

Whitehall Village to St Catherine's Bay

6km (3.7m) return walk from Whitehall Village passing two beaches



Great Skua

Spoot



Walk along quiet roads passing through farmland to reach the beaches. Both beaches have parking areas, so can also be accessed by car.

The Ayre of the Myres is a small beach, close to Whitehall village and is good for picnics and seal watching. The walk takes you up onto the spine of the island, above St Catherine's Bay. From here, on a clear day, you can see for miles over Stronsay and out towards the other Northern Isles.

St Catherine's Bay is a wide stretch of sand, going out a very long way at low tide. This makes it popular with locals for collecting 'spoots' or razor shells. These shellfish, although hard to

Lapwing



Black-headed Gull



catch, are good to eat.

For summer bird watchers the bay can be like a busy road with gulls, arctic terns, and skuas regularly flying by.

Sanderling are common on the beach most of the year, with several hundred present in the winter, dashing to and fro down at the low tide.

Walking along the quiet roads is a good way to see Stronsay's farmland, with its lush green grass, grown for silage or grazed by cattle. Birds frequent the fields as well, especially curlew in the summer and flocks of golden plover and lapwing in the winter.

Seal Pup

