



## AFNOB Goals for the Future

Funding permitting, this phase of excavation at the Ness will continue until 2022. Thereafter the goal is to analyse the many categories of material that have been excavated and fully publish the findings — a mammoth task!

The American Friends of the Ness of Brodgar aim to provide the financial support for the excavation, post excavation analysis and publication. In addition, we want to expand the Ness' international recognition, educational resources, and worldwide community involvement.



## We Need Your Help

A day of excavation at the Ness of Brodgar costs \$3,300.00 (£2,000) with further specialist research and analysis being more expensive — as a guide, for each day of excavation, post excavation analysis takes at least 10 days — for instance a single radiocarbon date costs \$400 (we need hundreds!).

Funding mainly comes through donations and the generosity of supporters, such as yourselves, to our two charities. We need your assistance to 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:

**AFNOB**, c/o **Douglas L. Bowles, Treasurer**, PO Box 61041, Virginia Beach, VA 23466 or online at [www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk](http://www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk). Visit [www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk](http://www.nessofbrodgar.co.uk) for up-to-date news and the daily dig blog during the excavation season

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The American Friends of the Ness of Brodgar is a U.S. tax-exempt charity organized to support the archaeological excavation and research at the Ness of Brodgar excavation site, Orkney Islands, Scotland, U.K.





## A Very Special Place

In 2002, the ridge on the Brodgar peninsula was surveyed with geophysics 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 human remains but beautiful stone walling was revealed.

In 2004 Nick Card, University of the Highlands and Islands, Orkney College became site director and excavation commenced.



## What Others Say about the Ness...

"World's most spectacular Neolithic dig ... the most significant archaeological discovery of my lifetime."  
Neil Oliver, BBC Television 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 World War Two."  
Francis Pryor, Television Presenter & Archaeologist.

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

Test pits were dug and each revealed 5000-year-old Neolithic archaeology. Since then, annual excavation has uncovered monumental stone structures, and much more.

## A Decade of Amazing Discoveries

Without parallel in Europe, the Ness of Brodgar's seven acres 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 prehistoric people of northern Europe and can boast:

- An amazing and unique collection of polished stone tools and artifacts.
- The largest and finest collection of Neolithic decorated stone in Britain.
- The discovery of the oldest stone-tiled roofs in Europe.
- Vast quantities of pottery, including colored and uniquely decorated examples.

## Located in a Special WHS Landscape

The Ness of Brodgar is surrounded by the monuments of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney, World Heritage Site: 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: **"5,000 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.

