

Tour Report

UK – The Shetland Islands with Mike Dilger

24 June - 1 July 2023

Gannet



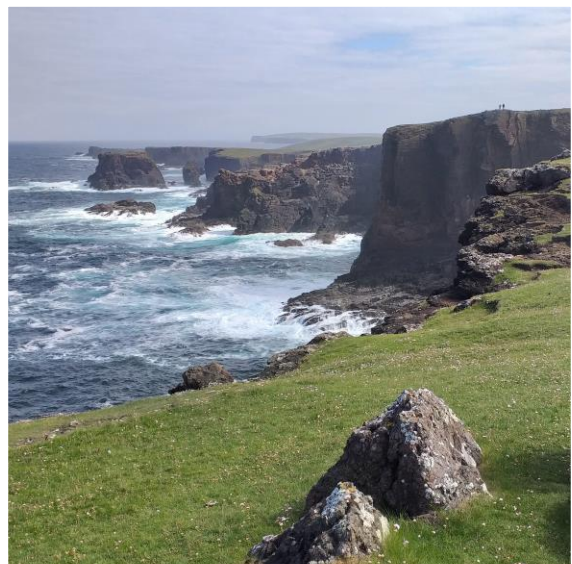
Guillemots



Arctic tern



Esha Ness



Compiled by Mike Dilger

Images by Celia Barnes, Moira Gardner & Michelle Butler

Day 1: Meet up at Sumburgh Hotel, Loch of Spiggie, Mossy Hill & Mousa

Saturday 24 June 2023

A few of us experienced delays at the start of our trip, so Dave Fairhurst (who had already arrived on Shetland) took the rest of the group out for the afternoon and evening.

Concentrating on short visits to nearby Loch of Spiggie and Mossy Hill, they took the boat across from Sandwick to Mousa to enjoy a very misty storm petrel spectacular. So, close to the longest day of the year, it wasn't until close to 02:00 that the group finally arrived back at the hotel after an action-packed first day.

Day 2: Sumburgh Head, Grutness, Loch of Spiggie, Bigton, Loch of Clumlie, Boddam and Scatness

Sunday 25 June 2023

After breakfast, Dave and some of the guests headed to Sumburgh Head, where they had great views of Arctic skua, twite and a full array of seabirds. One group member noticed two large dorsal fins off the point, which were subsequently identified as Hulk and Nótt, two bull orcas who are known to visit the north of Scotland occasionally from Iceland. As they came ever closer to land, the group managed to get sensational views - particularly when the orcas passed close to the cliffs!

I arrived at Loch of Spiggie later that day and got to know the group while birding. One of the first species we saw was a pair of whooper swans - the Shetland Islands are the only place in the UK where this species is known to breed. We also noted omnipresent greylag geese and curlews close by and picked up around 40 tufted ducks on the water. The majority of these were males - Dave suggested that the females would be quietly incubating elsewhere at this time.

A sighting of a single pheasant by the roadside might have been of interest to Shetland birders, but not to us, as this introduced game bird is found across mainland Britain. Of far greater interest, however, were a few bonxies (great skuas) bathing, half a dozen great black-backed gulls and a single lesser black-backed gull. Placed alongside one another, the major difference in size between these two superficially similar gull species was clear for all to see. At this point, I was able to help one of the group members identify dog lichen in a grassy area by the roadside verge, while an almost continual procession of Arctic terns and oystercatchers flying past kept the rest of the group entertained.

After a quick drive to admire the tombolo which connects St. Ninan's Isle to the mainland, we crossed to Bigton on the eastern side, via the Loch of Clumlie. The sea inlet at Voe had a number of breeding pairs of fulmar on the cliffs, while black guillemots and eider ducks with ducklings were visible on the water below. On the crofts close to the cliffs we also saw a small flock of apparently genuine rock doves, the wild ancestor of Britain's feral pigeon population.

By now it was late afternoon, so we pointed the minibuses south towards Sumburgh, stopping briefly at a small loch near Scatness along the way. Dave pointed out nine wigeon, which tend to be solely winter visitors across most of Britain, while I identified the northern umbellifer Scot's lovage growing abundantly along the roadside. Alongside the wigeon, we saw a few kittiwakes - Dave suggested that these were probably failed breeders. By now, those who had been up watching the storm petrels until 02:00 were flagging, so we returned to the hotel for a rest before reconvening for dinner.

Day 3: Lerwick Industrial Estate, Lax Firth, Stromfirth, Lax Firth, Bellister, Kirkabister, South Nesting Bay, Sumburgh Head & Mousa

Monday 26 June 2023

After an early breakfast, we were ready to venture out for our first full day together. While waiting to board the minibus, Dave showed everyone a flotilla of around 50 shags in the harbour, explaining that when food is present in abundance they often flock in these large aggregations.

Having learned about the presence of an interesting bird that had been located near Lerwick the previous week, Dave took the group into the capital's inauspicious industrial estate, before peering around the side of a large anonymous industrial unit. Much to everyone's (including my own!) surprise, Dave pointed out a long-eared owl roosting in the branches of an elder tree. It was hardly the most salubrious of surroundings, but this was a great spot, and after photographing the owl we left it in peace.

We drove to Lax Firth, where it began raining lightly as we searched for otters at this well-known location. While scanning, we picked up black guillemots and eiders close to the oyster beds, plus curlew and redshank feeding along the shoreline. We heard the 'ker-rick!' of sandwich tern, before spotting three flying into the firth – Dave confirmed that this species was rarely recorded. As no otters were present, I took some of the group along the short pier to show them a large spraint pile, and many agreed that lutrine poo did indeed smell like jasmine tea!

Jumping back into the minibuses, we drove to Stromfirth, where we parked and took a walk along the road, which crosses some fine moorland. Almost immediately we picked up a displaying whimbrel, with everyone able to hear its characteristic seven note 'pe-pe-pe-pe-pe-pe-pe' call, which differentiates it from the far commoner curlew. When it landed close by, we could clearly see its smaller size, shorter and straighter bill, and pale crown stripe. Whimbrels remain rare breeding birds in Britain, with a high proportion of the estimated 300+ pairs confined to the Shetland Isles.

Alongside this star bird, we noted a number of displaying meadow pipits, while one sharp-eyed group member picked up a female red grouse in the heather, with its partner; another two young were subsequently spotted nearby. Before leaving we saw a drumming snipe with its impressive flight call - representing a first for many in the group. As we watched the bird flying continually up, before swooping down, I pointed out that the eerie call was not produced vocally, but by the outer tail feathers rattling in the wind as it dived.

With the rain abating, we moved on to Bellister to enjoy lunch at the small hamlet of Laxfirth, which affords fine views across to Dury Voe and the Isle of Whalsay. Following a quick scan with the scope, I picked up a summer-plumaged red-throated diver, which showed well when it wasn't fishing below the surface and thus out of sight. It can be hard to see the red throat it sports in summer when the bird is either distant or in poor light, so the standout feature tends to be the upturned or 'snooty' bill. However, on this occasion, the closeness enabled us to pick out the bird's crimson-coloured throat, perfectly complemented by a pair of laser-red eyes.

With a moment to botanise, I used this time to show the group six different species of grass at our lunch spot. We then moved around to the point to enjoy the spectacle of shags diving and harbour seal cows feeding their newborn pups on the beach.

Retracing our steps, we parked on the road that drops down to Kirkabister, which offered wonderful views across South Nesting Bay, and an opportunity to enjoy the moorland flowers and look for mountain hares. While walking along the road, I pointed out round-leaved sundew, butterwort, northern marsh orchid, heath-spotted orchid, milkwort and a variety of sedges, before Dave spotted a single mountain hare tucked down at the base of a peat hag. Introduced from the Highlands at the start of the 20th century, mountain hares are still considered locally common on mainland Shetland but can be tricky to locate in summer when they blend

in more easily with their surroundings. This individual was in its sandy brown summer pelage and, as it was quietly tucked out of the wind yet in full sun, everyone enjoyed great views of it through the scope.

