

Orkney

Naturetrek Tour Report

31st May – 6th June 2025



Sanderling



Northern Gannet



Grey Seal and European Shag



Red-throated Diver

Tour report by Mick Durham



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Tour participants: Mick Durham (leader) with eight Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Saturday 31st May

Only two people were around to join the first afternoon's excursion, so Mick chose to go to an area that we could easily revisit with the whole group. After leaving the hotel we went out on the airport road and turned off to Inganess Bay. It was quite breezy and the bay wasn't very calm, making scanning the sea a little difficult. However, the Arctic Terns were busy over the wrecked boat and a few gulls were in the air. We ticked off Black-headed, Common and Herring Gulls before wandering into the marshy area behind the car park. This gave us a very brief sighting of a Sedge Warbler, plus a couple of young Mallards on the small pond.

From there we drove out on to the Tankerness peninsular, where we picked up on a few more birds. Rock Doves and Starlings were everywhere, and in the newly-cut silage fields we found Oystercatchers, Curlew, Rabbits and three Hares. On the Rerwick road we found some more Arctic Terns a little closer to the minibus, giving better views.

The rain clouds were gathering, so we decided to head back towards Kirkwall. On the way we spotted Raven and Hooded Crow to add to the corvid list (we had already seen Rooks) and a single Wood Pigeon was probably the last new bird to be found. By the time we reached the hotel car park it was beginning to rain quite heavily and we were more than happy to be back at the hotel.

Mick had arranged to meet everyone before the evening meal, and he outlined the plans for the week. Over the evening meal, everyone chatted and began to get to know each other.

Day 2

Sunday 1st June

Today's itinerary was centred around our visit to Maeshowe chambered cairn in the afternoon, so Mick decided to start by exploring some of the southern islands. After a slow (it was Sunday after all) breakfast, we left the hotel and took the road south. At the southern end of Mainland lies the village of St Mary's, and a hide overlooking Loch of Ayre. This was to be our first stop.

"Sunny and breezy" best describes the weather, but the loch wasn't too rough and we were able to pick out a number of birds. We soon added Mallard, Tufted Duck, Mute Swan, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull and Great Black-backed Gull to our list, and then a Cormorant arrived. Closer inspection of the ducks revealed some Gadwall.

We then turned our attention seaward, to the Bay of Ayre, where we found Eiders with young, as well as Oystercatcher and Arctic Tern. We drove a very short distance down to the pier in St Mary's for a comfort break and found, hauled out on some rocks, about a dozen Harbour Seals, and then alone on a rock, a Grey Seal. A short distance away, across the first Churchill Barrier, was Lamb Holm and the Italian Chapel. The car park was relatively empty, so we took the opportunity to have a look around the old Nissen hut that Italian prisoners of war converted into a chapel. We also scanned St Mary's Bay from the car park in the hope of finding a diver or two, but other than a single Ringed Plover, it was quiet.

Once everyone had spent time in the chapel, we drove across the next two barriers and went on to Burray. Stopping at the southern end, Mick explained to the group that we were going to look at the small Little Tern colony but, as they were nesting and protected by law from disturbance, we would be doing it from a little distance. Nevertheless, we got excellent views of them, as well as some Dunlins and some very confiding Sanderlings, which gave us some really close-up views.

Time was slipping away, and Mick indicated that it was time to turn back north and head towards Stennes, ready for our 2.00pm visit to Maeshowe. Once back on the outskirts of Kirkwall, Mick took the Old Finstown road and then diverted up the steep single track farm road to the masts on top of Wideford Hill, where we had lunch admiring the panoramic views. Despite the breeze, some insects were flying, and some of the group saw and photographed a Northern White-tailed Bumblebee.

Lunch over, we drove to the Maeshowe Visitor Centre. We were a little early, which gave us time to use the toilets and look at the exhibition before boarding the shuttle bus up to the burial chamber. For an hour we listened to the guide telling us all about the rather complex history of Maeshowe. We marvelled at the huge stone blocks the Neolithic people had quarried and moved in order to construct the chamber, and inspected the runic graffiti left behind by the Vikings.

