

LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2025





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LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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OFFICERS & COMMITTEE 2025

President

Vacant

Vice Presidents

Roger Chapple
Jennifer George
John Harman
Keith Hiscock
Alan Rowland
Sandra Rowland

Chair

Belinda Cox

Vice Chair

Mark West

Secretary

Michael Williams

Treasurer

John Shelley

Membership Secretary

Lucy Lo-Vel (to August 2025)
Charlotte Gardner (from September 2025)

Committee Members

Richard Breese	(2023-2026)
Andrew Cleave	(2024-2027)
André Coutanche	(2024-2027)
Trevor Dobie	(2024-2027)
Jennifer George	(2024-2027)
John Hedger	(2024-2027)
Keith Hiscock	(2024-2027)
Alan Rowland	(2024-2027)
Chris Webster	(2024-2027)

Co-options

Robert Irving - Lundy Marine Protected Area
Advisory Group Representative
Charlotte Gardner

Non-Committee posts

Island Representative – Sue Waterfield
Field Studies Course Organiser – Mandy Yates
Lundy Bird Observatory Representative – Tim Jones
Annual Report Editor – Kathy Weston
Webmaster – Chris Dee
Honorary Independent Examiner – Robin Hall
Safeguarding Consultant – Alice Simon

WELCOME

Kathy Weston (Editor)

This year's report has some real gems in it, and I hope you will enjoy reading about all the sightings logged by experts and amateurs alike. As usual, they've induced me to reflect on my many defects as a hopeful naturalist. Mortifyingly, I was visiting the island at the same time as the Booted Eagle, but (s)he and I did not meet, even briefly. On a recent trip I missed a pod of dolphins in the Landing Bay because I was in the Tavern eating a sausage sandwich, and almost every bird I have tried to observe flies away in horror, except for my beloved puffins, whose cuteness is matched by their facility for blessed immobility. It's just as well that many others are far better at capturing Lundy's amazing flora and fauna than I. My only triumphs have been fleeting glimpses of rabbits at dusk on the West Side, and spotting the last butterfly of the year in December, both of which I proudly noted in the logbook.

Our cover star this year is the Hawthorn Shield Bug, a most handsome creature featured in the section on terrestrial invertebrates. We have the first report from the Lundy Bird Observatory following its full accreditation – in which you can see some photos of the aforementioned Booted Eagle – and it's also been a particularly good year for fungi. In the spring, we were lucky enough to get a visit from Kevin Rowley, the national recorder for the Aquatic Heteroptera (water bugs) Recording Scheme for Britain and Ireland, and his report features on p36; we sincerely hope he's got over his first encounter with the Oldenberg on a bumpy crossing, and that he will return soon.

Looking back through the archive of Lundy Field Society Annual Reports is always a treat, and one article from 50 years ago particularly caught my eye – an account of the first Working Party to tackle the rhododendron problem. It's reproduced on p35. I had some nice email exchanges with Chris Baillie and Tony Taylor, two of the participants, who are presumably excused rhododendron duties nowadays. Sadly, neither could remember much about it, even the fact they sailed through a blizzard to get to the island!

Lundy's Managing Director Derek Green found fame this year as the subject of Episode Three of the Landmark Trust's 60th birthday series, Landmark Chronicles – well worth a listen if you've not heard it already. Fortunately, Derek has still managed to find time to write the Island Report, which has further details of the Renewable Energy Project among many other things. There have been a fair few arrivals and departures this year, including three Dexter cows, who are helping farmer Tom Carr with his grazing plans. We also have a new Warden, Simon Parker (no relative to his predecessor Joe, who is now looking after the birds of Poole Harbour). Simon has kindly written a short piece to introduce himself on p20.

Very sadly, this year we lost a fundamentally important member of the Lundy Field Society with the death of Jenny George. John Hedger writes her obituary on p31, and we send condolences to her family and many friends. She will be hugely missed.

I'd like to end by thanking all of the contributors to this report for their diligence, patience and good nature in helping me put it together, the many people who contributed their sightings to the logbook, and Robin Padian, our report designer, who has done a great job as always. To note, 2026 is the 80th anniversary of the Lundy Field Society, so let's make it a bumper year for sightings. And if you have any comments, or ideas for future editions of this report, please get in touch with me at report.editor@lundy.org.uk – I will be delighted to hear from you!

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT 2025

Michael Williams

The Hon Sec's inbox often receives some interesting enquiries, many of a historical nature. An unusual enquiry was received from the Lucilla Dramatic Society in Crosby who were seeking permission to reuse some of the photos of Lundy from the LFS website to illustrate the programme for a production of a play, 'Heaven's Paradise'. I was also able to provide advice to the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society about some Lundy books and entered into correspondence about an article published in the Puffin Post, for collectors of Puffin Books, which included a competition to win a trip to Lundy in 1967.

We have received some scans of some magnificent illustrations of Lundy made by a mapmaker for the Ordnance Survey in the late 19th century. A donation of magic lantern slides of Lundy in the Heaven era show life on Lundy in the late 19th century. These are a wonderful addition to the historic archive.

2025 saw the centenary of Martin Coles Harman (our founder along with Leslie Harvey) buying Lundy as his private estate. To discreetly mark this anniversary, we reprinted 'Island King' by Tony Langham – the biography of Harman. We also started a project to re-present the medals that hang in the Marisco Tavern, awarded to Martin's son John, that was completed in early 2026.



▲ John Pennington Harman VC. Display in the Marisco Tavern (photo: Alan Rowland)

I was finally able to make a long-awaited trip to the British Library, accompanied by Derek Green and Lars Liewendahl to deposit the Harman family's Lundy stamp archive with the Library's Philatelic Department. This had been identified when we cleared Diana Keast's store in Marlborough in February 2020 and I had agreed with Diana that it should be gifted to the British Library. It is a mine of fascinating postal history and the Library was extremely pleased to receive it.



▲ Donations to the British Library (photos: Michael Williams)

In October 2025 the LFS ran its second Field Studies course, organised and led by Mandy Yates. Unfortunately, the start of the course was delayed by one day due to high winds. Undeterred, thirteen students took part in five jam packed days of teaching which included studying fungi with John Hedger and Mandy Dee, and archaeology with Cressida Whitton. Fortuitously Chris Dee was also on the island and supplemented their learning with excellent bird talks and bird ringing demonstrations. Bee Cox also talked about how the LFS works and Carol Anne Lee gave a talk about seals.



▲ A peaceful moment indoors for the Field Studies Course (photo: Mandy Yates)

Two grants were awarded for research in 2025, both on Fungi and from researchers from Aberystwyth University who undertook their research in November. Ruby Bye used battery-driven traps to catch and eventually identify the spores of fungi in the Lundy air. Sheena Duller worked with John Hedger to survey the Coral and Club fungi in Lundy grassland for Louise Tranter, looking for 'cryptic' (hidden), possibly new, species of the Meadow Coral. Both studies are described in more detail on p92. The results of the DNA studies will be appearing in the 2027 volume of the Journal.

2025 was a bumper year for recording fungi and slime moulds (Myxomycetes) on Lundy, with 37

species found in the field which were new to the island, including one Myxo. The total thus now stands at 899 species of fungi but easily exceeds that figure if records from DNA and cultural studies published in the 2025 volume of the LFS Journal are added, of which more later.

John Hedger visited in March for a week to record microfungi on plants and ran a Foray open to visitors, notable for finding the Spring

Pinkgill, an elegant toadstool unexpectedly appearing in the Narcissi below the Ugly and a new record. As mentioned above, John and Mandy Dee led part of the Field Studies Course in October and over 140 species were found, including nine new records and a number of second records. Furthermore, John helped with the residential Imperial College field course which now has a day surveying fungi on the Airfield and South West Field as a part of the programme and is providing useful long-term monitoring of the fungi in these two sites.

Due to personal circumstances, Sandra and Alan Rowland were unable to undertake the Lundy Cabbage count in 2025. Fortunately, in 2024, the Assistant Warden, Tara McEvoy-Wilding, was instructed in the art of cabbage counting and she, with help from the conservation team was able to make a count in July, recording 4,127 plants, which is an increase of 82% on 2024. Alan, Sandra and the LFS all get a mention in the recently published book, 'Endemic' by James Harding Morris.

There were fewer records of both terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates. A brief survey visit by the National True Bug Recorder, Kevin Rowley, re-discovered the long lost Diving Bell Spider in Ponsbury, later subsequently found by Mark West. Kevin added a number of new Freshwater Bug and Beetle species in particular the Water Measurer. You can read his account of his trip on p36.

Neil Barnes added another Shieldbug, the Hawthorn Shieldbug, to the island list but discovered this has been previously found by Darrin Downing in 2022, which had gone unreported.

The Lundy Bird Observatory successfully completed its third and final probationary year as a provisionally accredited member of the British & Irish observatory network. We were delighted to find we had been approved for full accreditation after the Bird Observatories Council AGM in early 2026.

The Bird Observatory now oversees the bird reports and the highlights of 2025 include:

- 166 species recorded (including some for which formal acceptance by British or Devon rarities committees is still pending)
- 4,865 birds ringed (including 889 Blackcap, 753 Manx Shearwater, 517 Willow Warbler, 493 Chiffchaff, 323 Goldcrest, 246 Storm Petrel, 219 Swallow and 217 Meadow Pipit as the most ringed species; the totals for both Manx Shearwater and Chiffchaff being island records)
- An RSPB-led breeding seabird survey, which showed record post rat-eradication populations of Guillemot, Razorbill, Puffin, Kittiwake and Shag, with Lundy now internationally important for its assemblage of more than 45,000 breeding seabirds
- Continued productivity monitoring of auks, Kittiwake and Fulmar, data tagging of Manx Shearwaters and Storm Petrels, colour-ringing of large gulls, and ringing of the first Shag and Oystercatcher chicks since 2000 and 1976 respectively

On the bird ringing front, as noted above, a record total of 753 Manx Shearwaters were newly ringed in 2025, including 339 chicks. Previously ringed birds were recaptured on 499 occasions, the oldest having been encountered first in 2007. Some individuals were caught multiple times through the season, particularly the closely monitored adults breeding in nest boxes, providing a detailed picture of their lives. Fourteen pairs made breeding attempts in boxes, with nine chicks reared successfully.

The long-term colour-ringing study of Wheatears continued, with an estimated 61 pairs nesting in the study area between the Castle and Jenny's Cove. By the end of the season 111 of the breeding adults involved were carrying colour-rings. Adult survival between the 2024 and 2025 seasons, including migration to and from sub-Saharan Africa, was at least 53%. Direct evidence of their long-distance travel came in the form of a Lundy colour-ringed male that was photographed in Mauritania on his way north in March 2025, then seen back on Lundy in the breeding season.



▲ Double rainbow over Millcombe (photo: Tim Jones)

Please continue to add records to the logbook in the Tavern – there is always the possibility on Lundy that you may have seen something unique! It's always helpful to have photographs and as much detail as possible about location, and remember to always add your contact details so we can follow up any queries.

The LFS sent five Conservation Breaks to Lundy during 2025, equalling our recent count. In April, due to a helicopter flight being required, the number of volunteers was restricted to 11. The other four visits had a full quota of 14 volunteers, so a total of 67 volunteers spent a week on Lundy.

The work carried out was varied, including the usual rhododendron seedling searches, drystone wall repairs, fence removal and replacement, sapling care, plus gully and steps clearing, and Church and Museum cleaning. Some unusual tasks were seal surveys, helping with Storm Petrel nestbox checking, archaeological survey training, bracken control, grazing control enclosures removed and gabion filling at Bramble Villas access road.

All leaders reported successful and harmonious trips, and our grateful thanks must go to them: Mandy English, Belinda Cox, Evelyn Rita Northage Hicken, and Hilary Winsor (who led two Conservation Breaks).

The administration of the Society is the most significant part of this role. Over the summer I worked with our Chair, Belinda Cox, to find a new Honorary Membership Secretary and we are pleased to welcome Charlotte Gardner who has been co-opted to the Committee. Our thanks to Lucy Lo-Vel who stepped down from the role due to work commitments.

We look forward to the Society's 80th anniversary in 2026 and this will be marked with a Discover Lundy week on the island in May. Fingers crossed, we will host the AGM on the island during the week, the first time the meeting has ever been held outside Exeter or Crediton. (We did try to do this for 75th anniversary but the COVID pandemic prevented it going ahead.)

We will also be reviewing the recommendations from the Governance Review that was concluded in the autumn. The review has looked at our governance to ensure the charitable aspects of the LFS are fit and proper so we can continue to deliver our objectives effectively and for the public benefit.

My grateful thanks to everyone who contributes to the success of the LFS as we enter our 80th year and to you, our members, for supporting what we do.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Charlotte Gardner

I took over the role of Honorary Membership Secretary from Lucy Lo-Vel at the beginning of September 2025. It has been a busy time for me – learning how things are done, collecting the annual subscriptions during January 2026, and keeping up with the membership emails and queries that come in.

Subscriptions

Thank you for your membership subscriptions and donations – we do appreciate your continued support of the Society.

The subscription rates remain the same this year, despite the increasing cost of the LFS publications and postage:

- £25 Individual
- £28 Family/Joint
- £35 Overseas
- £15 Student

We would like to remind members that annual subscriptions become due on 2 January. Details about renewals are on the LFS membership page on the website, along with the LFS bank details for you to use if you wish to pay by standing order or faster payments/BACS. If you choose these options, please use your surname and postcode as your reference to us – you would be surprised at the number who don't use the correct reference, which makes it very time consuming trying to match the payment to the member.

If you are not renewing your membership, would you kindly email me on membership@lundy.org.uk so that we can take you off the active database. By default, any members who have not paid their subscriptions will be removed from our database six months after fees were due, after which they will not receive any more newsletters or publications from us.

Anyone joining between 1 October and 31 December 2026 will have up to 15 months of LFS membership, with their next annual subscriptions due in January 2028.

Membership News

Sadly, members who have died this year include Joan Rendall, Graham Cozens, and, early in 2026, Jenny George, whose obituary appears on **p31**. We send our condolences to their family and friends, and also to the families and friends of others whose deaths we aren't aware of.

Membership Count

At the end of 2025 there were 496 addresses on the membership database, equating to 679 members (counting only two for each Family/Joint membership). For the year, we had 74 people who did not renew – 27 members resigned, but in addition, 47 simply did not pay their subscriptions: if one of these is you, and this was simply an administrative error, please rejoin so I can return you to the active list!

Individual	250
Family/Joint	183
Overseas	10
Student	1
Corporate/Organisation	2
Life	33
Ex Officio	14
Honorary	3
Total	496 (679)

We received 64 new applications for membership – 43 individuals and 21 joint: a very warm welcome to all our new LFS members!

Those new members who gave us permission to print their names are as follows:

Wendy Astill and Timothy Thomas
Robert Booth
Simon and Jessica Butcher
Marie Caplice
Christine Challis
Rosie and Alan Chinn
Samantha Coates
Martin Covey
Cindy Covill
Andrew Cowell
Liz Crow
Sadie Davies
Sue Deedigan and Paul Batstone
Seth Dellow
Lucy Donaldson
Caroline Elliott
Jon Elston
Grace Emlinton
Sarah Fairclough and Carl Ronald
Scott Fellows and Valerie Camp
Alan Ford
Tony Frampton
Karla and Andrew Gregory
Alison Haworth
Jacob Hubner
Andy Johnson
Christopher Johnson
Benjamin Keningale

Laura Larkin
Christopher Leeks and Georgina Evans
Helen Llewelyn
Ben Longman
Jackie and James Macbeth
Alan and Sandra Maskell
Paul and Sarah McGowan
Andrew Mills and Alessa Potter
Rachael Morris-Jones
Kirstie Nicholls
Nigel Padley
Frances Perkin
Edward Reilly
Johnathon Ross
Ambre Sallis
David and Miriam Sawyer
Hartley Selman and Nicola Eadie
Laura and Rob Skeet
Matthew Slocombe
Christine and Mark Smith
Marie Thomas
Inez Toth
Katherine Travers
Vanessa Whipp
Xanthe Whitehead
David Wilkinson
Matt Wood
Clive and Andrea Woods

Change of Address

Please do let me know if you change your postal or email address. You will be able to do this yourself on the upcoming portal, but for the present please email any changes to membership@lundy.org.uk

TREASURER'S REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

John Shelley, Treasurer

The society returned a pleasing surplus of £5.8k in 2025 despite significant expenditure supporting conservation projects on the island and it being an LFS journal publication year. The surplus was in large part due to a very generous legacy donation of £12.1k received from the estate of Diana Keast, former president of the society.

Other income, led as usual by subscription income (£11.7k), remained broadly stable, although we also caught up with two years of gift aid claims (£3.5k) which had been delayed while we were auditing and updating our gift aid records.

Significant non-recurring financial outlays during the year included funding for new safety equipment for the island conservation team's Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat, the development of the Marine Protected Area website, and a new camera for the island to monitor seal productivity.

The society also agreed to fund two scientific research projects into fungi on the island for £1.7k. Other significant costs included continued funding for the society's Conservation Break programme, and those associated with the successful Field Course event held in March as well as the costs of the production of the bulletin, the journal and the annual report.

The value of our investment fund increased by £5.9k to £93.2k reflective of the positive performance of global stock markets during the year. We also hold £65.3k in cash, most of it in an interest-bearing bank account.

Overall the society remains in a very strong financial position with substantial reserves available to be deployed in future years in support of our charitable aims.



▲ Kittiwakes, Aztec Bay (photo: Kathleen Power)

Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2025

Income	Notes	2025	2024
		£	£
Subscriptions		11,762	11,477
Legacies		12,087	-
Jennetts Trust donations		2,040	2,040
Other donations		824	856
Gift aid	1	3,508	-
Conservation break deposits		3,360	2,680
Field Courses		3,652	-
Book sales		1,186	1,220
Postage		-	7
Bank Interest		1,020	314
Total Income		39,368	18,879
Expenditure		2025	2024
		£	£
Support & Governance Cost	2		
AGM Expenses		663	853
Committee Expenses		556	155
Insurance		185	-
Book / Publicity Printing Costs		478	283
Postage		133	94
Stationery		-	6
Stock Value Reduction	3	-	1,885
Charitable expenditure			
Bulletin		1,139	1,663
Annual Report		5431	5,217
Journal		6,964	-
Website		119	112
Conservation Breaks		7,487	6,918
Field Courses		4,666	2,182
Charitable Projects		4,478	1,620
Grants		1,266	4,096
Total Expenditure		33,565	25,084
Surplus (Deficit) for the year		5,803	(6,205)

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
Current Assets			
Stocks (Books)		166	295
2025 field course accommodation booking		-	712
2027 field course accommodation booking		1,151	-
2026 Discover Lundy accommodation booking		7,854	7,854
Cash at Bank		65,268	27,737
Total Current Assets		74,439	36,598
Less Current Liabilities			
Advance subscriptions		1,077	658
Discover Lundy 2026 advance payments		2,455	2,680
Other Creditors		26,010	-
		4,568	-
Grant Commitments		1,726	460
Total Current Liabilities		35,836	3,798
Net Current Assets		38,603	32,800
Other Assets - 7im Investment Fund			
	4	79,300	79,300
Total Net Assets		117,903	112,100
Reserves			
Brought Forward		112,100	118,305
Surplus (Deficit) for the year		5,803	(6,205)
Closing Reserves		117,903	112,100

Notes to the Accounts

- 1) Gift aid claims for two years were made in the year following a delay to claims in 2024.
- 2) As the society spends almost no money on fundraising all expenditure can be classed as charitable under charity accounting rules. The split between support expenses and charitable activity is provided to give members a clearer insight into how we spend their money.
- 3) The stock value reduction in 2024 related to the write-off of the value of our remaining copies of Lundy Fungi as it seemed unlikely that these would sell.
- 4) The unrealised gain on the value of our investment portfolio is not shown in the accounts. As at 31st December, the market value of the investments was **£93,195** (2024: £87,294).

Lundy Field Society Accounts Examination for 2025

'I have examined the accounts of the Lundy Field Society for the year 1st January to 31st December 2025 as presented to me by the Honorary Treasurer. I have confirmed the accuracy of the accounting statements and that they properly reflect the underlying accounting records. My examination provided me with no evidence that these financial statements do not provide a true and fair view of the Income and Expenditure, and Assets and Liabilities, of the Lundy Field Society for the year ended 31st December 2025.'

Robin O Hall,
Honorary Independent Examiner, 22nd February 2026

RESEARCH GRANTS 2025

Alan Rowland (acting Chair of the LFS Grants Sub-committee)

Due to the sudden death of Jenny George, I have been asked to act as Chair of the sub-committee. Jenny did not leave any notes, so this report is compiled from reports she made to committee during 2024, kindly sourced by Michael Williams, Honorary Secretary to LFS. I apologise for any errors or omissions.

Grants awarded for research on Lundy in 2025

Two grants were given this year, both mycological.

- Funding of £746 was awarded to Louise Tranter, a PhD student at the University of Aberystwyth, for a study of the ecology and molecular phylogenetics of Clavarioid fungi (Fairy Clubs) in ancient grassland habitats on Lundy.
- Postdoctoral researcher Dr Ruby Bye, also of the University of Aberystwyth, was awarded £1000. Her project used special air samplers to trap air-borne fungal spores. The samplers, which were placed on wooden poles, have rotating paddles covered by a thin layer of grease to capture the spores. Five samplers were placed on the Airfield, five on Aclands Moor and five on the Tillage field. Samples were collected and sealed in air-tight tubes and taken back to Aberystwyth for DNA analysis. The project provided a list of fungi species present and their abundances. This is a new unique method for collecting fungi spores and has been used by Dr Bye elsewhere, for example in Hampshire in 2023. The method could also be adapted to collect flying insects and plant seeds.

Both projects took place in November 2025, and feature in the section on Fungi and Slime Moulds. The results of the DNA studies will be appearing in the 2027 volume of the LFS Journal.

One of the grants (£460) awarded to Chenxi Zhang (Imperial College) in 2024 for monitoring Manx Shearwater calls has not yet been claimed, although the research was carried out. A short paper by Chenxi and others has been sent to John Hedger for the next LFS Journal.

In early September, LFS received a request for funding a light source (£1900) from Jamie Dunning, who has been working on Lundy Sparrows for several years. Jamie wanted to look at the relationship between bird plumage and light environments, as light has an effect on how colour is perceived. LFS usually gives grants to fund travel and accommodation rather than equipment – there are difficulties with maintenance and who keeps the equipment after the project concludes – but in the event, the funding was met by the RSPB and the device is now in use on the island.

Publications resulting from past grants.

The Lundy Field Society Journal Vol 9 (2025) featured a paper *Vocalisation behaviours of Manx Shearwaters on Lundy* by Yuheng Sun. She was funded by LFS to present this to EMPSEB28 (European Meeting for PhD students in Evolutionary Biology) in Scotland.



▲ Ruby Bye (Aberystwyth University) with one of her spore traps on Ackland's Moor in November (photo: John Hedger)

ISLAND REPORT 2025

Derek Green – Managing Director, the Lundy Company

Lundy had a varied season in 2025 with long periods of hot weather, a high number of cancelled sailings and a remarkable shortage of rainfall, which led to rationing and water having to be imported by the 'Oldenburg'.

Poor weather in August reduced day trip numbers for the second year in a row and while property occupancy remained strong at 88%, it was down slightly on 2024. It's noticeable that pressure on finances has led to a reduction in secondary spend from visitors due to the increased cost of living on the mainland.

The Oldenburg had a challenging summer season, with 25 sailings from 100 affected by weather or mechanical problems. We normally lose around 10 sailings per year, but persistent strong winds and storms in August and September have now curtailed sailings for the last two years. The ship suffered mechanical problems which affected three sailings until we were able to rectify the problem.

Oldenburg

The ship had a prolonged visit to the dry dock in winter 24/25 when we had to replace most of the foredeck due to wear and tear. The foredeck takes the worst of the weather and it was expected that some areas of steel would need to be replaced. However, following survey, we took the decision to replace the entire deck while we had the opportunity, and while resource was available. This led to a slight delay at the beginning of the season.

Over the winter we also took the opportunity to have the SLEP report (Ship's Life Expectancy Report) reviewed which provides details and recommendations for future work and the expected life cycle of the ship. It was pleasing to note that with continued investment, the Oldenburg has several years' service left in her yet.

On that basis, plans were drawn up for this winter's dry docking which have focused on the condition of the hull below the waterline. Completing this project is expected to take three or four years as we replace areas of steel as necessary. Additionally, the cargo crane has had a major overhaul, and internally, we're refurbishing the seating in the forward salon.

▼ MS Oldenburg bound for Lundy (photo: Derek Green)

The
Landmark
Trust



Hartland Heliport

Work to Hartland heliport continued over the summer with a new AVGAS fuel pump installed by Castle Air and the buildings getting a fresh coat of paint courtesy of Mike Weston and the crew, between sailing days. A new safety video has been produced and plans are underway to entertain visitors waiting on foggy days, with some lovely Lundy images and videos being put together using material provided by Richard Breese and LFS members.

Shore Offices

Plans have been drawn up to move over to digital lines with BT to improve communications. Online ticketing for day trippers continues to be successful, with the majority of tickets now purchased this way. However, the cost of putting period returns online was unfortunately prohibitive, so we've had to postpone that phase of the project.

The team flew the Lundy flag at the Royal Cornwall show in June and attended several other regional shows spreading the word.



▲ Lyndsey and Tracey at the Royal Cornwall Show
(photo: Derek Green)

Passenger Numbers

Day trip passenger numbers over the summer remained steady until the end of August when poor weather impacted some sailings and reduced numbers. Letting properties remained busy through the summer but noticeably, May is now our busiest month with the highest occupancy and increasing day trip numbers.

Passenger Number comparison

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
2025	53	293	383	1445	2488	2526	3103	2797	1097	839	306	282	15612
2024	63 ^a	287	476	1007 ^b	2230	2890	2725	2810	1372	920	348	287	15191
2023	87	395	456	678 ^b	728 ^b	2487	2394	3183	1713	1033	295	295	10408
2022	111	393	469	1783	2273	2463	3482	3608	1795	1172	368	307	18244
2021	0	0	0	607 ^c	1302 ^c	1910 ^c	2075 ^c	3192	2395	1112	478	323	13692 ^c

^a Extended shutdown ^b Sailing season delayed ^c COVID

Property occupancy remained high, with Old Light Cottage the most popular Landmark, amazingly booking for 100% of all available days last year. Castle Cottage (98.5%), The Radio Room (98.1%) and Tibbetts (94%) are also extremely popular and it's pleasing to see that the Vestry is now the sixth most booked property on the island, booking 92% of the year.

Property Occupancy %

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Booked
2025	77.4	66.6	80.1	97	99.2	96.7	96.6	95.6	93	91.8	80	66.5	88
2024	70	63.5	83.7	97.7	98.8	96.7	98.5	97.4	92.3	92.5	79	69.1	88.2
2023	75.5	90	90	98	99.2	97	97.4	98	98.5	89.3	77.8	69	90.1
2022	84.3	82.1	95.3	97	96	99.6	96.5	98.3	96.5	94.1	82.7	68.8	91.6
2021	0 ^a	0 ^a	0 ^a	95.9 ^a	96.1 ^a	99	98	99.5	99.1	96	95	83.5	95.5

^a Denotes part month COVID closure or reduced passenger numbers due to extended docking.

Island

Maintenance

It was a busy year on the island, with a new micro grid at Tibbetts installed, allowing us to replace the old cantankerous water boiler. A new solar array, 8kW battery bank, 240v inverter and new central heating system have been sympathetically installed along with LED lighting using the existing iconic gas light fittings. The system is currently working successfully.

A new air source heat pump has been installed in Stoneycroft along with double glazed windows to conserve heat. The new system reduces load from the generator and keeps Stoneycroft cosy and warm. The shower room was also refurbished as part of the project. Old Light Upper and Lower have had both shower rooms refurbished, with new sanitary ware and shower cubicles installed. Many properties have had new double glazed windows installed, including Hammers, Big and Little St Johns, The Barn, Brambles and Quarters.

Millcombe has had an external and internal makeover during the winter, bringing the island's finest property back up to a high standard. The Castle complex was re-roofed in December during a period of light winds and it's pleasing that several persistent small leaks have since been eliminated.

Fifteen of the islands multifuel stoves were replaced over the summer by our HETAS registered contractor. Many had new flue liners and pots replaced to bring them up to standard.

Work to 'Brambles bank' concluded in January 2026 thanks to Roger and his team of volunteers; stabilisation works will soon vegetate and blend into the landscape.

One of the largest projects last year was the repair and encapsulation of the vehicle workshop roof, which has been sealed to prevent leaks. At over £100,000, it's an 'unseen' cost, but one which is vital to protecting our sensitive control room and generators.

Water

The island's water supply was severely reduced with a lack of rainfall during the main summer months leading to rationing. However, the dry weather helped identify a persistent leak in the campsite which was found and repaired. The island generally uses 16 tonnes of water per day.



