

Biodiversity Audit and Action Plan for the Broadford Area



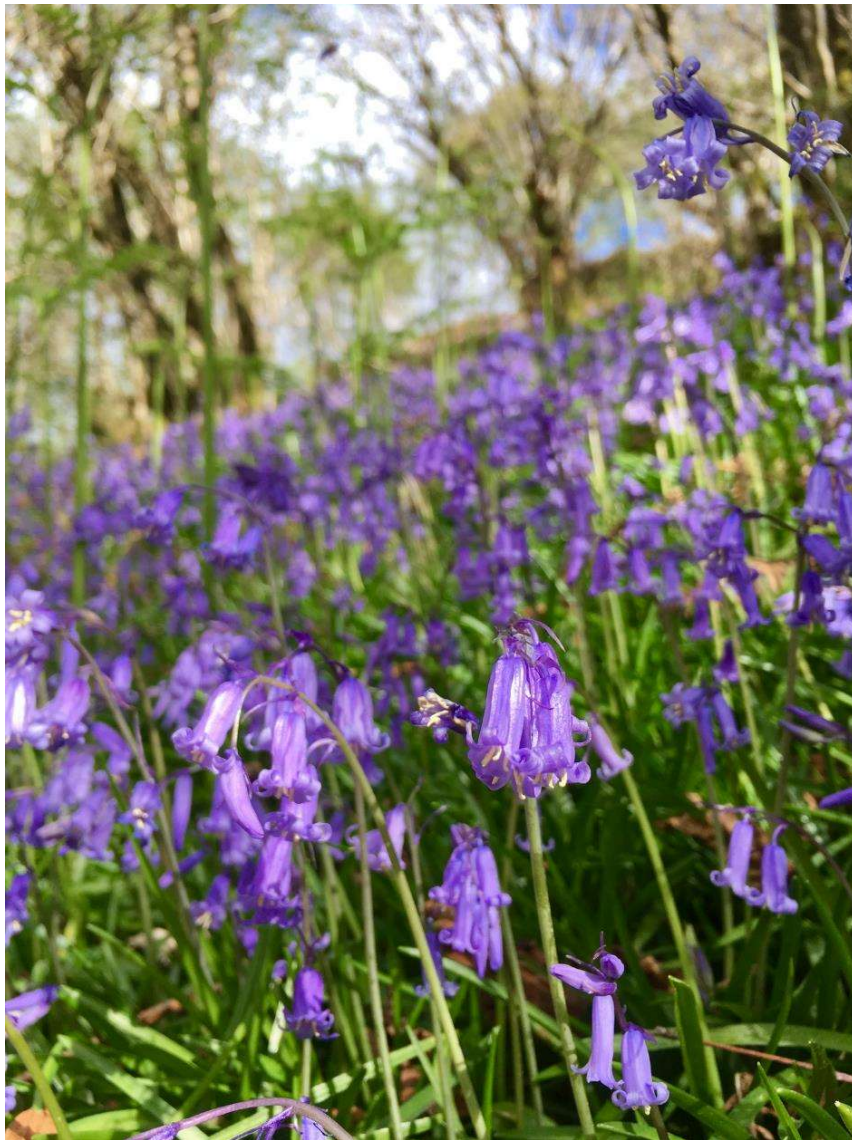
Phil Knott

February 2024

To be referenced as 'Biodiversity Audit and Action Plan for the Broadford Area' Phil Knott 2024

This Biodiversity Audit and adjoining Biodiversity Action Plan of the Broadford Area were arranged by the Broadford and Strath Community Company, with funding from the Highland Council Community Regeneration Fund.

All photographs taken by Phil Knott. Cover photograph, Native wildflowers behind the college in Broadford. This page, Bluebells under native Hazel wood.



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Introduction

This is the first Biodiversity Audit of the Broadford Area. Started in December 2023 and running until February 2024 it was almost exclusively a desk-based audit, collating information from databases, personal interviews, websites, books and a community consultation. It is an important first step for the Broadford community and presents lots of causes for optimism and a range of ways that locals can engage and support biodiversity.

The Broadford area has an incredible range of habitats and collectively a large number of terrestrial and marine species have been recorded. There are a large number of species recorded in the area that are nationally and internationally scarce and there is very little awareness of these among the local population. Many of the most important habitats within the Broadford area face a number of challenges, and for many habitats they are holding their poorest level of biodiversity in recorded history and the levels appear to be continuing to decline. This is sadly on a par with national and international trends. The responses from the community consultation and from interviews show there is great desire to do more for nature here and a richer and more biodiverse future for the area is very possible.

Summary

Broadford is the home to a diverse range of wildlife species and there is already a lot of hard work being done within the community for the environment, by a wide range of community groups and individuals. There is also a lot of expertise and knowledge of natural history in the area, much of it untapped.

This combined Audit and Biodiversity Action Plan draws on the knowledge of experts and enthusiasts living on the island to find out what we have that is special and important, collating all the thousands of natural history records in the appendices it also explores what biodiversity is important to the local community, and what the community wish to see more of happening.

This report highlights what we have here in Broadford currently in terms of biodiversity, and the threats it faces (which are vast and diverse), many of which are beyond the capacity of the local community to solve. However, there are a number of realistic actions that could be undertaken in a range of time scales that would improve the area for nature, immediately and for future generations.



Figure 1 Otters are an iconic species for the Broadford area

Aims of the Audit

The aims of this audit are threefold, and each have their own section;

- 1) Section 1. To collate all of the natural history records of the Broadford area to date and make them as accessible as possible to the local population and summarise the highlights.
- 2) Section 2. To collate and review all current and previous biodiversity related designations.
- 3) Section 3. To present the findings of a consultation of the local community on their knowledge and perceptions of local biodiversity

Defined Area

Throughout this action plan the 'Broadford area' only refers to the area contained within the red-boundary marked on the map below. To the west, the boundary is the far side of the Allt Fearn, c.800m west of Camas na Sgianadin. To the east, the boundary is the far side of the Abhainn Lusa. All of the shoreline between these points marks the northern terrestrial boundary, with a straight line between the most northerly points of Rubha Ardnish and Rubha na Sgianadin as the marine boundary. To the south and west, the boundary follows the back of the forestry from Allt Fearna on the south side of the A87 up to the end of the Old Corry road, and from there across the Broadford river just to the south of the Old Corry footpath loop. From there, a straight line boundary due west across to the Heaste road and over to the A851 Sleat road cattle grid. From there the southern boundary is a straight line east north east to the point the large pylons cross the far side of the Abhainn Lusa and from there down to the sea.



Figure 2 - Boundary of the audit area. Ordnance Survey 2024

Section 1 – Natural History Records

Summary - an important caveat to the number of records and species richness

Due to the overall dearth of natural history records, it can often appear that urban areas or recreational areas near urban areas are the most biodiverse, showing the highest number of species. However, it almost always reflects the amount of recording effort and proximity to the homes of the most enthusiastic naturalists. This is very true of areas where in-depth surveys have been undertaken. For example, a site that has a regular moth trap or butterfly transect will appear to be richer than all of the other areas around it. When effort is taken into consideration, it is almost always the larger and well-connected natural and semi-natural habitats in good condition that have the highest species lists. The bulk of the biodiversity is made up of smaller, hard to identify species that can only be confidently identified by dedicated field naturalists, whilst the easier species such as butterflies, birds, trees and mammals are easily recorded by all levels of amateur naturalists. Abundance is an important indicator too and is often overlooked.

Many species are migratory, with numerous cases of accidental imports of species into gardens and through lines of communication and transport hubs. Areas like Broadford, with a long history and main roads and a small harbour will always accumulate native but out of range and non-native species. These records are noteworthy but shouldn't be looked at in the context of wider landscape scale biodiversity.

Many records are also historical and would need to be followed up to find if the species are still present. There are always erroneous records too, mis-identifications or incorrect grid references, though verifiers do their best to mitigate for these and sift them out where possible.

Easy to record species that are bright, colourful, diurnal and showy tend to get recorded more often. Invertebrates that are brightly coloured, caterpillars that are large and hairy and noisy birds are examples of iconic species that are well recorded; they have evolved to be able to avoid or deter predators and in reality these species are in the minority compared to the camouflaged, subtle and nocturnal creatures that make up the bulk of the diversity.

There is a bias towards recording scarcer species, when common species go unrecorded. This is human nature to recognise and celebrate the rarity, but it does mean that whole hectads of Skye can have just a handful of records of common species, such as Small Tortoiseshell butterfly or Daisy, while Otter records can be plentiful.

Getting involved

Regular and systematic recording of biodiversity has always been a fairly niche activity, but with the increasing use of the internet and apps for smart phones there has been a slight resurgence. The advent of pocket technology that can accurately pin your location, coupled with intelligent apps that using the camera can help to identify or at least sift through the possible species has seen a new era of natural history recording emerge. Technology is a blessing and a curse, but the next generation have to be engaged if we wish data to continue to be collected.

Natural history events and walks are good ways to showcase this technology, as most folk are unaware that the tech exists and that identification of that tricky orchid or the singing warbler that is hidden can be just seconds away with the right software. The technology will invariably help you record the species for your own records and then prepare it for formal submission too to the right people.

Many people engage with recording through well publicised national events, such as the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch or through targeted campaigns around iconic or easy to identify species, such as the Orange-tip butterfly.

Conservation Organisations

There are a range of generalist and specialist organisations that collect data and provide information and practical advice and events for almost all species. Almost all of these organisations are sustained by membership subscriptions but their websites will provide free advice in most cases, with dozens of useful identification guides or conservation management notes.

Format of the Natural History Records

Given the many tens of thousands of records that cover the 2186 of species recorded in the Broadford area, it is very hard to present the data in any way that isn't bamboozling to all but the most dedicated and experienced naturalists. The easiest way for the bulk of the material has been to divide the records up into appendices grouped by family for easier finding, but also by their conservation status, so that anyone can quickly find out the highest priority species in the region according to the myriad of different ways of classifying scarce and rare species.

The Broadford area fits very neatly into the hectad NG62 (a ten kilometre square as laid out on the Ordnance Survey) and so the records are relatively easy to sift when using databases such as the National Biodiversity Network.

Details of the appendices featuring detailed biodiversity records

Appendix 7 – NG62 records based on National Biodiversity Network – Steve Terry 2024

This document groups the number of species recorded by each taxonomic group. It has then assessed the richest tetrads (a one kilometre square) for records and laid them out. The species groups have been laid out below with additional species put in too.

Appendix 8 – Marine Habitats, Inner Broadford Bay Biodiversity Audit, Vanessa Charles and Martin Hynd 2024

This is a brilliant summary of the key species, history, threats and research into the marine area of the Inner Broadford Bay. This should be read in full as an integral part of this audit.

Appendix 9 – Scarce and Rare Plant Species in NG62 – Stephen Bungard 2024

A summary of the rarest and scarcest 25 plant species from the hectad NG62 that Broadford sits in.

Appendix 10 – RSPB Priority Species recorded in the Broadford area – Seth Gibson 2024

A list of the different species listed as a Priority Species by the RSPB.

Appendix 11 – UK BAP Species recorded in the Broadford area – Seth Gibson 2024

The UK BAP species from the area. UK BAP priority species and habitats were those that were identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The original lists of UK BAP priority species and habitats were created between 1995 and 1999, and were subsequently updated in 2007.

Appendix 12 – Threatened Species Index recorded in the Broadford area – Seth Gibson 2024

The Threatened Species from the area. Threatened species are any species which are vulnerable to extinction in the near future. International Union for Conservation of Nature treats threatened species

not as a single category, but as a group of three categories: vulnerable, endangered, and critically endangered, depending on the degree to which they are threatened.

Appendix 13 – Nationally Scarce Lichen Index recorded in the Broadford area – Seth Gibson 2024

The Nationally Scarce lichen species from the area. Nationally Scarce relates to species which are found in between 16 and 100 hectads (10km grid square). This category is often subdivided into Nationally Scarce A—species found in 16 to 30 hectads, and Nationally Scarce B—species found in between 31 and 100 hectads.

Appendix 14 – Amber List Birds Index recorded in the Broadford area – Seth Gibson 2024

The birds listed as Amber under Birds of Conservation Concern 5, a list collated by a range of UK partners that track species and their current conservation status. Amber is of conservation concern based on low numbers or declines.

Appendix 15 – Red List Birds Index recorded in the Broadford area – Seth Gibson 2024

The birds listed as Red under Birds of Conservation Concern 5, a list collated by a range of UK partners that track species and their current conservation status. Amber is of conservation concern based on low numbers or declines.

Appendix 16 - Bryophytes of the Broadford area – Nick Hodgetts 2024

The collation of the bryophyte (mosses, liverworts and hornworts) records of the Broadford area, with specific locations for future reference.

Appendix 17 – Comprehensive list of Invasive Species recorded in the Broadford Area- Seth Gibson 2024

The comprehensive list of the 130 species that have been recorded in the Broadford area that are deemed invasive in some parts of their distribution. Many of the species may not be problematic yet, but with climate change may well find their niche.

Appendix 18 – Complete list of all species recorded in the Broadford area- Seth Gibson 2024

The total list of all species recorded in the Broadford area from all of the known databases.

Appendix 19 - Moths and butterflies recorded in the Broadford Area upto Feb 2024- Keith Sadler 2024

The list of all of the species recorded in the Broadford area. Their conservation status is included.

Summary of the species recorded

To date, 2198 species have been recorded in the Broadford area, focussed on the hectad NG62. This is a very high number compared to many of the hectads across the region. A summary of the key findings are listed here. The birds and mammals that everyone associates with the Broadford area make up less than 10% of the total species list recorded with the daily wildlife we encounter less than 1%. Countless species within the list are dependent on other species being present for whole or part of their lifecycle. This demonstrates the diversity within the area.

Mammals	Red Deer, Roe Deer, Otter, Fox, Stoat, Pine Marten, Harbour Seal, Mink, Weasel, Grey Seal, Common Pipistrelle, Daubenton’s Bat, Hedgehog, Water Shrew, Pygmy Shrew, Common Shrew, Rabbit, Brown Hare, Field Vole, Wood Mouse, Brown Rat (21 species)
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Amphibians	Common Frog, Common Toad, Palmate Newt
Reptiles	Common Lizard, Slow-worm (Adder NOT recorded so far)
Spiders	26 species
Harvestmen	<i>Mitopus morio</i> , <i>Lacinus ephippiatus</i> , <i>Paroligolophus agrestis</i> , <i>Oligolophus tridens</i> , <i>Nemastoma bimaculatum</i> , <i>Rilaena triangularis</i> (6 species)
Beetles	93 species
True flies	105 species
True bugs	52 species
Bees	<i>Apis mellifera</i> , <i>Bombus pratorum</i> , <i>Bombus hortorum</i> , <i>Bombus lucorum</i> , <i>Bombus pascuorum</i> , <i>Bombus magnus</i> , <i>Bombus cryptarum</i> , <i>Bombus soroensis</i> , <i>Bombus jonellus</i> , <i>Bombus lapidarius</i> , <i>Andrena ruficrus</i> , <i>Andrena scotica</i> , <i>Andrena bicolor</i> , <i>Andrena clarkella</i> , <i>Lasioglossum calceatum</i> (15 species)
Wasps	<i>Vespula austriaca</i> , <i>Dolichovespula sylvestris</i> , <i>Dolichovespula norwegicus</i> , <i>Ophion scutellaris</i> , <i>Ancistrocerus oviventris</i> , <i>Ancistrocerus scoticus</i> (6 species)
Sawflies	<i>Tenthredo notha</i> , <i>Tenthredo livida</i> , <i>Metallus albipes</i> , <i>Abia nitens</i> , <i>Abia candens</i> , <i>Cimbex femoratus</i> , <i>Trichiosoma sorbi</i> (7 species)
Ants	<i>Formica lemani</i> , <i>Myrmica ruginodis</i> , <i>Leptothorax acervorum</i>
Lepidoptera (Butterflies)	Small White, Green-veined White, Orange-tip, Green Hairstreak, Common Blue, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Dark Green Fritillary, Speckled Wood, Scotch Argus, Meadow Brown, Small Heath, Large Heath (16 species)
Lepidoptera (Moths)	351 species
Odonata (Damselflies)	Large Red, Common Blue, Blue-tailed, Emerald
Odonata (Dragonflies)	Common Hawker, Golden-ringed, Four-spotted Chaser, Common Darter, Black Darter
Orthoptera	Field Grasshopper, Common Green Grasshopper, Meadow Grasshopper
Birds	182 species
Flowering Plants	625 species
Fungi	417 species
Bryophytes	270 species
	List compiled by Steve Terry, Seth Gibson and Phil Knott

Section 2 – Local Designations

Designated Sites and Recognitions

Management of these sites is overseen by NatureScot in conjunction with the numerous landowners.

Cuillin Hills NSA

The entirety of the Cuillin Hills are covered by a large National Scenic Area, which extends right up to the A87 west of Broadford, and coming as close as the Old Corry road. While this is not a biodiversity designation, its recognition it will limit development and keep large tracks of land free from a number of threats.

Cuillin Hills SPA

A 29000ha Special Protection Area (created under the Birds Directive and designated in 2002) extends to Soay, Eynort, Drynoch and across north of Sligachan, including all of the Red and Black Cuillin down to Broadford. The SPA is larger than the NSA and comes across Beinn Suardal over to the Heaste road and includes all of the hill ground in the north of Strath.

Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills SSSI /SAC

The entirety of the Kinloch and Kyleakin Hills are covered by double designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Area of Conservation, originally a European Union designation under the Habitats Act. This is obviously an important backdrop for the Broadford area, but it does reach down into the Broadford area by including the Abhainn Lusa down to the A87. The riparian habitat here, with its lichens and bryophytes, get a special mention. There are a range of habitats covered across the SSSI and SAC with Site Condition Monitoring last done 10 years ago . At that time, the habitats were favourable or unfavourable but declining.

The SAC/SSSI includes the Abhainn Lusa from its source to the A87, chosen for its rich assemblage of lichens and bryophytes.

Strath SAC

Just at the very southern edge of the Broadford area is the Strath Special Area of Conservation. This includes all of Beinn Suardal and the Dolomitic limestone hills to the west, encircling the quarry and township of Torrín. Some of the habitats have not been formally reviewed for 20 years, with some looked at 10 years ago. Of concern here is the Alpine Calcareous Grassland that covers a lot of the hill tops. Listed as Unfavourable and Declining in 2004, with invasive species listed as a threat. This is an important site for botany, with a wholly different rock type and soil pH to the surrounding hills, with most of the Broadford residents unaware of its significance and poor conservation status. The Marble Line and Old Corry footpath are just out of this area but it allows easy access to it.



Figure 3 Reed Buntings occur in small numbers



Figure 4 Alpine baserich flora in Strath SAC/SSSI. These flowers are Mountain Avenas.

Mointeach nan Lochain Dubha SSSI/SAC (known commonly as the Black Lochs)

The series of lochans, bogs and wet and dry heath to the west of the main Sleat Road is well known throughout the Broadford area as an important habitat and wildlife area, with the old Sleat road a popular area for exercise. It is one of the few sites with interpretative panels in the area for biodiversity. It has not been reviewed for over 10 years, but then it was deemed Favourable: maintained and Favourable: declining for its habitat types.

Inner Hebrides and the Minches SAC

The marine areas of the Broadford area are covered by the wide-reaching Special Area of Conservation, designated for the Harbour Porpoise. The SAC extends to a huge 1381391.4 ha, from Gigha, to Coll, across to Eriskay, up to Stornoway and across to Point of Stoer, Assynt, covering all of the water in between. It was last assessed as Favourable: maintained.

Geological Sites of Special Scientific Interest

There are four additional SSSI's in the Broadford area, all of which are in recognition of their geological importance. This is evidence of the unusual geological composition in the area. There are Strath SSSI, Loch Ashaig SSSI, Ob Lusa to Ardnish SSSI and Rubh' an Eireannaich SSSI. None of these have any biodiversity features listed.

Section 3 – Community Consultation

Introduction

An important first step in ascertaining the priorities for the biodiversity of the Broadford area was to engage the community. Twelve one-to-one interviews were conducted with key naturalists and a community questionnaire was created and distributed.

Method

A questionnaire was created in SmartSurvey during January and was available for the community to complete online or in paper form from the 20th January until the 20th of February 2024. The Board of BSCC approved the final version of the questionnaire. For people to answer more frankly and openly, it was made anonymous, with the only personal data being whether the respondents were residents of the Broadford area. The full survey is available as Appendix 1, with all of the written comments collated in Appendix 2.

BSCC shared the QR code and web address and details of how to participate in the survey with the local community through their networks, including social media. The survey was publicised in the West Highland Free Press and in a range of local newsletters. Awareness was raised further through a series of interviews with key community members, particularly those who have been involved in biodiversity projects in the past. Attendance at the Broadford Christmas Fayre in December and at the Community Warm Hub gathering during the consultation period also helped to raise the profile, and also obtain a general feeling for topics that could be included in the survey.

It was important that the survey was not too long or onerous, in order to capture as many residents as possible. All comment boxes were optional, and those wishing to submit more information had plenty of opportunity. The authors contact details were provided at all stages of promotion so that those not willing or able to complete an online version could make direct contact.

Results

62 surveys were completed, of which 60 were digital entries and 2 in paper form. The paper copies were uploaded verbatim and form part of the overall numbers/

1. Residency

80% of the respondents completing the questionnaire were resident within the Broadford area (50 responses) with 14.5% (9 responses) frequent visitors, and the remaining 5% (3 responses) occasional visitors.

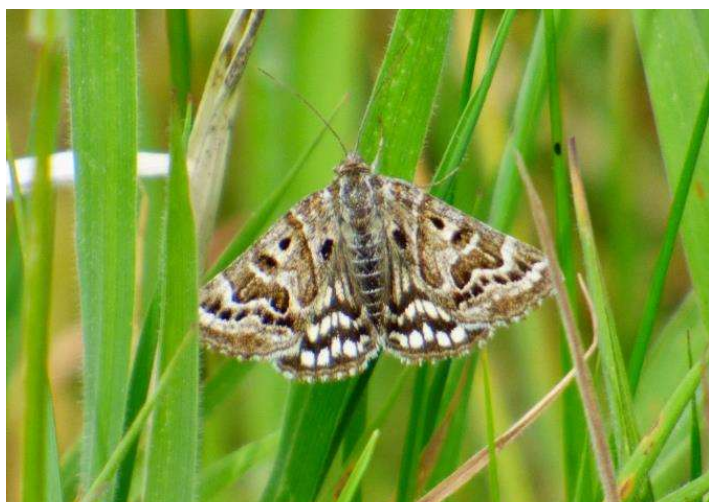


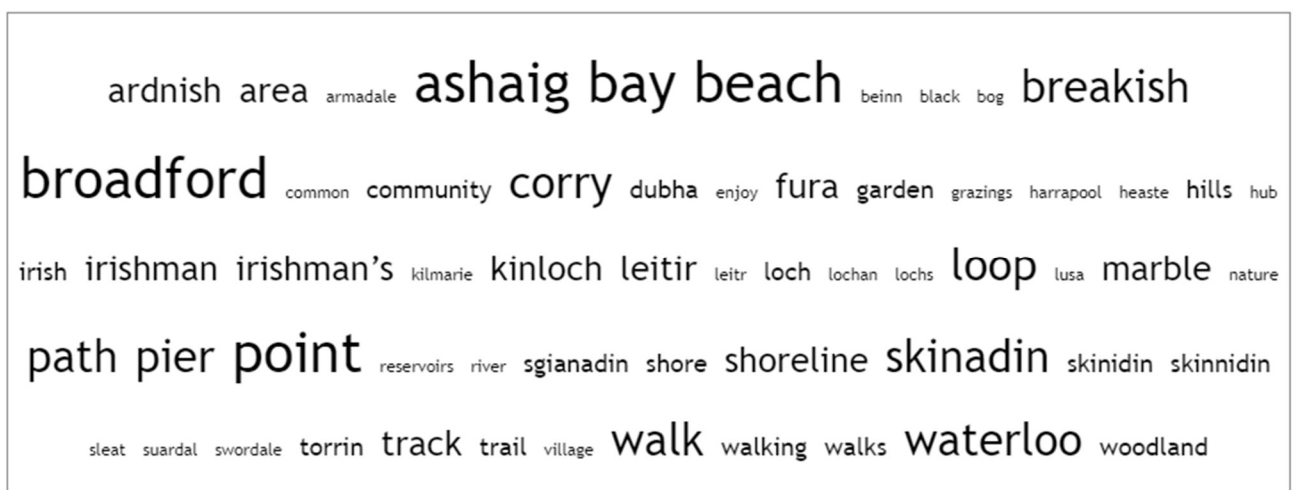
Figure 5 Mother Shipton moth

2. Favourite places to enjoy nature

Respondents identified their favourite places to enjoy nature in the Broadford area. Broadford bay/beach/shoreline came top, being identified by 32% of respondents, with Irishman's Point coming a close second (29%), and Skinidin loop/walk being identified by 27% of respondents as another favourite place to enjoy nature.

The most popular answers are listed below in table, showing number of respondents for each location and also displayed in the word cloud below that.

Broadford Bay/Beach/Shoreline	19
Irishmans point	18
Skinadin	17
Ashaig Beach	16
Waterloo	12
Path along to Pier	11
Old Corry/loop	10
Marble Trail	9
Ardnish	8

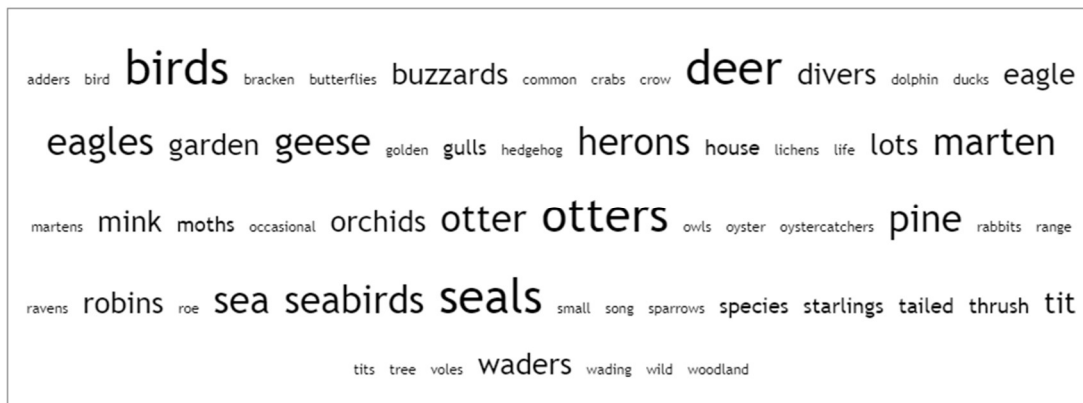


3. Species

Respondents were asked to identify any wildlife species that they associate with the Broadford area.

A large number of respondents, 66% identified Otter as being a species within the Broadford area. The top 11 responses are listed below, with some of the groups loosely grouped based on similar answers. The birds and mammals of the bay in particular were important to the respondents as can be seen in the word cloud below.

Otter	41
Birds	19
Deer (red and Roe)	18
Seals	18
Seabirds	17
Waders/shore birds/wildfowl/ducks	14
Eagles	12
Pine Marten	9
Raptors/Birds of Prey	8
Hérons	8
Garden Birds	8



4. Awareness of rare or scarce flora and fauna

The majority of the respondents were unaware of any nationally or internationally rare or scarce flora and fauna of the area, as highlighted in section 2 of the audit. Many of the respondents identified some of the more iconic species of the area, such as Golden Eagle, Otters or commoner Orchids though these are fairly widespread across the region and have broad international distributions.

5. Perception of the current condition for nature of the habitats of the Broadford area.

Each habitat below was listed with options of Very Good, Good, Average, Poor, Very Poor or Don't Know. The habitats are listed below with the most popular response, with reference to the second most popular.

While these are perceptions, they broadly align with national trends and statements on the state of nature. The most poorly perceived habitats were road verges and commercial forestry, with the community gardens and native woodland believed to be in the best condition. The underwater habitats had over half of the respondents marking 'Don't Know', which highlights the potential for education and awareness raising projects to showcase the marine environment and the wide range of species that live in the bay.

Common grazings and hill ground

AVERAGE

32% of respondents rated the grazings and hill ground as Average with 20% Poor

In-bye croft land

AVERAGE

34% perceived In-bye croft land as Average condition for nature and 19% didn't know.

Native Broadleaf woodland

GOOD

27 % think the native woodland is in Good condition for nature, and 25% Average

Commercial forestry

POOR

38% thought the commercial forestry was Poor for nature, with 30% answering Very Poor.

Broadford bay foreshore (high-tide to low-tide area)

AVERAGE

41% thought the foreshore was Average, with 21% Good

Broadford Bay upper beach

AVERAGE

41% thought the upper beach was Average, 21% Good

Broadford bay underwater habitats

DON'T KNOW

48% of the respondents marked Don't Know, with 20% Good

Road Verges

POOR

32% of the respondents marked Poor, 30% Average

Community Green Spaces

Average

37% of the respondents marked Average, 27% Good

Community gardens

GOOD

41% of the respondents marked Good, 26% Average

Residential gardens

AVERAGE

47% of the respondents marked Average, 24% Good.

6. Perceived and real threats to biodiversity

The responses to this question were numerous and varied with at least 40 different responses, reflecting the enormity of threats and challenges facing our biodiversity. These are complex, inter-linked and occurring at a huge scale, most facing the breadth of the country and planet as a whole. Responses are displayed below in a wordcloud. This wordcloud has been created using the raw data of the responses.

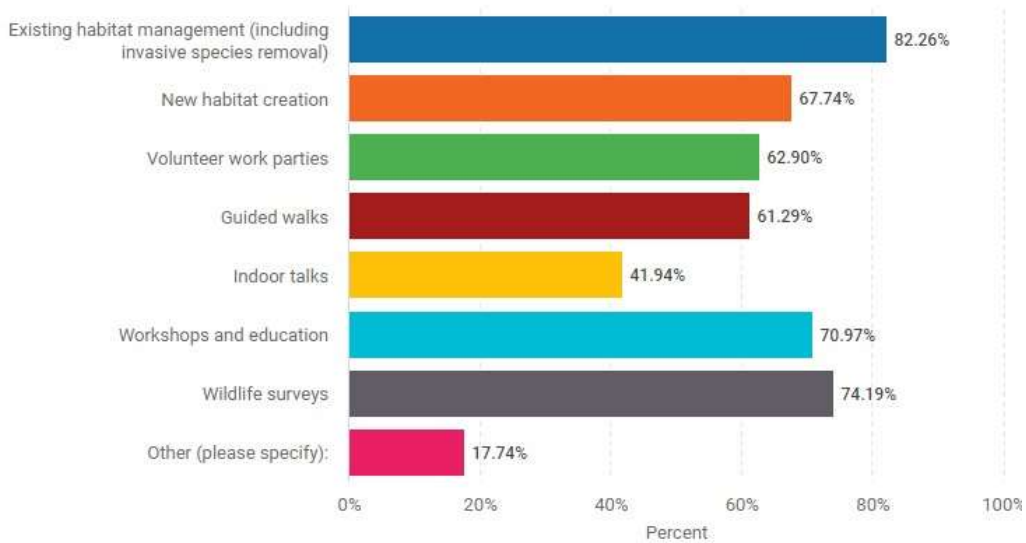
The most frequent answers, after grouping (subject to interpretation by the author) of similar answers, included: development (12 responses), overgrazing by Deer and Sheep (11), disturbance by people (9), litter (8), dog walkers (8), poor management (7), habitat loss/fragmentation (6), pollution (6) and invasive non-native species (6).



7. What practical steps for biodiversity does the community want more of

There is clear appetite for a range of activities in the Broadford area. They are presented in the chart below and discussed in the Biodiversity Action Plan.

What practical wildlife conservation and events would you like to see taking place in the Broadford area? Mark as many as you like, add others in the comments.



8. Invasive non-native Species (INNS)

73% of respondents believe that the Broadford area has a problem with invasive non-native species, with 80% of those that answered yes being able to name at least one. The most popular answer given was Japanese Knotweed with 26 responses, followed by Rhododendron ponticum with 12, Himalayan Balsam with 9, Mink with 8 responses and Cotoneaster with 7.

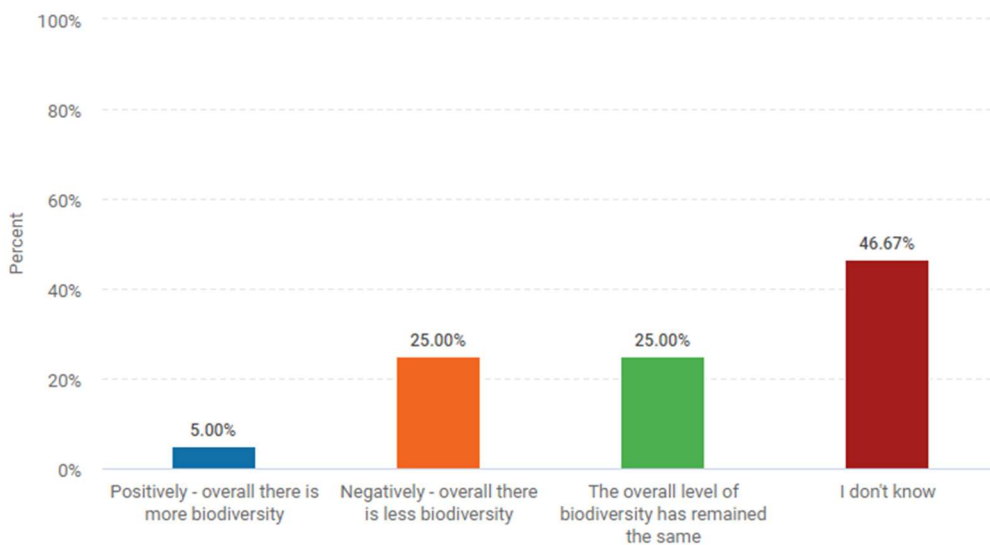
Do you think the Broadford area has a problem with invasive non-native species?

Answer Choices	Responses
No, I don't think so	3.33%
Yes, but I cannot name any	15.00%
Yes, and I can name at least one. Please list all of the invasive species you know to be problematic below	58.33%
I don't know - I would like more information on this	23.33%

9. Perceived change in biodiversity of the Broadford area over time

The majority of respondents were uncertain whether the biodiversity level had changed in their time, with a quarter saying it is lower and a quarter the same. It is telling though that just 5% thought the level of biodiversity had increased in their time. The time frame is personal and unspecified but shows the potential for further work to increase the awareness of the changes in biodiversity in recent years.

How do you think the overall level of biodiversity in the Broadford area has changed in your time?



10. Perceived impacts on biodiversity from the current level of grazing by Deer

Following discussions with the community at the Broadford Christmas Fayre and in interviews with stakeholders prior to the consultation it was clear that the current numbers of deer, whilst a cherished native species, was of concern for overall biodiversity in the Broadford area.

A question was therefore created specifically around this, with livestock deliberately excluded from this particular question. Which habitats in particular were not specified here. The results show a perception that impacts by deer are having an overall negative impact on wider biodiversity.

The comments in relation to the question show a more balanced point of view with numerous positive comments (see Appendix 2). A more in-depth and balanced consultation on this topic is advised as it is a highly emotive topic.

How do you feel the current level of grazing by deer is affecting the biodiversity of the Broadford ar
Please add comments and elaborate if you feel there is an overall positive or negative effect.

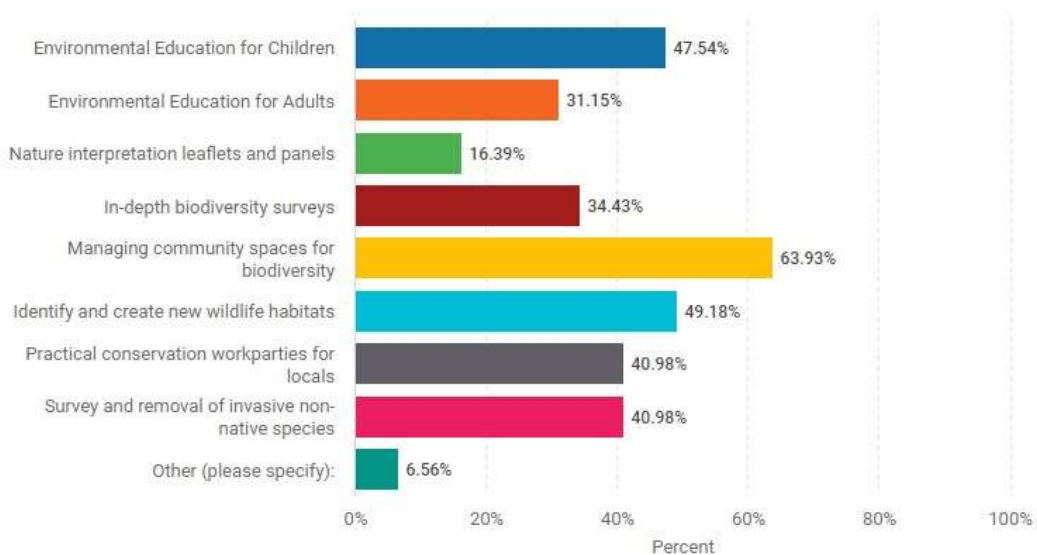
Answer Choices	Responses
Overall positive impact	 1.64%
Overall negative impact	 50.82%
Everything is in balance	 11.48%
I don't know	 36.07%

11. Biodiversity specific funding priorities

Respondents were asked if BSCC was awarded funding for biodiversity what 3 options from a list of 8 would they like to see prioritised. The top 3 priorities identified were as follows. This is discussed more fully in the Biodiversity Action Plan section below.

- 63% of respondents (39) selected 'managing community spaces for biodiversity'
- 49% of respondents (30) selected 'identify and create new wildlife habitats'
- 47.5% of respondents (29) selected 'environmental education for children'

If Broadford and Strath Community Company had been awarded specific funding for biodiversity, what do you think they should prioritise? Please check your top 3 options only.



Section 4- Biodiversity Action Plan

Previous Biodiversity Audits and Biodiversity Action Plans

There have not been any specific biodiversity audits for the Broadford area before.

The first and to date only Biodiversity Action Plan for the region was published in 2003 as part of a Highland wide drive by the Highland Council, with seven Highland areas receiving their own BAPs. The Skye and Lochalsh Biodiversity Action Plan (SLBAP) led to the formation of the Skye and Lochalsh Biodiversity Group, which then became and still remains to this day as the Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum (SLEF)

The SLBAP was reviewed in 2015 by Ro Scott (SLBAP Review 2015) at the request of SLEF and found there had been numerous smaller projects funded under the Highland Biodiversity Action Plan Implementation fund and Communities Project for Highland Biodiversity up to 2009. The Highland Council Ranger Service, as it then was, continued on a range of biodiversity projects and overall objectives of the original SLBAP. With the Ranger service now gone, and limited biodiversity funding in recent years, the number of projects has dropped off considerably.

The most recent and relevant document is the excellent Highland Nature Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2026 (referenced in this document as HNBAP). This has been produced by a broad range of partners. The document itself needs to be read in its own right, but at its core are 9 Actions, listed below. Following the community consultation and through liaising with a range of stakeholders, this Audit and Biodiversity Action Plan have also drawn similar conclusions, allowing for an aligning of actions at a regional and national level.

Action 1: Planning and development decisions provide biodiversity protection

Action 2: Landscape-scale nature conservation and restoration work

Action 3: Identify and conserve priority species

Action 4: Invasive non-native invasive species are controlled

Action 5: Wildlife crime is deterred and prosecuted

Action 6: Increased participation in green and blue activities to benefit health

Action 7: Public engagement using knowledge, skills sharing and training is continued and expanded

Action 8: Biodiversity data gathering and sharing is improved

Action 9: Long-term research into environmental change continues to expand

Biodiversity Strategies, Bills and Regulations

With the Highland Council declaring a Climate and Ecological Crisis in 2019, almost all strategies and frameworks since contain some level of purpose clause in reference to the preservation and

enhancement of biodiversity or the environment. This is also true of the Scottish Government. This gives due weight to the importance of biodiversity and mean it has risen up the agenda in all levels of local and national government.

There are numerous strategies, plans and bills related to biodiversity. These are linked in the references and useful weblinks at the end of the document. It is clear that the current government recognise the issue more than any other.

'We are in the midst of a biodiversity crisis. The facts are beyond doubt: nature is declining fast. It is estimated that 1 million species across the world are at threat of extinction. Here in Scotland, nearly half of our species have decreased in abundance and 11 per cent are under threat of extinction'

Lorna Slater MSP, Minister for Green Skills, Circular Economy and Biodiversity Sept 2023

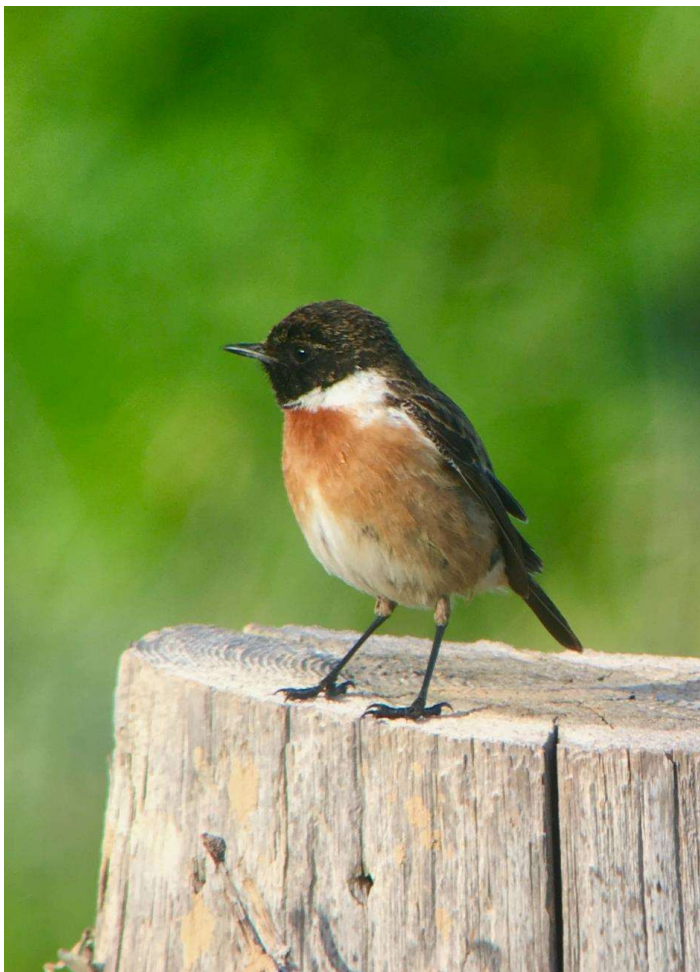


Figure 6 a male Stonechat, common around the in-bye and hill ground

Gaps in Knowledge

It is clear that despite the plethora of records in the databases, there are huge gaps in knowledge and these should be addressed where practicable. Even with iconic and easy to see and identify species like birds and mammals, there are lots of unknowns about abundance and distribution. Many of the data sets included in the appendices have been collated by visiting enthusiasts and are very dated. In some cases, there are only a handful of people across Scotland and indeed the UK that can correctly identify some of the trickier flora and fauna, especially the invertebrates that are very small. The moth list for example has almost doubled in two years following one individual now running a regular non-lethal moth trap at Scullamus.

Recording equipment is relatively affordable and could be owned by a local group or the BSCC for loan. This could include nets, lenses, guidebooks, bat detectors, pond-dipping equipment all manner of sampling kit.

Education and Awareness

There are some tremendously enthusiastic and knowledgeable people living on Skye and across the Highlands and creating events or activities such as BioBlitzes, where all range of experts and amateurs assemble to look for nature in a pre-defined area are great ways of sharing knowledge and encouraging youngsters.

Working alongside the schools and youth groups is a great way of engaging young people at all stages of the process. The Otter Club and Corry Capers are fantastic examples of getting kids into nature and they must be priorities for fundraising and wider support. Any funding for biodiversity related projects should include an element of outreach with the local schools and youth groups as standard.

Natural history challenges are an innovative ways to inspire and engage, drawing the attention of the community onto searching for one particular species. Even with a narrow focus, the act of looking and being conscious of it often leads to a spike in sightings and enthusiasm for other species too. With climate change, as well as species being missed in previous surveys, there are lots of opportunities for exciting discoveries. Taking butterflies as an example, there are six species of butterfly that are candidates to colonise the Broadford area, five of which that haven't been recorded on Skye before – Chequered Skipper, Comma, Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Grayling, Ringlelet and Marsh Fritillary. Raising awareness of the possibility of these species, on top of the 16 that have been recorded can add a level of excitement to citizen science. Who will be the first to see a Comma butterfly on Skye?

A new Biodiversity group for Broadford

Broadford previously had a Broadford Environment Group, that ultimately became the BSCC, but at present there is nothing similar to this. There are groups that work across Skye and the region, including the well-established Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum (SLEF) and Skye Climate Action. SkyeConnect has at times engaged in environmental work too, They are all doing fantastic work on respective projects, but given the number of actions needed in Broadford, a narrower focused group in a smaller geographical area might be required to be created. Given the multiple threats we face under the handle of the climate and biodiversity twin crises, environmental groups can now be too broad, such are the number of topics that are needing attention. The author suggests that any new independent community group or sub-committee of the BSCC should be focussed on delivering biodiversity actions only, with other important topics, such as work on recycling, energy efficiency, food and travel kept for other dedicated groups.

Green and Blue Health initiatives and community volunteering

Green health and blue health initiatives involving access to nature and areas of water are being widely prescribed across the country as solutions to the growing mental health crisis. There are a great number of physical activities, on top of just being out and about in nature that local groups and individuals can engage in. Where properly risk-assessed and lead by a competent and well-trained activity leader, practical conservation activities deliver multiple benefits. Greater civic pride and ownership is an obvious win, as well as increased physical activity. Work parties that focus on action around the Community Greenspaces, footpaths and Community Woodland will meet a number of objectives.



Figure 7 Four of the Orchid species, Heath-spotted, Greater Butterfly, Northern Marsh and Fragrant Orchids

Invasive non-native Species (INNS)

Looking at Appendix 17, there are 130 species that could be considered invasive in the Broadford area. However, the reality is that only a handful are particularly problematic at the moment. Climate change may alter this, but the main species of concern that are realistic to work on and that need the most urgent attention are:

- 1) Rhododendron ponticum
- 2) Japanese Knotweed
- 3) Himalayan Balsam
- 4) New Zealand Flatworm
- 5) Cotoneaster (several species)
- 6) American Mink

All of these species are listed as priority species in the Highland Nature 2021-2026 Biodiversity Action Plan.

They need thorough mapping as an important first step. This will dictate the scale of the project and the exact amount of labour and/or funding to properly eradicate or greatly reduce their respective impacts. Whatever plan of action is enacted, long and realistic timescales need to be included so that the inevitable specimens that are missed, or start growing after the first effort are removed. Community and volunteer engagement at all stages would help with this, rather than using external contractors which can mean the follow up is never completed and it ends up back at square one. With Rhododendron, cut bushes that aren't completely removed or killed are actually harder to follow-up on due to the lower and thicker stems and form. Total eradication through a thorough 5-10 year plan is the key.

Species like New Zealand Flatworm and Mink may be impossible to eradicate, but raising awareness is key to ensure that the majority of residents are aware of them and can report sightings. American Mink were identified as a threat in the consultation and many have been seen and trapped here previously. There is no current project, but previously Skye had been involved with the RAFTS project. There are numerous resources available on the techniques with training available, but at the moment Skye is outwith the main funded areas of the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative.

Chemicals, firearms and licensing

The use of broad-spectrum herbicides and chemicals such as Glyphosate are deemed a necessary evil in the fight against INNS. Given the scale of work that will be needed across Scotland, it is recommended that any funding bid provides the opportunity for full formal training for local people on use of pesticides, including stem injection. These are expensive certificates to get and they are out of the reach of many practical gardeners and estate workers. Funding bids should endeavour to get these costs covered. There are plentiful opportunities for full or part-time work removing INNS and this can be lucrative for the fieldworkers given the high level of skill, number of qualifications and certificates needed and the lack of suitably qualified people. American Mink are caught live and need safe and humane dispatch using an appropriate smaller calibre firearm from a licensed holder who has been well trained in the process. The cost of these things for the right individual would be good to cover too.

Funding

See funding sources in Appendix 19.

It is clear that many of the smaller and larger funds align on numerous objectives, frequently citing:

- 1) Creation of wetlands and ponds
- 2) Invasive non-native species removal, particularly when focussed on enhancing habitats for specific species
- 3) Connecting habitats
- 4) Creation of new wildflower sites
- 5) Local tree planting initiatives
- 6) Community orchards

Overview of the Broadford Area by habitat

Introduction

Each of the main habitats of the Broadford area have been described below, with Example species, Conservation Efforts and Data Gathering, Threats and Recommendations for each habitat. Particular focus has been given to the objectives that the community can work towards achieving within the next ten years.

Running freshwater habitats

Example Species

Brook Lamphey, Atlantic Salmon, Dipper

Conservation efforts and data gathering

Excellent work is being done by the Skye and Lochalsh Rivers Trust (SLRT) formerly the Skye Fisheries Trust, in monitoring aquatic life and water quality. There is always scope for more work but given the scale of the catchments and the region as a whole they are able to provide a valuable insight. There is very limited data outwith SLRT.

Threats

Recreational activity is often concentrated on to freshwater areas, with plunge pools popular spots. This is a minor disturbance just now, but an escalation of activity, often following a commercial operator establishing locally can be detrimental. Activities like canyoning are often light touch but when repeated on a regular basis can cause harm. The more that is surveyed, the sooner the more sensitive spots will be found and subsequently protected.

Water courses are a common way for invasive non-native species to spread often unchecked, usually downstream but in flood events it can be across the catchment. Many of the areas are often steep, wet and hard to access, so INNS presence and spread can continue unchecked.

The lack of a riparian habitat across the vast majority of the watersheds means the burns and rivers are not as rich as they could be. The lack of shade affects the water temperature and without rich native habitats, there is minimal organic material and invertebrates. An impoverished habitat usually sees reduced numbers of fish, with knock on implications to other species such as the Fresh Water Pearl Mussel.

Recommendations

1. Encourage continued engagement with SLRT for events and training, especially with schools.
2. Ensure all water courses that drain into the Broadford area are mapped thoroughly for INNS.
3. Gauge interest on a campaign to target Mink, working alongside the larger landowners.
4. Formally train 2 members of the community in Mink monitoring and control
5. Working with local landowners, look into protecting riparian habitats. Consider establishing new areas.



Figure 8 Dippers are common on our watercourses

Standing Fresh Water

Example species

Common Frog, Palmate Newt, Four-spotted Chaser

Conservation Efforts and Data Gathering

The majority of the standing freshwater in the Broadford area is oligotrophic, which is generally characterised by being low in nutrients, acidic and often dark. This is the typical standing waterbody of the Highlands and Islands. Whilst lower in species than most lowland pools, ponds and ditches, they do hold a number of specialist species. Technology has now advanced and if a project is well funded, then an eDNA test can be run on water samples to ascertain the species present in the water without even seeing them.

Many other wetlands are often just temporary floods in the area and are usually ephemeral, though these still have a high value for birds and opportunists like amphibians.

There is very little data on the freshwater aquatic life, though the botany has been well covered. Janet Ullman from Amphibian and Reptile Conservation has been active in the area and been instrumental in advice and monitoring for the pond at the school and the new wetland pond in the community woodland. Janet mentioned in her correspondence:

'The Palmate Newt population within Broadford itself is incredibly healthy after surveying over 3 years. The school pond had 77 adults last spring and overwintering efts. The habitats around the ponds and ditches, that support adults must successfully support terrestrial adults and juveniles'

Threats

The majority of the acid pools are in a stable condition, though climate change, with increased temperatures and long drought periods will likely cause problems for a number of the species as the waterbodies at times partially or totally evaporate and warm beyond the natural limits of the species within. Drainage can often exacerbate these issues.

For the pools and ponds in and around the village, disturbance can be a problem, as well as more obvious factors like pollution and loss or fragmentation of habitats.

The school pond listed above needs to be fully conserved, with new habitats created throughout the Broadford area to help strengthen them.

Recommendations

1. Encourage continued engagement with Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (ARC) and the British Dragonfly Society on the fauna of standing water, especially with schools.
2. Investigate sites for pond creation throughout the Broadford area.
3. Reptiles and many insects need basking sites, with bare ground, rocks and dead wood integrated throughout sites.
4. Hibernacula for overwintering are equally important. Lots of loose organic material, old walls and rotting deadwood are vital. Essentially encouraging messiness where appropriate. Piles of branches, leaf litter. Many invertebrates overwinter in healthy soil and in dead vegetation, both standing and fallen. Allowing areas of overwood and tall vegetation, even on rotation, would be beneficial

Marine Environment

Please see Appendix 8 - Marine Habitats, Inner Broadford Bay Biodiversity Audit, Vanessa Charles and Martin Hynd 2024. This excellent short report covers the marine environment of Broadford Bay great detail, with history, current uses, threats and key species.

In-bye croft land

'Crofting and agriculture needs to remain at the heart of our rural and remote communities, as well as delivering policy priorities for climate change mitigation and biodiversity' Skye and Raasay Future 2016

Example species

Common Snipe, Heath Spotted Orchids, Whinchat

Conservation efforts and data gathering

Organisations such as the Nature Friendly Farming Network, Working for Waders and Scottish Crofting Federation often highlight good practice in farming alongside nature. Whilst there is a greater move towards rewilding, the richest biodiversity on the in-bye land here will have been where the land is managed. Productive land use should be in keeping with the natural environment, and if nature friendly and agroecological methods are used then a suite of wildlife will build up around it. As discussed below, this is challenging to achieve without clear strategy and support from the Scottish Government.

Threats

Historically, the in-bye croft land has held much higher biodiversity, due to a long period of fairly consistent nature-friendly practices that were largely low on artificial inputs. Almost all townships across Skye would to some extent have had populations of Corncrake, Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer and a greater diversity and higher number of smaller birds and invertebrates. These were here because of high nature value farming and crofting. It is unrealistic to expect this assemblage to return – our eyes must be to the future, which is currently uncertain in terms of support payments and their levels.

On the whole, the set-stocking of livestock, in particular sheep, changed the dynamic of the biodiversity. This was actively encouraged, with land improvements and headage payments covered post-World War Two and then later as part of a Common Agricultural Policy funded drive to maximise production, using brought in inputs like feed to keep numbers in excess of the natural carrying capacity of the land. The improvement grants have largely disappeared, and the payments for keeping livestock have steadily dropped away, meaning that on average, the livestock numbers across the Highlands and Islands have dropped. Crofters themselves cannot be blamed for following payments and grants geared exclusively towards improvement and food production, as this was in the national interest at the time. Many crofts are now ungrazed, or only managed with occasional pulses of grazing. The proliferation of rushes is not unique to Broadford, and is a common sight across farm and croftland across the Highlands.

Conversely, much of the in-bye could now be considered under-grazed, with large areas of rank grassland. Whilst in some fields this has seen a proliferation of perennial tall herbs. On the whole, these had previously been confined to the lightly grazed or ungrazed sides of roads or ditches.

There are clearly very strong feelings about the perceived negative impacts of Red Deer in the Broadford area. Whilst the consultation responses showed no animosity towards our largest native mammal in its own right, with numerous responses citing their enjoyment at sightings, their current grazing level and its impacts on biodiversity, and on the crofters' ability to grow a range of crops did feature highly. Many crofters would like to establish trees as a purposeful use of croftland but believe that without a deer fence it is impossible, which is echoed by Woodland Trust's Croft Woodland Project or the Forestry Grant Scheme(FGS) who will currently not fund any plantings in the area unless there is full protection in place. In most cases, to justify an FGS application in the Broadford area would require a large proportion of the in-bye to be planted at a high density, with a deer fence funded at the tax-payers expense.

It is clear from feedback that there has not been a fair transition for crofters away from this heavily supported system into something more long-term and sustainable. With the new Agriculture and Rural Communities Bill currently just through its first consultation, it is vital that all voices help call for a transition back to nature friendly farming, with local employment and local food at its heart, and biodiversity as a by-product of productive farming. The future is uncertain, though the language from the Scottish Government is encouraging. The key will be the new agricultural payments. Will they be enough to ensure those actively benefitting biodiversity can continue, and of equal importance, bring in croft land that is currently not being utilised.

A local abattoir may assist crofters in keeping more appropriate hardier breeds that require less inputs and that will eat the local rougher vegetation and outwinter in our environment. This was also a recommendation in the original SLBAP 2003.

Recommendations

1. Engage with the National Trust for Scotland Croft Education Programme and work at Balmacara. The Broadford area is the perfect size for a cluster approach for the crofters. This could be externally funded under environmental or agricultural payments, many of which are still in development.
2. Encourage dialogue with local landowners on deer where conflicts occur.
3. Encourage uptake of new Agroforestry payment options from Scottish Forestry for inbye ground. These are for integrating trees into grazed or cropped landscapes, with schemes helping to cover the costs of trees and their protection.
4. Encourage sub-letting of underutilised crofts so they are put to purposeful use.
5. Help facilitate nature friendly farming events through the Nature Friendly Farming Network, Scottish Crofting Federation, Plantlife, Butterfly Conservation and other partners.
6. Consider a machinery ring or hire facility for appropriate equipment for managing areas of rank grassland and rushes.
7. Signage could be considered at times of high fire risk and where rare species need to be undisturbed. In collaboration with Seasonal Access Rangers and land managers.

Common Grazing and Hill land

Example species

Sphagnum pulchrum, Curlew, Red Deer, Golden Eagle

Conservation efforts and data gathering

Appropriate grazing and controlled burning has helped maintain areas and protected them from the risk of large wildfires. A key aspect in preventing fire is ensuring the bogs stay wet. This 're-wetting' helps keep the peat and vegetation damp and makes it more resilient, particularly in the face of climate change.

Some areas have traditionally been burned on rotation, though in the Broadford area this is now quite unusual. When done well it can lead to a positive outcome for biodiversity, with a quick and light burn refreshing the heather and grasses in a patchwork mosaic. Guidance has been put out in the Muirburn Code, and those who wish to burn should follow the guidance carefully. A new code of practice and possible licensing for everyone that wishes to practice muirburn could well be introduced if the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill is passed in 2024.

Achieving appropriate grazing is key to managing the denser sward and fuel load but must be adjusted if allowing for tree regeneration. Fencing is often used, but with the advent of remote collars such as NoFence, livestock can be managed without the need for costly fencing. Historically, Skye held large numbers of cattle on the drier hill ground, with consistent land management seeing a suite of biodiversity built up around the practice. The move towards sheep and increased numbers of wild deer, both of which are highly selective, close cropping grazers will have undoubtedly changed the composition of plant species in many areas, particularly the more palatable flora. More seasonality and rest in to any planned grazing system will have biodiversity benefits if consistently managed.

As shown by many of the islands in the Mointeach nan Lochainn Dubha (Black Lochs) SSSI and SAC and many of the deeper gullies trees across the area, trees can and do thrive in the more free-draining and drier soils.

Threats

Large areas of the hill land and common grazing in the Broadford area consist of shallow or deep peats, with large areas of blanket bog. These are internationally important habitats, with focus shifting on the carbon held within them. The deep peat shows that the land management and habitats in the wettest areas have been largely consistent for millennia. A key consideration has to ensure that the habitats are not degraded and releasing carbon, with recognition that they hold their own suite of important plant and invertebrate assemblage. Many of the boggier areas are not suitable for tree planting and need to be maintained or enhanced as an internationally rare habitat. Pristine blanket bog is almost always too wet for trees to establish and even if they do, they are usually stunted.

Other natural grazers such as Red and Roe Deer, Brown and Mountain Hare (now both rare) and Rabbits may need different management prescriptions if the habitat is not in the desired condition.

Fire, along with cutting and grazing is an excellent management tool. Wildfire prevention must be a key consideration for all land managers regionally and a collaborative approach is recommended, in partnership with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and neighbouring landholdings. With increased numbers of visitors to Skye, it is vital that visitors and locals are continually reminded of the risk that wildfires present to people and property, as well as our flora and fauna. The carbon released from extensive hot fires that get into the deeper peat is huge and must be avoided at all costs.

The right tree in the right place is a popular adage, and it is vital that proper advice is sought. Natural regeneration is free, and gives the most natural assemblage of cover. Tree establishment does not have to be expensive, starting slowly with short whips is considerably cheaper and minimises the stress of bringing in large trees that will usually need staking, mulching and watering.

Biodiversity enrichment planting, including native Honeysuckle, Dog Rose, Ivy and Bramble can be an easy win for areas with new or established trees.



Figure 9 Orange-tip butterfly on Cuckooflower

Proposed Windfarm

At the edge of the area marked for this biodiversity audit there is a proposal for a 105MW 16 turbine windfarm.

The Environmental Impact Assessment will be released with the planning application (expected February/March 2024), so the true impact of the windfarm on the habitat and species present is unclear, however the scoping exercise showed a high density of nesting Greenshank in particular. There is considerable concern for the disturbance to the habitats, release of the peat through tracks and footprints and impact on migratory and breeding birds in particular, as well as the subsonic noise and its effects on mammals. The local concerns and relevant papers are listed on the SkyeWind website listed here:

[Skye Wind Resources regarding Wind Farms and developments](#)

Local bird expert Bob McMillan's papers on the movements of waders and wildfowl in relation to the windfarm area are listed in Appendices 6, 7 and 8.

The developers have committed to biodiversity net gain, with peatland restoration elsewhere on the wider estate with ambitious plans for an overall enhancing of the area in an Outline Habitat Management and Restoration and Biodiversity Enhancement Plan. The following biodiversity improvement options were also listed on the Arise website. [Arise Breakish Wind Farm](#)

- Broadleaf woodland regeneration to provide increased habitat connectivity.
- Riparian woodland planting to improve habitat for bats, otters, birds, fish.
- Provision of diver rafts to create further off-site habitat for divers and minimise potential displacement impacts.

Coastal Habitats

Please see Appendix 8 for a detailed review of the underwater environment.

Broadford Bay

Broadford Bay, with its wide range of habitats and long list of species recorded is clearly an important site for nature. The results from the community consultation process found it was the most popular site for enjoying nature, with the top 5 sites all fringing the bay itself. Most of the species that respondents associated with the Broadford area are found within the bay, with Otters, Seals, Waders, Seabirds, Wildfowl all high on the list.

Conservation Efforts and Data Gathering

Birds are recorded anecdotally most days of the year by a dedicated set of residents. Its proximity to the main road also sees a large number of visiting birdwatchers enjoy it too. Birds are formally recorded under the Wetland Bird Survey WeBS and this is a systematic survey done across the country at the appropriate state of tide. The data from these is held by the British Trust for Ornithology and is included in national statistics and reports.

Bob McMillan has written extensively on the importance of the bay, and Appendices 4, 5 and 6 should be consulted for an excellent overview of Broadford Bay as a whole as well as the original paper 'The Ornithological Importance of the Broadford Bay Complex', R.L McMillan, February 2006 (Paper copy only) and the book *Skye Birds* (3rd Edition), R.L McMillan 2019

Otters are well surveyed by the team at the International Otter Survival Fund, a charity based in Broadford.

Threats

Broadford Bay holds no designations beyond its inclusion in the huge Inner Hebrides and Minches SAC as mentioned in Section 2. This is a clear gap given the importance for birds and mammals throughout the year.

Given its shape and tidal currents, a major pollution event is a significant threat to Broadford Bay, both from marine sources and also from chemical spills or dumping into drains. The increased number of motorhomes has seen a rise in anecdotal reports in the number of Elsan chemical toilets being emptied indiscriminately into water courses. Many septic tank overflows drain into the bay too.

The community consultation found a level of concern about the number of dogs that are routinely walked across and around the bay at various levels of tide. Whilst birds and mammals can tolerate a reasonable level of disturbance, the increasing number of dog walkers, increasingly with dogs off-lead is inevitably going to have an impact on roosting birds, feeding birds and nesting birds as well as seals, otters and other mammals.

Stakeholders and some of the consultation respondents commented that dumping of garden prunings, grass clippings and other waste and even building materials is commonplace around the bay. Not only is this unsightly, it is causing a large number of invasive non-native species to appear around the foreshore. The dumping of top soil and building material is also swallowing up habitats and damaging the important maritime fringe habitats.

Ardnish

It is clear from liaison with local and regional naturalists that Ardnish is a very important site for wildlife and needs a special mention. Disturbance here is much reduced, with smaller numbers of residents and visitors taking in the peninsula. Limited parking on the Waterloo road helps to limit numbers. The habitats here are grazed, and without it, the overall level of biodiversity, at least in the short and medium term, would likely drop. Flagship species such as the Lesser Butterfly Orchid do well in patches here, and are monitored every year by staff at the International Otter Survival Fund who monitor the Otter population along the coast here.

Historically wildlife rich - suite of species built by people

Broadford Bay

It is clear to see from the strandline that garden waste is routinely dumped into the bay. Quite a number of people are concerned about other illegal dumping too, with top soil, grass cuttings and even building rubble deposited. As well as being unsightly for residents and visitors, it is one of the prime ways that INNS are spread, particularly Japanese Knotweed. Causing Japanese Knotweed to spread is an illegal act.

Features considered in LNCS assessment: A Local Biodiversity Site is 'a place of importance for biodiversity that makes an important contribution to the quality of the local environment, and may provide opportunities for local people to find out about their local biodiversity and contribute to its promotion and protection,' NatureScot, LNCS Guidelines

Recommendations

1. Take steps to make Broadford Bay a Local Nature Reserve (LNR) and a Local Nature Conservation Site (LNCS). There is only one other LNR in the Highlands, Merkinch LNR in Inverness. Discuss the possibility with NatureScot on the bay being designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
2. Work on a local campaign against the dumping of garden and building waste
3. Education and potentially signage needed on the impact of increasing recreational disturbance on the wildlife.
4. Education and potentially signage needed on the impact of dogs that are off lead upon feeding, roosting and nesting birds.

Commercial Forestry

Example species

Sparrowhawk, Common Crossbill, Pine Marten

Conservation efforts and data gathering

The larger Broadford forest, as managed by Forestry and Land Scotland has detailed plans for future management. This includes a large buffer of native broadleaf trees in the corner closest Broadford, and planned natural regeneration of native broadleaves adjacent to the Allt Fearnna opposite Skinadin. The better ground here will continue to be planted with a mix of conifers, dominated by Sitka Spruce.

Non-native blocks of conifers offer relatively little for the wider biodiversity of the area, but they do offer a range of nesting sites for a range of birds of prey, including White-tailed Eagles. Species such as Common Crossbill, Siskin, Goldcrest and Coal Tit do well in the forests too. It is often the rides and tracks that have the highest biodiversity, with a sheltered site offering a micro-climate for invertebrates, with dragonflies, butterflies and moths benefitting, especially with flower rich verges and paths.

