the Bronze Age onwards. A castle dating from 1244, sites of medieval farmsteads with associated field systems, and Victorian granite quarries contribute to the interesting facets of the island landscape.

A diverse range of plants and animals occur on the island and in its surrounding waters. Many seabirds breed here and the island is an important stopping point in transit for large numbers of migratory birds. 70% of the island is classified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and the surrounding seas are England's only Statutory Marine Nature Reserve (1986), containing two scheduled wreck sites. Part of the reserve became a No-Take Zone in 2003 and the reserve was designated an Area of Special Conservation in 2005. Feral goats, sika deer, Soay sheep and the Lundy ponies roam the island, and a unique plant, the endemic Lundy cabbage, *Coincya wrightii*, flourishes on the sheltered east side.

Much of the scientific investigation and research carried out on Lundy has been initiated and monitored by the Lundy Field Society (LFS), which was founded in 1946. In 1996, their 50th anniversary was celebrated by the publication of *Island Studies - Fifty Years of the Lundy Field Society* that featured reports of work on the island's archaeology, geology, history, terrestrial flora and fauna, birds and freshwater and marine life.

In September 2006, to mark the Lundy Field Society's 60th anniversary, a symposium was held at the University of Exeter which was attended by 112 delegates. The papers given and the poster displays presented up-to-date accounts of more recent studies of the marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecology, as well as the history and archaeology of the island.

The LFS Chairman, Roger Chapple, introduced the Symposium and thanks are also due to the chairmen of the three sessions, Henrietta Quinnell (Archaeology and History), Keith Hiscock (Marine and Freshwater Ecology) and Tony Parsons (Terrestrial Ecology). Papers were given by Shirley Blaylock, Myrtle Ternstrom, Robert Irving, Jennifer George, John Hedger and Stephen Compton. The six excellent poster presentations were by Kate Cole; Richard Castle; David Appleton, Helen Booker, David Bullock, Lucy Cordrey & Ben Sampson; David Bullock & Lucy Cordrey; Peter James, Ann Allen & Barbara Hilton; Miles Hoskin, Chris Davis, Ross Coleman & Keith Hiscock.

The symposium was organised by a sub-committee of the LFS led by Myrtle Ternstrom, aided by André Coutanche (organisation of PowerPoint presentations, Symposium pack CD and all things technical), Alan Rowland (Symposium registration), Tony Cutler (venue and speakers), Kate Cole (poster presentations) and Jennifer George (Symposium volume). The following members contributed valuable help on the day: Frances Castle, Roger Chapple, Kate Cole, Marie Jo

Coutanche, André Coutanche, Tony Cutler, Simon Dell, Paul James, David Molyneux, Alan Rowland, Sandra Rowland, Frances Stuart, Myrtle Ternstrom, and Michael Williams.

We extend special thanks to Sir Jack Hayward OBE, President of the Lundy Field Society, for a generous grant that made the Symposium possible, and to whom this volume is dedicated.

Jennifer George
May 2007

INTRODUCTION TO THE SYMPOSIUM

by

ROGER CHAPPLE

Chairman of the Lundy Field Society

Hescott Haven, Hescott Farm, Hartland, Devon, EX39 6AN

e-mail: chapplerj@btinternet.com

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen - Welcome.

The Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society had frequently used Lundy since their reorganisation in 1929 and in 1945 at the resumption of bird monitoring after the War, they considered expansion by linking their activities in Devon to Lundy and to Scilly and the Pembrokeshire Islands.

With this in mind the Devon Society contacted the owner of Lundy, Martin Coles Harman, who was a keen naturalist and he responded with enthusiasm suggesting to Professor Harvey at the University of Exeter the formation of the Lundy Field Society. He provided the Old Light on Lundy for the use of the Society (free of charge) and gave a cheque for £50. Harman was a man of strong principles and held the independence of Lundy dear to his heart. A Lundy Society would therefore be acceptable whereas a Devon Group simply would not do.

The early establishment by the Lundy Field Society of the Heligoland Traps on the island provided then, as they still do, vital information on the migration of birds. Bird watching and field studies have expanded into wider aspects of field studies, including the marine environment and archaeology.

