

Item: 13

Development and Infrastructure Committee: 5 February 2019.

Archaeological Investigations.

Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the allocation of funding for Archaeological Investigations for the 2019 season.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That eight applications for financial assistance have been received in respect of archaeological investigation projects to be undertaken during the 2019 season, comprising three mainland based projects and five island based projects, with total project costs of £482,116.

2.2.

That the eight applications request assistance totalling £94,446, which exceeds the available budget of £40,000 by 136%.

2.3.

The proposed offers of grant, based on the existing allocated budget of £40,000, as detailed in Annex A to this report.

It is recommended:

2.4.

That, subject to an appropriate annual budget for 2019 to 2020 being made available to the Committee, a sum of up to £40,000 be allocated within the Economic Development Grants budget in respect of archaeological investigations.

2.5.

That, subject to the annual budget for 2019 to 2020 being confirmed, offers of grant, as detailed in Annex A to this report, should be made in respect of archaeological investigations for the 2019 season.

3. Introduction

3.1.

On 24 March 2011, when considering amendments to levels of assistance and grant conditions, the Development and Regeneration Committee noted that payment of grants awarded annually in terms of the Fund for Archaeological Investigations was conditional upon receipt of an interim report within one year and a Data Structure Report being submitted within three years of completion of the project.

3.2.

The Committee recommended, inter alia, that, in terms of the Fund for Archaeological Investigations, with effect from the 2012 season, all claims for payment of grant, accompanied by an interim investigations report, should be submitted within 18 months from the date of offer of grant assistance and a final Data Structure Report submitted within three years of the offer of assistance.

4. Background

4.1.

The scheme of assistance for Archaeological Investigations, with a present budget of £40,000, was originally set up to assist the creation of sustainable communities by supporting and promoting survival through archaeological excavations which, in turn, raise the profile of Orkney and stimulate tourism. The marketing benefit arising annually from the archaeological investigations has continued to produce widespread publicity through a range of media for the archaeological projects and for Orkney in general demonstrating excellent value for money.

4.2.

The island communities receive focussed support through £20,000, being ring-fenced to assist island projects. It is envisaged that the cumulative effect of island archaeological work will assist to disperse tourism and therefore generate an economic return to the isles.

4.3.

Post-excavation work should be considered as important as actual excavation.

4.4.

The Archaeological Investigations allocation panel, which comprises representatives from the Arts, Museums and Heritage service, including the County Archaeologist, and Development and Infrastructure, meets annually to consider applications.

4.5.

The Council adopted the Scottish Museums Archaeologists' "Minimum Standards for the transfer of archaeological assemblages to museums in Scotland" as a condition of contract for all new fieldwork receiving Council funding or permission. This

includes the need for Data Structure Reports (interim reports) to be supplied within one year of project completion to the County Archaeologist and the Museums Service, and full reports to be submitted when available, but within three years of completion at the latest.

5. Applications for 2019 Season

5.1.

Eight applications, comprising three mainland projects and five island projects, have been received for the 2019 season, with full details provided in Annex A to this report. This is an increase of two applications on the six applications received in 2018 when all received support (two mainland and four island).

5.2.

Overall it is becoming increasingly difficult for universities and individuals to submit applications, as the sources of match funding are few and greater costs are involved for academics (for example, use of own time in some institutions). It is regarded by the Archaeological Investigations allocation panel as significant how many academics from outwith Orkney participate in excavations in Orkney, considering the increased pressure on external research funds. Despite these academic funding cuts generally there is still a good spread of projects through time, and between the islands. The interest and sponsorship of the Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust is to be welcomed as a demonstration of appreciation of value to the community of the excavations that have been supported by the Council for several years.

5.3.

The Archaeological Investigations allocation panel met on 8 January 2019 and suggested that six of the eight applications received are worthy of assistance at the levels detailed in Annex A.

5.4.

The leverage of external funding which will be achieved through the proposed assistance is approximately 11:1. The leverage for the 2018 season was approximately 10:1.

5.5.

It is envisaged that the proposed projects for the 2019 season will provide interpretation and knowledge which will enhance that gleaned from the sites previously excavated. It is also envisaged that these digs will again result in significant media coverage which will not only continually raise the awareness of the rich archaeology of Orkney but promote Orkney as a whole to a global audience. This media promotion will be enhanced by the Council and Highland and Islands Enterprise's LEADER funded Digital Media Orkney project.

5.6.

The 2017 Orkney Visitor Survey found that 62% of visitors were motivated to visit Orkney by history and culture including archaeology. The previous Visitor Survey in 2013 found that 51% of those visitors surveyed referred to archaeology as the principal reason for their visit. It would appear that the historic aspect of Orkney's attraction is increasingly important to the decision making process of the visitor. The extensive volume of media coverage resulting from the archaeological investigations is likely to be making a significant contribution to raising the awareness of the county's past.

