

The Highland Council
Caithness and Sutherland Area Committee
9 December 2014

Agenda Item	4.
Report No	CS/44/14

Countryside Ranger Role

Report by Director of Development and Infrastructure

Summary

This report summarises the events programme delivered by the Council's Countryside Rangers during 2014/15 and the resources allocated to the activities. The report also presents the activities proposed within the Caithness and Sutherland Area for the financial year 2015/16.

Members are invited to consider and approve the proposed priorities and activities programme for the 2015-16 financial year.

1. Background

- 1.1 Countryside Rangers have been operating in Caithness and Sutherland since the early 1970's, starting with two Seasonal Rangers based at Achmelvich in Sutherland and Dunnet Bay in Caithness. In the last 40 years the service has developed to cover a wider range of responsibilities
- 1.2 The current staff complement in the area comprises:
 - Caithness - 2.0 FTE based at Dunnet and Wick
 - Sutherland – 4.0 FTE based at Durness, Lochinver, Bettyhill and Lairg.
- 1.3 The Rangers' role has changed substantially over the years, primarily moving from a predominantly site based to an area based service.
- 1.4 The Rangers deliver a wide-ranging service for local communities and visitors to the Highlands as well as fulfilling functions across the remit of the Highland Council, notably assisting in the delivery of the Council's duties relating to Access and Biodiversity and the management and maintenance of its countryside properties.
- 1.5 This report will highlight the key achievements over the past year and proposes an events programme for financial year 2015/16

2. Activity delivered via the 2014/15 programme

- 2.1 Guided Walks and Events – The final figures for 2014/15 will not be available until the end of the financial year, so the following figures are for the last full year, 2013/14.
162 events attended by 1865 people. The customer survey found that 98% said that the event met their expectations whilst 59% said it exceeded their expectations.
- 2.2 School Visits – The final figures for 2014/15 will not be available until the end of the financial year, so the following figures are for the last full year, 2013/14. Over 100 school visits providing over 1800 children with high quality outdoor learning in their local environment with the Countryside Rangers. The Ranger team also organised a series of workshops at Dunnet Bay on 30th May as part of the Science Festival for local primary schools attended by 140 local schoolchildren.
- 2.3 Highland Seashore Project – As part of the Council's Biodiversity commitments the Rangers delivered a number of training days for the local communities and several seashore activity days that included storytelling, Gaelic singing, craft activities, natural history awareness and food.
- 2.4 Wild North and European Wildflower Festivals – The very successful Wild North festival was delivered in conjunction with the North Highland Initiative and the Rangers' contribution to this was significant.
- 2.5 Countryside Properties -The Rangers continue to have the direct responsibility for the local management of the numerous countryside properties in Caithness and Sutherland for which the Development and Infrastructure Service is responsible. These range from small sites such as small car parks and picnic sites to larger properties such as Dunnet Dunes and Achmelvich Beach. This includes twice yearly risk assessments, monitoring visits and either undertaking or enabling maintenance and upgrading works on these sites.
- 2.6 Countryside Access – The Council's Access Officers undertake the major role in delivering the Council's access duties under the Land Reform (Scotland) 2003 Act, but the Rangers continue to provide vital support to highlight potential problems, assist the audit of Core Paths and have the main responsibility for promoting the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
- 2.7 Income targets – The Rangers currently charge for guided walks and events and this contributed significantly towards the overall team's income targets.

3. Proposed priorities and programme for 2015-16

- 3.1 The priorities for the Ranger Service activities for 2015-16 are guided by the Single Outcome Agreement, the Programme of the Highland Council, 'Working together for the Highlands', and the Development and Infrastructure Service Plan 2012-2017.

3.2 The relevant Priority Themes are:

- Cross-cutting themes – Gaelic, Equalities and Climate Change.
- Working together for the economy.
- Working together for children and young people.
- Working together for better infrastructure.
- Working together to empower communities.

Gaelic – support to Gaelic and reflecting the Gaelic culture in events and activities.

Climate change –working with communities to raise awareness and contribute to activities that contribute to the Council’s climate change targets.

Equalities –delivering activities to as wide a range of groups and individuals as possible and where necessary targeting specific groups and individuals who have had little or no previous engagement.

Economy –delivering events and activities and contributing to the countryside facilities enhancing the tourism product to attract and retaining more visitors to the Highlands and contributing to the Council’s Green Tourism and income generation targets.

Children and young people –key contacts for Highland schools supporting the achievement and retention of Eco-school status; and supporting the outdoor learning element of the Curriculum for Excellence.

Infrastructure –responsibility for the management of Development and Infrastructure properties, including risk assessments, monitoring and maintenance. Support provision via audit and maintenance of the Core Path Network and promotion of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Empowering communities –assisting communities with environmental and access projects, providing specialist advice and assisting their search for appropriate funds.

4 Events Programme for 2015-16

4.1 Appendix 1 shows the draft events programme for the Caithness and Sutherland area for 2015-16.

5. Implications

5.1 Resource – There are no additional resource implications arising from this report. Countryside rangers are part of the Development and Infrastructure Service and are funded from existing resources.

5.2 Legal – There are no additional legal implications.

- 5.3 Equalities – There are no additional equalities implications arising from this report. Rangers undertake equalities training and ensure that this is a key element of their work.
- 5.4 Climate Change/Carbon Clever – No additional implications. Rangers encourage understanding and respect of the natural environment. Their work promotes the climate change/carbon clever agenda.
- 5.5 Risk – There are no additional risk implications arising from this report.
- 5.6 Gaelic – Rangers support the Gaelic language and culture and strive to include Gaelic in their activities.
- 5.7 Rural implications – There are no additional rural implications arising from this report. Rangers operate in the rural environment and contribute substantially to its enhancement.

