

Dr. and Mrs. J. D. George (31st July–7th Aug.) (British Museum, Natural History)

Dr. R. Hudson (31st July–7th Aug.) (Bristol University)

Mr. J. Taylers (31st July–7th Aug.) (Bristol University)

Mr. J. F. Lamerton (3rd–5th August) (Assistant Regional Officer, Nature Conservancy, Taunton)

General ecological studies. Sponges, Polychaetes, Echinoderms. Assessment of fish populations. Fish behaviour studies and filming. Marine Archaeology.

Dr. Yvonne Pocock (Northern Polytechnic) will be diving from Lundy during the first week in August and has expressed an interest in joining in the work and looking at problems of orientation in gorgonians. Dr. C. R. Boyden (Bristol University) has expressed an interest in joining the expedition to carry out investigations on the shore.

MARINE SCIENCES EXPEDITION 1971

KEITH HISCOCK

Marine Science Laboratories, Menai Bridge

Between 24th July and 7th August, 1971, a party of marine biologists visited Lundy to carry out field work especially of relevance to the proposal to establish a marine nature reserve around the island. In considering this proposal it was felt important to determine the suitability of the area from a practical as well as a biological point of view and to liaise with everyone who would be affected by the project to discuss how best such an area might be established. The biological investigations were also planned to be of such a nature that they would act as a basis for further work of a more specific nature. The completed work has been presented in the form of a report published by the Lundy Field Society.

A total of twelve people took part in the work: five during the first week and seven during the second week. Dr. D. E. G. Irvine continued his work on the marine algae and has prepared a reference herbarium; Dr. and Mrs. J. D. George, K. Hiscock, R. Hoare, D. J. W. Lane and Dr. M. W. Robins carried out diving work, concentrating on a thorough study of the distribution of the sublittoral animal communities and their component species as a basis for a card file of the marine fauna and flora; Dr. C. R. Boyden investigated shore populations at contrasting sites around the island; and Dr. R. C. L. Hudson undertook a study of the fish populations. Mr. J. F. Lamerton of the Nature Conservancy visited Lundy for three days to advise on the project.

The biological investigations have confirmed the richness and diversity of the marine fauna as well as the scientific interest of the area for future research. The discussions which were held on the island, together with the consequent formation of an Advisory Committee and the production of a code of conduct for 1972, has meant that we can now work towards the final establishment of a marine reserve which will ensure the conservation of shore and sea-bed resources for scientists, naturalists and sports divers.

REFERENCE

Hiscock, K. (ed.) (1971). *Report on the proposal to establish a marine nature reserve around Lundy. Marine biological investigations 1971*. Published by the Lundy Field Society.