

Hoy & Graemsay

... The high point of Orkney

From the summit of Ward Hill on Hoy – the highest point in the county at 1570 feet – every island in Orkney can be seen with the exception of Rysa Little – which, ironically, is the nearest.

Hoy means 'High Island' from the Old Norse 'HAey'. It is the second largest island in Orkney at 57 square miles. The north and west are hilly and more 'Highland' in character, the south and east low-lying and fertile, more typical of Orkney in general.

Hoy is steeped in history with sites which date from prehistoric times, through the Viking period and into the 20th century. Here you'll find the only rock-cut chambered tomb in Britain and discover Hoy's key role in British maritime history.

The richness of heritage is equalled by a treasure trove of natural history, for example you'll find plant communities normally associated with mountain areas. An ornithologist's paradise, a number of northern species can be seen in a natural setting which has few equals in Britain.

Hills and stunning sea cliffs offer excellent hillwalking, the west coast in particular is one of spectacular natural beauty. The dramatic summits of Ward Hill and the Cuilags stand in splendid contrast to the rest of Orkney and can be seen from almost anywhere on Orkney Mainland.

The weather can deteriorate rapidly in the hills. Please ensure you have warm, waterproof clothing and stout footwear. Make sure you have a map and compass if you wish to explore off the footpath network. Take great care around the cliff tops, particularly in windy or foggy conditions.

Geology

Much of Hoy is composed of Upper rather than Middle Old Red Sandstones which have been weathered into a complex of steep and craggy hills. The resulting landscape is unique within Orkney. The upland mass of Hoy generated its own glaciers during the last Ice Age. Evidence of this can be seen in the small corries and wide glaciated valleys of northwest Hoy.

Plants and mammals

Hoy's upland character, its northern latitude and great exposure has resulted in a plant community which is normally associated with mountain areas. At heights of less than 1500 feet you'll find several arctic-alpine species such as the Least Willow and Yellow Mountain Saxifrage.

General lack of grazing has encouraged native tree growth and in Rackwick Valley, at Berriedale, you'll find the most northerly native woodland in Britain. Look out for the numerous and conspicuous mountain hares in the hills. Otters are common along the Scapa Flow coastline and have been found in the Rackwick Burn.

Birdlife

The RSPB Hoy reserve comprises almost 4,000 hectares of moorland with scattered lochans, woodland and huge seacliffs. The reserve is important for a wide range of birds, including hen harriers, peregrine falcons, red-throated divers, waders and seabirds. Hoy holds around 12% of the World's breeding great skua population and you can see fulmars, puffins, guillemots, razorbills, shags and kittiwakes around the Old Man of Hoy in the summer months.



dwarfie stane on the road rackwick - raymond parks

Points of interest

- 1 The Dwarfie Stone:** Only rock-cut tomb in Britain; according to Sir Walter Scott it was the residence of the 'Troll', a legendary Norse dwarf.
- 2 Ward Hill:** At 1570 feet (479m) this is Orkney's highest hill and with the neighbouring Cuilags has a sub-arctic, glaciated environment attracting geologists, botanists and hillwalkers.
- 3 Rackwick:** This crofting township is considered one of the most beautiful places in Orkney. Bounded by towering cliffs and steep heathery hills, Rackwick rests beside a fine sand and boulder strewn beach.
- 4 Berriedale Wood:** The most northerly native woodland in Britain; pollen analysis suggests that woodland of this type was more widespread in Orkney around 5000BC.
- 5 The Old Man of Hoy:** Famous 450 foot sea stack, first climbed in 1967 in a televised assault, is perhaps Orkney's most famous landmark. Occasionally steep footpath from Rackwick to the stack requires a three-hour round trip.
- 6 St John's Head:** Highest vertical cliff in Britain, the first direct ascent was made in 1970 by Edward Ward Drummond and companion who spent six nights on the face sleeping in hammocks.
- 7 Broch of Braebister:** This promontory provided protection for an Iron Age fort built some 2000 years ago. Remains are still visible in the form of a six to nine foot high mound.
- 8 Hoy High & Hoy Low Lighthouses, Graemsay:** Completed in 1851 Hoy High's white 108-foot tower tapers to a balcony supported by Gothic arches. At the foot of the tower are keepers' houses, built in a style reminiscent of Assyrian temples.
- 9 Hoy Kirk:** has been recently refurbished as a visitor centre. the pulpit has wooden panels from the Spanish Armada and there is a multi-media presentation of local interest.
- 10 Arctic Convoys Memorial, Lyness:** To commemorate all who served in the Arctic Convoys to Murmansk and Arkangel in Russia.
- 11 Betty Corrigan's Grave:** A young girl from Lyness abandoned, pregnant, by a visiting sailor last century, took her own life and was buried away from hallowed ground on the parish boundary. Surely one of Britain's loneliest graves.
- 12 Scad Head Viewpoint:** A wonderful panorama of Scapa Flow and Orkney Mainland.