Recommendation

Members are invited to consider and approve the proposed priorities and activities programme for the 2015-16 financial year.

Designation: Director of Development and Infrastructure

Date: 25 November 2014

Author: George Duff, Countryside Manager (Ext 2279)



Sunday 15 March, 2015 11am - 1pm

Navigation for Numpties!

Want to learn some basic navigation & map reading skills? Why not join in on a hill walk around the Ulbster area where we hope to find some interesting archaeological remains including chambered cairn, stone rows & hill fort. Walking boots and outdoor gear required. Bring compass if you have one. Rough walking in parts.

Booking essential. Meet at Loch Watenan car park. Grid ref: ND 319408. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £7.00. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Saturday 28 March, 2015 8.15pm - 9.30pm

Earth Hour Star Gazing

A fascinating look at the earth in space, making the most of our unpolluted Caithness night skies. Slide show and guided star gazing provided by the local astronomy group, then a night walk to the pond. No astronomy knowledge needed. Please bring a torch and binoculars if you have them. Places limited, booking essential.

Booking essential. Meet at Newtonhill Croft car park. Grid ref: ND 362511. Grade A. Free event. Contact Kirsty on 07500 784123 or kirsty.rosie@highland.gov.uk.



Saturday 28 March, 2015 7pm - 9.30pm

Dunnet Beach by Night

As part of the Earth Hour celebrations join the countryside Ranger on an after dark evening walk and activities along Dunnet beach from the south end to the north end. We will finish with a warm drink and toasted marshmallows around an open fire on the beach. Bring a sense of fun, warm clothing and a torch. All children must be accompanied.

Booking essential. Meeting place given out on booking. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £8.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Sunday 05 April, 2015 2pm - 3pm

Family Easter Treasure Hunt

It's not just chocolate eggs at Easter time! Search for clues & learn about different types of animal eggs at the beautiful Geise woodland, near Glengolly.

Booking essential. Meet at Geise farm car park. Grid ref: ND 109649. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £7.00. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 06 April, 2015 2pm - 4pm

Easter Egg-case Hunt at Sandside

Come along and join the hunt to see how many mermaids purses (skate, ray and shark egg-cases) we can find especially the large common skate egg cases. Any finds will be recorded to help in the conservation effort for these rare fish. All children must be accompanied.

Meet at car park by Sandside Harbour in Reay. Grid ref: NC 957659. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £8.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Saturday 18 April, 2015 11am - 2pm

Dunnet Beach Clean

Please help us to give Dunnet Beach a good clean ready for the coming summer season. Gloves, bags and a free hot drink provided. Please help if you can and stay as long as you are able.

Dunnet beach car park by the Seadrift Centre. Grid ref: ND 219706. Grade A. Free event. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Friday 24 April, 2015 11am - 2pm

Woodland Burn and clifftops of Forse

A hidden gem of a coastal walk, with waterfall, spectacular cliff formations, castle and beautiful pocket sized native woodland. Please wear sturdy boots and bring a pack lunch. Some fence lines to cross. Exact route will depend on the height of the burn on the date.

Booking essential. Meet at North Shore Pottery car park, Forse Mill. Grid ref: ND 216344. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £7.00. Contact Kirsty on 07500 784123 or kirsty.rosie@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 06 May, 2015 11am - 1pm

Sea Watch at Holborn Head

Help the countryside Ranger look for and record whales, dolphins and porpoises using our telescopes. Bring your binoculars and learn about the species we may find here. All records will be sent to the Sea Watch Foundation to help in cetacean conservation. Wrap up warm.

Meet at bottom of road up to the lighthouse (please do not drive to the lighthouse). Grid ref: ND 107706. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £8.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Sunday 10 May, 2015 11am - 3pm

Berriedale Strath Guided walk

Follow the river from Berriedale up the strath passed the ruins at Strath Cuil & to the beautiful Millery pool, returning through the woodlands on the south side. Please wear walking boots/outdoor clothing and bring a packed lunch.

Booking essential. Meet by the Berriedale phone box. Grid ref: ND 120228. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £14.00. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Sunday 24 May, 2015 10am - 12pm

Seashore Shenanigans at Keiss

Fun family morning with activities based around 'Herring'.

Meet at Keiss harbour area. Grid ref: ND 350610. Grade B. Free event. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Sunday 24 May, 2015 3pm - 5pm

Seashore Shenanigans at Lybster

Fun family afternoon with activities based around 'Herring'.

Meet at Waterlines, Lybster harbour. Grid ref: ND 244349. Grade B. Free event. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Sunday 31 May, 2015 10.15am - 6pm

Ship a Hoy, to Orkney

Annual boat trip directly across to the Orkney Island of Hoy from John O Groat's. Choose either a leisurely walk to the Old Man of Hoy sea stack or enjoy a more strenuous walk over Ward Hill, hopefully with time to visit the native Berriedale Wood on route to Rackwick. Suitable outdoor clothing and packed lunch are needed for both walks. Porpoise, Minke whale and orca seen on last year's boat trip. £44 Charge covers, ferry ticket, bus ticket and Ranger charge.

Booking essential. Meeting place given out on booking. Grade C. Adults £44.00, . Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Friday 05 June, 2015 10.30am - 3.30pm

Bilbster to Wick, River Walk

Follow the river downstream from Bilbster to Wick Bay. We'll stroll the fisherman's beats whilst the sand martens fly over our heads. We will be surveying the plant life as we travel along this natural transect line.

Booking essential. Meet at bridge to the rear of Bilbster Mains Farm. Grid ref: ND 281531. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £14.00. Contact Kirsty on 07500 784123 or kirsty.rosie@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 08 June, 2015 7.30pm - 9pm

Clowns of the Ocean

Enjoy an illustrated talk on 'An Introduction to Caithness Seabirds' with some coffee/tea & home baking before taking a short walk to view a Puffin colony.

