

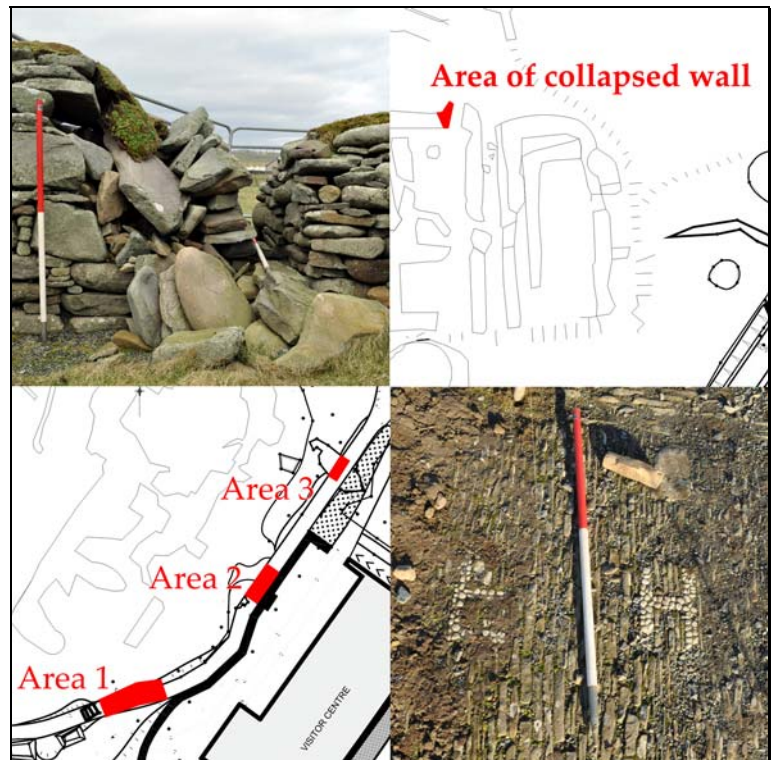
Discovery and Excavation in Scotland – OASIS-type Form (2006)

| | |
|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | Shetland Islands |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Jarlshof |
| PROJECT CODE: | HSCO-90174-2010-01 |
| PARISH: | DUNROSSNESS |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Andrew Hollinrake |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | Kirkdale Archaeology |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Watching brief |
| NMRS NO(S): | HU30NE 1.00; HU30NE 1.02 |
| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | BROCH, SETTLEMENT, LAIRD'S HOUSE |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS: | None |
| NGR (2 letters, 6 figures) | Centred c HU 398 095 |
| START DATE (this season) | 8 February 2010 |
| END DATE (this season) | 9 February 2010 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.) | |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | <p>Minor excavations were carried out at Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement, Shetland, in February 2010.</p> <p>A small area of drystone wall had collapsed, towards the north end of what are thought to be medieval structures to the northeast of the 'Old House'. This collapse had been recorded on a previous visit. In this latest work, the collapsed masonry was removed along with a few unstable stones still in situ and the exposed wall core recorded photographically. The wall was subsequently reconstructed using the same stone, keeping as close as possible to the original construction, with reference to archival photographs.</p> <p>In addition, the removal of stones and a narrow strip of turf from three small areas of the 'cobbled' path were monitored. This removal was to allow the replacement of the stone laid path with whin dust.</p> <p>There were no finds or features of archaeological significance revealed during these works.</p> |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | |
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| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited) | Archive to be deposited in NMRS |

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2010

Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement: Archaeological monitoring, February 2010

HS PIC Index number: 90174
Project codes: HSCO-90174-2010-01



26 March 2010
Kirkdale Archaeology

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <u>Site</u> | Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement |
| <u>N.G.R</u> | HU 398 095 |
| <u>Project Description</u> | Archaeological monitoring |
| <u>Project codes</u> | HSCO-90174-2010-01 |

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SUMMARY

Minor excavations were carried out at Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement, Shetland, in February 2010.

A small area of drystone wall had collapsed, towards the north end of what are thought to be medieval structures to the northeast of the 'Old House'. This collapse had been recorded on a previous visit. In this latest work, the collapsed masonry was removed along with a few unstable stones still in situ and the exposed wall core recorded photographically. The wall was subsequently reconstructed using the same stone, keeping as close as possible to the original construction, with reference to archival photographs.

In addition, the removal of stones and a narrow strip of turf from three small areas of the 'cobbled' path were monitored. This removal was to allow the replacement of the stone laid path with whin dust.

