

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

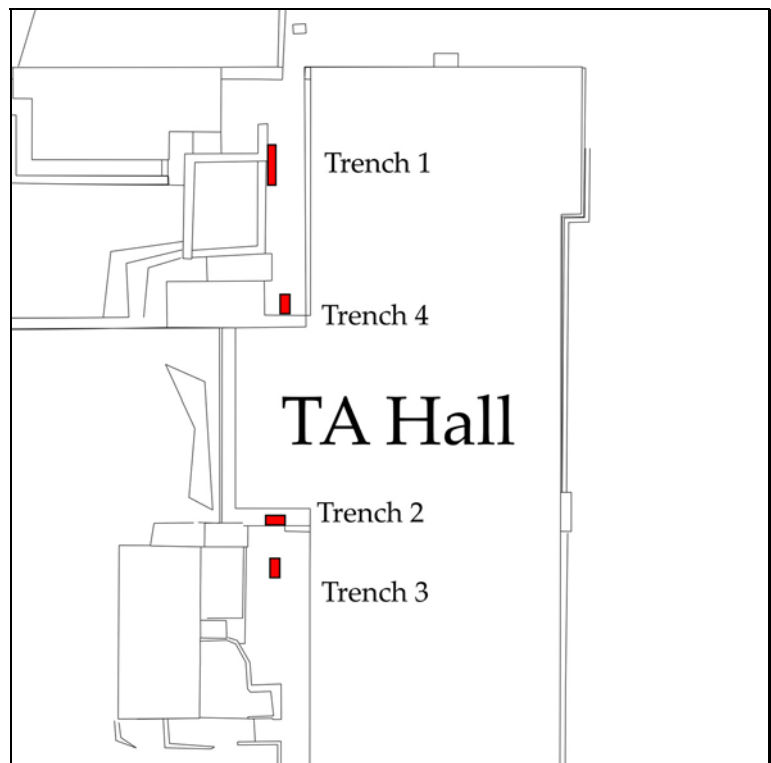
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LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Shetland Islands
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Fort Charlotte
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90145-2009-01
PARISH:	Lerwick
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Andrew Hollinrake
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	HU44SE 3
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Defence/ Military/ Artillery Fortification
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	HU 475 415
START DATE (this season)	28 February 2009
END DATE (this season)	1 March 2009
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<i>A watching brief was carried out during minor excavations at Fort Charlotte. Four small trenches were opened in an attempt to locate a burst water pipe. The break in the pipe was found to be under a wall to the rear (west) of the Territorial Army building, and was therefore inaccessible. Three further trenches were opened to try and trace the pipe supplying this area, the third of which was successful, and the pipe was cut and sealed at this point. Only modern paving slabs and recently disturbed deposits were seen and there were no finds or features of archaeological significance.</i>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
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Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2008-9

Fort Charlotte, Lerwick: Archaeological monitoring, February 2009

HS PIC Index number: 90145
Project code: HSCO-90145-2009-01



25 March 2009
(revised 8 April 2010)
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Fort Charlotte
<u>N.G.R</u>	HU 475 415
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90145-2009-01

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1.0 SUMMARY

February 2009 – A watching brief was carried out during minor excavations at Fort Charlotte. Four small trenches were opened in an attempt to locate a burst water pipe. The break in the pipe was found to be under a wall to the rear (west) of the Territorial Army building, and was therefore inaccessible. Three further trenches were opened to try and trace the pipe supplying this area, the third of which was successful, and the pipe was cut and sealed at this point.

Only modern paving slabs and recently disturbed deposits were seen and there were no finds or features of archaeological significance.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to monitor the excavation of four small trenches at Fort Charlotte, to the rear of the Territorial Army barracks, on the W side of the parade ground.

Water had been seen running from under a wall of potentially earlier date and a trench was opened to try and find the break in the pipe. The break seemed to be under this wall, and it was not possible to excavate further without damaging potentially significant archaeological features. It was then decided to try and locate the pipe supplying this area and three further trenches were opened before it was found, cut and then sealed to stop the supply to the broken pipe.

This work was undertaken on 28 February & 1 March 2009.

3.0 DESCRIPTION

3.1 Trench 1

This trench measured 2.5 m N-S by 0.5 m E-W. Concrete paving slabs were removed and an area of concrete against the wall had to be broken up. This revealed a ceramic drain running out from under the wall, broken level with the wall's E face. The water was running out through this pipe and the break in the water pipe was clearly just under and behind this drain. Excavation could not continue under the wall

without damaging the walls foundations.

3.2 Trench 2

Two concrete slabs were lifted (both 600 mm square) from a raised area on the S side of a small building extending W from the rear of the TA barracks, revealing a layer of sandy soil which was removed to a depth of 300 mm. The pipe was not found here and the slabs were replaced

3.3 Trench 3

Just S of Trench 2, two further slabs were lifted to reveal an area of modern disturbance and levelling deposits 1.2 m N-S by 600 mm E-W. Again, no sign of the pipe and the trench was backfilled.

