

Ardnamurchan - Wild Scotland in Spring

Naturetrek Tour Report

20 -27 May 2017



Chequered Skipper by Martin Randall



Four-spotted chaser by Neil McMahon



European Pine Marten by Neil McMahon



European Otter by Neil McMahon

Report compiled by Neil McMahon
Images courtesy of Martin Randall & Neil McMahon



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Summary

Eight days on the wild side of Scotland proved initially to be moist but mild, however towards the end of the week warmer temperatures arrived on the Ardnamurchan and we enjoyed plenty of warm sunshine. Otters put in regular appearances at the start of our ‘wild west’ tour and the charismatic Pine Marten provided excellent daytime viewings with three individuals being involved. The stately Red Deer were ever-present and other highlights included close views of White-tailed Eagles, numerous sea birds including the enigmatic Puffin, and a smattering of colourful insects on our last full day. All this, underpinned with comfortable surroundings and excellent cuisine, ensured it was another Naturetrek adventure to cherish.

Day 1

Saturday 20th May

A quick tour of Glasgow ensured the pick-ups all ran according to plan and we began the minibus drive to the Ardnamurchan. Roadside stops at Loch Lomond, the Green Welly Shop, Glencoe, Bengigh and Strontian provided some insight into the wildlife to be encountered (which included porpoising Common Seals on Loch Leven), even if it was a bit wet and soggy. An early midge bloom was there to meet us at Glenborrodale, but they were soon forgotten as our chef, Alan, served up his first culinary masterpiece for our evening meal.

Day 2

Sunday 21st May

A 6am morning walk down to Loch Sunart amidst deafening bird song was a good start to the day, particularly with our first Otter sighting; an individual at some range but in view for a long time. After breakfast we ventured up to the high ground actually named Glen Borrodale, well above the castle and our accommodation. Here we were treated to views of Red, Fallow and Père David’s Deer. We moved on eastwards and after a brief stop at Salen, ventured down to the wildlife-watching hide at Garbh Eilean. As many as thirty Common Seals were present and again we saw the energetic porpoising action from some of the smaller animals. Drake Red-breasted Mergansers swam close, their plumage just beginning to show the signs of active summer moult as they slip into eclipse plumage. Hooded Crow, Grey Heron and Rock Pipit showed well.

Our next venue was the village of Acharacle where we scanned across part of Loch Shiel. Sand Martins flew around us and we notched up some common duck species. The Kakra area was quiet apart from the ever-present Common Sandpipers. We enjoyed our first packed lunch in the lee of the wind, watching a procession of common finches visiting a garden bird feeder. A brief stop at the local Health Centre proved successful with sights of a fluff-tailed Red Squirrel, a surprisingly scarce animal in this part of the West Highlands. Some afternoon sunshine provided a hatch of Four-spotted Chaser dragonflies near Castle Tioram and our first common butterflies. A revisit to the pier overlooking Loch Shiel provided some new birds for the trip, but a quick scan at Camas nan Geall didn’t provide the hoped-for Golden Eagles.

We arrived back at the bunkhouse at 6.15pm and tucked into our super Scottish food at 7pm. Our first of five night drives secured close views of Red Deer but little else.

Day 3**Monday 22nd May**

The 6am walk to Loch Sunart was dry but dull and windy, and provided a nice mix of typical West Highland birds including good views of Crossbill and a Treecreeper family. After breakfast Carolyn located a nice close Otter at the side of the Loch which was enjoyed by the whole group. We pushed on westwards and visited Ardnamurchan Point, successfully exploring the immediate area before the rain hit. Sea birds in breezy conditions included hundreds of feeding Manx Shearwaters and smaller numbers of Gannet, Fulmar, Kittiwake, Shag, Razorbill and Guillemot. A pair of Raven patrolled and small birds on show near here were our first Stonechat and Wheatear.

Luncheon was taken at Kilchoan Community Centre, just after we had watched a summer-plumage Great Northern Diver sheltering from the strong wind by the pier there.

Our afternoon excursion took us north on the single-track road to Ockle. Birds by the roadside included two Whimbrel, several Whinchats, Wheatears and a couple of Common Snipe. A significant herd of Red Deer can be found most of the time here and these did not disappoint. A walk to the secluded beach at Kilmory required a little shower-dodging on the way back, but we enjoyed close views of Ringed Plover, Dunlin and Common Sandpiper. The invasive Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam merged with flowering Rhododendrons around the burn leading to the beach.

Our drive back to Glenborrodale took in a retail and coffee stop at the very pleasant Ardnamurchan Visitors Centre. As in previous years, Swallows and House Sparrows were nesting on and in the building.

