



BIODIVERSITY
Do a little - change a lot
in Inverness & Nairn



Colour key to this booklet

Sea

Seashore

Woodland

Urban

Freshwater

Farmland

Moorland

Actions

There is a map of the area on the centre pages

Take action for biodiversity in Inverness & Nairn...

We are privileged to live in this beautiful, dramatic and diverse area of Scotland. There are many different habitats to enjoy – from the unique Moray Firth with coastal dunes, mudflats and shingle beaches, to crofts and farms on the steep hillsides of the Great Glen.

There are beautiful rivers like the Ness, the Beauly and the Nairn, small peaty burns, moorland and the ancient Caledonian pinewoods of Glen Affric and Strathfarrar. All of this is set against the scenic backdrop of the Monadhliath mountains and of Munro grandeur such as Sgurr na Lapaich and Tom a Choinich, “the hill of the wild dog” near Glen Cannich.

The Inverness and Nairn area also supports an amazing diversity of wildlife. We have many internationally important species, including dolphins, Slavonian grebes and great crested newts. Plants such as twinflower, juniper, green shield moss and rare lichens grow in our woodlands and glens.



This leaflet accompanies the **Inverness & Nairn Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP)** and is just a small representation of the biodiversity of Inverness and Nairn. Some actions are also identified which should help safeguard this precious resource. They reflect the views of many people... those living and working in the area, those who are dependent on the land, as well as those just visiting. Some were environmental specialists but many were not, and the range of actions suggested shows that together we could and should all be involved in the promotion and protection of our local, national and global biodiversity.

This booklet forms part of a broader project that aims to raise awareness as well as to identify and initiate priority actions for biodiversity across the Highlands. The Highland Biodiversity Project has produced area-based LBAPs for Ross & Cromarty (East), Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh, Wester Ross, Sutherland and Caithness. This booklet complements the LBAP for Inverness and Nairn.

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in Inverness & Nairn



September 2004

contact . contact . contact . contact

Highland Biodiversity Officer

The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road

Inverness IV3 5NX

Telephone: 01463 702274 (or PRIN: 01463 724213)

www.highlandbiodiversity.com

*"Biodiversity,
our planet's most valuable resource,
is on loan to us from our children."*

Sea shore

Sea shores are great places to explore. In Inverness and Nairn we have a variety of shore types, determined by local geology and exposure to wave action. Stable rocky shores support the greatest variety of marine life, as they provide a hard surface for attachment and plenty of cracks and crevices for shelter.

Not many plants or animals can survive on shifting pebble shores where the stones are constantly ground together by waves. Only a few seaweeds and their associated animals can live on the exposed sediments of muddy and sandy shores. Hidden beneath the surface though, there is often a wealth of burrowing invertebrate life that attracts wading birds. In our area, Whiteness Head, the Longman foreshore and the Beaully Firth are important feeding places for wintering birds.

contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts

If you are concerned about marine litter and would like to do something about it contact:

■
Moray Firth Partnership

27 Ardconnel Terrace, Inverness IV2 3AE
Tel: 01463 226495

■
**Scottish Environmental
Protection Agency**

Graesser House, Fodderty Way
Dingwall IV15 9XB
Tel: 0800 606070

Waders on intertidal mud © RSPB



If you look under rocks, it is important to return them to their original positions so as not to disturb the animals that live there. If you dig for fishing bait, fill in the holes and don't always dig in the same area.

You can help to look after our seashores by keeping them free from litter and pollution. Fishing line and nets can trap and kill seabirds, seals and dolphins. Plastic bags, bottles, tin cans and other containers kill thousands of animals every year - they crawl in but can't get out.

Dolphin

The Moray Firth has become well known throughout the UK for its resident population of bottlenose dolphins, which is vulnerable to a wider range of threats such as lack of food, entanglement in fishing nets, pollution and disturbance.

Dolphin watching boat tours have become an important tourist attraction in this area. The Dolphin Space Programme has been introduced to raise awareness of the dolphins and their need for space to rest, feed and rear their young. At both South and North Kessock, you can enjoy watching dolphins from the land.



contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts

For more information and a dolphin watching "hotspots" map contact:
Scottish Natural Heritage, Fodderty Way
Dingwall IV15 9XB - Tel: 01349 865333

■
Help dolphin conservation by adopting a Moray Firth dolphin from:
The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society
Brookfield House, 38 St Paul Street,
Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 1LY

■
Join: **Friends of Moray Firth Dolphins**
4 Craigview, Banffshire AB56 4QF

■
Report any stranded animals to:
Scottish Agricultural College
Veterinary Services - Tel: 01463 243030

Dolphin © Charlie Phillips / WDCS



If you want to see dolphins, either watch them from the shore or use an accredited boat operator who has joined the Dolphin Space Programme. Local Tourist Information Centres and www.greentourism.org.uk have a list of approved boat operators who follow this code of conduct, which is aimed at minimising disturbance.

