

Scotland's Mammals & Highlights of the Highlands

Naturetrek Tour Report

2nd – 9th September 2023



Golden Eagle



Kittiwake



Common Dolphins



Ardnamurchan scenic

Tour report by Glyn Evans and Greg Smith



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Tour participants: Glyn Evans and Greg Smith (Leaders) with 11 Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 2nd September

Logistics for the inward journey were challenging: Seven clients were to be picked up at the airport and two at Paisley Gilmour Street Station, with the remaining couple due to meet us at the Ariundle Centre for dinner, which was now a 4½-hour journey away due to the Corran Ferry's extended sabbatical. But soon enough, we were steaming up the M8 and over the Clyde to enjoy the more scenic part of the journey with the bonus of one hour's down time for comfort breaks. With a 14.30 rendezvous for everyone else, I rang ahead to the Ariundle Centre to suggest a slightly later dinner time, as Saturday traffic might also hold us back a little.

A stop at Bridge of Orchy was extremely quiet, with only a flock of 60 Crossbills to write home about. Earlier, we had seen House Martins completing a nest on the wall of the laundry at the Green Welly stop, having declined to purchase any of their wares in favour of a fuel and provisions rendezvous at Morrisons in Fort William.

Greg caught up with us at the Bridge of Orchy Hotel and we drove in convoy across Rannoch Moor, through Glencoe and beside Loch Linnhe to Fort William, where we filled up both tanks with enough fuel to last for the entire week, having heard of fuel shortages on previous trips, where people were rationed to just 10 litres per visit!

The drive around the top of Loch Linnhe had us going through the entire repertoire of windscreen wiper settings in somewhat changeable weather. Wildlife sightings were sparse, but we did have the opportunity to compare Cormorants with the more numerous Shags on the loch. Hooded Crows now replaced Carrion Crows in reasonable numbers and there was the occasional Buzzard. A small creche of young Red-breasted Merganser and a distant Roe Deer were among few highlights, but we arrived at Ariundle with sufficient time for greetings and bevies ahead of an excellent dinner.

The 40-minute drive after dinner to the Glenborrodale Bunkhouse was without incident. We showed the clients around the bunkhouse before retiring and, no sooner had we entered the lounge diner, than a Pine Marten kit appeared and sniffed the remains of sweet offerings left by the previous group. That was a quick hit!

Day 2

Sunday 3rd September

We awoke to heavily overcast skies. Despite the long journey yesterday, some clients were up for a dawn walk, so the usual burning the candle at both ends began... We elected to hold a vigil at the bottom of the drive overlooking the loch, where the breeze kept (most of) the midges at bay. A combination of various repellent potions gave the air an interesting aroma.

The three Greenshank that hung around from the previous week were roosting on one of the islets and a conference of 20 Grey Heron was also impressive. A couple of Buzzard and a Raven showed themselves, and two Cormorants and a Curlew gave us an early opportunity to memorise key features to later distinguish them from Shag and Whimbrel respectively.

All trips to Scotland require some flexibility to the itinerary and this was no different. The forecast was for dry weather with a south-westerly breeze. But, with the later threat of wet weather, it was decided first to head out

west as far as the lighthouse and then to retrace our steps for the afternoon to the An Garbh Eilean hide in a first bid to find Otters.

The view across Glenmore Bay from the watchpoint was compromised only by light cloud around the peaks of the spectacular slopes opposite. The distant cliffs on the southern edge were known to be the nest site of a pair of Golden Eagles, but in the still gloom of the day it was highly unlikely that we would enjoy any kind of view. What was needed was sunshine and something of a breeze.

Other than a single Buzzard, the odd Meadow Pipit and a Pied Wagtail, there was little to note at the watchpoint so we headed for Kilchoan Ferry to survey the bay from the end of the jetty. A pair of Little Grebes was observed in one of the bays, and Greylag Geese, ubiquitous Meadow Pipits and Red Deer punctuated the journey.

It being a Sunday, the village store at Kilchoan was closed, as was the community centre, so we all had to hold on until we reached the Ardnamurchan Lighthouse for the first toilet break of the day. The view from the lighthouse to the Small Isles and beyond is spectacular. From our elevated position we watched a relatively calm surface of the sea. Here, we enjoyed our first view of Grey Seals (typically confident along the wilder shore unlike their smaller confreres (the Common or Harbour Seals) who tend to favour the gentler conditions further up the sea lochs) plus a number of Kittiwakes and distant aggregations of Manx Shearwaters.

Whilst we waited patiently for cetaceans to show in the gloom - we were out of luck - and with two boat trips (and better weather) due on subsequent days, we ate lunch and took a leisurely drive to retrace our steps, via Salen Jetty, to decamp at the An Garbh Eilean hide.

On the way, our luck began to change. Having enjoyed decent views of Hooded Crows, Rock Doves and even "Heeland Coos" (yep, Highland Cows), we then enjoyed our first encounter with an immature White-tailed Eagle when we stopped for a second spell at the viewpoint. Taking in the key features of this hulk of a bird, I promised (well, almost) the group that we would at some future point be able to compare this with the more balanced, majestic profile of the Golden Eagle.

Nothing like making a rod for your own back.

Salen Jetty yielded a female Sparrowhawk at a loo stop and Greg talked people through the bands of different sea weeds on the jetty before we arrived for what we expected to be a wet spell in the hide at An Garbh Eilean.

