

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

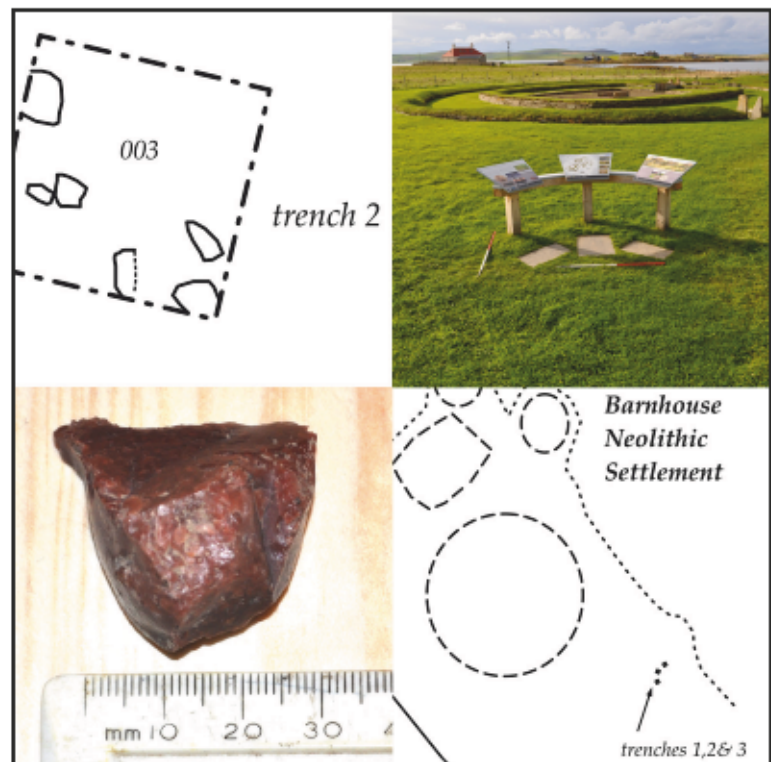
Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Orkney Islands
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Barnhouse Neolithic Settlement
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90352-2009-01
PARISH:	Stenness
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Andrew Hollinrake
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological monitoring of minor excavations
NMRS NO(S):	HY31SW 62
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	SETTLEMENT (NEOLITHIC)
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	HY 3079 1271
START DATE (this season)	25 May 2009
END DATE (this season)	25 May 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained to monitor the excavation of three small holes near Barnhouse Neolithic Settlement, Stenness, Orkney (HY 3079 1271). These holes were required for the installation of a new information board. Below the turf two distinct layers were seen. The uppermost of these layers contained a fragment of red flint while the lower produced a piece of modern china, suggesting that this part of the site had been disturbed relatively recently.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2009

Barnhouse Neolithic Settlement: Archaeological Monitoring, May 2009

HS PIC Index number: 90352
Project code: HSCO-90352-2009-01



22 October 2009
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Barnhouse Neolithic Settlement
<u>N.G.R</u>	HY 3079 1271
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90352-2009-01

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SUMMARY: May 2009 - A watching brief was maintained to monitor the excavation of three small holes near Barnhouse Neolithic Settlement, Stenness, Orkney (HY 3079 1271). These holes were required for the installation of a new information board. Below the turf two distinct layers were seen. The uppermost of these layers contained a fragment of red flint while the lower produced a piece of modern china, suggesting that this part of the site had been disturbed relatively recently.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract Kirkdale Archaeology was asked by Historic Scotland to monitor the excavation of three small holes near Barnhouse Neolithic Settlement, Stenness, Orkney (HY 3079 1271). These holes were required for the installation of a new information board.

The three holes all measured 300 mm deep and were arranged in a 90-degree arc to the SE of the largest building in the settlement, Structure 8.

The work was undertaken on 26 May 2009.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

All three holes were dug to a depth of 300 mm and were 500 x 500 mm in plan, with their nearest corners 400 mm apart.

Under 100 mm of turf and mid to dark brown silty topsoil, 001, was a layer of fairly loose, slightly reddish mid brown silty clay, 002, with occasional charcoal flecks, a few small fragments of sandstone up to 20 x 60 x 120 mm, and a single fragment of red flint. This layer had a thickness of 180 mm and was fully excavated. Below this was a very similar layer, 003, slightly reddish mid brown silty clay although a little more compact than 002 and with more frequent charcoal flecks, and a fragment of modern white glazed china. Also, there were more frequent and larger stones, up to 60 x 80 x 200 mm. Only the uppermost 20 mm of this deposit was excavated and its full thickness was not revealed.

3.0 INTERPRETATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

The presence of a fragment of modern china suggests that this part of the site has been disturbed relatively recently, quite possibly during the excavations carried out on the area in the late 1980s. Also, it is believed that at one time there were huts on or near this spot (pers. comm. HS MCU personnel).