5.7.

The Archaeological Investigations allocation panel considered that the applications received again reflected a good balance of substantial projects across the Mainland and islands but exceeds the core budget of £40,000 by 136.12%. The distribution of approved projects is indicated on the map attached as Annex B to this report.

5.8.

The total project cost of all eight applications is £482,116, with total assistance requested amounting to £94,446. This is an increase of £21,431.50 on the total assistance requested in 2018.

5.9.

Significant marketing and media coverage resulted from the excavations undertaken during the 2018 season. This coverage is listed in Annex C to this report.

6. Links to Council Plan

6.1.

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan strategic priority theme of Enterprising Communities.

6.2.

The proposals in this report relate directly to Priority 4.7 – Implement and review the Orkney Volume Tourism Study Actions, and Priority 4.8 – Develop and Implement a World Heritage Site Strategic Masterplan.

7. Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities of Strong Communities and A Vibrant Economy.

8. Financial Implications

8.1.

The Economic Development Grant budget originally approved as £591,700 for financial year 2018 to 2019 includes an allocation of £40,000 towards Archaeology. At time of writing this report, it is anticipated that the allocation of funds to Archaeology will be maintained at the existing level for financial year 2019 to 2020.

8.2.

On the basis that the recommendations to this report refers to the allocation of resources in future years, it should be noted that this would still be subject to an appropriate annual Committee budget being made available as part of the Council's annual budget setting process.

9. Legal Aspects

9.1.

Pursuant to section 20(1) of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the Council has the power to do anything that it considers is likely to promote or improve the well-being of its area and persons within that area, or either of those. This power is subject to the limits set out in section 22 of the same Act.

9.2.

If grant assistance is to be provided by the Council, a legally-binding agreement will require to be entered into between the Council and the recipient setting out the terms on which the funding is being provided.

10. Contact Officers

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11. Annexes

Annex A: List of applications for 2019 season.

Annex B: Map of proposed excavations for 2019 season.

Annex C: Marketing / Media Coverage – Excavation Season 2018.

Archaeological Investigations – 2019 Season

Summary of applications and recommendations.

Number.	Applicant / Project Director.	Project name.	Total cost (£).	Amount requested (£).	Percentage request (%).	Recommended award (£).	Percentage award (%).	Rationale.
Mainland.								
1.	Nick Card (Director of the Ness of Brodgar and Senior Projects Manager), Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology, Archaeology Institute UHI, Orkney College, East Rd, Kirkwall, KW15 1LX.	Ness of Brodgar Excavations, 2019.	299,600.	20,000.	6.68.	6,665.	2.22.	This excavation has been demonstrated to be a key driver in the visitor economy. The project management team raises most of the project funds from out with the islands. The excavation is well run, has open access and continues to attract a great deal of media attention. Project period: Neolithic.
2.	Martin Carruthers, Director of Fieldwork, Archaeology Institute, Orkney College UHI, East Road, Kirkwall, KW15 1LX.	The Cairns / Windwick Bay Archaeological Field Project (2019 Season).	31,143.60.	15,324.	44.78.	10,835.	34.79.	This excavation is increasing in popularity and is a popular project through digital media communication attracting high numbers of 'hits'. Visitor numbers continue to increase annually. An interesting recent find in a well is a 2000 year old wooden bowl which has been mended with bronze which will make an excellent display piece in the Orkney Museum. Also found in the well was cut human hair from two people. This presents the opportunity to undertake DNA analysis to ascertain information on the lifestyle of these individuals. Potential to uncover Pictish/Viking interface. Project period: Iron Age.
3.	Pete Higgins Senior Project Manager, Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology, Institute UHI, Orkney College, East Road, Kirkwall, KW15 1LX.	Improving access to air photographs.	12,130.60.	7,511.60.	61.92.	2,500.	20.61.	This project will improve access to WWII RAF photographs which are currently extremely difficult to access and in a delicate condition. These images will be digitised and made available on-line.
Mainland totals.			342,874.20.	42,835.60.		20,000.		

