

Highland Council Countryside Ranger Events For Sutherland 2010

The International Year of Biodiversity



Ranger events divided into four areas:

North Sutherland

Mid and East Sutherland

Assynt

North West Sutherland

North Sutherland

Contact – Paul Castle

Email – paul.castle@highland.gov.uk Tel – 01641 521884

Friday 7th May

Scullomie to Sletell

12-3pm

Coastal hill walk to the abandoned post clearance settlement of Sletell. Lots of plants, hopefully displaying newts in pool. Return via similar route.

Meet Roadside car park above Coldbackie Beach, NC612 601

Grade C

Adult £3/children £2

Thursday 13th May

Strathy Picts, Priests and Pools.

12-3pm

Walk to see the Pictish Priest's Stone, then on to the Rocking Stone (used to call the clan) and return via a lovely bog pool system. Meet at Strathy Inn car park, NC831 656

Grade C

Adult £3/children £2

Thursday 20th May

Invernaver

11am-2pm

Wonderful wildflowers and archaeology. Eat lunch in the remains of a Broch with stunning views. Return along one of the best beaches in Sutherland. Meet at car park by Naver bridge, NC711603

Grade C

Adult £3/children £2

Friday 21st May

Strathy Point Sea Watch

1-3pm

Look for whales and dolphins as part of 'Biodiversity Week'. Telescopes provided, bring binoculars. Very weather dependent – phone 01641 521884. Meet Totegan Car Park (Strathy Point) NC827 687

No Dogs!

Grade B

Adult £3/children £2

Wednesday 26th May

Armadale Burn

2-5pm

Enjoy a walk along this steep sided river gorge, see masses of common primroses, other plants and archaeology. Meet at car park Armadale Burn A836 Road Bridge, NC795 639

Grade C

Adult £3/children £2

Saturday 12th June

See the Point

12-2pm

Cliff top walk around Strathy Point headland. Sea caves, birds and superb show of sea pink. Possibly a whale, dolphin or porpoise.

Meet Totegan car park (Strathy point) NC827 687.

No dogs.

Grade C

Adult £3/children £2

Wednesday 16th June

Portskerra to Melvich Dunes

2-5pm

Masses of coastal wildflowers and a bit of beachcombing for mermaids purses.

Meet at Portskerra old harbour (not Pier) NC878 664.

Grade C

Adult £3/children £2

Wednesday 30th June

Puffin Watch

10.30am -12pm

Join the ranger at the largest local puffin colony to view these popular 'clowns of the ocean.' A Telescope is provided bring your binoculars and cameras.

Meet A836 Sutherland/Caithness boundary sign NC921 645.

Grade C

Adult £3/children £2

Friday 2nd July

Strathy Point Sea Watch

12-2pm

Look for whales and dolphins at Strathy Point. Telescopes provided bring binoculars. Very weather dependent – phone 01641 521884.

Meet at Toteagan Car Park (Strathy Point). NC827 687

No Dogs!

Grade B

Adult £3/children £2

Thursday 8th July

Portskerra Sea Watch

5-7pm

Bring binoculars and look for whales, dolphins and porpoises with the ranger.

Telescopes provided. Very weather dependent - phone 01641 521884.

Meet at Portskerra old Harbour (not the pier) NC878 664

Grade B

Adult £3/children £2

Friday 9th July

Puffin Along to Melvich

12-3pm

View the puffins then enjoy a cliff top walk to Melvich Bay. Vehicle needed for return – please ring if you can help 01641 521884.

Meet A836 Sutherland/Caithness boundary sign. NC921 645

Grade C

Adult £3/children £2

Thursday 22nd July

Skerray's Stunning Coast

1-4pm

Lovely views across Torrisdale Bay and out to Island Nieve. High cliff top walk with great geology and plants.

Meet at Skerray Village Hall NC672 626

Grade C

Adult £3/children £2

Friday 23rd July

Farr Bay and Bumblebees.

3-5pm

Amble around Farr Bay with the ranger looking at plants and our bumblebee reserve.

Hopefully see the rare great yellow bumblebee.

Meet A836 Farr View car park (beach path) NC712 622

Grade B

Adult £3/children £2

Wednesday 28th July

Pond Dipping - Family Fun

2-4pm

Learn about the creatures in Nelly's Pool. Limited nets so bring your own and your Wellington boots. Meet at car park opposite the fire station in Bettyhill, NC705 624.

