

## UK Project Management Round Up



*By Miles Shepherd*  
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### INTRODUCTION

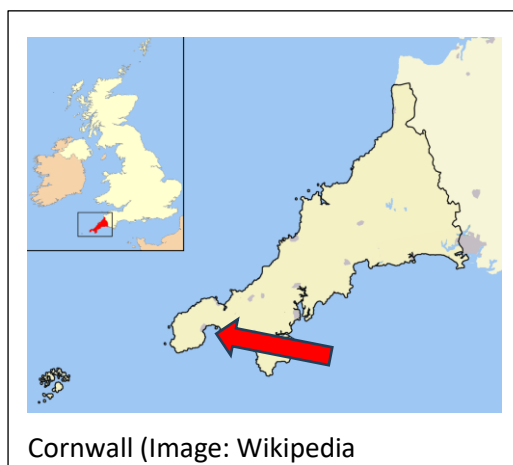
This is a very short report this month as I am in the field and have left my carefully garnered notes in the office while I am birding on the North Sea coast. I have the assistance of a local character – the famous Lincoln Imp (right), a close relative of various other Imps who support my work. This report mostly covers professional society news plus a bit of new project stuff.



Image: Piggot  
Sculpture

### GOOD NEWS

First up is news of a small wildlife recovery project on the Lizard peninsula in south Cornwall, arrowed in the image below, the



Cornwall (Image: Wikipedia)

project has received £350,000 in funding from Natural England. The scheme aims to help rare coastal lichens, wildflowers and butterflies across the Lizard National Nature Reserve. The conservation work is being headed up by the National Trust, which is burning heathland and cutting off firebreaks. **Seth Jackson**, National Trust project manager, said the new funding would help protect species and microhabitats, and link the whole landscape together. He said: "*Working closely with tenants, graziers and the local community will ensure a joined-up and long-term sustainable approach to habitat management. Here on the Lizard, despite the*

*wonderful landscape and the rich biodiversity it supports, we are not immune to the pressures that climate warming and habitat change bring, and many rare species are struggling*".

Natural England species recovery programme manager, **Karen Shelley-Jones**, added: "*We are delighted to be working with the National Trust on this project which epitomises what our species recovery programme is all about: delivering targeted bespoke action to reduce the risk of extinction for some of our most threatened and often overlooked species*".

## PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY NEWS

The two main Societies have extensive programmes of Branch meetings, or at least they did until APM abandoned Branches (see below). Project Management Institute (PMI) Aberdeen held a meeting on Tools and Techniques in April, while the Midlands and Derbyshire Branch have two sessions (I think) on Sustainability including a visit by Dr Karen Thompson on RPM in action.

APM Abandons Branches! It is not as drastic as it sounds as this is part of the rebranding the Association for Project Management began earlier in the year. Branches have become regional networks. All original branch names remain but new Leads and Deputy Leads to spearhead its Regional Network teams have been appointed. This is apparently in response to calls for APM to build greater accessibility and awareness of its volunteering activities. It is not immediately clear what benefit this brings to ordinary members but it is early days and the plan to deliver a range of localised activities to the profession will take time to evolve. The Leads have been recruited through a new selection process introduced as part of APM's broader volunteer strategy. More detail and the names of Leads and Deputies may be found at <https://www.apm.org.uk/news/apm-announces-local-regional-network-teams/>

Specific Interest Groups have also morphed into Interest Networks under the new volunteering structure, which apparently offers flexibility and greater opportunities for collaboration. For followers and volunteers of APM Interest Networks, this is made possible thanks to a new online space where Network Teams, Volunteers and Members can come together and discuss the latest developments in their specific areas of interest. While this may be a surprising new departure for some members, it will be nothing new to long term SIG members.

APM has also been busy of the research front. First, we have the release of an updated study of the contribution of the project profession to the UK's economy. The study, like its forebearer assesses this contribution by quantifying the value of the project profession. This updates the previous



findings in the context of global disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic, political uncertainty and increasing pressures to address climate change, to provide current insights and a means to inform discussions on the profession's future. Through robust methodologies, the report uncovers and highlights the role of project management including data analysis, surveys and expert interviews, in addressing evolving



challenges. Commissioned by APM and conducted by PwC Research, the 2024 study provides further and up to date insights into trends, growth sectors and challenges the profession faces. This research contributes to the ongoing discourse on the profession's future, reflecting its enduring importance to the UK economy.

Continuing the research theme, APM have also released the short list of candidates for the Research and Education Awards. This year APM received entries for eight categories that celebrate and showcase the best project professionals across academia, education and research. For the first time ever, the Education and Research Awards ceremony will be held in-person at the APM conference on Wednesday 5 June 2024. Finalists are listed [https://www.apm.org.uk/apm-conference/er-awards/?utm\\_source=dotdigital\\_email&utm\\_medium=email\\_launch&utm\\_campaign=ERawards2024\\_finalists&#finalists](https://www.apm.org.uk/apm-conference/er-awards/?utm_source=dotdigital_email&utm_medium=email_launch&utm_campaign=ERawards2024_finalists&#finalists)

## NEW CONTRACTS

In yet another sustainability project, my Green Imp tells me of a collaboration between BAE Systems and Cummins. They will work together on the integration and certification of a B hybrid-compatible diesel engine and hybrid electric drivetrain for the transit market, targeted for launch in 2027. The hybrid electric solution will continue to provide transit agencies with a proven and cost-effective technology that reduces fuel use and emissions.

