

Scotland - The Isle of Coll

Naturetrek Tour Report

16th – 22nd May 2026



Red-throated Diver



Short-necked Oil Beetle



Cuckoo



The wreck of the *Harmonie*

Tour report by Greg Smith



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Day 1

Saturday 16th May

We had an early morning start on the ferry from Oban, and soon had our first geology lesson, comparing the character and landform of the various islands around us, each underlain by a different rock type: basalt lavas and limestones, conglomerate sandstone and ancient gneisses. To the north, we saw the scar of the vast Glensanda quarry, and to the south the delicate shape of the last ocean-going paddle steamer, The Waverley, at anchor off Craignure on Mull. The wildlife was quiet: just the odd Gannet on a fishing trip far from home and a mix of Common and Arctic Terns, enabling some early comparisons to be made, but the view was delightful. The sea was eerily calm and still, the mackerel sky was exotically colourful, and dark brooding hills were all around. The breeze was penetratingly cold for the time of year and soon drove us downstairs for breakfast.

As the ship passed Ardnamurchan, we ventured back up onto deck. A distant Minke Whale was difficult to latch onto, but the Small Isles to the north, in front of Skye, and the Treshnish Islands to the south, in front of the Ross of Mull and the Paps of distant Jura, were much more visible. Occasional Puffins, Kittiwakes and Manx Shearwaters flew alongside the boat and, as we arrived into the harbour on Coll, three Great Northern Divers were feeding in the bay.

Up at An Cridhe, the community centre and the heart of the island community, wedding preparations were in full swing, so the regular local produce market had been cancelled. Not disheartened, we took a stroll around the village to orientate ourselves. The songs of Sedge Warbler, Redpoll and Cuckoo accompanied us on our walk, but the highlight was a field full of Lapwing chicks, guarded by watchful parents which took to the air aggressively whenever a Hooded Crow or Herring Gull ventured too near.

A fat and hairy Drinker moth caterpillar gave us an indication as to what the Cuckoos would be eating, while a forest of flowering Butterworts revealed the secrets of the last couple of weeks' weather up here: dry, dry, dry! The drought was driving these bog plants to flower while they still had life in them.

A lovely bank of Bluebells, Wood Sage and Wood Sorrel, bereft of trees, told us that this part of the island, at least, might once have been wooded. We were invited to nibble on the young, surprisingly lemon-flavoured leaves of the Wood Sorrel, a popular target for foragers.

We checked in to our lovely guest house and were soon whisked away to the Urchin Cafe where we had lunch. After lunch we headed west, leaving behind the Eiders and Red-breasted Mergansers in the bay, to explore the interior of the island. A Hooded Crow close to the road was dissecting what turned out to be a very recently killed Meadow Pipit. We pondered how the pipit could have been so careless as to allow itself to be caught by a Hoodie, when a vehicle thundered past us on the road. There was the answer: roadkill, of course! Our attention was grabbed by our first smart male Hen Harrier, a well-established breeding species on the island, which we would get to see every day this week.

A Pink-footed Goose munching the grass with Greylags in a roadside field was rather less expected. We assumed this was a late migrant which had become separated from its flock in poor weather, and had taken refuge with the

non-migratory Greylags. Perhaps it had now got fed up waiting for them to leave, because it was nowhere to be seen when we passed this field several times over the course of the week.

At Uig, we stopped to admire a party of Whimbrels in a field. They conveniently showed off their shorter, kinked bills and called distinctively, to confirm that they were not the similar Curlew. As we watched them, a Corn Crake began its rasping call close by. There was, of course, no sign of the bird, but our scan of the field did reveal three Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a cloud of dangly-legged St Marks Flies.

Our drive took us via the two castles of Coll, situated barely a hundred metres apart and, nearby, we found a bank of Early Purple Orchids, growing among Primroses, Spring Squill and Mountain Everlasting, in a landscape of rolling *roches moutonnées*.

Our final stop was a brief introduction to the RSPB reserve at Totronald, where we were greeted by two Ravens. Numerous Corn Crakes were calling, but again none came into view. By now the rain had started to fall, so we stayed just long enough to hear the Redshanks wheedling and the Snipe sawing, before heading back for a shower and dinner at the Coll hotel: the best and driest hide on the island!

Day 2

Sunday 17th May

A day of sun and showers was promised as we headed off back to the RSPB reserve at Totronald this morning. We were joined today by Jane, a local naturalist and historian with lots of island experience to share with us. At the reserve there were still plenty of Corn Crakes noisily calling. This backdrop was enlivened by the joyous outpourings of a Skylark, the tinkling trills of a Linnet and the Star Wars soundtrack of a Sedge Warbler. In the absence of a visible Corn Crake we took small pleasures where we could, observing with delight that the Redshank (*Tringa totanus*) were nesting in the Redshank (*Polygonum persicaria*).

