

A year in the life of a Saline Lagoons Natural Talent Trainee



Katherine Whyte

Based at National Museums Scotland (Edinburgh)



Where have I been?



- Edinburgh
- Glasgow
- Oban
- Stirling
- South Uist
- Assynt
- North Uist
- Benbecula
- Argyll
- East Lothian
- Rowardennan, Loch Lomond
- Limekilns, Fife
- Millport, Cumbrae
- Denny, Falkirk
- Ullapool
- Grangemouth
- North Berwick

Who have I worked with?



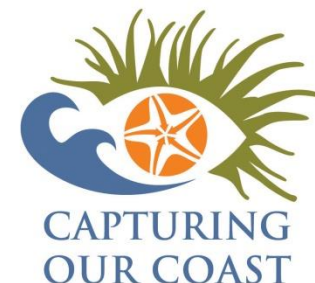
Royal
Botanic Garden
Edinburgh



National
Museums
Scotland



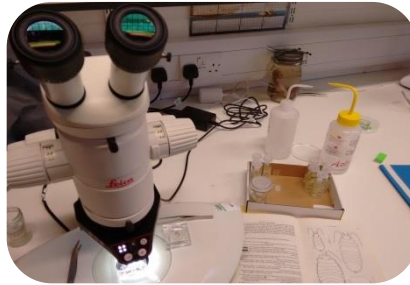
Scottish Natural Heritage
All of nature for all of Scotland



What have I learnt about?



