

Fetlar2013

Travel Information

Fetlar is one of the Shetland Islands, which lie to the north east of mainland Scotland. The islands can be reached by air or by sea.

By Air

Flybe operate daily flights from Aberdeen, and regular flights from Kirkwall, Inverness, Edinburgh and Glasgow – with onward connections available to London and other major European cities. During the summer months, flights are also available to Bergen.

Arrivals land at Sumburgh Airport (LSI), which is 25 miles south of Lerwick, Shetland's capital. Taxis and hire cars are available for use, but it is recommended to book in advance. There is also a scheduled bus service, which allows onward travel to Fetlar via connections at Lerwick.

Fetlar also has a small airstrip (FEA), which is available for use by chartered aircraft or general aviation.

By Sea

Northlink ferries sail from Aberdeen seven nights a week, year-round, and arrive in Lerwick the following morning. A Welcome Point may be found at Lerwick ferry terminal, and the main Visitor Information Centre is located at Market Cross.

Reaching Fetlar

By Car:

Travelling to Fetlar by car involves two inter-island ro-ro ferry trips. The first, which takes 15-20 minutes, is between Toft on Mainland Shetland and Ulsta on Yell. After travelling through Yell, the next ferry leaves from Gutcher, Yell, for Hamars Ness on Fetlar – a trip of around 25 minutes. A number of sailings go via Belmont, Unst.

It is strongly recommended that journeys by ferry are booked in advance. The booking office can provide excellent advice on journey times and through-connections.

By Public Transport:

If arriving in Shetland by ferry, there are connecting services right through to Fetlar on most mornings Monday to Saturday, and limited services later in the day. There are no through-services on Sundays.

If arriving in Shetland by air, scheduled buses are available from Sumburgh to Lerwick, where a change will be needed for onward travel to Yell and then Fetlar. Please note that later arrivals in Sumburgh may mean it is not possible to get to Fetlar on the same day.

Once in Fetlar, the excellent Dial-a-Ride service can collect you from Hamars Ness if travelling on foot, but please bear in mind that the service must be booked at least one day before travel.

Contact

[Fetlar Dial-a-Ride](#)

Tel: 01595 745 745

Shetland Islands Council Ferry Services

[Ferry Timetable Information](#)

Booking office (Tel): 01595 745 804

Email: ferrybookings@shetland.gov.uk

Fetlar Airstrip – Bob Leaper

Tel: 01957 733267

ZetTrans

[Bus Timetable Information](#)

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Fetlar Developments Ltd.

Fetlar Developments Ltd., a registered charity, was established in 2008 by Fetlar's community in order to counter the depopulation of the island, and address the economic challenges faced by the community.

It is a community owned and managed organisation that aims to:

- Repopulate the island.
- Build a sustainable island community and economy.
- Implement new projects prioritised by the Fetlar Development Plan.
- Work towards becoming a self sustaining organisation.

In 2009, Fetlar Developments drew up the Fetlar Development Plan and secured funding for a full-time Development Worker and part-time Financial Assistant. 2009 also saw the establishment of the Fetlar Working Group.

This group was set up by Shetland Islands Council to support the work of Fetlar Developments. It comprised senior representatives from Shetland Islands Council, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Fetlar Community Council, Fetlar Developments Ltd. and the RSPB, with other bodies invited to participate as appropriate. Its initial tenure was for 2 years, but was extended.

In 2010, Fetlar Working group was a finalist in the partnership category of the SURF awards. The body was dissolved in December 2012 after the completion of the new pier, but the links developed between the partner groups remain strong.

Projects

Fetlar Developments Ltd. has developed a significant range of projects since its inception including the development of www.fetlar.org, Fetlar's website, and the creation of a free guidebook which has been distributed across Shetland. Latterly, it has secured funding to employ a part time Fetlar Tourism Development Officer.

However, its most significant success so far has been in securing the provision of a new £2.55 million pier and breakwater for the island. Funding for this development came primarily from Shetland Islands Council, with the balance of around £300,000 coming from ERDF. This brought an end to an over 90-year struggle by islanders to secure these facilities.

Fetlar Developments Ltd. has several ongoing projects. These include the provision of an electric minibus and vehicle charge points, which should be operational by mid-2013. Also in development is a micro wind powered district heating scheme, which would also charge the minibus; a gateway housing scheme; community polytunnels; and a scheme to provide mains water to the whole west side of the island, including the pier and Brough Lodge.

