

Natural Heritage Overview – Ayrshire

- What is important in Ayrshire and why does it matter
- Ayrshire Biodiversity duties and recording



Ayrshire

- Approx 6% of Scotland
- One of the most diverse areas of Scotland.
- Highlands and Islands
- Lowland Scotland
- Southern Uplands.
- Coast to Mountain top.
- Wildland to industrial dereliction.

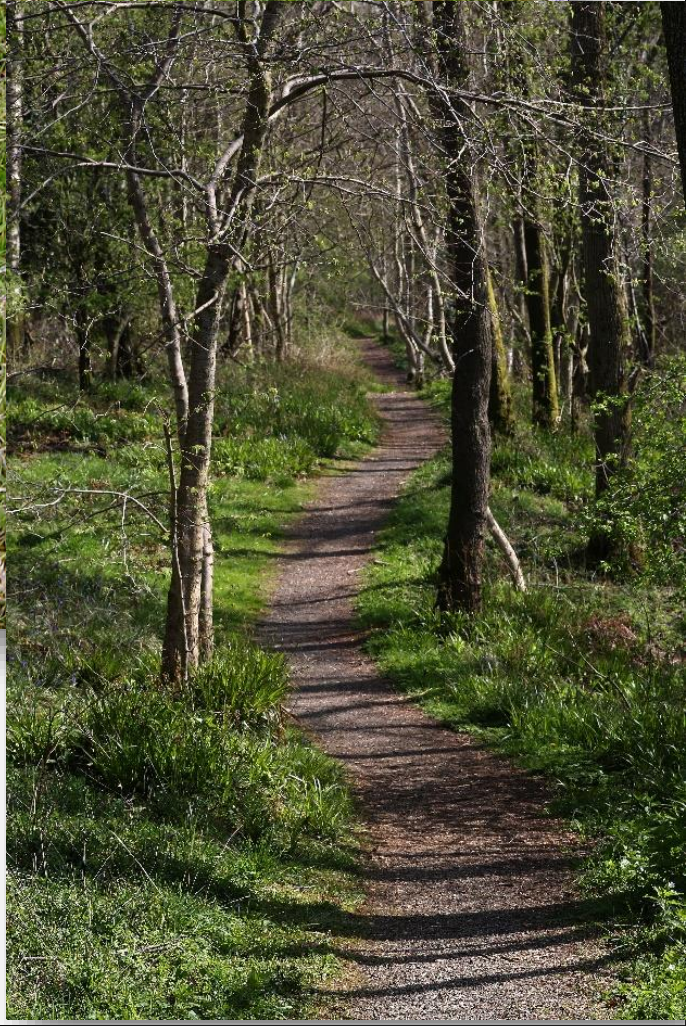


Whats special?

- Habitats
 - Dunes cliffs and saltmarsh
 - Marine Muds to Maerl
 - Grassland Species rich unimproved.
 - Lowland Bog and Fen
 - Woodlands Mainly gorge or coastal
 - Moorland Blanket Bog and wet heath
 - Mountain heath and ledge.







Whats special

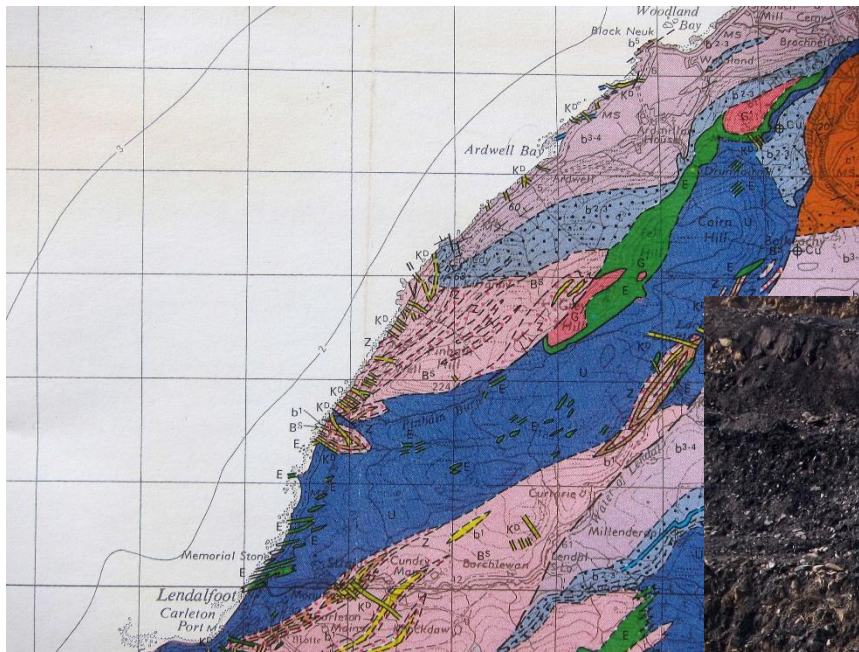
- Species
Plants

- Orchids
- Trees
- Ferns
- Lichens



Whats Special

- Geology



Whats special

- Species

Birds

Golden eagle

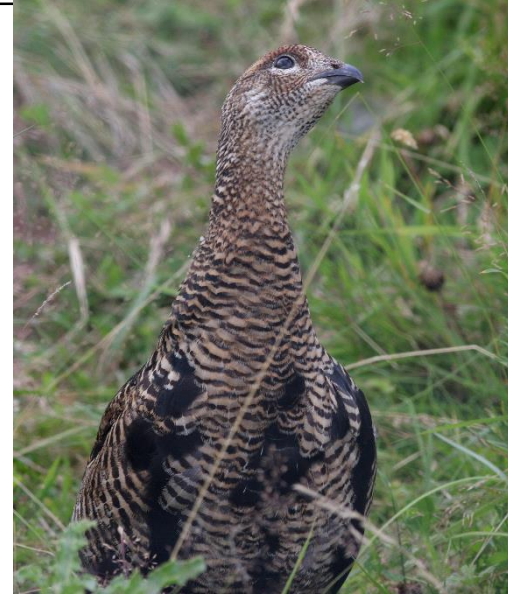
Black grouse

Lesser white-throat

Hen harrier

Red throated diver

Curlew



Whats special

- Species

Mammals

- All bat species
- Red deer
- Red squirrel
- Otter
- Harbour porpoise
- Common and Grey seals
- Pine marten