Grade B

Adult £3/children £2

Friday 30th July

Borgie Nature Sculptures

2-4pm

Use your imagination to build natural sculptures along the footpaths by the river. What can you come up with?

Meet Borgie Forest large car park NC664 584.

Grade B

Adult £3/children £2

Wednesday 4th August

Armadale Bay

1-3pm

Join the ranger on a bracing walk around Armadale Bay. Let's see if the 'dragon' is roaring at the gloup.

Meet at Armadale Village Hall car park NC786 644

Grade C

Adult £3/children £2

Wednesday 11th August

Skerry Pebble Art

2-4pm

Bring the family and join the ranger at Skerry Beach to paint your own pebble to take home. Paint provided just find a pebble.

Meet at Skerry Harbour NC662 638

Grade B

Adult £3/children £2

Thursday 12th August

Presentation and Sea Watch

2-5pm

Enjoy a digital presentation on whales/dolphins. Then out to Strathy Point for a guided sea watch (weather permitting).

Meet at the Strathy Inn. No charge for use of Inn! NC831 656

Grade B

Adult £3/children £2

Wednesday 25th August

Portskerra Rock Pools

2-4pm

The whole family can have fun learning about the creatures to be caught in the rock pools here at Portskerra. Bring nets (some provided) and wellies.

Meet Portskerra old Harbour (not the pier) NC878 664

Grade B

Adult £3/children £2

Thursday 26th August

Strathy Point Sea Watch

5-7pm

Early evening watch for whales, dolphins and porpoises. Telescopes provided, bring binoculars. Very weather dependent – phone 01641 521884.

Meet at Totogan Car Park (Strathy Point). NC827 687

No Dogs!

Grade B

Adult £3/children £2

Wednesday 1st Sept
Armadale to Kirtomy

12-3pm

Fairly demanding hill walk passing the deserted settlement of Poulouriscaig and on to Kirtomy. Vehicle needed for return phone 01641 521884 if you can help.

Meet at Armadale Hall car park NC786 644

Grade D

Adult £3/children £2

Saturday 11th Sept
Portskerra to Strathy Bay

11-2pm

Stunning hidden coastal walk with promontory fort and lime kilns. Fantastic views of the north coast. Vehicle needed call if you can help.

Meet at Melvich Hall by toilets NC876 650

Grade D

Adult £3/children £2

Saturday 2nd October
Scullomie to Strathan

11-2pm

Fantastic cliff top walk passing the abandoned post clearance settlement of Sletell.

Vehicle needed for return please call if you can help.

Roadside parking above Coldbackie Beach NC612 601

Grade C

Adult £3/children £2

Saturday 9th October
The Borg to Dyke

11-2pm

Walk through the Dyke Forest and on to hill, wet underfoot. Archaeology and hopefully rutting deer.

Meet at Bunahoun Cemetery, Strath Halladale. Bring your binoculars NC896 524

Grade C

Adult £3/children £2

Mid and East Sutherland

Contact – Ian Paterson

Email – ian.paterson@highland.gov.uk Tel – 01549 402 638

Monday 3rd May

10.00-12.00

Jurassic Lark!

Explore the rocks of Helmsdale in search of Jurassic fossils.

Meet at Helmsdale harbour car park ND 030 152

Grade A

£5 Adult £3 child

Monday 3rd May

13.00-15.00

Gold panning

Visit the site of Sutherland's gold rush and try your hand at gold panning.

Meet at Helmsdale harbour car park ND 030 152

Grade A

£5 Adult £3 child (plus £3 equipment hire)

Sunday 23rd May

11.00-13.00

Pond dipping

One of the best ponds in Sutherland for creepy crawlies! Wellies useful.

Meet at Skelbo Forest car park, near Dornoch, NH 780 942

Grade A

Free

Sunday 23rd May

14.00-16.00

Mud glorious mud

Explore Loch Fleet's mud flats for the amazing hidden wildlife. Wellies essential.

Meet at Balblair woods, Loch Fleet by Golspie, NH 815977

Grade A

£3 Adult £2 child

Tuesday 1st June

11.00-14.00

Spinningdale Woodland walk

Explore the paths and view points of the best pine wood in East Sutherland

Meet at car park on Spinningdale to Migdale road, NH 665 908

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Thursday 17th June

10.30-12.30

Balblair rare.

