

## **Item: 11**

**Development and Infrastructure Committee: 6 February 2024.**

### **Archaeological Investigations.**

#### **Report by Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.**

## **1. Purpose of Report**

To consider the allocation of funding for Archaeological Investigations for the 2024 season.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Committee is invited to note:

### **2.1.**

That six applications for financial assistance have been received in respect of archaeological investigation projects to be undertaken during the 2024 season, comprising four mainland-based projects and two island-based projects, with total project costs of £527,929.

### **2.2.**

That the six applications request assistance totalling £96,935, which exceeds the available budget of £40,000 by approximately 142%.

### **2.3.**

The proposed offers of grant for the 2024 season, as detailed in Annex A to this report.

### **2.4.**

That, in advance of the Council's budget setting process for 2024/25 being concluded, any decision on the award of grant funding towards archaeological investigations for the 2024 season is "in principle" only and subject to an adequate service revenue budget being established.

**It is recommended:**

### **2.5.**

That, subject to an adequate service revenue budget for 2024/25 being established, a sum of up to £40,000 be allocated within the Economic Development Grants budget in respect of archaeological investigations.

## **2.6.**

That, subject to the annual budget for Economic Development Grants for 2024/25 being confirmed, in principle offers of grant, as detailed in Annex A to this report, should be made in respect of archaeological investigations for the 2024 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 allocation 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. It is therefore considered that the benefits achieved through this funding support intervention demonstrate excellent value for money and should be continued.

### **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, comprises representatives from the Arts, Museums and Heritage service, including the County Archaeologist, and Economic Development officers, 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 the 2024 Season**

#### **5.1.**

Six applications, comprising four mainland projects and two island projects, have been received for the 2024 season, with full details provided in Annex A to this report. This is the same number of applications as received in 2023 when all six received support (three mainland and three island).

#### **5.2.**

Overall, it is becoming increasingly difficult for universities and individuals to submit an application 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. Now that the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted it is envisaged that excavations will be permitted to go ahead as planned during the 2024 season. Despite the academic funding cuts in general there is still a good spread of projects through time, and between the islands.

#### **5.3.**

The Archaeological Investigations allocation panel met on 19 December 2023 and agreed that all six 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 allocations for the 2024 season is approximately 13:1. The leverage for the 2023 season was approximately 12:1.

## **5.5.**

It is envisaged that the proposed projects for the 2024 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.

## **5.6.**

The 2019 Orkney Visitor Survey found that 87% of visitors were motivated to visit Orkney by history and culture including archaeology. The previous Visitor Survey in 2017 found that 62% of those visitors surveyed referred to archaeology as the principal reason for their visit. It would therefore 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 also likely to be making a significant contribution to raising the awareness of the county's past and spans multiple media from newspapers to television documentaries.

## **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 142%. 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 six applications is £527,929, with total assistance requested amounting to £96,935. This is an increase of £16,616 on the total assistance requested in 2023. The allocation proposals outlined in Annex A establish proportionate allocations to the six projects that are affordable within the maximum £20,000 budget that is available.

## **5.9.**

Significant marketing and media coverage resulted from the excavations undertaken during the 2023 season. This coverage is listed in Annex C to this report. In addition, there have been three significant nominations for Current Archaeology awards as follows:

- Archaeologist of the Year 2024 – Nick Card, Ness of Brodgar.
- Research Project of the Year 2024 – Ness of Brodgar.
- Rescue Project of the Year 2024 - The Knowe of Swandro, Rousay.

## **5.10.**

Together this coverage demonstrates the significant value for money which is achieved through the support provided through this intervention.

## **6. Links to Council Plan**

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

## **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 priority of Sustainable Development.

## **8. Financial Implications**

### **8.1.**

The Economic Development Grant budget originally approved as £306,300 for financial year 2023/24 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 2024/25.

### **8.2.**

On the basis that the recommendations outlined in Annex A 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**

Gareth Waterson, Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Development, extension 2103, Email [gareth.waterson@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:gareth.waterson@orkney.gov.uk)

Sweyn Johnston, Head of Enterprise and Economic Growth, extension 2271, Email. [sweyn.johnston@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:sweyn.johnston@orkney.gov.uk)

Stuart Allison, Service Manager (Enterprise), extension 2514, Email [stuart.allison@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:stuart.allison@orkney.gov.uk).

