NOTES ON THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ISLE OF RONA

Dr James Fenton 21 July 2025

CONTENTS

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Dr James Fenton, ecology@fenton.scot, 21 July 2025

following a visit 25-28 June 2025

The Isle of Rona from Ben Alligin, with the Trotternish Ridge on Skye beyond

Bill Cowie kindly hosted my wife, Sue, and I, for three days, during which time he showed me around the island and told me about the land management he had introduced. These are my observations and notes resulting from this visit, which I hope will be useful to the new owner of the island. Note that they only relate to the land management, not to the coast and sea.

The landscape of Rona: CNOCHAN

This has been fully described as part of Scottish Natural Heritage's Scotland-wide Landscape Character Assessment Programme (LCA). Rona falls exclusively within the **Cnocan** category which is characteristic of exposed outcrops of Lewisian Gneiss, a very old, hard rock. Their profile is shaped by glacial erosion, plucking and smoothing of the rock surface to form convoluted surfaces, with little subsequent deposition of glacial till leaving a dominance of bare rock. The landform is deeply undulating with a fairly equal balance of high points, or cnocs, and low points within peaty hollows and lochans, although there are only two small lochans on Rona, both near the north end. This balance gives a uniform bumpy texture in distant views.

Landcover

At close quarters, the complexity of land cover becomes apparent. There is a general dominance of exposed, light, grey-pink rock, covered in lichens, with rock seams emphasised by narrow lines of thin gritty or peaty soils and mosses. Poorly drained, peaty dips and basins support a variety of vegetation, dominated by heathers, grasses, mosses, stunted shrub willows and flag iris and small areas of smooth moorland. Occasional small, broad leaved woodlands are found in lower, deeper basins and around the margins. The combination of landform, dark or reflective water, light, bare rock and dark or seasonally colourful vegetation forms a fine-grained, intricate mosaic of colours and textures. The random patterns of land cover and landform create ever changing views and make orientation difficult, particularly in dips. Basins form enclosed, sheltered spaces, occasionally reinforced with fragments of broad leaved woodland. In contrast, the cnoc are open with extensive views over the undulating terrain, and beyond the landscape type.

See page 13 for the full landscape description, based on survey in 1996 & 2014.

Historical changes to the landscape

Rona has had a long history of human occupation, until 1991 when the island became uninhabited for a while. The changes to the landscape brought about by people over the centuries which are visible today are:

– Townships in the Dry Harbour (Acarseid Tioram) area, at Braig near the north end and at Doire na Guaile near the south end, with numerous building remains; including the substantial remains of the Mission House at Dry Harbour.

– The walled remains of a small church at the south end, An Teampull.

– The creation of a footpath along the island from Am Teampull to Dry Harbour and on to the north.

– The settlement at Acarseid: Rona Lodge, with a jetty, and improved land with fenced fields from the sheep and cattle farming days.

– Relict inbye land of grassland and ridges/furrows around the old townships, now being colonised by bracken.

– Removal of peat from most of the hollows, visible as a vertical edge round the edges of the hollows.

Woodland has expanded significantly in recent years, perhaps to the extent that there is now enough on the island?

– Creation in Victorian times of a plantation of various conifer and broadleaved species southwest of Rona Lodge, including walks (a Designed Landscape). *See the tree list on page 15.*

– The construction of a lighthouse, and later a naval base at the far north end of the island; also a viewing point at the highest point of the island (Meall Acairseid), visible as a concrete base.

Apart from these areas, much of the island retains a wild feel with little visible human impact.

Recent changes to the landscape

In recent years, and since the landscape assessment was carried out, the main changes to the landscape have been:

– A significant expansion of tree cover across the island, particularly at lower elevations, as a result of the removal of sheep grazing.

– Two small deer-fenced plantations, including Scots pine, along the beginning of the track to Dry Harbour.

– The upgrading of footpaths to vehicle tracks: from Roan Lodge to Dry Harbour and to the south end.

– The restoration of two houses at Dry Harbour to holiday accommodation standards.

– The roofing of a building at Dry Harbour to create a small museum.

– A new house built west of Rona Lodge.

– Solar panels at Rona Lodge and Dry Harbour, and a wind turbine at Rona Lodge, with associated small buildings and workshops.

– The Ministry of Defence buildings at the north end of the island have now been abandoned, and have begun to decay.

Recent land use changes

In recent years, all sheep have been removed from the island and, latterly, the small herd of Highland cattle which were present for several years.

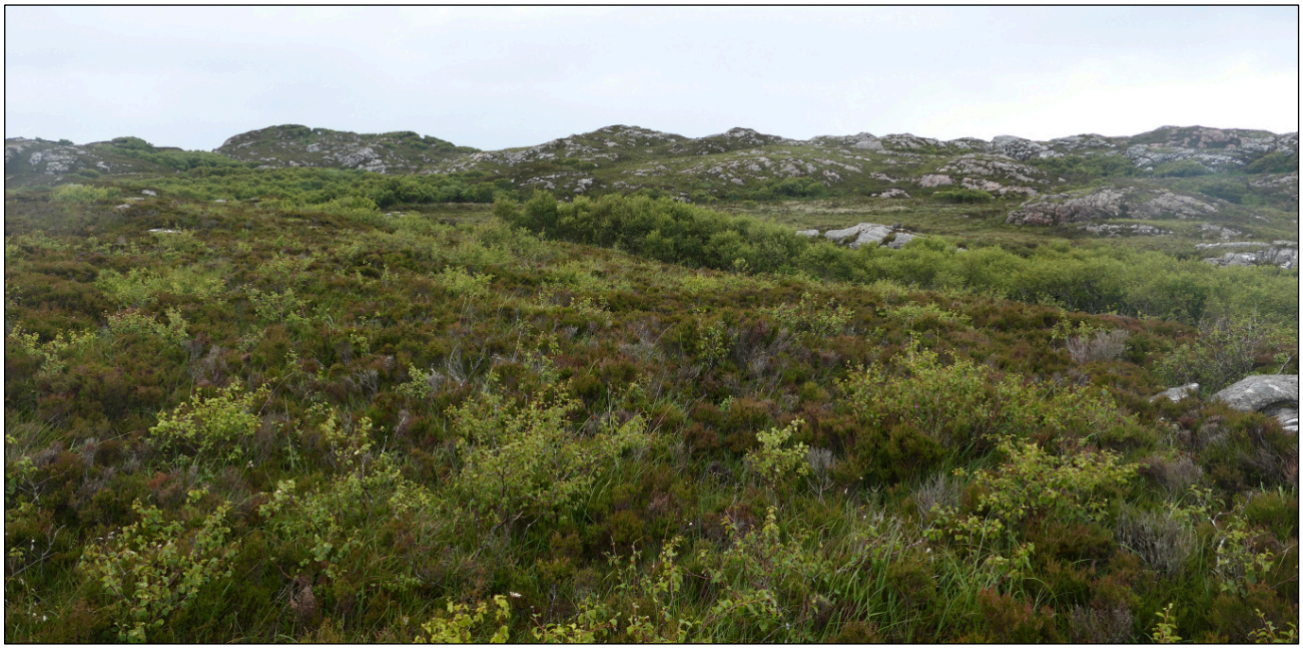
After the sheep were removed, a woodland grant scheme was entered into on the basis of allowing the existing pockets of native woodland (predominantly birch) to expand through natural regeneration. This has been successful, resulting in a significant increase in woodland cover. The new woods are dominated by downy birch which often forms dense, even-aged stands, arising from the burst of regeneration following the removal of the sheep.

Occasional rowan and willow (eared sallow *Salix aurita*, goat willow *S. caprea*, grey willow *S. cinerea*) and hazel are also present. There are several stands of aspen on low-altitude coastal cliffs, which also have expanded in extent in recent years.

Red deer were introduced into the island in 2003, although deer, particularly stags, do sometimes swim across from Raasay. The deer have thrived on the island and, in spite of their presence, there is still ongoing regeneration of birch in some areas. It is predominantly a hind island, with stags generally at the south end.

The deer are managed at a level which results in healthy animals, provides venison, and which is practical with the manpower available.

