



What did you do before the Lighthouse ?

I started out with a degree in Chemistry but quickly realised that I didn't want to spend my life in a lab, so I completed a masters in Ecology and a few years later my PhD at Aberdeen University. I was lucky enough to do my masters project on buzzards with the Joint Raptor Study in Langholm and continued my interest in predator-prey interactions, during my PhD investigating the impacts of weasel predation on field vole cycles. Before and since my PhD, I have enjoyed working on lots of different projects on a wide variety of species including hen harriers, cheetahs, upland waders, spotted hyaenas, black grouse and capercaillie, mountain hares and finally seals and salmon before washing up at the Lighthouse!

What are you doing at the Lighthouse ?

In the ten years that I've been at the Lighthouse I've focussed on marine mammal responses to anthropogenic noise, starting with a seismic survey in the Moray Firth in 2011, the extension of Nigg harbour and most recently the construction of Beatrice and Moray East offshore windfarms. I also work on the long-term harbour seal photo-ID project, mainly with the data, but happily in the field too when Becky lets me loose with her camera! In a return to my predator-prey roots I'm excited about the next few years as I will be part of the PrePARED project: a new collaborative project studying predator and prey distribution and behaviour in and around offshore windfarms.

Is there anything you would have done differently ?

No. I may not have followed the most linear career trajectory but I wouldn't choose to do anything differently. Sometimes I feel like a bit of a "jack of all trades", but it's definitely worth remembering that the full saying is "A jack of all trades is a master of none, but oftentimes better than a master of one"!



Dr Isla Graham

Research Fellow • 2011 - present

