



Whalsay & Skerries

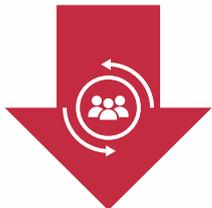


Whalsay and Skerries are island communities that lie off the east coast of the Shetland mainland. Both are accessed by roll-on-roll-off ferries. The Whalsay ferry runs regularly 7 days a week and the journey takes 30 minutes. The Skerries ferry runs 6 days a week, with journeys taking 90 minutes or 2.5 hours depending on departure point.

Whalsay is a proud fishing community, home to a fleet of locally owned fishing vessels as well as plenty of smaller boats and sea craft. There are high levels of employment in the public sector as well as private businesses, such as aquaculture. Crofting is also an important way of life. Whalsay is one of the more densely populated of the Shetland Islands. Much of the infrastructure has been built up through community fund-raising, it has a harbour; nursery, primary and secondary schools; health centre & dental surgery; residential care home; leisure centre; heritage centre; boating club; pub; youth centre; café; snooker club, all-weather pitch, golf course and several other community run facilities. Many of these were built over 50 years ago.

Skerries is popular with birdwatchers and visiting yachts, with around 35 permanent residents. It has a community hall, two shops with one housing the post office, a kirk and a new waiting room at the pier (built by the Skerries Development Group in partnership with Shetland Islands Council).

8% decrease in population over 10 years, the Shetland population overall has declined by 1%



1,065 people live in Whalsay & Skerries, 5% of Shetland's population



9.2% of children are living in poverty, lower than the Shetland average of 13% (in 2021)



25.7% of the population are aged 65 and over, higher than the Shetland average of 21.8% and 4.3% more than 10 years ago



The cost of living is up to 13% higher than the Shetland average and up to 62% higher than the UK average



1 site considered the best for Wildlife in Europe (international designations)



18.7% of the population are under 16 years old, higher than the Shetland average of 17.9% and 1.6% less than a decade ago





3.1% of the population claim out of work benefits, the Shetland average is 8.8%

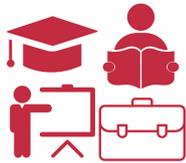
46% of the population report growing and eating their own produce, the Shetland average is 30%



The school roll is 170



4% of the population report feeling lonely, the Shetland average is 17%



100% of 16-19 year olds are in education, training or employment, the Shetland average is 97.4%

63% of the population report being physically active on 5+ days per week, the Shetland average is 58%

Median income is 22.2% lower than the Shetland average and 19.5% less than the Scottish average



75% of the population rate their general health as 'good' or 'very good', this is the joint highest in Shetland, where the average was 69.9%



16.7% of the population report drinking alcohol at a harmful or hazardous level; the Shetland average is 17.7%

Locality Profiles are intended to be useful for both communities and partners to provide detailed information at a local level, for purposes including service redesign, local plans and maximising opportunities to seek external funding to support community development. Profiles have been created for each of the 7 localities in Shetland. Statistics should be treated with caution due to small numbers, and figures can fluctuate significantly. A separate profile for Skerries is also available.

Data Sources: CACI Paycheck 2022; Highlands and Islands Enterprise - Minimum Income Standard 2016; Improvement Service 2023; National Records Scotland (NRS) Population estimates 2021; NHS Shetland Population Health Survey 2021; Scottish Government: House Prices - Residential Properties Sales and Price 2022; Shetland Islands Council Local Development Plan 2014 Appendix III Environmental Baseline; Shetland Islands Council 2023; Skills Development Scotland, Annual Participation Measure 2023. Definitions, full details and links can be found on the Shetland Partnership website.