

HS Consultation Response ref: ORK/WHS/010  
RESPONSE FORM:

HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008–13

Please complete your name and address below and add your comments on the consultation beneath each question. Please return it with your respondent information form.  
Thank you for your help.

Name	Mrs Merryn Dineley BA, M.Phil Archaeologist Qualified Tour Guide STGA (Orkney Affiliate)
Postal Address	Banks Burray Orkney KW17 2ST
<b>HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008–13</b>	
<b>Question 1</b> Do you have any comments on the current Buffer Zone?	
No, in agreement with current Buffer Zone	
<b>Question 2</b> Do you have any comments on the proposed Buffer Zones?	
No, in agreement.	
<b>Question 3</b> Do you have any comments on the Other Values of the World Heritage Site; is anything missing?	

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Question 3.

Yes, something is missing. I hope this is the correct section in which to put my comments.

Re Interpretation of the sites, Skara Brae, Barnhouse, new excavations at Ness of Brodgar currently ongoing, Ring of Brodgar, Stones of Stenness and information/interpretation in Historic Scotland publications.

Interpretation of these sites, such as the use of Grooved Ware pottery, the drains and other archaeological features, has neglected to include discussion of research into Neolithic Cereal Processing. I refer specifically to malting, mashing and brewing using barley. I have several publications that were listed in the Bibliography of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney Research Agenda. The content of these publications is missing in the discussions, interpretations and research agenda of the domestic and ritual sites mentioned above.

In my opinion it is a serious omission of relevant research that is soundly based upon biochemical science, archaeological evidence as well as experience and knowledge of the craft and skill of cereal processing/brewing.

My publications listed in the WHS Research Agenda are:

Dineley, M. 1996 'Finding Magic in Real Ale' *British Archaeology* 19 (1996), 6

Dineley, M. 1999 'Barley Malt and Ale in the Neolithic' unpublished M.Phil thesis, Manchester University, later published as

Dineley, M. 2004, 'Barley, Malt and Ale in the Neolithic' *British Archaeological Reports, International Series*, 1213, Oxford.

There is a chapter that interprets Skara Brae, Barnhouse and Rinyo with reference to Cereal Processing techniques. Another chapter refers to the British Neolithic in general. Other chapters explain the malting, mashing and brewing processes as well as tracing the origins of grain agriculture from the Fertile Crescent, 10,000 years ago across Europe to the British Isles c4000 BC.

Dineley, M & Dineley, G. 2000a 'Neolithic Ale: barley as a source of sugars for fermentation' in Fairbairn, A (ed) *Plants in the Neolithic and Beyond*, Oxford, 137-155

Dineley, M & Dineley, G. 2000b 'From Grain to Ale: Skara Brae a case study' in Ritchie, A. (ed) 2000 196-200

I have since published the following:

Dineley, M. 2006 'The use of spent grain as cattle feed in the Neolithic' in *Animals in the Neolithic of Britain and Europe* (eds) Searjeantson and Field, Oxford

Dineley, M. 2008 'The Durrington Maltsters' *British Archaeology*, Jan/Feb

This relates to the use of Grooved Ware pottery and the presence of plaster floors that may have been suitable for malting. Reference is made to the Orcadian Neolithic.

I do not understand why this research has been omitted. It is relevant to an understanding of domestic and ceremonial activity at all Neolithic sites within and without the World Heritage Site. It is relevant to AIM 4, namely, 'to ensure that management of the site is guided by appropriate knowledge' (page 35, Consultation document.)

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**Question 4**

Do you have any comments on the range of Stakeholders that have an interest in the World Heritage Site; are any missing?

No

**Question 5**

Do you have any comments on the Evaluation of the Aims and Actions of the 2001 Management Plan; is anything missing?

Discussion and inclusion of of Cereal Processing research, as outlined Question 3 above.

**Question 6**

Do you have any comments on The Vision or Long-term Aims for the World Heritage Site?

I think that it is important to include all relevant research and that interpretation should include ideas about the several possible uses of grain, especially barley, which was the main crop in Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age Orkney.

The assumption appears to be that grain is only used to make flour for bread. The skills and crafts of maltster and brewer have been neglected, as has research into these areas.

Experimental archaeology can contribute to an understanding of crafts and this is acknowledged in the Research Agenda, page 124:

" it broadens the base of archaeological expertise to include present day crafts people. This is especially relevant on Orkney where there is a largely untapped resource of local expertise"

The grain processing research outlined above is experimental and practically based upon the fundamental biochemistry. It potentially has a huge impact upon the future interpretation of domestic and ceremonial sites of the Neolithic.

If feasting occurred at the two Stone Circles, as has been suggested in several Historic Scotland publications, then what were they drinking and where and how was it made? Barnhouse has the best evidence in the British Isles for the wet processing of grain into malt and ale.

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**Question 7**

Do you have any comments on the Issues identified for the World Heritage Site over the next five years; is anything missing?

No

**Question 8**

What in your opinion is/are the Issue(s) of the highest priority and why?

Unbiased interpretation and proper discussion and assessment of research.

**Question 9**

Do you think that there any issues in the Management Plan that may affect an equality group (age, disability, religion and belief, gender, LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender), race); if so, how, and what can be done to mitigate them?

No

**Question 10**

Do you have any comments on any of the specific Objectives, how they relate to the Issues and how they have been prioritised?

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No

**Question 11**

Do you have any comments on how any of the specific Objectives will be monitored?

No

**Question 12**

Do you have any general comments about how the Management Plan will be implemented and progress reported?

No

**Question 13**

Do you have any other comments about the Management Plan that you have not covered in your responses to other questions?

No

**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

**Question 14**

Do you have any comments on the baseline information, or the environmental

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problems/issues?
No
<b>Question 15</b> Do you have any comments on the approach taken for the environmental assessment?
No
<b>Question 16</b> Do you agree with the results of the environmental assessment? Have we identified the key issues?
Yes
<b>Question 17</b> Do you have any comments on the environmental mitigation measures, including the schedule of commitments?
No
<b>Question 18</b>

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Do you have any comments on the proposed additional environmental monitoring indicators?

No