

## *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*

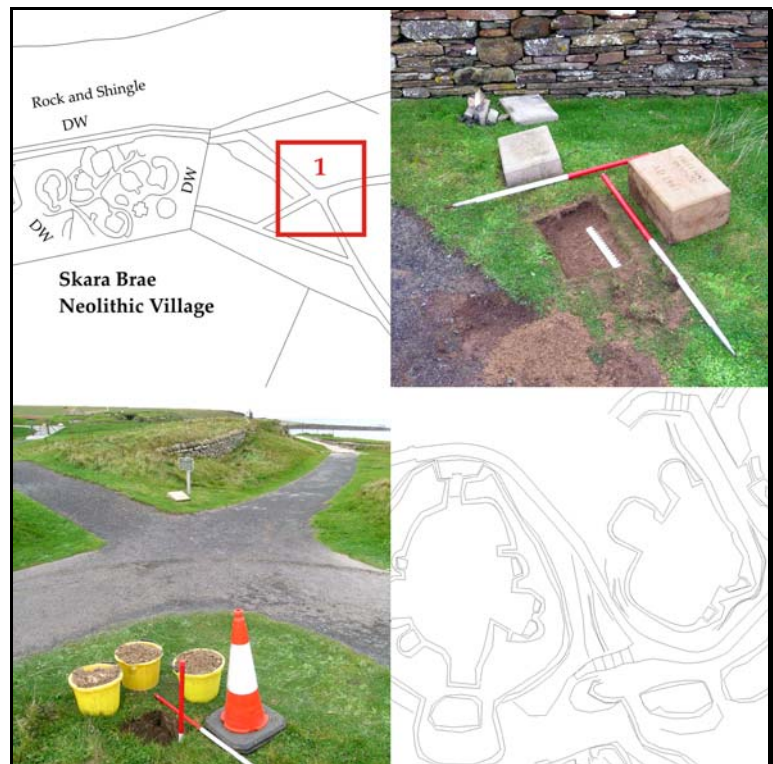
Updated on 15/06/2007

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Orkney Islands
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Skara Brae Neolithic Village
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	HSCO-90276-2008-01
<b>PARISH:</b>	Sandwick
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Andrew Hollinrake
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Kirkdale Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	HY21NW 12.00
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Settlement
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	None
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	HY 2318 1874 & HY 2340 1880
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	6 October 2008
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	6 October 2008
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<i>A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of two small holes near Skara Brae Neolithic Village. The first was for the relocation of a sign next to the access path near the village, while the second was for the placement of a new stone in the 'Timeline', at the end of the path nearest the visitor centre. Only turf, topsoil and underlying sand were disturbed and there were no finds or features of archaeological significance.</i>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Historic Scotland
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

Historic Scotland  
Properties in Care  
Minor Archaeological Works 2008

# Skara Brae Neolithic Village: Archaeological monitoring of minor excavations, October 2008

HS PIC Index number: 90276  
Project code: HSCO-90276-2008-01



10 October 2008  
Kirkdale Archaeology

<b><u>Site</u></b>	Skara Brae Neolithic Village
<b><u>N.G.R</u></b>	HY 2318 1874 & HY 2340 1880
<b><u>Project Description</u></b>	Archaeological monitoring of minor excavations
<b><u>Project code</u></b>	HSCO-90276-2008-01

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## **SUMMARY**

*A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of two small holes near Skara Brae Neolithic Village. The first was for the relocation of a sign next to the access path near the village, while the second was for the placement of a new stone in the 'Timeline', at the end of the path nearest the visitor centre. Only turf, topsoil and underlying sand were disturbed and there were no finds or features of archaeological significance.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake a watching brief during the excavation of two holes near Skara Brae Neolithic Village. The first was next to a junction of access paths just E of the village for the insertion of a new sign to guide visitors leaving the site towards Skaill House. The second was a very shallow hole to accommodate a new stone in the 'Timeline', a series of inscribed sandstone blocks running along the side of the path from the visitor centre to the site. This new stone was to be placed at the far E end of the path, near the visitor centre.

The work was undertaken on 6 October 2008.

## **2.0 EXCAVATION ACCOUNT**

### **2.1 Trench 1 – new hole for sign (HY 2318 1874)**

This hole was located on grass by a crossroads of paths near the E end of the village. It measured 350 x 350 mm in plan and was 600 mm deep. The removal of 180 mm of turf and sandy topsoil, **100**, revealed **101**, a deposit of clean, windblown sand, which was not bottomed. There were no finds.

### **2.1 Trench 2 – hole for Timeline stone (HY 2340 1880)**

This hole was dug on the W side of the path just N of the gate through the dry stone dyke which forms an enclosed area around the visitor centre. The hole was placed 270 mm N of the first stone in the Timeline, and 200 mm from the path's edge. It measured 300 x 240 mm and was 170 mm deep. 120 mm of turf and sandy topsoil, **201**, was removed, under which clean, windblown sand, **202**, was seen, but not

bottomed. There were no finds.

### **3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS**

These works did not reveal anything other than turf, topsoil and windblown sand, and no deposits, finds or structures of archaeological significance were encountered or disturbed.

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

<b>Trench 1</b>	
<b>101</b>	Turf and topsoil
<b>102</b>	Sand

<b>Trench 2</b>	
<b>201</b>	Turf and topsoil
<b>202</b>	Sand

**A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS**

No	Type	Trench	Description	Scale	Date
1	Plan	1	Location drawing	1:250	6/10/08

**A3.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

#	Description	From	Date
1	Trench 2 completed	N	6/10/08
2	Trench 2 completed showing location	NW	6/10/08
3	New stone in place	N	6/10/08
4	Trench 1 completed	SE	6/10/08
5	Trench 1 completed	SE	6/10/08
6	Trench 1 completed showing location	SE	6/10/08