Otter

Otters are found living along the banks of rivers and lochs, and on the coast. Because they are nocturnal they are seldom seen, and often the only signs of otters are their droppings, which are full of little fish bones and scales. You can see these along the shores of Loch Ness, usually on prominent rocks.

Otter numbers declined from the 1950s due to pesticides getting into the food chain. They have also suffered from a loss of habitat when riverbanks were cleared and straightened. Otters require clean rivers and lochs with an abundant supply of food, and prefer secluded sites with dense plant cover for their dens. In Inverness and Nairn the population is recovering, and otters can sometimes be spotted among the rocks on the foreshore at Bunchrew, Inverness Islands and at river mouths.

[contacts](#) . [contacts](#) . [contacts](#) . [contacts](#)

To help conserve otter numbers, the Scottish Wildlife Trust is creating “otter havens”, where riverbanks are planted up and kept free from human disturbance.

Scottish Wildlife Trust - North Region

Unit 4A, 3 Carsegate Road North
Inverness IV3 8DU - Tel: 01463 714746



Young people interested in the environment can join Scottish Wildlife WATCH – Cawdor Hoglets are a very successful local WATCH group.

Cawdor Hoglets

Tel: Derek Hamilton
01667 404666

Otter on shore © RSPB



You can support otter conservation by becoming a member of the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

Fresh water rivers and lochs

Freshwater habitats are highly valuable from a biodiversity viewpoint and also for their recreational and commercial interests. Our rivers and lochs are a focal point for visitors to the area, and many anglers come to fish for salmon, sea trout and brown trout.

Only one of our rivers now supports the very rare freshwater pearl mussel, which can live for 100 years or more. Its life cycle is dependent upon the larvae spending its first winter living in the gills of a member of the salmon family, before burying itself into clean gravels where it will spend its first 5-10 years. This vulnerable species has declined because of the decrease in the numbers of salmon and trout returning to spawn in our rivers, and a deterioration in water quality.

[contacts](#) . [contacts](#) . [contacts](#) . [contacts](#)

*If you see any signs of water pollution
you can help by contacting:*
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
Graesser House, Fodderty Way
Dingwall IV15 9XB
Tel: 0800 806070
(24 hour emergency number)



River bed with lichen rocks © SNH



We all have a part to play in keeping our water clean and safe for wildlife and ourselves. We can help by being careful about what we empty down drains.

If you go fishing use flies in preference to live bait, as non-native fish used for bait could destroy the delicate balance of nature. To safeguard freshwater life, water management plans have been drawn up to control the level of enrichment by pollution from fish farms, sewage works, farming and forestry operations.

Slavonian grebe

Loch Ruthven is the most important site in Britain for the Slavonian grebe, one of our rarest and most beautiful breeding birds. Indeed, almost the entire European population breeds in lochs along the Great Glen.

They were first recorded on Loch Ruthven about 100 years ago. The population grew to a maximum of 74 pairs in 1990, but has since declined and now there are less than 50 pairs. The loch also supports a large variety of plant and animal life. Ospreys can be seen regularly, and there is always the chance of seeing a peregrine falcon or black grouse.

Part of the loch is a Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reserve. You can enjoy watching birds on Loch Ruthven from the bird hide, situated 600 metres from the car park.

[contacts](#) . [contacts](#) . [contacts](#) . [contacts](#)

To find out more about Slavonian grebes or any of our native birds, contact:

RSPB Scotland

North Scotland Regional Office
Etive House, Beechwood Park
Inverness IV2 3BW - Tel: 01463 715000

If you want to watch grebes then please follow the Grebe Cross Code.

Copies are available from:

Scottish Natural Heritage

Fodderty Way, Dingwall IV15 9XB
Tel: 01349 865333



Slavonian grebe © RSPB C Gomersall



If you would like to learn more about birds, you could join the RSPB. By keeping records, members provide important information for conservationists. You can also help birds by becoming a volunteer warden of one of the RSPB reserves in our area.

Pearl-bordered fritillary

Across Britain one of our most beautiful butterflies, the pearl-bordered fritillary has declined by 75% in the past 100 years. In this area, its particular strongholds are in the upland glens like Glen Strathfarrar.

The main food plant of the larvae is common dog-violet, which is usually found on sunny, south facing slopes with some bracken. Loss of habitat is the main threat to the pearl-bordered fritillary, but if a light to moderate bracken cover is kept this will provide an ideal habitat. One way to do this is by controlled cattle grazing.



contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts

For more information on our wild butterflies and moths, contact:

Butterfly Conservation

Balallan House, Allan Park
Stirling FK8 2QG - Tel: 01786 447753

■
Or locally:

Jimmy McKellar

24 Scorguie Gardens
Inverness IV3 6SS

Pearl-bordered fritillary © Laurie Campbell



Butterfly Conservation exists to protect our wild butterflies and their habitats. You can help by taking part in surveys and monitoring programmes, promoting conservation of wild places and growing plants that attract butterflies.

