

Queen's Harbour Master Plymouth
 Longroom House
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 Stonehouse
 Plymouth
 PL1 3RT

QHM 532/7

**NOTES OF THE PORT OF PLYMOUTH MARINE LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
 THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 2019
 ASTOR ROOM, GUILDHALL, PLYMOUTH**

Present	Representing	User Group
Mr C Necker	Queen's Harbour Master	TECF / Harbour Auth.
Mr N Trathen	Queen's Harbour Master	TECF/Harbour Auth
Mrs K Curry	Natural Infrastructure Officer	TECF / PCC
Miss F Crouch	Natural Infrastructure Officer	Council
Capt. T Charlesworth	Cattewater Harbour Master	Harbour Authority
Capt. R Allan	Cattewater Deputy Harbour Master	Harbour Authority
Mr C Hicks	Cattewater Commissioners	Harbour Authority
Mr T Stone	UK Border Force	Crime Abatement
Mr P Scott	Cawsand Moorings	Moorings
Insp L Halls	MOD Police	Crime Abatement
Sgt A Evans	MOD Police	Crime Abatement
Mr C Turner	HM Coastguard	Navigation and Rescue
Mr R Anderson	Plymouth Trawlers Association	Fisheries
Mr A James	University of Plymouth	Research
Mr N Webb	Victoria Wharf	Marine Commerce
Mr M Goble	PCC Pier Master	Moorings
Mr K Banks	Millbrook Lake Mooring Assoc.	Moorings
Mr C Bush	Mayflower Marina	Marine Commerce
Cllr G Reed	Bere Ferrers Parish Council	Town/Parish Councils
Ms M Haas	SHIPS Project	Maritime Archaeology
Mr J Lowther	University of Plymouth	Research
Mr M Wood	Royal Yachting Association	Recreation & Tourism
Mr K Hamblin	Port of Plymouth Canoe Association	Recreation & Tourism
Mr L Gibson	Natural Infrastructure Officer	Council

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
1. Introduction	<p>QHM welcomed everyone and thanked Plymouth City Council for hosting the meeting.</p> <p>QHM outlined the purpose of PPMLC; primarily an information sharing forum to enable all water users to understand issues and constraints and enhance our ability to operate collaboratively.</p> <p>QHM asked all present to introduce themselves.</p>	

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
2. Apologies	Apologies for absence were received from: A Jones (QHM PCO), A Gall (Natural England), L Gallie (RNLI), C Smith (Devon Wildlife Trust), D Curnow (RYA), A Polglase (Calstock Parish Council), C Matthews (Duchy of Cornwall).	
3. Notes of the previous meeting	<p>The notes of the previous meeting held on 13 June 2019 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.</p> <p>NB. The annex to the minutes with the reports couldn't be accessed by members. <u>Action</u> resend links and attach PDF's to future minutes</p> <p>PMN – Separate PDF copies forwarded to full PPMLC email distribution 11 Oct.</p>	QHM
4. Matters arising	<p>4.4.8. All PPMLC members to update website so all partners and organisations signed to the correct websites. <u>Closed</u></p> <p>4.6b. PCC and RNLI to check all public access points and jetties to ensure all necessary signage and warnings are in place. Update 10/10/19: The PCC Pier Master has been checking all signs and is planning joint site visits with RNLI over the winter. QHM asked that PCO joins the Pier Master on his inspections. All present were asked to contact the Pier Master if they see inadequate signage. <u>Ongoing</u></p> <p>4.6c. NIO EMS offered the opportunity to present any information in the TECF. Offer from RNLI to provide water safety information for the next edition of the TECF newsletter. Update 10/10/19: Water safety information not in the August edition PCC NIO will do a special Water Safety edition in Spring 2020. DQ to put article in the next newsletter on the forthcoming revised Port of Plymouth Order. <u>Action</u></p> <p>4.6e. Offer from CHC for all PPMLC members to join them on their harbour patrols. Update 10/10/19: No members have joined the patrols since the last meeting. CHC noted that on a recent meeting with Councillors they were unaware of anti-social behaviour on the water. QHM suggested that a general invite was re-issued in the early Spring along with targeted personal invitations for key stakeholders. He encouraged members to join the patrols. <u>Action</u></p> <p>4.6f. QHM to republish safety information for divers at local dive shops. 10/10/19 – The information and posters will be reviewed and refreshed ready for issuing in Spring 20.</p>	<p></p> <p>PCC/QHM/ All</p> <p>RNLI/NIO/ QHM</p> <p>CHC/All</p> <p>QHM DQ/PSO</p>

