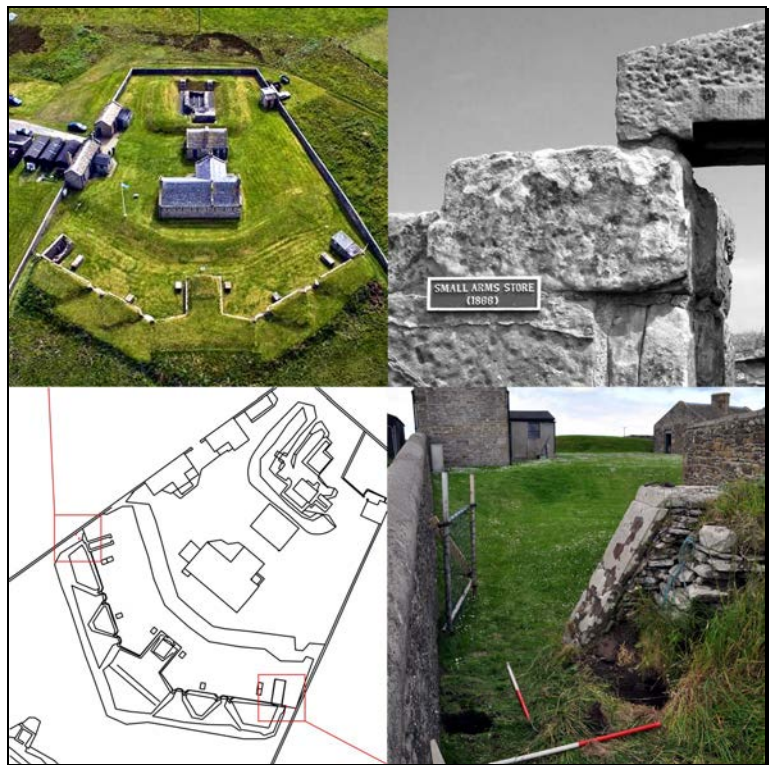


Historic Scotland  
Properties in Care  
Minor Archaeological Works 2011

**Hackness,  
Battery and Martello Tower,  
Hoy, Orkney.  
Archaeological monitoring,  
June 2011**

HS PIC Index number: 90211  
Project code: HSCO-90211-2011-01



9 March 2012  
Kirkdale Archaeology

<b><u>Site</u></b>	Hackness, Battery and Martello Tower
<b><u>N.G.R</u></b>	ND 3376 9146; ND 3370 9149
<b><u>Project Description</u></b>	Archaeological monitoring
<b><u>Project code</u></b>	HSCO-90211-2011-01

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*SUMMARY: A watching brief was maintained at the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Hackness Battery, South Walls, Hoy, Orkney (ND 3376 9146; ND 3370 9149) while five small holes were excavated to allow the installation of two new gates on either side of the 'V'-shaped parapet and gun embrasures. The buried remnants of a collapsed or demolished wall were seen in one hole, while the others contained debris of mixed date, including modern items suggesting recent disturbance or landscaping. Mortar and stone fragments seen were probably demolition and construction debris from the battery's alterations in 1866 and later.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Hackness Battery, South Walls, Hoy, during the excavation of five small holes to allow the installation of two new gates at either end of the 'V'-shaped masonry and earthwork parapet and gun emplacements, between the outer limits of the parapet walls and the surrounding boundary wall.

The work was carried out on 23 June 2011.

## **2.0 DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 Holes 1& 2 (ND 3376 9146)**

Two holes were excavated at the SE end of the 'V'-shaped gun emplacement wall, the location and orientation of which are shown on Fig. 1. Both holes were 300 x 300 mm in plan and 450 mm deep. A similar profile was encountered in both holes. Under 150-200 mm of turf and dark brown topsoil (**101/201**), was a mixed and laminated matrix of fairly compact, mid to dark brown sandy, silty clay, (**102/202**), with lenses of construction/demolition debris and lenses of sand. There were frequent small fragments of shelly, lime mortar, and occasional small fragments of sandstone. Finds seen in the two holes included a sherd of white-glazed china, fragments of animal bone, a piece of heavily rusted iron and the copper alloy base of a modern shotgun cartridge. This layer had a thickness of 250-300 mm and was not fully excavated at the limit of the overall depth required, 450 mm. The finds were

photographed but not retained or catalogued.

## 2.2 Holes 3, 4& 5 (ND 3370 9149)

Three holes were excavated at the NW end of the gun emplacement wall, the location and orientation of which are shown on Fig. 1.

Hole 3 was the nearest to the NW corner of the emplacement wall, and encountered the top of a rubble or masonry (302) layer under the turf (301) at a maximum depth of 80 mm. The masonry, which was a mix of angular sandstone fragments and reddish orange, clay brick or pipe fragments (302) appeared to continue along the line of the partially collapsed wall (303) to the SE. This NW-SE aligned wall had a maximum width of 420 mm and extended for up to 600 mm from the W wall of the small building at the NW end of the main emplacement wall, which it abutted.

To avoid disturbing the potentially significant masonry layer, a new site was chosen to excavate a hole for the gatepost. By probing with a spike, the masonry could be detected continuing to the NE, and a site for the hole was chosen where the masonry seemed to terminate, c 800 mm from the NE face of the NW-SE wall remnant. The new hole, Hole 4, was 300 x 300 mm in plan and 450 mm deep. Under 80-100 mm of turf and dark brown topsoil (401), a stony layer (402) was seen, seemingly a continuation of 302, but at this NE facing section it was only seen as a thin sandstone fragments up to 15 mm thick in a level layer up to 75 mm thick. Under this was a mixed layer of mid to dark grey, silty clay, with occasional, very small, sandstone and shelly mortar fragments. This layer was at least 300 mm deep, but not fully excavated at the limit of the overall depth required, 450 mm.

Hole 5 was excavated against the W boundary wall, was 300 x 300 mm in plan and 450 mm deep. It was located roughly where an extended line from the partial wall (303) would have met the inner (SE facing) face of the boundary wall. Turf and topsoil (501) was removed, with a maximum depth of 80 mm, but in some places as little as 20 mm of turf barely covered a stony layer, 502, a 120 mm deep mixture of mid grey, silty, gritty, stony clay, angular sandstone fragments and small pieces of shelly mortar. The bottom of this layer was roughly level with the base of the wall (503). Below both 502 and 503 was what appeared to be a natural, or possibly

disturbed and redeposited natural, deposit of very compact, orangey brown, stony, sandy, clay, excavated to a depth of 250 mm, giving an overall depth for this hole of 450 mm.

### **3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS**

The collapsed or demolished wall seen in and near Hole 4 abuts the NW end of the main embrasure wall, but is most likely part of the 1866 reworking of the Battery. The rubble deposit partially revealed in Holes 3& 4 suggests this structure, or structures associated with it, continued to the NW and NE, but the full extent remains unclear. However, its original shape is likely to compare with the short wall extending from the SE end of the parapet wall near Holes 1& 2, which seems to be a buttress supporting the main wall. Nonetheless, part of the buried elements of this feature may pre-date the 1866 works and could be part of the early 19<sup>th</sup>-century layout.

The mixed and debris-rich layers seen in Holes 1& 2 have been disturbed since the 1866 works, but the demolition or construction debris seen in the deposits are likely to have originated from that phase of work. This area has probably been affected by 20<sup>th</sup>-century landscaping, or the recent archaeological excavations and evaluations.

**A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS**

**Holes 1& 2**

#	Description
101/201	150-200 mm of turf and dark brown silty clay topsoil
102/202	Fairly compact, mid to dark brown sandy, silty clay, (102/202), with lenses of construction/demolition debris and lenses of sand. Frequent fragments of shelly mortar, and small fragments of sandstone. Sherds of white-glazed pottery, fragments of animal bone, a piece of heavily rusted iron and the metal alloy base of a modern shotgun cartridge. 250-300 mm depth, not fully excavated.

**Hole 3**

#	Description
301	Max. 100 mm of turf and dark brown silty clay topsoil
302	Rubble/masonry. A mix of angular sandstone fragments and reddish orange, clay brick or pipe fragments.
303	Partially collapsed wall. NW-SE aligned, a maximum width of 420 mm, extends for up to 600 mm from the main emplacement wall, which it abutted.

**Hole 4**

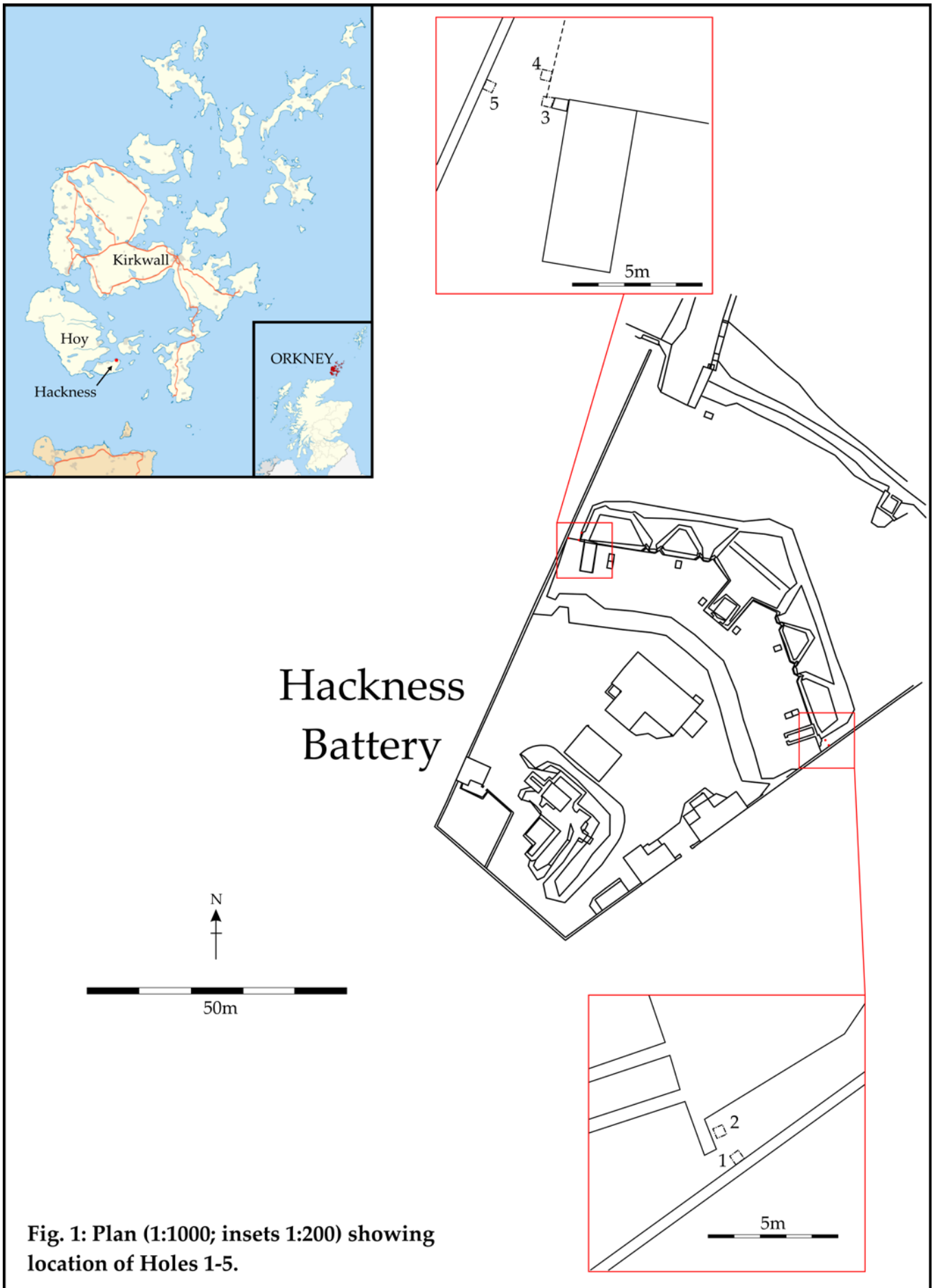
#	Description
401	Max. 100 mm of turf and dark brown silty clay topsoil
402	Rubble/masonry. A mix of angular sandstone fragments and reddish orange, clay brick or pipe fragments.
403	Partially collapsed wall. NW-SE aligned, a maximum width of 420 mm, extends for up to 600 mm from the main emplacement wall, which it abutted.

**Hole 5**

#	Description
501	Max. 100 mm of turf and dark brown silty clay topsoil
502	Rubble/masonry. A mix of angular sandstone fragments and reddish orange, clay brick or pipe fragments.
503	Partially collapsed wall. NW-SE aligned, a maximum width of 420 mm, extends for up to 600 mm from the main emplacement wall, which it abutted.

Files have prefix "hsc0-90211-2011-01\_" followed by number below

#	Description	From	Date
1	Holes 1& 2: general view showing location.	S	23/6/2011
2	Holes 1& 2: general view showing location.	S	23/6/2011
3	Holes 1& 2: general view showing location.	S	23/6/2011
4	Holes 1& 2: general view showing location.	N	23/6/2011
5	Hole 2: exposed wall	E	23/6/2011
6	Hole 2: exposed wall	E	23/6/2011
7	Hole 2: exposed wall	E	23/6/2011
8	Hole 2: exposed wall	E	23/6/2011
9	Hole 2: exposed wall	SE	23/6/2011
10	Hole 2: exposed wall	SE	23/6/2011
11	Hole 2: S facing section	SW	23/6/2011
12	Hole 1: exposed sections	S	23/6/2011
13	Hole 1: exposed sections	S	23/6/2011
14	Finds assemblage from Holes 1& 2	N/A	23/6/2011
15	Finds assemblage from Holes 1& 2	N/A	23/6/2011
16	Finds assemblage from Holes 1& 2	N/A	23/6/2011
17	Hole 3. Exposed masonry	NW	23/6/2011
18	Hole 3: general view showing adjacent wall	W	23/6/2011
19	Hole 3: general view showing adjacent wall	SW	23/6/2011
20	Hole 5: exposed wall	SE	23/6/2011
21	Hole 5: exposed wall	SE	23/6/2011
22	Hole 5: exposed wall	SE	23/6/2011
23	Hole 5: exposed wall	SE	23/6/2011
24	Hole 4: NW facing section	NW	23/6/2011
25	Hole 4: NW facing section	NW	23/6/2011
26	Hole 4: NE facing section	NE	23/6/2011
27	Holes 3, 4& 5: general view showing location.	SW	23/6/2011
28	Holes 3, 4& 5: general view showing location.	NE	23/6/2011



**Fig. 1: Plan (1:1000; insets 1:200) showing location of Holes 1-5.**