



Community Archaeology Westray November Update

In June we updated you on progress regarding the Links of Noltland Learning Centre. Since then we have been garnering support from various people outwith the island, discussing our project with, for instance, our MSP Liam MacArthur to judge the possible political impact within Scotland and also with Dr Donna Hedde to see how it fits in with the Institute for Northern Studies.

The project has been on hold for some time waiting for Historic Environment Scotland (HES) to get back to us with its plans for consolidation of the dig and then the restitution of the site. We had a meeting with two members of HES in September who came to Westray for a flying visit just to meet with us. The outcome suggested that ideally reconstruction of some of the buildings could possibly be undertaken depending on finance, but at this stage no decisions can be taken in Edinburgh so we think it unwise for us to start fundraising for a building project adjacent to the site until HES makes a decision on the future of the site.

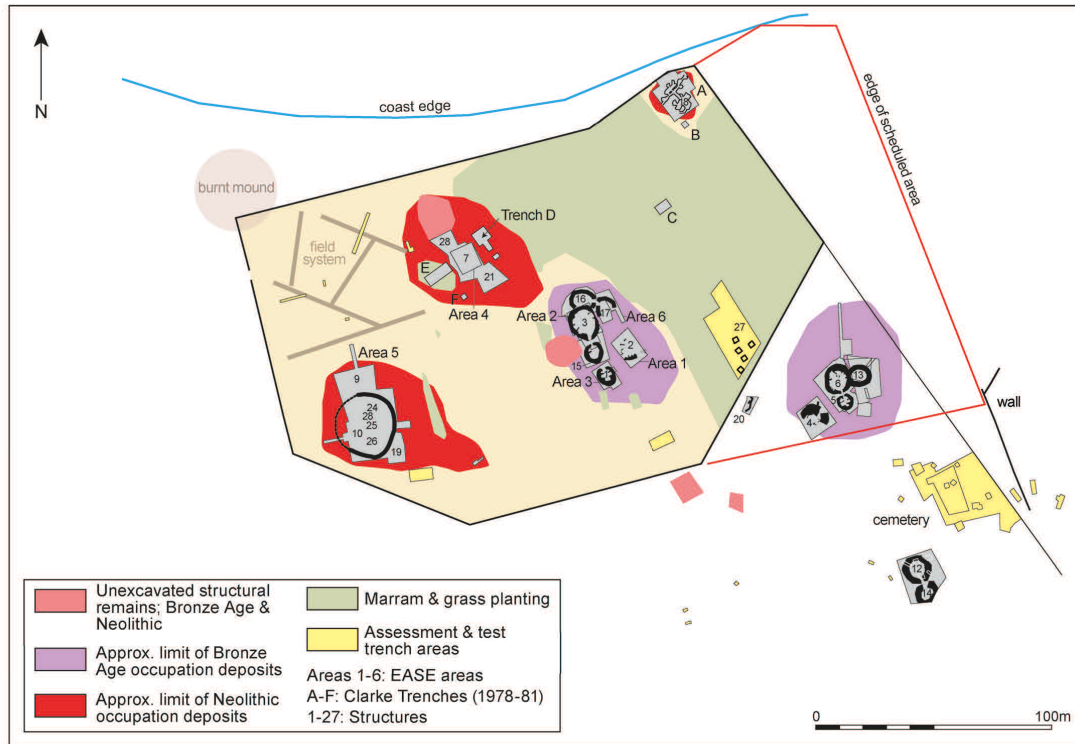
We now have a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HES. As it stands, this is a joint declaration and runs to three pages, but when CAW's input is added it will likely double in size. It covers aims, roles and responsibilities, partnership benefits, shared priorities, commitment, communications, liabilities and signatories.

We already have an MoU with the Westray Development Trust and as time progresses we shall do the same with the Golf Club and the Westray Heritage Trust and the Tourist Association.

Over the coming months we shall update the CAW web pages (<https://tinyurl.com/y2h2z39z>) to provide links to existing photographs and some 3D illustration web sites, and as more news comes in we shall post it on that site. Our architect is drawing up draft plans for the building, taking into account the suggestions as to how it will be used.

The archaeologists have uncovered 38 buildings and it will never be possible to reconstruct all of them, but with some modern technology we are hoping to present more information digitally as time and funds permit.

As and when events unfold we shall keep you informed via *Auk Talk* and if we have major news we will hold a public meeting and exhibition. Meantime we plan to have regular telephone and video conferences with Historic Environment Scotland and we shall then be able to keep you informed as to progress.



*A plan of the site showing the structure positions. Areas 1-6 are the most recently uncovered by EASE archaeology.
Official plan supplied by Historic Environment Scotland.*



There is very little left to see now the dig has been completed.