Bracken continues to invade the former inbye land, and other areas with richer soil.



Woodland can only expand at the expense of moorland: why is woodland more important?

Woodlands and woodland management

See pictures on page 9

Why woodland?

The whole focus of habitat management on Rona in recent years has been on encouraging the expansion of native woodland. To this end, a Woodland Grant Scheme was entered into, together with management plans and monitoring programmes. It does mean, though, that in exchange for grant money, determining how the land is managed is put in the hands of the forestry authority: who obviously want to see that the money given out has actually achieved woodland expansion.

This has resulted in consultants visiting the island, mapping the woodland, deer impact, *etc.*, and giving advice on deer management. But, with the removal of the sheep, the woodland would have expanded even if no action was taken or grant given. But it is certainly useful income for the island and for consultants! The scheme has now run its course, and such schemes should be avoided in the future.

But, as a reflection of the times we live in, it has always been taken as fundamental that an aim of the land management of is to encourage woodland expansion. The question 'Why?' is never asked, but just taken for granted! But woodland can only expand if open habitats are lost. Nobody ever considers why woodland is more important than open moorland. Or considers that woodland has been declining naturally in the Highlands over the past few millennia, so that 'putting it back' is actually going against the natural, long-term evolution of the Highland landscape.

From an international perspective, the temperate open moorland of the northwest Highlands is a much rarer habitat than woodland, so why is more effort not devoted to its preservation? And because 'some woodland is good', it does not logically follow that 'more is better'. Additionally, the Landscape Assessment mentioned above only mentions woodland as a minor component of the Rona landscape.

Suggested future land management: Hands-off

Until the first Woodland Management Plan, and excepting the inbye and runrigs around the townships, the vegetation of Rona was left to itself, albeit influenced by modification of the natural features of grazing and burning. But in the past, nobody said "this is the type of vegetation we want."

Woodland obviously does have some benefit to red deer, providing shelter and grazing. But there is now enough woodland on the island to ensure that it will be present for at least the next hundred years or so (the lifetime of birch trees). Grazing, after all, is a natural facet of terrestrial ecosystems, and there is nothing natural about low or no grazing: the presence of red deer is part of the natural ecology of the island.

So now is the time to remove the focus on trees. In fact, there does not need to be focus on any particular habitat: just leave the island be – allowing natural habitat development ('rewilding' *sensu stricto*). This 'hands-off' approach has the added benefit of not costing anything (other then deer management, bracken control, and non-native species control – see below).

Bracken control will be necessary in perpetuity: to retain grassland and to protect the archaeology, here Am Teampull

The objective of land management for the island can then be stated as:

To allow for the natural development of habitats of Rona, with the minimum of human intervention.

There are three exceptions to this hands-off approach:

1) Deer management

From an ecological perspective, there is no answer to the question 'How many deer should there be?' Nature would just let the red deer population find its own level – which may well fluctuate.

The presence of red deer provides the following ecological benefits:

– Maintaining the areas of grassland, marsh and wet flushes, some of which are flower-rich.
– Preventing scrubbing-over of the internationally rare temperate moorland.
– Breaking-up areas of bracken (although they will not prevent its spread).
– In general, maintaining the landscape characteristics of the island as detailed on page 13 below.
– Trampling breaks-up the sward, creating seed-beds.
– Grazing reduces plant litter and tussock build-up, making walking easier and reducing the fire-risk.
– Deer dung and urine (manure) helps maintain the fertility of the landscape.
– Dead deer and gralloch provide food for scavengers.

The onus, therefore, is on the deer manager to determine what objectives they are trying to achieve. As discussed, the woodland objective (sufficient tree regeneration) has been achieved, so the objective should centre around managing the population of red deer to a level that is both achievable and which provides a supply of good quality venison. Recent experience on Rona shows there is a huge demand for such sustainably produced venison.

2) Bracken control

Bracken is susceptible to late frosts, so with the warmer winters of recent years and few spring frosts, its spread into better soils, including woodland clearings, will continue unabated.

Hence, to retain the remaining grasslands, for both ecological, landscape and archaeological reasons, bracken cutting will be necessary in perpetuity.

3) Control of non-native species

To retain the ecological and landscape characteristics of Rona, it will be necessary to ensure that any plants and animals which are not native to Rona but which have been introduced, whether accidentally or on purpose, do not spread out from their point of origin. Examples would be sika deer, non-native conifers and garden escapes. This includes plants and animals which may be native to Scotland, including Skye and Raasay, but not to Rona, such as oak trees, hedgehogs, frogs, *etc.* A characteristic of Rona is that these species are not present, and adding them would add to the homogenisation of the UK's ecology. Islands always contain less plants and animals than the mainland, adding to their ecological interest.

Current priorities are to remove the bamboo and Rhododendron (see map on page 12.); and also any self-seeded Sitka spruce and lodgepole pine outwith plantations.

What to do with the plantations?

There are three plantations on the island: one Victorian and two recent smaller ones (see pictures on page 10). Apart from the fields around Ronal Lodge, these plantations represent the only areas of land which, in recent years, have been designed by humans, as opposed to developing through natural processes: *i.e.* where there has not been hands-off management.

The planted trees will have irreversibly changed the soil, so that the land is now more suitable for woodland than the original moorland.

1) The original Victorian plantation

Created as part of a Designed Landscape southwest of Rona Lodge, it contains a variety of native and exotic trees. It has been neglected in recent years, with some fire damage, and now many of the trees have reached an age when they are liable to blow over. In the author's opinion, it is becoming an eyesore. Management options are:

a) Monitor the area surrounding the woodland to identify any non-native trees and shrubs which are beginning to spread into the wider landscape. Remove them.

b) Otherwise the wood could be left to itself, with the old trees dying. But over time, the area would then neither represent the original Designed Landscape nor any native wood, instead becoming a muddle, and a potential source of invasive trees and shrubs.

c) Restore the wood to the original Victorian concept as a landscape complement to the bay, together with the path network. Rather than match any new planting exactly to the original trees, trees which are likely to seed-out into the surrounding land should be avoided. There will be major costs involved in ground clearance and planting.

d) Fell all the remaining trees, remove any non-native shrubs, and convert the site to a native birch wood. Although the historical continuity of the Designed Landscape would be lost, this would relate the site to the current landscape characteristics of Rona. But there will be costs involved in tree and vegetation clearance, and it is unclear if the forestry authorities would allow the wood to be felled and replanted.

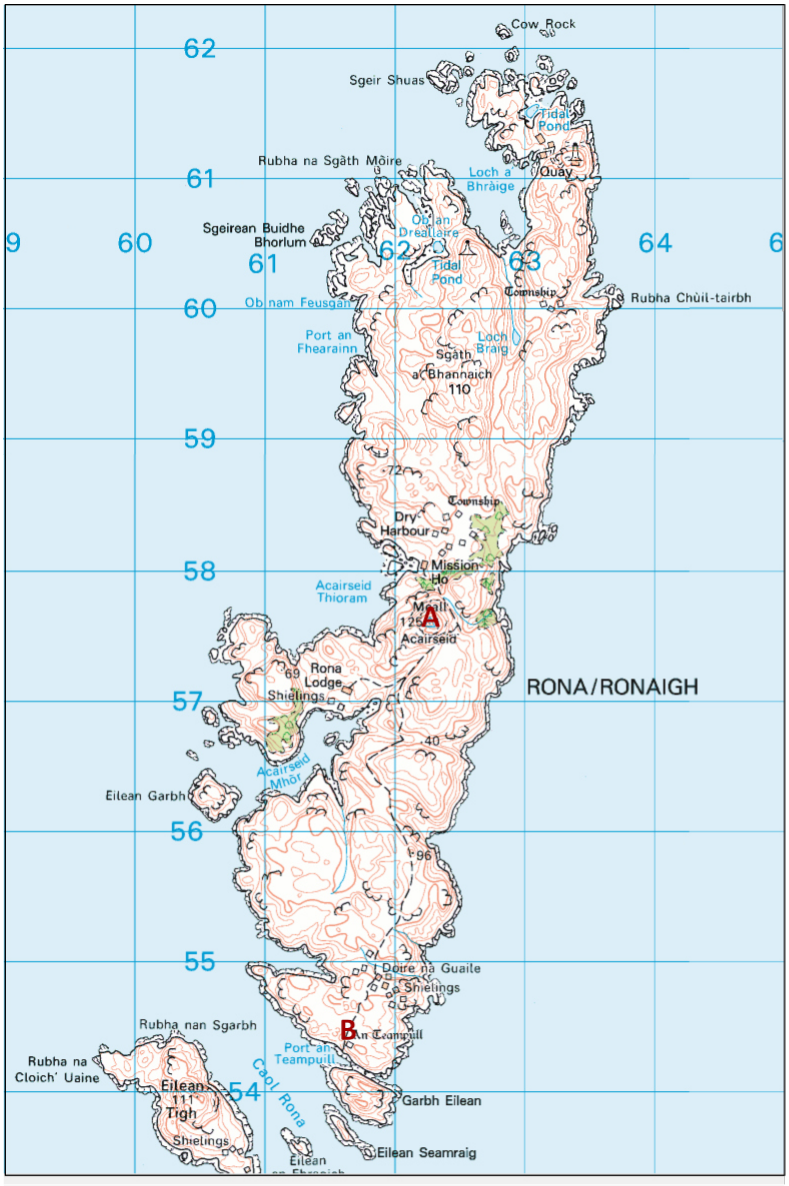
2) The two small plantations at the start of the Dry Harbour track.

