



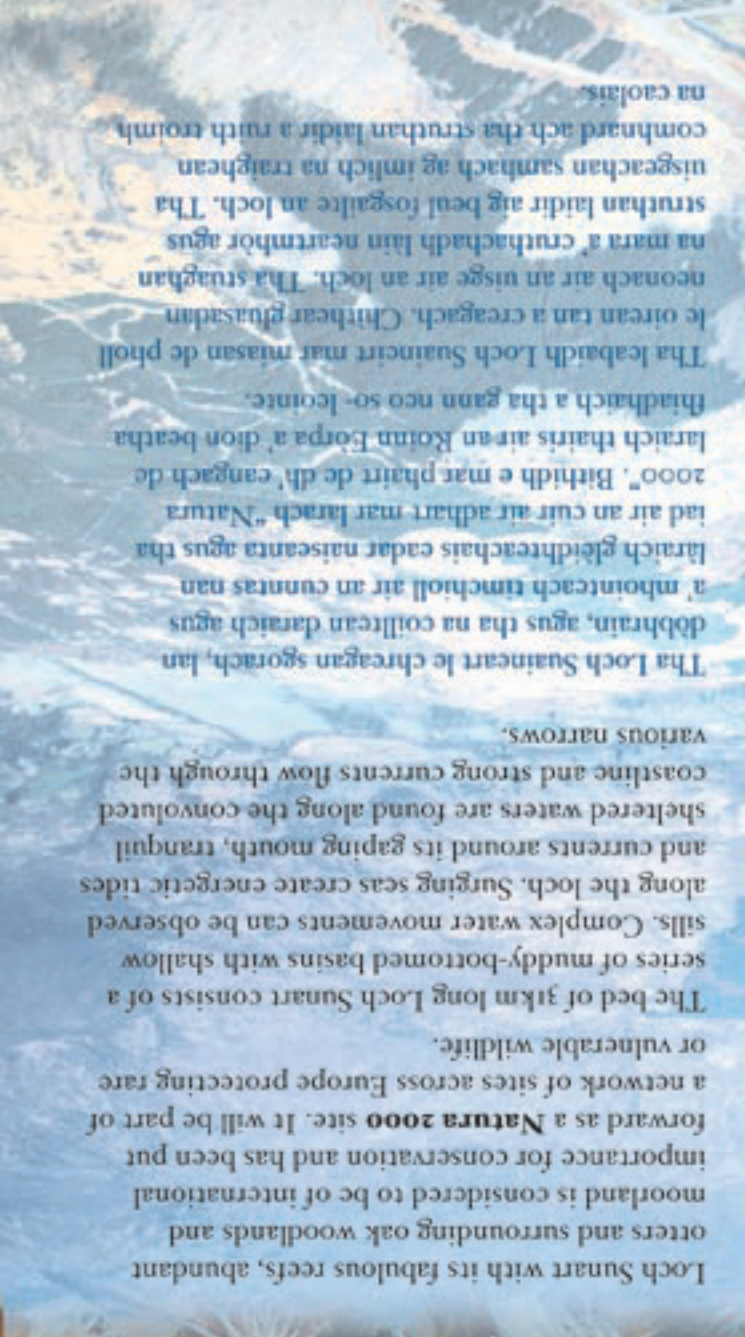
Sunart - hidden treasures of the loch

Loch Sunart with its fabulous reefs, abundant otters and surrounding oak woodlands and moorland is considered to be of international importance for conservation and has been put forward as a **Natura 2000** site. It will be part of a network of sites across Europe protecting rare or vulnerable wildlife.

The bed of 31km long Loch Sunart consists of a series of muddy-bottomed basins with shallow sills. Complex water movements can be observed along the loch. Surging seas create energetic tides and currents around its gaping mouth, tranquil sheltered waters are found along the convoluted coastline and strong currents flow through the various narrows.

The Loch Sunart le chreagan sgorach, lan dòbhrain, agus tha na coillean darach agus a' mhòinteach timcheall air an cunntas nan làraich glèidhteachais eadar naiseanta agus tha iad air an cuir air adhart mar làrach "Natura 2000". Bithidh e mar phàirt de dh'cangach de làraich thairis air an Roinn Eòrpa a' dìon beatha fhìdhach a tha gan nco-so-leointe.