Farmland

From the upland crofts of Glen Moriston to the arable plains of the Moray Firth, a large part of Inverness and Nairn is managed for agriculture. Over the centuries, farming and crofting have played a critical role in determining the biodiversity of much of our countryside.

By growing different crops and keeping livestock, farmers and crofters have contributed towards the biodiversity of Inverness and Nairn. Many farms and crofts have retained small pockets of wildlife in wet areas, small woodlands, field edges, drystone dykes, ditches and burns running through their ground.

The Scottish Biodiversity Group and the Agriculture Working Group have produced a series of leaflets to help crofters and farmers increase biodiversity on their land.

Jock and bailer © Mark Foster



contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts

Advice on how to maximise the biodiversity of your farm or croft is available from:

**Scottish Executive Environment
and Rural Affairs Department**

Government Buildings

28 Longman Road, Inverness IV1 1SF

Tel: 01463 234141

Scottish Agricultural College

Drummond Hill, Stratherrick Road
Inverness IV2 4JZ - Tel: 01463 243030

Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group

Glaikmore, North Kessock

Inverness IV1 1XD - Tel: 01463 811072

Scottish Crofting Foundation

Old Mill, Broadford, Isle of Skye IV49 9AQ

Tel: 01471 822529

ACTION

The corn bunting lives in lowland arable farmland. There are now less than ten pairs in the Highlands, all in the Nairn area. Weedy stubble fields are their most important feeding habitat during winter. The area of winter stubbles has greatly decreased due to the switch from spring to autumn sown cereals. By not ploughing the stubbles until Spring, farmers can help birds like the corn bunting survive in the Highlands.



Corn bunting © RSPB M Richards

ACTION

When mowing is done later in the year, wildflowers are able to set seed and young birds have time to fledge before the grass is cut. Fields that are richest in wild flowers are more likely to support a wide range of other wildlife.

If field margins are sown with tussock-forming grasses and broad-leaved plants, they can help suppress the more troublesome weeds. Leaving slightly broader, uncultivated verges at the side of fields will encourage pest-controllers like ladybirds and money spiders.



Flowery field © SNH

ACTION

A careful balance of grazing benefits the vegetation structure and reduces the parasites that affect sheep and cattle.

This in turn should mean a reduction in the use of wormers and Avermectins, which will benefit the harmless invertebrates of the farm.

Cattle make better use of poor quality grazing than sheep.



Cattle in woodland © Alistair Hamilton

Wet woodland

Urquhart Bay wood lies between the rivers Enrick and Coiltie on the shores of Loch Ness. It is an excellent example of an ancient wet woodland, consisting mainly of alder and ash with hazel, bird cherry and willow. This wood has a wide variety of wildlife, including several rare lichens. On some of the trees you can see the large green lobes of the tree lungwort, once thought to cure lung disease.

The Woodland Trust Scotland owns part of this wood, and has created a network of paths for visitors. Invasion by non-native shrubs and sycamore trees is the main threat to this woodland. Other local landowners are also managing their wet woods under the guidance of Scottish Native Woods' Riparian Woodland Programme.

contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts

Scottish Native Woods

The Old School, Errogie
Inverness IV2 6UH - Tel: 01456 486426

By joining the Woodland Trust Scotland, you can find out about conservation activities and become a volunteer.

Woodland Trust Scotland

Glenruthven Mill, Abbey Road,
Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1DP
Tel: 01764 662554

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers are also involved in a variety of local conservation projects.

BTCV Scotland

30 Millbank Road, Munloch
Ross-shire IV8 8ND - Tel: 01463 811560

Urquhart Bay Wood with lichen © C Matheson



Getting rid of invasive species such as Japanese knotweed rhododendron and sycamore will increase the biodiversity of wet woods.

Red Squirrel

Red squirrels are a familiar and much loved sight in deciduous and conifer woodlands in our area. Dores, Cannich and Abriachan are all good places for watching squirrels.

Our native red squirrel populations have suffered badly over the last century with the introduction of the North American grey squirrel, which has replaced the red in most of Britain. Fortunately in the Highlands we have no grey squirrels yet. Native pinewoods are an important habitat for red squirrels, as red squirrels are better adapted to getting the seeds out of pine cones than their grey cousins.