These deer-fenced plantations break up the ecological continuity of the island. They both contain planted Scots pine, and the northern one also contains planted alder.

Although Scots pine is probably native to Rona, priority should be given to allowing the existing trees outwith plantations to regenerate naturally (or not – hands-off). Pine may be native because the first edition Ordnance Survey six-inch map 1840-1880 does have symbols for conifers in some places on Rona. But the planted pine have definitely been put there by humans and their provenance is not derived from native pine on Rona; and their presence damages the ecological continuity of the island.

It would appear that alder is not native to Rona, and is now seeding out. Again this is changing the natural characteristics of Rona, and ideally all the alder should be removed.

In these two plantations, ideally the fences should be removed, and the planted pine removed or used as a firewood supply. Over decades, if the pine and alder do seed out over Rona, this shows how interference in natural processes can result in the landscape diverging from its original natural state.

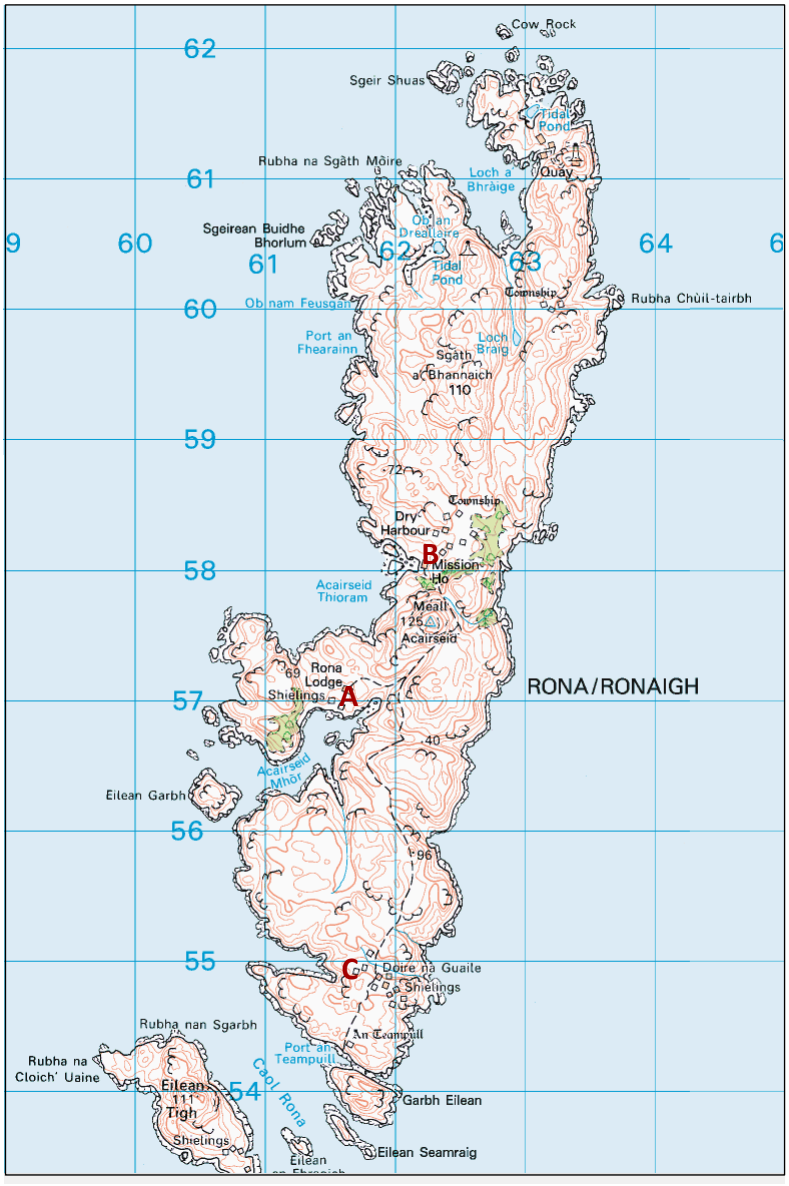


A. Looking south from the highest point (Meall Acarseid, 125m) towards Acarseid Mhòr and Raasay, showing the Cnochan landscape of rocky knolls, with woodland on some lower coastal slopes.

A. Looking north from Meall Acarseid, with woodland visible beyond the summit on both east and west sides of the island.

A. Looking northwest from Meall Acarseid towards Dry Harbour.

B. The ruined chapel of An Teampull at the far south of the island, with Raasay beyond. Note the extensive coastal woodland.



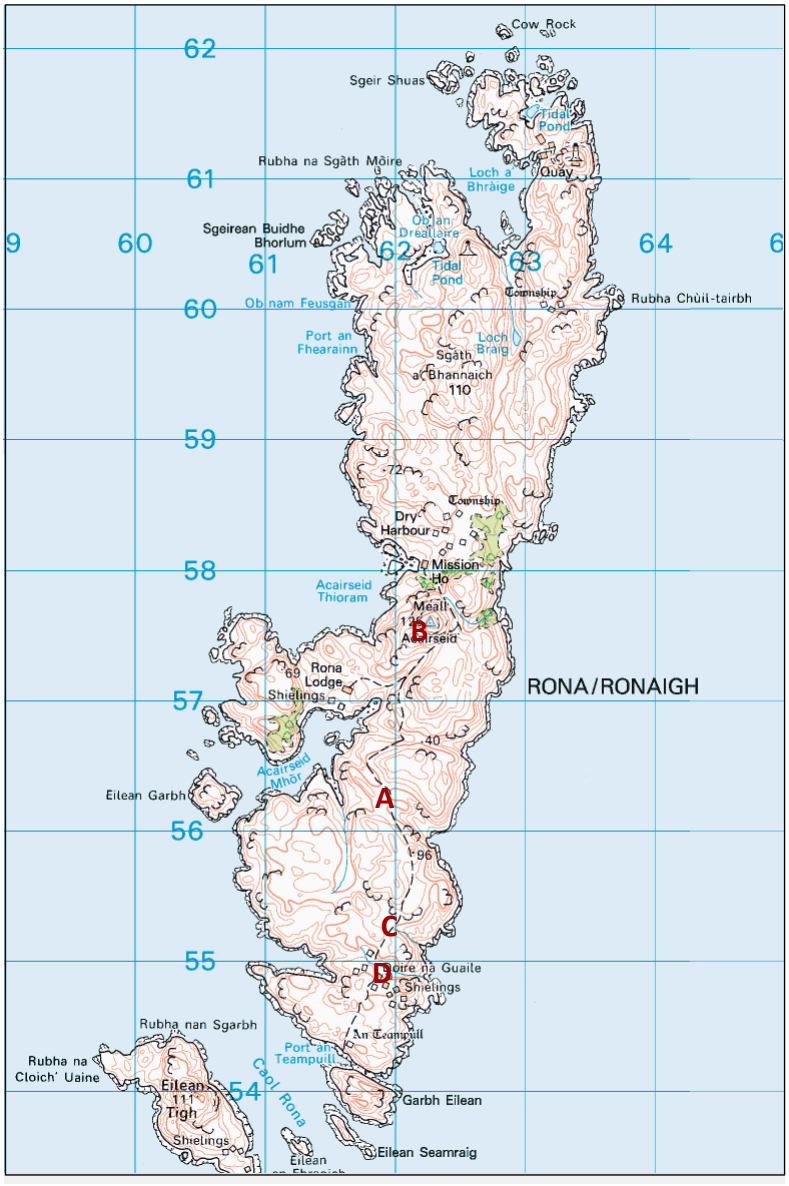
INBYE LAND

A. The inbye land around Rona Lodge consists of species-rich grassland and marsh, enclosed by stock fences, and with the remains of an old sheep fank. Also visible are sheds related to land management, a bunkhouse, a wind turbine and a solar panel array.