3.4 Trench 4

This trench was also created by the lifting of two slabs, immediately to the N of a wall dividing the passage behind the TA barracks. This trench measured 1.2 m N-S by 600 mm E-W and revealed more modern levelling and bedding layers, and a water pipe, which was cut and sealed off, thus isolating the pipe in which the break had occurred.

4.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

No finds or features of archaeological significance were disturbed during these works. The cutting of the water supply will probably only be a temporary solution to the problem, and if excavation behind or under the wall is to be avoided, the pipe may have to be located nearer the break so that the supply to this area can be restored.

#	Description	From
1	Trench 1	N
2	Trench 1	N
3	Trench 1	E
4	Trench 1	E
5	Trench 1	S
6	Trench 1	SE
7	Trench 1	SE
8	Trench 1	SE
9	Trench 1	SE
10	Trench 1	SE
11	Trench 1	SE
12	Trench 1	SE
13	Trench 1	SE
14	Trench 1	E
15	Trench 1	E
16	Trench 1	E
17	Trench 1	E
18	Trench 2	S
19	Trench 2	S
20	Trench 2	W
21	Trench 3	W
22	Trench 3	W
23	Trench 3	N
24	Trench 3	SW
25	Trench 4	N
26	Trench 4	N
27	Trench 4	N
28	Trench 4	NW

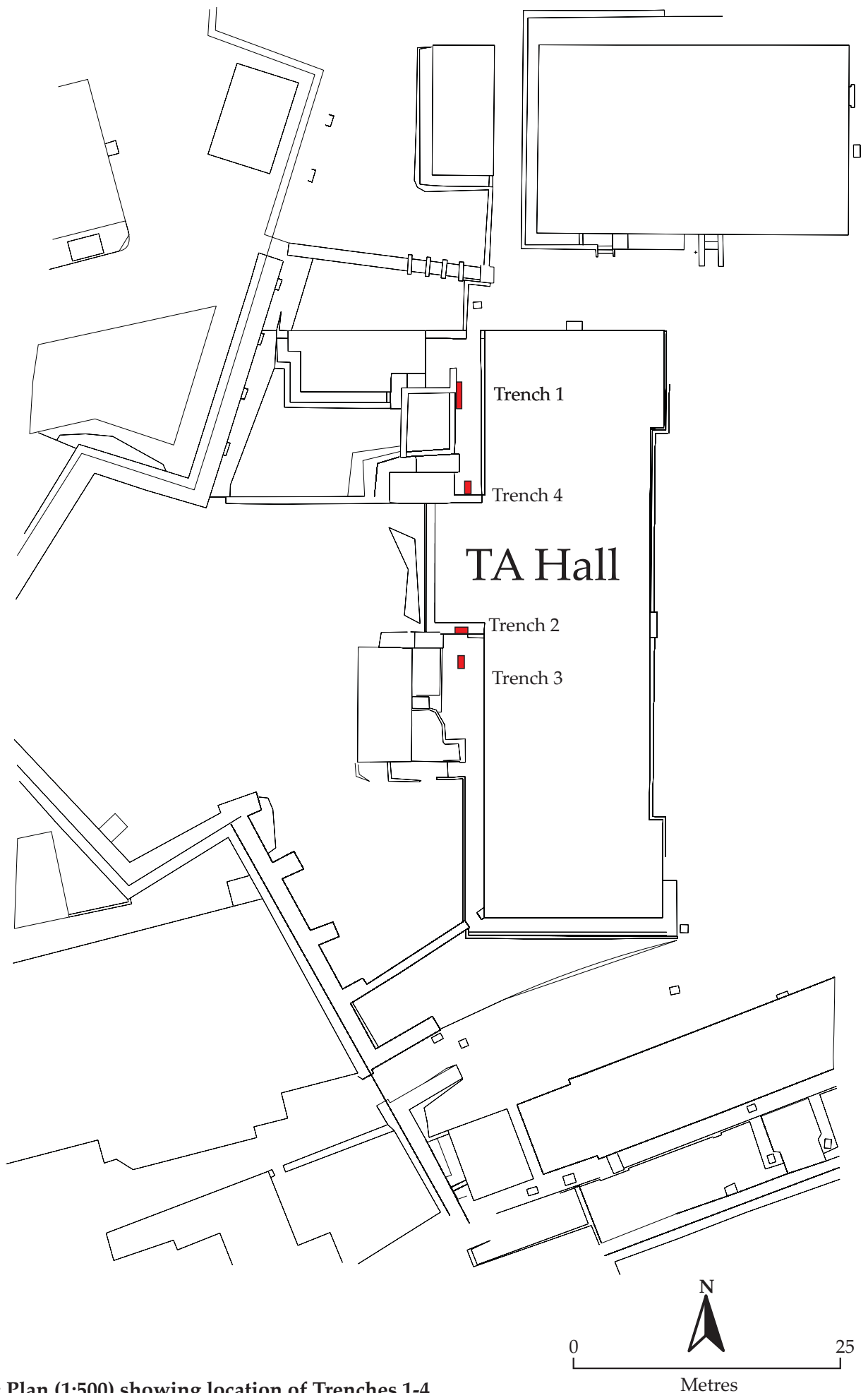


Fig. 1 : Plan (1:500) showing location of Trenches 1-4