Number.	Applicant / Project Director.	Project name.	Total cost (£).	Amount requested (£).	Percentage request (%).	Recommended award (£).	Percentage award (%).	Rationale.
Islands.								
1.	Stephen James Dockrill, Swandro Orkney Coastal Archaeology Trust, Bayview, Birsay, Orkney KW17 2LR.	Swandro 2019 (part of 'Orkney Gateway to the Atlantic: Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre: An Archaeological Study of Resource Exploitation, Sustainability and Resilience from the Neolithic to the Late Norse').	27,000.	6,000.	22.23.	4,000.	14.81.	The continued support of this project over the excavation seasons has assisted to justify Historic Environment Scotland support towards this rapidly eroding excavation site. The Council support continues to be an important factor regarding leverage. This project and the Landscape of Change project outlined below work closely together. Pre-history, Neolithic to Viking periods uncovered at Swandro and Norse to the 19 th Century at Skail Rousay. Key find during last season's excavation was a pictish smithy with hand prints on an anvil. Project period: Neolithic through to Late Norse
2.	Dr Ingrid Mainland (Lecturer), Professor Jane Downes (Director) and Dan Lee (Lifelong Learning and Outreach Archaeologist), UHI Archaeology Institute, Orkney College, East Road, Kirkwall, KW15 1LX.	Landscapes of Change: Archaeologies of the Rousay Clearances and the Westness estate.	38,434.10.	16,063.60.	41.80.	14,000.	36.42.	This project is looking at the last 500 years of Orkney history focussing on the recent parts of Orkney history in particular. It works well with the Swandro project (above) excavators complementing the study of the same landscape from Neolithic to Viking times, and sharing specialist visits as appropriate and working with the Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust and Heritage Group. Project period: Neolithic through Viking to present.
3.	Professor Colin Richards, UHI Archaeology Institute, Orkney College, East Road, Kirkwall, KW15 1LX.	Northern Exposure Project: Site 73, Loth Road, Sanday.	25,450.00.	9,205.00.	36.17.	Nil.	0.	A strong field of applicants has been received seeking support for the 2019 season. This project and the project below both have a significant academic bearing which does not satisfy the funding criteria to the same level as the other applications. Due to the oversubscription to the fund it was decided to decline an award for this project.
4.	Professor Vicki Cummings, School of Forensic and Applied Science, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, PR1 2HE	The early Neolithic landscape of Tresness and Cata Sand, Sanday.	38,035.00.	12,075.00.	31.75.	Nil.	0.	As above.

Number.	Applicant / Project Director.	Project name.	Total cost (£).	Amount requested (£).	Percentage request (%).	Recommended award (£).	Percentage award (%).	Rationale.
5.	Pete Higgins Senior Project Manager, Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology, Archaeology Institute UHI, Orkney College, East Road, Kirkwall, KW15 1LX.	Orkney's early harbours, landing places, anchorage, maritime infrastructure and shipping – focusing on Shapinsay.	10,322.20.	8,267.20.	80.10.	2,000.	19.37.	This research will uncover the medieval seascape by a combination of survey, place name research, area history and traditional knowledge. This project has the potential to enhance interpretation on beach walks.
Islands totals.			139,241.30.	51,610.80.		20,000.		
Mainland and islands totals.			482,115.50.	94,446.40.		40,000.		



Landscapes
of Change

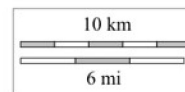
Swandro

Ness of Brodgar

Orkney's Early
Harbours

The Cairns

OIC Archaeology Fund 2019



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Press / Marketing Coverage 2018 - Archaeology Investigations

The archaeological media content creates an image of Orkney as an interesting, diverse and unique visitor destination. Engagement with these globally available stories by potential visitors, through social media, encourages actual visits to the islands, which in turn boosts tourism numbers and, through the multiplier effect, the overall economy of Orkney.

Examples of media coverage through TV and Radio, digital media, social media, traditional press media, community events and site visits of OIC funded archaeology projects are presented below.

Ness of Brodgar

- Open Days featured on the BBC Radio Orkney Facebook page (**26,447 followers**);
- A reach (number of views) of over **280,000** by The Ness of Brodgar Facebook page during the excavation season (July and August);
- Ness of Brodgar website had over **137,000** visits during the excavation and over **240,000** in 2018 from over 120 countries
- The UHI Archaeology Twitter feed for the dig season presented Ness of Brodgar posts to **54,295** people;
- The UHI Archaeology Facebook feed presented Ness of Brodgar posts to **78,043** people
- Visitor numbers reached **over 18,500** over the excavation period, the two Open Days had over **a thousand** visitors on each day;
- Television interest continued with 5 companies filming at the Ness in 2018 – 2 from USA; 1 from Japan; 1 from Belgium; and 1 from Austria.
- Featured in New York Times (weekly circulation of **4,000,000**) and their Facebook page (**14,000,000** followers).
- The Ness was cover article in ***Current Archaeology*** magazine and also featured in several other national magazines
- Featured in Orkney Island Magazine

