

## **Urbanism Awards 2023 nomination: Stromness, Orkney Islands, Scotland**

Great Town category

*The supporting statement for Stromness's nomination is quoted in full below.*

"A long-established seaport, Stromness has a population of approximately 2,500 residents. The old town is clustered along the characterful and winding main street, flanked by houses and shops built from local stone, with narrow lanes and alleys branching off it. There is a ferry link from Stromness to Scrabster on the north coast of mainland Scotland.

"First recorded as the site of an inn in the sixteenth century, Stromness became important during the late seventeenth century, ships of the Hudson's Bay Company were regular visitors, as were whaling fleets. Large numbers of Orkney men, many of whom came from the Stromness area, served as traders, explorers and seamen for both.

"Stromness plays host to the Pier Arts Centre, a collection of twentieth-century British art given to the people of Orkney, whilst the old library now houses WASPS artist studios.

"Its main street is largely flagged with Caithness stone which sets off the stone of the properties. It's a very rich public realm made from local materials that has stood the test of time, weather and wear."