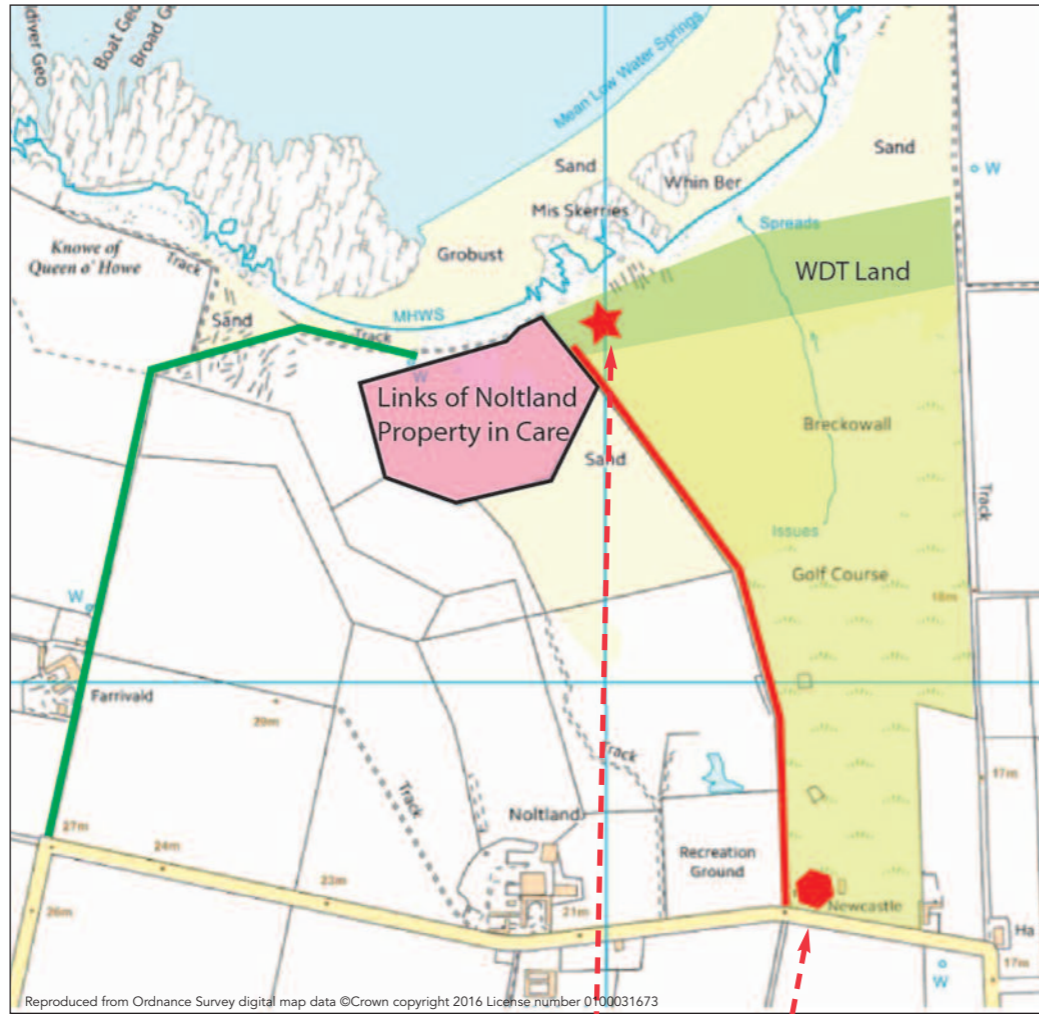


The Links of Noltland: What comes next when the dig comes to an end?



KEY

- Existing site access
- Proposed new site access
- ★ Proposed visitor centre
- Proposed toilets/car park



Car parking at the Golf Club



Proposed site for information facility



Our plan is to improve the existing car parking at the Westray Golf Club. 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.