▲ The Dexters get used to their new GPS collars
(photo: Kathy Weston)

Internet

Following the end of the free two-year trial of BT's 'One Web' satellite broadband, we've installed Starlink to provide reliable internet connection to the island (for business use only). The two One Web domes are due to be removed shortly.

Power

Work continues to monitor and fine tune the new Programmable Logic Controller and controls remotely. The island main generator sets have been running reliably with no major issues since work was completed in the winter of 2024/25.

Farm

We've reduced domestic sheep numbers significantly over the past year and the island has now recovered from over grazing and the abundance of sheep from



▲ Farmer Tom Carr cutting winter silage with the new mower (photo: Derek Green)

2024. We've introduced three new Dexter cows in line with our aspiration to have more controlled grazing using GPS controlled collars.

Feral stock numbers have also been reduced, with over 100 Sika Deer and a similar number of Soay culled since the last feral stock count.

We continue to work with the NT land management team to draft a new Higher Tier Stewardship scheme. There is no update on when we might be invited to apply for a new scheme, but the team remain focused on having an application ready to submit in partnership with the NT.

Vehicles

With help from our Royal Marine friends at Instow, we've replaced the farm tractor and mower. We've also replaced the mainland crew Minibus after a series of mechanical problems and advice from our garage.

Events

The island's annual fly-in for light aircraft was cancelled due to bad weather, but the annual trail run took place in July, with several of the islanders successfully completing the gruelling 14-mile course around the island.

Several film crews have been filming in and around the island, notably for 'Our Tiny Islands' on C4 and 'Sailing the Shipping Forecast', also on C4 with the Rev Richard Coles, and a programme focusing on our Soay sheep from St Kilda for BBC Alba.

Bird Observatory

Following three years in probation, I'm delighted that Lundy has been re-admitted to the Bird Observatory Council following their AGM in February 2026. Many thanks to everyone who made this happen, in particular, Chris Dee, Dean Jones, Joe Parker and Tim Jones (for patiently convincing me outside Bartons that we should do it!)



▲ Landing Bay from the air (photo: Derek Green)

Staffing:

There were a number of permanent staff movements in 2025, notably:

- Erin Waller (General Assistant and Deputy Housekeeper) left in July to take up a position with HM Coastguard on the mainland.
- Pete Hayes (Senior General Assistant) left in December to take a position with the Lakes trust, with ex-Lundy Ranger, Nick Herbert.
- Joe Parker (Warden) left in December to take up a position with the Birds of Poole Harbour charity.
- Zdena Best (Temporary Assistant Ranger) left in December after spending a few months assisting Roger, the island Ranger. I don't normally mention temporary staff, but Zdena was exceptional and I'd like to acknowledge her contribution to the island.

Joining us over the last 12 months were:

- Simon Parker (Warden), who joined us in January 2026, taking over from Joe Parker (no relation). Simon has previously been the warden on Flat Holm Island, further up the Bristol Channel.
- Aaron Cann and his partner Tallulah Robinson (General Assistants) joined us in January 2026. Aaron has been visiting the island from a young age to stay with his grandparents Kevin and Julie Welsh.
- Thomas Weston and Eleanor Harris (Bird Warden and General Assistants) also joined us in January 2026. Thomas is a qualified bird ringer and will share his time between island departments and looking after visiting bird ringers, as part of our commitment to the Bird Observatory.
- Steve Young (Cargo Co-Ordinator) joined us in March 2025. Steve has been working on Lundy on and off as a maintenance contractor for a number of years and brings a wide range of useful building skills to the island.
- Andy Hall joined us on the bridge of the Oldenburg as First Officer (Mate). There were no significant changes in the Shore Office or within the crew.

Renewable Energy Project (R.E.P.)

Internal restructuring within the National Trust has caused delays to the planned Renewable Energy Programme, but work over the year has continued to support our planning application, and a pre-application has been submitted to Torridge District Council.

The REP programme is as follows:

Phase 1 (November 2024 – July 2025) (already funded by the National Trust)

- Efficiency works – Complete
- Control upgrades – Complete
- Heating upgrades/pilots – Heating upgrade to Big St Johns – Complete; Pilot air source heat pump installation to Stonecroft – Complete
- Monitoring (remote access / enhanced visibility) – Complete
- Pre consultation and planning application on new energy system for Lundy – In progress

Phase 2 (August 2025 – October 2026)

- Tender new energy system works (TBC)
- Approval of funding and new energy system by the National Trust (now expected March 2026)
- Commencement of energy system installation (TBC)
- Commissioning of new energy system (TBC)

The full scheme consists of:

Wind – 100 kW Turbine – Similar turbine shown at right.

Solar – 400 kW - approximately 1 hectare

Battery store – 1 MWh

Diesel Generation – Existing (15%)

In summary, 2025 was another challenging but busy year all round with the changing weather patterns dictating most things. However, there have been many improvements across the island, ship and on shore and the island and ship are in good shape.



▲ Wind turbine similar to that proposed for Lundy

We have some significant changes ahead with the pending retirement of Rob and Sue Waterfield, who are due to fly off into the sunset after 11 years at the helm of the island. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank them for their dedicated service – it's been a real pleasure having you both on the island and we all wish you a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

I'd like to also take the opportunity to thank the Lundy team for their ongoing commitment and support to the operation. On Lundy, the Oldenburg, the Shore Office teams, and the Ground Crew at Hartland all help to keep Lundy the special place that it is. A special mention to my wife and dedicated PA Lyndsey Green, who quietly and efficiently keeps the show running behind the scenes.

Finally, I'd like to thank the Lundy Field Society for your ongoing support over the last 12 months and wish you a successful anniversary year in 2026. We look forward to welcoming you to Discover Lundy 2026!



THE NEW LUNDY WARDEN

Simon Parker

I've just made the short hop from Flat Holm Island to Lundy after two years as Warden, looking after the gull colony and keeping the island running day-to-day. Before that, I spent 10 years in military aviation as an engineer, until in 2016, after redundancy from the RAF Search and Rescue based in North Wales, I hiked the Pacific Crest Trail in America. Spending so much time in the wilderness inspired me to work towards protecting the natural world, so on returning I switched paths and moved into conservation with various Wildlife Trusts. Flat Holm was where I discovered that engineering knowhow and island conservation make a pretty good mix.

Flat Holm taught me a lot about the pros and cons of simple Island living. It's very different to Lundy, and quite often only two people would be living there. It was also a huge privilege to live and work on a large Gull colony: up to 3500 gulls nest and raise their young there.

Islands have always drawn me in – the sense of space, wildness, and separation from the busy world. I'm excited to see what's ahead here on Lundy, especially with the renewable energy work and the potential treeplanting projects. The island has a fantastic history, and from a wildlife point of view, there's room for more. The seabird colony is still growing, and I'm keen to help keep that momentum going.

When I'm not out exploring with binoculars, you'll probably find me running the trails or learning the mandolin. Looking forward to meeting you on the island – happy to share a biscuit and brew anytime! Maybe just the brew...

◀ Simon Parker (photo: Chloe Thrussell)



▲ Roger and Zdena at Bramble's Gabion Baskets (photo: Hilary Winsor)

CONSERVATION TEAM REPORT

Tara McEvoy-Wilding (Assistant Warden)

2025 was another great year for conservation, as a more established team – myself, Joe, Roger and Tom – could really get stuck into a summer of conservation and engagement work. Of course, all our work wouldn't have been possible without our volunteer team.

Volunteers Ezra Sherwell and Flo Turner did an excellent job of our bird observatory duties, conducting morning census and ringing in Millcombe Valley during spring and autumn migration. Kathleen Power worked hard to monitor the productivity of Guillemots, Puffins, Kittiwakes and Fulmars and well as running the seabird station at Jenny's Cove each travel day. A special thank you for Kathleen, Ezra and Flo's efforts on the 'nightshift' to relocate the GPS tagged Manx Shearwaters, which involved many hours sat on the side lands...more about this later on!

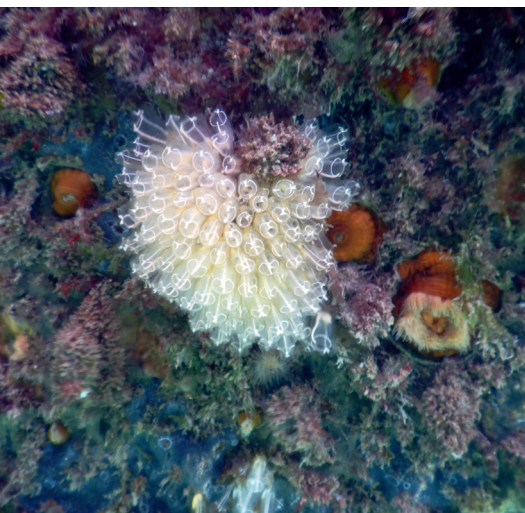
Volunteer Assistant Warden Kirsty Cox was an invaluable help during the peak months, assisting with snorkel safaris and the seabird station as well as conducting seal pup checks, bee and butterfly surveys. Angus Croudace once again joined us for Autumn migration. Mya Tibbs, who joined the team at the last minute to take on the Seal Fieldworker role, threw herself into it and did an excellent job of monitoring this year's seal pups. You can read our summary of all things seal on p62. Finally, a huge thank you to our volunteer assistant rangers. Amber Homersham was with us for the first part of the summer season, before moving onto paid work in July when Zdena Best joined us; already very familiar with Lundy, she hit the ground running and was a great help and up for anything.



▲ Volunteers Kathleen and Ezra surveying the West Coast
(photo: Joe Parker)



▲ One of the biggest Guided Walks of the year!
(photo: John Tyrer)



▲ Lightbulb sea squirts under the jetty (photo: Tara McEvoy-Wilding)

Last but not least, at the start of December we said goodbye to Warden Joe Parker. Having started as Assistant Warden in 2023, he stepped up to the Warden role at the end of that year. He of course did an excellent job of running the Bird Observatory as well as putting a large amount of time into planning the future stewardship scheme, and worked hard to improve communications about feral stock management. I'm sure you'll all agree that he will be missed for the 2026 season, but we wish him all the very best for the future. Our amazing team of Lundy Ambassadors did a fantastic job again this year, delivering guided walks throughout the sailing season to over 1000 visitors. Our Lundy Ambassadors also deliver outreach talks on the mainland, as well as assisting with school group visits. We would like to thank the ambassador team for all their hard work and are looking forward to seeing them all when the MS Oldenburg returns for the 2026 season.

It's been another busy year for Lundy's engagement team, with 16 groups visiting from 11 different schools and colleges, with the children ranging in age from 8-17 years old. Each trip is planned in conjunction with the school and covers a range of themes including island wildlife, history and infrastructure.

Most included a trip up the Old Light and, where time allowed, a walk to The Battery or Jenny's Cove to see the puffins. This year we also ran a competition for primary school children called 'Lundy Seal Champions', to raise awareness of seal disturbance around Lundy. The children were asked to create a piece of work that could be used to promote Lundy's work in this area. The competition was a real success, with over 80 entries from schools across Devon and Somerset covering a wide variety of leaflets, posters and poems. A special thank you to Frances Stuart for visiting all the school groups to deliver a pre-visit presentation, and for her help with the 'Lundy Seal Champions' Competition.

18 Snorkel Safari Sessions took place in 2025, with six additional sessions cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. Highlights this year included witnessing the Spiny Spider Crab mass moult in early July, several species of sea slug

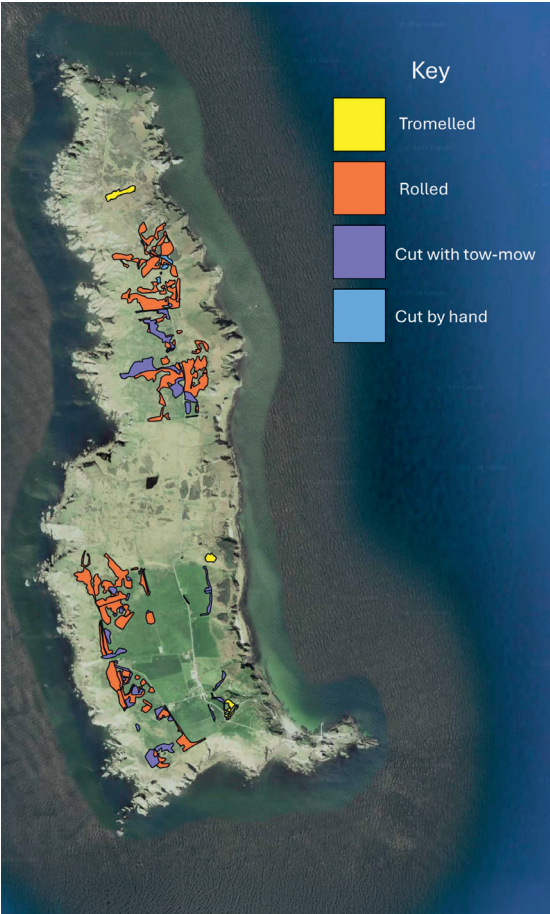
and lots of Spiny Starfish. Rockpool rambles also continued to be popular; however due to snorkel safaris and rockpool rambles both needing a low tide not so many took place. For 2026 we hope to have extra volunteers that may be able to help with running more rockpools. The Warden talk 'Above and Below the Waves' continues to be delivered every travel day and evening 'Bird log' is as popular as ever during the summer months, where at 8pm in the Tavern visitors sit down with a member(s) of the conservation team to record what has been seen on the island that day.



▲ Another rhododendron vanquished! (photographer unknown)

Rhododendron continues to be present on Lundy, but 2025 was a significant milestone, as we had no sightings of flowering rhododendron. As always, many thanks to LFS and the NT who continue to support seedling searches during their conservation breaks. The annual rope access work along the east coast is also making huge gains, removing 136 plants along the cliffs in 2025. The scree and cliffs below the quarries remain the hotspot.

Bracken control continues to follow Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) prescriptions and this year, handheld GPS devices were used to track areas managed. Due to the gains made from rolling in previous years, some areas now grow quite minimally and can be cut with a tow mow rather than rolled which shows the progress that has been made in reducing bracken coverage across the island. Success was also found using the technique of 'tromelling'; this method involves using a plank of wood and your body weight to crush bracken in areas we are unable to go to with a Quad Bike, such as the side lands or scheduled monuments – more about this later on. Looking ahead to 2026, priority areas are being identified to target in partnership



▲ Bracken management 2025



▲ Dexter Cows on the West Coast (photo: Tara McEvoy-Wilding)

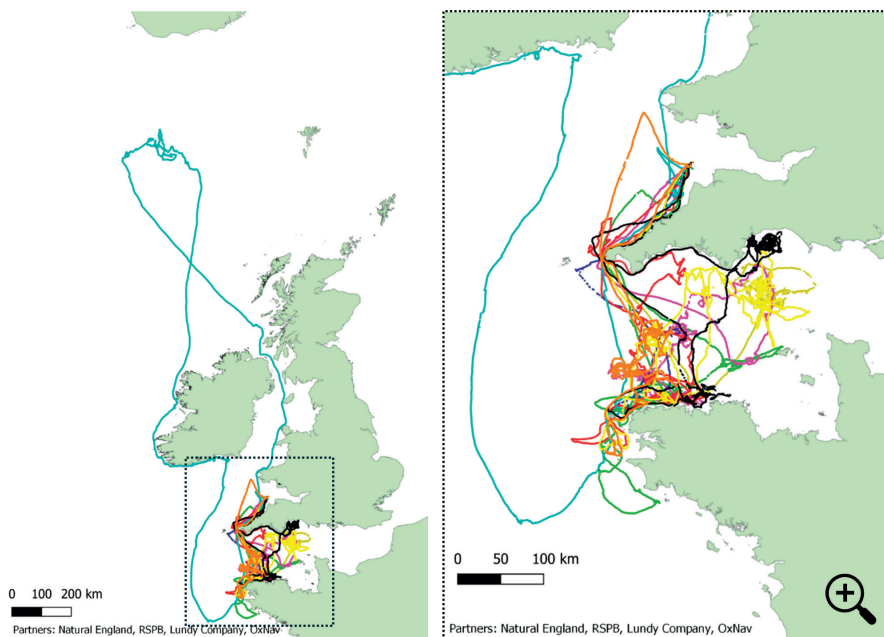
with a National Trust conservation advisor. As ever, this is all thanks to the hard work of our ranger Roger and conservation farmer Tom.

On the farm, we have been reducing our domestic sheep population, which is now sitting at 100 breeding ewes plus followers. In the spring the island welcomed three Dexter cows, who have settled into island life well. We are expecting more Dexters during 2026. In March a thermal drone survey took place to count the feral livestock, and 181 Sika deer, 285 Soay sheep and 22 Goat were recorded. Since the visit, we have had three feral livestock management visits and are looking forward to the 2026 thermal drone census to see what progress has been made in reducing the numbers of feral stock on Lundy.



This year we hosted five LFS working parties as well as a working party from the National Trust. Lots of fantastic work was done with many hours spent bracken tromelling around scheduled monuments and the side lands as well as the inevitable rhododendron searching. The LFS helped out the staff in the spring by clearing the overgrown allotments – we are all very grateful and all the beds are now in use! Other jobs included tree guard maintenance, putting up three new fences (by the Black Shed, in the Campsite and between upper and lower aero-generator fields) and scrub clearance around larger trees in Millcombe Valley. The National Trust working parties weren't so blessed with the weather, so more time was spent doing maintenance work on some of our benches. Thank you to all our working party volunteers from 2025, and we look forward to seeing you all again in 2026!

◀ Lunch break for the LFS (photo: Hilary Winsor)



▲ GPS Tracks of nine Manx Shearwaters

In February 2026, after a three year probationary period, the Bird Observatories Council formally accredited us with Bird Observatory Status. In 2025 the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) awarded the Lundy Bird Observatory a Seabird Group Research Grant, funding the booking of Brambles Villa East between 30 August and 6 September. This opened the opportunity for four young ringers to gain valuable experience at a Manx Shearwater colony.

Tim Guilford (OxNav) led a pilot tracking study to address the foraging and migratory knowledge gap in English Manx Shearwater breeding colonies, a subject area of particularly important focus with the proposed rapid expansion of offshore floating wind in the Celtic Sea. Nine GPS tags were successfully retrieved after short-term deployment in mid-June. Initial results identify foraging hotspots off Brittany and the Channel Islands. Long-term deployment of GPS tags will study the migration routes and wintering grounds this winter.

Early in 2025, the conservation team installed new Storm Petrel nest boxes with help from the RSPB. The new artificial nest boxes enjoyed an early success by supporting several breeding attempts and one successful fledgling in their first season. The ongoing RSPB-led GPS tracking project also resolved several foraging movements, addressing a much-needed 'stormie' knowledge gap across the Celtic and Irish Seas.

Biosecurity is an ongoing priority to protect our breeding seabirds. We continued to retain our rodent free status during 2025, despite a worry during May when a cabin cruiser sank in the Landing Bay. Biosecurity surveillance was increased in case a rodent was onboard and swam ashore. Thankfully no suspicious signs were detected. Many thanks to Tessa Coledale, Karen Varnham and Paul St Pierre (Biosecurity for England and RSPB) for their response support.

We enjoyed a visit in October when Tessa Coledale (Biosecurity Officer England) and Scotland's conservation detection dog team came to the island for a routine biosecurity visit. No rodent signs were detected and Reid the dog worked wonders as a 'poster dog' for biosecurity awareness during two biosecurity talks.



▲ Reid the rat detection dog with Rachel (photo: Joe Parker)

Fortunately, bird flu (HPAI) was not detected on the island this season. We are grateful for the ongoing support from Natural England and the Animal & Plant Health Agency.

This year, we noticed a drop in the number of seals around Lundy during the breeding season. The highest count on the east coast survey route was 183 seals compared to a maximum count of 207 in 2024. A total of 64 seal pups were born on Lundy Island in the 2025 pupping season. This was seven individuals fewer than 2024 and two fewer than 2023, but higher than any record before 2022. After a trial during 2024, we decided to continue with the disturbance surveys at Gannets Bay: across nine surveys, 46% of seals were recorded to have been disturbed to some extent.



▲ Seal pup 4 and mother (photo: Tara McEvoy-Wilding)

Seabird numbers continue to increase each year, sadly with the exception of Fulmar. This year, the RSPB conducted a census of the cliff nesting seabirds, and these updated figures took us over the milestone for having over 45,000 breeding seabirds on Lundy! The table right shows the totals for each species.

Guillemot	12202
Razorbill	4508
Puffin	1317
Kittiwake	448
Fulmar	219

The Lundy Cabbage count was undertaken during the first week of June, this year by me with some help from Joe and volunteer Kirsty. 4127 plants were recorded, an 82% increase from 2024, but more in line with figures from previous years. Bronze Lundy Cabbage Flea Beetles were surveyed by Buglife (awaiting report), who also trained me on how to survey them. The conservation team hope in future to run fortnightly surveys to learn more about their life cycle.



▲ Lundy Cabbage Flea Beetle (photo: Tara McEvoy-Wilding)

It was a busy year for Lundy on TV. Sailing the Shipping Forecast with Rev. Richard Coles, aired on the 20th October, featuring Joe Parker who took Rev. Richard to check the Manx Shearwater nestboxes. Island farmer Tom featured on Eòrpa (Series 33:8) discussing Soay sheep, which aired on BBC Alba, 29 September. Filming also took place for features on 'Our Tiny Islands' and 'Weird Britain' which are set to air in 2026.

So what's planned for 2026? Well, we have an exciting year ahead of us with lots of tree planting, thanks to grant money from the National Trust and the LFS, as well as two new regular surveys for reptiles and Lundy Cabbage Flea Beetles. That's it for now, but we look forward to seeing you all on the island during 2026!



► Joe Parker and Rev. Richard Coles (unknown photographer)

LUNDY MARINE PROTECTED AREA ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

Robert Irving (LMPAAG Secretary)



The Lundy Marine Protected Area Advisory Group (LMPAAG) provides a forum for discussion of all matters relating to the island's waters and shores. The Group includes representatives from the island (the Lundy Company/Landmark Trust), Natural England, the Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (D&SIFCA), Historic England, the Lundy Field Society, the Marine Biological Association, MARINELife, local nature conservation groups, commercial fishing interests, dive charter boat skippers and local dive clubs. For the first time, the Marine Management Organisation was represented at the Group's second meeting of the year.

The Group holds two meetings each year. In 2025, the spring meeting took place on the evening of 7 May and the autumn meeting took place on 20 October, both hosted at the Clubhouse of the Ilfracombe Sub-Aqua Club in Ropery Road, Ilfracombe. Attendance was either in person or remotely on-line via MS Teams. This second meeting was the 22nd for the Advisory Group in its present guise and the 79th since its first meeting as the Lundy Marine Consultation Group back in 1985. The Advisory Group now has a new logo, as shown at the top of this page.

In my role as Secretary to the Group, I report on the key points raised at these two meetings to the Lundy Management Forum (consisting of all organisations with responsibility for the overall management of the island), at Forum meetings which take place soon after each of the aforementioned Advisory Group meetings.



Below is a summary of stand-out discussion points that were raised during both of the Advisory Group meetings held in 2025.

Behaviour of visitors interacting with seals

An ongoing concern for the Conservation Team has been the continuing disturbance of seals by visiting swimmers, snorkelers and divers. Incidents have included causing resting seals to be flushed from the rocks and pursuing seals in the water (usually to obtain photographs). It was suggested a reminder, possibly in the form of a poster which could be displayed in the cabins of visiting charter boats, could be sent out to all visiting charter boat skippers, including mention of a new Code of Conduct for water users. Help with this was offered by the North Devon Biosphere representative. It was also suggested a QR code could be added to each of the proposed new eco-mooring buoys, with the code linking to the new Code of Conduct.

◀ This is the life: a young grey seal lounging in a yacht's tender
(Photo: Martin Barrett)

The re-appearance of two missing temperature loggers

Having searched high and low for two missing sea water temperature loggers which had been brought up from the seabed and downloaded by the warden towards the end of 2021, they were eventually found hiding behind the Warden's desk! While their captured data could be downloaded, they were not in a condition to return to the sea. Fortunately, the Field Society has funded replacements for the two loggers, which should be in place ready for 2026.

New MPA website launched on 1 August 2025

A new website for the MPA, lundyMPA.org.uk, was launched on 1 August 2025 – World Marine Protected Areas Day. The content and layout of the site was by Robert Irving, with behind-the-scenes technical aspects completed by Chris Dee. The site provides a large amount of information about the MPA which up until now has been confined to various reports, brochures, minutes and unseen photographs and videos. Funding for the website build costs were shared between the Lundy Field Society, Historic England, Blue Marine Foundation, Natural England, National Trust, The Landmark Trust and North Devon Biosphere.

Natural England's involvement with the MPA's management

Having had no member of the NE staff to deal with Lundy marine issues since Sophie Hare left in 2022, we were pleased to hear of the appointment of Megan Hayward-Smith as their go-to person for all marine conservation issues to do with Lundy.

It was pointed out that there are 53 MPAs within the south-west (Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly), all of which Natural England have to manage (albeit with the help of other authorities). We like to think that the Lundy MPA, being the longest established in the country and the only one with a history of being a statutory Marine Nature Reserve, deserves continuing support.

Report from the Devon & Severn IFCA

There had been little to report concerning fishing and fisheries off the north Devon coast, according to our Devon & Severn IFCA representative. However, we were informed that the Lundy MPA lies within the Bristol Channel Approaches Special Area of Conservation (which extends from the north coast of Cornwall across to the south coast of Wales), which has the harbour porpoise listed as its sole feature. Deliberations between English and Welsh statutory bodies regarding which fishing methods may or may not be permitted within the SAC have been ongoing for almost two years now – not due to disagreements but because there has been so much information needing to be gathered about the site.

Report from the Biosphere Reserve

Lundy is being proposed as a 'core area' of the North Devon Biosphere Reserve, which has been welcomed by the island authorities. Besides greater recognition for Lundy's nature conservation and community values, this step will allow for joint bidding for various projects.

The Biosphere's Marine Wildlife Accreditation Scheme has been revamped. The Scheme trains and awards accreditation to boat operators who act as marine wildlife guides along the north Devon coast (including at Lundy). The revamped scheme now requires re-training on an annual basis, with attendance indicated by a sticker bearing the year of accreditation to be displayed on the boat in question. There were 35 attendees for the two training sessions held in March 2025, in Appledore and in Ilfracombe.

Comparisons between the Lundy MPA and the Skomer MCZ

Ties between the Marine Conservation Zone around Skomer (off the Pembrokeshire coast) and the Lundy MPA were strengthened when Keith Hiscock, Chair of the MPA's Advisory Group, was invited

to attend the May meeting of the Skomer MCZ Advisory Committee. Keith reported back that Skomer and Lundy have very similar marine communities. One main difference between the two, however, is that the Skomer MCZ is far better funded than the Lundy MPA: they have a full-time marine warden with three part-time assistants (employed by Natural Resources Wales); a hardboat (*Skalmay*); and the wherewithal to undertake a whole host of annual monitoring projects (including underwater ones).

Sadly, Keith learned that Skomer's pink sea fans appear to be suffering a reduction in abundance and damage by entanglement from the tendrils of bull huss eggs in a similar way to those at Lundy, although it is not yet known if the cause for their reduced numbers is the same. It is hoped that close ties between the two sites can be maintained and strengthened in future.

Ongoing concern over the condition of much of the marine life at Lundy

For at least 25 years now, Keith has been concerned that the marine life at Lundy has been suffering in some way, leading to his conclusion that many benthic communities appear dull and far less vibrant than they did during the 1970s and 1980s. During the May meeting, he explained he was at a loss to know why this should be. He was particularly vexed by Natural England's last assessment that was made (at the end of 2022) of the condition of the various named sublittoral features and sub-features of the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) which were assessed as being in 'favourable condition'. In his opinion, their overall status might be better described as 'poor'.

Films showing what the Lundy MPA has to offer

Showings of the film *Safeguarding Our Seas: Lessons from Lundy* about the MPA's No Take Zone during the summer of 2025 took place on 8 June (World Oceans Day) at Braunton, on 16 and 17 August at Croyde during the open-air *Save The Waves Film Festival*, and on 6 September as part of the *Plough Earth Film Festival* at the Plough Arts Centre, Torrington.

In addition, a short (12 min) film was completed in the autumn, taking viewers on a tour around the wreck of the *Iona II*, one of the island's two Protected Wreck sites. The narrated film explains the short life of the paddle steamer *Iona II* and uses 3-D imagery of the wreck site to explain why the wreck is considered of such historical importance. The video can be viewed on the MPA's website (lundyMPA.org.uk/resources/video shorts about the Lundy MPA). Special thanks to Robert Irving, Tim Clements and Derek Green for their contributions to this project, which was funded by Historic England.