Immediately we enjoyed Common (Harbour) Seals loafing around the islands, with some doing the classic "banana" pose. Others bulldozing around in the water didn't prompt much of a misidentification challenge with Otters but we didn't have to wait long before one of the latter appeared (to my great relief; the previous week's group had drawn a blank!) and swam across to, and behind, the largest of the islets ahead of us and reappeared a little while later for prolonged views – apparently feeding from a bed of shellfish. A third appearance led us to debate whether there was another animal present – and also to wonder how to report to last week's group that some of their quota of luck had been deferred to us! The third animal actually took out a Shag and devoured it on the shore!

A small family party of Red-breasted Merganser (we were eventually able to determine the drake in advanced moult) kept us keen and a flock of 70 Eider were no doubt pilfering cultivated spoils from the mussel beds at the far side of the loch. Buoyed with the success of great Otter sightings, we sounded the ten-minute bell to tempt fate into delivering another big moment.

I decided to look way to the left of the hide to where the White-tailed Eagles had built a nest in the spring. By all accounts, breeding had failed, but..., sat quietly beside the old nest, was an adult White-tailed Eagle, surveying all. Had it been there for the entire two hours...? No-one knew nor cared, but we filled our boots with scoped views for all, before drawing stumps on an excellent first day!

Treecreeper and Coal Tit were added to the list back at the Bunkhouse, with the former taking the crunchy morsels out of the peanut butter intended for the Pine Martens.

After a sumptuous home-cooked three-course dinner, we retired after checklist and debrief with the prospect of clearing weather tomorrow.

Day 3

Monday 4th September

The little wooden platform at Aperitif Point now had a boldly printed "Private" sign hung across the entrance, so we took the hint from the Laird and decided to head out to the watchpoint instead for our pre-breakfast jaunt, at the cost of a 10-minute drive.

The light was excellent if still a little overcast. It turned out to be a good decision. Almost straight after arriving, we were greeted by a pair of White-tailed Eagles – an adult and immature bird on what looked like a flight tutorial – with some entertaining moves as they headed slowly across the crater.

Once the eagles moved on, there was wildlife to be found on the sea. First, an Otter hunted just offshore giving prolonged if distant views. Then, some movement on the surface of the sea signalled some cetaceans: both Common Dolphins and Harbour Porpoise were scoped, showing clear differences in their dorsal profile and comparing the "conveyor belt" progress of the porpoises with the more energetic, playful movement of the dolphins.

Two separate Kestrel sightings kept us interested, together with a decent flock of adult and juvenile Common Gulls on the pasture below. We also heard a White-tailed Eagle call a couple of times on the wrong side of the southerly ridge – apparently a third bird possibly affiliated with the pair that moved through earlier. Gannets, Common Guillemots and a possible Storm Petrel made for an impressive pre-breakfast haul.

A great start to the day and it was going to be a little awkward to report back to the later risers what we had seen.

However, they were able to enjoy the assortment of moths hunkered down in the moth trap, including some handsome Canary-shouldered Thorns, the local if otherwise unremarkable Striped Twin-spot Carpet and the striking Autumnal Carpet.

The forecast for improving weather fitted well with doing the longer boat trip on the following day, so we gathered at Laga Bay at 09.30 for the shorter trip (around the Isle of Carna and up into the narrow head waters of Loch Teacuis), intending to head north afterwards to take advantage of what we hoped would be insect-friendly weather.

The shorter boat tour included some fascinating commentary from skipper Andy Jackson, on the geology and history of the area and the biodiversity recovery work being done on the Isle of Carna and all across the Loch. It is heartening to know that this type of work is being done and that Scotland-wide networks are forming around such projects.

There were also some wildlife highlights to report. House Martins were hawking low over the water, doing their best Storm Petrel impressions. A single White-tailed Eagle drifted over the boat with a Raven as its hostile consort. Common Terns were still present, with a couple of family parties evident with gingery-back juveniles now fledged. A Grey Wagtail's piercing call alerted us to its flyover. Common Seals with plenty of pups loafed on the rocks. As the sun came out, Buzzards appeared to ride the updraughts. Golden Eagles appeared at frustratingly distant points, so much so that it was difficult to even point out the dots in the sky, from which my super-zoomed, grainy images could just discern the identification. We would have to do better!

A pair of Harbour Porpoises came close in the now glittering, sunlit loch and a Black Guillemot showed intermediate plumage as we cruised close by. Andy regaled us with tales of his more unofficial exploits in earlier times and Curlew and Dunlin were added to the bird list on the narrow green margins of the loch. Two more extremely distant views of Golden Eagles near to Ben Hiant at least demonstrated that they were around, if not yet discernible at a closer range than several miles! The sight of a dive boat caught on a small island by the receding tide, and now being attended to by the maritime emergency services, was a little bizarre. We later heard that it was able to sail off on a subsequent tide with no further dramas.

We had a close look at the mussel beds, revealing why they are so tempting for the Eiders we had seen yesterday (and would no doubt see again) to pilfer ready meals from.

In fact, we (including Andy) had enjoyed the trip so much that we came in 90 minutes later than scheduled, having consumed lunch.

Plans for other potential visits prior to dinner at the Ariundle Centre were pragmatically postponed and we opted instead to patrol the NNR woodland walk at Ariundle before retiring to dinner.

In the sunnier weather, we could be forgiven for expecting to see more insects, but in the event, Black Darter and Azure Hawker were identified with countless Red Admirals and Common Carder Bees hogging most of the attention.

Dinner was enjoyed and in the drive back to Glenborrodale, dusk gave way to night with just the odd bat rewarding us with the odd glimpse in the headlights.

Day 4

Tuesday 5th September

Understandably, the haul from yesterday's pre-breakfast vigil prompted a good turnout for a repeat session at the watchpoint.

There was something of a tutorial on passerine calls, as it was evident that there was some passage taking place. Chaffinch, Redpoll, Yellowhammer, Meadow Pipits and Starlings all were flying around the crater – quite possibly a landmark for re-orientation.

A female Merlin flew high over the crater for a highlight, but the sea was partly obscured by a creeping mist that began to shroud the lower slopes of Ben Hiant, hinting at settled, brighter weather to come. Would it clear in time for us to enjoy good views on the boat trip...?

We would soon find out.

The moth trap gave us a few new species to admire over breakfast (including the aptly named Anomalous and the mistimed July Highflyer) but soon we were focused on making the best of a great forecast and were keen to be at Laga Bay for a prompt start. Andy joined us shortly after we boarded and after a quick safety briefing, we headed out toward the mouth of the loch and beyond. We could see the bank of mist ahead of us, but Andy cleverly headed out at steady pace so as not to catch up with the evaporating shroud.

The slow approach established an initial rhythm for the trip, with sightings in the loch: singles of Harbour Porpoise and Common Dolphin, followed by a mother and calf of the latter coming close enough to hear their breaths as they surfaced. A single Red-breasted Merganser and then a distant adult White-tailed Eagle were found; the latter on a ridge beyond Ben Hiant, surveying all before it.

As we approached the open sea, the mist had largely dispersed and all that remained was a slight haze to compromise otherwise perfect light. It was decided to head across to the Cairns of Coll where there were recent reports of cetaceans. On the way across, we observed Kittiwakes, Guillemots and Gannets a-plenty, with the highlight being a very obliging Great Skua which sat on the water until we got fairly close and then returned after five minutes to give us the once-over, flying low over the deck.

As we left the Skua, there was a shrill shout of "Minke" from Greg. It surfaced again close to the boat for most to see (but unfortunately not photograph) but then disappeared from view and was not seen again in 20 minutes of searching. We edged toward the Cairns and, as the water shallowed, seals and wading birds became evident, flying around the islands: Dunlin, Oystercatcher, Turnstones and Ringed Plover. Shags on the rocks were largely unmoved, but some of the Grey Seals took to the water, keeping their eye on us.

As we emerged from the chicanes back into open water, Common Dolphins started to appear. I'd spent some while on the observation platform on top of the cabin. No sooner did I climb off than a Storm Petrel flitted past at 100m range. Greg then picked out at least one other from the crow's nest but at such low elevations that not all clients were able to connect. Large rafts of sea birds were now evident with Manxies particularly prevalent. We followed them as this was the most likely place to find cetaceans feeding on the same shoals.

A single Fulmar looked very smart but lethargic – a likely victim of avian flu – and a Lion's Mane jellyfish kept the interest going before a golden hour when we continually came across Common Dolphins – and vice versa – and delighted in their aquarobics. Three more distant Minkes provided tantalising views and the occasional cry from Greg of “Thar she blows!” but there were to be no close encounters with these magnificent beasts. At least two Bottle-nosed Dolphins were found among one of the Common Dolphin pods. In the midst of it all, a Red-throated Diver flew almost unnoticed toward Coll.

A single and then a pair of juvenile Arctic Skuas were seen to beat up a Herring Gull and Manxies just after the homeward turn.

Highlights of the return stretch were another Black Guillemot, a fine herd of Red Deer, more Manxies, Kittiwakes and Harbour Porpoise, as well as some spectacular geology to enjoy as the bird and cetacean action became less regular.

It was certainly a trip that had built nicely into a crescendo of cetacean activity, with dolphins on occasions swimming under the boat as well as close alongside, often too close to photograph. Most simply elected to enjoy the experience. A combination of wind and bright sunshine put some colour into a few unprotected faces, but we were all happy with an action-packed trip, which ended bang on time at 17.30, allowing us to return in good time for an earlier dinner slot, allowing Kate to get away early due to catering for a funeral the next day (after which, she would entertain us again at the Ariundle Centre!)

A late night walk by some members of the party yielded a male and female Tawny Owl serenading each other from unseen perches. Pine Martens gratefully licked up the thickening dregs of peanut butter from window sills and other parts of the feeding station.

Day 5

Wednesday 6th September

The relatively early night (for some) gave us a good turnout of people for the pre-breakfast jaunt to the watchpoint. This time, the main reward came before arriving as a Pine Marten crossed the road in front of the van!

From the watchpoint, we observed Red Deer on the skyline and of course, a smattering of bird species both on the ground and overhead: Wheatear, Stonechat and Meadow Pipit; and Chaffinch, Linnet, Redpoll and Yellowhammer respectively.

Today we were eating dinner at the Ariundle Centre, so we built an itinerary around that. We began at Salen Wood, so as to finish close to a loo and a provisions stop at Salen Jetty before moving on.

The weather was quite warm, especially in the sheltered sunny spots as we ascended through the wood. On the approach, we stopped to watch a young Lesser Redpoll feeding quietly in a trackside Silver Birch while Siskins wheezed overhead and Long-tailed Tits seemed to keep us permanently under surveillance from the bushes.

