

# DOWNLOAD PDF THE RELATIONSHIPS OF ORKNEY-CROMARTY-TYPE CAIRNS, UNSTAN WARE HABITATION SITES AND LONG CAIRNS

## Chapter 1 : Orkney Neolithic

*Midhowe Chambered Cairn is a large Neolithic chambered cairn located on the south shore of the island of Rousay, Orkney, theinnatdunvilla.com name "Midhowe" comes from the Iron Age broch known as Midhowe Broch, that lies just west of the tomb.*

Megalithic – A megalith is a large stone that has been used to construct a structure or monument, either alone or together with other stones. The word megalithic describes structures made of large stones without the use of mortar or concrete. For later periods, the monolith, with an overlapping meaning, is more likely to be used. It has been used to describe buildings built by people from parts of the world living in many different periods. A variety of stones are seen as megaliths, with the most widely known megaliths not being sepulchral. The construction of these took place mainly in the Neolithic and continued into the Chalcolithic. At a number of sites in eastern Turkey, large ceremonial complexes from the 9th millennium BC have been discovered and they belong to the incipient phases of agriculture and animal husbandry. Large circular structures involving carved megalithic orthostats are a feature, e. Some measure up to 30 metres across, as well as human figures, the stones carry a variety of carved reliefs depicting boars, foxes, lions, birds, snakes and scorpions. Dolmens and standing stones have been found in areas of the Middle East starting at the Turkish border in the north of Syria close to Aleppo. They can be encountered in Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Israel, Jordan, the largest concentration can be found in southern Syria and along the Jordan Rift Valley, however they are being threatened with destruction. A semicircular arrangement of megaliths was found in Israel at Atlit Yam and it is a very early example, dating from the 7th millennium BC. The most concentrated occurrence of dolmens in particular is in an area on both sides of the Jordan Rift Valley, with greater predominance on the eastern side. They occur first and foremost on the Golan Heights, the Hauran, and in Jordan, in Saudi Arabia, only very few dolmen have been identified so far in the Hejaz. They seem, however, to re-emerge in Yemen in small numbers, the standing stone has a very ancient tradition in the Middle East, dating back from Mesopotamian times.

2. Cairn – A cairn is a human-made pile of stones. In modern times, cairns are often erected as landmarks, a use they have had since ancient times. Cairns are used as markers in many parts of the world, in uplands, on moorland, on mountaintops, near waterways and on sea cliffs, as well as in barren deserts. They vary in size from small stone markers to entire artificial hills, cairns may be painted or otherwise decorated, whether for increased visibility or for religious reasons. An ancient example is the inuksuk, used by the Inuit, Inupiat, Kalaallit, Yupik, inuksuit are found from Alaska to Greenland. This region, above the Arctic Circle, is dominated by the tundra biome and has areas with few natural landmarks, different types of cairns exist from rough piles of stones to interlocking dry stone round cylinders. The most important cairns commonly used around the world are interlocking stone survey cairns constructed around a central survey mark about every 30 km on the tallest peaks across a nation. These physical survey mark cairn systems by surveyors as the basis for national survey grids to interconnect individual land survey measurements for entire nations, on occasion these permanent interlocking stone cairns were taken down then reconstructed for survey mark for measurements to increase the accuracy of the national survey grid. They can also be used in unpopulated country as emergency location points, for example, the extensive trail network maintained by the DNT, the Norwegian Trekking Association, extensively uses cairns in conjunction with T-painted rock faces to mark trails. Other examples of these can be seen in the fields of Volcanoes National Park to mark several hikes. Placed at regular intervals, a series of cairns can be used to indicate a path across stony or barren terrain, such cairns are often placed at junctions or in places where the trail direction is not obvious. They may also be used to indicate an obscured danger such as a sudden drop, most trail cairns are small, usually being a foot or less in height. However, they may be built taller so as to protrude through a layer of snow, hikers passing by often add a stone, as a small bit of maintenance to counteract the erosive effects of severe weather. North American trail marks are sometimes called ducks or duckies, because they sometimes have a beak pointing in the

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direction of the route. The expression two rocks do not make a duck reminds hikers that just one rock resting upon another could be the result of accident or nature rather than intentional trail marking. The building of cairns for recreational purposes along trails, to ones personal passage through the area. This distracts from cairns used as navigational guides, and also conflicts with the Leave No Trace ethic 3. They consist of a depression, no more than a few centimetres across, pecked into a rock surface. Sometimes a linear channel called a gutter leads out from the middle, numerous cup-marked stones have been found in quite all the alpine valleys, comprising Val Camonica, associated with rock drawings. Found in , it shows 4 concentric circles, with a central cup-mark, all around a network of 20 cup-marks, similar patterns are known in Galicia, which has given them the name of Galician style. Precisely dating megalithic art is difficult, even if the monument can be dated. Some cup marks have been found in Iron age contexts but these may represent re-used stones, where they are etched onto natural, flat stone it has been observed that they seem to incorporate the natural surface of the rock. Those at Hunterheugh are mostly connected to one another by gutters that can channel rainwater from one to the next, the markers of this second phase moved the art from natural stones to megaliths as its symbolism was reinterpreted by Later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age people. Their purpose is unknown although some may be connected with stone outcrops exploited by Neolithic peoples to make polished stone axes. A religious purpose has been suggested and we have seen the cup and ring markings on the stone at Temple Wood, and thats on the main stone but we cant interpret them. He created diagrams and carried out analysis of over 50 of the cup and ring markings from which he determined a length he termed the Megalithic Inch. Davis made an effort to build on Thoms start, and to answer the question he posed. It would indeed be a breakthrough if someone could crack the code of the cups, subsequently, Davis investigated the idea that the prehistoric carvers used an elementary method of diameter-construction in laying out the carvings. Another particularly rich source of cup-marked boulders is the Derrynablaha townland on the Iveragh peninsula in County Kerry, one of the most interesting open air Rock Art sites in the Swiss Alps is situated at Carschenna, Rethic Alps, where Latin derived languages melt with German ones. The first engraved rocks were discovered in , during the building of an iron electricity framework, Carschenna engravings are mainly characterized by concentric circles " from 1 to 9 " and cup-marks. Spirals, sun-like figures, riding scenes, and schematic horses are also present, cup-marks joined by long channels usually superimpose the cup-and-rings patterns. Wigtownshire " Wigtownshire or the County of Wigtown is a registration county and lieutenancy area in south-west Scotland. Until , Wigtownshire was one of the counties used for local government purposes. As a lieutenancy area, Wigtownshire has its own Lord Lieutenant, Wigtownshire borders the Irish Sea to the west, the Solway Firth to the south, Ayrshire to the north, and the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright to the east. Together the Stewartry and Wigtownshire are referred to as Galloway, the western area of Wigtownshire is known as Rhinns of Galloway, and the eastern area is known as Machars. Wigtownshire includes the southernmost point in Scotland, the Mull of Galloway, the Machars, the county town was historically Wigtown, with the administrative centre moving to Stranraer, the largest town, on the creation of a county council in It then re-joins at Norway, goes through Sweden, Finland and ends at Saint Petersburg, like all European routes, it is not signposted as such in the United Kingdom. In the University of Glasgow led a community project in Inch. It is a site with a long history " from the early mesolithic, about 10, years ago, to a medieval town, now disappeared. An unnamed detectorist found a gold lunula in a field near Garlieston, Sorbie in March The lunula is a flat, crescent-shaped neck ornament thought to date from around " BC, the gold sheet, probably hammered out from a bar, is very thin and decorated around its edges with incised and punched zigzags, lines and dots. Further analysis may indicate whether the lunula had been made of Irish or Scottish gold, staff of Stranraer Museum and the Wigtownshire branch of the University of the Third Age walked the field looking for artefacts. Test pits were dug and Historic Scotland commissioned a geophysical survey, no more metalwork was found, nor any evidence for why the lunula might have been buried there. From Glenluce Sands there have been recovered more objects of antiquity than from any area of extent in Scotland. The relics range from neolithic to mediaeval times, the fields between the mound and

