



Whimbrel / Iain Lowson Wildlife
 Red-necked Phalarope / David Gifford
 Funtzie Bay / Bill Coster / Alamy Stock Photo

Getting to Fetlar

To get to Fetlar from the Shetland mainland you must travel by ferry from Toft to Ulsta, Yell (approximately 20 minutes), and then drive across Yell and take another ferry across Bluemull Sound to Hamars Ness in Fetlar (approximately 25 minutes). Two ferries normally operate at Gutcher so be sure to check with the ferry crew that the ferry you are boarding goes to Fetlar.

If you are travelling by car you are advised to book your vehicle on both ferries, particularly during the busy summer months. For the latest ferry timetable and booking information, see the Shetland Islands Council website.

There is no fuel available on the island so please make sure you have sufficient fuel before visiting. There are two electric vehicle charging points available at the Fetlar Interpretive Centre.

Useful information

Ferry booking office

+44 (0) 1595 745804

Fetlar Interpretive Centre and visitor information point

+44 (0)1957 733206

Public toilets

Hamars Ness (ferry terminal)
 Fetlar Community Hall

Post office

Houbie

Shop

Houbie

RSPB warden

fetlar@rspb.org.uk

2024 | **Disclaimer**

All details believed to be accurate at the time of going to print.



shetland.org/fetlar

Fetlar

The garden of Shetland



Shetland
 Islands of Opportunity



↑ Pier into Wick of Houbie [VisitScotland](http://VisitScotland.com) / Paul Tomkins

