

Shapinsay, St Andrews and Deerness
Orkney Islands Area

**The Archaeological Sites and Monuments of Scotland, 27
SHAPINSAY, ST ANDREWS AND DEERNESS
(with adjacent small islands)
Orkney Islands Area**

An Archaeological Survey

by R G Lamb

This list of sites and monuments on the island of Shapinsay, the Mainland parish of St Andrews and Deerness, and adjacent small islands, the fifth list for Orkney in this series, 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 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and the Orkney Islands Council.

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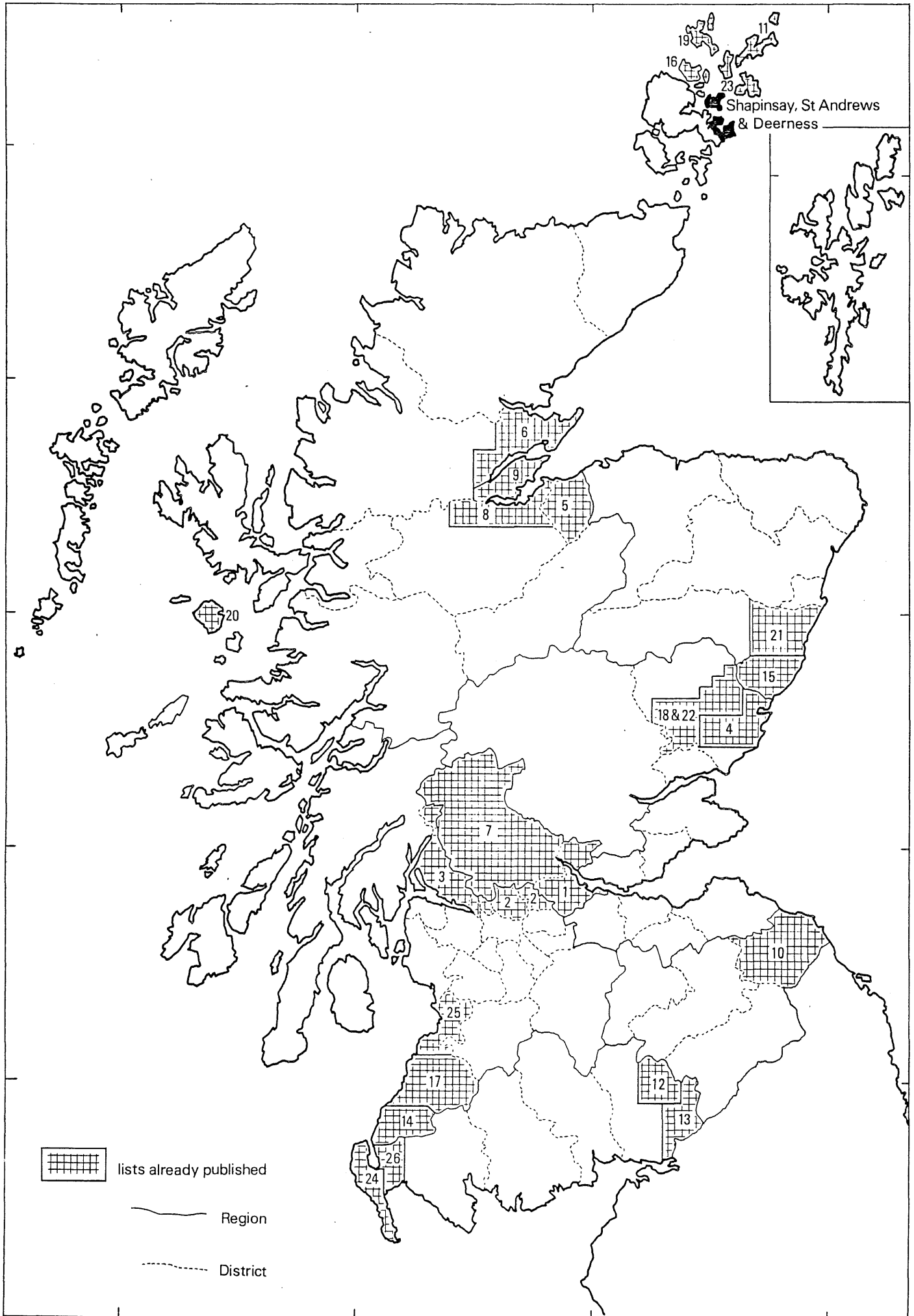
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The National Monuments Record of Scotland
6–7 Coates Place
Edinburgh EH3 7AA

INTRODUCTION

Shapinsay today is distinctive among the North Isles for its gridiron pattern of farm holdings and neatly squared fields which are noted for producing prizewinning cattle. The agricultural progressiveness and resulting prosperity can be traced back to the middle of last century, when David Balfour (1811-87), who represents Victorian landlordism at its best, re-drew the map of the island and actively encouraged agricultural improvement. His romantically-feudal perception of his own position found expression in Balfour Castle (1847), created by the fashionable Edinburgh architect David Bryce out of the modest family home of Cliffdale. Such feudal notions, which could be socially disastrous with such a man as General Burroughs in Rousay (whose autocratic manner was combined with financial difficulties), were a positive influence when backed by the Balfour family fortune (made in India) and the laird's deep interest in agriculture. David Balfour was a man of his time, who can be compared with Prince Albert in his passion for scientific advancement and his dilettante interest in such diverse subjects as Orkney history and archaeology, theology and folk-music.

Balfour Castle along with its home-farm, Balfour Mains, and the neat village laid out by David's grandfather Thomas Balfour (1752-99) and embellished by David with a new pier and the crenellated gasholder, which provided the Castle lighting, form an important and evocative group.

With very few acres on Shapinsay today left unenclosed and uncultivated, it is easy to forget that before David Balfour's initiatives, much of the island was in a condition similar to present-day Eday with wastes of peat and heather. The narrow Galt peninsula, the most substantial surviving fragment, has sub-peat dykes resembling those of Eday. Not surprisingly, archaeological sites within the improved fields seldom manifest themselves as upstanding monuments, but there is much of interest around the shores.

The East Mainland parishes of St Andrews and Deerness share the gentle relief of Shapinsay but differ in retaining the more usual Orkney pattern deriving from the older tenurial system. The presence of glacial deposits in parts of St Andrews creates a hummocky surface in which, unusually in Orkney, it is not always easy to distinguish mounds of artificial origin from the natural relief. There are picturesque cliffs, pierced by caves and deep geos, on the eastern side of Deerness, culminating in the dramatic fowling-crag of the island of Copinsay.

The Deerness cliffs provide the setting for the most-discussed monument in the East Mainland, the Brough of Deerness (no. 153) with its chapel and extensive group of building-foundations. Described in the past as a Celtic monastery, it is nowadays either given a secular interpretation or thought of as a religious house of the twelfth to thirteenth centuries, which is the interpretation favoured by the writer. The Brough of Deerness stands in relationship to the high-status Norse settlement at Skail (no. 120) echoing the relationship of the Brough of Birsay to the settlement-centre at Birsay village. Skail is especially associated with Thorkel Fostri, the eleventh-century magnate who was Thorfinn the Mighty's staunchest supporter, Thorfinn being the earl most associated with Birsay.

Much new material in Deerness has been contributed by Mr Ken Steedman, who while a student at Durham University, made it his dissertation subject to undertake a field-survey of the mainland part of Deerness. During the summer vacation which he spent in the parish he was able to examine many unexplored areas and to meet many of the farmers, thus covering the ground to an exceptionally detailed degree.

Several sites have also been recorded by the former Scottish Industrial Archaeological Survey, the results of which are incorporated in NMRS: wind-pumps at Loch of Tankerness (no. 175), Keigar (HY 554065) and Ness (no. 176); mills at Tankerness (HY 514085) and Sebay (HY 515051); an engine-powered fixed barn threshing-machine at Ness (HY 543093); and a water-powered threshing-barn at Stembister (no. 177).

As in other parts of Orkney the boat-nausts form an interesting group. Although many have been in use within living memory, and there are naust-structures which relate in size and shape to Scottish East Coast types of fishing-boats which came into use late last century, many more are narrow and pointed-ended, suitable therefore for the locally traditional boats, the essential shape of which changed little from the Viking Age to the nineteenth century, and is still familiar in Shetland. The siting of nausts is governed by restrictive conditions of coastal and offshore topography; a great many must have been in use for a thousand years or more — as is occasionally confirmed by place-names. A naust (also spelled noost or noust) is an unroofed boat-shaped shelter contrived on or above the shoreline — the latter position preferred for 'winter nausts' in which fishing-boats were laid up in the off season. Rather confusingly, the word in modern Norwegian also covers a roofed boathouse. Future study of nausts will derive largely from Rolfsen's (1974) definitive study of those of Jaeren, and it will be convenient if his definitions of the parts of a naust-complex becoming widely accepted. A naust-complex (*naustanlegg*) has three elements. The naust is strictly the 'naust-ground' (*nausttuft*) with its turf or stone walls and end open to the sea. The slipway (*båtopptrekk*) in front of it, is a cleared stretch of shore, possibly improved in some way to provide a sliding surface over which the boat is pulled up. This leads down to the landing-place (*båttstø*) which is the cleared area, below mean sea-level, often defined by parallel rows of stones, or quarried rock-faces (Rolfsen 1974, 11, 136). Sometimes the site of a destroyed or obliterated naust-ground is indicated by a surviving landing-place.

SHAPINSAY

CHAMBERED CAIRN

- 1 Haco's Ness HY 5218 1491 HY 51 SW 5
 By the shore at Haco's Ness three definite and two less certain upright slabs, protruding from a mound at least 10m in diameter, appear to indicate the chamber of a tomb of Orkney-Cromarty type. The massive back-slab of the chamber and a short length of the wall-face of the chamber can be seen beneath modern field-dykes.
November 1984
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 279, No. 797; OR 1089.
- Corrie's field notebook of 1928 states in connection with this cairn that 'a skull was found here some years ago'. In the *Inventory*, quoting the same date of visit, 'a burial' is said 'to have been found here or hereabouts'. There is therefore uncertainty whether the discovery had been a separate burial, and doubt as to its association with the cairn.
 RCAMS Notebook, No. 4, 10 September 1928; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 279, additional to No. 797; OR 1090.

BARROWS AND CAIRNS

- 2 Balfour Village HY c. 49 17 HY 41 NE 9
 In 1881 workmen making the road across a sandy hilltop, about 1 mile (1.61km) NE of Balfour village, disturbed an insignificant-looking mound and discovered a small slab-formed cist containing a steatite urn (RMS EK8).
PSAS, 16 (1881-2), 13-14; *NMAS Catalogue* 1892, 179; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 278, No. 787; OR 1062.
- 3 Castle Bloody* HY 5359 1643 HY 51 NW 4
 This prominent mound, 13m in diameter and 1.2m high, conspicuous upon a summit in the remaining unimproved moorland in the SE corner of Shapinsay, is difficult to interpret. Before 1928, Mr M Work, Newfield Cottage, removed some massive slabs, which proved to be the roofing of a chamber lying N-S. This had an entrance-passage on the SE and a smaller passage leading off from its N end. Few details can now be confirmed, as the chamber is entirely blocked by a capstone displaced since the OS visit in 1972. The small passage at the N end is traceable for about 1m and seems to lead to a depression, filled with loose-packed rubble with voids, which may be a second chamber. Without excavation, however, it is impossible to offer an interpretation of this interesting structure. *July 1984*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 277-8, No. 786; OR 1113.
- 4 Girnigoe HY 5238 2123 HY 52 SW 6
 A rocky knoll 350m NE of Girnigoe is surmounted by a mound 7.8m in diameter and 0.6m high. Trampling by cattle has denuded the top of the mound, and has revealed that it is composed of brown earth; a few small stones are visible in exposures on the N and S margins. *July 1984*
 OR 1081
- 5 Twi Ness HY 4676 1625 HY 41 NE 19
 On Twi Ness there is a circular cairn measuring 7m in diameter, 0.6m in height, and slightly hollowed in the centre. On the N side, an upright slab placed radially to the centre of the mound, may indicate the presence of a cist. *November 1984*
 OR 1061.
- 6 Unyatuak* HY 5244 1983 HY 51 NW 7
 From its prominent situation on a summit 200m W of Bonnyhill, this circular mound, some 10m across and 0.7m high, is likely to be a burial mound. It has been much damaged by the trampling of cattle, and this has revealed that it is largely composed of earth. *July 1984*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 277, No. 784; OR 1122.

- 7 Ward Hill HY 5084 1739 HY 51 NW 12
Prominently situated in an unploughed area of a rotational pasture-field on the gentle ridge of Ward Hill, is a circular mound 11m in diameter and 0.8m high, apparently funerary. Trampling by cattle on its N side has exposed a content of brown earth with a few stones. *July 1984*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 278, No. 788; OR 1079.