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Dunragit village and Droughduil Mote, Old Luce, Wigtownshire, contain one of the most important Stone Age sites in Scotland. Orkney is 16 kilometres north of the coast of Caithness and comprises approximately 70 islands, the largest island Mainland is often referred to as the Mainland. It has an area of square kilometres, making it the sixth-largest Scottish island, the largest settlement and administrative centre is Kirkwall. A form of the dates to the pre-Roman era and the islands have been inhabited for at least years, originally occupied by Mesolithic and Neolithic tribes. Orkney was invaded and forcibly annexed by Norway in and settled by the Norse, the Scottish Parliament then re-annexed the earldom to the Scottish Crown in , following the failed payment of a dowry for James III's bride Margaret of Denmark. Orkney contains some of the oldest and best-preserved Neolithic sites in Europe, Orkney is one of the 32 council areas of Scotland, a constituency of the Scottish Parliament, a lieutenancy area, and a historic county. The local council is Orkney Islands Council, one of only three Councils in Scotland with a majority of elected members who are independents. In addition to the Mainland, most of the islands are in two groups, the North and South Isles, all of which have a geological base of Old Red Sandstone. The climate is mild and the soils are fertile, most of the land being farmed. Agriculture is the most important sector of the economy, the significant wind and marine energy resources are of growing importance, and the island generates more than its total yearly electricity demand using renewables. The local people are known as Orcadians and have a distinctive Orcadian dialect of Scots, there is an abundance of marine and avian wildlife. Pytheas of Massilia visited Britain " probably sometime between and BC " and described it as triangular in shape, with a northern tip called Orcas and this may have referred to Dunnet Head, from which Orkney is visible. Speakers of Old Irish referred to the islands as Insi Orc island of the pigs, the archipelago is known as Ynysydd Erch in modern Welsh and Arcaibh in modern Scottish Gaelic, the -aibh representing a fossilized prepositional case ending. Norwegian settlers arriving from the ninth century reinterpreted orc as the Old Norse orkn seal. The Norse knew Mainland Orkney as Megenland Mainland or as Hrossey Horse Island, the island is sometimes referred to as Pomona, a name that stems from a sixteenth-century mistranslation by George Buchanan, which has rarely been used locally. A charred hazelnut shell, recovered in during excavations in Tankerness on the Mainland has been dated to " BC indicating the presence of Mesolithic nomadic tribes 6. Long barrow " A long barrow is a prehistoric monument usually dating to the early Neolithic period. They are generally about 5, years old and among the oldest architectural structures ever built and they are traditionally interpreted as a collective tomb. They are rectangular or trapezoidal tumuli or earth mounds, Long barrows are also typical of several Celtic, Slavic, and Baltic cultures of northern Europe of the 1st millennium AD. In recent years the construction of barrows seems to have undergone a revival, the totality of the function of long barrows is not known, and perhaps can never be known. It is clear they were used as monuments at the time they were built. It is also understood that this use continued more or less formally for many thousands of years after and they contain bones of many individuals, which often show evidence of regular moving around or sorting. This is known to have happened at West Kennet Long Barrow in Wiltshire and it appears the structures were accessed regularly, not just to inter newly deceased bodies but also to make use of the old bones there. It is possible that bones were taken out of the barrow for some purpose, some authors speculate that this was part of an ancestor veneration practice. In the present-day there is a custom observed in the Famadihana tradition found in Madagascar. Modern tillage techniques have done damage to barrows. According to English Heritage, in the last six decades as much as traditional tilling did in six centuries. It is also thought that barrows have been re-purposed and otherwise incorporated into subsequent structures which has masked their existence, the distribution of these structures across the British Isles is not understood to be uniform. For example the record in the West Midlands is thought to under-record the presence of these structures, various early cultures globally seem to have raised barrows over time. In the first long barrow in thousands of years, inspired by those built in the Neolithic Period, was built on land just outside the village of All Cannings, the project was instigated by Tim Daw, a local farmer and steward of Stonehenge. The barrow was designed to have a number of private niches within the stone. It was fully subscribed within eighteen months and this was followed soon after by a new

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barrow near St Neots. Further plans to revive barrows are in development in Herefordshire and at Soulton in Shropshire, beowulf battles a dragon at the end of the poem and a barrow is raised over his ashes 7. Prehistoric technology â€” Prehistoric technology is technology that predates recorded history. History is the study of the past using written records, anything prior to the first written accounts of history is prehistoric, including earlier technologies. There are several factors made the evolution of prehistoric technology possible or necessary. One of the key factors is behavioral modernity of the highly developed brain of Homo sapiens capable of reasoning, language, introspection. The advent of agriculture resulted in lifestyle changes from nomadic lifestyles to ones lived in homes, with domesticated animals, Art, architecture, music and religion evolved over the course of the prehistoric periods. The Stone Age is a prehistoric period during which stone was widely used in the manufacture of implements with a sharp edge. The period lasted roughly 2.

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## Chapter 2 : Grooved ware | Revolvry

*chambered cairns of the Orkney-Cromarty type, NORTH ISLES - ROUSAY Unstan Ware type. These two very long cairns are also.*

The period of prehistory prior to occupation by the genus *Homo* is part of the geology of Scotland. Although some written records refer to Orkney during the Roman invasions of Scotland, prehistory in northern Scotland does not end until the commencement of the Early Historic Period around AD. There are numerous important prehistoric remains in Orkney, especially from the Neolithic period, four of which form a World Heritage Site. There are diverse reasons for the abundance of the archaeological record. The sandstone bedrock provides easily workable stone materials and the wind-blown sands have helped preserve several sites. Local tradition hints at both a fear and veneration of these ancient structures perhaps inherited from the Norse period of occupation that may have helped to retain their structural integrity. The Paleolithic lasted until the retreat of the ice, the Mesolithic until the adoption of farming and the Neolithic until metalworking commenced. A number of the sites span long periods of time and in particular the distinctions between the Neolithic and the later periods are not clear cut. The subsequent Iron Age supported a return to monumental building, especially of brochs. Formal excavations were first recorded in the late 18th century and as they proceeded an understanding of the structures involved progressed from little more than folklore to modern archaeological science. The sites discussed are found on the Orkney Mainland unless otherwise stated. Paleolithic No traces have yet been found in Scotland of either a Neanderthal presence or of *Homo sapiens* during the Pleistocene interglacials. The first indications of humans occur only after the ice retreated in the 11th millennium BC and the current Flandrian interglacial began. Since that time the landscape of Orkney has been altered by both human and natural forces. This meant that the Orkney islands may have been attached to the mainland, as was the present-day island of Great Britain to Continental Europe. Much of the North Sea basin was also dry land until after BC. This would have made travel to northern Scotland relatively easy for early human settlers. The subsequent isostatic rise of land makes estimating post-glacial coastlines a complex task. A charred hazelnut shell, recovered during the excavations at Longhowe in Tankerness in , has been dated to BC. With a tentative dating of BC or older it may prove to be the oldest settlement site found so far on Orkney. During this time, complex new societies came to the fore that were a radical departure from the earlier hunter-gatherers and which were capable of creating substantial structures. The Neolithic in Scotland lasted from approximately to BC and Orkney as a whole has nearly 3, identified Neolithic sites all told. British archaeologists have often interpreted this era as having two distinct phases; the Earlier Neolithic dominated by regional styles of pottery and architecture followed by a relatively abrupt change into the Later Neolithic characterised by new traditions found throughout the British Isles that incorporate structures on a grander scale. In the Orcadian context, there are definite developments during the Neolithic, but the changes are gradual and tend to build on earlier ideas rather than appearing to form two distinct periods. However, recently discovered evidence shows that Orkney was the starting place for much of the megalithic culture, including styles of architecture and pottery, that developed much later in the southern British Isles. Situated on the island of Papa Westray which may have been combined with nearby Westray in the early Neolithic, the farmstead consists of two adjacent rounded rectangular thick-walled buildings with low doorways linked by a passageway. This structure was inhabited for years from BC but was evidently built on the site of an even older settlement. Unstan ware pottery pieces were found on the site, which was only discovered in the s when this part of the coastline was exposed by gales and tides. The design of the houses, which were built above ground level, includes a central hearth, recessed box beds and stone dressers. There is a network of stone drains leading to a common ditch. Occupied between 4000-3500 BC the houses are similar to those at Barnhouse, but they are linked by common passages and were built into a large midden containing ash, bones, shells, stone and organic waste. Only the roofs, which were probably supported by timber or whalebone, would have been visible from the outside. In each case the

