

Discover the Heart of Neolithic Orkney through the community's eyes



Welcome to our Heart of Neolithic Orkney

This is a map with a difference - a Community Map. It maps things that matter to the people who live, work, play and go to school around the World Heritage Site. These places are important for their archaeology and history but they matter for lots of other reasons too. People have shared some of those reasons in their pictures, poems and stories, and you can see them on this map.

Some people love visiting the sites in all weathers and hearing the birds calling.

Some people remember special occasions or walks with their Gran.

Some people know stories about the stones from long ago. What's your favourite memory or story?

Look more closely!

Today there are 27 stones standing at the Ring of Brodgar, but once there might have been as many as 60.

How many standing stones can you count?

How many birds can you find on the map?

What kinds of birds are they?

Can you spot any sheep?

What are they doing?

Next time you're out and about around the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, take a closer look - maybe you can see some of the things on the map too!



My Granny and Grandad were the custodians at Skara Brae, we were allowed to go into No 1 house and play.



Maeshowe

'Prince Alfred, one of Queen Victoria's sons, while visiting Maeshowe on a windy day, was given a simmon as a belt for his coat by the attendant (a neighbouring farmer). An equerry told him he was speaking to the Queen's son, he replied "Is that so min? A fine auld body". Turning to Prince Alfred he asked "And hoos thee mither the Wheen? Tell her I wis asking for her. Gie her me respects". The Prince was amused and noted it in his diary.'

Maeshowe

As I wander for miles on end I try not to slip and slide and try to hide from the rain.

As I chirp along to happy music And sunny views I enjoy the Day ahead

There are friendly people everywhere Mabe you should go on this tour!

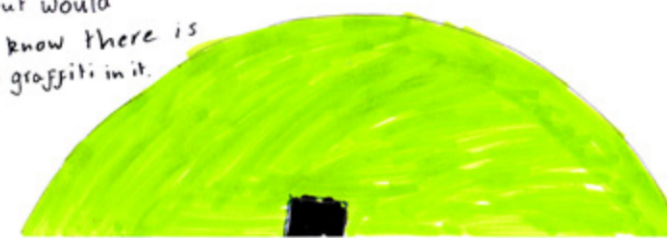
Many beings have been in this dark and mysterious tunnel. What lies behind the gateway you will discover.

You can see moorit sheep as you go by Maeshowe.

I have never been to Maeshowe but would love to go and I know there is viking graffiti in it.



I was on my way to netball and we drove past Maeshowe and there was a sheep standing on the top of it the sheep was looking at the rest of the sheep and also the people to. All the other sheep were looking at him but some of the other sheep were trying to get up but they kept sliding down it made me laugh.



Stones of Stenness

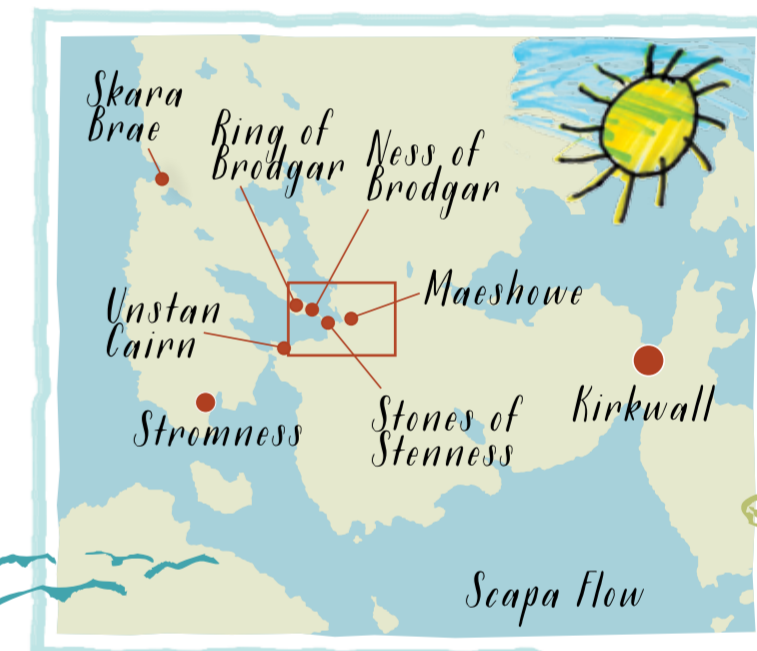
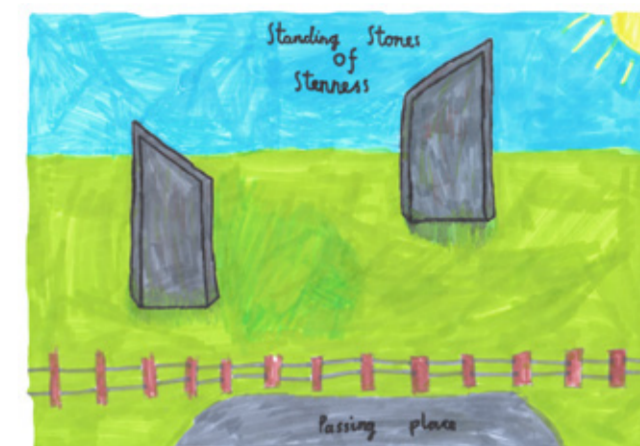
The stones of Stenness will always be there. Changed a lot in the past few years - different folk in all the farms.



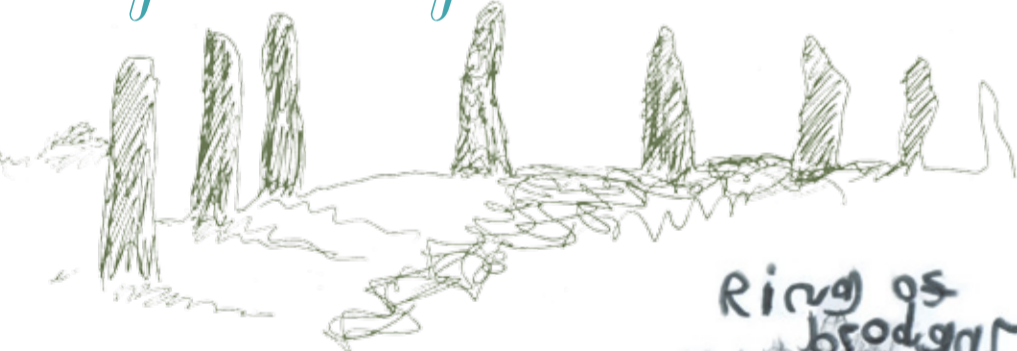
I went to the Standing Stones of Stenness and I got my Merida dress and I got my Soto ten.

Brodgar looks tiny compared to the hills - Stenness looks huge.

'The Stones of Stenness look like a golf course, mowed so close and sterile - it would be great to have some texture by incorporating an ecologically rich setting.'



Ring of Brodgar



It's a place to bring communities together. People of all ages walking and talking together.

We went to the Ring of Brodgar on a school trip on my Birthday and saw a rare bee



In the ring of brodgar, If you listen carefully you'll hear the birds call, there's heather by the side, in the distance you'll see the swan's glide!

Lapping waves, peace, serenity wind blowing squelch squelch

A wonderful place for cloudscaapes too!

'We ran Go-Orkney for 14 years 1982-94 and visited Brodgar and Stenness every day for 6 or 7 months each year. Perhaps I have been to the Stones about 2000 times.

When we started we always told our visitors that the area round the stones was a sort of 'sacred' place and that nobody built other structures there. This was the general opinion at the time.

Then Colin Richards field walking found the structure now known as Barnhouse Village I'm pretty sure I told him he must have got something wrong. Now we have the Ness of Brodgar.

Brodgar remains a special place for me. The beautifully mown circular path is wonderful as I can walk using my wheeled walker.'

I like the ring of brodgar cause I can feel the breeze in my face.

it interestes me how they got all that big stones there



Always reminds me of going there when it's snowing and seeing the snow landing gently on the stones and grass nice and soft.

Blue cold sea, sky and happy.

Barnhouse

Barnhouse could include a model of what it could looked like or a pair of binoculars that you look through into the past

We want to live here. Archaeology and neolithic brought us to Orkney.

'Imagine real people and real lives surviving their sadnesses and joys and mostly attempting to live and create a life for their children and children's children.

Expressing their souls and understanding of the earth and their god through the sun the moon and the land, and sky.'



The Barnhouse settlement is in an area that was called Anterness at one time.