▲ A scale model of the paddle steamer *Iona II*
(photo: McLean Museum and Art Gallery, Inverclyde Council)

Lundy's No Take Zone features in 2025's 'A' Level Geography syllabus

As part of the 'A' Level Geography syllabus in 2025 for Year 13 students in England (EDUQAS Examination Board), one topic under 'Global Governance of the Earth's Oceans' was '*Laws and agreements regulating the use of the Earth's oceans in ways that promote sustainable economic growth and geopolitical stability*'. There were four study options to choose from: the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (marine litter); Shark Bay in Western Australia (a UNESCO World Heritage Site); the Gulf of Mexico (characterised as being 'a dead zone'); and the No Take Zone within the Lundy Marine Protected Area (which benefits fishermen catching 'spill-over' lobsters around its fringes). It's great that our efforts are being recognised and merit international significance.

Your input

If there are any matters which LFS members would wish to have addressed at the Advisory Group meetings, I would be happy to raise them on your behalf: robert@sea-scope.co.uk.



▲ Jenny with her husband David at the launch of the LFS publication of Lundy Fungi in 2018 (photo: Alan Rowland)

Jenny George, 1938-2026

With the passing of Jenny George in January of this year, the LFS has lost one of its most distinguished members. It is doubly sad because we had to report the loss of David, her husband and fellow Lundy enthusiast, only last year (see the 2024 Annual Report, p24-25).

Jenny made a tremendous contribution to the development of the LFS for over 50 years, joining in the 1970s and serving remarkably long stints on the Committee from the 1980s right through to 2025. She was also an excellent Chair from 1988-2001 – surely a record which will never be surpassed – and was made Vice President for life from 2002. She coincided with many ‘giants’ of the LFS past such as Myrtle Ternstrom which she freely admitted made committee meetings and AGMs “often quite interesting”.

Jenny oversaw the continued development of the LFS through the 80s and 90s, and was responsible for a number of key initiatives, including the organisation of a successful 60th Anniversary Symposium in September 2006, attended by 112 delegates. Jenny edited the proceedings as a one-off publication, ‘Lundy Studies’, which included a number of important research papers, not least Jenny’s own authoritative account of freshwater ecology on the island. This led to her proposal that the Society should have its own peer-reviewed Journal, complementing the



▲ Jenny George in her trademark pink wellies sampling at Kistvaen Pond in November 2008 (photo: Alan Rowland)

Annual Report but containing more formal publications of Lundy research. She edited the Journal, which she sensibly planned to be biennial, from 2008 to 2020, and was still involved in 2025's Volume 9, refereeing submitted papers and offering useful advice to the current editor.

Jenny was passionate about the role of the LFS in promoting good scientific field studies on Lundy. However the cost of travelling to Lundy and staying on the island was obviously a problem for many, especially students. Jenny's answer was to get the main committee to authorise the setting up of a Grants Sub-committee to evaluate

proposals and provide seed funding for short projects. Many have been successful, leading to publications across a wide range of disciplines in the LFS Journal and entertaining presentations at AGMs. She was still actively chairing the sub-committee until her untimely death.

Jenny joined the LFS in the 1970s as a result of coming to Lundy with her husband David, who participated in diving with Keith Hiscock and others at the beginnings of the detailed studies of the Lundy marine environment. Jenny initially took part in these dives but soon switched to surveying the less well-known freshwater habitats on Lundy: limnology was her main research interest as an academic at the University of Westminster. It was also a reflection of her freely admitted 'poor sea legs' making both dive boats and even the regular crossings to Lundy a trial.



▲ Jenny and David George by the front door of Stoneycroft in April 2005 (photographer unknown)

Jenny and David usually motored down from their home in Holyport to their holiday cottage on Irsha Street in Appledore prior to the passage to Lundy, when Jenny could always be found in the fresh air on the top deck of the Oldenburg, whatever the weather. On Lundy in later years they had several favourite properties including Stoneycroft, but latterly gravitated to Big St Johns as being nearer to the Village. Jenny had a hard and fast rule: *never cook on Lundy* and both she and David enjoyed evenings in the Marisco catching up with the Lundy gossip and meeting old LFS friends. Many of us who had the pleasure of sharing our Lundy time with Jenny and David joined them *en route* in their fascinating house on Irsha Street packed with mementos of their diving exploits, both exotic and home grown. These included a 19th century revolver which they had found in the Thames, under Richmond Bridge, and which Jenny was convinced had been thrown in by a murderer concealing his crimes. The most difficult part of staying with them was getting past the Zodiac Rib on its side in the entrance hall which David always kept well inflated and a squeeze to all except the remarkably slim Jenny, who found it all very funny. She had a mischievous sense of humour.



▲ Jenny taking down data at Rocket Pole Pond with David George in the background (photographer unknown)

Her nephew Peter Webb writes: “Jenny was born and grew up in Worlingham near Beccles in Norfolk before the outbreak of the Second World War. She had a very humble start in life. Her father was a farm labourer and her mother had worked in service in a local great house. She eventually went to school at the Sir John Leman School in Beccles. Despite her parents having quite a poor education this was to be the beginning of an illustrious academic career. She met her husband David at University, beginning a relationship that lasted all their lives. David and Jenny published ‘Marine Life: An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Invertebrates in the Sea’ in 1979, comprehensively illustrated with 1,300 colour photographs.”

Jenny was Professor of Aquatic Biology and Head of the School of Biosciences at the University of Westminster, and eventually became Provost of the Science Campus.

► Jenny George photographed in the 1970s when taking part in dive surveys on Lundy (photographer unknown)



OBITUARY

She was very good at persuading people to follow her ideas, and was quick to spot an opportunity for some new science on Lundy when I arrived to join her staff in the late 90s. In typical fashion she decided that the fungi of Lundy had been little-studied and I was going to do it. Rather unwillingly, I went to Lundy in 2003 with Jenny and David, but I have been going ever since, thanks to Jenny. We had many happy autumn evenings in Big St John's, where I worked on one side of the table with the toadstools while Jenny dabbled in dishes containing her samples from the freshwater ponds on the other. David was told his role was to set up the 'laboratory', which he did with a complex of electrical cables taped to the floor and ceiling. He was also tasked to take pictures of the fungi in the field. The 2018 LFS publication 'Lundy Fungi' by Hedger and George was the result – all down to 'gentle persuasion' by Jenny!

If Jenny had an Achilles heel it was the Lundy ponies. They thought the sample buckets she carried undoubtedly contained delicious food, and her trademark pink wellingtons had to make an undignified retreat a number of times, with the ponies in pursuit. However, even the ponies were unable to suppress her energy for getting out in all weathers, and her happiness to get down and dirty. Another Lundy disciple, Alan Rowland, remembers that "Jenny had no qualms about getting up close to the sample tray and would have her blonde hair dripping with pond water after particularly close encounters."

Alan continues: "I first met Jenny when I joined the Lundy Field Society Committee in 1999 when she was Chair, but got to know her much better when we met up by chance on Lundy in November 2008. She was carrying a bucket and net and various odd items of equipment so I asked her what she was up to. I found that she was off surveying ponds so offered to carry her kit for her. Thus began my long association with her and freshwater biology. In return for carrying her kit, I was given a master class in freshwater biology and invertebrate identification. She tolerated my interest and stimulated my enthusiasm. Subsequently, she took my survey results, evaluated and identified them, and encouraged me to report my findings in an academic way. Without fail she shared her knowledge and survey findings. Jenny submitted many records to the Annual Report and to Lundy Studies. We collaborated on various freshwater papers for the Journal as well as reports to the Annual Report. She set the standard for freshwater recording on Lundy."

Alan and Jenny have since carried out many studies on the 'creatures', as Jenny called them, in Lundy Ponds. Even last year, Jenny was still identifying plankton in samples taken by Alan and sent to her at her home.



▲ Jenny George in October 2025
(photo: Peter Webb)

Jenny's death was unexpected and a great sadness. We shall all miss her, and are richer for having had her as part of our lives. The LFS would not be as successful as it is today without her key contributions to its development in the last 50 years, and it is terribly sad that she will not be with us to celebrate our 80th Anniversary. Jenny was a huge character and we all have lovely memories of her, some of which were shared when LFS members and Jenny's family came together to celebrate her life at her interment alongside her life-long love David in a woodland grave in Greenacres Chiltern Park near Beaconsfield.

Rest in peace Jenny.

John Hedger

FROM THE ARCHIVE: 50 YEARS AGO

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LUNDY FIELD SOCIETY, VOLUME 26, p28

1975 Easter Working Party. Good Friday March 28th- April 2nd.

The object of this working party was to clear as many rhododendrons, which were encroaching over the top of the island, as possible. To this end a party of eight were accommodated in Signal Cottage.

On her first sailing of the season M.V. Balmoral left Ilfracombe for Lundy at 14.30 hrs. After sailing through a brief but heavy blizzard the island was sighted. What a strange and wonderful sight it was – a snow-capped Lundy.

It was felt that after a quick meal an immediate start should be made on the job in hand. The location was the rather large clump of Rhododendrons in the valley just North of Quarter Wall by the Main Track. Work continued here until 7 p.m.

Since two members of the party were also the seal experts currently working on the island, on the following day, a quick visit was made to the large cave at the bottom of Puffin Gully in order to take measurements. Here there were already about 600 Kittiwakes on their ledges. By lunchtime work had already been resumed at the Quarter Wall site and work continued until 6 p.m.

On Easter Sunday the clearing at the Quarter Wall site was completed in spite of rather un-pleasant conditions, viz. plenty of rain. The smaller patches at Ponsbury were next removed and this was completed by 6 p.m. the weather having considerably improved as the day wore on.

Easter Monday morning dawned sunny and warmer. The body of a beautiful immature Scarlet Ibis was found – however the fact that tomorrow's date was April 1st did have something to do with this remarkable discovery. Work on an extensive patch North of Three-quarter Wall was started and completed today. The ground here being drier and the root systems smaller. On the way back a small patch on the N.E. slope of Tibbetts Hill was cleared.

Tuesday April 1st saw much activity in the clearing of a large patch in the area of Quarter Wall Cottages.



▲ Lundy East Side rhododendrons and foxgloves, circa 1975 (photo: Tony Taylor)

All cut material was stacked in piles near the Main Track ready for collection, and it was on the following day that a tractor and trailer, kindly provided by the island authorities, was used for collection. The cut material was taken to the northernmost quarry to dry and was eventually safely burned the following August.

Since the party consisted mainly of “bird men” it was inevitable that observations and records should be kept. Of note during these few days was the presence of a Peregrine, the anxiety at nest sites of Lapwings, the singing of Song Thrushes, the presence of Redwings and a marked northerly movement of Pipits. April 1st produced a Chiffchaff in Millcombe.

It is hoped to continue this work in 1976 since there is much to be done.

Those taking part were Chris Baillie, Nigel Clarke, Robin Dawkins, S.G. Hedges, Tony Taylor, Constance and Rosemary Britton and the writer.

R. W. Britton

Editor's Note: This working party is thought by participants Tony Taylor and Chris Baillie to be the first one to tackle the Lundy rhododendron problem. While it's clearly Lundy, it's also clear that much has changed: the mode of transport, the now-disappeared Signal Cottage, and, thanks to the efforts of many more stalwart volunteers over the last 50 years, the number of rhododendrons! Sadly, a scarlet ibis has still not been spotted on Lundy...

FRESHWATER SPECIES OF LUNDY

Kevin Rowley – national recorder for the Aquatic Heteroptera (water bugs) Recording Scheme for Britain and Ireland

As I was verifying and communicating about Lundy Water Bug and Beetle sightings with Alan Rowland it started to fuel my interest. It peaked when he found the Saucer Bug (*Ilyocoris cimicoides*) on Lundy for the first time and I wrote a piece on the news in www.aquaticbugs.com, speculating how it travelled so far from the mainland. This got me thinking that with the current climate there are many species that are making dramatic changes in their distribution at the moment, and maybe I could find other new species on Lundy.

I had read a few wildlife accounts of Lundy and many people I knew had been there birding in the past, so I booked up a three-day trip from 15 to 17 April 2025, staying in the Castle Keep. When I mentioned it to a walking friend of mine, Dave Gleave, he already had it on his bucket list, so we teamed up for a visit.



▲ Dave after our bumpy crossing (photo: Kevin Rowley)

In preparation, I looked at all the data sets of what had been found before and thoroughly read 'The Streams, Ponds and Wells of Lundy' (Rowland, 2023) to formulate an approach. On day 1 I would travel to the far end of the island and dip any water bodies in the far third. The second day would be long and the focus would be on the south and centre of the island, especially Ponsbury and the third day would be any remaining areas.

The changeable weather was most evident on day 1 as we managed to get on the island just as a Force 7 was coming in. The crew of MS Oldenburg were handing out sick bags (at least to those that were looking green, including me!). Dave was a bit more of a sea dog but still pleased to be off the boat.

With feet on dry land, although the weather was worsening we were not deterred and walked the length of the Island sampling as we went. However it had been dry so a lot of the streams were new and water inverts were hard to find.

The first pond we sampled was Quarterwall Pond, which looked like a natural pond in the moorland over granite, but is a test pit dug by the Lundy Granite company in 1863 (Rowland 2023). This had a Community Conservation Index (CCI; Chadd and Extence, 2014) of 10.29, indicating Fairly High Conservation value. I found six species including *Proasellus meridianus* (Water Slater) that shreds the leaf litter, *Sigara lateralis* and *Callicorixa praeusta* (Waterboatmen) that like little or no vegetation, and the enigmatic Screech Beetle (*Hygrobia hermannii*) so named because of the sound it emits if you hold it too tight.

▼ Table 1 Quarterwall Pond

Species	Common Name	Habitat	Comments
<i>Asellus meridianus</i>	Water Slater		Common
<i>Callicorixa praeusta</i>	Lesser Water Boatman		Common
<i>Hygrobia hermanni</i>	Screech Beetle	Still water usually over mud in ponds and ditches	Common
<i>Noterus clavicornis</i>	Diving water beetle	Lowland grassy ponds	Common
<i>Notonecta viridis</i>	Greater Water Boatman		Common
<i>Sigara distincta</i>	Lesser Water Boatman		Common
<i>Sigara lateralis</i>	Lesser Water Boatman		Common

The rest of the day I dipped in many North End seasonal rock pools, grassy pools, temporary water and streams and only found *Hydroporus pubescens*, a water beetle that is associated with grassy habitats. I expect with all the current and recent water the populations were dispersed and hadn't started to settle yet. It was a relief to get back to the Marisco Tavern to dry off and in time for Warden Joe's Wildlife talk.

Day 2 started early and I had a busy day ahead with my sights on seven ponds to allow a focused search on Day 3.

Kistvaen Pond (Rocket Pools)

This had a good amount of water that merged the smaller ponds into just one. There was also older aquatic vegetation and mosses around the edge and I managed to find *Hydroporus pubescens* again, *Agabus nebulosus* – a water beetle – and *Callicorixa praeusta*, a water boatman that travels easily and colonises quickly. *Agabus montanus*, a water beetle that likes shallow, seasonal acidic water, was the first sighting on Lundy.



▲ Kistvaen Pond (photo: Kevin Rowley)

▼ Table 2 Kistvaen Pond (Rocket Pole Ponds)

Species	Common Name	Habitat	Comments
<i>Agabus montanus</i>	Diving Water Beetle	In ditches, ponds and peaty pools, usually on heaths	New record
<i>Agabus nebulosus</i>	Diving Water Beetle	In ditches, lakes, silt ponds and pools, often in new or ephemeral sites	Last seen 1998
<i>Asellus meridianus</i>	Water Slater		Common
<i>Callicorixa praeusta</i>	Lesser Water Boatman		Common
<i>Hydroporus gyllenhalli</i>	Diving Water Beetle	Small acidic water bodies	Common
<i>Hydroporus pubescens</i>	Diving Water Beetle	All kinds of temporary water and often in permanent acid waters	Common



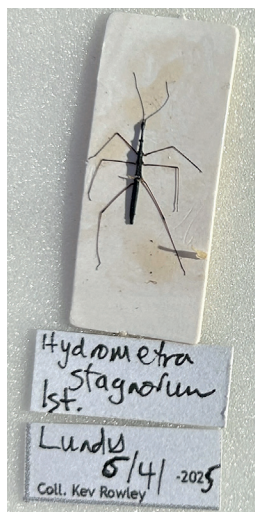
▲ Rocket Pole Pond (photo: Kevin Rowley)

Rocket Pond 2

This was a steep sided small quarry that is heavily populated by large Mirror Carp, hence no invertebrates. I only found *Asellus meridianus* which I expect will have been shredding some of the vegetation litter.

South West Field Pond

This was a stream that ran through the fields and had been dammed just before the cliffs. There was plenty of vegetation and it had water in but it appeared to be recent water and nothing was found here.



Pondsbury

The best location by far was Pondsbury. The water levels here were well up and much of the vegetation around the edges had recently flooded. However by walking out and dipping a bit further, especially in the sedges and reed mats, it was still productive – I found 16 species. Of these the Dumbbell Spider (*Argyronecta aquatica*) had not been seen on the island for 25 years and another six species were new for the island, including *Hebrus ruficeps*, *Cercyon ustulatus*, *Chaetarthria seminulum/simillima*, *Copelatus haemorrhoidalis*, *Paracymus scutellaris* and *Hydrometra stagnorum* (all Water Bugs and Beetles).

Hydrometra stagnorum or Water Measurer is a really dainty water bug with a long head and eyes part way along. It walks on still water around the marginal reed edges. In England and Wales it is fairly common but this was the first time it had been seen on Lundy. Winged versions of the bug can find the right weather patterns and fly from the mainland. If they find the habitat to their liking they can form new colonies.

◀ *Hydrometra stagnorum* (photo: Kevin Rowley)



▲ Pondsburry (photo: Kevin Rowley)

Using Chadd and Extence's CCI I calculated a score of 24.94 which indicates sites supporting several rarities including species of national importance or at least one extreme rarity (e.g. taxa included in the British Red Data Books) and/or a community of very high taxon richness. This score indicates **Very high conservation value** (potentially of national significance and may merit statutory protection).

There were four species that significantly impacted this score: *Cercyon ustulatus*, found in muddy banks of streams and ponds amongst litter; *Helocares punctatus*, found on moist peat in wet heath, in bogs and in acid pools; *Paracymus scutellaris*, found in shallow seepage over peat, often amongst mosses; and a female *Chaetarthria seminulum/simillima*, found among moss in rafts of vegetation and in habitats with more exposed mineral substrata.

▼ Table 3 Pondsburry

Species	Common Name	Habitat	Comments
<i>Argyronecta aquatica</i>	Diving Bell Spider		Last seen 1993
<i>Asellus meridianus</i>	Water Slater		Common
<i>Cercyon ustulatus</i>	Crawling Water Beetle	Wet plant litter in marshes	New record
<i>Chaetarthria seminulum/simillima</i>	Crawling Water Beetle	Moss and mud in fens and bogs	New record
<i>Copelatus haemorrhoidalis</i>	Piles Beetle	Richly vegetated lowland ponds and ditches with mosses	New record
<i>Hebrus ruficeps</i>	Sphagnum Bug	Wet and partly submerged moss, especially Sphagnum.	New record
<i>Helocares punctatus</i> (Nationally scarce)	Crawling Water Beetle	Peat and Sphagnum pools	Common
<i>Hesperocorixa linnei</i>	Lesser Water Boatman	In well vegetated ponds and lakes	First 2024
<i>Hydrometra stagnorum</i>	Water Measurer	Reedy margins of water bodies	New record
<i>Hydroporus pubescens</i>	Diving Water Beetle	All kinds of temporary water and often in permanent acid waters	Common
<i>Noterus clavicornis</i>	Diving Water Beetle	Lowland grassy ponds	Common
<i>Notonecta viridis</i>	Greater Water Boatman		Common
<i>Paracymus scutellaris</i>	Crawling Water Beetle	Sphagnum bogs and in pools and flushes on acid moorland	New record
<i>Polycelis niger</i>	Flatworm		Common
<i>Sigara distincta</i>	Lesser Water Boatman		Common
<i>Sigara lateralis</i>	Lesser Water Boatman		Common



▲ Quarry Pond (photo: Kevin Rowley)

Quarry Pond

We visited Quarry Pond on Day 3. This was steep sided but with a shallow margin that was well vegetated, and I had high hopes. However, I only found four species that indicated a mid successional water body. It was only the next day when I returned and could see all the Golden Orfe *Leuciscus idus* that I realised they must be predated and keeping the invertebrates down.

▼ Table 4 Quarterwall Quarry.

Species	Common Name	Habitat	Comments
<i>Asellus meridianus</i>	Water Slater		Common
<i>Cloeon dipterum</i>	Pond Olive Mayfly		Common
<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	Blue-tailed Damselfly		Common
<i>Noterus clavicornis</i>	Water Beetle	Lowland grassy ponds	Common
<i>Notonecta viridis</i>	Greater Water Boatman		Common

Ackland's Moor Pond

This was hidden on the brow of the hill – a steep sided rocky pool with some vegetation on two sides. One side did have a graduated edge where most of the inverts were found.

▼ Table 5 Acland's Moor Pond.

Species	Common Name	Habitat	Comments
<i>Callicorixa praeusta</i>	Lesser Water Boatman		Common
<i>Colymbetes fuscus</i>	Diving Water Boatman	Grassland lowland temp pools	Last seen 2020
<i>Corixa punctata</i>	Lesser Water Boatman		Common
<i>Polycelis niger</i>	Flatworm		Common
<i>Sigara distincta</i>	Lesser Water Boatman		Common
<i>Sigara lateralis</i>	Lesser Water Boatman		Common

Barton Field Pond

There were two ponds behind the cottages, one of which was very shallow and mostly mud with no vegetation. I was going to survey both but it appeared that the geese had taken a liking to one and were defending it. Fortunately the other pond was vacant and I made a quick dash to do a couple of dips. This was a silty pond with grassy margins all the way round, apart from one side, that had reeds grown up.

▼ Table 6 Barton Field Pond.

Species	Common Name	Habitat	Comments
<i>Agabus nebulosus</i>	Diving Water Beetle	In ditches, lakes, silt ponds and pools, often in new or ephemeral sites	Last seen 1999
<i>Corixa punctata</i>	Lesser Water Boatman		Common
<i>Helophorus grandis</i>	Crawling Water Beetle	Breeding in stagnant freshwater amongst grasses	New record
<i>Hydroporus pubescens</i>	Diving Water Beetle	All kinds of temporary water and often in permanent acid waters	Common
<i>Laccobius bipunctatus</i>	Crawling Water Beetle	Muddy shallows on low ground	New record
<i>Sigara lateralis</i>	Lesser Water Boatman		Common

Discussion

It was very noticeable that some of the water beetles and bugs that had been on site previously like *Ochthebius lejolissii*, *Hydroporus longulus*, *Hydroporus discretus* and *Glaenocoris propinqua* didn't appear to be there. This could be down to the time of the year maybe, that there had just been a storm, or maybe the loss of historical farming practices and the recent hot, dry springs and summers. I would have expected some species as I felt as I was in the right habitats. I would like to find them should there be an opportunity to visit again.



▲ Kev on a lunch break (photo: Dave Gleave)

A high percentage of the species I found were new to the island, which is surprising as some of them were distinctive and fairly common on the mainland – such as *Hydrometra stagnorum*, *Copelatus haemorroidales*, *Hydroporus memnonius* or *Hebrus ruficeps* – all of which I am sure would have been identified if found before. Most water bugs and beetles can fly with their hard/leathery wing cases covering over delicate wings. If they get into weather currents it is surprising how far they can travel and if when they land they find suitable habitat and a mate, they can form new colonies. It is becoming more of a trend of some species expanding their range across the UK and with the changing climate they seem to have more of an urgency to move now than they have in the past. It feels great to be documenting some of that.

Acknowledgements

A big thank you to Alan Rowland who advised me on all the locations and current records as well as arranging my permits. Thank you to the staff who were so relaxed and friendly, allowing us to drip dry and recuperate in the Marisco Tavern, and to Warden Joe for including us in his talk which resulted in many people keeping up to date with what we had found. Thank you to Dave Gleave for letting me get on and dip so many locations as well as being great company. We both had some memorable wildlife experiences with Puffins, Ring Ouzels and lambing in such a stunning emotional landscape.

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OBSERVATIONS ON THE INVERTEBRATE FAUNA OF LUNDY, SEPTEMBER 2025

Paul Whitehead

A day visit to Lundy provides limited opportunities to understand its invertebrate fauna, but 25 September 2025 coincided with sunny, unusually tranquil conditions and enabled the following observations to be made. Species are related here to broad habitat types *i.e.* grassland either rank, closed sward, as a matrix in *Ulex* scrub or as fragments in pioneer herb-dominated biozones; *Calluna*-dominated heathland, and the littoral. Abbreviations are Col. for Coleoptera beetles, Hem. for Hemiptera true bugs and Hym. for Hymenoptera, an ant. Species marked with an asterisk * have the potential of being new to the island (see <https://www.lundy.org.uk/records>). The objective is to provide a basic list; the wider biota of Lundy is well-known and well-documented (Palmer, 1946; Compton, Key & Key, 2002; Haw *et al.*, 2009).

Grassland

Pterostichus melanarius (Illiger, 1798) (Col., Carabidae) SS136446 132 m under rock; according to <https://www.lundy.org.uk/species-lists/beetles> rarely observed since 2016. *Ocypus olens* (Müller, 1764) (Col., Staphylinidae), two among short-grazed turf SS130446 130 m. *Anoplotrupes stercorosus* (Scriba, 1791) (Col., Geotrupidae) especially at SS137456 98 m in horse faeces with *Aphodius (Nimbus) contaminatus* (Col., Scarabaeidae) and fragments with *Typhaeus typhoeus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Col., Geotrupidae) in old faecal mass of Sika Deer (Temminck, 1838). The Earthquake SS136455 113 m with its thin soils over granite subject to major tectonic impacts is a key invertebrate site with a well-defined subcommunity worthy of further research. Drapes of a dwarf ecotype of Yarrow *Achillea millefolium* L. var. *compacta* support the localised snail *Ponentina subvirescens* (Bellamy, 1839) (Helicidae) (Fig. 1) and the flower-visiting *Corizus hyoscyami* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Hem., Rhopalidae)* (Fig. 2), a vagile, increasingly widespread species (Whitehead, 2008). Heathland elements at the Earthquake include *Macrodera micropterum* (Curtis, 1836)* (Hem., Lygaeidae) associated with Ling *Calluna vulgaris* (L.) Hull and *Nalassus laevioctoatriatus* (Goeze, 1777) (Col., Tenebrionidae). According to Rowland (2024) *Ponentina subvirescens* remains a rare and little-known species on Lundy.

Heathland

Given the extensive cover of Ling *Calluna vulgaris*, especially at Punchbowl SS133454 122 m the existence of *Notiophilus aquaticus* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Col., Carabidae), *Staphylinus erythropterus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Col., Staphylinidae), and *Nalassus laevioctoatriatus* is no surprise. *Macrodera micropterum**, *Scolopostethus decoratus* (Hahn, 1833) and *Stygnocoris sabulosus* (Schilling, 1829) (Hem., Lygaeidae)* are stenotopic acid heathland species; a single worker ant *Myrmecina graminicola* (Latreille, 1802)* (Hym., Formicidae) under Ling is more eurytopic. *Deltocephalus pulicaris* (Fallén, 1806) (Hem., Cicadellidae) featured prominently in this assemblage. Of particular interest in this context is the occurrence of the lichenophagous *Nalassus laevioctoatriatus* on a lichen-encrusted granite monolith at SS136455 122 m in open exposure. This monolith, one of a number intended in 1896 to guide lighthouse keepers, is beset with lichens especially *Parmelia saxatilis* (L.) Ach. (1803) (Parmeliaceae) among which the beetle was sheltering, together with *Melanelixia fuliginosa* ssp. *fuliginosa* (Fr. ex Duby) O. Blanco *et al.* (Parmeliaceae) and *Ramalina siliquosa* Huds. A L. Sm. (1918) (Ramalinaceae), a largely maritime species.

Littoral

Examination of Lundy Cabbage *Coincya wrightii* (O. E. Schulz) Stace near the Quay SS144437 11m revealed several endemic *Psylliodes luridipennis* Kutschera, 1864 (Col., Chrysomelidae) leaf beetles and



▲ Fig. 1. Detail of external surface of shell of the terrestrial mollusc *Ponentina subvirescens*, Earthquake, SS136455, thin soils over granite, 25 September 2025

a single *Brassicogethes viridescens* (Fabricius, 1787) (Col., Nitidulidae) this last showing some features of possible taxonomic significance.

Quarries

East Coast quarries at SS138455 109 m have interesting plant communities of ferns, sedges and mosses among which *Cicadula quadrinotata* (Fabricius, 1794)* (Hem., Cicadellidae) was found in numbers together with a few *Eupteryx filicum* (Newman, 1853)* (Hem., Cicadellidae) (Fig. 3).

Acknowledgement

I thank Alan Rowland for clarifying some details. All photos were taken by the author.