Booking essential. Meet at Laidhay Tea rooms. Grid ref: ND 175308. Grade A. Adults £7.00, conc. £6.00. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Friday 12 June, 2015 10.30am - 3pm

Explore the back of beyond, Munsary

A guided wildflower walk into Scotland's only Plantlife nature reserve. Join the reserve manager to learn about the techniques used to preserve this unique haven for boggy flora. Take in the local history and birdlife along the way. Bring your lunch.

Booking essential. Meet at Munsary reserve car park (by Stemster Loch, Achavannich). Grid ref: ND 186424. Grade A. Free event. Contact Kirsty on 07500 784123 or kirsty.rosie@highland.gov.uk.



Sunday 14 June, 2015 11am - 3pm

Photography Workshop

Be dazzled by Ken Crossan's own photography before putting his tricks of the trade in to action during an outdoor practical session in the Coronation Meadow at Dunnet Links where we hope to see *Primula scotica* alongside other fascinating plants. Please bring suitable outdoor gear & packed lunch.

Booking essential. Meet at Seadrift Visitor centre. Grid ref: ND 219706. Grade B. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £14.00. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 24 June, 2015 10am - 12.30pm

Puffin Watch

Join the ranger at the largest puffin breeding colony in the area. Watch the antics of these charming birds through our telescope and bring you binoculars and cameras. Some rough walking required so walking boots recommended.

Meet at the Sutherland and Caithness boundary sign on the A836 road. Grid ref: NC 921645. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £8.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Friday 26 June, 2015 6pm - 9pm

Puffin Watch

Join the ranger at the largest puffin breeding colony in the area. Watch the antics of these charming birds through our telescope and bring you binoculars and cameras. Some rough walking required so walking boots recommended.

Meet at the Sutherland and Caithness boundary sign on the A836 road. Grid ref: NC 921645. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £8.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 29 June, 2015 11am - 4pm

Duncansby to Skirza

Experience some truly inspiring coastal scenery during this clifftop walk from Duncansby head to Skirza. Enjoy breathtaking views of seastacks, caves & geos and amazing seabird colonies, including puffins. Please wear walking boots/outdoor clothing and bring a packed lunch.

Booking essential. Meet at Duncansby head lighthouse car park. Grid ref: ND 405735. Grade B. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £14.00. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Friday 03 July, 2015 6pm - 8pm

Bumblebee Safari at Dunnet

Learn to identify our local bumblebees on a guided bumblebee safari through the dunes and forest at Dunnet. See if we can find a rare great yellow bumblebee and discover how you can help these important buzzing pollinators.

Dunnet beach car park by the Seadrift Centre. Grid ref: ND 219706. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £8.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 08 July, 2015 11am - 12.30pm

Damsels & Dragons



A pond life family event including pond dipping & craft activities.

Booking essential. Meet at Newtonhill Croft Woodland Car park. Grid ref: ND 362511. Grade A. Adults go free with accompanying children, £3.00 per child, family £7.00. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 09 July, 2015 11am - Tide dependent

Rockpool Rummage



Discover life below the waves. Search for weird & wonderful creatures including fierce meat-eating predators. Wellies essential.

Booking essential. Meet at Keiss beach layby. Grid ref: ND 344601. Grade B. Adults go free with accompanying children, £3.00 per child, family £7.00. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 15 July, 2015 11am - 12pm

Fairies & Wizards of the Wick River



Children's event most suitable for under 8's. Come for a magical time up the Wick Riverside with wand & flower potions.

Booking essential. Meet at Wick riverside car park. Grid ref: ND 362511. Grade A. Adults go free with accompanying children, £3.00 per child, family £7.00. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 15 July, 2015 1pm - 3pm

Thurso Rock Pools



Kids bring your nets or use ours and have fun discovering the fascinating creatures found in the Thurso rock pools. Wear wellingtons and warm clothing. All children must be accompanied.

Booking essential. Meeting place given out on booking. Grade B. Adults go free with accompanying children, £3.00 per child. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 16 July, 2015 11am - 12pm

Fairies & Wizards of Dunnet Forest



Children's event most suitable for under 8's. Come for a magical time in Dunnet forest with wand & flower potions.

Booking essential. Meet at Dunnet Forest car park. Grid ref: ND 222698. Grade A. Adults go free with accompanying children, £3.00 per child, family £7.00. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 22 July, 2015 11am - 12pm

The Very Hungry Caterpillar



Join the caterpillar as he munches his way around Argyll Square. Inspired by the work of Eric Carle's fantastic book, this hands on interactive story walk is suitable for children aged 3- 6yrs.

Booking essential. Meet at Argyll Square gardens. Grid ref: ND 365505. Grade A. Adults go free with accompanying children, £3.00 per child, family £7.00. Contact Kirsty on 07500 784123 or kirsty.rosie@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 23 July, 2015 11am - 12pm

The Very Hungry Caterpillar



Join the caterpillar as he munches his way through Dunnet Forest. Inspired by the work of Eric Carle's fantastic book, this hands on interactive story walk is suitable for children aged 3- 6yrs.

Booking essential. Meet at Dunnet Forest car park. Grid ref: ND 222698. Grade A. Adults go free with accompanying children, £3.00 per child, family £7.00. Contact Kirsty on 07500 784123 or kirsty.rosie@highland.gov.uk.



Friday 24 July, 2015 11am - 1pm

Thurso Viking Ventures



Become a young Viking and see if your team can be victorious in the different challenges to decide which team gets the glory of setting sail on a Viking raid. Booking essential due to limited numbers.