After our evening meal we opted for a mid-evening drive around the forest tracks of Glen Borrodale. The Red Deer seemed quite indignant at our presence. We espied some distant Wild Goats and also encountered some Hebridean Sheep. Non-stop calling Cuckoos refused to show themselves!

Day 4**Tuesday 23rd May**

Our 6am sortie took us again to the shores of Loch Sunart and the neighbouring RSPB Reserve. For the third day running an Otter showed itself. The constantly-trilling Wood Warblers showed themselves by the roadside, surrounded on all sides by the cascading songs of Willow Warblers. The swathes of Bluebell and emerging Bracken also included Wood Anemones, Wild Garlic, Bugle and many other common wildflowers.

After our cooked breakfast and traditional porridge, wanderlust took us east to Strontian. A gentle, dawdling three-hour woodland walk provided some fabulous sighting including a Golden Eagle overhead being pursued by Ravens, a Pine Marten scuttling down the track in front of us, an infestation of caterpillars, some butterflies and newts, and a showy flock of Red Crossbills. Singing Whinchats and close views of a newly-fledged family of Long-tailed Tits rounded off a super morning.

Rain arrived in the afternoon, but we squeezed in a river walk which provided views of Bullfinch, Grey Wagtail and elusive Dippers. Shoreline scanning of the freshwater end of the Loch logged a small flock of Goosanders and a few waders. The café at Strontian appears to pride itself on the size of the cake portions and Karen and Martin in particular rose to the challenge!

With much precipitation around us and after two long days in the field on Sunday and Monday, we returned home to the comfortable sofas and signing urn at Glenborrodale, arriving back about 4.45pm.

Day 5

Wednesday 24th May

The standard 6am nature walk concentrated on Loch Sunart, with plenty of birds on show but no early Otters. Trying to plan excursions around weather forecasts is hardly an exact science, but with limited options and much negotiation, we opted to try our all-day boat trip today.

It turned out to be a good choice, the initial drizzle soon evaporating and the wind speed being much less than anticipated. Common Seals, glimpses of Harbour Porpoise and plenty of Guillemots were the mainstay of our observations as we chugged south-west towards Mull. Andy and Barnaby, together with boat dog 'Tag', navigated us towards a cliff top on Mull where a pair of White-tailed Eagles gazed down at us imperiously. One of the pair showed well over the boat, tussling with the indefatigable Hooded Crows. These huge sea eagles are justly one of the tour highlights, another species that clearly enhances the eco-tourism pull of the Scottish West Highlands.

Karen had opted out of the boat trip but enjoyed a wildlife spectacular with no less than three Otters performing superbly at very close range, and plenty of birds on offer including close views of Cuckoos; Karen's day was also proving to be a wildlife-rich one.

Out on the Hebridean Sea, on-board enthusiasts notched up a series of pelagic bird species with Manx Shearwater, Gannet and a close Storm Petrel all showing nicely. An Arctic Skua encouraged a Herring Gull to give up its hard-earned fish, only to lose its booty to a particularly engaging Kittiwake which shrugged off its normally pacifist status to turn the tables on the dark robber of the ocean waves. As we neared the Freshnish Islands, Puffins became more obvious amongst the auks on the water and marauding Great Skuas kept all the seabirds on their toes. A Black Tern keeping company with a feeding flock of Arctic Terns was a bonus.

We made landfall on Lunga where tame and numerous Puffins take centre stage. In fact many visitors to this island venture no further than the first 200 metres, transfixed by the comical antics of these colourful clowns of the sea. Bluebells, primroses and other flowers of rich substrate provided a riot of colour as we paraded past the nesting Shags, Razorbills, Guillemots and Kittiwakes. Displaying Snipe and piping Oystercatchers were also present, plus a single drake Eider. Breeding passerines included Raven, Hooded Crow, Starling, Rock Pipit, Meadow Pipit and a few Twite.

After barely two hours at this idyllic bird city, it was back on the boat and a slow chug north. Another White-tailed Eagle and an Otter were seen as we ventured close to Mull. Our final couple of miles in Loch Sunart provided better, but still furtive, views of several Harbour Porpoises and we finished our cruise adventure with some Wild Goats atop one of the rocky islets.

All day out on the ocean waves made us hungry and then a little tired after our delicious evening meal, but the day wasn't over as Elisabeth saw a Pine Marten outside the window just before 10pm, the dark mustelid scarpering before anyone else managed to see it. And still there was energy evident as we tried another night drive from 11.15pm to 1am which sadly provided little that was new.