On the way back to the hotel we stopped briefly at a couple of lochans west of South Nesting Bay and were delighted to see a female wigeon with four ducklings. A common winter visitor to Britain, wigeon breed primarily in northern Europe and Arctic Russia, but are considered even rarer breeders than whimbrel in the UK. Currently only around 190 pairs are thought to breed each year, with most seen in northern Scotland, northern England, the Western Isles and Shetland. To emphasise the rarity of this sighting, this was the very first time I had ever seen wigeon ducklings in the UK.

We met the remaining three members of the group back at the hotel, then after dinner, I took those that had missed out (due to their delayed flights) for a quick trip to Sumburgh Head to make up for lost time. On parking, we saw both colour morphs of Arctic skua in quick succession as they patrolled the cliffs. We also saw a couple of bonxies and enjoyed close-up views of puffins, guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes and fulmars. Calling in briefly at the hotel to pick up another guest, I drove on to Sandwick for the short trip across to Mousa. The fog from the previous two nights had disappeared, and the lack of swell meant we could see harbour seals whenever they stuck their heads out. We watched black guillemots at close quarters as we crossed to the island, plus three over-summering turnstones as our boat approached Mousa's jetty.

When we arrived, my group was allowed off a shade earlier than the other passengers, enabling us to get a head start on the twenty-minute walk to Mousa Broch - where the evening's entertainment would be. We saw a few species along the way, including wheatear and meadow pipit, and saw and heard snipe drumming as the broch came slowly into view. The Pictish broch is believed to be around 2,500 years old and on entering the central atrium, I took the group up the central staircase (between the two walls) to the top. On the way up (and on the way back down) we could hear the occasional calls of storm petrels from deep inside the building. Surely Mousa's most famous residents, these diminutive seabirds return each spring to nest in the broch and the drystone walls that cover the island.

Moving back outside, we took up our positions to wait for the birds to return. We didn't have to wait long before I spotted the first storm petrel flitting above the water just before midnight. As petrel numbers began to increase steadily I gave a potted history of the lifecycle of these mercurial birds, explaining that we were seeing them as they returned from long foraging trips out to sea. We suddenly spotted an otter in the dusky light, and everyone got brief views of it diving and resurfacing before our attention turned back to the petrels.

An astonishing spectacle quickly ensued, with everyone mesmerised by the spectacle of hundreds of birds whizzing around the broch against the backdrop of a clear sky. At my suggestion, some of the group enjoyed lying down at the base of the broch to experience the birds streaming just above their prostrate figures!

Whenever birds landed on the broch before squeezing into their burrows, we had an opportunity to see their white rumps; the accompanying chorus of petrels calling from within was equally memorable. We were so entranced with this charming bird that few of us could believe it was almost 02:00 again by the time I finally pulled back into the hotel carpark.

Day 4: Fetlar: Mires of Houbie, Loch of Funzie, Sands of Tresta & Papil Water, Ness of Brough & Hillswick

Tuesday 27 June 2023

We checked out of the Sumburgh Hotel, and with the good weather looking set to continue, set off north with the Isle of Fetlar as our destination. We drove across the mainland to the first ferry, which took us across to Yell, then drove on to the ferry terminal at Gutcher. While waiting for the ferry to Fetlar, we scanned the harbour – which revealed three species of auk, several passing gannets and another red-throated diver in full breeding plumage.