To reduce the number of squirrels killed on the road, specially designed rope bridges can be constructed to help them cross roads safely. Rope bridges can be seen on the road running along the southern bank of Loch Ness.

contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts

Ian Collier

Highland Red Squirrel Group

Woodlands, Fodderty Way
Dingwall IV15 9XB - Tel: 01349 862144



*Forestry Commission Scotland Rangers
lead regular informative walks
in local woods.*

Moray Forest District

Balnacoul, Fochabers IV32 7LL
Tel: 01343 820223



Fort Augustus District

Strathoich, Fort Augustus PH32 4BT
Tel: 01320 366322



Red squirrel in habitat © Laurie Campbell



You can help in the conservation of red squirrels by recording red and grey squirrel sightings in your area for the Highland Red Squirrel Group.

Pinewood

The ancient Caledonian forest once stretched from the Beaully Firth to the Argyll coast. Descendants can be found in fragments of pinewood scattered throughout our area. Glen Affric is one of the largest remaining areas of native Scots pine in Britain.

Pinewood birds such as Scottish crossbill, capercaillie and crested tit live here. Also present are special pinewood flowers like creeping lady's tresses and the very rare one-flowered wintergreen.

As you walk through this woodland look out for a wood ants' nest, a dome-shaped pile of needles and other forest debris woven together. Ants play a vital role in the woodland by controlling the numbers of caterpillars and other leaf-eating insects, and presence of ants is one sign of a thriving woodland.

contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts

Forestry Commission Scotland Ranger
Fort Augustus District, Strathoich
Fort Augustus PH32 4BT - Tel: 01320 366322



To help to plant a native tree or get a native tree planted for you, contact:

Trees for Life

The Park, Findhorn Bay
Forres IV36 3TZ - Tel: 01309 691292



Abriachan Forest Trust

Tyeantore, Abriachan IV3 8LD
Tel: 01463 861259



Woodland Trust Scotland

Glenruthven Mill, Abbey Road,
Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1DP
Tel: 01764 662554

Caledonian pine forest © Laurie Campbell



Encourage nurseries to grow trees from local seed sources by asking for plants of local provenance. Let's try to plant a tree for every Highlander, and extend the area of native woodland. Setting up a native tree nursery is an excellent school project, Tomnacross Primary School has done this successfully.

Black grouse

The black grouse or “blackcock” is one of the fastest declining birds in Britain, but the Highlands of Scotland is still a stronghold and in Inverness & Nairn we have retained a healthy population.

The black grouse is a bird of open woodland and moorland edges. In the mating season, male and female birds gather early in the morning for a communal courtship display known as a lek.

At Corrimony Nature Reserve, RSPB Scotland is trying to restore black grouse numbers through changes in land management. The main threats are loss of habitat through overgrazing, an increase in the number of predators like foxes and crows, disturbance at leks, and some are killed flying into high fences.

contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts

For more information on black grouse or capercaillie, contact:

RSPB Scotland

Woodland Grouse Officer
Etive House, Beechwood Park
Inverness IV2 3BW - Tel: 01456 415396