Day 6

Thursday 25th May

In common with much of the nation, we awoke to very warm temperatures and sunshine. A high spring tide was clearly not to the liking of the local Otters; this being the first day without us seeing one. Distant Harbour Porpoise, Common Seal and Wild Goat added to the early morning mammal list, and our early morning endeavour was justification for a well-earned Scottish cooked breakfast.

Despite a strong breeze the weather remained very warm and sunny and very much a good day to visit Sanna Bay. White sand dunes and beach, large slabs of rocks, numerous rock pools and turquoise shallow seas make this a very special place and, with hardly anyone else there, it was our little haven for the morning. A cracking summer plumage Sanderling with Ringed Plovers looked gorgeous with mixed colours of silver, chestnut and brick-red, and a summer plumage Great Northern Diver remained aloof as it dived around the offshore reefs. Sticklebacks swam in the freshwater burns running through the Marram-studded dunes and small flowers typical of a heavily grazed Machair-like hinterland provided dots of colour under blue skies and bright, uninterrupted sunshine. Birds were not numerous but we glimpsed a few Twite and Wheatears on the edge of this very small settlement.

We ate our impromptu packed lunch on a grassy bank and then hit the road in search of more West Highland wildlife. A slow trundle back to Kilchoan was mostly uneventful until we parked the minibus at Ormsaigbeg, where an adult White-tailed Eagle glided over us with a Hooded Crow escort. Without flapping its wings once, this eagle glided the width of Loch Sunart and flew to exactly where we had seen them on Mull the day before. The warm summer-like weather provided a good excuse for an ice cream at the local village store and then it was on to Fascadale. Here Martin and Karen flushed a Snipe from marshy ground and found large numbers of Sundew. The seabirds were distant with such a strong onshore breeze so we marveled at the clear views of Muck, Eigg, Rhum and Skye to the north. Singing Skylark and Stonechat saw us depart from this mini-headland and after some scanning at Camas nan Geall we returned to our accommodation to relax out of the ongoing heat.

We had been frustrated by brief Pine Marten views until we were treated to a visit by a big male Pine Marten which stayed for a long time munching the jam sandwiches. Arriving at 9.35pm, the beast was enjoyed in daylight conditions with everyone enjoying fabulous views. Spurred on by this, we elected for an earlier night drive beginning at 10.30pm and finishing at midnight. Apart from counting Toads and roadside Red Deer, we couldn't find anything more exotic, but not for the want of trying.

Day 7

Friday 26th May

It was our last full day and a 6am excursion took us high up into Glen Borrodale proper, resulting in simultaneous views of Red, Fallow and Père David's Deer. Another high and sustained spring tide ensured cessation of Otter activities, but a second-year White-tailed Eagle flew low along the Loch, its presence announced by the noisy Raven family on one of the islets.

By now we had visited most of the established sites on the peninsular so there was an opportunity for revisiting guests' favourites. Martin and Karen wanted to explore the nearby RSPB Reserve further, correctly assessing that the heatwave might provide interesting insect activity.

The remainder of the team motored to Kilmory and its secluded beach. Here we watched displaying Dunlin with one particularly ardent male strutting his stuff and trying to impress his colleagues. Other common waders were here too plus another Raven family and a couple of singing Whinchats. Interesting insects included Large Red Damselfly and singles of Beautiful Demoiselle and Common (Moorland) Hawker. Our next favoured venue was Ardnamurchan Point where it was generally quiet for wildlife, but the clear conditions permitted distant views of Barra, Coll and Tiree and the Treshnish Isles.

We rejoined Karen and Martin at Glenborrodale and they showed us some of their morning's discoveries which included good numbers of Chequered Skipper and Pearl-bordered Fritillary butterflies. Lock Sunart remained quiet so late afternoon found us back at the Bunkhouse hoping for an early revisit from the Pine Marten. A Pine Marten did eventually come in for the food, but this was clearly a much smaller animal than that of the previous day. For those with the energy, we went out on our fifth and last night drive but the most elusive of the West Highland animals remained elusive and we claimed little more than Red Deer, unidentified bats and Toads!