Booking essential. Meeting place given out on booking. Grade B. Adults go free with accompanying children, £3.00 per child. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 27 July, 2015 11am - 1pm

Mask Making at Seadrift Centre, Dunnet



Kids use your imagination and have fun making your very own mask from everyday items. All materials are provided but numbers are limited so booking is essential.

Booking essential. The Seadrift visitor centre, Dunnet Bay. Grid ref: ND 219706. Grade A. Adults go free with accompanying children, £3.00 per child. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 29 July, 2015 11am - 12pm

Nursery Rhyme Trail



The under fives will enjoy the songs and activities on this interactive nursery rhyme trail around Thumster woods. Watch out for the crocodile!

Booking essential. Meet at Thumster house. Grid ref: ND 332452. Grade A. Adults go free with accompanying children, £3.00 per child, family £7.00. Contact Kirsty on 07500 784123 or kirsty.rosie@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 30 July, 2015 11am - 12pm

Nursery Rhyme Trail



The under fives will enjoy the songs and activities on this interactive nursery rhyme trail around Dunnet Forest. Watch out for the crocodile!

Booking essential. Meet at Dunnet Forest car park. Grid ref: ND 222698. Grade A. Adults go free with accompanying children, £3.00 per child, family £7.00. Contact Kirsty on 07500 784123 or kirsty.rosie@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 04 August, 2015 11am - 1pm

Eat the sun for lunch - family science workshop



How does the energy from the sun get inside plants and end up in our bodies? Learn about the amazing science beneath the leaves. Demonstrations and hand on activities for kids and big kids. Children must have adult supervision. Event supported by International Year of Light – Celebratory Events in Caithness.

Booking essential. Meet at Seadrift Visitor centre. Grid ref: ND 219706. Grade A. Free event. Contact Kirsty on 07500 784123 or kirsty.rosie@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 05 August, 2015 11am - 1pm

Bush Craft with volcanoes



Did you know Caithness had volcanic vents? Learn about our geology and try out some fire lighting skills to create your own smoldering volcanoes by the lava rocks at Sannick. Unsuitable for under 6's due to fire danger.

Booking essential. Meet at Sannick beach layby, on road to Duncansby Light House. Grid ref: ND 400733. Grade B. Adults go free with accompanying children, £3.00 per child, family £7.00. Contact Kirsty on 07501 784123 or kirsty.rosie@highland.gov.uk.



Friday 14 August, 2015 11am - 1pm

Kite Making at Seadrift Centre, Dunnet



Assemble and fly your very own kite made from everyday household items. All materials provided but limited numbers so booking essential. Kite flying will take place only if conditions are suitable.

Booking essential. The Seadrift visitor centre, Dunnet Bay. Grid ref: ND 219706. Grade A. Adults go free with accompanying children, £3.00 per child. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Friday 28 August, 2015 8pm - 9pm

Batty about Bats!

Enjoy a slide show about our fabulous midge munchers before wandering round Thrumster woods. Please bring a torch & stout footwear. Event is weather dependent.

Booking essential. Meet at Thumster house. Grid ref: ND 332452. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Friday 04 September, 2015 8.30pm - 9.30pm

Bats and Marshmallows

A moonlit search around the harbour and woods for these flying mammals with a taste for midges. Marshmallow toasting and hot chocolate to finish. Wrap up and bring a torch.

Booking essential. Meet at Latheronwheel Harbour. Grid ref: ND 191322. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Kirsty on 07500 784123 or kirsty.rosie@highland.gov.uk.



Friday 04 September, 2015

8pm - 9.30pm

Castle of Mey Bat Walk

Use our bat detectors to discover the flying midge munchers around the castle at night. Wrap up warm and bring a torch. All children must be accompanied.

Booking essential. Meeting place given out on booking. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £8.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Sunday 13 September, 2015

11am - 1pm

Fossil Fish Forray

Search for the remains of creatures older than the dinosaurs! Learn about the fascinating fossil fish of the Caithness beds & try to find a specimen to take home.

Booking essential. Meet at Achanarras quarry car park. Grid ref: ND 157536. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Marina on 07818 588256 or marina.swanson@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 16 September, 2015

8pm - 9.30pm

Castle of Mey Bat Walk

Use our bat detectors to discover the flying midge munchers around the castle at night. Wrap up warm and bring a torch. All children must be accompanied.

Booking essential. Meeting place given out on booking. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £8.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Saturday 03 October, 2015

11am - 2pm

Loch of Yarrows to Whaligoe

A walk through history in classic Caithness landscape. The route is peppered with archaeological sites spanning several thousand years; burial cairns, broch, hill fort and ending at the breath taking steps at Whaligoe harbour. Rough hill walking in parts. Bring lunch and walking boots. Drivers returned to start.

Booking essential. Meet at Loch of Yarrows Car Park. Grid ref: ND 307433. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Kirsty on 07500 784123 or kirsty.rosie@highland.gov.uk.

Durness Puffin Walk

Guided walk to a small colony of puffins at Faraid Head; across a beautiful beach, returning through the dunes.

This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark

May - August, Every Monday, 2pm - 4pm

Meet at Balnakeil beach car park. Grid ref: NC 392687

Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00

Contact Donald Mitchell on 01971 511756 or email donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk



Tuesday 07 April, 2015

10.30am - 1.30pm

Talmine to Port Vasco

Very beautiful coastal walk in an exquisite remote location; cliffs, beaches, moorland.

Meet at Talmine pier car park (please do not block access). Grid ref: NC 587632. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 08 April, 2015

10.30am - 1.30pm

Scourie Seacliffs

Join us on this undulating coastal walk with cliffs, caves, wild flowers and signs of otters. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at free church car park at the south end of village. Grid ref: NC 152434. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 08 April, 2015

10.30am - 12.30pm

Kite Making, Brora



Come along and make kites and fly them.