CISTS

- 8 'Balfour' unlocated HY 41 NE 6
There is no precise record of the 'stone coffins' discovered 'at Balfour', and an accompanying find of a 'mallet-shaped piece of sandstone' donated by David Balfour, is not recorded in the 1892 or subsequent NMAS catalogues.
PSAS, 4, (1860-2), 380; NMAS Catalogue 1892; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 280, No. 804; OR 1066.
- 9 Hillock Road HY 5366 2242 HY 52 SW 3
The Hillock Road, the last stretch of public road at the NE extremity of Shapinsay, runs westward down to the shore; extending N from the end of the road is a triangular half-hectare of dunes from which sand has from time to time been extracted. Among the confused hollows can be seen four massive slabs set on edge, the largest being 1.5m long. Three cists with human bones are reported to have been found here shortly after 1918, and there is a memory of a discovery of 'coffins' some thirty years earlier. It is tempting to speculate that this may be the site of a long-cist cemetery. *September 1985*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 275, additional to No. 777; OR 1088.
- 10 Housebay HY c. 508 165 HY 51 NW 11
Corrie was informed of the discovery, some years before 1928, of a number of cists of varying sizes, that had been found in the course of ploughing a field situated some 200 to 300 yards (180m to 270m) SW of the farm of Housebay.
RCAMS Notebook, No. 4, 10 September 1928; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 280, No. 805; OR 1078.
- 11 Swartaquoy HY c. 5166 1907 HY 51 NW 20
The discovery of a cist during drain-digging in the 19th century to the SE of Swartaquoy was reported to OS in 1882 by Mr W Muir of Gorn.
OR 1119.

STANDING STONE

- 12 Mor Stein* HY 5238 1686 HY 51 NW 1
This stone occupies a small patch of unimproved moorland near the highest point in the SE part of the island. A few years before 1928 it was overthrown and re-erected, losing a portion of its upper part in the process. Recorded as 12 feet (3.66m) high in 1796, it is now 2.9m high measured from the surface of the grassy tump on which it is set; the width averages 0.95m and the thickness 0.45m, the major axis being E-W.
July 1984
Stat. Acct., 17 (1796), 234; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 277, No. 782; OR 1054.

BURNT MOUNDS

- 13 Garth HY 4865 2016 HY 42 SE 2
This mutilated mound lies on sloping ground 50m E of Garth farmhouse; now grass-covered, it is 7m E-W by 5m transversely. Only one burnt stone was visible in the peaty content of the mound at time of latest visit. This mound appears to be closely associated with the farm complex. *July 1984*
RCAMS Notebook, No. 4, 11 September 1928; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 278, No. 791; OR 1048.

- 14 'Hillock of Homrie' HY 4778 1938 HY 41 NE 11
This site, 300m WNW of Waltness farm, is marked only by an inconspicuous rise in a cultivated field. Corrie reported that a considerable portion of this 'typical burnt knowe' had been carted away for agricultural purposes. *November 1984*
RCAMS Notebook, No. 4, 11 September 1928; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 278, No. 790; OR 1063.
- 15 'Hillock of Weland' HY 4900 1933 HY 41 NE 7
A slight rise in a cultivated field 400m WNW of Strathore is the only trace of a burnt mound which was largely removed in the course of agricultural improvement in 1927. During this operation the farmer uncovered an irregularly-shaped chamber possessing two mural recesses and an underfloor cavity from which a channel or vent appeared to lead upwards towards the surface of the mound. *November 1984*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 278, No. 789; OR 1067.

BROCHS

- 16 The Hillock* HY 5356 2238 HY 52 SW 2
Immediately S of the termination of the public road at the NE extremity of Shapinsay, there is a grass-grown sandy mound which conceals a broch, now partly eroded by the sea. The only exposed features are a short arc of what is probably the inner wall-face and some other fragments of masonry in the shoreline. *July 1984*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 275, No. 777; OR 1087.
- 17 Hillock of Burroughston* HY 5406 2100 HY 52 SW 4
About 150m ENE from Easthouse, on the NE shore of Shapinsay, stands one of the most visually interesting brochs of Orkney. It was excavated c. 1862 by Colonel D Balfour's estate-workers under the direction of George Petrie, and was subsequently meticulously recorded by Sir Henry Dryden. Excavation was confined to the interior of the broch and to a small area immediately outside the entrance; the interior is now choked with rubble which obscures the architectural features below the level of the scarcement. The entrance-passage is well preserved, and there is an impressive cell within a length of walling that still stands to a height of 3.5m above the rubble. Grazing has recently ceased on the site, which has thus become overgrown; the wet outer ditch and bank are still clearly visible. *July 1986*
Sir Henry Dryden, 1866, plans in NMRS, ORD/16/4-9; Petrie 1890, 81-4; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 275-6, No. 778; OR 1123.
- 18 Howe Hill* HY 5117 1599 HY 51 NW 5
This large knoll on the farm of Howe occupies an area of at least 0.25ha, most of which is reserved as rough grass amid arable. The mound is shapeless, displaying no exposed masonry that is certainly ancient, and reaches a maximum height of 2.5m at its NW end; it should perhaps be more properly classified as an unenclosed settlement. It seems to have been dug into before 1880 and perhaps at some more recent time. The OS records an oral report of curving drystone passages having been discovered. *November 1984*
Name Book, Orkney, No. 18, p. 140; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 276-7, No. 780; OR 1070.
- 19 Steiro HY 5019 1635 HY 51 NW 10
A fragment of the NE arc of the circuit of a broch tower survives in a now severely sea-eroded mound (it suffered heavy damage in the gale of February 1984). The exposed inner face shows a scarcement measuring 0.6m in width, as well as a rubble-filled opening at the same height, which may have given access to a stair or gallery. On the E side, the broch wall, (here 3.6m thick below scarcement level), is cut by a secondary wall that must have been built after the broch tower had been substantially dismantled. On the W side of the mound there are traces of outbuildings and a severely truncated naust. *July 1984*
Name Book, Orkney, No. 18, p. 137; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 276, No. 779; OR 1077.

UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENTS

- 20 Balfour Castle HY 4730 1621 HY 41 NE 13
In the low shoreline SW of Balfour Castle, active erosion has revealed midden deposits and drystone structures forming a layer 1.3m thick and 17m in length. Prominent at the W end is the exterior wall-face of what appears to be a large round-house. An Iron Age sherd found in the section is in Balfour Castle. *November 1985*
OR 1065.
- 21 Balfour Mains HY 4689 1704 HY 41 NE 4
In a field on the W side of Balfour Mains that is cultivated only occasionally, there is a spot where the drainage is impaired and where dark earth with a scatter of shells is seen in the plough. *November 1984*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 280, No. 803; OR 1059.
- 22 Gorn HY 5222 1892 HY 51 NW 26
Immediately E of the road, half-way between Gorn and Inkerman, the top of the ridge, about 40m OD, is crowned by a settlement-mound some 0.5ha in extent. It lies in a pasture field, but its fringes have been trimmed by old ploughing. On its surface are the rectangular platforms of the buildings of a medieval or later farmstead, and the curving walls of apparently prehistoric structures can be detected on the periphery; exploratory digging here in the 1960s revealed a slab-formed and clay-lined tank. *July 1984*
OR 1121.
- 23 Gorn HY 5189 1896 HY 51 NW 18
A sandstone disc (RMS AV 18) is recorded by NMAS as being from 'Burntbraes Barrow', but this name arose from a misunderstanding of the account supplied by its donor, Mr W Muir. In 1972 Mr Muir showed the find-spot, an unmarked slight rise in a cultivated field, to the OS surveyor, and described a rectangular slab-formed structure containing burnt stones and ashes and surrounded by black earth. The structure, about 4m by 3m, had been removed. The disc has been assigned to the early centuries AD by Dr R B K Stevenson. The description suggests a settlement rather than a funerary site.
PSAS, 97 (1963-4), 255; NMAS typescript catalogue; OR 1098.
- 24 Luckston HY 5272 1527 HY 51 NW 29
The W(ell) indicated on the 1900 six-inch map 150m S of Luckston, is at the SE corner of a prominent mound surmounted by a drystone quoy. The mound is steep-sided and stands to a height of 2.2m, exceeding the dimension of the quoy by 1m to 2m all round. Trampling by cattle on the S side has exposed rich black earth, which suggests the presence of a settlement site. *November 1984*
OR 1093.
- 25 Sandsend HY 5180 1983 HY 51 NW 37
Buried masonry and midden material is eroding out of the low cliff immediately W of the house of Sandsend. *July 1986*
OR 1117.
- 26 Shapinsay unlocated HY 51 NW 21
A 'Picts House' in Shapinsay was the provenance of a cup, made from a whalebone vertebra, which was given to NMAS by David Balfour in 1861, but it does not appear in the 1892 or subsequent catalogues.
PSAS, 4 (1860-2), 380; OR 1097.
- 27 Skoenestoft HY 5177 1960 HY 51 NW 15
In 1972 the OS recorded the discovery, made many years before, at a point close to the W side of the farm buildings at Skoenestoft, of slab-formed boxes containing clay and surrounded by black earth. These may represent the remains of a prehistoric settlement.
OR 1116.

- 28 Skoenestoft HY 5173 1964 HY 51 NW 15
HY 5170 1968
In 1928 one complete and two damaged mounds were noted near Skoenestoft farmstead. The largest one, 16m in diameter and 1.5m high, remains well preserved in the NW corner of a small paddock NW of the farmyard. In 1972 the OS recorded faint traces of the second, which lay in an arable field NW of the first; at the date of visit it was invisible under crop. A cist containing ashes was reportedly found in it. A third mound, already in 1928 reduced to a vestige, probably lay on a site now occupied by farm buildings. *July 1986*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 277, No. 783; OR 1115.

- 29 Weland HY 4921 1961 HY 41 NE 20
At the top of the rapidly-eroding cliff, which rises steeply to the NW of the isolated building at Weland, there is a deposit of stonework and some midden material, which measures some 0.5m in thickness. This may, however, be of recent origin. *November 1984*
OR 1068.

EARTH-HOUSE

- 30 Cliffdale HY c. 47 16 HY 41 NE 12
Barry gives a good description of an elaborate earth-house accidentally discovered shortly before 1796 during the building of a house near Cliffdale, the laird's house around which Balfour Castle was built. It comprised two contiguous hexagonal chambers each about 8 feet (2.4m) in diameter, and a rectangular one 'as large as both'. The flagstone roof was supported on masonry piers 4 feet (1.2m) high and the whole structure was underground, with no surface indication of its existence. An elaborate gold finger-ring was found in it.
Stat. Acct., 17 (1796), 237-8; Kirkness 1928, 159-60; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 280, No. 802; OR 1064.

SUB-PEAT DYKES

- 31 The Galt HY 4838 2145 to HY 42 SE 3
4844 2145
A vestigial sub-peat dyke, which manifests itself as widely-spaced stones, crosses the extreme tip of The Galt from W to E. At its central point, its greatest height above sea level, there is a conical mound, 10m in diameter and 0.6m high, with some stones exposed in its hollowed centre. The structure may be the remains of an old navigation cairn, but could also have been a burial mound. *July 1984*
OR 1052.
- 32 The Galt HY 4841 2120 to HY 42 SE 4
4849 2122
A bank averaging 4m broad and 0.4m high runs from W to E across the narrowest part of The Galt. On its N side and against the cliff-edge at its E end, there is a rectangular enclosure which measures 20m from E to W by 14m transversely. *July 1984*
OR 1051.
- 33 The Galt HY 4842 2103 HY 42 SE 5
On a low rocky spur above the cliff-edge on the W side of The Galt is a green mound 3.5m across and 0.3m high, showing a few earthfast stones. Although it could be a small burial mound, it is perhaps more likely to be the result of the piling of stones at a junction of otherwise destroyed or concealed sub-peat dykes. *July 1984*
OR 1053.
- 34 The Galt HY 4853 2088 to HY 42 SE 6
4855 2090
A sub-peat dyke visible as a line of widely spaced stones, is traceable from a point 20m inland from the cliff-edge on the E side of the Galt, south-westward for a length of 40m. *July 1984*
OR 1050.

INDETERMINATE MOUNDS

- 35 Haco's Ness HY 5263 1507 HY 51 NW 30
Beneath the collapsed remains of a navigation cairn (square on plan) on the E side of Haco's Ness, there is a rectangular stony platform, 0.2m in maximum height, which measures 3m from N-S and at least 7m transversely. *November 1984*
OR 1092.
- 36 Hillock Quoys HY 5192 1985 HY 51 NW 14
Close to the shore within the old farmyard at Sandsend, there is a mound some 20m across, which has at some fairly recent time been largely enclosed within a retaining wall. It is traditionally regarded as ancient, and RCAMS records a story that the site was that of a chapel, but investigations have failed to find any stonework within it. *July 1986*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 279, No. 796; OR 1114.

INDETERMINATE SITES

- 37 Bay of Sandgarth HY 5198 1579 HY 51 NW 31
The area of backshore at the head of the Bay of Sandgarth, eastwards from the spot at which the track arrives at the shore, is a hummocky area of storm-beach and blown sand. There are remains of kelp pits and some disconnected lengths of crude masonry, which may indicate that further structures lie buried beneath the sand. *November 1984*
OR 1073.
- 38 Gorn HY 5255 1860 HY 51 NW 27
On the line of a fence 400m ESE of Gorn, a slight rise, imperceptible when both fields are under crop, marks the spot where a labourer driving in a stob, encountered a void; this proved to be a stone-lined passage or cell which was covered over without further interference. *July 1984*
OR 1120.
- 39 Hannatoft HY c. 50 16 HY 51 NW 9
The only information on a site immediately SW of Hannatoft, derives from Corrie, who learned that remains had been encountered during ploughing a few years before 1928. On this information he judged that the 'Picts House' may have been similar to no. 15. This appears to be the only basis for the subsequent classification of this otherwise unknown site as a burnt mound.
RCAMS Notebook, No. 4, 10 September 1928; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 279, No. 794;
OR 1076.
- 40 Haroldsgarth HY 5198 1591 HY 51 NW 8
There is nothing to be seen in a pasture field immediately beside the track leading to Bay of Sandgarth at the spot where a 'Picts House' was recorded in 1880. It was a featureless area in 1928, and there appears to be no justification for its inclusion under Burnt Mounds in the *Inventory*. *November 1984*
Name Book, Orkney, No. 18, p. 144; RCAMS Notebook, No. 4, 10 September 1928;
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 278, No. 792; OR 1071.
- 41 Loch of Westhill HY c. 479 183 HY 41 NE 8
A structure that was formerly within the loch was recorded in 1880 as 'the site of a Brough', but in 1928 Corrie was informed that it had been removed during drainage and agricultural improvement some sixty or seventy years earlier. The most likely spot is somewhere on the E side of the residual pool, which is now located in arable ground. The total obliteration of the structure suggests that it may have been something less substantial than a broch. *November 1984*
Name Book, Orkney, No. 18, p. 24; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 280, No. 801; OR 1069.