A pleasant walk through the national nature reserve looking for one-flowered wintergreen and twinflower.

Meet at Balblair woods, Loch Fleet by Golspie, NH 815 977

Grade A

£5 Adult £3 child

Friday 18th June

14.00-16.00

Blooming marvellous

A walk through the dunes and grassland of the common good lands

Meet at the airfield car park, Dornoch, NH 802 884

Grade B

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 6th July

10.30-12.30

Survival skills

Learn some wilderness survival skills. Including shelter building and fire lighting.
Meet at Dunrobin Castle, Golspie NC 850 010

Grade A

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 6th July

13.30-15.30

Osprey watch

Join us on the lookout for a pair of Sutherland's nesting ospreys.

Meet at the Mound car Park, between Golspie and Dornoch, NH 776 982

Grade A

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 8th July

10.30-12.30

Big bug hunt

"What has 40 legs, 40 eyes and runs screaming round the woods? Us, in search of creepy crawlies!"

Meet at Dunrobin Castle, Golspie, NC 850 010

Grade A

£3 Adult £2 child

Thursday 8th July

13.30-15.00

Rockpool rummage

Explore the shore for the weird and wonderful wildlife normally hidden by the tide.

Meet at Dunrobin Castle, Golspie NC 850 010

Grade A

£3 Adult £2 child

Tuesday 13th July

10.30-12.30

Bushcraft skills

Learn some wilderness bushcraft skills.

Meet at Gunns wood, Lairg NC 591 063

Grade A

Free

Tuesday 13th July

13.30-15.00

Dragonflies and pond life

Help us catch and name the dragonflies of the Ferry Wood ponds.

Meet at the Ferrycroft Centre, Lairg NH 580 062

Grade A

Free

Thursday 15th July

10.30-12.30

Rockpool rummage

Explore the shore for the weird and wonderful wildlife normally hidden by the tide.
Meet at Helmsdale harbour car park ND 030 152
Grade A
£3 Adult £2 child

Thursday 15th July
13.30-15.30

Gold panning

Visit the site of Sutherland's gold rush and try your hand at gold panning.
Meet at Helmsdale harbour car park ND 030 152
Grade A
£3 Adult £2 child (plus£3 for equipment hire)

Tuesday 20th July
11.00-13.00

Pond dipping

Using pond nets and butterfly nets we will find whatever flip, flops and flies in the Skelbo pond.
Meet at Skelbo Forest car park, near Dornoch, NH 780 942
Grade A
£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 20th July
14.00-16.00

Mud glorious mud

Explore Loch Fleet's mud flats for the amazing hidden wildlife. Wellies essential.
Meet at Balblair woods, Loch Fleet by Golspie NH 815 977
Grade A
£5 Adult £3 child

Weds 21st July
10.30-12.30

Blooming marvellous

A walk through the dunes and grassland of the common good lands
Meet at the airfield car park, Dornoch NH 802 884
Grade A
£3 Adult £2 child

Weds 21st July
13.30-15.00

Rockpool rummage

Explore the shore for the weird and wonderful wildlife normally hidden by the tide.
Meet at Embo pier, at the far end of Grannies Heilan Hame caravan site, NH 820 921
Grade A
£3 Adult £2 child

Thurs 22nd July
09.15-13.00

Brora-Golspie coast walk

Catching the train from Golspie we will alight at Brora and walk back along this lovely stretch of coast.

Meet at Golspie railway station.

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Thurs 22nd July

14.30-16.00

Osprey watch

Join us on the lookout for a pair of Sutherland's nesting ospreys

Meet at the Mound car park, between Golspie and Dornoch, NH 777 983

Grade A

£3 Adult £2 child

Tuesday 10th August

10.30-12.30

Pond dipping

Using pond nets and butterfly nets we will find whatever flip, flops and flies in the Balblair pond

Meet at Balblair forest car park, Bonar Bridge NH 603 929

Grade A

Free

Tuesday 10th August

13.30-15.30.

Carbisdale cycle

Join Forestry Commission and Highland Council rangers for a cycle along the tracks of this varied forest. There will be a chance to try the easier mountain bike trail for those so inclined. Bikes can be supplied. Meet at the Carbisdale forest car park NH 575 955
Phone 01408 634063 to book a bicycle.