west face of hoy - drew kennedy

13 Lyness Naval Cemetery: Here rest the heroes from some of the most famous incidents in modern naval history – the Battle of Jutland (1916); HMS Hampshire sunk by a mine off Birsay (1916); explosion of the Vanguard off Flotta (1917) and the Royal Oak torpedoed in Scapa Flow (1939).

14 Scapa Flow Visitor Centre & Museum: Located a few minutes' walk from the Lyness ferry terminal the museum is centred around the former fuel oil pumping station at Lyness Naval Base, (HMS Proserpine). The fascinating exhibition illustrates the importance of Scapa Flow as a base for the British fleet throughout history, concentrating on its role during two world wars. It includes photographs, text, artefacts, films and an audio exhibition, plus a collection of large military vehicles, cranes, field artillery and dockyard rolling stock. The museum is open March - October and admission is free. The popular Pumphouse Café is open from Easter-October.

15 Martello Towers and Longhope Battery: These two towers, constructed between 1813 and 1815 were built as protection for the Baltic convoys. Renovated in 1866 they were used during World War I. Open for visitors.

16 Melsetter House and Chapel: Designed by WR Letheby in Arts and Crafts Style. visits arranged by appointment only, subject to owner's convenience – Sunday & Thursday. t: 01856 791352.

17 Osmondwall: This was a favourite Viking anchorage where in 955 Jarl Sigurd the Stout was given his famous choice – baptism into the Christian faith or decapitation. He chose baptism!

18 Longhope Lifeboat Memorial: At Osmondwall the Kirkhope burial ground is dominated by the lone bronze figure of a lifeboatman, erected in honour of the eight-man crew of the T.G.B. which was lost with all hands on March 17, 1969, en route to a rescue.

19 Moodie Burial Place: The Moodie family owned most of Walls parish from the late 16th century until 1820.

20 Cantick Head Lighthouse: First lit in 1858 it was built by David Stevenson to mark the southern entrance to Scapa Flow.

21 Green Hill of Hesti Geo: This large green mound, not far from the Candle of Snellsetter, contains an unusually large broch. There are two gloups nearby.

