

Guidance for walkers

Key:

- Main route 
- Roads 
- Steep Banks 
- Rocks/Skerries 
- Sandy beach 
- Rough Shore 
- Woodland 
- Parking 
- Toilets 
- Museum 
- Archaeological or Historic Site 

Orkney Islands Council would like to thank Papa Westray landowners for their support in developing these walks for the public.



The best way to enjoy Papa Westray is to keep to the paths in this leaflet. The paths will take you to the most interesting places on the island and allow you to enjoy exploring while Papay folk get on with farming.

When you are out and about on Papa Westray please remember:

- Keep dogs under close control at all times.
- Avoid disturbing livestock or damaging crops.
- Leave gates as you found them
- Do not pick wild plants or disturb wildlife.
- Take your litter home with you.
- Do not block gateways or access tracks.

For your safety:

We want you to enjoy your visit to Papa Westray so please follow these simple guidelines:

- Cliffs can be dangerous
- Be careful at all times near the cliffs and make sure children and dogs are closely supervised.
- Avoid cliff walks in very windy or foggy conditions.
- Be aware of the tides.
- Bonxies and terns will protect their nests.

The weather:

Weather in Orkney can be unpredictable and can change very quickly.

- Always be prepared and take warm and waterproof clothing.

Paths not pavements:

- The walks go over rough ground, so wear sturdy footwear.



Getting to Papa Westray:

Daily passenger ferry service to Papa Westray from Westray (summer only).

Twice weekly car ferry service from Kirkwall and day excursions operated by Orkney Ferries
tel: (01856) 872044

web: www.orkneyferries.co.uk

For information on winter sailings from Westray to Papay contact Tommy Rendall
tel: (01857) 677216

Inter-island air service operated by Loganair
Special overnight fares available
tel: (01856) 872494
web: www.loganair.co.uk

Further info:

Accommodation and travel information contact VisitOrkney, 6 Broad St, Kirkwall, KW15 1NX
tel: (01856) 872856
web: www.visitorkney.com

For details of guided walks of the North Hill Nature Reserve contact the RSPB warden at Rose Cottage
tel: (01857) 644240

Island nicknames rhymes by the late George Scott courtesy of Mrs N. E. Bain (Scott).

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walking Guide

Papa Westray



Papa Westray, or Papay as it is known locally, is one of the smallest of Orkney's north isles, being only 4 miles long and 1 mile wide. This makes it an ideal island for exploring on foot.

A coastal footpath follows the shoreline around the whole island, or you can explore sections of the coastal path using the quiet roads to make circular routes.

Though small, the island has much to offer. The scenery ranges from dramatic cliffs to sandy bays, farmland and lochs. There are nearly 60 archaeological sites on the island, testimony to the fact that Papay has been inhabited by people for over 5000 years.

-  Papa Westray Coastal Circular
-  North Hill Walk
-  Peter Smith Walk
-  Burland Walk



PAPA WESTRAY

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 naught 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.

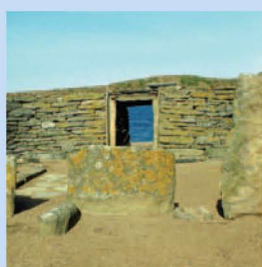


St. Boniface Kirk

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

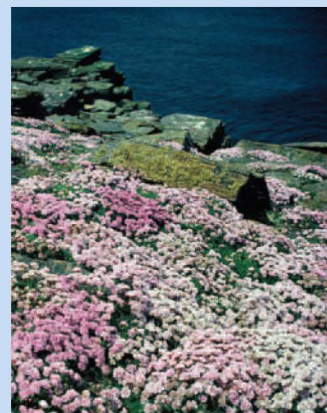
Behind the beach of Bothican is an area of sandy grassland known as machair or links, which is rich in wildflowers in summer. Look out for orchids, eyebright and lady's bedstraw.



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

