

The Archaeological Sites
and Monuments of

11

Sanday and North Ronaldsay
Orkney

Orkney Heritage Society

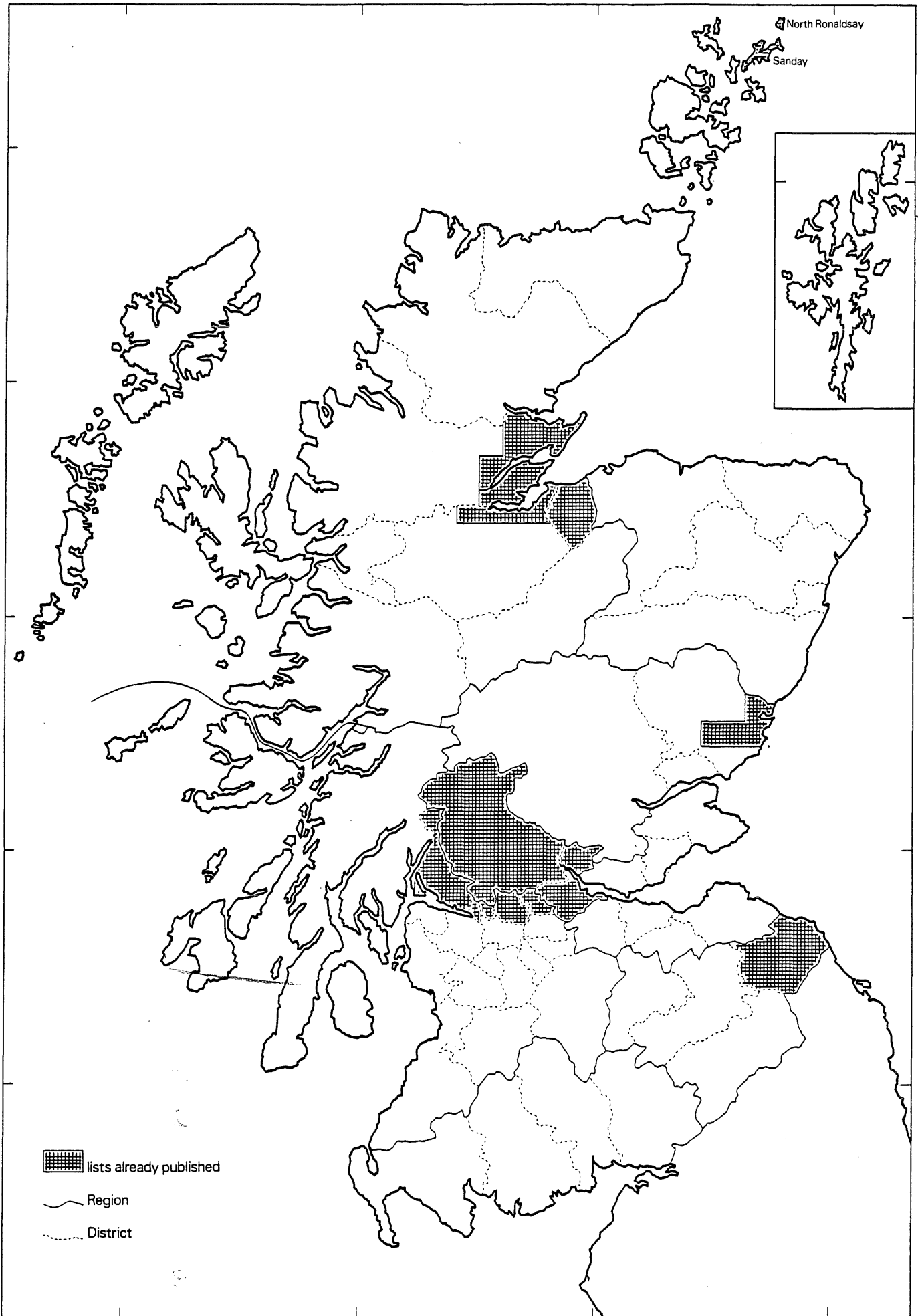
SANDAY AND NORTH RONALDSAY

An archaeological survey of two of the North Isles of Orkney

by R G Lamb

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland,
54 Melville Street,
Edinburgh EH3 7HF

September 1980
Reprinted 1982



**The Archaeological Sites and Monuments
of Sanday and North Ronaldsay,
Orkney**

This list of sites and monuments on the islands of Sanday and North Ronaldsay has been prepared by Dr R G Lamb, the Archaeology Officer of the Orkney Heritage Society. The archaeological survey of Orkney has been made possible by a generous annual grant to the Orkney Heritage Society by Occidental of Britain Inc. and the project is also supported by the Scottish Development Department (Ancient Monuments), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, and the Orkney Islands Council.

This list, which is entirely the work of Dr Lamb, has been edited by Mr A MacLaren and Dr J N G Ritchie of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, in order to bring it broadly into line with the layout of the lists produced by the Field Surveyors of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland; the Introduction, however, has been left exactly as written by Dr Lamb. In the list the sites are arranged in alphabetical order of place-name within a series of sections with the monuments on Sanday coming first within each section followed by those on North Ronaldsay. The descriptions and interpretations remain those of Dr Lamb. A detailed assessment by Dr Lamb of the rescue problem on Sanday and North Ronaldsay has already been presented to Scottish Development Department (Ancient Monuments). Fieldwork and planning at Tofts Ness undertaken in July 1980 by Mr J B Stevenson of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland is described in a separate section (p. 33).

Dr Lamb is grateful to Mr P J Ashmore, SDD; Mrs D M Reynolds and Dr J N G Ritchie, RCAMS; and to Mr J Hedges, who has kindly made available the records held by North of Scotland Archaeological Services.

NOTES

An asterisk (*) indicates that the site has statutory protection under the Ancient Monuments Acts of 1913-1953. Each entry is prefaced by a serial number (which facilitates use of the end maps), name, National Grid reference, 1:10000 map number followed by the Ordnance Survey Record Card Serial-number; a select bibliography, if appropriate, follows each entry. The final entry for each site gives the number of the record card of the Orkney Archaeological Record, held at 48 Junction Road, Kirkwall, Orkney. Here may be found more complete details about each site; an optical coincidence system also permits retrieval under a wide variety of headings. A duplicate set of cards is held by NMRS.

CONTENTS

page	7	Introduction
	11	Chambered Cairns
	11	Barrows and Cairns
	12	Bronze Age Cists
	13	Standing Stone
	13	Burnt Mounds
	15	Fort
	15	Brochs
	16	Unenclosed Settlements
	20	Earth-houses and Underground Structures
	21	Treb Dykes
	22	Viking Burials
	22	Indeterminate Mounds
	25	Ecclesiastical Monuments
	28	Agricultural and Industrial Monuments
	29	Kelping Sites
	30	Wrecks
	30	Miscellaneous
	31	Isolated and Unprovenanced Finds
	33	Tofts Ness: fieldwork July 1980
	35	Bibliography and Abbreviations
		Maps

INTRODUCTION

The Landscape

The two islands share a distinctive landscape which is found on this scale nowhere else in Orkney. The whole of North Ronaldsay and three-quarters of Sanday consist of low-lying blocks of the Rousay flags series, which extend beyond the shoreline as broad wave-cut platforms and below low-water mark as notorious reefs. Above the stone foundation the predominant drift is wind-blown sand. Much of the coastline consists of ridges of dunes which in a few places, notably Newark Bay, attain spectacular heights, but for the most part it is a very low-profile coast and from a distance at sea it is very difficult to distinguish from islands or where Sanday ends and North Ronaldsay begins. Before lighthouses and radar these shores were a dependable provider of building materials and fuel; although the islanders traditionally are hospitable to the victims and certainly never practised deliberate wrecking.

The south-western peninsula of Sanday by contrast is a hogback ridge of Eday sandstones which produces several large areas of rough hill land, part of which at Spurness provides an example of the kind of preserved prehistoric landscape, with numerous ancient field boundaries, much more characteristic of Shetland. But even this part of the island is subject to blowing sand, which in one extensive area has covered a hillside with shifting dunes up to the maximum elevation of the ridge at around 50m.

The broad tracts of machair have exceptionally rich archaeological potential. Sandy soils were in the first place easy to cultivate with the light ard and will have attracted early settlement. Wind-blown sand buries abandoned structures and provides deep, clearly-stratified deposits and clear occupation sequences; the kind of excellent archaeological conditions best exemplified at Jarlshof in Shetland. But like the machair of the Western Isles, the coasts of Sanday and North Ronaldsay are being eroded. This is not a continuation of a steady process but a special and recent phenomenon; major ridges of stabilised dunes that have been built up subsequent to the abandonment of early settlements, are now being washed away at an alarming rate. We are far from understanding the local geomorphological processes that are at work, but can see the results only too clearly. In these islands there is destruction of important and well-preserved archaeological sites on a scale comparable with the urban redevelopment, gravel-digging and motorway-induced rescue crisis which received so much publicity in England in the early 1970s.

Settlements

The most striking peculiarity of the two islands is the prominent mounds on the summits of which many of the largest and oldest-established farms are built. These are the more noticeable when they rise sharply from the flat coastal machair, and it is well known locally that they contain ancient structures. They are indeed veritable 'tells', smaller versions of the great city-mounds of the ancient Middle East but like them, built up over several millennia of continuous occupation. That they are common in these two islands only must be due to the blowing sand which over a period tends to bury any obstruction it meets. Obsolete buildings which in other circumstances would be completely demolished before re-use of the site, are removed only down to the lower courses which have become buried; hence the new building is founded at a higher level than the old one and a succession of such building-phases produces a settlement-mound. The largest of these stand three or four metres high and may cover a hectare or more of ground.

The 'tells' certainly originated long before the Viking period. In many cases farm-names in *bær* or *skáli* indicate that they were primary Norse settlements, while the elements *haugr* (how or -o) and *brekka* suggest that the mounds or hills were already notable features early in the Norse occupation, and *borg* (as in Westbrough) and *toft* (Tafts) suggest the recognition of the presence of ancient structures. The English *field* was a late introduction into Orkney and almost certainly the name Beafield - belonging to the largest of the Sanday tells - represents **Bæjar-fjall*, the hill of the farmstead (*bær*); indicating that the mound already was a major feature when the primary Norse settlement was established there.

Although most of the tells are still occupied by farms, in some cases (e.g. Westbrough) the nucleus of the farmstead has shifted sideways, vacating the summit perhaps because this had become too draughty. And many prehistoric and a few early Norse settlements have formed mounds of the tell kind, although long-abandoned. Some of these have been cut through by coastal erosion revealing a rich content of structures and deposits. Machair conditions are possibly the best for deep stratigraphic separation and good preservation of stone structures; the conditions found at Jarlshof and at Skara Brae.

Churches and Chapels

The enormous number of small early chapel sites in Sanday is exceptional even judged by the common standard of the Northern Isles, where ten or more of these to one of the later parishes is by no means uncommon. They are, presumably, the so-called eyrisland or urisland chapels, which relate to the early Norse settlement pattern; possibly each of the most wealthy odallers supported a household priest; and they pre-date the formation of parishes which took place consequent upon the twelfth-century re-structuring of the Church and foundation of the Orkney bishopric. But exactly what went on remains a very difficult and obscure subject - the church life of mediaeval Orkney remains a matter that needs a great deal of scholarly attention.

The two islands constituted three parishes with head churches dedicated to Our Lady, Holy Cross, and St Columba, the last being the parish church of Burness which included North Ronaldsay. Of the original head-church sites the most interesting is Cross, where the ruined church, occupying a broad raised platform at the head of the sandy bay of Backaskail, appears to be at the centre of an extensive settlement complex. This is a very likely situation for a Viking settlement of high status. probably the *baer* commemorated in the names Bea Loch and Bea Ness.

Chapels on small islets or on the extremities of nesses, such as St Colm's on the Holms of Ire or the site at Kirk Taing in North Ronaldsay, pose a special problem. Are these in the same category as the eyrisland chapels or are they something special? Are they monastic? Their sites show no traces of the distinctive buildings associated with the eremitic stack-sites found along the wilder coasts of Orkney and Shetland. Holms of Ire is a generally similar situation to St Ninians Isle in Shetland, and in spite of the publicity it received, the function and status of the church on St Ninians Isle remain unknown.

The most intriguing of the chapel sites is the Kirk and Kill o' Howe, traditionally two churches on neighbouring hill summits. The question of Celtic elements in Orkney place-names is a very vexed one but in this case, where it is Celticised Latin rather than pure Celtic, the argument is more than usually strong. 'Kill' certainly suggests the Celtic Christian word which in Manx is *keill*, in origin Latin *cella* used of a monastic cell. The ordinary Latin word for a church is *ecclesia*, which gives Welsh *eglwys* and some early English names *Eccles*. Marwick (1923a, 23) used to suggest that the juxtaposition of the island-names Egilsay and Kili Holm pointed to an early church site with associated monastic cell, but in this case we need rather more evidence to justify rejection of the more obvious translation of Egilsay as the island of some man with the common Norse name of Egil. In Sanday the Kirk and Kill border a long-abandoned homestead which Marwick recorded as *Egilton*, and here the lack of the genitive 's' is certainly significant. In William Skea's list this name is *Eggleton* which indeed supports Marwick's claim that the word here is *ecclesia*. This makes the Kirk and Kill a most interesting site and it is a pity that it has for long been under cultivation.