Whats special

- Species

Invertebrates:-

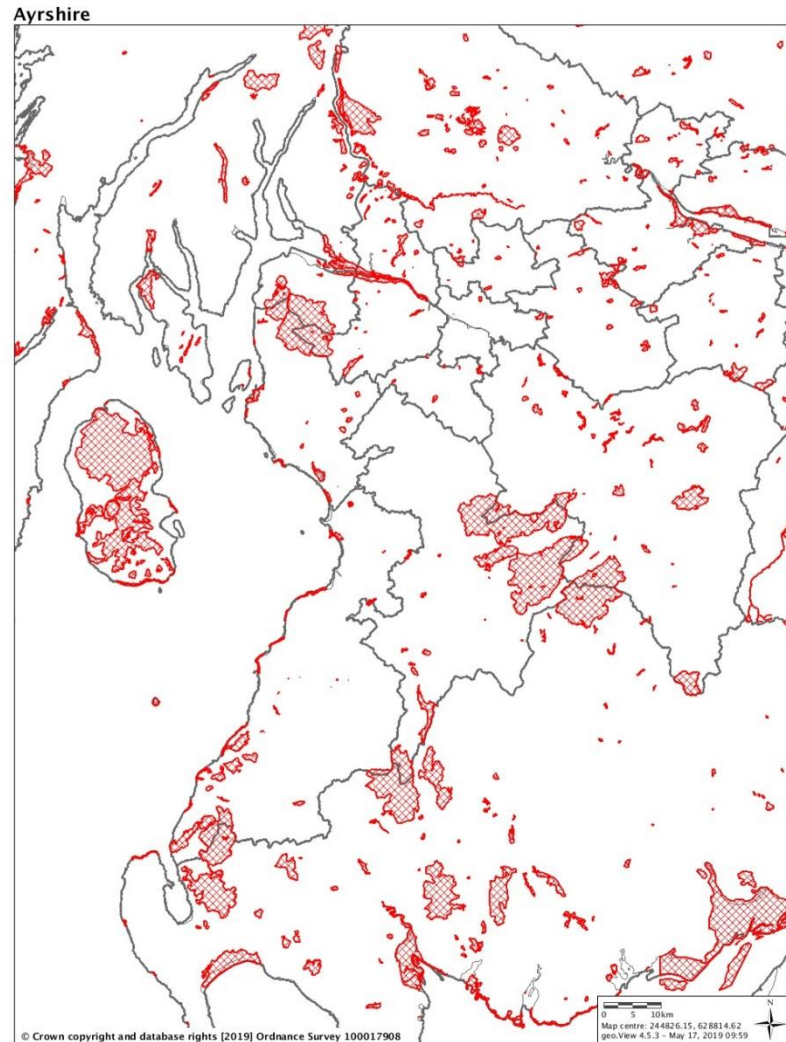
- Butterflies
- Beetles
- Bees



Nationally protected areas

75 Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Some of the largest in Scotland,.



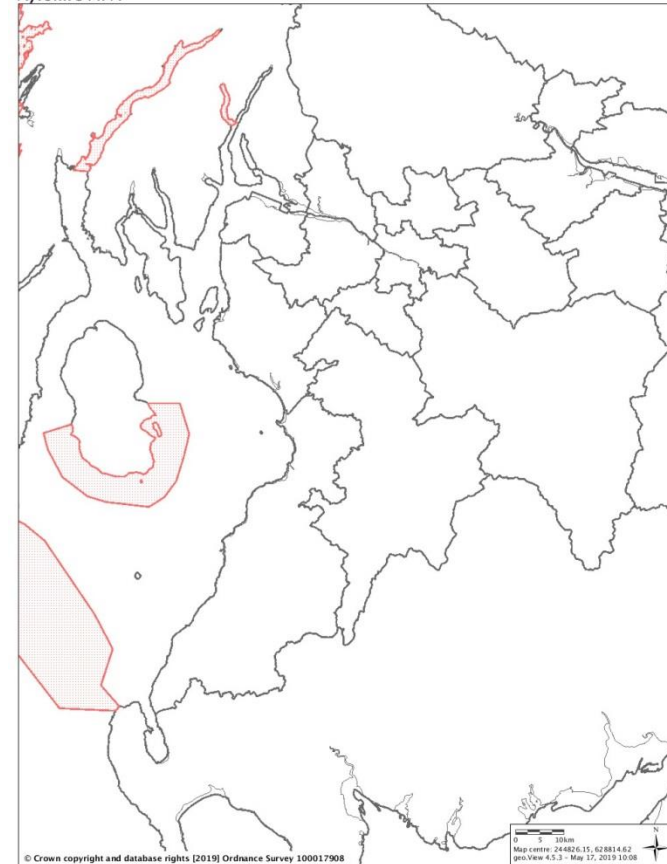
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Marine protected areas

- South Coast of Arran
- Clyde Sill Muds

Ayrshire MPA



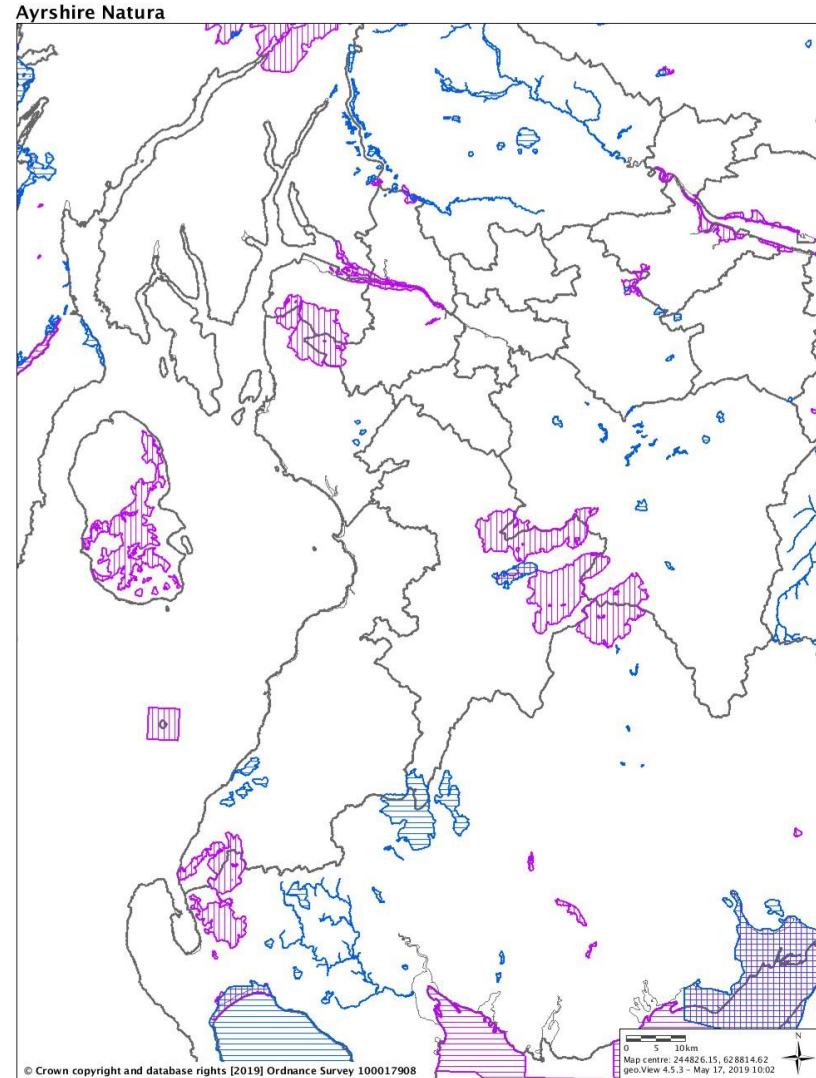
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SNH
Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
nature.scot