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▲ Fig. 2. The rhopalid bug *Corizus hyoscyami* on inflorescence of yarrow *Achillea millefolium* var. *compacta*, Earthquake, SS136455, 25 September 2025



▲ Fig. 3. The cicadellid auchenorrhynchan *Eupteryx filicum*, quarry floor, SS138455, 25 September 2025.

LUNDY BIRD OBSERVATORY REPORT 2025

Tim Jones

Lundy Bird Observatory successfully completed its third and final probationary year as a provisionally accredited member of the British and Irish observatory network. We are delighted to report that as of February 2026, full accreditation has now been approved.

Among the bird highlights of 2025 were:

- 166 species recorded (including some for which formal acceptance by British or Devon rarities committees is still pending)
- 4,865 birds ringed (including 889 **Blackcap**, 753 **Manx Shearwater**, 517 **Willow Warbler**, 493 **Chiffchaff**, 323 **Goldcrest**, 246 **Storm Petrel**, 219 **Swallow** and 217 **Meadow Pipit** as the most ringed species; the totals for both **Manx Shearwater** and **Chiffchaff** being island records)
- An RSPB-led breeding seabird survey, which showed record post rat-eradication populations of **Guillemot**, **Razorbill**, **Puffin**, **Kittiwake** and **Shag**, with Lundy now internationally important for its assemblage of more than 45,000 breeding seabirds
- Continued productivity monitoring of auks, **Kittiwake** and **Fulmar**, data tagging of **Manx Shearwaters** and **Storm Petrels**, colour-ringing of large gulls, and ringing of the first **Shag** and **Oystercatcher** chicks since 2000 and 1976 respectively
- First successful breeding of **Willow Warbler** since 2012
- Lundy and Devon's first **Booted Eagle** (29 and 30 April) – just the fifth for Britain!
- Lundy's first **Dusky Warbler** (10-16 October)
- **White Stork** (11 April – second for Lundy)
- **Western Bonelli's Warbler** (two on 24 August, one staying to 20 September – third and fourth for Lundy)
- **Grey-cheeked Thrush** (29 September – third for Lundy)
- **Goosander** (15 October – third for Lundy)
- **Glossy Ibis** (18 October – third for Lundy)
- A host of other rarities and scarcities, including **Greenland White-fronted Goose**, **Slavonian Grebe**, **Red-necked Grebe**, **Curlew Sandpiper**, **Great White Egret**, **Barn Owl**, **Wryneck**, **Great Spotted Woodpecker**, **Golden Oriole**, **Woodchat Shrike**, **Icterine Warbler**, **Melodious Warbler**, **Pallas's Warbler**, **Eastern Subalpine Warbler**, **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, **Rose-coloured Starling**, **Olive-backed Pipit**, **Common Rosefinch**, **Ortolan Bunting** and **Yellowhammer**.



▲ Great Northern Diver in the Landing Bay (photo: Joe Parker)

Late winter and early spring

A damp New Year's Day trudge around Millcombe and the south of the island was rewarded with two female-type **Black Redstarts** at Benjamin's Chair, a lingering male **Siskin** around the village and a brief glimpse of the overwintering **Merlin** terrorising the resident **House Sparrows** and **Starlings**. An adult **Great Northern Diver** (extending its stay from 2024) continued to frequent the Landing Bay, while **Kittiwake** feeding flocks further offshore started the month at around 140 birds, building to 425 on



▲ Merlin, Jenny's Cove (photo: Angus Croudace)

11th January and 1,196 on 15th. These were accompanied by **Guillemots** and **Razorbills**, peaking at 130 and 223 respectively, and generally small numbers of **Gannets**, though there were 26 feeding south-east of the island on 26th. The Landing Bay was home to two rare grebes towards the end of January, namely a **Red-necked Grebe** from 22nd and a **Slavonian Grebe** from 27th, the Red-necked staying until 19th March, while the Slavonian was last seen on 5th February. The two were seen together on at least four days – a vanishingly rare combination for Lundy! Also notable from the Landing Bay area were sightings of an adult **Mediterranean Gull** on 11th January, a first-winter **Little Gull**, feeding with Kittiwakes on 26th and 30th, 16 **Common Gulls** on 30th (plus three off the West Side at Aztec Bay on the same date) and up to three **Red-throated Divers** in February. Elsewhere around the coastline, a record 34 **Purple Sandpipers** flew west past North Light, close inshore, on 25th January, while the regular **Purple Sandpiper** roost-site at Brazen Ward held 16 birds on 30th.

On land, things were typically quiet, with one or two notable highlights, the first of these being an astonishing record of a **Barn Owl** flying into the gas store in lower Millcombe on 6th. It was first seen from the housekeeping Land Rover by staff member Tiina Pehkonen during the late afternoon. Bird Observatory volunteer Luke Marriner, who happened to be driving, stopped the vehicle – in his own words – “*very abruptly*” (!) and was able to capture a video of the Barn Owl emerging from the gas store and flying down to the Beach Road turn at ‘Windy Corner’ and up over the flank of Castle Hill. It was not seen again but left a souvenir in the form of a small pellet, found in the gas store. The pellet was dissected by Luke, who identified a Pygmy Shrew jaw-bone among other tiny bones, suggesting that the owl had managed to feed on the island. It seems possible that it had been displaced from the mainland by heavy snow blanketing most of Wales and central/northern England, while south-west England experienced less cold conditions, remaining largely snow free. This was the 11th Lundy record and only the second this century.

Another female-type **Black Redstart** was at North End on 12th January, followed by a male and female at Benjamin's Chair on 11th and 12th February and further singles at Castle Hill and Pilot's Quay sidelands on 15th and 16th; a single **Stock Dove** was over the village and in Millcombe on 16th January; a ‘ringtail’ (female or immature) **Hen Harrier** flew north over High Street Field on 18th January; a **Snow Bunting** was seen regularly along the main track between Pondsbury and Halfway Wall from 5th January to 16th February, being joined by an additional three **Snow Buntings** near the Old Hospital on 1st and 9th February; and single **Reed Buntings** were logged on six dates in January and February.



▲ Skylark, Middle Park (photo: Tim Jones)

Spring migration

Signs of spring migration and the approaching breeding season were in evidence well before the end of February. **Ravens** were already nest-building early in the month, the first **Cormorant** of the year (an adult) flew north on 3rd, and there were an estimated 5,000 **Guillemots** and 500 **Razorbills** on ledges, plus a further 1,000 **Guillemots** on the sea, at Jenny's Cove on 22nd – the same day as 43 **Skylarks** and 25 **Meadow Pipits** were logged, both species into double digits for the first time. Likewise, on 22nd a notable 40 **Rock Pipits** were counted on the plateau and west sidelands at North End. The second half of February also brought a trickle of **Pied/alba Wagtail** and **Linnet** sightings, plus the first **Grey Wagtails** of 2025, with flyover singles of the latter species on 17th and 19th.

As usual, March brought the first real pulses of passerine migration, with **Meadow Pipit** and **Linnet**, **Goldfinch** and **wagtail** movements gathering pace, and new arrivals coming thick and fast, among them: two **Chiffchaff** on 4th (rising to 15 on 27th), three **Wheatear** on 7th (peaking at 17 on 30th), single **Sand Martin** and **Swallow** on 18th (reaching 54 on 31st and nine on 30th, respectively), two **Blackcap** on 20th (rising to 15 on 27th), two **House Martin** on 23rd, and two **Willow Warbler** on 26th (increasing to 29 the next day!). Meanwhile, the first returning **Manx Shearwater** was heard calling at night on 9th March, and the island's iconic **Puffins** made their own 2025 debut with 31 rafting off Jenny's Cove and 16 below the Earthquake on 11th. The first **White Wagtail** of the year was in Barton Field on the same day; one or two **Black Redstarts** were logged on 11 days during the month; and another classic early spring migrant, **Firecrest**, was logged on 10 days, including a notable four in Millcombe on 25th. Scarcities (for Lundy) included single **Rooks** on three dates, a **Stock Dove** on 21st, a male **Bullfinch** on 16th and 18th and a female on 31st, and a **Yellow Wagtail** calling in flight over Tillage Field on 26th.

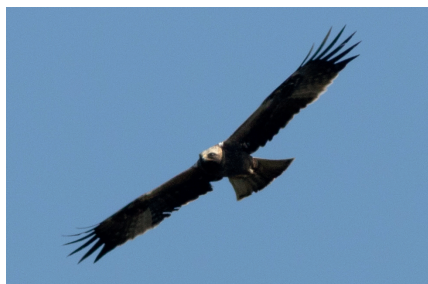


Numbers and variety of migrants continued to build through April, with 'firsts of the year' comprising **Ringed Plover** and **Dunlin** on 1st, **Ring Ouzel** on 2nd, **Redstart** on 4th, **Whitethroat** and **Pied Flycatcher** on 7th, **Tree Pipit** on 8th, **Grasshopper Warbler** on 9th, **Common Sandpiper** and **Sedge Warbler** on 10th, **Reed Warbler** on 13th, **Lesser Whitethroat** on 16th, **Whimbrel** on 17th, **Whinchat** on 20th, **Swift** on 21st, **Garden Warbler** on 27th and **Spotted Flycatcher** on 29th.

Counts of the commoner species peaked at 153 **Sand Martin** (26th), 1,579 **Swallow** (25th), 172 **House Martin** (26th), 53 **Willow Warbler**,

◀ Grasshopper Warbler (photo: Neil Barnes)

50 **Chiffchaff** (11th), 74 **Blackcap** (11th) and 86 **Wheatear** (27th), 202 **Meadow Pipit** (2nd), 231 **Linnet** (20th) and 34 **Goldfinch** (20th). Warbler numbers were generally low, with no significant 'falls' (mass arrivals), likely reflecting the generally settled weather conditions, which enable most nocturnal migrants to overfly Lundy, with fewer needing to pause their journey in search of food and shelter on a relatively remote and inhospitable lump of granite!



The same anticyclonic weather pattern, with frequent easterly winds, was doubtless responsible for delivering two major rarities, in the form of the island's second-ever **White Stork** on 11th, and, amazingly, first **Booted Eagle** on 29th and 30th. The stork, initially seen in flight over Pondsburry during the late morning, was then logged over Millcombe, the Church and North End in very quick succession, and briefly attempted to depart north before aborting. Last seen tracking south over Gannets' Combe just after midday, the same individual was photographed over Ilfracombe an hour later by regular Lundy visitor Martin Thorne. The stork was unringed and so most likely a fully wild bird rather than one originating from the several UK reintroduction projects underway.



▲ Two views of Lundy's first Booted Eagle (photos: Joe Parker)

At noon on 29th April, an 'interesting raptor' flying over Millcombe and towards the Village, was first seen by Jimmy Hair, who was birding on the south-west coast near Rocket Pole. Jimmy alerted other observers and Joe Parker was able to take a series of photos as the bird flew over Barton Field and the Village a few minutes later. Joe posted back-of-camera images to social media, quickly confirming that they showed a dark-morph **Booted Eagle**! The bird remained in view for much of the rest of the afternoon, and was seen well by many staff and visitors as it thermalled over the Village, Ugly, Tent Field and Rocket Pole areas until last observed over the Village just before 17:00 hrs. With a lengthy flight required for a return to the mainland, and with thermals from the island waning, it looked as if the eagle might roost on Lundy, and this proved to be the case when it reappeared just south of Quarry Pond at 09:35 hrs on 30th, again seen by Jimmy. It flew south towards Millcombe and was seen regularly during the morning moving along the east coast, between Quarter Wall and Castle Hill. With strong thermals and light winds, and the mainland clearly visible (after poor visibility out to sea on 29th), the eagle appears to have left the island in the early afternoon, having last been reported in flight along the East Side at about 13:20 hrs (Teresa Davies). There were no further sightings, to the disappointment of those hoping to come over for it on the following day's *Oldenburg* sailing. This was only the fifth record of **Booted Eagle** in the UK, although the warming climate is thought to be responsible for a big increase in records on the near continent. With large raptors generally eschewing sea-crossings due to the absence of thermals over water, it is even more remarkable that one made it to Lundy!



▲ Wryneck in the hand (photo: Flo Turner)

Other rarities during April, though not quite at the same level of extreme rarity as the stork and eagle, included one or two **Hawfinches** in Millcombe on six dates from 2nd to 12th, a mobile **Hoopoe** from 6th to 11th, a **Wryneck** in upper Millcombe on 8th, a **Hooded Crow** frequenting the farm infields from 16th to 23rd, a female **Golden Oriole** in Millcombe on 29th, **Blue-headed Wagtails** on three dates at the end of the month, including four in Barton Field on 29th, and a **Woodchat Shrike** near the Old Hospital on 30th. Among further notable occurrences in a Lundy context were one or two **Stock Doves** on 12 days, a **Lapwing** on 16th, a **Grey Plover** calling over the Water Tanks and Airfield on 7th, single **Green Sandpipers** in the south of the island on 11th and 28th, a calling **Redshank** at White Beach on 6th, a **Mediterranean Gull** off North West Point on 20th, a **Hobby** over Barton Field on 19th, a **Wood Warbler** in Millcombe on 24th, a smattering of **Greenland Wheatears** and **White Wagtails**, and a female **Greenfinch** (unusual in spring) in Millcombe on 10th.

Although migratory movements began to ease for most species into May, a few reached peak numbers during the month. A big push of hirundines and **Swifts** heading out to sea from North Light on 9th yielded actual counts (rather than estimates) of 3,096 **Swallows**, 1,440 **House Martins** and 117 **Swifts**. As expected, **Spotted Flycatcher** was also among the species showing a late peak, with 25 on 18th, and one or two **Cuckoos** were logged on nine dates from 1st.



▲ Hobby over Millcombe (photo: Angus Croudace)

Adding to the already stellar roll-call of rarities and scarcities for the spring were a male **Eastern Subalpine Warbler** on the Terrace and in Millcombe on 1st and 2nd, a further male **Eastern Subalpine Warbler** on the Terrace on 17th, a female **subalpine warbler** species on the Terrace on 20th, a **Marsh Harrier** on three dates between 12th and 21st, further records of **Hobby** (ones and twos on three dates 13th to 27th), **Golden Oriole** (a female on 18th; at least one male and one female 22nd to 24th) and **Hooded Crow** (one 'pure' and one hybrid 1st to 12th), single **Cetti's Warbler** and **Dartford Warbler** both on 3rd, and a female **Crossbill** in Millcombe on 18th.

As usual, a trickle of northbound migration continued into June, with modest numbers of **Swifts**, **Swallows**, **House Martins**, and a handful of warblers and **Spotted Flycatchers** in evidence, while single **Curlew** on 9th and 21st were perhaps more likely to be returning failed breeders, marking the turning of the year and the start of southbound passage. Single **Jackdaw** and **Rook** were seen on 8th and 9th/10th June respectively, a subadult **Mediterranean Gull** was off North Light on 8th, and a **Quail** was logged on three dates from 18th to 21st, being heard calling near The Battery just after midnight on 21st.

Breeding season

As migration slowed, focus increasingly turned to the island's breeding birds, especially ongoing monitoring of the internationally important seabird colony, which forms a major part of the Observatory's work from March right through to the midsummer fledging of **Shags**, auks and gulls, and on to the later departure of **Fulmars**, **Manx Shearwaters** and **Storm Petrels**, the last of the Storm Petrel chicks not heading out to sea until the second half of October.

May saw an all-island, RSPB-led survey of cliff-nesting seabirds. This produced some stunning results with the highest post rat-eradication counts yet for: **Guillemot** (12,202 individuals – more than five times the number counted in 2000), **Razorbill** (4,508 individuals – nearly five times the 2000 count), **Puffin** (1,317 individuals – an extraordinary one hundred-fold increase since 2000), **Kittiwake** (448 apparently occupied nests – marking a recovery to pre-1992 levels) and **Shag** (115 apparently occupied nests – double the 2000 count). **Fulmar** showed a further decline from the 2021 peak of 265 apparently occupied nests to 219 nests in 2025, though this remains above pre rat-eradication levels. Lundy now supports an internationally important breeding assemblage of over 45,000 breeding seabirds, when figures from the 2023 **Manx Shearwater** and **Storm Petrel** surveys are included, while the breeding population of **Razorbill** meets the qualifying threshold for international importance in its own right.

Detailed productivity monitoring was conducted for the island's breeding **Guillemots** (at St Mark's Stone), **Puffins** (at Jenny's Cove), **Kittiwakes** (at Aztec Bay and Three-quarter Wall Buttress) and **Fulmars** (at Gannets' Rock). In comparison to 2024, productivity declined in



▲ Manx Shearwater chick (photo: A. Zhang)



▲ Razorbill chick in the hand (photo: Nik Ward)

2025 for both **Guillemot** and **Puffin** but increased for the Aztec Bay **Kittiwake** colony, where there was also an increase in the number of apparently occupied nests. Unfortunately, the Three-quarter Wall Buttress **Kittiwake** colony failed completely, with only 15 apparently occupied nests from which no chicks survived to fledging. The **Fulmar** colony at Gannets' Rock appears to be declining, in line with evidence from the RSPB all-island survey. While overall productivity for the site was low, with an average of just 0.325 chick reared to fledging for each breeding attempt, there was significant variation between different sub-colonies on Gannets' Rock.

Work commenced on a project to colour-ring chicks from Lundy's rapidly dwindling breeding populations of large gulls (**Herring**, **Lesser Black-backed** and **Great Black-backed Gulls**). However, a further decline in numbers attempting to breed, plus poor productivity – attributed, at least in part, to the 2025 marine heatwave – meant few chicks could be ringed.

On the plus side, for the first time in many decades, a concerted effort was made to ring large numbers of **Shag** chicks, focused mainly on nests in the vicinity of Long Roost and North East Point, but with other chicks ringed below the Earthquake, at Brazen Ward, and at St Philip's Stone. A total of 88 individuals (85 chicks and three adults) were ringed, 87 of these between 18th and 27th June, with the final chick following on 18 July – the highest annual ringing total for the island since 1957!

Land-based recording and mapping of **Oystercatchers** during the breeding season yielded 12 confirmed nests and/or broods in May and June. Four chicks were ringed in June from three nests at sites above Victoria Beach and on Lametor – the first birds ringed on the island since 1976. The survey work clearly established that the population of full-grown Oystercatchers present during the breeding season was significantly higher than could be accounted for by the 12 nesting pairs located. It is likely that some nest sites would only be readily visible during boat-based surveys, while some of the adults present may be non-breeding birds. The Observatory is hoping to undertake more detailed census work in future, including boat-based surveys, to shed further light on some of these open questions.

Weekly monitoring of the **Manx Shearwater** nestboxes, originally built and installed within the Old Light shearwater colony by LFS volunteers, revealed 14 breeding attempts, nine of which had successful outcomes, with chicks reared to fledging. Of the remaining five nestbox breeding attempts, three failed at egg stage and two during chick-rearing. The great majority of young had fledged by the end of August, with one chick remaining until mid-September, fledging not confirmed until a nestbox check on 16th.



The Observatory team was joined by Oxford University's Tim Guilford, who visited the island in mid-June to catch known Lundy-breeding adult **Manx Shearwaters** using the nestboxes in the Old Light colony and to fit them with GLS and GPS data-tags. Twelve GLS leg-tags were deployed and will remain in place throughout the birds' migration to South Atlantic wintering grounds and their return migration to Lundy in spring 2026, when it is hoped they will be retrieved – by recapturing

◄ Voluntary Seabird Fieldworker Kathleen Power and Voluntary Bird Observatory Assistant Ezra Sherwell monitoring Manx Shearwater nestboxes, May 2025 (photo: Tim Jones)

as many of the 12 individuals as possible – for data to be downloaded. An additional 10 individuals were fitted with GPS-enabled tags, designed for short-term deployment only, to record detailed tracks of feeding movements of Lundy-nesting birds. With a super-human effort by the Observatory team to monitor the nestboxes across multiple successive nights, all 10 of these individuals were recaptured by the end of the month. Of these, one had unfortunately lost its GPS tag but nine tags were successfully retrieved, with the downloaded data subsequently undergoing processing and detailed analysis prior to writing up.



▲ A Lundy colour-ringed Wheatear in Mauritania, during spring migration on 2nd March 2025 (photo © Sbgieniew Kajzer)

An RSPB team arrived on Lundy in late July to tag known Lundy-breeding adult **Storm Petrels** (ensured by tagging only birds from active nests) with data-loggers, the purpose being to identify key foraging areas for the island's breeding Storm Petrels – a key piece of evidence required for responding to plans for proposed new windfarms in the Celtic Sea. Five tags were deployed and three had been retrieved (one from a nest at Brazen Ward and two from North Light) by early August.

Notable among landbirds were the first pair of **Willow Warblers** to breed successfully on the island since 2012, with five chicks ringed at the nest, located in upper Millcombe, on 20th July. Also breeding successfully were **Chiffchaff** and **Whitethroat** alongside all the expected, regularly breeding passerine species. Among these were the island's **Wheatear**, **Starling** and **House Sparrow** populations, which continue to be the subject of targeted colour-ringing projects. A spectacular 'first' for the Wheatear Retrapping Adults for Survival (RAS) project was the photographing of a Lundy colour-ringed Wheatear in Mauritania, during spring migration on 2nd March. The bird was seen back on Lundy at Pilot's Quay on 22 May 2025, in the same area where it was ringed in June 2024.

Close observations of **Yellow/Blue-headed Wagtails** in Barton Field in April and May had shown that at least two individuals – a male and a female – were ringed. Although neither bird was trapped, nor could ring numbers be read from photos, the birds' appearance and behaviour strongly suggested that they were returning hybrid '**Channel Wagtails**' fledged from the successful **Yellow Wagtail** x **Blue-headed Wagtail** nest in Barton Field in 2024, the four chicks having been ringed on 7th July 2024. The ringed male **Channel Wagtail** was singing and displaying in Barton Field and on the edge of the Campsite/Lighthouse Field in May, and a female was watched collecting nesting material outside Quarters and taking it over the wall into Lower Lighthouse Field on 6th June. A nest subsequently found in Lower Lighthouse Field contained four warm eggs on 24 Jun, followed by three newly hatched chicks (plus one unhatched egg) on 26th. The three chicks were ringed on 3rd July and the adults continued to be seen in the vicinity of Lower Lighthouse Field and Quarters in the first half of July (last logged on 11th) but only a single bird was seen later in the month, on three dates, in Barton Field. It seems probable that the young did not survive to fledging.

For the second successive year, there was no breeding evidence for **Water Rail**, while **Teal** – though present in the spring – appear to have failed for the first time since 2019.



▲ Sanderling, Castle Hill (photo: Angus Croudace)

Autumn migration

Although still high summer, 'autumn' migration was already underway by mid-July, with early movers including 15 **Black-headed Gulls** seen from the *Oldenburg* about a mile off Lundy on 12th, followed by a scattering of waders later in the month, among them **Ringed Plover**, **Curlew**, **Snipe**, **Common Sandpiper**, **Green Sandpiper** and, unusually, a **Sanderling** on the Landing Beach on 25th. Also on the move were a few hirundines and warblers, the latter including single **Garden Warbler** and **Reed Warbler**, but it was the overnight arrival of 40 **Willow Warblers** on 19th that signalled the start in earnest of the core autumn passage season, which would continue in one form or another for the next four months.

Influxes of **Willow Warblers** followed on an almost daily basis from late July until early September, with higher counts including 91 on 28th July, 132 on 15th August and 109 on 22nd August. Late July brought a **Cuckoo** on 27th and seven **Sedge Warblers** on 28th, while August saw **Grasshopper Warbler** (up to three on five dates) and **Lesser Whitethroat** (one on 23rd) added to the mix, as well as small but growing numbers of **Blackcap** and **Whitethroat** later in the month.

Waders made a decent showing from mid-August, with **Greenshank**, **Whimbrel**, **Dunlin** and **Turnstone** (all in ones and twos), plus a single **Wood Sandpiper** over the Terrace on 28th.

Southbound **Sand Martin** movements peaked in August, with counts of 84 on 13th and 50 on 22nd, while the vanguard of what proved to be an exceptional autumn for **Firecrest** was a single bird on 19th August; followed by records on a further 61 days to mid-November, with counts of 15 on both 25th and 28th September setting a new island record. It was also a good year for passage flycatchers, with frequent easterly winds bringing a steady stream of both **Spotted Flycatcher** and **Pied Flycatcher** to the island from mid-August. There were influxes of 36 and 35 **Spotted Flycatchers** on 20th and 24th August respectively, followed by 46 on 4th September, while **Pied Flycatchers** peaked at nine on 25th August and 8th September. A supporting passerine cast was provided by small numbers of other typical early-autumn migrants such as **Redstart** (max 3 on 25th September), **Whinchat** (max 5 on 21st September), **Tree Pipit** (max 9 on 22nd August) and **Yellow Wagtail** (max 3 on 6th September).

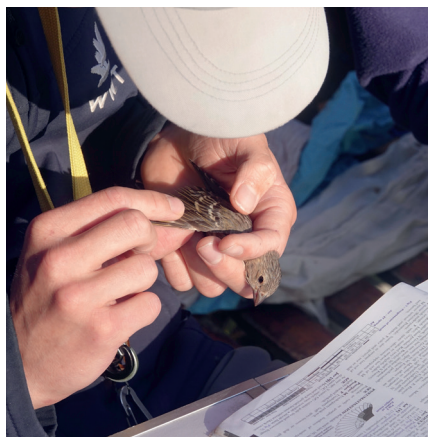
The same easterly airflow that delivered high numbers of **Firecrests** and flycatchers was doubtless also responsible for the arrival of two **Western Bonelli's Warblers** on 24th August – one in Quarter Wall Copse and one (watched simultaneously) in Millcombe, the latter individual prolonging its stay until 20th September. These were only the third and fourth records for Lundy of this denizen of southern European woodlands. Other rarities during August included a **Buzzard** on 20th and 21st, a **Melodious Warbler** at Quarter Wall on 21st, and an **Icterine Warbler** in Millcombe walled gardens on 25th.

Travel and accommodation grants awarded by the British Trust for Ornithology enabled four ringers wishing to increase their knowledge and experience of seabird ringing to participate in a skills development course hosted by the Observatory in late August/early September. This focussed on **Manx Shearwater** and **Storm Petrel** ringing at night, with participants also contributing to ringing of passerine migrants in Millcombe by day.

As is typically the case, September brought the main autumn movements of species such as **Swallow**, **Chiffchaff** and **Blackcap**, though there was something of a hiatus until a spell of very cool and unsettled weather mid-month gave way to calmer conditions. This opened the door to arrivals of 114 **Chiffchaffs** and 225 **Blackcaps** on 22nd, accompanied by 6,200 **Swallows**, 286 **Sand Martins** and 139 **House Martins**.

September was a bumper month for rarities and scarcities, including **Shoveler** (one over the Landing Bay on 7th), **Turtle Dove** (one at North End on 9th), **Ruff** (one at Pondsburry 13th and 14th), **Sanderling** (two off The Battery on 15th), **Curlew Sandpiper** (one in the south of the island on 28th), **Common** and **Arctic Tern** (46 Arctic and 22 Common off North Light on 7th), **Pomarine Skua** (one on 25th), **Balearic Shearwater** (at least one off North Light on 7th and one off the Terrace on 16th), **Osprey** (a first-year bird flying south over the Landing Bay on 26th), **Hobby** (singles on 6th and 22nd), **Wryneck** (singles on five dates 19th to 25th, with two on 22nd), **Great Spotted Woodpecker** (up to two, 14th to 20th), **Melodious Warbler** (singles in Millcombe 2nd and 4th), **Treecreeper** (one in Millcombe 28th and 29th), **Red-breasted Flycatcher** (one in willows south of the Terrace on 26th), **Common Rosefinch** (a juvenile trapped in Millcombe on 6th), **Ortolan Bunting** (in flight south of Terrace on 19th; identified from a sound recording) and **Lapland Bunting** (one along the main track above Gannets' Combe on 1st and one over the Airfield on 26th). Also notable were good numbers of **Greenfinch** towards the end of the month, peaking at 11 on 26th, 27th and 30th. Pride of place, however, goes to the juvenile **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** that arrived at North End on 17th, relocating to the south of the island and remaining to 21st, and a first-winter **Grey-cheeked Thrush** trapped and ringed in Millcombe on 29th – only the third for Lundy, the previous record dating back to 1986.

October brought the expected transition from the final departures of most summer visitors to the arrival of winter migrants from northern and eastern Europe. Last dates included **Yellow Wagtail** on 2nd, **Spotted Flycatcher** on 8th, **Whitethroat** and **Pied Flycatcher** on 10th, **House Martin** on 18th, **Garden Warbler** and **Lesser Whitethroat** on 20th, **Redstart** on 21st and **Sand Martin** on 23rd. Apart from **Chiffchaff** and **Blackcap** (both of which occasionally overwinter), only **Swallow** and (very unusually) **Willow Warbler** lingered in November, both making their final appearances in the 2025 log on 8th.



