Scotland – The Isle of Coll in Summer

Naturetrek Tour Report 2nd – 9th July 2023



Dark Green Fritillary



Garden Tiger



Common Guillemot (bridled)



Grey Seals

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Tour participants: Greg Smith (leader) with assistance from Sarah Smith and local naturalist Jane Metcalfe with seven Naturetrek clients,

Summary

Seven Naturetrek clients spent a happy seven days on the Isle of Coll. We enjoyed many highlights from right across the natural history spectrum, coupled with a variety of striking landscapes, delightful beaches and interesting archaeology and geology. The Hebridean birds duly performed for us – with Corncrake, Storm Petrel, White-tailed Eagle and (daily) Hen Harriers. We were wowed by a lunge-feeding Minke Whale on a trip to the Puffin colony on Lunga. We saw an amazing array of different plants, among them eight types of orchid, the rare and striking Pipewort and five different species of insectivorous plant. Add to these Otters, Brown Hares and both Common and Grey Seals and we had the perfect all round Hebridean experience!

Day 1 Sunday 2nd July

Rendezvous in Oban and a walk in Dunollie Woods

On the first evening, our group of seven Naturetrekkers met our guide for the week (Greg) in Oban. We discovered that we were the 10th Naturetrek party to make the trip out to the Isle of Coll with him.

After dinner, we strolled along the esplanade where a wreck of jellyfish caught our attention: mostly Moons but among them a Compass and a Lion's-mane. The carnage on the shoreline, and the absence of any obvious scavengers, got us wondering: what eats dead jellyfish? Also on the shore was a mass of rotting seaweed (following recent stormy weather). Lurking among it was an unusual tennis-ball-like alga known as the Oyster Thief on account of its habit of attaching itself to a shellfish on the seabed and then floating away with it when its bladder is inflated. Two bird species which breed locally in voids in the sea wall were putting on a very confiding show: Black Guillemots and Rock Pipits, while in the shallows an excitable male Common Seal was slapping the water violently with tail and flipper.

As we strolled back through Dunollie Woods we saw evidence of Scotland's post-glacial rise out of the sea in the form of inland sea cliffs (exposing the Silurian conglomerate sandstone) and a sea stack elevated above the shoreline (known as 'Fingal's dog-stone'). Our guide tried out a word he had learned from an arboriculturalist on his previous Naturetrek group: inosculation - the merging of clump-planted trees (in this case Beech trees) into a single organism. We also learned that our binoculars can be used as magnifiers if you look down them the wrong way - and we thereby saw the gland-tipped hairs on the stem of a Hazel leaf. We were shown our first 'grass of the day', the tall and distinctive Cocksfoot with flattened stems and a spreading panicle with long stalks on the chunky spikelets. We were to be 'tested' on our growing list of grasses as the week went on.

Day 2 Monday 3rd July

Oban to Arinagour ferry, walks at Wee Torastan and Fiskary

The following morning, we loaded the minibus early and got to the ferry port in good time for our sailing. As we waited to depart, we were inculcated into the mysteries of how to age different species of seagull as Great Black-back, Herring and Common Gulls of different ages flew around the ferry.

As we set sail, we got the chance to distinguish Cormorant and Shag as they took it in turns to fly past the ferry out in the Firth of Lorne. At this point, the weather for the next few days (sun and showers) was signalled by the regular appearance of rainbows.

As we passed Morvern on our right, a huge fault line running up the cliffs marked a billion year gap between the ancient Moine gneisses to the east and the much younger basaltic lavas to the west. The latter were occasionally bisected by even younger intrusions of hard igneous rock which stood out pale against the dark cliffs.

On the voyage we managed to observe, at a distance, most of the typical seabirds that breed hereabouts but Greg assured us that we'd get better views of Puffins, Guillemots and Razorbills on our trip out tomorrow. And boy, was he right!

As Coll loomed out of the sea, a small pod of Common Dolphins made a bee-line for the boat but didn't stay around to be enjoyed.

Once we had docked, Greg took us for a short drive to help us get the hang of the layout of the island before lunch. We also got our first glimpse of the famous Coll machair at Torastan. The machair is typically dominated by Marram grass, today's 'grass of the day' and the original botanical ecosystem engineer. Glimpses of wildflowers and butterflies, snails and beetles, gave us a sense of what was to come. We were interested to see Scottish Bluebells (Harebells to the Sassanachs among us) and the distinctive Heath Snails. Down on the delightful beach, Greg found a length of rope to which Buoy Barnacles were attached by means of a floating material they produce, which for all the world resembles expanded polystyrene.

We soon headed back to the Coll Hotel for a lovely gourmet lunch and then checked-in at the Tigh na Mara guesthouse - our home for the week under the wing of the effervescent Paula and her team.

We didn't have long to unpack before our guide had taken us out again, this time to the south and Loch Ronard. We had a quick view over the loch, but no sign of the hoped-for Arctic Skuas. The tall but delicate spikes of Water Lobelia were more than adequate compensation. Delightful!

A brief rain shower had us huddling around the van before we could set out on our walk proper. After this short delay, we headed off down towards Fiskary. On the walk we saw at least nine separate Arctic Skuas (making up for their absence at the loch). We admired the spindly fertile fronds of Hard Fern and the robust spikes of Royal Fern.

We saw our first Magpie moths of the trip which were to prove a constant feature wherever we went on the island during the week. The Slender St John's Wort lived up to the pulchritudinous billing of its scientific name, though the creeping Bog Pimpernel gave it a close run for its money. A family of Stonechats ticked from the top of a grove of Aspens (which proved that Coll does have some trees at least!)

We were next introduced to the three Heathers that would keep us company through the week, two contrasting species of Cotton-grass (one spreading, the other clumped) and two Willows (one low-growing, the other very low growing!)

Down in the bay we were shown a variety of archaeological features ranging from the Mesolithic age to the Viking era. While we were exploring these, a bruiser of a Bonxie (Great Skua) came down to check us out - a very different bird to the elegant Arctic Skuas. A passing Black-headed Gull excited our guide more than it did the rest of us (apparently, they're quite scarce out here), but a fly-over Red-throated Diver carrying a fish up to its loch-side nest on the moorland got us all interested.

Back to the van, via a short lecture on the key role of peat bogs in the struggle against climate change, and a pair of Red-breasted Mergansers flying around the loch, when the heavens opened again and we scrambled into the minibus. Timing!

Day 3 Tuesday 4th July

Village walk, boat trip to Treshnish Isles and walk to Caolas an Eilein

We began the day by cleaning our boots before our boat trip to Lunga; an attempt to reduce the risk of our transporting contaminants, maybe even the Avian Influenza virus, to the island. We had half an hour before our charter boat arrived so took a stroll up through the village of Arinagour where Lesser Redpolls were buzzing around. We took the sight of a 'sun dog' (a small rainbow caused by the refraction of sun light through ice crystals in the atmosphere) as a good omen for the day ahead.