Booking essential. Meet at the Brora Heritage Centre, Brora. Grade A. Adults go free with accompanying children, conc. £3.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 09 April, 2015

10.30am - 12.30pm

Green Woodworking, Lairg



Make a three-legged stool using the tools and techniques of green woodworking.

Booking essential. Meet at the Shin Falls car park, Lairg. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Friday 10 April, 2015

10.30am - 12.30pm

Willow Models, Brora



Make animal models with willow and tissue. Superb, creative, messy fun.

Booking essential. Meet at the Brora Heritage Centre, Brora. Grade A. Adults go free with accompanying children, conc. £3.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 21 April, 2015 10.30am - 12.30pm

Faraid Head Dunes

Guided walk amongst a fascinating dune system plus a walk across beautiful Balnakeil beach. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Balnakeil beach car park. Grid ref: NC 392687. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 23 April, 2015 10.30am - 1.30pm

Garnets & Dikes, Scourie

Guided coastal walk, fine views, seabirds, geology, wildflowers, signs of otters. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Scourie beach bird hide. Grid ref: NC 151446. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 30 April, 2015 10.30am - 1.30pm

Loch Leathad Trail, Scourie

Guided hill and lochside walk. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Scourie depot road, 300m south of village sign. Grid ref: NC 157437. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 07 May, 2015 10.30am - 1.30pm

North Shore, Scourie

Guided coastal walk, outstanding views, moorland, seabirds, and a bit of geology. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at village pier car park. Grid ref: NC 155448. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 07 May, 2015 11am - 2pm

Ard Mor Guided Walk, Bettyhill

Early season guided walk around this lovely headland at Bettyhill with lots of plants and hopefully seashore wildlife to enjoy. Suitable clothing and footwear required.

Meet at the River Naver pier at Bettyhill. Grid ref: NC 700619. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 12 May, 2015 10.30am - 1.30pm

Castle Bharraich Walk

Guided walk to this enigmatic ruin and beyond.

Meet at Tongue village car park near the bank. Grid ref: NC 592566. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 12 May, 2015 11am - 2pm

Strathly Point to Aultivullin Guided Walk

Fantastic rocky coastal cliff walk with superb geology and wildlife. Another vehicle required to help return drivers to the start please phone if you can help. Some high, steep coastal cliffs on this walk, suitable clothing and boots recommended.

Meet at Strathly Point car park (Totegan). Grid ref: NC 827687. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Sunday 17 May, 2015 11.00am - 2.00pm

The Big Bog walk, Crask Inn

Explore a part of the famous Flow Country looking for rare birds and man's attempts to exploit the water.

Booking essential. Meet at the Crask Inn, between Lairg and Altnaharra. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 18 May, 2015 2pm - 4pm

Puffin Walk, Durness

Guided walk to a small colony of puffins at Faraid Head. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark. See the full ad on page ??.

Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 19 May, 2015 11am - 3pm

Bone Caves, Inchnadamph

This is a fascinating walk back in time to the ice-age where the bones of reindeer, polar bears and even humans were discovered in the caves. Stout footwear is essential. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Bone caves car park, 2.5miles south of Inchnadamph. Grid ref: NC 254179. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 26 May, 2015 11am - 3pm

Clachtoll Coastal Walk

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting township rich in wildlife, to the iron-age broch. Hear the stories of skeletons, ancient saunas and "catastrophic collapse". Find extraordinary ancient life forms. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Clachtoll beach car park. Grid ref: NC 040273. Grade B. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 27 May, 2015 11am - 3.30pm approx

The Moine Path by Ben Hope

Guided hill and moorland walk from the south end of Loch Hope over the historic Moine path by Ben Hope to the Kyle of Tongue at Kinloch; moorland wildlife, chance of seeing eagles and deer, beautiful remote scenery. Bring suitable clothing, waterproofs and lunch. details of meeting place given out on booking, we may share vehicles, leaving cars at either end of route, please help if possible.

Booking essential. Meeting place given out on booking. Grade D. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 27 May, 2015

11am - 3.30pm

Moine Path Guided Walk

Hill walk from the south end of Loch Hope over the historic Moine path by Ben Hope to the Kyle of Tongue at Kinloch; Moorland wildlife, chance of seeing eagles and deer, beautiful remote scenery. Bring suitable clothing, waterproofs and lunch. Details of meeting place given out on booking, we may share vehicles, leaving cars at either end of route, please help if possible.

Booking essential. Meeting place given out on booking. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 01 June, 2015

2pm - 4pm

Puffin Walk, Durness

Guided walk to a small colony of puffins at Faraid Head. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark. See the full ad on page ??.

Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 02 June, 2015

11am - 4pm

Traligill Valley Caves, Inchnadamph

Walk with us on this brilliant walk in the valley of the trolls and see the fantastic flowers and view the evidence of stunning forces which have built mountains and created deep caves. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Inchnadamph car park. Grid ref: NC 251216. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 08 June, 2015 2pm - 4pm

Puffin Walk, Durness

Guided walk to a small colony of puffins at Faraid Head. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark. See the full ad on page ??.

Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 09 June, 2015 11am - 3pm

Secrets of Glen Leireag, Drumbeg

Visit the lost township of Glen Leireag and discover the secrets of this magical woodland glen. Seek out moorland wildlife and golden eagles. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Nedd bridge, 2 miles east of Drumbeg. Grid ref: NC 148315. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Sunday 14 June, 2015 10.30am - 1.30pm

Embo Orchid Walk

A walk from Dornoch to Embo visiting one of the best sites for Lesser Butterfly Orchids in Scotland.

