

You may be lucky to see where the grey seals come ashore and use the beaches to pup



Grey Seal pup by The Highland Council

Dolphins often come into sheltered bays like Dunnet to feed and play



Risso's dolphins by WDCS/Charlie Phillips

You can enjoy the scenery as well as watch for wildlife



Cliff scenery at Dunnet Head, Iain Sarjeant, the Caithness Collection



Seadrift Visitor Centre, Dunnet by The Highland Council

The Wild Coastal Trail

The Scottish Highlands have some of the world's best places to watch whales and dolphins from the shore. In order to help you enjoy our wonderful marine wildlife, we have created a Wild Coastal Trail introducing you to the best sites around our coastline.

Join me and discover eight specially selected places on the Trail. Use this leaflet to find each place, then either call me from there or you can find out more at www.highland.gov.uk/countrysiderangers You can download the Wild Coastal Trail booklet from there too.



Wild Coastal Trail Slighe Cladaich Fhiadhaich

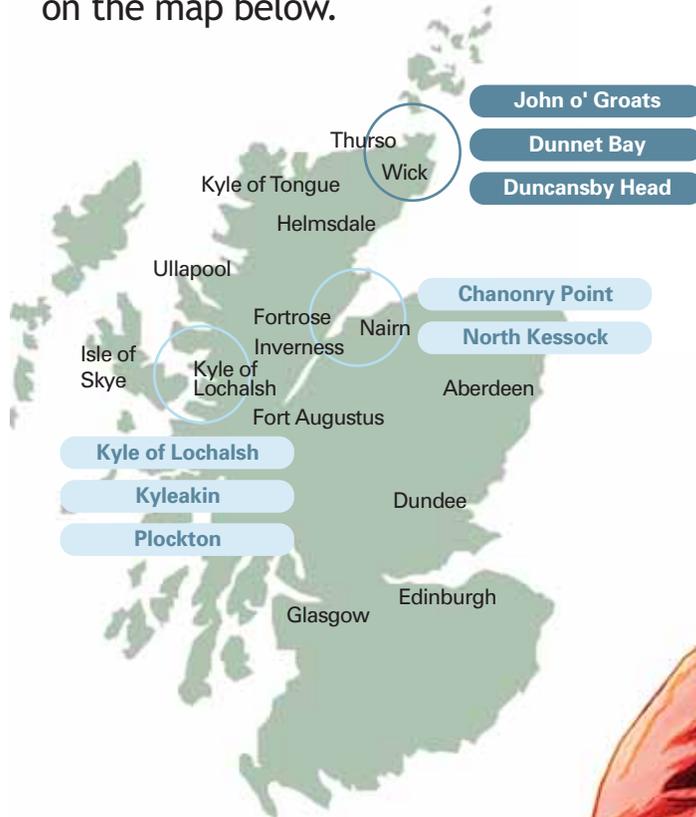
Hello, Cameron the Ranger here!
Why don't you join me to learn more about our Highland coastal wildlife?



