THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979 13505
ENTRY IN THE SCHEDULE OF MONUMENTS

The monument known as **Knowe of Skea, prehistoric settlement and burials, Berst Ness, Westray** comprises a long-lived prehistoric settlement with human burials. It is visible above ground as a low, wide mound, measuring about 35m in diameter and standing up to 2.5m high. Archaeological investigations between 2000 and 2009 demonstrated that the mound comprises a complex sequence of buried stone buildings and rubble deposits containing human burials and bones. The earliest known structure is a large sub-rectangular chamber at the centre of the mound, which may date from early in the second millennium BC, or earlier, and continued in use, at least sporadically, into the latter part of the first millennium AD. It is surrounded by the remains of circular stone buildings of a Bronze Age settlement established probably in the second millennium BC. Subsequently, the site was used as an Iron Age cemetery: between about 200 BC and AD 400 (and possibly longer), large numbers of burials were deposited in rubble over the earlier buildings. Further structures of different types were built subsequently, including one interpreted as a shrine, with evidence of metal working on the site in this later period of its use. The monument lies on a tidal islet at the southern tip of Berst Ness, a rounded headland at the S end of Westray. The scheduled area is irregular on plan. It includes the remains described above and an area around them within which evidence relating to the monument's construction, use and abandonment is expected to survive. On the NW side the scheduling extends up to but excludes a modern circular stone shelter. The monument, which lies in the Parish of Westray and the County of Orkney and Zetland as shown in red on the Plan annexed and executed as relative hereto and which forms part of the subjects described in the [redacted] is hereby included in the Schedule of Monuments appearing to the Scottish Ministers to be of national importance compiled and maintained by them under section 1(1) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Subscribed by Barbara Cummins, Director of Heritage Management with Historic Scotland, being an officer of the Scottish Ministers at Edinburgh on the 10th day of October Two thousand and fourteen, before this witness Victoria Murray, of Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh.

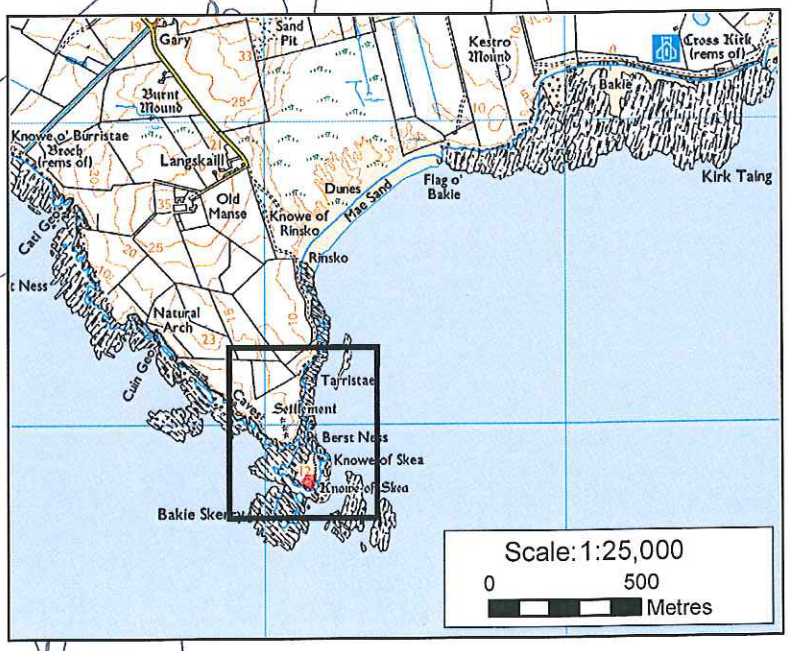
[redacted] Director of Heritage Management

