

# The Magic of Mull

Naturetrek Tour Report

17th – 23rd June 2025

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White-tailed Eagle by Peter Bellew



Common Dolphins by Peter Bellew



Puffin with Sand Eels by Greg Smith



Fallow Deer by Greg Smith

Tour report by Greg Smith



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Tour participants: Greg Smith (leader) with seven Naturetrek clients

## Summary

Greg was joined by seven clients for a week of 'wildlife in wild places' on the delightful Isle of Mull. Ninety species of bird were seen, including a stunning pair of Golden Eagles, and regular White-tailed Eagles, Hen Harriers and Short-eared Owls. Two boat trips gave us stunning views of Minke Whales and hundreds of Common Dolphins, as well as all the local seabird specialities such as Puffins and Manx Shearwaters. Otters, seals and Red Deer were regularly seen, and if you add to them geology, landforms and archaeology (not to mention some decent weather), we enjoyed the perfect Hebridean adventure.

## Day 1

## Tuesday 17th June

Eight of us met at Paisley Railway Station and Glasgow Airport and quickly headed north over the Erskine Bridge. At the appropriately named Duck Bay on Loch Lomond, we stopped for introductions and a discussion about the week ahead. A neat female Goosander on the loch provided a useful point of reference for the Red-breasted Mergansers we were to see later in the week. Greg, our guide for the week, pointed out that, despite the impressive views, we weren't yet in true Highland country, as there were Carrion Crows around us, rather than the charismatic Hooded Crows of the wilder corners of Scotland.

Greg also showed us the phototropic Ivy-leaved Toadflax growing on a wall. He explained that the flower stalks are 'photophilic' (or light-loving) when in flower (projecting the flowers onto the outward-facing side of the plant in search of pollinating insects) but, when fertilised, they become 'photophobic' (or light-hating, projecting the seedpods onto the inward-facing side of the plant in search of cracks in the wall in which the developing seeds can lodge).

We were soon back on the road again and, before long, were driving into Oban, in good time for our ferry. Our bird list for the trip continued to tick over with a Sparrowhawk over the town and a Black Guillemot in the harbour near Dunollie. On board the ferry, and out beyond the protection of Kerrera, the westerly wind picked up and the number of watchers on the open deck was gradually whittled down to a hardy few, watching Gannets, Common Guillemots and Kittiwakes, as well as Common and Arctic Terns.

As we arrived at Craignure, two scaly-brown female Eiders in the bay, with no black and white males anywhere to be seen, triggered a discussion on sexual dimorphism and the gendered roles played by male and female ducks during the breeding season.

As we drove along Glen More, a Buzzard and our first Hen Harrier of the trip were seen from the van. We stopped, not for the last time, at the Three Lochs viewpoint (or "Two-and-a-bit Lochs" as the shorter members of the party called it!), where another Hen Harrier flew over, and then a rapidly-disappearing Peregrine. From here, we drove down to our hotel at Pennyghael to check in and sit down to a lovely and well-deserved meal. An early night was in order, as we looked forward eagerly to the week ahead.

## Day 2

## Wednesday 18th June

We were joined for breakfast by two early morning Otters right outside our hotel window: a promising start to the day. We drove down to Ardanish on the south side of the Ross of Mull, where we walked through the machair

to the beach. As we did so, a female Cuckoo perched up on a fence and then flew down into the meadow beside us, where it stayed for some time as we watched it. We also enjoyed a pair of red-flushed Linnets and a pair of 'swee-chacking' Stonechats on the same bit of fence.

The top of the beach was yellow with flowering Sea Radish; and the abundant Marram Grass gave Greg the chance to explain its role as an ecosystem engineer. As we walked along the beach, we nearly trod on a Ringed Plover's nest, perfectly camouflaged in plain sight among the pebbles. We quickly moved on to let the discreet parent return to its duties. We crossed back over the machair, where Early and Northern Marsh Orchids were flowering among a riot of other species, to visit a standing stone and natural cave. Legend has it that a newly arrived Baptist minister used this cave as both family home and church for many years. One can only hope that his congregation was small and that there were fewer sheep using it as a latrine back then!

