



To all the team at Port Ban Holiday Park,

First let me say a big 'thank you' for taking part in the 2022 [David Bellamy 'Blooming Marvellous' Pledge for Nature](#). By starting the Pledge and being part of this growing movement for positive change, you have shown just how committed you are to doing your bit to help Britain's wildlife.

It is wonderful to see all of the amazing work you've done recently. As your park advisor Karen says, great news that you have left areas of grassland uncut this year to increase the number of wildflowers, making your lovely park even more of a haven for pollinating insects than it was.

Please take a moment to read through your park advisory report – you'll find it full of useful information about how you can move forward to further improve the value of your park to wildlife. I particularly like Karen's suggestions that you invest in a wildlife spotting book/board for reception, along with a couple of field guides. As she says, this will help visitors discover more about the wildlife they can see in the area.

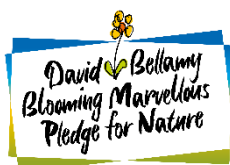
Let me also say 'well done' for winning the [Pollinator Patch](#) challenge. Fiona was very impressed by all the work you'd done and suggests that it could be replicated in other parts of your park.

Please use the "[We've completed the Pollinator Patch](#)" challenge logo to promote your work and what your park has accomplished to show your continued commitment to wildlife.

If there is any way in which I can help, or if you have any questions, please email me on bellamycom1@aol.com.

Wishing you all the best as you move forward with your Blooming Marvellous pledge.

Rufus



Rufus Bellamy

BH&HPA National Adviser on conservation and environmental management





Advisory Visit Report



Park: Port Ban Holiday Park

Advisor: Karen van Eeden

Date of visit: 12.09.2022

Park representative: Jonathan Sheldrick

1. Overview

Port Ban Holiday Park is situated in a beautiful area, rich in wildlife. Port Ban is adjacent to Kilberry Coast SSSI and overlooks the Inner Hebrides and the Minches Special Area for Conservation and the Sound of Gigha Special Protection Area.

The holiday park is new to the David Bellamy scheme, and this was the first advisory visit. As such, we spent time looking around the site, to see how it operates and to identify easy wins for wildlife projects. The good news is that there plenty of things that can be done to enhance the Park for biodiversity.



There are 90 static caravans on site, the majority are privately owned, with around 20 available for hire. There is also a couple of glamping pods and a small campsite. There are plenty of features on and around the park, providing the opportunity to create a haven for wildlife.

Areas of grassland have been left uncut this year to increase the number of wildflowers, making it more suitable for pollinators.

2. Planning

Often the hardest thing is knowing where to start, and that is why it is good to make a plan. You don't need to do everything in one year, take your time, experiment and see what works best for you. Personally, I work best with a map/plan of the campsite but you have also been sent a copy of a plan which you can use to tell us what you are aiming to do over the next few years.

Recommendations:-

- Put together a short term plan, for the next 2-3 years, to enhance the wildlife friendly planting. Get staff involved so that they are aware of the environmental aims of the park and can contribute their ideas.
- Look at the list of Wildlife Challenges and decide what you would like to work on first – this year, your work leaving an area of grassland uncut has allowed orchids to flourish so perhaps identify other suitable areas for this type of management. Next year you might want to plant the native trees along the boundary or improve the wildlife interpretation.

3. Horticultural management

This year, problems recruiting staff has resulted in less vegetation management and grass cutting happening on site. Where it is reasonable to do so, allowing more natural vegetation should be encouraged.

Recommendations:

- Compost grass cuttings and leaves
- Get some ideas from the new Horti-heros challenge briefing sheet, lots of good advice in there to move you up to the next level.

4. Wildlife interpretation and information

There is very little wildlife interpretation currently on site.