There were no finds or features of archaeological significance revealed during these works.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake a watching brief during minor excavations and remedial work at Jarlshof Prehistoric and Norse Settlement, Shetland.

Prior to these works a small area of drystone wall had collapsed, towards the north end of what are thought to be medieval structures to the northeast of the 'Old House'. A brief examination and photographic record of the affected area was undertaken in 2009. In this latest work, the collapsed masonry was removed along with a few unstable stones still in situ and the exposed wall core recorded photographically. The wall was subsequently reconstructed using the same stone, keeping as close as possible to the original construction, with reference to archival photographs.

The removal of stones and a narrow strip of turf from three small areas of the 'cobbled' path, all near the visitor centre, were monitored. This removal was to allow the replacement of the stone laid path with whin dust.

The work was carried out on 8 & 9 February 2010.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

2.1 Collapsed wall

The area of collapse was on the W side of a narrow entrance at the N end of one of the long, narrow structures of medieval or later date to the NE of the site. The full width of the wall was affected and had mostly slipped away from the wall to the W. This area of wall had a maximum height of 1.50 m, and was up to 900 mm thick. It was of drystone construction, randomly coursed with a wide variety of stone types and sizes, but mostly angular and sub-angular sandstone slabs and blocks up to 100 x 500 x 600 mm, with occasional water-rounded stones up to 150 x 300 x 500 mm.

The wall on the E side of the passage was unaffected by this collapse, but stood at a maximum height of 750 mm.

The area of collapse had deteriorated since the previous visit in February 2009. The loose and fallen stones were removed to reveal the wall core. This revealed an entirely drystone construction, although the voids had filled with sandy, peaty soil containing occasional fragments of animal bone and shell, all of which had presumably been washed in to and fallen through the wall from the layer of turf on the wellhead.

The extent of the collapse was restricted mostly to the main E-W aligned wall, but a low wall running N from the E end of this wall, just a few courses high, had partially collapsed. Included in this part of the wall was a substantial flat slab, originally set vertically, which had fallen across the aperture to the E. This was the first stone to be re-set in the wall's reconstruction, and since its original position was easily determined, when it had been restored to vertical its alignment was used to guide the alignment of the remaining wall to the S. This helped to ensure the newly reconstructed wall matched the original construction as closely as possible, with guidance also from reference to archival photographs.

2.2 Removal of stones from 'cobbled' path

2.2.1 Area 1

Stones were removed from an area c 1.0 m wide by 3.10 m SW-NE of the path just NW of the recently constructed wall near the NW corner of the visitor centre. The

stones from the main body of the path measured, on average, 40 x 120 x 150 mm, while the edging stones removed were up to 70 x 250 x 300 mm, averaging 50 x 180 x 250 mm.

Under the stones was a layer of yellow bedding sand mixed with dark brown peaty soil. This layer was not excavated.

A small strip of turf was also removed in this area, just W of the path, to allow the new path alignment to take a straighter course. The area removed was 2.10 m SW-NE and up to 350 mm wide with a maximum depth of 160 mm, revealing only loose, dark brown, peaty soil which was not excavated.

2.2.2 *Area 2*

Stones were removed from an area c 1.0 m wide by up to 2.45 m SW-NE at the lowest point of the path just below and to the W of the site of a new information panel just W of the visitor centre. The stones from the main body of the path measured, on average, 40 x 100 x 120 mm, while the edging stones removed were up to 70 x 250 x 300 mm, averaging 50 x 180 x 250 mm.

Under the stones was a layer of yellow bedding sand mixed with dark brown peaty soil. This layer was not excavated.

2.2.3 *Area 3*

Stones were removed from an area of path c 600 mm wide by up to 1.35 m N-S, c 3.55 m N of the newly installed wall to the W of the visitor centre. The stones from the main body of the path were much smaller than those seen in the other two areas and measured, on average, 12 x 100 x 100 mm. These stones included white quartzite stones set amongst the sandstone slabs, creating the letters 'EH'.

Under the stones was a layer of yellow bedding sand mixed with dark brown peaty soil. This layer was not excavated.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

The reconstruction of the area of collapsed wall restored this area to its former alignment as closely as was practically possible, although it should be noted that no

detailed record was made prior to the collapse and the archival photographs used were mostly taken from an oblique angle and were not sufficiently detailed to allow an exact 'stone by stone' rebuild. Furthermore, it is quite likely that this area had been remodelled after it had been excavated in order to stabilise the wall and so the alignment and construction seen before the collapse does not necessarily closely represent the original medieval build.