After a while, we took some shelter from the wind in the garden of the RSPB reserve office, where we were joined by Red Admiral and Green-veined White butterflies. And still the Corn Crakes creaked around us. We chatted about the abundant research into Coll's Corn Crakes that has been (and still is being) undertaken, and the contribution that this has made to our understanding of the ecology and migration of this species. As we chatted, we added more species to the list: Whimbrels flying over and calling, Common Carder Bees and Red-tailed Bumblebees nectaring on the Dandelions, and a Greenfinch trilling and displaying.

Suddenly it happened: a male Corn Crake slowly and delicately clambered onto a wall thirty metres away! He paused and began to call, his head jerking back with each rasp, before equally carefully climbing off the far side. Woo-hoo! He continued calling enthusiastically from the other side of the wall, no longer in view. Having confirmed that we had all seen it, we got up and headed back to the car.

On the way we stopped to puzzle over a plant in the ditch. All of us were leaning in to look when suddenly a very indignant Corn Crake called, just inches away from our noses! The bird crept into the field beyond the fence and then took flight across the field, showing its short, rounded wings and dangling legs: how do these birds possibly manage the five-thousand-mile migration to and from Africa? It landed in the next field, where once again it vanished from sight and began to call emphatically. As we drove back to the village, we passed three separate male Hen Harriers, one sky-dancing over a Viking hill fort.

We lunched at An Cridhe, the community centre, while a shower came through. Here we marvelled at the boat-shaped wooden relief panel on the main desk, designed by renowned local artist Mairi Hedderwick (of Katie Morag fame). A small beetle bumbling around proved to be a Heather Beetle; though we got to the id without the aid of AI, as the three photos we took of it were named by a phone app as three different species, none of which was the Heather Beetle!

As the weather brightened, we headed out to Ballyhaugh, on the west side of the island. The loch had a large stand of flowering Bogbean with nesting pairs of both Moorhen and Little Grebe (two scarce Hebridean breeders).

We decided to head up the flanks of Ben Hogh, Coll's tallest hill, and though its 106m summit wasn't going to necessitate crampons and breathing apparatus, occasional scrambles were required. Here, lepidoptera were in good supply, with several Green Hairstreaks and Common Heath moths, an Emperor moth, which sent Greg hurtling across the Heather in hopes of catching it, and, rather less energetically, we spotted the fat hairy caterpillar of an Oak (Northern) Eggar moth. This individual would have been in its second year of life, having already hibernated once as a larva, before hibernating a second time last winter as a pupa; it will emerge next year as an adult moth. Today, it was feasting its way through the young Heather leaves.

On the hillside, the Lewisian gneiss was apparent in its various forms, numerous perched erratics revealed the glacial past of the island, and the evidence of lazy beds on the rough moorland all around us spoke to the intensive agricultural past of this seemingly wild landscape. The summit of Ben Hogh was bedecked by an OS triangulation pillar, carelessly set in an Iron Age burial cairn.

On our descent, we saw tail-flicking Stonechats and midge-munching sundews. Back down on the road, we found the delightful small white flowers of the coastal specialist Brookweed and, in a cattle grid, a distinctive moss *Bryum capillare*.

Day 3

Monday 18th May

We gathered in excitement at the pier in the village, surrounded by the paraphernalia of fishing creels and pots, to wait for the boat that was to take us on today's adventure. To our collective gratitude, Jane had offered to join us again. In the bay, a Great Northern Diver and both Common and Arctic Terns kept us entertained. A last dash to the loo revealed a strange-looking creature in the sink: a Sea Bristletail, with three long tail streamers and even longer antennae.

A sturdy RIB arrived to take us to Lunga. As we powered across to the Treshnish Islands, the sea birds began to gather: first Puffins and Common Guillemots in ones and twos, and then small groups of Manx Shearwaters. The bird numbers slowly increased as we got nearer, and squadrons of Shags flew past on their way out to feed. By the time we slowed to enter the landing point, we found ourselves among vast assemblies of Guillemots, Razorbills and Puffins on the sea, while a lone Arctic Skua patrolled above our heads.

We landed on Lunga in a substantial swell, and clambered out of the boat and across the rough basalt lavas and boulder beaches until we arrived at the platform where Puffins nest by the thousand. Several solitary individuals were standing around, occasionally plucking grass to line the nests at the bottom of their burrows. It was all relaxed

and calm, even when a Great Black-backed Gull patrolled along the cliff edge. This was in contrast to the frenetic action we would see, were we here in a month's time, when there are hungry mouths to feed.

We were struck by the fabulous profusion of flowers all around: Primrose, Lesser Celandine, Spring Squill, Scurvy Grass, Bluebells, Common Sorrel, Roseroot and Sea Campion: it was gorgeous! Some of the Sea Campion showed evidence of being infected by a smut fungus, which had imposed its spores on the flowers' anthers, smudging the white petals with purple and hijacking the plant's pollination mechanism to its own reproductive ends.

