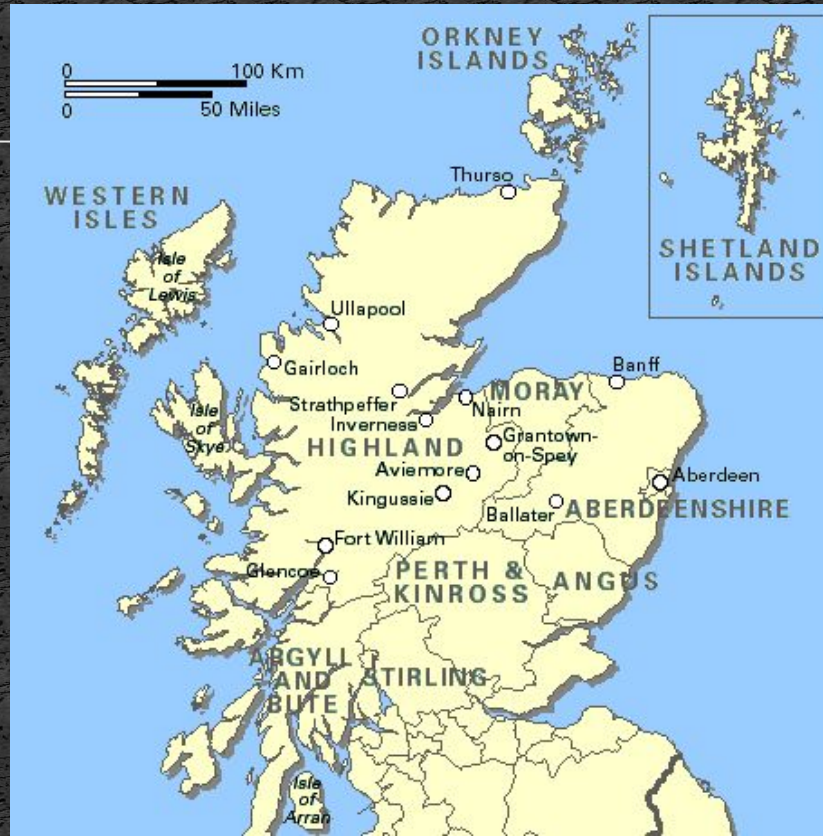


The Orkney Islands

- is an archipelago in northern Scotland , situated 10 miles (16 km) north of the coast of Caithness. Orkney comprises over 70 islands; around 20 are inhabited.



Origin of the name - Orcades

Population – 21 349

Control - independent



The Mainland

- is the largest island of Orkney.
(75% of Orkney's population)



Skara Brae.



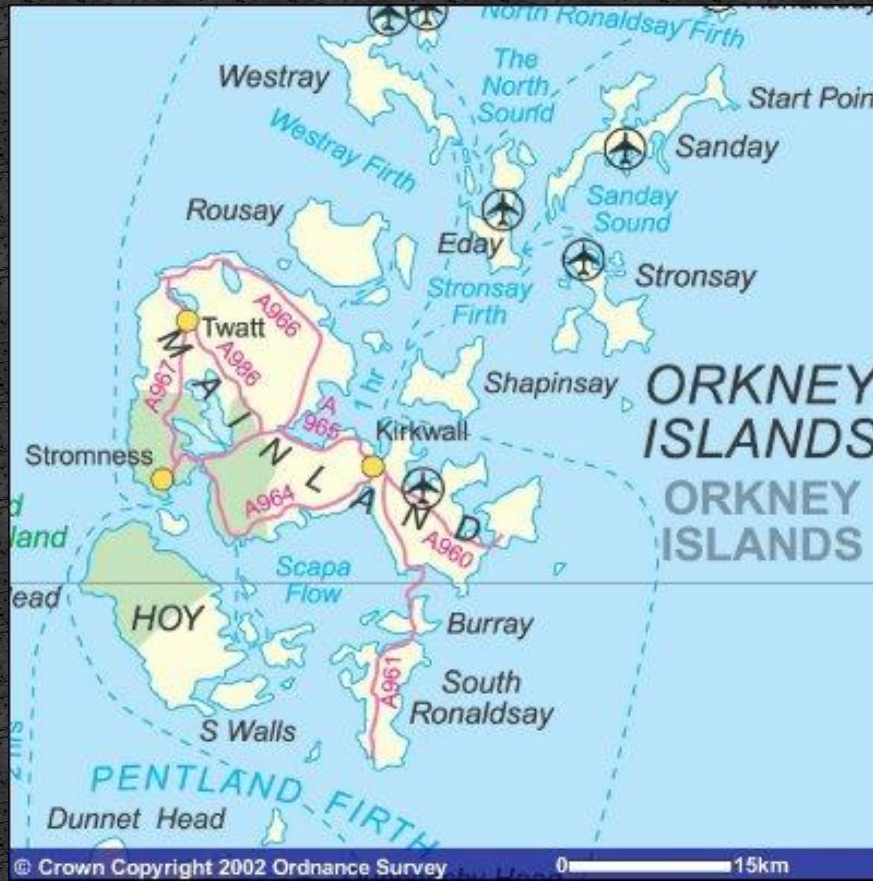
Ring of Brodgar



Standing Stones
of Stenness

The North Isles

The northern group of islands is the most extensive and consists of a large number of moderately sized islands, linked to the Mainland by ferries. Most of the islands described as "holms" are very small.



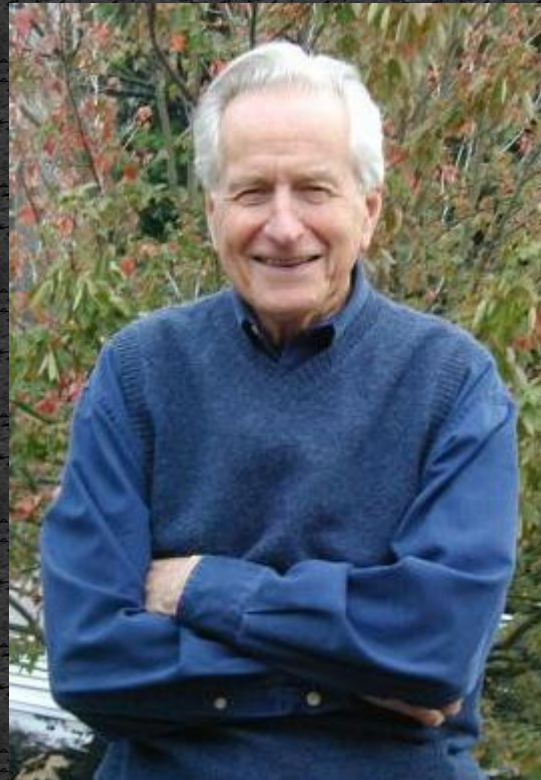
The South Isles

The southern group of islands surrounds Scapa Flow.



Politics

- Orkney is represented in the House of Commons as part of the Orkney and Shetland constituency, which elects one Member of Parliament (MP) by the first past the post system of election.



John Goodlad

Climate

- The average temperature for the year is 8 °C (46 °F), for winter 4 °C (39 °F) and for summer 12 °C (54 °F).



Transport

The main airport in Orkney is Kirkwall Airport, operated by Highland and Islands Airports.

Ferries serve both to link Orkney to the rest of Scotland, and also to link together the various islands of the Orkney archipelago.



Traditions

An **Orcadian** is a native of Orkney, a term that reflects a strongly held identity with a tradition of understatement.