Tofts Ness and its Relations

Sanday is exceptionally well served by the 1842 New Statistical Account, which incorporates a detailed archaeological description contributed by a Dr Wood, who practised on the island about the 1820s. The most intriguing of his descriptions is that of a great and extensive complex of earthworks and structures on the island's northern extremity, the blunt low-lying headland of Tofts Ness.

The northernmost part of the ness by some geological quirk is both waterlogged and sandy, and by this circumstance is preserved a large area of a landscape which we see only fragmentarily elsewhere. There are several very large artificial mounds - whether chambered tombs, brochs or settlement mounds cannot be ascertained - and about these there are

much-reduced long dykes, running for considerable distances and all of them, at a regular interval of ten metres or so, beset with smaller cairns or mounds. There are signs of slab-formed cists in some of the mounds and one of them excavated by Wood contained a built chamber with a corbel-vaulted roof. Wood also describes 'numerous graves lined with flat stones . . . some of them contain human bones, others contain only ashes'.

Several of the mound-set dykes arc inland from the shoreline in a wide semicircle and back to the shore again, thus forming large enclosures. The largest of the isolated mounds stands at the centre of one such enclosure. Wood drew attention to an exactly similar mound-set semicircular dyke which is still traceable on the peninsula of Elsness; there it has as its isolated centrepiece the great mound of Egmondshowe which in all probability is a Maes Howe-type chambered tomb like Quoyness close by. One of the small mounds of the Elsness chain was excavated in 1970 by an Ordnance Survey investigator, and was found to contain two cists with human bones. On the opposite side of Elsness - most of which is arable - there is a large scattered group of small tumuli. Wood, who was a careful observer, noted that the Elsness burial mounds contained masses of the fused material called 'cramp' which was absent from Tofts Ness.

Much more vestigial traces of something very similar can be made out on two of the North Ronaldsay nesses, where however all structures have suffered from the quest for stones needed to keep the sheep dyke in repair. On Tor Ness at least fifteen cairns can be detected under favourable conditions of horizontal sunlight, and on Dennis Ness there are vestiges of long dykes on one of which a mound, opened during the 1939-45 war, was found to contain a cist. Two other Sanday nesses, Tres Ness and Start Island, have single chambered cairns on them, although in both places former cultivation has obliterated any other traces.

In spite of the resemblance of the dykes to field boundaries and the mounds to clearance cairns, there seems little doubt that most at any rate of these small mounds were funerary. Did they perhaps originate in a practice of inserting burials into field clearance cairns? Was it perhaps a regular feature of the Maes Howe-type tombs to be at the centre of extensive funerary complexes with many smaller burial mounds around them? The Tofts Ness complex may be a unique survival; no fully detailed plan of it exists; in 1979 part of it was broken-in to the plough and re-seeded.

Treb Dykes

Awareness of linear earthworks of prehistoric origin has grown in recent years and the Orkney trebs, which were observed and repeatedly reported on by Hugh Marwick in the 1920s but ignored by his archaeological contemporaries, are overdue for resurrection. They are major features yet, surprisingly, only one example - the Funzie Girt in Fetlar - found its way into the Orkney and Shetland RCAMS Inventories.

The Scottish National Dictionary proposes an obscure Norwegian link for the word 'treb', while Marwick thought it Celtic and suggested it was related to Welsh *tref*. Neither is entirely convincing and it is perhaps safer to regard it as of pre-Norse indigenous, putatively non-Indo-European, origin. The word also appears as Trave or Thrave, while the name Gaisty or Gairsty (from *gard-stadt*) is also found applied to the same feature. Trebs were regarded with superstition and ascribed to the 'trows'; they certainly are not part of the Norse landscape and must be relics of an older one. Sometimes they have been utilised as convenient divisions between tunships but more commonly these ignore them. This is the more surprising as the better-preserved trebs are the biggest upstanding linear features in the Orkney countryside.

The Orkney trebs seem to be entirely of earth; they are seldom less than 4m wide and while under normal cultivation they will have been reduced in height to a half-metre or so, some lengths such as the Muckle Gairsty in North Ronaldsay are not far short of two metres. One well-preserved Stronsay example has a ditch. These are therefore linear earthworks on a scale comparable with Wansdyke or Bokerly Dyke, and it is to be hoped that future research will establish their place in the prehistoric landscape.

Agricultural and Industrial Buildings, Kelping Sites and Wrecks

A total record of the history of the use of the landscape demands that every abandoned farmstead be included, but in the short term this is an impossibly large task and must be postponed for a later phase of the work. Some agricultural buildings of special interest are however included. Industrial monuments are mostly agriculture-related, the most noteworthy being the horse engine house at Tresness; while the great model-farm of Stove with its steam engine chimney would be a familiar sight in Northumbria or the Lowlands but is most unexpected in Orkney.

Some books reproduce population figures which give staggeringly high totals for some of the outer islands in the first half of the nineteenth century; the reason for this was kelp. This very simple industrial process enjoyed a boom when the French wars cut off the supply of Spanish barilla to the English glass and chemical industries - not the last time that Orkney's economy has been fundamentally affected by distant external circumstances. Kelping was popular with the landlords because the profits far exceeded the insignificant capital investment that was needed, and labour was imported to supplement the local forces. The collapse of prices at the end of the wars, followed in the 1820s by the large-scale establishment of the Leblanc process for making synthetic soda, produced a devastating slump which initiated the long period of emigration. The only traces of the industry are the shallow stone-lined pits in which the seaweed was burned; here and there one may come across the foundations of one of the tiny hovels in which the immigrant labourers lived. The coming of oil and its inevitable withdrawal have been planned with much more forethought and responsibility; nonetheless, the lesson of kelp is an important one and the monuments of the industry are worthy of record. The problem is their ubiquity, for kelp pits occur on nearly every shoreline; a start has been made by noting where particularly well-preserved specimens occur.

Underwater sites continue to fall outside the designated scope of the national bodies concerned with archaeological survey and excavation. There is however no doubt that maritime archaeology has now come of age, and wrecks need to be considered an essential part of the overall archaeological resources of Orkney. So far a start has barely been made, since few documentary sources are available in Orkney; but at this early stage, visible and well-known wrecks are being listed.

CHAMBERED CAIRNS

The code number in brackets immediately following the title of some of the articles in this section conforms to the system outlined by Henshall 1963-72, ii, 312-13.

- 1 Egmondshowe, Sanday * HY 6765 3754 HY 63 NE 3
 Marwick records this as the pronunciation although the map form 'Augmund Howe' would be linguistically preferable. The *New Statistical Account* makes very clear that it is not an alternative name for the Quoyness cairn nearby (no. 3). A probable chambered cairn on the shore edge, in 1820s was a mound 5.5m (18 ft) high, but has been severely attacked and its centre has been scoured out by the sea.
NSA, xv (Orkney), 136; Marwick 1923a, 24; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 169, No. 450; Wainwright MS 1960; OR 306.

- 2 Maesry, Sanday (ORK 38) * HY 7831 4351 HY 74 SE 4
 A large chambered cairn, now sealed up, but earlier this century was in use as a potato store; OS records a description by the then user. The form 'Misery' is incorrect.
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 168, No. 445; Henshall 1963-72, i, 225; OR 291.

- 3 Quoyness, Sanday (ORK 44) * HY 6766 3779 HY 63 NE 1
 Maes Howe-type chambered cairn in SDD guardianship.
NSA, xv (Orkney), 138; Farrer 1868; Petrie notebook 9, pp. 104-21; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 168-9, No. 449; Childe, 1952; Henshall 1963-72, i, 228-31; Ritchie and Ritchie 1978, 33-5; OR 308.

- 4 opposite Rethie Taing, Sanday HY 6511 4424 HY 64 SE
 A prominently sited knoll on end of a blunt headland; mound at least 26m diameter, possibly revetted on surviving land side; sea side eroded exposing well-built entrance-passage running radially into mound.
 OR 140.

- 5 Tres Ness, Sanday (ORK 50) * HY 7110 3752 HY 73 NW 4
 Probable Maes Howe-type cairn on extremity of Tresness; interior probably survives undisturbed, but seriously threatened by sea erosion.
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 168, No. 447; Henshall 1963-72, i, 239; OR 330.

- 6 The *Statistical Account* describes a possible chambered cairn somewhere on Sanday.
Stat Acct, vii (1793), 489; OS Record Card HY 64 SE 31; OR 347.

BARROWS AND CAIRNS

- 7 Egmondshowe, Els Ness, Sanday HY c. 676 375 HY 63 NE 5
 Eleven mounds connected by a bank forming an arc round the large cairn of Egmondshowe (no. 1). One mound excavated by the Ordnance Survey contained two cists with human bones.
 RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 169-70, No. 451; OR 307.

- 8 Elsness, Sanday * HY c. 673 375 HY 63 NE 6 & 13
 At least twenty-six cairns scattered over a wide area. The *New Statistical Account* records burials, stone objects and 'cramp' in them.
NSA, xv (Orkney), 136-8; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 170, Nos. 452, 457; OR 309.

- 9 Hacks Ness, Sanday HY 6152 3403 HY 63 SW
 The navigation cairn at the end of Hacks Ness stands on a round grassy mound, 20m diameter and 1.5m high, with erect earthfast slabs forming a kerb; almost certainly a prehistoric burial-mound.
 OR 137.

- 10 Knowe of Yarrow, Sanday HY 6547 4401 HY 64 SE 17
Mound destroyed long ago, cist and urn found; now a gentle rise.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 44, No. 187; OR 108.
- 11 Leavisgarth Farm, Sanday HY c. 695 416 HY 64 SE 7
Old report of cist in a destroyed mound.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 173, No. 481; OR 319.
- 12 Ness of Brough, Sanday HY 6544 4256 HY 64 SE 6
An insubstantial cairn of close-packed stones being gradually eroded by the sea.
OR 264.
- 13 NW of North Mire, Sanday HY 6205 3799 HY 63 NW 27
A cairn of closely packed stones, including one large upright slab, on a blunt headland
suffering steady erosion.
OR 254.
- 14 Thorsness, Sanday HY 6723 4304 HY 64 SE 2
Large grassy mound looking like a burial-mound may be the one in which Dr Wood found
'a small clay urn or vessel' in 1825.
PSAS, v (1862-4), 16; OR 380.
- 15 Tofts Ness, Sanday HY 760 470 HY 74 NE 1
An extensive complex of cairns and banks; see pp. 8-9 and 33.
NSA, xv (Orkney), 136; PSAS, v (1862-4), 16; xix (1884-5), 139; Clouston 1932, 19;
RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 172-3, No. 474; Wainwright MS 1957; OR 399.
- 16 Warsetter Farm, Sanday HY c. 62 37 HY 63 NW
Stone cist found in a small mound below Warsetter.
The Orcadian, 3 November 1863; OR 341.
- 17 Dennis Ness, North Ronaldsay HY 7868 5580 HY 75 NE 6
Cairn containing cist excavated during Second World War. A vestigial dyke runs SSE from
it for 100m to a T-junction with another dyke, which is partly overlain by the modern
pund; several large orthostats at the junction are probably remains of another cairn.
OR 213.
- 18 Dennis Ness, North Ronaldsay HY c. 784 559 HY 75 NE
Some extremely vestigial stone dykes are likely to be further remnants of the system
mentioned in no. 17, or of another system similar to it.
OR 214.
- 19 Neven, North Ronaldsay * HY 7720 5504 HY 75 NE 1
Mound in which a cist was found 1865.
Name Book, Orkney, No. 13, p. 28; OR 195.
- 20 Tor Ness, North Ronaldsay HY 756 553 HY 75 NE 2
A group of fifteen low mounds, widely scattered. They are carefully built of small slabs
packed within a kerb of quarried blocks; some appear to have contained cists.
RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 51-2, No. 202; OR 223.

BRONZE AGE CISTS

(See also nos. 73 and 196)

- 21 Backaskaill Farm, Sanday HY c. 641 394 HY 63 NW 15
Short cist containing cremation found shortly before 1928.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 44, No. 190; OR 334.

- 22 Backaskail Farm, Sanday HY 6391 3938 HY 63 NW 24
Empty cist discovered and removed 1952.
OR 343.
- 23 Knowes Farm, Sanday HY 6353 3878 HY 63 NW 25
Cist containing crouched burial found about 1950 and reburied.
OR 305.
- 24 Leyland Farm, Sanday HY c. 64 40 HY 64 SW 3
Stone objects (including balls), found in two cists on Leyland Farm in the 1920s, are now
in Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall (accession nos. 7-14).
OR 404.
- 25 Leyland Farm, Sanday HY c. 646 402 HY 64 SW 1
An undatable steatite object found by H Marwick in a short cist on Leyland Farm is now
in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS EQ 385).
PSAS, lxxv (1930-1), 11; OR 316.
- 26 Waterhall Farm, Sanday HY 6493 4042 HY 64 SW 2
Site of a short cist found about 1958 and destroyed.
OR 317.
- 27 Antabreck, North Ronaldsay HY 7584 5411 HY 75 SE 12
Two cists containing burials discovered 1874.
Traill, W 1876; OR 221.
- 28 Garso, North Ronaldsay HY 7725 5542 HY 75 NE
A disused well, rectangular and slab-formed, may originally have been a cist.
OR 211.
- 29 Holland Farm, North Ronaldsay HY c. 753 531 HY 75 SE
Local report of a slab-cist said to have contained a female burial.
No SAS Index NRO 32; OR 234.
- 30 Neven, North Ronaldsay HY 7717 5504 HY 75 NE 7
Site of discovery of a short cist.
OR 231.

STANDING STONE

- 31 Holland Farm, North Ronaldsay * HY 7522 5292 HY 75 SE 6
Tall standing stone with oval hole.
Stat Acct, vii (1793), 489; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 50-1, No. 196; OR 188.

BURNT MOUNDS

- 32 W of Annabrake, Sanday HY 6639 4425 HY 64 SE 34
A shapeless rise showing burnt material in the plough-soil.
OR 393.
- 33 Broughstun, Sanday HY 6599 4179 HY 64 SE 9
A large, but much quarried, burnt mound.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 170, No. 453; OR 265.
- 34 Butter Knowe, Sanday HY 7094 4315 HY 74 SW 3
Burnt mound 14m diameter, 0.8m high.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 170, No. 453; OR 270.

- 35 Cleat Farm, Sanday HY 7032 4258 HY 74 SW 5
Burnt mound 1.2m high.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 170, No. 453; OR 273.
- 36 Cleat Farm, Sanday HY 7055 4263 HY 74 SW 4
A low burnt mound.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 170, No. 453; OR 272.
- 37 Colligarth Farm, Sanday HY 6917 4154 HY 64 SE 4
Now a barely perceptible rise in a sown-grass field.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 42, No. 166; OR 263
- 38 Colligarth Farm, Sanday HY 6893 4166 and 6896 4169 HY 64 SE 3
Two burnt mounds in boggy ground; three were noted by OS who identify with 'Knowes of Myrtis' in the *New Statistical Account*, but this is far from certain.
NSA, xv (Orkney), 140; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 167, No. 442; OR 262.
- 39 'Hoosie Mound', Sanday HY 63 NW 6
RCAMS lists a burnt mound of this name near Warsetter, but it cannot now be located; OS records that the name is applied to a natural hillock a considerable distance away at HY 625 384.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 43, No. 169; OR 357.
- 40 HY 6290 3864 HY 63 NW 26
Burnt material ploughed up on a slight mound 0.6km W of Scarrigarth. May be the one mentioned by RCAMS above (no. 39), but positioning does not agree.
OR 358.
- 41 Ivars Knowe, Sanday HY 7158 4335 HY 74 SW 10
Now reduced to a gently contoured rise in a sown-grass field.
NSA, xv (Orkney), 139; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 173, No. 478; OR 332.
- 42 Knowe, Sanday HY 6785 4419 HY 64 SE 11
A gentle rise in a sown-grass field.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 43, No. 168; OR 384.
- 43 Leavisgarth Farm, Sanday HY 7009 4172 HY 74 SW 12
Site of a ploughed-out burnt mound.
OR 304.
- 44 Leavisgarth Farm, Sanday HY 7001 4145 HY 74 SW 12
Slight rise with a few burnt stones visible.
OR 303.
- 45 'between Loch of Rummie and Loch of Brue', Sanday HY c. 75 44 HY 74 SE 5
Reported by RCAMS with only approximate location and not now identifiable.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 170, No. 454; OR 297.
- 46 Northskail Farm, Sanday HY 6814 4454 HY 64 SE 10
Burnt mound 1m high.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 43, No. 168; OR 383.
- 47 Ortie Farm, Sanday HY 6852 4505 HY 64 NE 2
Grassy, crescentic burnt mound 1m high.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 42, No. 167; OR 378.
- 48 Park Farm, Sanday HY 7727 4371 HY 74 SE 1
A shapeless rise in a rough pasture field.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 170, No. 455; Wainwright MS; OR 278.

- 49 N of Pincod, Sanday HY 6631 4397 HY 64 SE 35
Burnt mound 1.5m high.
OR 394.
- 50 Quivals Loch, Sanday HY 6703 4186 HY 64 SE
A grassy mound 1.3m high on loch margin; position suggests a burnt mound.
OR 252.
- 51 Spurness, Sanday HY 6060 3479 HY 63 SW
A crescentic mound 23m by 14m and 2m high with some burnt stones showing; in the boggy bottom of a hillside valley between two converging streamlets.
OR 367.
- 52 Stove Farm, Sanday HY 6098 3582 HY 63 NW 7
Shapeless grassy mound 1m high in a boggy corner of a rough field.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 43, No. 170; OR 99.
- 53 by Ancum Loch, North Ronaldsay HY 7623 5425 HY 75 SE 7
Crescentic burnt mound 1m high.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 51, No. 198; OR 189.
- 54 Ancumtoun, North Ronaldsay HY 7678 5480 HY 75 SE 14
A roughly circular mound; OS records burnt stones visible in a recently dug trench, now grassed over. About 30m NE is another mound, crescentic, 15m across, 0.7m high.
OR 193.
- 55 Bustatoun, North Ronaldsay HY 7688 5237 HY 75 SE 9
Crescentic burnt mound 2m high.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 51, No. 200; OR 191.
- 56 Knowe o' Samilands, North Ronaldsay HY 7657 5305 HY 75 SE 8
Burnt mound 2.3m high.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 51, No. 199; OR 190.

FORT

- 57 Scuthi Head, Sanday HY 6330 4007 HY 63 NW
A series of four earth banks up to 0.8m high across the isthmus; a possible promontory fort.
OR 253.

BROCHS

- 58 Backaskail, Sanday HY 6417 3919 HY 63 NW 1
Undoubted broch on rocky outcrop above shore, investigated by G Petrie 1867. Site is defended by a flat-bottomed ditch. 40m-long cliff-face section shows walls and floors, thickness of deposit being 2m-3m; subject to sea erosion.
Petrie notebook 9, p. 35; plan in NMRS; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 40, No. 159; OR 100.
- 59 Braehowar, Sanday HY 6200 3738 HY 63 NW
Local report that a 'brough' was dug through during road-building at, or very near, the junction with the road to Lambaness.
OR 339.
- 60 Buryan, Sanday HY 7724 4340 HY 74 SE 2
Substantial remains of a broch, half of which has been destroyed by the sea.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 166, No. 437; OR 279.

- 61 'Broch of Lam(b)aness', Sanday HY c. 61 37 HY 63 NW 18
Stated provenance of Iron Age and Viking finds now in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS GH 1-30, IL 179-81, IL 347-50); no evidence that it really was a broch.
OR 338.
- 62 Croos of Nebister, Sanday HY 6316 3701 HY 63 NW 2
Although OS records that the greater part was washed away in 1969, there is still a mound 25m diameter at the cliff edge, and a deposit 2.5m thick of midden material and stone walls, including probable broch wall, is visible in both S- and E-facing cliffs. Sea erosion, however, is very active. Quern fragment and pottery finds in Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 41, No. 160; OR 98.
- 63 Elsness, Sanday HY c. 672 390 HY 63 NE 7
Petrie mentions 'a small brough' near the farmhouse; no trace or local knowledge.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 173, No. 479; OR 314.
- 64 Icegarth Castle, Sanday HY 6706 4156 HY 64 SE 16
Site is a broad rise in a sown-grass field; it is far from certain that it really was a broch. Name Book, Orkney, No. 2, p. 86; Petrie notebook 9, p. 109; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 44, No. 185; OR 323.
- 65 Marygarth Manse, Sanday HY 6539 4118 HY 64 SE 22
Massive circular walls found during additions to the manse; description suggests broch; finds included a rotary quern.
The Orcadian, 29 May 1880; OR 328.
- 66 'at Newark', Sanday HY 7168 4256 HY 74 SW 1
The *New Statistical Account* gives very detailed description of undoubted broch; this is the most likely site.
NSA, xv (Orkney), 138-9; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 167, No. 439; OR 348.
- 67 Wasso, Sanday * HY 7092 3794 HY 73 NW 2
Large broch mound with some wall-face and slabs showing.
NSA, xv (Orkney), 136; Petrie notebook 9, pp. 80-3, 101; plan in NMRS; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 166, No. 438; OR 150.
- 68 Burrian, North Ronaldsay * HY 7627 5138 HY 75 SE 3
Very impressive broch and outbuildings within multivallate earthworks which constitute a promontory fort. Site is of special historical interest for Pictish and Early Christian associations. Sea erosion vigorous and imminently devastating; broch wall stands on wave-cut platform and is undercut by 0.4m for half of circumference, threatening collapse very soon.
Traill 1890; plans in NMRS; Anderson 1881, 173-5; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 45-7, No. 193; p. 51, No. 201; Stevenson 1955; Radford 1962; MacGregor 1974; OR 217.

UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENTS

- 69 Ayre, Sanday HY 6522 4123 HY 64 SE
Modest tell, erosion of seaward fringe reveals stonework and midden deposits to a thickness of 1.5m.
OR 251.
- 70 Bay of Stove, Sanday HY 6121 3531 HY 63 NW 9
Stonework including end-on walls with definite faces is visible in section for 40m along shore, at spot where Neolithic mace-head is reported to have been found. Deposit is of no great thickness, and erosion is slow but steady.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 43, No. 172; *DES (1963)*, 39; OR 136.

- 71 Beafield, Sanday HY 6865 4050 HY 64 SE
Most striking of the Sanday tells; the name is evidence of its antiquity.
OR 329
- 72 Braes of Gorn, Sanday HY 6677 4450 HY 64 SE 8
Very extensive and much quarried complex of mounds, probably a prehistoric settlement.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 41, No. 161. OR 374.
- 73 Cleat, Sanday HY 7044 4274 HY 74 SW
Farm buildings occupy a tell which rises sharply from a wide flat tract. A cist was
discovered in 'a knoll behind the farm buildings'.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 171, No. 459; OR 275.
- 74 Houll, Sanday HY 6933 3990 HY 63 NE 2
Large collection of Iron Age objects from an ancient structure here, now in the National
Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMA GA 595-978).
PSAS, xlvii (1912-13), 9; li (1916-17), 129; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 173, No. 475; OR 344.
- 75 How, Sanday HY 7483 4530 HY 74 NW
Farm on distinct tell.
OR 295.
- 76 How, Sanday HY 6606 3927 HY 63 NE 9
Farm occupies one of the characteristic Sanday tells, digging into which has uncovered an
alleged 'broch' or 'picts-house' and Iron Age finds, now in the National Museum of
Antiquities of Scotland (NMA GA 1162-73c). Much material has been removed from the
tell in recent years.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 40, No. 158; OR 103.
- 77 Howar, Sanday HY 61 37 HY 63 NW 22
Steatite vessels from a kitchen-midden may be Iron Age or Viking.
Greig 1940, 150; OR 359.
- 78 Knowe of Scartan, Sanday HY 7162 4383 HY 74 SW 2
A mound; sea erosion along a front of 28m shows animal bone and limpet-shell middens,
black earth and masonry.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 167, No. 443; OR 267.
- 79 Ladykirk, Sanday HY 6767 3986 HY 63 NE 11
Marwick observed mounds which are probably quarry spoil, and 'vestiges of ancient
buildings' in the shore section, while RCAMS records a midden. Shore banks are grassy,
and only visible features are a few burnt stones and a short length of what is probably a
modern wall.
Marwick 1923a, 26-7; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 165, No. 436; p. 173, No. 482; OR 144.
- 80 Lopness, Sanday HY 7590 4368 HY 74 SE
Farm occupies a modest tell most pronounced to the SE of the buildings, where midden
material, to a thickness of some 2m, and much stonework can be seen in erosion face of
blunt headland.
Skea name-list; OR 285.
- 81 near Northskaill, Sanday HY 6836 4442 HY 64 SE 12
Incorporated in the stabilised dunes ridge, but now being eroded very rapidly, is an
enormous kitchen-midden. In section along the shore it extends at least 100m and is up
to 3.5m thick. Deposit is remarkably uniform with no artefacts and no structures except
some crude walling low down near the N extremity, but it is rich in sea-shells and animal
bones. No direct dating evidence but there are several indications that it may be very early
prehistoric.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 43, No. 174; OR 386.

