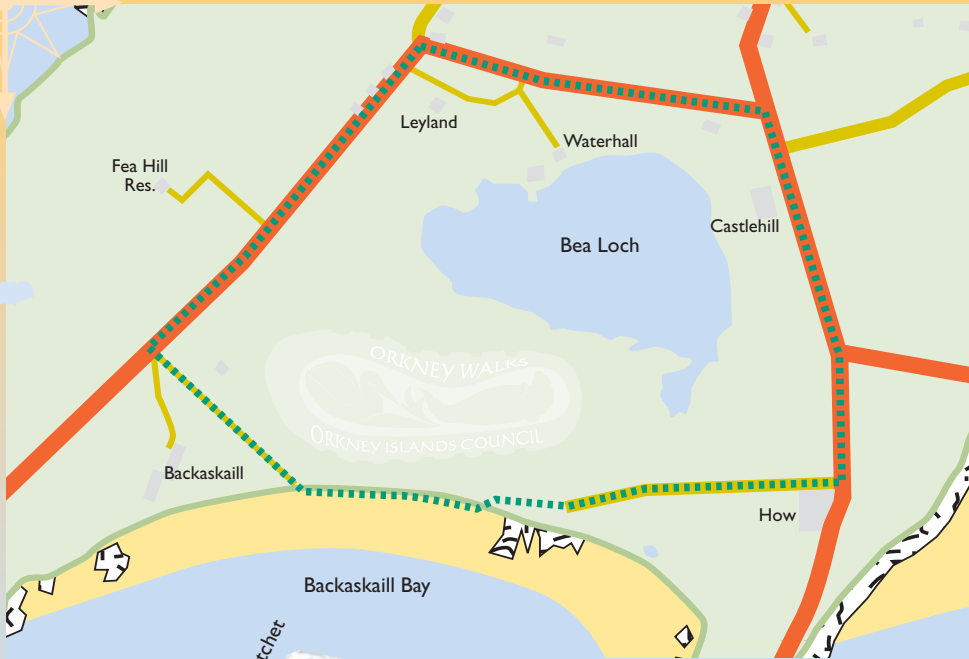


Backaskail Bay

A 5.5 km (3.4 mile) circular walk along the shore and quiet rural roads



The beautiful sandy beach is the highlight of the walk and a good place for shell collecting. Look for colourful Faroese sunset shells, wavey hatchet shells and long razor shells, locally called 'spoots'.



Low tide is also a good time to spot waders feeding on the shore. Sanderling feed at the tide edge, dashing up and down the beach following the waves. Turnstones and purple sandpipers feed in the seaweed washed up on the shore, while dunlin and oystercatchers probe in the sand looking for prey.

Sanderlings



In December 1994 there was a tragic stranding of eleven sperm whales on the beach.

Bea Loch is home to a variety of birds. Look for mallard, tufted duck, coot and mute swan in the summer or whooper swans and greylag geese during the winter months. The wetlands around the loch attract lapwing, curlew, snipe and many more. Marsh marigolds make a colourful show around the loch margins in early summer.



Mute Swan

The ruined Cross Kirk dates from the sixteenth century. The cemetery is the burial place of the Sanday folklorist Walter Traill Dennison.