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	<u>Ongoing</u>	
	4.11. Sutton Harbour Byelaws. Update 10/10/19 - No proposed timeline when it is intended to consult on byelaws. Action closed will be reopened if needed. Closed	
	6.2. RNLI requested members identify any potential sites for additional lifejacket lockers. There are 8 lockers at Mayflower. Elphinstone car park is a potential site, PCC are awaiting feedback from the RNLI . <u>Ongoing</u>	PCC/RNLI/All
	6.3. PCC offered to signpost safety advice (i.e RNLI) and other port information on Visit Plymouth website. 10/10/19: No specific sign posting evident. PCC to investigate. <u>Ongoing</u> 6.4. RNLI life jacket loan scheme. No representative present to report. Action to remain ongoing awaiting report on project progress at next meeting. <u>Ongoing</u>	NIO RNLI
	8.2c Options for emptying the angling bins. Two have been installed and are being emptied by PCC Street Service. (See Recreational impacts report – para 8.2a). Additional locations could be considered if members can propose any alternative sites. <u>Ongoing</u>	NIO/All
	8.2d Marine litter disposal. NIO has sought clarification from the relevant departments in PCC. If marine litter is in a public area there no reason why PCC won't pick it up. The Council are adding standard info on the website and encouraging initiatives such as beach cleans. NIO will send out the link. <u>Action</u>	NIO
5. Presentations	a. Mr Turner (HM Coastguard) gave a presentation on the work undertaken by the local Coastguard team based at Mount Batten (CRT). The team are on call 24 hrs and are responsible for littoral zone. Duties and skills include: Search - Cliff rescues. Casualty packaging. Rescuing dogs. Save - Dealing with numerous water rescues as people get cut off by the tide. Also yachts grounding - 3 this year off Beggars Island. First Aid – All trained to deal with a variety of casualty needs. Create helicopter landing sites - Removing debris and excluding the public. Ordinance – Supporting the bomb disposal teams ensuring the public are safe . Patrols – regularly educating the public.	

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	<p>Public safety/education:– present at events e.g Armed Forces Day. Total of 95 tasks in 2019 (to date) including missing persons (dementia sufferers), 16 self-harm mostly on Tamar bridge. 29 water rescue.</p> <p>Questions: Does the team have mud rescue capability? No. DSFRS have a mud rescue team based at Camels Head. How do they split jobs? - Calls go to Falmouth and they direct services. Comment from MOD Police over concerns that response to incidents in Port of Plymouth should have a more robust system so the right people/service are contacted. QHM overall coordinating body. Operators on 999 calls not familiar with local authorities. Overall message, if it involves water contact the coastguard first and they can summon appropriate assistance.</p>	
	<p>b. Mr T Stone – Border Force South West Command gave an update on the work of the Boarder Force (BF). BF is the law enforcement agency within the Home Office that carries out immigration and customs checks and gathers related intelligence . National security is the No1 priority.</p> <p>The SW team has 40 Opeartional officers. Numbers have increased from 25 and will hopefully increase by a further 10.</p> <p>Border Force relies on the support of members of the public to be their eyes and ears. Operation Kraken is an initiative to collect intelligence to prevent organised crime, smuggling, illegal immigration, smuggling, drugs etc. Report any unusual activity. 'even if you feel it's probably nothing' trust your instincts. Phone 101 and quote Kraken</p> <p>Questions: How can Border Force be contacted if suspicious activity is seen offshore? - Lots of information is passed on by the RNLI and coastguard. Individuals with time critical information can call the coastguard channel 16, phone 999 or 101. Less time critical information can be forwarded to the Border Force for attention of a field intelligence officer.</p> <p>What are the main operations in the past 6 to 12 months? -Lots of different operations going on especially around the cross channel ferry routes and countering illegal immigration.</p> <p>Are you involved in Fisheries inspections? -No but may change after Brexit.</p>	

