

## ***Welcome and thank you for visiting Fair Isle, we hope you enjoy your stay.***

The following are a few notes to help you make the most of your stay, particularly if you are visiting for the birding or exploring the outdoors.

Fair Isle enjoys a well-earned reputation for being a friendly, welcoming community and you will find the Islanders are happy to help you out with questions over access, directions etc. Please heed any advice you are given by the Islanders, as the following notes are not intended to cover all eventualities, and crofting operations or other issues may arise at times that will change access to parts of the Isle.

**It is expected that all visitors respect current COVID-19 social distancing measures and practice good hand hygiene whilst on the Isle.**

### **General access**

The North of the Isle is completely open access, although care should be taken near the cliffs. Recent landslips at Furse, Kirn o' Skroo, Bergaroo, Wester Lothar and Grey Geo have left the ground in those locations potentially treacherous. During the rounding up of the hill sheep (the 'caa') the North should be avoided until after the caa has finished. It usually takes place twice in late summer and twice later in the autumn, with exact dates usually displayed at Stackhoull (the shop) a day or two beforehand.

Access is permitted through fields and open areas throughout the South of the Isle. Under no account should you climb on stone walls or on fences; use gates where possible. Please note that other than the Shetland Islands Council installed ones (which display a blue arrow logo), stiles may only be in place for the convenience of the crofters, so extra care should be taken if using them. Please try to avoid touching any shared surfaces on stiles and gates when using them - if you have to, please ensure that you use hand sanitiser before and after touching a stile or gate handle.

There are a couple of gates that we would appreciate you not using all together, as they are used by vulnerable/shielding members of the community on a regular basis;  
The gate immediately East of the house at **Busta** should be avoided, and the gate at **Schoolton**.

### **Gardens**

You are welcome to look into people's gardens, but please respect their privacy and do not enter the gardens or stare into their house windows! A couple of specific areas to bear in mind:

**Schoolton** – Nick and Elizabeth are happy for visitors to look into their garden, but please do so from the side of the house or from the road, do not go in front of the house.

**Stackhoull** – Vaila's Trees (the planted area to the north of the shop) and the shop garden (the south-western garden near the shop door) can be entered but please do not go into the garden south-east of the shop building.

**Lower Leogh** – although the *rosa* may still be viewed, please do so from the outside of the garden, as Lower Leogh is now available for rent and therefore may be occupied.

### **Observatory**

It is very important that nobody enters the fenced area of the Obs compound, other than Obs staff and workers.

### **Traps**

Please don't enter the traps themselves, as this can interfere with the scientific work of the Obs. Most birds can easily be viewed from outside the traps. It's worth noting that birds cannot get 'stuck' in the traps unless the

catching box is opened. If you see a bird fluttering against the wire, please just give it some space and it will make its own way out. Please do not attempt to catch any birds yourself.

### **Other habitats**

Please bear in mind that vegetation has a tough time growing on Fair Isle, for this reason we ask people not to trample areas such as the thistle patches at Houll and iris beds around the Isle. All of these are likely to have paths through them, so birds can still be seen without flattening the vegetation.

Please only walk along the edges of the crop strips (not through them), and please do not enter the fenced area around the allotment at Quoy. Prior to cutting in July/August, please keep to the edges when walking through silage fields.

Although you may visit the cemetery, please treat it with respect and don't bird in it.

### **Roads**

The roads on Fair Isle are narrow and you usually need to leave the road entirely to allow vehicles to pass. This includes tripod legs, backpacks etc, which it is easy to accidentally leave hanging over the road even after you have moved out of the way! Please try to move off the road before any vehicles reach you as, although most people are not generally in that much of a hurry, you never know when it may be the Island nurse or a firefighter heading to an emergency. If you are in a group, please make sure you all stand to the same side (it doesn't matter which side!).

### **Bird news**

The Obs runs a WhatsApp group for news of bird sightings, and any other significant wildlife. Please message Georgia via WhatsApp or text on 07535 934420 to be put on the group (and just take yourself off it when you leave). The group is intended for breaking news of birds and cetaceans; updates are usually best limited to movements, sightings on following days etc. Ideally news is best restricted to rarities, scarcities and significant Fair Isle records.

### **Log**

If you are interested in joining in for daily Log, please let one of the Observatory staff know or send an email to [ranger@fairislebirdobs.co.uk](mailto:ranger@fairislebirdobs.co.uk) and we will try and sort something out.

### **Bird Ringing**

If you have a BTO ringing permit and would like to take part in ringing activities, please contact the ringer-in-charge, Assistant Warden Alex Penn via WhatsApp or text on 07787 349613.

If you are interested in seeing ringing, please let one of the AWs or the Ranger know, to see if a trap round can be arranged.

### **Ranger Service**

The Observatory offers a free Ranger Service on the Isle – if you would like to arrange a guided walk or similar, please contact Georgia, the Ranger on 07535 934420 (WhatsApp, text or phone) or at [ranger@fairislebirdobs.co.uk](mailto:ranger@fairislebirdobs.co.uk). Visit the Ranger Service section of the FIBO website for more information – [www.fairislebirdobs.co.uk/ranger.html](http://www.fairislebirdobs.co.uk/ranger.html)

### **Shop and Post Office**

Stackhoull Stores is well stocked with food, drinks, batteries, stationery, toiletries, postcards etc.