Abriachan Forest Trust

Tyeantore, Abriachan IV3 8LD
Tel: 01463 861259



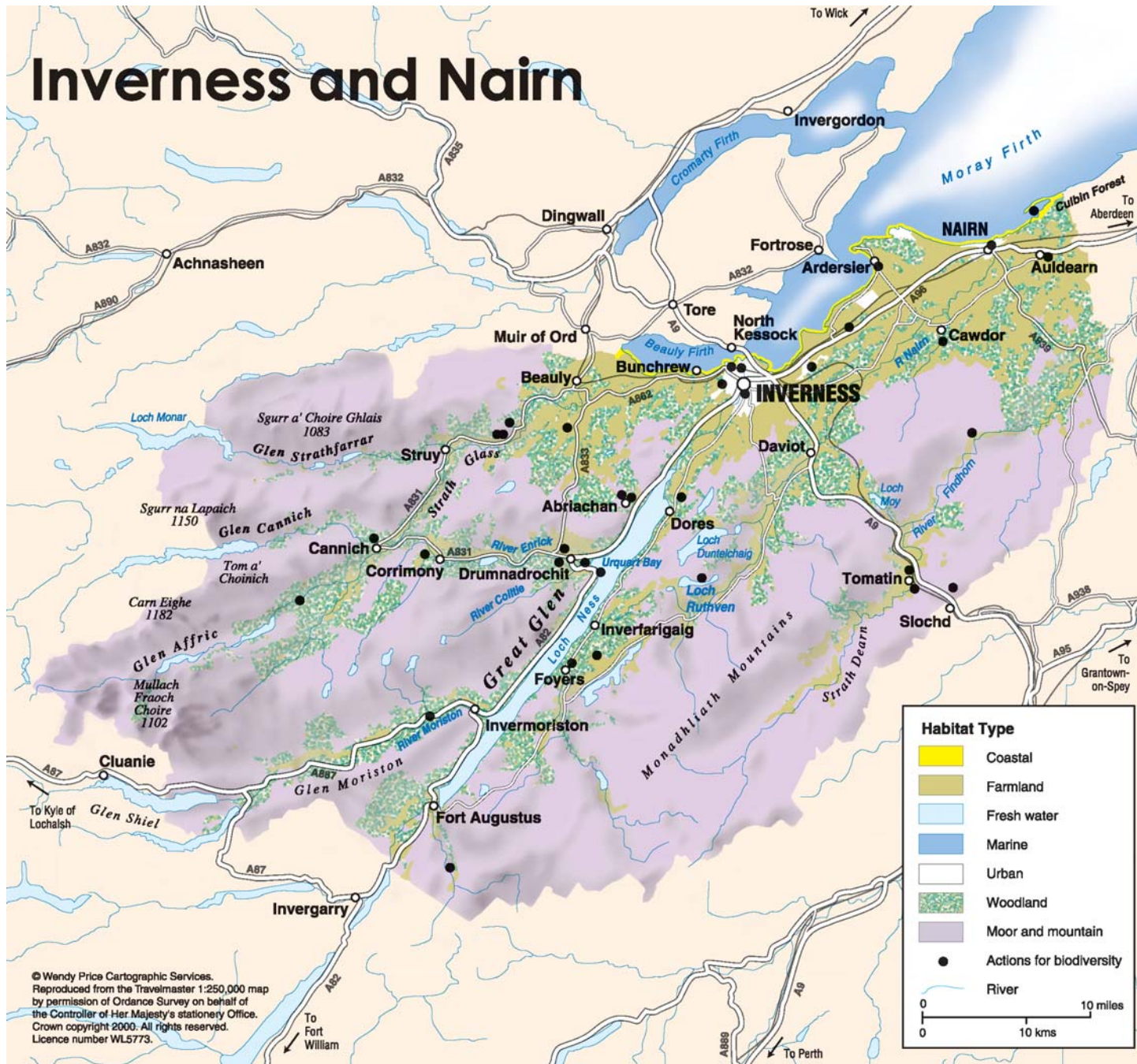
Lekking blackcock © RSPB



Control of their main predators, planting native trees, and removal or marking of deer fences will help reverse the decline in black grouse numbers. Advice and grants are available for land managers who are interested in helping black grouse and other wildlife.

When walking in the countryside in spring and early summer, it is important to keep your dog on a lead so that the wildlife is not disturbed.

Inverness and Nairn



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Moorland

Heather moorland provides us with some of our most beautiful scenery. This complex community of plants includes ling and bell heather, cross-leaved heath, blaeberry, crowberry, orchids and a wide range of grasses, ferns, mosses, liverworts and lichens.

Adder, red grouse, hen harrier and mountain hare are also at home here. In winter, you can see mountain hares gather on leeward slopes above the Slochd to shelter or feed where the snow is shallow enough to permit them to scrape for the underlying heather.

Numbers have declined in areas planted with trees or where the heather has been overgrazed. The highest densities of mountain hares are found on moors managed by burning.

contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts

For a copy of the Muirburn code, contact:

Scottish Natural Heritage

Fodderty Way, Dingwall IV15 9XB

Tel: 01349 865333



The Highland Biological Recording Group was set up to carry out surveys of Highland wildlife. Even if you are not an expert, you can help by keeping records for them. For more information, contact:

Highland Biological Recording Group

c/o Inverness Museum & Art Gallery,

Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3BJ

e-mail: PandIEVANS@aol.com



Heather moorland with burnt areas © SNH



Strategic burning of heather produces a mosaic of different aged stands of heather ideal for both hares and grouse. SNH provides advice to landowners on burning heather.

Purple saxifrage

Throughout time colliding continents, grinding ice sheets and flowing waters have shaped our dramatic mountain landscape. Showing a splash of colour in otherwise rocky grey surroundings, the purple saxifrage blooms with beautiful magenta flowers.

This is one of the earliest flowering plants in our mountainous habitats; it begins to flower very soon after the snow melts in April. True to its Latin name - Saxifraga means rock-breaker - this plant occupies barren exposed rock, damp crevices in cliffs, and sometimes you will see it growing on shifting soils such as screes.

Mountain areas are very sensitive to trampling, so walkers should stay on paths to protect these beautiful and sensitive plants.

contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts

The Access Forum has published a booklet called "Care for the Hills", copies are available from:

The Access Forum

Tel: 01738 444177



Inverness Botany Group

The Granary, Ness-side

Inverness IV26DH

Tel: 01463 236440



Inverness Field Club

Tel: 01463 831057

Email: invernessfieldclub@btinternet.co.uk



Purple saxifrage © SNH



If you would like to learn more about our wild flowers you can join the Inverness Botany Group, the Inverness Field Club or the Young Naturalists Club who go on field trips and are involved in recording.

