

These coastal walks feature dramatic cliffs, sandy beaches, tranquil lochs and the oldest known house in Orkney

Though you look for a month of Sundays
You'll find naut like Papa Westray dundies



North Hill

The North Hill Reserve is one of Scotland's prime areas of maritime heath. Large numbers of arctic terns nest on the maritime heath and amongst them are up to 150 pairs of arctic skuas. These birds are pirates, hustling the terns and stealing their food. The heathland is also home to some lovely wild flowers. There are colonies of the rare Scottish primrose and other typical maritime plants such as thrift, spring squill and grass of Parnassus. The RSPB warden does guided walks of the reserve between May and August.



Tern

St. Boniface Kirk

St Boniface church dates back to the eighth century. It is one of the oldest Christian sites in the north of Scotland and one of the few in Orkney to survive the Reformation and still be in use today. It was abandoned in 1929, but then carefully restored to use in 1993.

Knap of Howar

The stone built houses at the Knap of Howar are the earliest North European dwellings known, dating back to 3800BC. You enter by low, narrow passages to find houses furnished with hearths, pits, stores and stone benches.



Knap of Howar

Holland Farm & Bothy Museum

Holland Farm has one of the finest traditional steadings in Orkney. The oldest buildings are the 17th century doocott and the west barn, which has a circular drying kiln. The threshing mill is 19th century and was worked by six horses in the adjoining mill tramp. Step back in time and visit the Bothy agricultural museum.

Moclett Links

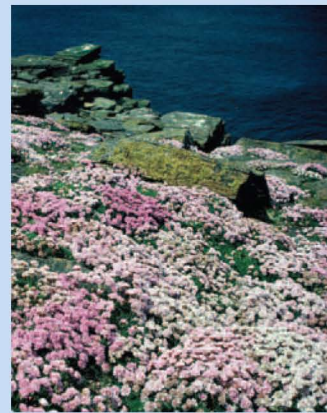
Behind the beach of Bothican is an area of sandy grassland known as machair or links, which is rich in wildflowers in summer. Look out for orchids, eyebright and lady's bedstraw.



Eyebright

Fowl Craig

Between April and July the cliffs at Fowl Craig are packed with noisy seabirds, especially guillemots, razorbills, fulmars and kittiwakes. A statue commemorates the last Great Auk, which was shot in 1813 for a collection in London. This extinct bird was a relative of the puffin and stood about a metre high.



Thrift or Sea Pinks

North Wick and South Wick

The coastal walk takes you past these two lovely beaches of white sand. They are popular with common seals, who like to bask on the rocks of the Surhouse Taing at low tide. South Wick is the site of an old stone pier and large 18th century buildings - the old kelp and coal stores and a boat house. There are also some fine boat nousts along this stretch of coastline. From the beach you can look out to the Holm of Papay, renowned for its chambered cairns and seal colonies.



Yellow Flag

St Tredwell's Chapel

On a small peninsula in St. Tredwell's Loch are the remains of this late medieval church perched on a conical mound. It was a renowned pilgrimage centre and miraculous cures are associated with it, especially for eye problems. It was built over Iron Age remains, including an underground tunnel leading to a broch.

St Tredwell's Loch

On a headland at the end of the loch is the old water mill. It was last used for milling oats about 100 years ago, but the remains of the water mill and millstones can still be seen. The loch is home to a variety of wildfowl, such as mallard, tufted duck and teal. Oystercatcher, lapwing and snipe enjoy the wetlands around the loch. At the south end is an area of yellow flag, which adds a splash of colour in early summer.



Common Seals