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6. Plymouth Water Safety Update	<p>1. No representative from RNLI so Mr Turner gave an update on a number of activities. Several schools visits, talking to approx. 2000 young people, covering subjects such as water safety and tombstoning . Attended events such as Family Days, Rotary Clubs.....</p> <p>2. Annual life jacket survey in Plymouth, results were disappointing with only 41% people afloat wearing lifejackets, 71% children which is well below the national average .</p>	
7. Operation Fantail	<p>1. Insp Halls MDP Marine Unit - Operation Fantail – An initiative between the MOD police and Devon and Cornwall Police. An intelligence led operation targetting anti-social behaviour on the water within the Port of Plymouth. Main areas of concern are Jetskis and tombstoning; working to minimise anti-social behaviour. When they respond to incidents there was often insufficient evidence for a prosecution. In order to deal with offences the Police need robust evidence e.g. CCTV, pictures and witness statements. A intelligence baseline has been established and details of persons receiving warnings were being recorded. A positive stance has been taken but no prosecutions mainly due to lack of evidence. However, there has been some positive media messaging and this year records show a decrease in recorded incidents with jetskis.</p> <p>2. A discussion followed regarding problems with speeding at Weir Quay and problems with visitors picking up private moorings in Cawsand Bay. Insp Hall advised that MDP would respond if resources and their primary security tasking permitted.</p>	
8. National Marine Planning Update	No representative from the MMO was present	
9. TECF matters	<p>NIO officers presented their report which was sent to members prior to the meeting (attached at Annex A).</p> <p>1. NMP – Declaration of intent. Went very well which was followed by an event on the Hoe. PCC will be asking for input into a bigger event in 2020. Next steps will be to hold workshops to discuss possible governance structures, establish funding options and develop a management plan. A Shadow Board would be established to provide strategic direction.</p>	
	<p>2. Recreational Impacts Project</p> <p>2a. Angling Waste</p> <p>Two waste bins have been installed at West Hoe Pier and Elphinstone. They are already being used and have not been vandalised. NIO EMS was now be looking for</p>	All

Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
	<p>suitable locations for the remaining 6 bins. Members were asked to suggest sites.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	
	<p>2b. Information Panels</p> <p>The second phase of the information panels had been completed. Five panels were installed at: Strand Street, Mount Batten North Slip, Mount Batten Centre Pontoons, Elphinstone and Clovelly Bay, Turnchapel. The latter has been removed by the owners of 2 Beach Cottages as they own the freehold to the slipway and don't want to attract attention to the access. There is money in the budget for the next phase, work will begin on prioritising locations. Weir Quay will be included in this phase.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	NIO EMS
	<p>2c. Marine litter</p> <p>The trial of the Sea bin at QAB has been completed. The bin has been removed due to the time constraints of staff emptying it. Alternative options for the sea bin are being investigated.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	NIO EMS
	<p>3. Recreational Impacts Document</p> <p>The draft document has been drawn up in conjunction with South Hams, West Devon and Cornwall councils. It was due to be circulated for consultation in the New Year as part of the supplementary planning document development process. Once approved the Councils will receive contributions from development to support recreation impacts mitigation measures.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	NIO
	<p>4. Highly Protected Marine Areas</p> <p>Richard Benyon (MP) visited to Plymouth to collect evidence/opions as chairman of review into the viability of introducing a new category of Highly Protected Marine Areas (formally known as reference areas) which would be subject to minimal human impacts. There is an online call for evidence; deadline 31st October.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	All
	<p>5. Mayflower 400</p> <p>A lot of work going on developing plans for next year. A year of celebration will be launched with Illuminate 2019 at the end of November. A team of volunteers are being recruited to support the celebrations; Mayflower makers – there is an aspiration that some of the volunteers will focus on the marine events/enviroment. More detail should be available at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Action</u></p>	NIO
9. EMS matters	No representative from Natural England was present.	

