

Fetlar2013

Key Facts & Figures

Welcome to Fetlar, known as the Garden of Shetland and renowned for being the greenest of all the Shetland Islands! Fetlar boasts beautiful natural scenery, a diverse range of flora, fauna and marine wildlife, and interesting geological formations. Fetlar is an island steeped in folklore and myth, and its early history is interwoven with fact and legend.

We welcome any inquiries you may have, and look forward to hearing from any interested parties.

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Above:
Wildflowers in Fetlar, with Tresta Beach, Papil Water,
Fetlar Kirk and Lamb Hoga in the background.
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- Fetlar is the fourth largest island in the Shetland Isles, and is one of the most easterly. The Shetland Islands lie to the northeast of mainland Scotland.
- Collectively, Fetlar and the neighbouring islands of Yell and Unst are known as the North Isles.
- The highest point on the island is Vord Hill, which stands at 158 metres high (518 feet). This makes the hill a Marilyn, one of 19 in Shetland.
- The area of the island is 4,078 hectares, or 15.75 square miles. Fetlar is approximately 7 miles by 4 miles.
- In the lead up to each equinox, Fetlar gains or loses up to 15 minutes of light each week.
- There have been people living on the island for at least 5,000 years.
- In the early 19th Century, almost 900 people made the island their home – but in 2009, Fetlar's population had reached an all-time low of 48.
- As of May 2013, the population was 81, and continues to grow.
- Fetlar Developments Ltd, Fetlar's development trust, was established in 2008 with the aim of countering the depopulation of the island.
- Fetlar has its own airstrip, and can be used by chartered private planes and for general aviation.
- Fetlar School provides free education for local children of primary and nursery age, and is currently attended by 9 pupils.
- Fetlar has a great number of archaeologically interesting sites – including Finnigert Dyke, an ancient structure that once divided the island into two.
- The island is home to some of the UK's rarest birds, including the red-necked phalarope, whimbrel, and red-throated diver.
- Folklore is a very important aspect of Fetlar life, and is inexorably intertwined with the island's history.