European protected areas

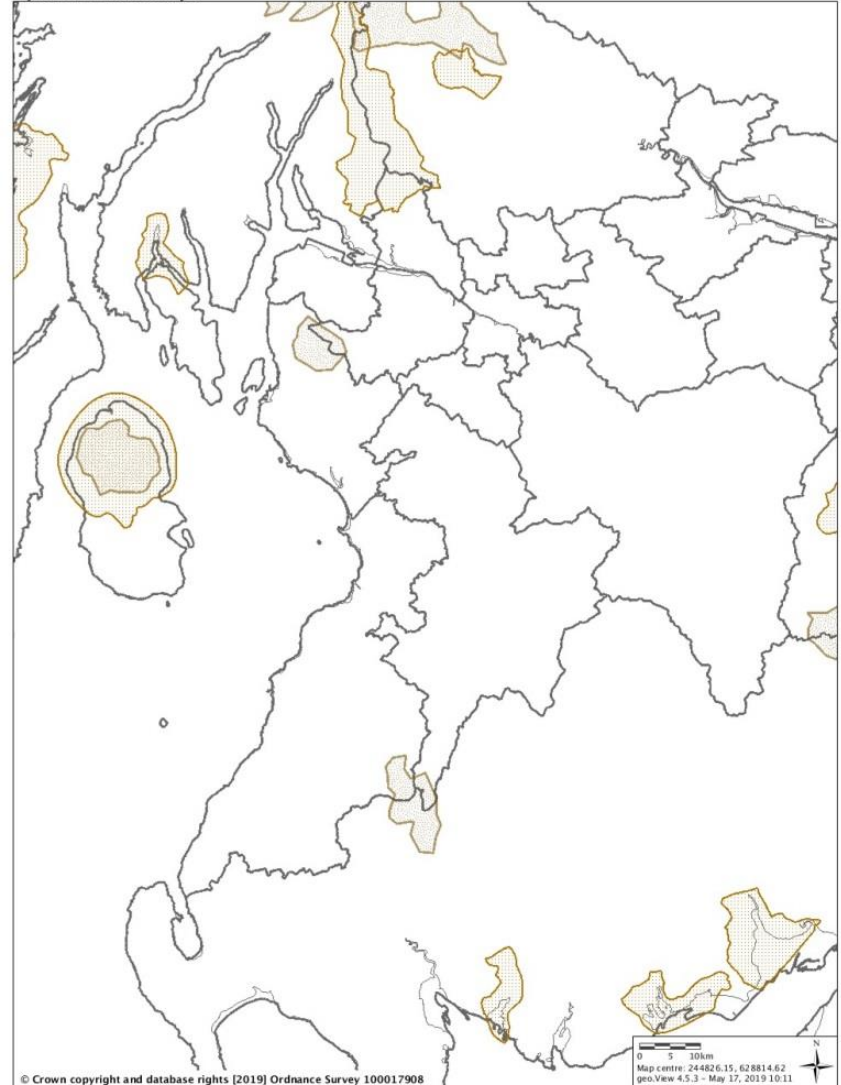
- Renfrewshire Heights SPA
 - Arran Moors SPA
 - Muirkirk and North Lowther Uplands SPA
 - Ailsa Craig SPA
-
- Bankend Moss SAC
 - Cockinhead Moss SAC
 - Dykeneuk Moss SAC
 - Airds Moss SAC
 - Lendalfoot Grasslands SAC



National Landscape areas.

- North Arran National Scenic Area
- Waterhead Moor Wildland Area
- North Arran Wildland Area
- Merrick Kells Wildland Area