After the 30-minute crossing to Fetlar, we drove straight to the Mires of Houbie, which is now an RSPB Reserve and is considered the best and easiest location to spot red-necked phalaropes. On arrival, we quickly spotted a female as it flew straight into the one large patch of open water. Being polyandrous, the females are always more brightly marked than the males, and all of us enjoyed stellar views as the phalarope picked aquatic insects off the surface of the water. It then disappeared into the rushes, only to play hide-and-seek for the next 30 minutes, with everyone unable to get enough of this terrific tiny wader. The British population of 'red-necked phals' is estimated to be only marginally more than 50 breeding males, with the vast majority of nesting records confined to Shetland, making this a lifer for most of the group.

Thrilled with such fabulous views, we moved further east along the road, before parking at the Loch of Funzie. Here the roadside vegetation was fascinating, and I spotted mountain everlasting, slender St. John's wort, common yellow sedge and star sedge - among others. The bird interest on the loch was provided by a female red-throated diver with a large chick - both close to the nest - and also at the southern end of the loch. We could hear the plaintive call of golden plover from the surrounding moorland, while we enjoyed a wheatear family hopping along the fence. Here too meadow pipits and skylarks were very much in evidence.

Returning west, we took lunch at the picturesque eastern end of Tresta Beach, which separates the sea from the loch of Pupil Water. Here a large flock of bonxies could be seen bathing in the brackish water. After bird flu, it has been estimated that the population of bonxies on Shetland has been reduced by close to 90%, so to see a flock of 35 was a very encouraging sign.

Before leaving the island and undertaking the long drive across Shetland to our new hotel, we dropped into the Ness of Brough. The pier here is located right alongside the Lodge of Brough, which made the news recently when put up for sale for £30,000, but with the pre-condition that a further £12m was spent on upgrading it! Here we saw a red-throated diver at close quarters on the sea before it made its haunting wail. We also saw plenty of gannets flying past, before spotting another red-throated diver as it flew past with a fish. From out of nowhere an Arctic skua appeared, and chased the diver along the coast, before forcing it to drop its catch, which was quickly gobbled up by the skua. Arctic skuas are most commonly kleptoparasitic on auks, and Dave said it was highly uncommon to see a bird as large as a diver being attacked in this way.

As our ferry times were fixed, there was little time for idling, so we set off to the terminal for the ferries back to Yell and then the mainland, before then heading for Hillswick. When we eventually arrived at the Magnus Bay Hotel, we settled into our rooms before enjoying a delightful dinner and completing the checklist, where quality rather than quantity had been the order of the day!

Day 5: Yell Sound & Bluemull Sound, Hermaness National Nature Reserve, Nor Wick, Keen of Hamar & Hillswick

Wednesday 28 June 2023

With a long day on the Isle of Unst ahead of us, we took an early breakfast before heading eastwards from Sandwick. Reaching the most northerly of Shetland's islands requires two ferry crossings, first to Yell, and then to Unst. The fine weather we had experienced for most of the week so far looked set to continue.

On the two ferry trips, we recorded all four auks, shags and gannets on a number of occasions, before we eventually pulled into Belmont in the south of Unst. We drove straight to the north of the island and the carpark of Hermaness National Nature Reserve (NNR), a huge seabird colony and adjacent moorland. Once we had loaded up with water, binoculars and camera equipment, we walked up the hill before joining the newly-laid boardwalk which leads to the famed sea cliffs. Along the way, we heard meadow pipits and skylarks singing and noted the first territorial bonxies of the trip. The long walk across the moorland was not just an opportunity to look at birds, however, as I was able to point out a range of classic moorland plants such as tormentil, common cottongrass, common butterwort, round-leaved sundew and heath milkwort. Also present were the three species of heather: bell heather, cross-leaved heath and ling.

When we reached the cliffs, the views were simply amazing. Unlike in 2021, when bird corpses were strewn across the cliffs and the water below due to the ravages inflicted by bird flu, on this occasion hardly a single dead bird could be seen. Recent estimates have indicated that the virus killed between 17 and 20% of the gannet population, but as the colony had been increasing year upon year beforehand, this may have given younger and more inexperienced birds an opportunity to secure a territory, which ordinarily might not occur until they were at least five or six years of age.