We returned to the beach, where we were impressed by the dozen different varieties of seaweed washed up on the strand line, and by the shimmering, crumbly layers of schist rock forming a small headland. Soon, the promise of coffee at the weavers' shed drew us up the lane, where a large quarry in raised beach gravels had created perfect conditions for a Sand Martin colony. Some of us went to collect the minibuses, while others stayed to finish their coffee and to purchase woven wares. The minibus group were rewarded by the sight of a majestic juvenile White-tailed Eagle.

We drove up to Bunessan where the Spar shop furnished us with the wherewithal for a traditional Naturetrek communal picnic at the back of the minibus as rain threatened. We drove back past our hotel in the rain and on around Loch Scridain, and then on to Loch na Keal. Here, above the high cliffs, a boisterous party of Ravens was being harried by a tiny, whiplash Merlin. We then spent a while trying to locate a Golden Eagle nest in the downpour, while a consoling Song Thrush sang his heart out to us from a nearby boulder. These eagles were playing hard to get, so we drove on to Fishnish, where an adult White-tailed Eagle was rather more obliging, flying in and perching up in a tall spruce in front of our hide.

## Day 3

Thursday 19th June

The forecast for today was better, which was lucky given that we were aiming to spend much of it on a boat. Our first stop was up on the tops in Glen More, where we soon latched on to a Short-eared Owl quartering the hillside above us. Some lovely silhouette views made its owliness unmistakable, though the detail of its plumage had to be left for another day.

We had a brief stop in Craignure for looses and the sandwich shop, which gave us a wheezily singing Greenfinch to add to the list. From here we drove on to Ulva Ferry, where our boat was waiting. A couple of Shags watched from the buoys as we headed out into Loch na Keal. Small groups of bouncy Arctic Terns joined us briefly, and the occasional distant Gannet looked set to plunge, though none of them actually did.

Staffa was our first port of call, and the crew were genuinely excited that, after nine months of repair work by the National Trust for Scotland, today was the first day that the island was open to visitors. The improved quayside made getting ashore easier, but the ascent up the sheer cliff on winding ancient steps and rusting ladders was still a challenge; apparently that is for next winter's work programme.

While one of the group high-tailed it along to Fingal's Cave, the rest of us ascended the cliff, marvelling at the grandeur of the vast basalt columns in their great variety of poses. We sat on the soft springy vegetation and had

our lunch. A migrant Painted Lady flew around the cliff top and a Snipe drummed spookily overhead. A couple of Orchid Beetles joined us for lunch; and, though we'd not seen an orchid, there was plenty of yellow-flowered Tormential and Bird's-foot Trefoil on display.

Back on the boat, after a false start in which a late-returning couple (from another group, I hasten to add!) had to beckon the departing boat to come back for them, we headed north to the Treshnish Isles. We were soon ashore again, this time on the remarkable Lunga. We clambered across lava flows and a boulder beach to the green sward where we took stock. A party of Eider mothers with their ducklings in tow made a pleasant distraction, and a Rock Pipit was singing, using the low cliffs to magnify his song noisily. But best of all was a Corncrake rasping repeatedly from the tall vegetation nearby. Needless to say, we were unable to locate it visually, but it was great to know that this Hebridean speciality was there.

Our first ascent brought us to the Puffin platform, where hundreds of smartly-attired Puffins stood around, entirely unfazed by our presence; indeed, the evidence from Staffa this year (as in the Covid year) was that the enforced absence of people appears to have resulted in fewer occupied burrows. The theory is that the presence of people in the vicinity of the Puffin nests acts as a deterrent to predators, which are more scared of us than the Puffins are; this is a compelling hypothesis as to why the Puffins appear so relaxed with humans (often armed with vast cameras) only a few feet away from them. Occasionally a Puffin with a beak full of Sand Eels would fly in and run anxiously straight down its burrow, aware of the watchful presence of skuas and gulls all around, and reluctant to test the hypothesis!

Bonxies (Great Skuas), Arctic Skuas, and the four larger gulls (Common, Herring, and Lesser and Great Black-backed), were all definitely on the prowl in hope of a meal. And it wasn't just the Puffins they were after, as the latter shared their clifftop home with Razorbills, Shags and Fulmars.

Further along the cliffs, some 10,000 Guillemots were screeching and jostling on the precipitous slopes of a vast sea stack. They were so tightly packed that fights regularly broke out between neighbours, many of whom were looking after a young blob of feathers, recently hatched from their single eggs. Meanwhile, below the cacophony and adding to it, hundreds of Kittiwakes shrieked their names at each other. And it wasn't just our ears which were being assaulted by the birds: our noses were too, as the rich, fishy smell of rank seabird guano hung in the air. At one point a Great Black-backed Gull landed among a party of Puffins further down the clifftop from the path. The Puffins there scattered in order to give it space, watching suspiciously from a safe distance. We noticed that several birds flying in took last minute evasive action to avoid becoming dinner for this immense predator. Thankfully, none did on our watch.

As we followed the path back towards the waiting boat, we admired the snake-like scaly back of a Shag at its nest: perfection! A pair of Twites, streaky and twittery, were feeding on the seeds of a Common Sorrel plant beside the path. Above our heads two Swifts (uncommon up here in the Hebrides) had our guide eagerly snapping away with his camera to check if they were of an even more interesting species: reader, they weren't!

No one was left behind this time as we reboarded the boat and powered back towards Ulva Ferry along Loch Tuath. We reflected on the spectacle and privilege of our visit to Lunga.

In the minibus, Greg pointed out the poisonous umbellifer growing abundantly at the top of most of the beaches on the sea lochs on Mull: Hemlock Water Dropwort. Its celery-like stems make it one of the most dangerous plants in Britain for the inexperienced forager. We took a brief break to check out a known White-tailed Eagle roost, and

sure enough, there it was, a magnificent adult bird perched on the edge of a plantation looking out over the loch tyrannically as if to say: “This is mine, all mine!”

Our day ended with a lovely meal at the hotel and much discussion about the amazing wildlife experience we had enjoyed today. Bizarrely, a door left open on the hotel corridor gave us our first amphibian of the trip in the form of a plump Common Toad.

## Day 4

## Friday 20th June

Heatwave! The sky was overcast at first, but that soon cleared and then it was really sunny; when the clouds returned later it became positively sweltering. We spent today in the Lochbuie area, where we enjoyed a variety of Mull habitats, including glimpses of the exceptionally rich oak woodland of the Atlantic/Celtic rainforest.

We drove along the shores of Loch Spelve, where a lovely summer-plumage Great Northern Diver caused us to stop sharply. It was close to the shore and held itself low in the water; it scooted away and then in two long dives was halfway across the loch. Having stopped, we got out of the van and had a look at the lovely *Molinia/Myrica* wet heath. Here were pairs of closely-related species: the white blobs of Hare’s-tail and Common Cottongrasses; the insect-eating Common and Pale Butterworts; and the Marsh and Spear Thistles, whose different life strategies belie their close relationships. The yellow spikes of Bog Asphodel illustrated the importance of understanding the difference between correlation and causality. The plant used to be known to country folk as ‘bone-breaker’ (reflected in its specific epithet ‘*ossifragum*’), on account of the propensity of livestock grazing on it to suffer broken bones, when in practice it was the plant’s tendency to grow in low calcium soils that explains this observation. A fast-moving Staphylinid rove beetle and a fluttering Small Heath butterfly were good to find, as were the Heath Spotted Orchids, whose flowers lived up to their billing as ‘shark’s teeth in voluminous crinolines’!

Then we carried on down to Lochbuie, along the Rhododendron-lined lane, and walked along the seafront with Redpolls “jit-jit-jit”-ing above our heads. At the old castle (Castle Moy, the ancestral home of Clan Maclaine of Lochbuie), a pair of Tree Pipits were calling insistently and distinctively from an old Alder; this was quite a feat given the mass of insects they were each carrying in their bills. For the first time all week, we could see the tops of the hills around us, so we were keeping half an eye on them, while we were looking for things closer by.

We lunched at the Old Post Office café, where we enjoyed really great service, food and company. While we were sat there, three Red-throated Divers appeared, way out in the loch, their distinctive upturned bills clearly visible through the scope. The warm southerly breeze had brought in some migrant butterflies with lots of showy Red Admirals flying around, and then a couple of fast-moving Painted Ladies.

After lunch, we took a short walk across the fields to view the only stone circle on Mull. On the way, a party of Fallow Deer was keeping the Highland Cows and Roan Shorthorns company, while in the wetter patches of moor there was plenty of Sphagnum moss, which triggered a conversation about the key contribution the improved management of peat bogs could make in Scotland’s efforts to tackle the climate crisis.

As we drove back along Loch Spelve, an eagle-eyed passenger spotted a pair of raptors just above the ridge. We stopped to check them out and, to our delight, they revealed themselves to be a pair of Golden Eagles. For a couple of minutes, they wheeled round together, throwing some classic Goldie shapes. We dragged ourselves away, and stopped again in Glen More in the direction in which the pair had drifted off, hoping to relocate them. We were disappointed in our quest, but a Short-eared Owl quartering the hillside was some compensation.

Back at the hotel we enjoyed an early dinner and then headed out again in hope of some early evening raptor action. Four female Hen Harriers put on a show for us (where were the males?) while Curlews bubbled overhead and Reed Buntings sang in the marsh; a sun-dog, a blob of prismatic rainbow close to the low sun, was a striking and diverting natural phenomenon. As we drove home, we spotted a Snipe on a fence post right beside the road. It stood there obligingly while cameras and phones were readied, the doors of the van were opened and photographs aplenty were snapped.

Two minutes further on, there was a cry of “Otter!” and, as we watched from the stationary van, a mother and cub slipped out of the sea, onto the seaweedy rocks, and proceeded to snuggle up together. It was a wonderful thing to see. We parked up and watched them for a while, but the light was fading and only one of the group’s pairs of binoculars could cope with the conditions. The Swarovskis light-gathering capability in that low light was quite something! Overwhelmed by a day, having had such great views of Golden Eagles and Otters, we floated back to the hotel feeling very happy!

## Day 5

## Saturday 21st June

An early start was required today to get us to Tobermory for our ‘wildlife explorer’ boat trip. We got away on time and were soon driving back across the island again. The weather was warm and still, but quite overcast. We made Tobermory in good time, allowing us to buy coffees for now and sandwiches for our lunch on the boat. The boat seemed busy, but it turned out that many of the travellers were volunteer spotters whose role it was to help us see the wildlife; among them was an attentive German Shepherd whose acute hearing (his proud owner explained) enabled him to alert her when dolphins were approaching!

After some impressive recent sightings in the Sound of Mull, the initial absence of marine life activity made our guide a little apprehensive about the prospects for the trip. Perhaps this explains his excitement at the two Black-headed Gulls that we passed near Ardmore Point, our first of the week. He really needn’t have worried!

Out past Ardnamurchan Lighthouse, first one and then a second Minke Whale were spotted, one of which, unusually for a Minke, blew quite a spout into the air. These were soon followed by a small pod of thirty or so Common Dolphins, which sprinted over to the boat and began bow-riding and occasionally leaping clear of the water. The number of seabirds up to this point had been limited to the occasional Gannet and Common Guillemot, but now Manx Shearwaters began to gather in huge numbers around the boat. Further calls of “Minke Whale!” from all sides left us not knowing where to look.

