

ROTTINGDEAN WHITEWAY CENTRE & SUSSEX SCHOOL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

WHITEWAY MORNING

THE PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY OF ORKNEY



Saturday 16th June 2018, 10am-12.30pm

Tutor: Jane Russell B.A., M.A. (former Senior Illustrator at Archaeology South-East)

There are almost 70 islands in the Orkney archipelago, mostly formed from rocks of Middle Old Red Sandstone. This stone splits easily along clear bedding planes and presents little difficulty in quarrying, and has been used for building purposes for the last 6,000 years on the islands. Orkney has not seen the destruction of its monuments, usually due to urban and industrial development, farming and forestry, so a great number of them survive, but what is remarkable is that so many of them are in themselves outstanding human achievements.

The session will begin with the Neolithic period, looking at the development of the various chambered tombs, followed by domestic settlements. Skara Brae is regarded as the type of settlement that appeared on Orkney, but more recent excavations have revealed settlements of a completely different construction. The second part on the Neolithic period will concentrate on the ceremonial area of Brodgar and Stenness, and the excavation of the Ness of Brodgar.

After a break for tea/coffee, the second half of the morning will consider the Bronze Age, when ideas and ceremonies changed. There is little evidence of this period in the form of monuments, but there are many burnt mounds, small burial cairns, and, more recently, the Links of Noltland excavation of an early Bronze Age House. The final part of the morning will consider the Iron Age and the emergence of the Broch building societies, and also the enigmatic underground shaft of Mine Howe.

Venue: Rottingdean Whiteway Centre, Whiteway Lane, Rottingdean, BN2 7HB

Fee: £12. To book please email MikeGregory@rwc.org.uk or phone 07913 753 493.

www.rwc.org.uk; www.sussexarchaeology.org