This kind of walk was absolutely in Greg's territory, so he led the group on the steady ascent, finding invertebrate delights such as Red Admiral, Vapourer Moth, Scotch Argus, Black and Common Darters as we went. The Heath Bumblebee (introduced to the group as *Bombus jonellus*) was the cause of some amusement as Jayne asked what Jon

was up to with Heather! Greg got the group back on track with the sticky, insect-eating Round-leaved Sundew, some 'edgy' sedges and a triptych of heathers. Greg's flair at not only identifying plants but finding an interesting story of evolution or quirky naming for each one was a delight, especially while mammalian and avian activity was quiet.

As we rose through the tree line into slightly more open space, Greg was in full flow when I was distracted by a distant large bird dawdling over a ridge to the west. An initial glimpse suggested it wasn't a Buzzard. Greg was still in full flow. I retraced steps to where a gap in the trees gave a better view. Superzoom came to the rescue, as the trusty Canon (sic) snared a perfectly posed aerial shot of a Red Kite – quite a rarity in these parts. Regrettably, the others were understandably rapt in Greg's entertaining monologue and admittedly, a Red Kite at three mile range isn't that impressive.

By the time we reached the road at the bottom of the walk, refreshments and – ahem – relief were needed for most and the Salen Jetty store duly obliged, with legendary sausage rolls depleted by our visit. The roadside sign advertising "Yams and Crafts" caused a few head scratches until we realised it actually said "Yarns and Crafts"!

I wanted us to visit Tioram Castle but on the way, there was a nice little stop at Acharacle at which we would be scheduled to arrive by 12.40, so a natural lunch break. The track down to the waterside at Loch Shiel saw a few people gathering for the cruise at the jetty. Soon these people were on their way and as the commentary on the PA system faded away, we enjoyed a peaceful lunch sat on the dry ground with an opportunity to add some ducks to the bird list: Tufted Ducks, a pair of Wigeon, a small flock of Teal, plus Canada Geese and eight Little Grebes. Sand Martins were seen hawking over the far end of the loch and a few House Martins showed before we packed up. There were dozens of Common Darters all around us, with some ovipositing at the edge of the loch.

We drove on to take a quick look at Kentra Moss and the bay. Greg again revelled in showcasing the wonderful array of plant life and the geology and topography of the landscape, explaining the critical role the management of bogs like this play in combatting climate change. Meanwhile I splashed along an old track across the bog to bag a juvenile Reed Bunting. Finally, a male Black Hawker sat still for a decent photo.

The bay rewarded us with a single Bar-tailed Godwit strutting around the silt with its slightly stunted gait and a couple of hazy Ringed Plovers at long-ish range, with Skylarks at last giving us some nice close views as they flew past. Meadow Pipits, Goldfinches and Linnets twittered in unison.

Then onto Tioram Castle for our penultimate stop of the day. It is a beautiful drive along the wee burn before you get to the car park, but for the second week, there was no Dipper perched on any of the rocks, just a pair of Buzzards close to the road and a striking juvenile Cormorant on a wooden jetty.

I had made a discovery the previous week that had not been evident in the spring trips which – to me at least – was quite exciting. So I gave the group a clue as to what we would be looking at. It was evidence of a large-ish mammal, which would probably not be seen.

As we arrived, we had to wait for other vehicles to vacate spaces before we could park, but eventually we started walking toward the place I wanted to show everyone. I arrived in a couple of minutes and stood right in the middle

of an area of disturbed ground, leaning on my scope and tripod. As had been the case several times already, people simply assumed I was waiting for Greg to catch up, so no-one paid too much attention to the ground around them. When Greg and the others eventually arrived, having located some Larch Boletes in the grass like so many windfall apples, I pointed at the churned-up grass. I had seen it in other European countries and recognised it as the work of Wild Boar. Mark scooped the Crackerjack pencil for guessing correctly. It transpired that some Wild Boar had escaped from a farm to the north in the 1980s and are slowly establishing themselves in this area. Later we found some distinctive droppings among the boar rootlings.

We scoped across the loch to a wooded ridge where I picked out the White-tailed Eagle's nest I'd found in the spring, an impressive structure, not unlike the furry Shtreimel hat worn by Hasidic Jewish gentlemen. Alas, there was no eagle on sentry duty there. In fact, try as we might, we couldn't magic up an eagle anywhere. A couple of Shags exhibited their "beehive" dives, clearing the water before submerging, while the Cormorant's descent is rather more submarine-like in its execution.

A creche of Red-breasted Mergansers were identified in silhouette on the silvery water. We decided to have an hour back at An Garbh Eilean on the way to Kate's, to try to catch some more mammals.

We arrived at 17.30 and the tide was low, as was the level of action. The seals were enjoying an extended siesta. It was still, quiet, calm. Remembering that this was a mammals tour after all, we stuck with it and scanned diligently. To no avail. I sounded the ten-minute bell. Perhaps it should have been five minutes...?

I checked the tree where we had seen the White-tailed Eagle earlier in the week and sure enough, there it was once again, this time sat further up under the canopy, partly in shade. Its white tail was easily visible once you knew it was there.

And so, the one-hour vigil was rewarded with scoped views of the adult eagle, for many of us it took a few moments looking intently into the scope to discern its shape. The ten minutes was extended slightly so that everyone could enjoy a decent look before heading off to Ariundle after another last-minute happy ending.

After a hearty meal, the drive back from Ariundle yielded a couple of bats (most likely Brown Long-eared to judge from their size and slow fluttery flight) and Red Deer respectively for both vans, with my group momentarily enjoying silhouetted views of an Otter popping like a cork from its dives.

