



DUCHY of CORNWALL

BATH OFFICE

THE OLD RECTORY NEWTON ST LOE BATH BA2 9BU

31 December 2025

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
55 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HP

Dear Secretary of State,

Strategic compensation for offshore wind development and the Isles of Scilly

I am writing to confirm our intention to support the delivery of a predator reduction project on the Isles of Scilly to provide strategic compensation for offshore wind development.

The Isles of Scilly are a nationally and internationally important location for seabirds, particularly Manx shearwater, European storm petrel and Greater black-backed gull. Between 2013 – 2017, Phase 1 of the Seabird Recovery Project on the Isles of Scilly was successfully completed with the islands of St Agnes and Gugh declared rat free in early 2017. The project demonstrated that effective interventions such as the removal of brown rats can lead to significant recovery of seabird populations. Hence, predator reduction (focusing on rats) has been included in the Library of Strategic Compensation Measures available for developers to use within their derogation case as part of their development consent order.

In 2024, a feasibility study was conducted on the Isles of Scilly to test the viability of extending the rat eradication beyond St Agnes and Gugh. The report concluded that the eradication of rats from Bryher, Tresco, St Martin's and the uninhabited islands remain feasible. In 2025, a project was initiated to develop a fully costed implementation plan for predator eradication, funded by Defra. The scale of the total area to be covered (c. 800ha) makes this one of the most logistically challenging rat eradication projects attempted globally.

The Duchy of Cornwall is aware that the successful delivery of a predator reduction project on the Isles of Scilly will help unlock the pipeline of offshore wind development requiring strategic compensation as part of the development consent orders. Whilst we recognise the significant cost of implementing such a challenging predator reduction project across the islands, we consider that offering strategic compensation provides a viable proposition to fund, protect and safeguard these internationally important seabird populations, and other fauna and flora, across the Isles of Scilly.

The Duchy of Cornwall's single ownership of the archipelago plus our long-standing partnership with the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust means we are uniquely placed to deliver this project strategically, working alongside Defra, DESNZ and other stakeholders.

We are working closely with Defra and our partners to explore and facilitate the delivery of this project through the Marine Recovery Fund and for the benefit of seabirds on the Isles of Scilly and through this, support the consenting process for offshore wind farms.

We look forward to future engagement with relevant organisations as the Marine Recovery Fund is further developed.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Executive Director for Rural.


Executive Director for Rural

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