



What did you do before the Lighthouse ?

After growing up in the North East of England, I went on to do my undergrad and my integrated Masters at Lancaster University in Biological Sciences. I always knew that I wanted to go on to work in ecology, and my masters project on the roosting behaviours of little egrets only cemented that.

What do you do at the Lighthouse ?

I am a current PhD student, started in 2019 and due to finish in 2023. My research focuses on studying the variation in the microbiomes of wild fulmars, how they're affected by the birds' environment and genetics, and how their microbiomes go on to effect behaviour such as mate choice. I have just finished my first season sampling the incredibly well-studied population of fulmars that we have on the small island of Eynhallow, and for now I'm based mostly in Aberdeen where I'll be analysing the results.

What was your best experience at the Lighthouse ?

My field season has definitely been the highlight of my PhD so far! Eynhallow was an incredible location to get to work in, between the pristine beaches, the amazing birdlife, and the surprisingly close encounters with the seals. Sampling was hard but rewarding work, and the three weeks that we were out there seemed to go by in a flash. What a trip!



Eleanor Stroud
PhD candidate • 2019 - present