It was instructive watching the different types of roll that the whales made: usually they barely broke the surface with their backs and briefly showed their dorsal fins, but occasionally they would arch their backs higher out of the water, proudly showing off their dorsal fins before making a deeper dive. Here and there, we noticed one or two very young whales among the group: these would have been born much further south in warmer seas.

On one occasion, a huge Minke Whale surfaced very close to us and then proceeded to hang just below the surface right alongside the boat. The water was temporarily stilled by the downward pressure of its tail, leaving a weird flatness above the mighty beast (whale-watchers call this its ‘fluke print’). Through the crystal-clear water, we could vividly see the white on its underside and on its front flippers. After a moment, the whale turned and swam directly under the boat and away. We felt no danger, just exhilaration! The only risk to the boat was from the crowd of observers suddenly rushing from one side to the other.

There must have been seven or eight individual whales, maybe more, and they stayed around us feeding busily. For an hour, we enjoyed this spectacle: frequent rolling whales, numerous dolphins and a sea full of shearwaters. There were also a few Storm Petrels sighted by the spotters, though none of our group was able to latch onto one.

As the action quietened a little, our skipper decided to head further west towards the Cairns of Coll. Here a much larger pod of Common Dolphins appeared, and proceeded to entertain the watchers with an Olympian display of gymnastics: high jumps, sprints, synchronised swimming, Fosbury flops and tail-walking. The rapt observers sounded like a crowd at a fireworks display with “oohs” and “aahs” aplenty. After a while some of the dolphins seemed to tire of all the action and paused to float at the surface (“logging”). We were still surrounded by dolphins when the skipper decided that we needed to make a move for home. What a day and what an experience, enhanced (if that were possible) by the absence of any other boats in the vicinity: just us and the wildlife.

Just outside Tobermory Harbour, a solitary Red-throated Diver flew across the prow of the boat and a family group of Ravens tumbled out to welcome us in. Back on dry land, some of the group chose to explore the town of Tobermory and purchase gifts and mementoes, while others took a walk up into Aros Park. Here, we delighted in the presence of mature Wych Elm trees, some sporting the bromeliad-like Great Wood-rush as epiphytes, giving credence to the concept of this Atlantic fringe habitat being a form of temperate rainforest.

The group reformed and we took a short walk to see the tumbling waterfalls in Aros Park, swollen by the recent rain, where a couple of Scotland’s notorious invasive aliens were in evidence: the huge marsh-clogging leaves of American Skunk Cabbage and an ericaceous shrub, Shalloon. Our guide told us, with unseemly pride, “It has a *Gaultheria* motive for being here!” - some sort of botanical joke apparently. He made up for it by pointing out two rather different-looking but closely-related grasses growing in close proximity: Wavy and Tufted Hair-grass. These was an odd pair of names, as it seemed to us that both plants were “wavy”, and both “tufted”. The more obvious difference was the latter’s razor-like leaf blades. The trip home once again gave us nice views of Red Deer, on this occasion a small gathering of hinds, close to the road.

## Day 6

## Sunday 22nd June

Our final full day on Mull started cool, wet and blowy. Given how much we had managed to see during the week, we decided to use the day to try to get more decent views of Otters, and to explore the north of the island, where we had not yet ventured. Our first stop was Ardura, where several Red Deer stags were once again grazing in local pastures. From here the drive through Ardura Forest gave us calling Coal Tits, surprisingly our first of the week. Even more surprising was the fact that the two Red-breasted Mergansers on the road out to Croggan were also our first.