Ayrshire Landscape



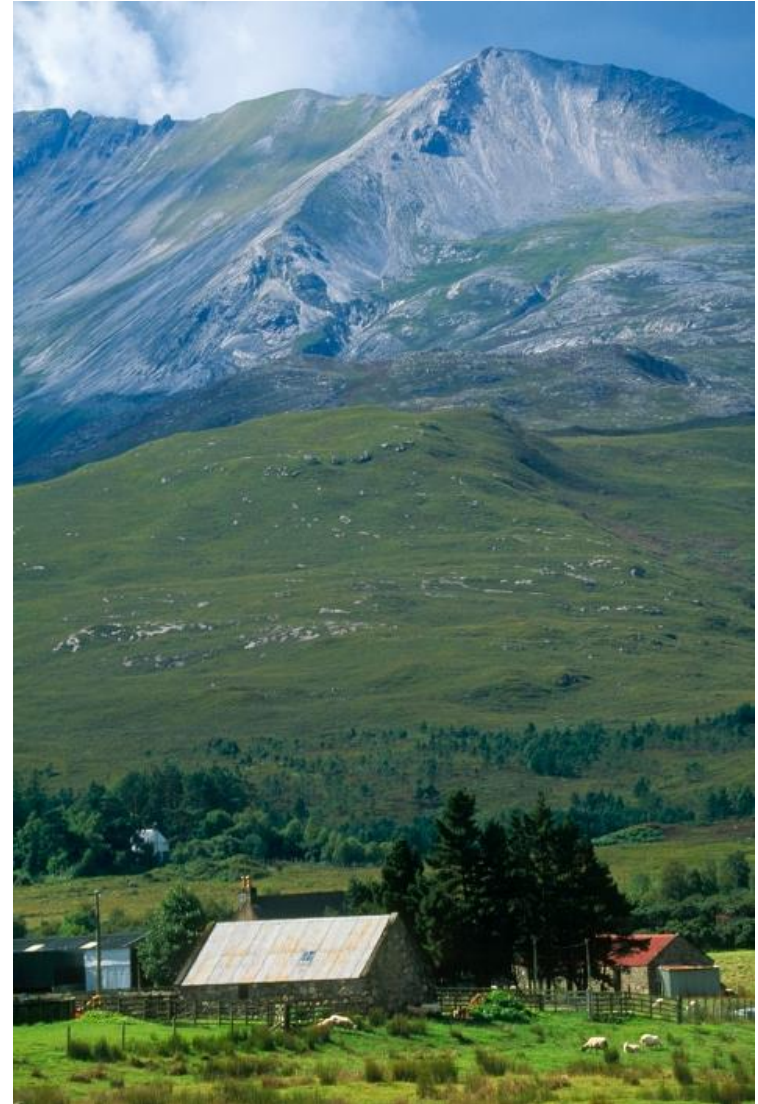
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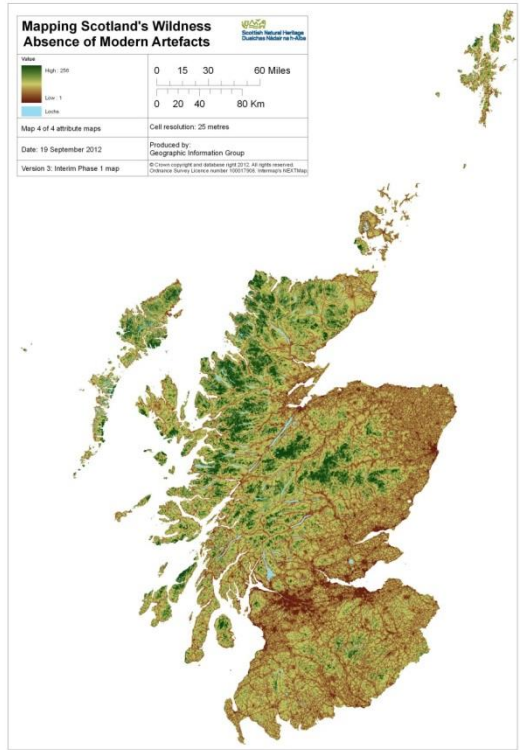
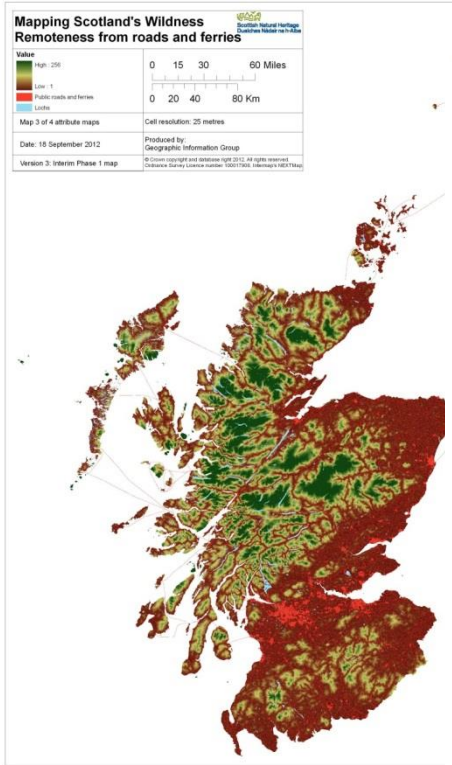
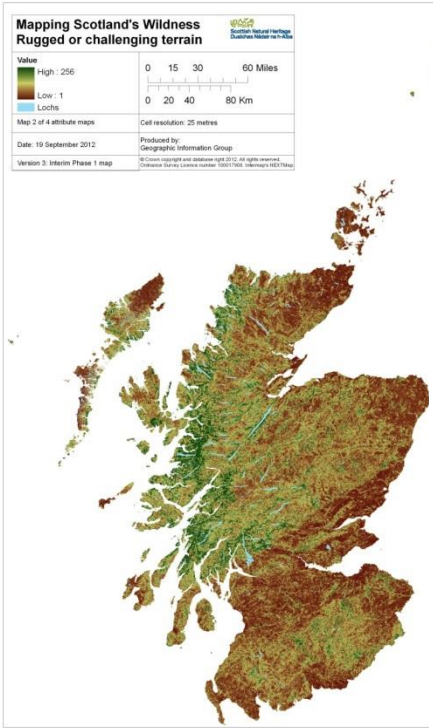
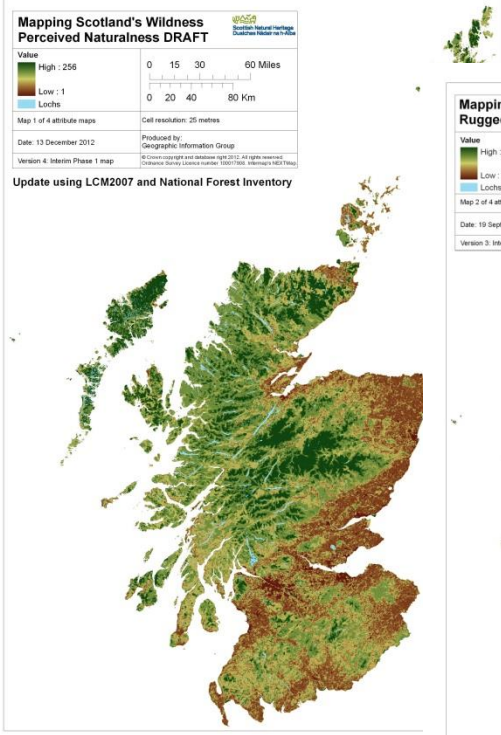
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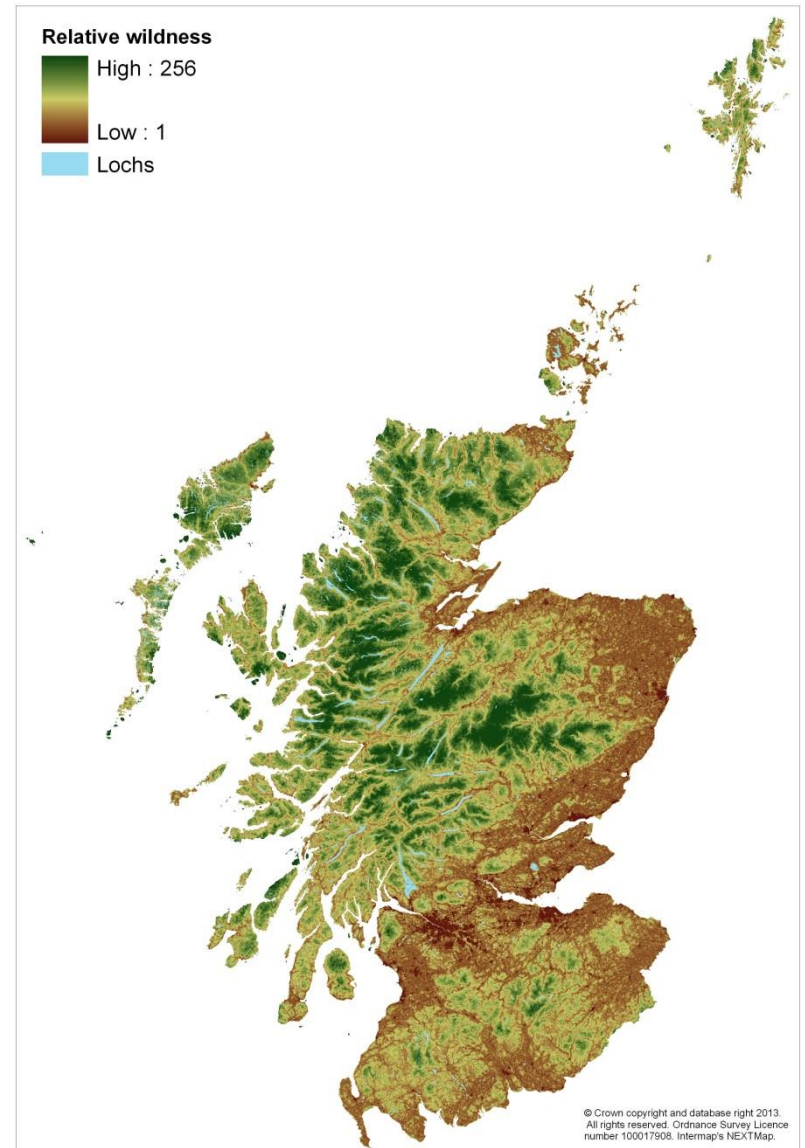
Mapping Scotland's Wildest Places