A. A close-up of the fields, which once were used for sheep and cattle grazing, and which are now maintained by deer grazing (and by wild greylag geese).

B. The old inbye land at Dry Harbour is now disappearing under bracken. Deer keep some areas open, but without management (cutting), all the grassland will eventually disappear under bracken.

C. The old township of Doire na Gaile, which currently consists of dry grassland and species-rich marsh. Deer grazing is now keeping the area open.



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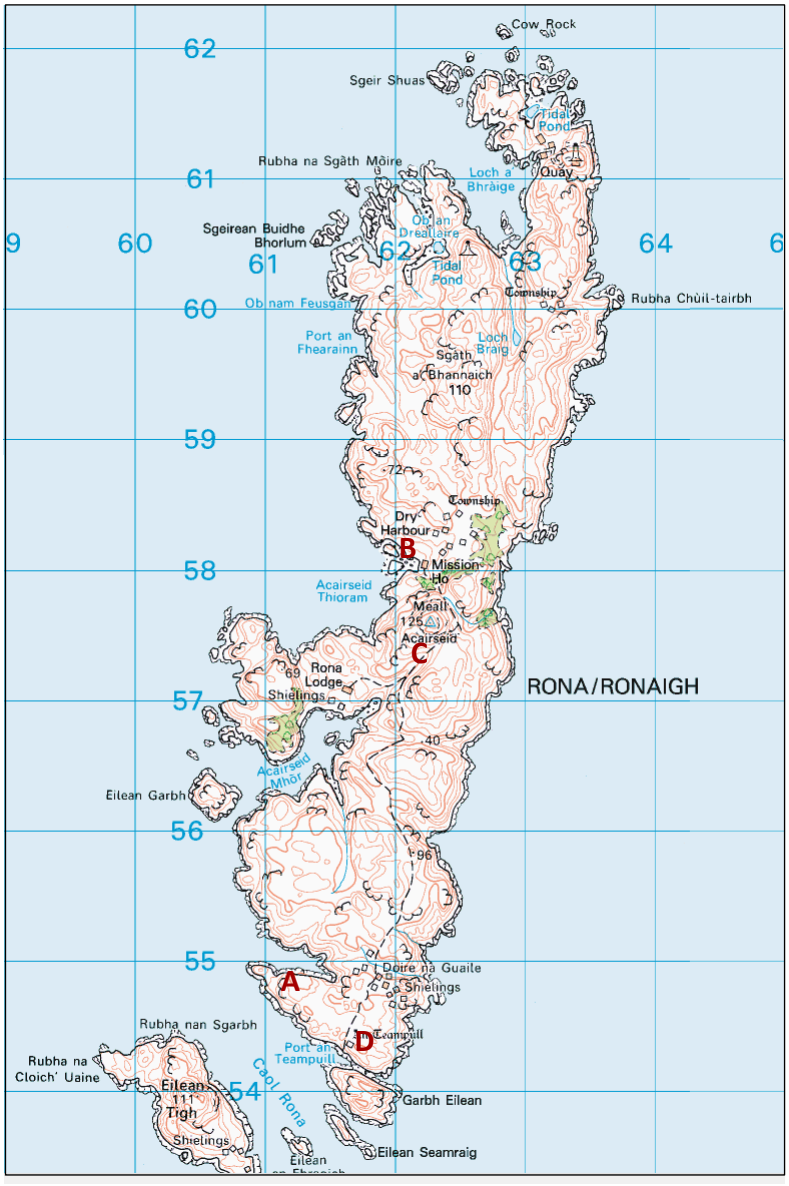
A. Typical moorland, showing bracken (bright green) on the drier ground, dry heath (dark brown) on the steeper slopes, wet heath elsewhere, with blanket peat on the level areas (foreground).

B. Blanket peat in the foreground (with bog cotton), and wet heath amongst the rocks. Coastal woodland visible in the background.

C. A hollow of peat, most of which has been removed through centuries of peat cutting (for fuel). This can be ascertained by the vertical edge of peat visible round the hollow. However, peat is now regrowing over the previously cut-over areas.

D. An area of species-rich, wet marshy grassland in the vicinity of the former township of Doire na Guaile, with a surround of willows (likely to be the eared sallow *Salix aurita*) and downy birch. Dry heath on the knolls.

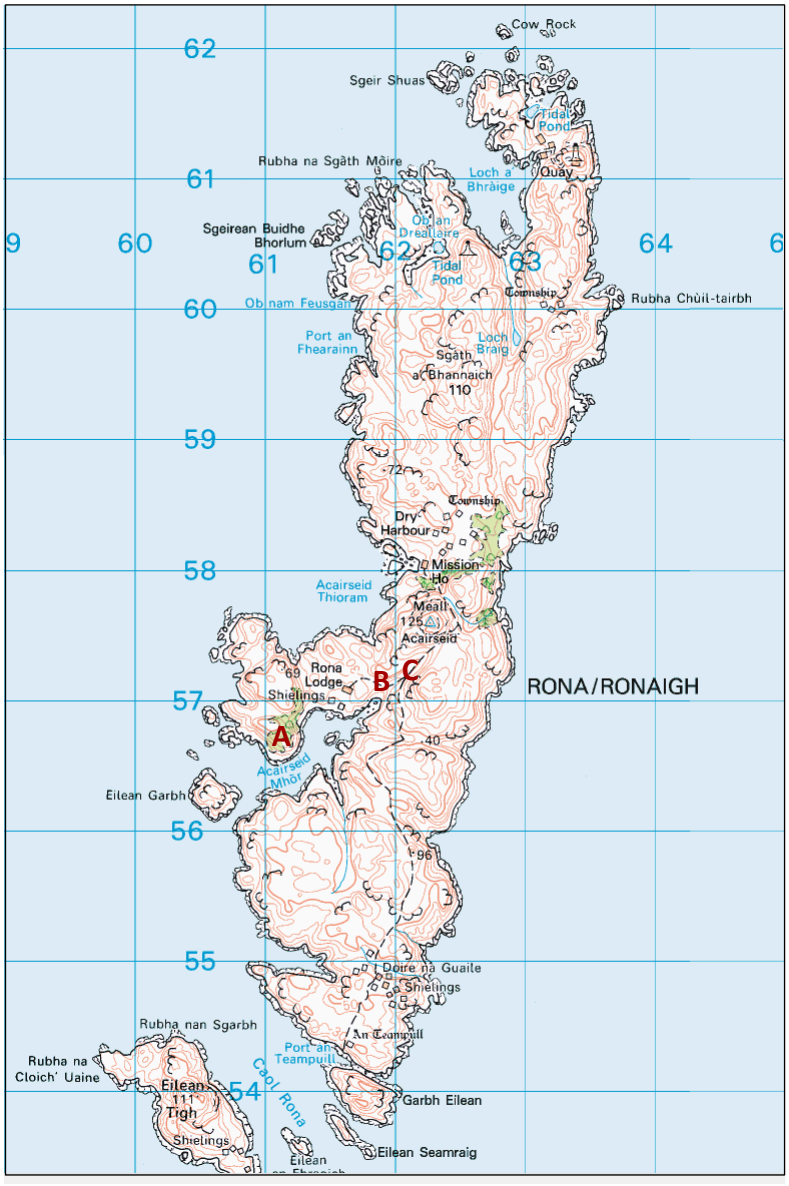


A. Early maps (1840-1880) show a few small stands of coastal woodland on steep coastal slopes on Rona; an example of such an ancient wood is shown here.