We soon connected with our target species, in the form of an Otter feeding close in along the shore (it was more or less low water), and then climbing onto the rocks. We watched it from the van in driving rain, while two enthusiastic photographers from a neighbouring vehicle demonstrated the dubious art of Otter-dodging, that is: running along the shore when the animal was under the water before dropping to the floor as it surfaced. I confess the Otter seemed entirely untroubled by these antics, but the size of their lenses should have allowed a more distant approach. The Otter’s visibility from the minibus meant we had excellent views of it; we were only inhibited by the rain on the windows.

Half a mile further on we had a second encounter, this time with a larger dog Otter. He too was busy working the shoreline. After offering us great views for no short time, he headed up across the rocky shoreline towards us and crossed the road some twenty metres away, before disappearing into the trees: a quite wonderful few minutes.

We hit the road (stopping briefly for loos) and then went to the hide at Fishnish, where the resident White-tailed Eagle was in situ, in the same tree we had seen it fly into on the second day of our trip. It looked pretty saturated in the driving rain, but still managed an air of superiority as it scanned around, regally turning its head (and huge bill) this way and that.

Suddenly someone spotted *another* Otter (our eighth of the trip) as it padded over the seaweed-covered rocks and into the water in the bay, right in front of us. Our guide was getting increasingly anxious about the 12.30pm lunchtime booking he had made for us in a local café as the Otter hunted busily through the seaweed, occasionally peering out from under it like a bewigged puppy, and then stepping purposefully out onto the rocks again to munch a morsel or have a shake before returning once more to the sea. Having secured a slightly later arrival time at the café, for whom 'delayed by Otter' was a perfectly reasonable excuse, we were given a few more minutes to enjoy this particular beast before he slipped away around the corner and out of sight. Wow!

We were all in rhapsodies over lunch at the Glen Forsa cafe (as much for the food as for the fresh memories of the morning). The sun came out from behind the many dark clouds while we were here. We drove on to Tobermory and then Loch Torr, where a Great Black-backed Gull was doing a good impression of an eagle as it tucked into the recently-dead corpse of a sheep on the hillside. Two Buzzards flying above the distant ridge had a couple of holiday-makers wondering if they had found their first eagles. We reluctantly disabused them. "We've all done it, but you'll know when you do see one!" we reassured them.

We stopped at the hill above Dervaig, where the view was spectacular, and two prehistoric standing stones nearby prompted a discussion. From here we drove the long way back to our hotel via Calgary Bay, Treshnish Point and Ulva Ferry. Again, the temperate rain forest (on this occasion in the form of stunted and wind-sculpted Pedunculate Oaks and Hazels) was a joy to behold.

Our final stop of the day was to observe a pair of Buzzards at close quarters; the size difference between the two birds was striking (another example of the sexual dimorphism we had observed with the Eiders on our first day). One of the Buzzards, the smaller male, perched attentively in a tree, its body parallel with the branch and its long legs and feet clearly visible. A BTO ring on one leg suggested that it had been ringed as a nestling. Meanwhile, the much larger female flew above him.

Over dinner that evening, we talked about the week and what a great success it had been: each successive day had produced ever more impressive natural spectacles, the memories of which would stay with us for a long time. We all agreed that we had fallen in love with Mull.

## Day 7

## Monday 23rd June

This was our last day of our trip, and again it proved blowy and cloudy. We packed the van and agreed to take a brief diversion via Grasspoint, along the south-eastern shore of Mull, on our way to the ferry. But first came our routine stop at the top of Glen More to check for raptors. It was all a bit wild and windy for them, so Greg took the opportunity to show us the distinguishing features of Purple Moor Grass (bright yellow-green leaves, plenty of dead leaves forming a thatch in the thick tussock and a hairy ligule at the junction of leaf and stem); though much



maligned by conservationists and land managers for its thuggish tendencies, this grass is the food plant of two of Mull's rarest butterflies: the Scotch Argus and the Chequered Skipper.

At Grasspoint we headed up to the view point (despite the muddy conditions underfoot). The dark-green leaves of Devil's-bit Scabious, with their distinctive pale midribs, were showing well; this is the food plant for another local speciality butterfly, the Marsh Fritillary. There were plenty of Heath Spotted Orchids, in a range of colours from pure white to deep pink.

We didn't manage to see any of the hoped-for butterflies, though a couple of new moths made up for it, including the fluttering, black Chimney Sweeper, with its larval food plant Pignut much in evidence, and a Silver Y, a very active day-flying migrant which had probably arrived with the Red Admirals we'd seen earlier in the week. From the top of the cliffs, we could see Kerrera, and numerous Gannets congregating in the Firth of Lorne.

ater, while we were viewing from the top deck of the ferry, a couple of Harbour Porpoises passed us by with an undemonstrative roll, lacking the *joie de vivre* of their cousins the dolphins. Three terns (like miniature Gannets as they plunged to the surface) were left to the group to identify and our guide was proud when the conclusion was that they were Common Terns, on account of their heavy flight and lack of 'bounce'.

The actual Gannets were still in evidence further out, as were a few Common Guillemots and Manx Shearwaters. As we came into Oban harbour, a Black Guillemot sped past the boat, showing off his white wing blazes and red feet, and a party of Harbour Seals lolled on the shore, surely only days away from pupping.

The drive back to Glasgow via Tyndrum and Loch Lomond was wet and misty but, nevertheless, much of the discussion involved folk sharing their plans for a return trip to Mull.

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## Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

I=Introduced		June 2025						
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Canada Goose - I	<i>Branta canadensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓				✓	✓	
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓					✓	
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	✓		✓	✓			
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	✓						
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>						✓	
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>				✓			
Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>			✓				
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		✓		✓			
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓		✓		
Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia domestica</i>	✓						
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓		✓			
Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>			H				
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		✓		✓			
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓
Eurasian Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	✓						
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		✓		✓			✓
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				✓		✓	
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	✓		✓		✓		
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>					✓		
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			✓				
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>			✓				
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>			✓		✓		
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	✓		✓				✓
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>			✓		✓		
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>	✓		✓		✓		✓
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>				✓	✓		
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>				✓			
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			✓				
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>			✓		✓		✓
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	✓	✓	✓			✓	
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

I=Introduced		June 2025						
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>				✓			
Eurasian Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	✓						
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	✓			✓			
White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>			✓	✓			
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		✓					
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	✓						
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>							✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Coal Tit	<i>Parus ater</i>						✓	
Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	✓			✓		✓	
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓		✓		✓	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>				✓	✓		
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>		✓					
Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				H			
Common Whitethroat	<i>Curruca communis</i>							H
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>						✓	
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>		✓					
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				✓			
European Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>			✓	✓			
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>				✓		✓	✓
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>			✓				
Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>			✓				
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓					
Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>				✓			✓
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>				✓	✓	✓	
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>			✓	✓			✓

## Mammals

		June 2025						
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	✓		✓				
Common Dolphin	<i>Delphinus delphis</i>					✓		
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>							✓
Common Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>					✓		
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>				✓			
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>			✓				
Harbour (Common) Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>				✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>		✓		✓		✓	

## Amphibians

		June 2025						
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>			✓				
Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>				✓			

## Butterflies

		June 2025						
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Common Blue (butterfly)	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>			✓				
Painted Lady	<i>Vanessa cardui</i>			✓	✓			
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>				✓	✓		
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>		✓					
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>				✓	✓		

## Moths

		June 2025						
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
L=larva								
Garden Grass Veneer	<i>Chrysoteuchia culmella</i>				✓			
Chimney Sweeper	<i>Odezia atrata</i>							✓
Double-striped Pug	<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>		✓					
Common Heath	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>				✓			
Silver Y	<i>Autographa gamma</i>							✓
Broom Moth	<i>Ceramica pisi</i>		L					

## Other invertebrates

		June 2025						
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>Beetles</b>								
Orchid Beetle	<i>Dascillus cervinus</i>			✓				
a rove beetle	<i>Staphylinus erythropterus</i>				✓			
<b>Bees</b>								
Common Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>				✓			

		June 2025						
Common name	Scientific name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<b>Molluscs</b>								
Brown Garden Snail	<i>Cornu aspersum</i>		✓					

## Plants

		June 2025						
Scientific name	Common name	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Angelica sylvestris	Wild Angelica			✓				
Anthyllis vulneraria	Kidney Vetch		✓					
Atriplex glabriuscula	Babington's Orache		✓					
Blechnum spicant	Hard Fern					✓		
Cakile maritima	Sea Rocket		✓					
Catabrosa aquatica	Whorl Grass		✓					
Conopodium majus	Pignut							✓
Corylus avellana	Hazel						✓	
Cymbalaria muralis	Ivy-leaved Toadflax	✓						
Dactylorhiza fuchsii	Common Spotted Orchid		✓					
Dactylorhiza incarnata	Early Marsh Orchid		✓					
Dactylorhiza maculata	Heath Spotted Orchid				✓			✓
Dactylorhiza majalis	Northern Marsh Orchid		✓					
Daucus carota	Wild Carrot		✓					
Deschampsia caespitosa	Tufted Hair-grass					✓		
Deschampsia flexuosa	Wavy Hair-grass					✓		
Drosera intermedia	Oblong-leaved Sundew				✓			
Drosera rotundifolia	Round-leaved Sundew				✓			
Euphrasia nemorosa	Common Eyebright		✓					
Fomes fomentarius	Hoof Fungus				✓			
Galium odoratum	Sweet Woodruff					✓		
Gaultheria shallon	Shallon - I					✓		
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell			✓				
Leptospermum scoparium	New Zealand Tea Tree - I					✓		
Ligusticum scoticum	Scot's Lovage			✓				
Lotus corniculatus	Bird's-foot Trefoil							
Luzula sylvatica	Great Wood-rush					✓		
Lysichiton americanus	American Skunk Cabbage - I					✓		
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow Pimpernel					✓		
Melampyrum pratense	Common Cow-wheat					✓		
Molinia purpurea	Purple Moor-grass				✓			
Myrica gale	Bog Myrtle				✓			
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog Asphodel				✓			
Oenanthe crocata	Hemlock Water-Dropwort			✓				
Pinguicula lusitanica	Pale Butterwort				✓			
Pinguicula vulgaris	Common Butterwort				✓			
Polygala vulgaris	Common Milkwort		✓					
Polygonum oxyspermum	Ray's Knotgrass		✓					
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil			✓				
Primula vulgaris	Primrose			✓				
Quercus robur	Pedunculate Oak						✓	
Raphanus maritima	Sea Radish		✓					

Scientific name	Common name	June 2025						
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Common Yellow-rattle		✓					
<i>Rhodiola rosea</i>	Roseroot			✓				
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Sea Campion			✓				
<i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>	Drowned Kittens Moss				✓			
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious							✓
<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	Lesser Meadow-rue		✓					
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm					✓		
<i>Zostera marina</i>	Common Eelgrass		✓					

## Seaweeds

Scientific name	Common name	June 2025						
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<i>Codium fragile</i>	Dead Man's Fingers		✓					
<i>Laminaria digitata</i>	Oarweed		✓					
<i>Laminaria hyperborea</i>	Cuvie		✓					
<i>Saccorhiza polyschides</i>	Furbelows		✓					
<i>Saccharina latissimi</i>	Sugar Belt		✓					
<i>Fucus vesiculosus</i>	Bladder Wrack		✓					
<i>Ascophylum nodosum</i>	Egg Wrack		✓					
<i>Fucus spiralis</i>	Spiral Wrack		✓					
<i>Chorda filum</i>	Dead Man's Ropes		✓					
<i>Enteromorpha intestinalis</i>	Gutweed		✓					