- 42 Ness HY 5351 2219 HY 52 SW 7
At 1m below surface level in the grassy shore-banks is an exposure of old-looking drystone wall, three courses high and some 3m long. There is no surface indication of the site, which lies at the edge of a barley field. *July 1984*
OR 1084.

ECCLESIASTICAL MONUMENTS

- 43 Balfour Mausoleum HY 5027 1653 HY 51 NW 19
The Balfour family mausoleum is a roofless rectangular building, 6.25m by 5.5m externally situated in the graveyard immediately E of the South Church. Its S side is an open round-headed arch, and the structure appears to have been the N transept of a cruciform church, for which date-slabs and architectural details suggest a seventeenth-century date. The nineteenth- and twentieth-century burials, the last dated 1966, are in a railed extension to the S. *July 1984*
RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 274-5, No. 776; OR 1118.
- 44 Chapel of Stave HY c. 527 211 HY 52 SW 1
The Chapel of Stave is reputed to have lain in a cultivated field 250m W of Ha'quoy, where large stones are occasionally ploughed up. *July 1984*
RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 279-80, No. 798; OR 1101.
- 45 Lady's Kirk HY 4707 1643 HY 41 NE 5
The traditional site of Lady's Kirk is in a field of permanent pasture above the Kirk Banks, but there is no trace of any building there. *November 1984*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 280, No. 800; OR 1060.
- 46 St Catherine's Chapel* HY 5296 1863 HY 51 NW 6
This bicameral church, situated amid boggy ground at the head of the Bay of Linton, suffered severe ruination between its recording by Sir Henry Dryden in 1846-51 and the RCAMS visit in 1928. Within walls varying between 0.85m and 0.95m in thickness, the nave measures 5.85m from E-W by 4.15m transversely. The chancel is 2.45m long; although its width is not now recoverable as the S wall is a mass of rubble, Dryden recorded it as 7ft 6in (2.29m). Most of the walls stand considerably lower than 1m above ground level, which is the height of the best-preserved section on the N side of the chancel, but in 1851 the remains survived to the height of the semi-circular chancel-arch (some 2.4m). *July 1984*
Dryden drawings in NMRS; Dryden 1874, 24; MacGibbon & Ross 1896-7, i, 122-4; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 274, No. 775; OR 1055.
- 47 St Nicolas' Chapel unlocated HY 51 NW 25
Neale noted the existence of 'a few stones of a chapel, named, I think, from St. Nicolas'. Given his expressed uncertainty and the lack of any other record of such a dedication in Shapinsay, it is probable that he is referring to one of the other churches.
Neale 1848, 117; OR 1094.
- 48 St Salvador's Chapel unlocated HY 51 NW 22
A small perforated whetstone of greenish porphyritic stone (RMS AL 20) was found 'near the ruins of St Salvador's Chapel. The site was an ancient burial ground and immediately beside it was a congeries of underground chambers called "Picts Houses"'. This dedication is otherwise unknown, but in his entry for the *Statistical Account* Barry remarked upon 'several little chapels in various parts of the parish'. *Stat. Acct.*, 17 (1796), 233; *PSAS*, 4 (1860-2), 490; NMAS typescript catalogue; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 280, No. 799; OR 1096.

NAUSTS

- 49 Bay of Sandgarth HY 5151 1561 HY 51 NW 33
On the point forming the W side of the Bay of Sandgarth there are the inner ends of two very truncated nausts of earth and stones; their eroded mouths now hang 1m above the shelving rocks of the foreshore. *November 1984*
OR 1072.

- 50 Elwickbank HY 4874 1638 HY 41 NE 21
On the E side of Elwick Bay, 200m SW of Elwickbank, there are the very truncated and turf-covered inner ends of two naust-tofts. The foreshore is even and stony, and there is a natural båtstø among the low-water rocks. *July 1986*
OR 1112.
- 51 Ling Holm HY 5020 1950 HY 51 NW 32
On the N side of Ling Holm, there is a truncated naust, 3m long and 2m wide; its mouth hangs 0.4m above the even stony beach. *July 1984*
OR 1085.
- 52 Ness HY 5350 2207 HY 52 SW 8
What has probably been a roofed boathouse is situated in the rocky shoreline 300m NW of Ness. The walls, up to 1.8m high, are partly formed of drystone masonry and partly of living rock. The internal measurements are 3.6m by 1.8m and there is a shell-midden deposit, probably the refuse of some fish-baiting process, high up in the adjacent eroding banks. *July 1984*
OR 1083
- 53 Sandgarth HY 5225 1524 HY 51 NW 34
A landing-place W of Haco's Ness is recorded in a cancelled Name Book entry. The probable site is a spot, still used for keeping a boat, immediately N of an old, raised-up quoy. The naust-toft has been disturbed by a trackway running through it, but a deliberately-cleared båtstø can be seen at low water. *July 1986*
Name Book, Orkney, No. 18, p. 150; OR 1075.
- 54 Skate Noost HY 5221 1553 HY 51 NW 35
A landing-place bearing this interesting name(*skeid*, a fast ship) is recorded in a cancelled entry in the Name Book. The probable position is a gully in the steep banks on the E side of the Bay of Sandgarth, facing a 10m-wide gap in the wave-cut platform. *July 1986*
OR 1074.
- 55 Skip Geo HY 5183 2079 HY 52 SW 9
Cut into the low shoreline at Skip Geo is a group of six naust-tofts. They have pointed ends and are up to 4m long by 2m to 3m wide, facing a clear stony foreshore. *July 1986*
OR 1104.
- 56 Veantroee HY 5195 2065 HY 52 SW 10
In the shore banks W of Veantroee is a naust-toft 4m long and 2m wide; it faces a clear stony foreshore and a gap in the rocks near low-water mark. *July 1986*
OR 1105.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 57 Banks of Veniver HY 5279 2168 HY 52 SW 11
What is possibly an old quoy or homestead site is formed against the shoreline by a low bank, now spread to a width of 2m; horseshoe-shaped on plan, it measures 19m from E to W and 14m transversely. *July 1984*
OR 1082.
- 58 Haco's Ness HY 5222 1491 to HY 51 SW 11
5237 1484
Overlain by derelict quoy, the walls of which partly cover chambered cairn no. 1, and extending SE towards the bothy on the extreme point of the Ness, is an indeterminate band of small stones, almost flush with the turf. It appears in some stretches as a single band some 5m wide, and in others as two parallel strips separated by a lane. About 25m short of the point of the Ness it abuts a wall-foundation, 0.6m wide, which runs at right angles back from the shore. *November 1984*
OR 1091.

- 59 Kirk Hill HY 5310 1865 HY 51 NW 36
The site marked as a 'Burial Ground' on the OS 6-inch map, sheet 97 (2nd ed. 1903) at a point about 100m ENE of St Catherine's Chapel (no. 46), a group of irregularly shaped hummocks, possibly enclosed by a stone wall, one section of which is visible in section at the cliff-edge, and while another survives as a wall-face abutting the rocky hamar, which bounds the site on the N. The remains suggest the presence of an old quoy or a long-abandoned homestead. *July 1984*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 274, No. 775; OR 1056.
- 60 Odin's Stone HY 5064 1914 HY 51 NW 2
The flat-topped erratic boulder (measuring 2m by 1.4m and 0.5m in height), which lies just below high water mark on the beach below the croft of Odin, served in 1796 as a march-stone delimiting foreshore rights, but even then there was no tradition to explain its name. The Name Book records the tradition that it had served as a sacrificial altar to the Norse god. *July 1984*
Stat. Acct., 17 (1796), 235; Name Book, Orkney, No. 18, p. 65; RCAMS 1946, ii, p 277, No. 781; OR 1086.
- 61 Steaquoy HY 5190 1638 HY 51 NW 13
A knoll in front of Steaquoy farmhouse, noted by Corrie as a burnt mound, appears to be natural. *July 1984*
RCAMS Notebook, No. 4, 10 September 1928; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 279, No. 793; OR 1080.

ISOLATED AND UNPROVENANCED FINDS

- 62 'Esholm' unlocated HY 51 NW 24
An incomplete steatite urn (10 inches (250mm) in diameter and 10.75 inches (270mm) high) was donated to NMAS in 1886 by Col. Balfour with the provenance 'Esholm', a name otherwise unrecorded in Shapinsay (RMS EK 30).
PSAS, 21 (1886-7), 134; NMAS Catalogue 1892, 18; OR 1095.
- 63 Garth HY 4860 2011 HY 42 SE 7
A crude stone lamp, found by the farmer at Garth at a depth of some 0.7m in the hole for a strainer-post beside the farm road; it is now kept at the farmhouse.
July 1984
OR 1049.
- 64 'North Hill' unlocated HY 52 SW 5
A large pottery cinerary urn lacking most of its uppermost part, provenanced 'North Hill of Shapinsay', was donated to NMAS in 1885 by Col. Balfour (RMS EA 110).
PSAS, 19 (1884-5), 248; Callander 1933, 347; OR 1124.
- 65 'St John's Moss' unlocated HY 51 NW 17
A barbed-and-tanged arrowhead of black flint (RMS AD 573) was found 'in the middle of St John's Moss', a name otherwise unrecorded.
PSAS, 12 (1876-8), 183; NMAS Catalogue 1892, 14; OR 1099.
- 66 'White Moss' HY c. 52 16 HY 51 NW 16
In 1886 a wooden ox-yoke fashioned from a tree branch was given to NMAS (RMS MP 84) by D. Balfour. It had been found 6 feet (1.8m) down in the peat of the 'White Moss', a name otherwise unrecorded, but the location is also given as a short distance SE of Mor Stein (no. 12).
PSAS, 6 (1864-6), 398; NMAS Catalogue 1892, 346; OR 1100.

ELLYAR HOLM

CHAMBERED CAIRN

- 67 Ellyar Holm* (ORK 19) HY 4843 1534 HY 41 NE 2
 At the prominent marker cairn on the summit of Ellyar Holm, there is a mound, measuring 18m in diameter and 2.2m in height and containing a stalled chamber, aligned NW and SE; there are four pairs of dividing slabs, the third pair from the NW lacking one slab. The slabs stand 0.4m high above the rubble that conceals any sign of a back-slab and the position of the entrance. Near the top of the mound on the E side, an arc of what may be an inner revetting face is traceable for a distance of 1.2m. *July 1986*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 280, No. 807; Henshall 1963, 200; OR 1111.

SUB-PEAT DYKE

- 68 Ellyar Holm HY 4814 1539 to HY 41 NE 22
 4817 1527
 On an even W-facing grassy hillside, immediately S of a drainage ditch, the foundation of a dyke begins at the shore edge; here it is of the distinctive construction of many sub-peat dykes, with two parallel rows of edge-slabs occasionally linked by transverse slabs giving a cist-like effect. It runs uphill, at first parallel with the ditch, then curves E and then S, becoming turf-covered, and after reaching the 14m contour returns SW to meet the shore again, thus enclosing approximately one hectare. It may be compared with the dyke at Linkataing, Eday (RCAMS 1984, p. 14, No. 39). *July 1986*
 OR 1109.

FORT

- 69 Ellyar Holm HY 4859 1579 HY 41 NE 1
 On a cliff-girt promontory some 5m above the sea at the NE corner of the island there is a structure hitherto identified as a broch; it is partly obscured by tumble, but an arc of walling measuring some 3.3m in length can still be seen. It measures 2.7m in thickness and an arc some 3.3m long is exposed. Enclosed by this wall there are numerous narrow erect slabs up to 0.45m high. Within the wall-debris at its N end, but well back from the cliff-edge, there is built face at right angles to the line of the wall; this does not lend itself to interpretation as a mural cell, but could be either an end-face or the side of an entrance-passage. The structure is too insubstantial to be a broch; it may be a fort of 'blockhouse' or 'semibroch' type sheltering a dwelling, or possibly the remnant of a solidly-built roundhouse. *July 1986*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 280, No. 806; OR 1107.

INDETERMINATE SITE

- 70 Ellyar Holm HY 4854 1588 HY 41 NE 23
 Very nearly at the N extremity of the island there is a low rise, mounded up against the storm-beach shoreline. Upon it, and under a ruined kelp-stance, is a sub-rectangular foundation 5m NW-SE by 3.5m transversely; a wall-thickness of 0.4m is discernible on the inland side. The structure incorporates several large earthfast erect slabs. *July 1986*
 OR 1110.

ECCLESIASTICAL MONUMENT

- 71 Chapel of Ellyar Holm HY 4859 1578 HY 41 NE 3
 'Jo Ben' writing in the late 16th century notes that 'Eloerholm' is now desolate but that house-tofts, rigs and a chapel can be seen (*bases domorum et Striga illic apparent, atque etiam sacellum*). In explanation he relates a story of a bishop's expulsion of two brothers. In the nineteenth century the Name Book places the site at the NE corner of the island, at HY 4859 1578, close to the fort no. 69; the name Kirk Geo occurs at HY 4859 1572. Identification with no. 69 could have arisen in recent times from the resemblance of the structural upright slabs to grave-stones. There is no visible site resembling a chapel, but the raised ground underlying the sheepfold immediately SW from no. 69 is a possible location. *July 1986*
 'Jo Ben', text in Barry 1805, 436; Name Book, Orkney, No. 18, p. 105; OS 6-inch map, sheet 102, 2nd ed. 1903; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 280, No. 808; OR 1108.

GRASS HOLM

UNCERTAIN SITE

- 72 Grass Holm HY 4648 1974 HY 41 NE 16
 On the level, grass-grown W shoreline of Grass Holm is a low mound set with many erect slabs, none standing more than 0.3m in height, which seem to form two conjoined chambers, aligned SW-NE; the SW chamber has an internal measurement of about 2m and the other is rather larger. This structure has a prehistoric appearance and may represent some specialised, or seasonal habitation. *November 1985*
 Plan, 1985, in NMRS; OR 1057.

TAING SKERRY

INDUSTRIAL MONUMENT

- 73 Taing Skerry HY 4592 1965 HY 41 NE 24
 On the highest point of Taing Skerry, which has extensive wave-cut platforms, is a kelper's bothy measuring 3.8m N-S by 2.8m within drystone walls 0.6m thick and surviving to a height of 0.6m. There is a doorway 0.75m wide in the W wall.
November 1985
 OR 1058.

ST ANDREWS AND DEERNESS

BARROW AND CAIRNS

- 74 The Five Hillocks HY 4925 0670 HY 40 NE 15
 Nine earthen mounds lie on the hillside SE of the airport. One formerly had a kerb of edge-set stones, but this has now disappeared; agricultural improvement has encroached on the fringes of most of them. *April 1979*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 244-5, No 633; OR 5.
- 75 St Andrews unlocated HY 50 NW 15
 A barrow, measuring some 22 feet (6.7m) in diameter and 2 feet (0.6m) in height, was excavated by Petrie in 1850. Within it was a slab-formed cist containing burnt bones and ashes, with a stone ard-point lying close outside the cist. This may be one of two 'elongated stone implements' from St Andrews (RMS, either AC 124 or AC 125) recorded in the NMAS catalogue as having been donated by Petrie in 1867; his own notebook records his sending this ard-point in 1865.
 G Petrie, Notebook No. 8, in RMS, p. 14; Petrie 1868, 136; NMAS Catalogue 1892, 10; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 248, No. 659; OR 37.

- 76 Toab unlocated HY 50 NW 9
 Petrie's records include a neat plan and section in ink and water-colour of 'a Barrow in Toab' opened by him in 1850.
 G Petrie, Sketch-book No. 3, SAS 487, in NMRS, p. 1 verso; RCAMS 1946, ii, p.245, No. 634; OR 6.
- 77 Veltigar HY 5028 0599 HY 50 NW 27
 A group of mounds immediately NW of Veltigar was surveyed and partly excavated in the late 1960s by Mr J Dewar, Kirkwall Grammar School, who prepared detailed notes, plans and sections. The largest mound, approximately 10m in diameter and 0.75m high, was the only one to yield much of interest; it contained a burnt layer, bone fragments, vegetable matter, and a crude stone implement.
 J Dewar, notes and drawings in NMRS; OR 457.
- 78 The Ward HY 5676 0717 HY 50 NE 10
 At 75m OD on a southern spur of The Ward and 250m NE of Greentoft, there is the residual fragment of a large mound, which was disturbed during the improvement of this land in 1861. In it Petrie recorded five cists.
 G Petrie, Sketch-book No. 3, SAS 487, in NMRS, p. 19 verso; RCAMS 1946, ii, p 249, No. 664; Steedman 1980, no. 27; OR 1162.

BURIALS AND CISTS

- 79 Covenanters' Graves HY 5708 0871 HY 50 NE 1
 About 100m NNE of the nineteenth-century Covenanters' Memorial there is the recorded site of three graves of covenanters, who were shipwrecked near Scarva Taing. In 1964 the site was marked by small flat stones set on edge, but no trace can now be seen in a grass field that appears to have undergone improvement in recent years. *June 1986*
 OR 1134.
- 80 Greentoft HY 5667 0696 HY 50 NE 6
 & 25
 The site of a cist recorded by Petrie in 1869 at Greentoft lies under the road that leads from Denwick to Halley; it was 5 feet (1.5m) long by 1 foot 8 inches (0.5m) wide and 3 feet 6 inches (1.07m) deep, and contained two burials. The farmer reports that there is a circular feature some 20m in diameter, formed of rough stones (including a probable trough quern) with burnt earth and shells, extending into the fields on either side of the road near this point. The northern field, known as 'Blood Field', is the probable find-spot of a polished cushion mace-head (RMS AH 89), which is provenanced 'Bloody Quoy' and was purchased in 1888.
 G Petrie, Notebook No. 10, in RMS, p. 4; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 248-9, No. 662; Steedman 1980, no. 26; OR 1161.
- 81 Hall of Tankerness HY c. 52 08 HY 50 NW 34
 Petrie has a rough sketch with measurements entitled 'Graves opened in sea shore of Deersound near Hall of Tankerness, 22 May 1872'.
 G Petrie, Notebook No. 12, in RMS, p. 108; OR 490.
- 82 Howan Blo' HY c. 571 060 HY 50 NE 5
 There is nothing to mark the exact spot where three Bronze Age burials were found close together in 1929 and 1933. The initial discovery, made during ploughing, was of a small cist containing a pottery cinerary urn, two-thirds full of burned bones, and containing sherds of a small urn, was discovered. In the course of its removal, the excavators came across a third cremation, in this case in an urn-shaped hole, but without an actual urn. The cist and bones were re-buried, the urns are in Tankerness House Museum.
 Marwick 1929; Grant 1933; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 245, No. 636; OR 1171.

- 83 Little Crafty HY 5158 0622 HY 50 NW 16
A socketed bronze knife was found in a cist, which was discovered near Little Crafty in 1886 and subsequently destroyed.
Cursiter 1887, 341; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 248, No. 661; Coles 1960, 87; OR 27.
- 84 St Andrews unlocated HY 50 NW 18
In 1885 Cursiter exhibited a club-like stone implement, evidently an ard-point, which had been found in a cist in St Andrews.
PSAS, 19 (1884-5), 138; OR 38.
- 85 Scarva Taing HY 5727 0881 HY 50 NE 44
On the clifftop above Scarva Taing, 250m NE from the Covenanters' Memorial, is a grave aligned E and W; it is 1.9m long and comprises a base slab set between two rough uprights. It is probably the grave of a shipwreck victim. *June 1986*
Steedman 1980, no. 4; OR 1135.
- 86 Sebay HY 5179 0498 HY 50 SW 4
A most impressive complete steatite urn (420mm high and 430mm in rim diameter and 427mm at the base), with a slab cover, was found in ploughing in 1963 by Mr J Baillie of Sebay and was recorded by the late E W Marwick. Although stated to have held human remains, all that now survives is a mass of hair, which was found during excavation on a fragment of hide (Tankerness House Museum 1985-4, 5, 6).
The Orcadian, 21 February 1963; OR 40.
- 87 Waterhall HY c. 520 095 HY 50 NW 4
In 1863 near Waterhall George Petrie excavated a slab-formed cist containing burnt bones and ashes.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 248, No. 660; OR 26.

STANDING STONE

- 88 Stembister* HY 5413 0239 HY 50 SW 6
This slab, 1.8m high, formerly stood on the brink of a sea-cliff at Stembister farm, where it was in danger of toppling over. Mr Skea, the farmer, reports that in about 1965, in order to prevent its loss by coastal erosion, it was moved a short distance inland to its present position. *April 1979*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 244, No. 632; OR 4.

BURNT MOUNDS

- 89 Breck HY 5147 0605 HY 50 NW 11
On rough ground half-way between Breck and Little Crafty, there is a burnt mound 10m by 8m and 1.5m high. *June 1986*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 246, No. 639; OR 9.
- 90 Campston HY 5342 0428 HY 50 SW 5
In 1963 the OS recorded a grass-covered burnt mound 11m by 9m by 0.8m high within an arable field. This has since been ploughed over, but still shows as a prominent knoll and as a patch of black earth. *September 1985*
OR 11.
- 91 Greentoft HY 5670 0682 HY 50 NE 41
Steedman reports a considerable mound, 50m by 17m and just over 2m high, in the big field lying SE of the Denwick road and 200m SE of Greentoft. Burnt material and red stones are revealed here when the field is ploughed.
Steedman 1980, no. 25; OR 1160.
- 92 'Koffer Howe' HY 5686 0698 HY 50 NE 3
The source of the name given in the *Inventory* is unknown. See no. 98.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 246, No. 644.

- 93 Grind HY 5030 0665 HY 50 NW 20
A burnt mound, discovered by officers of the Ordnance Survey at Grind in 1964, was excavated to form a silage pit, and as a result of these operations it has been almost entirely removed. *May 1973*.
OR 35.
- 94 Hawell* HY 5123 0651 HY 50 NW 10
The burnt mound lying in the wet ground behind Hawell farm, remains much as it was when excavated by the farmer and planned and described by RCAMS in 1935, except for the collapse of parts of the structures then exposed. It is 16m by 10m and 1.7m high. The excavated features were a series of small stone-built compartments and, lying somewhat apart and still open, a slab-formed rectangular tank.
April 1979
RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 245-6, No. 637; OR 8.
- 95 Howe of Langskaill HY 5146 1048 HY 51 SW 1
This mound lies on the edge of rough ground 300m NNW of Aikers and shows enough of its content of burnt earth and burnt stones to confirm its classification. It survives to a height of 1.4m, but has been much quarried away on its N side.
April 1979
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 246, No. 638; OR 68.
- 96 Lower Gritley HY 566 044 HY 50 SE 2
About 450m SE of Lower Gritley, RCAMS recorded in 1930 'five or six' burnt mounds. Four sites, long under cultivation, show as slight rises in a field, with burnt stone turned up in the plough. They are at HY 5638 0444; HY 5660 0443; HY 5661 0441; and HY 5663 0442. A further feature lies a short distance to the NE, at HY 5661 0444, where the ground is difficult to plough and large stones are present.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 246, No. 645; Steedman 1980, no. 44.
- 97 Millbrae HY 5131 0530 HY 50 NW 12
HY 5134 0527
The remains of two badly disturbed burnt mounds, which are situated beside a stream immediately N of the main road NW of Millbrae, are now very insignificant.
April 1979
RCAMS Notebook, No. 7, 9 August 1929; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 246, No. 640; OR 10.
- 98 Millfield HY 5686 0698 HY 50 NE 3
Two mounds, probably burnt mounds, situated to the W of Millfield were recorded in 1930 as having been largely destroyed by cultivation. The mounds survive as low eminences in arable land, each some 10m by 7m and 0.4m high; burnt material is visible in the plough.
RCAMS Notebook, No. 7, 6 June 1930; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 246, No. 644; Steedman 1980, nos. 23, 24; OR 13.
- 99 Millfield HY 5743 0704 HY 50 NE 4
Two mounds on the high ground 600m W of Nether Stove, near the derelict croft of Millfield, were recorded in 1930 as having been destroyed by cultivation. One, however, at HY 5743 0704, survives as an eminence 0.6m high and 9m in diameter; it and the site of the other, which was at HY 5745 0693, are under pasture.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 249, No. 663; Steedman 1980, nos. 20-21.
- 100 Ness HY 5436 0936 HY 50 NW 35
The windpump (no. 176) at Ness farm is sited on a low and shapeless grass-covered mound, which, according to Mr D Harcus, is a burnt mound. He has found pieces of wood in it. *April 1979*
OR 55.

FORT

- 101 The Brough HY 5450 1005 HY 51 SW 3
& 4
Slab-structures known as 'Covenanters' Graves', and so noted in 1880, lie on the steep coastal slope E of Cott of Ness, beside the narrow isthmus leading to the cliff-promontory called The Brough. They appear to be remains of prehistoric buildings associated with the fort that occupies the promontory. The rock scenery is spectacular, the promontory being perched on five legs, and erosion is active. The whole of its narrow top is covered with structures arranged in line along a path on the N side. Nearest the land are two possible buildings each about 3m in diameter; next to them lies a high bank that appears to form the W end of a rectangular building 8m long and of uncertain width. Further seaward are more hummocks, from which erect slabs protrude. *April 1979*
Name Book, Orkney, No. 23, p. 52; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 249, No. 665; OR 29.