Grade C

Free

Wednesday 11th August

11.00-13.00

Seal watch

Come and get some of the closest views of common seals anywhere in Scotland.

Meet at small car park by Skelbo Castle, on south shore of Loch Fleet NH 793 953

Grade A

£5 Adult £3 child

Weds 11th August

14.00-16.00

Butterflies and flowers.

If the weather permits we will catch and identify the varied butterflies of Loch Fleet

Meet at the Littleferry car park, Loch Fleet, Golspie, NH 815 977

Grade B

£3 Adult £2 child

Thurs 12th August

11.00-13.00

Dalchork cycle

Join Forestry commission and Highland Council rangers for a 10 mile cycle along the forest tracks of Dalchork. Bikes can be supplied.

Meet at Ferrycroft Centre, Lairg for onward travel to start, NH 580 062

Grade C

Free

Tuesday 17th August

11.00-15.00

Brora river and hill fort

An 8 mile walk along the Brora river followed by a climb to Duchary hill fort. With great views over Strath Brora.

Meet at the Brora Heritage Centre, NC 898 042

Grade D

£5 Adult £3 child

Thurs 19th August

10.30-14.00

Ben Bhraggie by Loch Lunndaidh

A 6 mile walk around the back of Ben Bhraggie, finishing at the famous Dukes monument and the best coastal view in East Sutherland.

Meet at Golspie town centre car park, near Co-op

Grade D

£3 Adult £2 child

Friday 27th August

20.30-22.00

Bat walk

A short talk on bats followed by a walk to find them around Lairg.

Meet at the Ferrycroft Centre, Lairg, NH 580 062

Grade A

£5 Adult £3 child

Assynt

Contact – Andy Summers

Email – andy.summers@highland.gov.uk Tel – 01571 844654

Tuesday 4th May,

The secrets of Glen Leireag, Assynt

11am-3pm

Explore the lost township and discover the secrets of this magical woodland glen including freshwater pearl mussels, dippers and maybe golden eagles.

Meet at Nedd bridge 3km east of Drumbeg, NC148 315

Grade B

£5 Adult/£3 child

Thursday 6th May

Achmelvich Coastal walk, Assynt

11am-3pm

Delightful walk to the old meal mill at Altanabradhan through croftland and machair bursting with wildflowers. Watch out for dolphins too.

Meet Achmelvich beach car park NC058 248

Grade B/C

£5 Adult/£3 child

Tuesday 11th May

Clachtoll Coastal walk, Assynt

11am-2pm

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting village. We hope to see many coastal birds as well as redshanks, curlews and peewits settling down to their breeding grounds.

Meet Clachtoll beach car park NC040 273

Grade B

£3 Adult/£2 child

Thursday 13th May

The Old Man of Stoer, Assynt

11am-4pm

Cliff top walk to the point of Stoer. Learn about the seabirds and hopefully watch the great skuas, peregrines and maybe even dolphins. We will get close views of the Old Man of Stoer.

Meet Stoer lighthouse, NC005 328

Grade C

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 18th May,

Achmelvich Coastal walk, Assynt

11-3pm

This is Biodiversity week so join us on this delightful walk through croftland and machair bursting with wildflowers and watch out for dolphins too.

Meet Achmelvich beach car park NC058 248

Grade B/C

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 20th May

The Limestone valley of the Traligill, Assynt

11am-3pm

This is Biodiversity week so why not join us as we explore the ancient limestone scenery in search of flowers: globe flowers, mountain avens, orchids and many more.

Meet at Inchnadamph car park NC251 216

Grade C

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 25th May

The Bone Caves, Assynt

11am-2pm

A fascinating walk to the caves where bones of reindeer, humans and even polar bears were discovered- one of the gems in the North West Highlands Geopark.

Meet Bone Caves car park, 4km south of Inchnadamph NC254 179

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Thursday 27th May

Where the meteorite crashed in Assynt

11am-3pm

Join us as we visit Europe's largest ever meteorite strike. Learn about the ancient landscape it struck over one billion years ago, that makes up part of the North West Highlands Geopark. Amazing views and stunning wildlife.

Meet at Clachtoll Beach car park, NC040 273

Grade B/C

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 1st June

Achmelvich Coastal walk, Assynt

11am-3pm

Delightful walk to the old meal mill at Altanabradhan through croftland and machair bursting with wildflowers. Watch out for dolphins too.

