



Orkney Local Access Forum and Countryside Committee

**c/o Mrs B Mainland, Secretary
Quoykellian
Dounby
Orkney KW17 2JA**

Sabina Strachan
Historic Scotland
Cultural Resources Team, PIC Division
Longmore House, Salisbury Place
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23rd June 2008

Dear Sabina,

At the Orkney Local Access Forum AGM last Monday we discussed the draft *WHS Management Plan for the Heart of Neolithic Orkney*. Many thanks for waiting for my comments; I was on fieldwork all last week so did not manage to get down to it before today.

As you will imagine it is difficult to get a consensus from a disparate group such as OLAF, but we have encouraged the individual member groups to make their own responses, and I now write on behalf of the group to welcome the new Management Plan and the consultation process which Historic Scotland have carried out. We feel that the discussions with the different organisations involved have been very useful and we encourage Historic Scotland to maintain as much transparency over the Management process (drafting and implementation) as possible. In general the Forum is supportive of the Plan as set out.

We understand that there is an intention to base a full time Co-ordinator for the World Heritage Site here in Orkney. We feel this would be a very positive step forward to involve the local community, its expertise and interests, in the management of the World Heritage Sites. Members also noted that a post such as this requires someone with good communication and liaison skills and expertise in the wider issues of land management – it is not just a purely archaeological role.

The Orkney Local Access Forum looks forward to working with the new co-ordinator when they are in post. We would certainly welcome a contribution at a future Access meeting to discuss management issues and plans. Members felt that it might be appropriate for the Co-ordinator to be a member of the Forum, so this is something we could discuss in due course! We certainly benefit greatly from the input of the HS Rangers.

It was also noted that the inclusion of a member of the Forum on the WH Access and Interpretation meetings (currently the OLAF chair), is welcomed.

I hope this is helpful and look forward to future collaboration.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Caroline Wickham-Jones
Chair OLAF