BROCHS

- 102 Backland, 'Quoyburing' or 'Howie o' Backland' HY 5804 0402 HY 50 SE 8
Crossed by an overgrown farm track 700m S beyond Skea, is an irregular mound some 0.6ha in area and up to 3m high. A trial trench dug into it by Dr D Brothwell, is said to have revealed the wall of a broch some 3m in height, but the location of the trench is uncertain. The extent of the mound suggests that it conceals outbuildings, and there is an indication of an external ditch on the NW sector. *August 1985*
Marwick 1952, 78; Steedman 1980, no. 50; OR 1177.
- 103 Dingieshowe* HY 5476 0330 HY 50 SW 7
This 'thing-mound', thought from its name to have been a Norse district-assembly site, is a prominent but featureless grassy conical mound, measuring over 7m in height, among sand-dunes at the mainland end of the ayre leading to Deerness. Excavations by Petrie and Farrer in 1860 yielded many artefacts (RMS GA 230-91, GG 1-33) and revealed a broch tower 33ft (10m) in diameter within walls 12ft (3.6m) thick. Circumstantial evidence, including the late character of the finds, suggests that excavation stopped at a high level, and the height of the mound implies well-preserved broch walls. Probable outbuildings to the E were reported in 1798; what now appears as a possible bank and ditch on the N and NW sectors may only be due to sand-quarrying. *June 1986*
Stat. Acct., 20 (1798), 262; *The Orcadian*, 11 August 1860; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 242-3, No. 625; OR 1.
- 104 Eves Howe* HY 5490 0611 HY 50 NW 14
Now in well-drained pasture between the shore and the shrunken remnant of Eves Loch, but probably originally sited amid marsh or water, is a conical mound 24m in diameter and 3m high, which no doubt contains a substantial broch. The only structural manifestation, however, is a small exposure of outer wall-face on the N side. Extending SW from the main mound is a suggestion of a broader platform, which may be the site of an associated settlement. *April 1986*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 242, No. 624; Steedman 1980, no. 31; OR 1167.
- 105 Howe of Langskaill HY 5078 0591 HY 50 NW 8
Some 150m NE of the parish hall, the minor road runs through the middle of this site, obscuring the character of the central feature. Nearly the complete circuit of the outer bank, noted in 1842 as surrounding the central mound, can be seen to either side of the road. Farrer's and Petrie's excavations c. 1860 revealed a rather small broch some 13m in overall diameter, with its entrance on the ENE, but few details are recorded. *April 1979*
NSA, 15 (Orkney), 179; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 243, No. 627; OR 2.

- 106 Riggan of Kami HY 5918 0743 HY 50 NE 20
 On the landward end of the triangular cliff-promontory extending towards Moustack (no. 162), there is a site, long regarded as a possible broch; prior to excavation it took the form of a broad, curving mound, with traces of domestic structures on the promontory itself and a very extensive midden deposit in the adjacent field to landward. Excavation in 1981-82, cut short by the death of the director, Mr P S Gelling, revealed a regularly curving segment of a ground-galleried broch-type wall, which was thought to be structure of 'semibroch' type rather than a fragment of a circular structure. *June 1986*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 243, no. 628; Lamb 1980, 33-4, 79; Steedman 1980, no. 12; OR 1150.
- 107 Venikelday HY 5288 0411 HY 50 SW 1
 At the head of a silted-up arm of the Bay of Suckquoy, the farm road to Venikelday passes across the E side of a grass-covered mound concealing a broch. The presence of an outer bank, which is visible to a height of 1.3m on the S side, reminded Petrie of the Ring of Bookan, but the size of the central mound, some 20m across, and the situation, are strongly in favour of its identification as a broch within a ring-work. *April 1979*
 Petrie 1927, 28; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 247, No. 648; OR 16.

UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENTS

- 108 Braebuster HY 5451 0514 HY 50 NW 28
 A mutilated mound adjacent to a quarried hollow 300m SW of Braebuster seems to contain buildings. It is 25m from E-W by 17m transversely and has a maximum height of 1.7m. Near the centre is a short length of curving wall, about 1.5m long and four courses high, running NE-SW, and the mound is generally very stony. Recently the field was ploughed and the mound somewhat encroached upon, although it is otherwise undisturbed; no dark material or other traces could be seen in the plough. *April 1986*
 Steedman 1980, no. 33; OR 1169.
- 109 The Brough, Taing of Beeman HY 5321 0914 HY 50 NW 1
 There is a scattered prehistoric settlement at Taing of Beeman, situated between the shore and a freshwater pool, locally known as The Brough. Most easily identified is a pair of conjoined circular houses measuring 11m overall. Some 50m NE there is a circular mound measuring 8m in diameter; peripheral upright slabs suggest that it may be another house. A mound of more dubious character lies 20m N of this. Half-way between the two main features, some upright slabs project from the turf, and walling is exposed at the corresponding position on the eroding shoreline. *April 1979*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 245, No. 635; OR 7.
- 110 Flydrunes HY 50 NW
 Flydrunes is named in Orkneyinga Saga as the seat of a magnate called Thorstein. Clouston has argued for its identification with Sebay (HY c. 52 05), which incorporates an area called Liddie. Sebay was earldom property before 1460 but was not bordland; this is consistent with its having been an old odal bú, which somehow had come into the earl's possession. The identification must be considered unproven. *Orkneyinga Saga* chs. lvi, lxvi, lxxxv; Clouston 1927, 46; Taylor 1938, 379; Gudmundsson 1965, 121; OR 65.
- 111 Howe Geo HY 5852 0383 HY 50 SE 7
 A 70m length of storm-beach at Howe Geo, 500m S of Barns of Ayre, incorporates a remnant of a destroyed farmstead site, which has been reduced by sea-erosion to a width of only 8m. Middens, burnt earth and walls standing up to three courses in height are visible in the shallow section, which has yielded coarse medieval pottery (RMS HR 1303-6; Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall). On the surface of the mound is the outline of a building, which measures 17m from E-W by 4m transversely and is subdivided by cross-walls into three squarish compartments. *August 1986*
 PSAS, 102 (1969-70), 296; Steedman 1980, nos. 51-2; OR 1141.

- 112 The Howie* HY 5885 0550 HY 50 NE 22
 'The Howie' or 'Howan Greenie' is a subrectangular and irregularly-surfaced mound, measuring 24m from E-W by 23m transversely, some 10m inland from the cliff-edge near Roanabay. A tentative excavation prior to 1928 exposed portions of two 'passages'; Steedman plausibly argues that they belong to a lower level of occupation than that represented by a large rectangular building (some 14m by 8m), the outline of which is picked up on his contour survey and on air photographs. On the ground, however, no other indications of the content of the grass-covered mound can be seen. *June 1986*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 247, no. 650; Steedman 1980, no. 42; OR 1144.
- 113 Loch of Tankerness HY 5219 0928 HY 50 NW 23
 On the S shore of the loch near its E end there is a low mound on the margin of the cultivated land. In the steep bank that drops to loch level the burnt earth and stones which make up the mound are exposed. Immediately beneath here at normal water level, a pattern of erect slabs forming part of the interior plan of a house of Bronze Age type can be seen in the water. The exceptional drought of 1980 exposed this, and also a straight row of erect slabs alongside a wall 15m ESE from the house. By wading in the shallow but opaque water, other edge-set slabs were detected further out. Many crude stone implements lie among the stones of the loch bed. The level of the loch, which barely attains a depth of 2m at its centre, must have risen by nearly a metre since this settlement was occupied. *June 1980*
 Photographs, 1980, in NMRS; OR 52.
- 114 Ness HY 5427 0934 HY 50 NW 36
 Mr D Harcus reports that slab-formed 'graves', which from his description sound more like prehistoric building remains, were found c. 1939-45 to the SW of burnt mound no. 100. Between here and his farmhouse the ground is full of stonework and sounds hollow in places. *May 1986*
 OR 1103.
- 115 Peerie Howe HY 5475 0324 HY 50 SW 12
 This mound, noted in 1964 as being 2m high, is now indistinguishable in the broken ground on the clifftop 150m S of the broch of Dingieshowe (no. 103). In the cliff-section, however, there is a rich shell-midden deposit containing burnt stones. *April 1979*
 OR 43.
- 116 Quoys HY 5729 0497 HY 50 SE 15
 A most interesting series of discoveries was made in 1974 by Mr R Eunson when demolishing a small derelict cottage to make way for improvements. The cottage was probably of nineteenth-century date, but its N wall rested on a layer of earth, beneath which there was an earlier wall of better-quality build than the cottage. Beneath the cottage floor, within a deposit about 1m thick, were two earlier floors and some shell-midden material. During the excavations, several Norse objects, now in Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall, were discovered: three whorls, a whetstone, a sandstone sinker, a pouring spout from a steatite vessel, a lead weight, and a perforated bone disc. Elsewhere on the farm at a different time was found a Nuremberg 'jetton' of gold, also now in the Museum.
 Steedman 1980, no. 43.
- 117 St Peter's Bay HY 5369 0452 HY 50 SW 21
 By the shore of St Peter's Bay, 700m NNE of Campston farmhouse, there is a conspicuous mound 1.5m high, 16m from E-W by 18m transversely. It is grass-covered, but stumps of erect slabs protruding from the summit suggest a prehistoric settlement. There are traces of a level platform to the S. *April 1979*
 OR 61.
- 118 Sand of Ness HY 5368 0939 HY 50 NW 37
 Near the shore at the extreme W end of Sand of Ness there is a rectilinear stone foundation with rounded corners, measuring 6.5m by 4.5m over walls 0.8m to 1.0m thick. About 40m to the SW there are the traces of a possible enclosure. *April 1979*
 OR 49.

- 119 Sandside HY 5914 0698 HY 50 NE 34
 There was a substantial laird's house on the site of Sandside farm steading; it was already in ruins by 1774, when Low saw on a chimney-piece the inscription, 'who can dwell with everlasting burnings'. A fragment of the old work seems to be incorporated into standing buildings, and numerous pieces re-used. These architectural fragments suggest a high-quality house of late sixteenth- or early seventeenth-century date. The owner, Mr J R Foubister, Skail, has uncovered substantial foundations of earlier buildings in the farmyard. The coastline to the S of the farm is eroding, but only a tumble of stones is at present exposed. *July 1986*
 Low 1879, 53; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 242, No. 623; Steedman 1980, no. 13.
- 120 Skail HY 588 064 HY 50 NE 19
 & 21
 The farmstead of Skail, associated with the site of one of Orkney's most remarkable medieval churches (no. 156), occupies the site of *Hlaupandanes*, the seat of Thorkel Fostri, a leading supporter of Earl Thorfinn the Mighty (ruled 1020-65). In the early 1960s, Mr J R Foubister reported that, in extracting lime-sand from the links immediately north of the wooden hen-house that forms the N boundary of the farmyard, he had encountered buildings. Mr Foubister suspended his sand-removal to allow excavation by the late Mr P S Gelling of Birmingham University. This grew into a long-term project which ran through the 1970s, in the course of which further Norse and later buildings were investigated in the farmyard itself, and substantial remains of prehistoric settlements were located and excavated both near to the church and, in the opposite direction, in two of the home fields 200m NW of the farmstead. Mr Gelling's account of the Viking-period buildings recently appeared in the National Museum's bicentennial volume, while the prehistoric material, left unfinished at his death, is currently being prepared for publication by Mr S Buteux.
- The area of the initial discovery (HY 5882 0650) contained late Pictish buildings which were replaced, apparently without any gradual transition, by some not very well-built early Norse houses. The Pictish phases produced a fragment of an incised cross-slab re-used as a paving stone. A more substantial Norse building, probably a steam-bath, was excavated in the farmyard at the SE corner of the hen-house (HY 5883 0647) and a glimpse of what may have been the main eleventh-century house was obtained E of the byre (HY 5886 0645), below a very substantial rectilinear hall-type building possibly of thirteenth-century date. Viking-period structures also underlay a group of sixteenth-century buildings E of the hen-house (HY 5884 0648).
- To the NW of the church and close beside the bungalow (HY 5881 0638), there was a considerable open-area excavation of a substantial late Bronze Age settlement which lay immediately below the ploughsoil. At the same time a trial trench was dug into the prominent mound known as the Howan (HY 5890 0633) SE of the church, which in 1930 was suggested as the site of a broch, and a dark deposit observed in the eroding shoreline. The Howan proved to be a sand-dune and the deeply-buried dark deposit is an ancient ploughsoil, in which ard-marks, probably of Bronze Age date, were found. In 1982, Mr Foubister encountered fragmentary prehistoric buildings between the Howan and the SE corner of the churchyard dyke (HY 5886 0635).
- The latter years of the project were devoted to examining a multi-period settlement complex which began in the late Bronze Age and continued through the Iron Age into a seventh-century AD Pictish context; it was situated about 200m NW of the farmstead (HY 5865 0657), an area spanning the fence between two fields. *Orkneyinga Saga*, chs. xiv, xvi; Taylor 1931, 42; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 243-4, No 629; Steedman 1980, nos. 38, 40; Gelling 1984; 1985.

- 121 Stonehall, Sandy Aitken's HY 5538 0346 HY 50 SE 9
An irregular mound, 30m from N-S by 40m transversely, in the SW corner of a steep field above the clifftop at Stonehall, is the site of the main settlement of the old three penny tunship of Sanday. *August 1985*
Marwick 1952, 79; Steedman 1980, no. 45; OR 1174.