Gavin Barr, Economic Development Manager, extension 2518, Email [gavin.barr@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:gavin.barr@orkney.gov.uk)

Morag Robertson, Economic Development Officer, extension 2852, Email [morag.robertson@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:morag.robertson@orkney.gov.uk).

## **11. Annexes**

Annex A: List of applications for 2024 season.

Annex B: Map of proposed excavations for 2024 season.

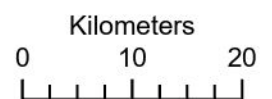
Annex C: Marketing / Media Coverage – Excavation Season 2023.

No.	Applicant/ Project Director.	Project Name.	Total Cost.	Amount Requested.	% req'd.	Amount awarded.	% awarded	Rationale.
Mainland			£	£	%	£	%	
1.	Nick Card MA MCifA FSAScot (Director of the Ness of Brodgar and Senior Projects Manager) Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology Archaeology Institute UHI Orkney College East Road Kirkwall KW15 1LX.	Ness of Brodgar Excavations.	346,649.	20,000.	5.77.	5,000.	1.45	The Ness of Brodgar commands worldwide interest and has a large social media following. This project is Orkney's most well-known excavation, having been included in various television programmes and international magazines. This is intended to be the final season of excavations before focussing on the analysis and publication of the findings. The project will assist in spreading visitor footfall within the World Heritage Area at the height of the season, as well as attracting tourist income to Orkney.
2.	Martin Carruthers Director of Fieldwork Archaeology Institute Orkney College UHI East Road Kirkwall KW15 1LX.	The Cairns / Windwick Bay Archaeological Field Project (2024 Season).	40,127.	17,777.	44.30.	7,321.	18.25	This project will raise the awareness of attractions in South Ronaldsay and assist in the dispersal of visitors, especially while the Tomb of the Eagles is closed. The project creates widespread news outputs and has a strong international interest in the excavation. The information gathered from this broch, with the use of ultra-modern analytical

								techniques, can be applied to other brochs around Orkney, enhancing the experience for locals and visitors alike.
3	<b>Professor Vicki Cummings School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University, Cardiff, CF10 3XU</b>	<b>A lost passage tomb found: excavations at Blomuir, Holm, Orkney</b>	46,330.	23,880.	51.54	4,500.	18.85.	This project has the potential to create further interest in Orkney's prehistoric heritage. The 2023 season had national and international media coverage. The use of ultra-modern analytical techniques will recover new information on genetics, family groupings, diets and life expectancy. This will enhance the depth and breadth of understanding of Neolithic sites across all of Orkney for locals and visitors alike, helping the dispersal of footfall from West Mainland.
4.	<b>Paul Clark BSc (Hons) MCifA (ORCA Senior Project Manager) Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology UHI Archaeology Institute Orkney College East Road Kirkwall KW15 1LX</b>	<b>St Mary's Broch Geophysical Survey</b>	6,513.	3,179.	48.81.	3,179.	48.81.	This project will involve geophysical survey of St Mary's broch, Holm, and its immediate environs (c. 1.5 hectares). This is in collaboration with the local community group, the Loch of Ayre Walkway Association, who wish to promote the monument and enhance the existing Loch of Ayre Walkway. It will generate new information about the site, contribute to information boards about the site by the Loch of Ayre Walkway Association, and promote the loch and St. Mary's Holm as a destination.
<b>Mainland Totals</b>			<b>439,619.</b>	<b>64,836.</b>		<b>20,000.</b>		



No.	Applicant/ Project Director.	Project Name.	Total Cost.	Amount Requested.	% req'd.	Amount awarded.	% awarded	Rationale.
Islands			£	£	%	£	%	
1.	Stephen James Dockrill M.Phil, PhD, FSA, FSA (Scot), MCIfA, Swandro Orkney Coastal Archaeology Trust Bayview Birsay Orkney KW17 2LR.	Swandro 2024 (part of 'Orkney Gateway to the Atlantic: Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre: An Archaeological Study of Settlement, Resource Exploitation, Sustainability and Resilience from the Neolithic to the Late Norse').	38,000.	7,000.	18.42.	7,000.	18.43.	This is a substantial project in Rousay that is a rescue excavation of a coastally eroding site. The excavation has attracted significant national and international interest. It has provided external income to the island and promotes Rousay as a visitor attraction and as a place to live. It has support from the Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust
2.	Professor Ingrid Mainland & Dan Lee (Lifelong Learning & Outreach Archaeologist), UHI Archaeology Institute Orkney College East Road Kirkwall KW15 1LX.	Landscapes of Change: Archaeologies of the Rousay Clearances and the Westness estate.	50,310.	25099.	49.89.	13,000.	25.84.	This project addresses an important gap in Orcadian archaeology by investigating the more recent centuries. The excavation promotes Rousay as a visitor attraction, attracts external income to the island and has strong community engagement. The project has contributed to local information boards and has outputs in the Rousay Heritage Centre. It has support from the Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust.
<b>Islands Totals.</b>			<b>88,310.</b>	<b>32,099.</b>		<b>20,000.</b>		
<b>Mainland + Islands Totals.</b>			<b>527,929.</b>	<b>96,935.</b>		<b>40,000</b>		



