

## Excavation Highlights



- **Finest collection of Neolithic decorated stone in Britain.**



- **First Neolithic wall coloration/painting in northern Europe.**



- **Largest concentration of major Neolithic structures in northern Europe.**



- **Orkney is the place of origin of the pan-British Grooved Ware pottery phenomenon. The Ness has many unique decorated examples including colored pot.**

## ORKNEY



### We Need Your Help

A day of excavation at the internationally important Ness of Brodgar costs £2,000. Currently, the excavation season is limited to six weeks by financial constraints. It is one of the goals of the the **Ness of Brodgar Trust**, to provide the financial support necessary to expand the excavation and research. Your assistance will help ensure that the archaeological work on the Ness of Brodgar is controlled by the science not by a lack of funds. Any contribution you can make to help us with this goal will be greatly appreciated.

Contributions can be made to:  
**Ness of Brodgar Trust (NoBT), c/o Buckan Cottage,  
Sandwick, Stromness, Orkney, KW16 3HY  
or at [www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk](http://www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk)**

Visit [www.orkneyjar.com](http://www.orkneyjar.com) for daily dig blog during the excavation season

**Ness of Brodgar Trust**  
is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), SC044890.



### The **Ness of Brodgar Trust**

is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), SC044890, that along with the U.S. tax exempt charity the American Friends of the Ness of Brodgar, supports the archaeological excavations and research at the Ness of Brodgar on the Orkney Islands, Scotland.





## International Recognition for the Ness

- 2008 - Runner-up in International Andante Travel Archaeology Award.
- 2009 - Archaeological Institute of America's 'Great discoveries of the Year'.
- 2010 - Cover of *Current Archaeology*, Apr 2010 'Ness of Brodgar: Revolutionising Orkney's Neolithic'.
- 2011 - Noted and acknowledged in the Scottish Parliament.
- 2011 - *Current Archaeology's* Research Project of the Year.
- 2012 - BBC: *Orkney's Stone Age Temples*, Jan 2012.
- 2012 - Won the International Andante Travel Archaeology Award.
- 2013 - Cover, *British Archaeology*, Jan-Feb. 2013, 'More than a Stone Circle'.
- 2013 - Highly commended in the Educational Travel Community Award
- 2013 - *Archaeology*, Jan. 2013, 'Neolithic Cathedral'.
- 2014 - *Science*, 3 Jan 2014, 'Monumental Roots'.
- 2014 - Nominated by *Archaeology Scotland* for a British Archaeology Award.
- 2014 - *National Geographic* article

## A Decade of Amazing Discoveries

In 2002, the ridge on the Brodgar peninsula was surveyed and found to be saturated with archaeology. Up until then it was believed to be part of a natural landscape. In 2003, ploughing unearthed a large slab of stone thought to be part of a 4,000 year old grave. Excavation found no bones but beautiful stone walling was revealed. In 2004 Nick Card, University of the Highlands and Islands, Orkney College became site director and excavation commenced. Test pits were dug and each one revealed 5000 year old Neolithic archaeology. Since then, annual excavation has uncovered monumental stone structures, and much more. During our first decade, just a fraction of the site has been excavated with the promise of many more hidden wonders to be revealed in the next decade.

## A Very Special Place

Without parallel in Europe, the Ness of Brodgar's 3 hectares are filled with massive stone structures containing unique and spectacular finds. It now appears that megalithic monument building began on Orkney over 5,000 years ago. Professor Parker-Pearson, University College London and Stonehenge Complex expert has said: "We're looking at a fairly major transition across Britain, the impact of a whole way of life, religious and social, which comes out of Orkney ... Orkney was a place of synthesis, where Neolithic worlds came together." The excavation and research at the Ness of Brodgar is shining a new light on our understanding of the peoples of northern Europe.

## Located in a Special WHS Landscape

The Ness of Brodgar is surrounded by the monuments of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, World Heritage Site (WHS): Maeshowe, Europe's finest chambered tomb; the Ring of Brodgar, third largest stone circle in Britain; and the Stones of Stenness, one of the oldest stone circles in Britain. As the January 2014 issue of *Science* noted, "5000 years ago, this faraway landscape was a centre of Britain's new stone age... one of the world's most spectacular clusters of stone monuments." The discoveries at the Ness of Brodgar further enhance the World Heritage Site, giving it another, and totally unique, monumental Neolithic presence.

## NoBT's Goals for the Future

Provide the financial support to extend the excavation season and fund future, in-depth research of the Ness. Expand the Ness' international recognition, educational resources, and world community involvement.



Maeshowe, 5000 year old tomb



Ring of Brodgar



Stones of Stenness

## What Others Say about the Ness...

"World's most spectacular Neolithic dig ... the most significant archaeological discovery of my lifetime."  
Neil Oliver, BBC TV Presenter and Archaeologist.

"The Ness was the centre of their universe ... a major ceremonial and ritual centre that must have served for the whole of Mainland Orkney and the whole of the islands in general. It was a very special place."  
Professor Colin Renfrew, Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn, Cambridge University.

"Stunning - the most important Neolithic discovery in Great Britain since WW2."  
Francis Pryor, TV Presenter & Archaeologist.

"The key to the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, World Heritage Site - a site of international importance."  
Professor Mark Edmonds, York University.