Saline lagoon ecology
and biodiversity



Species identification
and taxonomy



Fieldwork planning,
organisation and risk
assessment



Field survey and
sampling methods



Specimen
preservation and
curation techniques



Environmental
outreach and public
engagement

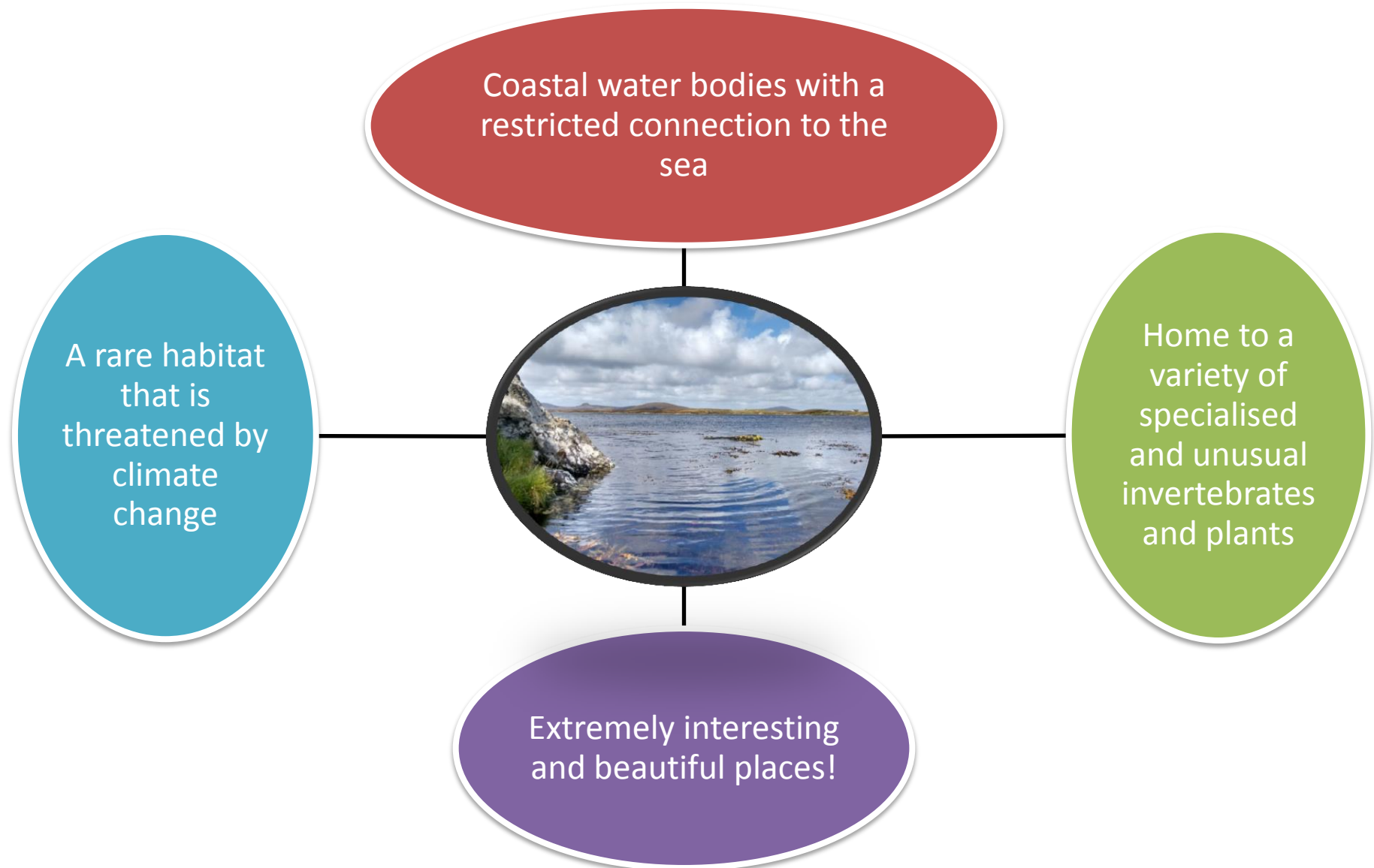


Practical conservation
work



Citizen science, GIS,
social media ...

What are saline lagoons?



Saline lagoons surveys: fieldwork

North and South Uist



September 2016 survey: 98 lagoons

Assynt, Northwest Scotland

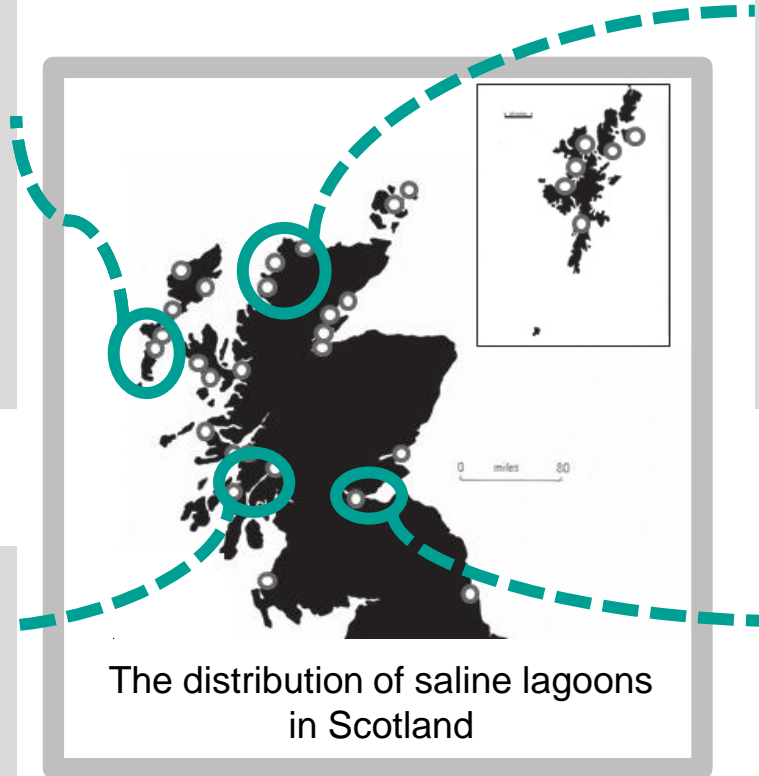


May 2016 survey: 8 lagoons

Argyll, Southwest Scotland



November 2016 survey: 3 lagoons



My work has involved surveys of saline lagoon invertebrates and plants in a variety of locations across Scotland.

