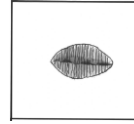


What to look out for on the St Magnus Way



Groatie Buckie (cowrie shell)

Finding a Groatie Buckie is considered to be very lucky in the Orkney Islands. The beach at the Brough of Birsay is known as a good area to search for Groatie Buckies



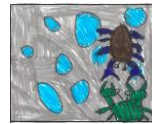
Beadlet Anemone (Actinia Equina)

The beadlet sea anemone looks like small blobs of jelly that may be red, brown, green, or orange in colour. It can grow up to 5cm. It eats small animals such as plankton, crabs and fish.



Hermit Crabs

Hermit crabs can grow up to 4 inches. Hermit crabs can live up to 15 years. You can find lots of crabs in the rock pools at the Broch of Birsay.



Scorpion Fish

The scorpion fish is a poisonous sea creature. It has a poisonous spiny back although it is ok to eat.



Oyster Catcher

Oyster catchers eat mussels and cockles. Oyster catchers live more than 15 years. The oyster catcher is a big black and white bird. It has a long orange-red beak and reddish-pink legs.



Puffin

Puffins have waterproof feathers. There are 4 types of puffins. There are the Atlantic puffin, Tufted puffin, the Horned puffin and the Rhinoceros Auklet puffin. One of the best places to see puffins in Orkney is the Brough of Birsay.



Bonxie

A bonxie's real name is Great skua. It is 60cm tall. It eats fish caught at the sea surface or takes them from other birds. Bonxies dive bomb anyone that comes close to its nest.



Gannet

Gannets are large white birds with yellowish heads, black-tipped wings, and long beaks. Their wingspan is up to 180cm long. They can dive into the sea at 70 miles per hour to catch fish.



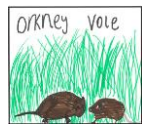
Green-veined butterfly (Pieris Napi)

The green-veined white is a fairly small, white butterfly. It is a common butterfly, found in the Brough of Birsay and other places in Orkney. It is often mistaken for a Cabbage White or a Cabbage Butterfly. The Green-veined White caterpillars feed on cabbages.



Orkney Voles

Orkney voles are twice the size of a field mouse. They come out at night and during the day. Birds of prey eat Orkney voles. (Hen Harriers, Kestrels and Short Eared Owls), so do stoats.



Stoats

Stoats are related to weasels and otters. Stoats have orangy-brown fur with a white belly and throat and a black tail. In winter they can turn completely white. A stoat needs to eat a quarter of their body weight a day. That is like an adult eating 41 fish and chip suppers. Stoats in Orkney are eating lots of Orkney voles. This needs to stop so traps are being set to catch them.



Thank you for using our leaflet to look for local wildlife in Birsay and around Orkney.

PRIMARY 3/4 - STROMNESS PRIMARY SCHOOL (2022/2023)



Red Campion

The red campion is an attractive, shiny and red flower. Red campion has rose-red or pink flowers. In history the red campion seeds have been known to help with snake bites.



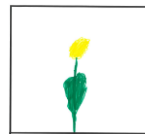
Thistle

The Thistle is a national flower of Scotland and is known for its spiky and distinctive purple flower. Many types of butterflies (Like Green-veined whites) are attracted to Thistles. Thistles are very popular, and you will probably find lots of them in Orkney.



Dandelions

Dandelions change between the seasons they are sometimes white and you can blow the seeds or sometimes they are yellow. They are very common you can see them anywhere. Butterflies are attracted to it also bees and insects.



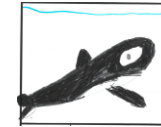
Sea Pinks

The sea pinks grow on beaches in western and northern Europe and is also known as sea thrift. Bees love sea pinks.



Orca

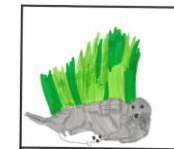
They eat fish, birds, squid and seals. You can see them from the Broch of Birsay. Their fin helps them keep stable. They are the biggest member of the dolphin family. A male orca can grow up to ten meters tall.



Grey Seals

Grey seals are amazing divers and can stay under water for up to 40-45 minutes at a time. Unlike humans however when grey seals dive they don't take a big breath of air they actually breathe out most of the air in their lungs so it doesn't make them float. They often hunt in groups which makes it easier for them to catch their prey. They eat fish (mostly sand eels, haddock, cod and flat fish).

Grey seals are found in cold waters, rocky beaches and sandy beaches. Adult female grey seals are 7.5 feet long and weigh 550 pounds. Adult males are 10 feet long and weigh about 880 pounds.



Otter Spraint

This is otter poo. It is black and white and a bit crunchie. They are the sign that there is an otter on the river. In Birsay you can find this on the bridge past the shop.



What else have you seen on the St Magnus Way?

There is space here to draw what you have seen and you can write about it too. If you would like us to put your writing and picture on our Facebook page you can send your pictures and writing to info@stmagnusway.com