The Cairns

- The Cairns Dig Diary is now integrated into the UHI Archaeology Orkney blog which has a readership of over **160,000**;
- Number of members signed up to The Cairns Facebook group has increased to **1,167** members;
- 5 video tours filmed on Facebook and You Tube attracted **33,065** viewers;
- The Cairns UHI Archaeology Facebook posts reached **190,067**;
- Twitter feeds reached **76,290** people during the 6 week dig season; and
- Over **600** visitors came to The Cairns site during the excavation season.
- Featured on BBC Radio Orkney
- Featured in Smithsonian online

- The site featured in national newspapers and news web-sites
- Featured in Orkney Island Magazine

Landscapes of Change: Archaeologies of the Rousay Clearances and the Westness Estate

Dr Ingrid Mainland, Dr Jen Harland, Dr Sarah Jane Gibbon and Dan Lee, from the University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute with local volunteers and school children embarked on a programme of archaeology in Rousay, Summer 2017 – culminating in a host of activities at Skaili farmstead. Activities were linked in with excavations at the coastally eroding site at Swandro excavated by the University of Bradford, and in collaboration with Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust and Rousay Heritage who funded provision for placements for local residents. Project collaborators from outside Orkney included a team from the German Institute of Archaeology RGK who undertook large scale geophysical survey in two areas (Westness and Rinyo), and Historic Environment Scotland who surveyed the farmstead at Skaili. The season raised the profile of the island, opening up the site and landscape to the community.

- UHI Archaeology Facebook **21,000** reach
- UHI Archaeology Twitter **14,563** impressions;
- Archaeology Orkney blog posts **3500** hits; and
- Open Day attracted over **100** visitors, and **250** people visited over the dig season.
- Filming for Channel 4 'Digging for Britain' completed at the dig at Skaili. To be aired in 2019.

Cata Sand

The University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute collaborated with the University of Central Lancashire to begin excavation at Cata Sand on Sanday, Orkney where they discovered Neolithic houses and nineteenth century whale graves.

- An interview with Professor Jane Downes, Dr Ingrid Mainland and Julie Gibson aired on the BBC News website and their Facebook (**45,000,000** followers) and Twitter feeds (**9,110,000** followers);
- UHI Archaeology Facebook reach **87,000**;
- UHI Twitter impressions: **22,006**; and
- Featured in New York Times (weekly circulation of **4,000,000**) and their Facebook page (**14,000,000** followers.)

Swandro

Swandro 2018 Press Release Coverages

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/09/25/climate/scotland-orkney-islands-sea-level.html>

<https://www.archaeology.org/news/6813-180724-orkney-copper-smith>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-5988147/Archaeologists-make-surprise-discovery-Pictish-hand-knee-prints.html>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/1000-year-old-handprint-europes-lost-people-discovered-scotland-180969752/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-44945772>

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/archaeology>

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/jul/24/pictish-coppersmith-1000-year-old-handprint-found-in-orkney>

Pictish coppersmith's 1,000-year-old handprint found in Orkney

Metalworker would have plied his trade from small, half-buried circular stone structure, say archaeologists

Maev Kennedy

Tue 24 Jul 2018 18.32 BST

<https://www.historyscotland.com/articles/scottish-archaeology/iron-age-anvil-reveals-the-hand-of-a-pictish-copper-smith-scottish>

<https://www.scotsman.com/regions/inverness-highlands-islands/are-these-markings-the-handprint-of-a-pictish-man-1-4773260>

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/edition/scotland/dig-turns-up-fingerprints-from-iron-age-blacksmith-tp7l6jm0v>

<https://www.bradford.ac.uk/news/2018/ancient-handprints.php>

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/islands/orkney/1527192/pictish-coppersmith-fingerprints-discovered-on-orkney-anvil/>

<https://stv.tv/news/north/1424469-handprints-of-pictish-smith-found-on-excavated-anvil/>

Pictish Smithy Excavated in Orkney - Archaeology Magazine

<http://www.foxnews.com/science/2018/07/26/incredible-discovery-sheds-light-on-europes-lost-people.amp.html>

Pictish Smithy Excavated in Orkney - Archaeology Magazine

Fox News

<https://www.google.co.uk/amp/www.foxnews.com/science/2018/07/26/incredible-discovery-sheds-light-on-europes-lost-people.amp.html>

Fox News

<https://www.google.co.uk/amp/www.foxnews.com/science/2018/07/26/incredible-discovery-sheds-light-on-europes-lost-people.amp.html>

Ancient Handprint From Mysterious Pictish People Found in Scotland - HISTORY BBC4 Programme - Digging For Britain televised 28 November 2018