Orkney Archaeology Society

Newsletter No 02 Autumn 2009

Scottish Charity No SC030611

Editorial

Chris Read
The Editor @ PO Box 6213, Kirkwall, Orkney,

Welcome to the Autumn 2009 edition of the Orkney Archaeology Society newsletter – a bumper edition!

Its been another busy year for archaeology in Orkney, with a number of significant excavations and other projects being undertaken by ORCA (Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology), OAESIS (Orkney Archaeological & Environmental Site Investigation Services, formerly Orkney College Geophysics Unit), other Local groups and archaeologists from outwith Orkney.

The Society has initiated a new fundraising campaign, based around our new information leaflet, a copy of which is enclosed. The leaflet doubles as a membership/benefactor application when the membership forms are inserted. If there is anyone you would like us to send one of these to – please let us know by one of the methods detailed below.

The Society is especially pleased to acknowledge our first two members under the OAS benefactor program:

Mr. Finlay McIntosh	Iron Benefactor
Mrs. Dorothy O'Hanlon	Iron Benefactor

The new website is up and running – www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/OAS - you can keep up with the events we are organising on the calendar page and contact us via the feedback page. We will do our best to keep the site up to date – if there is anything you would like us to include, please let us know.

You may also have noticed the new logo on our Summer Newssheet – we've printed it large below so you can see it properly and in its true colours.

Contact us:
By post at PO Box 6213, Kirkwall,Orkney KW15 1YD
By email at oas@orkneycommunities.co.uk
Via the feedback page of the website

Orkney Archaeology Society

Committee Comments

Andrew Appleby, Vice Chair

I just wanted to write a few words about how rewarding it is to be on the Committee of The Orkney Archaeology Society.

I was on the previous F.O.A.T. committee and spent a term as Chair. That was a rewarding period, but now with the advent of The Society from it, I am even more pleased.

One of the things I like best is the feeling of satisfaction when applications for funding for research project or fieldwork comes in and we can say. "YES!" It means more than just handing money over, it is the fact that either we have raised it by the hard work of our fund raising activities, or passed it on from your subscriptions and generous donations.

This means that what we are doing ***works!***

So too with the Bursaries which we provide: They have a double-edged benefit too. Daphne Lorimer had spotted this. Not only are we assisting a post-graduate to further their pursuits, we are funding via them valuable new researches into, sometimes, finite areas of study. These can open doors into areas of archaeological darkness which some years ago seemed almost impenetrable. That is a true benefit, but the other side of the trowel is that some of these students we help, get hooked on Orkney! They like it so much they feel they must stay.

Just look around, we have more Archaeologists here now than Dentists (Thank Heavens). Certainly more than Librarians, possibly doctors of general practice and maybe even the Police Service. If not the last, then it may not be long!
I am not suggesting that this is due entirely to us, but we have all seen the changes over the years. Being a committee member, I know only too well how much that 'tiny extra' is worth and valued by the Archaeological community which we support. There have been times when the cheque for an urgently needed piece of equipment has been forwarded. We have given money, which can be used for ***'Matching Funding'*** this has obvious extra benefits. We gave generously to a Mesolithic research project and, of course supported the Ness of Brodgar Excavations. When the startling results come back from these, we get a great deal of satisfaction from just that.

There are our other activities too. The walks and talks are a way of having a 'Public Face' for Archaeology. They are always extremely interesting, and we have attracted some 'Big Name" speakers: Just another thrill of being on the committee!

It is not only the big things. 'A tiny adjustment makes a huge difference' is one of my pottery sayings. It is so true. This can be with committee work too. If some body takes on a role, however big or small, even if they do not join the committee, this can wield huge benefits. For instance, there is a lovely reliable person, who sees to helping to publicise our public activities. That has helped enormously.

Notes from the outgoing Chair

Eoin Scott

I am a farmer but I've had an interest in archaeology since my youth, I know mainly stimulated by the ancient evidence of numerous Neolithic, Bronze, and Iron Age sites on my family lands.

As a boy I used to follow my father's plough, and often picked up interesting small stones and worked flints. My most spectacular find was a perfect tiny flint arrow-head about the size of my fingernail.

I was a member of the Ancient Monuments Board for Scotland until its demise a few years ago.
Five years past I felt it a great honour to be elected as chairman of the Friends of Orkney Archaeological Trust, the predecessor of Orkney Archaeology Society.

The Society's main aim is to raise funds to support archaeology in Orkney, not to totally fund excavations, but to make important

additional contributions to digs such as a further few days extending investigations beyond the official funding limitations.

A number of these have been contributing to emergency digs and also extending the time to study the evidence such as at Mine Howe and numerous other important sites including the Ness of Brodgar.

The establishment of the annual Daphne Lorimer Bursary Fund, which is awarded to the most promising archaeology student at Orkney College, and also the Morag Robertson Memorial Prize, which is again awarded to a deserving student are further examples.

An important milestone within the Friends was our conversion from merely a supporting organisation to the Orkney Archaeological Trust, to our transformation to become the Orkney Archaeology Society, however principally with the same aims as the Friends.

I must emphasise that I have always been supported, by a team of very dedicated committee members both in the past and the present, who carry out all the hard background work that is necessary in a successful society.

I feel particular mention must be made of the secretary and office bearers who have all proved to be first class.

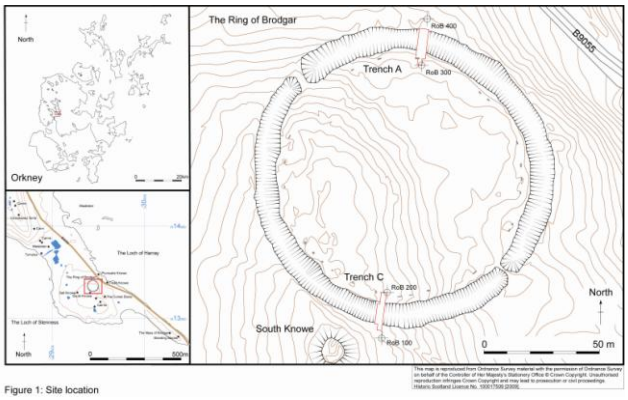
I have very much enjoyed my term in office and I wish to express my good wishes for the success of the Orkney Archaeology Society in the future, and every good wish to the new chairman and committee members.

Excavations at The Ring Of Brodgar 2008

Antonia Thomas, Jane Downes & Colin Richards

The Ring of Brodgar is the third largest stone circle in the British Isles after Avebury and the Great Circle at Stanton Drew. It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and part of *The Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site*. But in despite of this, we know surprisingly little about how it was built, how old it is or how it relates to other sites in the area. In order to remedy this situation, a team led by Dr Jane Downes of Orkney College UHI and Dr Colin Richards from Manchester University set out last June to try and uncover the mysteries of the Ring of Brodgar.

The last (and only other) time that excavations took place at the Ring of Brodgar was in 1973, directed by Colin Renfrew. He excavated three trenches in all, two across the ditch and one on the outside of the monument to investigate the presence or absence of an external bank. Unfortunately, the weather wasn't good at the time of the excavation and one trench had to be abandoned when it became too waterlogged to continue; neither was there to be any finds discovered in the ditch fills and so a primary aim of our excavation was to find out when the monument was constructed.



Site location map

The sensitivity of the Ring of Brodgar's archaeology and ecology meant that permission was only granted to re-excavate the trenches that Renfrew dug in the 1970s, and the sheer depth of the ditch also meant that there were very serious Health & Safety concerns to address on site. The excavation areas had to be fenced off to prevent any

members of the public falling in the deep holes, and we had to 'step' the trench sides in to minimise the risk of the soil collapsing in on us – a metre square of soil weighs well over a tonne, and nobody wants to end up underneath that!