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stone dressers were erected so that they dominated the view on entering the house through the low doors and there are elaborate carvings of unknown meaning on some of the stones in the houses and passages. A variety of bone beads, pins and pendants and four carved stone balls were also discovered at the site, which was only revealed after a storm in the winter of ripped away the grass from a covering sand dune. The existing ruins mostly belong to a secondary phase of building with the foundations of the first phase largely hidden from view. The exterior walls of this large stone burial mound survive to well over head-height and the constituent stones are arranged in a herring bone pattern. In a lozenge-shaped figurine was discovered, which may have been carved BC and is believed to be the earliest representation of a human face ever found in Scotland. The face has two dots for eyes, heavy brows and an oblong nose and a pattern of hatches on the body could represent clothing. Archaeologist Richard Strachan described it as a find of "astonishing rarity". However, it would be a mistake to imagine that because Orkney is so placed today that this was always so. There is a substantial amount of evidence that suggests that a variety of the smaller islands in the British Isles developed an advanced society in the Neolithic that took several centuries longer to develop on the mainland of Great Britain. There is also the possibility that tribal differences were part of the Neolithic cultural landscape. Unstan Ware pottery is associated with small settlements like Knap of Howar, and stalled tombs such as Midhowe. It is aligned so that the rear wall of its central chamber, a rough cube of 4. It gives its name to the Maeshowe type of chambered cairns, see above that include other significant sites such as Cuween Hill , Quanterness and Wideford Hill, and at Quoyness on Sanday. The Norsemen left a series of runic inscriptions on the stone walls of the chamber, some of which were left by a group of crusaders in the winter of 1156. Over thirty individual inscriptions remain, one of the largest such collections in Europe. Some of the remaining stones are 4. The ring stands on a small isthmus between the Lochs of Stenness and Harray and it is generally thought to have been erected between BC and BC. Pottery, bones, stone tools and polished stone mace heads were discovered. It appears to traverse the entire peninsula the site is on and may have been a symbolic barrier between the ritual landscape of the Ring and the mundane world around it. Although containers of pigments have been found previously at sites such as Skara Brae, this was the first discovery in Britain, and possibly in Northern Europe, of evidence that Neolithic peoples used paint to decorate their buildings. London may be the cultural hub of Britain today, but 5, years ago, Orkney was the centre for innovation for the British isles. Ideas spread from this place. The first grooved pottery, which is so distinctive of the era, was made here, for example, and the first henges 5 stone rings with ditches round them 5 were erected on Orkney. Then the ideas spread to the rest of the Neolithic Britain. This was the font for new thinking at the time. The site is thought to date from BC, one of the earliest dates for a henge anywhere in Britain. The Ring of Brodgar lies about 1. The Watch Stone stands outside the circle to the north-west and is 5. Other smaller stones include a square stone like a huge hearth setting in the centre of the circle and this along with the bones of cattle, sheep, wolves and dogs found in the ditch suggest ritual sacrifice and feasting. The " Odin Stone" was pierced with a circular hole, and was used by local couples for plighting engagements by holding hands through the gap. He started in December by smashing the Odin Stone. This caused outrage and he was stopped after destroying one other stone and toppling another. The toppled stone was re-erected in along with some inaccurate reconstruction inside the circle. This chambered tomb was in use for years or more from BC, and has five separate stalls and three side-chambers. This style is quite unlike any other Neolithic Orkney site and probably dates from about BC. It was the first Orcadian ancient monument to be described in writing, appearing in the 16th century *Descriptio Insularum Orchadiarum* by Joannem Ben who provided the explanation for its existence as having been built and used by giants. This may in part be due to deteriorating weather conditions in the second millennium BC. Nonetheless the great ceremonial circles continued in use[75] as bronze metalworking was slowly introduced to Scotland from Europe over a lengthy period. In the s excavations at Quanterness, near the site of the Neolithic chambered tomb, revealed an Atlantic roundhouse. This was built about BC using stone stripped from the older building that had fallen into disuse some two millennia previously. These are also many impressive broch sites. Although Orkney has no broch towers where the

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surviving walls are more than a few metres high, several important sites have been excavated which have numerous associated buildings forming a "broch village". There appear to have been at least two separate periods of occupation and at some point buttresses were added to the exterior of the wall, suggesting the structure was in need of support. It is one of 11 broch sites on either side of the Eynhallow Sound. Its earth cladding is intact, allowing visitors to peer down into the broch from above. The remains of stone furniture are evident in the interior. Its purpose is not obvious. The walls are lined with stones fitted to form an arch over the cavity and steep steps lead to a rock floor. The entrance is at the top of the small hill and there is a surrounding ditch and evidence of sophisticated metal working around the site. Although these structures are usually associated with the storage of food this site is reminiscent of the Neolithic chambered tombs and excavations revealed 18 human skeletons. The Greek explorer Pytheas visited Britain sometime between 325 and 300 BC and may have circumnavigated the mainland. In his *On the Ocean* he refers to the most northerly point as *Orcas*, conceivably a reference to Orkney. Very little is known about the Pictish Orcadians, the main archaeological relics being symbol stones. One of the best examples is located on the Brough of Birsay ; it shows 3 warriors with spears and sword scabbards combined with traditional Pictish symbols. The Buckquoy spindle-whorl found at a Pictish site on Birsay is an Ogham "inscribed artefact whose interpretation has caused controversy although it is now generally considered to be of both Irish and Christian origin. Evidence associated with the St Boniface Church on Papa Westray suggests this island had been the seat of the Christian bishopric of Orkney in Pictish times. The Norse era has provided a variety of written records, the substantial *Orkneyinga Saga* amongst them and at this point the archipelago fully emerges into the historic era. Following soon after this, work on the "Picts-house" i. Thomas, whose day job was as a Captain in the Royal Navy published *The Celtic Antiquities of Orkney* in 1861, which listed various sites and aimed to interest "antiquarians" in the subject. His hopes were met and about a dozen chambered tombs were worked on between 1861 and 1865 by James Farrer, R. Hebden and George Petrie. However, other than work at Unstan near Stromness there was then a lull for about six decades. Then, from the late 1880s, work recommenced with the assistance of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and the Ministry of Works. The most eminent archaeologist to work here at this time was Vere Gordon Childe. He was involved in excavations at Skara Brae and Rinyo, but it was only when a shard of pottery was discovered at the latter site that it became understood that these settlements dated to the Neolithic rather than the Iron Age. The advent of radiocarbon dating enabled even more detailed dates to be established and refuted earlier theories that the chambered tombs of Orkney had developed from similar structures found in the Eastern Mediterranean , such as those built by the Minoans , when it became clear that the former pre-dated the latter by a considerable margin. Castle Bloody , a souterrain on Shapinsay Structures.

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## Chapter 3 : Ring of Brodgar | Revolvry

*Unstan ware is the name used by archaeologists for a type of finely made and decorated Neolithic pottery from the 4th and 3rd millennia BC. Typical are elegant and distinctive shallow bowls with a band of grooved patterning below the rim, using a technique known as "stab-and-drag".*

Found throughout the islands, usually visible as low, grassy mounds, these ancient constructions are generally thought to have served as burial places – or, more correctly, repositories of the dead. However, although the word "tomb" has long been used to describe these structures, it is perhaps a slightly misleading label and has led to a widespread assumption that they only had a funerary purpose. Just as today we would never think to refer to St Magnus Cathedral as a tomb - although any excavator would find no shortage of human remains within its walls - nor should we really label the chambered cairns of the Neolithic as such. Like the cathedral, through the ages, they were probably the focal point for a number of different social, practical or religious ceremonies. The various theories as to the purpose of the chambered cairns are covered here. The earliest Orcadian cairns were built by the first Neolithic settlers - people who crossed the Pentland Firth from the Scottish mainland around the beginning of the fourth millennium BC. The development of the chambered cairn in Orkney spans thousands of years, during which time a variety of different designs were adopted. Though these designs vary, they are now generally been classified as one of two main types - the Orkney-Cromarty type and the Maeshowe-type. However, as the terminology is fairly widespread, the two main classifications are: These are typically made up of a single long chamber, divided into stall-like "compartments" by stone uprights. These cairns can also incorporate shelf-like structures at one, or both, ends. This style is not only found in Orkney but variants exist on the Scottish mainland. Although the Orkney-Cromarty tombs do not have side cells, a few hybrid chambers, such as Unstan in Stenness, have incorporated them in their designs. This style is unique to Orkney. The tombs have one main central chamber that is reached by a low, long entrance passage. One, or more, side chambers branch off from the main central chamber. Regarding the Maeshowe-style cairns, their construction, with larger, well-cut and fitted stones, is more monumental. They are also particularly associated with the Unstan Ware style of pottery - shallow, round bottomed pots. As time went on, the designs of the chambered cairns seem to have changed to mirror the evolving architecture of the domestic houses. Maeshowe, for example, representing the final phase of cairn development in Orkney, has a number of architectural similarities with the houses of Skara Brae in Sandwick. By the time of Maeshowe, Unstan Ware was no longer the predominant pottery style, and had been replaced by the more ornate, flat-bottomed pots known as Grooved Ware. But it is important to stress that these "houses" were not mere crypts and played a significant role in Neolithic life. From archaeological evidence, we can see that the early Orcadians went to incredible lengths to house the remains of their dead. Whether we can class this reverence of the dead as a form of ancestor worship is unclear, but in a society where the average adult is thought to have lived to 30 or 40 years old, it is likely that offspring only knew their elders for a short time before they died. These people may therefore have considered the belief in some form of continuation after death important. In his book, *Monuments of the British Neolithic*, archaeologist Miles Russell suggests that the use of the chambered cairns allowed the people in each area "stamp" their claim to the surrounding land. The discovery of animal bones in some led to the suggestion that some form of animal totemism was practised. The discovery of sea-eagle remains at Isbister in South Ronaldsay and the dog skulls at Cuween in Firth has been at the forefront of this idea.

