

Further information

Core paths and access routes:
www.shetland.gov.uk/corepaths

Shetland Outdoors blog
www.shetland.gov.uk/Shetland_Outdoors_Blog.asp

GPX of core paths & access routes
www.shetland.gov.uk/developmentplans/MapData.asp

Walk Shetland
www.shetland.org/things/outdoor/walking

Shetland UNESCO Global Geopark
www.shetlandamenity.org/geopark-shetland

RSPB Shetland
www.facebook.com/RSPBShetland/

General tips

- Weather can change quickly and dramatically; take appropriate clothing and footwear.
- If exploring beaches or other tidal areas, check tide times before you go.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you expect to be back.
- Mobile coverage in Shetland is generally good, though there are areas with poor or no signal.
- Take enough food and drink for your trip.
- Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps 466-470 cover the whole of Shetland.
- Shetland Islands Council manages the core paths, details can be found on the website: [Core Paths](#)

Full details of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code can be found at:
www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot

Shetland Islands Council
8 North Ness
Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 OLZ

Outdoor Access Officer
01595 744169
www.shetland.gov.uk/corepaths



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A guide to Outdoor Access

Since 2003 you have had the right of responsible and respectful, non-motorised access to much of Shetland's outdoors. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code provides detailed guidance on these responsibilities.



**KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO**
outdooraccess-scotland.com



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The Scottish Outdoor Access Code provides detailed guidance on these responsibilities and asks you to:

- Act with courtesy and consideration, and respect the privacy, safety and livelihoods of those living or working in the outdoors.
- Care for the environment.
- When exercising access rights, look after the places you visit and enjoy, and leave the land as you find it.
- Take responsibility for your own actions.
- When exercising access rights, remember that the outdoors cannot be made risk-free, and act with care at all times for your own safety and that of others.

Dogs in the countryside

Livestock and wildlife are very wary of dogs and will scatter even if your dog isn't attacking them. Just running sniffing out rabbits or chasing sticks or balls can still be livestock worrying. This causes distress can split up young animals from their mothers and cause miscarriage.

- Do not allow your dog to approach animals, wildlife or people.
- Always keep your dog in sight and under control and preferably on a lead.
- Always pick up after your dog.

Nesting birds

Shetland is famous for its bird populations and has a number of protected species, most of which nest on the ground. Disturbance of these birds can be a criminal offence and puts unnecessary stress on often fragile breeding populations.

- Take notice of any signs asking you to avoid areas in the breeding season or to stick to designated routes.
- If breeding birds become aggressive, particularly on beaches and areas of shingle, retrace your steps and take another route away from the colony.
- Shetland has nature reserves with areas set aside for viewing and photographing birds. Using these should ensure you do not inadvertently disturb colonies or break any wildlife laws.

Out and about

Shetland is a working landscape with both enclosed land and open hill managed by a range of people, for livestock, crops or conservation.

- Where possible, use stiles and leave gates as you find them. If you need to climb a gate or fence, do so with care to avoid damage.
- Do not walk through crops; keep to the field edge. This includes fields of long grass, which will be cut for silage.
- Be careful not to block gateways and passing places when parking.
- Take care near cliff edges. Keep back from the edge and be aware that cliffs can be undercut, particularly grassy ones.

Camping

Wild camping is permitted across Scotland, but for no more than 2-3 nights in one location. If you have a fire, keep it small, under control and closely watched. Do not leave until it is fully extinguished.

- Avoid fields with crops or livestock and nesting bird colonies.
- If you are close to any buildings, ask if it's OK to camp where you are.
- **Remove all waste**, including human waste, and clear up any fire area, leave the site as you found it..