The conveyor belt in action

Taking account of all these conditions, we set out our two trenches across the ditch, one, known as Trench A, across the northern half (next to the rune-marked stone), and another, Trench C, directly opposite by the 'lightning stone' and South Knowe. Historic Scotland's Monuments in Care Squad helped us out by erecting fences around both trenches and setting up a conveyor belt so we could get the spoil safely up the steep sides of the ditch. Fenced compounds are a common sight on digs in urban areas down south, but look quite out of place in the *Heart of Neolithic Orkney*!

Bearing in mind the conditions that Colin Renfrew encountered in Trench A, we had a pump at the ready to get rid of any excess water from the site, but the exceptionally dry summer meant that it wasn't needed at all. This meant that we were able to get right to the bottom of the ditch, which was an average of 3.5 metres deep! Removing all the different fills was extremely hard work, even with the conveyor belt, as most of the soils were very rubbly and thick with heavy clays. Every different fill was sampled for wet sieving back at the college to retrieve any seeds, charcoal or small finds. We also took samples for pollen which will be analysed by Dr Bob McCulloch from Stirling University in order to reconstruct the ancient landscape around the Ring of Brodgar.

The ditch

In Trench A, the rock face had a rounded, concave appearance, which suggests that it was excavated by the sinking of a circular shaft in the first instance. When it was all exposed, the northern section of the ditch would have had a scalloped appearance; this is similar to the ditches of other Neolithic monuments, such as Durrington Walls in Wiltshire, which Professor Mike Parker Pearson describes as looking like a string of sausages! This strongly suggests that different gangs of diggers were working to excavate the ditch and it is likely that these gangs came from different communities across Orkney, just like the stones in the Ring itself. The 123m diameter ditch was excavated from solid bedrock – no mean feat for people who had never encountered metal tools. We didn't see any tool marks on the edge of the ditch and it is likely that the great chunks of stone were lifted away using a combination of wooden wedges (which would not leave a trace on the rock face) and sheer brute force!

The two trenches have also shown how different the opposite ends of the Ring are and would have looked when they were first excavated. The exposed bedrock in the northern circuit, in Trench A, was soft and degraded from the waterlogging, but the ditch in the southern, higher and drier side of the site had been cut into solid, slabby bedrock. There are over 3 metres difference in height between the northern and southern sides of the monument, and this would have meant

that the northern, and lower, half of the ditch would have had standing water in it from fairly soon after it was first dug. This corresponds to Colin Richard's theory that the stones and their great encircling ditch were designed to create a symbolic 'island', a microcosm of the Orkney island world.

The slabby bedrock in Trench C

Blue clay at the base of the ditch in Trench A

Apart from eight small, rounded cobbles from the lower deposits of Trench A which may be stone tools, there were no finds from the ditch fills. Whilst we were removing the backfill from Colin Renfrew's dig in Trench C, however, my shovel caught a piece of plastic – this turned out to be a bag containing a time capsule from the 1970s excavations! It contained a whole range of items including a finds label signed by the excavation team, a Mars Bar wrapper, part of a photographic film carton, a cigarette coupon, a couple of coins, a 2nd class train ticket and an Archaeology Society programme for 1972-3. There were also ticket stubs from two very different events: a Royal Shakespeare Production in Stratford, and the Isle of Wight festival – I wonder which of those belonged to Colin Renfrew! The time capsule is currently on display in Orkney Museum, but only for a short while longer, so if you want to see it for yourself you have to get down there soon.

Dating the Ring of Brodgar

Although it was disappointing not to find any prehistoric artefacts during the excavations, given Colin Renfrew's experience we never actually expected to. One of the main purposes of the dig was to obtain valuable soil samples to help date when each individual ditch fill was laid down. When Renfrew excavated his trenches in the 1970s, it was the age of the 'New Archaeology', which saw ground-breaking scientific techniques such as radiocarbon dating being applied to archaeology for the first time. He laid out his first trench over what appeared to be the wettest part of the ditch, to maximise the potential for the waterlogged, organic remains that are ideal for radiocarbon dates. Renfrew managed to obtain two samples from the peat layers in the upper part of the ditch fills, which yielded a middle Iron Age date for the early peat formation in this trench; but unfortunately this was in the very wet trench that had to be abandoned before reaching any of the lower deposits. The drier conditions in Trench C meant that organic peat rich layers didn't form in the same way as the other trench, and so it was not possible to obtain any further samples for dating at that time.

Digging away in Trench C

Now, in the 21st century, we have a much wider suite of techniques available to us – and the material doesn't even need to be organic. Dr David Sanderson, from SUERC (Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre) is a physicist who joined us on site for a few days in order to take a range of samples from the ditch fills. These are now in his lab in East Kilbride, where they will be processed to obtain (hopefully!) dates through Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL). This technique is able to measure the length of time that has passed since the rock particles were last exposed to light. Some soils and minerals 'trap' naturally occurring electrons from their surroundings continuously, and then when they are exposed to sunlight, this 'electron clock' gets reset. If they are then buried beneath later deposits, they begin to absorb electrons all over again. We can use OSL dating to measure when that absorption process began and, therefore, when the different fills of the ditch were buried. These samples are waiting to be processed as we speak, and we should be able to get some results later on in the year – so watch this space!

Although we will be able to date when the different fills of the ditch were laid down, this is not going to tell us when the stones themselves were erected. We don't know whether the stones were erected before the ditch was dug, or vice versa. It would be *logical* to assume that the stones were in place before the ditch was excavated, as it would be much harder to move the stones into position once the ditch was in place - but this doesn't mean that that was the case! Our excavations didn't reveal the relationship between the stones and the ditch, but we were able to investigate a previously unrecorded stonehole in Trench C and find out more about the construction of the stone circle itself.

The stone circle

In Trench C, we also exposed what was left of a stone socket that would have once housed one of the Ring's megaliths. The stone that once sat in this socket is long gone, and it seems that it was ripped down quite violently when it was removed. The stone socket had very messy edges indicating that the ground was pulled up when the stone was toppled, perhaps deliberately. We don't know where this stone has gone, but it is possible that it was brought down and broken up for building stone. Nor do we know where the stone would have come from; the stones wouldn't have come from the ditch, as the underlying geology would have made it impossible to quarry stones without them shattering. Colin Richard's fieldwork has shown that some of the stones in the Ring came from the Vestrafiold quarry in Sandwick, 7.5 miles away, but a geological survey of the remaining stones in 2003 by Alan Hall of Glasgow University showed that the stones actually came from a *variety* of different sandstone strata in Orkney. Colin Richards believes that the different stones were erected by different community groups, and that these different groups would have been fiercely competitive; trying to outdo one another by mobilising the most labour to quarry the best stones and take them the furthest distance to the Ring. The monument may have taken generations to build in this way, and would have taken many hundreds of years to reach its final form with all the stones in place.

What was it for?

Archaeologists will probably always be divided as to the original purpose of henge monuments and stone circles, and we will never truly know the intentions of its builders. But we are getting closer to understanding how this great monument was constructed and how long it was in use for. Perhaps the two opposed entranceways in the northwest and southeast of the Ring of Brodgar were

designed to channel movement *through* the stones, using a pre-existing pathway that would have had special significance for generations. The uneven, sloping ground and the irregular spacing of the stones around the causeways may have been deliberately designed to emphasise the effect of disorientation when passing through this sacred space.

Trench A from the air during the excavation (copyright Craig Taylor)

Trench C from the air during the excavation (copyright Craig Taylor)

It was certainly a strange experience to stand at the base of a ditch during the excavation and imagine what it would be like when the whole thing was open to the elements. The ditch would have looked phenomenal when it was all exposed, and whilst the stones dominate our view nowadays, they would have paled into insignificance compared to the striking bare rock of the huge ditch. It is also worth remembering that, whilst the two stone circles are dominant landscape feature of the Stenness-Brodgar area nowadays, it may not have always been the case. In the Neolithic, there would have been many other monuments in the vicinity that would have also been very prominent in the landscape, such as the structures at the Ness of Brodgar and Barnhouse, and many more sites that we haven't yet discovered - the stone circles may not have actually been the main focus of the area at all.

The excavations at the Ring of Brodgar were directed by Drs Jane Downes and Colin Richards and funded by Historic Scotland, Orkney Islands Council, Manchester University, ORCA and Orkney College. The team would like to thank the following people in particular for their assistance during the excavation: Patricia Weeks of Historic Scotland Properties in Care; the Historic Scotland Rangers Sandra Miller and Elaine Clarke; Adrian Stanger of Historic Scotland Monuments in Care Unit, Sigurd Towrie and Anne Brundle.

Orkney College Geophysics Unit – Views, Brochs and Results

Alistair Wilson, Geophysics Technician, OAESIS

During July the Geophysics Unit of Orkney College* had an interesting two weeks fieldwork working on two different sites (reputedly both Brochs) with students from two different institutions. Whilst the student experience of both groups on the two differing sites where largely similar and, thankfully, largely as expected, the same could not be said of the archaeology….

North Howe, Rousay

North Howe, Rousay, is recorded as a broch site about 100/150m north of its more famous neighbour Mid Howe. Joined by South Howe, a further broch site approximately 100m to the south of Mid Howe (currently suffering from coastal erosion). The three together form a rather atypical grouping of brochs.
The RCAHMS visited North Howe in 1928 and recorded it as "a large unexplored site of somewhat indefinite character", they returned in 1972 to record "the scant remains of a broch marked by a grassy mound c.17.0m in diameter and 2.5m maximum height, with traces of the outer wall face visible for a length of about 12.0m around the NW arc".

As part of collaborative work on Rousay between Bradford University, NABO (North Atlantic Biocultural Organization) and Orkney College's Archaeology Department, the Geophysics Unit undertook a survey of North Howe, including student training in geophysics. The students were from New York City University (NYCU).

**Recently "re-badged" Orkney College Geophysics Unit is now called Orkney Archaeological and Environmental Site Investigation Services (OAESIS)*

NYCU students receiving instruction whilst sitting atop North Howe. The small tented shelter (right of picture) is to provide shade so that computer screens can be "seen" in the sunshine; it does not normally come out too much. (Source OAESIS).

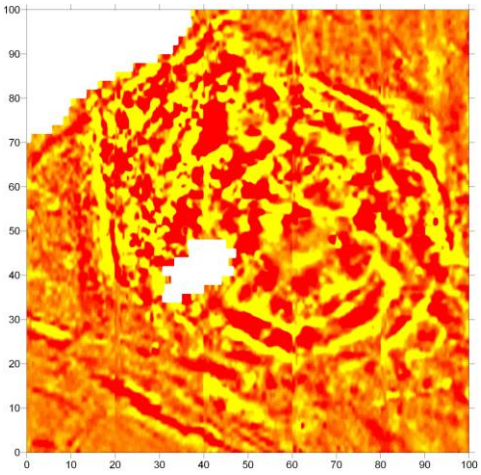
Upon arrival at site four members of Geophysics and Archaeology Dept staff all stood around and surveyed the site. The consensus of opinion was that obviously it was archaeology, it had all the required lumps and bumps and even stone-work protruding from the turf. Our experience, that "sixth sense" that most archaeologists believe they have, and the patently obvious topography all told us that it was indeed archaeology (not withstanding the RCAHMS records). However, the consensus of opinion, whilst a little less certain, also agreed that it was not a broch. Its close association to Mid Howe alone would preclude any likelihood of it being so. Often upon arrival at a new site the geophysics unit staff will second guess the likely outcome of results, whether there will be any archaeology and if so of what type? But it is best not to discuss the results of this application of our "sixth sense".

Once the NYCU students arrived they received instruction, but largely had "hands on" experience of a variety of geophysical techniques, gradiometry; resistance, ground penetrating radar (GPR), electrical resistance tomography (ERT), and topographic survey. With a lot to fit in the work was spread over two days allowing everyone some experience of each technique, however brief, with the geophysics forming only part of a larger excavation field school.

The GPR and ERT were undertaken largely for student experience and provided little data of use, these techniques would normally be targeted onto the archaeology after a survey with gradiometry or resistance. The

resistance and gradiometry however provided good results, seen below. The resistance covers a smaller area as it is a much slower labour intensive technique.

Whilst geophysical results can sometimes be difficult to "read", these results did confirm North Howe's status as a broch! We were very pleased with the results and not a little surprised. The staff were also pleased with the students, and they in turn appeared to have enjoyed and learnt from the experience. Overall very good results for a few days in the field. It was then that the Unit changed student cohorts and sites.



North Howe gradiometry results. The largely circular nature of the monumental construction of the building and associated ditches and banks of a broch site can be seen in this plot. The hexagonal plan in the top right is also indicative of some broch sites. The small white area is an extant sheep fold where survey was not possible. Of further interest is the possible wheel like structure that can be discerned at the centre of the broch tower (with the eye of faith?). (Source OAESIS)

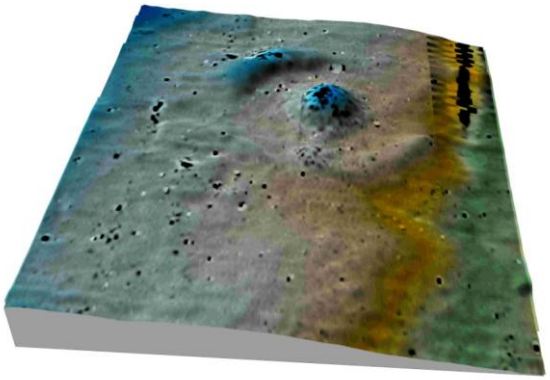
Redland Broch, West Mainland

Mr Eoin Scott of Redland Farm (former chairman of OAS) had very kindly, and not for the first time, allowed access onto his land for student training - on this occasion for Orkney College and the UHI's own masters and undergraduate students to survey Redland Broch. The site between the Finstown-Rendall road and the peat moss, presents itself as, at first glance, an obvious broch; low mound surrounded by a ditch and slight banking.

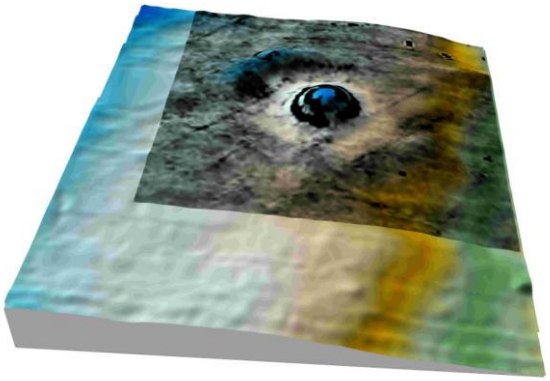
Right – Undergraduate students from Inverness College undertaking a GPR survey of the mound of Redland Broch. This was undertaken largely after the gradiometry and resistance survey (Below) had been done, with the resistance showing the twin ring effect of the archaeological construction. (Source OAESIS)

The RCAHMS records the mound as being "about 22.0m in diameter by c.0.8m in height". Originally excavated in 1858 by Farrer, and reported on by Petrie in 1873, the site was recorded as a galleried dun with a narrow intramural wall passage enclosing a space of 27 ft in diameter with a partly rock-cut well. Furthermore the ditch was surrounded by a circular ring of stones, about 5 ft apart. The RCAHMS also records that that the monument was (supposedly) "completely demolished about the year 1874", a date that sits well with the time of the construction of the house of Redland farm.