Firth of Forth

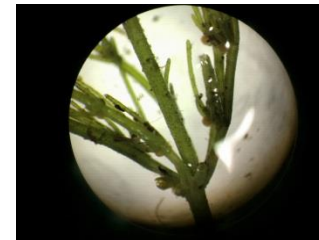


Ongoing surveys (2016): 3 lagoons

Saline lagoons surveys: fieldwork



Labwork and species identification



I have learnt about the identification of a variety of groups of marine invertebrates and plants, with a focus on those particular to saline lagoons.

Labwork and species identification



I have gained experience processing marine invertebrate samples from start to finish, including collection, preservation, sorting, identification and preparing voucher specimens for adding to museum collections.

Outreach and public engagement



Ullapool Pier Day: Wildlife Marquee
(July 2016)

Engaged over 300 people with the wildlife of their local saline lagoons.



Saline Lagoons & STEM Careers

(National Museums Scotland, July 2016)

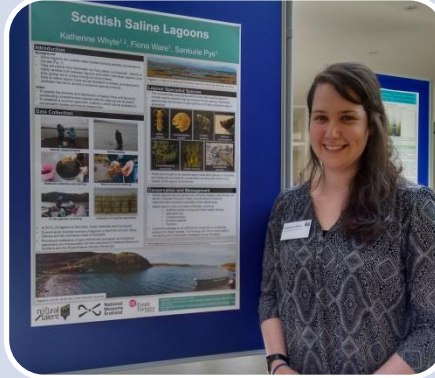
Worked with Skills Development Scotland in Edinburgh, speaking to 700 people over 3 days.

Outreach and public engagement



Talks

Royal Botanic
Garden Edinburgh
Inner Forth
Landscape Initiative
Scottish Association
for Marine Science



Poster presentations

Scottish Freshwater
Group
Marine Alliance for
Science and
Technology for
Scotland



Tours of my workplace

Forth Estuary
Forum
Heriot Watt
University students
Capturing our Coast
volunteers
National Museums
Scotland staff



Nature engagement events

Strathearn Science
Festival
Edinburgh STEM
Careers Hive
Maryhill's Natural
Treasures
Denny Gala Day

Throughout the year I have directly engaged 1300 people with saline lagoons, and a further 700 with nature and conservation in general.

Social media

I have tweeted regularly about my traineeship and saline lagoons to raise awareness of this fascinating habitat.



The screenshot shows the Twitter profile of Katherine Whyte (@katey_whyte). The header includes navigation links for Home, Moments, Notifications, and Messages, along with a search bar and a 'Tweet' button. The profile picture is a small image of Katherine sitting on rocks. The cover photo is a large landscape image of a lake with mountains in the background. Below the cover photo, statistics are listed: 751 Tweets, 586 Following, 350 Followers, 1,559 Likes, and 0 Moments. An 'Edit profile' button is visible. The main content area shows a pinned tweet from December 9th, which reads: 'Come and see what the 2016 @Natural_Talent & @TCVNatNetworks Trainees have achieved at our showcase event! 15th Dec, Glasgow #joininfeelgood'. To the right, a 'Who to follow' section lists three users: Bex @Bex_Cartwright, gert corfield @gertcorf, and Richard Kirby @PlanktonP....

Katherine Whyte
@katey_whyte
@Natural_Talent Trainee at @NtMMuseumsScot & @TCVScotland. #SalineLagoons research & outreach. Marine biologist, nature lover & conservationist. Views my own.
Scotland, United Kingdom
nms.ac.uk/collections-re...

