

The Archaeological Sites  
and Monuments of

16

**Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre**  
Orkney Islands Area

**The Archaeological Sites and Monuments of Scotland, 16**  
**ROUSAY, EGILSAY AND WYRE**  
**(with adjacent small islands)**  
**Orkney Islands Area**

An Archaeological Survey

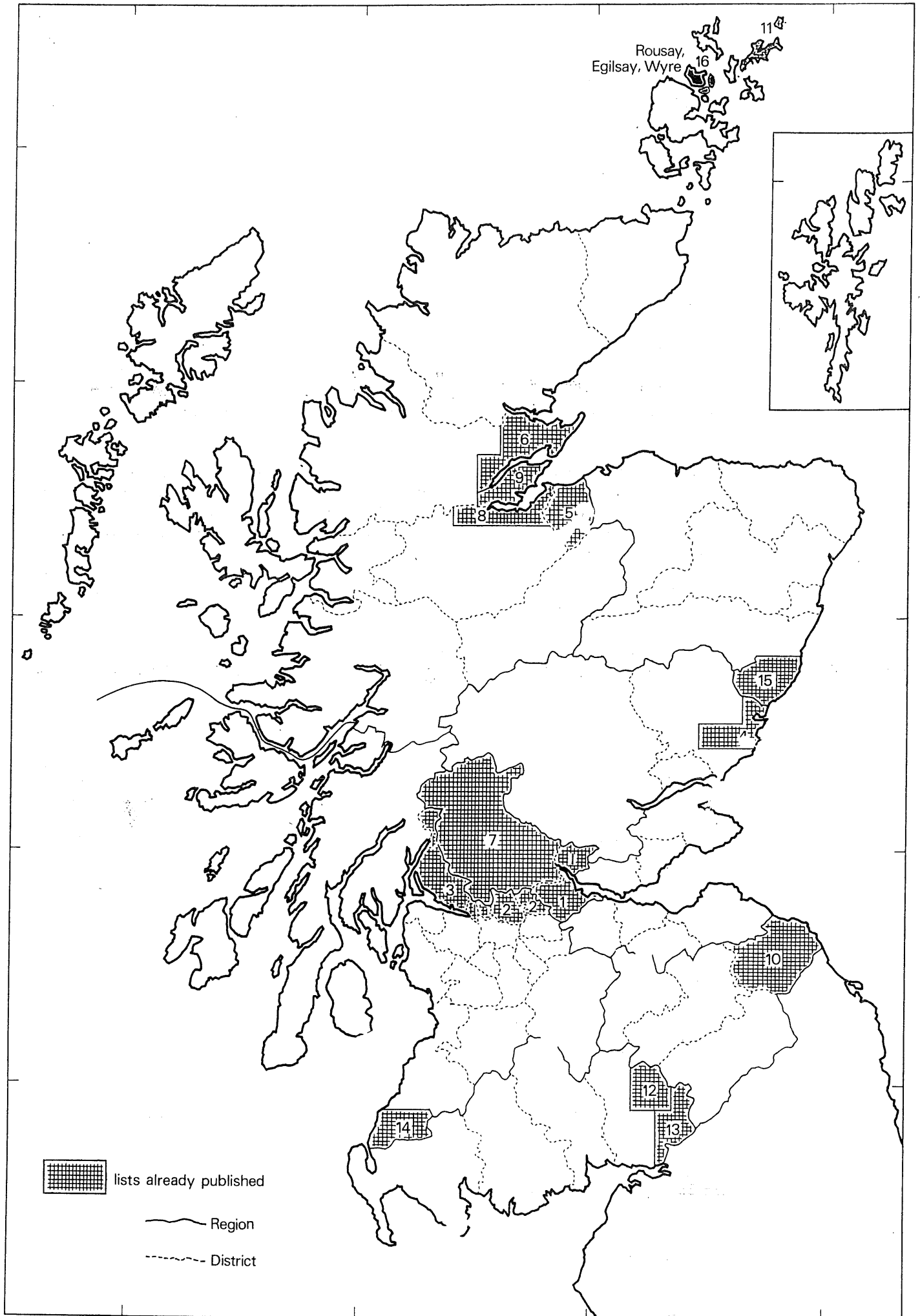
by R G Lamb

This list of sites and monuments on the islands of Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and adjacent small islands, the second 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 Scottish Development Department (Ancient Monuments Division), the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, and the Orkney Islands Council.

The entries describing the monuments have been edited by Mr A MacLaren and Dr J N G Ritchie of the staff of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland in order to bring them broadly into line with the format adopted for the Archaeological Sites and Monuments series produced by the Commission; apart, however, for a few minor editorial changes, no alterations have been made to the text of Dr Lamb's Introduction.

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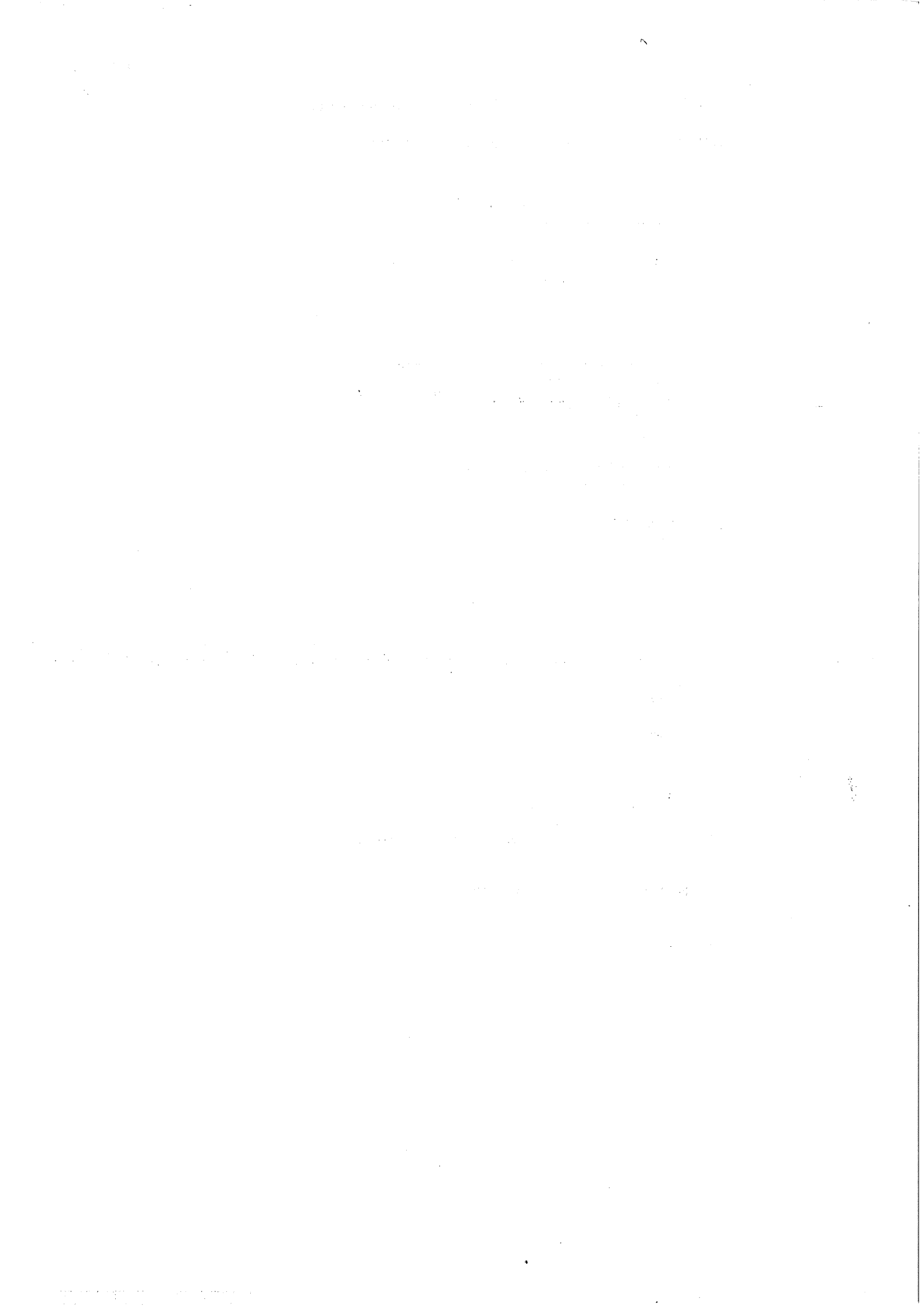
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## The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS SERIES**

- 1 Clackmannan District and Falkirk District,  
Central Region, 1978
- 2 Cumbernauld & Kilsyth District and Strathkelvin District,  
Strathclyde Region, 1978; revised edition, 1982
- 3 Dumbarton District, Clydebank District, Bearsden and Milngavie District,  
Strathclyde Region, 1978
- 4 Lunan Valley and the Montrose Basin, Angus District,  
Tayside Region, 1978
- 5 Nairn District,  
Highland Region, 1978
- 6 Easter Ross, Ross and Cromarty District,  
Highland Region 1979
- 7 Stirling District,  
Central Region, 1979
- 8 North-east Inverness, Inverness District,  
Highland Region, 1979
- 9 The Black Isle, Ross and Cromarty District,  
Highland Region, 1979
- 10 Berwickshire District,  
Borders Region, 1980
- 11 Sanday and North Ronaldsay,  
Orkney (compiled by R G Lamb), 1980
- 12 Upper Eskdale, Annandale and Eskdale District,  
Dumfries and Galloway Region, 1980
- 13 Ewesdale and Lower Eskdale, Annandale and Eskdale District,  
Dumfries and Galloway Region, 1981
- 14 South Carrick, Kyle and Carrick District,  
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- 15 South Kincardine, Kincardine & Deeside District,  
Grampian Region, 1982
- 16 Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre,  
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**NOTES** (*Overleaf*)

**NOTES**

An asterisk (\*) indicates that the site has statutory protection under the Ancient Monuments Act of 1979. Each entry is prefaced by a serial number (which facilitates use of the end maps), name, National Grid reference, 1:10,000 map number followed by the Ordnance Survey Record Card serial-number; where appropriate, the date of visit and a select bibliography follows, and the final entry for each site gives the number of the record card of the Orkney Sites and Monuments Record, held at 48 Junction Road, Kirkwall, Orkney. Here may be found more complete details about each site; an optical coincidence system also permits retrieval under a wide variety of headings. A duplicate set of cards is held by NMRS.

## INTRODUCTION

### The islands

This summary, like the one already issued for Sanday and North Ronaldsay, has been prepared from the detailed index cards of the Orkney Sites and Monuments Record; the choice of Rousay and its neighbours to follow the Sanday list has been deliberate, as there is a great contrast between these two island-groups. The contrast is most obviously shown in the rentals: Sanday had, it appears, the greatest concentration of wealth in a single island in Orkney, with a colossal skat value of 36½ urislands. By contrast, Rousay, which is quite a large island, seems to have amounted to just 6½ urislands. The much smaller island of Egilsay has a better proportion of good land and was skatted at 2 urislands, while Wyre seems to have been a 12d land, that is, two-thirds of an urisland. There is no great difference in principle between prehistoric and medieval agriculture in Orkney; the rental values reflect, above all, the capacity of the land to produce barley. They give a rough-and-ready impression of where the wealth was concentrated, and this is probably applicable to prehistoric as well as to Norse times. To anyone who has visited Rousay and been struck by the concentration of impressive archaeological monuments, the relative poverty of the island in other respects may come as a surprise.

It is, however, obvious enough that most of Rousay is a block of unimproved hill land surrounded by a cultivable coastal strip, which itself is in many places steep and stony. One reason why archaeological monuments, particularly chambered tombs, have survived so well, is that much of the hill ground is too steep and intractable to have offered itself for agricultural improvement. But the main reason why the archaeology of Rousay is so prominent is that it was extensively developed in the 1930s by the late Walter Grant, one of the greatest private benefactors of archaeology in Scotland.

Grant himself was an excavator, and he also entertained at Trumland House some of the leading archaeologists of the time, notably J G Callander and Professor V Gordon Childe. A great amount of excavating activity went on, and most of it was promptly and effectively published; the sites now in official guardianship were mostly not only excavated at Grant's expense, but also given their primary consolidation by him. Following Grant's death, an important collection of site plans and drawings, many of them in watercolour, which had been prepared for him, remained at Trumland House; through the good offices of Dr J N G Ritchie and Mrs D M Reynolds, and the generosity of the House's present owners, Mr and Mrs E P G Harrison, these beautiful plans have now been deposited in the Orkney Archives in Kirkwall; photographic copies have been made by NMRS. An overdue appreciation of Grant's work is to appear shortly (Reynolds and Ritchie, forthcoming).

Several of the contrasts which will become apparent on comparing this Rousay list with the Sanday one, are traceable to Walter Grant. Firstly, it will be observed that the proportion of newly-discovered monuments in this list is smaller; the Royal Commission investigators in 1928 and 1935 recorded a much higher proportion of the sites, and Grant must have been a valuable help here. The Sanday list has an extensive section headed 'indeterminate mounds'; in Rousay this section is insignificantly small compared with that for 'chambered cairns'. Grant's excavations identified many indeterminate mounds as chambered tombs. It is salutary to observe how insignificant some of Rousay's showpiece monuments were before Grant's observant eye lighted upon them. The magnificent long stalled cairn at Midhowe was a shapeless hummock — it did not even have a name of its own (Midhowe is actually the name of the adjacent brochmound, which Grant also excavated). The smaller stalled cairn of Blackhammer had been considered not to be an antiquity at all — it was a low oblong platform generally thought to be an old house-site. Taking account of the great number of such indeterminate mounds in those parts of Orkney where Walter Grant did not live, can distribution-maps of chambered tombs have any meaning?