- 82 Northskaill, Sanday HY 6814 4447 HY 64 SE
Farm on tell especially noticeable on W and N sides.
OR 385.
- 83 Park Farm, Sanday HY 7719 4355 HY 74 SE 3
An indeterminate hummocky area in which building traces and midden deposits have
been observed.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 167, No. 441; OR 281.
- 84 Pool, Sanday HY 6194 3785 HY 63 NW 17
A very extensive and rich site showing deposits, up to 2m thick, along a shore length of
60m. Stone structures seen at various levels including what is either a Buckquoy-type
Pictish house or an early Norse house. Iron Age and Norse finds. This is one of the most
actively eroding sites in Orkney; damage is sustained, rapid and very serious.
Brögger 1930, 136; Greig 1940, 150; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 362, appendix, No. 2; OR 290.
- 85 Quoy Ness, Sanday HY 625 367 HY 63 NW 11
RCAMS records in vague terms a large area covered with kitchen-midden sites; blowing
sand now totally conceals this landscape.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 43, No. 176; OR 146.
- 86 Sanday Golf Course, Sanday HY 7198 4181 HY 74 SW
An extensive settlement mound on the links used as a golf course; sea-eroded section
shows shell- and animal-bone-middens, stone walls, and at base a buried soil overlying
clean sand showing ard marks.
OR 271.
- 87 Sandquoy, Sanday HY 7467 4532 HY 74 NW 3
House on modest tell, midden deposits and structural traces visible in shore section.
OR 293.
- 88 Seater, Sanday HY 7205 4395 HY 74 SW
A prominent tell.
OR 268.
- 89 Spurness, Sanday HY 6067 3488 HY 63 SW
Shapeless mound with several projecting stones including one 1.2m high; general
appearance suggests a prehistoric settlement.
OR 366.
- 90 Spurness, Sanday HY 6061 3494 HY 63 SW
Shapeless mound 40m by 20m and 0.6m high with many erect slabs including one 0.6m
high; possibly a prehistoric settlement.
OR 365.
- 91 Spurness, Sanday HY 6065 3509 HY 63 NW
Grassy toft of a building 11m by 4m with cross-wall.
OR 364.
- 92 Tafts, Sanday HY 7475 4615 HY 74 NW(M)
One of the most impressive of the Sanday tells, in which structures and middens have
been discovered.
Wainwright MS 1957; OR 247.
- 93 Tresness, Sanday HY c. 7138 HY 73 NW 7
A 'picts-house' on Tresness was the find-spot of a red deer antler.
PSAS, v (1862-4), 16; OR 352.

- 94 Tresness Farm, Sanday HY 7037 3878 HY 73 NW 6
The Ordnance Survey records a local tradition that the farmhouse of Tresness is built on an ancient structure.
OR 149.
- 95 Westbrough, Sanday HY 6633 4235 HY 64 SE 14
Very large tell immediately N of the modern farm buildings.
Name Book, Orkney, No. 2, p. 69; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 44, No. 183; OR 321.
- 96 Whistlebare, Sanday * HY 663 450 HY 64 NE
A 'platform settlement 250m N of Whistlebare' is included in the SDD *List of Ancient Monuments in Scotland* (4th edn., 1979), 65; OR 431.
- 97 Woo, Sanday HY 6679 4533 HY 64 NE
Limpet-shell midden 0.8m thick and short length of dry-stone wall exposed in the shore-line of a broad, low mound to seaward of farm buildings.
OR 258.
- 98 Ancumtoun, North Ronaldsay HY 7605 5550 HY 75 NE
An irregular artificial mound with some stonework showing, probably an old settlement or farmstead site.
OR 225.
- 99 Brae of Breck, North Ronaldsay HY 7678 5521 HY 75 NE (M)
An allegedly natural knoll, in which a chamber was discovered, is almost certainly a settlement tell associated with the abandoned farmstead of Breck.
OR 226.
- 100 Brae of Stennabreck, North Ronaldsay * HY 7702 5262 HY 75 SE 4
Complex of small stone chambers, excavated 1883, on summit of steep hillock, which is probably a settlement tell.
Traill, W, 1885; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 47-8, No. 194; OR 219.
- 101 Burrian, North Ronaldsay HY 7638 5160 HY 75 SE (M)
Area of disturbed ground recorded by the Ordnance Survey, is the site of the house of Burrian, which is remembered as the dwelling of a blacksmith.
OR 198.
- 102 Cruesbreck, North Ronaldsay HY 7625 5245 HY 75 SE
Inhabited farm occupying a large and prominent tell.
OR 208.
- 103 Dennis Ness, North Ronaldsay HY 7840 5599 HY 75 NE 5
Vestigial foundation of thick-walled oblong building called a Picts House. May be a house of the very late prehistoric period.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 52, No. 205; OR 197.
- 104 Garso, North Ronaldsay ~~HY 7724 5547~~ HY 75 NE
Name suggests a prehistoric mound but no obvious 'haugr' is distinguishable from the general rise of the natural backshore ridge. There is, however, a dense limpet-shell midden eroding out of the bare earth surface immediately opposite the house and outwith the sheep dyke.
OR 212.
- 105 Hill of Holland, North Ronaldsay HY 7538 5322 HY 75 SE(M)
During reservoir construction on the hilltop in the 1960s an 'Iron Age house' was revealed, producing needles, whorls, combs, etc.; it was filled in and the tank resited.
OR 230.

- 106 Hooking, North Ronaldsay HY 7673 5338 HY 75 SE 1
A great tell being attacked by the sea. No trace now of a lintelled passage running into the mound, which could be seen in the exposure in 1970. Deep deposit of stone walls and midden interspersed with loose sand. Highly vulnerable to erosion, and damage is serious and rapid.
OR 187.
- 107 Howmae Brae, North Ronaldsay * HY 7583 5227 HY 75 SE 5
Wheel-houses excavated in the 1880s are covered by blown sand.
Traill, W, 1885; Traill, J, 1890; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 48-50, No. 195; Hamilton 1968, 126-7; OR 218.
- 108 near Linnay, North Ronaldsay HY 7588 5516 HY 75 NE (M)
On the cropped turf outwith the sheep dyke, vestiges of a stone structure with many earthfast small slabs, called a Picts House. Immediately adjacent, but within the sheep dyke, the corner of an arable field is left uncultivated and forms a slight mound, suggesting the continuation of the structures.
OR 227.
- 109 Neven, North Ronaldsay HY 7718 5504 HY 75 NE(M)
The Ordnance Survey records that the farmer has found shells and animal bones in a shapeless mound 20m by 8m; probably a tell associated with the farmstead.
OR 228.
- 110 Quooybanks, North Ronaldsay HY 7740 5518 HY 75 NE
Recent hole to E of Quooybanks House reveals irregular walls. Probably associated with the modest tell on which the house stands.
NoSAS index NRO 31; OR 201.
- 111 Sennes, North Ronaldsay HY 7750 5550 HY 75 NE
Derelict buildings occupy summit of a tell 1.5m high.
OR 210.
- 112 Southness, North Ronaldsay HY 7677 5263 HY 75 SE
Very prominent large mound immediately adjacent to house is probably a tell resulting from earlier phases of the settlement.
OR 209.
- 113 Strórnness, North Ronaldsay HY 7603 5153 HY 75 SE
Earthworks indicating site of house named in the valuations of 1653.
Marwick 1923b, 64; OR 199.
- 114 Strórnness, North Ronaldsay HY 7610 5130 HY 75 SE 2
Enormous settlement mound at least 100m by 50m has produced finds of stone, bone and bronze, and a grave containing a penannular brooch. Midden material and walls visible. Probably a very large and important late prehistoric and Norse settlement, paralleling and continuing the occupation sequence of the adjacent Broch of Burrian (no. 68). Sea erosion extremely serious.
Wainwright MS 1957; OR 216.

EARTH-HOUSES AND UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES

- 115 Carse of Henzie Hunt, Sanday HY c. 69 40 HY 64 SE
The *New Statistical Account* gives detailed description of earthhouse near chapel of this name. RCAMS and OS, without giving reasons, locate it near Cunninghole, but Marwick identifies it with Karry Kirk located near Bressigar.
NSA, xv (Orkney), 141; Marwick 1923a, 26; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 172, No. 471; OS Record Card HY 63 NE 12; OR 313.

- 116 Hermisgarth Farm, Sanday HY 6641 4313 HY 64 SE 15
Only a few stones and shells in the plough-soil indicate the site of a chamber revealed long ago when a farm machine broke through the roof.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 44, No. 184; OR 322.
- 117 'between Sandquoy and How', Sanday HY 747 462 HY 74 NW 3
RCAMS reports earth-house discovered long before 1928 on gentle slope between Sandquoy and How at '50 ft above sea-level', and entirely removed. Location is uncertain as no point between Sandquoy and How is anywhere near 50 ft.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 167, No. 440; OR 294.
- 118 Stove, Sanday HY c. 608 355 HY 63 NW 10
Said to have been close to farmhouse. No trace or local recollection.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 43, No. 173; OR 145.

TREB DYKES

- 119 Broughstun, Sanday HY 64 SE
Marwick mentions an obliterated treb in Broughstun - anywhere within 1km radius of HY 660 410.
Marwick 1923a, 22; OR 373.
- 120 on Fea Hill, Sanday HY 6400 4068 to 6437 4045 HY 63 NW
Earth bank 4m wide and 0.8m high running from cliff edge straight up hillside at right angles to contours.
OR 354.
- 121 The Knowes, Sanday HY 6342 3879 HY 63 NW 3
This slight earthwork is the remnant of the Knowes treb noted by Marwick.
Marwick 1923a, 22; OR 362.
- 122 Spurness, Sanday HY 6019 3479 HY 63 SW
Two rectangular folds are built against a broad earth dyke which may be a treb.
OR 370.
- 123 Thrave, Lopness, Sanday HY 7644 4386 HY 74 SE
Marwick reports an obliterated treb at Lopness. According to Wm Skea's list it was in the field called East Park, which on Geo Skea's map is shown adjacent to the house of Thrave.
Marwick 1923a, 22; Skea map; Skea name-list; OR 398.
- 124 The Treb or The Trows Buil, Sanday HY 7205 4365 to 7210 4340 HY 74 SW
Course of an obliterated treb mentioned in vague terms by Marwick has been indicated on the map by Mr W J Skea of Kirkwall, formerly of Hillhead Farm.
Marwick 1923a, 22; Skea name-list; OR 372.
- 125 West Thrave, Sanday HY 6668 4463 to 6689 4447 HY 64 SE
Substantial linear earthwork still traceable from the farm of West Thrave through the settlement complex of Braes of Gorn to a position near Neagar.
Marwick 1923a, 22; OR 375.
- 126 Whupland Hill, Sanday HY c. 60 36 HY 63 NW
Marwick mentions 'at least one' treb on the Whupland Hill above Stove. Location is in doubt as this hill-name applies to an area at some distance from Stove.
Marwick 1923a, 22; OR 371.
- 127 Matches Dyke, North Ronaldsay HY 7560 5460 to 7675 5440 HY 75 SE
The boundary between Northyard and Linklet; less well-preserved than Muckle Gairsty but easily traceable.
Marwick 1923b, 55; OR 203.

- 128 Muckle Gairsty, North Ronaldsay HY 7507 5347 to 7683 5214 HY 75 SE
This treb and the previous one (no. 127) divide North Ronaldsay into three unequal parts named Northyard, Linklet and Southyard, Muckle Gairsty being the boundary between Linklet and Southyard; it ignores the township divisions. It is best preserved between HY 7661 5273 and HY 7683 5214, where it is a massive earthwork over 4m wide and up to 1.8m high.
Marwick 1923a, 22-3; 1923b, 55; OR 202.

VIKING BURIALS

- 129 'Braeswick', Sanday HY c. 61 37 HY 63 NW 16
A group of objects, now in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS IL 343-6), comprising a tortoise-brooch and beads of amber and glass, suggests a female Viking burial.
PSAS, xlix (1914-15), 14; Greig 1940, 88; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 45, No. 192; Wainwright 1962, 148; OR 335.
- 130 'Lambaness', Sanday HY c. 61 37 HY 63 NW 19
Iron sword and spearhead, now in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS IL 179-81), suggest a male Viking burial.
PSAS, xii (1876-8), 599; Greig 1940, 86-8; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 44, No. 191; Shetelig 1954, 70; Wainwright 1962, 148; OR 337.
- 131 'Lambaness', Sanday HY c. 61 37 HY 63 NW 20
Two tortoise-brooches, penannular brooch, jet armet, amber bead, suggest female Viking burial; the objects are in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS IL 347-50).
PSAS, xlix (1914-15), 15; Greig 1940, 86-8; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 44, No. 191; Curle, Olsen and Shetelig 1954, 70; Wainwright 1962, 148; OR 336.
- 132 Sties of Brough, Sanday HY c. 654 421 HY 64 SE 18 & 30
RCAMS and OS record separately one large mound to which they apply the name, and two lesser ones; but the sties in fact are four widely spaced mounds with indications that they were burial-mounds. Probable find spot of several Viking objects (see nos. 248-9, 251), and may well be Viking burial-mounds.
Name Book, Orkney, No. 2, p. 73; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 44, No. 188; OR 324.