We walked along the cliff top path to the Harp Rock sea stack, where we were regaled with the sights, sounds and smells of a vast seabird colony in full swing: we could see Guillemots and Razorbills, Kittiwakes and Shags in their thousands. One of the group picked out a few 'bridled' Guillemots among the crowd, with delicately drawn 'spectacles' on their faces. One of these birds proceeded to mount its non-bridled mate, confirming that they do not select partners with the same plumage variation.

All too soon, our time was up, and we had to make our way back to the boat. As we were departing, to the sound of a singing Rock Pipit, a tourist boat was disgorging a large group of visitors, so we were grateful for the time we'd had the island more or less to ourselves. The trip back was uneventful (sadly) in wildlife terms, but the landing involved a careful clamber up some wet and weedy steps which also proved uneventful (thankfully!) All safely ashore, we had lunch in the garden at our guest house, which was very serene and quiet after the roar and bouncing of the boat. As we dined *al fresco*, a male Hen Harrier flew across the moorland and out over the bay.

In the afternoon, we took a drive out to Crossapol, stopping briefly on the way to watch two distant Great Skuas (Bonxies) on the Dairy Loch. From the RSPB car park, we walked along the flat machair (formerly a wartime airstrip), where we found two different species of mouse-ear in flower: the four-petalled Sea Mouse-ear, and the similar but mostly five-petalled Little Mouse-ear (a locally rare species).

On Feall Beach, we had a quick look at the different seaweeds (wracks and kelps) washed up on the shore, among which we found the egg case of the Small-spotted Catshark, the classic mermaid's purse. We then headed up into the machair, and what a delight it was! Early Marsh Orchids were coming into flower, alongside Marsh Pennywort in the dune slacks and Bulbous Buttercup and Wild Thyme on the drier banks. One excellent find was the lovely yellow Dune Pansy. But it was not just flowers in the dunes. We saw naturally cemented sand towers known as calcretions, several discarded blue eggshells (which had, until very recently, been home to embryonic Wheatears), a hairy Garden Tiger moth caterpillar and a few Marram Click Beetles, none of which would click on demand for us! Interestingly, we found a withered bird wing, the long-discarded remains of a raptor's dinner, which had once belonged to a Woodcock, a regular winter visitor to the island.

On the journey home, we saw a Cuckoo on a wire, with its usual contingent of Meadow Pipit scolders. This got us talking about some recent science looking at egg mimicry and the evolutionary 'arms race' between cautious pipit victims and their parasitic overlords. It has been known for some time that pipits routinely discard any non-matching eggs from their nests (including their own eggs sometimes), in order to make sure they don't get exploited by a cuckoo and expend their season's labours on another species' young. This, in turn, has driven the cuckoos to lay ever more accurate copies of the host's egg to avoid the risk of rejection. However, as cuckoos become scarcer, and for the pipit the likelihood of being targeted by one declines, the pipits are becoming less fussy about any slightly off-colour or off-size egg in the nest, because these days it's more likely to be one of its own. As a result,

the Cuckoos are getting away with laying less accurate mimics of those eggs. It's amazing how a shift in relative abundance can effect observable change in evolutionary outcomes over a relatively short period of time.

Day 4

Tuesday 19th May

We woke to a wet and windy start, but we headed out nonetheless, joined today by Greg's wife, Sarah. As we drove past some roadside lochs, Greg mentioned that we'd not yet had decent views of Red-throated Diver. Right on cue, Sarah picked one out as it flew down onto the loch. What a good start to the day! We were heading back to Totronald for the morning to walk through the machair to Hogh Beach. In the machair, there were several large patches of Mossy Saxifrage in flower, creeping (as it always seems to) through the dense tussocks of the moss *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

Twittering Linnets and banks of Primroses led us, via a herd of docile cows and calves with an attendant bull, onto the beach. Here we spent fifteen minutes cowrie-hunting among the rocks. Very quickly, we had gathered numerous Spotted Cowrie shells, along with various-coloured Flat and Rough Periwinkles, and Grey and Painted Topshells.

A dozen Oystercatchers were loafing on the beach among a dozen different seaweeds: kelps, wracks and epiphytic reds. We stopped for coffee halfway along the beach, and watched Grey Seals and Great Northern Divers fishing in the bay. To our delight, a tiny, whirring Little Tern fished in the shallows, almost animatronic in its mannerisms. A party of summer-plumaged Sanderlings flew past, closely followed by two larger Ringed Plovers, and then our first Cormorant of the trip. At the north end of the beach we came across a dead Harbour Porpoise and, more pleasingly, a nice bank of Sea Bindweed.

One of the features of our week was learning about various novel industries and activities which were historically brought to the islands, for the benefit of the laird and the labour of the locals. Above the beach, we were shown the evidence of one of these: a nineteenth-century kelp pit, where seaweed was burned, before the ash was carted across the island and away to the mainland to be used in the manufacture of soap, glass and other products.

By this point, the weather had closed in, so we had a soggy walk back through the machair, delayed only by the discovery of a Meadow Pipit's nest, replete with four chocolate-brown eggs. We lunched back in the village and essayed some checklist completing while the rain blew through.

We spent the afternoon exploring Fiskary Bay. This time, the roadside loch gave us views of a pair of Red-throated Divers which had ventured down from the tiny moorland lochans where they breed, for lunch, and a wash and brush-up. The walk down to the bay included a glade of Aspen, comprising a single organism with multiple stems, and a couple of new ferns for the trip: the dimorphic Hard Fern, with strikingly different sterile and fertile fronds, and the majestic, golden Royal Fern. In the bay we saw evidence of eight thousand years of human occupancy, including boat nausts, hut circles, ruined quaysides and piers, a fish trap and littoral basins. The latter were extraordinary, carved hollows in the flat rocks overlooking the bay. By now it had become quite wet, so we made our way back to the car, diverted only by an Otter spraint on the track and a handsome dark-morph Arctic Skua on the loch.

We went back to the village to dry out and warm up before dinner. Later, the lovely evening light and a red glow in the sky gave a hint of shepherd's delight, and the promise of better weather tomorrow.

Day 5

Wednesday 20th May

Our morning began with a visit to Greg's cabin in the village, where we were shown the fruits of his overnight moth-trapping. The trap held just a dozen moths and nothing glamorous (no hawk-moths or tigers), but it did include a zingy Water Carpet, seemingly a first for the island, and a Striped Twin-spot Carpet, which Greg had not seen before in nine years of trapping on the island.

Our destination this morning was the burial ground at Killunaig. We began by looking at the ruins of an ancient chapel near the burial slabs of the MacLean clan chiefs, adorned with *memento mori* such as skulls and skeletons. On the edge of the graveyard lay the remains of sailors whose bodies were washed up on Coll beaches during the Second World War, their graves still tended by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

We headed into the dunes for some more wildlife, and quickly noticed the abundance of Yellow-rattle seedlings, and the grey-on-one-side leaves of Glaucous Sedge. Greg explained that a rare beetle occurs in the machair here, and that the best place to find it is on the bare or thinly-vegetated slopes of the dune banks, not in the tall vegetation in the dune bottoms. Of course, where did we eventually find one? At the very bottom of the dunes, in dense tall grassy vegetation! The beetle itself was impressive, however: a wonderful fat metallic blue-black beast, an inch long, with short vestigial wing cases revealing its flightless nature. This was the mighty Short-necked Oil Beetle, a species considered to be extinct in Britain since the 1940s until it was rediscovered on Coll (and one or two locations in southern England) in the late 2000s. Its rarity probably has something to do with the rarity of the solitary bee to whose fortunes it has hitched its parasitic wagon: the Northern Colletes, a nationally rare species which is regularly seen on the Coll machair. Also, in the wetter dune bottoms, we found Early Marsh Orchids again, including several of the brick-red *coccinea* form.

We explored further among the dunes and were led to a striking Bronze Age burial cist exposed in the sand. A little further on, an odd red blob in the grass materialised into an adult Ruby Tiger moth, whose wings were still inflating after emerging from its pupa. Other pupae were evident in the grass; green hammocks of Six-spot Burnet moth, suspended from individual stems.

A metallic-bronze Dor Beetle kept the invertebrate interest rolling, while the botanists in the group explored how to distinguish Common and Heath Milkwort, according to whether the lower stem leaves are opposite or alternate.

Down by the shore, we saw a striking black basalt dyke running across the intertidal zone and out to sea. This dyke had bold rectilinear horizontal cleavage planes where it had cooled slowly, which have subsequently been eroded at the surface into a 'staircase' in the rocks. In one of these 'steps', a metre-deep hollow had been worn away by a rolling stone; the resulting well had been adopted as a wishing well, as evidenced by the many coins lodged in clefts in the rock. We hit lucky without even depositing a coin, as a party of summer-plumaged Turnstones flew onto some nearby rocks. These birds look strikingly different to the largely black and white birds we know from the winter coastline, the principal colour being a deep reddish-orange, with a black and white patterned head and neck. We now know why its full name is 'Ruddy Turnstone'.

Finally, one of the group pointed out a large burrow at the back of the rocky shore: too big surely for a Rabbit? Indeed! The fresh spraint at the mouth of the burrow (smelling sweetly of jasmine) suggested it had been co-opted by an Otter.

In the afternoon we walked up into the moorland to the south of Killunaig in bright sunshine. The fleshy rosettes of Pale Butterwort were in evidence in the boggy areas, the first of five insectivorous species we were to see on this walk, and evidence of how important insectivory has been as a means of nutrition for plants growing in wet, acid conditions, where soil nutrients are hard to come by. Of equal interest was the evidence of past intensive agricultural activity in these hills in the days when the island population was ten times what it is today. Walls, farmhouses, lazy beds, herringbone drains and grassy hay meadows were all being reclaimed by nature, the odd sheep being the only evidence of present-day agricultural activity.