The steep bird-filled cliffs were awe-inspiring, all the more so given that this reserve represents the most northerly spot in the entire British Isles, and is geographically closer to the Arctic Circle than London. On eventually tearing ourselves away from the view and the birds, we headed back across the moorland, taking time to enjoy a bonxie chick en route. Hopefully, this is the first of many chicks that will help the bonxie population recover.

Back at the minibuses, we drove the short distance to Nor Wick for lunch just above the beach. Taking a break didn't put an end to wildlife spotting, and almost immediately we saw a sub-adult great northern diver on the water, along with a summer-plumaged red-throated diver. There was a small colony of Arctic tern on the beach, and we also spotted a pied wagtail, while gull interest was provided by black-headed, herring, common and great black-backed gulls.

After lunch, we drove a short way to the Keen of Hamar NNR, an internationally important site which - certainly in appearance - is as close to the Arctic tundra as Britain possesses. Renowned for being a habitat which looks more like the surface of the moon, it boasts an astonishing assemblage of plants, including a number of extremely rare ones. On entering the reserve, we encountered an abundance of slender St John's wort and mountain everlasting, alongside sea campion and spring squill. Dave managed to find a few stunted frog orchids - one of which was no taller than one inch, making it look just like a bonsai.

The first key target species we encountered was northern rock-cress, which was even in flower, and a little further up the hill, one of the group found the reserve's star plant: Edmonston's chickweed. The flower was in perfect condition as we crowded around the stellar rarity, which is only found at one other site in the world (the Keen of Hamar). Interestingly, Dave had encountered many more plants in flower only a couple of weeks earlier, suggesting that the flowering period was in its last throes.

Elsewhere we located sea plantain, stone bramble, moss campion and a single early purple orchid, with Arctic mouse-ear the only rarity that we failed to find. Delighted with our haul, we retired to the cafe at Baltasound nearby, where teas and coffees went down a storm.

The highlight of the long drive back was a very obliging dark morph Arctic skua. On our eventual return to Hillswick, we enjoyed a rest before dinner, before I took eight of the group for a walk down to the beach, primarily to look for otters. On this occasion, however, we didn't see any and had to settle for watching Arctic terns fishing in the harbour, before retiring for our last night in the north of the islands.

Day 6: Yell - Ura Firth, West Loch, Esha Ness, Lax Firth, Sandwick to Noss & Sumburgh

Thursday 29 June 2023

After breakfast, a quick scan of the bay unearthed both red-breasted mergansers and red-throated divers. Once everyone had checked out, we drove to the shingle beach just one mile north - one of the best-known sites for oysterplant, which we found after walking no more than 100 metres. Its leaves do indeed taste of oysters, but the plant is susceptible to being trampled on and grazed by sheep, with the result that it has now been reduced to just a few remote coastal locations across northern Britain. In addition to the grey-green oysterplant, we also noted sea sandwort, kidney vetch and sea campion before walking back to the minibuses.

On the drive towards Esha Ness, which marks Shetland's most northwesterly point, we made a quick stop overlooking West Loch. Here another pair of red-throated divers had completed what looked to be another successful breeding season - as one chick was present. Dave noticed around 45 black-tailed godwits right at the back of the loch, looking spectacular in their cinnamon-infused breeding plumage. We hypothesised that these must have been failed breeders freshly arrived from Iceland, who were probably using the loch as little more than a pit stop. They duly took off, presumably to continue their journey south, providing us with a wonderful spectacle.

A careful scan of the loch revealed another three godwits tucked in against the reeds, along with breeding oystercatcher, curlew and redshank. All of a sudden, the waders started jumping up and alarm calling, before one of our party spotted a stoat running along the loch-side. Obviously in search of either chicks or eggs, it appeared intermittently, giving everyone a chance to see this top little predator. Although it is not native to Shetland, Dave explained that it's thought that stoats were introduced here in the 17th century, and are reasonably common - although rarely encountered - across the Shetland mainland. At one point the stoat got to within no more than 20 metres of the group, before finally disappearing and giving everyone an opportunity to draw breath after such high-octane action.