However, the presence of a fragment of red flint may indicate that the deposits seen are redeposited spoil from the excavations here, and the ground here may be an artificial horizon created during the re-landscaping and consolidation work carried out after the excavations.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

#	Description
001	Turf and mid to dark brown silty topsoil, 100 mm deep
002	Fairly loose, slightly reddish mid brown silty clay, occasional charcoal flecks.
003	Fairly loose, slightly reddish mid brown, stony, silty clay, moderately frequent charcoal flecks. Fragment of modern china

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

#	Type	Description	Scale	Date
1	Plan	Location plan	1:500	26/05/2009
2	Plan	Plan of trenches 1, 2& 3	1:20	26/05/2009

A3.0 APPENDIX 3: FINDS REGISTER

Box	Bag	Site code	Material	Quantity	Ctxt	Date
1257	1257-001	HSCO-90352-2009-01	Red flint	1	002	26/05/2009
-	-	HSCO-90352-2009-01	White glazed china (not retained)	1	003	-

A4.0 APPENDIX 4: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Note: Original photographs taken during works were lost due to camera failure. The images listed here were taken after the installation of the information boards.

No	From	Description	Date
1	SE	Information board installed	5/10/2009
2	NW	Information board installed	5/10/2009
3	-	Red flint fragment	21/10/2009
4	-	Red flint fragment	21/10/2009

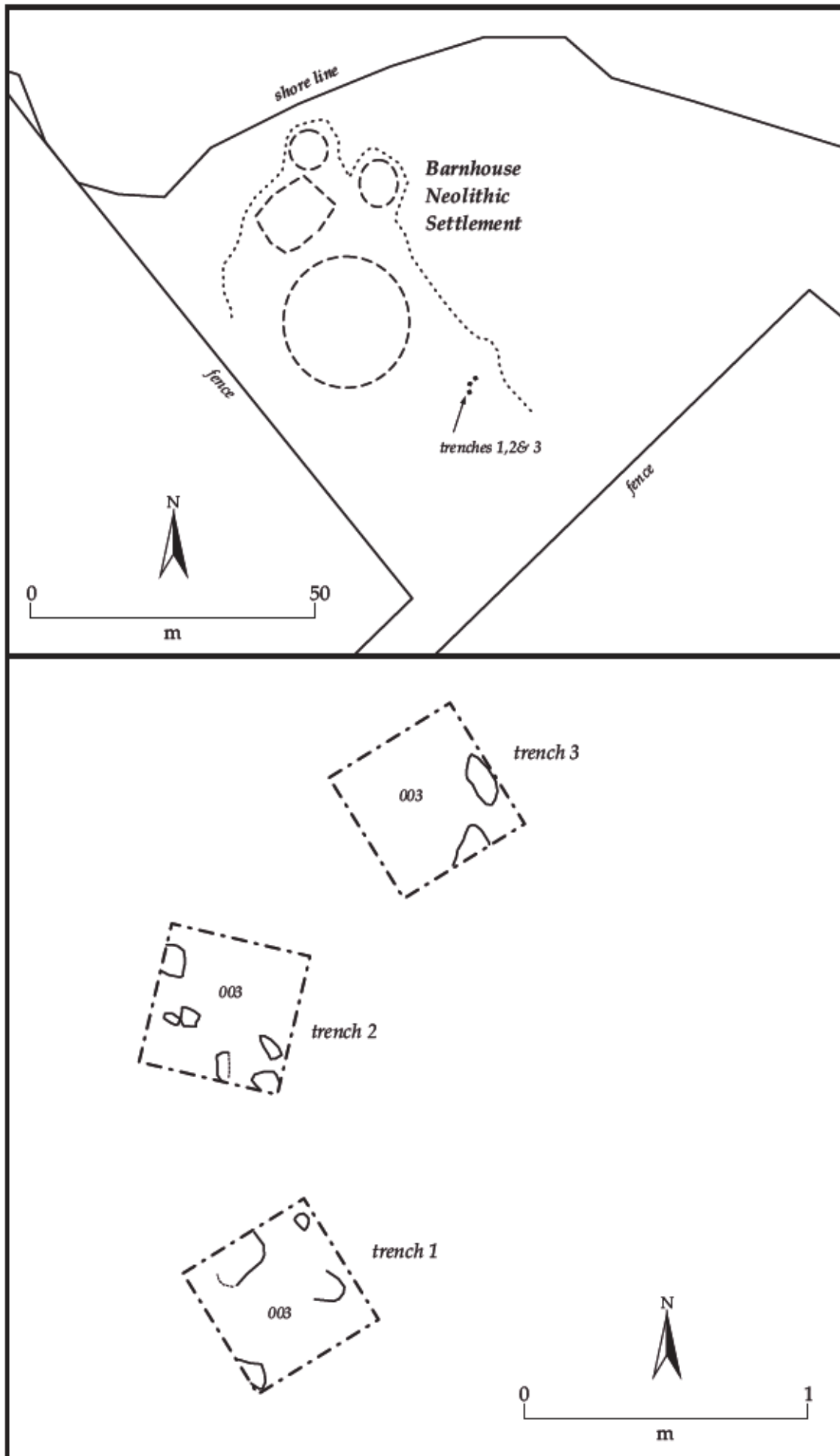


Fig. 1 : Location plan (1:1000) and plan of trenches 1, 2& 3 (1:20)