FDL continues to work with partners developing opportunities for the residents of Fetlar by providing opportunities for job creation, and providing support for community development projects.

Contact

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FDL
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Fetlar Interpretive Centre

The community of Fetlar is justifiably proud of its dynamic community-run heritage and craft centre. Located at Houbie, the centre is ideally placed on the island and can provide visitors with a comprehensive range of maps, brochures, and other information. The Interpretive Centre is also a Promote Shetland iPoint, and can provide additional support and information for visitors to Fetlar.

The centre contains exhibitions covering archaeology, folklore, wildlife, and the social history of the island, and hosts an extensive archive of photographs dating from the 1860s. Additionally, there is a range of films dating from the 1930s onwards and a collection of recordings detailing island folklore and music that visitors may access.

Fetlar Interpretive Centre also offers the opportunity for those with Fetlar ancestors to access information that can be used while undertaking research.

Recent Projects

In 2012, a craft shop promoting crafts sold under the label 'Handmade in Fetlar' was opened. The shop provides an area for residents to sell and promote their handmade goods – which are often made using locally sourced materials.

In early 2012, volunteers combined their efforts to repaint and bring a fresh look to the centre. In addition, new labels and information were produced for the exhibits, which were also rearranged.

Starting in 2011, the centre undertook the task of transferring aural and visual recordings on tape to digital formats, starting with recordings of Jeemsie Laurenson's storytelling. The project is still ongoing, and most recently a new TV has been installed in the centre in connection with the project.

Awards

In 2000, Fetlar Interpretive Centre was awarded the Scottish Museum of the Year Award in the Educational Initiative category for its exhibition, Sir William Watson Cheyne and antiseptic surgery.

In 2002, the centre was a runner-up at the Scottish Thistle Awards, which recognises achievement in tourism development.

Fetlar Museum Trust

Fetlar Interpretive Centre is run by Fetlar Museum Trust, a group of people on Fetlar who work to preserve, record, interpret and display the social and natural heritage of the island for the benefit of the future.

Contact

[Fetlar Interpretive Centre](#)

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Hnefatafl

History

Dating back to over 1600 years ago, Hnefatafl is a Viking board game that has been revived in recent years. Older than chess, it is a strategy game that simulates Viking combat.

Hnefatafl, pronounced nef-eh-TAH-full, was one of the most common games played by the Vikings. Played in much of North-West Europe, the game began to decline in the 11th century due to the rise in popularity of chess, and at one stage disappeared almost entirely. Despite its long history, a standard set of rules has not survived, and there are many variants throughout the world.

The Fetlar Hnefatafl Panel

Established in 2007, the FHP aimed to develop and create a set of practical rules based on an 11x11 board that could be used and published across the world for all players to use. In order to achieve this, FHP play-tested the game to establish both a standardised rule set and board layout for players. Having achieved this goal, the Fetlar Rules are now increasingly adopted by many Hnefatafl players from all over the world.

The most recent version of the Fetlar Rules can be downloaded from Fetlar.org; alternatively, an [online version](#) of the game using Fetlar Rules can be played.

Competitive Hnefatafl

Since 2008, the FHP has hosted a world championship, an annual event that has been held on Fetlar each year with the exception of 2012, when the tournament was played online. In order to ensure that game duration would allow a one-day tournament event, it was decided that for the time being, play would be time limited.

At present, gameplay in the tournament progresses in a quick-play style. Players have just 15 seconds to make their move before a gong is struck, signalling the start of the next turn. It ensures sound and movement throughout the competition, keeps everyone on their toes, and provides a lot of entertainment for spectators!

A gong was chosen over a chess buzzer for the move signal because it is reminiscent of a galley drum-beat.

Gameplay

Under Fetlar Rules, the board is 11x11 squares, with 37 pieces in total: 24 attacking pieces, 12 defending pieces, and 1 King.

The objective of the game is to capture the central defending piece, the King, or for the King to escape the attacking pieces by reaching one of the four refuge squares at the corners of the board.

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Society of Our Lady of the Isles

The Society of Our Lady of the Isles is Britain's most northerly Episcopalian Order. The Rule of the community leads towards a Carthusian lifestyle, yet a heavy Celtic influence can also be seen.