Meet Achmelvich beach car park NC058 248

Grade B/C

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 3rd June

Quinag, Assynt

10am-5pm

Explore this fantastic Assynt mountain (808m). Look for Mountain Azalea, Mountain Hares and Ptarmigan. If the weather is not good we will do a shorter low level walk.

Meet at the car park 3km north of Skiag Bridge NC232 740

Grade D

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 8th June

Wildflowers at Achmelvich, Assynt

11am-3pm

Stunning coastal walk looking for fragrant orchids, carnivorous plants, adders tongue fern and many more. Meet Achmelvich beach car park NC058 248

Grade B/C

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 10th June

Clachtoll Coastal walk, Assynt

11am-2pm

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting village past an Iron-age fort. Hear the story of skeletons, ancient saunas and the "murder hole".

Meet Clachtoll beach car park NC040 273

Grade B

£3 Adult/£2 child

Tuesday 15th June

Bats and Moth Evening at Lochinver, Assynt

9pm-11pm

Slide show at the Visitor Centre followed by a walk to look for bats and visit some moth traps.

Meet at the Assynt Visitor centre, Lochinver NC094 225

Grade A

£3 Adult/£2 child

Thursday 17th June

Bone Caves to the Traligill Basin, Assynt

11am-5pm

A fascinating walk linking two cave systems within the limestone area of Inchnadamph. Look out for eagles, golden plover and ring ouzel.

Meet at Bone Caves car park, 4km south of Inchnadamph, NC254 179

Grade C

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 22nd June

Drumbeg Peat Road, Assynt

11am-3pm

Journey to the interior of Assynt rich in wildlife and history and dangerous stories.

Meet at Drumbeg View Point car park NC120 330

Grade C

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 24th June

The Bone Caves, Assynt

11am-2pm

A fascinating walk to the caves where bones of reindeer, humans and even polar bears were discovered.

Meet Bone Caves car park, 4km south of Inchnadamph NC254 179

Grade C

£3 Adult/£2 child

Tuesday 29th June

Loch Glencoul, Assynt

10am-5pm

Explore the unknown south shore Loch Glencoul: place of otters, golden eagles and magnificent waterfalls.

Meet B869 road end near Newton NC232 314

Grade D

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 1st July

River Inver to Glencanisp, Assynt

11am-3pm

A varied walk along riverside woodland via the old Clearance Village of Dubh Clais returning along the loch shore. We will be looking out for Black-throated divers.

Meet at the Assynt Visitor Centre NC094 225

Grade B

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 6th July

Where the meteorite crashed in Assynt

11am-3pm

Join us as we visit Europe's largest ever meteorite strike. Learn about the ancient landscape it struck over one billion years ago. Amazing views and stunning wildlife.

Meet at Clachtoll Beach car park, NC040 273

Grade B/C

£5 Adult £3 child

Wed 7th July

The secrets of Glen Leireag, Assynt

11am-3pm

Explore the lost township and discover the secrets of this magical woodland glen including freshwater pearl mussels, dippers and maybe golden eagles.

Meet at Nedd bridge 3km east of Drumbeg NC148 315

Grade B

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 8th July

Glas Bheinn, Assynt

10am-5pm

A walk to the top of one of Assynt's less-visited mountains Glas Bheinn – the Green Mountain (776m), with some wonderful views. If the weather is not good we will do a shorter low level walk.

Meet Inchnadamph car park, NC251 216

Grade D

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 13th July

Rockpools at Achmelvich, Assynt

3pm-4pm

There is more to rockpooling than a load of old crabs stuffed in a bucket. You just need to look at things a little differently.

Meet at Achmelvich beach car park NC058 248

£3 Adult £2 child

Wed 14th July

Cul Mor, Assynt

10am-5pm

Climb to the top of this magnificent mountain with super views and some rare and interesting plants.

Meet at the small lay-by just north of Knockan Visitor centre, NC189 094

Grade D

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 15th July

Clachtoll to Achmelvich Coastal walk, Assynt

11am-4pm

Stunning cliff top walk passed the point of leaping dolphins. Not for the faint-hearted, this 7km path is rough in places.

Meet Clachtoll beach car park NC040 273

Grade C
£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 20th July

River Kirkaig, Assynt

11am-3pm

Superb riverside walk to the thundering waterfall (20m) with lovely views of Suilven, where dippers, and sandpipers rub shoulders with dunlin and greenshank.