Day 8

Saturday 27th May

Our last day was inevitably taken up travelling. Our breakfast was at 7am; our flexible and talented chef, Alan, taking it all in his stride! We said Goodbye to Carolyn and Gordon who were travelling on to Skye and the north-west, and the remainder of us boarded the minibus back to Glasgow. Whistling Black Guillemot bobbed about the pier at Corran Ferry and a brief stop at Glen Righ Forest was sufficient to see four Red Squirrels attracted to the feeders there. Glencoe was stirred up with the sound of bagpipes and the A82 was choked with traffic travelling in the opposite direction in celebration of the Spring Bank Holiday weekend. Once we reached Glasgow another Naturetrek adventure came to an end.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓=recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	Scientific name	May							
			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
1	Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>							1	
2	Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	1		1		1	2		
3	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			1					
4	Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>			1		x			
5	Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>			500+		x		50+	
6	European Storm Petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>						1		
7	Northern Gannet	<i>Sula bassana</i>			x		x	x	x	
8	Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
9	European Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	x	x			x	x	x	
10	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
11	Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
12	Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
13	Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			2				2	
14	Eurasian Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		x						
15	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
16	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		x						
17	Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		6	1			8		
18	Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		1		8				6
19	Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		20	6		2	3	1	
20	White-tailed Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>						3	1	1
21	Common Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	x	2	3	7	3	6	6	x
22	Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>				1				
23	Common Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>							3	
24	Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
25	Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>			1					
26	European Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>								H
27	Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			3	1	1	7	4	
28	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>			2		2	1	1	
29	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			2		1	1		
30	Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		2	1	H				
31	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>		2	2		1			H
32	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>		8	8	4	2	6	6	1
33	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>							1	
34	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		1	8	1				5
35	Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>						6		
36	Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>						1/2		
37	Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
38	Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
39	European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
40	Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus graelssii</i>	x		x	x		x	x	x
41	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>						4		x
42	Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>			x		x		x	
43	Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	

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			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>					x	x		
45	Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>					1			
46	Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>			x		x	x		
47	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>			x		x			
48	Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	x	x	x	x	x			x
49	Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>						x		
50	Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>			2		1			
51	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia 'feral'</i>	x	x						x
52	Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
53	Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		x	x	x				
54	Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>		H	H	H	3	2	5	
55	Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	H							
56	Common Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	x		1					
57	Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
58	Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
59	Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		x	x	x		x	x	
60	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
61	Common House Martin	<i>Delichon urbica</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
62	Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
63	Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>		H	H	x		x	x	H
64	Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	x	x	x		x	x		
65	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
66	Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
67	Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
68	White-throated Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>				1/2				
69	Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
70	Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
71	Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	x		x	x		x	x	x
72	Eurasian Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
73	European Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
74	Common Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>		H						
75	Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	1		5	2				2
76	Common Stonechat	<i>Saxicola torquatus</i>	1		3			x	x	
77	Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>			3		2	6		
78	Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	H	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
79	Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
80	Common Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>				H				
81	Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>			3			3	2	
82	Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	H	x	H	x	x	x	x	x
83	Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
84	Common Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>		H						H
85	Eurasian Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	H
86	Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
87	Common Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	H
88	Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>		1♂						H
89	Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

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			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
90	Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
91	Eurasian Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
92	Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>		H	x	x	x		x	x
93	Eurasian Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	H	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
94	Eurasian Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	x							x
95	Eurasian Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>	x							x
96	Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	x							x
97	Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
98	Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	x							
99	Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
100	Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	x	x	x		x	x	x	x
101	House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	x	x	x	x		x	x	x
102	Common Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
103	European Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>		x						1
104	Lesser Redpoll	<i>Acanthis flammea cabaret</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
105	European Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
106	Eurasian Siskin	<i>Spinus spinus</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
107	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>						2/3	4	1
108	Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>		x	x		x	x	x	
109	Eurasian Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	x		1	2			2	1
110	Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>		2+	3	15		H	4	
111	Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>		2	H		H	2	2	
112	Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>			2		H2	2	2	

Mammals

1	River Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	1	1	1	4				
2	Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>				1	1	1	2	
3	European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>					x			
4	Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>	x	x			x	x		
5	Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	x	x			x	x	x	
6	Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	1							4
7	Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>							1	
8	Harbour Porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>					8	7		
9	Harbour (Common) Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	x	x	3	1	x	3		x
10	Wild Goat	<i>Capra aegagrus</i>			x		6	2		
11	Père David's Deer	<i>Elaphurus davidianus</i>	12						4	
12	Bat sp				x	x		x	x	
13	Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	x	x		x		x		
14	(Blue-Grey Cattle)								x	

Amphibians, Reptiles etc.