## Media and Marketing

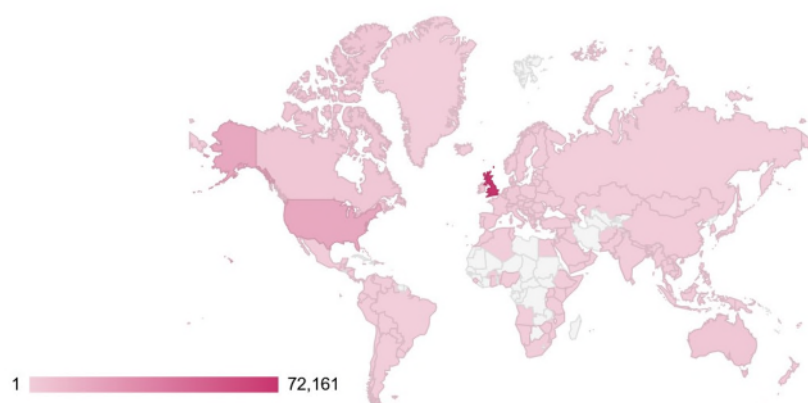
Orkney in general benefits from archaeological work in Orkney, which continues to fascinate and draw the attention of interested parties all over the world. The sites and projects that received funding from the OIC Archaeology fund contributed to an increase in traditional media and online activity focussing on Orkney's archaeology.

### University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeology Institute

Both the UHI Archaeology Institute and Ness of Brodgar websites broke previous activity records in 2023– an increase matched by visitors to excavation sites and public engagement. The geographical reach of the websites have an effect of raising Orkney's profile worldwide.

#### Archaeologyorkney.com (the UHI Archaeology Institute website)

	Page Views	Visitors
2016	52,667	30,032
2017	55,354	34,335
2018	49,137	29,011
2019	65,477	44,646
2020	52,231	35,563
2021	101,836	63,199
2022	86,614	49,686
2023	111,460	58,880
<b>Total</b>	<b>574,776</b>	<b>345,352</b>



The sites and projects receiving OIC funding that are included in this website are The Cairns in South Ronaldsay, Landscapes of Change (Westness and Skail, Rousay), Improving Access to Orkney SMR Aerial Photographs, and the Ness of Brodgar.

Most popular posts/pages in 2023:

- Video talk: Death and burial in Neolithic Orkney (Part One)
- The Cairns excavation, South Ronaldsay

- Tombs of the Isles
- Digging at Ness of Brodgar to end in 2024
- The chambered cairns of Orkney

Social media:

- Twitter: 5,682 followers
- Facebook: 9,947 followers (Last 28 days: Post reach 73,929)
- Instagram: 2,382 followers

The excavation of the Iron Age broch at The Cairns, South Ronaldsay, has over the years featured in over 90 newspaper and magazine articles. The Landscapes of Change project in Rousay has created such interest that in February, as part of the Looking in from the Edge (LIFTE) project, an international team of specialists was in Orkney examining the county's entire assemblage of imported late medieval and early post-medieval pottery, initiated by pottery excavated at Skaill, Rousay. They not only identified pottery from eastern England and mainland Scotland, but from northern Germany, southern Scandinavia and France – confirming Orkney's place in a European network of trading routes. This analysis of the pottery from the Skaill Farm excavations was named one of Scotland's five "most amazing archaeological discoveries of 2023" by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland's DigIt initiative.