We saw several specimens of Heath Spotted Orchid, a squat pale orchid with dark pink speckling on the lower lip of its flower, and lacking leaf spots. "Notice the two large outer lobes of the lip, with a small tooth like projection between them," said Greg. "So what about this one?" we asked, pointing out a taller specimen with spotty leaves, and three matching lobes on the lower lip. "Now that's a hybrid," came the reply. A 'hybrid' is to the botanist what a 'ritual use' is to the archaeologist: a convenient answer when no other comes to mind!

We soon reached a high hill overlooking Loch à Mhill Aird, betopped by a pair of platforms with Iron Age burial cairns on them. The view from here across the landscape of rocks and lochs was glorious. As if to make the point, our daily male Hen Harrier put in an appearance, hunting across the moorland. As we descended towards the loch, Heath Woodrush and Heath Milkwort soon gave way to Bog Myrtle and Bog Pimpernel as the ground grew wetter, and we drew closer to the loch. At the loch, we found Water Lobelia and Pipewort, two delightful aquatic plants only evident as rosettes on the loch bed at this time of year. Oblong-leaved Sundew and Bladderwort were the last two insectivorous plants for the day, the latter revealing on its roots the bizarre vacuum-packed structures which, when disturbed, flip their lids and suck any passing insect to its doom. A Water Scorpion and a Common Bluetail damselfly had both managed to avoid this fate.

We went back to the village for dinner, then headed straight out again in the late evening to make the most of the fine weather. We went to Cliad for a beach vigil as the sun set: we enjoyed a glorious sky of golds and soft pinks over the Western Isles, a high tide crashing over the sand, and vast beds of seaweed rolling on the strand. These played host to Ringed Plovers, Sanderlings, Dunlins and a rather confused looking Shelduck.

We saw the very fresh tracks of a big dog Otter on the sand beside a freshwater stream heading seaward, and the lack of any sign of its return gave us reason for optimism. But the hoped-for appearance didn't materialise. Strangely, we weren't that bothered; it just felt very special to be out on such a beautiful evening at the end of a long and lovely day.

Day 6

Thursday 21st May

The day began wet and windy, so we were offered the chance for some brief retail therapy at the local Post Office-cum-gift shop, and the nearby distillery shop. We also pored over a map of the island and did a stock take of the week so far. As the rain eased, we headed down to Crossapol, where we took a walk to the sea, accompanied by the joyous outpourings of Skylarks and the scolding of fencepost-topping Redshanks. Our (by now predictable)

Whimbrel sighting was enhanced by the support of three Curlews, a bird which has recently returned to breed on the island, thanks to the efforts of the local RSPB staff. At our feet, Common Stork's-bill and Doves-foot Crane's-bill vied for our attention.

Our walk took us past an early nineteenth-century mausoleum, the last resting place of Alexander, the fifteenth (and penultimate) MacLean laird of Coll, and his wife. The entire edifice was built on sand, resulting in its current fractured state and its inevitable future collapse. In the meantime, it provides a home to Black and Maidenhair Spleenworts in the crevices between the stones.

A more beautiful, and hopefully more permanent, edifice stood overlooking the shore a little way beyond the mausoleum: a grassy knoll topped by four distinctive 'otter thrones', the local name given to regular sprainting sites, where a tall, round-topped mound of vegetation grows on the enriched soil. We sat and lunched among these domes, on a carpet of tightly-cropped vegetation comprising Heather and Creeping Willow, Spring Squill, Mountain Everlasting, Devil's-bit Scabious and Tormantil. We were accompanied by the melodious warblings of a Grey Seal and the harsh descending trill of a Rock Pipit: the latter was towards the Corn Crake end of the spectrum of musicality! As we watched, a couple of adult Gannets fished close inshore. A pair of Eiders in the bay made a hasty exit onto the rocks when one of the local Grey Seals came past, a little too close for their comfort.

From here, we headed down onto Crossapol beach, a mile-long arcing strand with abundant Sea Potatoes (a variety of sea urchin) and Oyster shells. Here, there were new seaweeds to spot: Mermaids Tresses and the recently arrived Pacific Japweed, while an odd, papery globe turned out to be an Oyster Thief: a seaweed so-named for its habit of attaching itself to shellfish and inadvertently carrying them off as it inflates and floats away. A Mauve Stinger jellyfish, wrecked on the beach, was a southern species moving north as the seas warm.

As we left the beach, Sarah found a 'grass ball', created by the beach's currents as they roll and reroll a cluster of dead grass stems in the intertidal zone into a tangled ball. The rarity of this creation gives rise to its common name in Italy, which translates as "nuns' fart".

We took a break at the airfield's public loo, where Brown Hares and calling Corn Crakes in the surrounding fields distracted us. From here, we drove up to a corner of grassy moorland, and walked down to a beach called Gortan. We followed a Song Thrush along the track, which seemed barely to notice us, such earnest attention was it giving to a huge hawk-moth caterpillar (an Elephant Hawk-moth to judge from its colour). The thrush kept bashing the poor creature on rocks, as if tenderising it before feeding it to its hungry offspring. Whatever its purpose, it was rapt!