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10. River Catchment Matters	No representative from the Environment Agency was present.	
11. QHM matters	<p>1a. QHM provided information on incidents, over the last 4 months, which stood at 31. Of these 10 were near-misses mainly due to a lack of awareness or rules and regs including several sailing yachts unaware of the requirement not to impede the Torpiunt ferry. The skippers of the vessel were either given a verbal warning by the MDP or a formal written warning from QHM.</p> <p>1b. Eight instances of non-compliance with the Port Order including 3 occurrences of swimming in prohibited areas. One serious incident at Mutton Cove involved a 13 yr girl who was swept upstream into the main channel by the strong tidal stream and was close to drowning. The current warning sign on the Pier was faded and unreadable. PCC Pier Master is installing new signs. Members were asked to report other places where warning signs were not adequate (see action 6b). <u>Action</u></p> <p>1c. QHM advised that the MAIB Report on FV Laura Jane capsized had been published. He also drew members attention to the MAIB Safety digest which summarised recent accidents and lessons identified, particularly referencing the fishing and leisure Sections. Both publications are available on the MAIB's website. https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/marine-accident-investigation-branch</p> <p>2. DQHM provided an update on the the maintenance dredging programme. A small campaign would be undertaken in November with the main annual dredge planned for March 2020.</p> <p>3. Dockyard Port Order – The new DPPO was undergoing final legal checks before going to the Privy Council in November and for enactment. A PLNTM will be issued once it comes in force highlighting the changes from the existing Port Order. <u>Action</u></p> <p>4. The Cattewater HM distributed a copy of a letter to UK Harbour Masters Association from the SoS for Transport concerning the lack of a national alcohol limit for recreational mariners. It states that an evidence base is required for new legislation and current accident statistics do not support the introduction of a national limit. Before the matter can be taken forward the government would need more evidence indicating alcohol as a causal factor in recreational accidents. In the meantime the the DfT is working with stakeholders on an educational campaign to raise awareness of the risks of alcohol and drugs when afloat.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>DQHM</p>

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12. Water events	<p>1. DQHM reported that the 2019 season was drawing to a close with the major events completed with no significant issues.</p> <p>2. The Water Events Diary for 2020 was being drafted. Mayflower 400 celebrations will see some additional events: Mayflower Ocean festival over the early May Bank holiday, incorporating OSTAR/2STAR start. No armed forces flying displays in 2020 instead there will be a Mayflower Military Muster 18 – 20 Sep .</p>		
13. Any other business	<p>1. Ms Haas commented that the Mayflower Autonomous Vessel project was progressing with construction of the hull underway.</p> <p>2. Cattewater Commissions circulated a draft Air Quality Strategy for comment. The report has to be approved by the DfT by the end of the year. DHM requested any feedback. <u>Action</u></p> <p>3. Cattewater HM reported that 2 Jet skiers were being prosecuted for speeding. The cases were due to be heard by the end of the year.</p>		All
14. Future Speakers	TBC		
15. Dates of next meetings	Dates of the forthcoming PPMLC and TECF meetings were published as follows:		
	<p><u>PPMLC</u> 1400 on 13 Feb 20 1400 on 11 June 20 1400 on 8 October 20</p>	<p><u>TECF</u> 1015 on 14 November 19 1015 on 12 March 20 1015 on 9 July 20</p>	

Annex:

A. NIO Report.

PPMLC Thurs 10 October 2019

9. TECF Matters: by Natural Infrastructure Officers

1) Strategic Planning

a) Proposal for National Marine Park

Plymouth Sound National Marine Park will aim to showcase to the world the unique and fantastic assets that Britain's Ocean City has to offer, including an estimated 1,000 different species of marine life, and help boost the economy, attract more visitors, enable funding for research, and range of other benefits.

UN Ocean Patron of the Oceans, Lewis Pugh, along with key stakeholders from across Britain's Ocean City signed the Declaration of Intent for Plymouth Sound National Marine Park on Friday 13 September and then on Saturday 14 September there was a public celebration event on Plymouth Hoe. With hundreds of attendees, the event featured live music, free activities, bouncy castles and free swimming sessions at Tinside Lido. There were also stalls hosting information on how members of the public can get involved in activities in, on and under the sea and a chance to experience the new 360 degree underwater filming which brings to life Plymouth Sound's rich and varied marine world through real life footage on Virtual Reality headsets.

