



WALKS
AROUND
THE FLOW **6**

Flotta
EXPLORE THE ISLAND TRAIL



WHERE IS IT?

Flotta lies at the heart of Scapa Flow, reached by ferry from Houton in West Mainland or Lyness on Hoy.

The Flotta Trail offers an 8 mile (13km) circular route, starting from Gibraltar Pier where the ferry comes in. Much of the walking is easy but the coastal footpath sections are considerably rougher underfoot.

The Trail goes south past the impressive ruins of the Naval Cinema and then follows the track around the heathland of West Hill, with its views of Lyness and South Walls. A grassy path then takes you around Head of Banks, joining the road again briefly at Kirk Bay. Beyond the kirk, take a short track down to the coast and then follow the grassy path along the rising cliffs to the prominent Port War Signal Station near Stanger Head. It is well worth taking the detour through the quarry to Stanger Head itself, to admire the striking cliffs and sea stacks. Return to the ferry along the island's pleasant quiet lanes.

WHAT WILL I SEE?

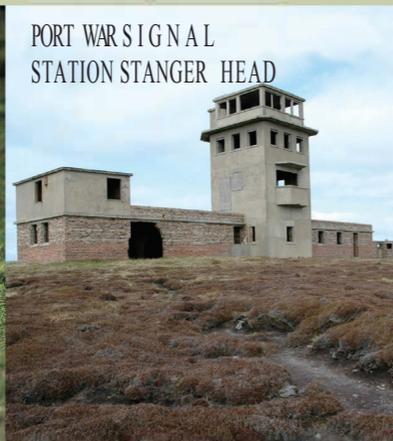
- An array of wartime archaeology, including the Naval Cinema near the pier and the Coast Battery sites which defended the Scapa Flow anchorage
- The sweeping moorland of West Hill, full of breeding skuas, next to the old airstrip
- The Economic Life of Scapa Flow exhibition at the pier waiting room
- The dramatic scenery of Stanger Head with its nesting shags, razorbills and puffins and the chance to see porpoises and, occasionally, dolphins and whales.
- The cliffs also support a small population of the unusual fern, sea spleenwort.
- Superb displays and a fascinating collection at the Lurdy Heritage Centre
- The Oil Terminal which receives 10% of Britain's oil production whilst standing sentinel in front of the fascinating historic peninsula of Golta
- The Flotta Kirk (always open) with its graveyard and war memorial which look across to the uninhabited island of Switha
- The coniferous Sutherland Plantation near the old cinema provides breeding habitat, scarce in Orkney, for small woodland breeding birds such as chaffinch, robin and goldcrest



DISTANCE 8 MILES 13 KM GRADE MODERATE DURATION 5 HOURS (FULL CIRCUIT)