In this effort, BAE Systems will supply its [electric drive](#) hardware to interface with the engine and form a full hybrid electric drivetrain, as well as provide engineering support and system integration expertise.

“Hybrid electric systems will remain an important technology for the bus market for years to come,” said **Rob Dykema**, director of North American Transit Accounts for Power & Propulsion Solutions at BAE Systems. “BAE Systems and Cummins have enjoyed many years of successful collaboration delivering this proven capability to the market, and this is another step forward as we sustain a range of clean, efficient solutions in transit. Hybrid electric buses facilitate workforce development for training on high-voltage systems and do not require investment in extensive charging infrastructure.

In addition, hybrid buses with BAE Systems’ electric drive systems allow for increased zero-emission capable solutions. This includes proven engine start and stop and geofencing technology, allowing a hybrid bus to automatically switch to full electric bus mode when entering designated green zones. Its electric propulsion technology is developed and serviced at its facilities in Endicott, New York and Rochester, U.K.

In a further news release, BAE announced that the Sixth Astute class submarine will be named Agamemnon.

BAE Systems-built **weather satellite** has been launched as part of U.S. Space Force environmental monitoring program. The satellite bridges critical gaps in current space-based environmental monitoring capabilities to advance military operations. BAE Systems [Weather System Follow-on – Microwave \(WSF-M\) satellite](#) was successfully launched from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California on 11 April. The U.S. Space Force’s Space Systems Command next-generation operational environmental satellite system will provide valuable data to help ensure the safety and success of warfighters as they carry out their missions around the world.

**Rolls-Royce** has announced a major contract with IndiGo which has agreed to order 60 Trent XWB engines. This is the first ever agreement for Rolls-Royce with this leading Indian airline. As part of the deal, the health and maintenance of the engines will be covered by Rolls-Royce’s comprehensive TotalCare service.



Rolls-Royce, **ASCO Carbon Dioxide Ltd** (ASCO), and **Landmark Power Holdings Limited** (LMPH), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at developing scalable solutions for clean power generation with carbon capture from MTU gas reciprocating engines. This strategic partnership will help enable power generation customers to achieve their net zero ambitions and marks a significant step towards addressing climate change.

Under this MoU, the firms will develop co-operation plans to develop solutions for clean power generation with carbon capture from gas reciprocating engines. This will allow captured CO<sub>2</sub> to be available for use in industries such as food, Efuels, sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), cement and plastic production. This will result in first of-its-kind flexible power generation and carbon capture plant currently under construction in Nottinghamshire, UK.

*“Power generation is a highly attractive, growing market segment and an area of strategic focus for Rolls-Royce, where partnerships can help further grow market position and broaden its power generation offering, as set out at last November’s Capital Markets Day”,* said **Tobias Ostermaier**, President Stationary Power Solutions at Rolls-Royce Power Systems.

## CLOSING REMARKS

I came across an interesting story about the politics of green energy. This story comes from Lancashire, in the North West of England where there was a plan to construct a wind turbine. This is not an unusual project except this one would be owned by the community in the Southport area. Southport is a seaside town much favoured for holidays.

Now, Sefton Council, which sponsored the turbine project, and has signed an exclusivity deal with a developer which has proposed building The Cove, a £75m surfing, hotel and spa attraction in Southport. As funding is tight, it now seems that plans for a larger turbine than the current one at the Southport Eco Centre cannot go ahead. The rationale is that Sefton Council said it needed to ensure the best value from its assets. Furthermore, a council representative added that it took environmental concerns into account when pursuing different projects.

According to reports on the BBC website, Southport Community Energy spokesman **Ed Gommon** said the company had spent two years developing the turbine using money from the government's now-discontinued rural community energy fund. Mr Gommon said the new turbine would have generated more than 2.5 million kWh of electricity and 25% of energy produced could have gone to the nearby Splashworld leisure venue, which would have "saved the council £40,000 per year". He added that he felt shelving the project was at odds with the council's declaration of a climate emergency in 2019.

The point here, for the Project World, is how do you evaluate the benefits of the competing projects?

## About the Author



### **Miles Shepherd**

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**Miles Shepherd** is an executive editorial advisor and international correspondent for PM World Journal in the United Kingdom. He is also managing director for MS Projects Ltd, a consulting company supporting various UK and overseas Government agencies, nuclear industry organisations and other businesses. Miles has over 30 years' experience on a variety of projects in UK, Eastern Europe and Russia. His PM experience includes defence, major IT projects, decommissioning of nuclear reactors, nuclear security, rail and business projects for the UK Government and EU. His consulting work has taken him to Japan, Taiwan, USA and Russia. Past Chair and Fellow of the Association for Project Management (APM), Miles is also past president and chair and a Fellow of the International Project Management Association (IPMA). He was, for seven years, a Director for PMI's Global Accreditation Centre and is immediate past Chair of the ISO committee developing new international standards for Project Management and for Program/Portfolio Management. He is currently Chairman of the British Standards Institute project management committee. He was involved in setting up APM's team developing guidelines for project management oversight and governance. Miles is based in Salisbury, England and can be contacted at [miles.shepherd@msp-ltd.co.uk](mailto:miles.shepherd@msp-ltd.co.uk).