▲ Common Rosefinch being aged by Ezra Sherwell, Millcombe (photo: Tim Jones)



▲ Grey-cheeked Thrush in the hand (photo: Angus Croudace)



▲ Fieldfare, Millcombe (photo: Angus Croudace)



▲ Dusky Warbler in the hand (photo: Angus Croudace)



▲ Goosander (photo: Angus Croudace)

The arrival of winter thrushes was announced by a single **Redwing** in Millcombe on 12th October, followed by 135 the next day and 564 on 14th. **Fieldfares** also arrived suddenly *en masse*, with 70 on 13th, while **Ring Ouzels** put in a decent showing, recorded on nine days during the month and reaching a maximum of 14 on 14th. After the initial influxes, numbers of both **Redwing** and **Fieldfare** fell away, though there were further modest arrivals of 254 **Redwing** on 23rd October and 120 on 6th November. **Song Thrush** peaked at 53 on 14th October, and **Blackbird** a lowly 38 on 16th.

Easterly winds in mid-October, which doubtless assisted the arrival of thrushes, also brought exceptional numbers of **Jack Snipe** to the island. Two (at Pondsburry) on 14th, increased to 12 on 15th (including nine at Pondsburry), and a record Lundy total of 20 on 16th (11 at Pondsburry, three in Barton/St Helen's Fields, two at Quarters Pond, and singles in South West Field, Brick Field, at the head of Gannets' Combe and along the main track). Numbers fell to a still notable seven on 17th but none could be found on 18th.

The autumn **Chaffinch** migration, so often one of the highlights of the ornithological year on Lundy, was less spectacular than in some years, with weather conditions unsuitable on many days. A happy exception was a window on 17th and 18th October which saw 1,463 and 5,064 logged by dedicated (some would say uninged!) counters standing in upper Millcombe and on Castle Hill.

Among other late-autumn arrivals were **Woodcock** (first on 14th October, maximum six on 10th November), **Merlin** (first on 18th September, maximum seven on 22nd October), **Black Redstart** (first on 5th October, maximum four on 14th), **Brambling** (first on 8th October, maximum 10 on 17th October) and **Snow Bunting** (first on 8th October, maximum five on 22nd October).

October and November saw a continuation of an outstanding run of rarities, with highlights including the island's first **Dusky Warbler** (which breeds no closer than eastern Kazakhstan, wintering in south and south-east Asia) initially seen in lower Millcombe early on 10th October and trapped and ringed shortly afterwards. It resurfaced on the densely vegetated bramble and bracken slope below the Ugly on 15th and was seen again (though extremely skulking and difficult to see well) just north of the 'Steps of Doom' (between the Ugly and St Helen's Combe) on 16th. Lundy's third **Glossy Ibis** was seen flying low over the sea, distantly off the East Side, during a seawatch from the Ugly on 18th October. The third-ever **Goosander** for the island was a female or immature flying high to the south, just off the Terrace, on 15th October. A first-year **Greenland White-fronted Goose** arrived on strong north-westerlies on 26th October and, though clearly exhausted to begin with, thrived on the

food and shelter available to it in Barton Field, remaining there until 3rd November (just the fifth Lundy record for this endangered subspecies).

Other notable species in October and November were **Whooper Swan** (two on 8th October), **Lapwing** (up to four on six dates), **Sanderling** (one on Castle Hill on 7th October), **Great White Egret** (one over the Airfield on 9th October), **Little Egret** (one at North East Point and in the Landing Bay on 29th October), **Marsh Harrier** (singles on three dates 14th to 18th October), **Hen Harrier** (one over the east sidelands on 19th October), **Short-eared Owl** (one, 16th to 21st October, mainly in the Ponsbury area), **Hobby** (one over Ackland's Moor on 19th and briefly on 20th October), **Great Spotted Woodpecker** (a female in Millcombe on 13th October, with remains of a predated individual in Gannets' Combe on 14th October), **Yellow-browed Warbler** (singles on six dates from 29th September to 21st October), **Pallas's Warbler** (one trapped in Millcombe on 6th November), **Treecreeper** (ones and twos in Millcombe, St Helen's Copse and Quarter Wall Copse on 20 dates from 9th October to 13th November, with ringing proving the presence of at least three different individuals), **Rose-coloured Starling** (a juvenile in Brick Field on 10th October and around the farm and village the next day), **Mistle Thrush** (singles on 22nd and 26th October), **Red-breasted Flycatcher** (one in Millcombe Pines and St Helen's Copse, 8th to 10th October), **Olive-backed Pipit** (one on western sidelands above Jenny's Cove between Punchbowl Valley and Halfway Wall, 14th to 16th October) and **Lapland Bunting** (singles along the main track near Ponsbury on 10th October and one in flight over Brick Field on 22nd October).



▲ Greenland White-fronted Goose (photo: Tim Jones)



▲ Red-breasted Flycatcher, Terrace (photo: Paul Holt)

Early winter

With the end of autumn migration, the departure of the seasonal Observatory volunteers, fewer visiting birders, and decreasing daylight hours, the island logbook took on its familiarly sparse winter plumage, this year exacerbated by the departure in early December of Joe Parker as Lundy Warden.

There were still a few late ornithological highlights to come, though, including two **Barnacle Geese** that arrived on Boxing Day, frequenting Brick and Lower Lighthouse Fields until 2nd January 2026, one or two **Lapwing** in late December, a female-type **Black Redstart** on the fenceline running down from the shop gate on 29th December, and a **Little Egret** at Ponsbury on New Year's Eve.

So drew to a close an exceptionally rich and varied year. The Bird Observatory Organising Committee would like to thank the LFS for its continuing support, all visiting birdwatchers and ringers for their invaluable records, the Voluntary Observatory Assistants for 2025 – Ezra Sherwell and Flo Turner and Voluntary Seabird Fieldworker Kathleen Power – for their tireless work at all times of the day and night, and last but not least, Joe Parker, who played a key role in successfully steering the Observatory through its probationary period. We look forward to our first year as a fully reaccredited member of the network!

OTHER BIOLOGICAL RECORDS FROM LUNDY

The reports that follow have been compiled by the recorders for each group of organisms. Most of the records have been taken from the pages of the LFS Logbook not devoted to birds, and we thank all of those who have taken the time and trouble to enter their observations of animals, plants, bryophytes, lichens and fungi while on Lundy. We have not attempted to verify all the records, but unusual or interesting observations will have been checked with the originators. Most of the information will also eventually appear on the LFS website and on various national databases.

All visitors to Lundy have a unique opportunity to contribute something truly worthwhile to our knowledge of the natural world. Please keep entering your 2026 sightings and sending us photographs that can be used to illustrate the 2026 Annual Report!

MARINE SPECIES

Keith Hiscock

Names of taxa given here are the most recent in February 2026. For authorities for each species and to check against changes to names, go to www.marinespecies.org. Records are mainly from the LFS logbook but also include entries to iRecord.

Intertidal areas. Records from intertidal areas in 2025 benefited especially from entries in the LFS logbook by Assistant Warden (Marine) Tara McEvoy-Wilding (hereafter Tara M-W) and by visitors. The records of species found on seashore safaris in 2025 together with the addition of species that tend to be 'not noted' because they are so common or that are well known to occur enable a list (below) of 'usually found' intertidal animal species against which unusual records will stand out. Some species need specialist knowledge to identify, and broad groups ('taxa') are included here. Unusual finds can be identified after checking against the 'usually found' list and against spreadsheets which include records from the late 1940s to the last detailed intertidal survey in 2008. Those spreadsheets are held by the Lundy Warden and by the Data Archive for Marine Species and Habitats at the Marine Biological Association. At the time of preparing this report, those spreadsheets are being worked on.



▲ A group of Sunset Cup Corals *Leptopsammia pruvoti* at the Knoll Pins on 10 August. The species was first recorded in Britain at Lundy in 1969 but numbers have declined greatly (photo: Keith Hiscock)

▼ Taxa recorded from seashore safaris in 2025 with addition of 'usually found' species from previous surveys and likely to have been present in 2025 (*). The list is included here to provide a checklist for future observations.

VERNACULAR NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	VERNACULAR NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Sponges	Phylum Porifera	Montagu's/Furrowed Crab	<i>Xantho hydrophilus</i>
* Breadcrumb Sponge	<i>Halichondria panicea</i>	Risso's Crab	<i>Xantho pilipes</i>
* Crumb-of-Bread Sponge	<i>Hymeniacidon perlevis</i>	Hairy Crab	<i>Plumnus hirtellus</i>
* Little Vase Sponge	<i>Sycon ciliatum</i>	Molluscs	Phylum Mollusca
* Purse Sponge	<i>Grantia compressa</i>	Chitons	Polyplocophora (Class)
* Pancake Sponge	<i>Leuconia nivea</i>	Limpets	<i>Patella</i> spp**
* Various encrusting sponges	<i>Myxilla</i> sp(p)	* Blue-Rayed Limpet	<i>Patella pellucida</i>
Hydroids, Anemones, Corals	Phylum Cnidaria	* Toothed Topshell	<i>Phorcus lineatus</i>
Garland Hydroid	<i>Dynamena pumila</i>	Grey Topshell	<i>Steromphala cineraria</i>
Beadlet Anemone	<i>Actinia equina</i>	Flat Topshell	<i>Steromphala umbilicalis</i>
Strawberry Anemone	<i>Actinia fragacea</i>	Painted Topshell	<i>Calliostoma zizyphinum</i>
Daisy Anemone	<i>Cereus pedunculatus</i>	Flat Periwinkle***	<i>Littorina obtusata/fabalis</i>
Trumpet Anemone	<i>Aiptasia mutabilis</i>	* Small Periwinkle	<i>Littorina neritoides</i>
Gem Anemone	<i>Bunodactis verrucosa</i>	Rough Periwinkle	<i>Littorina saxatilis</i>
Scarlet & Gold Star Coral	<i>Balanophyllia regia</i>	Dogwhelk	<i>Nucella lapillus</i>
Devonshire Cup Coral	<i>Caryophyllia smithii</i>	Netted Dogwhelk	<i>Nassarius reticulatus</i>
Segmented Worms	Phylum Polychaeta	Common Sea Hare	<i>Aplysia punctata</i>
Green Leaf Worm	<i>Eulalia viridis</i>	Celtic Sea Slug	<i>Onchidella celtica</i>
* Keeled Tube Worm	<i>Spirobranchus triquetus</i>	Sea Lemon	<i>Archidoris pseudoargus</i>
* Spiral Tube Worms	Spirorbiniae (Family)	Sea Mats	Phylum Bryozoa
Crustaceans	Phylum Arthropoda	An encrusting bryozoan	<i>Oshurkovia littoralis</i>
	Subphylum Crustacea		
* Montagu's Stellate Barnacle	<i>Chthamalus montagui</i>	Red Ripple Bryozoan	<i>Watersipora subatra</i>
* Poli's Stellate Barnacle	<i>Chthamalus stellatus</i>	Starfish, Sea Urchins	Phylum Echinodermata
* Perforated/Volcano Barnacle	<i>Perforatus perforatus</i>	Cushion Star	<i>Asterina gibbosa</i>
Northern Rock Barnacle	<i>Semibalanus balanoides</i>	Spiny Starfish	<i>Marthasterias glacialis</i>
Iso-poda indet.	Idoteidae (Family)	Common Brittle Star	<i>Ophiotrix fragilis</i>
Sea Slater	<i>Ligia oceanica</i>	Black Brittle Star	<i>Ophiocomina nigra</i>
Amphipoda indet.	Amphipoda indet.	Green Sea Urchin	<i>Psammochinus miliaris</i>
Common Prawn	<i>Palaemon serratus</i>	Sea Squirts	Phylum Chordata
Common Hermit Crab	<i>Pagurus bernhardus</i>	Light Bulb Sea Squirt	Subphylum Tunicata
Leach's Squat Lobster	<i>Galathea squamifera</i>	* A polyclinid sea squirt	<i>Clavelina lepadiformis</i>
Broad Clawed Porcelain Crab	<i>Porcellana platycheles</i>	A botrylloid sea squirt	<i>Aplidium turbinatum</i>
Long Clawed Porcelain Crab	<i>Pisidia longicornis</i>		<i>Botrylloides leachii</i>
Spider Crabs (various)	Majidae (Family)	Fish	Phylum Chordata
* Common Spider Crab	<i>Maja squinado</i>	Shore Clingfish	Gigaclass Actinopterygii
Edible/Brown Crab	<i>Cancer pagurus</i>	Rock Goby	<i>Lepadogaster lepadogaster</i>
Velvet Swimming Crab	<i>Necora puber</i>	* Shanny	<i>Gobius paganellus</i>
		Worm Pipefish	<i>Lipophrys pholis</i>
		Shore/Three Bearded Rockling	<i>Nerophis lumbriciformes</i>
		Grey Mullet (juveniles)	<i>Gaidropsarus mediterraneus</i>
			<i>Chelon</i> sp.

** *Patella* spp (Common limpet *P. vulgata*, Black-Footed Limpet *P. depressa* and China Limpet *P. ulyssiponensis*) are difficult to tell apart without removing them but the proportion of each is related to geographical location.

*** Flat periwinkles include two species that are difficult to tell apart.

Subtidal seabeds. Records from subtidal seabeds were exceptionally sparse in 2025 and I only had dives off Gull Rock and at the Knoll Pins on 10 August in 2025. Off Gull Rock, the attached algae and animals were much as described when surveys were being undertaken except that the abundance of Pink Sea Fans *Eunicella verrucosa* continues to be very low compared to periods up to the mid-1980s. At the Knoll Pins, the 'vibrancy' of the attached animal life continued to be a shadow of its former self (up to the mid-1980s) and the numbers of the nationally rare Sunset Cup Coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti* continued to be about one third of that up until the mid-1980s. Observations were rapid at the two locations: more thorough and repeatable surveys at key locations are needed.

ALGAE

There were no notable sightings in 2025 as there were no systematic or opportunistic surveys.

MARINE INVERTEBRATES AND ASCIDIANS

Gelatinous plankton

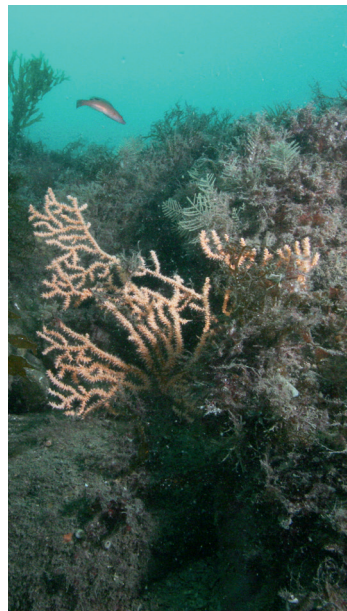
Lundy attracts a wide range of gelatinous plankton species most often seen on snorkel safaris but visible to anyone swimming, diving or looking along the water line – especially in the cove adjacent to Christie's Quay. Main species were listed following snorkel safaris on 3 and 18 May and were: **Crystal Jelly** *Aequorea* sp.; **Blue Jellyfish** *Cyanea lamarkii*; **Purple Jellyfish/Mauve Stinger** *Pelagia noctiluca*; **Compass Jellyfish** *Chrysaora hysoscella*; **Moon Jellyfish** *Aurelia aurita*; **Sea Gooseberry** *Pleurobrachia pileus*; **Northern Comb Jelly** *Bolinopsis infundibulum*.

Barrel Jellyfish *Rhizostoma octopus* are particularly conspicuous and can occur in very large numbers. Records in 2025 are: washed up by the Jetty on 28 February; off the Jetty and off the North End on 25 March (Tara M-W); off The Terrace on 30 March (Elise & Steve O'Donnell); off the Quarries (M. Darl....); Landing Bay on 18 May (Tara M-W) and 8 July, recorded on iRecord ('Roundways').

SEASHORE AND SEABED SPECIES



▲ The edge of the boulder tumble off Gull Rock at about 14m below chart datum on 10 August. Branching yellow axinellid sponges and Trumpet Anemones *Aiptasia couchii* amongst sparse foliose algae (photo: Keith Hiscock)



▲ A healthy Pink Sea Fan *Eunicella verrucosa* off Gull Rock on 10 August (photo: Keith Hiscock)

Cnidaria: Octocorallia

Pink Sea Fan *Eunicella verrucosa*

The abundance of Pink Sea Fans has declined since about the mid-1980s at Lundy and so records are kept (where possible) of abundance and condition. Off Gull Rock at the seaward edge of the boulder tumble at about 14m below chart datum and during a 52-minute dive, ten fans (ranking as 'occasional') were counted. However, there were many long-since-dead fans fouled with a wide variety of attached species. Sea Fan abundance at the Knoll Pins was similarly very sparse with only three observed in a 50-minute dive (Keith Hiscock).

Cnidaria: Hexacorallia

Scarlet and Gold Star Coral *Balanophyllia regia*

The Scarlet and Gold Star Coral occurs in several locations around Lundy and is notable because it was recorded from the island by Charles Kingsley soon after its initial description new to science in 1853. A population has developed in the shade of the foot of the Jetty in the Landing Bay and 95 individuals were recorded there on 30 March by Tara M-W.

Mollusca: Gastropoda: Aplysiidae

Sea Hare *Aplysia punctata*

Twenty-five were counted around the edge and in a gully leading into Mermaids' Pool on the south side of the Lametor Peninsula on 18 May (Tara M-W and others).

Mollusca: Gastropoda: Onchidiidae

Celtic Seaslug *Onchidella celtica*

Approximately 15 were counted on 16 May (Tara M-W) and 73 on 25 August (Joe Parker). The population is in a small area of Devil's Kitchen and the species is known to be visible in variable numbers. It is particularly notable that the population (originally found in 2020 by Rosie Ellis) was still present in significant numbers.



▲ A Sea Hare *Aplysia punctata* at Mermaids' Pool on 18 May (photo: Amber Homersham)

Mollusca: Gastropoda: Nudibranchia

A large number of seaslugs (nudibranchs) have been recorded in the past from Lundy but seeing them requires a sharp eye, and knowing where to look (they often have very specific food species). In 2025, a few species were recorded during snorkel safaris: *Doris* cf. *ocelligera*; *Amphorina farrani* and *Facelina auriculata* on 14 July and *Aeolidea papillosa* on the archway on the north side of Rat Island on 31 March (Tara M-W).

Crustacea: Decapoda

Spiny Spider Crab *Maja squinado*

A frequently seen species around Lundy. In 2025, on 23 July during a snorkel safari, large numbers were seen in a moulting aggregation under the Landing Bay jetty where some had already moulted and others were preparing to (Tara M-W).

Bryozoa

Red Ripple Bryozoan *Watersipora subatra*

This non-native species was first found at Lundy on 27 May 2021. Records in 2025 were from the north side of Rat Island and the Jetty (Tara M-W). It is a conspicuous species that is likely to spread in its distribution around the island.

Fish

Chordata: Pisces

There are several fish species commonly seen by snorkelers and divers around Lundy including Bass, Grey Mullet (at the Landing Bay Jetty including juveniles in pools), Pollack, Ballan Wrasse, Cuckoo Wrasse and sandeels. Less frequently sighted species are noted here.

Basking Shark *Cetorhinus maximus*

There have been no validated sightings of Basking Sharks at Lundy since one was seen off the Landing Bay on 8 August 2023. A description of a 'large torpedo-shape in the water with occasionally the tip of one fin just visible' off the east coast on 2 October cannot be confirmed as a Basking Shark but is noted here. (Likely observed by Jackie Macbeth.)



▲ Montagu's Sea Snail, North of Rat Island
(photo: Tara McEvoy-Wilding)

Sunfish *Mola mola*

One approaching Lundy on MV Oldenburg on 14 June (Maggie Gamble and Phillipa Ellam, MARINELife). Off the east side of the island on 3 August (J. Taylor and L. Eskuche).

Montagu's Sea Snail *Liparis montagui*

Found on 1 and 2 March north of Rat Island by Tara M-W. Recorded once before at Lundy north of Gannet's Rock in a *Laminaria* holdfast (Pullin, 1978).

WHALES, DOLPHINS AND PORPOISES (CETACEANS)

Chordata: Mammalia

Overall, the number of records and of individuals seen of Harbour Porpoise and Short-beaked Common Dolphin were less than in 2024. There was one sighting (by MARINELife observers) of a Bottlenose Dolphin from the Oldenburg in 2025 (compared to one in 2024, one in 2023, one in 2022, none in 2021 and one in 2020).

MARINELife record sightings of cetaceans on ferry trips between Ilfracombe/Bideford and Lundy. The number of sightings are reported on their website – <https://www.marine-life.org.uk/survey-reports>.

Short-beaked Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis*

There were seven days (from late January through to early November) on which there were logbook entries for Common Dolphin seen from the island: usually three or four together. MARINELife observers recorded Common Dolphin on six of 16 crossings to/from Lundy. Notably, on 22 January, a pod of 15 or more was seen close in off Brazen Ward (Joe Parker) and likely the same pod off Brazen Ward (Sue Waterfield). Numbers of dolphins in individual sightings were not generally as high as in 2024.

Bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*

One was recorded by MARINELife observers on an Ilfracombe/Bideford crossing on 12 April.

Harbour Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*

There were seven days on which there were logbook entries for Harbour Porpoise, mostly singles or two individuals. Locations were mostly in the tidal races off the NW and SE corners. There were sightings by MARINELife observers on three (out of 16) Oldenburg passages.

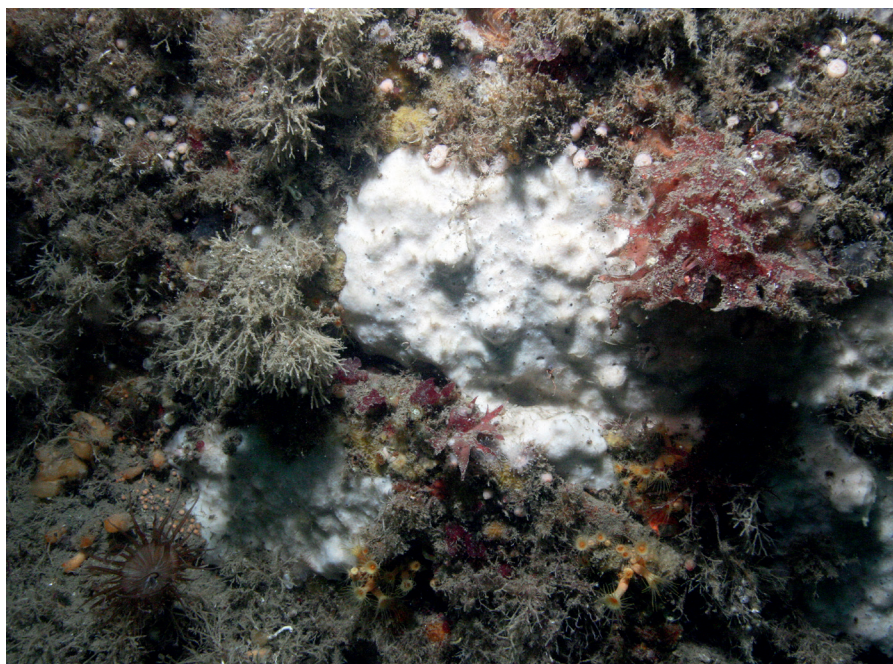
Thanks to all those who reported sightings.

Whales?

Sightings of whales are becoming more frequent off south-west England. There were two sightings that were likely whales at Lundy in 2025 but it was not possible to identify the species with certainty. One was west of the Old Light on 11 May where the whale was observed to be rolling slowly from side-to-side, pausing then repeating and to have a small dark fin. (Elise and Steve O'Donnell) and one off the North Light on 22 September (Jackie Macbeth).

References

Pullin RSV (1978). *The Marine Fauna of Lundy. Pisces (Fishes)*. Annual Report of the Lundy Field Society 28:45-54.



▲ Marine life on the wall of the Knoll Pins Canyon at about 15 m below chart datum on 10 August. The image includes the unusual but plentiful around Lundy sponge *Thymosia guernei*, a Trumpet Anemone *Aiptasia couchii*, Yellow Cluster Anemones *Parazoanthus axinellae*, widely scattered Jewel Anemones *Corynactis viridis*, the branching seamount *Cellaria* sp. and the orange sea squirt *Stolonica socialis* (photo: Keith Hiscock)

ATLANTIC GREY SEAL *HALICHOERUS GRYPUS* STUDIES

Mya Tibbs and Tara McEvoy-Wilding

The Atlantic Grey Seal population has been monitored consistently on Lundy since 2011, with evidence of ad hoc counts and monitoring recorded beforehand. This monitoring has historically been carried out by the conservation team, keeping the data for the island's own records. They would survey during peak breeding season to understand the distribution, population dynamics and productivity of the Lundy Grey Seals.

Population

Twelve population surveys were completed during the 2025 season, with total counts and breakdowns by sex and age class presented in the graph below. The highest total count was recorded on 6 October, with 183 individuals observed (16 males, 122 females, 12 juveniles, 1 weaner, 10 white-coat pups, one dead pup, and 21 individuals of undetermined age or sex). This peak is 24 seals fewer than the 2024 maximum count of 207. The lowest count occurred on 20 October, with just 28 individuals recorded.



▲ Seals hauled out at Mousehole and Trap, 10 August 2025 (photo: Kai Harper)

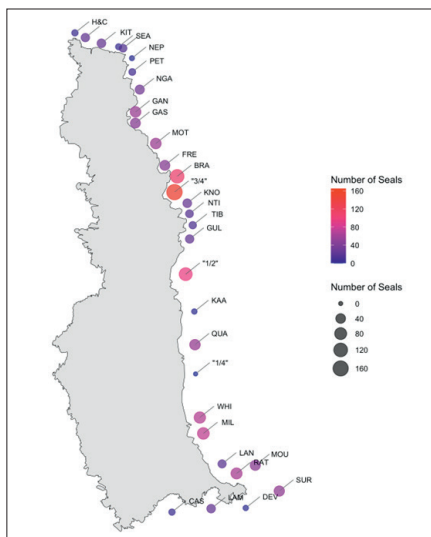


Consistent with previous years, females were the most frequently observed category during every survey except the final survey of the season, which was completed by a different surveyor. Earlier Lundy Seal Reports (2017, 2018, 2020, and 2021) have noted an apparent increase in males around mid-September; however, this pattern was not evident in 2025. As highlighted in prior reports, seal distribution around Lundy is strongly affected by weather conditions and sea state. Surveys conducted during periods of easterly winds showed notable absences of seals at typically popular haul-out sites such as Rat and Mouse Island.

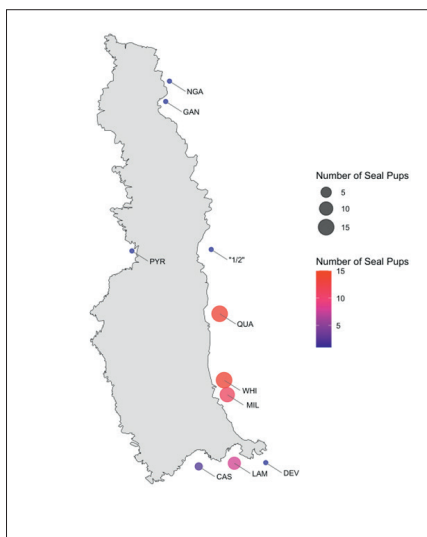
Two surveys were carried out with easterlies: on 25 September, with a total of 65 individuals, and on 21 August, with a total of 35 individuals. These surveys occurred during the peak population period of the season, and total counts are significantly lower than other surveys during this time.

The most popular haul-out spot during the 2025 season was Three-Quarter Wall Bay. This

◀ Results of the 2025 population surveys. Total counts of each survey (right y axis) are shown by the black line, and the percentage breakdown of the age and sex of seals (left y axis) is shown as a bar chart.



▲ Cumulative number of seals seen at each survey point throughout the 2025 season.



▲ Total number of seal pups first sighted at each surveying point

has also been reported as the most popular location in the 2021, 2023, and 2024 reports. The highest count at Three-Quarter Wall Bay was 67 individuals. Seals at Three-Quarter Wall Bay accounted for 14% of all sightings, followed by Brazen Ward Battery with 9.7% and Half Way Wall Bay with 8.5%.

Productivity

Seal pup checks were carried out following the identification of the first white-coat seal pup on 4 August. Surveys were conducted at least five times a week between 4 August and 20 October, as close to low tide as possible. Near-daily monitoring aimed to accurately track the development of seal pups. Only beaches in the South East of the island, from QUA to CAS, were surveyed, as these had been identified as important pupping locations. Pup identification mainly relied upon the identification of their mothers. The age and progress of pups were classified using Smith's Age Classification System.