SEALS HAULED-OUT



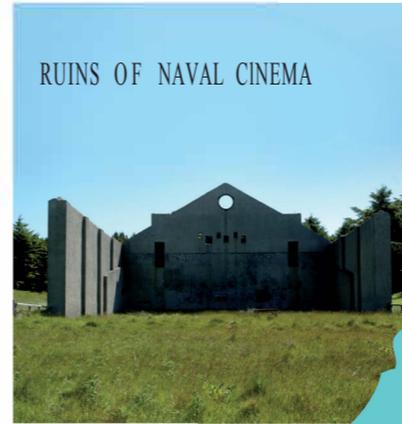
PORT WAR SIGNAL STATION STANGER HEAD



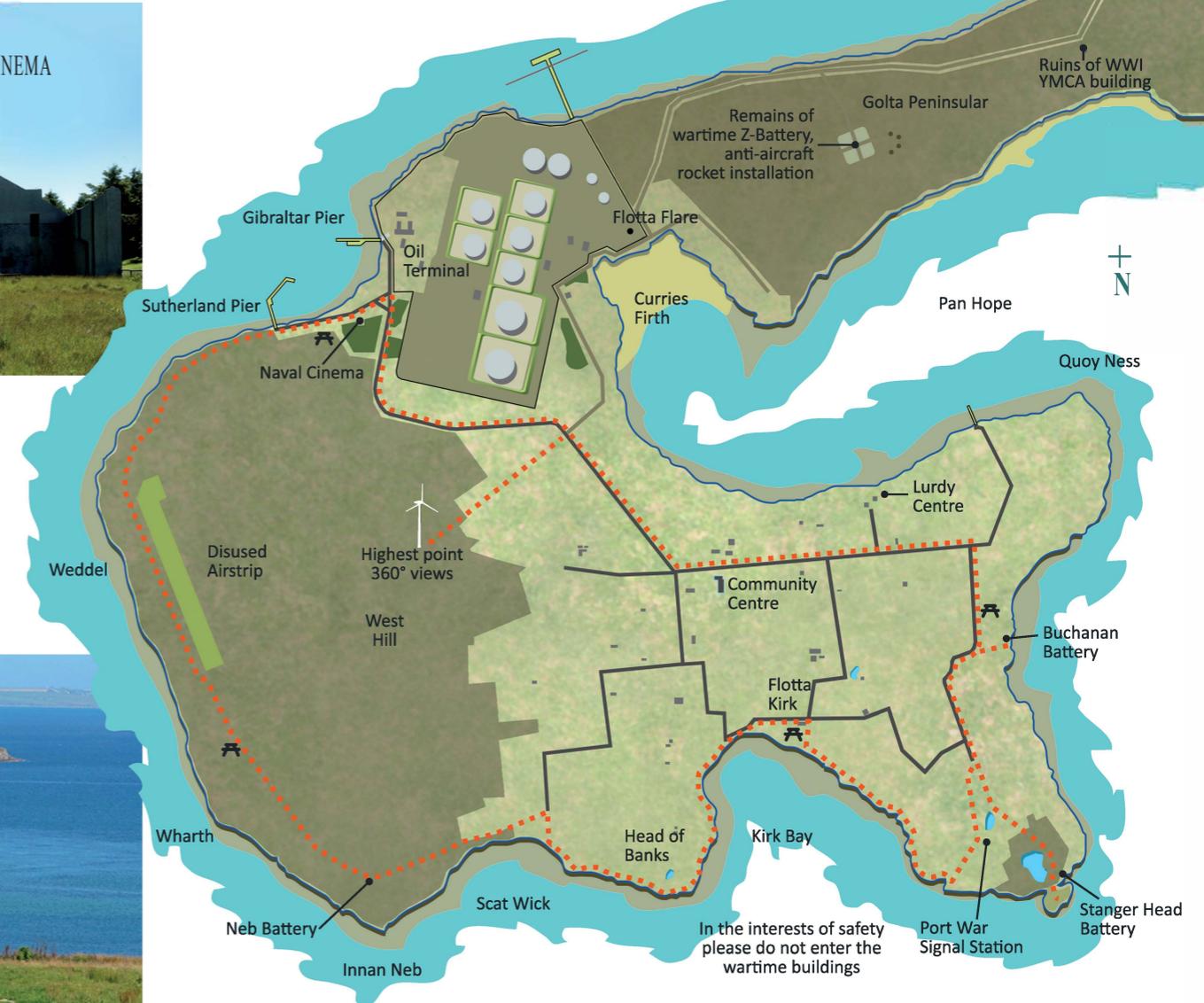
GOLDCREST



VIEW FROM TURBINE



RUINS OF NAVAL CINEMA



In the interests of safety please do not enter the wartime buildings



WALKS AROUND THE FLOW

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

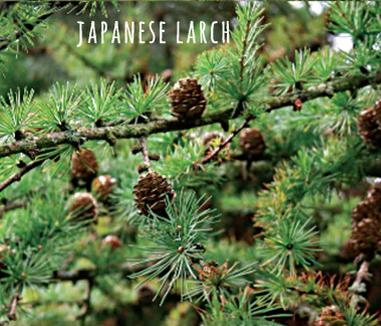
BUCHANAN BATTERY



CHAFFINCH



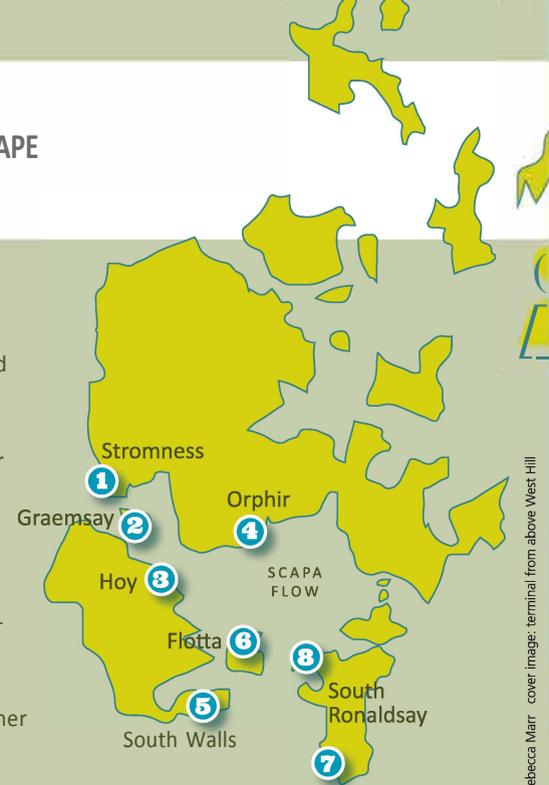
JAPANESE LARCH



WHAT SHOULD I REMEMBER?

Care should be taken in the vicinity of the precipitous cliffs and gloop at Stanger Head. Much of the going is easy, but the ground is rough and uneven in places along the paths around Head of Banks and towards Stanger Head. There are a number of stiles to climb around Head of Banks which take you through fields which may hold livestock. Various alternative circuits can also be completed along the network of lanes. There are toilets at the pier and at the Community Centre. Follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code - 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!



SCAPA
FLOW