Neither Egilsay nor Wyre, which are more intensively farmed, can match Rousay for prehistoric monuments, but both islands have special associations with *Orkneyinga Saga*. Egilsay was the scene of the martyrdom of St Magnus, and the church there seems to have had a special status, perhaps that of a minster. Wyre was the home of a magnate of the mid-twelfth century,



Kolbein Hruga, who has passed into local folklore — not confined to Wyre — as the giant 'Cubbie Row'; Kolbein Hruga's stone castle survives as one of the most remarkable of Orkney's medieval monuments. Rousay's own saga site is Westness, where Earl Paul Haakonsson, guesting with the leading Rousay notable, one Sigurd, was kidnapped from the beach by Sweyn Asleifsson. Some of the buildings of the settlement have been excavated and, from an earlier period, rich graves of the pagan Viking period have been found nearby. For a number of years now the summer visit by the Norwegian archaeologists who excavate here has been a prominent event in the Rousay social calendar.

#### Treb dykes

Trebs were introduced in the Sanday and North Ronaldsay list (RCAMS 1980, 9, 21-2). The word 'treb' is not used in Rousay and the dykes themselves are less well-represented, but following Marwick (1924, 16) it is proposed to use this noun as a generic term for these massive linear earthworks. One particularly fine example does occur, the Green Gairsty (no. 91) which runs from the cliff-edge straight up the steep hillside of Leean, dying out at the 60m contour. It is bad luck that the modern road, created here last century, should cut across it at exactly the place where it ceases; the treb runs up to the road but does not reappear on the uphill side, and one would have liked to observe the manner of its ending. In apparently forming a division between two territorial chunks of the more useful land, the Green Gairsty accords with what has been observed of trebs in Sanday.

Another bank (no. 90), almost certainly a treb, can be traced inland for a short distance from Geo of Grithen, while another (no. 92) cuts right across the extreme NW corner of the island. This last is not certainly in the treb category; in its W section it shows a more than usual amount of stone construction, where it is associated with a group of ruinous 'quoys' above Quoy Geo (no. 118); and in cutting off the headland, which is rough grazing, it behaves in a way more reminiscent of a hill dyke. But as such, it does not obviously relate to the present-day land pattern, and the bank with its quoys appears to be very ancient; it therefore has been included under this heading.

#### The clustering of brochs

The trend of current research is to show that the sites known to archaeologists as brochs (although in local usage, the word has a very wide application indeed) include a broad range of defensive structures which may begin as early as the fifth century BC and continue into the early centuries AD. But even allowing for this wide date-range, the sites loosely classifiable under the heading 'brochs' show a remarkable concentration along both the Rousay and Mainland shores of Eynhallow Sound. Only one Rousay broch, the Taft o' Faraclett in Scockness (no. 76), is sited away from this coast; for the rest, moving westwards along the shore from Trumland pier, one passes in close succession the Knowe of Huncllett (no. 71), the Knowe of Burrian (no. 70), the broch near Viera Lodge (no. 77), the Knowe of Swandro (no. 72), South Howe (no. 75), Midhowe (no. 73), finally reaching North Howe (no. 74). On the Evie shore, the sequence from east to west is Gurness, Stenso, Ryo (or Grugar), Burgar, Peterkirk, Verron (RCAMS 1946, ii, respectively pp.75-9, No. 263; pp.74-5, No. 262; pp.79-80, No. 267; p 74, No. 261; p.73, No. 257; p.74, No. 260). Eynhallow Sound itself is notoriously hazardous to navigate, so this concentration of brochs can hardly reflect any inherently geographical strategic importance. However, the pronounced relief of both the Evie and the Rousay coastlands — narrow cultivable coastal strips with intractable slopes rising steeply behind — may have helped to dictate a fairly even distribution of 'broch-territories'.

That there is some political reason underlying the pattern is likely. The apparent absence of brochs from the agriculturally well-favoured islands of Wyre and Egilsay is curious, and the clustering of the sites of South Howe, Midhowe and North Howe within a narrow coastal strip some 400 m in length, is remarkable. One can only speculate that W Douglas Simpson was right in asserting that broch-period society had something in common with medieval feudalism, and reiterate his comparison with the German *Ganerbenburgen* (Simpson 1954, 38-41).

### Medieval churches and castles

Readily-identifiable upstanding medieval buildings are not numerous in Orkney, and Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre and Eynhallow each has structures which attracted the attention of a succession of distinguished architectural historians. The first and greatest of these was Sir Henry Dryden (1818-99), of Canons Ashby, Northamptonshire, who, by his early twenties, was caught up in the Ecclesiological movement, was travelling widely and was systematically drawing and describing antiquities (George 1912). What little appreciation he has received in modern publications has been concentrated on his work on megaliths (Atkinson 1976; Daniel 1981) rather than on churches, which were his main interest. He quickly gained a reputation for meticulous accuracy in recording, in which he was ahead of his time; there is a world of difference between Hibbert's crude sketch of St Magnus, Egilsay, published in 1822, and Dryden's intricately detailed studies of the same subject in the late 1840s. He measured to the half-inch, and a clue to his method of getting photographically-accurate views is afforded by a pencil note, 'H.D. July 10 1855 Camera', on the reverse of a fine watercolour of the Broch of Mousa, preserved in Northampton Central Library. Evidently he habitually used an artist's camera obscura — a ponderous contrivance of lenses, brass and mahogany, which would have been inconvenient luggage for an inter-island traveller. Further evidence of his surprisingly modern and scientific approach is the printed form he devised for taking standardised notes when visiting a church. This lists the architectural features and fittings a church may have, and the styles of decoration; '... what is there, to be marked X and described on the blank sides in the following order ...'. The printed subscription is 'Ascebi Canonicorum, February 1841, and the document has more than a passing resemblance to standard pro formas for use by church-archaeologists, which were being discussed by the Council for British Archaeology's Churches Committee in the 1970s. Equally characteristic of the man was the care he took near the end of his life to see that his astonishingly large collections of his own records were properly catalogued and deposited in appropriate libraries — in the case of his Scottish material, the Library of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, whence the surviving bulk of Dryden's deposit was recently transferred to NMRS. His survey of St Magnus Church, as indeed of all Orkney and Shetland churches, featured in those august volumes, was the basis of MacGibbon and Ross's definitive description published in 1896, and from it sprang a succession of scholarly studies of this important building.

Egilsay's church today is unique, but the curiously bottle-shaped round tower seems to have been a feature of a distinctive group of major Orkney and Shetland churches. The demolished parish church of Stenness (RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 297, No. 870) had a half-round W tower, while Low, writing in 1774, described St Ninian's, Deerness, as having, two round towers flanking the chancel (Low 1879, 53-4). Information about Shetland is scanty, but from scattered sources it seems likely that the churches at Tingwall (inland from Scalloway), Ireland (on the W coast of Dunrossness, immediately N of St Ninian's Isle) and Papil (Burra) conformed to this general type.

At the turn of the century, the Norwegian historian Ludvig Dietrichson, accompanied by an architect, Johan Meyer, set out to record monuments of the Norwegian occupation of Orkney. The resulting volume, *Monumenta Orcadica*, appeared in 1906 and is today most often consulted for Meyer's beautiful illustrations of St Magnus' Cathedral, Kirkwall. The book was written in Dano-Norwegian and sold in Britain with the addition of an English-language supplement; it can be a confusing book to use, as the English text is sometimes a summary of the Dano-Norwegian, and in other places (where Dietrichson felt he was disagreeing significantly with earlier authorities) a full translation. *Monumenta Orcadica* is the product of a period of strong Norwegian national consciousness, in which lies its strength; but some inevitable mistakes of interpretation have led to the work's being held today in far less regard than it deserves. Orkney in the High Middle Ages was Norwegian, and the Norwegian viewpoint is the most valid one; although the proximity of Britain, and the extent of English influences on the Church in Norway itself, must always be borne in mind.

The achievement of which Dietrichson was most proud was the identification of the ruins on Eynhallow as a monastery. The church there had been discovered in the middle of the nineteenth century, when the cottages that had engulfed it were partly dismantled; and antiquaries from Dryden onwards had visited and drawn it. In the 1890s the island was owned by Thomas Middlemore, a wealthy industrialist, and he had the church cleared and consolidated under the

supervision of the architect, William Lethaby, who also designed his house at Melsetter on Hoy. Dietrichson claimed not only that the church was monastic but that the associated cluster of cottages substantially represented the original monastery buildings.

It is over Eynhallow that we see most clearly the divergence between the Norwegian view and the Scottish one of the RCAMS Inventory compiled between 1928 and 1936. The description of buildings in the Inventory is uniformly excellent, representing the first and indeed the only improvement made upon Dryden for descriptive and mensural accuracy. The accompanying discussion is highly scholarly. Dietrichson's monastic buildings are rejected with the cautious statement that 'it is not easy to bring the plan of the whole into harmony with the lay-out of any well-defined type of monastic establishment', concluding that the domestic buildings date back only to the sixteenth or seventeenth century (RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 230–4, No. 613). To the scholar from Norway, where the claustral layout had penetrated only partially, the Eynhallow plan did not appear outlandish; it could fairly be added that Eynhallow cannot be brought into harmony with any well-defined type of post-medieval house.

There have been similar divergent opinions over the square-tower castles of which Rousay and Wyre have two out of three examples at present known in Orkney (the third is Castle Howe, Holm; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 103–4, No. 361). Again, the Inventory description of Cubbie Row's Castle is excellent, and the discussion of its date, which shows awareness of the Norwegian aspects, is extremely scholarly. But it is interesting to observe how RCAMS could not accept that this is a Scandinavian type of building, to which the late date of Scottish tower-houses is not relevant. St Magnus Cathedral is evidence enough that twelfth-century Orkney had both the money and the awareness to get for itself the best that was fashionable in Northern Europe. Simpson (1961, 4–7) who uniquely was able to bring to bear an equally detailed and critical knowledge of English, Scottish and Scandinavian architecture, was strong in his condemnation of the doctrine of 'retarded work', and he regarded as unassailable the historical evidence for the twelfth-century date of the castle in Wyre. He knew, of course, that *Hakonar Saga* — in which the castle is described in sufficient detail to make clear that it existed in 1231 essentially as we see it today — is a reliable source, written within a half-century of the events it relates, and highly respected by Norwegian historians.

The Wirk in Rousay (no. 112) is part of a most interesting problem. The resemblance of the tower to that of Cubbie Row's Castle suggests a twelfth-century date, presumably the work of an heir or successor of Sigurd of Westness. The association of this castle with the parish church of St Mary (no. 111), a short distance from the house of Brough (which stood just inland from the broch of South Howe, no. 75), the seat of the Craigie family in the sixteenth century and then the most important house in the island, suggests that the power-centre in the later Middle Ages shifted west to here from the site of Norse Westness (no. 85) before reverting eastwards to the present Westness House (which remained the laird's house until General Burroughs built Trumland). St Mary's Church is probably, but not certainly, on the site of the medieval church. Adjoining The Wirk to the east of it are the remains of a massive hall-like building, seemingly not earlier than the sixteenth century, which Clouston, who excavated the site, thought was a church. The position of The Wirk at a corner of the churchyard had led Dietrichson to the intelligent suggestion of a parallel with the detached fortified bell-towers of some Scandinavian churches; as well as the Norwegian example he cites, the well-known round-churches of Bornholm have them. Compounding the mystery is the extraordinary group of architectural fragments discussed in the next section.

#### **Architectural fragments from Eynhallow and Westside.**

Linking the monastic church on Eynhallow with the old Rousay parish church of St Mary, Westside, and with the adjacent tower-like structure known as The Wirk, is a group of elaborately-carved architectural fragments, the origin and history of which constitutes an enigma to which at the moment there is no ready solution. The greatest number of these stones is built up as an ornamental gateway over the path to the kitchen-garden at Trumland House, and so obvious is the resemblance of these pieces — all carved in a red sandstone freestone which is alien to the island — to details of St Magnus Cathedral, that some islanders believe that these stones were brought quite recently from Kirkwall by Walter Grant. Since Grant had a Kirkwall residence as well as Trumland, and allowing that a good many pieces of Cathedral — supplanted by new stonework

during renovations over the last hundred years — are to be seen on various Kirkwall rockeries (notably the very splendid one in the public garden behind Tankerness House), this is a reasonable enough assumption. There is, however, sufficient documentary evidence to show that at least the most important of the Trumland stones had been brought there from Westside, while the stones still there and on Eynhallow confirm that these were not a modern acquisition; unfortunately, however one cannot rule out the possibility that the Trumland archway may contain some material brought from Kirkwall to augment the stones which were locally available.