EARTH-HOUSES

- 122 South Keijar HY c. 552 063 HY 50 NE 9,
11-13
In a field downslope and 'some 300 yards' WSW from South Keijar farmstead, the chamber of an earth-house was accidentally discovered in 1931. It was built of dry masonry incorporating some orthostats, and was aubergine-shaped on plan, 2.7m by 1.2m, the longer axis lying NW-SE with the blocked entrance-passage at the NW end. No artefacts were found in it. At the time, the farmer reported three other discoveries at unspecified locations in the same field: the first was a round hole lined with cobbles and covered by paving; the second was a supposed grave marked by two erect slabs set 5 feet (1.5m) apart; the third, adjacent to the earth-house, was a pair of slabs set on edge in V-formation, which were associated with yellow clay and black earth.
Rendall 1934; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 244, No. 631; OR 1063.
- 123 Yinstay HY 5084 1031 HY 51 SW 2
This earth-house was accidentally discovered and subsequently excavated by Cursiter in 1906 very close to the prominent survey cairn on the summit in Yinstay (28m OD). This cairn was put up by Lt Thomas R N (notable for his surveys of Orcadian antiquities) c. 1850, and it incorporates red sandstone blocks that are not of local origin. The underground chamber was partly rock-cut, only some 0.75m high, with its roof supported on nine pillar-stones. Shells, animal bones, burnt wood and pottery were found, but the floor was too muddy for investigation and the original entrance was not located. There is a tradition of a standing stone nearby.
Saga-Book, 5 (1906-7), 180-1; *The Scotsman*, 28 May 1906; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 244, No. 630; OR 69.

INDETERMINATE MOUNDS

- 124 Barns of Ayre HY 5898 0428 HY 50 SE 11
Near the coast some 450m E of Barns of Ayre there is a low shapeless mound measuring 20m from N-S by 14m transversely and 0.9m in height; its surface is slightly hollowed. The mound is surrounded by disturbed ground and may be an old settlement site. *August 1985*
Steedman 1980, no. 53; OR 1142.
- 125 Braebuster HY 5501 0573 HY 50 NE 43
Some 400m NE of Braebuster, Steedman recorded a low, roughly rectangular mound 18m by 16m and 1.5m high. In hollows eroded by cattle, the earth is very black and there are numerous stone chippings, some of these possibly burnt.
Steedman 1980, no. 32; OR 1168.
- 126 Campston HY 5368 0422 HY 50 SW 8
An approximately circular grass-covered mound not exceeding 0.5m high, located immediately above the shore at St Peter's Pool, has been listed as a burnt mound, although Corrie, who first observed it in 1929, does not record seeing burnt material. The mound is certainly artificial and has some protruding large stones, but there is insufficient evidence for classification. *April 1979*
RCAMS Notebook, No. 7, 7 August 1929; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 246, No. 641; OR 12.
- 127 'The Cairn' HY 5384 0223 HY 50 SW 11
Situated about 330m SSW of Stembister there is a shapeless and mutilated mound at the edge of a field; although recorded as a burnt mound, it shows no signs of burnt material, and the farmer, Mr Skea, has never noticed any. *April 1979*
OR 42.

- 128 **Craw Howe** HY 4908 0696 HY 40 NE 19
 On the hill SE of the airport, at 60m OD, there is an artificial-looking mound so covered in thick peat that its proper dimensions and composition cannot reliably be ascertained. To the E of it are two slighter but generally similar mounds. *April 1979*
 OR 39.
- 129 **Cutpool** HY 5865 0590 HY 50 NE 42
 Steedman reported a mound 30m by 18m and 1m to 2m high, 150m NE of Cutpool. Mr Foubister, Grindisgarth, related that he had broken a horse-drawn plough on an obstruction in it; on investigation this proved to be a very large vertical slab, which was hauled out and used as a bridge over a culvert. The site is now visible as a shapeless rise in a cultivated field. *June 1986*
 Steedman 1980, no. 41; OR 1172.
- 130 **Denwick** HY 5748 0863 HY 50 NE 2
 On flat, wet ground on the W side of the West Burn of Denwick, 180m S of its outflow into the sea, there is a stony mound measuring 10m N-S by 8m transversely and 0.6m in height. Marked on the 1:10,000 map as a cairn, its interpretation as funerary was prompted by two marginal slabs set on edge, which could belong to a cist, but these could also be part of some other structure, possibly domestic.
 Steedman 1980, no. 5; OR 1146.
- 131 **Essonquoy** HY 4901 0838 HY 40 NE 22
 By the shore of Inganess Bay, and just within the boundary of the airport, there is a grassy mound measuring some 25m from N to S by 6m transversely and 2m in height. Some large slabs protrude, and the mound has a more ancient appearance than the numerous wartime earthworks hereabouts. *April 1979*
 OR 66.
- 132 **'Five Hillocks', 'Howies of Bossack', Upper Bossack** HY c. 504 084 HY 50 NW 7
 Five clay mounds were removed some thirty years before 1936, from a location beside the big quarry at Bossack. The quarry is now surrounded by the debris of a wartime camp. *April 1979*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 248, No. 658; OR 24.
- 133 **Gears** HY 5402 0367 HY 50 SW 10
 In the narrow triangular plot between the main road and the shore at Gears, there is a mound measuring 7.5m by 5m, which may once have been longer. At its E end a pair of erect slabs may be the remains of a cist. *April 1979*
 OR 41.
- 134 **Howan Lickan** HY 5930 0930 HY 50 NE 30
 On the clifftop some 500m S of Mull Head is a prominent but shapeless grassy mound about 5m in diameter. There is no indication of its content and the two or three protruding stones could be rock-outcrop. *August 1985*
 Steedman 1980, no. 7; OR 1138.
- 135 **Howe of Staneloof** HY 4833 0698 HY 40 NE 20
 The Howe of Staneloof, at 66m OD, marks a summit which defines an angle on the Holm – St Andrews and Deerness parish boundary. It is an approximately circular mound 14m in diameter, and although some stony content can be seen in its quarried centre, it is too much concealed by peat for definite identification. *April 1979*
 OR 14.
- 136 **Millfield** HY 5743 0704 HY 50 NE 4
 Two mounds on the high ground 600m W of Nether Stove, near the derelict croft of Millfield, were recorded in 1930 as having been destroyed by cultivation. One, however, at HY 5743 0704, survives as an eminence 0.6m high and 9m in diameter; it and the site of the other, which was at HY 5745 0693, are under pasture.
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 249, No. 663; Steedman 1980, nos. 20-21.

- 137 Mine Howe HY 5105 0603 HY 50 NW 38
This is one of many glacial-looking hillocks lying E of the cemetery and 400m of the parish hall at Toab. A good few years before 1979 a school-teacher moved some stone on the summit and found an opening with steps leading down. The proprietor caused the opening to be re-sealed. *April 1979*
OR 63.
- 138 Mull Head HY 5937 0972 HY 50 NE 15
A prominent grass-covered mound, occupied by the collapsed rubble of an old navigation cairn on the cliff-edge at Mull Head, was interpreted in 1964 as the site of an earth-house. The indications are insufficient for certainty; a few protruding stones on the E margin of the mound may, if not natural outcrop, be the edging of a burial-mound some 7m in diameter. *August 1985*
Steedman 1980, No. 6; OR 1136.
- 139 Mussaquooy HY 5660 0369 HY 50 SE 1
About 350m SE of Mussaquooy, in a broad belt of rough grass between the enclosed land and the cliff edge, there is a steeply-profiled, prominent mound 12m by 10m and 1.2m high. On plan it is slightly crescentic, open to the W, but this may be due to quarrying fifty years ago when some erect slabs were revealed. There are no signs of burnt material, and the reasons for classification as a burnt mound are unclear. *July 1985*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 246, No. 646; Steedman 1980, no. 46; OR 1175.
- 140 Point of Ayre HY 5906 0394 HY 50 SE 13
On the extremity of Point of Ayre, there is a mound 8m in diameter and 0.4m high, the eroded section of which shows occasional large stones in an earth matrix. *August 1985*
Steedman 1980, no. 55; OR 1178.
- 141 'The Roondles', Weethick HY c. 495 090 HY 40 NE 14
All trace of the mounds that once stood in the field then called 'The Roondles', a name now forgotten, 300 yards S of Weethick, had been removed many years before 1936.
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 248, No. 657; OR 23.
- 142 Sand of Ness HY 5366 0945 HY 50 NW 39
Some 150m above the shore at the W end of Sand of Ness, and bordering a marshy hollow on its uphill (NW) side, is a broad mound 23m by 12m and 0.5m high with some stones showing. Adjoining it to the SW is the foundation of a drystone dyke. *April 1979*
OR 50.
- 143 Sand of Ness HY 5369 0944 HY 50 NW 40
On the hillside level with no. 142 and 40m ESE of it, there is a grass-covered mound measuring some 12m in diameter with a hollow in its centre. *April 1979*
OR 51.
- 144 Upper Stove HY 5803 0774 HY 50 NE 40
About 500m NNW of the farmstead, at the edge of a marsh, is a mound measuring some 14m from N to S by 9m transversely and 1.5m in height. An exposure on the W side shows black earth, and on the E there are some protruding earthfast stones. Steedman 1980, no. 19; OR 1156.
- 145 Upper Stove HY 5820 0730 HY 50 NE 39
Some 200m N of the farmstead there is a mound measuring some 35m N-S by 20m transversely and 1.5m in height, its contours altered by ploughing. Steedman 1980, no. 18; OR 1155.
- 146 Upper Stove HY 5864 0706 HY 50 NE 36
At the foot of the slope below Upper Stove farm, Steedman noted a mound 12m in diameter, which had been partly cut by a drain and was composed of reddish clay soil with some stones.
Steedman 1980, no. 14; OR 1151.

- 147 Upper Stove HY 584 072 HY 50 NE 35,
37-38
- Steedman recorded three mounds on the E-facing hillside NE of Upper Stove farm. The largest at HY 5852 0728 is 25m E-W by 20m transversely and 2m high. Above it at HY 5846 0726 is another, 13m in diameter and 1.5m high, and the highest-placed at HY 5839 0726 is about 10m in diameter and 1m high. The farmer reported that their stony content makes them difficult to plough. Steedman 1980, nos. 15-17; OR 1152-4.

INDETERMINATE SITES

- 148 'Howie of the Manse', Loch of Tankerness HY 5142 0899 HY 50 NW 3
- This low promontory, approached across a boggy neck of land, on the S shore of Loch of Tankerness, has been listed as a broch, but appears to be akin to Bretta Ness, Rousay (RCAMS 1982, p. 26, No. 105), which recent excavation by Mrs J Marwick has shown to be a crannog-type structure. Stumps of many erect slabs suggest that the promontory is crammed with structures. There are three possible rectangular buildings, and two low banks can be detected running across the isthmus.
- July 1986*
Low 1879, 57-8; *Stat. Acct.*, 20 (1798), 262; *NSA*, 15 (Orkney), 176, 178-9; T Traill, MS Book, SAS 555, in RMS, unpaginated, note near back of notebook concerning a find in 1808; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 243, No. 626; OR 3.
- 149 Mirkady HY 5382 0705 HY 50 NW 32
- Steedman records a 5m length of midden-material and stones in the rapidly-eroding N-facing shoreline near Mirkady Point. This may have been the last vestige of a destroyed site. The section, still fast eroding, now shows only natural drift.
- August 1985*
Steedman 1980, no. 1; OR 1131.
- 150 Mull Head HY 5932 0955 HY 50 NE 16
- A ring of earthfast stones, which was interpreted as a hut-circle 13m in diameter, was noted in 1964 on the cliff-edge 300m S of Mull Head. This feature seems to be a natural formation in the bedrock, which here breaks through the surface at many points. *August 1985*
Steedman 1980, no. 6; OR 1137.

PICTISH SYMBOL STONES

- 151 Greens HY 5419 0317 HY 50 SW 9
- The Greens stone was found in 1923 during trenching operations in the farmyard. It bears three incised symbols: disc with notched rectangle, crescent and V-rod, and mirror (RMS IB 203).
Marwick 1924, 297-9; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 247, No. 651; Wainwright 1962, 94, 173, pl. x; OR 18.

- 152 Ness HY 5445 0932 HY 50 NW 41
 In April 1986 Mr D Marcus of Ness ploughed up a sculptured fragment in the potato garden immediately S of the old house (now a garage and workshop). This spot within the old tumail is stony, and the previous family at Ness, before 1930, are said to have discovered two human skulls here. The fragment, with maximum dimensions on the sculptured face of 589mm by 308mm, is a fine-grained grey-buff sandstone. The reverse of the slab is rough, indicating that it has been split longitudinally, thus losing its original reverse face, subsequent to the original carving, but before a later (probably post-medieval) re-use; this involved cutting a fresh edge, which cuts off the head of the Pictish figure, and the addition of two shallow grooves along this new edge and a third groove on the face parallel with the edge and 30mm back from it, the latter also impinging on the Pictish figure. The figure is the greater part (the head being damaged) of the animal referred to by Thomas as the S-dragon (1961, 53-6, where parallels are conveniently illustrated). It is carved as a round-sectioned groove, 3mm-4mm deep, executed by pecking; thus, although this is technically an incised figure (and there is no lowering of the surrounding surface), the effect is of relief carving and this is a rare Orcadian example of Class II work. The quality is good and the figure large and bold, having a maximum length, measured from the re-cut edge, of 377mm.
May 1986
 Drawing in NMRS; OR 1102.