INDETERMINATE MOUNDS

- 133 Barbers Tuo, Sanday * HY 6346 3896 HY 63 NW 28
RCAMS gives the name incorrectly as 'Tower' and misapplies it to another site (no. 145 below). The Name Book describes 'a small green knoll . . . an ancient burgh'; *púfa* usually indicates a prehistoric mound. It was levelled in 1922, but as a result of the confusion the site was later scheduled in error for no. 145.
Name Book, Orkney, No. 2, p. 128; OR 360.
- 134 at Boloquoy, Sanday HY 6260 3896 HY 63 NW 4
Mound 13.5m diameter, of which the centre has been dug out.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 41, No. 163; OR 286.
- 135 at Boloquoy, Sanday HY 6256 3927 HY 63 NW
Irregular oval mound 40m by 30m and 3m high with some earthfast stones.
OR 288.
- 136 Boloquoy Farm, Sanday HY 6318 3879 HY 63 NW 14
No surface traces of two mounds said to have contained chambers.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 44, No. 186; OR 333.

- 137 Braesgar, Sanday HY 7490 4653 HY 74 NW 1
Prominent sandy mound variously claimed as a prehistoric mound, a broch and a sand-dune.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 168, No. 444; Wainwright MS 1957; OR 245.
- 138 near Castlehill, Sanday HY 6602 4015 HY 64 SE 5
An elongated mound, tentatively suggested by Wainwright as a stalled cairn, and since removed, has been identified as a spoil-dump resulting from ditch-clearance.
Wainwright MS 1957; OR 318.
- 139 behind The Crook Beach, Sanday HY 6800 4595 HY 64 NE
A grassy mound about 40m diameter, 3m high, in a flat field which at time of visit contained a bull; from a distance, the ground around the base of the mound appears disturbed.
OR 261.
- 140 at The Crook Beach, Sanday HY 6780 4584 HY 64 NE
Irregular grassy mound 8m across, 1m high, with section-end of heavy dry-stone wall visible in eroded seaward face.
OR 259.
- 141 Crue-maaron-deme, Sanday HY 7668 4404 HY 74 SE
Very high and prominent mound standing apart from the dunes ridge; not certain whether artificial or natural.
Skea map; Skea name-list; OR 449.
- 142 Gallow Hill, Sanday HY 6615 4065 HY 64 SE 19
Two slight mounds in which pottery and steatite vessels were found.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 44, No. 189; OR 387.
- 143 Hacks Ness, Sanday HY 6149 3426 HY 63 SW
A shapeless mound 6m diameter and 0.5m high; centre hollowed.
OR 139.
- 144 Knap of Girndish, Sanday HY 7069 3802 HY 73 NW 1
One large low mound; no trace of the others reported nearby, but a stony ridge 20m E, running at right angles to shore, may be associated.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 168, No. 448; OR 248.
- 145 The Knowes, Sanday HY 6342 3880 HY 63 NW 3
Group of four mounds of which two are dubiously artificial. Associated bank noted by Goodfellow and RCAMS is part of a treb dyke (see no. 121).
Goodfellow 1912, 29; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 41, No. 162; OR 361.
- 146 Makabist, Sanday HY 7559 4465 HY 74 SE 8
Part of a stone urn was found below the 'cairn of Mackabuster'. RCAMS failed to locate it but OS got a local report naming 'Mackabust' as a cultivated natural hillock at HY 7563 4468. But Geo Skea's map has 'Makabist' with mound symbol at HY 7559 4465, which location is supported by the position of the entry 'Makabist - large mound' in Wm Skea's list.
PSAS, v (1862-4), 15; Anderson, 1874, 541; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 173, No. 476; Skea map; Skea name-list; OR 350.
- 147 near Mires, Sanday HY 6350 3942 HY 63 NW
A stony mound 6m by 4m and 0.5m high underlies the modern cairn.
OR 356.
- 148 Otterswick, Sanday HY c. 69 42 HY 64 SE
Dr Wood describes a large tract of moor on which were many circular mounds containing cramp. The area is now enclosed. and most of it improved or cultivated.
NSA, xv (Orkney), 139; OR 382.

- 149 Prattsfauld Farm, Sanday HY 6572 4407 HY 64 SE 33
A rough grass field full of shapeless mounds and slabs on edge.
OR 266.
- 150 Quoy Ness, Sanday HY 6269 3620 HY 63 NW 8
Grassy mound of sand and stones; may be natural.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 43, No. 171; OR 101.
- 151 Runna, Clett, Sanday HY 6659 4540 HY 64 NE 3
Site of destroyed mound, claimed almost certainly incorrectly as a broch; visible only as
a few stones and some black earth in the shore section.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 44, No. 182; OR 142.
- 152 Spurness, Sanday HY c. 606 350 HY 63 NW 5
A 'small denuded cairn or mound', reported in vague terms somewhere here by RCAMS,
may be one of several such effects produced at the intersections of ancient field-
boundaries, which are widespread on Spurness.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 41, No. 164; OR 363.
- 153 Spurness, Sanday HY 6051 3447 HY 63 SW
Two low shapeless mounds on the summit of the Spurness ridge may be burial-mounds.
OR 368.
- 154 Spurness, Sanday HY 6036 3414 HY 63 SW
A mound by the shore, 12m diameter and 0.3m high; many projecting stones.
OR 369.
- 155 Thorsness, Sanday HY c. 669 431 HY 64 SE 1
A 'piece of half-fused earthenware or slag' was found in 'a circular heap' at Thorsness.
PSAS, v (1862-4), 16; OR 381.
- 156 Tres Ness, Sanday HY 7120 3800 HY 73 NW 3
Previously regarded as natural, this knoll is 8m diameter and 1m high, and shows stone-
work in the cliff-section. Erosion is active.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 168, No. 446; OR 115.
- 157 Tres Ness, Sanday HY 7119 3757 HY 73 NW
Probably artificial stony mound 5m diameter and 0.5m high.
OR 331.
- 158 Tresness, Sanday HY 73 NW 5
A 'tumulus' in Tresness was the source of a blue glass bead now in the National Museum
of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS FJ 52).
PSAS, v (1862-4), 16; OR 351.
- 159 Whale Head, Sanday HY 7626 4383 HY 74 SE 9
A large rounded hillock which is said to contain a chamber.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 173, No. 477; OR 282.
- 160 Whitemill Point, Sanday HY 6997 4633 HY 64 NE
Very prominent oval mound 40m by 25m and 2.5m high rising from flat backshore, its
summit occupied by a recent dry-stone enclosure. Erect slabs protrude here and there at
base of mound, and another group of erect slabs is visible in turf about 50m NW.
OR 256.
- 161 Sanday HY 64 SE 32
Unlocated 'tumulus' somewhere in Sanday, excavated by Dr Wood 1824.
Wood 1826; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 41-2, No. 165; OR 392.

- 162 Ancumtoun, North Ronaldsay HY 7673 5491 HY 75 SE 15
Big prominent oval mound some 2m high, sand-blown, but summit has many hollows and irregularities and a lush growth of nettles. Strongly suggests an abandoned settlement-mound or tell.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 51, No. 197 (the description applies, although the *Inventory* gives the wrong position and confuses the site with another); OR 194.
- 163 by Dennis Loch, North Ronaldsay HY 7875 5547 HY 75 NE
Small steep mound, 5m by 4m and 0.4m high, beside Dennis Loch. NoSAS records burnt stones, but only black earth seen at time of visit.
NoSAS index NRO 25; OR 232.
- 164 Finyarhooe Brae, North Ronaldsay HY 7610 5409 HY 75 SE 11
A mound, destroyed in road-building, produced three bone pins, now in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMA FC 180-2).
OR 220.
- 165 Nether Linay, North Ronaldsay HY 75 NE 3
RCAMS noted cairns 'a quarter of a mile E of Nether Linay', which would place them in the midst of long-cultivated land where there is no trace or local knowledge. If, however, 'E' is a mistake for 'W', the description will apply to two of the Tor Ness group of cairns (see no. 20).
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 52, No. 202; OR 224.
- 166 Trim Tuos, North Ronaldsay HY 7569 5396 HY 75 SE(M)
A shapeless gentle rise; name suggests a mound of ancient origin (*púfa*; the form 'Towers' is incorrect).
Marwick 1923b, 60; OR 229.
- 167 North Ronaldsay HY 75 SE 13
A mound 'about a mile' from the Broch of Burrian (no. 68) produced two bone comb fragments.
PSAS, xi (1874-6), 265; OR 222.

ECCLESIASTICAL MONUMENTS

- 168 Buryan, Sanday HY c. 773 434 HY 74 SE 6 & 7
The location has been disputed, but this is probably the site.
Marwick 1923a, 26; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 171, No. 464. OR 280.
- 169 Carse of Henzie Hunt, Sanday HY c. 69 40 HY 64 SE
The *New Statistical Account* records a chapel by this obscure name; OS and RCAMS locate it near Conninghole but give no reason; Marwick identifies it with Karry Kirk (no. 176).
NSA, xv (Orkney), 141; Marwick 1923a, 26; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 172, No. 471; OS Record Card HY 63 NE 14; OR 312.
- 170 Chapel Head, Sanday HY 6536 4136 HY 64 SE 13
Nearby farm-name Corsequoy; shapeless and overgrown knoll at end of a blunt headland which is being eroded; a wall aligned N210° E is visible in a burrow.
Marwick 1923a, 26; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 171, No. 459; OR 250.
- 171 Chapel of Arstas, Sanday HY 7167 4257 HY 74 SW 9
Not remembered, but located by old report and place-name evidence.
Marwick 1923a, 26; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 171, No. 469; OR 349.
- 172 Chapel of Cleat, Sanday HY c. 704 427 HY 74 SW 6
Reputedly the most sacred in Sanday and a pilgrimage centre. It is said to have stood in the field between the house of Cleat and the shore.
Marwick 1923a, 26; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 171, No. 459; OR 274.

- 173 Colli Ness, Sanday HY 6850 4212 HY 64 SE 21
A prominent mound, probably site of broch or similar structure, later occupied by a chapel. The *New Statistical Account* describes a probable cup-and-ring-marked stone, rows of oriented flagstone-lined graves, and a cross-slab which may have formed part of a slab-shrine. Much structural material remains, although the site is confused by reuse as a battery in the nineteenth century.
NSA, xv (Orkney), 142; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 170-1, No. 458; OR 109-11.
- 174 Cross, Old Kirk, Sanday * HY 6537 3920 HY 63 NE 8
Ruined church, probably seventeenth-century in date, on old foundations. Emerging under churchyard wall on W side are earthworks, possibly an older enclosure or perhaps associated with an extensive settlement indicated by midden material and masonry in the eroding shore-section. Site a likely one for a high-status Norse settlement. Curious sixteenth-century report of an older cemetery containing outsize skeletons, which had been uncovered by wind-erosion. Sea erosion is active.
Jo Ben in Barry 1805, 434-5; *Stat Acct*, vii (1793), 489; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 40, No. 157; p. 43, No. 175; OR 135.
- 175 Curcasetter, Sanday HY 6568 4381 HY 64 SE 23
Church site recorded only by tradition reported in Name Book, and by nearby place-names Kirk Geo and Curcasetter.
Name Book, Orkney, No. 2, p. 63; Marwick 1923a, 26; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 43, No. 177; OR 112.
- 176 Karny Kirk, Sanday HY c. 692 406 HY 64 SE 24
Chapel of St Catherine presumably stood in field of this name.
Marwick 1923a, 26; OR 311.
- 177 The Kirk and Kill o' Howe, Sanday HY 7491 4535 and 7503 4528 HY 74 NW 2
Twin summits of highest point of N end of island traditionally sites of churches; no structure, but stones and limpet shells ploughed up. Name 'Eggleton' occurs close by.
Marwick 1923a, 23; Skea name-list; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 171, No. 461; OR 246.
- 178 Lady Old Kirk, Sanday HY 6770 3994 HY 63 NE 4
Cement-harled roofless shell of late church, probably on an old site.
RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 185-6, No. 436; OR 143.
- 179 Lambaness, Sanday HY 6138 3797 HY 63 NW 12
A sub-rectangular earthwork is probably the site of the chapel.
Marwick 1923a, 25; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 43, No. 180; OR 244.
- 180 'Northwall', Sanday HY c. 75 44 HY 74 SE 11
'Northwall' district is included by the *New Statistical Account* in the list of chapel sites; possibly the same as no. 190 below.
NSA, xv (Orkney), 140-1; OR 301.
- 181 Peterkirk, Sanday HY 7136 4363 HY 74 SW 7 & 14
Church appears to have been built on a prehistoric site. On the edge of the shore banks there is a well of the type common in brochs, which is reached by a stone stair; total depth 4.5m; the sea will soon break through into this.
Marwick 1923a, 25; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 171, No. 460; OR 276.
- 182 St Colm's Chapel, Sanday HY 6505 4577 HY 64 NE 1
Dedication not previously recorded but locally current. In spite of remote situation on the tidal Holms of Ire, the standing ruins recently suffered heavy vandalism at the hands of a party of visitors looking for treasure, and crude rebuilding was done by another visitor.
Marwick 1923a, 26; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 39, No. 156; OR 106.