As an aside, though not receiving a grant from OIC Archaeology fund, in February 2023, the UHI Archaeology Institute publication Landscapes Revealed: geophysical survey in the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Area, 2002-2011 (the second volume of the UHAI research series) was named Book of the Year at the 2023 Current Archaeology Awards.

## **Ness of Brodgar**

The 2023 dig season saw c.13,000 visitors to the site and activity on the project website ([www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk](http://www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk)) breaking previous records again and attracting almost a third of a million page views in 2023.

In February 2023, the Ness project was named Tour Guide of the Year 2022 at the inaugural Orkney Tourism Awards, in Kirkwall. In December 2023 it was announced that the project had been shortlisted twice in the national 2024 Current Archaeology Awards - one of the few times in the awards history that a single project received two nominations in the same year. Site director Nick Card is up for the title of Archaeologist of the Year, while the dig has been nominated for Research Project of the Year – a title it won back in 2011. The winners will be announced at the Current Archaeology Live! conference on February 24, 2024.

2023 also saw the fourth reprint of the interim monograph, The Ness of Brodgar: As it Stands, and the publication of the third edition (updated and expanded) guidebook, The Ness of Brodgar: Time and Place.

An exhibition featuring artefacts from the site ran in the Orkney Museum from May until December 2023, with 74,593 visitors recorded at Tankerness House over the period.

Media interest in the Ness of Brodgar continues. Television cameras are a regular fixture at the Ness of Brodgar each season, while programmes filmed in 2012 (Orkney’s Stone Age Temple, A History of Ancient Britain Special) and 2016 three-part Britain’s Ancient Capital; Secrets of Orkney series are still regularly repeated – each screening resulting in a noticeable increase in interest in Orkney.

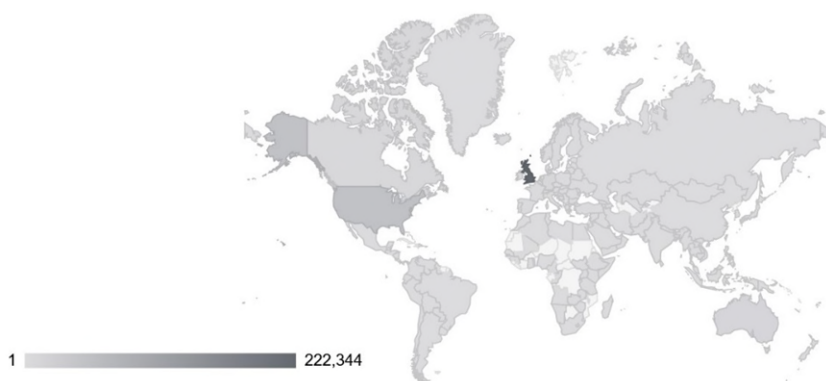
As with the UHI Archaeology Institute’s website, the geographical reach of the Ness of Brodgar website has an effect of raising Orkney’s profile worldwide

**Nessofbrodgar.co.uk**

	Page Views	Visitors
<b>2017 (from June)</b>	176,143	31,016
<b>2018</b>	242,783	60,876
<b>2019</b>	246,227	74,011
<b>2020</b>	200,105	74,067
<b>2021</b>	274,867	97,660
<b>2022</b>	278,607	97,133
<b>2023</b>	330,108	119,078
<b>Total</b>	1,748,840	553,841

**Social media**

- Twitter: 5,650 followers
- Facebook: 8,188 followers (Last 28 days: Post reach 90,493)
- Instagram: 9,006 followers (Dec 1-31, 2023: Post reach: 22,400, engagement: 2,382)
- Ness of Brodgar newsletter subscribers: 11,983. (newsletter archive and subscribe at <https://www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk/newsletter>.)



**UHI Archaeology Institute and Ness of Brodgar media coverage 2023 on projects receiving OIC Archaeology Fund grants**

This list is not exhaustive and does not include news aggregation services and blogs that repeat/distribute news stories from main sources.

03 January 2023: The Ness of Brodgar – marking 20 years of Neolithic discoveries. Article in Current Archaeology magazine and online. <https://the-past.com/feature/the-ness-of-brodgar-marking-20-years-of-neolithic-discoveries/>

15 January 2023: Orkney – Centre of the Stone Age. Podcast focusing on Ness of Brodgar excavation. Produced by History Hit.

15 January 2023: The Art of Neolithic Orkney. Podcast produced by History Hit.

23 January 2023: Japanese documentary on the Heart of Neolithic Orkney WHS released. Features Ness of Brodgar excavation and Professor Jane Downes explaining sites.