Cameron the Ranger ©

Caithness
Gallaibh

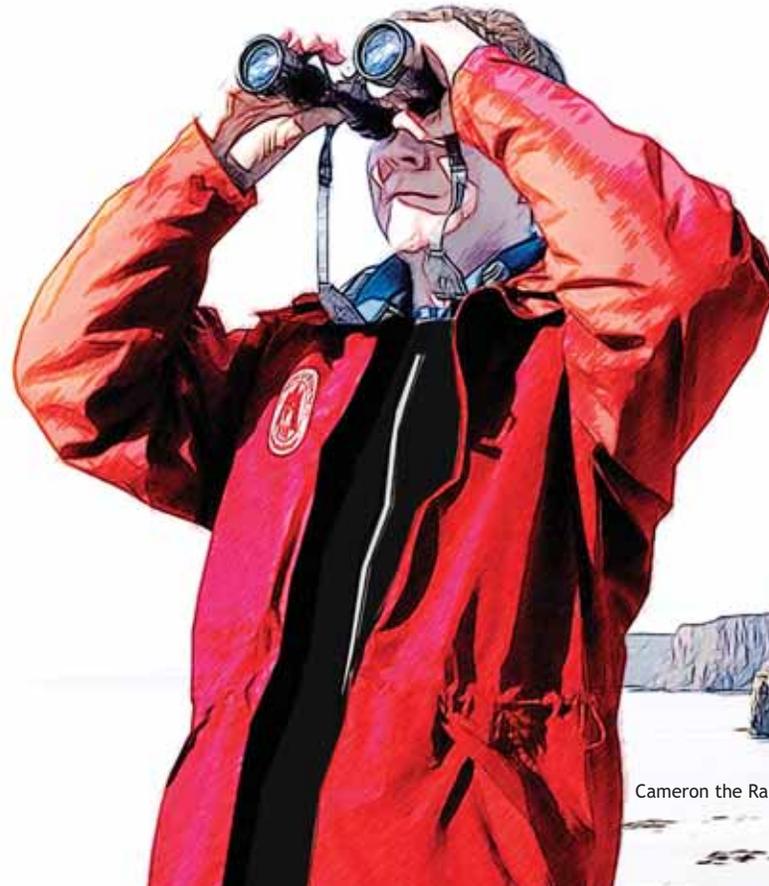
I'd like to be your guide at some special places on the Wild Coastal Trail. Why don't you visit me at the sites highlighted on the map below.



Caithness

The landscape of Caithness, here on the north-east corner of the British mainland, is an ancient one. The 700 or so square miles of Caithness are mainly flat, contrasting with the more rugged Highlands to the west and south. It is the north and east coast where the dramatic scenery lies, as you'll see when you follow the Wild Coastal Trail. The stormy waters of the Pentland Firth and the North Sea are never still, even on the finest of days, and they teem with wildlife.

Dolphins, porpoises and seals come into bays like Dunnet Bay to feed and play. You can learn more about them and other marine wildlife at the Seadrift Visitor Centre in the summer months. At nearby John o'Groats you can stand overlooking the harbour and watch the busy sea. While at Duncansby the view from the cliff top is stunning.



Cameron the Ranger ©

And you should get to know my colleagues, the Countryside Rangers. They run many events and guided walks which aim to help raise awareness and encourage appreciation of the scenery, wildlife and heritage of the Highlands. These events are aimed at local communities and visitors alike.

Further details about the Countryside Rangers can be found at www.highland.gov.uk/countrysiderangers and they'll be delighted if you get in touch.

Remember to keep in touch with me at www.facebook.com/thewildcoastaltrail

How to find us...

John o' Groats

0901 549 0030

Calls cost 75p + network extras

Call Cameron and he'll describe what you might see here

Travelling from the south via the A9, take the A99 signposted to John o'Groats. If travelling from Thurso to the west, follow the A836 passing through Castletown, Dunnet and past Gill's Bay. A popular location for tourists, John o'Groats has a large car park. The interpretation panel overlooks the harbour. (ND 382732)

Dunnet Bay

0901 549 0031

Calls cost 75p + network extras

Call Cameron and he'll describe what you might see here

Travelling from Thurso to the west, take the A836 passing through Castletown. If travelling from John o'Groats harbour, turn right off the A99 and follow the A836 past Gill's Bay. There is ample car parking here or across the road where there are delightful forest walks. The interpretation panel is beside the paths leading to the beach. (ND 219703)

Duncansby Head

0901 549 0032

Calls cost 75p + network extras

Call Cameron and he'll describe what you might see here

Travelling from the south via the A9, take the A99 signposted to John o'Groats. Shortly before the sign for the A836 to the left, take the road to the right signposted Duncansby. If travelling from Thurso to the west, follow the A836 passing through Castletown, Dunnet and past Gill's Bay. Turn right on to the A99, away from John o'Groats, then left signposted Duncansby. The road ends at the car park where you can find the interpretation panel. (ND 405733)

Callers must be 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. The Highland Council receives 40p from each call and this will be used to maintain and develop the Wild Coastal Trail. Service Provider Monster Communications Ltd, helpline 08456521070.