We came to a recently dug pond, where spraint in the margins suggested it was regularly used by Otters. We wondered whether they might have noticed the patch of Greater Spearwort growing in the margins of the pond: a new plant record for Coll, no less! We also pored over specimens of Common Bird's-foot Trefoil and Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil, trying to identify the features that distinguish them, beyond the latter's huge size.

Down on the beach at Gortan, we admired the crumbling frame of the wreck of the *Harmonie*, a Dutch barque which met its fate in these waters in the late nineteenth century. While we stood there, three waders came barrelling in from the north, at first dots, but then closer and closer till they powered past, revealing their lovely sooty bellies: they were Dunlins, heading for the high Arctic. Next stop, Greenland!

Back at the car, a ‘coppiced’ Marsh Thistle drew our attention. This multi-stemmed plant, a biennial in its second year, was putting all its energy into flower production, with flower buds on every stem and sideshoot. We were then invited to nibble the basal shoots of Sweet Vernal Grass: we detected vanilla and marzipan flavours from coumarin, the chemical which creates the irresistible smell of new-mown grass. One of the group noted that it is also the only British grass with two stamens, not three and, sure enough, on closer inspection, there were regular pairs of stamens hanging out of the male flowers.

On the drive home, a female Teal flew past, close to the car, and on the roadside lochs there were now three Arctic Skuas, one a striking pale-morph bird with a contrasting dark cap and pale chest, while its partner was a dark-morph bird: a rich, deep, monochrome dark brown.

Our dinner at the hotel this evening was followed by a traditional music session in the hotel bar, featuring Greg on guitar!

Day 7

Friday 22nd May

It was warmer today than on previous days, but still blowy and overcast with occasional fine mizzle, while further south, record-breaking May temperatures were being forecast. We all agreed that this was another reason to be grateful to be here and not there! We dutifully checked in at the ferry terminal, where we were greeted by the all-female shore crew (‘the pride of Coll’, in a traditionally male-dominated profession). We just had time for a final bit of wildlife watching, with a short walk along the wild shore south of the pier. Even here we found lots of new plants to enjoy, among them Common Cow-wheat, Crowberry and Blaeberry.

We also found more familiar plants from earlier in the week, which we hadn’t yet properly examined. The first was Purple Moor-grass, the creator of the impenetrable swamp tussocks we had stumbled over (quite literally) on previous moorland days; the second was the low-growing Eared Willow, the common scrubby willow growing all over the island, although sadly this early in the season its distinctive auricular stipules (the ‘ears’) at the base of each leaf were yet to develop.

We surveyed the rocky shoreline and shallow bay before us, where a House Martin among the swooping Swallows had Greg’s heart racing, given the comparison routinely drawn in books between House Martins and Storm Petrels. But it was just a House Martin, though we all agreed that “just” is an adverb which one should never use about any wildlife: doubly so in this case, as House Martins are an irregular visitor to the island. As Greg’s phone rang to summon us back to the terminal, where the ferry was running early, a Black-tailed Godwit shot past. This is another occasional spring migrant to the island, like the House Martin, on its way to Iceland to breed for the summer.

We enjoyed the usual roll call of seabirds (Manx Shearwaters, Razorbills, Common Guillemots, Puffins, Shags, Gannets and Kittiwakes) from the windy deck, while the conversation turned to salmon farms and their effects (positive and negative) on the island economy and environment. Among the auks over the sea, another black and white bird, a Pied Wagtail, had ventured out an unlikely distance from the shore, and was flying with its usual bounding flight just inches above the water.

Having entered the Sound of Mull and having passed Tobermory, we headed downstairs for lunch and the biggest egg and mayo torpedoes any of us had ever witnessed, let alone tried to consume! We went back up on deck for

the last leg of the journey across the Firth of Lorne. Here, at last, our vigil was rewarded with sightings of two Harbour Porpoises, a Sandwich Tern (scarce in these waters) and our final Bonxie, floating on the sea.

The trip ended with an insight into the day-to-day vicissitudes of island and ferry life: the bow doors on the ship wouldn't open, leaving us all sitting nervously in the vehicle, wondering whether we would ever get off. Eventually, after half an hour, an engineer with a big hammer was summoned, and the doors finally relented.

We said our farewells at the end of great week, where we had learned not just about the amazing and varied wildlife of Coll, but also about the geology, archaeology, history and contemporary life and culture of a very special island community.

