

The skerries and islets around here are famous for seals



Common seals, by WDCCS/Charlie Phillips

Otters are beautiful creatures which are semi aquatic, and don't live in the water all the time



Otter by Laurie Campbell

You may be lucky to see dolphins at play, I'm sure you'll marvel at their sheer exuberance!



Bottlenose dolphins by Keith Ringland, Caithness Collection



Grey seal by WDCCS/Charlie Phillips

## Wild Coastal trail

The Scottish Highlands have some of the world's best places to watch whales and dolphins from the shore. In order to help you enjoy our wonderful marine wildlife, we have created a Wild Coastal Trail introducing you to the best sites around our coastline.

Join me and discover eight specially selected places on the Trail. Use this leaflet to find each place, then either call me from there or you can find out more at [www.highland.gov.uk/countrysiderangers](http://www.highland.gov.uk/countrysiderangers) You can download the Wild Coastal Trail booklet from there too.



# Wild Coastal Trail Slighe Cladaich Fhiadhaich

Hello, Cameron the Ranger here!  
Why don't you join me to learn more about our Highland coastal wildlife?



Cameron the Ranger ©

Skye and Lochalsh  
An t-Eilean Sgitheanach  
Loch Aillse



I'd like to be your guide at some special places on the Wild Coastal Trail. Why don't you visit me at the sites highlighted on the map below.



And you should get to know my colleagues, the Countryside Rangers. They run many events and guided walks which aim to help raise awareness and encourage appreciation of the scenery, wildlife and heritage of the Highlands. These events are aimed at local communities and visitors alike.

Further details about the Countryside Rangers can be found at [www.highland.gov.uk/countrysiderangers](http://www.highland.gov.uk/countrysiderangers) and they'll be delighted if you get in touch.

Remember to keep in touch with me at [www.facebook.com/thewildcoastaltrail](https://www.facebook.com/thewildcoastaltrail)

## Kyle of Lochalsh, Kyleakin and Plockton

Set on the western side of the Highlands, Skye is probably one of the world's most famous islands. Steeped in clan lore, together with its Lochalsh hinterland, this area shares a unique and inspiring landscape. Gentle sandy beaches, inlets, bays and islands create a complex pattern within the sea. On land, rugged moorland and tumbling rivers drop dramatically from the mountain backdrops of Torridon, Applecross, Lochaber and the Cuillins. These latter peaks evidence the last volcanic activity in Britain.

At Kyle of Lochalsh the narrow waters teem with life including seals and harbour porpoises, while terns, skuas and gannets fly overhead. Across the bridge on Skye, at Kyleakin, you can sometimes spot bottlenose and common dolphins. At Plockton elusive otters join oyster catchers on the beach, whilst hundreds of common seals live on the nearby islands.



Cameron the Ranger ©

## How to find us

**Kyle of Lochalsh**

**0901 549 0034**

Calls cost 75p + network extras

Call Cameron and he'll describe what you might see here

All routes into Kyle of Lochalsh converge at a junction on the A87 which takes you down towards the harbour. The interpretation panel is situated on the waterfront with parking spaces nearby. (NG 761271) As you look towards the water, across the old ferry slipway, you can see the Skye Bridge and Kyleakin. To your left is the harbour and coastguard station.

**Kyleakin**

**0901 549 0035**

Calls cost 75p + network extras

Call Cameron and he'll describe what you might see here

From the roundabout at the Western end of the Skye Bridge turn down towards Kyleakin. Drive into the village and you will see a large car park on the waterfront to your left. The interpretation panel is located at the end of the car park nearest the bridge. (NG 752264) This is a good spot to view Eilean Ban, the last home of Gavin Maxwell. Further into the village is the Brightwater Visitor Centre and the harbour with views over to Casteal Maol and Kyle of Lochalsh.

**Plockton**

**0901 549 0036**

Calls cost 75p + network extras

Call Cameron and he'll describe what you might see here

You can get to Plockton either by following the mainland signs from Achmore on the A890, from Balmacara to your right the A87 or by driving north out of Kyle of Lochalsh via Main Street and following the signs. When you reach Plockton, drive until you reach the waterfront. There is a parking area immediately on your right and the interpretation panel is situated near the car park. (NG 803332) Plockton also has a small railway station.

Callers must be 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. The Highland Council receives 40p from each call and this will be used to maintain and develop the Wild Coastal Trail. Service Provider Monster Communications Ltd, helpline 08456521070.