Moving on to the cliffs of Esha Ness, we had a delightful stroll while taking the time to enjoy the spring squill, birdsfoot trefoil and thrift which was slowly losing its colour. Although there are no huge seabird colonies such as those at Hermaness, we nevertheless enjoyed seeing fulmars and razorbills on their nests, the latter species revealing a chick or two. A little further along another dark morph Arctic skua showed well, and we noted the second whimbrel of the week.

Returning to the minibuses in what was now simply glorious weather, we drove all the way down to Lax Firth. Hoping for otter, we were once again thwarted, and a family of mute swans, some eiders, red-breasted mergansers, grey herons and a couple of ravens were our sole entertainment. We couldn't afford to dawdle too long here, however, as we had a special boat trip out of Sandwick arranged that would take us to the cliffs at Noss.

We set off from the pier heading north, aboard the same boat as had taken the group to Mousa earlier in the week. On the way, we saw all four auk species, gannets, shags and bonxies before eventually arriving at the south side of the Isle of Bressay. Here Darren, the captain, steered the boat into a large sea cave, to show the shags nesting on dark ledges in the interior. After baking out, the boat sailed anticlockwise around the island before passing through a natural geological arch.

After successfully navigating our way around the head, the incredible Noss cliffs suddenly came into view. Rising some 180 metres above sea level, these towering cliffs are an imposing sight on their own, but when full of seabirds they suddenly become mind blowing. All the available ledges were plastered with guillemots and razorbills, while every slope was covered with gannets. The airspace around the cliffs was also dominated by Britain's biggest seabird, with the sound and smell all contributing to quite a visceral experience.

Fortunately, we could see very few dead birds here too, and with anecdotal evidence that the gannets which had survived bird flu were subsequently noted to have developed dark eyes, we set about trying to see if we could spot survivors. At this stage of the breeding season, many of the guillemots and razorbills appeared to have chicks i.e. it had all the makings of having been successful.

On leaving the colony, Darren took the boat a bit further out, before dropping fish over the side, one at a time, which resulted in the most amazing spectacle as a huge flock of gannets, with a few bonxies to boot, followed the boat before piling in to retrieve the fish. This was dreamland for the photographers, and everyone gloriously overdosed on gannets before we disembarked back at Sandwick.

On checking into the Sumburgh Hotel once again, we had time to relax for a while before meeting to compile the day's checklist and enjoy a fine dinner.

Day 7: Trondra, West Burra - Kettle Ness, Banna Min beach, Scalloway & Sumburgh Head

Friday 30 June 2023

On the last full day of the trip, rain was predicted for later in the day, but after a full Scottish breakfast, we set off undeterred, this time for West Burra. Bypassing the diminutive port of Scalloway, we crossed to the small island of Trondra, before taking the causeway that links it with West Burra. After a quick refreshment stop at the toilets in Banna Min, we drove to the beach carpark, before completing the isthmus on foot and climbing the hill towards Kettle Ness. Looking back across the water, we spotted a sub-adult black-throated diver in the bay. This is an unusual species for Shetland, and this individual is known to have spent the entire summer here. All the group got a chance to see the third diver species of the week, although it spent most of the time fishing below the surface of the water.

As we walked past an abandoned croft, we picked up breeding lapwing and oystercatchers, with a dark morph Arctic skua giving marvellous views as it whizzed past. Breeding ringed plovers were also present, with their young looking particularly anxious when a pair of ravens flew by. Dave pointed out two enormous sheep on the tiny islet of Fugla Stack to the west, which had somehow managed to get across there and up to the top, but were patently unable to get down. Apparently, they'd been there quite a while and have become a visitor attraction!

