

HBRG records and Habitats Directive Surveillance

As part of our data mobilisation partnership, our principal funders, Scottish Natural Heritage, have asked that HBRG members are aware of the importance of recording species for which they have a particular duty of surveillance under the EU Habitats Directive.

We are not expected to make special efforts to locate and monitor these, but just to record them - and especially to report the records to HBRG - to assist the SNH work. The list and the comments apply only to Highland, while vascular plants, fish, and marine species on the Directive are excluded.

Some of the species are very difficult to find, and even more difficult to identify. For these, only specialists need be involved. Others, like the amphibians and mammals, can be done by anyone.

Please report sightings in the usual way to records@hbrg.org.uk or via the website <http://www.hbrg.org.uk/MainPages/Records.html>.

Widespread, easy to identify			
Amphibian	Common Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	
Amphibian	Great Crested Newt	<i>Triturus cristatus</i>	
Mammal	Mountain Hare	<i>Lepus timidus</i>	
Mammal	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	
Mammal	Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>	
Restricted, easy to identify			
Mollusc	Freshwater Pearl Mussel	<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>	Highly endangered, protected under the WCA ¹ , subject to illegal poaching.
Crustacean	White-clawed Crayfish	<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	Known only from Durness.
Butterfly	Marsh Fritillary	<i>Euphydryas aurinia</i>	Expanding in Lochaber.
Scarce, difficult to identify			
Mammal	Wildcat	<i>Felis silvestris</i>	Very difficult to separate hybrids. ²
Mammal	Polecat	<i>Mustela putorius</i>	Very difficult to separate from Ferrets. ³
Requires specialist identification			
Mollusc	Narrow-mouthed Whorl Snail	<i>Vertigo angustior</i>	Specialist examination of specimens will be required.
Mollusc	Round-mouthed Whorl Snail	<i>Vertigo genesii</i>	
Mollusc	Geyer's Whorl Snail	<i>Vertigo geyeri</i>	
Moss	Green Shield-moss	<i>Buxbaumia viridis</i>	
Moss	Slender Green Feather-moss	<i>Hamatocaulis vernicosus</i>	Known only from Skye and L Ashie.
Moss	Large White-moss	<i>Leucobryum glaucum</i>	
Liverwort	Petalwort	<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>	Known only from Achnahaird.
Mammal	bats	Chiroptera	Bat detector required in most cases.
Moss	bog-mosses	<i>Sphagnum</i> sp.	
Lichen	lichens	<i>Cladonia</i> subgenus <i>Cladina</i>	

¹ Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (Schedule 5) prohibits killing, injuring, taking and possession.

² http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/commissioned_reports/356.pdf

³ <http://www.vwt.org.uk/docs/polecat/polecats-and-ferrets-how-to-tell-them-apart.pdf?sfvrsn=6>