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Species lists

Birds (H=heard only)

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	✓						
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>					✓		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>						✓	
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Corn Crake	<i>Crex crex</i>	H	✓	H	H		H	
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		✓					
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>		✓					
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>						H	
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>						✓	
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>							✓
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	✓	✓					
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>					✓		
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>				✓	✓	✓	
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>					✓	✓	
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>				✓			
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	✓		✓				✓
Sandwich Tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>							✓
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</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>			✓	✓		✓	✓

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	✓		✓				✓
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	✓		✓			✓	✓
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	✓		✓				✓
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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>					✓		
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus corone cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</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>							✓
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</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>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>			✓			✓	
Eurasian Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		✓					

Mammals

S=signs, D=dead		May 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>			✓		✓	✓	
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Western Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>			S				
Common Minke Whale	<i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	✓						
Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>				D			✓
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>				✓		✓	
Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>				S	S	S	

Reptiles

D=dead		May 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Viviparous Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>		✓		D			

Fishes

E=eggcase		May 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Small-spotted Catshark	<i>Scyliorhinus canicula</i>			E				

Butterflies

		May 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓	✓			✓	
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>		✓					
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓					

Moths

L=larva		May 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Six-spot Burnet	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>						L	
(Northern) Oak Eggar	<i>Lasiocampa quercus callunae</i>		L					
Drinker	<i>Euthrix potatoria</i>	L						
Emperor Moth	<i>Saturnia pavonia</i>		✓					
Elephant Hawk-moth	<i>Deilephila elpenor</i>						L	
Dark-barred Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	✓						
Striped Twin-spot Carpet	<i>Coenoteaphria salicata</i>					✓		
Water Carpet	<i>Lampropteryx suffumata</i>					✓		
Common Heath	<i>Ematurga atomaria</i>		✓					
Ruby Tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>					✓		
Garden Tiger	<i>Arctia caja</i>			L			L	

Damselflies

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Common Bluetail	<i>Ischnura elegans</i>					✓		
Large Red Damsel	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>		✓					

Other insects

		May 2026						
Common name	Scientific name	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Bees								
Red-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lapidarius</i>		✓					
White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus lucorum</i> agg.						✓	
Common Carder Bee	<i>Bombus pascuorum</i>		✓				✓	
Moss Carder Bee	<i>Bombus muscorum</i>					✓		
Beetles								
Short-necked Oil-beetle	<i>Meloe brevicollis</i>					✓		
Dor Beetle	<i>Geotrupes stercorarius</i>					✓		
Click Beetle	<i>Elataridae</i> sp			✓				
Heather Beetle	<i>Lochmaea suturalis</i>		✓					
Flies								
St Marks Fly	<i>Bibio marci</i>	✓						
Water Scorpions								
a water scorpion	<i>Nepa cinerea</i>					✓		
Bristletails								
a sea bristletail	<i>Petrobius maritimus</i>			✓				

Sea urchins

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Sea Potato	<i>Echinocardium cordatum</i>						✓	

Jellies

Common name	Scientific name	May 2026						
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Mauve Stinger	<i>Pelagia noctiluca</i>						✓	

Plants

Scientific Name	Common Name	First location
Machair and Dunes		
Flowering plants		
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Totronald
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	Crossapol
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch	Breachacha
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	ubiquitous
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower	Crossapol
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed	Totronald
<i>Cerastium diffusum</i>	Sea Mouse-ear	Feall
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	Lunga

Scientific Name	Common Name	First location
<i>Cerastium semidecandrum</i>	Little Mouse-ear	Feall
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	Lunga
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid	Ben Hogh
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i> var. <i>coccinea</i>	Early Marsh Orchid	Crossapol
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata</i> var. <i>incarnata</i>	Early Marsh Orchid	Crossapol
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Crossapol
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common Stork's-bill	Crossapol
<i>Erophila verna</i>	Common Whitlowgrass	Crossapol
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine	Lunga
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw	Crossapol
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Cranesbill	Crossapol
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Cranesbill	Crossapol
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	Marsh Pennywort	Crossapol
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Bird's-foot Trefoil	ubiquitous
<i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	Gortan
<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged Robin	Lunga
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	Crossapol
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain	Crossapol
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	Totronald
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort	Crossapol
<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	Redshank	Totronald
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	Totronald
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal	Totronald
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	Crossapol
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	Crossapol
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle	Killunaig
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	Lunga
<i>Saxifraga hypnoides</i>	Mossy Saxifrage	Totronald
<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting Stonecrop	Crossapol
<i>Taraxacum obliquum</i>	Many-lobed Dandelion	Crossapol
<i>Taraxacum officinalis</i>	Dandelion sp	ubiquitous
<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	Lesser Meadow-rue	Totronald
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil	Ballyhough
<i>Valerianella locusta</i>	Cornsalad	Crossapol
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	Totronald
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	Totronald
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	Crossapol
<i>Viola tricolor</i> var. <i>curtisii</i>	Dune Pansy	Crossapol
Grasses, Ferns, Mosses, Lichens		
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Marram Grass	Crossapol
<i>Carex arenaria</i>	Sand Sedge	Crossapol
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	Killunaig
<i>Equisetum palustre</i>	Marsh Horsetail	Crtossapol
<i>Peltigera</i> sp.	a dog lichen	Crossapol
<i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i>	Springy Turf-moss	Totronald
Moorland and Bog		
Flowering plants		
<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	Bog Pimpernel	Killunaig
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica	Lunga