**Opening times (times are subject to change, depending on when the boat can get to mainland Shetland):**

**Monday** 9.30am to 12.30pm, 2pm to 4.30pm, **Tuesday** closed, **Wednesday** 9.30am to 12.30pm, 2pm to 4.30pm, **Thursday** closed, **Friday** 9.30am to 12.30pm, **Saturday** 9.30am to 12.30pm and **Sunday** closed.

Opening times for the Post Office are the same as the Shop.

Current law from the Scottish Government states that it is compulsory to wear a face covering in all shops – please make sure you do so, and masks can be purchased in the porch of the shop if you require one. Please also use the

hand sanitiser provided on the door before you go in. The toilet can be used by customers, but it is not yet open to the public.

### **Knitwear**

We have many highly skilled knitters of traditional Fair Isle knitwear on the Isle. Please see the following details:

FAIR ISLE MADE IN FAIR ISLE  
Hollie Shaw & Catriona Thomson  
Burkle, Fair Isle, Shetland ZE2 9JU  
Email: shawderyk@btconnect.com  
Website: their Facebook page

EXCLUSIVELY FAIR ISLE  
Elizabeth Riddiford  
Schoolton, Fair Isle, Shetland ZE2 9JU  
Email: [via website]  
Website: [www.exclusivelyfairisle.co.uk](http://www.exclusivelyfairisle.co.uk)

FAIR ISLE KNITWEAR  
Mati Ventrillon  
Nedder Taft, Fair Isle, Shetland ZE2 9JU  
Email: [mativentrillon@mativentrillon.co.uk](mailto:mativentrillon@mativentrillon.co.uk)  
Website: [www.mativentrillon.co.uk](http://www.mativentrillon.co.uk)

FAIR ISLE WITH MARIE  
Marie Bruhat  
Taft, Fair Isle, Shetland ZE2 9JU  
Email: [marie@fairislewithmarie.com](mailto:marie@fairislewithmarie.com)  
Website: [www.fairislewithmarie.com](http://www.fairislewithmarie.com)

### **A final word**

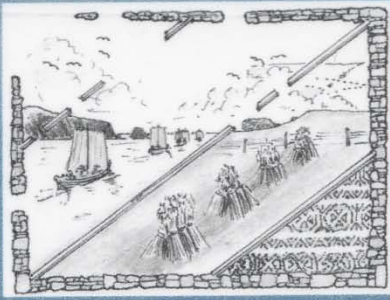
As with everyone, the global COVID-19 pandemic has brought about a very different way of life for people on Fair Isle. As lockdown and travel restrictions ease, please bear in mind that a lot of this information is subject to change and we will try our best to keep visitors up to date, but also please do stay vigilant with current preventative guidelines to keep yourselves and the islanders safe. Although some activities and facilities are not available to visitors at the moment, we hope that you still have a fantastic and memorable time exploring the island and enjoying the landscapes, culture and wildlife that we have to offer.

Finally, you may wish to visit: [www.fairisle.org.uk](http://www.fairisle.org.uk) or [www.fairislebirdobs.co.uk](http://www.fairislebirdobs.co.uk) for more information.

**Thank you,**

***Fair Isle Bird Observatory and the Isle accommodation providers.***





For a glimpse  
of Fair Isle's fascinating past  
visit the

## George Waterston Memorial Centre & Museum

The museum will be open on request throughout the summer. Due to present rules parties are restricted to a maximum of 6.

Hand sanitiser provided, to be used before entry and masks to be worn.

Thank you in advance.

We will be delighted to see you!

To book a visit to the museum contact  
one of the following:-

Anne Sinclair - 07979065693

Stewart Thomson - 01595 760 241

Eileen Thomson - 07765602683

Rachel Challoner - 07775926377

Dave Brackenbury - 07752566231



Loading goods and passengers from a  
yawl onto the "sooth boat" in mid ocean

**WATER FEATURES**

- BM** Boini Mire
- DA** Da Water
- ELW** Easter Lothar Water
- FD** Field Ditch
- G** Gilsetter
- GB** Gilly Burn
- GW** Golden Water
- H** Homisdale
- HB** Hegri Burn
- KM** Kirki Mire
- MB** Meadow Burn
- MV** Mire o' Vatnagard
- OS** Obs Scrape
- SM** Suka Mire
- US** Ultra Scrape
- V** Vaadal
- WB** Wirvie Burn
- W** Walli Burn

**MAIN OBS TRAPS**

- DD** Double Dyke
- G** Gully
- HD** Hjon Dyke
- SD** Single Dyke
- RS** Roadside
- P** Plantation
- V** Vaadal
- NG** North Grind

**TOILETS**

- FIBO
- Airstrip
- Hall
- Stackhoull

**SHOPS**

- Stackhoull (groceries and gifts)
- FIBO (gifts)