Garden

Town and country gardens are an important habitat for wildlife and a great place to get really close to nature. A species that has lost its natural habitat will often find refuge in a garden. With a little effort, we can do a lot to improve the biodiversity in our gardens and increase our enjoyment of them.

Useful websites

www.growingnative.org.uk

www.gardenlinks.ndo.co.uk/wildlife.htm

www.butterfly-conservation.org

- We can grow plants that attract butterflies and moths.
- A compost heap reduces the amount of household refuse and is excellent for your garden.
- Put up bat boxes and bird boxes.
- Even a small garden pond will attract frogs, toads and newts as well as dragonflies and damselflies.
- Create a wood pile for hedgehogs, beetles and insect larvae.
- Reduce the amount of chemicals used in the garden.
- Think carefully about the impact you have on the biodiversity of your home area – even chopping too many trees down to clear a patch for a shed affects many creatures in the food web.

contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts

SNH have produced a series of leaflets entitled "Garden for Life", which has lots of good advice on gardening for biodiversity. They also tell you how to build bat boxes.

Scottish Natural Heritage

Fodderty Way, Dingwall IV15 9XB

Tel: 01349 865333



If you would like information on bird boxes, contact:

RSPB Scotland

Etive House, Beechwood Park
Inverness IV2 3BW - Tel: 01463 715000

Gardener at work © S Barr



ACTION

Pipistrelle

The pipistrelle is Britain's smallest bat. Despite its tiny size a single bat can eat over 3,000 midges in one night! This appetite for insects makes them a gardener's and farmer's friend.

Bats roost in holes in old or dead trees and in a variety of places within both old and modern buildings. The loss of old trees means buildings are increasingly important as roost sites. Numbers have declined due to the loss of roosts, the intensification of farming and the use of toxic chemicals for treating timber.

Bats and their roosts are protected by law. If you have bats you must contact Scottish Natural Heritage before carrying out alterations or timber treatment to roosts. They will advise on the timing of the work and on suitable bat-friendly chemicals so that work can go ahead with minimum disturbance to the bats.

contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts

Scottish Natural Heritage

Fodderty Way, Dingwall IV15 9XB
Tel: 01349 865333

The Bat Conservation Trust

15 Cloisters House, 8 Battersea Park
Road, London SW8 4BG
website: www.bats.org.uk

Or locally, contact:

Steve Austin, Tel: 01463 790533

Highland Council Ranger Service

Tel: 01463 724260 or 01463 724312

Cawdor Estate Rangers

Tel: 01667 404666

Pipistrelle Bat © The Bat Conservation Trust



You can help by building bat boxes and putting them up in a sheltered spot near the bats' feeding area. By growing plants that attract insects, you can provide food for bats living near you.

Community actions. . .



Here is how communities can find out about & help the biodiversity on their doorstep:

- Encourage others to come and enjoy your local environment by building path networks, holding identification days or inviting experts to come and inspire the community to do more.
- Set up a “ Community Mapping” project so people can learn and show others what is special about their own patch.
- Recycle, reduce and reuse what we use in and around the home.
- Reduce transport costs by buying local goods and supporting Farmers’ Markets.
- Set up or get involved in a local biodiversity forum.
- Contact the Partnership for Rural Inverness & Nairn (PRIN) for advice and funding for community environmental and biodiversity projects - c/o Planning & Development, Highland Council, Town House, Inverness IV1 1JJ. Tel: 01463 724213.



There are many excellent examples of successful local projects. Here are just a few...

- Ardersier Community Council are creating a footpath along the shore front to Fort George.
- Ardersier & Petty Environmental Society have created a Beechgrove Wildlife Garden and organise community litter picks along the beach area.
- Craigmory Woodland Association and the Great Glen and Highland Council Ranger Services organise walks to highlight aspects of the natural environment.
- The City Wildlife Leaflet highlights wildlife in the City of Inverness.
- Kirkhill & Bunchrew Community Council have set up a recycling centre at Kirkhill.
- Nairn River Walk encourages people to appreciate the townscape environment.
- A walkway with interpretation has been created at Cherry Island, Fort Augustus.



www.btcv.org.uk

www.morayfirth-partnership.org

www.wildlifetrusts.org.uk

www.butterfly-conservation.org

www.wwf-uk.org

www.foe-scotland.org.uk

www.pathsforall.org.uk

www.communitytoolkit.org.uk

www.briscc.org.uk

Business actions. . .



Here is how businesses can take action – at no cost or low cost:

- Survey your site, learn what lives in the area, ensure the habitat is not being spoiled – invite local experts to help your staff with audits. (e.g. Highland Biological Recording Group or local rangers)
- Hold team building conservation activities to improve habitats.
- Set up staff award schemes and use their environmental actions to improve morale and create good publicity.
- Create links with local community groups and school grounds projects – support in kind or offer some funding.
- Become a “Biodiversity Champion” of a local species or habitat, e.g. TESCO have championed the skylark.
- Register with the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), which aims to reward organisations that strive to improve their environmental performance.
- Strive to achieve best practice by minimising your environmental impacts.