Booking essential. Meet at the Beach car park, Dornoch. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 15 June, 2015 2pm - 4pm

Puffin Walk, Durness

Guided walk to a small colony of puffins at Faraid Head. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark. See the full ad on page ??.

Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 16 June, 2015 11am - 3pm

Achmelvich Coastal Walk

Come and see brilliant orchids, jewelled rocks and marvellous machair as we walk along a coastline steeped in crofting history, to the old mill at Altanabradhan. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Achmelvich beach car park. Grid ref: NC 058248. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 17 June, 2015 11am - 2pm

Strathy Peatland Pools and Priest's Stone

Walk out to a lovely bog pool system with breeding birds, amphibians and lots of peatland plants then on to the Christianised Pictish Priest's Stone. Warm waterproof clothing and waterproof footwear recommended.

Meet at the roadside parking at the beginning of road to Strathy Point. Grid ref: NC 829656. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 18 June, 2015 10.30am - 1.30pm

Kyle of Durness Walk

Guided walk around a stunning coastal area, masses of wild flowers and stunning views. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Durness golf course car park. Grid ref: NC 389687. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 22 June, 2015 2pm - 4pm

Puffin Walk, Durness

Guided walk to a small colony of puffins at Faraid Head. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark. See the full ad on page ??.

Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 23 June, 2015 11am - 3pm

Clachtoll Coastal Walk

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting township rich in wildlife, to the iron-age broch. Hear the stories of skeletons, ancient saunas and "catastrophic collapse". Find extraordinary ancient life forms. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Clachtoll beach car park. Grid ref: NC 040273. Grade B. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 24 June, 2015

10.30am - 1pm

Wildflower Extravaganza at Oldshoremore

Guided walk over the dunes and beach near Kinlochbervie. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Oldshoremore beach car park 4miles north of Kinlochbervie. Grid ref: NC 203585. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 29 June, 2015

2pm - 4pm

Puffin Walk, Durness

Guided walk to a small colony of puffins at Faraid Head. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark. See the full ad on page ??.

Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 30 June, 2015

10.30am - 1.30pm

Talmine to Port Vasco

Very beautiful coastal walk in an exquisite remote location; cliffs, beaches, moorland.

Meet at Talmine pier car park (please do not block access). Grid ref: NC 588632. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 30 June, 2015 11am - 4pm

Off the beaten track at Glencanisp, Lochinver

Wonderful walk over the patterned landscape of Glencanisp. Come and learn about the wildlife that lives on the community owned Glencanisp estate and possibly see some eagles. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at the Assynt Visitor Centre, Lochinver and we will share transport the one mile to Glencanisp lodge.. Grid ref: NC 094225. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 02 July, 2015 10.30am - 1.30pm

Coast Walk at Kinlochbervie Pier

Fascinating walk with superb views, past the pier, over the hill and out to the point. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet by the old Mission at the pier. Grid ref: NC 220560. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 07 July, 2015 10.30am - 12.30pm

Rockpools, Helmsdale

The best rockpools in East Sutherland, full of weird and wonderful sea creatures. Bring your wellies.

Booking essential. Meet at Helmsdale harbour car park. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 07 July, 2015 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Gold Panning, Helmsdale

Try your hand at gold panning at the site of the famous 1868 gold rush. Bring your wellies.

Booking essential. Meet at Helmsdale harbour car park. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 08 July, 2015 10.30am - 12.30pm

Mud Lark, Loch Fleet

Explore the unique habitat of estuary mud flats and see who lives in this strange place. Bring your wellies.

Booking essential. Meet at the entrance to Balblair Woods on the Golspie-Littleferry road. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 09 July, 2015 10.30am - 12.30pm

Bushcraft Apprentice, Skelbo Wood

The first of our series on bushcraft covering shelter building and fire lighting.

Booking essential. Meet at Skelbo Wood, between Golspie and Dornoch. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 13 July, 2015 2pm - 4pm

Puffin Walk, Durness

Guided walk to a small colony of puffins at Faraid Head. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark. See the full ad on page ??.

Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 14 July, 2015 10.30am - 1pm

Wildflower Extravaganza at Oldshoremore

Guided walk over the dunes and beach near Kinlochbervie. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Oldshoremore beach car park 4miles north of Kinlochbervie. Grid ref: NC 203585. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 14 July, 2015 10.30am - 12.30pm

Pond Dipping, Skelbo Wood



Come and explore the best pond in East Sutherland for the variety of life in it. Bring your wellies.

Booking essential. Meet at Skelbo Wood, between Golspie and Dornoch. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 14 July, 2015 11am - 3pm

Drumbeg Peat Road

Stunning walk in the remote Assynt "cnoc and loch" landscape. We will be walking through the Drumbeg Common Grazing land full of history and teeming with wildlife. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Drumbeg view point car park. Grid ref: NC 120330. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 15 July, 2015 10.30am - 12.30pm

Tern Walk, Brora

A walk along the lovely beach to observe the comings and goings at the Arctic tern colony and seabirds offshore.

Booking essential. Meet at Brora Golf course. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 16 July, 2015 10.30am - 1.30pm

Scourie Seacliffs

Join us on this undulating coastal walk with cliffs, caves, wild flowers and signs of otters. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at the Free church car park at the south end of village. Grid ref: NC 152434. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 16 July, 2015 2pm - 4pm

Portskerra Rockpools



Kids bring your nets or use ours and have fun discovering the fascinating creatures of Portskerra rock pools at Melvich. Wear wellingtons and warm clothing. All children must be accompanied.

Meet at Portskerra old harbour (not the pier). Grid ref: NC 877664. Grade B. Adults go free with accompanying children, conc. £3.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 16 July, 2015 10.30am - 12.30pm

Bushcraft Apprentice, Skelbo Wood

This time we will make cord, charcoal and whittle some wood.