Today, four sisters live on Fetlar, two of whom are Life Professed as hermits. The Life Professed sisters live in isolation, but do partake in the SOLI community by attending daily Compline, Mass, and sharing a weekly choir practice. On Sunday, visitors may be met after the Sung Mass; otherwise, the hermits may only see visitors who have requested to speak with them by arrangement.

The other sisters living on Fetlar are Oblate-Companions, sisters who live by an individual rule of life rather than taking vows; however, the Oblate-Companion gives her life to God in a mutually supportive role. The Oblate-Companions participate in the SOLI community, but also within the larger community of Fetlar.

Additionally, there are members of SOLI living in locations across Britain. External Oblates are those who live in their own homes and keep a Rule of Life inspired by Fetlar, and Caim members, both men and women, are those who wish to be associated with the Society and its community.

Origins

SOLI's origins date back to 1984, when the then Sister Mary Agnes arrived in Fetlar to live a contemplative and isolated life of prayer. Taking over a simple cottage and small byre, the latter suitable for conversion to a chapel, she lived as a solitary for four years. In time, others began to join her, drawn by the solitary way of life and natural beauty of Fetlar. Together, they grew their own vegetables and kept a goat, named Iona.

In 1988, SOLI was named and came into formal existence as a group and, in 1993, Mother Mary Agnes was installed as Mother Guardian. Later, in 1998, Mother Mary Agnes was ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney.

Publications

Over the years, Mother Mary Agnes has written and published four books that document the establishment and development of the SOLI community. Illustrated with her own line drawings, they tell of the divine coincidences that led Mother Mary Agnes to Fetlar, and to SOLI.

Book 1: A Tide That Sings
Book 2: The Song of the Lark
Book 3: Island Song
Book 4: For Love Alone

More Information

Visit SOLI's [website](#).

SOLI is a member of [the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney](#).

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St Sunniva Skete

Saint Sunniva Skete is a monastic house of the Orthodox Church within the [Exarchate of Western Europe](#) of the [Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople](#). It was blessed and dedicated to Saint Sunniva on the saint's feast-day, July 8th 2011. This 10th Century Irish saint sailed to Norway, some say visiting the Shetland Isles on the way, to become patron saint of Bergen.

The Chapel is currently the only Orthodox chapel in Shetland, and serves locals, visitors, and incomers from international Orthodox communities. It is dedicated to Elizabeth, Queen Victoria's granddaughter. Elizabeth became an Orthodox nun after the assassination of her Russian husband in 1905. In 1918, during the Russian Civil War, she, along with a fellow Sister and other members of the Russian royal family, was murdered. Elizabeth was canonised as a saint in 1981 with commemoration on July 18th.

Mother Mary, an Orthodox nun, lives at the Skete, while others visit on retreat. She is a member of the [Orthodox Community of Saint Nicholas, Dunblane](#), and has been an English convert to Orthodoxy for over thirty years.

Saint Sunniva Trust administers the property and supports the work of prayer, hospitality, and spiritual guidance. The Skete is in contact with [Orthodox in Norway](#) and monastics in Britain.

The guesthouse offers a quiet, peaceful retreat for pilgrims who join in the daily practice of the Jesus Prayer and other weekend and feast-day services. It also offers accommodation to those visiting family on Fetlar.

What is a Skete?

A Skete describes a small monastery and originates from 4th Century monastic life in the Scetis desert, Egypt. Monastics would live in solitude and silence during the week, and join together on Saturday and Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist, share a meal and hear an Elder's teachings.

Life at the Skete reflects this tradition of quiet prayer, work and study on weekdays and joining with others at the weekend. It is known that information about these 'Desert Fathers and Mothers' reached Britain and influenced early monasticism in the Scottish Isles. They continue to influence the Orthodox contemplative tradition

of hesychia (inner stillness), which is the foundation of the prayer life at the Skete.

Papil Water

Papil Water, visible from the Skete, is named after pre-Norse Christian priest-monks, and the nearby remains of a chapel have been identified as 'an ancient Romish Chapel'. Some of the services held at Saint Sunniva Skete contain prayers dating back to 5th Century Byzantium; it is possible that worship at the 'Romish' chapel might have been similar.