27 February 2023: Ness of Brodgar tourism award highlighted on BBC Radio Orkney's Around Orkney programme.

06 March 2023: Article – Ness of Brodgar. Orkney Neolithic project to carry out final digs. BBC News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy05zdvv1zjo>

06 March 2023: Article – Neolithic site to be returned to green fields after dig. (Ness of Brodgar) The Herald.

07 March 2023: Article – Excavations to end at Ness of Brodgar. The Orcadian.

09 March 2023: Article – Ness of Brodgar: Nerve centre of Neolithic life on Orkney to go underground as site covered over after 20 years (Ness of Brodgar). The Scotsman.

22 April 2023: The impact of the Looking in from the Edge project highlighted in the April 2023 Arts & Humanities Research Council newsletter.

30 April 2023: Nick Card (Ness of Brodgar) interviewed for Archaeology Channel's Strata programme. <https://www.archaeologychannel.org/video-guide/strata-portraits-of-humanity/3270-strata-april-2023>

01 May 2023: Nick Card interviewed for Discover magazine for Ness of Brodgar feature. Not yet published.

11 May 2023: The Scotsman. Orkney's Neolithic wonders may have been painted with colour. <https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/heritage/orkneys-neolithic-wonders-may-have-been-painted-with-colour-4137760>

21 June 2023: Ness of Brodgar excavation featured in the first episode of a new prehistory podcast, Stone Me.

21 June 2023: Two last summers at the Ness of Brodgar. NorthLink Ferries online interview with Nick Card and Anne Mitchell. <https://www.northlinkferries.co.uk/orkney-blog/two-last-summer-at-the-ness-of-brodgar/>

01 July 2023: The Times. Article featuring Ness of Brodgar and other Scottish Neolithic sites.

12 August 2023: BBC Radio Scotland. Ness of Brodgar segment in Out of Doors programme.

16 August 2023: Ness of Brodgar. Featured in BBC Radio Orkney's Around Orkney news bulletin. Live broadcast from the site.

04 October 2023: Scotland Outdoors podcast. BBC production dedicated to Ness of Brodgar excavation.

05 November 2023: Ness of Brodgar excavation featured in German TV programme, Mythos - Rätsel der Geschichte: Das Geheimnis der Riesensteine, broadcast on ZDF (Myth - Mystery of History: The Secret of the Giant Stones).  
<https://www.zdf.de/dokumentation/zdfinfo-doku/mythos-die-groessten-raetsel-der-geschichte--das-geheimnis-der-riesensteine-100.html>

07 October 2023: BBC Radio Scotland. Ness of Brodgar segment in Out of Doors programme.

## **Swandro Archaeological Trust**

The excavations at Swandro, Rousay, received funding from the OIC Archaeology Fund. The Dig Diary on the website HOME | Swandro-Orkney Coastal Archaeology Trust posts daily updates during the excavation, then periodically out-of-season with post-excavation results, general interest etc. The three most popular 2023 posts had 2,740 views, 2,573 views and 1,715 views respectively.

### **Social media:**

- Facebook: 3,100 followers
- X (formerly Twitter): 1,809 followers
- YouTube channel: Excavation videos plus lectures, highest views for a video stand at 2,024.

The Swandro excavations have been nominated in Current Archaeology's Rescue Project of the Year 2024 Awards. Winners will be announced in February 2024.

Swandro participated in the Scotland Digs 2023 campaign, publicising the excavation via the DigIT Scotland social media channels and at Scotland Digs 2023 - Dig It! ([digitScotland.com](http://digitScotland.com)). People were able to follow along online with posts on the Dig It! website and social media under the dedicated hashtag: #ScotlandDigs2023

Swandro features in a permanent display at the renovated Rousay Heritage Centre visitor attraction and was included in the 2023 Islander magazine, hard copy and online edition and in The Orcadian, August 2023.

Swandro was the front cover and main article (Swandro and the Sea) inside Archaeology Scotland magazine Issue 47 (Summer 2023) edition, and was the cover story in the March 2023 issue of Current Archaeology magazine (The Knowe of Swandro; excavating eroding archaeology on Rousay). This has a free to access article online at:  
<https://archaeology.co.uk/articles/features/the-knowe-of-swandro.htm>

### **Other publications in 2023 comprised:**

- Bond J M and Dockrill S J Excavation at the Knowe of Swandro in 2022. Orkney Archaeological Review 2023.