Elaborately-cut stones have been found in the vicinity of The Wirk on at least two occasions. The first was prior to 1870, when Sir Henry Dryden made his investigations, the results of which are drawn upon by MacGibbon and Ross (1896-7, i, 108-9) and by Dietrichson (1906, 108). Both these sources mention pieces, then at Westness House, which made up an arch. The second occasion was Storer Clouston's excavation in 1930, when stones were found at the foot of The Wirk and built into the foundations of the substantial building to the E of it (Clouston 1931). An ornate finial with crocketed gables and sixteen human heads was found by an outside corner of the tower, as if fallen from above, and a sixteenth-century armorial panel of Bishop Adam Bothwell was found in a similar situation. RCAMS reported that the stones, which by the 1930s were at Trumland, had been collected from the neighbourhood of The Wirk and Westside Church. The Inventory lists the more important pieces, including the pinnacle. Clouston believed that his building E of the tower was an incomplete church and that the stones had been collected for use on it; RCAMS commented, very reasonably, that the stones were 'appropriate only for a church of the first rank, which can hardly have existed at Westside' (RCAMS 1946, ii, 191, No. 549). The pinnacle, the Bothwell armorial and another armorial are no longer at Trumland; the armorials have been removed to Balfour Castle, Shapinsay, and an unprovenanced pinnacle exactly fitting the descriptions of the Westside one is in Tankerness House museum.

More stones — including ones which closely match some of those piled loosely on the west terrace of Trumland House — are built into the lichened walls of St Mary's Church (the writer is indebted to Dr Sigrid Kaland, who first noticed these). They are placed no higher than half-way up the walls at the E end; the church was disused after 1815 and it is unlikely that they were inserted after that date. Another group of fragments was found in the debris when Eynhallow church was cleared out; these are still on the island, piled in a nettle-grown heap in a chamber of the monastic buildings. Once again, the pieces are of red freestone, which is not local, and they contrast with the crude stonework of the church which is built of unmortared Rousay flag shaped only by splitting. Even the chancel arch and the W arch of the nave are built of these split slabs; the dressed freestones, by reason of their fine quality and their implication of the use of mortar, find no obvious place on the buildings as these now stand.

What is especially puzzling about all these stones is that they are not all of the same period. Some of them date from the thirteenth century, others from the sixteenth; there are some which are difficult to date precisely and may fall between these periods. On Eynhallow most belong to the later period but there is at least one of thirteenth-century date. The pieces originating from Westside include stones from both the thirteenth and the sixteenth centuries; it will be noted that Clouston's excavations produced, in close proximity, a thirteenth-century finial and a sixteenth-century armorial.

St Magnus Cathedral is the only known building in Orkney where the thirteenth-century stones could have looked in place. The Trumland garden-gateway incorporates stones of at least two different arched doorways, one of which has two orders of dogtooth ornament; and prominent also is a massive block carved into four foliaceous capitals which RCAMS compared with work on the central W door of the Cathedral. These pieces fit stylistically into the first quarter of the thirteenth century, to which that doorway belongs, but the Trumland stone-carving differs significantly from that at Kirkwall. The engaged columns on the St Magnus doorway are wider-spaced than those on the Trumland stone, and the foliation of the capitals is freer and richer than the tightly-knotted interlace at Trumland. Among surviving details at Kirkwall there is no doorway which can parallel this use of dogtooth ornament; the general feeling is that the styles are close, but the Trumland stones are not by the same hand as any of the Cathedral details. And the

pinnacle, which can be dated nearer the end of the thirteenth century, is in an extravagantly rich style which is alien to Kirkwall.

What then can be made of all this? At some time or times, architectural ornament, carved on stone which matches that used at Kirkwall and in a style which can be related to, but does not precisely duplicate, the styles in use there in the thirteenth century, was brought to Westside and to Eynhallow. Either on this occasion or a different one, stonework similarly expensive, but this time of sixteenth-century workmanship, also appeared at these two places. But with the exception of a single roll-moulding, not certainly in situ, on the so-called 'belfry stair' at Eynhallow, no piece was found used as originally intended by its sculptor, either at Eynhallow or St Mary's or The Wirk. All the stones were found in debris or re-used in later rubble masonry.

No explanation so far proposed answers the problem. The thirteenth-century pieces very likely are from Kirkwall — either rejects from the masons' yard there or perhaps fragments of older fabric demolished to make way for modifications to the Cathedral. One can imagine a process by which such pieces could find their way to Eynhallow, where the church reveals a desire to emulate the architectural fashions set in Kirkwall. Some sympathetic bishop, perhaps, could have been doing the Eynhallow community a kindness by slipping them spare bits of stone. Eynhallow in its turn may have been robbed to build the structures at Westside. This does not however explain the later pieces at Eynhallow; it looks possible that at Westside the sixteenth century saw some quite substantial, although possibly uncompleted, building works in connection with The Wirk and St Mary's Church.

#### **Quandal and the house of Tofts**

Rousay had an unhappy history in the nineteenth century; more than was general in Orkney, parts of the island were subjected to Highland-style clearances, first in the 1840s by George William Traill — who acted out of a genuine if ruthless desire to achieve agricultural improvement — and subsequently by General Frederick William Traill-Burroughs, who was motivated by a strange mixture of misplaced pride, failure to comprehend Orkney, and financial pressures. The story of Traill's clearances and of Burroughs's subsequent stormy relations with his tenants has been excellently told in a recent monograph (Thomson 1981), which includes a chapter on the Quandal clearance, based on the copious documentary material which is available in the estate papers.

Traill cleared three tunships forming the south-west inhabited corner of the island — Inner Westness, Outer Westness, and Quandal. The first two he made into the still up-to-date and successful farm of Westness, with its eight enormous square fields ranged along the hillside. Quandal became a sheep-run, and its interest today lies in the preserved landscape, fossilised in the state it had reached before agricultural improvements had had time to make themselves felt. Quandal was in fact regarded as a backward tunship even at the time of the clearance. The pattern of houses and fields is still traceable, and it gives an opportunity to appreciate how very complex the pre-improvement landholding system had been. The good documentation, giving the names of the farms and of their inhabitants, of course greatly enhances the archaeological value of the place.

Centrepiece of Quandal is the ruined house of Tofts, a remarkable building, argued by Clouston (1924, 12-14) to be the oldest two-storeyed house in Orkney. Although his dating to the fifteenth century is hard to substantiate, the house is extremely curious and certainly must be older than the eighteenth century. Tofts had declined in status, apparently a victim of the impoverishment which was liable to arise from the constant subdivisions involved in odal inheritance. Its crow-stepped gables, gable-wall fireplace, and double-played windows fitted for glass, are features suited to a gentleman's residence — but, as Clouston suggested, what gentleman was happy with rooms twelve feet square and six feet high? The walled central passageway between the two outside doors, moreover, looks like a defensive feature. The decaying state of the building was noted by Clouston, who urged that it be preserved; sixty years on, nothing has been done, and the structural condition is perilous. This house deserves very careful study; it deserves to be consolidated, but this work would have to be preceded by proper archaeological excavation of the deposits in the hope of obtaining some dating evidence. Such an effort should ideally be undertaken as part of some scheme to recognize the historical and educational value of Quandal as a whole.

### Threats

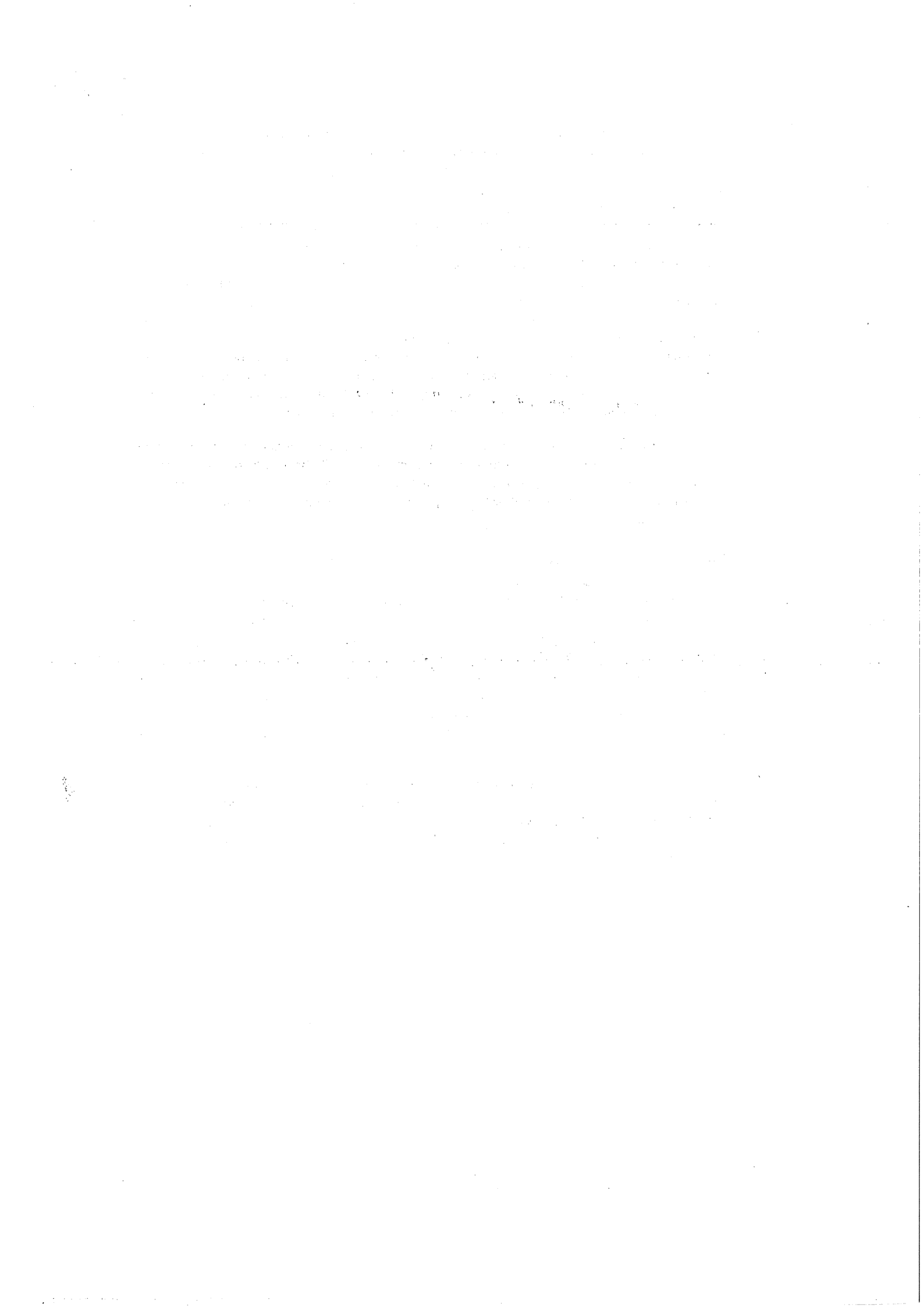
The condition of archaeological sites in this group of islands is generally happy. Many of the surviving upstanding monuments lie on the coastal margins or, in Rousay, on the rough hill land which in most places rises so steeply behind the cultivated fields, that any future threat from large-scale agricultural improvement seems unlikely. Some sites, however, suffer badly from erosion promoted by rabbits, infestation by which in Rousay is worse than anywhere else in Orkney; the recent excavations on the Norse cemetery at Moaness (no. 93) have been revealing how serious this frivolous-sounding threat can indeed be. The coasts are for the most part rocky, and assessed by overall Orkney standards, sea erosion is not significant. Westness, again, which of course is already being excavated, is one case, and another is a probable Norse settlement at Saviskaill Bay (no. 83), although on present indications, the quality of the deposits here does not appear to justify large-scale action. The most serious erosion problem is at the broch and extensive associated settlement of South Howe (no. 75) which is one of three major broch sites occurring remarkably close together. North Howe (no. 74) is completely safe, and Midhowe (no. 73) was comprehensively excavated and is in guardianship; the social-historical questions raised by this grouping are interesting, so the partial loss of one of the three sites is unfortunate. The excavation of South Howe would be a vast project which at the moment it is unrealistic to contemplate.

Probably most deserving of immediate attention are two important buildings where the processes of natural decay are accelerating alarmingly. One is the house of Tofts in Quandal, described above; the other is the former parish church of St Mary, Westside (no. 111), which, in spite of remedial action taken at the end of last century, continues to slide down the hillside and is splitting apart.

### Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Community Council Local History Project

At the time of compilation of this List, the islands' Community Council is running a Local History Project under the Manpower Services Commission's job creation scheme. It is led by two Rousay residents, Mrs J Gibson and Mrs J Marwick, who are qualified archaeologists with previous experience of archaeological work in Orkney. The project entails detailed field survey, including the examination of standing buildings, and also graveyard surveys; the study of relevant documents held by the Orkney Library and Archives; and the collection and study of documents which can still be found in some houses in the islands. On Rousay itself the starting-point was the index cards of the Orkney Sites and Monuments Record, but Egilsay had been investigated by the project team before it was visited by the writer, and some of the results are incorporated in this List.

The MSC project is devoting attention to the numerous relics of the traditional economy – ruined farmsteads, quoys, feelie dykes and so on – which lie outwith the scope of the present List but the proper recording of which is an important and sometimes urgent matter. It is hoped that the scheme, on its completion in summer 1983, will leave behind a permanent local archive and exhibition.



## ROUSAY

## CHAMBERED CAIRNS

*The code number in brackets immediately following the title of some of the articles in this section conforms to the system outlined by Henshall 1972, 312-13.*

- 1 Bigland, Long (ORK 1) HY 4354 3214    HY 43 SW 12  
Badly disturbed stalled cairn. The name, as with No. 2, has been given by Henshall.  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 205, No. 566; Henshall 1963, 183; OR 613.
  