There were no finds or features of significance encountered during the removal of stone from the path and the lifting of turf nearby. The soily bedding sand revealed may directly overlie prehistoric horizons, although it seems more likely that it sits on further made up ground or ground disturbed during major archaeological excavations on the site.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: DRAWING REGISTER

| No | Type | Description | Scale | Date |
|----|------|------------------|-------|----------|
| 1 | Plan | Location drawing | 1:500 | 9/2/2010 |

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

hsc0-90174-2010-01-

| # | Description | From | Date |
|-----|---------------------------------------|------|----------|
| 001 | Area of collapsed wall before rebuild | S | 8/2/2010 |
| 002 | Area of collapsed wall before rebuild | S | 8/2/2010 |
| 003 | Area of collapsed wall before rebuild | S | 8/2/2010 |
| 004 | Area of collapsed wall before rebuild | SE | 8/2/2010 |
| 005 | Area of collapsed wall before rebuild | E | 8/2/2010 |
| 006 | Area of collapsed wall before rebuild | E | 8/2/2010 |
| 007 | Area of collapsed wall before rebuild | NE | 8/2/2010 |
| 008 | Area of collapsed wall before rebuild | NE | 8/2/2010 |
| 009 | Area of collapsed wall before rebuild | N | 8/2/2010 |
| 010 | Area of collapsed wall before rebuild | N | 8/2/2010 |
| 011 | Area of collapsed wall before rebuild | E | 8/2/2010 |
| 012 | Area of collapsed wall before rebuild | E | 8/2/2010 |
| 013 | Removal of stone, work in progress | S | 8/2/2010 |
| 014 | Wall after stone removed | E | 8/2/2010 |
| 015 | Wall after stone removed | E | 8/2/2010 |
| 016 | Wall after stone removed | E | 8/2/2010 |
| 017 | Wall after stone removed | E | 8/2/2010 |
| 018 | Wall after stone removed | SE | 8/2/2010 |
| 019 | Wall after stone removed | SE | 8/2/2010 |
| 020 | Wall after stone removed | SE | 8/2/2010 |
| 021 | Wall after stone removed | NE | 8/2/2010 |

| # | Description | From | Date |
|-----|---|------|----------|
| 022 | Wall after stone removed | NE | 8/2/2010 |
| 023 | Wall after stone removed | N | 8/2/2010 |
| 024 | Wall after stone removed | W | 8/2/2010 |
| 025 | Area 1 before excavation | SW | 8/2/2010 |
| 026 | Area 1 before excavation | NE | 8/2/2010 |
| 027 | Area 1 before excavation | W | 8/2/2010 |
| 028 | Area 1 (N end) after excavation and partial laying of whin dust | SW | 8/2/2010 |
| 029 | Area 1 after excavation and partial laying of whin dust | S | 8/2/2010 |
| 030 | Area 1 after excavation and partial laying of whin dust | S | 8/2/2010 |
| 031 | Area 1 (N end) after excavation and partial laying of whin dust | SW | 8/2/2010 |
| 032 | Reconstruction of collapsed wall, work in progress | SE | 8/2/2010 |
| 033 | Reconstruction of collapsed wall, work in progress | E | 8/2/2010 |
| 034 | Reconstruction of collapsed wall, work in progress | NE | 8/2/2010 |
| 035 | Reconstruction of collapsed wall, work in progress | NE | 8/2/2010 |
| 036 | Reconstruction of collapsed wall, work in progress | N | 8/2/2010 |
| 037 | Reconstruction of collapsed wall, work in progress | SW | 8/2/2010 |
| 038 | General view looking towards 'Old House' | NE | 8/2/2010 |
| 039 | General view looking towards 'Old House' | NE | 8/2/2010 |
| 040 | Area 2 before excavation | S | 8/2/2010 |
| 041 | Area 2 before excavation | S | 8/2/2010 |
| 042 | Area 2 before excavation | S | 8/2/2010 |
| 043 | Area 2 before excavation | S | 8/2/2010 |
| 044 | Area 2 before excavation | N | 8/2/2010 |
| 045 | Area 2 before excavation | N | 8/2/2010 |
| 046 | Area 2 before excavation | N | 8/2/2010 |

| # | Description | From | Date |
|-----|--------------------------------|------|----------|
| 047 | Area 2 before excavation | W | 8/2/2010 |
| 048 | Area 3 before excavation | S | 8/2/2010 |
| 049 | Area 3 before excavation | NW | 8/2/2010 |
| 050 | Area 3 before excavation | S | 8/2/2010 |
| 051 | Area 3 before excavation | S | 8/2/2010 |
| 052 | Area 2 after excavation | W | 8/2/2010 |
| 053 | Area 2 after excavation | W | 8/2/2010 |
| 054 | Area 2 after excavation | SW | 8/2/2010 |
| 055 | Area 2 after excavation | N | 8/2/2010 |
| 056 | General view, work in progress | SE | 8/2/2010 |

