



walks



LOCATION: WEST MAINLAND **ROUTE:** HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY



DISTANCE

5 km



GRADE

2



DURATION

2 hrs

A short walk taking in three of the highlights of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site.

Route guide

- 1) Start at the carpark for Stones of Stenness on the B9055 (HY3071 1241). Head through the gate towards the stones, crossing the field diagonally to exit a metal gate at the far side onto wide grassy track.
- 2) Turn right to walk 150m to the Barnhouse Settlement (HY3078 1271) (300m)
- 3) Return along the grassy track, passing the Stones of Stenness on your left. Turn right shortly before reaching the road to follow an obvious grass track towards the Bridge of Brodgar and Watch Stone (HY3053 1269)
- 4) Carefully cross the bridge (causeway) before picking up the footpath running parallel to the right hand side of the road along the lochside.
- 5) Carefully cross over the road where the lochside path ends. Look for a grassy track running straight ahead between fields towards the Loch of Stenness. Follow this track along the shore of the loch for around 1.5km until it turns sharply to the right to pass between two fields, towards the Ring of Brodgar (HY 2909 1310) (2.7km)
- 6) Walk clockwise around the ring before looking for the Comet Stone, which lies alone to the east of the main circle, downhill towards the road (HY2962 1331)
- 7) Pass the Comet Stone and continue downhill to the public road. A grassy track to the right of the road leads back towards the stone farmhouse of Brodgar (HY3016 1302), from where you pick up the lochside path back to the Stones of Stenness carpark and the start of the route.

For further details and mapping information, find the walk on [Orkney.com/walking](https://orkney.com/walking)

Make sure you follow our guide to being a responsible visitor:



Pick up litter, taking it home with you or using any bins provided.



Keep your dog under strict control around farmland and livestock, and clean up after pets too. Don't take your dog through fields with young livestock in them.



Avoid lighting fires or BBQs on moorland or in the countryside, and if you do have a BBQ or bonfire on a beach, please clean up afterwards.



If possible, stick to designated walking and cycling routes when you're out exploring, and be respectful of private property.



Use gates where they're provided and, if they're closed when you find them, close them again after passing through.



Avoid disturbing any natural flora, fauna or wildlife habitats.

It's always worth reading up on the [Scottish Outdoor Access Code](#) before you explore Orkney too.