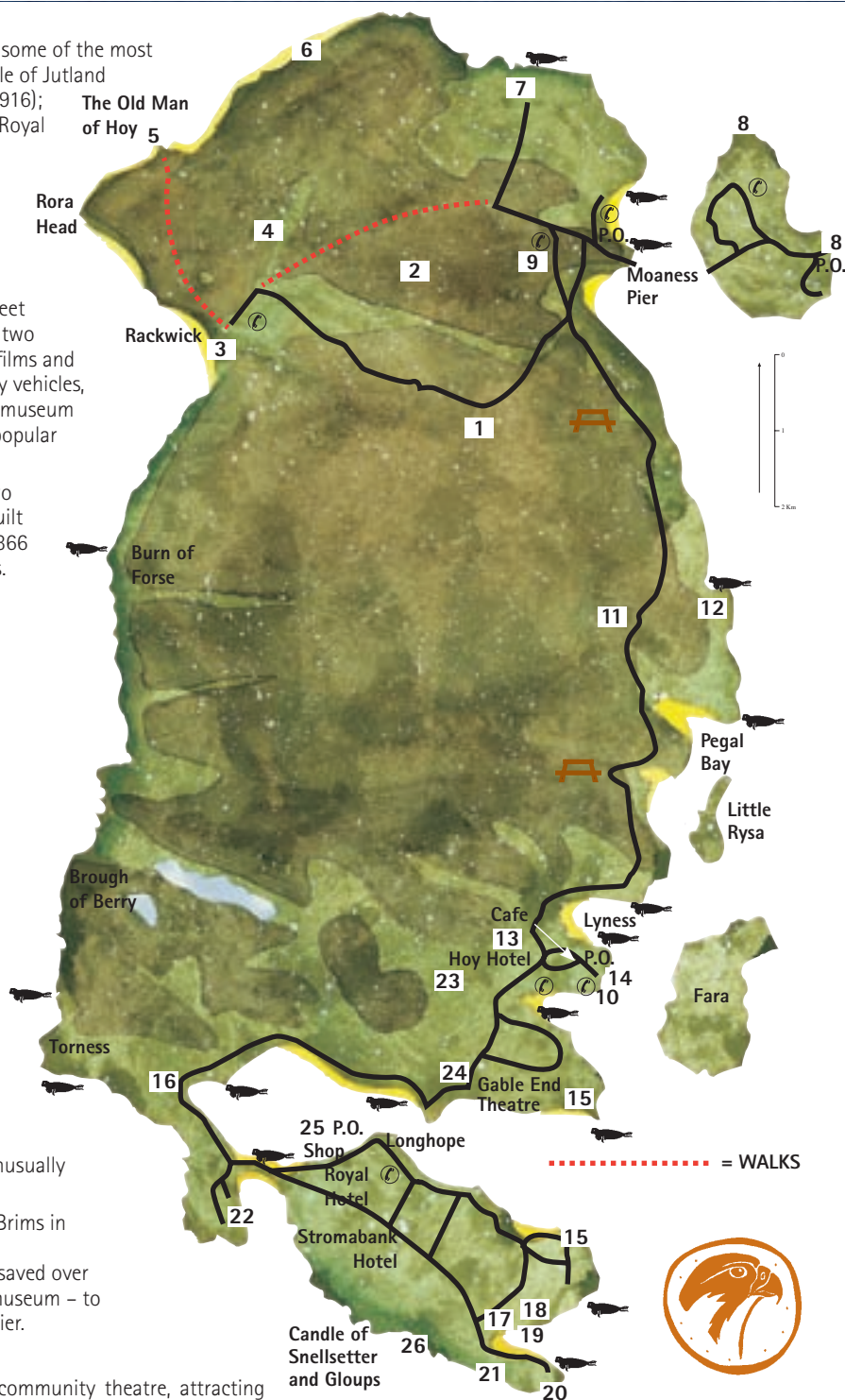
22 Longhope Lifeboat Station Museum: Situated at Brims in South Walls, Longhope Lifeboat station opened in 1834 and has saved over 500 lives. Boat shed is now being converted into a museum – to view T. 701332. Lifeboat is now afloat at Longhope pier.

23 Wee Fea Viewpoint: Panorama of the South Isles.

24 Gable End Theatre: The Gable End is a 75-seat community theatre, attracting music and drama acts from all over the world. The Gable End Film Society holds fortnightly film screenings. Most music and drama events have a licensed bar; coffee and ice cream are available in the foyer before the films. All our shows are advertised on www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/ IOHDT in local shops and post offices as well as in the passenger lounges of the ferry. Also check out our Facebook page.

25 Longhope Lifeboat Station: Established in 1874. Alongside the pier you will find the lifeboat "the Helen Comrie" a Tamar class lifeboat. During the summer months a shop run by the Longhope Lifeboat Guild is open Wed, Thurs & Friday to coincide with the times the 'Hoy Hopper' Bus is in Longhope (other times by arrangement). http://rnli.org.uk/rnli_near_you/scotland/stations/LonghopeOrkney

26 Hill of White Hamars: A Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve which comprises spectacular coastal walks, overlooking the Pentland Firth. The reserve is one of the few places where you will find the rare Scottish Primrose.



Services

Accommodation

Accommodation providers listed below are members of VisitScotland's Quality Assurance Scheme and have been graded as part of the national scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover.

HOTELS

Stromabank Hotel (★★★ Small Hot) - Small family run hot with 4 ensuite bedrooms. One suitable for disabled. Children welcome. Bar meals – 6-9pm. Lunches 12-2pm weekends only. (Residents only meals on Thursdays). t: 01856 701494. www.stromabank.co.uk

BED & BREAKFAST

Quoydale, Hoy (★★★B & B) - Mrs F. Clark, double/twin en-suite, evening meal on request. t: 01856 791315. e: quoydale@supanet.com www.orkneyaccommodation.co.uk

Wildheather (★★★★B & B), Millhouse, Lyness, Hoy. Mrs Helen Hiscoke, 2 double/twin ensuite room with breath taking views over Mill Bay, evening meals and packed lunches on request. t: 01856 791098, e: enquiries@wildheatherbandb.co.uk, www.wildheatherbandb.co.uk