The private forestry up the Broadford river that is encircled by the Old Corry footpath, as well as the forestry between the A87 and Beinn na Caillich on the western side of Broadford are both becoming mature and no plans are available for the future management of these sites.

Threats

The perennial threats to the wildlife of existing commercial forestry is the risk of disease affecting large blocks of trees, as has happened with Larch trees and *Phytophthora ramorum*. Windfall events are expected to become more common with climate change, and resilient planning is needed to try and mitigate this.

In most cases still, clearfell forestry is practiced and it appears that this will continue to be the case for the blocks around Broadford. This creates a significant change in the landscape and microclimates, with wider impacts on to run-off and sediment. Modern techniques should help mitigate these events.

Native Woodland

Example species

Narrow Buckler Fern, Robin, Argent and Sable moth

Conservation Efforts and Data Gathering

Many residents of Broadford may not appreciate that the bryophytes and lichens contained within the fragment woodlands are one of the rarest assemblages we have. This is now being heralded as part of the wider Atlantic Rainforest and considerable work has gone into raising the profile of this misunderstood habitat.

Nick Hodgetts has created an excellent guide to the bryophytes of the region (Appendix 16) whilst Seth Gibson has compiled the scarcer lichens (Appendix 13). A large number of these grow on or in the trees and humid gullies and cliffs and add up to make up a significant number of the scarcer species.

Looking at the historical maps of the area show the remnant woodland in similar locations to now, showing a remarkable ability to persist. There is more woodland in the Broadford area now than 140 years ago and this will continue to grow in time.

Threats

The current woodlands are mostly comprised of a certain age of trees, with little signs of recruitment. Higher numbers of livestock and deer can limit the recruitment. A true woodland will have a range of different tree, shrub and climber species with levels of biodiversity at the canopy and understorey level.

Except for in the steeper gullies or those protected by fencing, the understories of the woodland are generally very poor for flowers and herbs. Whilst grazing can be beneficial for woodlands and is totally natural, the flora and dependent fauna of this habitat is not having any windows of opportunity. Woodland managers are recommend to consult the Woodland Grazing Toolkit to get the balance right.

Recommendations for all woodland

1. Continue to liaise with Forestry Land Scotland on the Broadford Forest, ensuring biodiversity, invasive non-native species and access is at the heart of all engagements.
2. Liaise with the owners and managers of the other commercial woodlands to the north and west of Broadford on improving access and managing for biodiversity in partnership.
3. Areas of Atlantic Hazelwood and Oakwood (Atlantic/Temperate Rainforest) must be preserved, including the floral understorey.
4. Working with local landowners to encourage riparian woodland along the watercourses, connecting the fragments and planting or allowing natural regeneration in the gaps.



Figure 10 Siskin on Sow-thistle seedhead

Community Green Spaces, footpaths and Community Garden

Example species

Blackbird, Collared Dove, Red Admiral butterfly

Conservation Efforts and Data Gathering

The community consultation showed that overall these areas are rated highly for biodiversity by the community, though the number of species recorded is generally low compared to natural habitats. The work of the Community Gardener has been appreciated, with numerous comments on the good work done. It is an important role to maintain going forward. Formal gardens with high footfall are challenging to make friendly for wildlife, but a shift to more native plants in time will make a difference if that was a desired outcome here.

Threats

Litter, pollution and vandalism are common threats across all community green spaces across the country. Dog mess is a perennial problem which does have an impact on the local environment, by enriching the edges of paths and green spaces, making them unsuitable for the majority of wildflowers. Invasive non-native species are present throughout the community areas wider education and effort will be needed to stop community areas being a source for wider spread. The presence of Ground Elder, Cotoneaster and Pampas Grass, all invasive non-native species should be questioned and replacements sourced as soon as possible.

Recommendations

Community Orchard

Many communities across the Highlands are looking to community orchards as a way of managing community owned green spaces. They provide a relatively high level of biodiversity, a medium and long term supply of food, and are a great arena for positive community actions. The popularity of the inaugural Apple Day at Broadford Hall in October 2023 shows there is growing interest in fruit production and now that the apple trees at the Growers Hub are becoming fruitful and attracting attention, it could be a good time to establish more at various locations.

Tree Nursery

The UK is divided up into provenance zones for sourcing appropriate tree seeds for the locality. Skye sits within provenance zone 104 which includes Mull, Islay and the Small Isles. At present there is only one very small tree nursery on Skye. For local biodiversity, and that of the whole region, a native tree nursery would be of huge benefit and could provide local, skilled employment throughout the year as well as a number of trees for the Community Woodland and community green spaces. Rock Whitebeam is the rarest native tree in Strath, and it is mostly confined to gullies and cliffs that are inaccessible to grazing. For the limestone dominated parts of Broadford, this would be a welcome addition and it provides an opportunity to inform residents and visitors about one of our hitherto unknown flagship species. A local tree nursery could propagate this species, along with other rarities such as Juniper.



Figure 11 Apples on Skye

Wildflower Areas

Areas of short grass offer some biodiversity, but where practicable, longer grass and wildflowers should be encouraged.

In reality, the highest biodiversity comes from perennial or biennial flowers, that come back year after year, have dependent wildlife species, and contain deep tap-roots that help soil health and drainage too. Most meadows though have a high composition of grasses, sedges and rushes too and it would be important to normalise this. While in transition, the floral diversity can be initially low, and undesirable, if biodiverse, species like Common Ragwort, Creeping Thistle and Broad-leaved Dock can occur. If the area was previously mown, it often has a lot of nutrients and it would take several years of cut and remove to see positive changes. Floral diversity would increase year on year. The first few years are crucial for educating and informing.

The new hospital had a native wildflower meadow established after construction, and if properly managed it will prove to be a fantastic spectacle and wildlife habitat. It was a very busy site for flowers in bumblebees last July .



Figure 12 True native wildflower and tall-herb mix

Integrating native trees and shrubs

Many of Broadford's trees are non-native. While this isn't unusual in a UK context, it does present a missed opportunity for biodiversity. Native tree species such as Oak, Downy Birch, Grey Willow and Hawthorn have hundreds of dependent species of invertebrates, all of which are food for birds and the wider foodchain.

For example, planting mixes often include generic Birch, Poplar, Willow, Cherry and Alder but often these are non-native varieties or regionally inappropriate. In Broadford, the presence of White and Purple Willow, Red Alder and Himalayan Birch show missed opportunities. More native plants should be seen as a priority in wider community spaces and footpaths.

However, longer areas of vegetation do capture litter and debris, and can struggle to recover from repeated trampling so careful management and potentially signage would help.

For every location there are appropriate wildflowers – and in most cases they are already present. Consistent and sensitive management is key. Many areas would need a once a year cut, others around the margins would benefit from being left for a few years on rotation. Broadford would benefit from a clear and simple conservation management plan if there a wish to manage these spaces in such a way.

Community Woodland

Example species

Palmate Newt, Pipistrelle Bat, Willow Warbler

Conservation Efforts and Data Gathering

The work to date on the community woodland since its inception has seen the site steadily become richer for biodiversity. Native species of tree and shrub have been planted with large amounts of natural regeneration, especially in the wetter areas. The establishment of a large number of Oak trees was a very positive move and they are faring well. Overall, there is limited practical activity within the wider woodland just now. This is benefitting many species as it becomes a relatively undisturbed sanctuary but appropriate management following a plan would see greater levels of biodiversity and creations of micro-habitats.

A bat survey was completed as part of the Species on the Edge programme, and the presence of Pipistrelle Bats were detected. Full details in Appendix 3 - Species on the Edge Bat Survey, Corry Capers - Cathryn Baillie 2023.

A successful Nature Restoration Fund bid saw a large pond and wetland area created in recent years. This was well planned and executed and holds a good level of water throughout the year. It has shallower and deeper sections and will have planned shade from native trees across some of it. Native wetland plants are to be established in spring 2024 and monitoring work on their establishment and wider biodiversity will continue. Public access is to be improved here and the pond should become an important site for the community, especially children and young people to enjoy nature.

Overall, though, many members of the community are unfamiliar with the community woodland and access to it and through it and would welcome opportunities to survey wildlife and take positive steps. It was not mentioned highly in the sites that consultation respondents referred to as places to enjoy nature and this is something that can easily be rectified.

Threats

Invasive species are present in the community woodland, with Fuschia a notable issue. Continued regrowth of seedling Sitka Spruce will need ongoing management too. Total exclusion of grazing animals will see many areas become rather inaccessible with large rank areas of grass and rushes.

Recommendations

1. A zero-tolerance approach to Fuchcia in the community woodland and eradicate it while possible. Once other cover establishes further it will become increasingly challenging.
2. Establish a Community Tree Nursery for planting in the Community Woodland and in the Broadford area (and across Skye if numbers permit).

Residential Gardens

Example species

Peacock Butterfly, Pine Marten, House Sparrow

Conservation Efforts and Data Gathering

Organisations like the RSPB actively encourage engagement with garden birds through the Big Garden Birdwatch, and their magazines and materials are often geared towards gardening for nature.

In terms of diversity of species, garden wildlife is often dominated by the invertebrates attracted to a range of long-flowering flowers and shrubs. While these are fuelling stops, the often non-native plants themselves offer little or nothing other than cover for wider biodiversity and will be inedible to most caterpillars for example.

Compost heaps are important habitats for a range of invertebrates, if the food waste is well managed. Courses on composting would be of great benefit.

Many have created native wildflower areas and meadows in their gardens, as well as other important micro-habitats such as ponds.

Threats

Gardens and their perceived weeds and pests are often the target for a broad range of herbicides, fungicides and pesticides often readily available at the local supermarket and at almost every garden centre or hardware store. Poisons and pellets for tackling slugs, snails and even ants have an unknown effect on the wider ecosystem

Many of the gardens are refugia for invasive non-native species, many of which have colonised of their own accord and been adopted into the accepted plants. Given how many of the problematic species in the Broadford area have come from gardens, the precautionary principle should be taken when introducing non-native plants, with a zero-tolerance attitude to the most persistent of species. There is an opportunity for education during projects to tackle INNS.

Pet cats and feral cats are notoriously damaging to small birds and mammals. A 2022 report estimated they kill 270 million wild animals a year in the UK. [Pet cats \(Felis catus\) from urban boundaries use different habitats, have larger home ranges and kill more prey than cats from the suburbs - ScienceDirect.](#)

New Zealand Flatworm is a pernicious INNS that can almost eradicate earthworms of all types and is likely to be present in gardens in the Broadford area. Gardeners may be unaware of its existence or

threat. Education is vital, so that residents are aware of the species, with a zero-tolerance attitude taken. They are usually spread by moving potted plants and top soil around. Only purchasing bare-rooted plants and minimising the movement of soil or containers between gardens is recommended. They are often found under pots, rocks, bags or boards. A concentrated effort is needed to get on top of them, with many reporting that it still takes years to build up the earthworm population after removal.

Recommendations

1. Consider a community funding application focussed around wildlife friendly gardening, potentially as part of a larger INNS bid, which could include the following:
 - a) Free biodiversity surveys and advice could help to make the gardens of the Broadford area a haven for wildlife
 - b) Where INNS are present in gardens, a free removal service could be offered or training, with a budget for native shrubs and trees to replace them.
 - c) Wildlife friendly gardening events and resources to be provided free of charge
 - d) Recording of garden wildlife encouraged

Road Verges

Example species

Northern Marsh Orchid, Birds Foot Trefoil, Ox-eye Daisy

Conservation Efforts and Data Gathering

The verges in the Broadford area are largely in poor condition for biodiversity. Whilst excellent patches occur from time to time, the management often chops and changes and the good work is lost. The key, as described below, is consistent management and working to a plan. This requires a concerted effort by local residents, community councils, environment groups and then most importantly the buy-in of the contractor or Highland Council teams that deliver the work.

