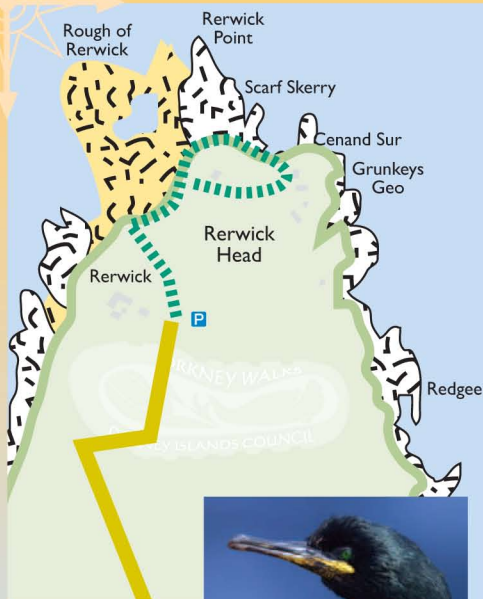


# Rerwick Head

A short circular walk (1km) exploring the coastline & WW2 battery of the headland



If you are interested in geology, Rerwick Head is an ideal place to see the layered sandstone rocks that cover most of Orkney. Here great slabs of stone are exposed and you can see clear ripple marks in the rocks – evidence that they were formed in a shallow lake millions of years ago. Shags – locally known as ‘scarfies’ - are commonly seen standing on the rocks and fulmars nest on the cliffs. The lower, seaweed covered, rocky shore is popular with wading birds such as turnstones and purple sandpipers.

Rippled rocks

Offshore, look north to the island of Shapinsay and further afield to Stronsay, easily recognised by its wind

Seals basking on the rocks



turbines. Watch out for dolphins, porpoises and seals and for great northern divers, which winter in Orkney waters.

The wartime coastal battery at Rerwick Head was operational from 1940-1945, charged with covering the approaches of Shapinsay Sound and the nearby naval



Wartime buildings remain

anchorage. Two six inch guns, salvaged from an old battleship the ‘Iron Duke’ were positioned on the headland, along with powerful searchlights. The battery and associated buildings were quite extensive and much of it survives today. You can see the gun emplacements, battery observation post, engine room and magazine building.



Shags