

Sanday

... History on your doorstep

Maps of Sanday in the 1700s show a much smaller island than at present, suggesting that the sea-driven sand may have joined up a series of smaller isles.

The attractive island of Sanday is the largest of the North Isles of Orkney and, as the name suggests, its most outstanding features are the sweeping bays with their white sandy beaches.

Lying nearly 15 miles northeast of Kirkwall, access by air and sea is comfortable and speedy. Sanday is a peaceful place, which requires time to savour its gentle charm. You can fish for trout in the lochs or wander the beaches or eight way-marked walks, visit archaeological sites or watch the basking seals. Sanday offers unlimited opportunities for wildlife enthusiasts both professional and amateur. You can watch fishing boats at Kettletoft, or farmers tending their fields in the long, light days of summer. You may gather your own thoughts and impressions in one of the island bars among the friendly and interested local folk. The island has a swimming pool and community centre adjoining the school as well as a nine-hole golf course. Sanday has two hotels a hostel and several bed and breakfast and self-catering facilities.

Look for the "Visitor Trail" signs as you explore the island.

Wildlife

The coastline of the island gives easy access to one of Sanday's principal wildlife attractions – seals. Common Seal pups can be seen swimming at Otterswick in June and Grey Seals are born on secluded beaches in November. Another delight of the beaches are the shells – the Cowrie (Grottie Buckie) and the Faroese Sunset being two favourites.

More elusive are Sanday's otters but the alert will find their tell-tale tracks – five toes and a trailing tail – in the sand and their 'spraint' or droppings on prominent knolls or rocks.

Sanday boasts all the seabirds, terns and waders found elsewhere in Orkney. Vagrant birds such as Hoopoe, Red-Breasted Flycatcher, Ortolan and Little and Pine Buntings have all been seen in recent summers.

Archaeology

Around 4000BC farmers were settling here, attracted by the light sandy soils, which were easy to cultivate. Great stone tombs were erected, Quoyness being among the finest. The group of hundreds of prehistoric mounds at Tofts Ness is one of the most important funerary landscapes in Britain.

Sanday offered the best conditions in Orkney for arable farming, reflected in the extraordinary density of prehistoric, Viking Age and later settlement. This wealth is indicated by Medieval taxation rolls which valued Sanday land higher than elsewhere in Orkney. Rich farmsteads usually remain in occupation for thousands of years resulting in massive accumulations of successively deserted buildings and midden deposits several metres thick.

Pool was a major excavation site in the 1980s when a succession of Neolithic, Pictish and Viking-age deposits was revealed. Such accumulations have also created the remarkable 'farm mounds', little hills, almost entirely composed of man-made material, striking features of the flat landscape of Lady parish. In 1991 a spectacular Viking-Age find was made near Scar in Burness. This boat burial contained three human skeletons richly endowed with ornaments, household goods and weapons. Such an ostentatious funeral could only have been staged by a family of enormous wealth. Intriguingly, Sanday folklore speaks of a fantastically rich individual once having lived at Scar.

With the exception of Quoyness Chambered Cairn all the archaeological sites are under grass.

Archaeology leaflet available locally.

Points of interest

- 1 Elsness-Quoyness Chambered Tomb:** Neolithic chambered tomb, at least 2000BC, one of Orkney's archaeological showpieces. It has a main chamber, six cells and served a whole community. Admission free, open all year.
- 2 Cata Sand:** Tidal sandy bay flanked by a unique series of spectacular dunes. Waders and Common Seals can be seen here and in nearby Newark Bay.
- 3* Tresness Farm – Horse Engine House:** Nineteenth century engine house with octagonal pyramidal roof. A horse turned machine, which drove a threshing-mill, in an adjoining barn.
- 4 Tresness – Wasso Broch and Chambered Tomb:** Part of the wall of the broch can be seen and at the end of the Ness lies an unexcavated tomb.
- 5 Bay of Lopness – Wreck of German Destroyer:** At low tide the remains of WW1 destroyer B98 which went ashore in 1919 can be seen; Picnic site and information board.
- 6 Hearsie House –** Hearsie no longer here.
- 7 Start Point – Lighthouse:** First tower was erected in 1802; in 1806 it was fitted with the first revolving light in Scotland by Robert Stevenson, grandfather of Robert Louis Stevenson. Visited by Sir Walter Scott in 1814 the tower was rebuilt in 1870 and subsequently painted with distinctive vertical black and white stripes.
- 8 Lettan – War-time Radar Station:** Remains of part of the 1940 air-defence chain up the east coast of Britain.



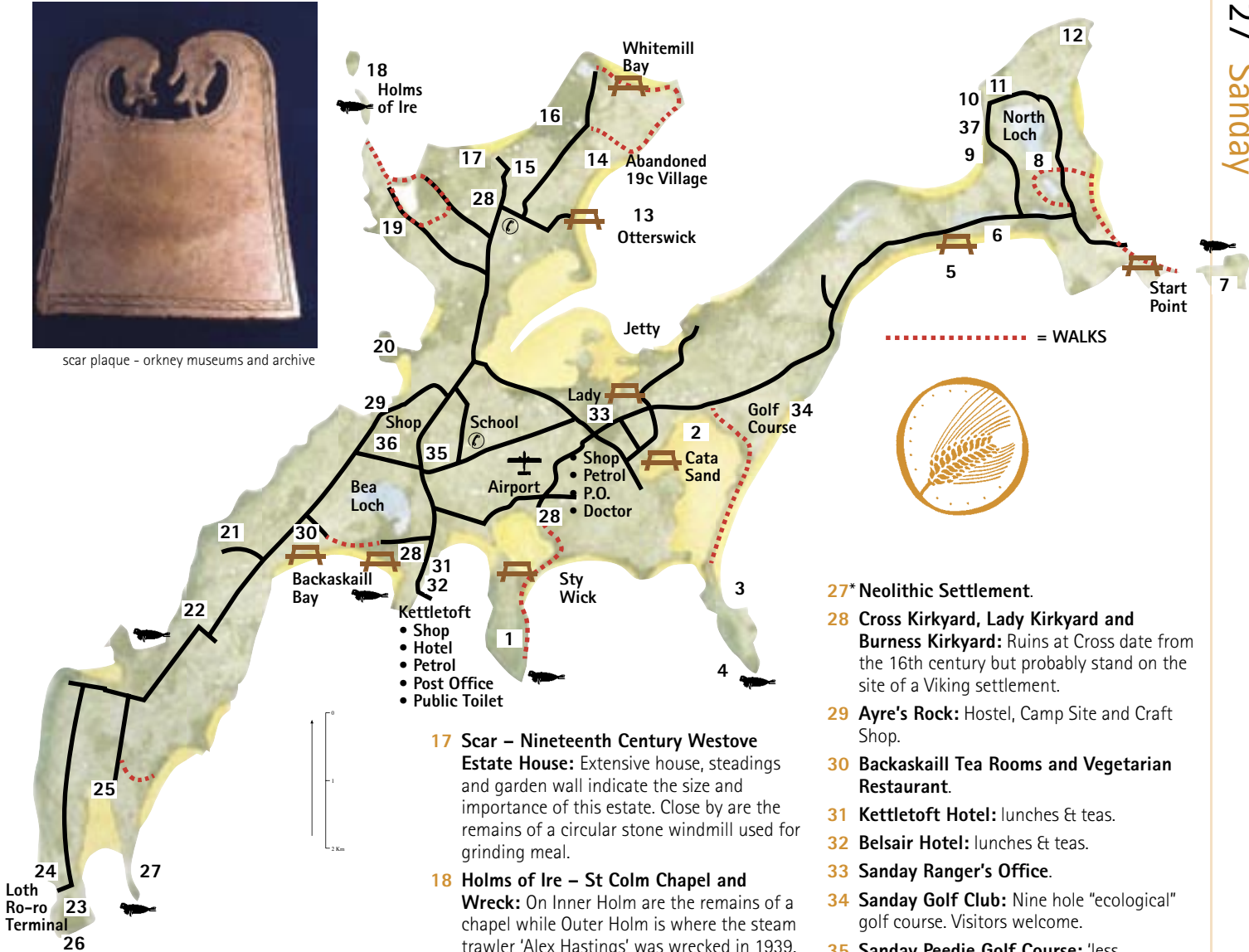
start point lighthouse - roderick thorne



tresness, sanday - roderick thorne



scar plaque - orkney museums and archive



- 9 **Dominique Cameron's Artist's Studio:** Sandquoy.
- 10 **Tofts – boat hire** on North Loch.
- 11 **Northwaa – Site of Special Scientific Interest:** Botanically this area of shallow lochans and wet machair is very rich. Waders, breeding ducks, swans and migrants can all be seen.
- 12 **Tofts Ness – Prehistoric Funerary Complex.**
- 13 **Otterswick – Waders and Seals.**
- 14* **Ortie:** Abandoned 19th Century Crofting Township Arranged in a remarkably long straight 'kloss', the village at one time housed more than 60 people.
- 15 **Orkney Angora:** Craft Shop
- 16 **Scar:** Viking-Age Boat Burial.

- 17 **Scar – Nineteenth Century Westove Estate House:** Extensive house, steadings and garden wall indicate the size and importance of this estate. Close by are the remains of a circular stone windmill used for grinding meal.
- 18 **Holms of Ire – St Colm Chapel and Wreck:** On Inner Holm are the remains of a chapel while Outer Holm is where the steam trawler 'Alex Hastings' was wrecked in 1939.
- 19 **Rethie Taing:** Burial Mound.
- 20 **Ness of Brough:** Pagan Viking Graves.
- 21* **Boloquoy Mill:** Early 19th century meal mill constructed of random rubble with slated roof.
- 22 **Pool:** Early Settlements.
- 23 **SSE Wind Turbines:** Generate electricity for the grid and a community fund for the island.
- 24 **Loth Terminal:** otters can occasionally be seen, wind turbines.
- 25* **Stove:** (unfortunately no access to building) Ruined buildings of 19th century industrialised 'model farm' with steam engine house, red-brick chimney and boiler-house.
- 26 **Holms of Spurness:** A favourite breeding site of the Grey Seal, which pups in October.

- 27* **Neolithic Settlement.**
 - 28 **Cross Kirkyard, Lady Kirkyard and Burness Kirkyard:** Ruins at Cross date from the 16th century but probably stand on the site of a Viking settlement.
 - 29 **Ayre's Rock:** Hostel, Camp Site and Craft Shop.
 - 30 **Backaskaill Tea Rooms and Vegetarian Restaurant.**
 - 31 **Kettletoft Hotel:** lunches & teas.
 - 32 **Belsair Hotel:** lunches & teas.
 - 33 **Sanday Ranger's Office.**
 - 34 **Sanday Golf Club:** Nine hole "ecological" golf course. Visitors welcome.
 - 35 **Sanday Peedie Golf Course:** 'less crazy than Craggy Island's, Visitors by arrangement - fore.
 - 36 **Dawn Cooper Holistic Therapies.**
 - 37 **Meur Burnt Mound.**
- * Social History Sites

Sanday Visitors' Trail

- 29 Ayre's Rock Craft Shop
- 15 Orkney Angora Craft Shop
- 33 Sanday Ranger
- 31 Kettletoft Hotel
- 30 Backaskaill Tea Rooms and Veg. Meals
- 32 Belsair Hotel
- 36 Dawn Cooper Holistic Therapies

Local events

Early August sees the Sunday show which gives an opportunity to view island cattle, sheep, ponies and goats. Homebakes, knitting, embroidery fruit and vegetables are also displayed and sold. The annual Harvest Home is held in October or early November when a meal is followed by a dance with traditional and modern tunes. St Colm model yacht club holds a regatta at Roos Loch on Boxing Day and another at Easter (water level permitting).

Local knitwear is exported throughout the world. Orkney Angora, a family craft enterprise established in 1982, is a specialist mail order business producing thermal clothing made from Angora rabbit wool.

Sunday Sundays are held monthly throughout the summer, with a different theme every month. See local notices for details.

