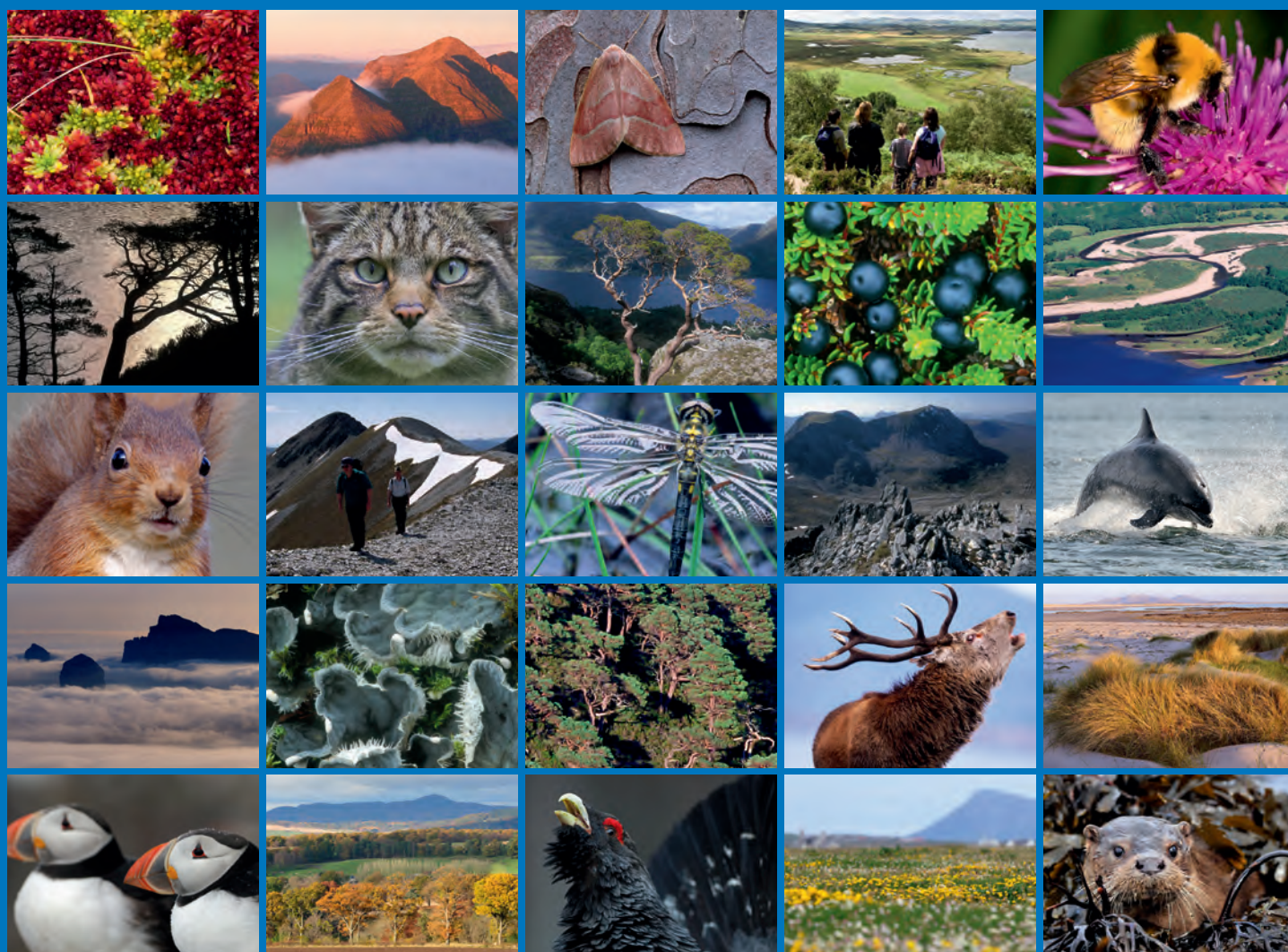


G/NK4 Golden eagle range report – Natural Heritage Zone 14 “Argyll West and Islands”

Report summary





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COMMISSIONED REPORT

Commissioned Report No. 857

G/NK4 Golden eagle range report – Natural Heritage Zone 14 “Argyll West and Islands”

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COMMISSIONED REPORT

Summary

G/NK4 Golden eagle range report – Natural Heritage Zone 14 “Argyll West and Islands”

Commissioned Report No. 857
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.

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