

NEIL OLIVER

Historian, Archaeologist And Presenter
Agent: [Sophie Laurimore](#)



Neil qualified as an archaeologist in 1988. His fieldwork experience covers everything from the early Stone Age in Scotland to the examination of the World War II coastal fortifications of Kent and Northern France.

Neil also trained as a journalist, and has also worked on publications such as *The Scotsman*, *The Herald*, *The Guardian*, *The Edinburgh Evening News* and *The Daily Record*, providing invaluable experience for when, in 2002, his career as a television broadcaster began.

BBC 2's *Two Men in a Trench* saw Neil and his friend Tony Pollard visit historic British battlefields and recreate the battle situation using state-of-the-art technology. To accompany the series he co-wrote two books, *Two Men in a Trench: Battlefield Archaeology* and *Two Men in a Trench II: Uncovering the Secrets of British Battlefields*, published by Michael Joseph.

Following this, in 2005, Neil joined the team on the highly acclaimed BBC2 series *Coast*. In 2006, he stepped into the role of lead presenter. The programme, now with 10 series completed, looks at both the natural and social history of the British coastline.

In 2006, as well as working on *Coast*, Neil made two documentaries, one for Channel 4, *The Face of Britain*, and another for BBC 2, *Scotland's History: The Top Ten*. He also took part in Channel 4's *Time Team: Big Royal Dig*, digging up the gardens at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh.

Over the years, Neil's TV credits have been steadily building, including *The History Detectives* for BBC 2; contributions to BBC1's *The One Show*, 2007; *A History of Scotland* for BBC Scotland, 2008; and BBC One's, *Cleopatra: Portrait of a Killer*, 2009.

A History of Ancient Britain, BBC 2, came in 2011, quickly followed by *A History of Celtic Britain*, BBC 2, which tells the epic story of how the Ancient Britons evolved and entered European civilisation. In 2012, Neil presented *Vikings*, also for BBC 2, a 3-part search for the truth about the Vikings. Neil's accompanying book, *Vikings*, is published by Orion Books.

In 2013, he was invited by Foxtel to lead a team of presenters on a journey around the Australian coast. *Coast Australia*

was a huge success, becoming the History Channel's highest rated show to date. As a result, three more series were made with series 4 airing in 2018. In 2016, Neil presented *Coast New Zealand*, and due to the show's success, it is now into its third series!

Following on from Neil's *Coast* adventures, as part of the BBC's World War One centenary season, Neil presented *The Machine Gun* and *Skye's Band of Brothers*, which examined the use of the Maxim machine gun and its legacy within the Hebridean community, and contributed to the BBC's *iWonder interactive online guide to World War One Propaganda*.

2018 saw Neil present new BBC show, *Rise of the Clans*, where he travels back in time to reveal the story of Scotland's ancient clans.

Neil's books include *Amazing Tales For Making Men Out Of Boys* (2009), published by Michael Joseph, *A History of Scotland* (2009), and *A History of Ancient Britain* (2011), both published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, *Master of Shadows* (2015), published by Orion and *The Story of the British Isles In 100 Places* (2018), published by Penguin.

On the back of Neil's latest book, which received 5 star reviews worldwide, Neil toured all over the UK, speaking to over 69 venues explaining what British History means to him and why we need to cherish and celebrate our wonderful countries.

Neil lives in Scotland with his wife and three children.

CREDITS

TV:

Scots In China, 2019, (BBC 2 Scotland)

Rise of The Clans, 2018, (BBC Four)

Coast New Zealand S3, 2018, (Foxtel)

Coast New Zealand S2, 2017, (Foxtel)

Coast Australia S3, 2017, (Foxtel)

Coast New Zealand S1, Foxtel, 2016

The Celts: Blood, Iron, and Sacrifice, 2015, (BBC Two)

Coast S10, 2015, (BBC Two)

Coast Australia S2, 2015, (Foxtel)

Coast Australia S1, 2014, (Foxtel)

Coast S9, 2014, (BBC Two)

The Memorial: Beyond The Anzac Legend, 2014, (Foxtel)

The Search For Bannockburn, 2014, (BBC Scotland)

The Machine Gun and Skye's Band of Brothers, 2014, (BBC Two)

Coast S8, 2013, (BBC Two)

Coast Australia S1, 2013, (Foxtel)

Sacred Wonders of Britain, 2013, (BBC Two)

Vikings, 2012, (BBC Two)

Coast S7, 2012, (BBC Two)

A History of Celtic Britain, 2011, (BBC Two)

A History of Ancient Britain, 2011, (BBC Two)

The Last Explorers, 2011, (BBC Four)

Coast S6,
2011, (BBC Two)

Coast S5, 2010, (BBC Two)

Cleopatra: Portrait of a Killer, 2009, (BBC One)

Coast S4, 2009, (BBC Two)

A History of Scotland, 2008, (BBC Scotland)

The History Detectives, 2007, (BBC Two)

Coast S3, 2007, (BBC Two)

Time Team: Big Royal Dig, 2006, (Channel 4)

The Face of Britain, 2006, (Channel 4)

Scotland's History: The Top Ten, 2006, (BBC Two)

Coast S2, 2006, (BBC Two)

Coast S1, 2005, (BBC Two)

Trafalgar Celebrations, 2005, (BBC Two)

Two Men In A Trench, 2002, (BBC Two)

Books:

The Story of the British Isles In 100 Places, Transworld, 2018

Master of Shadows, Orion Books, 2015

Vikings, Orion Books, 2013

A History of Ancient Britain, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2011

A History of Scotland, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2009

Amazing Tales For Making Men Out of Boys, Michael Joseph, 2008

Two Men in a Trench II: Uncovering the Secrets of British Battlefields, co-written with Tony

Pollard, Michael Joseph, 2003

Two Men in a Trench: Battlefield Archaeology - The Key to Unlocking the Past, co-written with Tony Pollard, Michael Joseph, 2002

Live:

The Story of the British Isles in 100 places, UK Tour, 2019

The Story of the British Isles in 100 places, UK Tour 2018