Meet at the Falls of Kirkaig car park NC085 194

Grade C
£5 Adult £3 child

Wed 21st July

The Bone Caves, Assynt

11am-3pm

A fascinating walk to the caves where bones of reindeer, humans and even polar bears were discovered.

Meet Bone Caves car park, 4km south of Inchnadamph NC254 179

Grade C
£3 Adult £2 child

Thursday 22nd July

Clachtoll Coastal walk, Assynt

11am-2pm

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting village past an Iron-age fort. Hear the story of skeletons, ancient saunas and the "murder hole".

Meet Clachtoll beach car park NC040 273

Grade B
£3 Adult £2 child

Tuesday 27th July

Clachtoll Sand Sculpture Competition, Assynt

11am-1pm

Fun for all the family. Bring bucket and spade and lots of ideas. Superb prizes.

Meet Clachtoll Beach car park, NC040 273

£3 Adult £2 child

Wed 28th July

Achmelvich coastal walk, Assynt

11am-3pm

Help us count butterflies along this delightful walk to the old mill at Altanabradhan along the cliff top, for national butterfly week.

Meet Achmelvich beach car park, NC058 248

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 29th July

The Gruffalo's Child, Lochinver, Assynt

11am-3pm

The Gruffalo said that no gruffalo should ever set foot in the deep dark woods but does anyone listen....Follow the Gruffalo's Child and find out. Suitable for families with children 3 to 8 years olds. May get muddy.

Meet Culag Woods car park, 500m south of Lochinver Primary, NC093 213
Grade A
£3 Adult £2 child

Tuesday 3rd August

Clachtoll Coastal walk, Assynt

11am-2pm

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting village past an Iron-age fort. Hear the story of skeletons, ancient saunas and the "murder hole".

Meet Clachtoll beach car park, NC040 273

Grade B

£3 Adult £2 child

Wed 4th August

Dragonflies up close, Lochinver, Assynt

11am-2pm

Meet these colourful killing machines up close and find out about their underwater and airborne existence.

Meet at the Assynt Visitor Centre, Lochinver, NC094 225

Grade B

£3 Adult £2 child

Thursday 5th August

Drumbeg Peat Road, Assynt

11am-3pm

Journey to the interior of Assynt rich in wildlife and history and dangerous stories.

Meet at Drumbeg View Point car park, NC120 330

Grade C

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 10th August

Rockpools at Clachtoll, Assynt

2pm-3pm

There is more to rockpooling than a load of old crabs stuffed in a bucket. You just need to look at things a little differently.

Meet at Clachtoll beach car park, NC040 273

£3 Adult £2 child

Wed 11th August

Whale and Dolphin watching at Stoer lighthouse

6pm-9pm

A slide show at Stoer hall followed by a visit to the cliffs to watch for passing cetaceans. This event is part of the National Whale and Dolphin Watching Week. If the weather is bad this event maybe re-scheduled.

Meet at Stoer Hall, NC041 297

£3 Adult £2 child

Thursday 12th August

Elphin to Lochinver, Assynt

9am-6pm

Long distance walk (19km) through fabulous country on rough path. We will get post bus to start of the walk at Elphin.

Meet at the Lochinver post Office, NC094 227

Grade D

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 17th August

The Limestone valley of the Traligill, Assynt

11am-3pm

A fascinating walk through ancient limestone scenery, past secret caves, dramatic waterfalls and dry river beds.

Meet at Inchnadamph car park, NC251 216

Grade C

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 19th August,

Achmelvich Coastal walk, Assynt

11am-3pm

Delightful walk to the old meal mill at Altanabradhan along the cliff top, through croftland and machair. Watch out for dolphins too.

Meet Achmelvich beach car park, NC058 248

Grade B/C

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 24th August,

Bat evening, Lochinver

7.30pm-9.30pm

Slide show at the Visitor Centre followed by a visit to the local pipistrelle roost to watch up to 100 bats leave their roost. Bring midge protection.

Meet at the Assynt Visitor Centre, NC094 225

£3 Adult £2 child

Thursday 26th August,

Otters at Culkein

11am-2pm

We will start with a short slide show about otters followed by a walk at Culkein and along the cliff top to look for signs of these common animals around our shores.

