

## The Links of Noltland:

The Westray community's proposals for an exciting Legacy Project. The story so far...



Picture courtesy EASE Archaeology



THE WESTRAY WIFE

**Community Archaeology Westray**

[www.westraycommunity.co.uk](http://www.westraycommunity.co.uk) Email [CAW@westraycommunity.co.uk](mailto:CAW@westraycommunity.co.uk)

## OUTLINE

The Links of Noltland (LON) is an archaeological site of international significance, located on the Orkney island of Westray. It is designated as a Scheduled Monument of National Importance and is also a property in the care of the Scottish Ministers. Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has sponsored an extensive programme of rescue excavation, leading to the discovery of well-preserved prehistoric settlement, farming remains, cemeteries, middens, a well and a subterranean 'sauna' building. The remains span a 2000 year period encompassing the homes and fields of the first farmers of Westray, through numerous transitions into the Bronze Age and beyond.

The site has attracted considerable visitor attention during the period of excavation; it has also been regularly featured in the media and has been the recipient of several prestigious awards and is the site where the neolithic figurine "**the Westray Wife**" was discovered in 2009.

## LEGACY

As the excavation project now begins to wind down, the challenge is to create a permanent legacy which will:

- ensure that the site and its findings are shared with the widest possible audience
- preserve a key part of our island's heritage
- enhance our visitor infrastructure and benefit our tourist economy.

A local group Community Archaeology Westray (CAW) has been established to explore how this legacy can be secured. Building on an existing feasibility study conducted by a leading specialist in Orkney Tourism, a questionnaire probing local opinion on this subject, sent to every household on the island, indicated overwhelming (90%) support for the creation of a permanent visitor display at the site. We believe that working in partnership with HES, we can deliver this innovative legacy project.

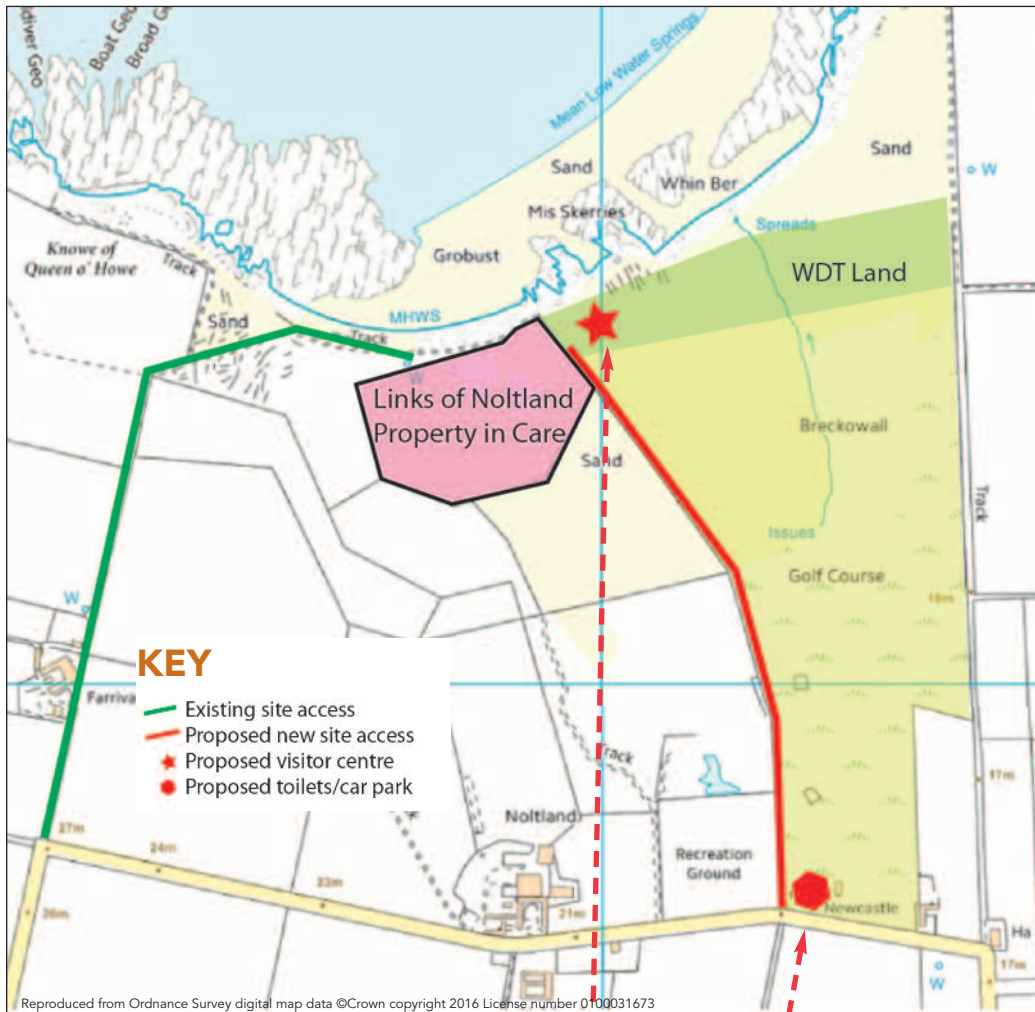
## OUR PROPOSAL

- consolidation work to be undertaken to preserve a range of the ancient buildings uncovered by excavation by Historic Environment Scotland
- the development of visitor infrastructure (site building, paths, car parking, toilets, signage) will be undertaken by the Westray Community.