B. Extensive stands of young downy birch at Dry Harbour, illustrating significant woodland expansion since the removal of sheep. Beinn Acarseid in the background, with some inbye pasture and scattered saltmarsh visible at sea level.

C. Extensive stands of young downy birch along the track to Dry Harbour, illustrating significant woodland expansion since the removal of sheep.

D. Regeneration of birch trees continues today, as shown here, in spite of the presence of red deer.

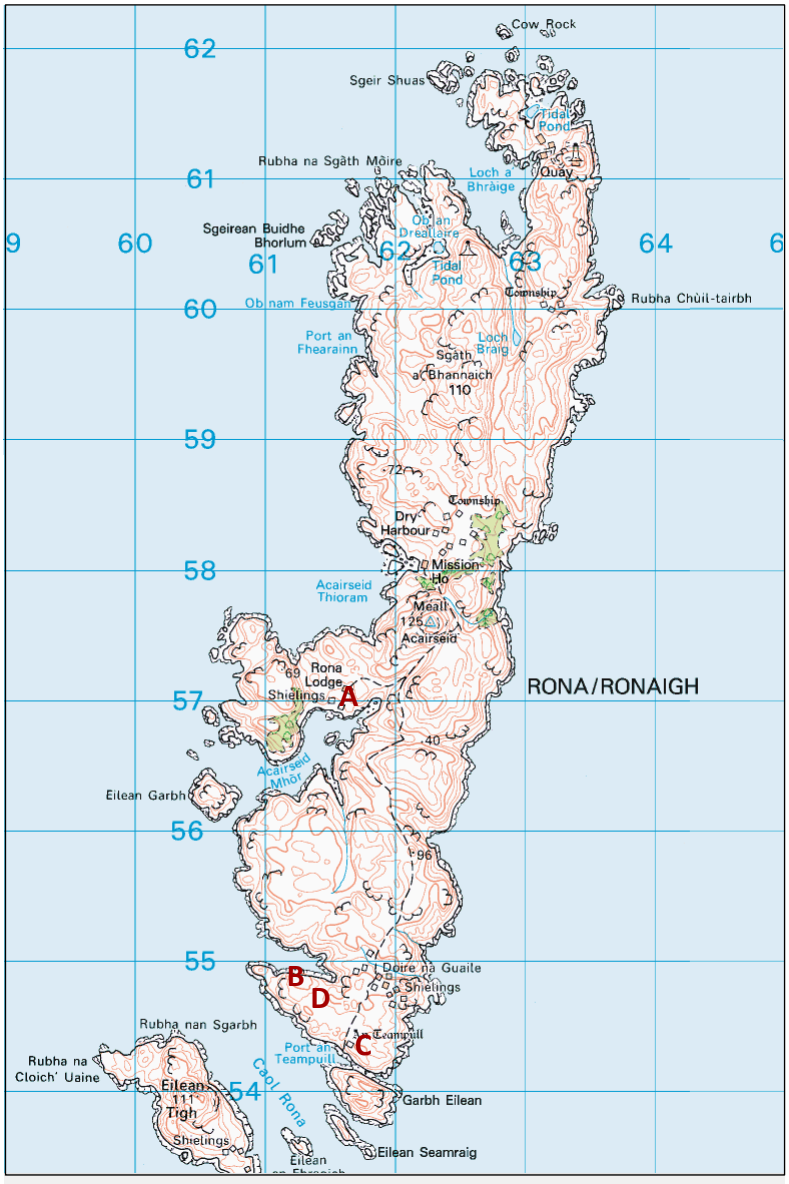


A. This is the original Victorian plantation created as part of a Designed Landscape southwest of Rona Lodge. It has been neglected in recent years, as well as suffering from fire damage (the dead trees). It contains several species of non-native trees and shrubs, which have the potential to seed out beyond the plantation in future years, and the older trees will start blowing down. Management options are discussed on page 5 above.

B. A small deer-fenced plantation above Rona Lodge, including planted Scots pine. Ideally these pine should be removed, or left for firewood, and also the fence. *[see main text on page 5]*

C. The third plantation is at the start of the track to Dry Harbour, surrounding the old water supply pond. It includes planted Scots pine and alder. It is possible that alder is not native to Rona, but is now beginning to regenerate outside the fence. *[see main text on page 5]*

C. Another view of the third plantation. By introducing Scots pine and alder from outside the island, Rona's ecological continuity is being damaged. *[see main text on page 5]*



A. The grasslands around Rona Lodge are kept in condition by deer grazing (and some geese). Without grazing, the sward will thicken-up, tussocks will form and many flowers will disappear. Deer also help open-up bracken swards, although will not stop its spread.

B. An ancient birch wood which is used by deer. The grassy and fern-rich swards below the wood are kept open and species-rich by the deer grazing, but it can be seen that there is still ongoing birch regeneration at the top of the wood.

C. An example of ongoing birch regeneration on heather moorland at the south end of the island in the presence of red deer..

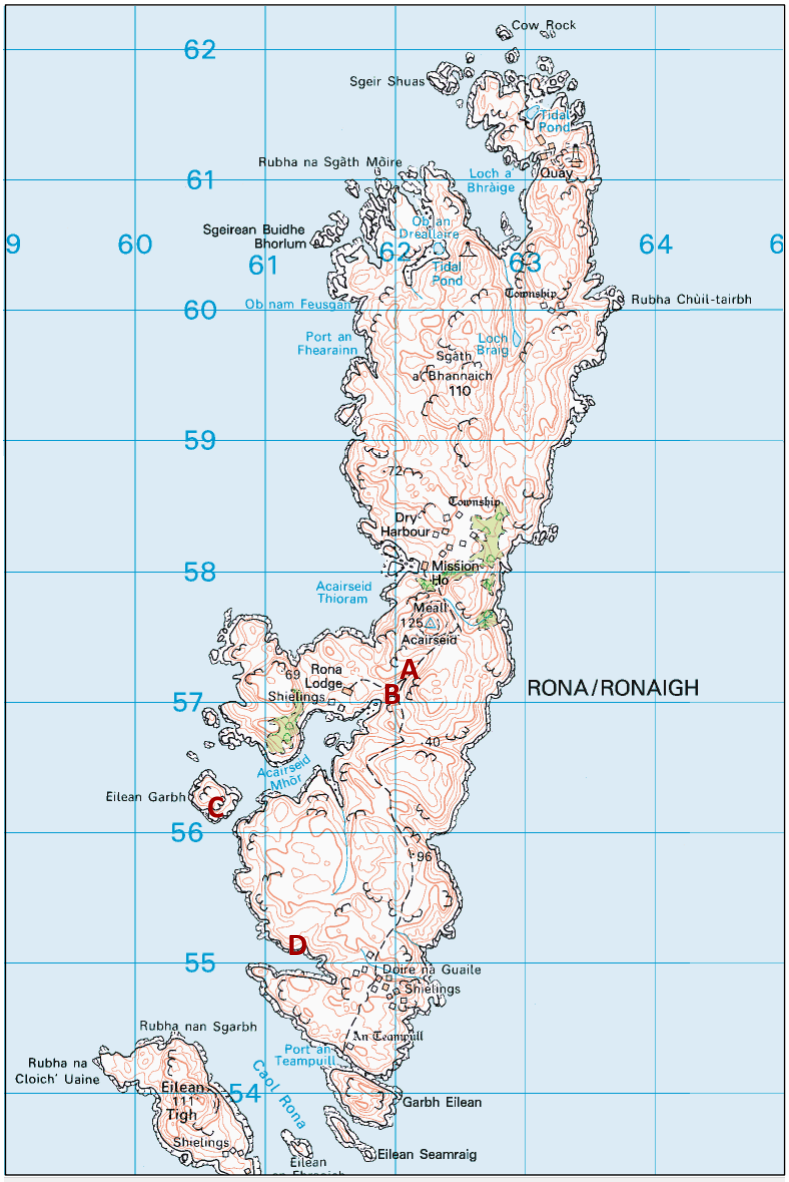
D. A deer wallow in a peat bog near the south end of the island. Deer certainly do cause localised damage to peat bogs by wallowing, but this merely reflects what happens in natural systems. In time, the wallow is likely to become a pool, diversifying the peatland.