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## Chapter 4 : Prehistoric Orkney - The Full Wiki

*Unstan ware is the name used by archaeologists for a type of finely made and decorated Neolithic pottery from the 4th and 3rd millennia BC. Typical are elegant and distinctive shallow bowls with a band of grooved patterning below the rim [1], using a technique known as "stab-and-drag".*

Introduction Although henge monuments can be found elsewhere in Scotland, at Cairnpapple Hill just outside Edinburgh and Balfarg in Fife for example, they can hardly be considered common. It is a little bit surprising, therefore, that there are two major henge monuments within a mile of one another in the remote Orkney Islands. The islands of Orkney lie off the extreme northeast corner of the Scottish mainland and, although the distance is only a few miles, the intervening stretch of water—the Pentland Firth—is among the most treacherous in the world. Violent tidal races flow through from the North Sea and the Atlantic and gale force winds are not infrequent. Even so, they were settled very early in the Neolithic. The slightly later community at Skara Brae has been described in detail elsewhere on this web site. Although there are many similarities between the two settlements, they are distinguished by their pottery. Unstan Ware, characterized by shallow bowls with rounded bottoms and decorated rims, is found at Knap of Howar while the highly decorated, flat-bottomed Grooved Ware is more common at Skara Brae. As was the case elsewhere, the earliest inhabitants erected chambered tombs such as the one at Taversoe Tuick on Rousay, left to serve as repositories for the bones of their ancestors and to mark their territory. Through these relics they could summon the spirits of their ancestors to give them guidance and approval. The tombs are divided into two types, each associated with a different type of pottery—Orkney-Cromarty Cairns normally contain Unstan Ware while Grooved Ware is found in Maes Howe Tombs. Of the 80 or so tombs that have been discovered, all but ten of them are stalled cairns. The Maes Howe tombs are much larger and more elaborate requiring much more effort on the part of more people. This suggests that they were later. Unfortunately, the radiocarbon evidence is not entirely conclusive owing to their wide margin of error. It looks onto a pair of lochs, the Lochs of Harray and of Stenness, separated by a narrow spit of land. This particular spot is at the centre of what seems to have been a natural meeting place for the inhabitants of the islands. It is readily accessible by both land and water and surrounded by a ring of hills—very reminiscent of Callanish on the Isle of Lewis. While Harray is a freshwater loch, Stenness is open to the sea. Here is yet another dualistic element in the Neolithic cosmology, along with male-and-female, life-and-death, summer-and-winter, good-and-evil, etc. It is interesting, therefore, that there are two great stone circles here—the Stones of Stenness and the Ring of Brodgar. Looking southwest, towards the hills of Hoy, from the Stones of Stenness. In addition to the circles and the tomb, there are a number associated sites, including a henge monument at Bookan, a number of Bronze Age tombs and several standing stones. Within metres or so of Stenness and probably contemporary with it is small village known as Barnhouse. The unusual character of the buildings discussed in greater detail in an upcoming article suggests that they may have housed a community of priests or priestesses. It has been suggested that the smaller of the two circles, the Stones of Stenness, is the earlier. Both are associated with tombs but, while those near Stenness are mainly Neolithic in date, the Ring of Brodgar is surrounded by round cairns belonging to the Early Bronze Age. Recent Excavations Since , there have been annual excavations at Ness of Brodgar, the area just north of the causeway separating the two stone circles. These are bound to have an enormous impact on our understanding of the relationships among all of the monuments in the vicinity. As far as I am concerned, that is a neat excuse for setting my conclusions aside for a few years, until all of this new information can be properly digested.

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## Chapter 5 : Unstan ware - WikiVisually

*The tombs are divided into two types, each associated with a different type of pottery—Orkney-Cromarty Cairns normally contain Unstan Ware while Grooved Ware is found in Maes Howe Tombs. Of the 80 or so tombs that have been discovered, all but ten of them are stalled cairns.*

Save A rim sherd of a large grooved ware urn from Cornwall Grooved ware is the name given to a pottery style of the British Neolithic. Its manufacturers are sometimes known as the Grooved ware people. Unlike the later Beaker ware , Grooved culture was not an import from the continent but seems to have developed in Orkney , early in the 3rd millennium BC, and was soon adopted in Britain and Ireland. Beyond this the pottery comes in many varieties, some with complex geometric decorations others with applique bands added. The latter has led some archaeologists to argue that the style is a skeuomorph and is derived from wicker basketry. Grooved ware pots excavated at Balfarg in Fife have been chemically analysed to determine their contents. It appears that some of the vessels there may have been used to hold black henbane *Hyoscyamus niger* which is a poison and a powerful hallucinogen. Since many Grooved ware pots have been found at henge sites and in burials, it is possible that they may have had a ritual purpose as well as a functional one. Grooved ware comes in many sizes, some vessels are extremely large, c. The majority are smaller, ranging from jug- to cup-size, and could be used for serving and drinking. The theory that the first British farmers c. The earliest examples have been found in Orkney and may have evolved from earlier Unstan ware bowls. The recent excavations at nearby Ness of Brodgar have revealed many sherds of finely decorated Grooved ware pottery, some of it representing very large pots. A large number of drinking vessels have also been identified. The style soon spread and it was used by the builders of the first phase of Stonehenge. Grooved ware pottery has been found in abundance in recent excavations at Durrington Walls and Marden Henge in Wiltshire. Here, the feasting would have involved drinking ale and eating pork. Smaller quantities of Grooved ware have been found at the nearby site of Figsbury Ring. Grooved ware was previously referred to as Rinyo-Clacton ware, first identified by Stuart Piggott in the s and named after sites where it was found. Rinyo is a neolithic settlement on the island of Rousay, Orkney. The site at Clacton now lies under the sea. One way the tradition may have spread is through trade routes up the west coast of Britain. What seems unusual is that although they shared the same style of pottery, different regions still maintained vastly different traditions. This evidence perhaps explains how Cumbrian stone axes found their way to Orkney. Unstan ware , a variation on grooved ware, emerged in Orkney. The people who used Unstan ware had totally different burial practices but managed to co-exist with their Grooved ware counterparts. Some hybrid chambered cairns have emerged in this region, containing architectural features of both the Maeshowe subclass and the Orkney-Cromarty stalled subclasses of cairn. Wikimedia Commons has media related to Grooved Ware.

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## Chapter 6 : Unstan Chambered Cairn - WikiVisually

*The Neolithic period in Orkney produced two distinct styles of pottery - Unstan Ware and Grooved Ware.. One of the most intriguing, and hotly debated, questions regarding Neolithic Orkney is the relationship between the two pottery styles.*

