

d Example

Shapinsay is one of the islands of Orkney, north of the Scottish mainland. The island has a population of just over 300. There is a primary school, a community centre, which doubles as the Headquarters of the local Development Trust, a shop, a post office, a medical centre with part-time GP coverage and a nurse practitioner in post, and a church.

To get to Shapinsay, you first need to get to Kirkwall. You can do this by air directly to Kirkwall airport or by sea from the Scottish mainland with Pentland Ferries from Gills Bay to St Margaret's Hope or Northlink Ferries from Scrabster the Scotto Stromness (both just a 20-30 minute drive from Kirkwall). If you are not keen on driving the whole way, there is a Northlink ferry that leaves direct from Aberdeen to Kirkwall. The m/v Shapinsay, commissioned in 1989, serves the island with six departures daily from Kirkwall, a 9 kilometre (25-minute) crossing.

In the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD), Shapinsay falls into Decile 4, within the top 40% of most deprived areas in the nation. Under the Geographical Access domain, Shapinsay is within the top 2% of most deprived areas in Scotland, at 146 out of the 6,976 data zones. Regarding housing and income, Shapinsay scores low but compares positively against other areas nationwide in terms of health, education and skills, and, particularly, crime.

In 2022, the residents of Shapinsay formed the Shapinsay Development Trust. They erected an island turbine that is now their cash cow – bringing in up to £5,000 a day from the electricity they sell to energy companies. Some of these funds pay off the loan from the bank; the rest is invested in the community, such as an out-of-hours ferry link to Kirkwall, which runs twice during the evening and on Sunday mornings in the summer. The ferry allows residents to attend evening classes, evening work, Kirkwall Grammar School parent evenings, cinema, evening meals in restaurants, and many other things.

What accessibility to services do people on Shapinsay have? The below compilation is based on the Shapinsay Community Action Plan, the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, a field study by Christian Pleijel back in 2012, and a visit by ESIN in 2017.

Service	Available on the island	Available elsewhere				Access 1-4
		Destination	Distance (km)	Distance (h)	Overnight return	
Agri/aquaculture bureau		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3

Bakery	Thomas Sinclair grocery & bakery					4
Bank		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Book store		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Butcher		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Café	Smithy's, open summertime					3
Car service		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Carpenter		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Church	Yes					4
Cinema	Monthly cinema club					4
Clothing		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Court 1 st degree		Sheriff Court Kirkwall	9	0,5		3
Court 2 nd degree		High Court Edinburgh	500	8 h	yes	1
Dentist		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3

Electrical appliances		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Doctor		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Electrician	Yes					4
Fire service	Local fire brigade					4
Furniture		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Food (mini-market)	Thomas Sinclair & Balfour Bakery					4
Food (restaurant)	Smithy's (only summertime)					3
Gas/Petrol station		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Hairdresser		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Health centre	Medical centre					4
High school		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Hospital		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Kindergarten	Yes					4

Municipal administration		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Notary		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Nurse	Nurse practioner					4
Plummer		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Primary school	Yes					4
Post office	Yes					4
Physiotherapist	Well-being co-ordinator					3
Police		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Regional administration		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Shoes		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Sports	Children's football, various fit activities					3
Supermarket		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Tax service		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3

Theatre		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Tobacco	Yes					4
Town planning hall	The Boathouse					4
University		Edinburgh	500	8 h	yes	1
Veterinary		Kirkwall 8 trips/d	9	0,5	Not needed	3
Youth coach	Yes					4

The rating of Shapinsay is $149/46 = 3.2$, which gives a value of 3. This is much owed to the out-of-hours ferry, which has transformed Shapinsay from rating level 2 to level 3.