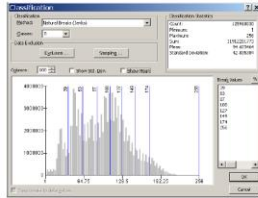


Relative Wildness



**Map A - Classes of wildness across Scotland
(using Jenks natural break optimisation analysis)**

- Legend**
- National Park
 - National Scenic Areas
 - Search areas wildland
- Jenks class and % of Scotland**
- 1 - 10% lowest wildness
 - 2 - 19%
 - 3 - 15%
 - 4 - 17%
 - 5 - 17%
 - 6 - 11%
 - 7 - 7%
 - 8 - 4% highest wildness



Job 44498
Produced by Geographic Information Group,
17 January 2012
Version 2: based on updated phase 1 data

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Map B – Patch size of highest wildness classes

- Search areas wildland
- Patches of classes 7 and 8 - including diagonal joins**
- Area - hectares**
- 0 - 499
 - 500 - 999
 - 1,000 - 4,999
 - 5,000 - 9,999
 - 10,000 - 19,999
 - 20,000 - 29,999
 - 30,000 - 39,999
 - 40,000 - 80,897

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17 January 2012

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**Map C - Extensive areas of highest wildness
with search areas of wild land 2002**

- Wildland classes 7 and 8 > 1,000ha or > 500ha south of highland fault
- Areas of class 5 or 6 adjacent to core wildland areas
- Small areas of class 7 and 8 that are adjacent to the areas of class 5 or 6
- Search areas wildland

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20 January 2012

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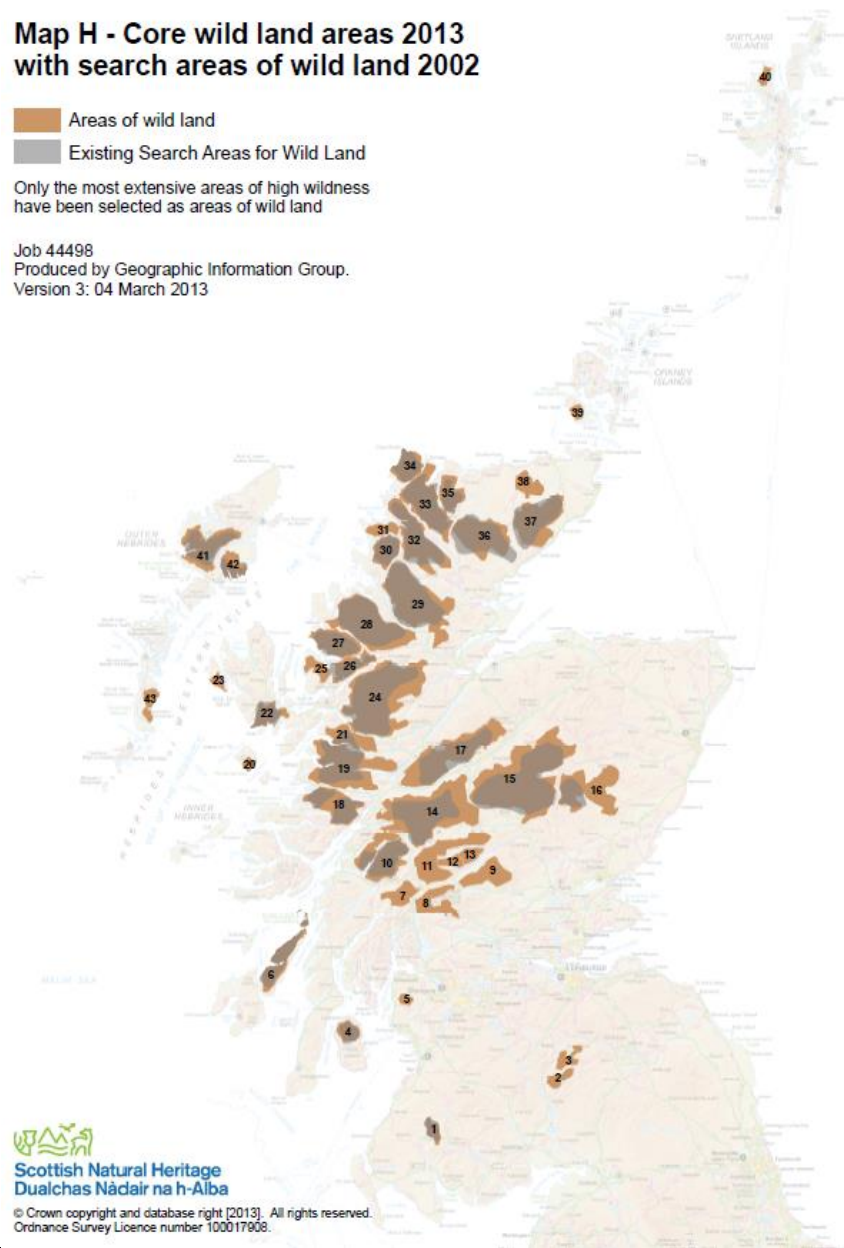


**Map H - Core wild land areas 2013
with search areas of wild land 2002**

- Areas of wild land
- Existing Search Areas for Wild Land

Only the most extensive areas of high wildness
have been selected as areas of wild land

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Produced by Geographic Information Group.
Version 3: 04 March 2013



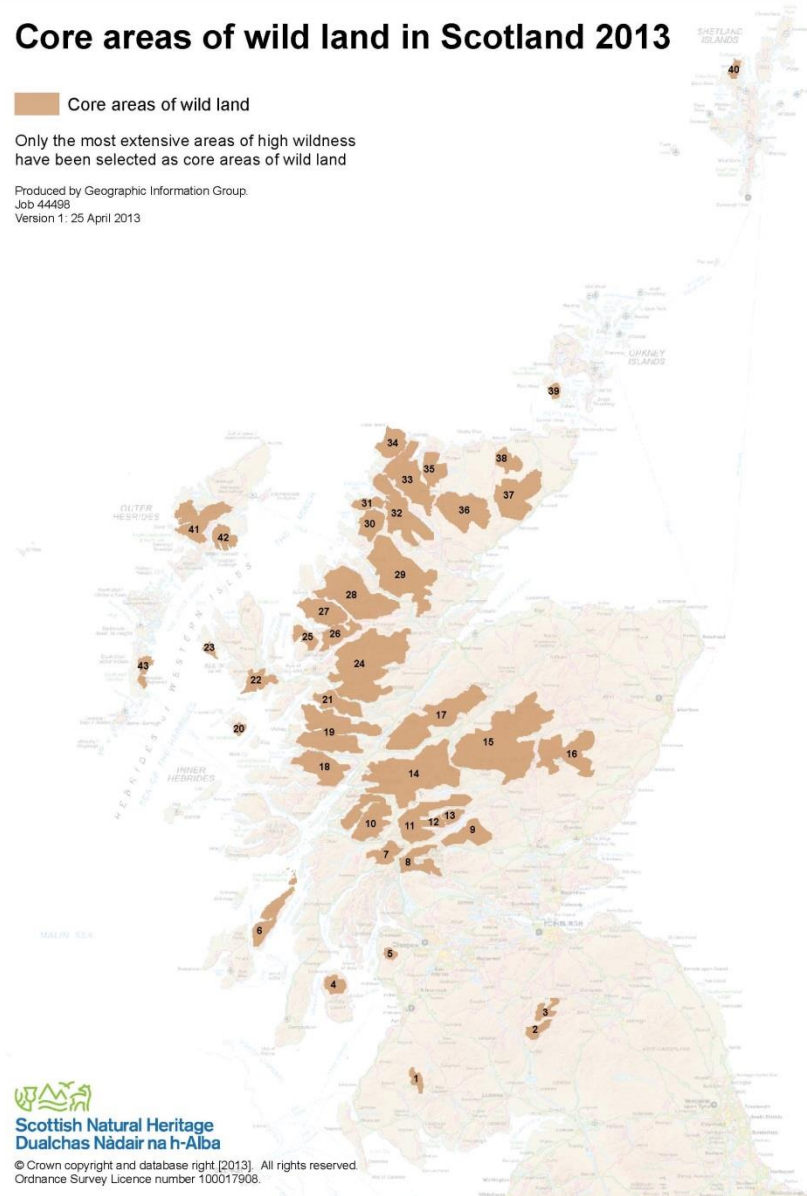


Core areas of wild land in Scotland 2013

Core areas of wild land

Only the most extensive areas of high wildness have been selected as core areas of wild land

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Version 1: 25 April 2013



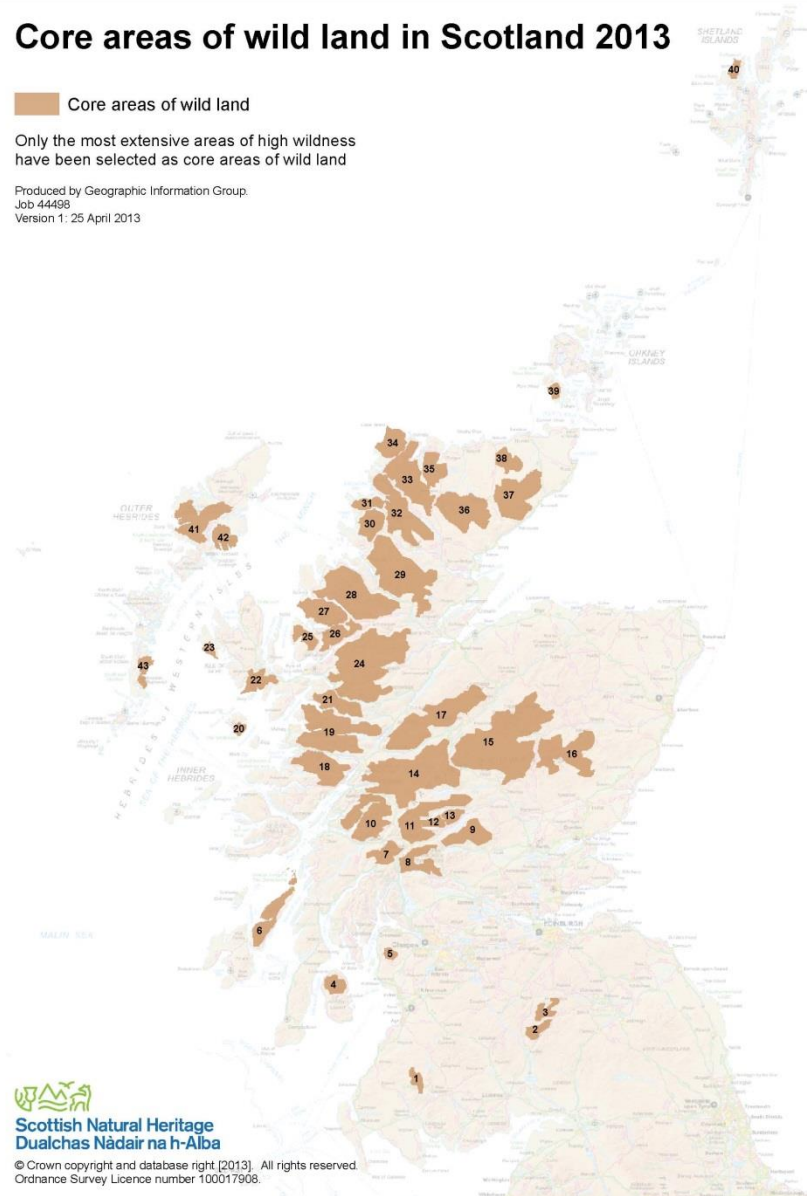


Core areas of wild land in Scotland 2013

Core areas of wild land

Only the most extensive areas of high wildness have been selected as core areas of wild land

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Scottish Natural Heritage Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Areas – Technical Guidance

1. INTRODUCTION

1. Wildness is a quality which people experience. Wild land areas are the most extensive areas where these qualities are best expressed. Physical attributes and perceptual responses are the measure by which changes in experience are to be assessed. As perceptual responses cannot be mapped, physical attributes were used to inform the preparation of the 2014 map of wild land areas. The Wild Land Areas map is a spatial planning tool and therefore an assessment of impacts on wild land areas must be informed by more detailed consideration of the specific nature of each development.