Day 6

Thursday 7th September

Today had looked like the best day of weather according to the forecast - and sunny days lend themselves to a trip to the beach. Some hinted that they may take a dip, so swimming costumes were packed for that eventuality. This time, we omitted to do an early morning watch and agreed instead to make an earlier finish to breakfast, as the warm air thermals might just give us some early chances at eagles before we got there. Treecreepers entertained us briefly during breakfast and a Great Spotted Woodpecker was heard.

The first planned stop was at the watchpoint, but before we got there, I picked up an eagle over a ridge at Glenbeg. A handy lay-by gave me the opportunity to check.

Golden! I quickly moved forward to allow space for Greg's group to fall in behind and seatbelts were quickly unfastened.

We needn't have worried. It was a pair. Soon it was evident that these birds were pair bonding, so we all enjoyed some aerial display before one of the birds flew off, leaving the other perched on a ridge for extended scoped views, at one stage calling for its departed mate. A perfect start to the day and for the guides, a relief to finally get decent views of this magnificent bird. During this magical 40 minutes, Starling movements, Bullfinch, Chaffinch, Long-tailed Tits, a Sparrowhawk, Rock Doves and a singing Willow Warbler went almost unnoticed. Remarkably, as we prepared to set off, a White-tailed Eagle drifted through the scene and immediately the female Goldie was airborne to see it on its way.

We missed out the watchpoint to remain on schedule, having done so well at the earlier unscheduled stop. It occurred to me later that the resident who had two white vans parked at the end of their drive may have been fearful of some kind of raid... Thankfully we were not moved on in any case.

We decided to drop by at the Kilchoan community centre for a celebratory coffee break. A Pink-barred Sallow in the car park added to one found earlier in the trap (all moths trapped at the Bunkhouse will be listed additionally in the checklist).

One or two clients had mentioned that they might like longer to look at Red Deer – particularly stags – so as luck would have it, three fairly mature stags showed at healthy range for the scopes on the drive out to Sanna. A dozen hinds also showed and a Buzzard close to the road. At the same time, Greg's group had great views of a flock of 10 Twite at a favoured spot. They also stopped to view an unusual 'nuclear family' of young stag, hind and fawn together in a garden and were entertained by a fly-by juvenile White-tailed Eagle. We also picked up our only Wheatear of the trip here, a cracking youngster of the Greenland race who played 'tip and run' with the photographers along the fence posts beside the road.

Sanna was a picture. The car park was not quite full so we were able to park next to each other. It was decided not to take scopes as the warm weather and high sun would mean that the heat haze would cancel out any effective magnification. Skylarks and Common Gulls initially greeted us from the greensward.

The format has tended to be that we simply disperse and do our own thing at Sanna. This was also the case today where three of our ladies decided to take to the water and the rest of us explored the wonderful habitat either side of the dunes. Again Greg was in his element, pointing out the remarkable structure of the Grass of Parnassus flowers, the delightful Knotted Pearlwort in the machair and the delicate Marsh Arrow-grass flowers in the damp dune slack, while the scent of Water Mint wafted around our noses.

Lunches were taken and digested at leisure. Sarah and Mark were lucky enough to locate some Otter prints along the burnside, noting their distinctive five, rounded pad impressions. But Val was slightly less fortunate to encounter two mature ladies practising nude yoga among the Cuvie, Sugar Belt and Furbelows on the strand.

Back to Kilchoan for a quick loo stop and then out to Fascaidale. In the conditions, a sea watch didn't seem likely to yield much, so we simply elected to trundle up and down the road to see what might come along. The best of

these encounters was an immature White-tailed Eagle, but Mistle Thrush, Pied and Grey Wagtail, another Wheatear, Twite and a close Buzzard also featured.

Ockle was its usual pretty self, but the hour spent there was devoid of any surprises and perhaps a chill out was what was needed. Greg's group clocked a sign at Swordle which advertised cakes and made sure not to miss out on purchasing a variety of them on the way home! Showers were busier than normal before dinner!

The Pine Martens showed tonight before most people's bedtime!

Day 7

Friday 8th September

Today was our last full day, which we had reserved for a mop-up. The most significant omission from the mammal list was Red Squirrel.

Most sightings (except for one the previous week) of Red Squirrel had been of a youngster at the Bunkhouse, but so far this week, there had been no joy, so we decided to patch together an itinerary that would give us more than one chance, however slim.

We started with a walk around the nearby RSPB Glenborrodale reserve, a delightful walk up through the wooded margin and onto a plateau, then down through a delightful little boggy area. These habitats attract amphibians as well as a few heath-dwelling species, so plenty of variety was in prospect. The weather was again delightful; calm and sunny, such that it seemed that the birds were already enjoying something of a siesta, so again, Greg took the lead as the all-rounder.

Eking out species was quite hard work, with Goldcrest, Tits, Treecreeper and Willow Warbler seen and a tricky call that initially sounded like an *accipiter* but eventually revealed itself to be the warm-up to an impressive crescendo of an Oystercatcher! Greg did brilliantly to pick out Pine Marten poo amongst the more interesting terrestrial exhibits. A Roe Deer was the likely cause of a rustling sound in bracken on the descent out of the reserve but it stayed secreted as it quietly progressed. I say quietly; in fact it and almost every other noise was increasingly drowned out by some builders playing music on their radio that could probably have been heard across the peninsula!

On the walk back to the car park, we encountered Siskin, Robin, heard Bullfinch and watched a Redpoll feeding a youngster in a tall Birch.