Back at the pier there were three groups waiting to board different charters all due to arrive at 10am. As we descended the ladder into our boat, we joked about the need to ensure we all ended up on the right boat.

Cameron, our skipper, gave us a quick safety briefing and then we were off. The trip across the Hebridean Sea to the Treshnish Islands took just over half an hour and we quickly picked up a Harbour Porpoise - briefly visible through the waves. At first the birds were few in number - though the appearance of a tiny Storm Petrel, which tracked along beside the boat for the best part of a minute, was a massive bonus. Our skipper and guide had between them spent many, many hours in these waters and had rarely seen one of these usually nocturnal seabirds, let alone had the extended views offered on this occasion. As we got closer to Lunga the number of seabirds increased - individual Puffins whirring along, loose groups of Shags on fishing expeditions and small parties of Guillemots and Razorbills sitting on the sea.

When we reached Lunga and prepared to go ashore we discovered three stowaways onboard! They had booked with another boat that was also going to Lunga and had inadvertently joined our group. The skipper had assumed they were part of our group and we had assumed they were additional clients of his!

We landed on Lunga and headed up to the first lava platform via a family of Eiders and a twittering Common Sandpiper. On the platform we managed an extended period in the company of dozens of confiding Puffins standing around their burrow entrances. From time to time a Puffin would arrive onto the clifftop with a bill-full of Sand Eels and race into its burrow.

We left the platform when the first tourist boat arrived and headed along the clifftop path where we got amazing views of Shags and Razorbills nesting close to the path, and Fulmars on ledges on the cliff. The latter occasionally burst into demonic chattering and gurning as an interloper came too close to their nest, like some satanic vision of Hieronymus Bosch, Andrew suggested.

Several of the Shags sported numbered colour-rings which we made a note of and later shared with the local ringing group who are doing a long-term study into Shag longevity.

It wasn't just birds, though… The path took us past a lovely variety of wild flowers: Roseroot, Common Scurvy-grass and Sea Campion. The low-growing Wild Angelica flowers were adorned with Soldier Beetles and White-tailed Bumblebees; and the yellow Common Ragwort flowers were home to a myriad Six-spot Burnet moths. Our guide checked out the latter in hope of locating one of the rarer Burnet moths which occur locally but without success.

At the vast sea stack of Harp Rock, our senses were assailed by the sight, sound and smell of the heaving seabird colony - some 10,000 pairs of Guillemots and Kittiwakes. We wondered what our various bird call apps would make of the cacophony - "not a lot" was the answer!! The racket increased when a Great Black-backed Gull descended among the Guillemots and stood among them for a while. It seemed uncertain what to do - as confused as our phones by the noise, perhaps.

A few bridled Guillemots (sporting dashing white-rimmed spectacles) stood out from the crowd - including a confiding pair close-by who had managed to find one of their own kind among the melée. Below the cliffs, on the sea, a pair of Bonxies spent a considerable time first drowning and then sharing their spoils in the form of a ragged Puffin.

Vast drifts of Yorkshire Fog, with their nodding purplish heads and soft downy stems, were today's 'grass of the day'. We headed round to an old abandoned village where the substantial ruins of several black houses stood and we looked south towards Staffa and the Ross of Mull. To the east the island of Insh Kenneth could be seen - a place with a peculiar history as home during the Second World War to Unity Mitford, a member of the scandal-riven aristocratic family and a notorious acolyte of Adolf Hitler. Returning to the boat, we were serenaded by Grey Seals on the offshore skerries and found a nice patch of Scot's Lovage among the rocks.

Our voyage now took us around the other Treshnish Isles, where serpent-necked Shags and huge herds of blubbery Grey Seals accompanied us. A Peregrine briefly appeared over the Cairn na Burghs but was quickly chased off by a sudden flurry of Herring Gulls. We did get better views of the Napoleonic War fortifications and the remarkable sea arch, elongated like the eye of a needle.

We were halfway back to Coll when a Minke Whale appeared in the distance. Our skipper killed the engine and the whale surfaced several times, with people shouting "There" then "Here" as it covered huge distances between dives. These views gave us a tantalising sense of the size of the beast but, exciting as this was, nothing could have prepared us for what happened next: the whale emerged vertically from the water, showing its long head and striped throat, before crashing down with an enormous splash - lunge-feeding! We were all momentarily stunned and then suddenly animated, grinning and laughing at what we had just witnessed. Majestic and very special! Our delight and wonder stayed with us back to our landing at the Coll pier where we said our grateful farewells to Cameron.

After half an hour at Paula's for a cup of tea and a brief rest, we were out again, this time walking down past the ferry pier to a quiet shore. We were shown Bog Myrtle, Cow-wheat and Heath Spotted Orchids, and learnt about the salt-tolerant Danish Scurvy-grass, whose UK distribution progressively mapped the trunk road network of Britain following the routine spreading of salt on our roads since the 1960s.

We sat and looked out over the bay where three Shelduck and flocks of Greylag and Canada Geese had gathered. A Common Gull and an Arctic Tern both got agitated over one of the skerries and the Greylags suddenly made a run for the land. The cause of this commotion was soon evident as an Otter swam across the bay. Sadly it only provided distant views before it swam out of sight around a headland, but it was great to have ticked off another

speciality mammal of the Hebrides. As we headed back, Andrew found the bleached skull of an Eider duck glued to a stone by its dried juices! He collected it but worried how he would get it home at the end of the week without crushing it.

Day 4 Wednesday 5th July

Moth trap at Ballyhaugh, walk up Ben Hogh, then to RSPB Totronald, evening walk through Arinagour village

We began the next day heading out to our guide's cottage to help look through the treasures in his moth trap. On the way, we saw our first Hen Harrier and Brown Hare of the trip.

The jewels emerging from the moth trap were a delight: Gold Spot, Smoky Wainscot, True Lovers' Knot, Light Arches and Ingrailed Clay - even the names conjured magic. But best of all were the fat and fuzzy Poplar Hawk-moth, with the crypsis of its rectangular outline, and the chunky Garden Tiger - the complex brown and white pattern on its forewings contrasting with the purple-spotted orange hindwing that it reveals when alarmed. In all, 125 individuals of 20 different species - and that on the night of a full moon when moths are supposedly reluctant to venture out.

After coffee and cake in Greg and Sarah's cottage garden, we walked up onto Ben Hogh, the highest point on Coll. On the way, lots of new wildflowers were seen - Brookweed and Marsh Cinquefoil, two different species of Lousewort and the strange, orange, plastic-like runners of Silverweed. Margaret spotted an unusual clover on the ditch-side: Zigzag Clover, contrasting with the nearby Red Clover that it superficially resembles.

A small group of Heath Fragrant Orchids had us all gather round and cup our hands to imbibe the intoxicating aroma. It reminded some of church incense or Granny's perfume, but to the subtler connoisseur it recalled the clove-like aroma of Mrs Sinkins' Pinks!

We worked our way up the flank of the hill on a steep path but our prize on completing this ascent was the wonderful sight of an Emperor Moth caterpillar - an extraordinary satin green beast with clusters of black and white spikes along its sides - for all the world like a miniature cactus. A first for all of us - even our guide.

