

Skara Brae Information



Skara Brae is one of the best preserved Neolithic settlements anywhere in Western Europe. It is located on the Orkney Islands, which lie off the north east coast of Scotland.

The site is a UNESCO World Heritage site.



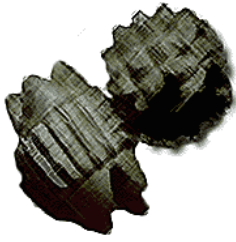
It is older than both the pyramids and Stonehenge. It was built and occupied between about 3200 BC and 2200 BC.



The site was first unearthed in 1850, after a storm exposed some of the ruins. It turned out that people thought that there were sand dunes along the coast. One big mound was called 'Skerrabra'.



The storm blew away the sand and revealed the houses. However, it was wasn't thoroughly excavated until the 1920s when another storm demolished one of the houses.

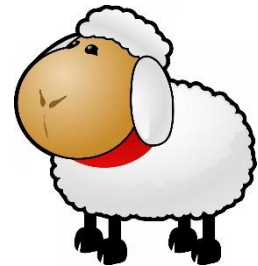


Hundreds of artifacts have been excavated at Skara Brae, including knives, rope, small bowls, ivory pins and decorative beads.

The houses at Skara Brae had beds, chairs, dressers and cupboards, although no windows, but they did have toilets.

The settlement may have been abandoned suddenly, perhaps because of a storm.

The people who lived in the settlement were pastoral farmers but they also raised cattle and sheep, and also ate a lot of seafood in their diet. They sometimes even ate whale if one got beached.



The monuments in Skara Brae were aligned to the sunrise and sunset, meaning that the sun and the moon were probably important.

Today, Skara Brae has thousands of visitors every year. But these visitors are damaging the site because of walking over it again and again.

