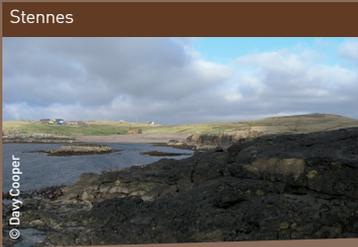


# Trail 3: Stennes beach and Tangwick Haa Museum

To get a closer look at how the Eshaness volcano built up we head west to Stennes. Here, on an otherwise very exposed coastline, is a remarkably sheltered beach. It is protected by the arms of the bay and the Isle of Stennes that lies across its entrance.

Take a walk across the beach to the headland at the far side of the bay, formed from vesicular andesite lavas. Notice the ruins of the old *haaf* (deep-sea) fishing station that was active up until the end of the 19th century. The geology here provided a sheltered harbour for this type of fishing and an excellent beach for splitting, salting and drying the fish for export.



Stennes agates

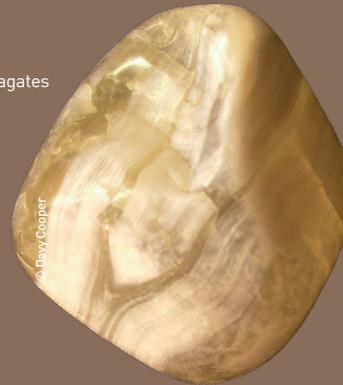
Vesicles are small cavities formed by the expansion of bubbles of gas or steam during the solidification of the lava as it spewed out of a volcanic vent.

Often vesicles are twisted into strange shapes (amygdales) by the movement of the solidifying lava.

Vesicular andesite



Long after the lava cooled, water percolating through the rocks deposited minerals in the vesicles, filling them with milky white crystals or brightly banded silica (agates).



Tangwick Haa was built in the late 17th century for the Cheyne family, lairds of the Tangwick estate and other estates in Shetland.

John Cheyne, the last resident laird, died in 1840. After that the family was based in Edinburgh, though they visited Tangwick regularly. Early in the 20th century the building fell into disrepair, but it has been restored and now houses a museum collection.

All aspects of local history and culture are well illustrated at Tangwick Haa Museum. Displays include a Geology exhibit about Eshaness.

Tangwick Haa Museum



## Directions

By car / bike: Heading towards Eshaness from Braewick, turn left after 1km (0.5 miles) to the community-run Tangwick Haa Museum. A further 3km (2 miles) on, the road ends at Stennes. Retrace your route 1km (0.5 miles) and take the side road on the left to the car park beside the Eshaness lighthouse.

## Interpretation

- Geology exhibit
- Information panel
- Museum display

## Access



- Access to Stennes beach is via a two step stile. The beach is stony.
- Wheelchair access to Tangwick Haa Museum.

## Facilities



Available at Tangwick Haa Museum.



Stennes haaf station