ECCLESIASTICAL MONUMENTS

- 153 Brough of Deerness* HY 5957 0873 HY 50 NE 14
 This cliff-promontory some 25m in height is situated on the rugged coast S of Mull Head and is almost an islet, separated from the mainland by a chasm and now approached by a steep cliff-path; in antiquity, however, it was evidently more easily accessible across a rock-bridge. 'Jo Ben' in the sixteenth century and Low in 1774 give vivid accounts of the custom of pilgrimage to the chapel there, a custom which endured long after the Reformation. The chapel, a simple stone building within a small rectangular enclosure, is surrounded by the turf-covered foundations of some thirty rectangular buildings which occupy most of the area of the promontory, within a strong wall or 'vallum' which runs along the land-facing edge. Before its recent clearance by SDD, the thick turf and high grass made survey difficult; Dryden's plan of 1866 and Calder's of 1930 show significantly less detail than Morris's made in 1975.

Excavation by Morris within the chapel and its enclosure has provided evidence for an earlier timber-built chapel with a timber altar, as well as showing that the existing stone church had a stone altar. The Brough of Deerness has frequently been quoted as an example of a 'Celtic' eremitic monastery, but a diagnostic cluster of 'circular huts' in the SE corner, surrounding the well (which is an authentic feature) seem to be shell craters resulting from naval practice in 1914-18 (they appear on Calder's plan but not on Dryden's). The remainder of the buildings, including the church, are probably of Norse and later medieval date. *June 1986*

'Jo Ben', text in Barry 1805, 439-40; Low 1879, 55-6; Barry 1805, 25; Sir Henry Dryden's drawings in NMRS; Anderson 1881, 101-4; Tudor 1883, 278-9; MacGibbon & Ross, 1896-7, i, 101-5; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 240-1, No. 621; Radford 1962, 167-8; Lamb 1973, 93-4; *DES (1976)*, 44-5; *DES (1977)*, 26; *Medieval Archaeol*, 20 (1976), 175-6; 21 (1977), 218; Morris 1977; 1978; 1987; Ritchie 1985, 88, 91; OR 1147.

The work of 1975-7 is in process of publication. A series of provisional interim reports has been produced in fascicule form by C D Morris and his collaborators under the Durham University Viking and Early Settlement Archaeological Research Project. The fascicules are held in the Orkney Archaeological Record and NMRS, but carry a qualification that they do not constitute a publication.

- 154 Chapel of Sebay HY 50 NW 56
Sebay, probably the Norse Flyðrunes (no. 110), was a land possessing a chapel; it may have stood near Chapel Taing (HY 526 055).
Clouston 1918, 234; 1927, 46; Mooney 1975; OR 64.
- 155 Chapel of Essonquoy HY c. 48 08 HY 40 NE 16
The 'chapel of Essinquye' is mentioned in a disposition of 1550. Mooney records its association with the farm, Barns of Essonquoy, which stood at HY 4859 0838, a spot now in the angle between two runways of Grimsetter airport. The name 'Barns', as elsewhere in Orkney, may derive from *boenhus*, chapel.
Clouston 1914, 240; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 248, No. 656; Mooney 1975; OR 22.
- 156 Deerness parish church HY 5886 0636 HY 50 NE 18
The modern church at Skail stands somewhat to the NW of the medieval one, which was dedicated either to St Mary or to St Ninian. There is today no trace of it, but Low's sketches of 1774 show a most remarkable Romanesque church, which had a vaulted chancel provided with an upper floor set between twin eastern round towers. A hogback monument now in the Session House of the modern church, formerly stood in the NE corner of the churchyard.
Low 1879, 53-4; *Saga-Book*, 3 (1903), 312; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 242, No. 622; Lang 1974, 232.
- 157 Newark HY 5746 0413 HY 50 SE 3
The farm steading at Newark stands atop a broadly rounded mound covering approximately 1 ha and some 2m high above general ground level. Erosion at the seaward side of this and extending 100m eastward has exposed complex settlement remains and the graveyard associated with a medieval chapel. Deposits are some 1.3m thick above a layer of glacial clay. The chapel was excavated by Dr D Brothwell between 1969 and 1972 in order to obtain a sequence of Norse skeletons, and it is reported that a good series of these was obtained; coin evidence is said to have provided a tenth-century date for the chapel. The remains of two earth-houses were discovered lower down, and one of these, a curved chamber, which was aligned E-W and measured some 10m in length, has been published. On the site of the chapel a laird's house of the sixteenth or seventeenth century was built; some dressed stones in the buildings at Newark steading must have come from this. The chapel and surrounding buildings were left open after excavation, exacerbating the erosion problem.

Burials continue to be exposed from time to time in the coastal section; two of these both aligned approximately E-W and underlying medieval structures, were recorded in 1985. *July 1985*
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 248, No. 654; Brothwell 1977; Steedman 1980, nos. 48-9; OR 1176.
- 158 St Andrew's Church HY 5233 0886 HY 50 NW 2
The site of the medieval parish church, of which no trace survives, was to the N of the Baikie tomb (no. 178) within the graveyard at Hall of Tankerness. *April 1979*
Name Book, Orkney, No. 23, p. 45; Mooney 1975; OR 31.
- 159 St Ninian's Chapel HY 5095 0621 HY 50 NW 6
The modern cemetery beside the Twiness road marks the location of a medieval chapel dedicated to St Ninian. The building itself is possibly to be identified with a vague rectangular shape, evidently the remains of a stone building, atop a prominent knoll behind the cemetery to which the NGR refers. This accords with Mooney's belief that the chapel lay near, rather than within the cemetery. There is a gentle mound within the cemetery, no different in appearance from the many glacial mounds in this district, but Miss Garriock, Hawell, states that stones are encountered here in grave-digging and believes this to be the chapel site. *April 1979*
Peterkin 1820, 87, 91; Craven 1901, 6; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 247, No. 653; Mooney 1975; OR 20.

- 160 St Peter's Church HY 5355 0424 HY 50 SW 2
 In a pasture field on Campston there is a trapezoidal enclosure, approximately 31m E-W by 24m transversely, atop a steep and prominent rise, nearly 2m high on the N side, which seems to result from a build-up of settlement debris. The enclosure wall is represented by a grassy bank up to 0.5m high, but there are several exposures of masonry composed of massive squared blocks. The position of the church within the enclosure is uncertain. The reference in the *Statistical Account* to 'St Peter's Church in Deerness', which has been identified with this site, evidently refers to the Deerness parish church of St Ninian (no. 156). *August 1985*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 248, No. 655; plan, 1985, in NMRS; OR 21.

STACK SITES

- 161 Castle of Hangie Bay HY 5446 1022 HY 51 SW 6
 On the N section of this inaccessible stack there is a hummock, on which an erect slab is visible. Two other edge-set slabs can be seen at the E edge. Although the stack is now narrow, erosion is active and it could once have been larger, or joined to the mainland. *April 1979*
 OR 58.
- 162 Moustack HY 5926 0743 HY 50 NE 28
 Moustack is a sheer-sided stack, 14m high, isolated in a cliffbound bay; it continues the line of the narrow ridge known as Riggan of Kami (no. 106). On its flat summit, some 55m NE-SW by 20m transversely, can be seen a low circular mound, which can be estimated as some 10m in diameter and 0.6m high, but the angle of view from the adjacent clifftop is unfavourable. It may represent either a subsequently-detached part of the Iron Age site on Riggan of Kami, or a hermitage or 'desert' retreat established when it was already a stack. *June 1986*
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 243, No. 628; Lamb 1973, 83; OR 1149.

BATTERIES

- 163 Ness Battery HY 5454 0897 HY 50 NW 5
 On the extreme point of The Ness, commanding the entrance to Deer Sound, are the remains of a lozenge-shaped earthwork, which has been formed by excavating the interior to provide material for banks. Erosion reveals a foundation of horizontal slabs underlying the banks. An iron cannonball is in Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall (cat. no. 74) and two iron guns survive. The first was one of two moved last century to the pier at Tankerness (no. 174), one of these, however, being lost in transit; the second was dug up by the present farmer of Ness, Mr D Marcus, and mounted on a stone plinth at the site. This battery was regarded as old in 1842 and it and the guns are consistent with a seventeenth-century date. A possible context is the Dutch Wars when Deer Sound may have been used for the mustering of convoys. *April 1979*
 NSA, 15 (Orkney), 178; Name Book, Orkney, No. 23, p. 54; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 249, No. 667; OR 30.
- 164 Rerwick Head Battery HY 5410 1187 HY 51 SW 10
 This extensive and little-disturbed battery occupies Rerwick Head and commands the E end of The String. Hamilton-Baillie identifies two concrete platforms with mounting rings, probably for 4-inch guns, as possibly being of First World War date; most of the site may be attributed to the Second World War. The two main batteries have bronze training-races for mounting 6-inch naval guns of First World War vintage, with loopholed crews'-quarters and subterranean magazines behind. A tall concrete tower probably held the control position for the minefield in The String. Other features include a generator-house and positions for both movable and fixed search-lights. *April 1979*
 Fereday 1969; Hamilton-Baillie 1979; OR 70.

NAUSTS

- 165 Black Craig HY 5409 0666 HY 50 NW 50
Near the S end of the low cliff known as Black Craig and cut diagonally NE-SW into the bank, there is a naust-toft with pointed ends measuring 9m by 4m. Its mouth opens slightly above beach level, facing a shingle foreshore and a gap in the wave-cut platform. *April 1986*
OR 1166.
- 166 Hurnip's Point HY 5446 0634 HY 50 NW 30
Against the W end of a sharp natural rise on the S-facing shoreline E of Hurnip's Point, there are two large and ancient-looking naust-tofts. The E one is partly cut into the side of the hillock and is 9m long and 5m wide; the other, not quite parallel with it and 3m to the W, measures 8m by 6m. The mouths of both are truncated by erosion and hang 1m above the beach, which is an even foreshore of shingle leading down to a smooth wave-cut platform. *April 1986*
Steedman 1980, no. 30; OR 1165.
- 167 Hurnip's Point HY 5437 0647 HY 50 NW 31
There are two naust-sites immediately N of Hurnip's Point. At HY 5437 0647, lying 10m inland from the shoreline, there is a large naust-toft with a surviving length of 9m and a width of 3m. Its seaward end is truncated by a trackway and its bottom has been infilled with field-clearance stones. About 50m S, at HY 5437 0642, there is a naust-toft truncated by erosion, its seaward ending hanging 0.6m above the beach. It is pointed-ended, 7m long and 2m wide. Both naust-tofts face even shingle beaches leading down to gaps in the wave-cut platform at low-water level, these gaps being marked by erect slabs standing in the sea. *April 1987*
Steedman 1980, no. 29; OR 1164.
- 168 Large Burra Geo HY 5947 0871 HY 50 NE 31
Near the foot of the gully in the cliffs on the mainland side, by which access is obtained to the Brough of Deerness, a small round-ended naust some 5m long and 3m wide is contrived in the slope by a combination of excavation and drystone walling. It faces a boulder-strewn foreshore with no apparent båtstø or båttopptrekk. *August 1985*.
Steedman 1980, no. 9; OR 1139.
- 169 Mill Sand HY 5131 0820 HY 50 NW 26
Below Whitecleat there was formerly a row of nausts associated with the fishery at Hall of Tankerness (no. 174). Most are destroyed, but two adjacent ones, immediately S of the burn-mouth, are each 4m wide at the seaward end and 11m long at the tapered landward end, with walls 2m high. A further two, less well-preserved, naust-tofts lie to N and S. *April 1979*
OR 59.
- 170 St Peter's Pool HY 5371 0419 HY 50 SW 19
Facing an even stony foreshore at the SW side of St Peter's Pool are two naust-tofts, side-by-side but separated by a 1m gap. The northern one is 7m long and 4m wide at its mouth; the other has been partly infilled. The bottoms of both are boggy and they appear long disused. *April 1979*
OR 60.

INDUSTRIAL MONUMENTS

- 171 Braebuster HY 5482 0503 HY 50 NW 29
On the summit of the low ridge 350m S of Braebuster, Steedman describes a circular flat-topped mound 6m in diameter and 1.5m high, having an encircling kerb of stones 0.5m down from the top and a large horizontal slab on the summit. This is probably the base of a small post-mill.
Steedman 1980, no. 34; OR 1170.

- 172 Deerness
 'Jo Ben' gives a colourful account of an initially successful, but soon afterwards disastrous, opening of a gold-mine in Deerness by John Stewart in 1506. There is no other known reference to this mine, and indeed, no record of gold having been discovered anywhere in Orkney.
 'Jo Ben', text in Barry 1805, 440; OR 1148.
- 173 Groat's Station HY 5374 0684 HY 50 NW 51
 Groat's Station at Mirkady is a good-quality two-storeyed building of three bays, measuring 12.9m from E-W by 5.6m transversely. A grey sandstone plaque over the central doorway carried an inscription, now illegible. It was built in 1846 by Mr Groat of Newhall, and for a time was the main herring-curing station in Deerness, but by 1880 curing was discontinued and the building had assumed its present use as a store. *June 1986*
 Name Book, Orkney, No. 3, p. 27; Bichan 1977; OR 1133.
- 174 Hall of Tankerness HY 5230 0860 HY 50 NW 42
 At the shore below the Hall there is an interesting fishing-station complex, where herring-curing was started in 1833: a deep-water pier, two smaller jetties, a slipway and boathouse; and good buildings, including a salt warehouse and a curing-house. Set as a bollard at the end of the pier is a gun from the Ness Battery (no. 163).
April 1979
 NSA, 15 (Orkney), 186; Bichan 1977; Paterson 1977; OR 45-6.
- 175 Loch of Tankerness HY 5198 0920 HY 50 NW 24
 At the point on the loch shore nearest to Hall of Tankerness is the shell of a nineteenth-century Gothic boathouse, which has been converted to house a pre-war Climax windpump, still operational. *April 1979*
 OR 53.
- 176 Ness HY 5436 0936 HY 50 NW 33
 At Ness farm there is a rare operational example of a pre-war Climax windpump. Its owner, Mr D Marcus, also restored and maintains the one at Loch of Tankerness (no. 175). *May 1986*
 OR 56.
- 177 Stembister Mill HY 5398 0246 HY 50 SW 18
 The water-mill at Stembister farm has had its machinery removed, and the single-storey building is in use as a store. The iron-framed breast-shot wheel sits in a moulded concrete channel. *April 1979*
 OR 62.