BOTANICAL INTEREST

The vegetation of Rona is typical of lowland areas in northwest Scotland. The main habitats present are:

- **Grazed acid grassland** (old inbye land)
- **Bracken** (invading inbye land and better soils)
- **Birch woodland** (downy birch on steep, well-drained, low altitude slopes)
- **Small stands of aspen** (cliffs at low altitudes)
- **Dry heath** (heather & bell heather on better drained slopes)
- **Wet heath** (with cross-leaved heath)
- **Marsh** (flower-rich)
- **Blanket peat** (on level ground and in hollows; now regrowing following extensive peat harvesting in the past)
- **Bare rock** (ancient Lewisian gneiss)
- **Saltmarsh** (small areas at heads of bays)

Some plants typical of the hyperoceanic western Scotland are shown below.



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C. Site of *Rhododendron ponticum*

D. Site of bamboo

A. Pale butterwort (*Pinguicula lusitanica*), with pink flowers and inrolled leaves. Characteristic of open, wet flushes; without grazing, the flushes will thicken up and the butterwort will disappear. Note that this plant is rare on the island compared to the common butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) with dark blue flowers.

B. The small Wilson's filmy fern (*Hymenophyllum wilsonii*), the darker green plant in the photograph, confined to shaded rocks on north-facing slopes. It has thin leaves and is from a tropical genus. The brighter green is a moss with flat leaves (a *Fissidens* species).

B. The hay-scented buckler fern (*Dryopeteris aemula*), characteristic of native woods in the west of Scotland. Told from other species of buckler fern by the pale green colour and with the leaflets markedly concave

Scottish Natural Heritage
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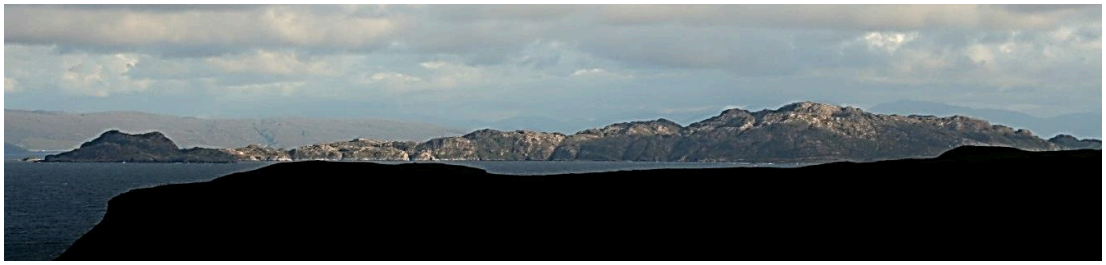
SNH National Landscape Character Assessment

Landscape Character Type 362

CNOCAN – SKYE & LOCHALSH



Location and Context

The *Cnocan - Skye & Lochalsh* Landscape Character Type forms the northern part of the island of Raasay and the entire landscape of the island of Rona. It is typical of the exposed patches of Lewisian Gneiss found across the west coasts of Wester Ross and Sutherland. These rocks are found to the west of the Moine Thrust, a geological boundary between interior mountain ranges and the generally lower, rocky, undulating moorlands of the west coast.

Key Characteristics

- Very low, rocky moorland.
- Bumpy profile of small scale, deep undulations of highpoints (cnocs) and hollows in equal balance.
- Dominance of bare, light grey-pink rock rounded and 'plucked' by glaciers and covered in lichens, which gives uniform texture and colour in distant views
- Complex mosaic of land cover evident in close views, consisting of bare rounded and loose rocks, interspersed with occasional patches of broad leaved trees, shrubby vegetation, grasses, dark, peaty lochans and bogs.
- Largely unsettled, with a few coastal crofts, small jetties and tracks fitting into the sheltered hollows and inlets.
- Few structures and buildings, which are separated by undulations and have little cumulative visual presence.
- Overall exposed, rugged, seemingly natural landscape is isolated and imparts a sense of remoteness and wild character.

Landscape Character Description

Landform

Cnocan – Skye & Lochalsh landscapes are characteristic of exposed outcrops of Lewisian Gneiss, a very old, hard rock. Their profile is shaped by glacial erosion, plucking and smoothing of the rock surface to form convoluted surfaces, with little subsequent deposition of glacial till leaving a dominance of bare rock. The landform is deeply undulating with a fairly equal balance of high points, or cnocs, and low points within peaty hollows and lochans. This balance gives a uniform bumpy texture in distant views.

Landcover

At close quarters, the complexity of land cover becomes apparent. There is a general dominance of exposed, light, grey-pink rock, covered in lichens, with rock seams

emphasised by narrow lines of thin gritty or peaty soils and mosses. Poorly drained, peaty dips and basins support a variety of vegetation, dominated by heathers, grasses, mosses, stunted shrub willows and flag iris and small areas of smooth moorland. Occasional small, broad leaved woodlands are found in lower, deeper basins and around the margins. Lochans support sedges, rushes and water lilies. The combination of landform, dark or reflective water, light, bare rock and dark or seasonally colourful vegetation forms a fine-grained, intricate mosaic of colours and textures.

The random patterns of land cover and landform create ever changing views and make orientation difficult, particularly in dips. Basins form enclosed, sheltered spaces, occasionally reinforced with fragments of broad leaved woodland. In contrast, the cnoc are open with extensive views over the undulating terrain, and beyond the landscape type.

Settlement

The topography of the landscape creates small areas of potential occupation, around the shores of freshwater lochs and small bays. Typically these sites show evidence of use and reuse over thousands of years, often with prehistoric remains incorporated into later walls and structures. Neolithic cairns, often quite small, survive only as megalithic chambers, with their stones reused to build adjacent field walls, and small standing stones can be found within Cleared townships, as at Arnish and Torran, on Raasay. Tidal fish traps, and small, individual piers and jetties, are typical of shorelines in these landscapes.

Perception

The predominance of exposed rock and thin, poor and waterlogged soils have left these areas largely unsettled and generally free from roads. Occasional minor roads, tracks, scattered crofts, small jetties, pockets of improved grassland, and very small conifer plantations are found in lower, sheltered locations usually close to the coast. These uses tend to be fitted into the landform, and rarely have a prominent or cumulative visual presence. The overwhelming raw, apparently natural, exposed nature of these landscapes and island locations impart a strong sense of remoteness and wild character.

This is one of 390 Landscape Character Types identified at a scale of 1:50 000 as part of a national programme of Landscape Character Assessment republished in 2019.

The area covered by this Landscape Character Type was originally included in the Skye & Lochalsh LCA (Caroline Stanton), published 1996; and Skye & Lochalsh LCA review (Deb Munro), produced 2014.