2. USING THIS GUIDANCE

Scope of this guidance – when and how should it be applied?

2. This guidance sets out a methodology and general principles for assessing the impact of development proposals on Wild Land Areas (WLAs) identified on the 2014 SNH map (hereafter referred to as the WLAs map). It supports the Scottish Planning Policy.
3. The method described applies the broad approach and principles set out within the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment¹ (GLVIA) and is supplementary to a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) where one is required. Where a LVIA is not required, the wild land assessment will be a stand-alone assessment.
4. GLVIA provides the framework for assessing impacts upon landscape and visual amenity. It is focused on likely significant environmental effects rather than all possible effects. This method should be applied to proposals whose location, scale or design could result in a significant effect on the qualities of WLAs. Where effects are not expected to be significant, no such assessment is required.
5. In general terms, an assessment of impacts on a WLA is highly likely to be required where a proposed development falls, wholly or partly, in a WLA. Outwith WLAs, the need for an assessment will be more the exception and may only be necessary where significant effects on WLA qualities are likely. The need for an assessment should be discussed with the decision maker and SNH at an early stage.
6. A wild land assessment builds on the LVIA approach. It adds to, and should not duplicate, material that is already captured through the LVIA. A suitably qualified and experienced landscape or planning professional(s) (referred to in this document as 'the assessor') should undertake the assessment. The assessor must provide an appropriate level of information to enable the decision maker, and consultees, to reach a view on the effects of the proposal on the WLA.

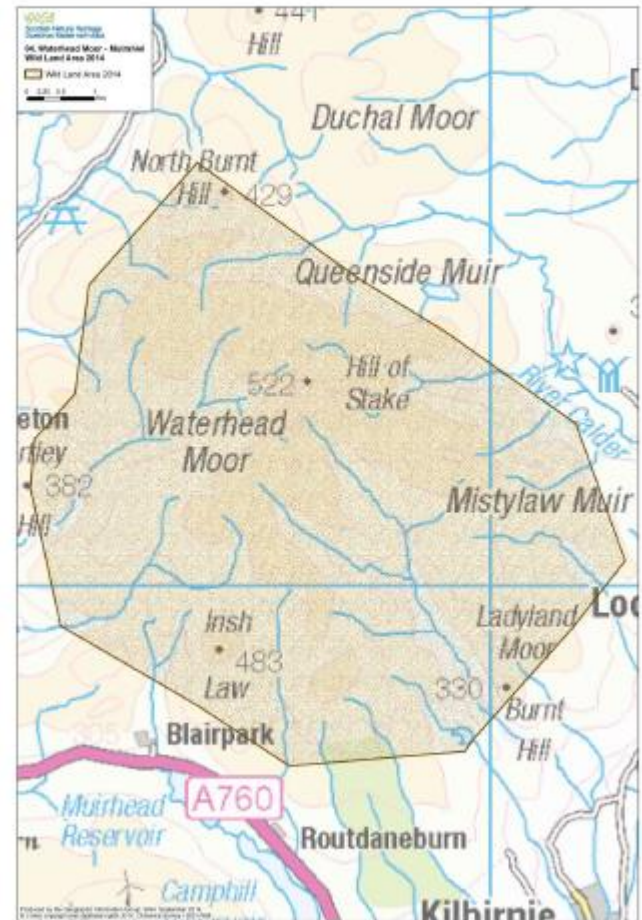


¹ Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) *Guidelines for landscape and visual impact assessment*, 3rd edition.

Description of Wild Land Area - 2017

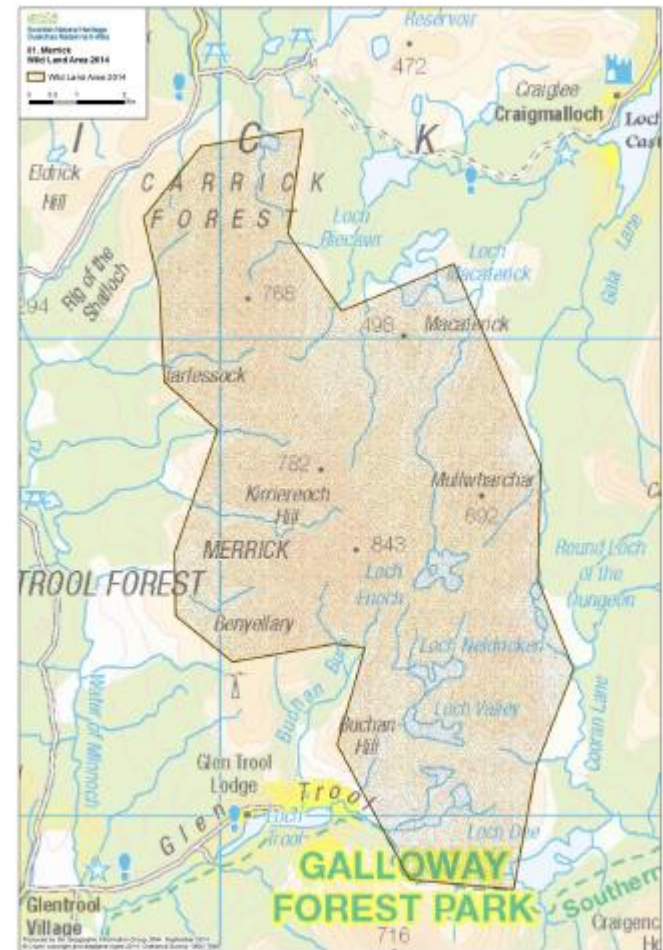
04

**Waterhead Moor - Muirshiel
Wild Land Area**



01

Merrick
Wild Land Area



North Arran also
designated as a Special
Landscape Area and a
National Scenic Area



Natural Heritage Information.