Recommendations: -

- A wildlife spotting book/board in reception with a couple of field guides will help visitors discover more about the wildlife seen in the area. The Field Studies Council Guides [Cetaceans and seals guide – Field Studies Council \(field-studies-council.org\)](https://www.field-studies-council.org/guides) are helpful identification charts
- Tell people what you are doing and why it is good for wildlife!
- Create a nature trail or quiz for children to make them explore the Holiday Park and learn some interesting fun facts about wildlife.
- Have a look at the David Bellamy resource sheets for more information and ideas

5. Wildlife activities

The Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation provide talks at Port Ban and guided walks off site. Children's wildlife activities such as seaweed foraging and rock-pooling have been run in the past but since covid staff shortages have meant that they haven't happened recently. This is something that can be undertaken again in the future, staffing permitting.

Recommendations:-

- Take part in the RSPB Wild Challenge and create some new wildlife homes [Wild Challenge Family Activities - The RSPB](https://www.rspb.org.uk/activities/family-activities/)
- Promote local walks and wildlife spotting locations in the area.
- A good resource for rock-pooling [Rocky shore name trail \(encapsulated\) – Field Studies Council \(field-studies-council.org\)](https://www.field-studies-council.org/rock-pooling/)
- Scottish Wildlife Trust resources [Learning Resources Archive | Scottish Wildlife Trust](https://www.scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/learning-resources/)

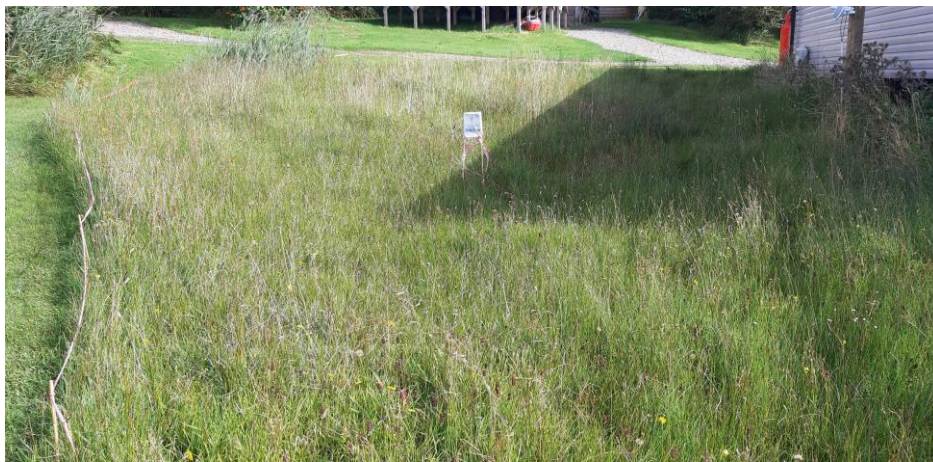
6. Engagement with local wildlife groups and projects

As mentioned above, the Holiday Park already has good connections with the Heart of Argyll Wildlife Organisation so it might be worth contacting them and seeing if there are any projects you can work on together, they might help run a wildflower identification event for example.

- RSPB pin badges are an easy way to support a wildlife charity, lots of lovely designs for visitors to choose from. [RSPB collectable pin badges](#) | [The RSPB](#)

7. Grassland areas

It was wonderful to see that an area of grassland was left uncut to encourage wildflowers.

