

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry (2005)

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Orkney Islands
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Quoygrew-Nether Trenabie
PROJECT CODE:	QG05
PARISH:	Westray
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	James Barrett, James Gerrard & Jen Harland
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	University of York
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Excavation
NMRS NO(S):	HY45SW 4
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Late Viking Age and medieval buildings
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	Antler combs, Eidsborg hones, weaving batten
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	HY 443 506
START DATE (this season)	4 July 05
END DATE (this season)	12 August 05
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	DES 1997, 61; DES 2000, 69-70; DES 2001, 73; DES 2002, 89-90; DES 2004, 97-98
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p>2005 saw the final season of excavation in Area F near the eroding shoreline. Work focused on completing the excavation of structure 3 (part of a medieval sequence of end-on-end buildings including structures 1 and 2) and structure 5 (an underlying house newly discovered in 2004).</p> <p>Structure 3 was a room with original internal dimensions of 4.9m x 7.9m and dry-stone walls c.1m thick. On exposure of its primary phase, it proved to be a byre built together with structure 1, probably around AD 1200.</p> <p>Under this byre was an earlier house on a different alignment (structure 5). It had internal dimensions of 3.9m x >8.5m and drystone walls c.1m thick. The long walls were very slightly curved and the eastern gable significantly bowed. The western gable was obscured by the end of structure 3 (the walls of which were left <i>in situ</i> for public display), but the house could not have been more than 10m long in total. The remains of structure 5 may represent a stone platform for a turf superstructure as there was no stone demolition material between it and the immediately overlying structure 3.</p> <p>Structure 5 produced three recognisable phases of internal organisation, during which the main doorway moved from the centre of the southern wall to the south-east corner. The internal use of space followed the Icelandic pattern of slightly raised side aisles, demarcated by edge-set stones in this instance. The earth floors were aceramic, but yielded sherds of steatite vessels, antler combs, a piece of a weaving batten, fishing weights, a fishhook and hones of Eidsborg schist (Geoff Gaunt pers comm.). Based on the combs (Steve Ashby pers comm.), radiocarbon dates from adjacent middens and finds from the overlying stratigraphy this house is likely to be of 11th-12th century date. The 12th century is most probable if the putative turf walls were not subjected to regular repair.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Consolidation of site for public display
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	The superimposed walls of structures 3 (above) and 5 (below) at Quoygrew-Nether Trenabie

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland Entry (2005)

SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Heritage Lottery Fund, Orkney Islands Council, Historic Scotland, University of York
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Dept. of Archaeology, The King's Manor, University of York, York, YO1 7EP
EMAIL ADDRESS:	jhb5@york.ac.uk
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	RCAHMS (intended)



Quoygrew-Nether Trenabie. The superimposed walls of structures 3 (above) and 5 (below)