Both of Orkneys burghs, Kirkwall and Stromness, lie on the island, seventy-five per cent of Orkneys population live on the island, which is more densely populated than the other islands of the archipelago. The lengthy history of the occupation has provided numerous important archaeological sites. There is an abundance of wildlife, especially seabirds, the name Mainland is a corruption of the Old Norse Meginland. Formerly the island was known as Hrossey meaning Horse Island. The island is densely populated and has much fertile farmland. The bulk of the Mainland is west of Kirkwall and is low-lying, with coastal cliffs to the north and west, the eastern part of the Mainland is shaped like the letter W, the easternmost peninsula being known as Deerness. To the south, causeways called Churchill Barriers connect the island to Burray and South Ronaldsay via Lamb Holm, Mainland effectively provides the core of the Orkney Islands, linking the northern members of the archipelago with the southern ones. At the east, and west ends, islands proceed to the north and south, the western part of the island is part of the Hoy and West Mainland National Scenic Area, one of 40 in Scotland. Firth, Orphir, Stenness and Harray lie west of Kirkwall, Harray has the unique distinction of being the only landlocked parish in Orkney, although it too has a significant coast along the Loch of Harray, albeit a freshwater one. The three main settlements on Mainland, in order of magnitude are Kirkwall and Stromness, both of which are burghs, and Finstown, Kirkwall has the seat of the Bishop of Orkney, and St. Magnus Cathedral is to be found there. It is also one of the ferry ports. Stromness A long-established seaport that grew with the expansion of whaling, the old town is clustered along the main street, flanked with houses and shops built from local stone, with narrow lanes and alleys branching off it. Finstown Finstown is the third largest settlement, and used to be known as the Toon o Firth, the origin of its name is thought to be from an Irishman named David Phin who came to the area in It is on the direct Stromness to Kirkwall road, in common with most of the Orkney isles, Mainland rests almost entirely on a bedrock of Old Red Sandstone, which is about million years old and was laid down in the Devonian period 2. Chambered cairn " A chambered cairn is a burial monument, usually constructed during the Neolithic, consisting of a sizeable chamber around and over which a cairn of stones was constructed. Some chambered cairns are also passage-graves and they are found throughout Britain and Ireland, with the largest number in Scotland. Typically, the chamber is larger than a cist, and will contain a number of interments. Most were situated near a settlement, and served as that communitys graveyard, during the early Neolithic architectural forms are highly regionalised with timber and earth monuments predominating in the east and stone-chambered cairns in the west. During the later Neolithic massive circular enclosures and the use of grooved ware, Scotland has a particularly large number of chambered cairns, they are found in various different types described below. However the increasing use of cropmarks to identify Neolithic sites in lowland areas has tended to diminish the relative prominence of these cairns. In the early phases bones of numerous bodies are found together and it has been argued that this suggests that in death at least. The Clyde or Clyde-Carlingford type are found in northern and western Ireland. They first were identified as a group in the Firth of Clyde region. Over have been identified in Scotland alone, lacking a significant passage, they are a form of gallery grave. These forecourts are typically fronted by large stones and it is thought the area in front of the cairn was used for rituals of some kind. The chambers were created from stones set on end, roofed with large flat stones. They are generally considered to be the earliest in Scotland, the Orkney-Cromarty group is by far the largest and most diverse. It has been subdivided into Yarrows, Camster and Cromarty subtypes, the design is of dividing slabs at either side of a rectangular chamber, separating it into compartments or stalls. The number of these compartments ranges from 4 in the earliest examples to over 24 in an example on Orkney. The actual shape of

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the cairn varies from simple designs to elaborate forecourts protruding from each end. It is likely that these are the result of influences from mainland Europe, as they are similar to designs found in France. Examples include Midhowe on Rousay and Unstan Chambered Cairn from the Orkney Mainland, when the latter was excavated in , grave goods were found that gave their name to Unstan ware pottery 3. Neolithic It ended when metal tools became widespread. The Neolithic is a progression of behavioral and cultural characteristics and changes, including the use of wild and domestic crops, the beginning of the Neolithic culture is considered to be in the Levant about 10, BC. It developed directly from the Epipaleolithic Natufian culture in the region, whose people pioneered the use of wild cereals, which then evolved into true farming. Early Neolithic farming was limited to a range of plants, both wild and domesticated, which included einkorn wheat, millet and spelt, and the keeping of dogs, sheep. By about BC, it included domesticated cattle and pigs, the establishment of permanently or seasonally inhabited settlements, not all of these cultural elements characteristic of the Neolithic appeared everywhere in the same order, the earliest farming societies in the Near East did not use pottery. Early Japanese societies and other East Asian cultures used pottery before developing agriculture, unlike the Paleolithic, when more than one human species existed, only one human species reached the Neolithic. In the Middle East, cultures identified as Neolithic began appearing in the 10th millennium BC, early development occurred in the Levant and from there spread eastwards and westwards. Neolithic cultures are attested in southeastern Anatolia and northern Mesopotamia by around BC. The total excavated area is more than 1, square yards, the Neolithic 1 period began roughly 10, years ago in the Levant. This site was developed by nomadic tribes, evidenced by the lack of permanent housing in the vicinity. At least seven stone circles, covering 25 acres, contain limestone pillars carved with animals, insects, Stone tools were used by perhaps as many as hundreds of people to create the pillars, which might have supported roofs. The major advance of Neolithic 1 was true farming, in the proto-Neolithic Natufian cultures, wild cereals were harvested, and perhaps early seed selection and re-seeding occurred. The grain was ground into flour, emmer wheat was domesticated, and animals were herded and domesticated 4. It is in the south-west of Mainland Orkney and it is also a parish, with the town of Stromness as its capital. The name Stromness comes from the Norse Straumsnes, straum refers to the strong tides that rip past the Point of Ness through Hoy Sound to the south of the town. Stromness thus means headland protruding into the tidal stream, in Viking times the anchorage where Stromness now stands was called Hamnavoe, meaning peaceful or safe harbour. A long-established seaport, it has a population of approximately 2, residents, the old town is clustered along the characterful and winding main street, flanked with houses and shops built from local stone, with narrow lanes and alleys branching off it. There is a link from Stromness to Scrabster on the north coast of mainland Scotland. Ships of the Hudsons Bay Company were regular visitors, as were whaling fleets, large numbers of Orkneymen, many of whom came from the Stromness area, served as traders, explorers and seamen for both. Captain Cooks ships, Discovery and Resolution, called at the town in on their voyage from the South Seas where Cook had been killed. Stromness Museum reflects these aspects of the towns history. An unusual aspect of the character is the large number of buildings decorated with displays of whale bones outside them. The main part is bounded on the west by the Atlantic, on the south, Stromness plays host to the Pier Arts Centre, an outstanding collection of twentieth century British art gifted to the people of Orkney by Margaret Gardiner. The Stromness branch of the Orkney library is situated in a building gifted to the service in by Marjory Skea. Writer George Mackay Brown was born and lived most of his life in the town and his poem Hamnavoe is set in the town and is in part a memorial to his father John, a local postman. The Revue was first performed by the composer at the Stromness Hotel on 21 June as part of the St Magnus Festival, Stromness is also the title of a novel by Herbert Wetterauer. Stromness presents to the Atlantic a range of cliffs from ft high, the rocks possess great geological interest, and were made well known by the publication of the evangelical geologist Hugh Miller, The Footprints of the Creator or The Asterolepsis of Stromness. The section on the parish and its geology incorporates text from the following book, Wilson. Scotland Scotland is a country that is part of the United Kingdom and covers the northern third of the island of Great Britain. It shares a border with

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England to the south, and is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, with the North Sea to the east. In addition to the mainland, the country is made up of more than islands, including the Northern Isles, the Kingdom of Scotland emerged as an independent sovereign state in the Early Middle Ages and continued to exist until The union also created a new Parliament of Great Britain, which succeeded both the Parliament of Scotland and the Parliament of England. Within Scotland, the monarchy of the United Kingdom has continued to use a variety of styles, titles, the legal system within Scotland has also remained separate from those of England and Wales and Northern Ireland, Scotland constitutes a distinct jurisdiction in both public and private law. Glasgow, Scotlands largest city, was one of the worlds leading industrial cities. Other major urban areas are Aberdeen and Dundee, Scottish waters consist of a large sector of the North Atlantic and the North Sea, containing the largest oil reserves in the European Union. This has given Aberdeen, the third-largest city in Scotland, the title of Europes oil capital, following a referendum in , a Scottish Parliament was re-established, in the form of a devolved unicameral legislature comprising members, having authority over many areas of domestic policy. By the 11th century at the latest, Scotia was being used to refer to Scotland north of the River Forth, alongside Albania or Albany, the use of the words Scots and Scotland to encompass all of what is now Scotland became common in the Late Middle Ages. Repeated glaciations, which covered the land mass of modern Scotland. It is believed the first post-glacial groups of hunter-gatherers arrived in Scotland around 12, years ago, the groups of settlers began building the first known permanent houses on Scottish soil around 9, years ago, and the first villages around 6, years ago. The well-preserved village of Skara Brae on the mainland of Orkney dates from this period and it contains the remains of an early Bronze Age ruler laid out on white quartz pebbles and birch bark. It was also discovered for the first time that early Bronze Age people placed flowers in their graves, in the winter of , a severe storm hit Scotland, causing widespread damage and over deaths. In the Bay of Skail, the storm stripped the earth from a large irregular knoll, when the storm cleared, local villagers found the outline of a village, consisting of a number of small houses without roofs. William Watt of Skail, the laird, began an amateur excavation of the site, but after uncovering four houses 6. Scheduled monument “ In the United Kingdom, a scheduled monument is a nationally important archaeological site or historic building, given protection against unauthorised change. The various pieces of legislation used for protecting heritage assets from damage. The protection given to scheduled monuments is given under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act , a heritage asset is a part of the historic environment that is valued because of its historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest. Only some of these are judged to be important enough to have legal protection through designation. There are about 20, scheduled monuments in England representing about 37, heritage assets, of the tens of thousands of scheduled monuments in the UK, most are inconspicuous archaeological sites, but some are large ruins. According to the Act, a monument cannot be a structure which is occupied as a dwelling, as a rule of thumb, a protected historic asset that is occupied would be designated as a listed building. Scheduled Monuments are defined in the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act , in England, Wales and Scotland they are often referred to as a scheduled ancient monument, although the Act defines only ancient monument and scheduled monument. A monument can be, A building or structure, cave or excavation which is above or below the surface of the land, a site comprising any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other moveable structure. In Northern Ireland they are designated under separate legislation and are referred to as a historic monument or a monument in state care. The first Act to enshrine legal protection for ancient monuments was the Ancient Monuments Protection Act and this identified an initial list of 68 prehistoric sites, which were given a degree of legal protection. This was the result of strenuous representation by William Morris and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, which had been founded in Following various previous attempts, the legislation was guided through parliament by John Lubbock, the first Inspector of Ancient Monuments, as set up by the act, was Augustus Pitt Rivers. At this point, only the inspector, answering directly to the First Commissioner of Works, was involved in surveying the scheduled sites and persuading landowners to offer sites to the state. The act also established the concept of guardianship, in which a site might remain in private ownership, however the