Tour over, we moved on just up the road to the Stones of Stennes and Barnhowe Neolithic village, both of which we ignored as we made our way to the hide overlooking Loch of Harray. To begin with, it seemed that the loch was devoid of life, but soon we began to pick up on some birds. Redshank, Shag and Sand Martin were added to the list, and we also saw plenty more Greylag Geese and various gulls. We were beginning to think that was it, when a Great Skua flew by.

The afternoon was slipping away, so we made our way over to Barnhowe to read the information boards and imagine what life must once have been like living there. By now, it was beginning to rain, so we didn't linger and began to make our way back to the minibus. Mick chose a slightly longer route back to Kirkwall, taking the coastal road around the Bay of Ireland, overlooking Hoy. When we reached Hobbister RSPB Reserve, Mick diverted down to look at Waulkmill Bay, in the hope of divers. By now it was raining hard and trying to look out of the minibus windows wasn't easy. Mick thought he saw a number of divers over the far side of the bay, and set the 'scope up, getting soaking wet in the process, only to discover that they were Red-breasted Mergansers. It was time to go back to the hotel!

We all met up before the evening meal to run through our sightings, and for Mick to explain the travel arrangements for tomorrow's visit to the island of Westray.

Day 3

Monday 2nd June

Visiting Westray, one of the more northerly of the Orkney islands, necessitated an early start, so the hotel provided us with a packed breakfast and we all met up in reception at 6.40am. After a short drive down through a sleepy Kirkwall, we were soon joining the queue of vehicles waiting for the early morning ferry to Westray. The gusty winds that the Met Office had promised were already beginning to become evident, but it was dry, and once on board we found a comfortable spot on the boat from where we could view out of the wind.

The crossing of just under an hour and a half wasn't too bad, although as we crossed the Westray Firth the boat did bounce around for a short while. A few Guillemots and Shags were out on the water, and we even spotted a couple of Puffins too. Nearer to Westray, we passed a shipping marker buoy with its attendant Black Guillemots: they have taken to using these buoys as an easy place to rest. Sadly, no fins were seen, so we couldn't add any cetaceans to our list.

We berthed at Rapness, and once on dry land we drove north until we reached Loch of Swartmill, a large expanse of freshwater. Tufted Ducks, Mute Swans, Greylag Geese and a pair of Shelducks with some ducklings featured here. We also began to pick up various gulls and some of the common smaller birds too: Starling, Blackbird, Jackdaw, Oystercatcher, Swallow and Sand Martin were never difficult to spot.

Having scanned the loch and identified all that we could see, we drove on to the bay of Swartmill in the hope of finding some divers, but we were thwarted by the windy conditions kicking up the waves, and probably an actual lack of divers as well! Back on the main road, we drove up to the main settlement of Westray, Pierowall, for a comfort break, before heading out to the seabirds on the RSPB Reserve at Noup Head. Mick had warned the group about the long track leading up to the lighthouse, which is somewhat rough and bumpy, but driving slowly gave us time to watch out for wildlife as we went. Lots of Rabbits, a single Hare, Oystercatchers, Lapwing and Curlew were all in evidence, and it wasn't too long before we were parking up by the lighthouse.

Almost as soon as we got out of the minibus, we were hit by really strong, gusty winds, which gave some pause for thought. What would it be like up on the cliffs themselves? Would we be able to stand up? How safe was it going to be? Mick suggested that we walked up to the trig point and make a decision there. In fact, the wind wasn't too bad, and we were able to carry on to the cliff edge, where we settled down to watch the birds. Gannets and Fulmars hung in the air so close to us that we felt we could almost touch them. The occasional Guillemot appeared too, and with care we were able to look down on the nesting ledges and sort out Guillemots, Razorbills and one or two Puffins.

Mick pointed out how the Gannets had constructed nests, but the auks just relied on the ledges to lay their eggs on. Some of the group were unaware of the way in which Gannet plumage changes as they move from immaturity to adulthood, but with plenty of examples of the mottled younger birds, this was an easy lesson for Mick to give. A little harder to find were bridled Guillemots: again some of the group hadn't heard of this form of Guillemot, but, much to his satisfaction, Mick found a ledge with a Puffin, two Razorbills and several Guillemots, including one bridled individual all lined up for inspection. A perfect visual aid!

Occasionally a Great Skua drifted by, and we did see a few Black Guillemots and a couple of Kittiwakes, but they were well and truly outnumbered by the commoner auks that kept up a constant stream of comings and goings.

Dark clouds were building up, and the wind strength increased. Despite the fact that we were all enjoying the seabirds, we felt it was becoming increasingly difficult and uncomfortable watching and so, reluctantly, we headed back to the minibus and began the slow drive back to Pierowall. Some of the group had never visited a gannetry before, and admitted that they had been (figuratively!) blown away by the experience. Even those of us who had been to other gannetries came away delighted by the sights and sounds of Noup Head seabird city.

Just outside Pierowall stand the ruins of Noltland castle, built in the 1560s for Gilbert Balfour, a local laird with strong connections to Mary, Queen of Scots. Along with Mary, he was implicated in the murder of her second husband, Lord Darnley. We spent twenty minutes or so exploring the castle; it was quite a relief to be doing something out of the wind. We then drove through Pierowall and out to the small airfield which services Westray's neighbouring island, Papa Westray. The two-minute flight between the islands is recognised as one of the world's shortest commercial flights, and receives quite a lot of tourist interest.

The airport road is a 'dead-end', so we turned around and drove back as far as the large sandy bay known as the Ouse. With the tide out, the sand stretched for some considerable way, and to begin with it looked devoid of life. However, as we scanned around, we realised that there were a great many small waders all over the bay. These turned out to be Dunlins, probably several hundred, as well as a great many Sanderlings and some Ringed Plovers, as well as a few Curlews.

We had a little time left before a lunch break, booked at the Saintear café, so we drove down the 'Westside' road as far as we could, to the Ness of Turquoy. There was still no sign of divers, but we enjoyed watching a large group of Arctic Terns (we weren't sure if they were nesting on the beach, but we kept a respectable distance nevertheless) as they fished, flew around, settled and took off again; they were never still for long.

Then it was back to the café for a very enjoyable lunch break; the hot coffee in particular was much appreciated. By the time we had all eaten it was nearly 2.00pm and the Heritage Centre was back open; that was our next stop. The small Neolithic figurine known as the 'Westray Wife' was a particular draw, but all the exhibits proved interesting, and we spent some time reading about life on Westray both past and present.

Conscious of the afternoon passing, we left the Heritage Centre and headed out past Jack's Chippy to the road end at Scarfhall Point, once again in the hope of finding some divers. Still we had no joy, but we did find a single Grey Seal and enjoyed watching a Harbour Seal trying to get on to a rock already occupied by a young Cormorant. Surprisingly, the Cormorant won out!

From there, we drove down to a small wetland area on the northern edge of the Bay of Turquoy, where we found a pair of Coots with some young. Our last stop was at Castle o' Burrian, where we sat for half an hour or so watching the Fulmars and the occasional Puffin on the sea stack. Walking back to the minibus, we paused to identify some of the wonderful flowers growing along the cliff path. Red Campion grew in profusion, but we also found Sea Campion, Bladder Campion, Silverweed and Sea Mayweed.

We then drove back to the ferry terminal to wait with the growing number of vehicles, cyclists and foot passengers waiting for the return ferry. The crossing back to Kirkwall was reasonably calm, and small rafts of Guillemots were seen, as were the Black Guillemots still sitting out on the channel markers. It was quite late when we got back to the hotel, so it was straight in for our evening meal. At the end of the meal, we sat and reviewed the day, working out our sightings and discussing how we might fill the next day, before our afternoon visit to Skara Brae.

Day 4

Tuesday 3rd June

The forecast was not promising: strong winds and rain for much of the day. Sadly, the Met Office was bang on with its predictions. We decided initially to repeat the excursion we had done on Saturday, as only two people had

been able to join in. So first we drove out to Inganess Bay (picking up our first Hare on the minor road) and watched the Arctic Terns out on the sunken Juniata. A few Fulmars flew stiff-winged, almost in contempt of the wind, but little else braved the elements. A short walk through the marshy interior surprisingly gave two brief glimpses of a Sedge Warbler.

Back on the main road, we headed out past the airport for Tankerness. Near the airport, Mick spotted a male Hen Harrier very close to the road. We couldn't stop, but for a moment or two it gave a wonderful display as it battled the wind, dipping and diving much to the delight of all the group. It was so close to the minibus that everyone got good views.

Tankerness was generally quiet; we saw a couple more Hares and a number of the common species, and then Mick picked up on a female Hen Harrier. This one wasn't so obliging, and drifted off out of sight before very long. Redshank perched on posts in the calmer periods, Curlew displayed, and the rain storms came and went.

Having driven around the Tankerness circuit, we took the road out on to Deerness. Mick stopped at Sandi Sands for a comfort break and to look at what was in the bay. However, the weather had other ideas. As we made use of the toilets, an ominous dark cloud came storming across the bay, swiftly followed by torrential rain. No-one wanted to stand out in it looking for birds, which were probably quite wisely sheltering too.

Mick decided that the best use of our time was to drive back out to the west and to the Loons RSPB reserve hide for lunch. The rain continued, the wind blew and we were very happy to get settled in the hide. Over a period of about an hour and a half, we ate our lunch and scanned the open water and vegetation for signs of life. A female Wigeon put in a brief appearance, two Coots fed their hungry chick and a Little Grebe spent time popping in and out of the vegetation. In the distance, a Great Skua flew by, and Mick spotted a male Reed Bunting some distance away.

We finally decided that we had probably seen everything we were going to see, so we left and drove up to the Brough of Birsay. We were not going to walk out on to the Brough: it was far too windy, and anyway the tide was coming in and the causeway was covered. But we wanted to make use of the toilets, and Mick thought that the view across to the Brough would be worth seeing. We stood in the car park overlooking Brough Sound, watching the rollers coming in from both sides. The wind caught the tops of the waves, throwing spume high into the air, and we got great lungfuls of fresh air watching the spectacle. It was well worth the struggle to stand upright!

It was time to make our way to Skara Brae. When we got there the car park was remarkably empty (this should have been a clue) and we soon discovered that the Neolithic village had been shut to visitors because there was a safety risk owing to the strong winds blowing in from the sea. The village is right next to the sea and was being battered by spray. Mick spoke to the staff and sorted out that we could rebook, but only via the internet (not at the Visitor Centre), and the mobile phone signal was too poor to do it there and then. We all settled for a cup of tea/coffee and a wander around the shop.

Despite the wind and yet another heavy shower, we decided to drive back to Kirkwall via the Ring of Brodgar. Again, the car park was not too full, and we joined the other brave (or foolish!) souls who were staggering around the stone circle. The short pull up on to the mound was a real battle against the wind, a 'head down and push' struggle. There was little stopping for photographs or scanning for birds, although we did see a Great Skua. Rather

quicker than normal, we were back at the van and not a moment too soon. Before we had driven out of the car park, we were lashed by a hail storm and drove past the stones looking at the poor people caught out in what was probably the fiercest storm of the day.

By the time we reached Finstown, the sun was back out, and as a result Mick took the Old Finstown road back to Kirkwall. The reward was our third Hen Harrier, another male, and again it was close to the road and gave some lovely views.

No one was unhappy about arriving a little early at the hotel. Fighting the weather had been quite tiring, and although we did admit defeat and headed home early, our battles had given us three good Hen Harrier sightings, we had enjoyed watching the storms arrive (in the comfort of the minibus), and our time in the hide had been quite rewarding too.

Before the evening meal, Mick confirmed that he had been able to rebook a visit to Skara Brae for Thursday, and that the weather forecast was predicting lighter winds and not as much rain. Fingers crossed!

Day 5

Wednesday 4th June

With a forecast of more strong winds and rain, we decided to explore the remaining parts of the southern islands that we had missed out on last Sunday. After our daily visit to Tesco, we set off south, wondering how gusty it would be crossing the Churchill Barriers. In fact, it wasn't too bad, and once over the first we stopped off at the Italian Chapel to check the bay for divers. A Great Northern Diver was spotted, but it kept diving and moving away, so not everyone saw it.

From there, we kept going south until we reached St Mary's Hope on South Ronaldsay. On the drive we saw many of the birds we were picking up each day, but nothing new. Mick headed up to Hoxa and the car park at Sand of Wright, where we stopped for a comfort break. We had intended to walk out to the small freshwater lochs and the Dam of Hoxa, but the rain had started, and no-one felt like getting wet so early in the day. Sand of Wright had some Arctic Terns, Fulmars and Common Gulls, but we didn't linger to search for other birds.

Continuing south, we paused briefly at the viewpoint near Suckquoy to search for harriers and owls, but none were showing. A little further along the road we picked up our first Pheasant of the trip (more were to follow) and, not having seen any for a few days, we also saw a couple of Ravens. The road comes to an abrupt end at Bur Wick, and here we took a short walk up on to the cliffs at The Wing. It was wild! The wind battered us, but looking over the Pentland Firth and watching the chaos of the waves and spume were extremely exhilarating. A lone Gannet battled its way across the sea, nearer to the cliffs the Guillemots seemed to be faring better, and a Great Skua was blown above our heads.

It was time to head slowly north again. We diverted to Graemston Loch, where we found a great many Greylag Geese with a few Tufted Duck mixed in. Then it was on down to Wind Wick where the sun shone and we were able to get down on to the beach and out of the wind. A surprising find here was a small number of House Martins working the steep grassy cliffs. At sea there were a couple of Gannets, another Great Skua, and along the tideline a couple of Black-headed Gulls and some Redshanks looked for food. On the way back to the minibus, we got our first sighting of a Wren.

We decided to have a (somewhat late) lunch in the hide at Loch of Ayre, St Mary's and started to drive back across Burray. Mick took a short diversion to get us on the south-eastern side of Echna Loch, and as he drove along to find somewhere to stop, he spotted a Red-throated Diver. Not knowing if this was a breeding loch, we watched carefully from the road and took a few pictures from behind a large earth bank, before leaving it in peace. The lighting was perfect and everyone got to see its red throat. Before getting to the hide, we called in briefly to the Italian Chapel bay to see if we could find the Great Northern Diver again. We didn't!

The wind was buffeting the hide, but in between eating our lunch we nevertheless found male and female Eider, a number of Mute Swans, a small group of Red-breasted Mergansers, a Meadow Pipit and a Pied Wagtail.

We decided to finish the afternoon by driving a longish circuit, looking for Hen Harriers and Short-eared Owls. This involved heading back almost to Kirkwall and then out along the coast road around Scapa Bay, past RSPB Hobbister, a brief stop at Waulkmill Bay, through Orphir and up to Stennes. Despite driving through some really good habitat, we failed to find a single bird. When we reached the Stennes road, we diverted to see the Unsten chambered cairn, a much smaller affair than Maeshowe, probably built to bury people from the immediate area. As we emerged from the low entrance tunnel, the rain started again and as the group were keen to visit, Mick drove to the "Harry Potter" workshop, where there was much browsing and a little shopping.

We took the Heddle road back to Finstown, and then the Old Finstown Road back to Kirkwall, but sadly there was no repeat of the Hen Harrier view that we had had the day before. Back at the hotel, it was time to get showered and warmed up ready for our evening debrief and meal. It had been a slightly frustrating day coping with the wind, but the beautiful view of the Red-throated Diver, the wild Pentland Firth and some spectacular beaches looking stunning in storm light more than made up for the lack of other birds.

Day 6

Thursday 5th June

It was obvious as we sat at the breakfast table that the wind had eased somewhat, and that it looked hopeful for our morning visit to Skara Brae. Mick had organised the repeat booking for first thing in the morning, and we were away from the hotel in good time. In fact, we arrived just as everything was opening. The car park was almost empty, and we quickly got our entrance tickets and set off along the path to Skara Brae village itself.

We were the first to get there, and after a quick safety talk from the guide, we began to take in what is one of Europe's premier Neolithic sites. Walking around is a 'one-way' affair but the guide had said we could go around as often as we liked, which we did! We also spent some time scanning the magnificent Bay of Skail and found our second Great Northern Diver. This time, viewing was easier and everyone saw it.

In their own time the group moved on to Skail House, the one-time home of William Graham Watt, who discovered Skara Brae after a particularly fierce winter storm in 1850, and then we met up in the café for a hot drink. By now the coaches had arrived and the whole complex was becoming quite manic: it was time to move on. Mick had planned to drive across Mainland and up to the RSPB hide at Burgar Hill. Just out of Dounby a cry came from the back of the minibus: another male Hen Harrier had been spotted. Once again it was near the road to begin with, and we all got good views before it began to drift away.

We were almost across Birsay Moor when another cry from the back gave us our first (and only) Short-eared Owl. It was in sight for some time, but was always distant, which was a shame. We arrived at Bugar Hill hide in time for a late lunch, and enjoyed half an hour or so watching the Greylag Geese with their goslings. A Red-throated Diver flew across at one point, as did a Great Skua, but other than that the loch and the moorland were quiet. The afternoon was slipping away, and we wanted to visit the Eddie Balfour hide at RSPB Cottascarth, so we made a move. We drove through a sharp shower on the way, but by the time we arrived at the car park the sun was shining again. There was a cold wind blowing as we walked up to the hide; it is a glorious affair the size of a barn, and offered a very welcome escape from the wind. On the path up we saw a Hare and three Curlews, which displayed all around us until we disappeared inside the hide. A strong display of Heath Spotted Orchids was appreciated.

Unfortunately, although we spent some time in the hide, all we saw was a pair of Stonechats, a couple of Meadow Pipits and a Hooded Crow. It was getting late and with a lack of birds, we decided to leave. Mick took the group back across Birsay Moor in the hope of refinding the Short-eared Owl. We had no luck, but someone spotted "a large brown bird which has just landed". We pulled in, got out of the van, and after a little searching the large brown bird actually became two dark-morph and one light-morph Arctic Skuas. They entertained us for a little while before disappearing. It was time to complete the drive back to the hotel.

We finally pulled into the hotel car park, tired, full of fresh air again and looking forward to our final evening meal. As always, Mick gave a rundown of the day before the meal, completed the checklist of sightings for the week, and then we adjourned to the dining room.

Day 7

Friday 6th June

This was a travelling day, and we all met up for our last breakfast together, had a final recap of the week, and then said our farewells to the hotel staff. We left to find ferries or buses to the airport, and started some long journeys home.

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Species lists

Birds (H = Heard only)

I=Introduced		May-June 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>			✓	✓	✓	
Gadwall	<i>Mareca strepera</i>		✓				
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Mareca penelope</i>				✓		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		✓			✓	
Common Pheasant - I	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>					✓	✓
Common Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>						✓
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Wood Pigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>			✓	✓		
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>				✓		
Eurasian Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>		✓	✓			
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Eurasian Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>				✓		
Common Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		✓	✓			
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		✓	✓			
Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>		✓				
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>			✓			
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>			✓		✓	✓
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Atlantic Puffin	<i>Fratercula arctica</i>			✓			
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>			✓			
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>			✓			
Common Guillemot	<i>Uria aalge</i>		✓	✓		✓	
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>					✓	✓
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>					✓	✓
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>			✓		✓	
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Shag	<i>Gulosus aristotelis</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>				3		1

I=Introduced		May-June 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>						2
Common Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>		✓				
Western Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northern Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	✓				✓	✓
Eurasian Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>			H	H		
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>		✓	✓			
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Western House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>					✓	
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	✓			✓		
Eurasian Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>					✓	
Common Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Common Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>						✓
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		✓	✓			✓
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba yarrellii</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>			✓		✓	✓
European Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>			✓		✓	
Common Linnet	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>			✓			✓
Common Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				✓		

Mammals

		May-June 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5
European Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
European Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	✓		✓	✓		✓
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>		✓	✓			✓
Harbour Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>		✓	✓		✓	

Butterflies

		May-June 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>		✓			✓	

Bees

		May-June 2025					
Common name	Scientific name	31	1	2	3	4	5
Northern White-tailed Bumblebee	<i>Bombus magnus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	

Plants

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>	Northern Marsh Orchid
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata</i>	Heath Spotted Orchid
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris
<i>Scilla verna</i>	Spring Squill
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Common Bluebell
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cottongrass
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh-marigold
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot Trefoil
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Common Tormentil
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens
<i>Salix aurita</i>	Eared Willow
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Common Sycamore
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Common Thrift
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Sea Campion
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Common Primrose
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common Butterwort
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Common Lousewort
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Common Daisy
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>	Sea Mayweed
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder Campion
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog Violet
<i>Digitalis</i> sp.	Foxglove sp.
<i>Bistorta</i> sp.	Bistort sp.