

# Collections Development Team

## Area – Stromness

### Summary

The three-year project will employ a Museum Collections Development Team. The Team will:

- Disseminate information about the museum's important collection by comprehensively cataloguing the collection and making the information widely available through a greatly improved website, a digital catalogue, guidebooks and improved visitor experiences.
- Identify new potential initiatives and funding opportunities to care for and make best use of the collection.
- Attract more visitors, and increase income, to enable the museum to become more resilient and sustainable, maximising its potential and providing an attraction for tourists, heritage specialists and local people.

By the end of this project, through the research and work undertaken on the collection, the museum will be ready to apply to become a National Recognised Collection. Raising the museum's profile in this way should lead to greater financial security, by providing external validation of the museum's credibility to potential funders. The project will further enable the Orkney Natural History Society Museum to achieve its aim to have a well-managed and resourced museum that is financially secure and sustainable, open and accessible to all, full of stimulating ideas and active learning opportunities, which represents Orkney's diverse history and heritage. The project will not only benefit the museum, but will also provide economic and social benefits to the local community.

### **A summary of project aims are:**

To work towards the recognition of Stromness Museum's collection as a Collection of National Significance accredited by Museums Galleries Scotland. This will make the museum's future position more self-sustainable; by helping conserve the collection, increasing opportunities for joint working, assisting planning, and accessing other funding; whilst also raising the museum's profile amongst new and existing audiences.

- To achieve a number of important objectives that accord with local and national plans.
- to provide paid employment opportunities and training within the heritage sector
- To allow innovative curatorial work to take place within the museum with paid expertise being applied to the collection.
- to improve the accessibility of the collection in an equal manner for various audiences – the local visitor, tourist, online visitor, and academic;
- To increase paying visitor numbers.
- To increase partnership working with other groups, and connections with the local community.
- To better utilise and develop the museum's current, and prospective, volunteers.

The proposed project includes the following elements:

| Financial Information    | £          | %   |
|--------------------------|------------|-----|
| Total Project Costs      | 150,156.00 |     |
| Total Eligible Costs     | 150,156.00 | 100 |
| LEADER                   | 75,078.00  | 50  |
| John Ellerman Foundation | 75,078.00  | 50  |