This event also follows a series of successful 'Sea in the Park' events which have been taking place at parks across the city taking the ocean to children over the summer holidays to help local people learn more about some of the 1,000 different species living in Plymouth Sound. The event series has been delivered by Plymouth City Council, the Blue Marine Foundation and delivery partners the Marine Biological Association, with support from Plymouth City Bus who provided free travel tickets to children across the city to attend. This provides a good example of how much easier it is to work collaboratively when there is a common branded driver in place.

The next steps will be the co-design of the proposals in more detail through a series of workshops that will bring the key stakeholders together along with the shaping of a management plan, identification of a funding package and governance arrangements and confirmation of how the existing management arrangements sit within any proposals.

b) Marine Planning

The MMO had been working to a timetable which included having the Draft Plans for the South West Inshore and Offshore Plan Areas ready for consultation in November 2019.

This has now been delayed and consultation will now start in the new year with a consultation period of 12 weeks.

You will be notified when consultation starts.

c) Highly Protected Marine Areas – Call for evidence

As part of the UK government's commitment to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it, an independent review of Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs)

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highly-protected-marine-areas-hpmas-review-2019>) - which represent the upper end of environmental protection - was publicly launched on the 8 June 2019.

The 6 month review, led by ex-fisheries Minister Richard Benyon MP, has been asked to recommend whether and how HPMAs could be introduced within English inshore and off shore waters and Northern Irish offshore waters and if, supported by the evidence, recommend locations for pilot sites.

A four-week call for evidence closes on 31 October 2019. Comments are sought from communities, industry and stakeholders on introducing tougher measures to help stop the

impacts of human activity from damaging the marine environment. Views are also sought on which areas would benefit most from these extra protections.

Further information is available from the DEFRA website:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/marine/highly-protected-marine-areas-call-for-evidence/> .

The review panel visited Plymouth on 7 October 2019 and met with representatives from the marine sector including ports, fishing, science, environment and recreation.

They did receive comments that Wembury could be considered for a pilot HPMA.

2) Recreational Impacts arising from development 2019 onwards

The Recreational Mitigation and Management Scheme is being drafted to demonstrate how increasing recreational pressures will be managed as the area's population rises due to housing development. The scheme enables a housebuilder to make a monetary 'developer contribution' for the strategic mitigation of recreational pressures and covers the need for a range of activities including wardening, interpretation and awareness as well as looking at mooring impacts. It draws heavily from the evidence gathered during the recreation surveys carried out by MBA in 2016.

The ability to charge using planning obligations will be consulted on as part of the consultation on the Supplementary Planning Document for the area of Plymouth, South Hams and West Devon. Work is also being undertaken to ensure that Cornwall also adopts the same approach.

3) Mayflower 400 Update

Plans are taking shape for the Mayflower 400 celebrations which start this autumn with the Illuminate light show in November 2019 and will run through for 12 months with a spectacular programme of events.

As part of this the organisers are seeking to recruit Mayflower Makers, which are volunteers to support the programme of events. As part of this there will be opportunities for marine Mayflower Makers and more information will be provided at the February PPMLC meeting.

4) Water Users Leaflet

The season's print run has now been distributed. If you need any more ahead of next year, then please get in touch with coastal@plymouth.gov.uk

Also please let us have any further changes or updates ahead of next years reprint.

5) EMS Managing Recreational Impacts Project RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT

Biosecurity Plan: We continue to liaise with organisations working on non-native species in and around Plymouth Sound. The MBA have been looking at how to preserve samples of non-native species for a reference collection that can be loaned to groups for workshops or events. The MBA are asking for a financial contribution from the recreation project to support the development and maintenance of this resource.

The Wildlife Trust are organising a number of workshops in October, November and December under the RAPID Life 2 project. They are targeted towards anyone involved with managing or organising activities in freshwater/riparian and coastal/marine waters.