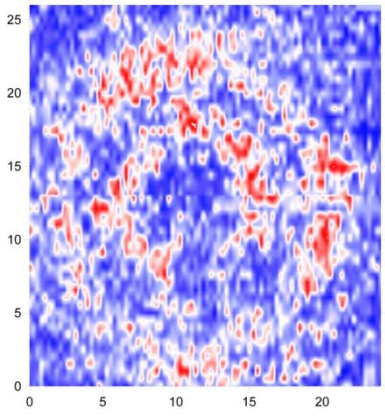
The students had four days on site and therefore we were able to take a more structured approach over a larger area (1 ha). The gradiometry results, quickest and easiest to collect and process, showed virtually nothing – excepting an igneous dyke in the underlying geology- certainly none of the obvious "signatures" one would expect from a settlement site. This was worrying for whilst an absence of results can be informative the students had to produce a report as part of their assessment. However a collective sigh of relief was heard when the resistance results showed not only the structure but also the intramural passage.



The gradiometry results have been over laid onto the topographic survey. An igneous dyke can be seen at the top right, but no results indicative of settlement are apparent either associated with the mound or the surrounding area. (Source OAESIS)



The resistance results have also been over laid onto the topography, but occupy a smaller area (top right quadrant) as resistance is more time consuming and labour intensive than gradiometry. The twin walls of the structure can be seen. Also visible are the field's drainage channels (running bottom left to top right) and on the banking to the top left can be seen a small rectangular structure, presumably a workers shelter from the demolition of 1874. (Source OAESIS)



The GPR results also showed the twin walls of the construction. A series of vertical GPR traces are joined together then the data is presented in plan across a particular "depth"; this process is referred to as a "time slice". Other time slices show an internal surface at the centre of the structure. Unfortunately processing GPR data is very time consuming and also benefits from topographic corrections and corrections for the tilt of the antennae. Recent purchase of new software should allow for these corrections and hopefully clearer images. Meanwhile squinting always helps. (Source OAESIS)

As can be seen from the results (above) whilst we definitely had archaeology, we had "pretty" pictures, and the students had plenty they could write up for their assessment, we also had a surprise – Redland was definitely not a broch! Opinions, professional or otherwise, within the Archaeology Department (including Geophysics) of what we had found were divided.

Redland Broch therefore is not a broch, but what is it? Without excavation, which might not answer the question, two options have been proposed that reasonably fit the available evidence. Firstly, that it is a chambered tomb and that the twin walls are of different heights, ala Wideford Hill and others, and that Farrer mistakenly identified the intramural passage and the well. The other view is that in conjunction with Round Howe (near Mine Howe), which has many similarities of location size and structure, the Geophysics Unit has stumbled on a new class of ritual monument

Views, and On Going Results

At the end of the two weeks in the field with the students the staff of the Geophysics Unit had some mixed emotions. All had gone well with both student cohorts (not always the case), the archaeological results had been very good (not always the case), the weather had largely been very kind to us (not always the case). Meanwhile though our "sixth sense" had let us down on both sites, any disappointment was however tempered with stunning results on our computer screen. What we have been left with is far more work to come. North Howe now requires a more extensive survey covering a larger area and properly targeted use of a variety of techniques. In conjunction with a large area survey around all three brochs; North, Mid and South (c. 20ha). OAESIS currently has a grant bid in with Historic Scotland for just this work, so fingers crossed everyone.
In terms of Redland Broch Mr Scott has already given his permission for us to return for further survey work and we are still arguing about what it is that we have surveyed –burial or ritual?
And what did I take from all of this, as a relatively new appointment to Geophysics? Well they were two very interesting broch sites that I enjoyed working on; my faith in my "sixth sense" remains firm regardless of the results; I am reminded that geophysics has much to offer, but is not necessarily an end in itself (give it time); and finally that my "sixth sense" says that Redland is a new class of ritual site!

Geophysical Techniques Glossary

Gradiometry: A passive survey technique measuring changes in the earth's magnetic field often occasioned by archaeological deposits and structures. Results seen in plan.

Resistance: An active survey technique were a small electrical current is passed through the ground to measure resistance. The rule of thumb is "high resistance walls and structures, low resistance ditches and pits". Results seen in plan

GPR: An active survey technique whereby radar is fired into the ground. Results can be seen in plan and section.

ERT: An active survey technique much like resistance but where results are shown in section. although recent advances allow for 3D imaging of the sub surface.

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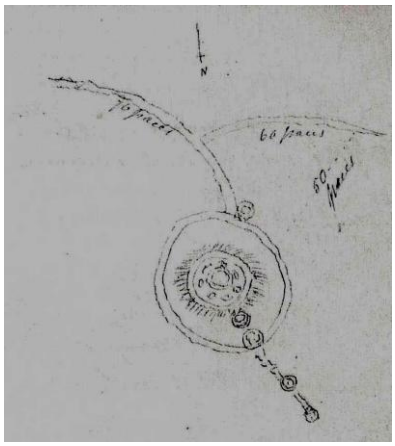
1833 Account of Four Pre-historic sites around the Bay of Skaill

James M Irvine

Thomas Stewart Traill (1781-1862) of Tirlot (Westray), Professor of Medical Jurisprudence at Edinburgh University from 1833 till his death, revisited Orkney in 1833 (see Irvine, *The Breckness Estate*, 2009, p.158). One of his notebooks of this visit, now held by the National Library of Scotland as MS.19396 but probably unread for 175 years, includes what are probably the earliest contemporary descriptions of four important archaeological sites. The relevant verbatim extracts are:

[f.22r] *Pikis fort on the hill SW of Skaill called Gheoso.*



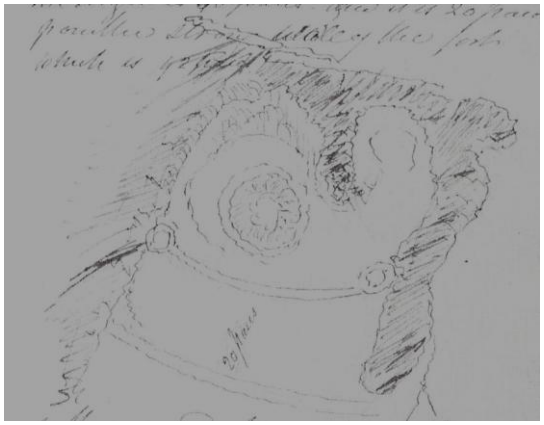
This strong place has been carefully fortified. The outer circle is 150 paces in circumference. Within this a strong circular fort the walls of whi[ch] Mr Watt remembers to have [been] exactly round & remarkably well built: but all is now dilapidated, having long served as a Quarry. Within this [scored?] inclosure are several [f.22v] small circular apartments and in the centre a large circular tower which was a few years ago pretty entire but now little remaining all except the foundations. From its S. side proceeded a wall, which gradually bends to the SE until it meets a marshy spot which probably was formerly a pool. A circular mound on the S of the wall [is] about 7 paces across. The Inner circle is about 25 paces across the chain of little mounds, of which the foundations now only remain, run from the fort N by E. These seem to have been each 6 paces wide from wall to wall.

This site is at GR HY228179, close to the summit of the Ward Hill of Sandwick. It is now known as the Knowe of Geoso, and does not seem to have deteriorated much since 1833.

[f.23v; no illustration]
Below the House of Skaill on the shore is a green tumulus of large size which consists of burnt earth abounding in bones of various animals & shells chiefly of limpets. In it were found several bone bodkins seeming of the fibula of deer. Fragments of one of their horns also were found.

This seems likely to be a reference to Skara Brae that pre-dates Mr Watt's "discovery" of 1855.

[f.24r]



On the N side of the bay of Skaill is a large pici's fort on a peninsular cliff divided from the northern rock by a deep chasm called Varans or Varie Gheo which is about 45 feet deep. The neck of land is crossed by a strong wall of which the foundations remain of which the length is 50 paces and it is 20 paces from the strong wall of the fort which is 42 feet with a round tower or mound at each extremity.
This site is at GR HY231198. It is now known as the Broch of Verron.

[f.26r; no illustration]
Near Skaill is a vast Piki's House. It is about 250 paces S by E of Skaill - on a green knoll wh[ich] seems formerly to have been an island in the Loch. It is still surrounded by marshy ground on all sides but the western on which there seems to have been an entrance. This has been a place of note. There is a well in the centre which is deep - approached the steps - walled in, and covered over. It has been approached from the central and principal chamber. This house has been opened in SE direction, in which there have been four chambers, two on each side of the well. The four measure together 20 paces. These run

thro the central elevation of the Cairn and there seem to be several unopened chambers in the sides. Mr Watt says that the masonry was very neat and perfect when opened without [cement?] or vitrification.

This site, sometimes known as 'Loupandessness', is now just a slight rise in the field at GR HY236184. It was recently surveyed by Orkney College Geophysics Unit and found to be an extended broch. The historiography of this place-name and a preliminary interpretation of this survey will be the subject of a forthcoming article by James Irvine, Mary Saunders, Amanda Brend and Alette Kattenberg.

Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership

Julian Branscombe, Manager

Implementation of the grand-sounding Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Scheme started this summer. This scheme has had years of difficult development, but now all the funding is in place, and this July a four-strong team started to make sure the £2m raised is well-spent.

The Scheme is a partnership led by Orkney Islands Council, RSPB and Scottish Natural Heritage. Its principal funder is Heritage Lottery Fund, who are putting £1.3m in. HLF looks for Landscape Partnership Schemes to involve a wide range of organisations to plan and deliver activity which celebrates and enhances the heritage of an area. The definition of heritage is broad – from wildlife, to history and archaeology, to cultural heritage.

The Scapa Flow scheme has a striking diversity of projects, stretching from the sensitive resurfacing of the Old Man of Hoy footpath by RSPB, from Orkney Dialect Project led by Tom Rendall and the building of a traditional clinker-built dinghy – a Stromness Flattie – with S4 pupils at Stromness Academy under the guidance of Orkney's last full-time boat-builder, Ian Richardson.

Our Scheme is getting recognition as one of the most exciting Schemes in the UK. This stems from the combination of years of careful development work, and the wealth of interest in and around Scapa Flow and the South Isles, which combine to give such a variety of interesting projects, including inspirational cultural heritage and historical projects. With the current emphasis on the marine environment, stemming from new Marine Bill to the rush for marine renewables, the Scheme's marine activity, from interpretation of wrecks to the conservation of the now far-from-common Common Skate, provides a particular maritime angle which is unsurpassed in other Landscape Partnership Schemes.

The Scheme has two main strands to its archaeological work. As you might expect, the Scheme is a wonderful opportunity to invest in the conservation and awareness of the rich 20th C military history of the area. However, the other strand deals with pre-20th Century archaeology, stretching back to the mesolithic.

Better provision of access and interpretation is a feature of the Scheme. Many of the planned footpaths will offer opportunities to understand the wartime use of the Flow. New interpretation is also to be provided to existing visitor facilities, including the Scapa Flow Visitor Centre, Lyness. The Scapa Flow Ranger, Anne Bignall, will be organising a variety of guided walks, including some with a strong military theme. Perhaps most significantly, the Scheme will train tour guides to give better access to the wonders of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Ness Battery, Stromness.

Ness Battery is the most expensive project in the whole scheme. A much-needed £312k will be invested in a range of works. This will include an archaeological survey of the site, and the production of a Statement of Cultural Significance for this site. Cathy Fisher, Project Officer for the Scheme, will then be organising emergency building repair works. This will include the propping of the gun emplacements, but much of the work will

focus on the accommodation and mess hut buildings which have survived since 1938.

These wooden buildings provide the human side to the story of the gun battery. You can see where hundreds of soldiers from the 534th Coast Regiment slept, eat and no-doubt played. The mess hut itself provides Orkney's other surviving wartime art masterpiece, alongside the Italian Chapel. This is a romanticised scene of the English countryside, painted by the apparently unknown, and probably home-sick, A R Woods. His amazing paintings perhaps provided a touch of home for some of them stationed there, and an idealised vision of what Britain was fighting for in WW2.

Other key elements of the wartime trail encompassed by the Scheme include:

- A Heritage Trail around the Lyness Naval Base;
- An interactive encyclopaedia, including 'virtual dive experience' for the remaining unsalvaged German WW1 wrecks, and perhaps also the Royal Oak;
- A scale working model of the building of the Churchill Barriers, to be exhibited at the Burray Fossil & Heritage Centre.

The remainder of the archaeological work within the Scheme deals with earlier history. However, it is not entirely peaceful, given that the Flow is noted as a mustering point for Viking armadas, and it has a proud history of coastal defences stretching from the Iron Age brochs to the volunteers' gun batteries of the 19th Century.

Many of these aspects of the Flow's heritage are not subject to projects under the Scheme. However, the area-based brochures which will be printed, and the Scheme's website, will allow the full historic story of the area to be told. We've already got a website set up at www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/scapaflow/ which is managed by OAS member, Joyce Gray, the administrator for the Scheme. However, a fuller website is in preparation, which will try and document all aspects of the Scapa Flow area's heritage, with its timeline stretching from prehistory to the distinctive wildlife and culture around us today, combined with details of all the heritage centres and most-accessible archaeological and wildlife sites.

One of our projects has already been and gone this year – and quite a number of OAS members will have been involved. We supported ORCA to run the training digs at the Cairns, an Iron Age site in South Ronaldsay, and the Neolithic site at Cantick in South Walls. These may be over for this year, but we are supporting ORCA to run an equally exciting programme, open to all, over the coming years.

Our website features the successful digs this summer at both these sites – see the News page for details. Finds include a fantastic carved head from Cairns, whilst at Cantick, the work concentrated on investigation of an extensive funerary landscape.

The Scheme is funding local archaeologist, Caroline Wickham-Jones, to extend her sub-sea sampling so we can understand the prehistoric landscape – now submerged – of Scapa Flow. This is a project which I am sure will feature further in the pages of future editions of this newsletter, whilst more information on what is planned is also on the news page of our website.

Lastly, the Scheme is supporting Orkney Museums & Heritage Service to provide an on-line archive of the fascinating range of finds from the 1978-82 excavation at Howe, near Stromness. The rescue dig showed that the broch actually overlaid earlier structures including a neolithic chambered cairn. We are very pleased that we can help with the cataloguing and interpretation of the incredibly important archaeological collection that we have got on the islands.

For a full introduction to the Scheme, please download our Landscape Strategy from our website. This gives our long-term vision for the area's heritage, an assessment of this heritage and the threats it faces, and initial details of the 48 projects which the Scheme will deliver over the next three years. We are very proud to be taking forward this Scheme, with ever so many individuals and

organisations, and we really hope OAS members will join in our activities and support this exciting work.

Julian Branscombe
Manager, Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership Scheme
Julian.branscombe@orkney.gov.uk

Ness of Brodgar 2009

Nick Card, Senior Projects Manager, ORCA

Great expectations as we started at the Ness once again – little could we realise what amazing discoveries would await us this year. With a site like the Ness, however, we should not be surprised that every year the site continues to yield unique and wonderful archaeology.

Excavation continued on Structures 1 and 8 with more phasing and details of sequence and construction being revealed.
The trench around Structure 8 (the linear structure with beautifully tapered stone piers) was expanded in order to reveal its full length and see its overall plan. In the area opened we discovered an end to the building with a gently curving and revetted wall. However this end wall did not represent its original plan. As with Structure 1 that had been much reduced in size with the insertion of a large curving wall in a later phase, similarly so had Structure 8. Short lengths of walling that aligned with the already exposed main walls of Structure 8 tantalizingly disappeared into the trench section implying that in its original design it was much longer than that so far exposed – that is in excess of 15 metres! Adjacent to the inserted curving wall several large interconnected pits were discovered.

These irregularly shaped holes produced some glazed pottery (definitely not Grooved Ware!) and modern glass implying they were relatively modern in origin – could they represent the investigations of 1925, when the famous Brodgar Stone was discovered in association with what were described as 4 or 5 conjoined stone cists or coffins? Along the sides of the holes we discovered the remnants of several upright slabs representing collapse from the walls and piers of Structure 8. Were these uprights misinterpreted as the sides of the cists? Perhaps supporting this interpretation for the pits was the recovery of a decorated slab from within the rubble of Structure 8 that bore a strong resemblance to the banded decoration on the 1925 slab.

Structure 8

More collapse and infill was removed from the interior of the building but still no sign of the original floor layers. However the tops of orthostats forming internal divisions are starting to appear.

Excavation within Structure 1 also continued with a wonderful job being done by the MA students of Orkney College as part of their course.

Structure 1 from above with the various phases of use & rebuilding becoming clearer

An apparent isolated section of rather low quality walling (compared to the pristine

angular walls of the primary phase of Structure 1), discovered towards the end of last season within the structure, resolved itself into being part of a sub oval structure inserted into the remains of the building. The function of this has yet to be determined but it is noteworthy that it totally respects the later remodelling of Structure 1 (the insertion of the large curved wall).

One of the main objectives for this year was the refinement of the plan of Structure 10 – the very large building revealed last year – and to see how it related to the other major structures on sites. At the start of the season it seemed as if all we had to do was clear away some of the apparent plough dragged stones to reveal the top of the surviving wall heads and the refined plan of the building – not as easy as it sounds. Apart from the north side of the building where the walls had survived relatively unscathed, we quickly realised that elsewhere the walls had been systematically robbed out in prehistory. In places we had to dig down through over a metre of robbing debris before we encountered surviving wall lines. This done however we were able to get a very good idea of what the building originally looked like. The central building was sub-rectangular in plan but with slightly obtuse external corners and slightly bowed walls of exceptional externally faced stonework. At the east end was an annex or forecourt area that extended the building to over 20 metres in length. The external walls were almost 5 metres thick, actually consisting of two stone built walls separated by a midden wall core. What was most surprising, however, was the central chamber that these walls defined. One section of 'zig-zag' walling that had been revealed last season and that was initially thought of as being a later insertion, formed one side of a cruciform shaped chamber. Unfortunately many of the other wall lines defining the chamber have been robbed at their upper levels but the shape of the chamber was easily seen by colour and texture changes in the soil.

Structure 10 with central chamber outlined with ranging poles

This cruciform shape is similar in plan to the chamber in Maeshowe on which Structure 10 is aligned! Within one of the recesses of the cruciform chamber a collapsed Skara Brae style dresser (or should we call this an altar?!) is present. Next year will a hearth be revealed at its centre to 'match' the 'dresser', or something much more esoteric to fit with its obvious religious overtones? Speculation on site is already high!

The use of red and yellow sandstone in some of the walls (and the surviving central support of the 'altar') of the inner chamber is also highly unusual and brings to mind its use in St Magnus' Cathedral, where likewise this stone was not immediately available in the vicinity and had to be 'imported' – in the case of Structure 10 the nearest source is Houton Head, several miles distant.

Also of note is the discovery of large 'display' art within the rubble collapse of Structure 10. Although many pieces of geometric finely incised art/ graffiti have been discovered on site (to date over 75 examples!), cup marked stones and a cup and ring marked stone are concentrated in Structure 10. Part of a finely inscribed stone slab bearing deeply incised multiple lined chevrons was also found. These finds again seem to mark Structure 10 out as something different.

Multiple lined chevron design from Structure 10

Cup and Ring marked stone

The association and similarities with Maeshowe also extend to the incorporation of standing stones in their builds. Maeshowe has standing stones partially defining the corner buttresses of the central chamber, and the massive slabs of the passage probably represent a dismantled stone circle. In Structure 10 there are the remains of a large slab almost two metres long and over a metre wide built into one of the walls – Colin Richards, who visited the site and is presently writing up his volume on stone circles and quarries, left in no doubt that this had been part of a standing stone. The other one discovered in the 'forecourt' was more obvious in that we uncovered the substantial stump of a standing stone along with numerous broken parts of it – one of which matched the exquisite half hour-glass hole left in the stump to create a hole running through it! No mean feat as the stone is very hard and has been identified as coming from a camptonite igneous 'dyke'. Whether this stone predated Structure 10 or was an integral part of its design has still to be determined. A second holed standing stone is also implied by the recovery of similar hour glass perforated stone from the rubble filling the central chamber.

Holed standing stone

Excavation on the 'exterior' of Structure 10 revealed a beautifully paved pathway running right around the outside of 5m thick wall. This paving was defined on the outside by a stone revetment. If, as I believe, Structure 10 was roofed, then I envisage this roofing extending right out over this paving to create a covered passageway running right round the building. As with Structure 8 at Barnhouse where the entrance through the outer enclosure (that also aligns with Maeshowe) does not correspond in alignment to the entrance into the inner building, perhaps we have a similar situation in our Structure 10. This would mean that the outer paved passage may have formed a 'labyrinth' leading to the entrance to the inner chamber.

Mika recording part of the paving around Structure 10

All in all these various aspects and features of Structure 10 including its refinement, size and complexity indicates that this was no ordinary building – perhaps not a 'cathedral' as reported in the press but a structure equally impressive and important to its Neolithic population. Imagine this building situated on the brow of the Ness mound and how it would have been visible from miles around – not to mention the fact that as with Structure 8 at Barnhouse that it was built after the rest of the village was abandoned, so it seems that Structure 10 at the Ness was also the last major construction on site after the other structures were abandoned or deliberately slighted or infilled – so its visibility would have been emphasized by the lack of any other structures immediately around it.
The parallels between Structure 8 at Barnhouse and Structure 10 on the Ness are obvious. Even the initial dates we have for both buildings are similar. Does their construction signify a major change in society and/or religious practices?

A long linear geophysical anomaly that almost spans the peninsula in the southern field nearer to the Bridge of Brodgar was one of the other targets for this year. Magnificent though the Great Wall of Brodgar (GWB) was in previous seasons, the spectacular revealed stonework of the 'lesser' Wall of Brodgar left everyone quite breathless with its survival to a height of at least 1.3 metres. What an awe inspiring and also formidable sight it would have appeared when approaching the site from the Stones of Stenness. Next year should reveal its full surviving height.

The 'Lesser Wall of Brodgar'

Although only 2 metres in breadth compared to the 4 plus metres of the GWB (the greater width perhaps not being necessary due to the natural enhancement of this lesser wall by the natural topography of this side of the Ness) there seems every likelihood that this formed part of the same feature – a wall that would have enclosed all the main structures on the Ness. If such a complex – a great walled enclosure containing several large and impressive structures – was found in the classical world or Middle East, there would be no hesitation in calling it a 'temple or ritual precinct' – was the Ness a similar construct?? All the evidence would suggest that during the main phases of construction we have so far encountered this was no ordinary site – with the scale, symmetry and architecture of the buildings culminating in the construction of Structure 10. Coupled with an unusual makeup of the cultural assemblage this too indicates a definite non domestic complex. With refinements to the sequence and dating we should soon be able to place the Ness in its wider context and start to understand its relationships with the other magnificent monuments of Neolithic Orkney and how the area developed over time. As with the recent discoveries around Stonehenge and Durrington Walls that are transforming our understanding of these monuments, so too is our work at the Ness changing our ideas of how this amazing Orcadian landscape functioned 4-5,000 years ago.

Once again we are indebted to the OIC, the Robert Kiln Trust, the Russell Trust, Orkney College, Sigurd Towrie, the Historic Scotland Ranger Service, Orkney Builders, Blackbird Chimney Sweeping Services, volunteers from every corner of the globe, and the Orkney Archaeology Society for support, and also of course Arnie and Ola Tait, and John and Carol Hoey for their help, support, hospitality and again allowing us to excavate on their land.

Already we are looking into continuing the excavations next year and are busy seeking potential funders, sponsors and volunteers. Please send all enquiries to nick.card@uhi.ac.uk.

Bev and Graces' Ness of Brodgar experience

Bev & Grace Rowe

This summer Grace tried out her career choice and Bev fulfilled a long held ambition, we both volunteered to dig at N.O.B. Grace went for the whole 6 weeks where as Bev joined in on week 2 intending to do 2 days and ended up staying 3 weeks. What a fantastic spot to dig in, sometimes you just had to stop and enjoy the scenery! Grace moved around the site but Bev spent the majority of her time in structure 8.
The thrill of uncovering objects unseen for thousands of years is hard to describe. We both found pot, flint and cramp. Bev's first exciting find was a clay ball a little larger than a malteser - what was that used for? But Grace made a spectacular find of incised art. We met many new and interesting people from all over the U.K and also from America and Sweden. We were fed marvellous treats of cakes, doughnuts, fruit, soup and beer, donated to keep the spirits up.
So if you've ever wondered what it's like to be in the trench rather than looking into it, get yourselves signed up on the volunteers register, and maybe we'll see you next summer.

P.S the aches fade away eventually

ODIN – Orkney Defence Interest Network

James Miller

If you have an interest in archaeology, are you likely to be attracted to modern wartime history?

Highly likely, I would have thought, but all too often, never the twain shall meet; or at least that appears to be the case in Orkney.

We are fiercely protective – rightly - of our archaeological sites but does that extend to the islands' more modern history?

The answer is a resounding NO.

Orkney has a miserable record in protecting wartime history sites (the exception being the Lyness Museum) and this has led to the formation of a new group called ODIN, which hopes to raise awareness of our wartime past and promote this "new" archaeology.

Orkney Defence Interest Network (ODIN) is still in its infancy and is currently finalising legal formalities to gain charitable status.

But it has already hit the ground running with a successful campaign to get the HMS *Royal Oak* memorial at Scapa in fit and proper shape for the recent 70th anniversary; an oral history training course and a fieldwork training and recording event at Scapa Bay have been held; a programme of meetings is being organised for the winter and if you are interested in being made aware of these meetings, register your name with the contact details at the foot of this article.

An ODIN website is also being built and will be launched shortly.

However, it is **vitally** important for ODIN to harness the support of Orkney's archaeological community and help raise the profile of, and preserve, the "new" wartime archaeology.

In fact, the need for a group like ODIN was first recognised by the county archaeologist, Julie Gibson. who championed the formation of the group.

The Black Building controversy (before ODIN was fully active) put a stark spotlight on Orkney's pitiful performance on wartime preservation. It may not have been obvious at the time, but supporters of both sides of the demolition argument were united in condemning the wanton vandalism that had been perpetrated 20 years previously when local businessman, Gus Glue, was allowed to drive holes into the building, gut the contents, and leave a hollow hulk.

A few years earlier the Manpower Service Commission was given permission – even encouraged - to demolish "unsightly" wartime buildings in Orkney as part of a job creation programme.

It is inconceivable that Orkney's wartime remains from the past 100 years would have been so ignored and desecrated if they had been afforded the same status as our "traditional" archaeological sites.

An organisation such as ODIN is too late on the scene … but better late than never ….

The importance of Orkney's wartime past is also vital in economic terms and ODIN's long term aim is to establish a Wartime Trail for visitors, so the islands' role in the two world wars can be fully interpreted and understood.

The objectives according to its constitution are

- To promote the identification, categorisation and preservation of Orkney's defence heritage,
- to establish a Wartime Trail in collaboration with others and
- to raise awareness and understanding of the value of this archaeology and social history in all its aspects throughout all sections of the Orkney Island's community, including schools

If Orkney's wartime heritage and archaeology is important to you or if you want to be included in ODIN mailing / email list to be advised of talks etc, please contact the chairwoman, Anne Billing Park House, Deerness, Anne.Billing@orkney.uhi.ac.uk or any of the other members of the executive committee: Ken Hambly, John Clarke, James Miller, Lynn Campbell, and Gavin Lindsay.

World Heritage Site Ranger Service – "Inspiring our Children"
Elaine Clarke, WHS Ranger

The World Heritage Site ranger service helps to promote and safeguard the natural, cultural and built heritage of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney and is funded by Historic Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Orkney Islands Council. The rangers provide a wide variety of free walks, talks and events for all ages and levels of knowledge, however an important part of the Ranger's job, and a part they both particularly enjoy, is working with schools. Orkneys sites and natural environment provides inspiration for an exciting range of learning opportunities and is put to full use by the rangers Elaine Clarke and Sandra Miller.

The number of schools and teachers using the Ranger Service is increasing all the time, and to date the girls have been in every Mainland school and many out on the isles covering a wide range of subjects relating to over 5,000 years of Orcadian history and the different cultures that have influenced these islands as well as the diversity of our natural heritage. Topics such as Neolithic Orkney, John Rae, the Vikings as well as bird watching, beach combing and Nature Detectives to name but a few. And this August they were with Stenness primary when the whole school visited the Ness of Brodgar dig the children enjoyed themselves so much when asked if they would like to become archaeologists the show of hands spoke volumes.

Schools now work within the Curriculum for Excellence and this aims to help Orkney children develop within four areas, as confident individuals, successful learners, responsible citizens and effective contributors, with this in mind the rangers provide a wide range of both classroom activities and field trips tailor made to suit the different ages, groups and class projects. Sandra and Elaine have specially designed education boxes on the Neolithic and the Viking eras which they can loan out to any school to help with their projects.

Sandra said
"For me one of the most important aspects of our job is the work we do with the bairns in Orkney. When you grow up in a wonderful environment like Orkney you perhaps take it for granted, what we hope to do is inspire Orkney bairns to be proud of where they live, after all, they are the caretakers of the future"

Local teachers seem to agree.

Christine Sinclair, Primary 3 teacher at Papdale Primary, says:
"One of our key projects of the year is Skara Brae and we work in partnership with the Rangers who provide such a wonderful service to us both on site at Skara Brae and Brodgar and also in the school. Elaine and Sandra have such a great rapport with the children and really help them develop their understanding of Orkney's past."

Agreeing, Margaret Kirkness of St Andrews School
"It is good for the children to have someone from outside the school talking to them and the Rangers – whether it be on site at Skara Brae or Brodgar or in the classroom are so enlightening and approachable."

For further information about the ranger service or their events contact orkneyrangers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or on 01856 841732

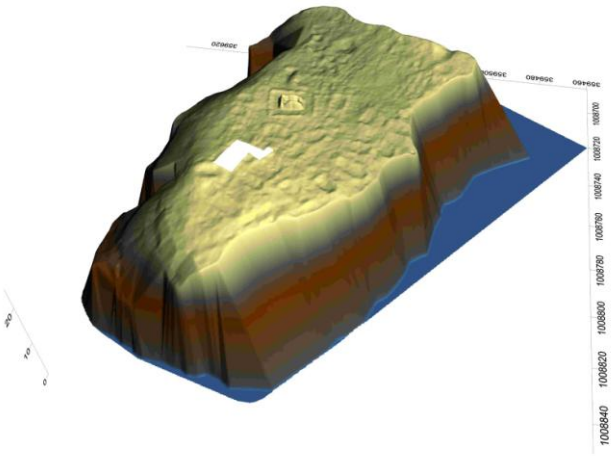
The Brough of Deerness

James Barrett and James Gerrard (McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research)
Mary Saunders (Orkney College Geophysics Unit)

New fieldwork continued at the Brough of Deerness in July of this year. It is an early historic settlement (of over 30 visible foundations and a church) on a sea stack fringed by 20-30m cliffs.

The Brough of Deerness from the air in 2008 (Image: Vicki Herring)

High resolution GPS survey shows how densely packed with ruins the site is – confirming the likelihood of a substantial settlement in what is a very inhospitable location.



Digital model of surface earthworks (Image: Mary Saunders)

Three houses have now been excavated along a line from the eastern to western edges of the stack. All are of late Viking Age date and probably ended their use-life in the 11th-12th centuries. Intriguingly, two of the houses began as dwellings (complete with central hearths), but were remodelled and then never reoccupied as domestic spaces. The site may thus have changed in function from settlement to (predominately) unmanned refuge.

Our new fieldwork has also demonstrated that the Viking Age houses were built on an earlier settlement dating to the 6th to 9th centuries based on ^{14}C and artifacts (including a rare fragment of vessel glass).

House 25 under excavation in 2009 (Image: Tim Cornah)

Pendant with rune-like decoration (Image: Pieta Greaves)

The site is looking increasingly like a chiefly citadel of both Pictish and Viking Age date. It may be appropriate to envision it as a 'little Tintagel' and it must represent the milieu from which retinues could be recruited for the campaigns recorded in 10th and 11th century Irish and English sources.

The 2009 work was sponsored by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Orkney Islands Council, the Russell Trust, the Friends of St Ninian's and the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research.

Orkney Archaeology Society Winter Events

Date	Talk	Venue	Time
Wednesday 9th December 2009	ORCA Dig Supervisors "Round-up of the Year"	St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall Main Hall,	7.30pm
Wednesday 20th January 2010	Nick Card "Update on Ness of Brodgar"	Stenness Hall, Stenness	7.30pm
Monday 8th February 2010	Ann Bignall "Scapa Flow Landscape Partnership"	St Magnus Centre, Kirkwall Friends Room	7.30pm
March 2010 – date to be confirmed	Anne Brundle "The Unimportance of Birsay"	To be confirmed	To be confirmed

Admission prices for regular walks & talks are:

£2 for OAS members
£3 for non-members

Everyone is welcome at all our events. We usually have tea & coffee and a chance to chat after the talks.

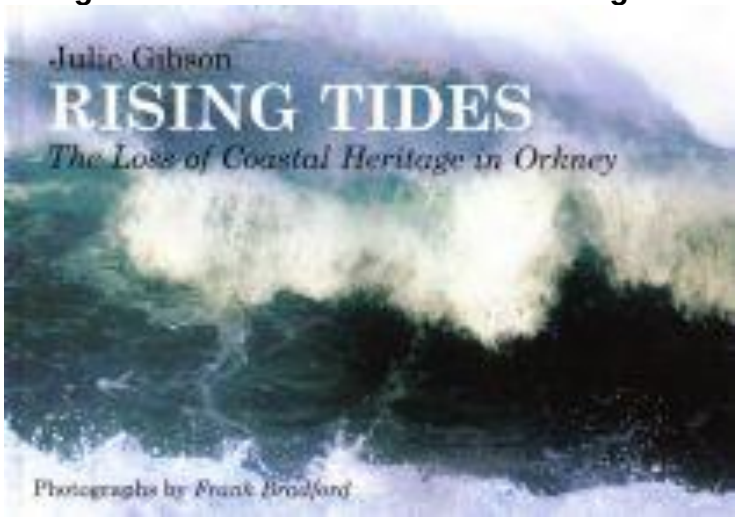
We are also planning an event on Valentine's weekend – we will email details to those of you for whom we have email addresses and will advertise in local press and on the website. If you do not currently receive email notification of events and would like to, please email oas@orkneycommunities.co.uk and we will add you to the list.

All events will be advertised in local press and on the website – look out for further details.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Orkney Archaeology Society Publications Available

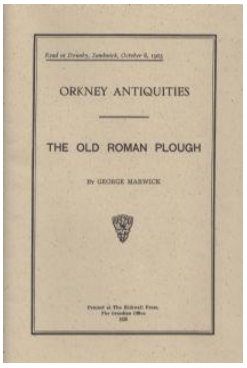
Rising Tides: The Loss of Coastal Heritage in Orkney



This book is a wonderful collaboration by Julie Gibson, County Archaeologist, and expert photographer Frank Bradford, with over 100 full colour illustrations. Julie describes the fast eroding sites, and also how you can get to them and enjoy this aspect of Orkney's past, while it lasts. 'Rising Tides' had local and international sponsorship, and there are limited copies left - proceeds go to Orkney Archaeology Society, who will ensure that they are ploughed straight back into Orkney's archaeology.
Dedicated to the memory of Judith Robertson
Published by Northings Publications.
£12 plus £2.75 postage & packing.

Mine Howe: Fieldwork and excavation 2000-2005
FOAT Occasional Publication 1, December 2005, compiled by Dr Stephen Harrison
This publication covers the investigation of Mine Howe from the original discovery in 1946 through the rediscovery in 1999 and the subsequent archaeological work, providing a comprehensive summary of the work so far. Also included is a dig diary from one of the participants and a further reading list.
Published by The Friends of Orkney Archaeological Trust, now called Orkney Archaeology Society.
£5.95, postage free to Orkney Archaeology Society members, £1 for non-members

The Old Roman Plough



A facsimile reproduction of a lecture given by George Marwick in October 1903 on the traditional ploughs used in Orkney.
Published by Orkney Archaeological Trust.
£2.50, postage free to Orkney Archaeology Society members, £1 for non-members

The order form for these publications is available on

the website or contact us to ask for one.