Next stop was a final vigil at An Garbh Eilean for another dose of Otters (we hoped), but before that we dropped by Salen Jetty, during which I paid the first of two fines for traffic contraventions in Central Glasgow! (Future guides please note – Paisley Gilmour Street station is now the preferred pick-up for good reason!).

The hide at An Garbh Eilean produced exactly what we hoped for – prolonged views of a chunky dog Otter. There may well have been two or three in the end, but the best view was of one who caught a large fish and hauled it ashore on the large island and we enjoyed it feasting and then basking in celebratory rolls on the seaweed for at least half an hour

A couple of distant Harbour Porpoise and probably the same large flock of Eider were seen over by the mussel beds.

To Acharacle next and the area around the surgery which sports the signs asking for caution for squirrels! We parked up under a beautiful avenue of trees by the church and spread out, with my party reaching the outskirts of the village with no sign of Red Squirrels but with Greenfinch and Common Whitethroat to add to the bird list (now @ 99 species!), together with Siskins and a pair of Ravens. A Buzzard flew low over us as well, but at this point, we had probably blown our chance at Red Squirrel unless one finally turned up at the Bunkhouse... Meanwhile Greg's group explored the churchyard at Acharacle church. They also drew a blank but did find some late flowering Heath Speedwell and New Zealand Willowherb and were entertained by some unusual gravestones (the best being "Come on Sylvia..." and "...I'm coming!" marking the deaths 14 years apart of an evidently happily married couple!)

In the heat of Scotland's hottest ever September day, Common and Black Darters were prevalent, but we had also drawn a blank of photographing Golden-ringed Dragonfly. I guess we all need a reason to revisit these beautiful places!

Day 8

Saturday 9th September

Our journey to Glasgow was via Acharacle and took in the lovely Glenfinnan viaduct off the A830 – probably reducing our journey time by 15 minutes also. Some light drizzle reminded us of how lucky we had been with the glorious warm weather we had seen for most of the week. We dropped off Sarah in Ballachulish and then scored a distant Golden Eagle in Glencoe before stopping at Crianlarich for a much-needed coffee break. As we got out of the vans, a White-tailed Eagle flew across the valley and behind the trees and out of view. The hotel and the Station Café were closed (on a Saturday!!) so we eventually took coffee from the vending machine at the little shop below the station.

Clients were dropped off on time in Glasgow and we wished each other luck with our onward journeys, but not before two Magpies (desperate stuff) rounded off the bird list with a tantalising 99 species for the week.

All in all, a great tour which, with some hard searching and a few strokes of luck connected us with most of the target species. And Wild Boar can now be added to future checklists with tantalising clues to their presence spreading across the peninsula.

Slàinte mhath!

Glyn

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Species lists

Mammals

| Scientific name | Common name | September 2023 | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|----|---|---|----|---|----|---|
| | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| River Otter | <i>Lutra lutra</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Pine Marten | <i>Martes martes</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| European Badger | <i>Meles meles</i> | rc | | | | | | | |
| Wild Boar | <i>Sus scrofa</i> | | | | | fs | | | |
| European Rabbit | <i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i> | | rc | | | | | | |
| Roe Deer | <i>Capreolus capreolus</i> | ✓ | | | | | | fs | |
| Red Deer | <i>Cervus elaphus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Feral Goat | <i>Capra hircus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Minke Whale | <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Bottlenose Dolphin | <i>Tursiops truncatus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Common Dolphin | <i>Delphinus delphis</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Harbour Porpoise | <i>Phocoena phocoena</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| Harbour (Common) Seal | <i>Phoca vitulina</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Grey Seal | <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| Brown Long-eared Bat | <i>Plecotus auritus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| rc = road casualty, s = field signs | | | | | | | | | |

Birds (H = Heard only)

| Common name | Scientific name | September 2023 | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Canada Goose | <i>Branta canadensis</i> | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Greylag Goose | <i>Anser anser</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Mute Swan | <i>Cygnus olor</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| Eurasian Wigeon | <i>Mareca penelope</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Mallard | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Eurasian Teal | <i>Anas crecca</i> | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Tufted Duck | <i>Aythya fuligula</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Common Eider | <i>Somateria mollissima</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Common Merganser | <i>Mergus merganser</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Red-breasted Merganser | <i>Mergus serrator</i> | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Common Pheasant | <i>Phasianus colchicus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Red-throated Diver | <i>Gavia stellata</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| European Storm Petrel | <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Northern Fulmar | <i>Fulmarus glacialis</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Manx Shearwater | <i>Puffinus puffinus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| Sooty Shearwater | <i>Puffinus griseus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Little Grebe | <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Grey Heron | <i>Ardea cinerea</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Northern Gannet | <i>Morus bassanus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| European Shag | <i>Gulosus aristotelis</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Great Cormorant | <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Golden Eagle | <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Eurasian Sparrowhawk | <i>Accipiter nisus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| White-tailed Eagle | <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Common Buzzard | <i>Buteo buteo</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Red Kite | <i>Milvus migrans</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Eurasian Oystercatcher | <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Common Ringed Plover | <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> | | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Bar-tailed Godwit | <i>Limosa lapponica</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Eurasian Curlew | <i>Numenius arquata</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Common Redshank | <i>Tringa totanus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Common Greenshank | <i>Tringa nebularia</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| Ruddy Turnstone | <i>Arenaria interpres</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Sanderling | <i>Calidris alba</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Dunlin | <i>Calidris alpina</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Black-legged Kittiwake | <i>Rissa tridactyla</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| Black-headed Gull | <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Common Gull | <i>Larus canus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Great Black-backed Gull | <i>Larus marinus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| European Herring Gull | <i>Larus argentatus</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| Common Tern | <i>Sterna hirundo</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | |
| Great Skua | <i>Stercorarius skua</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Arctic Skua | <i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Common Guillemot | <i>Uria aalge</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |

| Common name | Scientific name | September 2023 | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Razorbill | <i>Alca torda</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Black Guillemot | <i>Cepphus grylle</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | |
| Rock Dove | <i>Columba livia</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Feral Pigeon | <i>Columba livia 'feral'</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | ✓ |
| Common Wood Pigeon | <i>Columba palumbus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Eurasian Collared Dove | <i>Streptopelia decaocto</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Tawny Owl | <i>Strix aluco</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker | <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Common Kestrel | <i>Falco tinnunculus</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Merlin | <i>Falco columbarius</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Peregrine Falcon | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Eurasian Jay | <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Eurasian Magpie | <i>Pica pica</i> | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Western Jackdaw | <i>Coloeus monedula</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| Rook | <i>Corvus frugilegus</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> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Great Tit | <i>Parus major</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Eurasian Skylark | <i>Alauda arvensis</i> | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Sand Martin | <i>Riparia riparia</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Barn Swallow | <i>Hirundo rustica</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Common House Martin | <i>Delichon urbicum</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Long-tailed Tit | <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Willow Warbler | <i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Common Whitethroat | <i>Curruca communis</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Goldcrest | <i>Regulus regulus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Eurasian Wren | <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Eurasian Treecreeper | <i>Certhia familiaris</i> | | | | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Common Starling | <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Common Blackbird | <i>Turdus merula</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Song Thrush | <i>Turdus philomelos</i> | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| Mistle Thrush | <i>Turdus viscivorus</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> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Grey Wagtail | <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Pied Wagtail | <i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i> | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Meadow Pipit | <i>Anthus pratensis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Eurasian Rock Pipit | <i>Anthus petrosus</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Common Chaffinch | <i>Fringilla coelebs</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Eurasian Bullfinch | <i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| European Greenfinch | <i>Chloris chloris</i> | | | | | | | ✓ | |

| Common name | Scientific name | September 2023 | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Twite | <i>Linaria flavirostris</i> | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | |
| Common Linnet | <i>Linaria cannabina</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Lesser Redpoll | <i>Acanthis cabaret</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Red Crossbill | <i>Loxia curvirostra</i> | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| European Goldfinch | <i>Carduelis carduelis</i> | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Eurasian Siskin | <i>Spinus spinus</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Yellowhammer | <i>Emberiza citrinella</i> | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Common Reed Bunting | <i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |

Others

| Common name | Scientific name | September 2023 | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Fish | | | | | | | | | |
| 15-spined Stickleback | <i>Spinachia spinachia</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Amphibians | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Toad | <i>Bufo bufo</i> | | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Common Frog | <i>Rana temporaria</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Lepidoptera | | | | | | | | | |
| Small Eggar | <i>Eriogaster lanestris</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Canary-shouldered Thorn | <i>Ennomos alniaria</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| Striped Twin-spot Carpet | <i>Coenotephria salicata</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Garden Carpet | <i>Xanthorhoe fluctuata</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Chestnut-coloured Carpet | <i>Thera cognata</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Common Carpet | <i>Epirrhoe alternata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Large Yellow Underwing | <i>Noctua pronuba</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Common Marbled Carpet | <i>Dysstroma truncata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Dark Marbled Carpet | <i>Dysstroma citrata</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | | |
| July Highflyer | <i>Hydriomena furcata</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Vapourer | <i>Orgyia antiqua</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Square-spot Rustic | <i>Xestia xanthographa</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | |
| Autumnal Rustic | <i>Eugnorisma glareosa</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Anomalous | <i>Stilbia anomala</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Flounced Chestnut | <i>Anchoscelis helvola</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Heath Rustic | <i>Xestia agathina</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Pink-barred Sallow | <i>Xanthia togata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Rosy Rustic | <i>Hydraecia micacea</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| a coleophoran micro moth on <i>Juncus squarrosus</i> | <i>Coleophora sp</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Grayling | <i>Hipparchia semele</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Peacock | <i>Aglais io</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Red Admiral | <i>Vanessa atalanta</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Large White | <i>Pieris brassicae</i> | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Small White | <i>Pieris rapae</i> | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Green-veined White | <i>Pieris napi</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Small Copper | <i>Lyvaena phlaeas</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Speckled Wood | <i>Pararge aegeria</i> | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Scotch Argus | <i>Erebia aethiops</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Coleoptera | | | | | | | | |
| Violet Ground Beetle | <i>Carabus violaceus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Dor Beetle | <i>Geotrupes stercorarius</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Odonata | | | | | | | | |
| Azure Hawker | <i>Aeshna caerulea</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Common Hawker | <i>Aeshna juncea</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Golden-ringed Dragonfly | <i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Black Darter | <i>Sympetrum danae</i> | | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Common Darter | <i>Sympetrum striolatum</i> | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Hymenoptera | | | | | | | | |
| Heath Bumblebee | <i>Bombus jonellus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| White-tailed Bumblebee | <i>Bombus lucorum agg</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Red-tailed Bumblebee | <i>Bombus lapidarius</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Common Carder Bee | <i>Bombus pascuorum</i> | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Oak Spangle Gall Wasp | <i>Neuropterus quercusbaccarum</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Orthoptera | | | | | | | | |
| Common Field Grasshopper | <i>Chorthippus brunneus</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Diptera | | | | | | | | |
| Common Drone Fly | <i>Aristalis tenax</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Echinodermata | | | | | | | | |
| Common Starfish | <i>Asterias rubens</i> | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Cnidaria | | | | | | | | |
| Compass Jellyfish | <i>Chrysaora hysoscella</i> | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Lion's-mane Jellyfish | <i>Cyanea capillata</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Gastropoda | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|
| Common Periwinkle | <i>Littorina littorea</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Dog Whelk | <i>Nucela lapilus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Heath Snail | <i>Helicella itala</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Arachnida | | | | | | | | |
| Garden Cross Spider | <i>Araneus diadematus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Four Spot Orb Weaver | <i>Araneus quadratus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Spermatophyta – wild flowers | | | | | | | | |
| Grass of Parnassus | <i>Parnassia palustris</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Comon Spotted Orchid | <i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Goldenrod | <i>Solidago virgaurea</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Devil's-bit Scabious | <i>Succisa pratensis</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Rowan | <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Common Valerian | <i>Valeriana officinalis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Bog Myrtle | <i>Myrica gale</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Bog Asphodel | <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Self Heal | <i>Prunella vulgaris</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Thrift | <i>Armeria maritima</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Sea Plantain | <i>Plantago maritima</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Sea Milkwort | <i>Glaux maritima</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Sea Sandwort | <i>Honckenya peploides</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Ling Heather | <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Bell Heather | <i>Erica cinerea</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Cross-leaved Heath | <i>Erica tetralix</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Eyebright | <i>Euphrasia nemorosa agg</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Bogbean | <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Round-leaved Sundew | <i>Drosera rotundifolia</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Harebell | <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Common Thyme | <i>Thymus serpyllum</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Mouse-ear Hawkweed | <i>Hieracium pilosella</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Bird's-foot Trefoil | <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Marsh Lousewort | <i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Water Mint | <i>Mentha aquatica</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Marsh Willowherb | <i>Epilobium palustre</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Marsh Marigold | <i>Caltha palustris</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Yellow Flag Iris | <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Parsley Water-dropwort | <i>Oenanthe lachenalii</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Marsh Arrowgrass | <i>Triglochin palustris</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Knotted Pearlwort | <i>Sagina nodosa</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Autumn Hawkbit | <i>Leontodon autumnalis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |

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|---|---------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| Ragged Robin | <i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| White Water Lily | <i>Nymphaea alba</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Wood Sage | <i>Teucrium scorodonia</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Blaeberry | <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Heath Violet | <i>Viola canina</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Common Cat's-ear | <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Heath Speedwell | <i>Veronica officinalis</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| New Zealand Willowherb | <i>Epilobium brunnescens</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Spermatophyta - trees</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Pedunculate Oak | <i>Quercus robur</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Sessile Oak | <i>Quercus petraea</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Silver Birch | <i>Betula pendula</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Downy Birch | <i>Betula pubescens</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Common Beech | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| Scot's Pine | <i>Pinus sylvestris</i> | | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Lodgepole Pine | <i>Pinus contorta</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Larch | <i>Laris decidua</i> | | | | ✓ | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Spermatophyta - grasses, rushes and sedges</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Tufted Hairgrass | <i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Purple Moorgrass | <i>Molinia purpurea</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Marram Grass | <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Common Bent | <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Soft Rush | <i>Juncus effusus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Black Bog Rush | <i>Schoenus nigricans</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Heath Rush | <i>Juncus squarrosus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| Common Cotton-grass | <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Carnation Sedge | <i>Carex panicea</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Star Sedge | <i>Carex echinata</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Pteridophyta</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Hard Fern | <i>Blachnum spicant</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Bracken | <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Wood Horsetail | <i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i> | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Water Horsetail | <i>Equisetum fluviatile</i> | | | | | | ✓ | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Bryophyta</u> | | | | | | | | |
| 'Drowned Kittens' Bogmoss | <i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Juniper Haircap Moss | <i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i> | | | | | ✓ | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| <u>Chlorophyta</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Channelled Wrack | <i>Pelvetia canaliculata</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Spiral Wrack | <i>Fucus spiralis</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Bladder Wrack | <i>Fucus vesiculosus</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Egg Wrack | <i>Ascophyllum nodosum</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Toothed Wrack | <i>Fucus serratus</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Sea Spaghetti | <i>Himantalia elongata</i> | | | | ✓ | | | | |
| Cuvie | <i>Laminaria hyperborea</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Oarweed | <i>Laminaria digitata</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Sugar Kelp | <i>Laminaria saccharina</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Furbelows | <i>Saccorhiza polyschides</i> | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| Sea Lettuce | <i>Ulva lactuca</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| <u>Fungi</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Dog Lichen | <i>Peltigera sp</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Tree Lungwort | <i>Lobularia pulmonaria</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Cladonia lichens | <i>Cladonia spp</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Hoof Fungus | <i>Fomes fomentarius</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Birch Polypore | <i>Piptoporus betulinus</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Larch Bolete | <i>Suillus grevillei</i> | | | | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Birch Bolete | <i>Leccinum scabrum</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Purple Brittlegill | <i>Russula atropurpurea</i> | | ✓ | | | | | | |
| Peeling Oysterling | <i>Crepidotus mllis</i> | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| Fly Agaric | <i>Amanita muscaria</i> | | | | | ✓ | | | |