- 183 St Columba's Church, Sanday HY c. 671 449 HY 64 SE 20
No trace remains of old parish church of Burness in graveyard still in use.
Marwick 1923a, 26; OR 388.
- 184 St Magdalen's Chapel, Sanday HY c. 693 407 HY 64 SE
It lay 'about 200 yards N of Carse of Henzie Hunt' (no. 169).
NSA, xv (Orkney), 141; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 172, No. 472; OS Record Card HY 63 NE 15;
OR 315.
- 185 St Mary's Chapel, Sanday HY c. 719 420 HY 74 SW 8
In field called Mary Park, foundations noted by RCAMS; now no trace.
Marwick 1923a, 26; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 171, No. 468; OR 396.
- 186 Stackald Brae, Sanday HY 7589 4379 HY 74 SE 12
No trace or surviving tradition, but a chapel is marked here on a map of 1760.
Aberdeen, A, *Map of N. Sanday*, 1760; Marwick 1923a, 26; OR 284.
- 187 Start Island, Sanday HY 7840 4368 HY 74 SE 15
A large mound, 30m across and 1m high with indication that it contains structures, is
probably the site of the chapel of the Start.
Marwick 1923a, 26; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 171, No. 463; OR 298.
- 188 Stove, Sanday HY 6110 3551 HY 63 NW 13
A large new steading occupies the site of the episcopal chapel built 1714, possibly on the
site of an older church; it was obliterated c. 1830. It is locally reported that bones were
turned up in making the foundations for the steading.
Dennison 1880, 2; Craven 1912, 88-92; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 43, No. 181; OR 102.
- 189 Tresness, Sanday HY 7023 3870 HY 73 NW 6
Mound called 'Kirk Banks' contains several earthfast slabs and is certainly artificial; may
well be the site of chapel.
NSA, xv (Orkney), 140-1; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 172, No. 470; OR 148.
- 190 Waas, Sanday HY c. 754 445 HY 74 SE
Marwick noted chapel marked on 1760 map near house of 'Walls'. OS could not identify,
but 'mound and house of Waas' are listed by Wm Skea and marked on Geo Skea's map.
Aberdeen, A, *Map of N. Sanday*, 1760; Marwick 1923a, 26; Skea map; Skea name-list;
OS Record Card HY 74 SW 11; OR 397.
- 191 Warsetter, Sanday HY 631 378 HY 63 NW 21
Tradition current but no surface traces.
Marwick 1923a, 25-6; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 43, No. 179; OR 340.
- 192 Sanday HY c. 771 437 HY 74 SE 14
Church shown on 1760 map; not identifiable.
Aberdeen, A, *Map of N. Sanday*, 1760; Marwick 1923a, 26; OR 299.
- 193 Sanday HY c. 765 437 HY 74 SE 13
Church shown on 1760 map; not now identifiable.
Aberdeen, A, *Map of N. Sanday*, 1760; Marwick 1923a, 26; OR 300.
- 194 Brides Kirk, North Ronaldsay HY 7720 5222 HY 75 SE 10
Low shapeless mound containing one T-shaped alignment of slabs on edge and one larger
erect stone.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 52, No. 204; OR 192.
- 195 Kirk Taing, North Ronaldsay HY c. 790 554 HY 75 NE(M)
Traditional location of a church, of which no trace remains; name Kirk Taing nearby.
Marwick 1923b, 54, 56; OR 236.

- 196 Sennes, North Ronaldsay HY 7757 5547 HY 75 NE 4
 Site indicated by rectangular platform. Road-name Corsegate indicates dedication to Holy Cross. Name Book records cist burial nearby.
 Name Book, Orkney, No. 13, p. 19; Marwick 1923b, 54; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 52, No. 203; OR 196.

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL MONUMENTS

- 197 Bea Mill, Sanday HY 6555 3926 HY 63 NE
 Little remains of the water- and steam-driven mill which, like Stove, has a red-brick chimney.
 OR 401.
- 198 Boloquoy Mill, Sanday HY 6257 3906 HY 63 NW
 Two-storeyed mill with iron breast-shot wheel.
 OR 287.
- 199 Holms of Ire, Sanday HY 6498 4598 HY 64 NE & NW
 Spectacular and well-preserved row of four circular and two square planticrüs.
 OR 377.
- 200 Seater, Sanday HY 7195 4417 HY 74 SW
 Remains of an old dry-stone-built jetty alongside a geo.
 OR 269.
- 201 Start Point Lighthouse, Sanday HY 7868 4350 HY 74 SE
 Tower and residential buildings erected 1802-6; tower rebuilt 1870; light automatic since 1962; the original residential buildings, which are of some architectural value, are intact but boarded-up.
 OR 292.
- 202 Stove, Sanday HY 6088 3552 HY 63 NW
 Large and remarkable farm-building complex representing an early example, unusual in Orkney, of highly capitalised and industrialised estate-farming. Especially noteworthy are the enormous ruined byre and the red-brick chimney which served a steam-driven mill.
 OR 400.
- 203 Tresness Farm, Sanday HY 7038 3877 HY 73 NW
 Deserted farm-buildings include an excellent horse-engine house, hexagonal outside and circular inside, with impressively timbered pyramid roof.
 OR 147.
- 204 Warsetter, Sanday HY 6301 3771 HY 63 NW(M)
 Nineteenth-century dovecote in good condition.
 OR 353.
- 205 Ancum, North Ronaldsay HY 7637 5485 HY 75 SE
 Barn has North Ronaldsay-type square gabled corn-kiln, as recorded and photographed by Fenton in 1964, but the chimney framework has now gone.
 Fenton 1978, 385-7, figs. 188-9; OR 204.
- 206 Cruesbreck, North Ronaldsay HY 7625 5245 HY 75 SE
 Occupied farm with square corn-kiln.
 OR 207.
- 207 Dennis Head Lighthouse, North Ronaldsay HY 7843 5599 HY 75 NE
 Brick tower 42.5m high - tallest in Britain - completed 1853 and since then the main light in the N of Orkney. Fog signal and radio beacon installed 1930-2. Still a manned light.
 OR 238

- 208 Dennis Head Lighthouse, North Ronaldsay HY 7840 5596 HY 75 NE
On the lighthouse lawn is the original sundial in the form of a fluted, vaguely Doric column; a nice specimen of Greek revival.
OR 239.
- 209 Gateside, North Ronaldsay HY 7637 5261 HY 75 SE
Abandoned farm with square corn-kiln.
OR 206.
- 210 Old Beacon, North Ronaldsay HY 7901 5539 HY 75 NE
Stone tower, 21m high, built 1789 as first lighthouse in N of Orkney, later superseded by Start Point. In 1809 the masonry ball originally at the Start was installed to convert the tower into an unlit beacon. Tower and ball are intact, with ruins of keepers' accommodation at the foot, but the timber stairs in the tower have decayed away.
OR 237.
- 211 Sheep Dyke and Punds, North Ronaldsay HY 75 NE & SE
The sheep dyke was created c. 1832, it is said, using surplus labour after the collapse of kelping. Common grazing outwith the twelve-mile dyke is controlled using nine folds or punds; maintenance responsibility is apportioned according to tunship, but with the reduced population there is now difficulty in keeping the dyke in repair.
OR 240.
- 212 Steamer Pier, North Ronaldsay HY 7501 5222 HY 75 SE
Interesting features of the pier are the rails formerly used to launch the mailboat which used to link the island with Sanday, and a hand-operated crane by Butler Bros of Glasgow.
OR 241.
- 213 Stennabreck, North Ronaldsay HY 7709 5260 HY 75 SE
Abandoned farm has square corn-kiln notable for the preservation of the woodwork of the opening into the barn.
OR 205.

KELPING SITES

- 214 The Crook Beach, Sanday HY 6790 4592 HY 64 NE
Particularly well-preserved group of stone-lined pits.
OR 260.
- 215 Hacks Ness, Sanday HY 6146 3407 HY 63 SW
Many pits and drying-racks all around shore-line of the ness.
OR 138.
- 216 Holms of Ire, Sanday HY c. 651 457 HY 64 NE
Many pits and drying-racks and sites of two huts.
OR 376.
- 217 Tres Ness, Sanday HY 7068 3798 HY 73 NW
Numerous pits along the low backshore on the W side of Tres Ness. The foundation of a rectangular building at HY 7095 3780 may be a kelper's hut.
OR 249.
- 218 Whitemill Bay, Sanday HY 6850 4668 HY 64 NE(M)
Two parallel walls of a building 4m wide and at least 7m long said to have been used for storing kelp; drying-racks among the dunes near by.
OR 255.
- 219 Whitemill Point, Sanday HY 6999 4612 HY 64 NE
Remains of a building, probably a kelper's hut, and pits and drying-racks for about 200m along shore-line in both directions.
OR 257.

WRECKS

- 220 s.t. Alex Hastings, Holms of Ire, Sanday HY 6475 4710 HY 64 NE
On wave-cut platform at extremity of Holms of Ire lie the intact Scotch boiler, triple-expansion engine, trawl winch and other scattered remains of Aberdeen trawler wrecked 1939.
OR 107.
- 221 B98, Sanday HY 7462 4414 HY 74 SW
Boilers and turbines of ex-German destroyer driven ashore in 1919, lying near low-water mark.
OR 277.
- 222 Eva, Linklet Bay, North Ronaldsay HY c. 769 546 HY 75 SE
British ship Eva became total loss in Linklet Bay, near Sandsheen, 1830. Formerly a warship, she was sunk deep in sand by the weight of her cargo of bricks and tiles, and outline used to be visible near low-water mark. Probably a large part of the hull remains buried there.
OR 215.
- 223 s.s. Hansi, North Ronaldsay HY 7820 5543 HY 75 NE
On beach are wheel-house and hull fragment of Swedish cargo ship driven ashore in 1939.
OR 243.
- 224 Svecia, Reefdyke, North Ronaldsay
East Indiaman Svecia of Gothenburg on passage from Bengal to home with valuable varied cargo, wrecked on Reefdyke 1740. The event and subsequent salvage attempts are copiously documented. The wreck has recently been located and items of cargo and equipment recovered.
Stranded on the Orcades, leaflet to SRO winter exhibition 1978-9; OR 242.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 225 Els Ness, Sanday HY 6753 3728 HY 63 NE 6
A bank containing many erect slabs and forming an enclosure 40m by 20m against the top of the shore-line.
OR 310.
- 226 west of Mires, Sanday HY 6295 3957 HY 63 NW
A bank 1.2m high and 2m wide crosses a flat valley bottom from bluff to bluff. Looks like a small dam, but no trace of a mill. Remnants of another similar bank a short distance seaward. OR 355.
- 227 North Bay, Sanday HY 663 428 HY 64 SE
Two stone-built nausts, one still in use.
OR 141.
- 228 Radar Station, Sanday HY c. 762 437 HY 74 SE
Extensive and well-preserved remains of major air-defence radar station of 1940.
OR 283.
- 229 Start Island, Sanday HY 7831 4353 HY 74 SE(M)
A dry-stone walled rectangular enclosure is said to be a burial-ground of shipwrecked mariners, it is too large for a planticrü, and lack of an entrance suggests that it is not a fold.
OR 302.

- 230 by Dennis Loch, North Ronaldsay HY 7870 5541 HY 75 NE
Five pairs of upright stones, in each pair one stone appreciably shorter than the other, the stones of each pair being 250mm-400mm apart and the larger one about 0.8m high. Locally regarded as ancient, and it is not clear whether they were specifically erected for their present purpose of securing boats - a use which does not explain their arrangement.
OR 233.
- 231 Hollandstoun, North Ronaldsay HY 7515 5389 HY 75 SE
An irregular half-oval enclosure amid boulder-strewn rough grass at top of low cliff. Wall is 70m long and is reduced to a base course of orthostats.
OR 200.
- 232 Linklet Bay, North Ronaldsay HY 7675 5370 HY 75 SE
A round structure made of upright boulders is said to be uncovered at low tide, but was not seen at time of visit.
OR 235.

