



WALKS  
AROUND  
THE FLOW **4**

# Orphir

EARL'S BU TO BRECK



## WHERE IS IT?

This pleasant circular walk in the south of the West Mainland of Orkney takes in a site of special significance in Orkney's Norse history, and the shoreline of Scapa Flow.

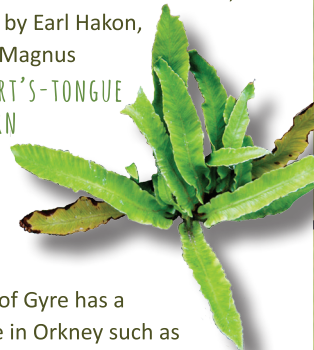
The length of the route is approximately 2.5 miles (4km).

Parking is on the Gyre road at the Earl's Bu and Orphir Round Kirk. Pass the Round Kirk, and leave the kirkyard by the gate in the eastern wall, where the path takes you along the edge of a burn, through two kissing gates and across a concrete slab 'bridge' over the burn. Follow the shore to another kissing gate that takes you along the landward side of a wall. Then rejoin the cliff-top that the path then follows until it turns north and inland along a mown path at Breck. This path leads you onto a metalled road that, in turn continues your northward route, passing a small woodland. This wood has access paths that are well worth exploring for some of the plants that occur there. A little further north, the road meets the Gyre Road. Turn left and walk for half a mile to return to the Earl's Bu car park, passing the Norse mill race on your left just before you meet the car park again.

## WHAT WILL I SEE?

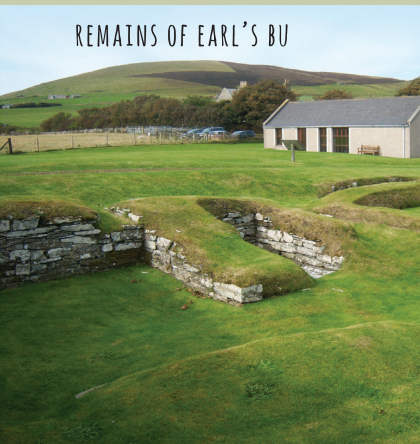
- The site of the Norse Water Mill, immediately adjacent to the east, by the Coastal Path sign
- The Round Kirk, Scotland's only surviving circular medieval church, built in the late 11th or early 12th century by Earl Hakon, who was responsible for the murder of St Magnus
- Views of Scapa Flow and its islands
- A carpet of wildflowers in summer – including bird's-foot-trefoil, tormentil and devil's-bit scabious, and birds of the meadow and seashore at all times of year.
- Common and grey seals
- The small deciduous woodland just south of Gyre has a good selection of ferns, some of them rare in Orkney such as hard shield fern and hart's-tongue fern while it is also the only locality in the islands for that herald of spring, dog's mercury.

HART'S-TONGUE FERN



**DISTANCE** 2.5 MILES 4 KM **GRADE** EASY **DURATION** 2 HOURS (CIRCUIT)

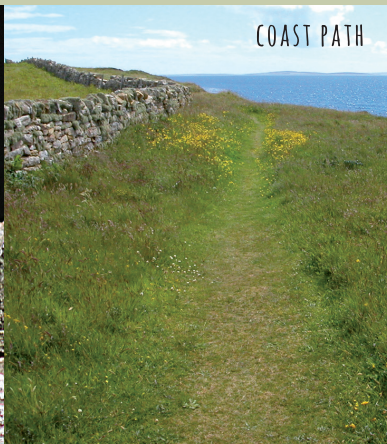
REMAINS OF EARL'S BU



WREN



COAST PATH



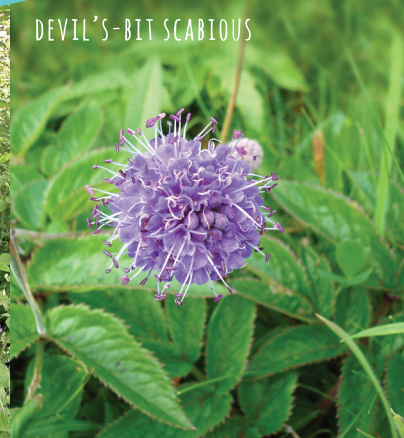
TORMENTIL



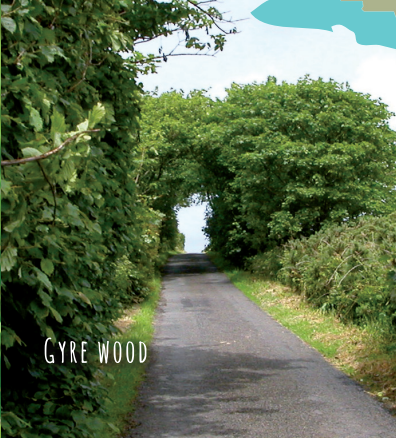




WOODLAND WALK



DEVIL'S-BIT SCABIOUS



GYRE WOOD



TUFTED VETCH



# WALKS AROUND THE FLOW

EIGHT WALKS AROUND THE FLOW ·  
TAKE THESE TRAILS TO ENJOY A SPECIAL LANDSCAPE  
RICH IN WILDLIFE AND HISTORY

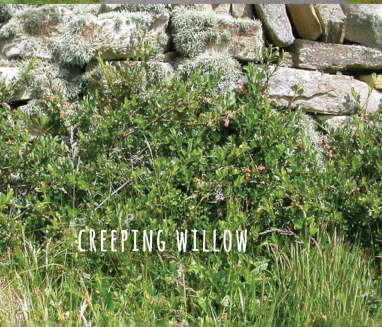
EARL'S BU



GYRE WOODLAND



KEEPING WILLOW



## WHAT SHOULD I REMEMBER?

The going is mostly flat, but uneven in places with some wet spots. Follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code -

[www.outdooraccess-scotland.com](http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com)

- Keep dogs under control at all times
- Wear suitable footwear and be prepared for variable weather
- Let someone know your route and when you will return
- Avoid disturbing livestock or crops
- Leave gates as you found them
- Respect wildlife and take special care in the breeding season
- Bring your litter away with you - leave only footprints, take only memories!