- 2 Bigland, Round (ORK 2) HY 4383 3250    HY 43 SW 13  
Tripartite round cairn. Finds in NMAS.  
Wilson Portfolio ff. 18 and 21; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 204, No. 565;  
Henshall 1963, 183-4; OR 614.
  
- 3 Blackhammer (ORK 3) \* HY 4142 2761    HY 42 NW 3  
Stalled cairn in SDD guardianship. Finds in NMAS.  
Plans in Orkney Archives, copies in NMRS; Wilson Portfolio f. 8;  
Callander and Grant 1937; Phemister and Scott, 1942, 132;  
RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 211-13, No. 573; Henshall 1963, 184-5; OR 595.
  
- 4 Cubbie Row's Burden (ORK 11) \* HY 4392 2798    HY 42 NW 23  
Orkney-Cromarty round cairn, centre dug out revealing divisional slabs.  
*September 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 213, No. 574; Henshall 1963, 194; OR 600.
  
- 5 on Farraclett HY 4402 3271    HY 43 SW 9  
Situated on a terrace 650 m NE of Bigland, this mound, composed of flat slabs laid horizontally, measures 9 m in diameter and 1 m high; the tops of two slabs, which protrude in a hollow near the centre, suggest that it may be chambered.  
*September 1979*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 204, No. 564; OR 477.
  
- 6 on Farraclett HY 4400 3272    HY 43 SW 9  
A little to the W of no. 5, this mound measures 12 m in diameter and 1 m high; the centre is hollowed with four upright slabs indicating the presence of a chamber.  
*September 1979*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 204, No. 564; OR 476.
  
- 7 below Kierfea Hill (ORK 26) HY 4242 3196    HY 43 SW 18  
Stalled cairn excavated by Grant in 1940. Finds in NMAS. *August 1979*  
Wilson Portfolio ff. 19 and 21; Henshall 1963, 207-8; OR 479.
  
- 8 Knowe of Craie (ORK 27) \* HY 4196 3152    HY 43 SW 19  
Tripartite round cairn excavated by Grant in 1941. Finds in NMAS.  
*September 1980*  
Wilson Portfolio ff. 20-1; PSAS, 79 (1944-5), 180; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 206, No. 568;  
Henshall 1963, 208-9; OR 619.
  
- 9 Knowe of Ramsay (ORK 30) \* HY 4004 2800    HY 42 NW 22  
Stalled cairn excavated in 1935, now reduced to insignificance. Finds in NMAS.  
Callander and Grant 1936; Wilson Portfolio f. 7; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 214-16,  
No. 576; Henshall 1963, 212-13; Switsur and Harkness *in* Renfrew 1979, 70-2 and 206;  
plan in Orkney Archives, copy in NMRS; OR 599.



- 10 Knowe of Rowiegar (ORK 31) \* HY 3733 2978 HY 32 NE 1  
Dilapidated stalled cairn, in part of which an Iron Age structure had been built; walls spring from opposite ends and run down to shore. Excavation by Grant in 1938; unpublished. Finds in NMAS, *September 1980*  
Wilson Portfolio f. 12; Phemister and Scott 1942, 132; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 218-20, No. 578; Henshall 1963, 214-15; Switsur and Harkness *in* Renfrew 1979, 72 and 206; OR 553.
- 11 Lairi (ORK 28) \* HY 3988 2796 HY 32 NE 6  
Long cairn, horned; chamber at E end excavated and consolidated by Grant. Finds in NMAS, *September 1980*  
Grant and Wilson 1943; Wilson Portfolio ff. 10-11; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 216-18, No. 577; Henshall 1963, 209-11; plans in Orkney Archives, copies in NMRS; OR 554.
- 12 Lingro (ORK 29) \* HY 3964 3238 HY 33 SE 22  
Oval mound; surface indications suggest a stalled cairn. *September 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 203, No. 562; Henshall 1963, 212; OR 608.
- 13 Midhowe (ORK 37) \* HY 3722 3048 HY 33 SE 1  
Site was unknown before discovery and excavation in 1932-3; the name Midhowe belongs to the nearby broch (no. 73). An impressive stalled cairn in SDD guardianship. Finds in NMAS.  
Callander and Grant 1934a; Wilson Portfolio f. 5; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 221-5, No. 583; Henshall 1963, 222-5; OR 605.
- 14 Taversoe Tuick (ORK 49) \* HY 4257 2761 HY 42 NW 2  
This unusual tomb, in SDD guardianship, comprises two chambers one set immediately above the other, with a smaller rock-cut chamber a little to the SE. The lower chamber, entered from the SE, is divided into four compartments by upright slabs; the upper chamber, entered from the N, is divided into two unequal compartments. It is the only example of the Bookan class of tomb on Rousay. Finds in NMAS. MS account of discovery by Lady Burroughs (under pseudonym Veronica) in Orkney Archives, copies in NMRS; Wilson Portfolio ff. 13-15; Turner 1903; Grant 1939a; Phemister and Scott 1942, 131-2; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 206-9, No. 570; Henshall 1963, 234-8; OR 594.
- 15 Yarso (ORK 32) \* HY 4046 2795 HY 42 NW 1  
Stalled cairn in SDD guardianship. Finds in NMAS.  
Callander and Grant 1935; Wilson Portfolio f. 1; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 213-14, No. 575; Henshall 1963, 215-18; Ritchie and Ritchie 1978, 23-4; Switsur and Harkness *in* Renfrew 1979, 72 and 206; OR 559.

#### BARROWS AND CAIRNS

- 16 near Bigland HY 4348 3208 HY 43 SW 30  
This mound, first recorded by the OS in 1982, is situated 180 m SW of no. 1 and measures about 22 m from NE to SW and 14 m transversely. On the summit there are two upright slabs.
- 17 near Brittany HY 4170 3105 HY 43 SW (M)  
Grassy knoll measuring 17 m in diameter and 1.2 m in height; much quarried; there is an erect earthfast stone near centre. *September 1980*  
OR 531.
- 18 Erne Tuo HY 4001 3465 HY 43 SW 23  
On summit of Erne Tuo, a circular mound of earth and stone, much disturbed by rabbits. *September 1980*  
OR 533.

- 19 on Faraclett HY 4464 3287 HY 43 SW 5  
Grassy mound measuring 9.5 m in diameter and 1 m in height situated on false summit.  
*September 1979*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 203, No. 563; OR 622.
- 20 on Faraclett HY 4383 3283 HY 43 SW 27  
A grassy mound measuring about 8 m by 6 m and 0.5 m in height; many large slabs,  
some earthfast, lying about it; the summit is hollowed. OR 768.
- 21 Geord of Nears \* HY 4235 2738 HY 42 NW 16  
Slight mound with erect slabs representing the central cist-like setting excavated by  
Grant. *September 1980*  
Grant 1933; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 210-11, No. 572; OR 561.
- 22 Green Hill HY 4153 2787 HY 42 NW  
A group of grassy mounds on a broad terrace. The largest is 7 m in diameter and 0.8 m in  
height; its centre is hollowed; three smaller mounds nearby. *September 1980*  
OR 585.
- 23 Kierfea Hill HY 4233 3212 HY 43 SW 26  
Denuded grassy mound on the summit of Kierfea Hill at 235 m OD.
- 24 Knap Knowes HY 372 314 HY 33 SE 21  
A group of three mounds, near the site of the abandoned farmstead of Knapknowes some  
160 m W of the public road and cut by a stone wall, was excavated by Grant in 1936 (see  
also no. 33). The first, to the S of the wall, measures 6.4 m in diameter and 0.6 m in  
height, and covered a cist containing cremated bone, 'cramp' and six small pieces of  
flint (NMAS EQ 581-6). The second, 8 m to the NE and crossed by the wall, measured  
5.5 m in diameter and 0.7 m in height; it covered two cists, one of them central, both  
containing cremated bone and 'cramp'. A pebble with grinding facets (NMAS AK 253)  
was probably found in the second cist. The third cairn, 57 m to the N of the first,  
measured about 4.9 m in diameter and 0.6 m in height; it covered an upright Cinerary  
Urn in a stone setting, containing cremated bones and 'cramp' (NMAS EA 214).  
*August 1980*  
PSAS, 69 (1934-5), 11; Grant 1937, 75-6 and 82-3 (nos. 1-3); Wilson Portfolio f. 9;  
RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 202-3, No. 560 (1); OR 624.
- 25 above Knarston HY 4394 2921 HY 42 NW 32  
There is an old report of a mound, beneath which was discovered a cist containing burnt  
bones; the mound was obliterated early in this century and the location is uncertain.  
*August 1980*  
OR 538.
- 26 Knitchen Hill \* HY 4295 2880 HY 42 NW 18  
Large cairn on the summit at a height of 235 m OD. *September 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 206, No. 569; OR 517.
- 27 below Mansemas Hill HY 3770 3076 HY 33 SE  
On the front edge of a terrace, a circular mound 5 m in diameter, 0.4 m high.  
*September 1980*  
OR 557.
- 28 below Mansemas Hill HY 3784 3071 HY 33 SE  
On a broad hillside terrace there is an earthen mound (7 m by 6 m and 0.9 m high);  
some earthfast slabs protruding near centre. *September 1980*  
OR 621.
- 29 below Mansemas Hill HY 3767 3128 HY 33 SE (M)  
A grass-covered mound measuring about 6 m in diameter, with projecting stones.  
*August 1980*  
OR 542.

- 30 Mansies Knowes HY 4215 3127 HY 43 SW 17  
Formerly a cluster of five mounds, which contained cists with burials; only three mounds are still visible. *September 1980*  
McCrie 1881; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 205-6, No. 567; OR 618.
- 31 Quandal HY 3732 3201 HY 33 SE 21  
3743 3184  
Two mounds were discovered by the OS in 1972, one situated to the N of the former croft of Mid Quandal and the other to the N of the former croft of Upper Quandal, the first measuring 5 m in diameter and the second 7.5 m in diameter. The second could not be located in 1980, but the other, measuring 5 m in diameter and 0.6 m high, was found. *August 1980*  
OR 630.
- 32 Quandal HY 3716 3260 HY 33 SE 21  
This mound, measuring about 6.4 m in diameter and 0.6 m in height, is situated on a low rocky hill 160m W of Tofts (no. 84). Excavation by Grant revealed a cist (0.7 m by 0.5 m and 0.5 m in depth) containing the cremation of two adults and a child, as well as 'cramp'. *August 1980*  
Grant 1937, 81 and 84 (no. 12); Wilson Portfolio f. 9; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 202-3, No. 560 (5); OR 629.
- 33 Quandal HY 3732 3164 \* HY 33 SE 21  
3733 3166  
These two mounds, excavated by Grant in 1936 and included in his Knap Knowes group (no. 24), are situated about 150 m NNE; the first was too spread to be measured accurately, but was at least 0.6 m high and covered a cist containing cremated bone and 'cramp'. The site is now a small green knoll with a hollow centre and has been afforded statutory protection under the name Upper Quandal, the ruined farmstead a little to the NE. The second mound 27 m to the NE, measures about 8 m in diameter; a central cist contained cremated bones, a flint scraper and fragments of pottery (NMAS EA 215). A perforated stone said to be from this mound is in NMAS (EQ 441). There is still an upright slab at the centre of the mound. *August 1980*  
PSAS, 69 (1934-5), 11; Grant 1937, 76 and 83 (nos. 4-5); Wilson Portfolio f. 9; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 202-3, No. 560 (1); OR 626.
- 34 between Quandal and Outer Westness HY 3697 3152 HY 33 SE (M)  
Situated between Quandal and Outer Westness and about 550 m NW of the former farmstead of Whoom and 300 m WNW of the mounds at Knap Knowes (no. 24), there is a group of four grass-covered mounds; they are laid out in a line about 15 m apart and each is about 6 m in diameter. *August 1980*  
OR 541.
- 35 Sandy Holes HY 3662 3124 HY 33 SE 21  
3662 3121  
On the ridge known to Grant as Sandy Holes, to the E of Scarba Head and 450 m W of no. 47, two mounds were excavated in 1936. The first was considerably spread but measured about 0.6 m in height and covered a large central cist (1.1 m by 1.0 m and 0.5 m deep) with a smaller cist inserted against the NE side; it contained cremated bone and 'cramp'. A second but ruined cist a little to the NW also contained cremated bone and 'cramp'; both cists are still visible. Some 6.5 m to the S there is a low mound which covered a cist containing cremated bone and 'cramp'. *August 1980*  
PSAS, 69 (1934-5), 11; Grant 1937, 76-80 and 83 (nos. 9-10); Wilson Portfolio f. 9; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 202-3, No. 560 (3); OR 628.
- 36 Scabra Head HY 365 312 HY 33 SE 21  
The mound formerly situated to the SE of the OS triangulation station above Scabra Head has now been destroyed; partly excavated by Grant in 1936, it measured 5.5 m in diameter. The central cist contained fragments of cremated bone and 'cramp'. *August 1980*  
PSAS, 69 (1934-5), 11; Grant 1937, 76-80 and 83 (no. 11); Wilson Portfolio f. 9; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 202-3, No. 560 (4); OR 628.