More insects greeted us up here by the vast perched erratic near the summit: the fast-moving Violet Ground Beetle; a predatory rove beetle common to the Hebrides called *Staphylinus erythropterus*; and the Giant Tachinid Fly - whose gruesome modus operandi is to lay its eggs on the caterpillars of large lasiocampid moths. Its larvae then bore into the hosts and consume them from the inside, leaving their vital organs to be eaten last thereby keeping their victims alive - and hence fresh - for as long as possible.

Standing on the ancient cairn on the false summit of Ben Hogh, we took in the many islands visible from here: Barra and the Uists to the West; Rum and the Small Isles to the north; and Mull and the Treshnish Isles to the south and east.

The wildlife kept coming as we headed down in the form of a cluster of Lesser Butterfly Orchids and a very busy Dark Green Fritillary butterfly who refused to rest despite the excitable exhortations of our guide.

'Grass of the day' number 4 was the fine-flowered Black Bent that grew everywhere on the hillside. And, because we'd been good (or was it bad?!), today we were given a bonus grass, in the form of Viviparous Fescue, a most unusual grass with living seed heads.

As we rounded the loch at the foot of the hill, Anne O found a Pyramidal Orchid - the first of many we would see on the machair. We carefully filed across the makeshift bridge over a stream heaving with Bogbean and then met up with Sarah again to sit down for a well-earned lunch, serenaded by the contrasting songs of Sedge Warbler and Reed Bunting.

Lunch consumed, and with a shower threatening, some chose to brave the weather and take a walk through the sand dunes with Sarah, while others retreated to the cosy confines of the minibus to be driven round to our next rendezvous point, the RSPB reserve base at Totronald. Those who took the latter option were rewarded by the sight of a couple of Cuckoos on fence posts, while the damp walkers were the first to hear Corncrakes.

At Totronald, our guide explained why this area of farmland was so important for Corncrakes (it holds 10% of the UK breeding population). Every time he said the word "Corncrake" a bird called in the field behind, as if in reply to its name. As songs go the 'crex crex' call isn't the prettiest sound in nature but it certainly excites expectation and we spent a considerable time searching in vain for a glimpse of the bird. Two ring-tailed Hen Harriers flying up the valley were some consolation and, as the sun came out, our first Buzzard of the trip flew over the machair.

The sun also inspired some activity among the hitherto invisible Snipe in the meadows - one flew over our heads and later we caught one practising its drumming display flight. In the distance, some thought they heard a Peacock call, though it soon dawned on us that this was in fact the keening cry of an Arctic Skua.

As the rain came on again, we headed back to the minibus, with Liz cursing the still-calling Corncrake - "I hope it gets soaking wet!" In the carpark we saw the edgiest sedge of them all, the False Fox Sedge, and the smelly Pineapple Mayweed. The latter got us wondering what they called this common weed before pineapples were introduced to Britain - and why they didn't say of pineapples "Oh, they smell like that weed we get in the carpark" rather than the other way round.

After dinner we took an evening walk up through the village. There were several Eider ducks with ducklings on the high tide, a Goldcrest in the woods (a scarce bird out here), and a large stand of the hybrid Woundwort (which we had seen on our first night in Oban). The abundance of bees on the latter had us wondering whether hybrid flowers still produce pollen and/or nectar despite being infertile.

A male Hen Harrier appeared over the woods, but our guide was more interested in a Wood Pigeon in the fields beyond, "You don't see many of those around here!" he enthused, to our consternation. We ended the day with Andrew enjoying a therapeutic moment in the company of some Eriskay ponies.

Day 5 Thursday 6th July

Killunaig, Loch à Mhill Aird, the graveyard and Chapel Beach

We were joined on our walk today by local naturalist Jane - who compounded our Corncrake frustration of the previous day with a tale of Corncrakes crossing the road in front of her partner's car.

A black and white Rabbit on the roadside was not an escapee but evidence of domestic genes in the local wild stock which sometimes get expressed as throwbacks in wild individuals.

Our walk today was a two-legged affair - the morning taking in moorland, bog and loch and the afternoon sand-dune and beach. As we headed out on the first leg, a mobile flock of Twite landed on a fence (small, dark and streaky – the birds, that is, not the fence!) before heading off into the long grass where they were scarcely visible.

We found numerous patches of Mountain Everlasting - the Scottish Edelweiss - a tiny prostrate species with separate male and female plants, the latter evident from the fluffy seed heads on display. We also found the alpine Creeping Willow. It appeared to be bearing numerous red berries (unusual for a willow!) but on closer examination these turned out to be galls of the sawfly *Euura collactanea* forming red bodies on the underside of the leaves.

The landscape in the moorland bore all the hallmarks of glacial activity: u-shaped valleys, rounded hillocks, abandoned erratics and even glacial stria, where rocks caught on the underside of the glacier left score marks on the bedrock. A brightly coloured caterpillar attracted our notice: a Knotgrass, whose adult form is a dull monochrome by comparison.

We passed an ancient shelter stone and clambered up a small elevation where two Iron Age burial cairns enjoyed timeless views across the rolling moorland landscape, dotted with lochs and lochans. From here it was a short if path-less descent to the loch where Pipewort (a true aquatic rarity - known from just a handful of sites on the west coast of Scotland) was flourishing. Its unique appearance - individual spikes emerging from the water at jaunty angles, each bearing a tightly packed bundle of bluey-white flowers at its tip - certainly made it striking and unmistakable. Much more obscure were the short lengths of Bladderwort in the bog pools, our fourth species of botanical insectivore, which Sarah likened to catkins that have fallen into the water.

The return to the minibus offered us more variety with tiny red-tipped *Cladonia* goblet lichens, Oblong-leaved Sundews, another Emperor moth caterpillar and a large bronze carabid hunter known as the Granulated Ground Beetle. But best of all was the minuscule Pale Butterwort with tightly-rolled, fleshy grey leaves and a single, tiny lilac flower - looking nothing like its big brother the Common Butterwort which we'd seen in several places already.

Lunch was consumed back at the minibus followed by a quick tour of the graveyard beside which we had parked. We knew that more rain was due at some stage during the afternoon but we headed out to do the second leg of the walk in high spirits.

Immediately we were rewarded with several new plants: Red Bartsia and Yellow-rattle, Lady's Bedstraw and Fairy Flax and various insects including Common Blue and Small Heath butterflies and a somnolent Common Hawker dragonfly. Among a drift of Common Spotted Orchids we found a single, rather late-flowering Early Marsh Orchid with its distinctive folded lip and Grommet-ears. Our orchid list was also boosted by the miniature bronze-flowered Frog Orchids - which were easily found once we'd got our eye in.

Our walk took us past a hidden Bronze Age cist burial site which had been excavated in the 1970s when it emerged from the sand. Next we were shown a striking basalt dyke running across the foreshore, cooled and eroded to form a staircase down to the sea. Some of us ventured out onto the wet rocks to be shown a natural well in the basalt, over a metre deep, cut over thousands of years by a rolling stone. Known locally in Gaelic as 'the well of the king's daughter,' it is a traditional wishing well, as evidenced by the various rusting coins hidden in the cracks around it.

From here we hit the beach, where a fly-over Whimbrel calling distinctively was evidence of the advancing autumn in the form of a returning post-breeding or (more accurately perhaps) failed-breeding wader. Offshore, Arctic and Common Terns were breeding on the skerries and feeding in the shallows, while on the saltmarsh, specialised plants such as Knotted Pearlwort and Distant Sedge were in flower. As the rain set in, again, we hastened back to the minibus and the comfort of the guesthouse.

Day 6 Friday 7th July

Walks at Beinn Feall, Feall Bay, Crossapol machair and Crossapol Beach

Day six began with a drive to the west end of the island, to the Feall/Crossapol area - a location we had not yet explored. It was a dreich morning of low cloud and mizzle but we were in good spirits, thanks to a group of three Arctic Skuas on the way. At one point, we stopped off to be shown some dried seed heads - a crude attempt by our guide to add another orchid species to our already burgeoning list: these were the seed heads of long-finished Early Purple Orchids.

At the car park a male Hen Harrier and two or three Twite made brief appearances, while Sand Martins cruised up and down the long, flat, flower-rich sward which, during the Second World War, had been regularly mown and rolled as an emergency landing airstrip for the neighbouring military base on Tiree. We saw a new plant here which seemed to dominate the machair in this area, the Bloody Crane's-bill. We were later shown another plant gall on the crane's-bill - the squiggly leaf growth from a bud infested by the nationally rare leaf mite *Aceria geranii*.

In the neighbouring wetland, a 'sawing' Snipe was heard: "Like someone vigorously deploying a junior hacksaw" Greg observed.

We walked up the gentle incline of Beinn Feall, taking in a memorial bench to the last laird of the island, Kenneth Stewart. At the summit we were shown two ancient burial structures: a chambered tomb and a cairn, and below us the distinctive rolling ridge and furrow of lazy beds, where the old crofters cultivated the land for their crops. Today's 'grass of the day' was growing in abundance – the distinctive, round-flowered Soft Brome.

As we descended the hill, we were surprised to hear a Corncrake calling from the deep cover of Bracken on the hillside - a most unusual location for a bird more at home in the dense vegetation of the hay meadows. Keen for a view, Andrew hung back and was rewarded with the sight of the bird flying across the path.

Down on Feall bay, we were presented with a new array of specialist beach species - various knotweeds and oraches, Sea Rocket and Whorl Grass. We played a game: filling boxes drawn in the sand with different species of seaweed - 16 different species (not all of which we could put names to!) but each displaying a different strategy for balancing the twin challenges of desiccation and gaining access to sunlight for photosynthesis. The obliging Eider family in the breakers watched us with puzzlement.

As we walked back towards the minibus for lunch, we suddenly found ourselves on a beetle drive, with three different species appearing at our feet: a dung-rolling Dor Beetle, a large black click beetle that we couldn't put a name to, and a bronze burying beetle, the Hebridean speciality *Silpha tyrolensis*.

Once again our timing was spot-on relative to the weather, as a heavy shower came on, just as we were sitting on the ground around the minibus to munch lunch. We retreated to the van and headed off out again as the rain cleared. Our afternoon walk was through the amazing machair of the high rolling sand dunes, and back along a long curved beach of exquisite beauty. We enjoyed even more new wild flowers this afternoon than we could have imagined: Stork's-bill, Hop Trefoil, Lesser Meadow-rue, and the leaves of the Dune Pansy. Among them flew the pearly Grass Rivulet moth, the first Grayling butterflies of the year and an exquisite metallic green jewel of a leaf beetle, *Cryptocephalus aureolus*.

After a delightful couple of hours in the dunes we came out onto the vast curve of Crossapol beach and headed east, into the wind. Among the seaweeds washed up the beach were a few strands of Eelgrass, one of the few

higher flowering plants to have returned to the ocean, and some By-the-wind Sailors - an extraordinary colonial jellyfish with a chitinous float and 'sail'.

At the end of the beach we visited the MacLean family mausoleum, a stone-built structure with carved sandstone 'fingers' pointing heavenwards and an elaborate front elevation. Sadly the whole thing is on poor repair, as Roy put it, "A cracking mausoleum!" From here we headed back to the car park. As we crossed the beach an unusual ball of tightly woven grass stems caught Liz's attention - she kicked it just as Greg quipped that it was a baby hedgehog. To Liz's relief, it wasn't! It was a structure created by the rolling waves on the curved beach - which in Italy is called a "nun's fart"! Back at the minibus, we took a moment to enjoy the Sand Martins hanging stationary in the wind at head height. This evening we had a memorable meal at the Island Café – a popular spot as we were surrounded by many of the islanders whom we had met during the week

Day 7 Saturday 8th July

Community Market then to Totronald, Sloc Sturrach and Hogh Beach

Our Saturday morning began with a spot of retail therapy - giving us the opportunity to purchase the wares of local craftspeople, including those of the Coll distillery. Those of us less in need of a retail fix, sat in the sun and spotted Sedge Warbler and Whitethroat in the young trees while we puzzled over the identity of one of the planted shrubs in the grounds of the community centre. Eventually (with the aid of various online resources) we ended up at one of the New Zealand daisy-bushes *Olearia traversiorum* aka the Chatham Island Tree Daisy.

Once everyone else's purchases were made, we headed back down to Totronald to give the Corncrakes one more chance. The auspices were good as Bonxies and Arctic Skuas accompanied our journey across the island and a family party of Red-throated Divers cruised warily on a roadside loch as we passed. We even gave a lift to a couple of hiking Dutch ladies, on the principle that "One good turn deserves a Corncrake!"

We were less ebullient when we arrived at the RSPB reserve to find the wind howling up the valley - any self-respecting Corncrake would be hunkered down for the duration. The wind was so strong that a wind turbine across the valley whirred and clattered like a steam train. So, as a distraction Greg led us off over the hill to a beach where there was a chance of terns. Another unusual plant gall provided some interest in the form of the fasciated stems of Jointed Rush playing host to a jumping plant louse *Livia junci*.

On arriving at the beach, we found the tern colony, which we were assured had been a thronging hive of activity just a week earlier, devoid of life. The absence of corpses assured us that this was not another case of Avian Influenza (which was wiping out term colonies across Europe this year) but a better news story of a successful fledging (fingers crossed!). We sat on the beach to eat our lunch when a couple of Arctic Terns flew along the shore, closely followed by two Little Terns, the latter like clockwork toys with wings whirring and a distinctive 'shreep' call. In the bay a couple of mother and pup pairs of Common Seals swam together, curious but cautious. We watched a couple of always-angry Oystercatchers feeding in the short, lawn-like turf behind the beach with a well-grown chick (a catcherling, perhaps?!) when a Hooded Crow came down. The two parents flew up angrily and, as the Hoodie sidled up to the chick, one of the adults with a Common Gull riding shotgun, shot across the grass like missiles and drove the Hoodie away. At a different time, the Common Gull itself might have proved a threat to the young Oystercatcher, but today they united successfully against a common enemy.