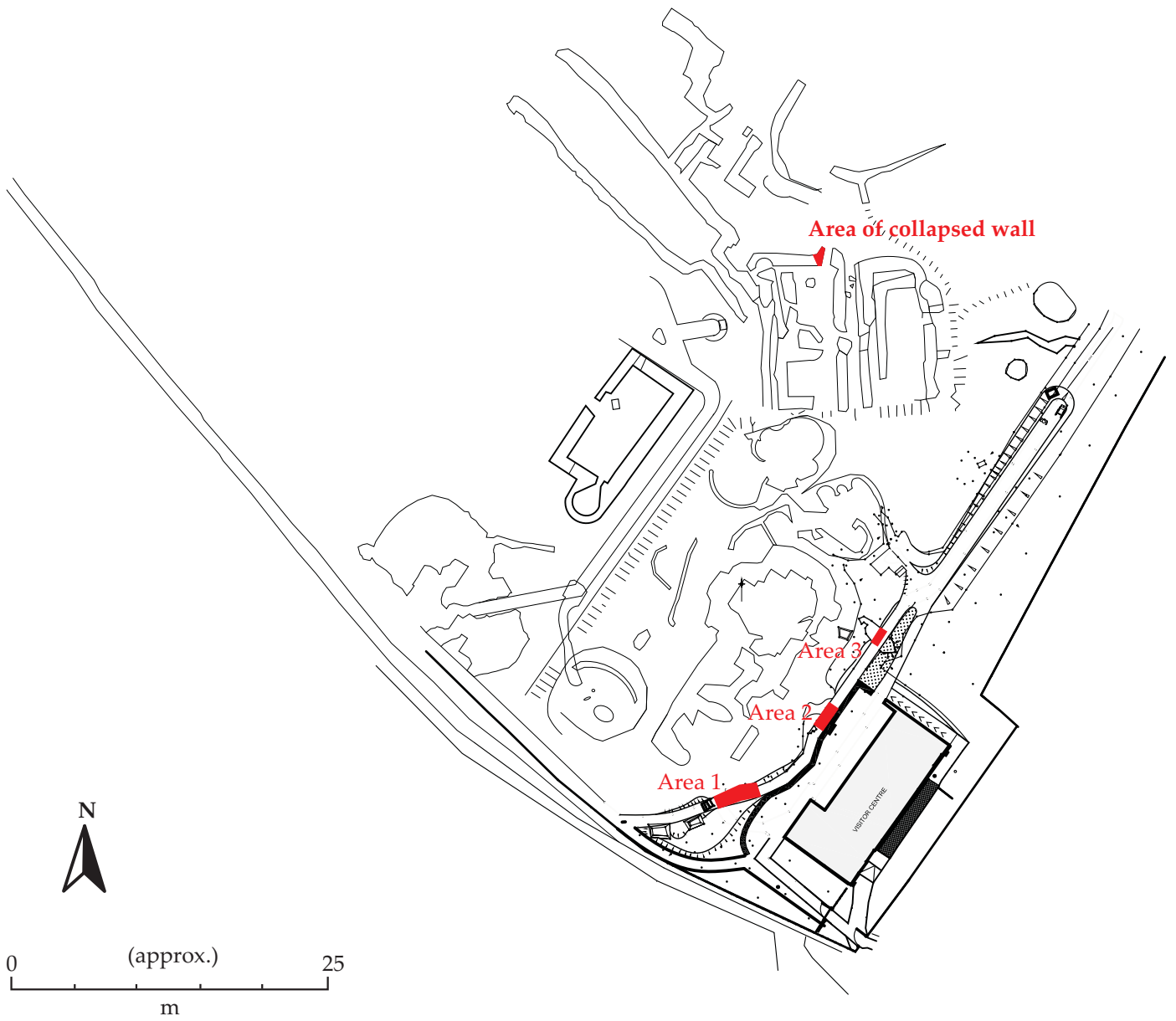


Fig. 1 : Plan showing location of works