SELF CATERING

Burnhouse cottage, Hoy (★★★SC) - sleeps 5. Mr and Mrs E. MacKay. t: 01856 870058. e: melfea@supanet.com www.burnhouse-selfcatering.co.uk

Pools, Longhope (★★★★SC) - Mrs K. Kirkpatrick. Self-catering cottage, sleeps 6. 01856 701211. e: karen@hoy-selfcatering.co.uk www.hoy-selfcatering.co.uk

Cliffgate, Rackwick (★★★★SC) - self-catering house, sleeps 8. Mrs Lorraine Buchan. t: 01856 771231. e: info@cliffgate.co.uk www.cliffgate.co.uk

Old Hall Cottage (★★★SC) - 3 star self-catering, sleeps up to 6. Level entry disabled access. Open all year round. B&B also available. Contact Mark and Sandra t: 01856 701213. e: info@oldhallcottage.co.uk, website: www.oldhallcottage.co.uk

HOSTELS

Hoy Centre (★★★★Host) - open all year, 8 rooms, sleeps 32. Exclusive and family room rates available. Group bookings welcome. Please pre-book. t: 01856 873535 ext 2417. e: recreation@orkney.gov.uk www.hostelsorkney.co.uk

History

In the beautiful valley of Rackwick lies the only prehistoric rock-cut chambered tomb in Britain. The Dwarfie Stane is an isolated block of red sandstone, some 8.5 metres long, which dates from about 3000BC.

Vikings used the many sheltered bays of Hoy and Walls as havens to haul their longships ashore. Longhope became the rendezvous point for Baltic convoys during the Napoleonic Wars. The construction of two Martello Towers fortified the hamlet against attack from the navy and privateers of the United States.

The World Wars

Hoy's major contribution to Orkney's heritage came in the 20th century when in 1914 Scapa Flow became the base of the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet. which sailed and engaged the German High Seas Fleet at the Battle of Jutland on 31 May, 1916. The captured German fleet was interned in Scapa Flow and subsequently scuttled on 21 June 1919. During World War II thousands of navy personnel were based at Lyness and the now deserted naval base has been converted to a visitor centre with many exhibits from both world wars and the scuttled German fleet. In addition there is an audio visual display within the remaining giant oil tank. Admission Free.

Rackwick Outdoor Centre (★★★Host) - hostel, sleeps 8. Family & exclusive rooms available. Camping also available in grounds. Please pre-book. t: 01856 873535 ext 2415. e: recreation@orkney.gov.uk www.hostelsorkney.co.uk

Accommodation providers listed below are not participants of VisitScotland's Quality Assurance Scheme. Please refer to the disclaimer on the inside of the back cover before booking.

Hoy Hotel, 1 family room, 3 twin rooms, 1 single room. All ensuite. All ground floor. B&B, lunch and evening meals available. Richard & Inez Groat. t: 01856 791377. e: richard@accommodationinorkney.co.uk www.accommodationinorkney.co.uk

Royal Hotel, Longhope B & B, Mr A. White, traditional bar, fine views overlooking Longhope Pier and Scapa Flow. t: 01856 701276, e: royallonghope@freeuk.com

Quoydale, Hoy, sleeps 4, all amenities plus linen. Mrs A. Clark. t: 01856 791315. e: quoydale@supanet.com www.orkneyaccommodation.co.uk

Longhope Village, self-catering cottage to let; sleeps 5; all amenities. Mrs Kirkpatrick. t: 01856 701206. e: garyhas2061@aol.com

Scapa Flow Holidays, Naval Hall, Longhope, self-catering, modern units; advance bookings, t: 01856 791007. m: 07795 312660. www.scapaflohwolidays.co.uk

The Spinning cottage, Melsetter House. Miss E. Scatter. t: 01856 791352.

Cantick Head Lighthouse Cottages, sleeps 1-3 & 2-4/5. Nadia Schwartzmann, t: 01856 701255. e: cantick@gmail.com www.cantickhead.com

House o' Wards, Longhope, sleeps 5, Mrs Lesley Budge. t: 01856 701263. e: lesley@burnhousefarm.fsnet.co.uk www.longhope.co.uk/selfcatering.

The Orkney Croft, 2 award winning self-catering cottages each sleeping 6, 3 star. Short breaks and nightly lets available. www.orkneycroft.co.uk t: 01856 791119 or 01856 851116.

The Glen, Rackwick, self-catering cottage with spectacular views over Rackwick Bay. New conservatory and utility room. Linen provided. Open all year. Mrs Dorothy Rendall. t: 01856 791262.

