

BIODIVERSITY WEEK: 19-25 May 2008

Ranger-led events in Highland

Monday 19 May

Mon 19th 20.30-21.30. **Clowns of the Ocean**

A short walk to view a fascinating puffin colony in the Dunbeath area. Booking essential

E Caithness Ranger Tel: 01955 607758

Tuesday 20 May

Tues 20th 14.00-16.00. **Strathy Pools and Priest Stone**

Strathy Village Hall. NC 835 653 Walk out to view a lovely bog pool system then head on across the hill to the Strathy Priest Stone overlooking the village. No dogs
North Sutherland Ranger Tel: 01641 521884

Tues 20th 09.00-16.00. **In search of Golden Eagles**

Assynt Visitor Centre, NC 094 225 Main Street, Lochinver. Elusive and yet majestic, Golden Eagles are one of Assynt's special birds.

Assynt Rangers Tel: 01571 844654

Tues 20th to Fri 23th 21.00 - 22.30. **Badger watch on Loch Ness side**

Loch Ness side. Exact details given out on booking. For 4 evenings we will be taking small groups out to watch badgers at a secret location on Loch Ness side. This promises to be a magical evening. This is a joint event with Forestry Commission Scotland and is weather dependent.

Katy Martin, Inverness Ranger Tel: 01463 702933

Tues 20th 11.30 - 14.00 **Graves & Garnets**

NM 719 785 As part of "Biodiversity Week", drift through the multiple environments in an investigative wander through this remarkable corner of the Moidart peninsula. Bring a packed lunch. Roshven.

Sound of Arisaig Ranger Tel: 01687 462 983 or

West Lochaber Ranger Tel: 01967 402 232

Wednesday 21 May

Wed 21st 14.00-16.00. **Do the Puffin walk**

NC 392 687 Meet at Balnakeil beach car park by Durness. Beautiful walk across Balnakeil beach then across dunes to view a small colony of puffins. Bring binoculars.

NW Sutherland Ranger Tel: 01971 511756

Wed 21st 14.00 – 16.30. **Helping Ratty in Dalwhinnie**

Meeting place details given out on booking. Water Voles need your help in the Cairngorms National Park. A short talk will be followed by a field visit to look for Water Vole signs.

Duncan Macdonald, Badenoch and Strathspey South Tel: 01540 673907

Thursday 22 May

Thurs 22nd 10.00-14.00. **Invernaver - broch and beach**

NC 710 603 Roadside car park by the River Naver bridge near Bettyhill. Enjoy a guided walk on this former national nature reserve and see wonderful wildflowers and

archaeology, including remains of a broch with stunning views. No dogs. Involves a steep climb.

North Sutherland Ranger Tel: 01641 521884

Thurs 22nd 10.00-12.00. Electro-fishing demonstration

NC 083 248 Achmelvich Bridge, on the coast road to Stoer. A harmless technique to look for eels, trout and more with the West Sutherland Fisheries Trust biologist. Please bring wellies if possible.

Assynt Rangers Tel: 01571 844654

Thurs 22nd 19.30-21.30. Puffins and more

NC 921 645 Layby at the North coast Caithness and Sutherland border. Walk through some spectacular scenery to this busy puffinry and see what else appears.

N Caithness Ranger Tel: 01847 821531

Thurs 22nd 11.00 - 15.00 Learn about Limestone: International Biodiversity Day event

NG 617 206 From disused marble quarries to the fascinating flora of the limestone pavement, Skye's Strath Special Area of Conservation is well worth a visit. A 5km walk. Meet at Cill Chriosd Church, Suardal.

Skye & Lochalsh Rangers. Tel: 01471 822905 / 822774

Thurs 22nd 11.30 - 15.30 The Rhu Clearances

NM 627 851 Look back to the lifestyle of our forefathers and feel the atmosphere as you stand in the ruins that were once bustling homes. Bring a packed lunch. Arisaig Sound of Arisaig Ranger Tel: 01687 462 983

Saturday 24 May

Sat 24th 10.00-12.00. Osprey watch

NH 776 983 Meet at the Mound car park on the A9 between Golspie and Dornoch. Come and watch the comings and goings of one of Sutherland's nesting osprey pairs.

East Sutherland Ranger Tel: 01549 402 638

Sat 24th 14.00-16.00. In search of seals

NC 910 036 Meet at the Shore car park, Brora. A 6km walk to get close to the common seals hauled out on an east coast beach.

East Sutherland Ranger Tel: 01549 402 638

Sat 24th 11.00-14.00. Borgie Viking Boats

NC 663 565 Meet at Borgie Forest log cabins. Come along to the Borgie Forest log cabins and help the local ranger and Forestry Commission build replica Viking longboats complete with sails.

North Sutherland Ranger Tel: 01641 521884

Sat 24th 11.00 - 14.00. A Bog woodland near you - Monadh Mor

NH 579 526 Meet at FC Monadh Mor carpark off the A835 between Tore and Maryburgh. Visit this rare habitat for Scottish Biodiversity Week and learn how bog woodland supports a varied and unusual group of flora and fauna including white faced darter dragonflies.

Martin Hind Easter Ross Ranger Tel: 01349 868563

Sat 24th 10.00 - 16.00. Celebrating Biodiversity Week in Wester Ross

NH 025 630 Meet at Scottish Natural Heritage, Ananacaun Field Station, Kinlochewe. A fun day for all the family with games, activities and more. Come along and learn

more about the fascinating flora and fauna of Wester Ross & find out what you can do to encourage it. Joint event with the Highland Council Rangers, The National Trust for Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage.

Lindsey Duncan, Wester Ross Ranger Tel: 01854 613 904,

Nicola Tallach, Scottish Natural Heritage Area Officer Tel: 01445 760254

Sat 24th 10.30 - 15.30 Butterfly Survey Training

NG 879 263 Join Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum and the Highland Council Countryside Rangers to survey the area's butterflies during 2008-9. An illustrated talk by Tom Prescott of Butterfly Conservation followed by a field visit in Lochalsh to help you get started. Dornie Hall. Booking essential.

Skye & Lochalsh Rangers. Tel: 01471 822905 / 822774

Sunday 25 May

Sun 25th 11.00-14.00. **Ben Bhraggie**

Meet at the Main Street car park (near Co-op), Golspie. A 10Km walk through woodland and by loch, finishing at the spectacular monument to the 1st Duke of Sutherland. One of the best viewpoints in the area.

East Sutherland Ranger Tel 01549 402 638

Sun 25th 10.30 - 15.30 Butterfly Survey Training

NG 253 475 Join Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum and the Highland Council Countryside Rangers to survey the area's butterflies during 2008-9. An illustrated talk by Tom Prescott of Butterfly Conservation followed by a field visit around Dunvegan to help you get started. Dunvegan Hall. Use public car park opposite hall. Booking essential.

Skye & Lochalsh Rangers. Tel: 01471 822905 / 822774

Sun 25th 14.00 - 17.00 Bio/Geo-diversity walk at Inchree

Meet at Inchree Forest Car Park NN 031 635 A final event for Scottish Biodiversity Week and an initial one for the Geopark Weeks combines the two disciplines with a walk through Inchree Forest and the 'Dry Gorge' looking at the special fauna and landscape in the area. Inchree Forest and Onich.

Lochaber Geopark 01397 705314 or info@lochabergeopark.org.uk