The Links of Noltland Legacy Project is supported by:

- Highlands and Islands Enterprise,**
- Historic Environment Scotland,**
- Orkney Islands Council,**
- The Westray Community**
- Westray Community Council,**
- Westray Development Trust,**
- Westray Golf Club**
- Westray Heritage Trust,**
- Westray and Papa Westray Tourist Association**

www.westraycommunity.co.uk/links-of-noltland-legacy-project

Contact us at: lon@westraycommunity.co.uk



LINKS OF
LEGACY PROJECT
NOLTLAND

Contact us at :
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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.

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 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 *see note 1, 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 *see note 2.

OUR PROPOSAL

- consolidation work is undertaken to preserve a range of the ancient buildings uncovered by excavation
- visitor infrastructure (site building, paths, car parking, toilets, signage) is developed
- the development of visitor infrastructure (site building, paths, car parking, toilets, signage) is undertaken by the Westray Community

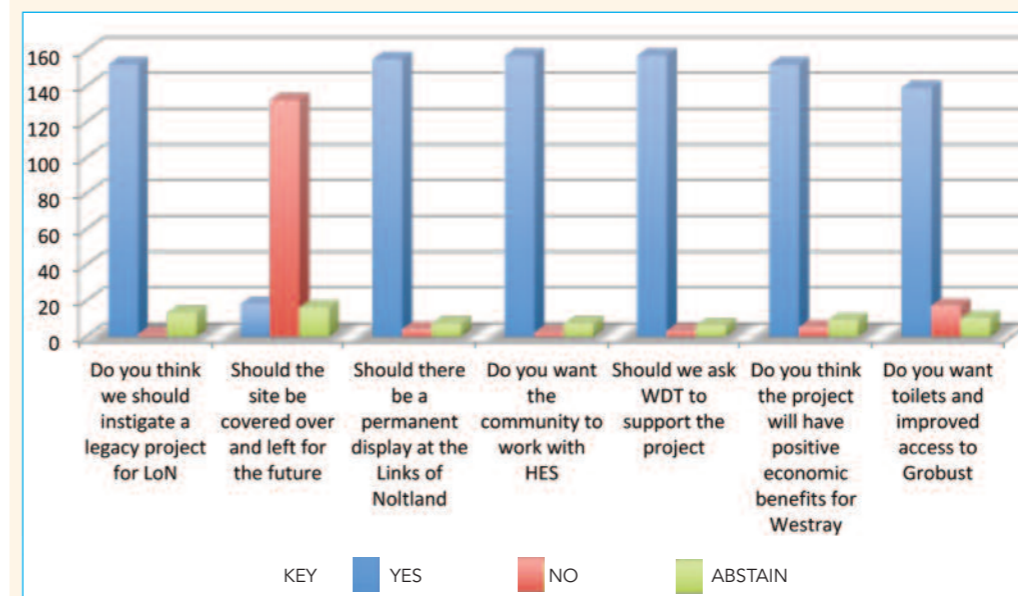
NEXT STEPS...

The next step will be to draw up a partnership agreement and to open discussions with local stakeholders. Following on from a series of meetings planned over summer 2018, it is hoped that preliminary work can begin soon after the close of excavations in October. The next key stage in this project will be to raise funds towards the infrastructure costs.



SURVEY RESULTS...

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



As this project progresses, reports, photographs and diagrams will be uploaded to the Westray Community web site, where you can also send your comments via the contact links. This document can also be downloaded as a printable pdf.

www.westraycommunity.co.uk

* Notes

1. A feasibility report compiled by Ann Marwick and commissioned by WDT in 2016 investigated the potential for the development of a permanent visitor display at LON within the context of the existing Orkney tourism infrastructure and projections for tourism development into the future. The findings were very positive and suggest that not only would such a facility be viable but that it has the potential to become a major hub for archaeological tourism in the isles.
2. The Westray Community has already undertaken a similar project at Quooygrew Norse Settlement. This site, excavated by researchers from University of Toronto and Glasgow, has been put on permanent display. The work included the consolidation of the structural remains, provision of interpretative panels, erection of a sea wall, the creation of a trail and provision of signage. This was funded by WDT. Site maintenance is undertaken by the landowner. This project was realised largely with local labour and at a very reasonable cost. There is no charge for entry. The site has become a major local visitor attraction and is regularly visited by both independent travellers and tour parties. This site lies 2.3km along the coast from Links of Noltland.