A total of 64 seal pups were born on Lundy in the 2025 pupping season. This is seven individuals fewer than 2024 and two fewer than 2023, but higher than any record before 2022. This total would be fewer than the actual productivity of the island, as there would be many more pups present, hidden within the island's inaccessible sea caves throughout the season. The first white coat pup, found on the 4 August, was at Castle Bay (CAS), and the last new pup was found on 8 November at Devils Kitchen (DEV). The survey locations with the highest number of first pup sightings were Quarry Beach and White Beach, each with 15 first sightings. This year, to aid fieldworkers with



▲ Pup 2, 'Blackwater' on Ladies Beach (photo: Tara McEvoy-Wilding)



▲ Pup 51 'Craggie' on Ladies Beach (photo: Mya Tibbs)

tracking pup progress we decided to name pups alphabetically after British and Irish rivers; this proved to be helpful and we plan to continue this next year with a new theme.

The observed mortality in 2025 was 11 individuals, with an observed mortality rate of 17%. This is lower than the 2024 observed mortality rate of 21%, which faced strong easterly storms and spring tides that coincided with pup births. Fatalities were much higher when combining observed mortality with assumed mortality, producing a mortality rate of 30%. The combined observed and assumed

mortality in 2024 was 36%, higher than the 2025 rate. Analysis of pup data from 2014–2025 showed a statistically significant increase in the number of Grey Seal pups born on Lundy Island between July and November over this time span.

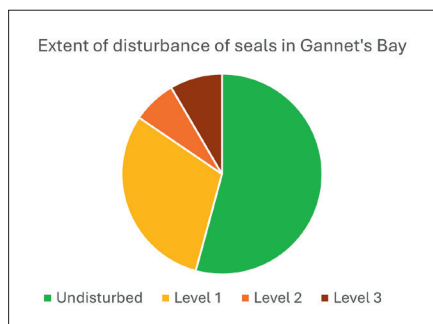
Disturbance

After a trial during 2024, we decided to continue with the disturbance surveys at Gannets Bay, thanks to the assistance of an extra volunteer, Kirsty Cox. Across nine surveys, 46% of seals were recorded to have been disturbed to some extent. Each disturbance event was either caused by a boat coming into the bay or because snorkellers got too close. Disturbance was classified at three levels:

Level 1 – Alert: Disturbed from resting, becoming vigilant

Level 2 – Shifting: Head up, scanning the surroundings, shifting around on their rock

Level 3 – Flushing: Moving across the rocks rapidly, diving into the sea

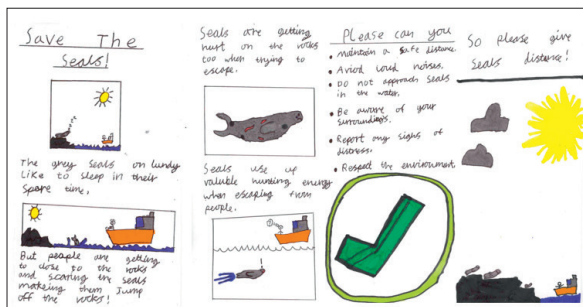


▲ Pie chart showing the proportion of seals disturbed, and to what extent, observed during nine disturbance surveys

The pie chart below shows the proportion of disturbance at each level. The majority of disturbance was at level 1, which isn't a significant issue, but the response level can quickly escalate to 2 or 3 if snorkellers come closer or boat noise continues. Level 3 disturbances can have significant health implications for a seal, both because of short term injuries such as lost claws and lacerations, and long-term consequences if they are regularly flushed off the rocks and losing resting time. For 2026, we plan to increase disturbance surveys further and have recruited extra volunteers to be able to achieve this. We hope to be able to undertake at least two surveys a week from June- August.

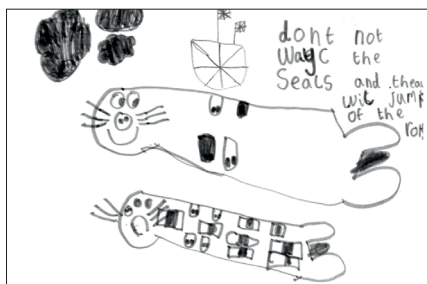
Engagement

To engage with the North Devon community, in 2025 we ran a 'Lundy Seal Champion' Competition. This was a competition for primary school aged children to write or design a creative piece of work to help us raise awareness of seal disturbance around Lundy and to help promote our Seal Code of Conduct. The competition was a success with around 90 entries from seven schools. The winning entries have been displayed in St Helen's Church and will be used in partnership with the North Devon Biosphere to raise awareness of seal conservation.



▲▶ Winning and highly commended entries from the Lundy Seal Champion Competition

On the island, regular engagement on Lundy's seal population came from tri-weekly talks led by the island's wardens. The talks, which centred around the island's wildlife, educated visitors on the population status and ecology of the island's grey seal population as well as informing visitors about the effects of seal disturbance, and how to prevent disturbance events.



▲ Seal pupping sign in the Landing Bay

During the pupping season, signs were used to inform the public that Devil's Kitchen, Quarry and Landing Bay beaches were closed to prevent disturbance of seal pups. Signs set up outside the Landing Bay boat building and in the Marisco Tavern were also used to convey information to visitors on best practices when observing seals. This information was also presented in free leaflets available in the Tavern and in the Landing Bay boat building.

Acknowledgements

A huge thank you to this year's Seal Volunteers Kirsty Cox, Kai Harper and Mya Tibbs for all their efforts surveying Lundy's seals. We would also like to thank Lundy's other conservation volunteers Kathleen Power, Ezra Sherwell and Zdena Best for their assistance with surveys and reporting sightings.

FRESHWATER FISH

Alan Rowland and Jennifer George



▲ Golden Orfe in Quarry Pond (photo: Alan Rowland)

Sightings of freshwater fish were down on last year with records from Rocket Pole Pond and Quarry Pond as usual. Only four sightings were made. Golden Orfe *Leuciscus idus* were confirmed as still present in Quarry Pond with a low of three in February increasing to 15 in September 21 as reported by Dave and Chris Clifton and Kevin and Val Waterfall. One of the three fish reported in February was noted as 'dark'. Golden Orfe juvenile and adult are the distinctive golden colour, whereas Crucian Carp *Carassius carassius* are seen to be quite blue when viewed from above in water, and this is undoubtedly what the 'dark' fish was.

Kevin and Val also recorded sightings of 10 Mirror Carp *Cyprinus carpio* of varying sizes in Rocket Pole Pond in September.

More sightings and a structured survey of these two ponds and Pondsburry is needed to more accurately record numbers and species. Until a full fish survey can be attempted it would be helpful if both Staff and Visitors record the fish seen, their numbers and sizes, and the location and date of observation in the LFS Log Book, together with any photographs.



▲ Mirror Carp (photo: Jennifer George).

REPTILES, LAND MAMMALS AND BATS

Chris Blackmore

LFS Logbook Section 3 “All Other Wildlife”

2025 was unfortunately notable for the fewer number of recordings in Section 3 of the LFS Logbook with only 77 pages completed as opposed to 120 in 2024. This is reflected in the reduced numbers of recorded species from 2024. Please do record all your sightings in the logbook as it's important that we're able to monitor the wildlife on our favourite island. This also applies to the feral stock: your sightings add to the information gained from the formal stock counts.

Higher Level Stewardship

With regard to the higher level stewardship scheme in preparation for the next five years, the grazing regime for the domestic sheep flock has necessitated a large reduction in the number of stock. This reduction has also included the numbers of sika, soay sheep and feral goats and has already resulted in more grass and wildflowers and less damage to stone walls. During our annual fortnight in Castle Cottage in July 2025 we were really surprised to see and smell a huge carpet of flowering clover on Castle Parade, something we'd never seen before. The lack of sheep around the Castle was also noticeable although we did miss seeing them at sunrise just outside the picture window!

Introduced Reptiles

There were eight sightings of **Slow-Worms** *Anguis fragilis* reported in 2025 with a total of 11 recorded. Most were seen around Millcombe but other sightings were on the Lower East Side Path, Government House and Benjamin's Chair with one deceased..

Native Land Mammals

Lundy's only native terrestrial mammal, the delightful **Pygmy Shrew** *Sorex minutus* continues to be recorded throughout the island and in many of the properties. In 2025 there were 27 recorded sightings with a total of 30 animals. Sightings included one being almost stepped on by Doug Hobbs in Felix Gade's Hut, two at the Battery, one in the church and Sarah Goddard rescued one from the sink in Old House South! An anonymous entry in the logbook recorded a raven pellet being given to warden Joe Parker who dissected it to discover the skeletal remains of a pygmy shrew, so no matter what you see please record it!

Bats

Increasing use of Echometers and other acoustic devices has meant that individual bat species are now being identified more frequently although accurate numbers of animals cannot be ascertained. Andrea May recorded **Noctule Bats** *Nyctalus noctula* which were mapped and routed between the Tavern, Black Shed, Old House South and down to Millcombe in April. Using the same methods Andrea also GPS tracked **Common Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* in Millcombe in June.

In September, Stuart Evans, using an Echometer, recorded **Nathusius's Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus nathusii* at Big St John's and Millcombe. During the same period he also recorded **Common Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* at Big St John's and Millcombe.

Also in September, with no acoustic equipment, Tom Coldwell and Jackie and James Macbeth recorded unidentified bat species at Brazen Ward and The Battery.

Feral Land Mammals

The feral ungulates are monitored and controlled according to the terrestrial management plan. After a feral stock count in March 2025, culls took place in September and October.



▲ Sika doe and calf (photo: Chris Blackmore)

Sika *Cervus Nippon*

The stock count in March recorded 181 animals. These deer, previously shy and elusive before the COVID shutdown, continue to be seen in various locations around the island, with daytime sightings now commonplace: even a doe and calf in the company of other does were recorded in St Helen's Field. A group from Kingston Maurward College and University recorded 23, including a stag in May.

Soay Sheep *Ovis aries*

The stock count in March recorded 285 animals. Most sightings recorded animals north of Halfway Wall but on New Year's Day warden Joe Parker spotted a ram in Devil's Kitchen that, 'Made a break for it up the Beach Road!' A group from Kingston Maurward College and University recorded 32 soays, ewes and lambs in May.

Goat *Capra aegagrus*

The stock count in March recorded 22 animals. Three nannies were seen daily around the Castle and South Light regularly in July and August.

Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Just two decades ago rabbits were prolific on Lundy but Myxomatosis and Rabbit Viral Haemorrhagic Disease decimated the population and they have struggled to recover in numbers. In 2025 only nine rabbits were recorded, one deceased. Tom Coldwell and Jackie and James Macbeth filmed four or more on a walk back to Millcombe and Old Light from the Battery in September. A very rare sighting of a black rabbit was recorded by an anonymous entry in the logbook. It was seen at Millcombe in October.

FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES

Alan Rowland and Jennifer George

Introduction

This year has seen a reduction in the number of surveys, but some new surveyors. In addition to the regular surveys of Alan Rowland (AR), there was a visit by the National Aquatic Heteroptera recorder, Kevin Rowley (KR), who surveyed many waters and identified species new to Lundy, for which we are extremely grateful. A full report of his visit is included in this publication (pp36-41). Of note is also the re-discovery of Water Spider, not seen for 30 years.

Platyhelminthes (Flat Worms)

The **Black Flatworm** *Polycelis nigra* was recorded by AR and KR at Quarters and Ackland's Moor Pond and in Pondsby in March and April.

Oligochaeta (Segmented Worms)

A **Black Worm** *Lumbriculus variegatus*, was recorded at Millcombe pond in March (AR).

Hirunidea (Leeches)

A single **Horse Leech** *Haemopsis sanguisuga* was seen in one of the pools near Quarterwall Gate by George Burbridge in April.

Mollusca (Snails, Limpets, Mussels etc)

Spire Snails *Potamopyrgus antipodarum* were plentiful in the Millcombe Pond survey where 18 were recorded in March (AR)

Crustacea (Shrimps, crabs, crayfish, water fleas, copepods, ostracods)

Freshwater Shrimps were found in the survey of Quarters Pond in March when **Daphnia** and **Ostracod** species were seen (AR). The **One-spotted Water Louse** *Proasellus meridianus* was ubiquitous, with Kevin Rowley recording its presence in Kistvaen, Pondsby and Quarterwall Ponds in April.

Arachnidea (Spiders)

Kevin Rowley was determined to find the **Water Spider** *Argyronecta aquatica*, and recovered one in Pondsby in April. Mark West was similarly determined and later in April was also successful (see Arachnida report in this issue).

Insecta (Insects)

Diptera (Fly and Midge Larvae)

Alan Rowland recorded **Non-biting Midge** *Chironomidae* and **Mosquito** *Culicidae* in small numbers in his survey of Pondsby, **Meniscus Midge** *Dixidae* and **Cranefly** *Limoniidae* in his survey of Quarters Pond, and **Black Fly** *Simuliidae* in Millcombe Pond, all in March.



▲ Horse Leech (photo: George Burbridge)



▲ Emperor Dragonfly nymph (photo: Mark West)



▲ Common Darter nymph (photo: Mark West)

Ephemeroptera (Mayflies)

The only May Fly to be found on Lundy, the **Pond Olive** *Cloeon Dipterum* was recorded by AR in March at Quarters Pond and in April by KR at Quarry Pond.

Odonata (Dragon and Damselflies nymphs)

Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans* nymphs were recorded at Quarry Pond in April (KR) Mark West, in his search for the water spider, on the 29 April recovered two Odonata nymphs from Pondsburry – an **Emperor Dragonfly** nymph and a **Common Darter** nymph.



▲ *Corixa punctata* (photo: Alan Rowland)



▲ *Hesperocorixa sahlbergi*
(photo: Alan Rowland)

Hemiptera (Water Bugs)

As would be expected, with the national recorder's presence on Lundy, there were many records of water bugs. Several species of **Water Boatmen** were found: *Callicorixa praeusta* (recorded by KR at Ackland's Moor, Kistvaen and Quarterwall Ponds in April); *Corixa punctata* (recorded by AR in March at Quarters Pond and by KR in April at Ackland's Moor and Barton Field Ponds); *Hesperocorixa linnaei*, first seen in 2024, and *Hesperocorixa sahlbergi*, not seen since 1958 (both recorded in Pondsburry by KR); and finally *Sigara distincta* (at Ackland's Moor, Pondsburry and Quarterwall Ponds) and *S. lateralis* at Barton's Field, Pondsburry and Quarterwall Ponds (seen in April by KR).

In addition to these, a **Sphagnum Bug** *Hebrus ruficeps*, new to Lundy, was recovered at Pondsburry, and a **Backswimmer** *Notonecta viridis* was recorded at Pondsburry and Quarterwall Ponds, both during Kevin's April visit.

Another major new find was of the **Water Measurer** *Hydrometra stagnorum*. At 13 mm in length it is difficult to believe it has remained undiscovered throughout the 80 year history of the LFS. The Water Measurer is similar to the Water Stick Insect, but lacking the long breathing tube at its rear end, makes up its size with a very elongated head. It is a slow moving predator that takes water fleas from below the surface film with its sharp beak-like rostrum or lies in wait immobile on the water surface until an unsuspecting prey betrays its presence. Like the Saucer Bug *Ilyocoris cimicoides* (LFS

Annual Report Vol 74) and Water Stick Insect *Ranatra linearis* (LFS Annual Report Vol 71) it must be a recent colonist to the island, and with the exception of the Water Scorpion *Nepa cinerea* completes the large water bug assemblage.

Trichoptera (Caddis Flies)

The only species recorded was *Diplectrona felix* from Millcombe Pond by AR in March.

Coleoptera (Water Beetles)

Although Kevin is the national Hemiptera recorder he also has great expertise with Coleoptera, as demonstrated by his findings of species new to Lundy.

AR recorded **Diving beetle** larvae *Dysticidae* in Quarters Pond and Pondsburry and adults of *Haliphus ruficollis* in Quarters Pond and *Noterus clavicornis* in Pondsburry and the Quarry and Quarterwall ponds in March.

KR recorded *Agabus montanus* – a new record for Lundy – and *A. nebulosus* in Kistvaen and again in Barton's Field Pond in April. The latter was last recorded in 1999.

KR made four new records at Pondsburry: *Cercyon ustulatus*; *Chaetarthria seminulum/simillima*; *Paracymus scutellaris*; and *Copelatus haemorrhoidalis*. Another new record was made at Kistvaen Pond of *Hydroporus memnonius*, which was also found in a temporary pond near Pondsburry. *Hydroporus pubescens* was found at Kistvaen, Ackland's Moor Ponds and the temporary ponds at the North End as well as at Pondsburry. Other records were of the **Screech Beetle** *Hygrobia hermanni* at Quarterwall Pond, and *Laccobius bipunctatus* at Barton's Field Pond.

Conclusions

There is no doubt that having a national species expert is of great value. Kevin Rowley made nine new records in just three days by searching for species in the habitats where he knew they might be found. He also found species that had not been seen for a couple of decades. His identification skills made this possible, but there was also the discovery of yet another macro-invertebrate, the Water Measurer, which is too large to have been missed by diligent surveyors over the years. The presence of this species along with the Saucer Bug and Water Stick Insect show that Lundy is being colonised by common species making their way from the mainland.

We are very grateful to Kevin Rowley for sharing his survey data and for determination of some other species.



▲ *Haliphus ruficollis* (photo: Alan Rowland)



▲ *Noterus clavicornis* (photo: Alan Rowland)

TERRESTRIAL INVERTEBRATES

Compiled by Alan Rowland

The majority of these records have been extracted from the Bird Observatory/LFS Log book stored in the Marisco Tavern, where those visiting Lundy have shared their findings. Some sightings were not used as the recorder left neither name nor contact information to enable us to verify them. These records are supplemented by observations submitted to iRecord by other visitors to Lundy. Additional records have been sent to me directly by those who left their properties on their last day and made observations but did not return to the Tavern to record them.

Not all records can be verified without descriptions or photographs and some require dissection. However some photographed species have been shared with national or regional experts who have verified or determined them.

A full list of all species seen during the year can be found on the LFS website at

<https://www.lundy.org.uk/records/2025>

Any new species records have been added to the All Time Species lists to be found here

<https://www.lundy.org.uk/resources/species-lists>

Mollusca (Slugs and Snails)

Alan Rowland

The usual suite of snails was recorded – **Brown-lipped snail** *Cepaea nemoralis* on 11 to 16 March in Millcombe and on the Upper East Side Path in ones and twos, and one **Garden Snail** *Cornu aspersum* in Millcombe on 11 March, all by Alan and Sandra Rowland. Paul Godwin recorded two sightings of **Leopard Slugs** *Limax maximus* on 3 September at Halfway Wall and at the North End.

An anonymous surveyor from Kingston Maurward College and University wrote in the log book “*So many snails! Please get a snail ID book*”. I suspect most will have been of the *Cepaea* species reported here, which unfortunately are very diverse in colouring within the same species.

Arachnida (Spiders, Harvestmen, Mites and Ticks)

Mark West

Spiders

Among the species of spider recorded on Lundy in 2025, two are particularly noteworthy.

Neil Barnes, a regular visitor to Lundy, recorded a male **Purseweb spider** *Atypus affinis* on the east side of the island near Quarter Wall Copse in 2024, and a male around the same location in September 2025. Videos of the spiders were captured by Neil using a Samsung mobile phone, demonstrating the great standard of record imagery that can now be achieved with modern technology. The Purseweb spider is a nationally scarce, amber-listed species. Records held by iRecord show it to be predominantly reported from south-east England, with only scattered occurrences elsewhere in the country.

Purseweb spiders are specialised ambush predators instantly recognisable by their massive chelicerae, which move in a vertical plane, like pickaxes. Body length is up to nine mm, with the

chelicerae as long as the carapace. They are long lived (females may live for more than seven years) and rarely observed because most of their lives are spent inside a silk-lined, sock-like tube, the greater part of which lies buried underground, with only a short, well-camouflaged section projecting above the surface. Unsuspecting prey that make contact with this exposed section are detected by the spider, stabbed through the silk, and dragged inside to be consumed (Oxford and Smith, 2022).

Males may be seen above ground in late summer and early autumn as they search for females. Bristowe (1929) first recorded a colony on Rat Island, but the species was not reported from the mainland of Lundy until August 1996, when six 'burrows' were discovered on a sparsely vegetated, near-vertical, south-facing slope of a gully descending to the cliff top from Devil's Punch Bowl valley (Key, 1996).

An iRecord entry from September 2018 by Elise and Steve O'Donnell describes a Purseweb spider "wandering across a path on the east side of the island in the old quarry area near Felix Gade's hut", in "sparse vegetation cover" under "dry" conditions. The warm, dry microclimate created by such topography and ground cover on a south facing slope appears to be most favoured by this dramatic looking spider. As an amber list species, it is a candidate for close monitoring, so active checking of suitable areas, and recording of sightings with photographs is very much encouraged.



▲ Male Purseweb Spider *Atypus affinis* (photo: Neil Barnes)

The **Diving Bell Spider**, *Argyroneta aquatica* was the second noteworthy species found in 2025. This record is particularly poignant following the recent passing of Professor Jennifer George, a highly respected authority on Lundy's freshwater ecology and Vice-President of the Lundy Field Society.

In 2007, Jenny wrote: "*Argyroneta aquatica*, the water spider, first recorded by Galliford in 1953 and subsequently observed in 1979, 1986 and 1993, was again recorded in April 2005, when it was found among the Sphagnum on the south side of Pondsbury."

Jenny also noted that numbers were lower than in 1979, when the species had been relatively abundant. Although there is an iRecord record from Pondsbury in 2009 which was considered plausible, there had been no confirmed sightings for 20 years. By 2025, Jenny considered that the species may have been lost, with a possible root cause being the dredging of Pondsbury in late 1993 and 1994, when the west bund wall was constructed.



▲ Searching for *Argyroneta aquatica* – Pondsbury April 25 (photo: Sandie West)

Fortunately, National Aquatic Heteroptera Recorder, Kevin Rowley, confirmed the species was still present during his survey of Pondsburry in April 2025, and netting of the north-eastern corner by Mark West the week after Kevin's visit also proved successful, yielding a single specimen.

Diving Bell Spiders are unique in that they live almost entirely underwater, carrying air trapped by specialised body and leg hairs in a bubble around the abdomen. Air is stored within a silk structure attached to submerged vegetation, which functions as a diving bell. Except when moulting or when juveniles disperse, the only time the spider visits the surface is to replenish this air supply (Bee, Oxford and Smith, 2020).

Ambush hunting, feeding, and reproduction all take place beneath the water using the diving bell as a base. Interestingly, it is not a sealed air reservoir. It is both water- and gas-permeable and functions as a "physical gill", with oxygen and carbon dioxide continuously diffusing through its hydrophobic silk wall.

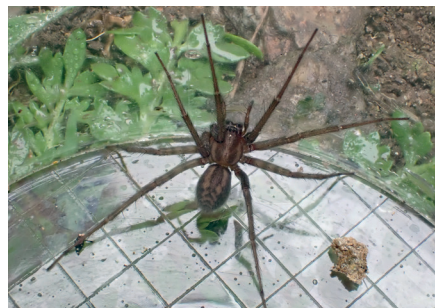
As the spider consumes oxygen within the bell, the partial pressure of O₂ inside becomes lower than in the surrounding water, creating a diffusion gradient that continually draws oxygen in from the water. Carbon dioxide produced by the spider diffuses in the opposite direction, allowing waste gas to be removed efficiently. Nitrogen, however, also diffuses outwards, causing the air volume to shrink, so the spider must periodically return to the surface to collect fresh air and reinflate the bell.

Seymour and Hetz (2011) demonstrated that this respiratory system is remarkably robust, allowing *Argyroneta aquatica* to meet its resting oxygen requirements even in high-temperature, stagnant water. This supports the view that changes affecting the physical and ecological structure of Pondsburry – such as past dredging – could have driven population decline rather than the direct effects of climate change on water temperature and oxygen levels for example. However, it also seems plausible that other factors, including climate-driven influences, may be contributing.



▲ Diving Bell Spider *Argyroneta aquatica* – Pondsburry April 25 (photo: Mark West)

Milano et al (2022) describe *A. aquatica* as increasingly affected by the decline and deterioration of freshwater habitats across Europe. The authors predict the population will decrease significantly and the distribution shift northwards as suitable conditions become more restricted. In this context, the Pondsburry population appears worthy of continued monitoring and further study.



Benson's Cave, at the south end of the island, is an excellent place for observing a wide variety of spiders and their webs. **Eratigena** and **Tegenaria House Spiders** were recorded during visits in April and October and there are numerous funnel webs, many with occupants, on the cave walls. *Tegenaria domestica*, is of particular note in the cave as it is uncommon

◀ Common House Spider *Tegenaria domestica* from Benson's Cave (photo: Mark West)

in the south-west, in contrast to *Eratigena saeva* (also found in the Tent Field), which is widespread in the region.

Eratigena saeva adults are large House Spiders, with fully grown females typically measuring 11–16 mm in body length, with a leg span (tip to tip) of approximately 45mm. The legs of males can be up to 1.5 times longer than the females (Oxford and Smith, 2018). At the other end of the size scale two Linyphiidae, a *Tenuiphantes* species and *Bathyphantes gracilis*, were found in Benson's Cave; these much smaller Money Spiders, generally have a body length of around 3–5 mm with an overall leg span of approximately 8–14 mm (thanks to Tylan Berry for the identification assistance).

In the 2024 LFS Annual Report, it was noted that the aptly named **Shaded Orb Weaver**, *Metellina merianae*, can be found in a wide range of locations that offer a suitable environment of climate, structure, and prey, and once again this species was found in orb webs at Benson's Cave and at the Earthquake. Orb webs of slightly different construction, without an open hole at the centre, are woven by the **Garden Spider** *Araneus diadematus*, and were recorded at Earthquake in April and between Halfway and Three-quarter walls on the west side in September.

Two very small spiders were recorded at Earthquake. A Xysticus species **Crab Spider** was found in dry sprigs of heather clinging to a rock ledge, while a juvenile **Cave Spider** *Meta menardi* was located deeper within the rocks, away from direct sunlight. In 2025, juvenile *Meta menardi* were also recorded in the shallow cave on the Beach Road, where egg sacs were present, and in the moth trap at Millcombe House (thank you to Joe Parker for the report). Adults were found in the Old Copper Mine in the north-west of the island (again seen by Joe Parker) and at the established site in the cave at the bottom of the Beach Road.



▲ Shaded Orb Weaver *Metellina merianae* at the Earthquake (photo: Mark West)



▲ Garden Spider *Araneus diadematus* at the Earthquake (photo: Mark West)



▲ Crab Spider *Xysticus* species at the Earthquake. For scale, compare the spider with the individual dry heather flowers in the foreground (photo: Mark West)



▲ Juvenile Cave Spider *Meta menardi* in the moth trap at Millcombe House (photo: Joe Parker)



▲ ▼ The changing colours and size of *Meta menardi* with age – Beach Road Cave. The lower photograph is of a fully mature adult (photos: Mark West)



The difference in size and colour of juvenile and adult Cave Spiders is really quite striking. Juveniles are very small with distinctive black and white markings, while fully grown adults are large – females have a body length of up 15mm – and deep brown, black and orange in colour.

Pholcus phalangioides, the **Daddy Long-legs Spider**, and *Zygiella x-notata*, the **Missing Section Orb Weaver** are closely associated with buildings. *Pholcus* were found in Castle Keep North (six), Old Light (one) and interestingly, by Tom Coldwell at the North End in April. Bristowe (1958) studied this species in detail and concluded that it favoured houses where the average annual temperature exceeded 10°C, or cellars with a relatively constant temperature of around 10°C, and that its survival was probably limited by extremes of cold. The individual recorded at the North End was presumably located within the North Light building, allowing it to survive the winter at this exposed location.

The Tent Field shower block proved a fruitful location for both *Pholcus phalangioides* and *Zygiella x-notata* in 2025. An egg sac with *Zygiella* spiderlings beginning to disperse was found and 20 *Pholcus* individuals were counted around the line between ceiling and walls in April. Where there was a clear line of sight between neighbours, the minimum distance between spiders was approximately 400 mm and notably consistent. A sufficient quantity of insect prey appears readily able to enter the block through the open windows to support the density of individuals observed at this spacing.

▼ Missing Sector Orb Weaver *Zygiella x-notata* (photo: Mark West)



Bristowe (1958) noted similar spacing behaviour during early dispersal. After hatching and the first moult, *Pholcus* juveniles were observed to be cannibalistic and to move progressively farther from the egg sac along the wall, spacing themselves in a manner that appeared almost territorial. More recently, Rypstra (1983) concluded that the distance between spiders in general is shaped by a balance between food availability and disturbance from nearby neighbours, resulting in regular spacing patterns without evidence of active territorial behaviour.



▲ Daddy Long-legs Spider *Pholcus phalangioides* – Castle Keep North
(photo: Mark West)

Harvestmen and Mites

In October, two *Nelima gothica* Harvestmen were found on the track to Castle while walking back from the Marisco Tavern in the dark (thank you to Megan Skinner for the identification assistance and the information that this species tends to be found in groups). A hunting **Clubiona Sac Spider** was found at the same time. **Large Red Velvet Mites** (Trombididae) were also recorded at two locations in 2025, at the North End in April and in the vicinity of the Castle in October.

