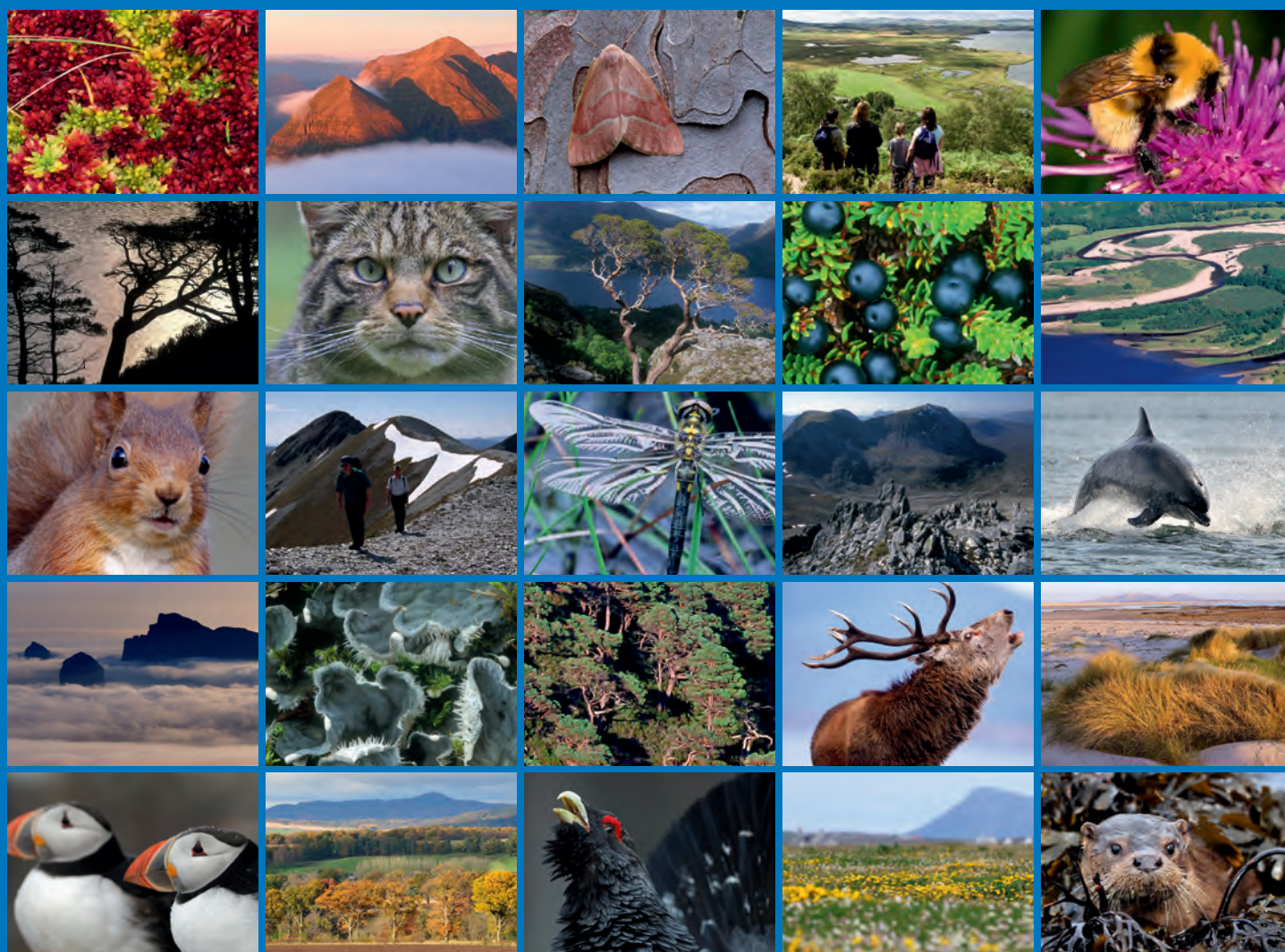


G/IS/I Golden eagle range report – Natural Heritage Zone 14 “Argyll West and Islands”

Report summary





Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

COMMISSIONED REPORT

Commissioned Report No. 838

G/IS/I Golden eagle range report – Natural Heritage Zone 14 “Argyll West and Islands”

For further information on this report please contact:

Stephen Austin
Scottish Natural Heritage
Cameron House
OBAN
PA34 4AE
Telephone: 0300 244 9360
E-mail: stephen.austin@snh.gov.uk

This report should be quoted as:

Austin, S., Fielding, A. H. and Haworth, P. F. 2015. G/IS/I Golden eagle range report – Natural Heritage Zone 14 “Argyll West and Islands”. *Scottish Natural Heritage Commissioned Report No. 838*.

This report, or any part of it, should not be reproduced without the permission of Scottish Natural Heritage. This permission will not be withheld unreasonably. The views expressed by the author(s) of this report should not be taken as the views and policies of Scottish Natural Heritage.

© Scottish Natural Heritage 2015.

Confidential Reports

Scottish Natural Heritage is committed to making the findings of all of its research publicly available whenever possible. However, some animals and plants are threatened by or vulnerable to human activities and therefore require protection. Making some of our research confidential is a way of protecting these species and may help their survival. To be transparent about our work and publications on protected species we have produced a short redacted version of the full confidential report.

If you would like a copy of the full report please email research@snh.gov.uk.



COMMISSIONED REPORT

Summary

G/IS/I Golden eagle range report – Natural Heritage Zone 14 “Argyll West and Islands”

Commissioned Report No. 838
Project No. 14967
Contractor: Haworth Conservation
Year of publication: 2015

Keywords

Golden eagle; range reports; habitat improvement; NHZ 14 “Argyll West and Islands”; land management; range management.

Background

This report is one of a series, covering all known golden eagle ranges in Natural Heritage Zone 14 “Argyll West and Islands”. It contains sensitive environmental information on protected species. As such, it will only be distributed under licence.

The report identifies areas of search for habitat management, which may be of interest to farmers, managers, landowners and agents. The report provides guidance on areas where habitats could be enhanced to support golden eagles. A novel methodology has been developed to facilitate this. The methodology entails identifying areas of three generic categories of prey-habitat communities found in any given range. The three categories are as follows:

Rich Prey Communities (RPC): have high abundance in terms of prey;

Medium Prey Community (MPC): have an existing prey abundance that could be enhanced further by improved management of the existing habitat; and

Constrained Prey Community (CPC): contain virtually no or very little prey for golden eagles.

The main management objective for a range is to change CPCs into RPCs. This makes a range more robust and sustainable in the long term as its overall baseline MPC/RPC area will have increased. Improving the existing MPCs can bring additional benefits to the range, and should be considered in any habitat/prey management improvement programme.

The report also contains baseline data which may be of use for initial screening of proposed developments or other management within eagle ranges.

It is important to note that each range is unique and the recommendations in any given range report may not be applicable to other ranges.

Main findings

The main findings of the report are only available under licence from SNH.

For further information on this project contact:

Stephen Austin, Scottish Natural Heritage, Cameron House, Oban, PA34 4AE.

Tel: 0300 244 9360 or stephen.austin@snh.gov.uk

For further information on the SNH Research & Technical Support Programme contact:

Knowledge & Information Unit, Scottish Natural Heritage, Great Glen House, Inverness, IV3 8NW.

Tel: 01463 725000 or research@snh.gov.uk

www.snh.gov.uk

© Scottish Natural Heritage 2015
ISBN: 978-1-78391-239-1

Policy and Advice Directorate, Great Glen House,
Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW
T: 01463 725000

You can download a copy of this publication from the SNH website.



Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad