

The Flora and Fauna of Westray, Orkney

RECOMMENDATIONS

I believe that one of the main purposes of this document is to empower the local community to determine, at least in part, the future of wildlife observation and recording on their island. I am also hopeful that any user of the vast wild resources on Westray will make close reference to the list of recommendations below.

- 1 Establish a local recording database. All you need is a willing volunteer; a PC is also very handy. I believe that “keeping it local” would encourage more recording effort within the island. It is fundamental that any recorder liaise fully with the respective county recorder on an annual basis and copy all data to him / her.
- 2 Request via the RSPB Reserves Manager that the Papay Warden and any visiting research staff make a particular effort to record everything they see on Westray, and submit this to your island recorder. Further liaison with Scottish Natural Heritage staff and Community Biodiversity Project.
- 3 Advertise for records from visitors in all accommodation, public places and on the ferries.
- 4 I hesitate to mention the word “club”, but a “network “ of enthusiastic individuals who share information is a proven way to boost records. Consider establishing an informal local “grapevine”.
- 5 What about field classes? These can be done at any season and will build confidence among local enthusiasts, and recruit new recorders. I can advise on planning this development.
- 6 Could the Development Trust, or another body, invest in a decent pair of binoculars, a telescope and tripod and a few modern field guides for their library? I can advise on choice.
- 7 This should be viewed as a rolling document and supplements/updates should be added every year or two. If it goes on your Community Website, additional information should be added as and when. I would hope that your local recorder to-be would be able to manage this. In any case, I will continue to provide onward support for this project.
- 8 As a guide to prospective visitors the most important sites (honey pots) and seasonal highlights should be described in full. I am willing to undertake this as an adjunct to the present project
- 9 Consider establishing a hide or two. The value of these cannot be underestimated for both locals and visitors alike.

Potential sites that spring to mind:

Ayre of Roadmire; some siting problems given light conditions.

Castle o’ Burrian; just for Puffins (might need to be a large construction)

Swartmill Loch; siting needs careful thought but can avoid lighting problem.

Remember that you can (potentially) site a hide then create the habitat in front of it. Again, I would be willing to assist; but please note there are more expert sources locally.

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I am also indebted to all those who attended the frequent video

conference sessions which linked Westray with North Ronaldsay.

Eric Meek added some significant information.

Innumerable records have been contributed by visitors to Westray over the years. These have become the backbone of the document and without all this effort, it would have been a very thin text.

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GLOSSARY

SNH Heritage	Scottish Natural	et al	and others
RSPB Protection of Birds	Royal Society for the	AOT territory	apparently occupied
pers. obs.	personal observation	AON nest	apparently occupied
pers. comm. communication	personal		