- 37 Shingly Hill HY 4382 2820 HY 42 NW 33  
Circular mound with centre dug into, exposing part of probable cist. *September 1980*  
OR 539.
- 38 below Swarta Fiold HY 3884 2849 HY 32 NE 34  
A mound measuring 12 m in diameter and 1.2 m in height; the centre has been dug into.  
*September 1979*  
OR 462.
- 39 Too o'Nugle \* HY 3820 3353 HY 33 SE 20  
A stony mound measuring 12 m in diameter. *August 1979*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 203, No. 561; OR 470.
- 40 Trumland farm HY 4246 2742 HY 42 NW 10  
A mound, now grass covered, in which cists were excavated by Grant. *September 1980*  
Craw 1934; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 209-10, No. 571; OR 560.
- 41 above Trumland House HY 4242 2823 HY 42 NW  
A group of five mounds lying at foot of bluff in the valley above Trumland. Ground  
round about is hummocky and there may be more mounds nearby. *September 1980*  
OR 563.
- 42 Ward Hill HY 3832 3002 HY 32 NE 22  
3832 2995  
Two mounds, one of which was excavated by Grant in about 1936 and was found to  
contain a central cist. A third mound is probably natural. *September 1979*  
Grant 1937, 82; Wilson Portfolio f. 9; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 221, No. 582; OR 558.
- 43 below Ward Hill HY 3828 3002 HY 33 SE  
A group of four small mounds spaced along front edge of terrace. Their neatly circular  
shape and sharp definition suggest burial-mounds. *September 1980*  
OR 564.
- 44 Wasbister \* HY 3942 3273 HY 33 SE 4  
Neatly circular mound with sharp profile, measuring 8.5 m in diameter and 0.7 m in  
height; no burnt stones visible, and appearance suggests a burial-mound. *September 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 226, No. 590; OR 518.
- 45 West Craie HY 4188 3152 HY 43 SW  
Prominent green knoll on top of a high bank above a stream; its centre has been broken  
into, revealing earth and loose stones. *September 1980*  
OR 532.
- 46 Westness HY 3830 2909 HY 32 NE 15  
Probable burial mound, now reduced to a barely perceptible rise. *September 1980*  
Grant 1934, 73; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 221, No. 581; OR 555.
- 47 Whoom HY 370 312 HY 33 SE 21  
This name was applied by Grant to a group of three mounds excavated in 1936, which  
are situated 260 m NW of the former farmstead of Whoom in boggy ground at the head  
of a small hillside valley and at a point about 300 m W of the public road. The northern-  
most mound measured about 4.5 m in diameter and is still 1 m in height; it contained a  
cist which was found to be empty. Some 15.5 m to the SE, a second mound measured  
7 m in diameter and 1.2 m in height it contained a cist, which, contained club-like  
stone implement. The third cairn lay about 40 m to the S, was 5.5 m in diameter and 0.3 m  
in height; it covered a cist containing a steatite urn with a cremation, three other steatite  
objects and 'cramp' (NMAS EQ 438-40). The cist, normally water-logged, can still be seen.  
Situated on the summit of a rocky ridge about 100 m NNW of the first mound there is a  
further possible example measuring about 2 m in diameter and 0.5 m high. *August 1980*  
PSAS, 69 (1934-5), 11; Grant 1937, 76-80 and 83 (nos. 6-8); Wilson Portfolio f. 9;  
RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 202-3, No. 560 (2); OR 627.

## CIST

(See also nos. 21, 24-5, 30, 32-3, 35-7 and 47)

- 48 Frotoft HY 4066 2763 HY 42 NW  
One slab on edge (measuring 0.4 m long and 0.1 m thick) just showing above grass, the top of a second is visible at right angles to it, and a third is parallel to the first and 0.7 m away from it; probably a buried cist. *September 1980*  
OR 521.

## STANDING STONES

- 49 above Moan HY 3808 3347 HY 33 SE  
An erect earthfast slab (1.55 m long by 0.35 m thick and 0.65 m high), top broken; aligned N 127° E; it is unrelated to any other structure and is probably the stump of a standing stone. *August 1979*  
OR 471.
- 50 Langsteen \* HY 4041 2750 HY 42 NW 7  
Stone which has been broken and repaired with cement. *September 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 202, No. 559; OR 520.
- 51 Yetnessteen \* HY 4471 3271 HY 43 SW 1  
Massive upstanding block. *August 1979*  
Marwick 1924, 15; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 202, No. 558; OR 591.
- 52 'Westoval' unlocated HY 42 NW 28  
Standing stone reported by Low, in 1778, at 'Westoval'; this has been convincingly identified by Marwick with a ridge called 'Steenie Vestifal' said to be on N slope of Blotchniefield; this name in turn cannot now be precisely located. *September 1980*  
Low 1915, 137; Marwick 1924, 15; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 227, No. 610; OR 603.

## BURNT MOUNDS

- 53 Bleaching Knowe HY 3957 3316 HY 33 SE 6  
On loch margin and obscured by recent dumping, a shapeless overgrown rise; there is no sign of structures that were once visible in the water. *September 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 226, No. 587; OR 588.
- 54 near Corse area HY 391 281 HY 32 NE 20  
Obliterated. *September 1979*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 226, No. 593; OR 459.
- 55 between Cruar and Avelshay HY 4470 2892 HY 42 NW 31  
Grass-covered mound measuring 24 m by 10 m and 1.5 m high. *September 1980*  
OR 537.
- 56 Everhaud HY 4020 3310 HY 43 SW 3  
Conical mound.  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 226, No. 589; OR 530.
- 57 Fairy Knowe HY 4351 3107 HY 43 SW 2  
Ploughed-down site. *August 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 226, No. 591; OR 528.
- 58 near Hanover HY 4336 3091 HY 43 SW 25  
Prominent rounded knoll in cultivated field; farmer reports burnt stones ploughed up.  
*August 1980*  
OR 529.

- 59 Knowe of Dale \* HY 3741 3217 HY 33 SE 15  
This impressive burnt mound is situated 400 m SSE of Tofts (no. 84) and about 100 m S of the Burn of Tofts; crescentic on plan, with the open end to the W, the mound measures about 21 m from NW to SE and 18 m transversely and stands to a maximum height of 2.3 m. It was partly excavated by Grant, who revealed a rectangular stone setting (1.5 m by 1.2 m), which is still visible. *September 1979*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 225, No. 584; OR 469.
- 60 Knowe of Gorn \* HY 3869 3341 HY 33 SE 3  
Large burnt mound beside stream. *September 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 225, No. 586; OR 587.
- 61 Knowe of Hamar HY 3894 3351 HY 33 SE 9  
Crescentic mound. *September 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 226, No. 588; OR 590.
- 62 Knowe of Oro HY 4440 2951 HY 42 NW 30  
Quarried remains of crescentic mound. *September 1980*  
OR 522.
- 63 Quandal HY 3712 3249 HY 33 SE 8  
Situated 200 m WSW of Tofts (no. 84) and about 100 m SSW of the mound no. 32, there is a grass-covered mound of burnt stones on the E side of the Burn of Tofts; crescentic on plan and open to the SW, it measures 16 m from NW to SE and 12 m transversely with a maximum height of 1 m. It has been partly robbed and this gives it the impression of being two mounds, as recorded in the *Inventory*; there is also another mound some 10 m to the S, the nature of which is not known. *August 1979*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 226, No. 596; OR 589.
- 64 Quandal \* HY 3647 3200 HY 33 SE 5  
Situated rather more than 1 km SW of Tofts (no. 84), and on the N side of an unnamed stream 500 m S of Quoynalonga Ness, there is a burnt mound; it is crescentic, with the open side to the SE, and measures 18.5 m from NE to SW by 13 m transversely. When the site was visited by the Commission in 1928, 'masonry and slabs on edge' were noted, but there is now no trace of these features. *September 1979*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 225, No. 585; OR 464.
- 65 Quandal \* HY 3682 3191 HY 33 SE 7  
At a point 800 m SW of Tofts (no. 84) and 750 m SSW of the Knowe of Dale (no. 59), there is an impressive burnt mound some 15 m in diameter and 1 m high. Excavations by Grant, which were never finished and remain unpublished, revealed a chamber constructed of upright slabs and drystone walling measuring 3.4 m by 2.6 m transversely, with a rectangular raised fireplace on the NE wall measuring 1.2 m by 0.75 m. There is a roofed rectangular cell to the NW (0.85 m by 0.7 m and 0.85 m high). Excavation also revealed the remains of a passage on the SSW side of the chamber which led to the edge of the mound. The central structure was flooded on the date of visit. It is possible that the fragments of a pottery vessel now in NMAS (HD 841) 'from the floor of a square paved structure built on a burnt mound at Westness', excavated by Grant in 1938, are from this site. *September 1979*  
Wilson Portfolio f. 17; RCAMS 1946, ii, p.226, No. 595; OR 465.
- 66 between Quandal and Outer Westness HY 3689 3077 HY 33 SE  
This grass-covered mound is situated beside a stream about 170 m WNW of North Howe (no. 74); measuring 9 m from NW to SE by 7 m transversely and 1.5 m in height, it appears to consist of earth with some burnt stones. *August 1980*  
OR 526.
- 67 between Quandal and Outer Westness HY 3706 3098 HY 33 SE 25  
Situated about 250 m N of North Howe (no. 74) this denuded, shapeless mound some 17.5 m by 13 m and 0.8 m high lies beside a stream, a position which, along with the general appearance, suggests that it is a burnt mound; but numerous rabbit-scrapes reveal only unburnt earth. *August 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 226, No. 594; OR 525.

- 68 Sourin area HY 43 31 HY 43 SW 4  
Listed as destroyed by RCAMS with vague location, now unknown.  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 226, No. 592; OR 592.

## ISLET SITE

- 69 Burrian HY 3949 3338 HY 33 SE 13  
Probable artificial island in Wasbister loch; an islet 'brough' or ring-fort apparently reused as site of a chapel possibly dedicated to St Peter. *September 1979*  
Marwick 1924, 17; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 227, No. 599; OR 466.

## BROCHS

- 70 Knowe of Burrian \* HY 4006 2745 HY 42 NW 13  
Substantial steep mound containing broch. Stone-built nausts or boat-houses are constructed against the broch on E and W sides. Beyond boat-house on W there are some indications of an outer bank. *September 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 193, No. 551; OR 514.
- 71 Knowe of Hunclett \* HY 4145 2722 HY 42 NW 15  
Very extensive site with many exposures of stonework indicating subsidiary buildings surrounding a broch; the broch is represented by a mound and the whole by a broad platform which is delimited on the W by a curving ditch (3 m to 4 m wide and 2.2 m deep), on inner lip of which is a stone wall. *September 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 201, No. 555; OR 516.
- 72 Knowe of Swandro \* HY 3752 2967 HY 32 NE 19  
Semicircular grass-covered mound, open towards sea, apparently a broch heavily robbed to build Norse structures nearby (no. 85). *September 1980*  
Barry 1805, 62; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 220, No. 579; OR 550.
- 73 Midhowe \* HY 3716 3061 HY 33 SE 2  
Broch, outbuildings and promontory-defence forework in SDD guardianship. Finds in NMAS.  
Plans in Orkney Archives, copies in NMRS; Wilson Portfolio ff. 2-4; Curle 1932, 394; Callander and Grant 1934b; PSAS, 71 (1936-7), 19; RCAMS 1946, ii, 193-200, No. 553; PSAS, 93 (1959-60), 253; Hamilton 1968; Robertson 1970, 202, 208 and 210 with table II; Lamb 1980; OR 631.
- 74 North Howe \* HY 3704 3074 HY 33 SE 11  
Extensive raised platform, reserved from ploughing, representing subsidiary buildings around central broch-mound. *August 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 202, No. 557; OR 523.
- 75 South Howe \* HY 3727 3036 HY 33 SE 10  
On the low cliff below the ruined farmstead of Brough, this site is visible on the surface as low shapeless hummocks, but in the cliff-section structures extend along a length of nearly 100 m, centred on massively heavy stonework which probably represents a broch. This extensive settlement is suffering steady erosion. *September 1979*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 193, No. 552; OR 475.
- 76 Taft o' Faraclett \* HY 4498 3308 HY 43 SW 6  
Quarried broch-mound; a deep mural chamber exposed in 1857 is still open. *August 1979*  
Letter G W Dasent to G Petrie, 26 September 1859, in MSS collection SAS 319 in NMRS; Louttit 1921; Marwick 1924, 15; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 200-1, No. 554; OR 611.
- 77 near Viera Lodge \* HY 3915 2808 HY 32 NE 12  
Now a shapeless overgrown knoll; the sea-wall that has protected this site is falling away, revealing some stonework. *September 1979*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 201-2, No. 556; OR 458.

## UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENTS (including Norse, Medieval and Later Settlements)

- 78 W of Hullion Pier HY 3943 2798 HY 32 NE  
Recent erosion of the grassy banks to the W of Hullion Pier has exposed stonework for a length of some 10 m, with burnt stones and black earth; the deposit measures some 2 m in thickness and is visible on the cliff top as a low mound. *September 1979*  
OR 461.
- 79 Knapknowes HY 3726 3143 HY 33 SE 21  
The mound with circular drystone construction reported here by the OS is the corn-drying kiln of the farmstead of Knapknowes, cleared in 1845. Faint traces of the farmstead, which was all but obliterated to build the nearby dykes, are visible alongside. *August 1980*  
Grant 1937, 72-3; Thomson 1981, 46-7; OR 625.
- 80 S of Peerie Water HY 4003 2925 HY 42 NW 6  
Well-preserved roundhouse with radial slab-divisions and elaborate entrance-passage. *September 1979*  
Marwick 1928b; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 226-7, No. 598; OR 463.
- 81 Rinyo \* HY 4398 3224 HY 43 SW 20  
Situated on a terrace about 200 m NE of Bigland, an extensive settlement of neolithic date was revealed by excavations in 1937-8 and 1946. At least seven houses were represented, some superimposed, the best preserved measuring about 5.5 m across, with central hearths, 'beds' and floor-boxes. Several of the houses were furnished with drains. The base of a clay oven has been preserved in NMAS along with the pottery, flint and stone objects. The site has now been backfilled and is marked only by a few upright slabs and stretches of drystone walling.  
Plans in Orkney Archives, copies in NMRS; *The Scotsman* 30 July 1938; Childe and Grant 1939; Childe and Grant 1947; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 227, No. 609 and pp. 362-4, appendix No. 4; Switsur and Harkness in Renfrew 1979, 72 and 206; Ritchie and Ritchie 1981, 42-3; OR 633.
- 82 Saviskaill HY 4013 3358 HY 43 SW 24  
Walling made up of large beach stones has been exposed by erosion beneath banks, under farm buildings. *September 1979*  
OR 481.
- 83 Saviskaill Bay HY 4015 3342 HY 43 SW 24  
A series of walls have been revealed by erosion in the shore banks over a length of some 28 m; possibly a Norse settlement.  
OR 480.
- 84 Tofts HY 3731 3257 HY 33 SE  
The house of Tofts is the centrepiece of the cleared tunship of Quandal, but it was perhaps once a tunship in itself; it is documented back to 1601 and has been claimed to be the oldest two-storeyed house in Orkney. The building, which has crow-stepped gables and double-splayed windows fitted for glass, is ruinous and it is structurally giving cause for concern. *August 1979*  
Clouston 1924, 11-14; Harris (undated); Thomson 1981, 43-7; OR 485.
- 85 Westness \* HY 3754 2964 HY 32 NE 17  
Variously Vestnes, Vestrnes in *Orkneyinga Saga* - residence of Sigurd who married a great-granddaughter of Thorfinn the Mighty, and scene of the abduction of Earl Paul Haakonsson by Sweyn Asleifsson. In the twelfth century this was the leading household on the island. A house 35 m long and two adjacent buildings interpreted as byres were excavated in the late 1960s. *July 1982*  
*Orkneyinga Saga* chs. xxxiii, liv, lvi, lxx, lxxiv, lxxvi; Clouston 1927, 46; Radford 1957, 36; Radford 1962, 175; *Medieval Archaeol*, 8 (1964), 240; Kaland 1973 (details in English summary differ from Norwegian text; latter is definitive); OR 543.



- 86 Westness Farm HY 3840 2898 HY 32 NE 16  
 A mound containing an irregular chamber; excavation was inconclusive but suggested that it was domestic rather than funerary. *September 1980*  
 Grant 1934, 71-3; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 220, No. 580; OR 556.

#### EARTH-HOUSES AND UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES

- 87 Gripps HY 4053 2723 HY 42 NW 27  
 The earth-house discovered in 1937 is now covered over and no surface traces survive. NMAS HD 647-57. *September 1980*  
 PSAS, 72 (1937-8), 9; Grant 1939b; Wilson Portfolio f. 16;  
 RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 364-5, appendix No. 5; OR 519.
- 88 Taft of Husaby area HY 437 314 HY 43 SW 8  
 A probable earth-house was discovered and resealed some years before RCAMS visit in 1928; such a structure is remembered to have existed in a grass field here.  
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 227, No. 607; OR 593.

#### TREB DYKES

- 89 above Garsnie Geo HY 4332 3276 to HY 43 SW  
 4333 3263  
 Running from the cliff edge at Garsnie Geo and gradually diminishing southwards for 130 m until all trace is lost, an earthen bank, some 5 m wide and up to 0.4 m high, containing a few stones. *August 1982*  
 OR 769.
- 90 above Geo of Grithen HY 3962 3468 to HY 33 SE  
 3960 3448  
 An earthen bank, 4 m wide and 0.4 m in maximum height, runs down a shallow valley to the sea; it disappears inland into cultivated land; the name Stennisgorn at HY 3939 3429 may be connected. *September 1980*  
 OR 524.
- 91 Green Gairsty HY 4105 3284 to HY 43 SW  
 4100 3264  
 A round-profiled earthwork, spread to 4 m or more in width and with a height of 0.3 m to 0.8 m, runs straight down steep slope from 60 m OD to the cliff edge; it is composed of earth with occasional slabs and boulders. There is no trace of it above the public road at 60 m OD. *September 1979*  
 Marwick 1923, 22; Marwick 1924, 16; OR 474.
- 92 Quoy Geo to Dyke-End Geo HY 3822 3477 to HY 33 SE  
 3912 3476  
 From cliff edge at Quoy Geo, a boulder-wall, which adjoins the S edge of the enclosures (no. 118), runs N of and parallel with the Limmers Burn for a distance of 200 m. Thereafter it gives way to a conspicuous green bank, 3m wide and 0.3 m in average height, which runs across the watershed to Dyke-End Geo, thus cutting off the NW extremity of the island. *August 1979*  
 OR 472.

#### NORSE BURIALS

- 93 Moaness HY 3753 2929 HY 32 NE  
 Rich cemetery investigated throughout the 1970s; excavations by Dr Sigrid Kaland, Historisk Museet, Bergen, continue.  
 Kaland 1973; OR 549.

- 94 Swandro area HY 37 28 HY 32 NE 4  
Base-silver finger-ring, said to be from Grant's excavations at the Knowe of Swandro (no. 72), but likely to originate from the same cemetery as no. 95. NMAS HD 748. Curle, Olsen and Shetelig 1954, 238; OR 547.
- 95 Swandro area HY 37 28 HY 32 NE  
Barry reports 'graves formed with slabs set on edge'; he may have seen slab-structures associated with the Knowe of Swandro (no. 72), but the description would be applicable to Norse graves. Barry 1805, 62; OR 548.
- 96 Westness HY 3759 2933 HY 32 NE 7  
In 1963 an oval cist was accidentally discovered; it contained a pair of oval brooches, a penannular brooch of eighth century date, bronze mounts, forty beads, fragments of a bronze bowl and a bone comb. Finds in NMAS. *The Scotsman*, 8 November 1963; *Medieval Archaeol*, 8 (1964), 240; Stevenson 1968; OR 545.
- 97 Westness/Swandro area HY 37 28 HY 32 NE 3  
Sword, shield-boss and iron fragments ploughed up c. 1826, indicating at least one, probably two, male burials; suggestion of several graves in area. Although oldest report names find-spot as 'Sweindrow', which has been associated with mound of that name (no. 72), current tradition (per Dr Sigrud Kaland, Historisk Museet, Bergen) asserts that the objects were ploughed up in a neighbouring field. Finds in NMAS (IL 195-6). Anderson 1874, 563-6; *PSAS*, 14 (1879-80), 57, Brøgger 1929, 131-2; Greig 1940, 88-90 with fig. 51, p. 91; Curle, Olsen and Shetelig 1954, 70; OR 546.

#### INDETERMINATE MOUNDS

- 98 Bigland area HY 43 32 HY 43 SW 16  
Potsherds in NMAS (HD 561) from an unlocated mound to the S of Bigland farm. *PSAS*, 70 (1935-6), 359; OR 617.
- 99 Bigland HY 4354 3214, HY 43 SW 7  
4355 3216  
Two circular mounds with their centres dug out. RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 205, No. 566; OR 623.
- 100 on Kingarly HY 4340 2974 HY 42 NW  
Grass-covered earthen knoll on heather hillside. *September 1980*  
OR 586.
- 101 near Mount Pleasant HY 4040 2808 HY 42 NW  
Grass - and heather-covered mound of earth and slabs, measuring 5 m in diameter and 0.4 m high; 1 m to the N there is a ridge measuring 3 m long, 1 m wide and 0.3 m high. *September 1980*  
OR 536.
- 102 Scockness HY 4526 3215 HY 43 SE 2  
On the stabilised spit at the S extremity of Scockness, and cut into by erosion on its N and W sides, is a mound 1 m to 1.3 m high and with a maximum diameter of 12.5 m. The erosion reveals a make-up of gravel and small stones which show no signs of burning. This is too small to contain a brooch, and it is unclear whether this is a funerary structure or the remains of a settlement site. *August 1979*  
Name Book, Orkney, No. 16, p. 94; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 227, No. 606; OR 483.
- 103 above Westness HY 3866 2954 HY 32 NE  
Grass-covered stony mound 2.5 m diameter and 0.4 m high; there are other possible mounds nearby, but the terrace is disturbed by old cultivation.

- 104 between Quandal and Outer Westness HY 3683 3075 HY 33 SE  
 On a narrow cliff-promontory, now suffering from erosion, there is an elongated mound measuring 6 m by 3 m and 0.8 m high, which lies along the ridge of the promontory, the line of which is continued inland as a terrace-edge. The mound is made of flat-laid slabs and to NE (ie landward) there is a rectangular feature constructed of slabs laid on edge.  
*September 1980*  
 OR 527.

#### ECCLESIASTICAL MONUMENTS

(See also no. 69)

- 105 Bretta Ness HY 3972 3324 HY 33 SE 12  
 A gently rounded mound at extremity of a promontory on E side of Wasbister Loch may be the remains of a chapel; presumably the dedication was to St Brittiva, Bridget or Bride. *September 1979*  
 Marwick 1924, 19; OR 468.
- 106 Corse Kirk HY 3948 3361 HY 33 SE 14  
 There are now no traces of the church that formerly existed on the W shore of Wasbister Loch; the graveyard, however, remains in use and has recently been extended.  
*September 1979*  
 Name Book, Orkney, No. 16, p. 41; Marwick 1924, 19; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 227, No. 602; OR 467.
- 107 Kirk House HY 4464 2928 HY 42 NW 11, 12  
 Very small burial-ground, disused during the present century, occupying S side of a broad platform; this rises on the N side to form a shapeless mound with occasional erect slabs. The mound seems too insubstantial to contain a broch, but is probably an early settlement site subsequently used for the chapel. *September 1980*  
 Name Book, Orkney, No. 16, p. 208; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 227, No. 604; OR 512.
- 108 St Colm's Kirk HY 4055 3307 HY 43 SW 10  
 Site marked by a low shapeless rise on the shoreline; the slight structural traces noted by OS are now buried under stone rubble dumped by the farmer in a laudable attempt to stop erosion. *August 1979*  
 Name Book, Orkney, No. 16, p. 44; Marwick 1924, 19; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 227, No. 600; OR 478.
- 109 (Chapel of Scockness) HY 4527 3254 HY 43 SE 3  
 This site is in a recently disused graveyard; Marwick reports that it was resorted to by child-bearing women, a fact that suggests a dedication to Our Lady. *August 1979*  
 Name Book, Orkney, No. 16, p. 94; Marwick 1924, 19; OR 484.
- 110 St Mary's Chapel (Church Knowe) HY 3958 2783 HY 32 NE 24  
 Just above the shore at Hullion jetty, a slight rise marks the site of the chapel which stood until the early nineteenth century. It was the chapel of the half-urisland tunship of Frotoft. *September 1979*  
 Name Book Orkney, No. 16, p. 193; Marwick 1924, 19; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 227, No. 605; OR 460.
- 111 St Mary's Church \* HY 3735 3018 HY 33 SE 16  
 Also referred to as 'Swandro Church', 'Westside Church', 'Westness Church', 'Skaill Church', this is the shell of the former parish church of Rousay, abandoned in 1815, probably comprising post-Reformation fabric on medieval foundations. Architectural fragments are built into the walls (see Introduction, p.11). In spite of buttresses provided by General Burroughs late in the last century, the building is moving down the slope and is structurally threatened. *August 1979*  
 Sir Henry Dryden's drawings in NMRS; Dryden letter in *The Orcadian*, 22 August 1871; Name Book, Orkney, No. 16, pp. 125 and 239; MacGibbon and Ross 1896-7, i, 108-9; Dietrichson 1906, 105-9 (Norwegian text), 28-9 (separately paginated English text); Marwick 1924, 19; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 190-1, No. 548; OR 487.