The leabaidh Loch Sunart mar miasan de pholl le oirean tan a creagach. Chithhear ghiasadan neomach air an uisge air an loch. Tha srughan na mara a' cruthachadh làn nearmhòr agus sruthan làidir aig beul fosgailte an loch. Tha uisgeachan samhach ag imhich na craighean comharrach ach tha sruthan làidir a' ruith troimh na caolais.



Suaineart - luach dìomhair ma loch

Loch Sunart is home **dachaidh** to common and grey seals, and occasionally visited by dolphins and porpoises. The seals feed **ag ithe** in the sea but regularly haul out on rocks **creagan** and beaches to rest, breed or moult. The common seal's **ròn** head has a more dog-like appearance and tends to be smaller than the grey seal **ròn glas** which has a longer, hooked nose. The newly built Garbh Eilean wildlife hide is situated in the forest at Ardery on a rocky knoll overlooking islands in Loch Sunart. From here seals, nesting sea birds **coin mara** a' neadachadh and a heronry may be seen with occasional views of otter and eagles. Built from timber with a turf roof **mullach tughaidh**, the hide has full access for disabled people including wheelchair users.

The Sunart Oakwoods Initiative is a partnership between the community and local agencies including Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, Lochaber Enterprise and the Highland Council. It aims to restore and expand the native woodlands of the Sunart area to create an extensive forest bringing conservation, economic and amenity benefits to the local community. The area involved extends from Loch Sunart south to the Sound of Mull, north to Moidart and west to the Ardnamurchan Point.

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www.sunartoakwoods.org.uk



Cover pictures: Loch Sunart, grey seal swimming, sealoch anemone. Photos/illustrations by Laurie Campbell, Robin Holt, George Logan. Leaflet designed by SS Crone Design (sscrone.com). Printed by Warners Midlands plc.

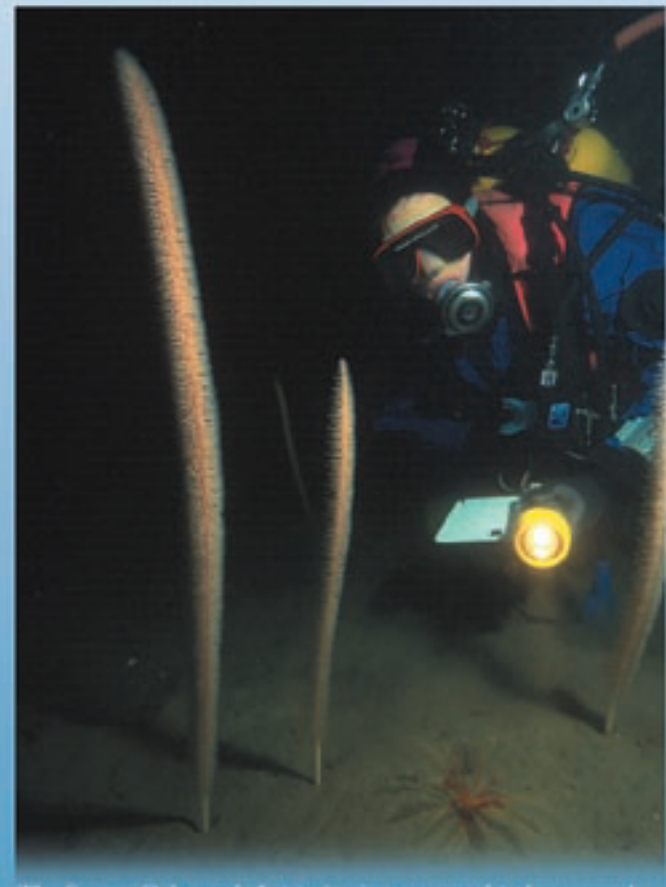
Marine mammals

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Profile showing the difference between a grey seal (left) and a common seal (right).

Common seal.



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