



Barra and Harris Unearthed

Developing opportunities for Archaeology as a key growth area at UHI NWH

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UHI North, West and Hebrides

UHI NWH LTR Committee

Wednesday 19th March 2025

Barra and Harris Unearthed



3 year fully funded project

£616k of external funding secured

Developing digital heritage interpretation for **6** archaeological sites across Harris and Barra

2 existing members of staff

1 new member of staff for two years

4 new procured contracts

Barra and Harris Unearthed



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean



Delivering transformative lasting
benefits for local communities, our
economy and nature



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR

Funder	£
Highlands and Islands Enterprise	£170,000
Historic Environment Scotland	£187,300
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar	£25,000
SSEN Transmission Community Benefit Fund	£110,000
The National Lottery Heritage Fund	£123,930
Project Total	£616,230



Uist Virtual Archaeology Project



3.5 year pilot project

Ran 2020-2023

£460,850 external funding

Uist Unearthed app featuring AR reconstructions of 5 archaeological sites

Travelling multi-media exhibition

Successful partnerships and co-production with local community



COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean



Eòrpa agus Alba
Maoin Leasachaidh Roinnean na h-Eòrpa
A' tagadh aon ann am ìre leasachaidh Gleusda, Seasmhach is In-ghabhail



221

SCHOOL PUPILS
ENGAGED DURING
WORKSHOPS



273

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
INVOLVED IN CO-CREATION
AND APP TESTING



2100

ATTENDEES AT
ENGAGEMENT
EVENTS



7994

'UIST UNEARTHED'
APP DOWNLOADS



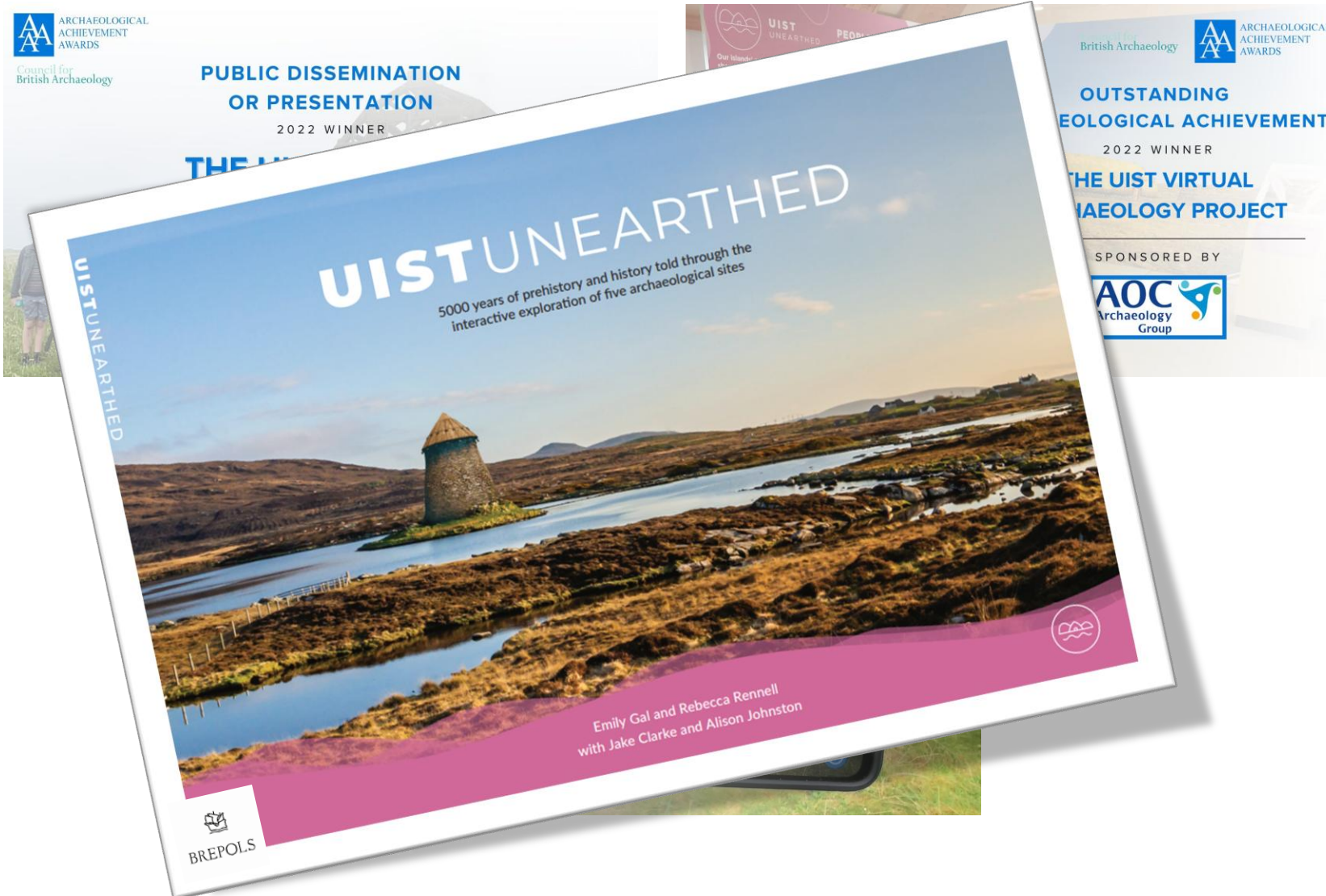
4800

MULTIMEDIA
EXHIBITION
VISITORS



Uist Virtual Archaeology project

Interactive Uist Unearthed book – Published Summer 2025



Multi award-winning project
Winners of the 2022 Council for
British Archaeology's
Archaeological Achievement
Awards

Shortlisted for FilmG Awards 2022



Barra and Harris Unearthed – opportunities

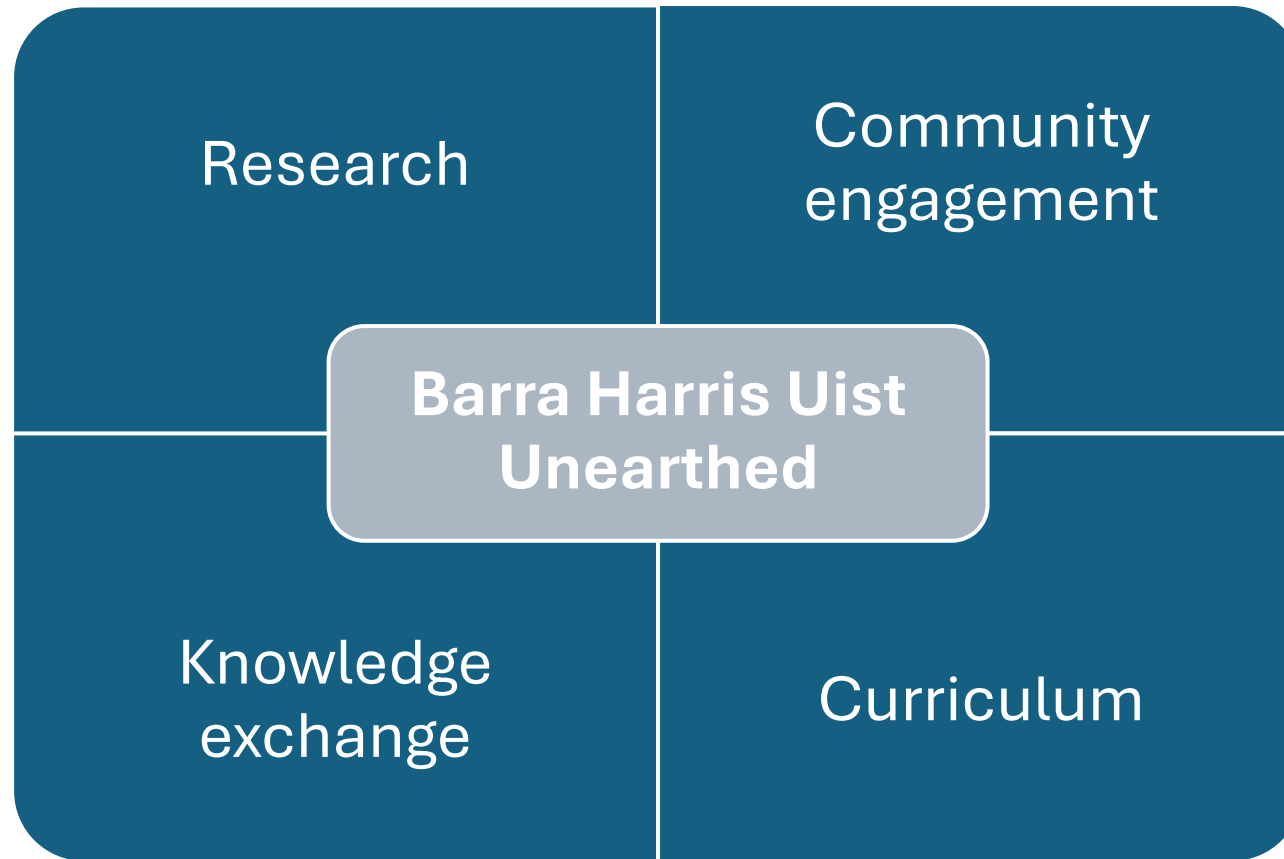
Ensure outputs are
REF-able!

Publications from
existing projects

Develop and
deliver new
fieldwork research
projects

Increase number
of PhD students

Develop and deliver new
knowledge exchange
projects



New community
archaeology
courses –

Residential courses
Gaelic, folklore &
archaeology

New Digital
archaeology MSc

More students on
the ground

UHI NWH
archaeology staff
recognised as
leaders in digital
heritage
interpretation

– Orkney Islands Council collaboration, Cnoc Soilleir immersive exhibition, working
with other community and business partners

Archaeology a key growth area

MSc Digital Archaeology

New short and residential courses

Hebridean archaeology courses (residential)

Landscape archaeology and Gaelic (online and residential)

Art and archaeology (residential)

Three members of permanent staff

New digital heritage engagement/KE project

2 PhD students

Two pure 'research' projects

Barra and Harris Unearthed impact case studies recognised in REF 2029

By 2030

What we need to achieve this?

Research in our contracts – to ensure inclusion in the REF!

Protected archaeology development time

Additional staff to deliver new curriculum

Wider UHI NWH support – admin, marketing, finance and HR

Minibus

Thank you