Back on the beach we started shell-hunting and very quickly Margaret had amassed a fine collection of Spotted Cowries. The rest of us redoubled our efforts but none of us had Margaret's knack. The best we could come up with was a dried, black mermaid's purse that resembled a Stag Beetle - the egg sac of a Spotted Ray. Further along the beach we wondered at the smoothly worn flume-like channel through the rocks, like a polished marble bathtub. The next wonder was one of those things that you've read about but rarely see: an injured Ringed Plover with its wings dragging, calling piteously on the beach as it stumbled along. Another case of bird flu perhaps? Or perhaps its leg was caught in some plastic? As we went to investigate, it suddenly righted itself and trotted off across the sand before again falling down, trailing its wings and pleading with us to help. But we weren't fooled twice - we now realised that there must be youngsters hiding among the pebbles and this sly devil was trying to distract us from them with its play-acting. And very impressive play-acting it was - we were all taken in by it. Magic! As a reward we quickly moved away to let them reunite.

As we headed up and over the hill behind the beach, our guide took a detour to "use the facilities," as he put it, but came back punching the air as he had stumbled upon a new location for a locally rare plant, Herb Robert. Not a rarity on the well-wooded mainland but only the fifth record from the island. We descended, via a wet hillside with Frog and Pyramidal Orchids, onto another beach where, without troubling the local waders, we were able to do some more shell-spotting and rock-pooling. Our best finds were another mermaid's purse (this one a Small-spotted Cat-shark with long tendrils) and some Sea Milkwort.

From here we headed back across the machair where we were shown one of the associates of Marram Grass which aids dune stabilisation, the flowering Sand Sedge. Several low-growing roses, covered in brightly-coloured hips, were Burnet Rose and a small yellow moth with narrow wings, flitting among the grasses, proved to be a Barred Straw. Rather less impressive than the Dark Green Fritillaries which were also on the wing once again.

As we breasted a rise, a Brown Hare was spotted in a dune slack below us. We were downwind of it and it either hadn't seen us or didn't care (Coll hares are surprisingly obliging), giving us extended views as it munched on the grasses. Eventually it loped away but a second hare that we surprised at close range was rather more fleet of foot and raced away when it saw us.

When we got back to the minibus we agreed to have another half an hour with the elusive Corncrakes - encouraged by the experience of a chap who had just lured two birds to fly to him by playing a recording of a calling male. We discussed the ethics of this and agreed that the impact of such behaviour was unknown but potentially harmful to the birds - and their welfare should always trump our pleasure. So we agreed to use the tried and tested technique of watching and waiting. A Snout moth fluttered in the long grasses (False Oat Grass according to our guide) and another Brown Hare appeared on the lane and strolled down towards us enabling some great photos to be taken. Then after an hour in position, it finally happened: a Corncrake rose from a neighbouring field, flung itself over two fences and flopped down into the tall grasses right in front of us. At which point it completely disappeared. It was over in an instant and none of us managed to register any meaningful plumage details, just a sense of its size and colouration: all rusty grey-brown and chestnut hues. It was remarkable to think that a bird so reluctant to fly, and so ungainly when it does, would in just a few weeks be making an epic flight of several thousand miles to central Africa for the winter.

We were buzzing as we got back into the minibus and returned to the village for a wash and brush-up before dining in the lovely restaurant. After dinner, our guide put in some overtime, playing with the musicians in the corner of the bar. And that was it, our last day on the island was over.

Day 8 Sunday 9th July

Walk at Cliad Beach, then ferry to Oban and disperse

This morning we all packed our bags, bade farewell to Paula our host for the week and piled into the minibus one last time.

We discussed our last-minute wish-list with our guide: a closer view of a Hen Harrier, an Otter, and a White-tailed Eagle… please. No pressure, Greg!

Almost immediately a male Hen Harrier flew along beside the minibus giving lovely views of this striking creature. Tick #1!

Our final trip across the island took us to another exquisite beach. A recently fledged Skylark dust-bathing on the track in front of us caused us to slow to a stop while it finished its ablutions.

Rather than walk straight down onto the beach, we were led up into the high foredunes overlooking the shore. From here we could see the length of the beach and the offshore skerries. More Dark Green Fritillaries, seemingly always busy, flitted about and a Bonxie flew past at eye-level to inspect us.

Then Anne H spotted a shape in the water. "I've got an otter" she cried and, after a little effort to work out which rocky outcrop they were in front of, we managed lovely views of a mother and her cub diving repeatedly in search of food, before they slipped out of sight behind one of the islands. Tick #2!!

A Common Seal with a pup on one island, and a decent flock of Kittiwakes loafing on another, were an impressive supporting cast to the main act.

Down on the beach we saw plenty of Otter prints and as we returned through the dunes a female Hen Harrier (a ring-tail) cruised by, and a large black and electric blue Dor Beetle caught our attention in the grass. On its underside were dozens of tightly-packed phoretic mites, hitching a ride to the next poo pile where they would hop off and lay their eggs.

Down at the ferry pier an Arctic Skua came to see us off, taking an interest in the always-busy Arctic Terns tracking backwards and forwards with fish for their young.

On the boat we sat on deck in the sunshine and watched Gannets, Guillemots and Puffins flying by. A big gathering of Gannets and Kittiwakes got us excited at the prospect of another whale encounter but sadly it didn't materialise.

A Lesser Black-backed Gull way out over the sea was an unusual sight, but we were disappointed not to have more than a single Manx Shearwater on this occasion - they must have chosen the other side of Coll for their vast gathering today. We picked up a distant raptor over Morvern. A mere dot through the binoculars but, with the aid of our camera zooms, it was soon revealed to be… a White-tailed Eagle. Tick #3!!!

We managed a single Harbour Porpoise near Lismore and then, in a flash, we were back on the quayside in Oban, where our adventure had started a week earlier. We made our farewells and went our separate ways. The regular pinging of the WhatsApp group over the next couple of days, sharing images from the week, enlivened our journeys

home, and provided a reminder of some wonderful wildlife experiences in great company - the hallmark of all successful Naturetrek tours.



