



HISTORIC SCOTLAND  
ALBA AOSMHOR

# HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY

WORLD HERITAGE SITE  
RANGER SERVICE



© Raymond Besant

## WORLD HERITAGE SITE RANGER SERVICE



**Orkney's rich cultural and natural heritage is brought to life by the WHS Rangers and team of volunteers who support them.**

Throughout the year they run a busy programme of public walks, talks and family events for all ages and levels of interest.

Every day at 1pm in June, July and August the Rangers lead walks around the Ring of Brodgar to explore the iconic monument and its surrounding landscape. There are also activities designed specifically for schools and education groups.

The Rangers work closely with the local community to care for the historical landscape and the wildlife that lives in and around its monuments. The Ranger Service is also supported by Scottish Natural Heritage and Orkney Islands Council.

## CONTACT US

For more information on the Heart of Neolithic Orkney and details of guided walks and other events run by the Rangers, please contact us:

T 01856 841 732  
E [orkneyrangers@hes.scot](mailto:orkneyrangers@hes.scot)

[www.historicenvironment.scot](http://www.historicenvironment.scot)



## WORLD HERITAGE

The remarkable monuments that make up the Heart of Neolithic Orkney were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1999. These sites give visitors a vivid glimpse into the creative genius, lost beliefs and everyday lives of a once flourishing culture.

World Heritage status places them alongside such globally iconic sites as the Pyramids of Egypt and the Taj Mahal. Sites are listed because they are of importance to all of humanity.

## THE MONUMENTS

### RING OF BRODGAR

The evocative Ring of Brodgar is one of the largest and best-preserved stone circles in Great Britain. It hints at forgotten ritual and belief.

### SKARA BRAE

The village of Skara Brae with its houses and stone furniture presents an insight into the daily lives of Neolithic people that is unmatched in northern Europe.

### STONES OF STENNESS

The Stones of Stenness are the remains of one of the oldest stone circles in the country, raised about 5,000 years ago.

### MAESHOWE

Maeshowe is an architectural triumph. One of the finest chambered tombs in Europe, its central chamber is lit up by the setting midwinter sun.



Stones of Stenness



Maeshowe



Skara Brae





Ring of Brodgar

## THE LANDSCAPE

The landscape in which the World Heritage Site monuments sit is also home to a rich diversity of wildlife. Skylarks sing overhead at Brodgar and otters thrive in Harray and Stenness Lochs; during the winter both of these legally protected havens welcome thousands of migrant wildfowl.

This is a living landscape that retains a vibrant cultural importance. The land immediately surrounding the Ring of Brodgar is a nature reserve managed by the RSPB and harbours many important species of wild flowers, insects and birds.



Oystercatcher © Laurie Campbell Photography; Brown hare © Raymond Besant

## WALKING AROUND THE WHS

Walking from the Ring of Brodgar to the Stones of Stenness and back will take you about 60 minutes. If you would like to include a circuit of the RSPB Brodgar nature reserve in your visit this walk takes about 45 minutes. Remember to include time to enjoy the monuments.

Grassy paths lead to the Ring of Brodgar and around the nature reserve. These include gentle slopes and can be muddy and slippery in wet weather. There are two disabled parking bays on the west side of the road at the Ring of Brodgar. There is a gate at the north entrance to Brodgar but no other gates or stiles on the reserve circuit.



Parking is available at the Ring of Brodgar car park. There is also a small car park at the Stones of Stenness. The car park at Maeshowe is for ticketed visitors only.



Sturdy footwear with good grips is recommended as the ground can be muddy at times.



Well-behaved dogs and responsible dog owners are welcome. Please obey any signs about livestock or nesting birds.



Litter can be harmful to wildlife so please take your rubbish home or use the bin provided at Ring of Brodgar car park.



Please be aware of the water's edge and take care on uneven and slippery surfaces.



There are no toilet facilities at Ring of Brodgar or Stones of Stenness.