- Scotland's National Biodiversity Atlas
- Local records
- National Biodiversity Network -
scotland.nbnatlas.org



Protected species

The screenshot shows the NBN Atlas Scotland website in a browser window. The browser's address bar displays 'https://scotland.nbnatlas.org'. The website's header includes the NBN Atlas Scotland logo and a navigation menu with items: SPECIES, LOCATIONS, ANALYSE, GET INVOLVED, DATA AND PARTNERS, ABOUT, and HELP. A secondary menu contains CONTACT US, NBN ATLAS NEWS, LOG IN, and CHOOSE ATLAS. The main content area features a large image of white daisies with a central text overlay: 'Many Data Partners contribute data to the NBN Atlas Scotland'. Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search the NBN Atlas Scotland'. At the bottom, there are four navigation buttons: 'GO TO THE NBN WEBSITE' (Find out more about the National Biodiversity Network), 'VIEW NBN ATLAS DATA PARTNERS' (Find out who provides data to the NBN Atlas), 'EXPLORE YOUR AREA' (Search the Atlas for information about a place), and 'HELP WITH USING THE NBN ATLAS' (Get help from the NBN Atlas Documentation Portal). The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the browser window.



East Ayrshire

OCCURRENCE RECORDS (71)

Explore by species [Explore by taxonomy](#)

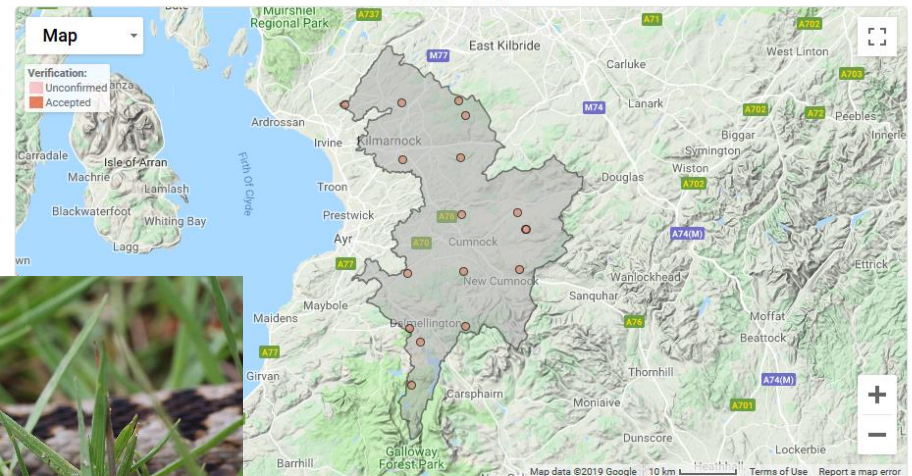
Group	Species	Records
> All Species		
> Mammals		
> Birds		
> Insects		
> Amphibians		
> Reptiles		
Snakes and lizards		
> Fishes		
> Molluscs		
> Crustaceans		
> Myriapods		
> Spiders and allies		
> Worms		
> Fungi		
> Plants		
	1. Anguis fragilis : Slow-worm	17
	2. Natrix helvetica : Grass Snake	1
	3. Vipera berus : Adder	34
	4. Zootoca vivipara : Common Lizard	19

[Species Profile](#) | [List of Records](#)

[View records](#)



Time Controls and Map



include a record supplied with a grid reference if the centre of the grid reference is within the boundary







Invasive non-native species
Invasive non-native species are one of the five most serious threats to biodiversity.

Change section



What must Councils do?

 Section 1 of the 2004 Act introduced the Biodiversity Duty.

 *It is the duty of every public body and office-holder, in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.*



Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 6)



Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004

2004 asp 6

CONTENTS

Section

PART 1

BIODIVERSITY

- 1 Duty to further the conservation of biodiversity
- 2 Scottish Biodiversity Strategy

PART 2

CONSERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF NATURAL FEATURES

CHAPTER 1

SITES OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST

Notification of sites of special scientific interest

- 3 Duty to give notification of sites of special scientific interest
- 4 Site management statements
- 5 Enlargement of sites of special scientific interest
- 6 Review of operations requiring consent
- 7 Addition or modification of operations requiring consent: urgent situations
- 8 Variation of SSSI notifications
- 9 Denotification of sites of special scientific interest
- 10 Notifications relating to sites of special scientific interest: procedure
- 11 Effect of SSSI notification


Exercise of functions in relation to sites of special scientific interest


- 12 Exercise of functions by public bodies etc.

Operations affecting sites of special scientific interest

- 13 Operations by public bodies etc.
- 14 Operations by public bodies etc.: authorised operations
- 15 Consent by certain regulatory authorities
- 16 Operations by owners or occupiers of sites of special scientific interest
- 17 Operations by owners or occupiers of sites of special scientific interest: authorised operations
- 18 Appeals in connection with operations requiring consent

What must Councils do?

 Section 36 of the 2011 Act introduced the requirement to report on compliance with the Biodiversity Duty.

 *A public body must prepare and publish a biodiversity report within 3 years of the base date.*



Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 (asp 6)



Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 2011 asp 6

CONTENTS

Section

PART 1

DEFINED EXPRESSIONS

1 Defined expressions in this Act

PART 2

WILDLIFE UNDER THE 1981 ACT

Wild birds, their nests and eggs

- 2 Application of the 1981 Act to game birds
- 3 Protection of game birds etc. and prevention of poaching
- 4 Areas of special protection for wild birds
- 5 Sale of live or dead wild birds, their eggs etc.

Wild hares, rabbits etc.

- 6 Protection of wild hares etc.
- 7 Prevention of poaching: wild hares, rabbits etc.
- 8 Sale, possession etc. of wild hares, rabbits etc. killed or taken unlawfully
- 9 Wild hares, rabbits etc.: licences
- 10 Wild hares, rabbits etc.: power to vary Schedules to the 1981 Act and prescribe close seasons
- 11 Wild hares and rabbits: miscellaneous

Wild birds, hares, rabbits etc.: single witness evidence

12 Single witness evidence in certain proceedings under the 1981 Act

Snares

13 Snares

Non-native species etc.

14 Non-native species etc.

What Councils CAN do....

- Think about impacts on the natural heritage.
- Think about greenspace and networks
- Think about Local Nature Reserves (get a policy)
- Do you need a Country Park





Planning and development

Valuing our environment

Find out how Scotland's environment is valued in terms of its ecosystem services, economic impact and enjoyment by the public.

Natural Heritage advice for planners and developers

Use our guidance to plan and design your development to have positive outcomes for nature, landscapes and people, and avoid adverse impacts.

Renewable energy development

Explore guidance on the main natural heritage considerations if you're thinking of pursuing a renewable energy development in Scotland.

Consulting SNH on planning and development

Read up on when planners and developers should consult us, how best to engage with us, and the level of service we aim to give.

Industries reliant on nature

Nature plays a major part in Scotland's economic growth and quality of life. It supports sustainable tourism, the food and drink sector, aquaculture and more.

Planning e-bulletin

Environmental assessment

We have a statutory role in environmental assessment and help others in their roles by sharing data, guidance and advice.

Marine planning

Scotland has a three-tier marine planning system, which covers the use of Scottish waters at the international, national and regional level.



Thank you!