Early Marsh Orchid

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Species lists

Birds

		July 2023						
Common name	**Scientific name**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Red-throated Diver	*Gavia stellata*	✓				✓	✓	
Northern Fulmar	*Fulmarus glacialis*		✓					
Manx Shearwater	*Puffinus puffinus*	✓	✓					✓
European Storm Petrel	*Hydrobates pelagicus*		✓					
Northern Gannet	*Morus bassanus*	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Great Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax carbo*	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
European Shag	*Gulosus aristotelis*	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Heron	*Ardea cinerea*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greylag Goose	*Anser anser*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Canada Goose	*Branta canadensis*		✓					
Common Shelduck	*Tadorna tadorna*		✓		✓			
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	✓						
Common Eider	*Somateria mollissima*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-breasted Merganser	*Mergus serrator*	✓	✓					✓
White-tailed Eagle	*Haliaeetus albicilla*							✓
Hen Harrier	*Circus cyaneus*			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Buzzard	*Buteo buteo*			✓				
Peregrine Falcon	*Falco peregrinus*		✓					
Corn Crake	*Crex crex*			✓		✓	✓	
Eurasian Oystercatcher	*Haematopus ostralegus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Ringed Plover	*Charadrius hiaticula*	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
Northern Lapwing	*Vanellus vanellus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Sandpiper	*Actitis hypoleucos*		✓	✓			✓	
Common Redshank	*Tringa totanus*				✓	✓		✓
Eurasian Curlew	*Numenius arquata*					✓		
Eurasian Whimbrel	*Numenius phaeopus*				✓			
Common Snipe	*Gallinago gallinago*			✓		✓		✓
Great Skua	*Stercorarius skua*	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Arctic Skua	*Stercorarius parasiticus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-headed Gull	*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*	✓	✓					
Common Gull	*Larus canus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Herring Gull	*Larus argentatus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	*Larus fuscus*	✓						✓
Great Black-backed Gull	*Larus marinus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kittiwake	*Rissa tridactyla*	✓	✓					✓
Little Tern	*Sternula albifrons*						✓	
Common Tern	*Sterna hirundo*	✓			✓		✓	✓
Arctic Tern	*Sterna paradisaea*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Atlantic Puffin	*Fratercula arctica*	✓	✓					✓
Black Guillemot	*Cepphus grylle*	✓	✓		✓			✓
Common Guillemot	*Uria aalge*	✓	✓					✓
Razorbill	*Alca torda*	✓	✓					✓
Rock Dove	*Columba livia*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	*Columba palumbus*			✓		✓		
Eurasian Collared Dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Cuckoo	*Cuculus canorus*		✓	✓				
Eurasian Skylark	*Alauda arvensis*	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

		July 2023						
Common name	**Scientific name**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Sand Martin	*Riparia riparia*	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rock Pipit	*Anthus petrosus*	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Meadow Pipit	*Anthus pratensis*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pied Wagtail	*Motacilla alba yarrellii*	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Eurasian Wren	*Troglodytes troglodytes*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dunnock	*Prunella modularis*			✓				
European Robin	*Erithacus rubecula*						✓	
Northern Wheatear	*Oenanthe oenanthe*	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Stonechat	*Saxicola rubicola*	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Song Thrush	*Turdus philomelos*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Common Blackbird	*Turdus merula*	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Spotted Flycatcher	*Muscicapa striata*	Oban						
Sedge Warbler	*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*		✓	✓			✓	
Willow Warbler	*Phylloscopus trochilus*	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Common Whitethroat	*Curruca communis*						✓	
Goldcrest	*Regulus regulus*			✓				
Hooded Crow	*Corvus cornix*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	*Corvus corax*			✓		✓		
Common Starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Chaffinch	*Fringilla coelebs*			✓		✓		
Common Linnet	*Linaria cannabina*	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Twite	*Linaria flavirostris*		✓		✓	✓		
Lesser Redpoll	*Acanthis cabaret*		✓	✓			✓	
European Goldfinch	*Carduelis carduelis*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
European Greenfinch	*Chloris chloris*			✓				
Common Reed Bunting	*Emberiza schoeniclus*	✓		✓			✓	

Other vertebrates

		July 2023						
Common name	**Scientific name**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Mammals								
European Rabbit	*Oryctolagus cuniculus*				✓			
Brown Hare	*Lepus europaeus*			✓			✓	
European Otter	*Lutra lutra*		✓					✓
Harbour Seal	*Phoca vitulina*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grey Seal	*Halichoerus grypus*		✓					
Minke Whale	*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*		✓					
Common Dolphin	*Delphinus delphus*	✓						
Harbour Porpoise	*Phocoena phocoena*		✓					✓
Herps								
Common Frog	*Rana temporaria*				✓		✓	
Viviparous Lizard	*Zootoca vivipara*						✓	
Fish								
Spotted Ray	*Raja montagui*						✓	
Small-spotted Cat-shark	*Scyliorhinus canicula*						✓	

Invertebrates

			July 2023						
	Common name	**Scientific name**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
Hymenoptera									
1	Moss Carder Bee	*Bombus muscorum*	✓	✓	✓		✓		
2	Common Carder Bee	*Bombus pascuorum*	✓	✓					
3	White-tailed Bumblebee	*Bombus lucorum*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	(a sawfly gall)	*Euura collactanea*				✓			
Lepidoptera									
5	Meadow Brown	*Maniola jurtina*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
6	Common Blue	*Polyommatus icarus*	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Green-veined White	*Pieris napi*					✓	✓	✓
8	Grayling	*Hipparchia semele*					✓		
9	Small Heath	*Coenonympha pamphilus*				✓		✓	
10	Large Heath	*Coenonympha tullia*			✓	✓			
11	Dark Green Fritillary	*Argynnis aglaja*		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Six-spot Burnet (moth)	*Zygaena filipendulae*		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Magpie (moth)	*Abraxas grossulariata*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
14	Cinnabar (caterpillar)	*Tyria jacobaeae*	✓						
15	Garden Grass Veneer	*Chrysoteuchia culmella*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	Emperor (caterpillar)	*Saturnia pavonia*			✓	✓			
17	Knotgrass (caterpillar)	*Acronicta rumicis*				✓			
18	Grass Rivulet	*Perizoma albulata*					✓		
19	Barred Straw	*Eulithis pyraliata*						✓	
20	Snout	*Hypena proboscidalis*						✓	
	(in moth trap)								
21	Garden Tiger	*Arctia caja*			✓				
22	Dark Arches	*Apamea monoglypha*			✓				
23	Light Arches	*Apamea lithoxylaea*			✓				
24	Common Rustic/ Lesser Common Rustic	*Mesapamea sp*			✓				
25	Purple Bar	*Cosmorhoe ocellata*			✓				
26	True Lover's Knot	*Lycophotia porphyrea*			✓				
27	Dark Marbled Carpet	*Dysstroma citrata*			✓				
28	Straw-barred Pearl	*Pyrausta despicata*			✓				
29	Narrow-winged Pug	*Eupithecia nanata*			✓				
30	Bright-line Brown-eye	*Lacanobia oleracea*			✓				
31	Flame Shoulder	*Ochropleura plecta*			✓				
32	Gold Spot	*Plusia festucae*			✓				
33	Poplar Hawk-moth	*Laothoe populi*			✓				