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legislation could not compel landowners, as that level of state interference with private property was not politically possible. The Ancient Monuments Protection Act extended the scope of the legislation to include medieval monuments, in a speech in 1900, Robert Hunter, chairman of the National Trust, observed that only a further 18 sites had been added to the original list of 100. Charles Peers, an architect, was appointed as Inspector in 1900 in the Office of Works becoming Chief Inspector in 1902. The job title Inspector is still in use, scheduling offers protection because it makes it illegal to undertake a great range of works within a designated area, without first obtaining scheduled monument consent.

Devonian

” The Devonian is a geologic period and system of the Paleozoic, spanning 60 million years from the end of the Silurian, It is named after Devon, England, where rocks from this period were first studied, the first significant adaptive radiation of life on dry land occurred during the Devonian. Free-sporing vascular plants began to spread across dry land, forming extensive forests which covered the continents, by the middle of the Devonian, several groups of plants had evolved leaves and true roots, and by the end of the period the first seed-bearing plants appeared. Various terrestrial arthropods also became well-established, Fish reached substantial diversity during this time, leading the Devonian to often be dubbed the Age of Fish. The first ray-finned and lobe-finned bony fish appeared, while the placodermi began dominating almost every aquatic environment. The ancestors of all four-limbed vertebrates began adapting to walking on land, as their strong pectoral, in the oceans, primitive sharks became more numerous than in the Silurian and Late Ordovician.

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## Chapter 7 : Henge - WikiVividly

*The Maeshowe-type cairns at Quanterness (St Ola) and Howe (Stromness) and the Orkney-Cromarty type cairn at Isbister (South Ronaldsay) yielded large quantities of human and animal bones, artifacts and other material from which much has been deduced about the lives of the people buried there.*

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Chapter 1: An Introduction

The archaeological study of Neolithic houses is an area that "has sometimes lacked a critical edge" Thomas, a: It is a discourse that has many problems symptomatic of Neolithic studies at a wider level. Particularly apparent in Orkney is the separation of theory and practice, with largely distinct traditions of theoretical studies and data recovery although see Richards, b. This study will be aimed primarily at the site of Knap of Howar, a pair of early Neolithic houses on the island of Papa Westray, Orkney see figure 1. However, these will not simply be used as a case study as per many theoretical works, but rather will sit centrally within a framework which encourages a constant flux between data and theory. It is suggested from a series of 10 radiocarbon dates that the "potential chronological range for Knap of Howar" lies between and cal. It is seen as representing a farmstead for an extended family

ibid.: A mixed farming economy was in operation, but still with a heavy reliance on a marine resource base, with a wide range of pelagic and other bird species see figure 1. The site was most probably located a good deal further inland than it is now, protected by a sand dune ridge Ritchie, It is clear that a covering of sand kept the site well protected and ensured good preservation of both exterior environmental data and interior furniture. The survival of the walls up to a height of 1. The paradigm has shifted, and now there is widespread agreement that a division between the early Neolithic and later Neolithic in Orkney is a modern concern Richards, It is within this framework of shifting emphasis from bounded cultural traits, to the expression of identity through built form and material culture that this study will be operating. At a wider level in Orkney, an increasingly complex picture is emerging, with no one architectural form characterising or becoming standardised in any locality or at any period

ibid.: Thus, whilst the knowledge of other early Neolithic sites in Orkney is scarce and badly preserved, Knap of Howar will in no way be read as a type site for this particular period. The methodology

The methodology applied throughout this study will be multidisciplinary. Through the cross-calibration of methods it is hoped to move towards a critically coherent analysis of space at the site. The stress will be on the combination of methodologies and whether they lead us to the same conclusions. The approach is thus holistic, making use of methods and theory from architectural studies, anthropology and human geography. Their applicability and limitations will be discussed, in terms of the overall approach of the research framework being used here. Summarised below are the techniques that are being used: A study of intervisibility within interior space Particular attention will be paid to how visible certain elements of the internal space are within the house. This approach will make use of a software package available for architectural analyses of isovists Depthmap " see Turner et al. Can this be used as a reliable way for constructing public and private space? The importance of social context of use and context of audience will be stressed within this approach. A phenomenological approach to the social space of the house Phenomenology has entered the archaeological literature mainly within studies of landscape e. However, I feel there is great potential for an embodied understanding of the domestic context on a smaller scale. This analysis will critique the way in which archaeologists claim that that phenomenology is a recourse to a first-order understanding of the world, in which the body provides the "ontological ground for all feeling and knowing" Tilley, Following the blueprint set out in his analysis of the Kabyle house Bourdieu, In short, this may assist us in reassessing the essentialism of structuralist thought in archaeology. Theoretical framework Houses have long provided a stimulus point for archaeological scholars wishing to examine the everyday. In order to provide a critiqued model, it is necessary to consider four questions pertinent to the study of Knap of Howar and to the study of the Neolithic house more generally. In discussing these open-ended questions, it is hoped that a more

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wide-ranging understanding of the vagaries of practice of daily life, the domestic ritual, can be sought. In what ways are identities forged in the Neolithic house? This discussion takes as its starting point that the Neolithic at a wider context was a period in which formative relationships were constituted between man, his landscape and his built form. This represents a major interpretative strand within Neolithic studies, which argue for a reciprocal relationship between things and persons, between culture and nature e. For example, the model of the domus Hodder, conceptualises the process of domestication happening at a wider level than just that of crop agriculture and animal husbandry. Domestic architecture was thus "implicated in attempts to define and, at the same time, manipulate both a tiered cosmos and social relations within that cosmos" Lewis-Williams, Throughout this dissertation we will return to the constitutive relationship of material culture within the domestic setting; and the dialectic, but mutually constitutive and constituting relationship between man and his built form: In doing so, I believe it is possible to examine the specific relationship forged between ideal and material during this period in Britain. At a wider context within Neolithic studies, there has been a recent surge in studies of temporality Thomas, b: This terminology is misleading though; what emerges is a framework more concerned with ideology than phenomena. As a reaction against such an arbitrary reading of supposedly reflexive categories of self, this study will take practice as its central hermeneutic tool. This practice is conceived in a Bourdeusian sense as embodied experience which does not exclude "the conditions of possibility of this experience" Bourdieu, A number of archaeological studies have applied Bourdieu tentatively in their analysis e. Barrett, ; Hodder, a: We need to progress away from a conceptualisation of the agent which is "particular to the modern Western experience" Thomas, Giddens, for example, has provided a model of agency as a "continuous flow of conduct" The stress upon praxis within such models of agency allows us to examine the relationship between agency and structure. Such theories will emphasise the flexibility and fluidity of social life and spatial experience. The houses at Knap of Howar will provide a case study of a space which "is the principal locus for the objectification of the generative schemes" Bourdieu, Our interpretation of houses in the archaeological record is still greatly driven by the definitions we use. If these concepts are to be used in an analysis at Knap of Howar, they need to be viewed in light of their changing configurations through time. In the language of Foucault, we need to investigate the episteme of a given period of archaeological knowledge Foucault, This will help us to see the biases inherent within past interpretations of the site. Here, particularly, I want to reiterate the call of Tilley for an archaeology sensu Foucault, There has been some work into looking at the meta-narrative of archaeology e. Shanks and Tilley, Particularly at Knap of Howar, with excavations both in the s and s, there is the opportunity to examine the way in which modes of interpretation have made use of the archaeological evidence, and how this has been disseminated. I will specifically try to understand the associations, preconditions and "accommodative arguments" Hodder, It will be argued that there are inherent dangers in an overemphasis on "regional Neolithics", and Orkney has been consistently read as peripheral in opposition to the core of Neolithic Wessex Barclay, Moreover, we need to focus simultaneously on the regional and the wider scale Thomas, The assumption of homogeneity is something that has plagued studies in Orkney, as well, particularly over the debate over the chronological sequence of Grooved ware and Unstan ware Thomas, At a more focused level, we will show that the vocabulary we choose is imbued with modern perceptions of function. When examining the continuum from public to private at Knap of Howar, I want to emphasise the importance of context in determining social understandings of internal space. It is the failure to be self-reflexive when imposing supposedly universal structural dualisms that post-processualism has yet to address *ibid*. In what ways do the ritual and domestic contexts cross-refer? It is only recently that the long-maintained arbitrary division between domestic and ritual contexts has been "criticized as a false and misleading analytical dualism" Challands et al. It is thus possible to analyse the set of relationships and transformations that exist between these two contemporaneous structures. Base drawing from Hodder, Information from Ritchie, and Traill and Kirkness, It is a discussion which has reached an impasse Bradley, a: Thus, in an Orkney context, "deliberate acts" are seen as "undoubtedly symbolic" Renfrew, In short, this stems from the view that meaning is posited on top of