**KNITWEAR**

- Burkle
- Schoolton
- Upper Leogh
- Nether Taft
- FIBO

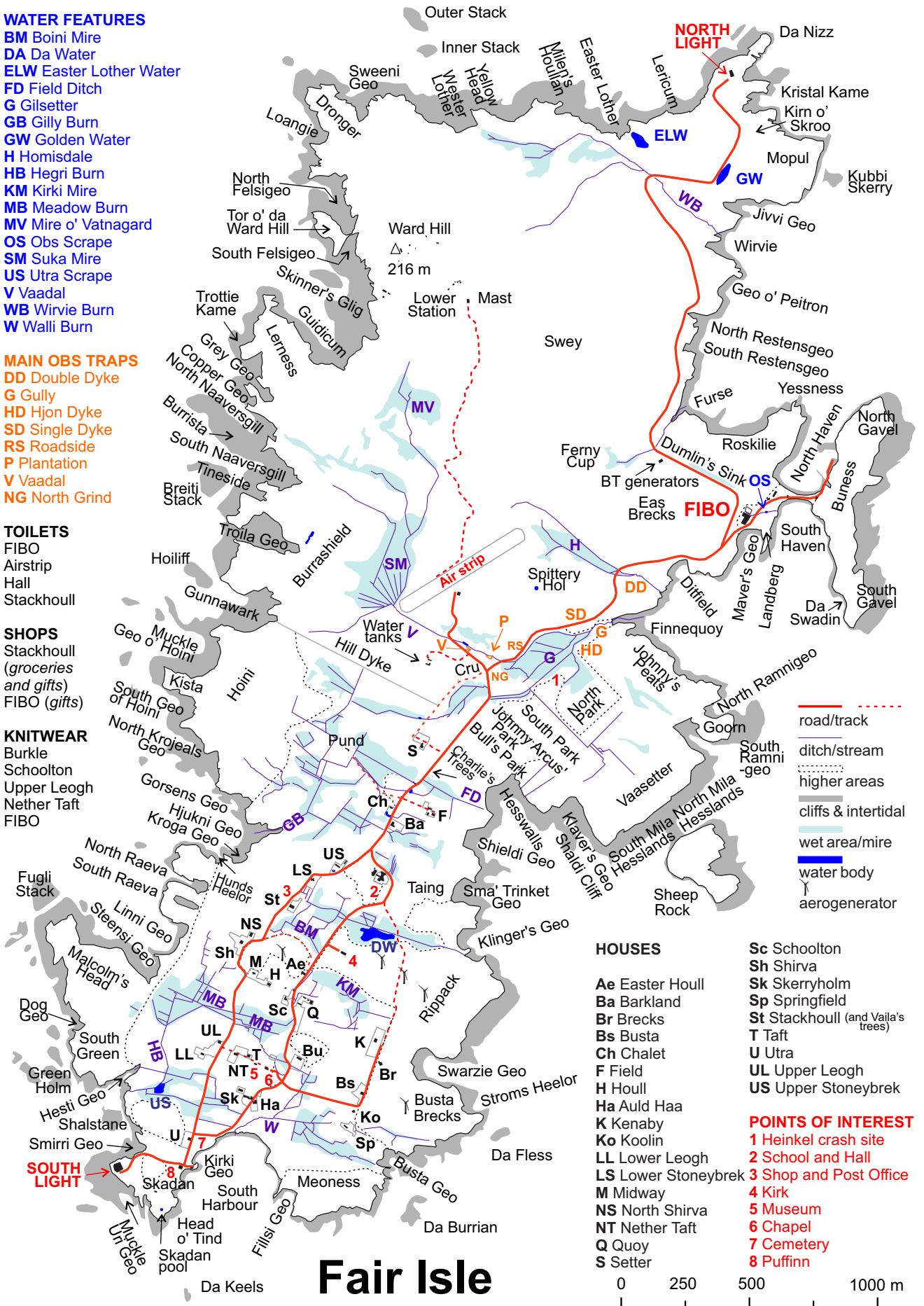
**HOUSES**

- Ae** Easter Houll
- Ba** Barkland
- Br** Brecks
- Bs** Busta
- Ch** Chalet
- F** Field
- H** Houll
- Ha** Auld Haa
- K** Kenaby
- Ko** Koolin
- LL** Lower Leogh
- LS** Lower Stoneybrek
- M** Midway
- NS** North Shirva
- NT** Nether Taft
- Q** Quoy
- S** Setter

- Sc** Schoolton
- Sh** Shirva
- Sk** Skerryholm
- Sp** Springfield
- St** Stackhoull (and Vailla's trees)
- T** Taft
- U** Ultra
- UL** Upper Leogh
- US** Upper Stoneybrek

**POINTS OF INTEREST**

- 1** Heinkel crash site
- 2** School and Hall
- 3** Shop and Post Office
- 4** Kirk
- 5** Museum
- 6** Chapel
- 7** Cemetery
- 8** Puffinn



**Fair Isle**