In Summary

Records for 2025 total 41, comprising 38 records of at least 16 species of spider, two records of mites and one of harvestmen. In several cases a single record comprises more than one individual observed at the same time. All species have been recorded before.

Identification of Arachnids can be challenging, and confirmation of many species is not possible without microscopic examination. *Pardosa* wolf spiders and *Clubiona* sac spiders, which can be encountered on Lundy, are good examples of spiders that cannot be readily identified to species level in the field. Needless to say, good photographs and videos by camera or telephone of body and leg conformation, showing shape, colouration and size are helpful, particularly if taken from above, as are macro shots showing the eye arrangement if the spider stays still for long enough! As always please do keep entering records in the logbook and sending in your photographs.



▲ Macro photographs taken with an Olympus TG-5 compact camera allowed identification of this *Pardosa nigriceps* Wolf Spider, a common species on Lundy
(photo: Mark West)

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Isopoda (Woodlice)

Alan Rowland

Alan Rowland recorded three **Ant Woodlice** *Platyarthrus hofmaseggii* in an ants' nest on the Upper East Side Path on 10 March. Six **Pill Woodlice** *Armadillidium vulgare* were recorded by Elise O'Donnell on 12 May on the Lower East Side Path.

On 25 April Neil Barnes found a bird pellet near Widow's Tenement and on closer examination and subsequent determination (by Warren Maguire) identified a **Common Pygmy Woodlouse** *Trichoniscus pusillus* agg. Aquatic Isopoda are reported in the Freshwater section.



▲ Ant Woodlice *Platyarthrus hofmaseggii* (photo: Alan Rowland)

Myriapoda (Centipedes and Millipedes)

Alan Rowland

On 25 April Neil Barnes found a bird pellet near Widow's Tenement and on closer examination and subsequent determination identified two **Spotted Snake Millipedes** of *Blanuiliid* species. Kingston Maurward College and University found two **Pill Millipedes** *Glomeris marginata* at Halfway Wall on 30 April.

► Spotted Snake Millipedes *Blanuiliid guttulatus* and Common Pygmy Woodlouse *Trichoniscus pusillus* agg. (photo: Neil Barnes)



Orthoptera/Belloidia (Grasshoppers and Crickets/Cockroaches)

Malcolm Lee

Among the Lundy sightings on iRecord was an entry for the Variable Cockroach (*Planuncus tingitanus*) when a nymph was found above Gannets' Combe (SS 135475) on 4 June by Miles Thompson, which would have been a new species for Lundy. The Variable Cockroach has been spreading northwards from around the Mediterranean area and was first recorded in the UK in 2011. After sending the image Miles had taken to Peter Sutton, the national Orthoptera recorder, he confirmed it was a nymph of the **Lesser Cockroach** (*Capraiellus panzeri* formerly *Ectobius panzeri*) as with all other previous cockroach reports from Lundy. Peter advised that nymphs of the Variable Cockroach and the Lesser Cockroach are very similar at first glance. However, the central pronotum of the Variable Cockroach is always shiny jet black, whereas the Lesser Cockroach has a pale triangular area, as in the images Miles had taken. In recent years, more detailed scrutiny of this often overlooked group of insects has identified several other new species of cockroach in the UK, all of which are very similar to our long established native cockroaches. Peter has recently completed the first detailed field guide to the British Orthoptera for some 40 years (Field Guide to the Grasshoppers and Allies of Great Britain and Ireland, published 19 February) and he dedicated much time to the cockroach chapter, which will hopefully reduce or eliminate identification errors. The only other detailed Orthoptera record was of a Field Grasshopper found just north east of the German Heinkel Crash site by Halfway Wall (SS 136457) on 13 September. If anyone has taken an image of a species of Orthoptera about which they are not sure, you may email it to me at gullrockportgaverne@gmail.com so I can take a look at it.

Hemiptera/Heteroptera (True Bugs)

Alan Rowland

Mirid Bugs *Pithanus maerkelii* and *Heterotoma planicornis* were respectively recorded by Kian Hayles-Cotton in July on the Beach Road near Brambles, and by Sam Bosanquet in Millcombe; the latter is a new species for Lundy. Sam also recorded thousands of Aphids in Millcombe and around Brambles, comprising **Elder Aphids** (*Aphis sambuci*) and **Leaf-curling Plum Aphids** (*Brachycaudus helichrysi*), also new records for Lundy.

Neil Barnes came across a **Hawthorn Shieldbug** *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* on the path below Tibbetts on 6 and again on 7 October 2025. We identified this as a first for Lundy until he proudly told his friend Darrin Downing of his major find; Darrin promptly showed his picture of the same species photographed outside the toilet window at Castle Keep South on 5 October 2022. It would appear both have flown on favourable winds from the mainland where according to Richard Jones, author of the New Naturalist *Shieldbugs*, it is the most common Shieldbug (in the UK). If it has established on Lundy, searches of hedges and copses should produce more records. This adds a fifth Shieldbug to the Lundy list.

Aquatic Hemiptera adults and larvae are reported in the Freshwater section.



▲ Hawthorn Shieldbug *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*
(photo: Neil Barnes)



▲ Ground beetle *Abax parallelepipedus*
(photo: J&J Macbeth)



▲ Black Carrion or Snail beetle
Silpha tristis (photo: Chris Blackmore)



▲ Gold-headed Rove Beetle *Ocytus aeneocephalus* (photo: Neil Barnes)

Coleoptera (Beetles)

Alan Rowland

Carabidae (Ground beetles)

A **Black Clock beetle** *Pterostichus niger* was seen by Jim Bishop in July in the Village.

Two sightings of the **Ground beetle** *Abax parallelepipedus* were made on 24 September at the North End by Jackie and James Macbeth and above Gannets' Bay by Ranscombe Lodge.

Silphidae (Carrion beetles)

An adult and larva of **Black Carrion** or **Snail beetles** *Phosphuga atrata* were recorded by xylocopa enthusiast in May, of an adult in Millcombe Valley, and a larva by Chris Blackmore at the Castle in July. *Silpha tristis* was recorded by Victoria R Williams in July on the Beach Road. A **Black Sexton Beetle** *Necrophorus humator* was seen by Steve O'Donnell while moth trapping at Government House in May.

Staphylinidae (Rove beetles)

Three records of single **Devil's Coachhorse beetles** *Ocytus olens* were made in September and October by T Coldwell, Ranscombe Lodge, both at the North End, and Shaun Barnes on the Lower East Side Path. A closely related species **Gold-headed Rove Beetle** *Ocytus aeneocephalus* was recorded by Neil Barnes in October.

Geotrupidae (Dor beetles)

Three species have been reported. Many are recorded as **Dor** or **Dung beetles** which probably means they are the most common of the species *Geotrupes stercorarius*. There were 14 sightings of between one and three individuals ranging along the Lower East Side Path, to Tibbetts, the Terrace, Old Light, West Side, Battery and Old Light from the end of April to the beginning of September.

By contrast, the **Minotaur beetle** *Typhaeus typhoeus* was only reported five times between February and September ranging along the West Side, Acland's Moor and the North End. There were five sightings of the **Woodland Dor beetle** *Anoplotrupes stercorosus* in May and September with from one to three individuals mainly on the West Side by Kevin and Val Waterfall, Jackie and James Macbeth and Tom Coldwell.

Scarabaeidae (Scarab beetles)

The **Rosechafer** *Cetonia aurata* is one of the most easily distinguished beetles on Lundy, and being large and slow flying is often reported. There were 22 sightings of ones and twos, and exceptionally five and six in July, from May to September ranging all over the island.

Elateridae (Click Beetles)

A **Mottled Dingy-brown Click Beetle** *Agrypnus murinus* was found by Ranscombe Lodge in September on the Lower East Side.

Cantharididae (Soldier Beetles)

Common Red Soldier Beetles *Rhagonycha fulva* were out in force in July when up to 40 were recorded all over the island.

Tenebrionidae (Darkling Beetles)

Five **Sulphur Beetles** *Cteniopus sulphureus* were recorded on the Beach Road in July.

Meloe (Oil beetles)

An unidentified **Oil Beetle** *Meloe* sp. was seen in Middle Park by Kevin Waterfall in September. The usual species seen on Lundy is the Black Oil beetle *Meloe proscarabaeus*. Aquatic Coleoptera adults and larvae are reported in the Freshwater section.



▲ *Physocephala rufipes* at Quarry Pond
(photo: Sam Bosanquet)

Diptera (True Flies)

Sam Bosanquet

Compared to 2024, there was a bit more Diptera recording on Lundy in 2025, with six records from iRecord, three from the logbook, and 35 made by SB during a visit in July. 22 of the records were of Hoverflies (Syrphidae; 12 species) with the remainder representing 10 other families of Diptera. Highlights among the 25 recorded species were:

- ***Dasineura pteridis*** (Cecidomyiidae): galls on Bracken near Hanmers on 8 July (SB); new for Lundy.
- ***Eloeophila maculata*** (Limoniidae): one in the gully below Brambles on 9 July (SB); the first Lundy record since 1972.
- ***Empis tessellata*** (Empididae): two at Quarry Pond on 10 July (SB); the first Lundy record since 1984.
- ***Lucilia caesar*** (Calliphoridae): two inside Brambles on 8 July checked microscopically (SB); the first Lundy record since 1987.
- ***Physocephala rufipes*** (Conopidae): one at Quarry Pond on 10 July (SB); still the only Conopid fly species recorded on Lundy.
- ***Phytomyza angelicae*** (Agromyzidae): mines on *Angelica sylvestris* in Millcombe on 8 July (SB); new for Lundy.
- ***Sphaerophoria interrupta*** (Syrphidae): one at Brambles on 10 July identified microscopically (SB); new for Lundy.
- ***Volucella zonaria*** (Syrphidae): in Millcombe on 4 August (Tony Taylor); the second Lundy record following one in 2024.

The island Diptera total therefore rises to 488 species, following three additions in 2025.

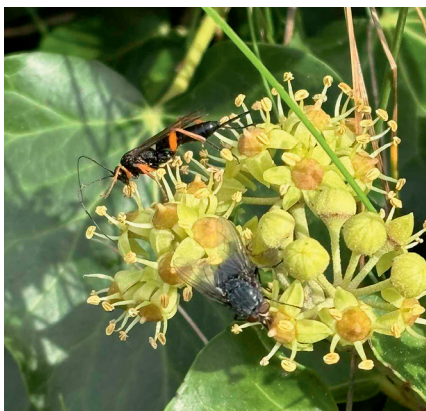
Larval stages of Diptera are reported in the Freshwater section.



▲ Mines of *Phytomyza angelicae* in Millcombe (photo: Sam Bosanquet)



▲ *Abia fasciata* in Millcombe (photo: Sam Bosanquet)



▲ *Pimpla rufipes* in Millcombe (photo: Sam Bosanquet)

Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps and Ants)

Sam Bosanquet

Ten species of Hymenoptera were recorded on Lundy in 2025, with 10 records coming from the logbook, four submitted via email, and four made by SB during a visit in July. All of the logbook records were of bumblebees, but the emailed records comprised three *Ichneumon* species and an ant. There were also five records submitted via iRecord: four of common bumblebees and one of a bracken-feeding sawfly that was last noted on the island in 1996. The more notable records made during the year were:

Abia fasciata (Cimbicidae): one in Millcombe on 9 July (SB); the second Lundy record of this honeysuckle-feeding Sawfly following one in 2021.

Ancistrocerus scoticus (Vespidae): one nectaring on Thrift at North Light on 10 July (SB).

Heteropelma amictum (Ichneumonidae): 30 scattered around Millcombe on 23 July (MY), a remarkably high number of this distinctive 'Giant Ichneumon Wasp'.

Ichneumon bucculentus (Ichneumonidae): one photographed at The Battery on 16 October (Mark West), confirmed by internet experts and the first Lundy record.

Pimpla rufipes (Ichneumonidae): one photographed in Millcombe on 11 October (Louise Cookson).

Strongylogaster multifasciata (Tenthredinidae): photographed on 31 May (Xyocopa enthusiast), the first Lundy record since 1996.

With the addition of *Ichneumon bucculentus*, the island Hymenoptera total increases to 257 species.

Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies)

Mandy Yates

The weather during Spring and Summer this year was far better in terms of the number of dry sunny days when compared to last year. This is reflected in the increased number of different Dragonfly species sighted, with five definite sightings of species this year compared to only two (**Emperor** and **Black-tailed Skimmer**) last year. The same two species of Damselflies from last year (**Common Blue Damselfly** and **Blue-tailed Damselfly**) were seen this year, with no additional extras.

Anisoptera (Dragonflies)

Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*

The earliest recorded individual was seen on 23 May with the last on 25 August. There were five records for this species, all at Pondsburry. Tony Taylor saw and photographed a pair of **Black-tailed Skimmer** copulating on 23 May with a possible other individual also being present at that time.

Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea*

There was one record of a **Southern Hawker**, seen in Millcombe Valley on 24 July.

Emperor *Anax imperator*

There were only three records of **Emperor**, the first was seen on 24 July and the last one on 25 August. All were seen at Pondsburry, with one observer recording the presence of three at one time on 23 August.

Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*

There were four records for **Common Darter** this year, with the first recorded on 27 July and the last on 25 August. Two was the highest number seen at any one time, on the 21 and 25 August. All were spotted at Pondsburry except for one individual seen at the Quarry Railway on 29 July.

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*

Migrant Hawker were seen five times on Lundy this year with the first recorded as being seen on 23 August and the last on 23 September. Sightings were from different places on the island including Millcombe Valley, St Helen's Copse, the Heligoland Trap and VC Quarry.

Unidentified Dragonflies

There was a possible **Vagrant Emperor** or **Lesser Emperor** spotted twice on 23 August, once at Pondsburry and again on the main track. There were four unidentified individuals sighted on the Western slopes on October 11 described as being 'big and green', while another unidentified Dragonfly was also seen on the Western slopes on 14 October.



▲ Black-tailed Skimmer (photo: Tony Taylor)



▲ Common Darter (photo: Neil Barnes)



▲ Common Blue Damselfly (photo: Alan Rowland)

Zygoptera (Damselflies)

Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)

There were five records for **Blue-tailed Damselfly** this year, with the first being seen on 23 July and the last recorded on 23 August. The most seen at any one time was seven individuals. **Blue-tailed Damselfly** were seen at Pondsbury, Quarter Wall Pond and Quarry Pond.

Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)

The first **Common Blue Damselfly** was recorded as seen on 23 July and the last was seen on 23 August. There were only four records for this year, with this species being recorded as present at Pondsbury, Quarter Wall Pond and Quarry Pond. The highest number of individuals seen at any one time was seven at Quarter Wall Pond and this included several pairs copulating. Nymphs of Odonata are reported in the Freshwater section.

Neuroptera (Lacewings)

Alan Rowland

A new Order has been added to the listing this year. Sam Bosanquet recorded a **Green Lacewing** (*Chrysoperla lucasina*) and two other **Lacewings** (*Hemerobius marginatus*) in July.

Trichoptera (Caddisflies)

Alan Rowland

Neil Barnes found **Micropterna lateralis** (subsequently determined by Stuart Crofts) at the Castle on 12 April.

Larval records can be found in the Freshwater Invertebrates section.



▲ *Micropterna lateralis* (photo: Neil Barnes)

Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

Butterflies

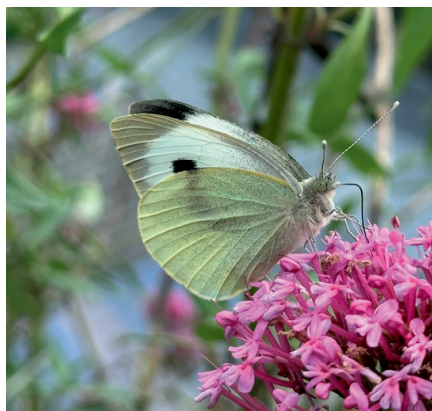
Kristin Reed

Seventeen species of butterfly were seen on Lundy in 2025. The first recorded sighting was of a single **Peacock** on March 20 and the last sighting being a **Red Admiral** on December 6. With the long hot and sunny Spring and Summer, 2025 was a better year generally than the year before for butterflies across the UK, though not an exceptional year.

Less frequently seen on Lundy, the **Clouded Yellow**, **Grayling**, **Ringlet** and **Gatekeeper** were recorded this year. **Clouded Yellow** were seen on six flying days in twos and singles. **Grayling** sightings peaked at six seen on July 18. No **Brimstone**, **Wall Brown** or **Holly Blue** were noted.

Records of abundance in 2025 were:

- 17 **Common Blue** on July 28
- 50 **Large White** on August 31
- 161 **Meadow Brown** on July 26
- 40 **Painted Lady** on August 31
- 126 **Red Admiral** on May 11
- 48 **Small White** on July 26



▲ Large White (photo: Martyn Davies)



▲ Meadow Brown (photo: Andrea May)



▲ Peacock (photo: Andrea May)



▲ Painted Lady (photo: Andrea May)



▲ Small Copper (photo: Helen Llewelyn)

The Butterfly Transect.

Walking and recording of the transect took place most weeks in season this year carried out by staff, enthusiasts and visitors. On this route the **Small Copper** can be found, a butterfly that flourished in this hot summer with the later broods showing the delightful blue spot aberration named *Caeruleo punctata*. This variation features a row of small, bright blue spots on the outer edge of the hindwings and is very attractive. As a highly territorial species these **Small Copper** are easy to spot, basking on the bare ground, short grass or stones on the path.

Millcombe valley is a site with exciting opportunities to see a variety of butterflies. The **Small White**, **Large White** and **Green-veined White** nectar on the Valerian and Fuschia flowers in the valley. **Common Blue** can be found laying eggs on the Common Bird's-foot Trefoil on the pond margins.

Red Admiral, **Peacock** and the **Painted Lady** are seen nectaring on the flowers of mature Ivy growing on the garden walls.

If you are fortunate you may see a **Clouded Yellow** flying in up the valley to the grasslands above.

In June and July the middle section of the transect along the East path is awash with **Meadow Brown** and **Small Heath**.



▲ Pallid Grey (photo: David Rowe)

Moths

David Rowe

In 2025 a total of 101 moths was recorded on Lundy, 71 macros and 30 micros. Three moths were new to Lundy, all micros: the **Pallid Grey** *Eudonia pallida* (though not at all rare on the mainland, it took a while to arrive on Lundy), along with the more unusual **Gorse Case-bearer** *Coleophora albicosta* and the diminutive **Spiked-rush borer** *Monachroa luicdella*.



The first moth larva to be recorded was a **Fox Moth** caterpillar *Macrothylacia rubi* on 12 March and the last a **Pale Tussock** *Calliteara pudibunda* at the Quarter Wall Wood on 10 October. The first adult was an **Emperor moth** *Saturnia pavonia* on 26 April and the last were an **Angle Shades** *Phlogophora meticulosa* and an **Autumn Rustic** *Eugnorisma glareosa* on 23rd September at Brazen Ward.

◀ Buff Arches (photo: David Rowe)



▲ Vapourer Moth caterpillar (photo: Neil Barnes)

The most spectacular moth of the year has to be a **Striped Hawk-moth** *Hyles livornica* observed on 2 June at Bramble Villas, the second Lundy record. The most abundant moth was the **Six-spot Burnet** *Zygaena filipendulae*, with 46 total records, 30 occurring on 17 July. This is an encouraging recovery from a total of just 25 last year. This was followed by the **Brown Silver-line** *Petrophora chlorosata* with 30 records in total, 25 observed along the East Side on 15 June. The most disappointing species was the migrant **Silver Y** *Autographa gamma*, just 19 records down from 136 last year.

Observing Moths

On sunny, warm days day-flying moths such as the Brown Silver-line can be seen along the east coast among Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, and around Millcombe the distinctive Hummingbird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* are commonly seen nectaring on flowering plants. In July on the grassy slopes between the Church and the Castle, emerging Burnet moths *Zygaena* sp. can be quite a spectacle. Synthetic pheromone lures can be very effective in attracting some moths: Emperor moths *Saturnia pavonia* and Thrift Clearwing *Pyropteron muscaeformis* are two Lundy species that can be attracted by these lures.



▲ Striped Hawk Moth (photo: Chris Pawson)

When observing night-flying species one needs to adopt special tricks to attract them. A moth trap takes advantage of their well-known habit of being attracted to light. This consists of a box



▲ Small Blood Vein (photo: David Rowe)

THANKS

All the species compilers wish to record their thanks to the submitters of records for making available their observations, in particular: -

Alison Ash, Carol Baillie, Sue Bacon (et al), Belle Barchan, Neil Barnes, Phil Barnes, Shaun Barnes, Jim Bishop, Chris and Sharron Blackmore, Nick Blewden, Sam Bosanquet, Beth Breese, Eliseal Brighton (aka Lisa O'Donnell), George Burbridge, Karen Burney, Jamie Buxton-Gould, Tom Carr, Philip Chambers, Andrew Cleave, Dave and Chris Clifton, Alister Clunas, Tom Coldwell, Tim Colwell (et al), Sarah Conibear, Louise Cookson, Clive Couzens, Kian Hayles-Cotton, Bee Cox, Angus Croudace, Liz Crow, Monica Dévény, Helen Doel, Darrin Downing, Catalina Estrada, Charlotte Gardner, Anne Garnish, Alfie Gay, Paul Godwin, Tracy Gould, Dorothy Hall, Mark Harris, Rosemary Helen, Andy Higginson, Doug Hobbs, Andrew Jayne, Jesscee, Kingston Maurward College and University, PandS Knight, Ladymoth, Lisa Leaver, Carole Lee, Malcolm Lee, Linz67, Tara MacEvoy-Wilding, Jackie and James MacBeth (aka Ranscombe Lodge), Luke



or tub with a wide entrance and restricted exit and an ultraviolet light source, traditionally a mains-powered Mercury Vapour bulb. These bulbs are increasingly being superseded by a range of Actinic, Blacklight and LED bulbs, which can be powered from the mains, but also from lead-acid or lithium batteries. The trap is set up at dusk and the contents of the trap are recorded at first light – before the sparrows get up! – and the captive moths are then released back into the surrounding vegetation unharmed.

When on Lundy last June, warden Joe Parker kindly loaned me his moth trap. This used a 5W LED UV bulb powered by a lithium battery. This ultra modern set-up gave a compact, lightweight system and considering the relatively low light output, produced surprisingly good results.

Marriner, Sandra May, Brigitte Needs, Steve and Elise O'Donnell, Cathy and Mike Ovenden, Joe Parker, Chris Pawson, pcurious, E Pitt and V Holbrook, Roundways, David Rowe, Alan and Sandra Rowland, Kevin Rowley, Jo Smoldon, Russell Stagg, Rebecca Taylor, Tony Taylor, M Thompson, Elizabeth Toms, Jill Walker, Kevin and Val Waterfall, Mark West, Kathy Weston, Joanne Wilby, Victoria R Williams, Xyocopa enthusiast, Mandy Yates, and all those anonymous people who wrote their sightings in the log book but omitted to give their names

Thanks for determinations to Kevin Rowley, Tylan Berry, Megan Skinner

◀ Pied Tortrix (photo: David Rowe)

FLOWERING PLANTS AND FERNS

Andrew Cleave

We are very grateful to the many observers who entered their findings in the Tavern Logbook in 2025. We have been able to compile a list of well over 170 species of flowering plants and ferns which were spotted by visitors this year. The 2025 species list can be found at <https://www.lundy.org.uk/records/2025>.

The earliest plant records were entered in the first week of January when a few **Primroses** *Primula vulgaris* were found in flower in St Helen's Copse, and in the last week of the year **Wavy Bittercress** *Cardamine flexuosa* was seen still flowering in Millcombe.

The New Year Plant Hunt for the Botanical Society of the British Isles yielded only a few records on 1 January. The ubiquitous **European Gorse** *Ulex europaea* was the most prominent, but a few other species were found to be in flower in sheltered parts of Millcombe, including **Daisy** *Bellis perennis*, **Dandelion** *Taraxacum* agg., **Red Campion** *Silene dioica* and **Common Field Speedwell** *Veronica persica*.

There were plenty of records later in the year of common and familiar species such as **Sea Campion** *Silene uniflora*, **Thrift** *Armeria maritima* and **Sheep's-bit** *Jasione montana*, but some keen observers also reported less familiar species like **Heath Milkwort**, which requires close examination to be sure of its identity, or **Western Clover** *Trifolium occidentale* which has a very limited distribution on Lundy. **Field Woundwort** *Stachys arvensis* was probably once more common on the island when there was more cultivation, but is now confined to a few spots on the slopes above the beach road where the soil is sometimes disturbed.

Grasses rarely get a mention in the logbook, but a study of some of the walls around the south end revealed a very varied flora with some species that are rarely seen in any other habitat. These include **Sea Fern Grass** *Catapodium maritimum*, a small, stiff grass which flattens itself against the wall. By late summer it appears to be dry and shrivelled, but its seeds will already have been lodged in crevices ready for next year. Ferns are also often overlooked but, on some walls, small colonies of **Wall Rue** *Asplenium ruta-muraria* seem to be increasing slightly. Safe from grazing and trampling, small ferns like this stand a much better chance of survival high up on a wall. Look for this fern on the high wall opposite Barton Cottages where there are also good colonies of **Maidenhair Spleenwort** *Asplenium trichomanes*.

Two new species were added to the Lundy flora lists in 2025, although one of them has already disappeared. **Soft Shield Fern** *Polystichum setiferum* was found under the trees below Brambles East, in a typical location in which it might be found on the mainland where it is quite common. It has probably been overlooked there for several years, growing on a very steep bank in the shade of the trees. In April a single clump of **Ramsons** *Allium ursinum* was spotted beneath trees further along the east side, again in a typical location, but sadly this was soon dug up and destroyed, a policy of eradication (due to its fondness for spreading) that has now been discontinued. It had apparently been spotted there in April 2024 as well, but not reported in the log book.

Common Mallow *Malva sylvestris* always provides a good splash of colour in summer and is common in the village area and near Benjamin's Chair, but **Tree Mallow** *Malva arborea*, a much larger and more robust species, is actually harder to find. It seems there is only one specimen of this plant on Lundy, growing in a precarious position on the cliffs on the west side. If you are bird-watching and have your binoculars trained on the cliffs please look out for more specimens of Tree Mallow and record the location in the log book.

Most visitors do not give **Common Ivy** *Hedera helix* a second glance and are probably unaware that we have two species in Britain. **Atlantic Ivy** *Hedera hibernica* is more common in western Britain and we have both species on Lundy. Distinguishing between them is rather tricky, but Atlantic Ivy tends to have broader leaves with less marbling than those of Common Ivy. Another difference is in the scent of the crushed leaves which have a rather unpleasant smell in Common Ivy, whereas Atlantic Ivy leaves have a stronger, not-unpleasant resinous smell when crushed. Further differences can be best detected with a hand-lens, when the tiny hairs on the underside of the leaves can be seen to be either flat on the surface in Atlantic Ivy, or projecting from it in Common Ivy. Both species can be found in Millcombe.

Despite very dry conditions later in the summer the area around Pondsburry produced its usual fine display of **Bog Asphodel** *Narthecium ossifragum* and **Common Cotton Grass** *Eriophorum angustifolium*, and good numbers of **Heath Spotted Orchids** *Dactylorhiza maculata*, which seem to be confined to this one spot. Older records show that this species was once more widespread on the top of the island. From a distance the orchids are not very obvious, but they grow well in the shelter of the tussocks of **Purple Moor-grass** *Molinia caerulea*. In the more open areas nearby the ground cover is dominated by extensive patches of **Creeping Willow** *Salix repens*, which looks very striking when the small yellow catkins appear in the spring, but is overlooked for much of the year.

Please continue to add your records to the Tavern Log Book. It is helpful if you can list the English and Scientific names and give details of the location. Photographs of unusual species are always welcome and can be sent to andrew@bramleyfrith.co.uk



▲ Navel Wort (*Umbilicus rupestris*) garden wall, lower Millcombe (photo: John Hedger)

BRYOPHYTES AND LICHENS

Sam Bosanquet

A total of 38 records of 32 bryophyte species were recorded during a three-day visit by Sam Bosanquet in July. Highlight was the Nationally Scarce moss ***Coscinodon cribrosus*** – new for Lundy – on a more or less horizontal rock outcrop on the clifftop above Benjamin's Chair. There are two other known sites in Devon: Hartland Point and Mortehoe. The ruderal liverwort ***Lunularia cruciata*** was noted on a path by the Casbah, representing the second Lundy record, and the island's second colony of ***Bryum pallescens*** was found under the dripping metal roof of a shed in the Village alongside plants of ***Weissia controversa*** resembling the metal mine taxon 'var. *densifolia*'. New locations for ***Calypogeia fissa*** and ***Fissidens curnovii*** were added in sheltered areas in the south-east of the island, and a new colony of ***Jungermannia gracillima*** was seen in the north-west. The Lundy bryophyte total now stands at 226 species.