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*Car parking at the Golf Club*

*Proposed site for the new Links of Noltland Learning Centre*

A short walk along the improved, fenced off track, with stunning views over the golf course, will deliver visitors to the new information facility.

Access to the site will be via a new entrance to be created behind the building.



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Entrance to the site, from the track with the golf club on the left hand side. Photo taken looking south with the site behind the photographer.



Site area indicated by the white line. Photo taken looking north.



Estimated position of the new information centre building area indicated by the white line. Photo taken looking north.



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## PROGRESS TO DATE... JUNE 2019

Initial discussions began in 2017, with the Links of Noltland Legacy Group being formed with seven members of the community who represent a range of Westray community organisations eg: Tourist Association, Development Trust, Heritage Centre, Community Council, Golf Club.

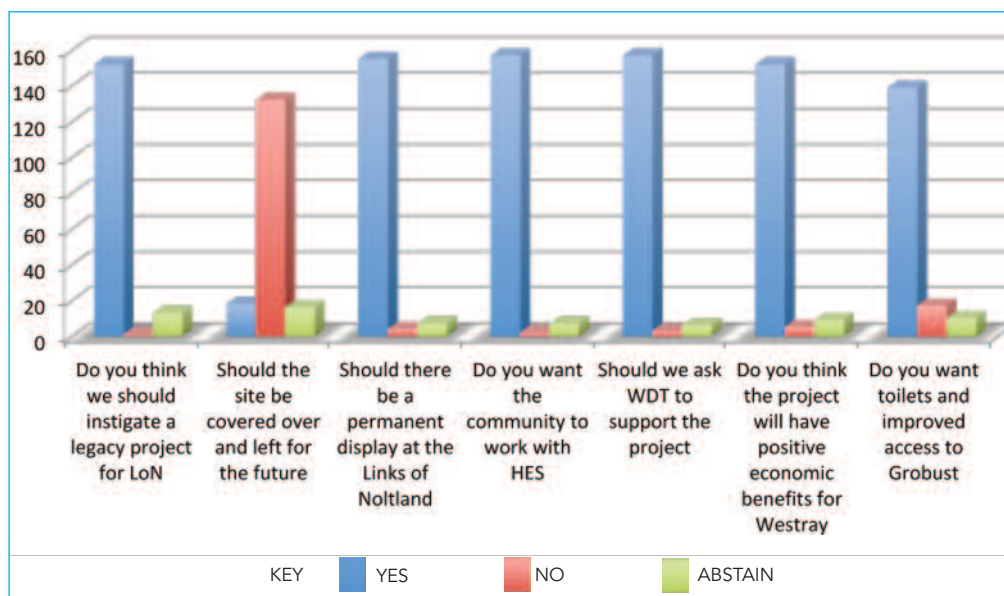
They are:

Elizabeth Drever, Stephen Hagan, Hazel Moore, Peter Needham, Professor Ian Ricketts, William Turnbull, Dr. Graeme Wilson.

Discussions in the interim period have been held with interested parties both on Westray and further afield, including Orkney Islands Council, Orkney Business Gateway, Historic Environment Scotland, Voluntary Action Orkney and Highland and Islands Enterprise. An island-wide survey was also initiated to find out what people on Westray wanted to see happen with the site after the archaeological dig had been completed. The results (summarised below) were overwhelming in favour of developing a legacy project with a permanent display.

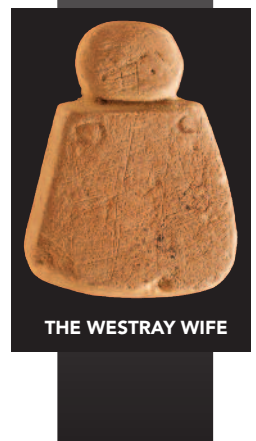
## SURVEY RESULTS...

The survey of all the households in Westray showed overwhelming support for the project as shown in this bar chart below:



In order to produce the survey and progress future development of the project, grants were given by Westray Community Council, Westray Development Trust and Historic Environment Scotland.

The group continues to raise funds and are active members of Westray's award winning Bargain Box initiative  
Go to: [www.westraydevelopmenttrust.co.uk](http://www.westraydevelopmenttrust.co.uk).



- **January 2019** The Links of Noltland Legacy Project Group has now become **Community Archaeology Westray**
- **May 2019** Community Archaeology Westray is now **Community Archaeology Westray SCIO**

The SCIO's registered name is:  
Community Archaeology Westray SCIO

The charity number is: SC049328

The SCIO was registered on 24 May 2019

The principal contact address is:  
Burness, Dykeside, Westray, Orkney, KW17 2 DW

### **Community Archaeology Westray has also**

- Received support and grants from Westray Community Council, Westray Development Trust and Historic Environment Scotland
- Hosted three weeks in the Westray Bargain Box (charity shop)
- Held a workshop with a heritage tourism consultant in preparation for a funding application to Awards for All and the OIC CDF fund to conduct a feasibility study/project design
- Met on site with Historic Environment Scotland three times regarding future collaboration on the project
- Contacted OIC Planning Department
- Held preliminary discussions with our architect to determine the type of building required for the LoN Learning Centre.

### **WHAT'S NEXT?**

The next stage of the project will involve the preparation of a detailed project design and business plan for the development of the visitor infrastructure alongside the production of a joint working agreement with Historic Environment Scotland CAW proposes to hold further public consultations as plans progress to ensure that the local community is fully updated.

Follow CAW on the [www.westraycommunity.co.uk](http://www.westraycommunity.co.uk) web site.

We welcome your input and suggestions. Please let us know what you think like / follow our Face book / twitter

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