Booking essential. Meet at Skelbo Wood, between Golspie and Dornoch. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 16 July, 2015 9pm - 11pm

Bat Watching, Lochinver

Join us to watch one of nature's amazing spectacles as up to 100 pipistrelle bats leave their roost. We will start with a short illustrated talk on bats at the Assynt visitor centre. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Booking essential. Meet at the Assynt Visitor Centre, Lochinver. Grid ref: NC 094225. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 20 July, 2015 2pm - 4pm

Puffin Walk, Durness

Guided walk to a small colony of puffins at Faraid Head. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark. See the full ad on page ??.

Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 21 July, 2015 10.30am - 1.30pm

Talmine to Port Vasco

Very beautiful coastal walk in an exquisite remote location; cliffs, beaches, moorland.

Meet at Talmine pier car park (please do not block access). Grid ref: NC 588631. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 21 July, 2015 11am - 1pm

Bettyhill Viking Ventures



Become a young Viking and see if your team can be victorious in the different challenges to decide which team gets the glory of setting sail on a Viking raid. Booking essential due to limited numbers.

Booking essential. Meeting place given out on booking. Grade B. Adults go free with accompanying children, conc. £3.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 21 July, 2015 11am - 1pm

Wildlife Crime Scene, Lochinver



Wildlife CSI. This is a family adventure for amateur animal detectives. Investigate several crime scenes in the countryside and work out what was the crime and who committed it - search for clues and gather the evidence. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Booking essential. Meet at Woodside car park, Culag Woods, past Lochinver Primary on the road to Inverkirkaig. Grid ref: NC 093213. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 23 July, 2015 10.30am - 1.30pm

Scourie, Garnets & Dikes

Guided coastal walk, fine views, seabirds, geology, wildflowers, signs of otters. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Scourie beach bird hide. Grid ref: NC 151446. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 23 July, 2015 11am - 3pm

Clachtoll Coastal Walk

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting township rich in wildlife, to the iron-age broch. Hear the stories of skeletons, ancient saunas and "catastrophic collapse". Find extraordinary ancient life forms. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Clachtoll beach car park. Grid ref: NC 040273. Grade B. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 27 July, 2015 2pm - 4pm

Puffin Walk, Durness

Guided walk to a small colony of puffins at Faraid Head. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark. See the full ad on page ??.

Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 28 July, 2015 10.30am - 1.30pm

Kyle of Durness Walk

Guided walk around a stunning coastal area, masses of wild flowers and stunning views. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Durness golf course car park. Grid ref: NC 389687. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 28 July, 2015 1pm - 3pm

Bumblebee Safari at Farr Glebe and Farr Bay

Learn to identify our local bumblebees on a guided bumblebee safari at the wonderful Farr Glebe bumblebee reserve and Farr Bay in Bettyhill, north Sutherland. See if we can find a rare great yellow bumblebee and discover how you can help our little pollinating friends.

Meet at the Tourist Information Centre (café) car park in Bettyhill. Grid ref: NC 716622. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 28 July, 2015 11am - 4pm

Traligill Valley Caves, Inchnadamph

Walk with us on this brilliant walk in the valley of the trolls and see the fantastic flowers and view the evidence of stunning forces which have built mountains and created deep caves. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Inchnadamph car park. Grid ref: NC 251216. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 30 July, 2015 10.30am - 1.30pm

Scourie, Loch Leathad Trail

Guided hill and lochside walk. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Scourie depot road, 300m south of village sign. Grid ref: NC 157437. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 30 July, 2015 12pm - 2pm

Rockpools at Clachtoll

We have some of the best rockpools in the British Isles. Join us and meet some of the really weird wildlife living here. Rocks can be steep and slippery. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Booking essential. Meet at Clachtoll beach car park. Grid ref: NC 040273. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 03 August, 2015

2pm - 4pm

Puffin Walk, Durness

Guided walk to a small colony of puffins at Faraid Head, probably your final chance to see them here. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 04 August, 2015

10.30am - 12.30pm

Rockpools Embo

Great, easily accessible rock pools full of wonderful creatures.

Booking essential. Meet at Embo Pier, Grannies Heilin Hame. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 04 August, 2015

7.30pm - 8.30pm

Illustrated Talk on Otters

The secret life of the otter in Assynt and how to find them. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at the Assynt Visitor Centre, Lochinver. Grid ref: NC 094225. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 05 August, 2015

10.30am - 12.30pm

Dinosaur Geology, Helmsdale

The geology of Helmsdale is from the time of the dinosaurs. Come along and have the geology unravelled and fossils found.

Booking essential. Meet at Helmsdale harbour car park. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 05 August, 2015

1.30pm - 3.30pm

Gold Panning, Helmsdale

Try your hand at gold panning at the site of the famous 1868 gold rush. Bring your wellies

Booking essential. Meet at Helmsdale harbour car park. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 06 August, 2015

10.30am - 1.30pm

North Shore, Scourie

Guided coastal walk, outstanding views, moorland, seabirds, bit of geology. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at village pier car park. Grid ref: NC 155448. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 06 August, 2015

10.30am - 12.30pm

Bushcraft Apprentice, Skelbo Wood

The challenge this time is to learn knots and construct a bridge over a great deep pool. Are you brave enough to cross it?