Scientific Name	Common Name	First location
<i>Antennaria dioica</i>	Mountain Everlasting	Breachacha
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling Heather	ubiquitous
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold	ubiquitous
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	Gortan
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath Spotted Orchid	Killlunaig
<i>Drosera intermedia</i>	Oblong-leaved Sundew	Loch à Mhill Aird
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Sundew	Ben Hogh
<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	Crowberry	Caolas an Eilean
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell Heather	Ben Hogh
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved Heath	Ben Hogh
<i>Eriocaulon aquaticum</i>	Pipewort	Loch à Mhill Aird
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Flag Iris	ubiquitous
<i>Lobelia dortmanna</i>	Water Lobelia	Loch à Mhill Aird
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common Cow-wheat	Caolas an Eilean
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint	Ballyhough
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bogbean	Ballyhough
<i>Montia fontana</i>	Blinks	ubiquitous
<i>Myrica gale</i>	Bog Myrtle	Ben Hogh
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog Asphodel	Ben Hogh
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	White Water Lily	Loch à Mhill Aird
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid	Breachacha
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Common Lousewort	Ben Hogh
<i>Pinguicula lusitanica</i>	Pale Butterwort	Killlunaig
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common Butterwort	Ben Hogh
<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>	Heath Milkwort	Ben Hogh
<i>Potamogeton polygonifolius</i>	Bog Pondweed	Ben Hogh
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	Ben Hogh
<i>Potentilla palustris</i>	Marsh Cinquefoil	Ben Hogh
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Lesser Spearwort	Ben Hogh
<i>Ranunculus lingua</i>	Greater Spearwort	Gortan
<i>Salix repens</i>	Creeping Willow	Ben Hogh
<i>Samolus valerandi</i>	Brookweed	Ballyhough
<i>Scilla verna</i>	Spring Squill	Breachacha
<i>Sedum anglicum</i>	English Stonecrop	Killlunaig
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious	Ben Hogh
<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Wild Thyme	Crossapol
<i>Utricularia sp</i>	Bladderwort	Loch à Mhill Aird
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Blaeberry	Caolas an Eilean
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog Violet	Ben Hogh
Grasses, Ferns, Mosses, Lichens		
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	Crossapol
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady Fern	Breachacha
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard Fern	Fiskary
<i>Bryum capillare</i>	Capillary Thread-moss	Ben Hogh
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cotton-grass	Fiskary
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	Hare's-tail Cotton-grass	Fiskary
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	ubiquitous
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	Heath Woodrush	Loch à Mhill Aird
<i>Molinia purpurea</i>	Purple Moorgrass	Caolas an Eilean
<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	Royal Fern	Fiskary
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed	Totronald
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	Killlunaig
<i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i>	Deergrass	Ben Hogh

Scientific Name	Common Name	First location
Woodland		
Flowering plants		
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy Foxglove	Arinagour
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell	Ben Hagh
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	Fiskary
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood Sorrel	Arinagour
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	Fiskary
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose	Ben Hagh
<i>Salix aurita</i>	Eared Willow	Caolas an Eilean
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage	Arinagour
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	Arinagour
Grasses, Ferns, Mosses, Lichens		
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort	Crossapol
<i>Asplenium scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue Fern	Arinagour
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort	Crossapol
Shores, Beaches, Saltmarsh & Streams		
Flowering plants		
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Thrift	Lunga
<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>	Sea Bindweed	Hogh Beach
<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	Common Scurvygrass	Lunga
<i>Glaux maritima</i>	Sea Milkwort	Fiskary
<i>Sedum rosea</i>	Roseroot	Lunga
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Sea Campion	Lunga
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Coltsfoot	Feall
Grasses, Ferns, Mosses, Lichens		
<i>Xanthoria</i> sp	(a crustose lichen on rocks)	Lunga
<i>Microbotryum violaceum</i>	Campion Smut Fungus	Lunga
Seaweeds		
<i>Alaria esculenta</i>	Dabberlocks	
<i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i>	Egg Wrack	Feall
<i>Colpomenia sinuosa</i>	Oyster Thief	Crossapol
<i>Desmarestia</i> sp.	a mermaid's hair seaweed	Crossapol
<i>Enteromorpha intestinalis</i>	Gutweed	Crossapol
<i>Fucus spiralis</i>	Spiral Wrack	Fiskary
<i>Fucus vesiculosus</i>	Bladder Wrack	Feall
<i>Fucus serratus</i>	Toothed Wrack	Hogh Beach
<i>Himanthalia elongata</i>	Sea Spaghetti	Fiskary
<i>Laminaria digitata</i>	Oar Weed	Feall
<i>Laminaria hyperborea</i>	Cuvie	Feall
<i>Laminaria saccharina</i>	Sugar Kelp	Feall
<i>Pelvetia canaliculata</i>	Channeled Wrack	Fiskary
<i>Saccorhiza polyschides</i>	Furbelows	Feall
<i>Sargassum muticum</i>	Japweed	Crossapol
<i>Ulva lactuca</i>	Sea Lettuce	Fiskary