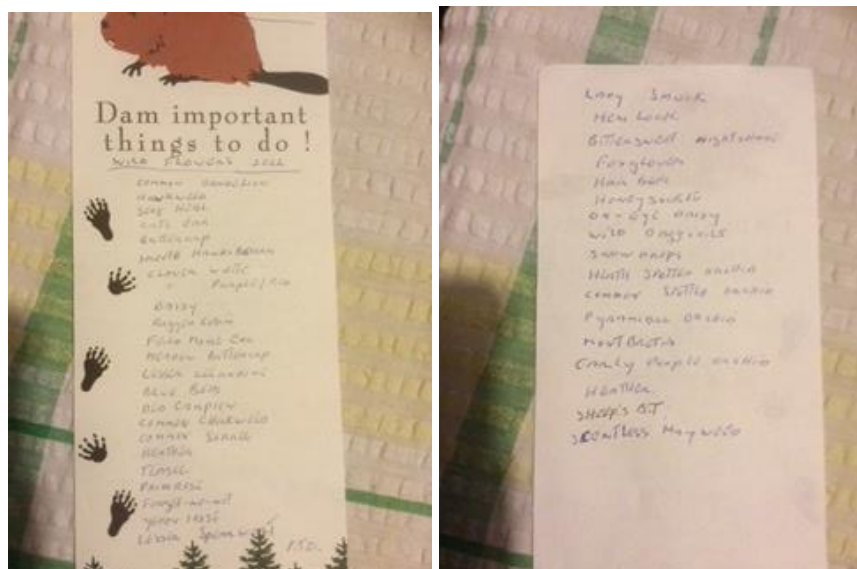


Picture taken in Sept 2022



Orchids/wildflower area for pollinator patch 2022 (picture supplied by Jonathan Sheldrick)

Areas of grassland have been left un-cut in areas known to be good for orchids. A local caravan owner has been recording the different flowers. The area in the photo above supported over 70 orchid spikes this year.



Recommendations:

- Mow the wildflower area in September and lift the cuttings to reduce the amount of nutrients in the soil
- Introduce yellow rattle. This plant help reduce the vigour of grass, allowing more native wildflowers to colonise. [Yellow Rattle \(*Rhinanthus minor*\) – Scotia Seeds](#)

8. Formal gardens

There is no formal garden areas on site, in the past there was an old boat planted with flowers. Around the reception area planters could be added.

Recommendations: -

- Make this area better for pollinators by adding in some wildlife friendly planting
- [Plants for Pollinators advice and downloadable lists / RHS Gardening](#)
- [Gardening for butterflies | Butterfly Conservation \(butterfly-conservation.org\)](#)

9. Areas around pitches



The caravans around the site are well spaced out, some have vegetated bunds, others have huge natural rock formations, reeds or grass.



Recommendation: -

In areas where there are more caravans concentrated, more wildflower areas could be created.



10. Rivers, streams, ponds and wetland areas



There are two burns on site. The burn furthest from the main holiday park is more natural in character. The burn that runs next to the caravans is over-grown in places, with more garden species dominating.

It was lovely to see the large pond that was dug around 5 years ago. I am sure it will attract a large variety of wildlife as it

matures. The one thing which needs to be addressed is the Himalayan balsam which is beginning to dominate in places. Himalayan Balsam is an invasive species and although it can look quite attractive, it does need to be controlled. Here is a link to explain more about the species and ways to control it. [Himalayan Balsam | Scottish Invasive Species Initiative](#)

Recommendation:

- Control Himalayan Balsam around pond

11. Trees, hedges and woodland (within park)



Some spruce planting has been done along one boundary.

Around 100 native trees have been purchased and are due to be planted this winter. The mixture of trees contains sessile oak, bird cherry, rowan and birch.

The tree planting is being done as part of an old planning condition to create a natural screen from neighbouring properties.

Recommendations: -

Follow Woodland Trust guidance to help give your new trees the best start [How to Plant Trees - Plant Trees - Woodland Trust](#)

12. Boundary areas

The site is quite extensive with 1.5 miles of coastline, a burn, a drystone dyke boundary next to the SSSI and along the top of the site. As a result, the boundary areas offer a variety of habitats for wildlife and are totally in character to the area.

13. Golf courses and other areas

No golf courses on site but there is a mini golf course.

14. Bellamy Challenge 2022

Challenge chosen: Pollinator Patch

Congratulations, you have won this challenge!

By leaving the grass uncut in an area next to one of the caravans you have created a wonderful wildflower area, full of orchids and wildflowers. This has been a hugely successful pollinator patch.

By getting local caravan owners involved in recording the wildflowers in this area, this has helped prove the benefits of leaving areas uncut for wildlife. Tell more people what you have achieved by putting up signage explaining what you are doing and why it benefits nature.

Why not try leaving more areas un-cut in other areas and see what species appear!

15. Bellamy Challenge 2021 update

Challenge chosen: N/A

--

16. Any issues for Pledge team

--