## TRAVERSING THE SOUND PUBLIC WALK ON THE WEST SHORE

DEEP TIME FESTIVAL 2017

## WALKING THE SOUND



HOY SOUND

## ESTIVAL <br> OF <br> EEP TIME

## 2. Flagstones

3. Stromatolites
4. Nuclear seaweed
5. Granite
6. Deep time watch - laminations
7. Graffiti \& Tender Tables
8. Writing, silvering \&
quadrats
9. Fish Beds
10. Hoy landscape
11. Anthropocene bedding
12. Ness Battery \&
geological sonification




The Orcadian, March 15 and March 221979


# DEEP TIME CALENDAR 

| Era | Period |  | Epoch | Estimated Millions of Years Ago |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cenozoic | Neogene | Quaternary | (Recent) | . 01 |
|  |  |  | Pleistocene |  |
|  |  | Tertiary | Pliocene | 2 |
|  |  |  | Miocene |  |
|  | Paleogene |  | Oligocene | 24 |
|  |  |  | Eocene | 55 |
|  |  |  | Paleocene | 55 |
| Mesozoic | Cretaceous |  |  | 63 |
|  | Jurassic |  |  | 8 |
|  | Triassic |  |  | 205 |
| Paleozoic | Permian |  |  | 240 |
|  | Carboniferous | Pennsylvanian |  | 290 |
|  |  | Mississippian |  | 330 |
|  | Devonian |  |  | 360 |
|  | Silurian |  |  |  |
|  | Ordovician |  |  | 435 |
|  | Cambrian |  |  | 500 |
| Precambrian <br> The Precambrian is the time between the origins of the Earth and the beginning of the Cambrian period. |  |  |  | 570 4,550 |

- Two supercontinents during the Devonian: Euramerica (Europe, North America \& Greenland), and Gondwana (Southern Hemisphere land masses).
- The Orcadian Basin is Devonian and it was located at the south of the equator (average temperature $=27.6^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ ).
- The basin was filled by Lake Orcadie.
- Finely bedded sedimentary rocks were deposited forming alternating layers.


## CALENDAR OF...

## 1 - ANNUAL DEPOSITION - varves




Wilson (2012)


Carbonate laminae Precipitation from increase in pH and decrease in $\mathrm{CO}_{2}$ caused by seasonal photosynthesis (algal blooms).

## 2 - SUNSPOT PERIODICITY - ~11-year cycle

Periodic change in the Sun's activity (levels of solar radiation and number of sunspots).


Milankovitch Cycles


Eccentricity


Obliquity


Precession

Eccentricity, obliquity and precession of equinoxes affect the Earth climate in regular cycles. Cycles can be detected in the geological record using statistical analyses.


Graffiti on the West Shore at the Tender Tables showing human time inscribed in the rock laminations that represent the vastness of deep geological time.

Photo by Niamh Downing, 2017.

During this section of the walk, walkers were able to spend time silvering a rock, composing poems with stones, or examining small sections of the shore using quadrats.

The booklet contained several blank pages for walkers to write, draw and record their own musings.


Silvering a rock. Photo by Niamh Downing, 2017.

## HOLOCENE VEGETATION AT HOY






Heather

Crowberry

Grass

Sedges