## CASTLE

- 112 The Wirk HY 3737 3020 HY 33 SE 17  
 At the NE corner of St Mary's churchyard (no. 111), there is the debris-choked shell of a well-constructed stone tower with footings of a large hall-like building adjoining it to E. Tower resembles Cubbie Row's Castle (no. 162) and is referred to as a 'fortalice' in a document of 1556. Architectural fragments found apparently in association with this structure are puzzling (see Introduction p. 10). Dietrichson's comparison with detached defensible bell-towers of Scandinavian churches deserves serious consideration.  
*August 1979*  
 Dietrichson 1906, 108-9; Marwick 1924, 17; Clouston 1931, 27-33;  
 RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 191-2, No. 550; Cruden 1960, 21; *Medieval Archaeol*, 8 (1964), 240; Lamb 1980, 94; OR 486.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- 113 Camp(s) of Jupiter Fring HY 4132 2896 HY 42 NW 8  
 This puzzling name, obviously a 'rationalisation' of a real one, is still current. The investigator for the 1880 Name Book obtained the name 'Camps' from several local sources; this must represent Old Norse *kamb* 'ridge'. The entry has been expanded in a different hand, on the authority of General Burroughs, to 'Camp of Jupiter Fring'; a third hand has added that this is the place where Thing meetings were supposed to have been held. It is not clear whether this is a genuine tradition of a thing-stead or an attempt to explain the name as given by Burroughs. There are no artificial works on the ridge.  
*September 1979*  
 Name Book, Orkney, No. 16, p. 191; Marwick 1923b, 263; RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 227, No. 608; OR 552.
- 114 below Crow Hamar HY 3958 2870 HY 32 NE  
 This substantial enclosure measuring about 7 m across is formed by a bank about 1 m wide and 0.3 m high, and is much obscured by bracken. Possibly a quoy, although it may occupy site of an ancient structure. *September 1980*  
 OR 535.
- 115 Essay Geo HY 4453 2983 HY 42 NW  
 Erosion-truncated grass-covered naust; it survives to a length of 7 m and a width of 4 m, with a bluntly-pointed inner end; some 10 m to the SW are two other, more recent, stone-built nausts on top of the banks. *September 1980*  
 OR 513.
- 116 on Faraclett HY 4404 3282 HY 43 SW 28  
 Two parallel rows of erect slabs 1.3 m apart, with one edge-slab projecting at right angles into the space between; the slabs, all more or less leaning, stand up to 0.5 m high on a low peaty mound.  
 OR 766.
- 117 on Faraclett HY 4420 3278 HY 43 SW 29  
 Slightly raised green platform above boggy ground; from it protrude two massive parallel edge-slabs measuring 0.4 m high, 1 m long and 1.3 m apart; the top of a third slab is just visible above ground at right angles to them, closing one end of the chamber thus formed. Probably the central construction of a burial-mound.  
 OR 767.
- 118 above Quoy Geo HY 3821 3478 HY 33 SE  
 On the cliff top above Quoy Geo there are three irregular circles of large stones with basal course of orthostats. The northernmost enclosure is the largest (30 m E-W by 20 m N-S) with an entrance to the E and walls up to 1 m high. The enclosures appear to be associated with the dyke across this NW extremity of Rousay, no. 92. *August 1979*  
 OR 473.

- 119 Rousay unlocated HY 42 NW 29  
Anderson refers to an 'ancient Norwegian encampment' in Rousay; possibly inspired by no. 113.  
Anderson 1834, 674; OR 604.
- 120 on Sinclair's Hill HY 4022 2812 HY 42 NW 14  
On a hillside shelf on Sinclair's Hill there are two large undressed stone blocks, one above the other, which are supported on smaller stones; not readily explicable. *September 1980*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 226, No. 597; OR 515.
- 121 Westness HY 3766 2928 HY 32 NE 32  
Excavated Norse boathouse. *September 1980*  
Kaland 1973; OR 544.

## ISOLATED AND UNPROVENANCED FINDS

- 122 Bigland area HY 435 320 HY 43 SW 14  
Flint arrowhead; NMAS AD 1793.  
PSAS, 70 (1935-6), 17; OR 615.
- 123 Bigland area HY 43 32 HY 43 SW 15  
Flint arrowhead, point, blades, scrapers; NMAS AB 2440-60.  
PSAS, 70 (1935-6), 359; OR 616.
- 124 Bigland area HY 436 323 HY 43 SW 21  
Flint scrapers etc. from the field between Rinyo and Bigland farm;  
NMAS AB 2483-2507.  
PSAS, 70 (1935-6), 392; OR 620.
- 125 Flanders Moss, Wasbister HY 392 290 HY 32 NE 35  
Bronze dagger with horn handle found during peat cutting in 1905.  
Hunterian Museum, University of Glasgow, B.1914.317.  
Cursiter 1908, 74-7; Henshall 1968, 192.
- 126 Frotoft area HY 40 27 HY 42 NW 21  
Flint point; NMAS AB 2278.  
PSAS, 69 (1934-5), 438; OR 598.
- 127 near Geord of Nears area HY 425 274 HY 42 NW 17  
Barbed arrowhead of grey quartz; NMAS.  
PSAS, 72 (1937-8), 9; OR 562.
- 128 Innister area HY 38 33 HY 33 SE 18  
Rough sandstone implement; NMAS AC 658.  
PSAS, 36 (1901-2), 594; OR 607.
- 129 'Nearhouse' unlocated HY 42 NW 9  
Flint and stone artefacts in NMAS thus provenanced; the name does not exist, possibly Nears HY 4179 2737 or Newhouse HY 397 280.  
AA 255; AB 2356-61, 2469-82, 2508; AD 2238; AF 870.  
PSAS, 77 (1942-3), 195; PSAS, 78 (1943-4), 139; OR 596.
- 130 Nears area HY 418 273 HY 42 NW 20  
Two flint scrapers; NMAS AB 2276-7.  
PSAS, 69 (1934-5), 438; OR 597.
- 131 Outer Westness area HY 37 30 HY 33 SE 19  
A bronze penannular brooch and fragment of chain, ploughed up in the field which contains North Howe (no. 74); NMAS.  
PSAS, 73 (1938-9), 334; OR 606.

- 132 Outer Westness area HY 37 30 HY 33 SE 23  
Two donations to NMAS of flint objects found in the field above Midhowe (no. 73);  
NMAS AB 2272, 2279-83, 2434-9; AD 1794.  
PSAS, 69 (1934-5), 438, PSAS, 70 (1935-6), 359; OR 609.
- 133 Outer Westness area HY 37 30 HY 33 SE 24  
Stone axe found in the field above Midhowe; NMAS AF 748.  
PSAS, 72 (1937-8), 9; OR 610.
- 134 Outer Westness HY 3736 3141 HY 33 SE (M)  
A saddle quern is built into a substantial wall which is part of the enclosures of Westness  
Farm built after the clearances of 1845.  
OR 540.
- 135 Rousay HY 42 NW 26  
Perforated stone hammer given to NMAS by Grant 1932; NMAS AH 193.  
PSAS, 67 (1932-3), 12; OR 602.
- 136 Rousay  
On the W terrace of Trumland House are assorted stone artefacts, probably remnants of  
Grant's collection from various sites in Rousay, including fragments of rotary- and  
trough-querns, pot-lids, hammer-stones, and an ard point, together with geological  
specimens.  
OR 489.
- 137 Rousay HY 42 NW 35  
Stone urn filled with calcined bones, provenanced Rousay, donated to NMAS 1860  
(EK 5).  
PSAS, 3 (1857-60), 487; OR 601.
- 138 Sourin area HY 42 30 HY 43 SW 11  
Flint knife; NMAS.  
PSAS, 17 (1882-3), 70; OR 612.
- 139 Westside  
Architectural fragments; those that are provenanced are known to have come from the  
neighbourhood of The Wirk (no. 112) and St Mary's Church (no. 111); now built into  
an ornamental gateway over the path to the kitchen-garden, with others piled on the W  
terrace of Trumland House. See Introduction p. 10.  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 191, No. 549; OR 488.

## EYNHALLOW

## 'STANDING STONE'

- 140 Eynhallow \* HY 3589 2869 HY 32 NE 13  
Immediately above the shoreline on a low crest consisting of shelving rocks, an upright  
slab 1.65 m high, set in a packing of smaller stones. It was probably used in connection  
with hauling up boats and is of no great age. *August 1982*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 234, No. 616; Mooney 1949, 32; OR 772.

## UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENTS

- 141 Kyarl HY 3640 2946 HY 32 NE 33  
Beneath and around the prominent cairn which stands on a cliff edge on the N shore of  
the island, and largely buried under storm debris, are indications of an extensive and  
probably well-preserved prehistoric settlement. There are massive slab-structures and  
exposures of drystone masonry, including a curved wall-face interrupted by a passage;  
this may be the facade of a heel-shaped house. *August 1982*  
Mooney 1949, 32; OR 777.

- 142 Little Kyarl HY 3649 2940 HY 32 NE 29  
 100 m SE from Kyarl and on a less elevated cliff top, but otherwise in a generally similar situation, is the vague grass-grown foundation of a probable roundhouse some 9 m across. 12 m S of this is a shapeless, but apparently artificial, mound about 6 m from side to side and 0.4 m high. *August 1982*  
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 234, No. 614; OR 771.

- 143 Monkerness HY 3651 2922 HY 32 NE 28  
 A further 160 m SSE from Little Kyarl is another roundhouse which is probably similar to it. The place-name, which appears to be genuine, led John Mooney to excavate here in 1922, uncovering a roughly circular drystone building with a central hearth; it is 7.3 m in diameter over walls 0.8 m thick and is almost certainly prehistoric. *August 1982*  
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 234, No. 614; Mooney 1949, 30-2 with plan, p. 150; OR 770.

#### INDETERMINATE MOUNDS

(See also no. 142)

- 144 Eynhallow \* HY 3590 2874 HY 32 NE 14  
 Crowning a rock-outcrop on the slope below the monastery is a roughly oval heap of big stones confusedly tumbled together against a massive upright slab on its N side, the heap now measuring about 7.5 m by 5 m. Its lack of coherent structure strongly suggests a clearance-heap, the planting of an upright flagstone to form the core of such a heap being a practice still occasionally current. *August 1982*  
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 234, No. 615; OR 773.

- 145 HY 3582 2888 HY 32 NE 30  
 On the hillside level with the monastery and some 60 m NW of it is a shapeless, nettle-grown mound some 11 m across. It has been claimed to be a kitchen-midden, but this cannot now be verified; the general appearance suggests a field-clearance and general rubbish heap. *August 1982*  
 RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 234, No. 617; OR 774.

#### ECCLESIASTICAL MONUMENT

- 146 Eynhallow monastery \* HY 3590 2883 HY 32 NE 2  
 The shell of a quite grandly conceived but curiously executed church consisting of nave and chancel with a western 'porch', adjoining a complex of buildings which have been variously claimed to be medieval and monastic, or to be post-medieval and domestic. While both church and buildings have undergone numerous and drastic alterations in recent centuries, it is likely that this complex essentially represents a monastic layout, possibly originating as a Benedictine foundation of the second quarter of the twelfth century, and evidently extinct as a religious house well before the sixteenth century. The buildings are in guardianship but in recent years have become overgrown with nettles and infested by fulmars. *August 1982*  
 Sir Henry Dryden's drawings in NMRS; Muir 1885, 68-9 and 252-4; MacGibbon and Ross 1896-7, i, 116-22; Craven 1901, 16; Dietrichson 1906, 126-33 with plan (Norwegian text), 36-43 (separately paginated English text, full translation); Mooney 1933; Taylor 1938, 401; RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 230-4, No. 613; Mooney 1949; Guðmundsson, *Orkneyinga Saga*, footnote, 269; Lamb 1973; Cowan and Easson 1976, 61-2; OR 551.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

- 147 Cave of the Twenty Men Hole HY 3556 2943 HY 32 NE  
 A sea-cave on the W side of the island which has been identified as the hiding-place of the saga hero Sweyn Asleifsson. The underlying assumption that Eynhallow is the island *Hellisey* where this took place, however, has been seriously challenged. *August 1982*  
*Orkneyinga Saga* ch. xcvi; Guðmundsson, *Orkneyinga Saga*, footnote, 264; Fereday 1972; OR 776.

- 148 HY 3650 2913 HY 32 NE  
Two erect slabs set into a steep slope, the larger 0.7 m long, 0.2m thick and projecting 0.4 m, the other at a 45° angle to the S end of it, seem to be the same feature as described by Mooney, three edge-slabs set in an arc. Their purpose is uncertain. *August August 1982*  
Mooney 1949, 32; OR 775.

## EGILSAY

### CHAMBERED CAIRN

- 149 Hillocks of the Graand \* HY 4742 2780 HY 42 NE 4  
Very prominently poised on the edge of a rocky spur overlooking the flat coastal plain at the S end of the island is a site discovered by the OS in 1972. The mound has been heavily quarried and its material has spread down the steep slopes, but it was about 21 m N-S by 17 m. Exposed in it is a short straight stretch of wall-face pierced by a lintelled passage 0.3 m wide and 1.1 m long leading to a diminutive corbelled cell 1.4 m by 0.9 m. This is consistent with a chambered tomb of Maes Howe type; in spite of the quarrying it is likely that archaeological deposits survive in the cell and main chamber. *August 1982*  
OR 797.

### MOUNDS

- 150 Knowes of Howe HY 463 312 HY 43 SE  
On the summit of the prominent rocky hill NNW of Howe farm is a neatly circular, rounded and steep-sided mound 8 m diameter, 1.2 m high, grass-covered, but almost certainly a burial-mound. 15 m S of it is another, slightly oval, with a maximum diameter of 10 m; it is 0.8 m high, steep-sided, with the top flattened and slightly hollowed at the centre. Other hillocks on lower shoulders of the hill seem to be caused by rocky outcrops. *August 1982*  
OR 798.

### BURNT MOUND

- 151 between Howan and Whitelett HY 4755 2890 HY 42 NE  
In 1972, on the flat coastal plain half-way between Howan and Whitelett, the OS recorded a mutilated burnt mound, measuring 26 m E-W by 16 m and 1.0 m high. OR 809.

### UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENTS

- 152 Howan HY 4780 2924 HY 42 NE 3  
The seventeenth-century laird's house recorded in derelict condition by RCAMS in 1930 has suffered further decay and is in use as a byre. The house stands on a rounded hillock, which is a prominent feature on the flat coastal plain, and although no structures are apparent, this may consist of archaeological deposits. *August 1982*  
RCAMS 1946, ii, p. 229, No. 612; Gibson and Marwick notes, July 1982; OR 799.
- 153 Skail HY 4620 3018 HY 43 SE 5  
The OS records a report by Mr E V MacGillivray, then County Librarian, that in 1972 midden refuse, including pottery described as Viking, was found in a collapsed bank at Skail, a group of houses by the shore adjoining the steamer pier. The ground around here is very confused and disturbed, and a small exposure of black organic earth is visible in the collapsed shore banks below the cottage of Mugley. *August 1982*  
Gibson and Marwick notes, July 1982; OR 808.



## ECCLESIASTICAL MONUMENT

- 154 St Magnus Church \* HY 4661 3038 HY 43 SE 1  
 Although a church in Egilsay is featured in saga and hagiographical accounts of the martyrdom of St Magnus in 1116 or 1117, the existing building conspicuously sited on nearly the highest ground on the island, probably dates from the second quarter of the twelfth century. It is the only survivor of a distinctive group of great round-towered churches in Orkney and Shetland. The barrel-vaulted, square-ended chancel had an upper storey above the vault, entered from the nave by a doorway over the chancel arch; the nave has opposed N and S doorways near its W end and the curiously-tapering tower, which survives to a height of 14.9 m, is attached to its W wall. In use until the early nineteenth century, it is shown in Hibbert's drawing of 1822 to have had flagstone roofs, but these had been removed before Dryden's first visit in 1846; now in guardianship, and in good order. *August 1982*  
*Orkneyinga Saga* chs. xlvi-lix, with *Magnúss Saga Skemmri* chs. xi-xii, *Magnúss Saga Lengri* ch. xxv, and *Legenda de Sancto Magno: 'Jo Ben'* (sixteenth century) in Barry 1805, 438; *Stat. Acct.*, vii (1793), 337 (also 1978, 198); Hibbert 1822, engraving opposite p. 608; Sir Henry Dryden, drawings 1846-51, one in Dryden Collection, Northampton Central Library, others in NMRS; Anderson 1873, pp. xci-xciii; Anderson 1881, 34-7; Tudor 1883, 346-8; Muir 1885, 68 and 114-15; MacGibbon and Ross 1896-7, i, 26-7, 100, 127-35; ii, 209; Craven 1901, refs. as index; Goudie 1904, 51-2; Dietrichson 1906, 95-105 (Norwegian text), 23-8 (separately paginated English text, summary); RCAMS 1946, i, pp. 43-4; ii, pp. 228-9, No. 611; Radford 1962, 182-3; OR 807.

## ISOLATED AND UNPROVENANCED FIND

- 155 Egilsay HY 42 NE 2  
 A 'perforated stone hammer' or mace-head found in Egilsay was given to NMAS (AH 186) by Grant in 1930.  
*PSAS*, 65 (1930-1), 14; OR 810.

## KILI HOLM

## UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENTS

- 156 HY 4757 3259 HY 43 SE 4  
 Beneath the cairn at the centre of the islet, is a stony mound 17 m in diameter and 1.5 m high with several protruding edge-slabs. Although it has been interpreted as a chambered tomb, this is probably a prehistoric house. *May 1981*  
 OR 779.
- 157 HY 4763 3265 HY 43 SE 4  
 Above the N shore of the islet is another stony mound some 13.5 m across. The edge-slabs which protrude from it suggest the internal wall-face and interior fittings of a prehistoric house, and an arrangement of edge-slabs on the SSE margin may represent the entrance. *May 1981*  
 OR 778.

## WYRE

## BURNT MOUND

- 158 near Testaquoy HY 4367 2580 HY 42 NW 35  
 On a gentle slope near the summit of the ridge some 600 m ENE of Testaquoy, is a vague turf-covered mound some 6 m diameter and 0.4 m high, with a rather slighter mound 15 m E of it. When seen by OS in 1972 burnt stones were exposed in the first mound. *August 1982*  
 OR 801.

## UNENCLOSED SETTLEMENTS

- 159 below Hallbreck HY 4379 2645 HY 42 NW  
 When the mains electricity supply was being brought across the sound from Rousay to the low-lying NW shore of Wyre in the 1970s, the holes dug for the first pole and for its bracing stay encountered rich black earth containing animal bones, and substantial slab-structures. The local report suggests a settlement with kitchen-midden. The shore banks are thickly overgrown but the site is marked by a slight rise in the surface contour extending SW from the pole. *August 1982*  
 OR 805.
- 160 below Testaquoy HY 4345 2556 HY 42 NW 34  
 A heavily-quarried nettle-grown stony mound some 16 m long lies alongside the shore-line below Testaquoy. In the hollowed centre is an exposure of erect slabs which form no coherent pattern. The farmer has found in it flints, stone sinkers, and pottery, suggesting a settlement site. See also no. 165. *August 1982*  
 OR 802.

## ECCLESIASTICAL MONUMENT

- 161 St Mary's Chapel \* HY 4430 2629 HY 42 NW 4  
 This chapel, which stands at the foot of the hill occupied by Cubbie Row's Castle, has also been called Peter's Kirk; but the Marian dedication was accepted by Archdeacon Craven and subsequently recorded by RCAMS in 1929 from a good local source. It is a neat building, close in style and design to the chapel at Lybster, Caithness, and dating from the middle or second half of the twelfth century; the nave has a round-arched W door and a round arch into the square-ended chancel. Ruinous by 1791, it was cleared and partly rebuilt in the late nineteenth century at the instigation of General Burroughs; now in guardianship, and in good order. *June 1982*  
 'Jo Ben' (sixteenth century), in Barry 1805, 438; *Stat. Acct.*, vii (1793), 337 (also 1978, 198 ); Anderson 1873, pp. xcvi-xcvii; Anderson 1881, 60-1; Tudor 1883, 345; Muir 1885, 67 and 114; MacGibbon and Ross 1896-7, i, 113-16; Craven 1901, 74-7; Dietrichson 1906, 122-3 (Norwegian text), 33 (separately paginated English text, summary); RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 234-5. No. 618; Radford 1962, 186-7;  
 OR 795.

## CASTLE

- 162 Cubbie Row's Castle \* HY 4418 2630 HY 42 NW 5  
 Kolbeinn Hruga was a powerful magnate of the mid-twelfth century who has passed into folk-memory as the giant 'Cubbe Row'. This structure on a rounded hilltop is evidently the 'good stone-castle' which according to *Orkneyinga Saga* he built in Wyre shortly before 1150 and in which, in *Hakonar Saga*, the slayers of Earl Paul stood siege in 1231. The latter source differentiates between the 'castle' proper, represented by a nearly-square mortar-built tower surviving to a height of 2.4 m, and an 'outer castle' which must refer to the substantial outer wall with its outer ditch and counterscarp bank, and to the buildings between it and the tower. Excavated by HM Office of Works in the 1920s, it is in guardianship and in good order. Finds in NMAS. *June 1982*  
*Orkneyinga Saga* ch. lxxxiv; *Hakonar Saga* ch. cxli; 'Jo Ben' (sixteenth century), in Barry 1805, 438; Wallace 1883, 32; Barry 1805, 63 and 227; Dietrichson 1906, 121-2 (Norwegian text), 33 (separately paginated English text, summary); Marwick 1928a; Clouston 1931; RCAMS 1946, i, p. 49; ii, pp. 235-9, No. 619; Cruden 1960, 20-1; Simpson 1961, 5-6; Dunbar 1966, 38; Talbot 1974, 39-40; Lamb 1980, 94; OR 796.

## MISCELLANEOUS

- 163 near Skirmie Clett \* HY 4555 2622 HY 42 NE 1  
 Above the low rocky shoreline some 150 m N of the rock feature of this name, is a remarkably well-preserved complex of stone-built enclosures. Planned in detail by RCAMS in 1934, it is a cluster of irregularly-shaped contiguous yards, the walling exhibiting four different styles of construction: (1) laid masonry, (2) flags propped face-to-face on end, their faces transverse to the line of the wall, (3) two parallel rows of basal orthostats, 0.6 m to 0.8 m apart, with occasional transverse linking-slabs giving a cist effect, and the spaces filled by small stones, (4) single rows of end-to-end edge-slabs like Caithness flagstone fences. Although vestiges of old field-boundaries occur elsewhere on this moor, none is immediately associated with this complex. A burnt mound shown on the RCAMS plan is a very slight feature which cannot now be confirmed. *August 1982* RCAMS 1946, ii, pp. 239-40, No. 620; OR 800.

## ISOLATED AND UNPROVENANCED FINDS

- 164 'near Cubbie Row's Castle' area HY 44 26 HY 42 NW 24  
 A handle or haft of cetacean bone was found near Cubbie Row's Castle and given to NMAS in 1930.  
*PSAS* 56, (1930-1), 11; OR 804.
- 165 Testaquoy area HY 43 25 HY 42 NW  
 In NMAS (HR 1141-6) are sherds, a steatite rim fragment, and a bronze nail, provenanced to Testaquoy and the accession dated 1943. They may have come from the settlement site, no. 160.  
 OR 806.
- 166 Wyre HY 42 NW 19  
 A stone axe, provenanced Wyre, was presented to NMAS in 1937 (AF 749).  
*PSAS*, 72 (1937-8), 10; OR 803.

## SCHEDULED AND GUARDIANSHIP MONUMENTS:

The names and identification of several sites have changed since they were given statutory protection under the Ancient Monuments Act of 1979, which supercedes 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. A cross (+) indicates monuments wholly or partly in the care of the Secretary of State for Scotland.

### ROUSAY

#### Prehistoric, Ritual and Funerary

- + Blackhammer Cairn, chambered cairn (no. 3)
- Cobbie Row's Burden, chambered cairn, Brinyan (no. 4)
- Geord of Nears, chambered cairn (no. 21)
- Knowe of Craie, chambered cairn, East Craie, Sourin (no. 8)
- Knowe of Laird, chambered cairn, E of Hullion, Frotoft (no. 11)
- Knowe of Lingro, chambered cairn, Lingro, Wasbister (no. 12)
- Knowe of Ramsay, chambered cairn, 270 m E of Hullion, Frotoft (no. 9)
- Knowe of Rowiegar, chambered cairn (no. 10)
- + Knowe of Yarso, cairn (no. 15)
- Loch of Knitchin, cairn 230 m N of loch (no. 26)
- Long Stone, standing stone, Frotoft (no. 50)
- Lower Quandale, burnt mound WSW of Lower Quandale (no. 65)
- + Midhowe Cairn, chambered cairn (no. 13)
- + Taversoe Tuick, chambered cairn (no. 14)
- Too of Nugle, mound 230 m NE of Moan (no. 39)
- Upper Quandale, cairn SSW of Upper Quandale (no. 33)
- Yatnes Stone, standing stone, 180 m N of Faraclett, Scock Ness (no. 51)

#### Prehistoric, Domestic and Defensive

- Braes of Rinyo, settlement (no. 81)
- Brough, broch, Westside (no. 75)
- Cogar, burnt mound, 230 m S of Wasbister (no. 44)
- Knowe of Burrian, broch, Frotoft (no. 70)
- Knowe of Dale, burnt mound, 230 m NNW of Mid Quandale (no. 59)
- Knowe of Gorn, burnt mound, N of Breckan (no. 60)
- Knowe of Hunclett, broch, ESE of Hunclett, Frotoft (no. 71)
- Knowe of Swandro, mound 400 m SSE of Skail, Westside (no. 72)
- Loch of Scockness, broch at N end of loch (no. 76)
- + Midhowe Broch, broch (no. 73)
- North Howe, broch W of Quoycare, Westside (no. 74)
- Quoynalonga Ness, burnt mound, 400 m SE of the Ness (no. 64)
- Viera Lodge, broch, Frotoft (no. 77)

#### Ecclesiastical

- Westness Church (no. 111)

#### Secular

- Westness, Viking houses, noost and graveyard (no. 85)

**EYNHALLOW**

**Prehistoric, Ritual and Funerary**

Eynhallow, standing stone and mound (nos. 140 and 144)

**Ecclesiastical**

+ Eynhallow Church (no. 146)

**EGILSAY**

**Prehistoric, Ritual and Funerary**

Onziebust, chambered cairn, 360 m SSE of Onziebust (no. 149)

**Ecclesiastical**

+ St Magnus Church, Egilsay (no. 154)

**WYRE**

**Prehistoric, Domestic and Defensive**

Skirmie Clett, enclosures (no. 163)

**Ecclesiastical**

+ St Mary's Church, Wyre (no. 161)

**Secular**

+ Cobbie's Row Castle (no. 162)

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- NMRS National Monuments Record of Scotland, 54 Melville Street, Edinburgh.
- Name Book (County) Original Name-books of the Ordnance Survey.
- OS Ordnance Survey, 125 George Street, Edinburgh.
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Wilson Portfolio Portfolio of plans, executed in black ink with water colour, of Walter Grant's excavations compiled by David Wilson in about 1946 as a presentation collection to Grant; it stood in the front hall of Trumland House until Grant's death when it was returned to Wilson. Mrs Wilson has now donated the portfolio to Tankerness House Museum, Kirkwall; there are copies in NMRS.