Uppersettir, Lyness, Mrs Louise Budge, 1 double/twin. Best Breakfast 2001. t: 01856 791234 or 07786 302508. e: uppersettir@freeuk.com

West Linksness, self-catering - Mrs F. Matheson, t: 01856 851116. e: fioneil@fioneil.force9.co.uk www.orkneycroft.co.uk

The Kennels, Melsetter - 1 bedroom cottage, sleeps 2. Anne Robertson. t: 01856 850216.

Transport

Bu Farm – Minibus and Taxi. Mr T. Thomson. t: 01856 791263.

Rendall's of Rackwick, Glen Rackwick - Taxi. Mr J. Rendall. t: 01856 791262.

Taxi & island tours by local Orcadian. Pick-up by arrangement from Moaness & Lyness. Hills of Hoy, Lyness - Island Tours 7 & 8 seat minibuses: 24 seat coach with PSV driver and Taxi Service. Mr W. Hill. t: 01856 791240.

North Hoy Transport, Quoydale - Taxi, minibus, Mr A. Clark. t: 01856 791315.

Shops & Eating Out

Hoy Hotel and Anchor Bar, Lyness, Lunches served 12 till 2.30pm (May-Sept.) Sunday lunches bookings required. Anchor Bar open every evening from 7pm. Evening meals by request, please book. t: 01856 791377/701273. e: richard@accommodationinorkney.co.uk www.accommodationinorkney.co.uk

Royal Hotel, Longhope - t: 01856 701276.

J.M.F. Groat & Sons, Longhope - General Merchants & Grocers, Petrol & oils - Calor and camping gas; off licence; hardware. Open 9-12.30 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. Open all day July, August and September. t: 01856 701273. f: 01856 701251.

Benethill Cafe, Moaness Hoy, Open daily throughout the summer season, licensed and specialising in local food with evening meals on Friday. B&B & evening meal by arrangement. t: 01856 791119 or 01856 851116.

Cafe, Scapa Flow Visitors Centre, Lyness - open in summer for hot and cold snacks, souvenirs etc.

Stromabank Hotel - Evening Meals daily except Thursday. (6-9 p.m.) Lunches Sat - Sun only 12-2pm. t: 01856 701494.

Post Offices

Longhope - within J.M.F. Groat's shop. t: 01856 701273/701251.

Hoy Post Office. t: 01856 791261.

Lyness PO is located in the Hoy Hotel and open Monday only 11am till 1pm.

Other Services

Doctor - Hoy and Walls Surgery, Health Centre, Longhope. t: 01856 701209.

Nurse - Community Nurse. Contact Health Centre. t: 01856 701224.

Healthy Living Centre. t: 01856 791085.

Development Trust. www.hoyorkney.com

Leisure & Recreation

Hills of Hoy, Lyness - Island Tours 7&8 seat minibuses. t: 01856 791240.

Hoy Tours with Albert and visit places of interest, Dwarfie Stane, Martello Tower, Rackwick, etc. Enquiries to Albert Clark. t: 01856 791315. e: quoydale@supanet.com

Glen Rackwick Tours - Max 4 people. Various itineraries. Mr J Rendall. T. 01856 791262.

Tours of Hoy - Mr T Thomson. t: 01856 791263.

South Isles Ranger, free guided walks. t: 01856 791176, e: southislesranger@live.co.uk.



rackwick, hoy - charles tait

RSPB Ranger, guided walks on the RSPB reserve with the warden every Tuesday, 3 May-19 July inc. t. 01856 791298. e. lee.shields@rspb.org.uk

North Walls Centre – swimming pool and various sports activities. Mrs M. Groat. t: 01856 701226; Miss S. Firth 01856 701800 (booking clerk).

Moorings available at Longhope pier and mooring buoys just off the pier. Public shower and toilets on the pier.

There is a **playpark** in Longhope, just behind the Royal Hotel.

Hoy Half Marathon held annually in June.

Longhope Regatta held annually in July.

All events are now publicised on www.hoyorkney.com

Churches

St Columba's, Longhope – Church of Scotland. All denominations welcome. Services advertised locally.



hoy high lighthouse, graemsay - charles tait

Step back in time with a visit to Graemsay. A fifteen minute sail from Stromness (forty five minutes via Hoy) will bring you to a small, green, unspoilt island lying at the northern entrance to Scapa Flow, between Stromness and Hoy.