			July 2023						
	Common name	**Scientific name**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**
34	Rustic	*Hoplodrina blanda*			✓				
35	Triple-spotted Clay	*Xestia ditrapezium*			✓				
36	Smoky Wainscot	*Mythimna impura*			✓				
37	Ingrailed Clay	*Mythimna impura*			✓				
38	The Crescent	*Helotropha leucostigma*			✓				
39	Timothy Tortrix	*Aphelia paleana*			✓				
40	Large Mottled Shade	*Eana penziana*			✓				
Odonata									
41	Common Hawker	*Aeshna juncea*				✓			
42	Blue-tailed Damselfly	*Ischnura elegans*			✓				
43	Common Blue Damselfly	*Enallagma cyathigerum*				✓			
Coleoptera									
44	Red Soldier Beetle	*Rhagonycha fulva*		✓		✓	✓		
45	Violet Ground Beetle	*Carabus violaceus*			✓				
46	(a rove beetle)	*Staphylinus erythropterus*			✓				
47	Granulated Ground Beetle	*Carabus granulatus*				✓			
48	Dor Beetle	*Geotrupes stercorarius*					✓		✓
49	(a burying beetle)	*Silpha tyrolensis*					✓		
50	(a leaf beetle)	*Cryptocephalus aureolus*					✓		
Diptera									
51	Giant Tachinid Fly	*Tachina grossa*			✓				
Hemiptera									
52	(a jumping plant louse)	*Livia junci*						✓	
Cnidaria									
53	Moon Jellyfish	*Aurelia aurita*	✓	✓			✓		✓
54	Compass Jellyfish	*Chrysaora hysoscella*	✓	✓					
55	Lion's-mane Jellyfish	*Cyanea capillata*	✓						
56	By-the-wind Sailor	*Velella velella*					✓		
Crustacea									
57	Buoy Barnacle	*Dosima fascicularis*	✓						
Gastropoda									
58	Heath Snail	*Helicella itala*		✓			✓	✓	✓
59	Brown Garden Snail	*Cornu aspersum*					✓	✓	✓
Arachnida									
60	(a leaf mite)	*Aceria geranii*					✓		
Annelida									
61	Lugworm	*Arenicola marina*					✓		

Plants

		Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR
Machair and Dunes				
	1	*Achillea millefolium*	Yarrow	O
	2	*Anacamptis pyramidalis*	Pyramidal Orchid	O
	3	*Anthriscus sylvestris*	Cow Parsley	D
	4	*Anthyllis vulneraria*	Kidney Vetch	O
	5	*Arabis hirsuta*	Hairy Rock-cress	R
	6	*Arctium nemorosum*	Wood Burdock	R
	7	*Bellis perennis*	Daisy	D
	8	*Campanula rotundifolia*	Harebell	O
	9	*Cardamine pratensis*	Cuckooflower	O
	10	*Centaurea nigra*	Common Knapweed	O
	11	*Centaurium erythraea*	Common Centaury	R
	12	*Cerastium diffusum*	Sea Mouse-ear	R
	13	*Cerastium fontanum*	Common Mouse-ear	O
	14	*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*	Oxeye Daisy	O
	15	*Coeloglossum viride*	Frog Orchid	O
	16	*Crepis capillaris*	Smooth Hawk's-beard	O
	17	*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*	Common-spotted Orchid	O
	18	*Dactylorhiza incarnata*	Early Marsh Orchid	R
	19	*Daucus carota*	Wild Carrot	A
	20	*Draba incana*	Hoary Whitlow-grass	R
	21	*Erodium cicutarium*	Stork's-bill	R
	22	*Euphrasia sp*	Eyebright	F
	23	*Galium verum*	Lady's Bedstraw	F
	24	*Geranium molle*	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	R
	25	*Geranium sanguineum*	Bloody Crane's-bill	A
	26	*Heracleum sphondylium*	Common Hogweed	F
	27	*Hieracium pilosella*	Mouse-ear Hawkweed	O
	28	*Hypochaeris radicata*	Common Cat's-ear	F
	29	*Lathyrus pratensis*	Meadow Vetchling	O
	30	*Linum catharticum*	Fairy Flax	F
	31	*Lotus corniculatus*	Common Bird's-foot Trefoil	F
	32	*Lotus uliginosus*	Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil	R
	33	*Odontities vernus*	Red Bartsia	O
	34	*Phacelia tanacetifolia*	Phacelia	LA - sown
	35	*Plantago coronopus*	Buck's-horn Plantain	R
	36	*Plantago lanceolata*	Ribwort Plantain	O
	37	*Plantago major*	Broad-leaved Plantain	O
	38	*Polygala vulgaris*	Common Milkwort	O
	39	*Potentilla anserina*	Silverweed	LA
	40	*Prunella vulgaris*	Self-heal	O
	41	*Ranunculus acris*	Meadow Buttercup	F
	42	*Ranunculus repens*	Creeping Buttercup	F
	43	*Rhinanthus minor*	Yellow-rattle	F
	44	*Rosa pimpinellifolia*	Burnet Rose	R
	45	*Rumex acetosa*	Common Sorrel	O
	46	*Sedum acre*	Biting Stonecrop	O
	47	*Silene dioica*	Red Campion	R

		Scientific Name	Common Name	DAFOR
	48	*Taraxacum sp*	Dandelion	O
	49	*Thalictrum minus*	Lesser Meadow-rue	F
	50	*Trifolium campestre*	Hop Trefoil	O
	51	*Veronic chamaedrys*	Germander Speedwell	R
	52	*Viola tricolor ssp curtisii*	Dune Pansy	O
	Grasses, rushes, mosses, ferns etc			
	53	*Ammophila arenaria*	Marram Grass	D
	54	*Arrhenatherum elatius*	Cocksfoot Grass	LA
	55	*Bromus hordeaceus*	Soft Brome	LA
	56	*Carex arenaria*	Sand Sedge	LA
	57	*Carex otrubae*	False Fox Sedge	R
	58	*Cynosurus cristatus*	Crested Dog's-tail	O
	59	*Koeleria macrantha*	Crested Hairgrass	D
	60	*Lolium perenne*	Perennial Ryegrass	O
Moorland and Bog				
	61	*Achillea ptarmica*	Sneezewort	R
	62	*Anagallis tenella*	Bog Pimpernel	LA
	63	*Angelica sylvestris*	Wild Angelica	F
	64	*Antennaria dioica*	Mountain Everlasting	O
	65	*Calluna vulgaris*	Ling Heather	A
	66	*Caltha palustris*	Marsh Marigold	O
	67	*Cirsium arvensis*	Creeping Thistle	LA
	68	*Cirsium palustre*	Marsh Thistle	**O**
	69	*Dactylorhiza maculata*	Heath Spotted Orchid	F
	70	*Drosera intermedia*	Oblong-leaved Sundew	**LF**
	71	*Drosera rotundifolia*	Round-leaved Sundew	O
	72	*Empetrum nigrum*	Crowberry	LF
	73	*Erica cinerea*	Bell Heather	F
	74	*Erica tetralix*	Cross-leaved Heath	O
	75	*Eriocaulon aquaticum*	Pipewort	LA
	76	*Filipendula ulmaria*	Meadowsweet	O
	77	*Geranium robertianum*	Herb Robert	R
	78	*Gymnadenia borealis*	Heath Fragrant Orchid	R
	79	*Juniperus communis*	Common Juniper	R
	80	*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*	Marsh Pennywort	LA
	81	*Hypericum pulchrum*	Slender St John's-wort	O
	82	*Iris pseudacorus*	Yellow Flag Iris	LA
	83	*Lobelia dortmanna*	Water Lobelia	LA
	84	*Lychnis flos-cuculi*	Ragged Robin	O
	85	*Lythrum salicaria*	Purple Loosestrife	O
	86	*Matricaria matricarioides*	Pineappleweed	R
	87	*Melampyrum pratense*	Common Cow-wheat	R
	88	*Mentha aquatica*	Water Mint	LF
	89	*Menyanthes trifoliata*	Bogbean	LA
	90	*Myosotis laxa*	Water Forget-me-not	R
	91	*Myrica gale*	Bog Myrtle	F
	92	*Narthecium ossifragum*	Bog Asphodel	O
	93	*Nymphaea alba*	White Water Lily	LA
	94	*Orchis mascula*	Early Purple Orchid	R