Online Articles by Mother Mary

[Prayer of the Heart](#)

[The Cave of the Heart](#)

[The Ladder of the Divine Ascent](#)

[New Martyr Elizabeth](#)

[Three saints caves in coastal Scotland](#)

Contact

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Brough Lodge

Brough Lodge is a grand 19th Century house on Fetlar that has been in disuse since the late 20th Century. It is a Category A listed building, and the grounds have been included in Historic Scotland's Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland since 2003.

In 1805, the Nicolson family came into possession of property on the island, taking them as payment for a debt owed by Andrew Bruce of Urie. Sir Arthur Nicolson, the landowner, designed and commissioned the building of the Lodge after returning from a grand tour of Europe, where he drew inspiration for Brough Lodge's mix of architecture.

Completed in c.1825, the building itself is a mixture of styles, built in a Gothic Revival style with crenellated walls and bartizans (overhanging wall turrets) at the corners. Details in Classical and Moorish styles were incorporated into the walls and screen walls, and a red-brick chapel also built.

In around 1840, a folly – known as The Tower – was constructed over the remains of an Iron Age broch in the grounds of Brough Lodge. An oval-shaped tower, it has three storeys that were originally joined to the ground by a footbridge, now disintegrated. The Tower was at one stage used as an observatory, and the lens of the large telescope it once housed has been recovered and preserved at Fetlar Interpretive Centre.

The [Buildings at Risk Register](#) has described Brough Lodge and its ancillary buildings as “arguably Shetland's most unusual group of 19th Century buildings”.

Brough Lodge Trust

Established in 1998 as a building preservation trust, the Trust's aim was to acquire, save, restore and secure the future of Brough Lodge. The Trust is a member of the UK Association of Preservation Trusts.

Its historic atmosphere will be a focus for short courses and activities involving the arts (hand knitting, fiddle music, photography) and environmental themes (geology, archaeology, wildlife/bird watching).

- The Vision, Brough Lodge Trust website

Brough Lodge Trust is a registered Scottish Charity (SC 028725), and is run on a voluntary basis.

More Information

[Brough Lodge Trust](#)

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Jeemsie Laurenson

Born on Fetlar in 1899, James John Laurenson – known locally as Jeemsie – was brought up on a croft at Aith. During the First World War, he sailed on the Atlantic Patrol, but after the war came home to look after both his family and the croft, and lived on the island until his death in 1983, aged 84.

Like many residents of Fetlar, Jeemsie undertook varying jobs. He was primarily a crofter, but also had skills in cobbling and thatching, and was the island's registrar. Jeemsie also participated in singing in the church choir. He was best known, however, for his talent in storytelling and singing of folksongs.

Jeemsie learnt many tales and songs from his mother and grandmother, but also collected his own as the years went by. Preferring to describe himself as an historian, Jeemsie's storytelling was akin to giving a lecture, and he often referred to sources such as maps, the birth, death, and wedding registries, and other printed materials.

He undertook the writing of many articles, including a series on "The Sixern Days" printed in New Shetlander, and the fourth Shetland Folk Book contains his "Notes on Fetlar" and the island's lore. Additionally, he collaborated with Alexander Fenton in a substantial article on "Peat in Fetlar" in Folk Life, and is noted as an important source for the same writer's article on Craig-Fishing in Scottish Studies 17. Jeemsie also made a number of appearances in the Shetland Times.

Jeemsie was regarded as a man of great strength, and many tales are still told of his various feats of strength. Perhaps the best-known display of this strength is an occasion when Jeemsie straight-armed the oar of a sixareen – these oars were made of ash, and roughly 15 feet long. The accompanying picture shows Jeemsie lifting a smaller oar from a fourareen in the same fashion – possibly a warm up before the main event!

Aithbank, home of Jeemsie Laurenson, was the location of one of the main trading centres in Fetlar as far back as the 17th Century. The present house was rebuilt in c.1835, and Jeemsie lived in it for most of his life.

In 2004, Aithbank – a Category B listed building – was restored by Shetland Amenity Trust and now serves as Fetlar's camping böd. One of a network of 9 böds, each a building with great socio-historical significance, Aithbank offers very basic catering and accommodation facilities for visitors to the island.

It is due to Jeemsie's great legacy that Aithbank is preserved for the future.

Additional Information

Visit the [Shetland Camping Böds website](#) to learn more about Aithbank and the camping böd network.