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

Pinned Tweet
Katherine Whyte @katey_whyte · Dec 9
Come and see what the 2016 @Natural_Talent & @TCVNatNetworks Trainees have achieved at our showcase event! 15th Dec, Glasgow #joininfeelgood

Who to follow · Refresh · View all

- Bex** @Bex_Cartwright
Follow
- gert corfield** @gertcorf
Followed by Ryan Clark and ...
Follow
- Richard Kirby** @PlanktonP...
Followed by Noel H and others



@katey_whyte

#SalineLagoons

Networking and conferences

Attended Porcupine Marine
Natural History Society
Annual Conference
(March 2016, Millport)



Presented e-poster at the
Marine Alliance for Science
and Technology for Scotland
Annual Science Meeting
(October 2016, Glasgow)

Presented poster at the
Scottish Freshwater Group
Spring Meeting
(April 2016, Rowardennan)



Attended Marine
Conservation Society
Conference & AGM
(October 2016, Edinburgh)

Attended launch of the
Atlas for Living Scotland
(May 2016, Edinburgh)



Attended National
Biodiversity Network
Conference
(November 2016, Edinburgh)

And lots more!



Supervising a Heriot Watt University student doing an honours project on saline lagoons



Carrying out regular Capturing our Coast citizen science surveys



Going on TCV task days with volunteers



Working at a science careers festival for school pupils



Learning from colleagues, experts and enthusiasts in the field



Exploring beautiful natural places across Scotland

What next?

I have been offered a marine biology PhD position at the University of St Andrews!

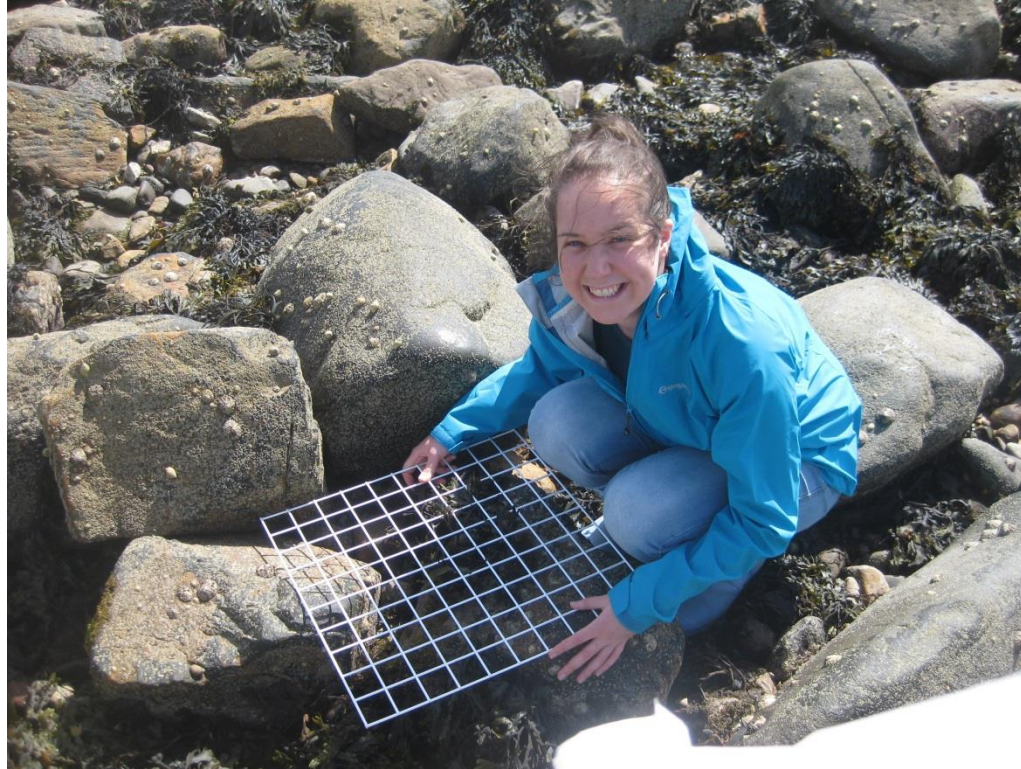


University of
St Andrews



The experience and skills I have gained this year will be invaluable in my future career.

Thank you for an incredible year



@katey_whyte



katherinefwhyte@gmail.com

