

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

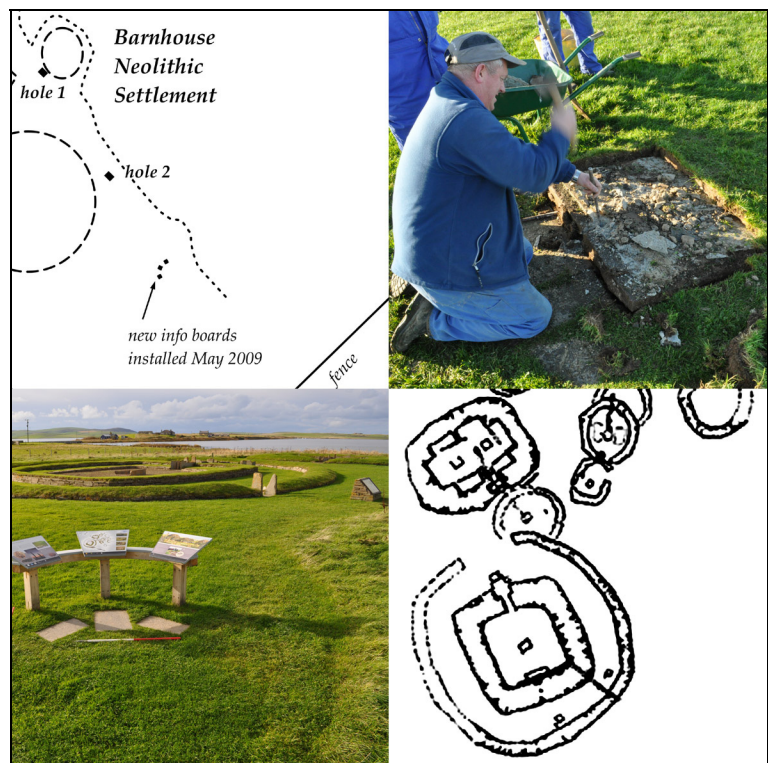
Updated on 15/06/2007

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Orkney Islands
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Barnhouse Neolithic Settlement
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90352-2009-02
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)	5 November 2009
END DATE (this season)	5 November 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was maintained to monitor the removal of two modern stone plinths at Barnhouse Neolithic Settlement, Stenness, Orkney (HY 3079 1271). These had originally been installed to carry information boards, but were now to be dismantled and the resulting holes filled with sand and turf. No new ground was disturbed during these works and there were no finds or features of archaeological significance seen.
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, November 2009

HS PIC Index number: 90352
Project code: HSCO-90352-2009-02



5 November 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-90352-2009-02

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SUMMARY: November 2009 - A watching brief was maintained to monitor the removal of two modern stone plinths at Barnhouse Neolithic Settlement, Stenness, Orkney (HY 3079 1271). These had been installed to carry information boards, but were now to be dismantled and the resulting holes filled with sand and turf. No new ground was disturbed during these works and there were no finds or features of archaeological significance seen.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract Kirkdale Archaeology was asked by Historic Scotland to monitor the removal of two stone plinths at Barnhouse Neolithic Settlement, Stenness, Orkney (HY 3079 1271). These plinths were originally installed to carry information boards, but were to be demolished now after the recent installation of new information boards a little to the south.

The work was undertaken on 4 November 2009.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

The above ground elements of the plinths were removed prior to monitoring. The removal of the remaining courses of local flagstones was then monitored. Both plinths (holes 1& 2, Fig. 1) had two courses of cement bonded stone below ground level, with slabs up to 50 mm thick, separated by a layer of cement and bedded in sand, with a total depth of 130 mm in hole 1, 150 mm in hole 2. Hole 1 measured 700 mm NW-SE by 1.00 m SW-NE; hole 2 was 1.10 m NW-SE by 1.00 m SW-NE. Under the sand was fairly loose, mid to dark reddish brown silty clayey topsoil, none of which was removed. No excavation was carried out beyond the removal of the sand.

3.0 INTERPRETATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

The soil seen below the sand in each hole showed no obvious sign of having been disturbed during the installation of the plinths, although some soil must have been removed beyond the limits of the structures to allow their construction. It seems likely that this area was disturbed during the excavations on the site in the late 1980s. In any case, no new ground was disturbed during the removal of the two

plinths and so it is not surprising that that no finds or features of archaeological significance were seen.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Hole 1

#	Description
101	Plinth. Flagstones up to 50 mm thick bonded with cement.
102	Sand. Bedding layer for plinth. Up to 30 mm thick.
103	Fairly loose, slightly reddish mid brown silty clayey soil.

Hole 2

#	Description
201	Plinth. Flagstones up to 50 mm thick bonded with cement.
202	Sand. Bedding layer for plinth. Up to 30 mm thick.
203	Fairly loose, slightly reddish mid brown silty clayey soil.

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

#	Type	Description	Scale	Date
1	Plan	Location plan	1:1000	4/11/2009

A3.0 APPENDIX 3: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

No	From	Description	Date
1-5	-	Work in progress - removal of plinth, hole 1	4/11/2009
6	SE	Hole 1 after plinth removed	4/11/2009
7	SE	Hole 2 after plinth removed	4/11/2009

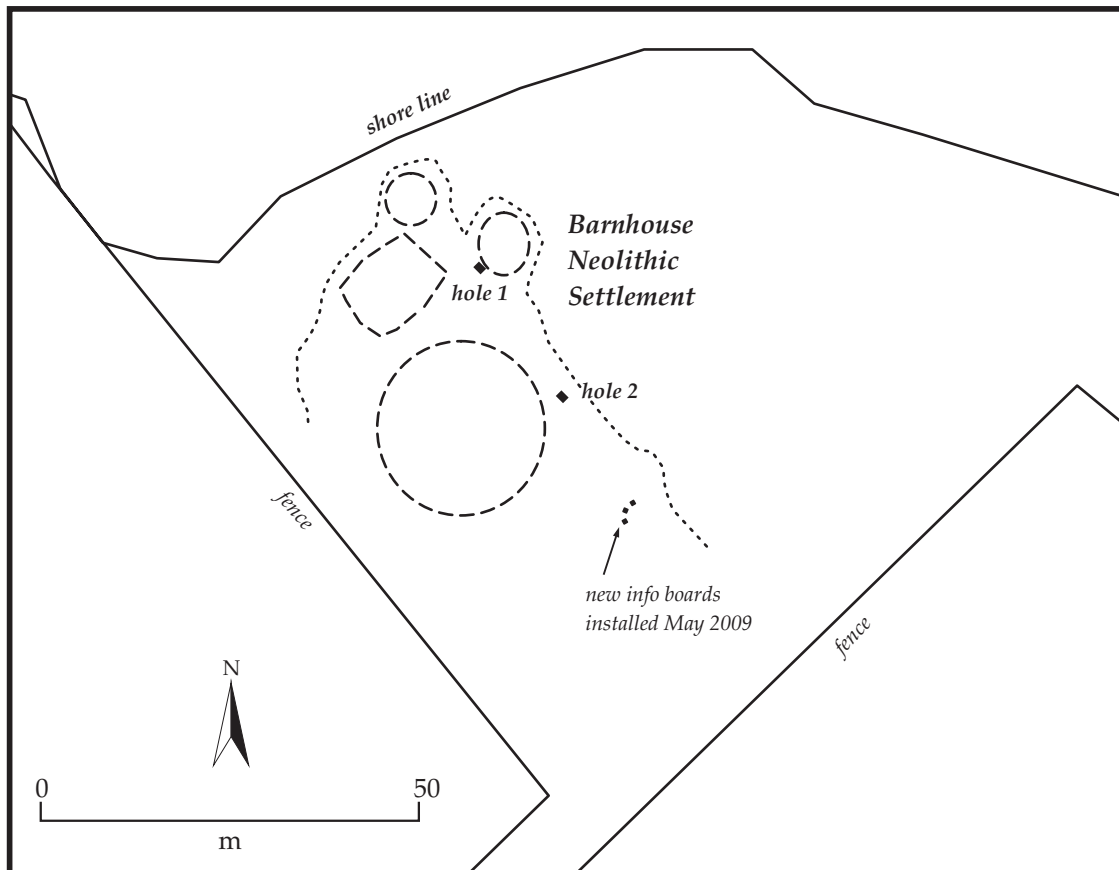


Fig. 1 : Location plan (1:1000)