Booking essential. Meet at Skelbo Wood, between Golspie and Dornoch. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 06 August, 2015

11am - 3pm

Bone Caves, Inchnadamph

This is a fascinating walk back in time to the ice-age where the bones of reindeer, polar bears and even humans were discovered in the caves. Stout footwear is essential. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Bone caves car park, 2.5miles south of Inchnadamph. Grid ref: NC 254179. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Monday 10 August, 2015

10.30am - 12.30pm

Faraid Head Dunes

Guided walk amongst a fascinating dune system plus a walk across beautiful Balnakeil beach. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Balnakeil beach car park. Grid ref: NC 392687. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 11 August, 2015

2pm - 4pm

Strathy Point Sea Watch

Bring along your binoculars and use our telescopes at this hot spot to look for whales, dolphins and porpoises. Learn about the different species seen here and help in their conservation. Wrap up warm and do not drive to the lighthouse - private road.

Meet at Strathy Point car park (Totegan). Grid ref: NC 827697. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 11 August, 2015

09.15am - 12.15pm

Brora - Golspie Coastal Walk

Catching the train to Brora we will then return along this lovely stretch of coast looking for birds and seals.

Booking essential. Meet at Golspie railway station. Grade B. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 11 August, 2015

12pm - 1.30pm

Clachtoll Sand Sculpture Contest

Why not enter? Or just come along to admire the many amazing sculptures for free! Loads of really good prizes. Judging at 1.30pm. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Clachtoll beach car park. Grid ref: NC 040273. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Wednesday 12 August, 2015

10.30am - 12.30pm

Wildlife Crime Investigators, Golspie

Come and unravel the clues at the crime scenes and develop your tracking skills to solve the crimes.

Booking essential. Meet at the Big Burn car park, Golspie. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 13 August, 2015

10.30am - 1.30pm

Scourie Seacliffs

Join us on this undulating coastal walk with cliffs, caves, wild flowers and signs of otters. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at the Free church car park at the south end of village. Grid ref: NC 152434. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 13 August, 2015

2.00pm - 4.00pm

Bushcraft Shipwrecked, Brora

Cast ashore on the beach we will find buried treasure, build shelters and cook over an open fire.

Booking essential. Meet at Brora Golf course. Grade A. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 13 August, 2015

12pm - 2pm

Rockpools at Achmelvich

We have some of the best rockpools in the British Isles. Join us and meet some of the really weird wildlife living here. Rocks can be steep and slippery. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Booking essential. Meet at Achmelvich beach car park. Grid ref: NC 058248. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Sunday 16 August, 2015

11.00am - 2.00pm

Glen Cassley walk

A lovely walk in golden eagle country with interesting hydro works to marvel at.

Booking essential. Meet at Rosehall Log cabin for car share and onward travel. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Ian on 01549 402638 or ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 18 August, 2015

10.30am - 1.30pm

Spectacular hill Walk [307m]at Tongue

Guided walk up the watch hill with amazing views across the Kyle of Tongue, moorland, loch & wildlife

Meet at the roadside car park on the A836 at Coldbackie. Grid ref: NC 609601. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 18 August, 2015

11am - 3pm

Clachtoll Coastal Walk

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting township rich in wildlife, to the iron-age broch. Hear the stories of skeletons, ancient saunas and "catastrophic collapse". Find extraordinary ancient life forms. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Clachtoll beach car park. Grid ref: NC 040273. Grade B. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 20 August, 2015

10.30am - 1.30pm

Scourie, Garnets & Dikes

Guided coastal walk, fine views, seabirds, geology, wildflowers, signs of otters. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Scourie beach bird hide. Grid ref: NC 151446. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 25 August, 2015

10.30am - 1.30pm

Coastal Moorland Hike by Kylestrome

Guided walk over rough hill ground by the spectacular Eddrachilles bay, chance of deer and eagles. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at the roadside car park on the A894 at the top of Kylestrome brae. Grid ref: NC 211350. Grade C. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 25 August, 2015

11am - 5pm

Culkein to Stoer lighthouse

Amazing cliff top walk round the point and past the the Old Man of Stoer. Great for seabirds, bonxies, peregrines, seals and we may even see some dolphins. We will leave a vehicle at the lighthouse to take people back to their cars. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at the beach at Culkein Stoer. Grid ref: NC 038332. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 27 August, 2015

10.30am - 1.30pm

Loch Leathad Trail, Scourie

Guided hill and lochside walk. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Scourie depot road, 300m south of village sign. Grid ref: NC 157437. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Donald on 01971 511756 or donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk.



Thursday 27 August, 2015

8.30pm - 10pm

Bat Walk at Skerray

Use our bat detectors and learn all about the bats found feeding around the village of Skerray at night during a guided bat walk. Wrap up warm and bring a torch. All children must be accompanied.

Meet at Skerray Village Hall. Grid ref: NC 674624. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Paul on 01847 821531 or paul.castle@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 01 September, 2015 11am - 2pm

Fungi at Culag Community Woodlands, Lochinver

Explore the marvellous world of fungi. Meet the different characters and learn their secrets in one of the best woods for fungi in Sutherland. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Woodside car park, Culag Woods, past Lochinver Primary on the road to Inverkirkaig. Grid ref: NC 093213. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 08 September, 2015 11am - 3pm

Bone Caves, Inchnadamph

This is a fascinating walk back in time to the ice-age where the bones of reindeer, polar bears and even humans were discovered in the caves. Stout footwear is essential. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Bone caves car park, 2.5miles south of Inchnadamph. Grid ref: NC 254179. Grade C. Adults £8.00, conc. £4.00, family £20.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.



Tuesday 15 September, 2015 11am - 2pm

Fungi at Culag Community Woodlands, Lochinver

Explore the marvellous world of fungi. Meet the different characters and learn their secrets in one of the best woods for fungi in Sutherland. This walk is within the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet at Woodside car park, Culag Woods, past Lochinver Primary on the road to Inverkirkaig. Grid ref: NC 093213. Grade B. Adults £4.00, conc. £3.00, family £11.00. Contact Andy on 01571 844654 or andy.summers@highland.gov.uk.