Most of the lichen recording on Lundy in 2025 was done by Lindsay Mahon and Rachel Marsh, who are working towards an update of *Lundy Lichens*. A newly discovered colony of ***Roccella fuciformis*** near Gannet Rock, the second site on Lundy, was perhaps their most exciting find of the year. Further recording is planned for 2026 and will be reported on then. Other than their records, the only lichens noted on Lundy in 2025 were six widespread coastal species found by Kian Hayles-Cotton.



▲ *Coscinodon cribrosus* at Benjamin's Chair
(photo: Sam Bosanquet)



▲ *Weissia controversa* var. *densifolia*, in the village
(photo: Sam Bosanquet)

FUNGI AND SLIME MOULDS

Mandy Dee and John Hedger

Introduction

2025 was a record year for recording fungi and slime moulds (Myxomycetes) on Lundy, with 37 species found in the field which were new to the island, including one slime mould. The total thus now stands at 899 species of fungi but easily exceeds that figure if records from DNA and cultural studies on the Grey Waxcap and fungi in Sparrow's nests published in the 2025 volume of the LFS Journal are added. New records are summarised in Table 1. We hope to reach 1000 species by 2030!



▲ Sheena Duller surveying the short turf near Old Hospital for Meadow Coral fungi, November (photo: John Hedger)

JH visited in March for a week to record microfungi on plants and ran a Foray open to visitors, notable for finding the **Spring Pinkgill**, *Entoloma venum*, an elegant toadstool unexpectedly appearing in the Narcissi below the Ugly, and a new record.

From 5-11 October MD and JH helped to run the enjoyable LFS field course on Fungi and Archaeology (surely a title which is a world first!) organised by Mandy Yates. It was attended by an enthusiastic group of LFS members and



▲ ► Examples of the variation in forms of Meadow Coral (*Clavulinopsis corniculata*) found by Sheena Duller on Lundy during her November survey (photos: Sheena Duller)



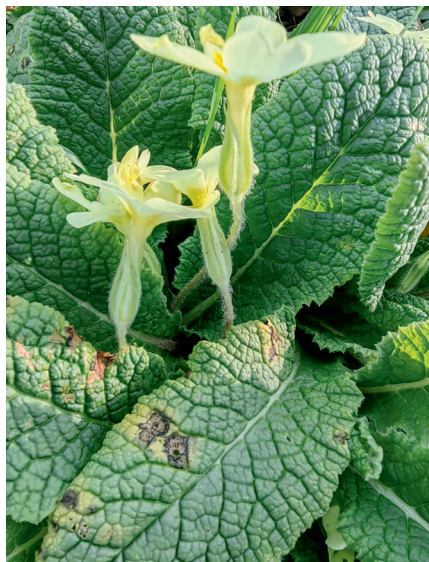
island staff. Over 150 species were found during the course, including nine new records and a number of second records. In November, the LFS funded two research projects by mycologists from the University of Aberystwyth. Ruby Bye used battery-driven traps to catch and eventually identify the spores of fungi in the Lundy air. Sheena Duller worked with JH to survey the Coral and Club fungi (Clavariaceae) in Lundy grassland for Dr. Louise Tranter, looking for 'cryptic' (hidden), possibly new, species of **Meadow Coral** *Clavulinopsis corniculata*. The results of these DNA studies will be appearing in the 2027 Volume of the Journal. Lastly, JH helped with the residential Imperial College field course in late November run by Julia Schroeder, which now has a day surveying fungi on the Airfield and SW Field as a fixed part of the programme and is providing useful long-term monitoring of the fungi in these two sites.

Records

Logbook/irecord

Logbook entries continue to be sparse but thanks to all who noted fungi, none earlier than John Townsend who recorded three species of gill fungus on New Year's Day from around the village: **Wood Blewit** (*Lepista nuda*); **Star Pinkgill** (*Entoloma conferendum*); and **Deceiver** (*Laccaria laccata*). The large purple-pink **Wood Blewit** is always a late autumn fruiter, starting in late November on Lundy, and occurs as big rings of toadstools in Lundy grassland as well as on piles of old silage, not in the woods as the popular name implies. The small pinkish-brown **Deceiver** always appears under trees in late summer/early autumn and was probably found in Millcombe, but the mid-winter find is a surprise.

The next records of fungi are not until March by JH, who recorded 52 species in a week-long visit (10-17th), of which 16 were new records. There was also a new Slime Mould record (*Diderma effusum*). The majority were microfungi on living and dead plant leaves and stems, mostly in Millcombe and the Village but also along the Lower East Side Path and around Pondsburry. A surprisingly rich source was the Staff Garden with 'new to Lundy' records including a leaf spot (*Godronia ribis*) on Blackcurrant and a microfungus (*Sporodesmiella hyalosperma*) on dead Artichoke stems. Ten species of the parasitic microfungus *Ramularia* were found on living leaves of herbaceous plants, where they show up as purple/black bordered patches, for example *Ramularia primulae* photographed on Primrose in Quarter Wall Copse. The patches often have white centres giving rise to the popular name of '**White Moulds**'. Identification is difficult but has been made easier in recent years by the publication of a monograph on these fungi in Wales by Arthur Chater and colleagues (Chater *et al.* 2021), which is now in the LFS library. Five new records were made: *Ramularia asplenii* on Wall Spleenwort, a fern; *R. inaequalis* on Cat's Ear; *R. lactea* on Dog Violet, *R. didymarioides* on Red Campion and *R. vallisumbrosae* on Daffodil. In the past we have recorded the yellow spots common on leaves of Cuckoo Pint in Millcombe and Quarter Wall Copse as another *Ramularia* species, *R. ari*. but this is considered to be *Spermosporina aricola* in Chater *et al.* so our records may need to be amended.



▲ Spots caused by a White Mould, *Ramularia primulae*, on leaves of Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) in Quarter Wall Copse, March (photo: John Hedger)



▲ Vernal Pinkgill (*Entoloma vernum*) in a clump of Narcissi below the Ugly, March (photo: Alan Rowland)

A less welcome record on 30 July was by Kian Hayles-Cotton who observed symptoms of **Ash Dieback** (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) on the Ash trees in lower Millcombe. The record remains to be confirmed but is unfortunately very likely given the widespread damage to stands of Ash in North Devon by this disease, probably spread by wind-blown spores from the mainland. The trees by the road up to the Battlements are old and so have some disease resistance and could last for some years yet. In the long term it may mean we lose Ash entirely from Lundy, and with



There are relatively few 'Spring' species of toadstool, so members of the Foray held on 13 March were pleased to add to the long list of microfungi such as White Moulds and Rusts that we saw on plants by finding a 'real' fungus in the shape of the **Vernal Pinkgill** (*Entoloma vernum*) fruiting among the Daffodils by the Lower East Side Path below the Ugly, an exciting new record.

The next record of fungi was not until 23 June when there was an anonymous sighting of a very early **Parasol Mushroom** (*Macrolepiota procera*) in its usual autumnal site in SW Field. The autumnal trend continued, probably due to the wet weather, with sightings by Jill Walker in the first week in July of the **Scarlet Waxcap** (*Hygrocybe coccinea*) in grass at the Quarries and the **Egghead Mottlegill** (*Panaeolus semiovatus*) on dung in Middle Park.

it a number of associated and benign fungi like **King Alfred's Cakes** (*Daldinea concentrica*), whose hard black fruit bodies are common on the dead branches of the Millcombe Ashes.

A wet September began the main autumnal crop of fungi on Lundy and the 18th saw a record of the small but beautiful **Orange Porecap** (*Favolaschia claudopus*) by Elise Albrighton. It appeared first in Millcombe in 2018 but is now a regular autumnal record on twigs and wood. 'Ranscombe Lodge' recorded five more fungi in the last week of September: the **Egghead Mottlegill** (*Panaeolus semiovatus*) near Ponsbury, presumably on dung; **Jelly Ear** (*Auricularia auricula-judae*), **Porcelain Fungus** (*Mucidula mucida*) and **Plums and Custard** (*Tricholomopsis rutilans*) in Millcombe, probably on dead wood; and **False Chanterelle** (*Hygrophoropsis aurantiacus*) from the West Side, probably associated with Bracken.

◄ Orange Porecap (*Favolaschia claudopus*) on a Sycamore branch in Millcombe (photo: Hilary Winsor)

LFS Field Course in October

Due to the industry of the 15 attendees of the LFS field course on Fungi and Archaeology, 5-11 October saw the greatest number of records of species of fungi made during the year (150, of which nine were new to Lundy). Accommodation was in the Barn but we set up tables in the St. Helen's Centre on which we could display the specimens from the field work and use the island microscopes, as well as one brought over from the mainland, to identify the fungi. We used the Mycology reference books from the LFS library, carried over from the Tavern, a tough task; it is now an excellent, if heavy, resource.

The group surveyed the fungi on the grasslands of the south of Lundy on the first day (Monday 6 October), especially Southwest Field/Rocket Pole, the Airfield and Lighthouse Fields. In the latter we re-found the fat fruit bodies of **Coastal Mushroom** *Agaricus litoralis* just by the upper gate into SW Field where it was first seen in 2023. The pink flush following slight bruising by finger pressure on the bulbous white stem is clear in the photograph (right) and is one of the diagnostics of the species. Another star find by the group was the chunky, bluntly pointed fruit body of the **Mealy Pinkgill** *Entoloma prunuloides*, at the east end of the Airfield, not seen since 2011. The group recorded seven other Pinkgill species and learnt the importance of using the microscope to identify them. Waxcap species also proved to be a challenge but the group soon got the hang of using colours, cap-shapes, textures and smells (at least that of the Cedarwood Waxcap) to run them down and 20 species were recorded, including **Limestone Waxcap** *Hygrocybe calciphila* and **Persistent Waxcap** *Hygrocybe acutoconica* both second sightings for Lundy and found by Jessica Hasted from the area where they were originally recorded in 2007 and 2011, by the Old Hospital.

Inevitably the group also learned something of the myriad of fungi to be found on the sheep and pony dung, including the various species of Mottlegills (*Panaeolus*), Inkcaps (*Coprinellus* etc) and Brownies (e.g **Dung Brownie**



▲ LFS Fungi and Archaeology participants in St Helen's Church, October (photo: Hilary Winsor)



▲ Coastal Mushroom (*Agaricus litoralis*) in Lighthouse Field, October (photo: Mandy Dee)



▲ Mealy Pinkgill (*Entoloma prunuloides*) east end of the Airfield, October (photo: Mandy Dee)



▲ Minute apothecia of a 'cowpat gem' (*Cheilymenia fimicola*) on Pony dung near Old Hospital (photo: Mandy Dee)



▲ Hat Thrower (*Pilobolus kleinii*), close up of a miniature forest of sporangia on Pony dung near Old Hospital, October (photo: Mandy Dee)



▲ Rooting Bonnet (*Mycena megaspora*) amongst Heather west end of Punchbowl Valley (photo: John Hedger)

Deconica coprophila. They even got to grips with some of the more obvious coprophilous microfungi such as the bright orange dots of a 'cowpat gem' *Cheilymenia fimicola* and the forests of glistening 'fungus rockets' of the **Hat Thrower** *Pilobolus kleinii* on pony dung around Old Hospital, captured in the close-up photograph (left, centre).

On the next day, Tuesday, we moved to look at the fungi of the Lundy Creeping Willow (*Salix repens*) 'woodland' in the Punchbowl Valley which did not disappoint, including many species of Milkcap, most notably new locations for the enormous (8-10 cm dia.) white fruit bodies of the **Fleecy Milkcap** *Lactarius vellereus* dwarfing the associated shrublets of Willow. The group were also introduced to the 'woodland' Brittlegills which occur here on Lundy but not in 'real' Lundy woodland, including the red-orange caps of the **Coral Brittlegill** *Russula velenovskyi* and the duller brown **Winecork Brittlegill** *Russula adusta*, the latter not seen since 2011. Mandy Dee was pleased that her 'What Three Words' locator for the orange yellow fruit bodies of **Chanterelle** *Cantharellus cibarius* worked when the group re-found it in its one Lundy location in Creeping Willow near Pondsbury. Several new records were made in the Creeping Willow by the group, the most exciting being that of a cluster of very small brown-capped gill fungi spotted by Jessica Hasted, which proved to be *Galerina lacustris*, a fungus associated with Willow on the mainland. In the Heather areas on the west end of the Punchbowl Valley the group found some elegant species of Bonnets, Mycena, especially the grey-blue **Rooting Bonnet**, *M. megaspora*.

Wednesday saw the group move to woodland 'proper', first in Millcombe, then along the East Side to St Helen's Copse and Quarter Wall Copse. In Millcombe, Liz Crowe spotted a Brittlegill new to Lundy, but which she knew from North Devon Forays, the light pink-capped **Fragile Brittlegill** *Russula fragilis*. Checking the spores under the microscope that evening revealed spiny rounded spores, meaning it was a much rarer species *Russula poikilochroa*, an exciting addition to the Lundy list. Another star find by Liz was of the **Orangefoot Bolete** *Hortiboletus engelii*, a tube mushroom with a

red cap, with yellow tubes below and a red-pink stem. She found it under the Turkey Oak just below Brambles, the spot where it was first recorded by Andrew Cleave in 2013.

Another unexpected fungus followed when we moved to St Helens' Copse, where Mike Shouller found large 10-15 cm wide bright yellow brackets on a dead Sycamore which proved to be **Ashbole Bracket** *Perenniporia fraxinea* (now called *Vanderbylia fraxinea*), never seen on Lundy before but widespread on a range of broad-leaved trees on the mainland. On another dead Sycamore a bit higher up in the copse, Ian Bushell, our Lundy staff participant on the course, found a clump of large white/pale yellow gill fungi which proved to be the **Poplar Fieldcap** *Cyclocybe cylindracea* which we thought was also a new record but, on checking, had been seen 30 years before, in 1995! However, nearby on the ground there was a clump of small yellow fruit bodies with sticky caps covered in minute scales and rusty brown gills which did prove to be a species new to Lundy, the **Sticky Scalycap** *Pholiota gummosa*, so another first for the group. St Helen's Copse is small but mycologically surprising!

We spent some time in Quarter Wall Copse and found many species of wood rotting fungi as well as mycorrhizal and decomposer fungi on the ground, the commonest being **Purple Brittlegill** *Russula atropurpurea*. When the collections displayed in the evening in the St. Helen's Centre were checked under the microscope, one, a small brown gill fungus, proved to be a mycorrhizal species new to Lundy, *Inocybe pseudodestructa*! Another collection with brown cap and white gills but with a dense clump of hairs at the base of a brown stem, proved to be the aptly named **Wood Woollyfoot** *Gymnopus peronatus*, a very common leaf litter decomposer in mainland woodlands, but inexplicably never seen on Lundy before. Liz Crow also added a new microfungus to the Lundy list by spotting a 'Witches' Broom' of densely branched twigs on one of the planted Birches which she knew from the mainland to be caused by the fungus *Taphrina betulina*.

We were very impressed with the enthusiasm and hard work put in by the group. Well done all!



▲ Ashbole Bracket (*Perenniporia fraxinea*) on a dead Sycamore, St Helen's Copse, October (photo: John Hedger)



▲ Display of finds by the LFS Field Course participants in St Helen's Church, October (photo: Lucy Donaldson)



▲ An immature fruiting of Dog's Vomit Slime Mould (*Mucilago crustacea*) on the lawn of Stoneycroft, November (photo: John Hedger)



▲ Robust Coral (*Ramariopsis robusta*) in Lighthouse Field near Stoneycroft, November (photo: Sheena Duller)



▲ Lined Waxcap (*Cuphophyllus radiatus*) in short turf near Old Hospital, November (photo: John Hedger)

So many fungi were found during what we thought would be a rather sparse week. The full stop must be Louise Cookson who even managed to find a blue mould on a pot of Damson Jam in the Barn! It proved under the microscope to be in the *Penicillium brevicompactum* group (**Rollrim Mould**) and naturally a new Lundy record.

November Records

JH was back on the island with the two Aberystwyth University mycology researchers, Ruby Bye and Sheena Duller, from 10-17 November. We were also delighted that Liz Crow, who had been on the LFS October course, was able to come to help and was an invaluable member of the team. Apart from the mycology research, we also ran a foray for visitors on 13 November, helped by Ian Bushell of the island staff. Ninety five species of fungi were recorded during the week, (45 of them on the Foray) , including 11 new records for the island, and two Myxomycetes: the aptly named **Dogs Vomit Slime Mould** *Mucilago crustacea* was especially common in the grassland and the lawn at Stoneycroft was covered in its white fruit bodies.

Among the new fungi records one of the most striking were the large (5 cm tall) branched white fruit bodies of the **Robust Coral** *Ramariopsis robusta* found by Sheena Duller in Lighthouse Field near Stoneycroft. In total we found eight species of Coral and Club fungi, and Sheena was able to make over 30 dried collections of the orange branched **Meadow Coral** *Clavulinopsis corniculata*, which varied from tall (2-3 cm) sparsely branched and upright, e.g. on the Airfield to dwarf (0.5 cm tall) and densely branched in short turf, e.g. near to Quarter Wall gate. DNA studies by Dr Louise Tranter at Aberystwyth will reveal whether these forms represent sub-species of this coral fungus.

Plenty of gill fungi were recorded, including many Waxcap species, of which one, the **Lined Waxcap** *Cuphophyllus radiatus*, a nationally uncommon species, had never been found on Lundy before but was spotted by Liz Crow growing in short grass near Old Hospital. The Lundy Waxcap total continues to grow

and now stands at 43. A related gill fungus, also in the Waxcap family (Hygrophoraceae), *Arrhenia rickenii*, a new record, was found as groups of small (0.5-1 cm high) grey caps in short turf in Southwest Field during the Foray on 13 November (admirably reported by Trevor Dobie in the 2026 Bulletin!). The small quarry by the road down St. James valley yielded another new record of a similar sized gill fungus, *Lichenomphalia velutina* as groups of tiny depressed but brown caps on the stones and gravel of the quarry face and surrounded by green globules of the lichen *Botrydina* of which it is part. The related basidiolichen **Heath Navel** *Lichenomphalia umbellifera* is widespread on wet peaty areas on Lundy and indeed the UK. *L. velutina* is apparently much rarer.

During the week the numbers of Pinkgill species (Entolomataceae) found were unexpectedly low: only six were recorded on the Foray, but one was a new record **False Blushing Pinkgill** *Entoloma pseudoturci* in Southwest Field. The usually very abundant November fungus, **Star Pinkgill**, *Entoloma conferendum*, seemed to be oddly absent but we did re-find rings of the tall fleshy pointed caps of the **Lilac Pinkgill** *Entoloma porphyrophaeum* in its usual site just south of the east end of the Airfield.

Another charismatic group of grassland fungi, the Earthtongues (Geoglossaceae) were found, and, in addition to the **Hairy Earthtongue** *Trichoglossum hirsutum* in the grass in front of the Radio Room (where Mandy Dee also saw it in October), Liz Crow found **Star Earthtongue** *Geoglossum starbaeckii* in short turf at the Old Hospital, while Ruby Bye found **Deceptive Earthtongue** *Geoglossum fallax*, the commonest earthtongue on Lundy, next to the west coast path just north of Old Light. Table 1 also shows two new Lundy Earthtongue '2025' records: *Geoglossum azoricum* and *Trichoglossum variabile*, both from dried collections made in 2024. These were both identified in the field in 2024 as *Trichoglossum hirsutum*, but DNA sequencing at the University of Aberystwyth

► Black Earthtongue (*Geoglossum fallax*) in short turf near Three Quarter Wall gate, November (photo: Sheena Duller)



▲ *Arrhenia rickenii* in short turf and moss on SW Field, November (photo: John Hedger)



▲ The basidiolichen *Lichenomphalia velutina* surrounded by green *Botrydina* 'globules' in the small quarry by the road in St James's Valley, November (photo: John Hedger)



by Alexis Boulbes means the identifications need to be changed. *G.azoricum* is a subtropical Earthtongue recently described (in 2023) from Laurisilva forests in the Azores! *T.variabile* is known in the UK from boggy sites but is uncommon. Alexis also kindly sequenced 10 other Earthtongue collections we made in 2024 and disagreed with six other identifications, so we clearly need to revisit our approach to recording of this difficult but charismatic group of fungi in future!

JH stayed on Lundy after the departure of the Aberystwyth group on 17 November to help with the annual 'Sparrows and Fungi' field course for Imperial College MSc students run by Julia Schroeder. The students valiantly surveyed the fungi on the Airfield and Southwest field despite the difficult weather conditions and produced some excellent presentations on their finds, which included some interesting records, including two not in the survey areas. The **Stubble Rosegill** *Volvoxpluteus gloiocephala*, was found by Edie Odell and Edward Chantler in the short grass in front of the Marisco Tavern. This was only the second record for Lundy, and, despite the large size of this gill fungus, 10 cm tall with a cap 6-8 cm in diameter, it has not been seen since the first record, in front of Brambles Villa, in 2003. Another interesting second record was by Bea Toboada and Lucille Doyen, who found the **White Oyster Mushroom** *Pleurotus pulmonarius* growing out of a Sparrow nest box in the Tractor Shed. The first record, by Alan Rowland in 2024, was on a plywood cargo box, so the fungus seems now to be well-established in the Village.

During the week we held another fungus foray on 20 November, again in Southwest Field. Twenty-six species were recorded, fewer than the foray seven days previously. However some additional Waxcap species were found, including the colourful **Splendid Waxcap** *Hygrocybe splendidissima* in the short turf Waxcap 'hotspot' around Rocket Pole Pond which also had lots of the **Scarlet Waxcap** *Hygrocybe coccinea*, **Spangle Waxcap** *H.insipida*, the aptly named **Crimson Waxcap** *H.punicea* and the grey **Slimy Waxcap** *Gliophorus irrigatus*. Some new finds seemed to be seasonal, including the appearance of **Wood Blewit** *Lepista nuda*, not unexpected as this is a late autumn/early winter species (and was one of the first records of 2025, on 1 January!). In the Bracken covered areas the **Butter Cap** *Rhodocollybia butyracea* had suddenly become abundant compared to absence seven days previously. Alongside it we found the grey funnel-shaped caps of the **Common Funnel** *Infundibulicybe gibba* which was indeed very common on Lundy in 2004 but has not been recorded since 2006. Similarly, Ian Bushell found the beautiful purple-capped **Bonnet**

Mycena diosma also in Bracken areas, a fungus considered common when 'Lundy Fungi' was written in 2018 but not found in recent years. Another Bonnet, **Ammonia Bonnet** *Mycena stipata* was recorded in odd places; it was found growing on wood of the window in the bedroom of Stoneycroft by the occupant Nicola Budden and sprouting from the top of the gatepost of Brambles Villa! Its usual habitat is Conifer wood, but on Lundy all previous records were from Rhododendron logs.

Thanks to all who have contributed their records to what has been a bumper year for recording fungi on Lundy. Many more species wait to be found (c.14,000 in the UK) so please keep them coming in!

Reference

Chater AO, Woods R, Stringer RN, Evans DA and Smith P (2021). *White Moulds, Ramularia and Phacellum anamorphs in Wales and Britain: a guide and Welsh census catalogue*. Published by AO Chater, Aberystwyth.

◀ Ammonia Bonnet (*Mycena stipata*) on the gatepost of Brambles Villa, November (photo: John Hedger)



▼ Table 1 New Records of Fungi and Slime Moulds on Lundy in 2025.

Latin Name	Common Name	Where found	Lundy Locality	Date	Found by
Micro ascomycete fungi					
<i>Apiospora montagnei</i> *		seed heads Cocksfoot	Millcombe	11.03.25	JH
<i>Sporidesmiella hyalosperma</i> *		Artichoke stems ¹	Staff Garden,Village	11.03.25	JH
<i>Pseudophthomyces chartarum</i> *		dead Sheep's Fescue stem	Millcombe	11.03.25	JH
<i>Ramularia asplenii</i> *		leaves of Wall Spleenwort	Wall Beach Road	15.03.25	JH
<i>Ramularia inaequalis</i> *		leaves of Cat's Ear	Lower East Side path	11.03.25	JH
<i>Ramularia lactea</i> *		leaves of Violet	Millcombe	12.03.25	JH
<i>Ramularia vallisumbrosae</i> *		Daffodil leaves	Upper Millcombe	10.03.25	JH
<i>Sphaeropsis sapinea</i> *		Pine cones	nr St Helen's Copse	11.03.25	JH
<i>Godronia ribis</i> *		Blackcurrant leaves	Staff Garden,Village	11.03.25	JH
<i>Leptosphaeria luctuosa</i> *		dead Juncus leaves	Pondsbury	14.03.25	JH
<i>Lophiostoma semilibrum</i> *		on dead Honeysuckle stems	Millcombe	15.03.25	JH
<i>Morenoina fimbriata</i> *		living Rush leaves	Pondsbury	14.03.25	JH
<i>Flammoclaidiella decora</i> *		on black fungus stromata	Millcombe	14.03.25	JH
<i>Penicillium brevicompactum</i> *	Rollrim Mould	Damson Jam	The Barn	06.10.25	Louise Cookson
<i>Taphrina betulina</i> *	Birch Besom	Brooms on Birch	Quarter Wall Copse	08.10.25	Elizabeth Crow
<i>Cercospora beticola</i> *		on leaves of Sea Beet	Jetty Road	15.11.25	Sheena Duller
<i>Phloeospora aceris</i> *		dead leaves of Sycamore	Lower Millcombe	19.11.25	JH
<i>Ramularia didymarioides</i> *	Campion Felt	leaves of Red Campion	Upper Millcombe	15.11.25	Sheena Duller
Macro ascomycete Fungi					
<i>Geoglossum azoricum</i> **		in short turf	Old Hospital	04.11.24	JH MD
<i>Trichoglossum variabile</i> **		in short turf	QWall Cottages	04.11.24	JH MD
Gill Fungi					
<i>Entoloma vernum</i> *	Vernal Pinkgill	on soil	Daffodil patch below Ugly	13.03.25	Spring Foray
<i>Galerina lacustris</i> *		under Creeping Willow	Punchbowl Valley	05.10.25	Jessica Hasted
<i>Gymnopus androsaceus</i> *	Horsehair Parachute	leaf litter	Millcombe	06.10.25	LFS Field Course
<i>Gymnopus peronatus</i> *	Wood Woolyfoot	Leaf Litter	Quarter Wall Copse	06.10.25	LFS Field Course
<i>Inocybe pseudodistricta</i> *		under Turkey Oak	Quarter Wall Copse	08.10.25	LFS Field Course
<i>Pholiota gummosa</i> *	Sticky Scalycap	on soil under trees	St Helen's Copse	08.10.25	LFS Field Course
<i>Russula poikilochroa</i> *		on soil under trees	Millcombe	08.10.25	Elizabeth Crow
<i>Arhenia rickenii</i> *	Moss Navel	short turf/moss	SW Field	13.11.25	November Foray 1
<i>Cuphophyllus radiatus</i> *	Lined Waxcap	short turf/moss	near Old Hospital	12.11.25	Elizabeth Crow
<i>Entoloma pseudoturci</i> *	Scurfy Pinkgill	in medium grass	SW Field	13.11.25	November Foray 1
<i>Lichenomphalia velutina</i> *		on rocks and thin soil	small quarry by Brambles	20.11.25	JH
<i>Melanoleuca excisica</i> *	Smoky Cavalier	on rocks/soil	above Montagu Steps	20.11.25	November Foray 2
<i>Resinomycena saccharifera</i> *		on dead grass culms	Airfield	20.11.25	November Foray 2
Club & Coral Fungi					
<i>Ramariopsis robusta</i> *	Robust Coral	medium length grass	Lighthouse Field	15.11.25	Sheena Duller
Bracket Fungi (Polypores)					
<i>Perenniporia fraxinea</i> *	Ashbole Bracket	Dead Sycamore trunk	St.Helen's Copse	08.10.25	Mike Shouller
Slime Moulds					
<i>Diderma effusum</i> *		Dead Ragwort stem ¹	Village	11.03.25	JH

Key to finders: Spring Foray Members (13.03.25);LFS Field Course Members (4-10.10.25) - individuals on the LFS course are also credited with their finds where known; JH = John Hedger ;MD = Mandy Dee

*=new field record

**=new record from DNA sequencing by Alexis Boulbes (Aberystwyth University) of collected fruit body

¹ = developed in petri dish damp chambers

Lundy South



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Lundy North



SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- For information about the Lundy Field Society, our work (including conservation breaks) and about the island itself (including a virtual tour), visit lundy.org.uk
- For information about Lundy's birds visit: lundybirdobs.org.uk
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Brazen Ward, December (photo: Kathy Weston)



Back cover:

Tussock moth caterpillar (photo: Neil Barnes)

Dung Beetle (photo: Neil Barnes)

Front cover:

Hawthorn Shieldbug *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* Castle Keep South, October (photo: Darrin Downing)

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