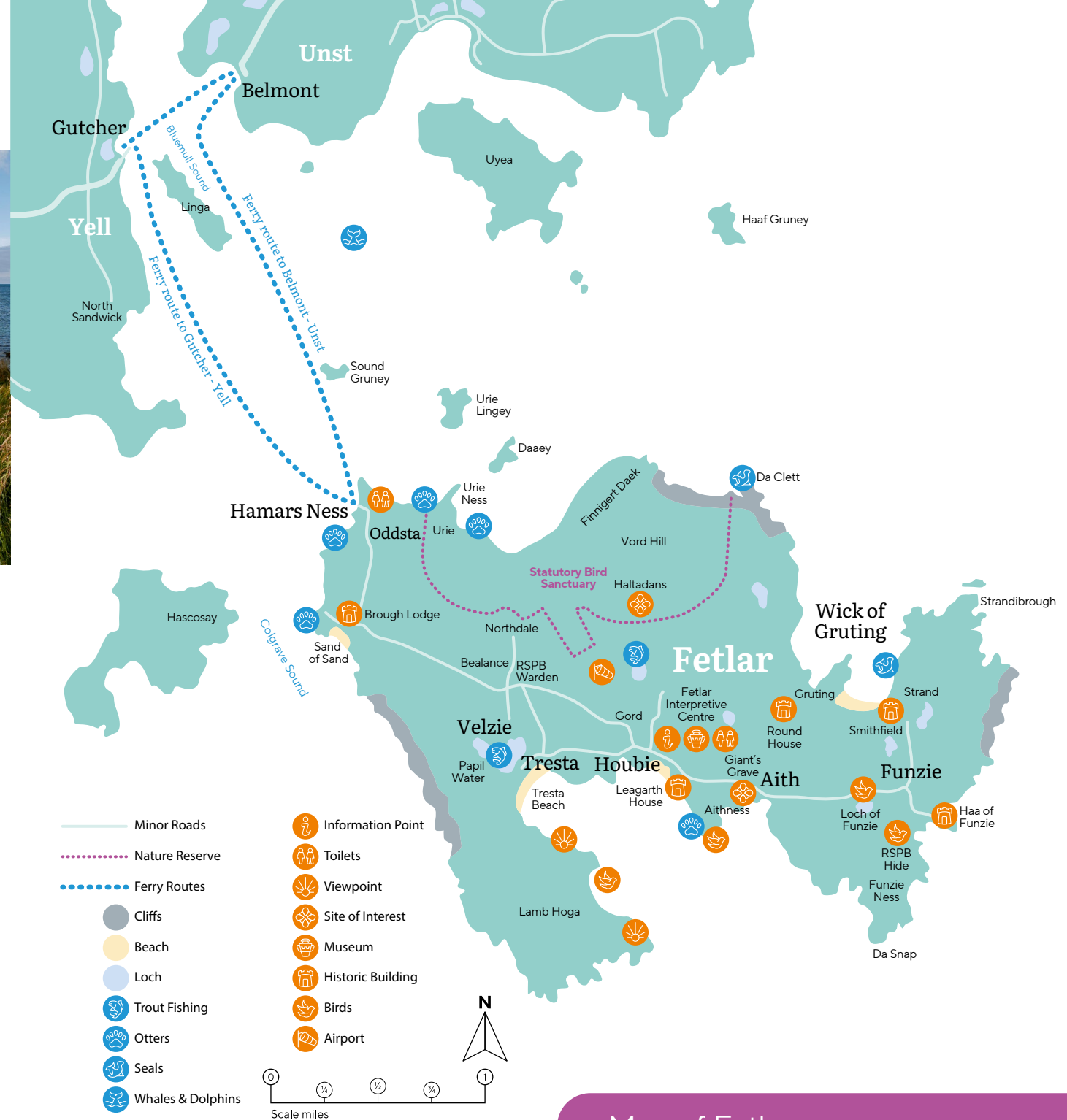
History and legend

Finnigert Daek is thought to be Fetlar's oldest surviving man-made structure. Dating from the Bronze Age it was built over 5,500 years ago. It runs north-south dividing the island in two, and although much of it is now ruined, large sections can still be seen.

Close by is an ancient ring of stones known as the **Haltadans**. Legend has it that the two centre stones were a fiddler and his wife who were playing music for a group of trows dancing in a circle when the sun came up and turned them all to stone.

More easily accessible is the **Giant's Grave**, just off the road to **Aith**. It is the site of a Viking boat burial which was the subject of excavations by the television programme *Time Team* in 2002, along with a Norse house site at **Gord**. Both sites were covered over after the excavations, but information on the digs can be found at Fetlar Interpretive Centre.

A standing stone known as the **Stone of the Ripples** can be seen by looking down into Leagarth House gardens from the road between Houbie and Fetlar Community Hall.



Buildings of interest

Not far along the road from the ferry terminal you will see **Brough Lodge**, built around 1820 for the Nicolson family. Although the house is not accessible to the public, it is clearly visible from the road. Close to the house, sitting prominently on the site of an Iron Age broch, is a rare Shetland example of a Georgian folly. The tower, built for Sir Arthur Nicolson, was used at one time as an astronomical observatory. Another example of a folly built for Sir Arthur is the Round House at **Gruting**.

Leagarth House was built in 1900 by Sir William Watson Cheyne, a Fetlar man who became Lord Lister's assistant in his pioneering work on antiseptic surgery in the late 19th century, and later a prominent surgeon in his own right. Like Brough Lodge, the house itself is not open to the public, although an exhibition on both houses can be seen at the Interpretive Centre.

On the east side of the island is the now ruined **Haa of Funzie**, which was a fishing station in the late 1700s.

Loch and sea fishing

Fetlar's fishing is one of its best kept secrets. The four main freshwater lochs – **Papil Water**, **Loch of Funzie** (both easily accessible), **Skutes Water** and **Loch of Winjadepla** – all offer a good day's fishing. You can also sea-fish from the harbour at **Hamars Ness**, or the pier at **Brough Lodge** or **Houbie** – or you may be lucky enough to meet someone taking their boat out. Brown trout are prolific in the lochs and there are seasonal sea trout in Papil Water. For fishing permits, see the Shetland Anglers Association website.

↓ Brough Lodge and Tower [VisitScotland / Paul Tomkins](#)



↑ Fetlar Interpretive Centre [VisitScotland / Paul Tomkins](#)

Fetlar Interpretive Centre

For all aspects of visitor information, the Interpretive Centre at the Beach of Houbie is open daily from May to the end of September. The museum offers displays and interactive multimedia on the island's culture, history, folklore, archaeology, wildlife and geology. A visit to the centre is well worthwhile for its award-winning exhibition on Sir William Watson Cheyne and the history of antiseptic surgery. Fetlar Interpretive Centre is also a visitor information point.

Walking

As with most of Shetland, the best way to explore Fetlar is on foot. There are some great walks with spectacular scenery and wildlife. Here are a few of them:

- **The Snap** – a clearly signposted walk around the headland on the south-east of the island. Great for Puffin and sea life spotting.
- **Urie** – a signposted walk along the North coast from **Hamars Ness**.
- **Lamb Hoga** – a walk from **Tresta Beach** to the top of Lamb Hoga and down to the southern tip. You'll see where peat was dug for fuel in Fetlar and where Shetland ponies used to take kishies (baskets) of peat down to the boats to be transported around the island.
- **Brough Lodge to Hamars Ness** – if you are walking to the ferry, this is the way to go – you will pass **Sna Broch**, one of Fetlar's seven brochs.
- **Papil Water** – a gentle walk around Papil Water (or Loch of Velzie), just north of Tresta Beach.

Fishing at Papil Water [Promote Shetland / Euan Myles](#) →

