Clyde Marine Birding Cruises - trip report

Trip 1 - Tuesday 26th August 2025. 0900-1700

See map on final page – numbers [1] refer to the map.

The Clyde Marine Birding Cruises commenced with a full complement of eleven birders.

Departing Inverkip [1] at 0900hrs in sunny conditions with a fresh breeze.

We were on Route 1, Inverkip to Arran. The first half of the journey saw us passing between Bute and the Cumbraes [2], Garroch Head and berthing in Lochranza [3]. The wind over tide made for dynamic passage in bits and made counting seabirds a little problematic. But we managed impressive totals and counts of hitherto unidentified wader and gull roosts.

Each section saw us record new species with spectacular **Gannet** frenzies and **Kittiwakes** feeding. As we traversed the Sound of Bute a distant **Arctic Skua** was picked up heading east.

A welcome walk ashore came as we berthed in Lochranza. With two and half hours of 'free time' most went up to the distillery in the hope of **Golden Eagles**. We were not disappointed. An adult was quickly picked up soaring over the village and repeatedly showed giving great views.

Shag © Kristofer Wilson

Golden Eagle © David Stone

On walking back to the boat, a yelping food begging juvenile could be heard. To everyone's amazement, the young eagle took off from rough ground adjacent and flew towards us at head

height. On seeing us it banked sharply, showing all the archetypal detail. An amazing sighting that will live long in the memory.

Given the choppy conditions we elected to return via the scenic route, the Kyles of Bute [4]. A great decision with a summer plumaged **Red-throated Diver** very close to the boat and an excellent **Osprey** at the northern tip of Bute [5].

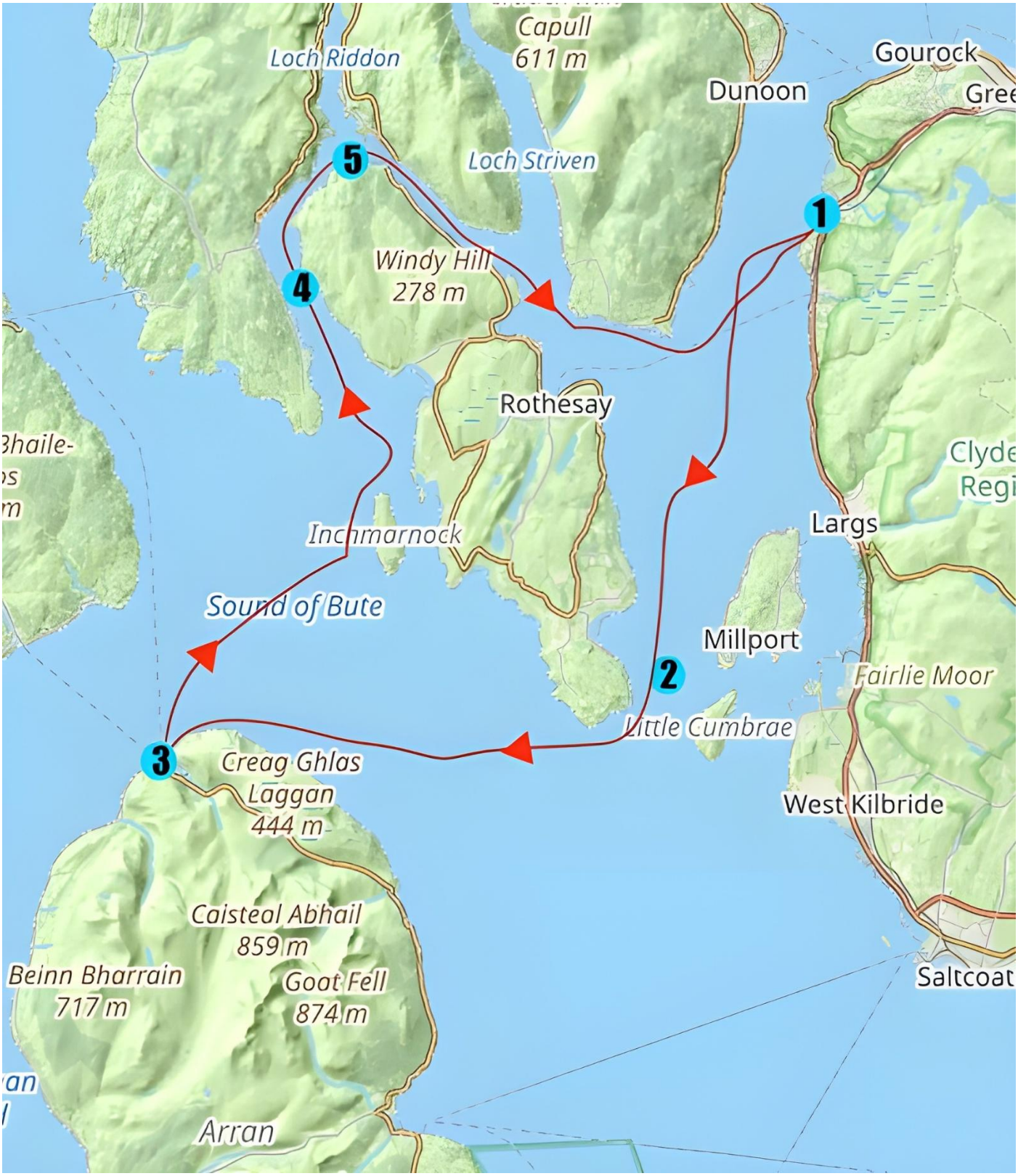
Guillemot © Kristofer Wilson

The dataset is being worked on by the Data Team and will be presented on the website in the near future.

As we got into Inverkip, we all agreed that it had been an exceptional day.

John Simpson

Clyde Area Local Recorder, Clyde Branch SOC



https://www.openstreetmap.org/

Note: boat route is approximate.