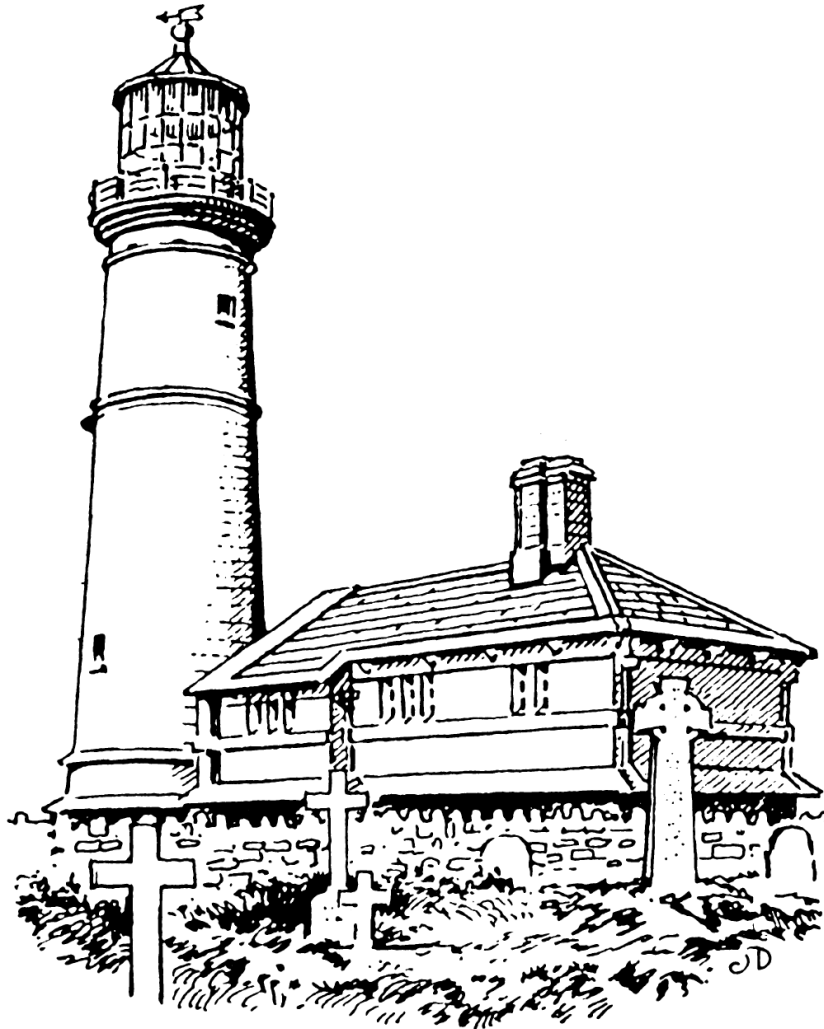
Members of the Society have been instrumental in setting up the country's first Marine Nature Reserve and others, by way of their earlier archaeological surveys and excavations, have led to the island-wide archaeological survey carried out by the National Trust.

The programme of our meeting today will cover some of these areas. Regrettably, but inevitably, we have had to be selective in the choice of papers and consequently we have concentrated on the more recent work. Some other aspects of the Society's activities are presented in the Poster Displays.

We are now 60 years old and today's Symposium has been arranged as part of our celebrations. We must record our gratitude for the generous support for this meeting given by our President, Sir Jack Hayward.

We look forward to the future eagerly and appreciate the continuing help received from the Landmark Trust, the Lundy General Manager, Derek Green, and the Islanders, and for the faithful support given by our members who regularly attend our conservation groups on the island. We value our position with the Lundy Management Committee and offer our continuing co-operation.

I trust that you will all enjoy our meeting today and that you will leave with an enhanced knowledge of the island and perhaps more importantly a broader knowledge of the activities of our Society.



The Old Light, with Beacon Hill Cemetery in the foreground. The Old Light was for many years the headquarters of the Lundy Field Society.

Drawing by the late John Dyke