MISCELLANEOUS

- 178 Baikie Mausoleum, Hall of Tankerness HY 5233 0886 HY 50 NW 43
 The Baikie Mausoleum in the graveyard at Hall of Tankerness is a stone-built, stone-roofed structure, 3.5m by 4.5m on plan, with the Baikie arms over the doorway in the W gable-wall. *April 1979*
 OR 48.
- 179 Breck HY c. 512 060 HY 50 NW 13
 The *Inventory* records that in 1933 the farmer at Breck had made various discoveries in and around his farmstead. These include a structure with 'at least one beehive chamber', which was removed from the stackyard, and pottery urns, which were recovered from neighbouring fields.
 RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 246-7, No. 647; OR 15.
- 180 Hall of Tankerness HY 5240 0886 HY 50 NW 44
 On the wooden carriages on the lawn at the Hall are two nineteenth-century 32-pounder guns of cast iron. These are probably the two guns originally mounted in 1860 in the volunteers' battery on the site of Cromwell's Fort in Kirkwall. *April 1979*
 Graham n.d; Rollo 1958, 10 and photograph opp. p. 4; OR 44.

- 181 Long Kist HY 5445 1024 HY 51 SW 7
This name, although erroneously accorded an entry in the *Inventory*, refers to a natural low-water rock feature in Hangie Bay. Name Book, Orkney, No. 23, p. 30; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 249, No. 666; OR 438.
- 182 Ness HY 5448 0973 HY 50 NW 45
Mr D Marcus, Ness, pointed out an elongated mound, 3m by 1m by 1m high, at right angles to the cliff-edge to the NE of his farm. It is certainly artificial, and may be a remnant of an ancient earth or turf dyke. *April 1979*
OR 54.
- 183 Orwick HY 5433 1136 HY 51 SW 8
To the S of the Rerwick Head battery (no. 164), on a broad shelf of the cliffs, there is a drystone structure neatly built of small slabs. It consists of a square cell, 1.25m across within walls 0.54m thick, surrounded at a distance of 1.35m to 2.1m by a breast wall. This is probably military and may date to the First World War. *April 1979*
OR 57.
- 184 Swarta Geo HY 5594 0801 HY 50 NE 29
On the E side of Swarta Geo, a cliff-promontory some 10m in height, indeterminate remains of turf banks with some stonework are visible in the cliff-section. They may be remains of an old quoy formed against the outer side of the former shoreline dyke, which here runs parallel with, and some 20m inland from, the general line of the cliffs. *June 1986*
Steedman 1980, no. 2; OR 1132.
- 185 The Ward HY 5689 0739 HY 50 NE 7
Adjoining wartime buildings in an enclosure beside the Denwick road, this mound occupies the highest point of Deerness at 85m OD. Records of burnt earth and stones in the mound, which is 23m from E-W by 14m transversely and 2m high, suggest that this may be an old beacon stance (*varda*) rather than a normal burnt mound, for which this is an unlikely setting.
Steedman 1980, no 22; OR 1158.

ISOLATED AND UNPROVENANCED FINDS

- 186 Burn of Blown HY 4931 0632 HY 40 NE 17
In 1957 a leaf-shaped sword of Late Bronze Age style, made of yew and probably a functional weapon, was found during peat-digging near the Burn of Blown (RMS DL 62).
DES (1957), 22; Stevenson 1958; Coles 1960, 85; OR 25.
- 187 Ditch Park Moss HY 4972 0772 HY 40 NE 18
In 1887 Cursiter exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland a narrow rapier-shaped bronze dagger, 250mm long and riveted for a handle, which had been found the previous year at a precisely recorded location between Sillerdyke and Nether Bossack.
PSAS, 21(1886-7), 339-40; OR 33.
- 188 Grind HY c. 503 066 HY 50 NW 17
Half of a perforated stone hammer (RMS AH 157) was found in 1920 by W Kirkness in a peat moss at Grind.
Callander 1931, 91; Gibson 1944, 25; OR 32.
- 189 Quoykea Moss HY c. 50 04 HY 50 SW 3
A bronze knife and razor (RMS DQ 262-3) were found deep in the peat of Quoykea Moss.
Callander 1922, 356-8; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 247, No. 649; OR 17.

- 190 Rerwick HY 5401 1190 HY 51 SW 9
A crudely-worked font-like sandstone basin, 0.4m in overall diameter, with a shallow, flat-bottomed hollow, has been set up as a bird-bath immediately S of the farm buildings at Rerwick Head. *April 1979*
OR 71.
- 191 St Andrews unlocated HY 50 NW 21
Unfortunately there is no precise provenance for the excellently-preserved fringed hood of twill woollen fabric (RMS NA 3), which was found in a peat bog and was long in possession of George Petrie; it provided the frontispiece illustration for Tudor's masterwork. Commentators, by drawing Irish, Danish and Greenlandic parallels, have argued variously for Bronze-Age and Viking-period dates. Anderson 1880, 80-3; Tudor 1883; Anderson 1883, 102-6; Nørlund 1924, 169; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 247, No. 652; OR 19.
- 192 Tankerness unlocated HY 50 NW 46
Four partly-formed flint arrowheads and seven flint flakes were donated to the old Kirkwall Museum, probably in the 1920s, by Mr J Addie, Slap of Valdigar (Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall, cat. no. 124-5).
OR 440.
- 193 Tankerness unlocated HY 50 NW 47
The old Kirkwall Museum's day-book lists a broken perforated stone hammer as a donation in 1925 (Tankerness House Museum, cat. no. 66).
OR 439.
- 194 Tankerness unlocated HY 50 NW 48
A trapezoidal jet plate, interpreted as part of a Bronze Age necklace, was found by W Mitchell of Grind 'in a peat which had been dug out of a moss in Tankerness', and was donated by him to the Orkney Antiquarian Society.
Kirkness 1935; OR 83.
- 195 Tankerness unlocated HY 50 NW 19
In 1887 Cursiter exhibited a small socketed bronze axe discovered among the effects of the late James Baikie. It was believed to have been found in Tankerness.
PSAS, 21 (1886-7), 343; Coles 1960, 71;
OR 34.
- 196 Tankerness Pier HY c. 5225 0853 HY 50 NW 49
A sandstone sinker weighing 6lb (2.72kg) was found a short distance W of Tankerness Pier by W Corrigan, Little Crafty, and presented by him to Kirkwall Museum in 1927 (Tankerness House Museum, cat. no. 182).
OR 441.
- 197 Toab HY 51 06 HY 50 NW 22
The Royal Museum of Scotland has a sandstone slab bearing the impression of a human foot, which was found at Toab (IA 11).
PSAS, 15 (1880-1), 190; OR 36.

BLACK HOLM

CIST

- 198 Black Holm HY 5937 0199 HY 50 SE 5
At the edge of the precipitous cliff at the W side of Black Holm a slab-built cist, measuring 0.68m by 0.37m and 0.49m in depth, was found in the 1920s by Mr Work, a Copinsay lightkeeper. The cover slab was missing. The cist was excavated by John Mooney, who records finding human teeth, a portion of a skull, and some burnt material. It contained, about half-way up, a thin slab, which may have formed a horizontal division. The empty cist is still extant. *July 1972*.
Mooney 1926, 28-9.

COPINSAY

FORT

- 199 Castle of Sand Geo HY 6114 0150 HY 50 SW 4 & 5
 The curved promontory on the N side of the island is isolated by a revetment, 0.6m high and 1.5m wide, both sides of which are faced with stone; the promontory is occupied by a profusion of fragmentary slab-structures, most of which barely show above the turf. A stone 'cist' recorded by Mooney, but no longer recognizable, is likely to have been part of a structure associated with domestic occupation, rather than a burial-cist. *August 1970*
 Mooney 1926, 26-7; RCAMS 1946, ii, p.249, No. 669; Lamb 1980, 67-8, 78-9.

EARTH-HOUSE

- 200 Copinsay HY 6122 0159 HY 60 SW 6
 Exposed in a gentle N-facing slope there is the top of an oval corbelled chamber, which measures 1.7m NNE-SSW by 1.2m transversely and 0.6m in depth; it is probably the chamber of a partially blocked earth-house. *March 1973*

UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENT

- 201 Copinsay Farm HY 6088 0150 HY 60 SW 2 & 3
 On either side of the lighthouse jetty below the farm, an extensive midden deposit is visible at three separate spots, and there is an exposure of burnt stones on the sandy surface immediately inland. In the northernmost midden Mooney records the finding, in the 1920s, of a bone needle with a perforated head. *August 1964*
 Mooney 1926, 27; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 249-50, Nos. 670-1.

CORN HOLM

ECCLESIASTICAL MONUMENTS

- 202 Corn Holm HY 6005 0173 HY 60 SW 1
 In 1774 Low described the chapel of Corn Holm (Kirkholm) as a small building 17 feet (4.6m) wide, with walls 5 feet (1.5m) thick and a door so low as to cause one to stoop on entering. The 1905 6-inch map locates it near the ruined fisherman's bothy at the Copinsay end of the island; the site is at the NE end of a great ruin-mound which extends 90m along the shore and stands nearly 2m in maximum height. A complexity of low wall-footings on various alignments and evidently belonging to different periods can be seen here. A small excavation by Mooney in the 1920s exposed what was said to be a corner of the chapel. *July 1972*
 Low 1879, 47; Mooney 1926, 28; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 250, No. 672; plan, 1972, in NMRS; Lamb 1973, 81.
- 203 Corn Holm HY 5972 0156 HY 50 SE
 In 1774 Low mentioned, at some distance from the chapel (no. 202), 'the obscure foundations of small buildings, possibly the cells of ecclesiasticks'. In 1972 thirteen foundations were visible, although obscured by thick turf, which made identification difficult, except in low sunlight; the island is, however, no longer grazed, and conditions are now likely to be even less favourable. The turf-covered footings, averaging some 6m square overall (with the length generally exceeding the width by some 0.6m), probably represent the cells of an early eremitical monastery. *July 1982*
 Low 1879, 48; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 250, No. 672; Lamb 1973, 78-80.

WARD HOLM

INDETERMINATE MOUNDS

204 Ward Holm HY 5957 0148 HY 50 SE 4 & 6

The rocky surface of the very small islet, which is a south-western appendage of Corn Holm, is occupied by a group of substantial but enigmatic structures. The biggest, which survives as a stony heap, at HY 5957 0148, was thought by Mooney to have been utilised as a fire-signal stance (*varda* = beacon); he undertook a small excavation, which revealed a circular double-wall enclosing a space some 9 to 10 feet (about 2.9m) in diameter, and which appeared to have been built on top of an older and smaller mound. The overall mound, now 2.2m high and 18m in diameter, is revetted with orthostats around its base. There are two further mounds; the larger, at HY 5959 0140, is 8m N-S by 5m transversely and 1m high, with a hollowed top, in which a straight internal wall-face can be seen. Surrounding the mound are many earthfast erect slabs. *July 1972*

Low 1879, 48; Mooney 1926, 28; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 249, No. 668.

SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

The names and identification of several sites have changed since they were given statutory protection under the Ancient Monuments Act of 1979, which supersedes the earlier acts, and the following concordance gives the name and category under which they have been afforded protection, followed by the number of the article in the present list.

SHAPINSAY**Prehistoric, Ritual and Funerary**

Castle Bloody, chambered cairn (no. 3)
 Mor Stein or Standing Stone of Shapinsay (no. 12)
 Unytuak, mound 180m W of Bonnyhill, Monquhanny (no. 6)

Prehistoric, Domestic and Defensive

The Hillock, broch 500m NNW of Ness or Ork (no. 16)
 Hillock of Burroughston, broch (no. 17)
 Hillock of Howe, broch (no. 18)

Ecclesiastical

Linton Chapel, Bay of Linton (no. 46)

ELLYAR HOLM**Prehistoric, Ritual and Funerary**

Helliar Holm, chambered cairn (no. 67)

ST ANDREWS AND DEERNESS**Prehistoric, Ritual and Funerary**

The Howie, mound 300m SE of Newbanks, Deerness (no. 112)
 Stembister, standing stone, Upper Sanday (no. 88)

Prehistoric, Domestic and Defensive

Dingy's Howe, broch, Upper Sanday (no. 103)
 Eves Howe, broch, 640m N of Braebuster (no. 104)
 Hawell, burnt mound 100m SW of (no. 94)

Ecclesiastical

Brough of Deerness, chapel and settlement (no. 153) (in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland)

Concordance between the article number and title in RCAMS 1946 and article number of the present List.

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