ISOLATED AND UNPROVENANCED FINDS

- 233 Fea Hill, Sanday HY c. 641 401 HY 64 SW 4
Bone comb found on Fea Hill, now in Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall (accession no. 859).
OR 405.
- 234 Galilee Farm, Sanday HY c. 75 45 HY 74 NE 2
So-called broch-type bone comb found on Galilee Farm, now in Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall (accession no. 554).
OR 296.
- 235 Hillhead Farm, Sanday HY c. 722 436 HY 74 SW 13
Two stone balls and other objects found on Hillhead farm, now in Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall (accession nos. 15-21, 221).
OR 407.
- 236 Lam(b)aness, Sanday HY 63 NW 23
Half a perforated stone hammer, now in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMA AH 33). In view of other finds, Lambaness HY 614 377 is more likely than Lambaness HY 685 435.
Callander 1931, 91, 93, fig. 16, no. 7; OR 342.
- 237 'Laminess' = Lambaness, Sanday HY c. 610 355 HY 63 NW
Stone, steatite and bone objects found in this area by members of the Sinclair family. Old Kirkwall Museum, loans register L 3-7, 18, 43-5; OR 446.
- 238 Leavisgarth Farm, Sanday HY c. 695 416 HY 64 SE 7
Old report of find of a perforated stone hammer.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 173, No. 481; OR 320.
- 239 Lopness, Sanday HY c. 760 435 HY 74 SE 10
Two stones provenanced to Lopness.
PSAS, v (1862-4), 16; OR 391.
- 240 Sanday
Bone die, provenanced to Sanday, in the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow (B. 1914, 772).
Clarke 1970, 222, 231, fig. 3, no. 16; OS Record Card HY 64 SE 36; OR 345.
- 241 Sanday
Collection of stone implements, now in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMA AF 291, AK 136-44); provenanced to Sanday at the time of purchase although some are given different locations in the printed catalogue.
PSAS, xxii (1887-8), 8; OS Record Card HY 64 SE 37; OR 346.

- 242 Sanday
Iron spearhead provenanced to Sanday.
PSAS, v (1862-4), 18; OS Record Card HY 64 SE 28; OR 389.
- 243 Sanday
Two stone urns provenanced to Sanday.
PSAS, v (1862-4), 16; OS Record Card HY 64 SE 29; OR 390.
- 244 Sanday
Three whorls from different parts of Sanday, now in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland (NMAS, three of BE 33-7).
PSAS, v (1862-4), 15; OR 402.
- 245 Sanday
Two fishing-hooks, one of bone, the other of shell, from Sanday.
PSAS, v (1862-4), 16; OR 403.
- 246 Sanday
Perforated stone hammer provenanced to Sanday.
Callander 1931, 95; OS Record Card HY 64 SE 27; OR 406.
- 247 Savilegreen Farm, Sanday HY c. 683 410 HY 64 SE 38
A 'pinkish quartzlike whetstone' found on Savilegreen farm.
NMAS index; OR 395.
- 248 'Sties', Sanday HY 64 SE 25
Viking cauldron.
Greig 1940, 172; OR 327.
- 249 'Sties', Sanday HY 64 SE
Viking sword, probably from Sties of Brough, now in the Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow (C.60.A).
Anderson 1874, 566; Peterson 1919, 163; Greig 1940, 171-2; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 44, No. 188; Wainwright 1962, 148; OS Record Card HY 63 NE 10; OR 325.
- 250 Stove, Sanday HY c. 610 355 HY 63 NW
'Flint Chipping' and 'Whorl from Stove', now in Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall (accession nos. 220, 228).
OR 445.
- 251 'Westbrough', Sanday HY 64 SE 26
Viking axe.
Greig 1940, 172; OR 326.
- Nos. 248-9 and 251 above most likely all came from the group of mounds called Sties of Brough (no. 132) which is on the farmland of Westbrough, although the tell of Westbrough, although the tell of Westbrough itself (no. 95) is a less probable provenance for the axe:
- 252 Holland Farm, North Ronaldsay HY c. 755 532 HY 75 SE
Bone and stone objects found on Holland farm by the fringes of the Muckle Gairsty, now in Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall (accession nos. 115-16).
OR 447.
- 253 North Ronaldsay HY 75 NE or SE
'Ceremonial mace-head' found in North Ronaldsay 1936-7, now in Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall (accession no. 1976/231).
OR 448.

TOFTS NESS: Fieldwork July 1980

by J B Stevenson

The complex of cairns and enclosures on Tofts Ness, Sanday (see p. 12, no. 15) is the most extensive and best-preserved example of this type of site to survive on North Ronaldsay or Sanday. Agriculture has already encroached on its W and S sections, and modern land-clearance and rabbit-burrowing threaten further damage. This survey (map 3), which was undertaken in July 1980 by Mr J B Stevenson and Mr A J Leith of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland with the assistance of Dr R G Lamb, includes only the NE part of the ness, where the remains are best preserved and at greatest risk; it is intended that the survey of the whole area will be completed in the future with a more detail discussion of the sites than is possible here.

The complex comprises three large mounds; more than 300 small cairns; one long mound; a series of enclosure banks; at least one enclosure; and miscellaneous recent features.

The large round mounds (1-3) measure from 26m to 33m in diameter and up to 2.8m in height, and are composed of a mixture of sand and stones. They are probably prehistoric burial-cairns, but there is nothing to indicate whether they are chambered or not. Both chambered and unchambered round cairns have been found in association with small cairns in Orkney, e.g. at Elsness, Sanday (nos. 7-8) and at Knowes of TroTTY, Mainland (RCAMS1946, ii, 29-31, No. 73), and although these three mounds are larger than the majority of the Orkney Bronze Age cairns their size alone cannot be used as an indicator of their date. All three have secondary structures built on top of them; 1 and 2 are capped by stone-walled enclosures of relatively recent date, and at 2 and 3 settings of upright slabs suggest domestic occupation.

The smaller cairns range from 2m to 15m in diameter, stand up to 0.7m in height and are composed of a core of stones covered by sand. In one cairn, outside the area of survey, the remains of a cist are visible and it is likely that the majority of the cairns cover burials (for the results of excavations in some of the cairns see p. 9).

Near the centre of the surveyed area there is a long, somewhat rectilinear, mound (4), which is overlain by Bank A: it stands to a height of 0.5m and shows signs of disturbance. Dr Wood (see p. 9) records the excavation of a long mound on the line of one of the banks, which contained a vaulted chamber measuring 16 ft by 6 ft (4.88m x 1.83m), possibly a chambered cairn. As the bank is still intact it is unlikely that this is the mound referred to by Wood, but it may represent a similar structure.

A number of banks (A-G, J-L, N, P, Q), which range from 1m to 3.5m in thickness and up to 0.4m in height, are situated on the ness. They are composed of a stone core covered by sand; in places stone-robbing or rabbit-burrowing has almost completely levelled them. Several cairns have been built on top of the banks, while at least two mounds appear to be earlier than the banks (4, Bank A; 5, Bank E). The only visible original entrance through the enclosures formed by the banks is in Bank A, 65m SSW of its junction with Bank N. Bank H is much more substantial than the others, measuring up to 10m in thickness and 0.5m in height; its function is not clear, but it may have formed an enclosure of more recent date than the others. The stratigraphical relationships of the banks cannot be ascertained by fieldwork alone, but surface traces suggest that A and N are contemporary; A overlies E-G; E may be later than D-F; L is overlain by enclosure M; and H overlies G and J.

The more recent features include enclosure M, which is two-phase and contains an inner enclosure which is partly overlain by a kelp-drying rack; kelp-drying stances (R); kelp-kilns (S-T); marker cairns (U); and close to cairn 1, various mounds, stone walls and an oval enclosure.



BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ABBREVIATIONS

- Anderson, J 1874 'Notes on the relics of the Viking Period . . . in Scotland . . .', *PSAS*, 10 (1872-4), 536-94.
- Anderson, J 1881 *Scotland in Early Christian Times* (first series), Edinburgh.
- Barry, G 1805 *The History of the Orkney Islands*, Edinburgh.
- Brøgger, A W 1930 *Den norske bosetningen på Shetland-Orknøyene*, Oslo.
- Callander, J G 1931 'Notes on certain prehistoric relics from Orkney', *PSAS*, 65 (1930-1), 78-103.
- Childe, V G 1952 'Re-excavation of the chambered cairn of Quoyness, Sanday . . .', *PSAS*, 86 (1951-2), 121-39.
- Clarke, D V 1970 'Bone dice and the Scottish Iron Age', *PPS*, 36 (1970), 214-32.
- Clouston, J S 1932 *A History of Orkney*, Kirkwall.
- Craven, J B 1912 *History of the Episcopal Church in Orkney* (2nd ed.), vol. 3, Kirkwall.
- Crawford, I A 1974 'Destruction in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland', in Rahtz, P A (ed.), *Rescue Archaeology*, Harmondsworth, 183-212.
- Curle, A O, Olsen, M and Shetelig, H 1954 *Civilisation of the Viking Settlers in relation to their old and new countries* (Part VI of Shetelig, H (ed.), *Viking Antiquities in Great Britain and Ireland*, six parts, Oslo, 1940-54).
- Dennison, W T 1880 *Orcadian Sketch-Book*, Kirkwall.
- DES (Date) Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, Annual publication of Scottish Group (formerly Scottish Regional Group), Council for British Archaeology.
- Farrer, J 1868 'Note of excavations in Sanday . . .', *PSAS*, 7 (1866-8), 398-401.
- Fenton, A 1978 *The Northern Isles: Orkney and Shetland*, Edinburgh.
- Goodfellow, A 1912 *Sanday Church History*, Kirkwall.
- Greig, S 1940 *Viking Antiquities in Scotland* (Part II of Shetelig, H (ed.), *Viking Antiquities in Great Britain and Ireland*, six parts, Oslo, 1940-54).
- Hamilton, J R C 1968 *Excavations at Clickhimin, Shetland*, Edinburgh.
- Henshall, A S 1963-72 *The Chambered Tombs of Scotland*, Edinburgh.
- Jo. Ben (sixteenth-century writer, identity uncertain), *Descriptio Insularum Orchadiarum*; text in Barry, G, *The History of the Orkney Islands*, Edinburgh (1805), 433-47.
- MacGregor, A 1974 'The Broch of Burrian, North Ronaldsay, Orkney', *PSAS*, 105 (1972-4), 63-118.
- Marwick, H 1923a 'Antiquarian notes on Sanday', *POAS*, 1 (1922-3), 21-9.
- Marwick, H 1923b 'Place-names of North Ronaldsay', *POAS*, 1 (1922-3), 53-64.
- Name Book (County) Original Name-books of the Ordnance Survey.
- NMAS National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh.
- NMRS National Monuments Record of Scotland, 54 Melville Street, Edinburgh.
- NoSAS Index Archaeological index of North of Scotland Archaeological Services, Binscarth House, Finstown, Orkney.
- NSA The New Statistical Account of Scotland*, Edinburgh, 1845.
- OS Ordnance Survey, 43 Rose Street, Edinburgh.
- Petersen, J 1919 'De norske vikingesverd. En typologisk-kronologisk studie over vikingetidens vaaben', *Videnskapselskapets Skrifter II*, Hist.-filos. klasse no. 1, Oslo.
- Petrie Notebooks Manuscript notebooks of G Petrie, Kirkwall, c. 1859-73 housed in library of Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

POAS Proceedings of the Orkney Antiquarian Society.

PPS Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society.

PSAS Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Radford, C A R 1962 'Art and architecture: Celtic and Norse', in Wainwright, F T (ed.), *The Northern Isles*, London and Edinburgh, 163-87.

RCAMS Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, 54 Melville Street, Edinburgh.

RCAMS 1946 *Twelfth Report with an Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Orkney & Shetland*, three volumes, Edinburgh.

Ritchie, A 1977 'Excavation of Pictish and Viking-age farmsteads at Buckquoy, Orkney', *PSAS*, 108 (1976-7), 174-227.

Ritchie, A and Ritchie, J N G 1978 *The Ancient Monuments of Orkney*, Edinburgh.

SDD Scottish Development Department (Ancient Monuments), 17 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh.

Skea map OS six-inch map annotated by George Skea, Sanday (d. 1908) giving unrecorded place-names in the north end of Sanday, in possession of W J Skea, Kirkwall. (Lists of the names with their National Grid references are deposited in the Orkney Library, Kirkwall, and the Library of the School of Scottish Studies, Edinburgh).

Skea name-list *Place-names in Lady Parish*, manuscript compiled by W J Skea, Kirkwall, from material left by his father, William Skea, Hillhead, Sanday, before 1948. (Type-script copies in the Orkney Library, Kirkwall, and Library of School of Scottish Studies, Edinburgh).

SRO Scottish Record Office, H M General Register House, Edinburgh.

Stat. Acct. The Statistical Account of Scotland, Edinburgh, 1791-9.

Stevenson, R B K 1955 'Pins and the Chronology of the Brochs', *PPS*, 21 (1955), 282-94.

Traill, J 1890 'Notes on the further excavations of Howmae, 1889', *PSAS*, 24 (1889-90), 451-61.

Traill, W 1876 'Notice of two cists on the farm of Antabreck, North Ronaldsay, Orkney', *PSAS*, 11 (1874-6), 309-10.

