Using printed shade cards

In this example I pick a palette of **eight shades** by matching print outs of **J&S** yarn shade cards against a map of Shetland from the Great World Atlas which I remember fondly from childhood, and which I'm exploring as an **inspiration source**. Get your own shade-card PDF here. I use a range of criteria for editing my choices down, including:

☐ prioritising the colours in the **inspiration source** of **greatest importance to me** (in this case there is a quest to get the right shades of blue/green to describe the Atlantic Ocean)
☐ **matching the inspiration source continually to the printed shades** to keep trying to understand its colours
☐ **tinkering with the palette** to ensure I don't end up with a whole range of yarn shades which are too similar in value (that is how dark or light a shade is)

Picking yarn shades like this does have limitations; **the ink/paper of your printer won't necessarily be 100% accurate in replicating the nuances of the actual yarns —** I found it a bit hard to read the darker shades, for example — but it's easier to **see each colour in isolation** when you can cut the printouts into small pieces and arrange them like tiles on your inspiration source, which gives you another way to see and visualise a palette. Have a go at printing out the **J&S** shade cards and matching them to your inspiration source. **Top tip: using photographic paper as I have here will give the colours more depth and lustre than if you use ordinary matt printer paper!**