1	Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>		x			x			
2	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>				Tadpoles			x	
3	Newt sp.				x		x			
4	Common Lizard	<i>Zootoca vivipara</i>							x	
5	Fish sp.				x					

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			20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
6	Stickleback sp.						x			
7	Starfish sp.					x				
8	Slow Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>			x			x		

Butterflies

1	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>						x		
2	Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>						x		
3	Speckled Wood	<i>Parage aegeria</i>			x		x	x		
4	Green-veined White	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	x		x		x	x	x	
5	Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	x		x		x	x		
6	Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>					x			
7	Chequered Skipper	<i>Carterocephalus palaemon</i>						x		
8	Pearl-bordered Fritillary	<i>Boloria euphrosyne</i>						x		
9	Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>						x		

Moths

1	Clouded Border	<i>Lomaspilis marginata</i>		x				x		
2	Speckled Yellow	<i>Pseudopanthera macularia</i>			x	x	x	x		
3	Ruby Tiger	<i>Phragmatobia fuliginosa</i>				x				

Dragonflies & Damselflies

1	Beautiful Demoiselle	<i>Calopteryx virgo</i>						x		
2	Common Hawker	<i>Aeshna juncea</i>							x	
3	Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	x							
4	Hawker sp.						x			
5	Large Red Damselfly	<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>						x	x	

Beetles

1	Dung Beetle sp.							x		
2	Long-horn Beetle sp.						x	x		
3	Green Tiger Beetle	<i>Cicindela campestris</i>					x			

Plant list

 (Kindly compiled by Karen Headley)

<i>Abies</i> sp.	Fir
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>	Sneezewort
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse Chestnut
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping-bent
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle
<i>Alchemilla</i> sp.	Lady's-mantle
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Wild Garlic
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica

<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass
<i>Arctium</i> sp.	Burdock
<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Sandwort
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Thrift
<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black Spleenwort
<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall-rue
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maiden-hair Spleenwort
<i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>	Lady-fern
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Blechnum spicant</i>	Hard-fern
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>	Wood False-brome
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh Marigold
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower
<i>Carex</i> spp.	Sedges
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Chamaecyparis lawsoniana</i>	Lawson Cypress
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb
<i>Chrysoplenium oppositifolium</i>	Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i> agg.	Scurvygrass
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Common Hawthorn
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i>	Monterey Cypress
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild Carrot
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass
<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>	Wavy Hair-grass
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Sundew
<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	Crowberry
<i>Epilobium brunnescens</i>	New Zealand Willowherb
<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>	Wood Horsetail
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell Heather
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved Heath
<i>Eriophorum</i> sp.	Cotton-grass
<i>Euphrasia</i> agg.	Eyebright
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Fallopia japonica</i>	Japanese Knotweed
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh Bedstraw

<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-robert
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood-avens
<i>Gunnera</i> sp.	Gunnera
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog
<i>Holcus mollis</i>	Creeping Soft-grass
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell
<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	Slender St John's-wort
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Common Cat's-ear
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>	Himalayan Balsam
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow-flag
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush
<i>Juncus squarrosum</i>	Heath Rush
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort
<i>Larix</i> sp.	Larch
<i>Lathyrus linifolius</i>	Bitter-vetch
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetchling
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass
<i>Lonicera perichymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Wood-rush
<i>Luzula multiflora</i>	Heath Wood-rush
<i>Luzula pilosa</i>	Hairy Wood-rush
<i>Luzula sylvatica</i>	Great Wood-rush
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Yellow Pimpernel
<i>Melampyrum pratense</i>	Common Cow-wheat
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bog-bean
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor-grass
<i>Nardus stricta</i>	Mat-grass
<i>Oenanthe</i> sp.	Water-dropwort
<i>Oxalis acetosella</i>	Wood-sorrel
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Lousewort
<i>Petasites</i> sp.	Butterbur
<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue Fern
<i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear Hawkweed
<i>Pinguicula</i> sp.	Butterwort
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Poa nemoralis</i>	Wood Meadow-grass
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass
<i>Polygala</i> sp.	Milkwort
<i>Polypodium</i> sp.	Polypody

<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen
<i>Potamogeton</i> sp.	Pondweed
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas Fir
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
<i>Quercus petrea</i>	Sessile Oak
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Lesser Spearwort
<i>Rhododendron ponticum</i>	Rhododendron
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curled Dock
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Salix</i> spp.	Willows
<i>Sagina</i> sp.	Pearlwort
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	Giant Sequoia
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Stellaria alsine</i>	Bog Stichwort
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stichwort
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious
<i>Taraxacum</i> agg.	Dandelion
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	Yew
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood-sage
<i>Thuja plicata</i>	Western Red Cedar
<i>Trichophorum</i> sp.	Deergrass
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>	Western Hemlock
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Common Gorse
<i>Ulmus glabra</i>	Wych Elm
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry
<i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i>	Cowberry
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Valerian
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Veronica officinalis</i>	Heath Speedwell
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet