

HISTORIC
SCOTLAND



ALBA
AOSMHOR

HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY

WORLD HERITAGE SITE
RANGER SERVICE





RANGER SERVICE

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

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

Every day at 1pm during 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.



Ring of Brodgar



Skara Brae



Standing Stones of Stenness



Maeshowe

WORLD HERITAGE

The remarkable monuments that make up the Heart of Neolithic Orkney gained World Heritage status in 1999.

This international recognition places them alongside such globally iconic sites as the Pyramids of Egypt and the Great Barrier Reef of Australia.

The designation is given by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to encourage the protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.

The Heart of Neolithic Orkney was added to the World Heritage List as a testimony to the cultural achievement of the Neolithic peoples of northern Europe.

THE MONUMENTS

The Heart of Neolithic Orkney gives visitors a vivid glimpse into the creative genius, lost beliefs and everyday lives of a once flourishing culture.

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.

STANDING STONES OF STENNESS

The Standing 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.

THE LANDSCAPE

The landscape in which the monuments sit is also home to a rich diversity of wildlife. Brown trout and otters thrive in Harray and Stenness Lochs and during the winter both of these legally protected havens welcome thousands of migrant wildfowl.

This living landscape retains a vibrant importance that was equally valued by its first human settlers. The land surrounding the Ring of Brodgar has remained largely uncultivated and harbours many important species of wild flowers, insects and birds.

Historic Scotland works in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to manage the landscape in order to encourage wildlife.

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CONTACT US

For more information on
the Heart of Neolithic Orkney
and details of guided walks
and other events run by
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All of nature for all of Scotland