

Scapa Flow Museum Development

Area – Hoy, Walls & Flotta

Summary

This project is a part of a wider overall project which aims to restore and conserve the war time naval buildings at Lyness, Hoy, home of Scapa Flow Visitor Centre & Museum. The museum tells the story of the naval anchorage in the World Wars, made all the more resonant and powerful by being sited in unique buildings which were themselves part of that story, but which are in a serious state of decay. This project is to specifically support significant enhancement of the interpretation of artefacts and the buildings themselves, update displays and significantly improve exhibition and interpretation across the site.

The museum currently fails to interpret properly all the elements of the site and its stories, and is an inappropriate environment to display and interpret the majority of the collections. By creating a new exhibition area for artefacts in the new build element of the wider project, the war time buildings will be interpreted in their own right for the role they had in the wars, and artefacts will have modern and appropriate interpretation in an environment which is environmentally suitable and allows for the context of the artefacts to be explored through innovative and creative interpretation, without being distracted by the surroundings. Artefacts that cannot currently be displayed will be exhibited, adding to the story and better putting Scapa Flow's role in the World Wars in context for visitors.

As the major visitor attraction on Hoy, the museum currently attracts approximately 14,000 visitors a year, it is expected the improved exhibitions and site will attract upwards of 17,000 on completion. In ensuring a positive and vibrant future for the museum, Hoy will also benefit in terms of increased employment and enterprise opportunities, high demand for ferry travel and more people visiting the island will have a positive effect on other island heritage attractions, services and businesses.

A summary of project aims are:

- To restore and conserve the historically significant wartime Naval buildings which house Scapa Flow Visitor Centre and Museum (to be completed outwith this application).
- To create a new, purpose-built museum extension to house modern displays and interpretation, café, shop, toilets, information area, education space and staff facilities (to be completed outwith this application).
- To ensure that the interpretation is exciting, vibrant, engaging, suitable for all ages, levels and abilities, rewarding, interesting, challenging and fun.
- To use the whole site, as well as the buildings, to tell the stories of Scapa Flow, Orkney and their national and international context through both World Wars.
- To create a fully accessible visitor attraction.
- To extend the season and extend opening hours of the café and community facilities.
- To sustain the life and future of the museum.
- To work with the community in the development of the storylines and interpretation, to ensure community ownership and pride in the museum and the new exhibitions.
- To ensure the continued knowledge and understanding of Scapa Flow's role in the World Wars following the centenary of WW1.
- To ensure the economic sustainability of the museum and other island heritage attractions and services.

- To support the local community in terms of employment and business opportunities.
- To ensure that the interpretation design is innovative, creative and educational.

The proposed project includes the following elements:

Financial Information	£	%
Total Project Costs	3,410,872.50	
Total Eligible Costs	257,172.50	100
LEADER	125,000.00	48.60
Orkney Islands Council – own funds	132,172.50	51.40