ISLE OF RONA PLANT LISTS

TREES AND SHRUBS

Compiled by Bill Cowie & James Fenton, 18 July 2025

Native to Rona

Aspen	*Populus tremula*	Many stands on cliffs and steep ground
Creeping willow	*Salix repens*	Low growing; occasional on moorland
Downy birch	*Betula nana*	Abundant
Goat willow	*Salix caprea*	Occasional
Grey willow	*Salix cinerea*	Occasional
Eared sallow	*Salix aurita*	Common
Hazel	*Corylus avellan*	Occasional
Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*	A few trees, with some recent regeneration; also planted in places
Juniper	*Juniperus communis*	Occasional on dry moorland
Rowan	*Sorbus aucuparia*	Occasional
Scots pine	*Pinus sylvestris*	A few trees in the northern half of the island, probably native; also in plantations

Trees in the Victorian plantation

Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	
Austrian/Corsican pine	*Pinus niigra*	
Beech	*Fagus sylvatica*	
European larch	*Larix decidua*	
Hybrid larch	*Larix x marschlinsii*	
Lime	*Tilia cordata*	
Lodgepole pine	*Pinus contorta*	
Pedunculate oak	*Quercus robur*	
Scots pine	*Pynus sylvestris*	Some regeneration from these

Other trees and shrubs

Alder	*Alnus glutinosa*	Planted in an enclosure and seeding out; probably not native?
Ash	*Fraxinus excelsior*	In the Victorian plantation, but also planted elsewhere (but did not survive)
Bamboo	*?sp*	One stand: see map on page 12
Holly	*Ilex aquifolium*	Planted recently, but could be native?
Lodgepole pine	*Pinus contorta*	Self-seeded in places along the Dry Harbour path and along the east coast
Osier	*Salix viminalis*	By the schoolhouse in Dry Harbour; introduced 100 years ago for baskets, creels &c
Rhododendron	*Rh. ponticum*	One stand on Eilein Garbh; see map on page 12
Sitka spruce	*Picea sitchensis*	Some rare self-seeded plants, either self-seeded from across the Sound, or introduced in hay

ISLE OF RONA PLANT LIST

including flowers, grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns
Compiled by Stephen Bungard, last updated in 2008
309 species identified, comprising a typical flora for this geographical location and soil type

Latin name	English name
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow
Achillea ptarmica	Sneezewort
Agrostis canina sens. lat.	Velvet Bent
Agrostis capillaris	Common Bent
Agrostis stolonifera	Creeping Bent / Fiorin
Agrostis vinealis	Brown Bent
Aira praecox	Early Hair-grass
Ajuga reptans	Bugle
Alnus glutinosa	Alder
Alopecurus geniculatus	Marsh Foxtail
Anagallis minima	Chaffweed
Angelica sylvestris	Wild Angelica
Antennaria dioica	Mountain Everlasting
Anthoxanthum odoratum	Sweet Vernal Grass
Aphanes arvensis	Parsley-piert
Aphanes australis	Slender Parsley-piert
Arctium nemorosum	Wood Burdock
Arctostaphylos uva-ursi	Bearberry
Armeria maritima	Thrift / Sea Pink
Arrhenatherum elatius var. bulbosum	False Oat-Grass
Asplenium adiantum-nigrum	Black Spleenwort
Asplenium marinum	Sea Spleenwort
Asplenium ruta-muraria	Wall-rue
Asplenium trichomanes	Maidenhair Spleenwort
Athyrium filix-femina	Lady Fern
Atriplex glabriuscula	Babington's Orache
Atriplex praecox	Early Orache
Atriplex prostrata	Spear-leaved Orache
Bellis perennis	Daisy
Betula pubescens	Downy Birch
Blechnum spicant	Hard Fern
Blysmus rufus	Saltmarsh Flat Sedge
Brachypodium sylvaticum	Wood False-brome
Calamagrostis epigejos	Wood Small-reed
Callitriche stagnalis	Common Water-starwort
Calluna vulgaris	Heather / Ling
Caltha palustris	Marsh Marigold
Capsella bursa-pastoris	Shepherd's-purse
Cardamine flexuosa	Wavy Bitter-cress
Cardamine pratensis	Cuckooflower / Lady's Smock
Carex binervis	Green-ribbed Sedge
Carex dioica	Dioecious Sedge
Carex echinata	Star Sedge
Carex extensa	Long-bracted Sedge
Carex flacca	Glaucous Sedge
Carex x fulva	Tawny/Yellow sedge hybrid
Carex hostiana	Tawny Sedge
Carex laevigata	Smooth-Stalked Sedge
Carex lasiocarpa	Slender Sedge
Carex nigra	Common Sedge
Carex otrubae	False Fox-sedge
Carex ovalis	Oval Sedge
Carex pallescens	Pale Sedge
Carex panicea	Carnation Sedge
Carex pilulifera	Pill Sedge
Carex pulicaris	Flea Sedge
Carex remota	Remote Sedge
Carex rostrata	Bottle Sedge
Carex viridula subsp. brachyrhyncha	Long-stalked Yellow Sedge
C. viridula subsp. oedocarpa	Common Yellow Sedge
C. viridula subsp. viridula	Small-fruited Yellow Sedge
Centaurea nigra	Knapweed / Hardhead
Cerastium diffusum	Sea Mouse-ear
Cerastium fontanum	Common Mouse-ear
Cerastium glomeratum	Sticky Mouse-ear
Chara virgata	Delicate Stonewort
Chrysosplenium oppositifolium	Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage
Cirsium arvense	Creeping Thistle
Cirsium palustre	Marsh Thistle
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle
Cladium mariscus	Great Fen-sedge
Cochlearia officinalis	Common Scurvygrass
Conopodium majus	Pignut
Corylus avellana	Hazel
Crepis capillaris	Smooth Hawk's-beard
Crepis paludosa	Marsh Hawk's-beard
Cynosurus cristatus	Crested Dog's-tail
Dactylorhiza fuchsii	Common Spotted-orchid
D. incarnata subsp. incarnata	Early Marsh Orchid
D. incarnata subsp. pulchella	Early Marsh Orchid
D. maculata subsp. ericetorum	Heath Spotted Orchid
Dactylorhiza purpurella	Northern Marsh Orchid
Danthonia decumbens	Heath-grass
Deschampsia cespitosa	Tufted Hair-grass
Deschampsia flexuosa	Wavy Hair-grass
Digitalis purpurea	Foxglove
Drosera anglica	Great Sundew
Drosera intermedia	Oblong-leaved Sundew
Drosera rotundifolia	Round-leaved Sundew
Drosera x obovata	Sundew hybrid
Dryopteris aemula	Hay-scented Buckler-fern
Dryopteris affinis	Scaly Male Fern
Dryopteris dilatata	Common Buckler-fern
Dryopteris filix-mas	Common Male Fern
Eleocharis multicaulis	Many-stemmed Spike-rush
Eleocharis palustris	Common Spike-rush
Eleocharis quinqueflora	Few-flowered Spike-rush
Eleogiton fluitans	Floating Spike-rush
Empetrum nigrum subsp. nigrum	Crowberry