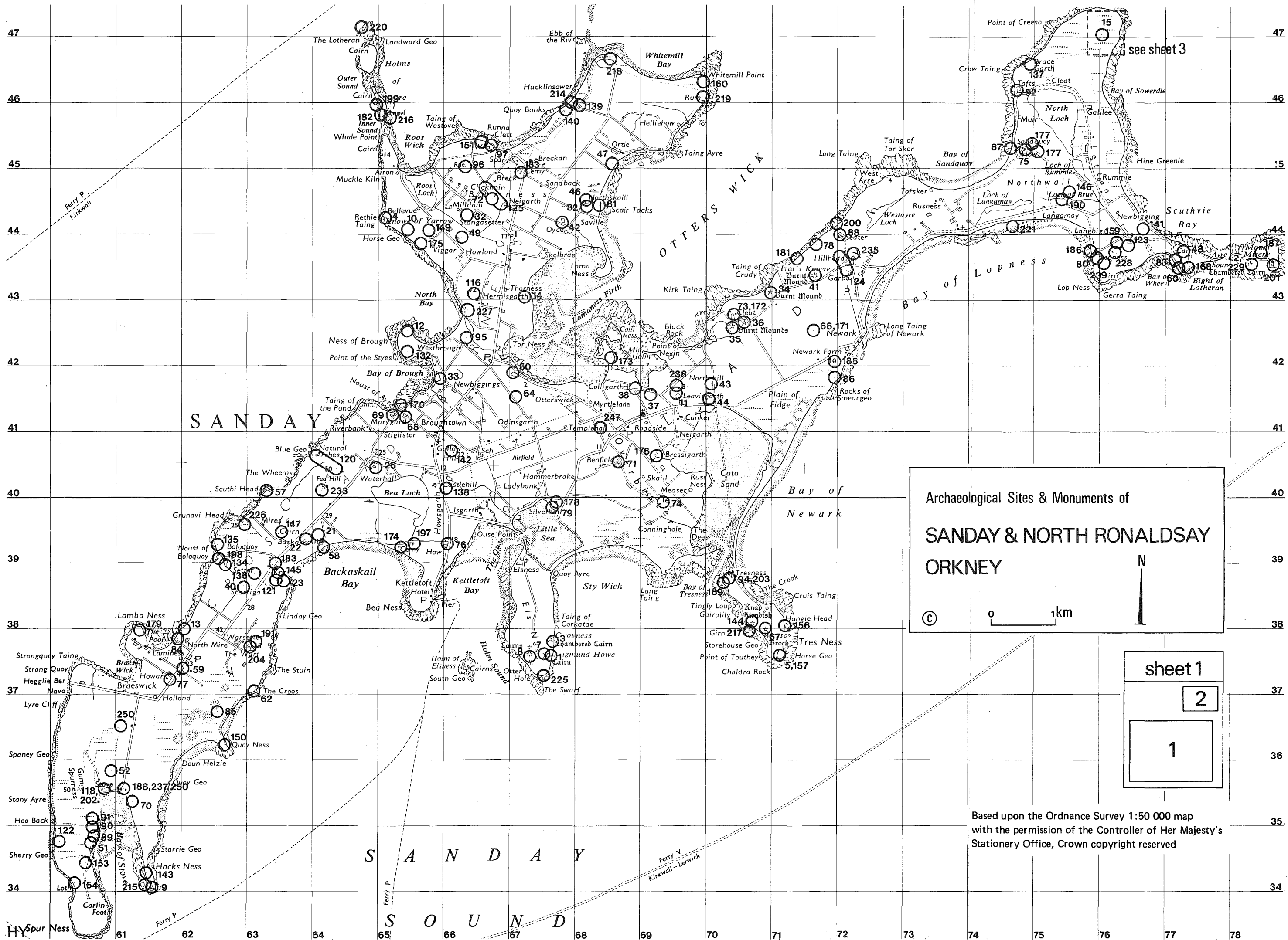
Traill, W 1885 'Excavation at Stennabreck and Howmae, in North Ronaldsay, Orkney', *PSAS*, 19 (1884-5), 14-33.

Traill, W 1890 'Results of Excavations at the Broch of Burrian, North Ronaldsay, Orkney . . .', *Archaeologia Scotica*, 5 (1874-90), 341-64.

Wainwright, F T 1962 'The Scandinavian Settlement' in Wainwright, F T (ed.) *The Northern Isles*, London and Edinburgh, 117-62.

Wainwright MS Manuscript index of Orkney sites visited by F T Wainwright in the late 1950s, deposited with the then Ministry of Works. (This document has been reported missing for some time but its information is incorporated in the OS card index).

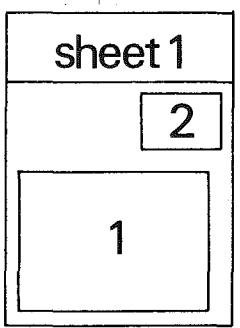
Wood, W 1826 'Description of the contents of tumulus in . . ., Island of Sanday', *Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal*, 1 (1826), 216-19; reprinted *POAS*, 8 (1929-30), 55-6.



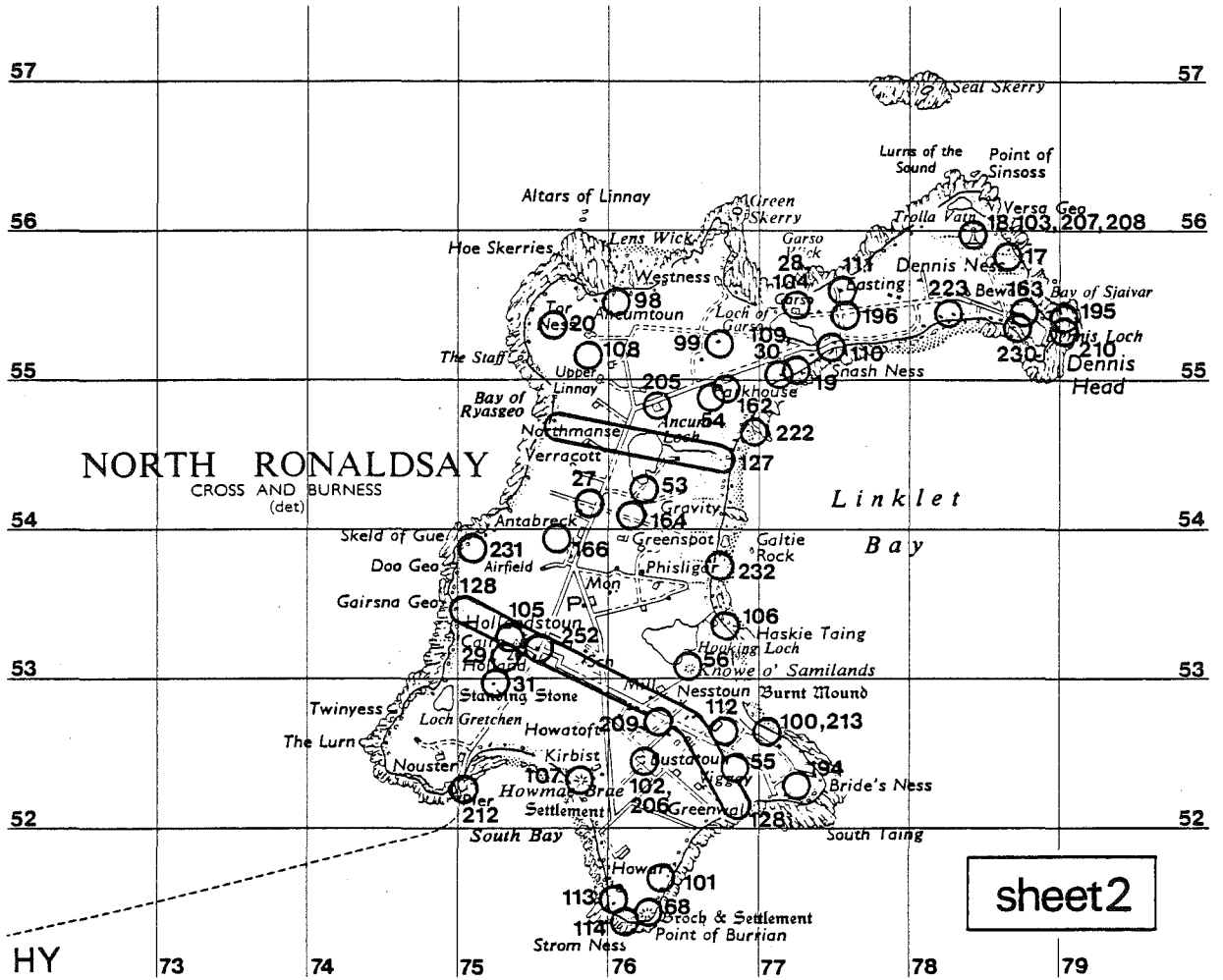
Archaeological Sites & Monuments of
SANDAY & NORTH RONALDSAY
ORKNEY



0 1km



Based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:50 000 map
 with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's
 Stationery Office, Crown copyright reserved

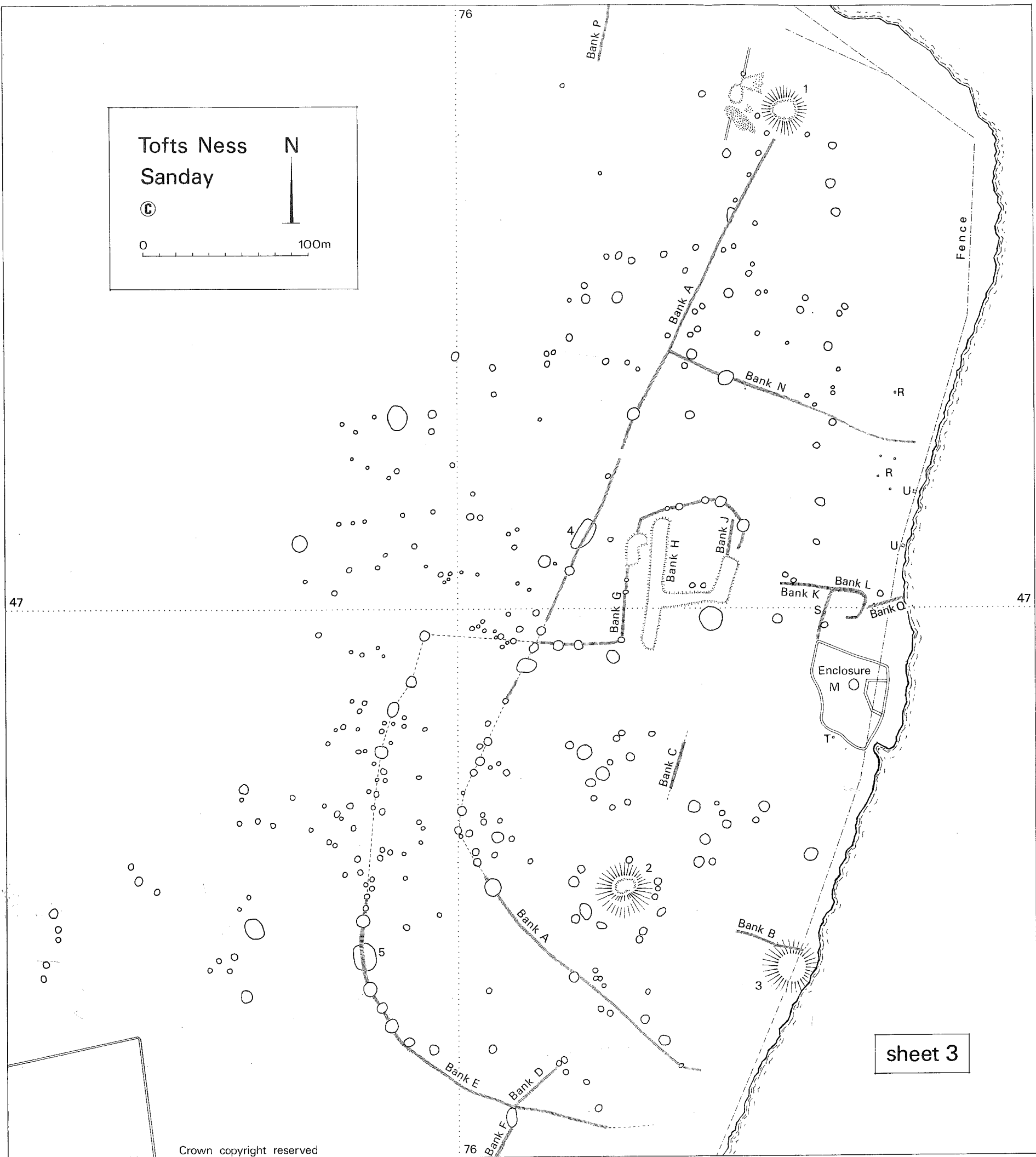


Tofts Ness
Sanday

©

N

0 100m



sheet 3