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a world of geometrical attributes. The correlation between houses and tombs is a continually drawn one in Neolithic Britain e. In examining how interior space becomes abstracted, codified and transformed at Knap of Howar, I hope to show that there is no linear connection between the two, but rather contextual relationships and transformations from one architectural form to another. This is indeed something which Ritchie feels is an "immediate need" to explore" at the site Ritchie, The divisive dichotomy of domestic and monumental settings of architecture belies the fact that the spatial ordering within such forms exists within the same cosmology. The structuralist tradition of juxtaposition in order to make cross-cultural comparison Alsayyad, The emphasis will therefore be on the different types of performances occurring in different types of spaces, seeing ritual as a means of "participation and commitment" Bradley, Can cross-calibration of methodologies provide a critical coherence to studies of the Neolithic house? One of the most crucial roles of critical and post-structuralist theory in archaeology has been the promotion of a reflexive archaeological strategy Hodder, We will consider the wide variety of techniques available to the archaeologist for exploring the spatial record, with a view to cross-calibrating them. Does the application of multiple methodologies necessarily lead to the same conclusions? In experimentation with different analysis of the interior spaces at Knap of Howar, I hope to examine the different outcomes of such methods, as well as any correlations. The unifying of post-processual archaeologies with social theory after Shanks and Tilley a , with divergent traditions of structuralism, hermeneutics and post-structuralism, has often resulted in an uncritical acceptance of methodologies both internal to the discipline and from outside. This lack of self-reflexivity leads to the hegemony of a dominant discourse, in a process that is not divorced from the political context in which the interpretation is made Preucel and Hodder, By cross-calibration we can become more self-aware of our role as filterers of knowledge; this moves us towards examining the interrelationships between different theoretical frameworks. The debate over subjectivity and objectivity has escalated in the work of later post-processual archaeologists e. If there is little attempt by archaeologists to accept the limitations of their own interpretative framework, then the situation will not change. In order for productive discourse to occur, the way archaeologists move from their data to their theory, and back again, needs to be fully open and comprehensible. Understanding the vagaries of the discourse within which an interpretation is made is important if we are to write innovatively about the past see Tilley, A major limitation on this endeavour is that few archaeologists are able to offer critiques of their own methodologies, or express doubt, problems or inconsistency within their archaeological reports. To this end, the focus of this study will be on applying a set of analyses to Knap of Howar and then critiquing them comparatively. It is suggested that a discursive approach will help us further towards a theory of conjectural knowledge *sensu* Popper, Taken together, these questions will constitute the general theoretical framework for this study. However, it is again emphasised that Knap of Howar will not be used as simple a case study within this framework. Rather the data will be used to question the theory and the theory to question the data.

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## Chapter 8 : Orkneyjar - Orkney's Chambered Cairns

*Unstan (or Onstan, or Onston) is a Neolithic chambered cairn located about 2 miles (3 km) north-east of Stromness on Mainland, Orkney, theinnatdunvilla.com tomb was built on a promontory that extends into the Loch of Stenness near the settlement of Howe.*

The period of prehistory prior to occupation by the genus *Homo* is part of the geology of Scotland. Although some written records refer to Orkney during the Roman invasions of Scotland, prehistory in northern Scotland does not end until the commencement of the Early Historic Period around AD. There are numerous important prehistoric remains in Orkney, especially from the Neolithic period, four of which form a World Heritage Site. There are diverse reasons for the abundance of the archaeological record. The sandstone bedrock provides easily workable stone materials and the wind-blown sands have helped preserve several sites. Local tradition hints at both a fear and veneration of these ancient structures perhaps inherited from the Norse period of occupation that may have helped to retain their structural integrity. The Paleolithic lasted until the retreat of the ice, the Mesolithic until the adoption of farming and the Neolithic until metalworking commenced. A number of the sites span long periods of time and in particular the distinctions between the Neolithic and the later periods are not clear cut. The subsequent Iron Age supported a return to monumental building, especially of brochs. Formal excavations were first recorded in the late 18th century and as they proceeded an understanding of the structures involved progressed from little more than folklore to modern archaeological science. The sites discussed are found on the Orkney Mainland unless otherwise stated. Contents [ show ]

Paleolithic No traces have yet been found in Scotland of either a Neanderthal presence or of *Homo sapiens* during the Pleistocene interglacials. The first indications of humans occur only after the ice retreated in the 11th millennium BC and the current Flandrian interglacial began. Since that time the landscape of Orkney has been altered by both human and natural forces. This meant that the Orkney islands may have been attached to the mainland, as was the present-day island of Great Britain to Continental Europe. Much of the North Sea basin was also dry land until after BC. This would have made travel to northern Scotland relatively easy for early human settlers. The subsequent isostatic rise of land makes estimating post-glacial coastlines a complex task. A charred hazelnut shell, recovered during the excavations at Longhowe in Tankerness in , has been dated to BC. With a tentative dating of BC or older it may prove to be the oldest settlement site found so far on Orkney. During this time, complex new societies came to the fore that were a radical departure from the earlier hunter-gatherers and which were capable of creating substantial structures. The Neolithic in Scotland lasted from approximately to BC and Orkney as a whole has nearly 3, identified Neolithic sites all told. British archaeologists have often interpreted this era as having two distinct phases; the Earlier Neolithic dominated by regional styles of pottery and architecture followed by a relatively abrupt change into the Later Neolithic characterised by new traditions found throughout the British Isles that incorporate structures on a grander scale. In the Orcadian context, there are definite developments during the Neolithic, but the changes are gradual and tend to build on earlier ideas rather than appearing to form two distinct periods. However, recently discovered evidence shows that Orkney was the starting place for much of the megalithic culture, including styles of architecture and pottery, that developed much later in the southern British Isles. Knapp of Howar 2. Situated on the island of Papa Westray which may have been combined with nearby Westray in the early Neolithic, the farmstead consists of two adjacent rounded rectangular thick-walled buildings with low doorways linked by a passageway. This structure was inhabited for years from BC but was evidently built on the site of an even older settlement. Unstan ware pottery pieces were found on the site, which was only discovered in the s when this part of the coastline was exposed by gales and tides. The design of the houses, which were built above ground level, includes a central hearth, recessed box beds and stone dressers. There is a network of stone drains leading to a common ditch. Occupied between 4000-3500 BC the houses are similar to those at Barnhouse, but they are linked by common passages and were built into a large midden containing ash, bones,