Here are some local examples of good practice. . .

- Tomatin Distillery has improved wet moorland habitat by fencing out deer and sheep, and planting native willow and alder.
- Norbord have planted native trees and created a pond and reedbed to deal with effluent in an environmentally sensitive way. They involved local students in their environmental audit.
- Aigas Golf course have linked their landscaping with the surrounding woodlands by planting mixed trees and shrubs. Larch to encourage red squirrels is included.
- Abriachan Gardens support local conservation projects by annually donating garden entrance money.
- Loch Ness Coffee Company's green policy has addressed waste disposal challenges.
- Several projects have produced walks leaflets to encourage locals and visitors to make use of the varied habitats around Inverness and Nairn.



www.greendirectory.net

www.sepa.org.uk

www.green-business.com

www.businessandbiodiversity.org

www.greentourism.org.uk

www.hie.co.uk/ine

Classroom actions. . .



Here is how your class can get involved... both indoors and out:

- Get involved in recording – survey birds at the bird table, when you see the first hazel catkin... www.woodland-trust.org.uk/phenology has an eye-catching recording format suitable for all ages.
- Share information about successful projects – some schools take turns in writing environmental news on their websites or in their newsletters.
- Invite local rangers and environmentalists to lead activities regularly – get involved in the annual Scottish Biodiversity Week.
- Start School Grounds projects - have an outdoor classroom. Scottish Natural Heritage and the Partnership for Rural Inverness & Nairn (PRIN) offer advice and funding.



Some local examples of worthwhile actions. . .

- Foyers & Aldourie Primary schools have been comparing and recording the trees and wildlife they see in the woods nearby. Foyers school and Boleskin Environmental Group will be undertaking a wildlife audit in Loch Bran.
- Teanassie Primary pupils say “It only takes a moment... to care for the local environment and to let others know why it is important...” e.g. they have been learning about the red kites nesting in the area.
- Many schools have a Green Team who are recycling aluminium cans and using the money to improve the biodiversity of the school grounds.
- Glenurquhart High, Tomatin and Raigbeg schools have built, erected and observed bat and bird boxes in local woods.
- Glenurquhart, Dores, Aldourie and Millbank schools have successfully obtained PRIN Biodiversity funding for a variety of projects.
- Active Abriachan youth group produced leaflets and signs describing animals and plants in their area.
- Inverness Field Club’s young naturalists welcome newcomers. Contact: Tel: 01463 861259
- Aigas Field Centre runs educational workshops on biodiversity, recycling and minibeasts. Contact: Aigas Field Centre, Nr. Beauly IV4 7AD, Tel: 01463 782443
- Highland Environmental Network produced the School’s Out! pack and travel grant scheme to encourage fieldwork activities in schools.

www.forestry.gov.uk/treetrunk

www.snh.org.uk

www.biodiversitystories.co.uk

www.ukbap.org.uk

www.wwf-uk.org

www.rspb.org.uk

www.swt.org.uk

www.woodland-trust.org.uk

Land management actions. . .



Here are some examples of how you can help improve biodiversity on your land:

- Keep woodland edges open, leave standing dead wood and old strainer posts as perches for birds of prey, nesting sites for crested tits and woodpecker grub sources.
- Replant some areas of conifer plantations with native hardwoods, e.g. birch, and manage for timber and biodiversity.
- Manage riverbanks to benefit wildlife, improve fishing and prevent erosion.
- Link wet field margins by creating new ponds and deciduous plantings to maximise biodiversity.
- Maintain an open mind to managing land for biodiversity!

contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts . contacts

Scottish Executive Environment & Rural Affairs Department

Government Buildings, 28 Longman Road, Inverness IV11SF, Tel: 01463 234141

Scottish Agricultural College

Drummond Hill, Stratherrick Road, Inverness IV2 4JZ, Tel: 01463 243030

Scottish Natural Heritage

Fodderty Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB, Tel: 01349 865333

Highland Council Agricultural Officers

Planning & Development, Town House, High Street, Inverness, IV11JJ, Tel: 01463 724222



Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group

Glaikmore, North Kessock, Inverness IV1 1XD, Tel: 01463 811072

Scottish Crofting Foundation

Old Mill, Broadford, Isle of Skye IV49 9AQ, Tel: 01471 822529

Forestry Commission Scotland, Woodlands

Fodderty Way, Dingwall IV15 9XB, Tel: 01349 862144

Woodland Trust Scotland

Glenruthven Mill, Abbey Road, Auchterarder, Perthshire PH3 1DP, Tel: 01764 662554

Highland Birchwoods

Littleburn, Munloch, Ross-shire IV8 8NN, Tel: 01463 811606

Some local examples of worthwhile actions. . .

