

## The Great Moss

This is one of Scotland's oldest landscapes, with 5000 years of history locked in its layers of peat. From any viewpoint you'll see how the surface of the bog has formed a huge, shallow dome. Moine Mhòr is also one of the few landscapes in Britain which takes in saltmarsh, peat bog, woodland and hillside.

## A' Mhòine Mhòr

Seo cumadh-tìre cho sean 's a th' ann an Alba, le 5000 bliadhna de dh'eachdraidh glaiste sa mhòine. Bho ionad-seallaidh sam biith, chì thu mar a chruthaich uachdar na boglaich cuach mhòr, staoin. Chan eil mòran chumaidhean-tìre ann am Breatainn, seach a' Mhòine Mhòr, sa bheil fideach, mòine, coille agus slios beinne.

Morning mist over the Great Moss



Golden-ringed dragonfly

## A watery grave

Plants in peat bogs don't rot away. Bacteria that help the decaying process can't survive such acidic conditions. Peat slowly forms from the squashed remains of dead plants.

A peat bog is nine-tenths water. Sphagnum moss on the surface soaks it up like a sponge, slowing the rate at which stored rainwater is released. Left undisturbed, peat bogs help curb climate change by storing carbon dioxide for thousands of years.

## San uisge

Cha bhi lusan ann am poll-mòna a' lobhadh às. Cha bhi bacteria a chuidicheas le lobhadh beò ann an suidheachadh cho searbhadhach. Bidh mòine a' fàs mean air mhean bho fhugheall lusan marbh air an dlùthadh.

'S e uisge a th' ann an naoi deicheamhan de pholl-mòna. Bidh a' mhòinteach-liath air uachdar ga shùghadh, agus a' slaodachadh an reat aig am bi uisge air a stòradh ga leigeil mu sgaoil. Mura tèid buntainn dhaibh, cuidichidh puill-mhòna a' cumail smachd air atharrachadh gnàth-shìde le bhith a' stòradh carbon dà-ogsaid fad mhiltean bhliadhnanachan.



Vibrant sphagnum moss colours

## A carpet of colour

Moine Mhòr is like a richly coloured carpet, especially in autumn when sphagnum mosses and grasses turn gold, russet and brown. Bog asphodel, heather, cotton grasses and sedges add splashes of yellow, purple, green and white. Tickle another of your senses by rubbing a bog myrtle leaf in your fingers.

## Brat dathach

Tha a' Mhòine Mhòr coltach ri brat dathach, gu h-àraidh as fhoghar nuair a dh'fhàsas mòinteach-liath agus còinneach òr-bhuidhe, donn is ruadh. Bidh bliochan, fraoch, canach is seasg a' cur buidhe, purpaidh, uaine is geal ris. Suath duilleag roid eadar do chorragan airson a faireachdainn.



Exploring the bog

[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)

## Squelching with life

Listen for the haunting call of the curlew and the chatter of whinchats, stonechats, pipits and warblers in spring. Hen harriers hunt on the Moss and roost in winter. Look for roe deer tracks and antler rubbings on young trees. You might even glimpse an otter near the River Add.

In summer ten kinds of dragonfly search for insects and lay their eggs in bog pools. Caterpillars, including the rare large heath and Scotch argus butterflies, feed on bog plants. Some insects provide food for sundew plants which trap insects in their sticky leaf hairs.

## Làn beatha

Feuch an cluinn thu an guilneach, conasag, clacharan, bigein is ceilearaiichean as tearrach. Bidh clamhan nan cearc a' sealg is a' fuireach air a' Mhòine sa gheamhradh. Seall airson lorgan fèidh is suathadh chròicean air craobhan òga. 'S dòcha gum faic thu biast-dhubh air Abhainn Adair.

As tsamhradh bidh deich seòrsachan tharbhain-nathrach a' lorg bhiastagan agus a' breith uighean sna pollagan. Bidh bratagan, nam measg dealbhan mòr an fhraoich agus argas Alba, ag ithe lusan sa bhoglaich. Tha cuid de bhiastagan nam biadh do ròs an t-solais a ghlacas biastagan sna fuiltein steigeach air na duilleagan.

## Getting there

The car park is two miles south of Kilmartin on the B8025. The Lochgilphead-Oban bus stops in Kilmartin.

## A' faighinn ann

Tha pàirc nan càraichean dà mhìle deas air Cille Mhàrtainn air a' B8025. Bidh am bus eadar an t-Oban is Ceann Loch Gilp a' stad an Cille Mhàrtainn.

## For more information:

Scottish Natural Heritage  
1 Kilmory Industrial Estate  
Lochgilphead, Argyll  
PA31 8RR  
Tel: 01546 603611  
[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)

## Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh:

Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba  
1 Pàirc Gnìomhachais  
Chill Mhoire,  
Ceann Loch Gilp,  
Earra-Ghàidheal PA31 8RR  
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[www.nnr-scotland.org.uk](http://www.nnr-scotland.org.uk)



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Tèarmann Nàdair Nàiseanta  
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Hen harrier



## Footprints in the bog













Moine Mhòr was too marshy to farm. Instead, the first settlers created their stone circles, rock carvings and burial chambers in Kilmartin Glen. They cut peat from the Moss for fuel. Bog plants provided the ingredients for dyes, food, medicines, honey and heather ales.