The virtual absence of traffic makes walking a pleasure, enabling you to enjoy the abundant wild flowers and appreciate the superb views of Stromness and North Hoy. Relax on the safe coral and sandy beaches at Sandside, within comfortable walking distance of the pier. There are picnic benches around the island.

Explore the rocky shoreline where you can still find small pieces of crockery from the vessel Albion, shipwrecked off the Point of Oxan on New Year's Day 1866, on its way from Liverpool to New York. Meet seals, terns, Oystercatchers, Ringed Plovers, Redshank, Curlew, Lapwing, Fulmar, and Skuas, or just study the exposed rock strata.

There is no shop on the island and the Post Office is on Monday and Friday from 7.30am till 9.30am and on Wednesday from 11.30am till 1.30pm.

By Sea

Graemsay and Moaness

North Hoy

Departing Stromness to Moaness Pier

Effective from 8 May until 25 September 2011

Passenger and cycle service only to Graemsay and North Hoy are carried out by **m.v. Graemsay** (73 passengers and 8 tonnes of cargo).



		Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Stromness	dep	0930	0745	0745	0745	0745	0745	0930
Hoy	dep	1000	0810	0810	0810	0810	0810	1000
Graemsay	dep	1015A	0825	0825	0825	0825	0825	1015A
Stromness	dep		1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	
Hoy	dep		1030	1030	1030	1030	1030	
Graemsay	dep		1045A	1045A	1045A	1045A	1045A	
Stromness	dep			1200C	1200C		1200C	
Graemsay	dep			1230C	1230C		1230C	
Hoy	dep			1240C	1240C		1240C	
Stromness	dep		1600	1600	1600	1600	1600	
Graemsay	dep		1615	1615	1615	1615	1615	
Hoy	dep		1630	1630	1630	1630	1630	
Stromness	dep	1800	1745	1745	1745	1745	1745	1800
Graemsay	dep	1815A	1800B	1800B	1800B	1800B	1800A	1815A
Hoy	dep	1830	1815	1815	1815	1815	1815	1830
Stromness	dep						2130	
Hoy	dep						2200	
Graemsay	dep						2215A	

A - Available on request.

B - For foot passengers Boarding at Stromness this service is available on request, passengers wishing to board at Graemsay must telephone the number below at least 10 minutes before the Stromness sailing time. Any Cargo for this service must be booked by 1000 (10am) on the day of sailing.

C - Cargo Sailing - Limited Passenger Numbers - Booking Essential. These sailings may be delayed due to cargo operations.

NOTES:

- 1) All enquiries **MUST** be made through Stevie Mowat. t: (01856) 850624.
- 2) Passengers are requested to be available for boarding **5 minutes** before departure.
- 3) All cargo must be booked before 1700hrs (5pm) the day before sailing, also see general notes **B** and **C** above.
- 4) For conditions of carriage of passengers and cargo see notices exhibited in Company's vessels, offices and premises.
- 5) Ferry Services/Orkney Ferries Ltd operates a **'No Show'** charging policy. All cancellations must be made by 1600hrs the day before sailing or full charges may apply.

For full fares please enquire at Ferry Services Offices

HoyHopper

Bus and Ferry Service



An integrated bus and ferry service will operate on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 18th May - 25th September 2011. The service will depart from Kirkwall Travel Centre in the morning, connect with the ferry service from Houton to Hoy, and on Hoy will provide visitors with an opportunity to hop on and off the bus throughout the day to many of the major sites of interest around Hoy. The provisional timetable for the service will be as follows: **Wednesdays, Thursday and Fridays**

Bus departs Kirkwall Travel Centre	0840	Viewpoint/Betty Corrivals	Grave	Ferry departs Lyness	17.15
Ferry departs Houton Ferry	0925	(dep)	11.15	Bus departs Houton Ferry	18.00
Longhope (Royal Hotel)	09.30	Lyness (dep)	15.40	Bus arrives Kirkwall	
Lyness Ferry	10.05	Moaness (arr)	16.20	Travel Centre	18.20
Moaness Ferry	10.35	Moaness (dep)	16.40	Lyness (dep)	17.20
		Lyness (arr)	17.00	Longhope (Royal Hotel)	17.50

Further details about the service will be available from the Kirkwall Travel Centre and VisitOrkney. Integrated tickets will be available for the bus and ferry service allowing passengers to hop on and off throughout the day, and National Concessionary Travel Card holders travel for free on the bus throughout the day. Tickets are available from Ferry Services Offices in Kirkwall.

See page 13 for ferry timetable