- 7 farmers in Inverness & Nairn have planted 10 hectares of wild bird cover on set-aside land.
- On the riverbanks of the Tarff and Findhorn sheep, deer and goat grazing has been reduced, resulting in habitat improvements, which in turn, have improved the fishing on the Findhorn and the regeneration of gorge woodlands on the Tarff.
- At Craggan Vallie, Kiltarlity wet field corners have been fenced off and grazing controlled, thus restoring a mosaic of scrub willow cover and bog. This has encouraged biodiversity with orchids, juniper, damselflies, black grouse, redshank, snipe, pearl bordered fritillaries and brown hare all seen.
- Several landowners hold open days, for other land managers and the interested public, to demonstrate the environmental projects they have been involved in.

Forestry Commission Scotland
www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

Scottish Agricultural College
www.sac.ac.uk

Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group
www.fwag.org.uk/scotland

Scottish Executive
www.scotland.gov.uk

Scottish Rural Property & Business Association
www.srf.org.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage
www.snh.org.uk

Local authority & agency actions. . .



Here is how you can help people improve their local biodiversity:

- Set up and support a local biodiversity network to raise awareness of community-led environmental projects, share good practice, oversee actions, run events and support community mapping exercises in Inverness & Nairn.
- Employ a part-time biodiversity officer for a year to support the above group in its initial stages and help local communities and businesses to undertake biodiversity projects.
- Provide training and support to a network of volunteer biodiversity contacts, who can advise and support individuals, schools and community groups willing to carry out community mapping exercises.
- Organise a scientific audit of the biodiversity of Inverness & Nairn to act as a source of information and starting point for biodiversity monitoring.
- Employ an ecologist to ensure this information and other ecological advice is available for developers and planners.
- Help deliver the Inverness & Nairn Local Biodiversity Action Plan.



- Produce a series of local case studies and contacts, which can be used to demonstrate and publicise the variety of community actions for biodiversity already achieved.
- Create a biodiversity display and starter pack for communities to use in the initial stages of a project.
- Initiate an award scheme for different sectors of the Inverness & Nairn community e.g. small & large businesses, farmers, nurseries, schools, community groups to reward environmental achievements.
- Encourage and support businesses and communities to minimise the waste they send to landfill - this could be community composting facilities, or community training sessions hosted by the Partnership for Rural Inverness & Nairn (PRIN).
- Embed sustainability in all departments, grant programmes and the awarding of external contracts, e.g. the grass-cutting of roadside verges and public parks should be carried out to promote wildlife areas and biodiversity as well as safety and tidiness.

Sources of funding and grant aid. . .

- Scottish Executive Environment & Rural Affairs Department operate the Rural Stewardship Scheme, a competitive agri-environment fund open to farmers and large crofters throughout Scotland.
- The Forestry Commission grant aid the planting of new woodlands and management of existing woods.
- Scottish Natural Heritage award grants for environmental works.
- Scottish Environmental Protection Agency have a national award scheme for habitat enhancement works.
- The Partnership for Rural Inverness & Nairn (PRIN) runs a small grant scheme specifically aimed at improving biodiversity and the environment of this area.
- The Partnership for Rural Inverness & Nairn (PRIN) and Scottish Natural Heritage can offer advice on additional funding sources.

red squirrel, song thrush, spotted script lichen, **ground beetle**, cornflower, Scottish woodant, **great crested newt**, mason bee, juniper, northern brown argus, bottle-nose dolphin, skylark, **capercaillie**, goblet scented pine fungus, linnet, European otter, purple ramping fumitory, pearl-bordered fritillary, **brown corky spine fungus**, northern dart, Slavonian grebe, green-footed spiny-cap fungus, northern woodant, reed bunting, pillwort, **dingy skipper**, house sparrow, **Kentish glory**, lapwing, **water vole**, common scoter, reddish-brown corky spine fungus, cousin German, twinflower, crane fly, tree sparrow, **scaly tooth**, Scottish crossbill, **argent and sable**, brown hare, black and white scented pine fungus, **bullfinch**, narrow-bordered tree hawkmoth, pipistrelle bat, drab tooth fungus, sword grass, **blue corky spine fungus**, black grouse, **marsh clubmoss**, harbour porpoise, one-flowered wintergreen, Arctic charr, Corn bunting, sword-leaved helleborine, Shetland pond weed, spotted flycatcher, **green shield moss**, stabler's rustwort, grey partridge, **small blue**, adder, mountain ringlet, golden plover, lampreys, **swift**, wild cat, **marsh fritillary**, sea trout, large heath, **mountain hare**, chequered skipper, northern damsel fly, Atlantic salmon, **woolly willow**, goshawk, goosander, red kite, pine marten...



Twinflower © SNH



BIODIVERSITY

THE VARIETY OF LIFE

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