- Dockrill S J and Bond J M 2023. Swandro. In Rousay-Egilsay-Wyre Stepping back in time: Archaeology and History Booklet. Rousay Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust, 13-14.

International lectures and presentations about the project comprised:

- Julie Bond and Stephen Dockrill. Tidal loss: Swandro, Rousay, Orkney a multi period settlement being lost to the sea. NABO 2022 Collaborative Meeting, Reykjavik Iceland Sept. 28-30th.
- Julie Bond and Stephen Dockrill. Tidal loss: Swandro, Rousay, Orkney a multi period settlement being lost to the sea. Peebles Archaeological Society, February 2023.
- Julie Bond, Stephen Dockrill and Nicole Burton. The Relentless Tide: Swandro, a Multi-period Settlement Being Lost to the Sea. Lecture, Society of American Archaeology Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon April 2023.
- Hannah Koon, Julie Bond. Subsisting on the edge: faunal and isotopic evidence reflecting subsistence strategies employed at the Knowe of Swandro in Rousay, Orkney. European Association of Archaeologists, Belfast August 2023.

## Blomar, Holm

The excavations on the rediscovered neolithic chambered tomb at Blomar, Holm received funding from the OIC Archaeology Fund. The project received exceptionally broad international coverage that has reflected on very well on Orkney and its archaeology.

### Media Coverage of Blomuir Tomb

23 October 2023: [The Observer](#) ('[A Neolithic feat of engineering': Orkney dig reveals ruins of huge tomb | Scotland | The Guardian](#)) made the first exclusive report on the excavations. Over that weekend the story was one of the most read articles on The Guardian's UK News page.

25 October 2023: Further coverage on the discovery of a 5,000-year-old tomb unearthed in Orkney included [BBC News](#), [Daily Mail \(Scotland\)](#), [BBC Reporting Scotland](#) (21:59), the [Press & Journal](#), [CNN Style](#), [CNN Greece](#) (this article is in Greek), [Scottish Field](#), [The National](#), [Metro](#), [Sky News](#), [AZERTAC](#), [Yahoo! News](#), [Darik Business Review](#) (this article is in Bulgarian), [Scotland News Today](#), [National World](#), [Capital Radio](#), BBC Radio Orkney (clip not available), [BBC Radio Scotland](#) (43:11), [Archaeology](#) (a publication of the Archaeological Institute of America), [Three FM](#), and [AOL Living](#).

26 October 2023: Further coverage of the tomb discovered in Orkney included [The Independent](#), [Live Science](#), [CBS News](#), [USA Today](#), [NDTV World](#), [STV News](#), [STV News Aberdeen](#) (17:28), [the Mercury](#), [Vigour Times](#), [Sterea News](#) (this article is in Greek), [Vive La Plata](#) (this article is in Spanish), [Stanart News](#) (this article is Bulgarian), the [Financial Express](#) and [KXLH](#).

26 October 2023: Front page of The Orcadian.

27 October 2023: [National Geographic Italy](#) (this article is in Italian) and on the 'X' feed of [ABC News](#).

31 October 2023: [Inside Edition](#) posted a video to their YouTube of the recent discovery of a 5,000 year old tomb in Orkney. Their YouTube channel has 12.5 million subscribers.



10 November 2023: [5,000-Year-Old Neolithic Tomb Uncovered With Hugging Skeletons \(mymodernmet.com\)](#)

14 November 2023: [the Conversation](#) and [China Times](#) (this article is in Mandarin).

20 November 2023: [Chip Chick](#)

29 November 2023: [Bao Ha Tinh](#) (this article is in Vietnamese).

26 December 2023: 'Seven of Scotland's top archaeological discoveries of 2023' The Times (<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/news/scotland/seven-of-scotlands-top-archaeological-discoveries-of-2023-bjkk2krxg>).

**Other outputs comprised:**

- A presentation by Dr Hugo Anderson-Whymark to the Orkney Archaeology Society (OAS) on 7 November 2023, with 160 present and to date the youtube video has received 1,600 views.
- An article has been submitted by the excavation directors for the next issue of OAS's Review (A lost passage tomb found: preliminary results from the first season of excavation at the Neolithic chambered tomb at Blomuir, Holm, Orkney 2023).