

Representatives from interested island groups (heritage, tourist, community), should be represented on any steering group or project board

Conserving what buildings have been exposed, by some form of protection and a designated path for viewing, and info board would be good, all depends on money available

In response to no2 what are the alternatives? In response to no 7 do we need better access and toilets if there is nothing to see?

What is the point in spending all the money they have already spent excavation the site and then covering it all up again, makes absolutely no sense? I also think the WDT should help fund the project but not with vast sums of money.

My answers are based on an ideal basis. I understand that that costs will be high. However the benefit to Westray through spotlighting the island are obvious. Having *worked with tourists here for 13 years* \*I know the massive interest in the LoN.

\* *edited*

LoN is such an important site it should be preserved and open to as many people as possible this would be economically good for the island.

Something for tourists to see at Noltland will bring people to the isle and be of huge benefit. I would like to see a lot of it rebuilt

Can't you do a Skara Brae type of thing with a building on site to display artefacts found which should be kept on Westray? This could then include toilets and better access otherwise just as well to cover up and forget.

If the project goes ahead will this involve access over private land?

Will this involve the creation of members of staff from the local community?

The LoN project is literally an island treasure and should be totally visitor friendly in terms of viewing and understanding. It should be a source of financial revenue; a visitor charge would not be grudged. Toilets would be best at the car park in order not to detract from the beach area. Visiting in summer and closed in winter except by appointment.

Great potential, good for Westray, asset for the island.

Important that future generations have access to let them be aware of how past peoples lived and survived in the environment. Protecting site and buildings from further erosion will be a key factor and no doubt an expensive one. Good fortune.

I would rather the site were preserved uncovered but if that's not possible then preserved for future generations.

If this were to go ahead the whole island tourist infrastructure needs to be modernised and stabilized; also we need better transport links.

I think a legacy centre would be brilliant.

Great idea, look forward to seeing and hearing about plans as they develop.

Great project let's not miss this opportunity to develop an important legacy project

If part of the site has to be covered well and good. But after all the hard work that has gone in and interest shown nationally, it would be great if part, at least, could be on permanent display.

All artefacts found belong to Westray and should remain here. Let people come to this island to see them.

Could the site be open for the summer months and covered up for the winter? If the site is kept open, the toilets would be needed.

I would like to see this project go ahead, however my husband has some very valid reasons for saying no to it. I would like to have these reasons to be addressed before I fully agree to the project going ahead.

I have my reasons for my answers and would like to discuss them.

I don't feel the Trust should be banker to every project. Toilets at golf course would make more sense and more accessible.

It would be a backward step not to consider how much time, effort and money has gone into this project until now, so many artifacts have been discovered on this site, it would be very sad if they could not be kept in their own home. It would be very beneficial to all aspects of tourism in Westray, to local businesses as well as the Westray Heritage Centre.

The recent information on the heritage centre getting museum accreditation raises the question whether finds from the dig could be displayed in a permanent display there without meeting similar requirements. The same information says that the heritage centre could now officially apply for finds directly or to borrow these if acquired by a museum elsewhere in Scotland so they may not be lost to Westray.

I believe that this is an opportunity which Westray should grasp with both hands and would be a highly suitable use of Development Trust funds. A development could go hand in hand with the suggestion to create a golf course clubhouse and so benefit two important aspects of the island.

There is a real lack of ancient archaeological sites open to the public on Westray compared to many other isles. An accessible, interpreted site of such significance as Links of Noltland could be a real educational and economic asset.

Judging by numbers of people who come here to see the Westray Wife when found, I think it could be a missed opportunity if links houses etc was turned to grass as it could be made bigger and better than Skara Brae.

It would be good to tie it in with the golf course to justify some of the golf course expense.

It would be a shame for all the work that has been done to just be covered up again.

With a toilet block/parking area and picnic area and a consolidated dig site, I'm certain it would be hugely beneficial to our little isle.

This is a really great opportunity to develop the site for locals and tourists. The site is unusual in the span of history it can display. A majority of tourists want a real, open and visible archaeological site to visit.

A remarkable set of chances have come together to make this legacy possible

–The sand being blown away from the site

–The quality and importance of the dig both locally and nationally

–The quality and experience of the team responsible for the work on the dig so far and who is to know what the future might find?

–Through the right people at the right time the decision to go for a community turbine and ensure it was installed when they did, Westray now has the funds to make a legacy for the island which would link the past, present and future.

Without exception both local and international visitors have visited the site. This is typical of words in the visitors book which seem to show the importance of the past to visitors.

May 3-4 2017

*I am so happy we made it over here...it seemed as if we were going over the horizon of the known world...and we arrived in a new universe of ancient rhythm and community.* Visitors here from Oban and South Africa

Thank you for giving us a chance to contribute to this survey of opinion. As our attached response says, we think it would be a pity to cover the site over. In principle we would like to see the site developed so we and visitors to Westray can see what has been discovered and learn about what was found. However, there has to be a "business case" for doing this and we aren't clear whether there is one.

Nothing can be done without raising funding but the project can't bid without setting out some assumptions and estimates. For example, we have no information about how many visitors might be attracted if the site was developed. This critically affects the amount it is worth spending on the project and what facilities should be provided.

In principle, we would love to see something like what visitors have at Midhowe Cairn on Rousay (or the Roman palace at Fishbourne in Sussex, for example) but this would require substantial funding just to build it. It would also require staffing - some employed staff as well as volunteers.

To justify this we would have to be reasonably sure that hundreds more visitors would be attracted by the site to come to Westray. This would be good for tourism on Westray and would clearly require significant investment to ensure there was accommodation for visitors to stay in and places for them to eat and so on.

Visitors would want more than the Links of Noltland visitor centre to entertain them. We guess

visitors might spend between one and two hours there but they would want to see and do other things. There are good walks but the paths would not survive if thousands of people used them every year, the styles need repairs in any case, and so on. There are other archaeological sites that would have to be developed. Visitors might want to see puffins and gannets for which they would need transport.

Perhaps the most significant issue is whether the ferries and planes that bring visitors and their cars to Westray could cope with a very significant increase in traffic. In the Summer time both are often fully booked. It isn't clear to us whether there is any realistic prospect of increasing the number of people and cars the ferries can carry.

In summary, we find it difficult to answer your questions without having some idea how many people might reasonably be expected to come to Westray to see the Links of Noltland site. This depends on potential demand but it also depends on the extent of your ambitions. A substantial visitors' centre with a great deal to see and do would attract far more people than a shed staffed by volunteers. If large numbers of visitors are to be attracted, Westray and the Council will have to invest heavily in facilities for them including transport, accommodation, places to eat, parking and other things for visitors to do. There could be significant implications for the community too.