At this remote westerly outpost, the views out to sea were terrific, and we watched a constant stream of Arctic terns diving into the water for food, as well as guillemots, razorbills and puffins. On the walk back down the hill, the same Arctic skua made another appearance, and as the black-throated diver moved even closer, we were all able to pick out the subtle plumage and anatomical variations that differentiate the black-throat from the red-throat.

On return to Banna Min, we had a short walk down to the beach to enjoy lunch, passing through some brackish marsh on the way. The plants here were terrific and I was able to point out marsh lousewort, marsh arrowgrass, ragged robin, northern marsh orchid, flea sedge, three species of thistle and birdsfoot trefoil.

The final location of the week was back at Sumburgh Head. En route, we saw a pair of whooper swans, in addition to a field full of greylag geese before we drove up to just below the lighthouse. From the narrow isthmus here, we had terrific views of puffin, until a pair of Arctic skuas quickly forced them to retreat below ground! At Sumburgh, by contrast, it sadly looked as if it had been a poor breeding year for puffins, as we saw very few coming in with sand eels.

One real highlight of this second visit here was twite, with one pair showing particularly well on the walls at the top of the cliffs, alongside a displaying rock pipit. After one last view of Arctic skuas chasing auks out at sea, we reluctantly boarded the minibuses for the short drive back to the hotel for the last evening meal of what had turned out to be a scintillating week.

Day 8: Grutness & home

Saturday 1 July 2023

The weather took a turn for the worse on our departure day, with heavy rain making it somewhat easier to leave these enchanting islands than would otherwise have been the case. After fond farewells to those of the group who had an early morning flight, I took the other five to nearby Grutness to enjoy the tern colony.

After a while, we spotted a couple of common terns amongst the Arctic terns, and I was able to give a masterclass on the subtle differences between these two similar species. The real highlight, however, was provided by 14 very obliging dunlins, along with a few ringed plovers. But after an hour of pouring rain, the weather pushed us back to the dry of the hotel, where we warmed up with teas and coffees as reality beckoned, before heading home after a simply magical week in Britain's most northerly archipelago.



Checklist for The Shetland Islands with Mike Dilger



	Common Name	Scientific Name	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8
	BIRDS									
1	Greylag goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		✓	✓				✓	
2	Mute swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>		✓				✓		
3	Whooper swan	<i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
4	Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>		✓						
5	Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		✓			✓			✓
6	Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>		✓	✓					
7	Tufted duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		✓	✓					
8	Common eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
9	Red-breasted merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>			✓		✓	✓		
10	Common pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		✓						
11	Red-throated diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
12	Black-throated diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>							✓	
13	Great northern diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>		✓	✓			✓		
14	Storm petrel	<i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i>	✓		✓					
15	Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
16	Grey heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>						✓		
17	Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
18	Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

19	Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓		✓				
20	Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
22	Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>		✓	✓	H				
23	Ringed plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>		2	✓					
25	Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
26	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>			✓			✓		
27	Black-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>						✓		
28	Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
29	Red necked phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>				✓				
30	Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31	Snipe	<i>Gallinago Gallinago</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
32	Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
33	Black-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
34	Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>		✓						
35	Great black-backed gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
36	Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
37	Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
38	Sandwich tern	<i>Thalasseus sandvicensis</i>			✓					
39	Common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
40	Arctic tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
41	Great skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

42	Long-tailed skua	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>								
43	Arctic skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>		✓		✓	✓		✓	
44	Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
45	Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
46	Black guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
47	Atlantic puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓	
48	Rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
49	Long-eared owl	<i>Asio otus</i>			✓					
50	Hooded crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
51	Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		✓		H	✓	✓	✓	
52	Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
53	Sand martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓						
54	Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>		✓	✓	✓			✓	
55	House martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>							✓	
56	Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
57	Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
58	Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
59	Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
60	House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
61	Pied wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>		✓			✓			
62	Meadow pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
63	Rock pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>		✓	✓				✓	
64	Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			✓					

65	Twite	<i>Linaria flavirostris</i>		✓	H				✓	
	MAMMALS									
1	Brown rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>							✓	
2	Mountain hare	<i>Lepus timidus</i>			✓					
3	European rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
4	Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>		✓						
5	Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>						✓		
6	Grey seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>			✓		✓		✓	
7	Common seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
8	Killer whale	<i>Orcinus orca</i>		✓						
9	Harbour porpoise	<i>Phocoena phocoena</i>								
	INSECTS									
1	Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2	Large white	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>				✓				
3	Magpie moth	<i>Abraxas grossulariata</i>							✓	

	PLANTS	
1	Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
2	Red campion	<i>Silene dioica</i>
3	Sea campion	<i>Silene uniflora</i>
4	Ragged Robin	<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>
5	Moss campion	<i>Silene acaulis</i>
6	Common chickweed	<i>Stellaria media</i>
7	Common mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
8	Shetland mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium nigrescens</i>
9	Sea sandwort	<i>Honckenya peploides</i>
10	Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
11	Common sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
12	Sheep's sorrel	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>
13	Thrift	<i>Armeria maritima</i>
14	Slender St. John's wort	<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>
15	Round-leaved sundew	<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>
16	Northern rock-cress	<i>Arabidopsis petraea</i>
17	Cuckoo flower	<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>
18	Sea rocket	<i>Cakile maritima</i>
19	Heather	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
20	Bell heather	<i>Erica cinerea</i>
21	Cross-leaved heath	<i>Erica tetralix</i>
22	Primrose	<i>Primula vulgaris</i>
23	Stone bramble	<i>Rubus saxatilis</i>
24	Silverweed	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>
25	Tormentil	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>
26	Lady's mantle	<i>Alchemilla sp.</i>
27	Kidney vetch	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>
28	Birdsfoot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
29	Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
30	White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
31	Tufted vetch	<i>Vicia cracca</i>

32	Marsh willowherb	<i>Epilobium palustre</i>
33	Fairy flax	<i>Linum catharticum</i>
34	Heath milkwort	<i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>
35	Hogweed	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
36	Scot's lovage	<i>Ligusticum scoticum</i>
37	Creeping forgetmenot	<i>Myosotis secunda</i>
38	Monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus guttatus</i>
39	Coppery monkeyflower	<i>Mimulus x burnetii</i>
40	Oysterplant	<i>Mertensia maritima</i>
41	Germander speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
42	Marsh lousewort	<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>
43	Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia spp.</i>
44	Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
45	Buckshorn plantain	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>
46	Sea plantain	<i>Plantago maritima</i>
47	Marsh arrow-grass	<i>Triglochin palustris</i>
48	Common butterwort	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>
49	Lady's bedstraw	<i>Galium verum</i>
50	Heath bedstraw	<i>Galium saxatile</i>
51	Devil's-bit scabious	<i>Succisa pratensis</i>
52	Coltsfoot	<i>Tussilago farfara</i>
53	Sea mayweed	<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>
54	Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>
55	Creeping thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>
56	Spear thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
57	Marsh thistle	<i>Cirsium palustre</i>
58	Catsear	<i>Hypochoeris radicata</i>
59	Heath-spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>
60	Northern marsh orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>
61	Early purple orchid	<i>Orchis mascula</i>
62	Frog orchid	<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>
63	Bog pondweed	<i>Potamogeton polygonifolius</i>

64	Rough meadow-grass	<i>Poa trivialis</i>
65	Cock's-foot grass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>
66	Crested dog's-tail	<i>Cynosures cristata</i>
67	Wavy hair-grass	<i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i>
68	Sweet vernal-grass	<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>
69	Yorkshire fog	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
70	Marram grass	<i>Ammophila arrenaria</i>
71	Common cotton-sedge	<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>
72	Star sedge	<i>Carex echinacea</i>
73	Flea sedge	<i>Carex pulicarius</i>
74	Black sedge	<i>Carex nigra</i>
75	Heath rush	<i>Juncus squarrosus</i>
76	Soft rush	<i>Juncus effusus</i>