Meet at Stoer Hall, 7 miles north of Lochinver, NC041 297

Grade B

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 31st August,

Clachtoll Coastal walk, Assynt

11am-2pm

Join us on this beautiful coastal walk through a crofting village past an Iron-age fort. Hear the story of skeletons, ancient saunas and the "murder hole".

Meet Clachtoll beach car park' NC040 273

Grade B

£3 Adult £2 child

Thursday 2nd Sept

The Limestone valley of the Traligill, Assynt

11am-3pm

A fascinating walk through ancient limestone scenery, past secret caves and dramatic waterfalls.

Meet at Inchnadamph car park, NC251 216

Grade C

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 7th September

The Bone Caves, Assynt

11am-2pm

A fascinating walk to the caves where bones of reindeer, humans and even polar bears were discovered.

Meet Bone Caves car park, 4km south of Inchnadamph, NC254 179

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Thursday 9th Sept

Achmelvich Coastal walk, Assynt

11am-3pm

Delightful walk to the old meal mill at Altanabradhan along the cliff top, through croftland and machair. Watch out for dolphins too.

Meet Achmelvich beach car park NC058 248

Grade B/C

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 14th September

Drumbeg Peat Road, Assynt

11am-3pm

Journey to the interior of Assynt rich in wildlife and history and dangerous stories.

Meet at Drumbeg View Point car park, NC120 330

Grade B

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 16th Sept,

Fungi at Culag woods

11am-2pm

Explore the marvellous world of fungi. Meet the different characters and learn their secrets in one of the best woods in Sutherland.

Meet Culag Wood car park, 500m south of Lochinver Primary, NC093 213

Grade A

£3 Adult £2 child

Tuesday 21st September

River Inver to Glencanisp, Assynt

11am-3pm

A varied walk along riverside woodland via the old Clearance Village of Dubh Clais.

Meet at the Assynt Visitor Centre, Lochinver, NC094 225

Grade B

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 23rd Sept,

Where the meteorite crashed in Assynt

11am-3pm

Join us as we visit Europe's largest ever meteorite strike. Learn about the ancient landscape it struck over one billion years ago, that makes up part of the North West Highlands Geopark. Amazing views and stunning wildlife.

Meet at Clachtoll Beach car park, NC040 273

Grade B/C

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 28th September

The secrets of Glen Leireag, Assynt

11am-3pm

Explore the lost township and discover the secrets of this magical woodland glen including freshwater pearl mussels, dippers and maybe golden eagles.

Meet at Nedd bridge 3km east of Drumbeg, NC148 315

Grade B

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 30th Sept

Bird Ringing demonstration at Clachtoll, Assynt

11am-2pm

Learn about the ongoing research project for Twite with the Highland Ringing group..

Meet at Clachtoll Beach car park, NC040 273

Grade A

£3 Adult £2 child

NorthWest Sutherland

Contact – donald mitchell

Email – donald.mitchell@highland.gov.uk Tel – 01971 511756

Tues 27th April,

Thurs 23rd Sept.

10am – 1pm

Loch A'Mhuilinn national nature reserve. Near Scourie.

Ancient oak woodland with birch and hazel, loch side and moorland - by the coast. A rich mix of habitat. Walking on rough ground and by track.

Meet at reserve car park 3 miles south of Scourie, NC 171 401

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Tues 4th May

10am – 2pm

Ceannabienne hill [383m] Durness.

Hill walk over rough ground. Fine views in all directions, flowers and birds.

Meet at Ceannabienne beach car park 4mls east of Durness, NC 444 654

Grade C

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 6th May. 10th June. 1st 29th July 19th Aug, 16th Sept
10am – 1pm

Scourie bay coastal walk. North shore.

Superb views, wild flowers, geology, seabirds.

Meet at Pier car park, NC 155 448

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Thursday 13th 28th May 17th June 15th July. 5th 26th Aug
10am – 12.30pm

Scourie coast. Dikes & garnets. Geology, views, otter's signs, seabirds.

Meet at Scourie beach bird hide, NC 152 446

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Tuesday 11th May, 14th Sept

10am – 3pm

Ben Arnaboll [230m].

Hill walk with fine views over loch Hope and loch Eriboll. Geology of the Moine, wildlife and a bit of recent history.