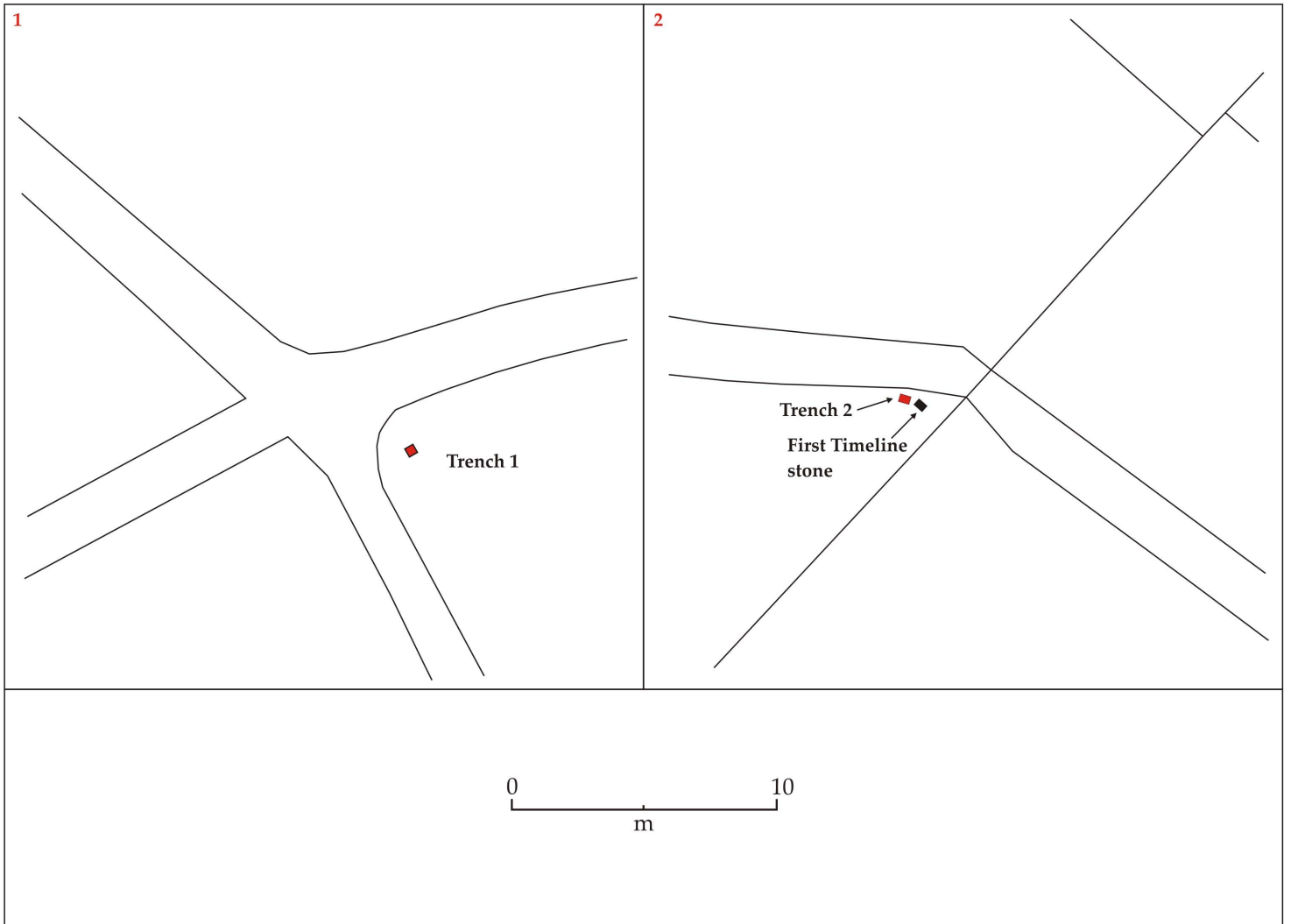
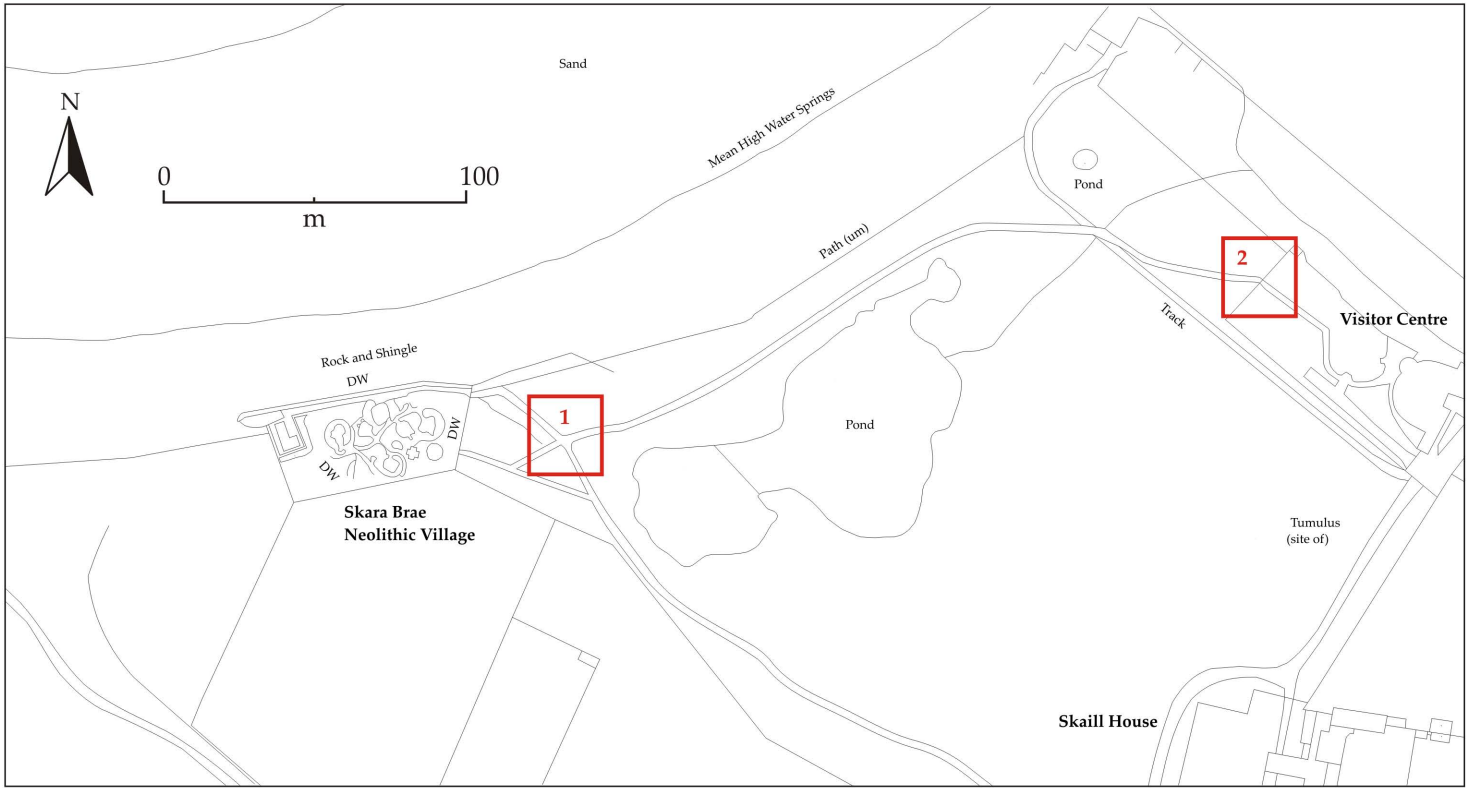


Fig. 1 : Location plan