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	95	*Parnassia palustris*	Grass of Parnassus	R
	96	*Pedicularis palustris*	Marsh Lousewort	R
	97	*Pedicularis sylvatica*	Common Lousewort	O
	98	*Pinguicula lusitanica*	Pale Butterwort	R
	99	*Pinguicula vulgaris*	Common Butterwort	O
	100	*Platanthera bifolia*	Lesser Butterfly-orchid	O
	101	*Polygala serpyllifolia*	Heath Milkwort	O
	102	*Potamogeton polygonifolius*	Bog Pondweed	LA
	103	*Potentilla erecta*	Tormentil	F
	104	*Potentilla palustris*	Marsh Cinquefoil	R
	105	*Ranunculus flammula*	Lesser Spearwort	F
	106	*Salix repens*	Creeping Willow	O
	107	*Samolus valerandi*	Brookweed	R
	108	*Sedum anglicum*	English Stonecrop	O
	109	*Senecio aquaticus*	Marsh Ragwort	O
	110	*Succisa pratensis*	Devil's-bit Scabious	F
	111	*Thymus polytrichus*	Wild Thyme	F
	112	*Trifolium medium*	Zigzag Clover	R
	113	*Utricularia sp*	Bladderwort	R
	114	*Vicia cracca*	Tufted Vetch	O
	Grasses, rushes, mosses, ferns etc			
	115	*Agrostis canina*	Black Bent	LA
	116	*Anthoxanthum odoratum*	Sweet Vernal Grass	F
	117	*Blechnum spicant*	Hard Fern	O
	118	*Carex rostrata*	Bottle Sedge	LA
	119	*Carex nigra*	Common Sedge	LA
	120	*Carex panicea*	Carnation Sedge	O
	121	*Cladonia rangiferina*	Reindeer Lichen	R
	122	*Coprinus sp*	Ink Cap fungus	R
	123	*Eleocharis palustris*	Common Spike-rush	O
	124	*Eleogiton fluitans*	Floating Club-rush	R
	125	*Eriophorum angustifolium*	Common Cotton-grass	LA
	126	*Eriophorum vaginatum*	Hare's-tail Cotton-grass	LF
	127	*Festuca vivipara*	Viviparous Fescue	LA
	128	*Juncus articulatus*	Jointed Rush	A
	129	*Osmunda regalis*	Royal Fern	R
	130	*Phragmites australis*	Common Reed	LD
	131	*Trichophorum cespitosum*	Deergrass	O
Gully Woodland				
-	132	*Alnus glutinosa*	Alder	R
	133	*Circaea lutetiana*	Enchanter's Nightshade	O - Oban only
	134	*Corylus avellana*	Hazel	O
	135	*Digitalis purpurea*	Foxglove	R
	136	*Fagus sylvatica*	Beech	O - Oban only
	137	*Hedera helix*	Ivy	R
	138	*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*	Bluebell	R
	139	*Lonicera periclymenum*	Honeysuckle	O

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	140	*Olearia traversiorum*	Chatham Island Tree Daisy	R - planted
	141	*Primula vulgaris*	Primrose	O
	142	*Salix aurita*	Eared Willow	A
	143	*Sorbus aucuparia*	Rowan	O
	144	*Stachys sylvatica*	Hedge Woundwort	O - Oban only
	145	*Stachys x ambigua*	Hybrid Woundwort	LA
	Grasses, rushes, mosses, ferns etc			
	146	*Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*	Black Spleenwort	LA
	147	*Asplenium trichomanes*	Maidenhair Spleenwort	R
Rocky Shores, Beaches and Saltmarsh				
	148	*Armeria maritima*	Thrift	LA
	149	*Atriplex glabriuscula*	Babington's Orache	R
	150	*Atriplex laciniata*	Frosted Orache	R
	151	*Cakile maritima*	Sea Rocket	O - Lunga only
	152	*Cochlearia danica*	Danish Scurvygrass	R
	153	*Cochlearia officinalis*	Common Scurvygrass	O - Lunga only
	154	*Glaux maritima*	Sea Milkwort	O
	155	*Honkenya peploides*	Sea Sandwort	O
	156	*Ligusticum scoticum*	Scots Lovage	R - Lunga only
	157	*Plantago maritima*	Sea Plantain	F
	158	*Polygonum oxyspermum*	Ray's Knotgrass	R
	159	*Ranunculus sceleratus*	Celery-leaved Buttercup	R
	160	*Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum*	Watercress	O
	161	*Sagina nodosa*	Knotted Pearlwort	O
	162	*Sedum rosea*	Roseroot	R - Lunga only
	163	*Silene uniflora*	Sea Campion	R - Lunga only
	164	*Tripleurospermum maritimum*	Sea Mayweed	F
	165	*Urtica dioica*	Annual Nettle	R
	166	*Urtica urens*	Stinging Nettle	O
	Grasses, rushes, mosses, ferns etc			
	167	*Asplenium marinum*	Sea Spleenwort	R - Lunga only
	168	*Carex otrubae*	False Fox Sedge	R
	169	*Carex distans*	Distant Sedge	R
	170	*Catabrosa aquatica*	Whorl-grass	R
Seaweeds				
-	171	*Alaria esculenta*	Dabberlocks	O
-	172	*Ascophyllum nodosum*	Egg Wrack	F
-	173	*Colpomenia peregrina*	Oyster Thief	R - Oban only
-	174	*Fucus serratus*	Toothed Wrack	O
-	175	*Fucus spiralis*	Spiral Wrack	O
	176	*Fucus vesiculosus*	Bladder Wrack	F
	177	*Himanthalia elongata*	Sea Spaghetti	O
	178	*Laminaria digitata*	Oar Weed	O

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	179	*Laminaria hyperborea*	Cuvie	A
	180	*Laminaria saccharina*	Sugar Kelp	A
	181	*Pelvetia canaliculata*	Channeled Wrack	LA
	182	*Saccorhiza polyschides*	Furbelows	O
	183	*Ulva lactuca*	Sea Lettuce	R