Meet at gate by roadside [A838] west of Hope bridge, NC 467 597

Grade D

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 25th May

10am – 3pm

Ben Hutig. [408m].

Stunning views, chance of golden eagle, ravens, moorland plants, returning along the top of Ben Hutig.

Meet at The Craggan Hotel in Melness, NC 588 615

Grade D

£5 Adult £3 child

Tuesday 29th June

10am – 3pm

Rhiconich.

Hill walk by loch, river and moorland. Beautiful scenery, wildlife and amazing geology in the foothills of Foinaven.

Meet at Rhiconich hotel car park, NC 255 524

Grade D

£5 Adult £3 child

Thursday 3rd 24th June. 22nd July 12th Aug. 9th Sept

10am – 12.30pm

Scourie cliffs.

Fine scenery, sea caves & cliffs, wild flowers, seabirds. Not suitable for young children.

Meet at Free church car park, NC 152 434

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Tues 1st 22nd June. & 13th July

Aug 31st 21st Sept

10am – 1pm

Talmine Treasures.

Masses of beautiful plants including lesser butterfly orchids. Interesting geology and sea life on route to Port Vasgo.

Meet at Talmine Pier NC 588 632, please do not block pier access.

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Each Monday - June 7th to August 2nd

2 - 4pm. [not 5th July]

Do the Puffin walk – Faraid head, Durness.

2hr walk to view a small colony of Puffins; across a beautiful beach.

Meet at Balnakeil beach car park, NC 392 687

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Tues 8th June

Tues 20th July, 2nd Sept

10am – 2pm

Watch Hill.

Superb views over the Kyle of Tongue and beyond from Cnoc an Fhreiceadeain (307m).

Vehicle needed for return.

Meet at A836 car park above Coldbackie Beach near Tongue, NC 612 601

Grade C

£5 Adult £3 child

Tues 15th June, 28th Sept

10am – 2pm

Kyle of Durness.

Circular coastal walk with amazing wild flowers, beautiful scenery, beaches, otter signs.

Meet at Durness golf course car park, NC 392 688

Grade C

£5 Adult £3 child

Tues 27th July

10am – 12.30pm

Oldshoremore by Kinlochbervie.

Walk across the machair - masses of wild flowers, fine views, return along the beach.

Meet at beach car park, NC 203 584

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Tues 17th Aug

10am – 3pm

Kylestrome & Glendubh. By Kylesku.

Hill and coastal walk with spectacular views, chance of seeing ravens, red deer, seals, divers, moorland flowers. Walking on rough tracks and heath.

Meet at Reay Forest estate car park [Kylestrome], NC 218 346

GradeD

£5 Adult £3 child

Tues 24th Aug. & 19th Oct.

10am – 1pm

Wheelhouse – by Laid – loch Eriboll.

Hill walk to ancient 2,000yr old dry stone dwelling. Rough remote moorland walk.

Meet at old roadside quarry 7 miles east of Durness on A838, NC 423 464

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Tuesday 7th Sept

10am – 3pm

Rhiconich.

Hill walk by loch, river and moorland. Beautiful scenery, wildlife and amazing geology, in the foothills of Foinaven.

Meet at Rhiconich hotel car park, NC 255 524

Grade D

£5 Adult £3 child

Fri 1st Oct

10am – 12.30pm

Scourie - settlement.

Hill walk to ancient site.

Meet at car park opposite shop. Archaeology, fine views, NC 157 446

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Tues 5th Oct

10am – 12pm

Castle Bharraich. Tongue.

Interesting ruin, superb views over the Kyle of Tongue.

Meet at village car park opposite RBS, NC 592 565

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

Tuesday 10th Aug.

2pm – 4pm

Whale watch at Sheigra by Kinlochbervie.

2hrs watching out to sea for whales & dolphins as part of National Seawatch. Short walk to cliffs. Bring binoculars/telescope if you have them.

Meet at Sheigra car park, NC 185 603

Grade C

£3 Adult £2 child

All the walks are led by one of the Rangers. It is important though that you think of your own safety and that of any children for whom you are responsible. Remember too that these are country walks in the Highland weather so please dress accordingly. Bring sturdy shoes, or boots, a picnic

and a sense of fun. *The Rangers reserve the right to cancel any of these events.*

Walk Grades: A is easiest, D most challenging, including very rough ground and sometimes steep climbs.

Costs as per walk but concessions apply