Epilobium brunnescens	New Zealand Willow-herb
Epilobium montanum	Broad-leaved Willowherb
Epilobium obscurum	Short-fruited Willow-herb
Epilobium palustre	Marsh Willowherb
Epilobium parviflorum	Hoary Willowherb
Equisetum arvense	Field Horsetail
Equisetum fluviatile	Water Horsetail
Equisetum palustre	Marsh Horsetail
Equisetum sylvaticum	Wood Horsetail
Erica cinerea	Bell Heather
Erica tetralix	Cross-leaved Heath
Eriophorum angustifolium	Cottongrass / Bog Cotton
Eriophorum latifolium	Broad-leaved Cottongrass
Eriophorum vaginatum	Hare's-tail / Bog Cotton
Eupatorium cannabinum	Hemp-agrimony
Euphrasia heslop-harrisonii	Eyebright sp.
Euphrasia officinalis agg.	Eyebright
Fagus sylvatica	Beech
Festuca ovina agg.	Sheep's Fescue
Festuca rubra agg.	Red Fescue
Festuca vivipara	Viviparous Fescue
Filipendula ulmaria	Meadowsweet
Fragaria vesca	Wild Strawberry
Fraxinus excelsior	Ash
Galium aparine	Sticky Willie
Galium palustre	Marsh Bedstraw
Galium saxatile	Heath Bedstraw
Geranium dissectum	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
Geum rivale	Water Avens
Glaux maritima	Sea-milkwort
Glyceria fluitans	Flote-grass
Gymnadenia conopsea subsp. borealis	Fragrant Orchid
Hedera helix	Ivy
Helictotrichon pubescens	Downy Oat-grass
Hieracium aggregate	Hawkweed
Holcus lanatus	Yorkshire-fog
Holcus mollis	Creeping Soft-grass
Huperzia selago	Fir Clubmoss
Hyacinthoides non-scripta	Bluebell / Wild Hyacinth
Hydrocotyle vulgaris	Marsh Pennywort
Hymenophyllum wilsonii	Wilson's Filmy Fern
Hypericum pulchrum	Slender St. John's-wort
Hypericum tetrapterum	Square-stalked St. John's-wort
Hypochaeris radicata	Common Cat's-ear
Ilex aquifolium	Holly
Iris pseudacorus	Yellow Iris / Yellow Flag
Isolepis setacea	Bristle Club-rush
Juncus acutiflorus	Sharp-flowered Rush
Juncus ambiguus	Frog Rush
Juncus articulatus	Jointed Rush
Juncus bufonius	Toad Rush
Juncus bulbosus	Bulbous Rush
Juncus conglomeratus var. conglomeratus	Compact Rush
Juncus conglomeratus var. subuliflorus	Compact Rush
Juncus effusus	Soft Rush
Juncus effusus var. spiralis	Soft Rush
Juncus foliosus	Leafy Rush
Juncus gerardii	Saltmarsh Rush
Juniperus communis subsp. nana	Juniper
Larix decidua	Larch
Larix x marschlinsii	Hybrid Larch
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling
Leontodon autumnalis	Autumnal Hawkbit
Ligusticum scoticum	Scots Lovage
Linum catharticum	Fairy Flax
Listera cordata	Lesser Twayblade
Lolium perenne	Common Rye-grass
Lonicera periclymenum	Honeysuckle
Lotus corniculatus	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
Luzula campestris	Field Wood-rush
Luzula multiflora subsp. congesta	Heath Wood-rush
Luzula multiflora subsp. multiflora	Heath Wood-rush
Luzula pilosa	Hairy Wood-rush
Luzula sylvatica	Great Wood-rush
Lychnis flos-cuculi	Ragged Robin
Lycopus europaeus	Gipsywort
Lysimachia nemorum	Yellow Pimpernel
Lythrum salicaria	Purple-loosestrife
Melampyrum pratense	Common Cow-wheat
Mentha aquatica	Water Mint
Menyanthes trifoliata	Bogbean
Molinia caerulea	Purple Moor-grass
Montia fontana	Blinks
Myosotis discolor	Changing Forget-me-not
Myosotis laxa	Tufted Forget-me-not
Myosotis scorpioides	Water Forget-me-not
Myosotis secunda	Creeping Forget-me-not
Myrica gale	Bog Myrtle
Myriophyllum alterniflorum	Alternate-leaved Water-milfoil
Nardus stricta	Mat-grass
Narthecium ossifragum	Bog Asphodel
Nymphaea alba subsp. alba	White Water Lily
Oenanthe crocata	Hemlock Water-dropwort
Ophioglossum azoricum	Small Adder's-tongue
Oreopteris limbosperma	Lemon-scented Fern
Oxalis acetosella	Wood-sorrel
Pedicularis palustris	Marsh Lousewort / Red Rattle
Pedicularis sylvatica ssp. hibernica	Lousewort
P. sylvatica subsp. sylvatica	Lousewort
Persicaria hydropiper	Water-pepper
Persicaria maculosa	Redshank / Redleg
Phegopteris connectilis	Beech Fern
Phleum pratense	Timothy
Phragmites australis	Common Reed
Picea sitchensis	Sitka Spruce
Pilosella officinarum	Mouse-ear-hawkweed
Pinguicula lusitanica	Pale Butterwort
Pinguicula vulgaris	Common Butterwort
Pinus contorta	Lodgepole Pine
Pinus nigra	Austrian / Corsican Pine
Pinus sylvestris	Scots Pine
Plantago coronopus	Buck's-horn Plantain
Plantago lanceolata	Ribwort Plantain
Plantago major	Greater / Rat's-tail Plantain
Plantago maritima	Sea Plantain
Platanthera bifolia	Lesser Butterfly-orchid
Poa annua	Annual Meadow-grass
Poa humilis	Spreading Meadow-grass

Poa nemoralis	Wood Meadow-grass
Poa pratensis	Smooth Meadow-grass
Poa trivialis	Rough Meadow-grass
Polygala serpyllifolia	Heath Milkwort
Polygonum arenastrum	Equal-leaved Knotgrass
Polypodium vulgare	Common Polypody
Populus tremula	Aspen
Potamogeton natans	Broad-leaved Pondweed
Potamogeton polygonifolius	Bog Pondweed
Potentilla anserina	Silverweed
Potentilla erecta	Tormentil
Potentilla palustris	Marsh Cinquefoil
Primula vulgaris	Primrose
Prunella vulgaris	Self heal
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken
Puccinellia maritima	Common Saltmarsh-grass
Quercus robur	Pedunculate oak
Ranunculus acris	Meadow Buttercup
Ranunculus ficaria subsp. ficaria	Celandine
Ranunculus flammula subsp. flammula	Lesser Spearwort
Ranunculus flammula subsp. scoticus	Lesser Spearwort
Ranunculus repens	Creeping Buttercup
Rheum x hybridum	Rhubarb
Rhynchospora alba	White Beak-sedge
Rosa caesia ssp. vosagiaca	Dog Rose
Rosa canina	Dog Rose
Rosa sherardii	Sherard's Downy-rose
Rubus fruticosus agg.	Bramble / Blackberry
Rubus idaeus	Raspberry
Rubus mucronulatus	Bramble sp
Rumex acetosa	Common Sorrel
Rumex acetosella	Sheep's Sorrel
Rumex crispus	Curled Dock
Rumex obtusifolius	Broad-leaved Dock
Sagina procumbens	Procumbent Pearlwort
Salix aurita	Eared Willow
Salix caprea	Goat Willow
Salix cinerea subsp. oleifolia	Grey Willow
Salix repens	Creeping Willow
Salix viminalis	Osier / Common Osier
Salix x reichardtii	S. caprea x cinerea
Sanicula europaea	Sanicle
Schoenus nigricans	Black Bog-rush
Scrophularia nodosa	Common Figwort
Scutellaria galericulata	Skullcap
Scutellaria minor	Lesser Skullcap
Sedum anglicum	English Stonecrop
Sedum rosea	Rose-root
Selaginella selaginoides	Lesser Clubmoss
Senecio aquaticus	Marsh Ragwort
Senecio jacobaea	Common Ragwort
Solidago virgaurea	Goldenrod
Sonchus asper	Prickly Sow-thistle
Sorbus aucuparia	Rowan
Sparganium angustifolium	Floating Bur-reed
Sparganium natans	Least Bur-reed
Spergularia media	Greater Sea-spurrey
Stachys sylvatica	Hedge Woundwort
Stellaria holostea	Greater Stitchwort
Stellaria media	Common Chickweed
Stellaria uliginosa	Bog Stitchwort
Succisa pratensis	Devil's-bit Scabious
Suaeda maritima	Annual Sea-blite
Taraxacum aggregate	Dandelion
Teucrium scorodonia	Wood Sage
Thymus polytrichus	Wild Thyme
Tilia x europaea	Lime
Trichophorum cespitosum subsp. germanicum	Deer Grass
Trifolium pratense	Red Clover
Trifolium repens	White Clover
Triglochin maritimum	Sea Arrowgrass
Triglochin palustre	Marsh Arrowgrass
Tripleurospermum maritimum	Sea Mayweed
Ulex europaeus	Gorse / Whin
Ulmus glabra	Wych Elm
Urtica dioica	Stinging Nettle
Utricularia intermedia sens. lat.	Intermediate Bladderwort
Utricularia minor	Lesser Bladderwort
Utricularia vulgaris sens. lat.	Greater Bladderwort
Vaccinium myrtillus	Blaeberry
Valeriana officinalis	Common Valerian
Veronica beccabunga	Brooklime
Veronica chamaedrys	Germander Speedwell
Veronica officinalis	Heath Speedwell
Veronica scutellata	Marsh Speedwell
Veronica serpyllifolia	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
Vicia sepium	Bush Vetch
Viola palustris	Marsh Violet
Viola riviniana	Common Dog-violet
Vulpia bromoides	Squirrel-tail Fescue