

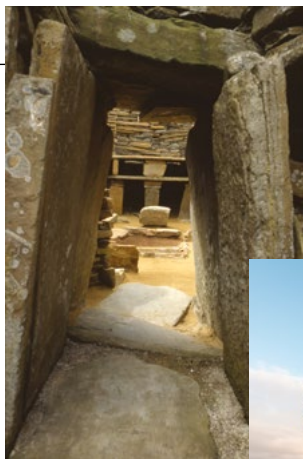
WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

For more information about visiting the sites see the Historic Environment Scotland website. Look out for their guidebooks to Maeshowe and Skara Brae. A Management Plan and the Research Agenda for the World Heritage Site are available to download from their website.

Artefacts found at Skara Brae can be seen at the Orkney Museum in Kirkwall and the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.

New discoveries in and around the World Heritage Site continue to enrich our understanding of the monuments and the people who built and used them. Look out for updates in the media, or try the websites of some of the organisations listed at the back of this leaflet.

Planning a trip to Orkney? **Find out more at VisitScotland online: www.visitscotland.com or Orkney.com**



Skara Brae

Ring of Brodgar



FURTHER INFORMATION

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HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY



 Contact us through an online
Sign Language Interpreter
BSL contactSCOTLAND-BSL



World Heritage Site

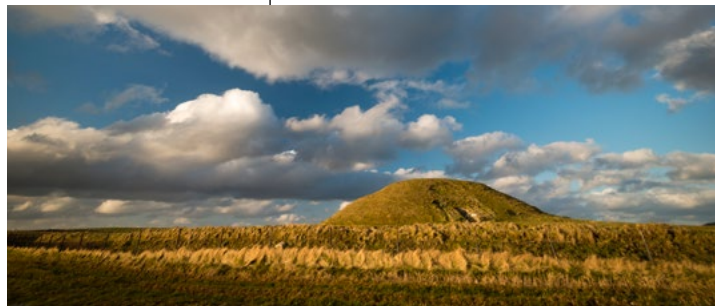
Five thousand years ago, in the far north of Scotland, the prehistoric people of the Orkney Islands began constructing some extraordinary monuments out of stone. In 1999, several of these were inscribed on the World Heritage List as the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site, in recognition of their unique status.

The World Heritage Site monuments are: the village of Skara Brae; Maeshowe chambered tomb; the Barnhouse Stone and the Watchstone standing stones; the Stones of Stenness; the Ring of Brodgar and the funerary monuments and stone settings that lie around it.

Individually, they are masterpieces of Neolithic design and stonework construction. Together, they represent one of the richest surviving Neolithic landscapes in western Europe, and give us exceptional insights into the society, skills and spiritual beliefs of the people who constructed them.



From left to right
Stones of Stenness
Maeshowe
Maeshowe interior
Ring of Brodgar



WHAT IS THE HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY?

A collection of important domestic and ritual monuments dating to the Neolithic or New Stone Age. They lie in a wider landscape rich with other archaeological remains from the Neolithic and from many later periods of Orcadian history.

Skara Brae is a village or settlement whose stone walls, passageways and stone furnishings, such as beds and dressers, survive to the present day.

Maeshowe, a chambered tomb, is an extraordinary example of Neolithic architectural genius. It was designed to allow the winter solstice sunset to shine up the passageway and illuminate the spectacular central chamber.

The Stones of Stenness stone circle and henge is a very early example of this type of monument. The surviving stones are enormous, standing up to 6 metres in height.

The Ring of Brodgar is a great stone circle 130 metres across. Surrounded by a rock-cut ditch, it is set in a spectacular natural amphitheatre of lochs and hills.



WHAT CAN I SEE AND DO TODAY?

Guided tours take visitors into the beautiful central chamber at Maeshowe where you can also see graffiti left by sheltering Vikings. Nearby lie the great stone circles at Stenness and Brodgar, which you can visit at your own pace, or join a Ranger-led tour exploring the cultural and natural heritage of the sites. Surrounding the Ring of Brodgar is an RSPB reserve where you can explore this unique landscape and see more of Orkney's special wildlife.

Six miles north-west, the village of Skara Brae sits by the white sands of the Bay of Skail, overlooking the Atlantic. As well as viewing the original buildings, you can explore a reconstruction of one of the houses and see original artefacts in the visitor centre.