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shells, stone and organic waste. Only the roofs, which were probably supported by timber or whalebone, would have been visible from the outside. In each case the stone dressers were erected so that they dominated the view on entering the house through the low doors and there are elaborate carvings of unknown meaning on some of the stones in the houses and passages. A variety of bone beads, pins and pendants and four carved stone balls were also discovered at the site, which was only revealed after a storm in the winter of ripped away the grass from a covering sand dune. The existing ruins mostly belong to a secondary phase of building with the foundations of the first phase largely hidden from view. The exterior walls of this large stone burial mound survive to well over head-height and the constituent stones are arranged in a herring bone pattern. In a lozenge-shaped figurine was discovered, which may have been carved BC and is believed to be the earliest representation of a human face ever found in Scotland. The face has two dots for eyes, heavy brows and an oblong nose and a pattern of hatches on the body could represent clothing. Archaeologist Richard Strachan described it as a find of "astonishing rarity". Skara Brae house 1 5. However, it would be a mistake to imagine that because Orkney is so placed today that this was always so. There is a substantial amount of evidence that suggests that a variety of the smaller islands in the British Isles developed an advanced society in the Neolithic that took several centuries longer to develop on the mainland of Great Britain. There is also the possibility that tribal differences were part of the Neolithic cultural landscape. Unstan Ware pottery is associated with small settlements like Knap of Howar, and stalled tombs such as Midhowe. It is aligned so that the rear wall of its central chamber, a rough cube of 4. It gives its name to the Maeshowe type of chambered cairns, see above that include other significant sites such as Cuween Hill , Quanterness and Wideford Hill , and at Quoyness on Sanday. The Norsemen left a series of runic inscriptions on the stone walls of the chamber, some of which were left by a group of crusaders in the winter of " Over thirty individual inscriptions remain, one of the largest such collections in Europe. Some of the remaining stones are 4. The ring stands on a small isthmus between the Lochs of Stenness and Harray and it is generally thought to have been erected between BC and BC. Pottery, bones, stone tools and polished stone mace heads have also been discovered. It appears to traverse the entire peninsula the site is on and may have been a symbolic barrier between the ritual landscape of the Ring and the mundane world around it. Although containers of pigments have been found previously at sites such as Skara Brae, this was the first discovery in Britain, and possibly in Northern Europe, of evidence that Neolithic peoples used paint to decorate their buildings. The site is thought to date from BC, one of the earliest dates for a henge anywhere in Britain. The Ring of Brodgar lies about 1. The Watch Stone stands outside the circle to the north-west and is 5. Other smaller stones include a square stone like a huge hearth setting in the centre of the circle and this along with the bones of cattle, sheep, wolves and dogs found in the ditch suggest ritual sacrifice and feasting. The " Odin Stone" was pierced with a circular hole, and was used by local couples for plighting engagements by holding hands through the gap. He started in December by smashing the Odin Stone. This caused outrage and he was stopped after destroying one other stone and toppling another. The toppled stone was re-erected in along with some inaccurate reconstruction inside the circle. Dwarfie Stane, Island of Hoy, Orkney. This chambered tomb was in use for years or more from BC, and has five separate stalls and three side-chambers. This style is quite unlike any other Neolithic Orkney site and probably dates from about BC. It was the first Orcadian ancient monument to be described in writing, appearing in the 16th century *Descriptio Insularum Orchadiarum* by Joannem Ben who provided the explanation for its existence as having been built and used by giants. This may in part be due to deteriorating weather conditions in the second millennium BC. Nonetheless the great ceremonial circles continued in use [74] as bronze metalworking was slowly introduced to Scotland from Europe over a lengthy period. In the excavations at Quanterness, near the site of the Neolithic chambered tomb, revealed an Atlantic roundhouse. This was built about BC using stone stripped from the older building that had fallen into disuse some two millennia previously. These are also many impressive broch sites. Although Orkney has no broch towers where the surviving walls are more than a few metres high, several important sites have been excavated which have numerous associated buildings forming a "broch village". There appear to have been at least two separate

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periods of occupation and at some point buttresses were added to the exterior of the wall, suggesting the structure was in need of support. It is one of 11 broch sites on either side of the Eynhallow Sound. Its earth cladding is intact, allowing visitors to peer down into the broch from above. The remains of stone furniture are evident in the interior. Its purpose is not obvious. The walls are lined with stones fitted to form an arch over the cavity and steep steps lead to a rock floor. The entrance is at the top of the small hill and there is a surrounding ditch and evidence of sophisticated metal working around the site. Although these structures are usually associated with the storage of food this site is reminiscent of the Neolithic chambered tombs and excavations revealed 18 human skeletons. The Greek explorer Pytheas visited Britain sometime between 325 and 300 BC and may have circumnavigated the mainland. In his *On the Ocean* he refers to the most northerly point as *Orcas*, conceivably a reference to Orkney. Very little is known about the Pictish Orcadians, the main archaeological relics being symbol stones. One of the best examples is located on the Brough of Birsay ; it shows 3 warriors with spears and sword scabbards combined with traditional Pictish symbols. The Buckquoy spindle-whorl found at a Pictish site on Birsay is an Ogham "inscribed artefact whose interpretation has caused controversy although it is now generally considered to be of both Irish and Christian in origin. Evidence associated with the St Boniface Church on Papa Westray suggests this island have been the seat of the Christian bishopric of Orkney in Pictish times. The Norse era has provided a variety of written records, the substantial Orkneyinga Saga amongst them and at this point the archipelago fully emerges into the historic era. Following soon after this, work on the "Picts-house" i. Thomas, whose day job was as a Captain in the Royal Navy published *The Celtic Antiquities of Orkney* in 1851, [1] which listed various sites and aimed to interest "antiquarians" in the subject. His hopes were met and about a dozen chambered tombs were worked on between 1851 and 1860 by James Farrer, R. Hebden and George Petrie. However, other than work at Unstan near Stromness there was then a lull for about six decades. Then, from the late 1880s, work recommenced with the assistance of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and the Ministry of Works. The most eminent archaeologist to work here at this time was Vere Gordon Childe. He was involved in excavations at Skara Brae and Rinyo, but it was only when a shard of pottery was discovered at the latter site that it became understood that these settlements dated to the Neolithic rather than the Iron Age. The advent of radiocarbon dating enabled even more detailed dates to be established and refuted earlier theories that the chambered tombs of Orkney had developed from similar structures found in the Eastern Mediterranean , such as those built by the Minoans , when it became clear that the former pre-dated the latter by a considerable margin. Castle Bloody , a souterrain on Shapinsay Structures.

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## Chapter 9 : Stone Circles of Orkney

*Prehistoric Orkney refers to a period in the human occupation of the Orkney archipelago of Scotland that was the latter part of these islands' prehistory. The period of prehistory prior to occupation by the genus Homo is part of the geology of Scotland.*

Flight of the eagles. Retrieved 11 February September [ [http: CRS Quarterly 39 No. Retrieved 20 April](http://CRS Quarterly 39 No. Retrieved 20 April) This style is quite unlike any other Neolithic Orkney site and probably dates from about BC. It was the first Orcadian ancient monument to be described in writing, appearing in the 16th century "Descriptio Insularum Orchadiarum" by Joannem Ben who provided the explanation for its existence as having been built and used by giants. This may in part be due to deteriorating weather conditions in the second millennium BC. Nonetheless the great ceremonial circles continued in use [Wickham-Jones p. In the s excavations at Quanterness, near the site of the Neolithic chambered tomb, revealed an Atlantic roundhouse. This was built about BC using stone stripped from the older building that had fallen into disuse some two millenia previously. Although Orkney has no broch towers where the surviving walls are more than a few metres high, several important sites have been excavated which have numerous associated buildings forming a "broch village". There appear to have been at least two separate periods of occupation and at some point buttresses were added to the exterior of the wall, suggesting the structure was in need of support. It is one of 11 broch sites on either side of the Eynhallow Sound. Its earth cladding is intact, allowing visitors to peer down into the broch from above. The walls are up to convert 4 m ft thick in places and there is a complete chamber off the entrance passage. The remains of stone furniture are evident in the interior. Retrieved 1 September Michael 7 October [ [http:](http://) Its purpose is not obvious. The walls are lined with stones fitted to form an arch over the cavity and steep steps lead to a rock floor. The entrance is at the top of the small hill and there is a surrounding ditch and evidence of sophisticated metal working around the site. Although these structures are usually associated with the storage of food this site is reminiscent of the Neolithic chambered tombs and excavations revealed 18 human skeletons. See Armit p. The Greek explorer Pytheas visited Britain sometime between and BC and may have circumnavigated the mainland. In his "On the Ocean" he refers to the most northerly point as "Orcas", conceivably a reference to Orkney. Brief Interludes", in Edwards and Ralston pp. The military presence of Rome lasted for little more than 40 years for most of Scotland and only as much as 80 years in total anywhere. Very little is known about the Pictish Orcadians, the main archaeological relics being symbol stones. One of the best examples is located on the Brough of Birsay ; it shows 3 warriors with spears and sword scabbards combined with traditional Pictish symbols. These Orcadians were described as "hostages" which could imply difficult relations between Orkney and the king, although they may have simply been guests at the court. The Picts - AD" ]. Retrieved 29 August Evidence associated with the St Boniface Church on Papa Westray suggests this island have been the seat of the Christian bishopric of Orkney in Pictish times. The Norse era has provided a variety of written records, the substantial Orkneyinga Saga amongst them and at this point the archipelago fully emerges into the historic era.