Advanced Mooring Systems (AMS) Project: Monitoring of the 5 moorings in Cawsands Bay continues with a further divers survey planned for the 17th October.

Josh Baker a Masters students at Plymouth University has been studying the recovery of the seagrass in Cawsands Bay after the installation of the AMS, for his dissertation. Josh studied the seagrass around the AMS, standard moorings and reference sites with no moorings. He presented his results to Natural England on the 2nd October. One conclusion is that the 'Change in % cover, number of *Z. marina* shoots and average leaf lengths were all greater at Advanced sites than at Standard sites He is hoping to publish his results in the near future.

Recreational angling: Stickers were designed for the angling waste bins with positive messaging and warnings as to what not to put into the bins. In September, later than anticipated due to a delay in printing the stickers, two angling waste bins have been installed at West Hoe pier and Elphinstone, as part of a pilot. It was encouraging to see that after only a few days the bins were being used at both sites. The bins are being emptied by PCC Street Services and we will be

working with them to monitor the amount of line being collected and suitable locations for the remaining six angling waste bins. Following the report on the accumulation of angling waste off Cove Head pier residents are not aware of any action to remove the waste. On a recent visit, an angler was observed casting into the trees to the south of the jetty. The line could not be freed so was cut leaving the hook and line in the trees which will be a hazard to wildlife.

Marine Litter – The trial of the Sea Bin installed at QAB has been completed. Liam Gibson has submitted his findings in a dissertation for his MSc. The Sea Bin was effective in removing certain items of litter, such as bio beads used in the filtration systems of sewage works, but often became overwhelmed by macroalgae especially after storms. Also due to our nutrient rich water the sea bin became heavily fouled increasing the weight on the pontoon it is attached to and decreasing the efficiency.

During the trial, Liam emptied the bin everyday. Now that his research has come to an end the demands on PCC and QAB staff means that the bin cannot be emptied regularly so it has been removed for the time being. We are working with Plymouth University to look at a possible alternative location and options for further research or using the Sea Bin as an educational tool.

COMMUNICATIONS

Newsletter: The quarterly e-newsletter was distributed in August with articles on: Coastsnap, Fastnet event, NE reef survey, Mount Batten opening, Ocean Conservation Trust and the Wembury Bioblitz. The next edition will be circulated in December/January. We welcome articles concerning the Plymouth Sound and Tamar Estuaries MPA or national initiatives relating to the marine environment or activities. Articles should be between 100 – 150 words with a couple of images. The deadline for the next edition is Monday 2nd December. Please send to coastal@plymouth.gov.uk.

Website: Updated when required. There are links to the minutes from both the PPMLC and TECF meeting minutes on the website/management.

Information Panels: The 5 panels put forward for have 2 have been installed at:: Mount Batten, North slip and floating pontoon entrance, Elphinstone, Strand Street and Clovelly Bay Slip, Turnchapel. Unfortunately the latter was removed by the residents of 2 Beach Cottages. All possible checks were made prior to installing the board but we were not made aware of the freehold of the slipway being owned by the residents in 2 Beach Cottages. Although the public can still access the slipway they thought the sign would draw attention to it.

Social Media – Regular tweets are sent via the @TamarEstuaries twitter account. The number of followers has risen to 594 followers.

6) ReMEDIES Project

ReMEDIES was given the 'green light' to proceed by LIFE (funders) and Natural England (the lead partner) in June. The official start date was the 15th July 2019 but to date the partnership agreement between NE and Commission has yet to be signed although all partners remain positive and work has begun on a number of elements. TECF/PCC are presently developing a plan for the work to be carried out within the MPA that aligns closely with the present Recreational Impacts Project tasks up to October 2020. The project is due for completion in July 2023 with a further 3 months for auditing and wrap-up.

7) DEVELOPMENTS

Pier Masters Office, Phoenix Wharf, Madeira Road (19/01338/FUL): Conversion of existing building into a restaurant with outdoor seating.

Kaja Curry (kaja.curry@plymouth.gov.uk) & Fiona Crouch (fiona.crouch@plymouth.gov.uk)

Natural Infrastructure Officers