Sunday Arts Festival - Sept. See local notices.



otters - roderick thorne

Services

The roll-on roll-off ferry from Kirkwall takes less than an hour and a half and berths at Loth in the southwest of the island, where there is a waiting room, toilets and information board. You can travel as a foot passenger or take your car.

Information centre at Ayre's Rock, Paul Allan t: 01857 600410. e: paul-allan1967@hotmail.co.uk

Sunday Ranger - Rod Thorne t: 01857 600341, e: nearhouse@zetnet.co.uk.

Accommodation

Accommodation providers listed below are members of VisitScotland's Quality Assurance Scheme and have been graded as part of the national scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover.

BED & BREAKFAST

Backaskail Vegetarian B&B, (★★★★B&B) - set in a Victorian farmhouse. 2 double rooms ensuite (1 self-catering if required). 1 double with private bathroom, with availability of single room for families. Tea rooms

serving drinks and light lunches available all day. Evening restaurant available for evening meals (booking required). t: 01857 600298. e: info@backaskail.co.uk w: www.backaskail.co.uk

HOSTEL

Ayre's Rock Hostel (★★★★Hostel) - self-catering or B&B and evening meal. Campsite with shower & toilet block, washing and laundry facilities. Paul Allan. t: 01857 600410. e: paul_allan1967@hotmail.co.uk w: www.ayres-rock-sunday-orkney.co.uk

Accommodation providers listed below are not participants of VisitScotland's Quality Assurance Scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover before booking.

Shops & Post Offices

Corses Shop, general store, petrol, near Cross Kirk. t: 01857 600312.

Kettletoft Stores, general store, petrol, other fuels inc. peat; off-licence. t: 01857 600255.

Roadside Shop (Lady Village), general store, petrol, other fuels, off-licence. t: 01857 600273.

Butcher, Sinclair, Kettletoft, fresh & frozen meat, vegetables, off-licence. t: 01857 600455.

Fresh vegetables throughout the year; callers welcome. Rendall, Neigarth, t: 01857 600327.

Kettletoft P.O. t: 01857 600206.

Lady P.O. Cards, postcards. t: 01857 600367.

Garages/Transport

Vehicle and Machinery repairs

Andrew Rae. t: 01857 600366.

Kettletoft Garage, repairs, car and taxi hire. t: 01857 600321.

Marygarth Manse - Self-drive cars, taxi and cycle hire, mini bus tours. Bernie Flett. t/f: 01857 600284.

Ferry Bus service. Tina Flett, 01857 600284.

Local Crafts

Orkney Angora craft shop, Upper Breckan. t: 01857 600421. e: info@orkneyangora.co.uk. www.orkneyangora.co.uk

Ayre's Rock Craft Shop - selling mostly local crafts, fish and chip take-away Saturday evenings. Paul Allan t: 01857 600410. e: paul_allan1967@hotmail.co.uk w: www.ayres-rock-sunday-orkney.co.uk

Dominique Cameron's Artist's Studio, Sandquoy, The Studio, Sandquoy. Orkney landscapes, Dominique Cameron, viewing by appointment. t: 01857 600444. e: domcam65@aol.com.

Churches

Cross Kirk, Church of Scotland Sunday service 11.30 a.m.

Roman Catholic Church, Saville Sunday service 10.00 a.m.

Recreation

Backskail Vegetarian Tea Rooms serving sandwiches, afternoon tea, light lunches and snacks, all homemade. Upstairs restaurant available for evening meals (booking required).

Swimming pool and fitness suite adjacent to community school with play park opposite. See shop notices for opening times.

Nine-hole golf course; small charge; notice on clubhouse.

Sea fishing, enquire locally.

Children's Play Park adjacent to School/Community Hall.

Cricket practice in May and June on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6pm - all welcome.

Fishing on North Loch (boat hire from Tofts).

Internet Access Point - Ayre's Rock.

Other Services

Doctor t: 01857 600221

Nurse/midwife - t: 01857 600238

Minister - t: 01857 600429

Airfield Hut - t: 01857 600346

Piermaster - t: 01857 600227

Sanday website: www.sanday.co.uk

Sanday Tourism Association: Paul Allan, Ayre's Rock.
t: 01857 600410. e: paul_allan1967@hotmail.co.uk
w: www.sandayorkney.co.uk

Healthy Living Centre. t: 01856 600795.

Transport links



MONDAYS

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0832	0852	0859	0910
1505	1516	1523	1543

TUESDAYS

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
1005	1016	1023	1049
1550	1601	1608	1628

WEDNESDAYS

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0805	0816	0823	0843
1445	1505	1512	1523

THURSDAYS

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0955	1015	1022	1033
1550	1601	1608	1628

FRIDAYS

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
0805	0825	0832	0843
1450	1501	1508	1528

SATURDAYS

Dep Kirkwall	Arr	Dep	Arr Kirkwall
1000	1020	1027	1038

This timetable is subject to contract. Visitors should check with the Airline for full details and reservations.

LOGANAIR 01856 872494/873457

Transport links

Sanday

Effective from 3 May until 28 September 2009

The services to Sanday are carried out by the vessels **m.v. Earl Thorfinn** (190 passengers and 25 cars), **m.v. Earl Sigurd** (190 passengers and 25 cars) and **m.v. Varagen** (144 passengers and 32 cars). Canteen facilities are available on all vessels at modest prices. Bookings should be made at the Kirkwall Office: t: 01856 872044, f: 01856 872921, e: info@orkneyferries.co.uk See page 46 for occasional extra Sunday inter-island connections.



t: (01856) 872044

		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Kirkwall	dep	0900A		0740B		0740B		0740B
Sanday	arr			0905		0905		0905
Sanday	dep		0800A	0915B	0730B	0915B		0915B
Eday	arr	1015		0935				
Eday	dep	1025A		0945B				
Sanday	arr	1045						
Kirkwall	arr		0925	1100	0855	1040		1040

Kirkwall	dep		1035		1010		1010	
Eday	arr				1125		1125	
Eday	dep				1135		1135	
Sanday	arr		1200		1155		1155	
Sanday	dep	1720A	1210		1205		1205	
Eday	arr	1740	1230					
Eday	dep	1750A	1240					
Kirkwall	arr	1905	1355		1330		1330	

Kirkwall	dep	1915A	1640	1700	1640	1500	1640	1640A
Eday	arr	2030		1815				
Eday	dep	2035A		1825				
Sanday	arr	2055	1805	1845	1805	1625	1805	1805
Sanday	dep		1815		1815	1635	1815	1815A
Kirkwall	arr		1940		1940	1800	1940	1940

A - Vehicles must be booked before 1430 hrs on Saturday.

B - Vehicles must be booked before 1600 hrs the day before sailing.

All other vehicle bookings must be made at least one hour before the departure from Kirkwall.

NOTES:

- 1) Vehicle check in times: **20 minutes** before departure. Passenger check in times: **10 minutes** before departure.
- 2) **No Show Charges** - All cancellations must be made not less than **24 hours** before the intended date of travel or full charges may apply.
- 3) In order to accommodate certain local events these timetables will be subject to change. (See page 47).
- 4) For conditions of carriage of passengers and cargo see notices exhibited in the Company's vessels, offices and premises.

For full fares please enquire at Orkney Ferries Offices

Ferry bus connection meets each ferry to Sanday and goes to Lady village. t: Tina Flett 600467.

SANDAY PACKAGE TOUR - Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays - 4 May to 25 Sept.

This tour is available on Sanday for a minimum of 4 persons.

Arriving on the island at 1155 you will enjoy an extensive tour of many sites of historical and scenic interest returning to the pier at 1800 approximately.

A packed lunch is included in the fare. Ferry fares not included in cost.

Contact details: Mr B Flett, Marygarth, Sanday. t: 01857 600467.

		Monday			Inclusive Fares		Wednesday & Friday		
Kirkwall	dep	1035	Adult		£20.00	Kirkwall	dep	1010	
Sanday	arr	1200	Children (under 16)		£15.00	Sanday	arr	1155	
Sanday	dep	1815	Children (under 5)		FREE	Sanday	dep	1815	
Kirkwall	arr	1940				Kirkwall	arr	1940	