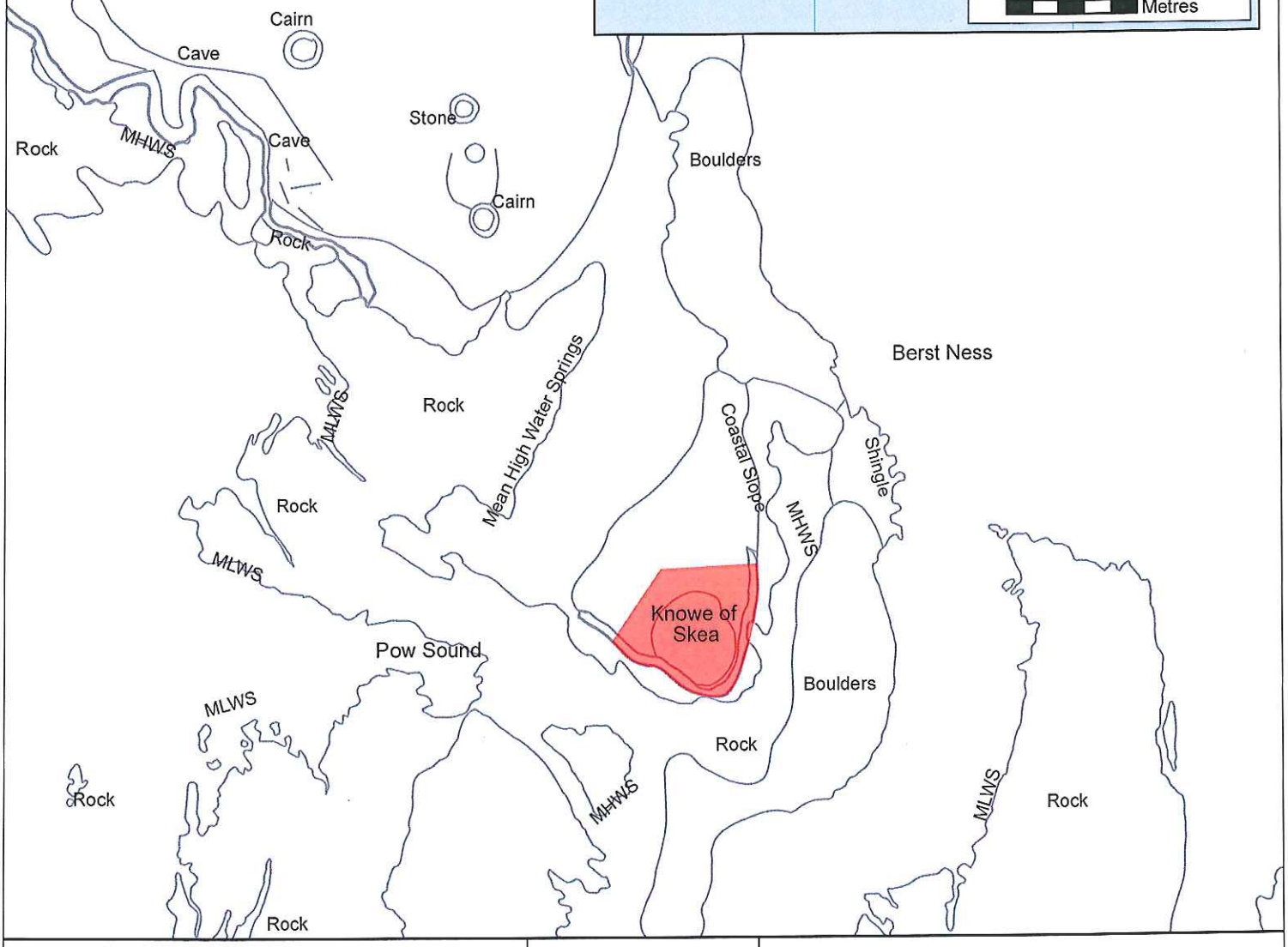
[redacted] Witness

MM013712.Sch

This is the plan referred to in the entry in the Schedule affecting:
Knowe of Skea, prehistoric settlement and burials, Berst Ness, Westray

dated: 10 / 10 / 14 and is signed as relative thereto. [redacted]





Index No: 13505

Knowe of Skea, prehistoric settlement and burials, Berst Ness, Westray

Westray Parish

Scheduled Area

N

Map Sheet(s):
HY44SW

Scale: 1:2,500

0 20 40 60 80 100
Metres

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THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREAS ACT 1979

Entry in the Schedule of Monuments

2014

Re: The Monument known as
Knowe of Skea, prehistoric settlement and burials, Berst Ness, Westray

in the Parish of Westray and
County of Orkney and Zetland

Search Sheet No: 3240

Historic Scotland
Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh