

St Peter's Kirk



The overgrown remains of St Peter's church and burial ground lie close to the shore and are associated with a large prehistoric site, visible in the cliff section. The remains suggest a thirteenth century church of nave and chancel design with later alterations and additions.

The district of Costa is geographically and historically separate from Evie. There is a considerable distance between Costa and the Evie parish church and for this reason, historically Costa inhabitants went to the Abune-the-hill Church in Birsay rather than Evie, and eventually built their own mission hall in 1895.

We can perhaps see St Peter's church as a proprietary chapel that became a chapel of ease, to serve the Costa population, after the designation of the parish churches in the twelfth century due to the distance from the Evie parish church. There are no surviving records of this church being used as a place of worship and burial and therefore it is likely that it went out of use before the fifteenth century.

Peterkirks in Orkney have been attributed an early pre-Norse date, and although there is no archaeological evidence to prove this, there is also no evidence to disprove it.

References

Peter's Kirk – canmore entry: <http://canmore.org.uk/site/2210>

Gibbon, S.J. 2006 The origins and early development of the parochial system in the Orkney Earldom. Unpublished PhD Thesis. University of the Highlands and Islands / Open University, 475-77, 484-5