Contact

[Fetlar Interpretive Centre](#)

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Sir William Watson Cheyne

Born at Hobart off the coast of Tasmania on 14th December 1852 on a ship captained by his father, Cheyne was the only child of Andrew Cheyne and Eliza Watson, daughter of Fetlar's Minister, the Reverend William Watson. After the death of Eliza in 1856, with his father in the South Pacific, Cheyne was raised in Fetlar by his aunt and uncle-in-law, who was the minister in succession to the Reverend Watson.

In 1864, he was sent to Aberdeen Grammar School and later attended the University of Aberdeen. In 1871, Cheyne enrolled at Edinburgh University where he encountered Joseph Lister, whose lectures on antiseptics he followed with great enthusiasm. He became Lister's house surgeon in 1876, accompanying him a year later to London's King's College Hospital. In addition to antiseptics Cheyne took an interest in another controversial area of medicine, bacteriology, and published several important works.

In 1879, Cheyne passed the examinations for Membership and Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons. At King's College he held a number of positions before becoming Professor of Clinical Surgery in 1902. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1894 and was appointed a Hunterian professor on four occasions delivering the Bradshaw Lecture in 1908 and the Hunterian Oration in 1915. From 1914-1916 he was President of the Royal College of Surgeons. In 1924, he was awarded the first Lister Medal in recognition of his contributions to surgical science and delivered the first Lister Oration in 1925.

Cheyne volunteered for service as a consulting surgeon in the Second Boer War and then the First World War, when he was given the rank of Surgeon Rear-Admiral. For his services he was created a C.B. and later a K.C.M.G. In 1919, Cheyne was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Orkney and Shetland with the rank of Vice-Admiral. After his retirement from medical practice he was elected M.P. for the Universities of Edinburgh and St. Andrews, which later became the Combined Scottish Universities.

Cheyne was awarded a baronetcy in 1908 for his work and research in medicine, particularly in the field of antiseptic surgery. He continued to work tirelessly to promote Lister's methods in surgical practice. Even after his retirement, he occasionally offered his services as a doctor for the local

people of Fetlar and had a surgery room in Leagarth House. He died on April 19th 1932.

Leagarth House

Completed in 1901, Leagarth House was built for Sir William Watson Cheyne and became his main residence in his later life. It is a grand turn of the century house and a Category C listed building. It has recently been extensively restored by the Cheyne family.

The house was well known for its beautiful landscaped gardens, which defied the harsh Shetland winters, and had a number of heated greenhouses in which a range of exotic plants was grown. They became an attraction for visitors during the 1920s, when the gardens were opened to the public on Sunday afternoons.

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Time Team in Fetlar

In 2002, Channel 4's Time Team travelled to the island in order to excavate two different archaeological sites: Da Giant's Grave at Aith, reputed to be the final resting place of a Viking man, and the Gord garden at Houbie, where Viking carvings had been found.

Da Giant's Grave

Located on the south of the island near Aith's natural bay, local legend told of a Viking man who had been washed ashore during a storm.

Although his crew had all been swept overboard and the man himself was gravely injured, he had managed to retain both his vessel and treasure – and he told the inhabitants of the island that they were to bury him with his galley and gold upon his death, which they duly did.

Gord Garden

During the 1990s, the owners of Gord had been digging in their garden and uncovered various samples of stonework and carved steatite, also known as soapstone, which is quite soft and easy to carve into shape.

Having kept these items, the owners contacted Time Team, and told them both of the finds they had made and the legend of Da Giant's Grave.

Time Team's Results

Digging began in August 2002 at both sites, which were explored simultaneously.

At Da Giant's Grave, an expansion of the dig site revealed a great many rivets that had been buried beneath large stones. The experts agreed that, due to their spread and positioning, this was conclusive proof of a Viking boat burial, and that the stones had been placed on top to protect the occupants against scavenging animals.

Unfortunately, as time went on it became clear that the tomb had been robbed of any goods it may once have possessed and the skeletons removed – but the team did find a beautiful bronze tortoise-shaped brooch, evidence that a Viking woman, not a man, had been buried there.

At Gord, a huge excavation revealed the outer walls and inside floor of a Viking longhouse that had been built there. The floor was paved with beautiful blue stones, and a wealth of household artefacts – such as soapstone loom weights – were uncovered. The best find of this site was a nearly complete soapstone bowl, which had been wedged in amongst the stones of the house. This find was the largest single object ever excavated by Time Team, and is probably the largest bowl of its kind in the UK.

Both pieces are now on display at the [Shetland Museum and Archives](#) in Lerwick.

Contact

[Fetlar Interpretive Centre](#)

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Red-Necked Phalarope

Latin name: *Phalaropus lobatus*

Family: *Scolopacidae*

The red-necked phalarope is a rare breeding bird in the UK. Fetlar is home to most of the UK's small breeding population. It is a migratory bird, and spends much of its time on open water. It overwinters in tropical seas feeding on plankton.

This delicate wading bird is known for its sexual role reversal. In the spring, the female develops striking breeding plumage to attract a mate. During courtship and egg laying, the female defends her mate against the attention of other females. After egg laying the female abandons her eggs to the sole care of the male. He incubates the eggs for 17-21 days and broods or protects the young until fledging.

The red-necked phalarope is a Schedule 1 breeding bird, and is protected by law.

Description

Size: 18-19cm in length.

Behaviour: more likely to be swimming than wading.

Identifiers: straight, long, fine, dark bill. Black or grey legs with semi-webbed feet.

Breeding Plumage: Female has dark grey head and upper parts, white throat and under parts, orangey red sides of neck and light streaking on its dark back. The male is much duller which makes him more camouflaged when he is incubating his eggs.

Winter Plumage: Mostly grey or dark above and white or pale below with a black eye patch.

When and where?

Phalaropes are rare and breed here in very low numbers. They arrive in late May and leave by early August. Visitors can look for them from a hide at the RSPB Mires of Funzie nature reserve and the north shore of the adjacent Loch of Funzie, located on the eastern side of the island.

Due to their Schedule 1 status and vulnerability to egg collectors, access to breeding grounds is forbidden.

RSPB

RSPB Scotland has studied the breeding behaviour and habitat of phalaropes in Fetlar since the 1960s. Phalaropes are still the focus of its conservation work on the isle where the charity works with local crofters and farmers to manage areas and make them suitable for breeding phalaropes.

RSPB Scotland has recently launched its first pin badge to feature a red-necked phalarope. Available for a donation of £1, proceeds support the conservation work for red-necked phalaropes in Fetlar.

Contact

RSPB Warden

Tel: 01957 733 246

Email: fetlar@rspb.org.uk

Address: RSPB Fetlar Office, Baelans, Fetlar, ZE2 9DJ

More Information

[RSPB Scotland in Fetlar](#)

[The Scottish Outdoor Access Code, Schedule 1 protection and licensing](#)

Fetlar2013

Whimbrel

Latin name: *Numenius phaeopus*

Family: *Scolopacidae*

In the UK, whimbrel grounds are restricted to the north mainland of Scotland and the Northern Isles. In Fetlar they breed inland on dry upland heath where they feed on insects, slugs and snails. They are migratory birds and the UK population overwinters on African coasts. On passage whimbrels can be seen in other coastal areas in the UK such as estuaries and mudflats where they feed by probing mud for small invertebrates, and by picking small crabs and similar prey off the ground surface.

It is a fairly large wading bird that is usually quite wary of being approached.

The whimbrel is a Schedule 1 breeding bird, and is protected by law.

Description

Size: 37-45 cm

Identification: It is similar to a curlew but smaller with shorter legs. It has a long, dark, curved bill (6-9cm) that is proportionately shorter, thicker and more hooked than a curlew's. Its head has a prominent dark eyestripe and crown-sides with contrasting pale supercilium and central crown stripe. These markings are more striking than the somewhat plain head of the curlew.

Arguably the most notable identification feature is its breeding call, which starts like a curlew's but breaks into a bubbling, long-drawn-out, straight trill. Its alarm call is a loud, repetitive, rippling whistle - all on the same note.

When and where?

Whimbrels arrive in Fetlar to breed in early May, and leave in mid-August for their southern wintering grounds.

The best way to catch sight or sound of whimbrel on Fetlar, without disturbing breeding birds, is to walk the road between Funzie and Aith. They sometimes feed near the Loch of Funzie and take their young into the tall vegetation of the Mires of Funzie or adjacent croft land.

From the car, keep an eye on roadside fence posts where they sometimes perch. It is important to remember that whimbrel in Fetlar are breeding, so they must not be approached or disturbed.

Contact

RSPB Warden

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More Information

[RSPB Scotland in Fetlar](#)

[The Scottish Outdoor Access Code, Schedule 1 protection and licensing](#)