Threats

Uncut verges regularly often attract complaints through thoughts of untidiness and the go-to policy is to regularly cut all verges. Areas that have been regularly cut and that are relatively rich in nutrients can have a proliferation of dominant weeds, that although good for biodiversity, are seen as detrimental. Dandelions, Docks, Sorrels and Ragwort are some of these species that appear with irregular management. Richer verges are often dominated by thick, lush grass too, with mulch cutting essentially feeding the more competitive species each time.

Inconsistent management and poor planning are the threats to the flora and fauna. If a cutting plan is agreed upon and followed, with broadly the same cutting time each year then biodiversity can adapt. It is important that areas not kept short on health and safety grounds have a chance to flower and set seed. Consistency is the key. Thankfully herbicides are rarely used these days, but the tools used for cutting aren't built with nature in mind and are generally rough flails that can cope with woody vegetation and coarser grasses.

With the main roads getting ever busier, the amount of pollution from all manner of vehicles must be accumulating. Oils, salt, screenwash, rubber from tyres and wipers as well as the myriad of exhaust particulates are likely having an impact on the overall level of biodiversity, as well as the increased traffic directly striking birds, mammals, amphibians and invertebrates. This is poorly known. A busier

road network is also contributing to the fragmentation of the habitats, with many species no longer comfortable to be near the main roads. Whilst green bridges for biodiversity are impractical for smaller towns and villages, it is vital that culverts and bridges are managed with species like Otters in mind. Regular surveying will help identify the hotspots, though more often it is frequent roadkill locations that get the attention.

There are excellent examples of schemes that have worked in conjunction with councils and land managers such as this in Northern Ireland: [Don't Mow Let It Grow - This exciting project is led by Causeway Coast to focus on the conservation of semi-natural grassland over the next three years. \(dontmowletitgrow.com\)](http://dontmowletitgrow.com)

Recommendations

1. Verges would not benefit from one hard and fast rule, but the basic pattern of encouraging flowers is to cut back as normal until a prescribed date in May – August. A long period of rest, ideally 6-8 weeks or longer then follows, allowing flowers to bloom and set seed.
2. Consider adopting sections of road verge within Broadford and managing in a sensitive manner. Even an initial small section for demonstration purposes would be beneficial.
3. Liaise with the Highland Council on cutting plans and frequency of cuts, jointly identifying high nature value verges.
4. Do not use bought in seed mixes, rely on the seedbank and natural colonisation. If seeding is needed then collect from nearby.



Figure 13 Native flora of well managed tracks and roads, annual cut on left and biennial cut on right



Figure 14 Bird Cherry in full flower, a haven for invertebrates

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References and useful weblinks

Designated Sites

Overlay maps of the designated sites: [SiteLink - Map Search \(nature.scot\)](#)

Future Designations

Local Nature Reserve: [Local Nature Action – Highland Environment Forum](#)

Local Nature Conservation Site: [LNCS assessment definitions \(highlandenvironmentforum.info\)](#)

Local Nature Conservation Site: Guidelines: [216636018.23.pdf \(nls.uk\)](#)

Woodland

Forestry Land Scotland Local Plan, including maps [Kinloch Hills and Broadford land management plan - Forestry and Land Scotland](#)

Overview of the Forestry and Land Scotland estate on Skye: [Forests on Skye and Raasay - Forestry and Land Scotland](#)

Rainforest overview: [State of Scotland's Rainforest Report - Woodland Trust](#)

Guide to Atlantic Hazelwood: [Atlantic hazelwood | NatureScot](#)

Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest: [Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest \(savingscotlandsrainforest.org.uk\)](#)

Trees for Life: [Trees for Life | Rewilding the Scottish Highlands](#)

Woodland Grazing toolbox: [Scottish Forestry - Woodland Grazing Toolbox](#)

Community Woodland Association: [Community Woodlands Association \(communitywoods.org\)](#)

Road Verges

A Northern Irish case study on road verge management: [Don't Mow Let It Grow - This exciting project is led by Causeway Coast to focus on the conservation of semi-natural grassland over the next three years. \(dontmowletitgrow.com\)](#)

Broadford Bay

The Ornithological Importance of the Broadford Bay Complex, R.L McMillan February 2006 (Paper copy only)

Skye Birds (3rd Edition), R.L McMillan 2019

WeBS Wetland Bird Survey: [Wetland Bird Survey | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](#)

Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust: [Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust | Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust \(hwtdt.org\)](#)

Whale and Dolphin Conservation: [Home - Whale and Dolphin Conservation \(whales.org\)](#)

Breakish Windfarm

Developers website: [Arise Breakish Wind Farm](#)

Local campaigners against Breakish windfarm: [Skye Wind Resources regarding Wind Farms and developments](#)

Local Natural History

Bob McMillan's Skye Birds site: [Isle of Skye birding guide | Skye Birds \(skye-birds.com\)](#)

Steve Terry's natural history of Skye: [Flora and fauna of the Isle of Skye \(skyeinfofocus.co.uk\)](#)

Stephen Bungard: Botanical blog for Skye and Raasay: [About | Plants of Skye, Raasay & The Small Isles \(skyeruasayplants.uk\)](#)

Highland branch of Butterfly Conservation: [highland-butterflies.org.uk](#)

HBRG: [The Highland Biological Recording Group \(external link\)](#)

Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum: [Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum - SLEF, wildlife, nature, biodiversity, conservation, biology, ecology, animals, plants, birds](#)

Skye Climate Action: [Biodiversity | Skye Climate Action](#)

Botany in VC 104 (Including Skye): [North Ebuades, v.c. 104 – Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland \(bsbi.org\)](#)

Species on the Edge programme: [Species on the Edge | NatureScot](#)

Scottish and UK Natural History organisations and resources

Scottish office of Butterfly Conservation: [Scottish Office | Butterfly Conservation \(butterfly-conservation.org\)](#)

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation: [National Amphibian and Reptile Monitoring Programme \(arc-trust.org\)](#)

Buglife Scotland: [Buglife Scotland - Buglife](#)

Froglife: <http://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/froglife-scotland/>

Scottish Raptor Study Group: [Scottish Raptor Study Group | | Highland](#)

Scottish Wildlife Trust: [Scottish Wildlife Trust - Scotland's leading nature conservation charity](#)

RSPB: [Royal Society for the Protection of Birds \(external link\)](#)

Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland: [Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland \(external link\)](#)

National Biodiversity Network Atlas: [NBN Atlas Scotland](#)

Bat Conservation Trust: [Home - Bat Conservation Trust \(bats.org.uk\)](#)

Red, Amber and Green listed birds in the UK: [Birds of Conservation Concern | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](#)

The Mammal Society: [The Mammal Society – For Evidence Based Conservation – For Evidence Based Conservation](#)

Plantlife Scotland: [Plantlife Scotland](#)

British Dragonfly Society: [Scotland - British Dragonfly Society \(british-dragonflies.org.uk\)](#)

Bumblebee Conservation Trust: [Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#)

International Otter Survival Fund: [IOSF \(otter.org\)](#)

Highland Biological Recording Group: [The Highland Biological Recording Group \(hbrg.org.uk\)](#)

Butterfly Conservation Scotland: [Scottish Office | Butterfly Conservation \(butterfly-conservation.org\)](#)

Wildlife Gardening

Guide to wildlife gardening: [Wildlife gardening | The Wildlife Trusts](#)

Plantlife guide to No Mow May: [Plantlife's No Mow May Movement](#)

In-bye, common grazing and hill ground

Peatland Action website: [Peatland ACTION | NatureScot](#)

Muirburn information: [Muirburn licensing | NatureScot](#)

The Muirburn Code: [Guidance - The Muirburn Code | NatureScot](#)

NoFence Collars for livestock: [Nofence - World's first virtual fence for livestock](#)

Wildfire resources: [Wildfires | Scottish Fire and Rescue Service \(firescotland.gov.uk\)](#)

Crofting: National development plan: [Land, Environment and Biodiversity - Crofting: national development plan - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Working for Waders: [Working for Waders](#)

Scottish Crofting Federation: [Crofting Home - Scottish Crofting Federation](#)

Crofting Commission: [Welcome | Crofting Commission \(scotland.gov.uk\)](#)

Nature Friendly Farming Network: [Home | Nature Friendly Farming Network, NFFN](#)

National Trust for Scotland: Crofting : [The crofting landscape | National Trust for Scotland \(nts.org.uk\)](#)

Responsible Access and Recreation

Seasonal Access Rangers: [Seasonal Access Rangers | Outdoor access | The Highland Council](#)

Scottish Outdoor Access Code: [NatureScot \(outdooraccess-scotland.scot\)](#)

Wildlife disturbance under SOAC: [Wildlife | Scottish Outdoor Access Code \(outdooraccess-scotland.scot\)](#)

Invasive Non-native Species (INNS)

The Scottish Invasive Species Initiative: [SISI | Scottish Invasive Species Initiative](#)

Mink raft guidelines: [Mink raft guidelines - Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust \(gwct.org.uk\)](#)

UK Non-native Species library: [Home » NNSS \(nonnativespecies.org\)](#)

National and International Strategies and Plans

30 by 30 objectives: [30% of Scotland's land to be protected for nature - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

State of Nature Report: [State of Nature 2023 - report on the UK's current biodiversity](#)

Convention on Biological Diversity: [Home | Convention on Biological Diversity \(cbd.int\)](#)

Draft Biodiversity Strategy for Scotland: [Biodiversity strategy to 2045: tackling the nature emergency - draft - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

Guide to UK Biodiversity Action Plan sites and species: [UK BAP | JNCC - Adviser to Government on Nature Conservation](#)

Regional Plans

Highland Nature: Biodiversity Action Plan: [Highland Nature 2021 - 26 first discussion \(highlandenvironmentforum.info\)](#)

2015 review of the 2003 Skye and Lochalsh Biodiversity Action Plan: [S-and-L-BAP-Review-final.pdf \(highlandenvironmentforum.info\)](#)

Skye and Lochalsh Biodiversity Action Plan 2003: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/sbsap/gb-sbsap-scotland-skye-lochalsh-en.pdf>

Potential Funders for Biodiversity Projects

Highlands and Islands Environment Foundation: [Highlands & Islands Environment Foundation \(hief.scot\)](#)

Tree Council: [Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund - The Tree Council](#)

HGWillis: [The HDH Wills 1965 Charitable Trust](#)

Patagonia Environmental Grant: [How We Fund - Patagonia](#)

People's Postcode Trust: [Postcode Trust | Postcode Trust](#)

MossyEarth: [Contact Us \(mossy.earth\)](https://mossy.earth)

Scottish Communities Landfill Fund: [Home \(ebscotland.co.uk\)](https://ebscotland.co.uk)

FCC Community Action Fund: [FCC Community Action Fund / FCC \(fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk\)](https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk)

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Nature Restoration Fund (larger bids): [Nature Restoration Fund \(NRF\) - Information for applicants | NatureScot](https://www.naturescot.org.uk/nature-restoration-fund)

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