Moine Mhòr lay undisturbed until the 19th century when the Pottaloch estate drained much of it for farming. Peat fuelled the tile works which made drainage pipes and bricks for the new estate village of Kilmartin. Burning heather encouraged new growth which in turn attracted grouse and shooting parties. Now nature is reclaiming the Moss.

## Lorgan sa bhoglaich

Bha a' Mhòine Mhòr ro bhog airson tuathanachas. An àite sin chruthaich a' chiad luchd-tuineachaidh na cearcaill chlachan, snaighidhean creige agus seòmair tiodhlacaidh ann an Gleann Chille Mhàrtainn. Bhuain iad mòine sa bhoglaich airson connadh. Fhuair iad stuthan airson dath, biadh, iocshlaint, mil agus fraoich bho lusan.

Cha deach dragh a chur air a' Mhòine Mhòr chun an 19mh linn nuair a dhrèan oighreachd Pottaloch mòran dhith airson tuathanachas. Bha mòine na connadh ann an obair nan leacan far an robh pìoban drèanaidh is breicichean gan dèanamh airson baile ùr na h-oighreachd an Cille Mhàrtainn. Bhrosnaich falaisgean am fraoch gus fàs às ùr agus thàlaidh sin buidhnean a bha a' sealg na circe-fraoich is eile. Tha nàdar anis a' gabhail na Mòine thairis às ùr.

-  Reserve boundary
-  Dalriada Heritage Trail
-  Nature trail
-  Canal towpath
-  Car park
-  Picnic area
-  Viewpoint
-  Ancient monument
-  Bird hide
-  Historic feature
-  Native woodland
-  Coniferous plantation



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## Need to know

- For the best views of bogland and estuary and great bird watching all year round, climb Dunadd Hill or take the canal towpath at Bellanoch.
- Pick up a leaflet at the car park and picnic area for the 600 metre, all abilities Tileworks Trail.
- Take warm, waterproof clothes and good footwear as the weather can change quickly.
- We suggest keeping to the main paths as the bog has hidden holes and deep, flooded drains.

## Stiùireadh

- Airson fìor shealladh air boglaich, inbhir is eòin fad na bliadhna, dirich Beinn Dhùn Add no gabh ceum a' chanàil aig Beulanach.
- Tog bileag aig pàirc nan càraichean is an làrach picnic airson Slighe Tileworks a tha 600 meatair is dha gach comas.
- Thoir leat aodach blàth, dìonach agus deagh chaisbheart oir faodaidh an t-side atharrachadh gu luath.
- Mholamaid cumail ri na prìomh shlighean oir tha tuill am falach sa bhoglaich, agus drèanaichean domhainn, làn uisge.

## Rising damp

When the last Ice Age ended 10,000 years ago, rising sea levels covered Kilmartin Glen in marine clay. Then, released from the weight of glaciers, the land bounced back creating a shallow estuary at the mouth of the river Add. Coastal saltmarsh spread while a freshwater loch formed inland. Gradually layers of peat filled the loch. Five thousand years later, the peat is around four metres deep and still growing at the rate of a millimetre a year.

## Tuiltean is tuilleadh

Nuair a chrìochnaich an Linn Deighe mu dheireadh o chionn 10,000 bliadhna, dh'èirich àirde na mara agus chòmhdaich sin Gleann Chille Mhàrtainn le crèadh mara. An uair sin, nuair a dh'fhalbh cuideam nan eigh-shruthan, nochd am fearann a-rithist is chaidh beul-aibhne tana Abhainn Adair a dhealbhadh. Sgap fideach cladaich agus chaidh loch fìor-uisge a chruthachadh a-staigh san tìr. Mean air mhean, lion fillidhean mòna an loch. Còig mìle bliadhna an dèidh sin, tha mu cheithir meatairean a dhoimhne sa mhòine agus tha i a' fàs mìlemeatair sa bhliadhna.

Moine Mhòr and Loch Crinan



## Putting back the clock

A National Nature Reserve since 1987, the Great Moss is becoming great again. We have dammed drainage channels and restored the peat by allowing water levels to rise and sphagnum moss to grow again. The land has been cleared of rhododendron, birch scrub and conifers.

Cattle and sheep graze part of the Moss. This encourages different plants and insects including the important marsh fritillary butterfly as well as breeding and wintering birds.

## A' dol air ais

Mar Thèarmann Nàdair Nàiseanta o 1987, tha a' Mhòine Mhòr a' fàs a-rithist. Chuir sinn damaichean air cladhain drèanaidh is dh'ùraich sinn a' mhòine le leigeil le ìre an uisge èirigh a-rithist agus le mòinteach-liath fàs. Chaidh ròs-chraobh, preaslach beithe is craobhan durcain a ghlanadh far an làraich.

Bidh crodh is caoraich ag ionaltradh air cuid dhen Mhòine. Tha seo a' brosnachadh lusan is bhiasagan, nam measg dealain-dè nam boglaichean, cho math ri eòin ghintinn is gheamhrachaidh.

Damming drains to help regenerate the bog



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