



The Croft Museum at South Voe, South Mainland

Shetland – the Border of Farming 4000-3000 BC

Report 2011

Ditlev L. Mahler



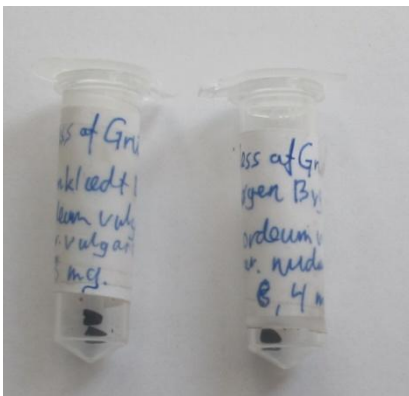
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2011 – An over view

2011 was a very busy year for the project “Shetland – the Border of Farming 4000-3000 BC” with a purchase of expensive equipment, planning the fieldwork activity, participating into two conferences, six weeks of fieldwork and hosting the network conference. With 2011, 2 of the 3 years of the project are gone and in principle the project should now be able to pin point some of the major results, which shall be the basis for the final publication in 2012. Most of the data has been collected, but most of the data in connection with mapping the different sites are not yet processed – a work that will be a main task of the first half of the year 2012.

During the beginning of 2011 I discovered that C.S.T. Calder back in 1952 had submitted an ample sample of barley from Ness of Gruting. The sample was still in the possession of the National Museum of Denmark together with the correspondence between Curator Stevenson from the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland and the botanist Hans Helbæk, who determined the sample.



Two grains of barley from Ness of Gruting submitted for ^{14}C dating.

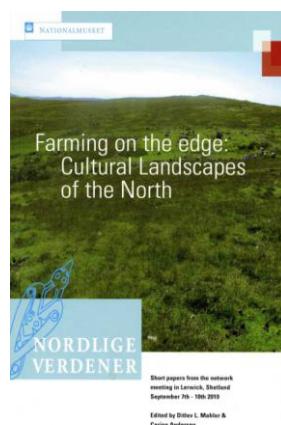
It was decided to take contact to the National Museum of Scotland hearing whether I could take out a sample or two for ^{14}C dating and whether The National Museum could take out a sample for comparative use before returning the rest of the original sample of barley grains. Dr Alison Sheridan very kindly allowed this and during March 21st to 25th I went to Edinburgh returning the sample. Dr Sheridan very kindly showed me the Museum Stores showing me the felsit knives and axes from Shetland besides the material from Ness of Gruting. I thus invited Dr Sheridan to participate in the Shetland network, in which she agreed. The two dates (AAR 15646 and 47) give a date between 2200 to 1980 cal BC.

During April 26th - 29th I participated in the XI Nordic TAG “Multidisciplinary archaeology” conference at Linnaeus University, Kalmar, Sweden. At the session the Early Neolithic in Britain and South Sweden I gave the paper “Shetland – the Border of Farming 4000-3000 BC. Features of the Neolithic Period on Shetland”. The paper is going to be published in a modified version under the title “Shetland – the Border of Farming 4000-3000 BC. Peopling and Empty Area?” The paper deals with the demographic models, and it is still unknown where the paper shall be published.

Primo 2011 I was invited to a network meeting in Tanum, Underslös, Bohuslän, Sweden especially concerning the agrarian expansion during the Neolithic Period and Bronze Age in Scandinavia. The meeting was part of an imitative under Northern Worlds and was held in Scandinavian languages, and I gave a paper called “Islands far out into the Sea. Shetland – the Border of Farming 4000-3000”. The paper is going to be published during spring 2012 in the Northern World Series.

During June the first network report was published with the title “Farming on the Edge: Cultural Landscapes of the North” and contains seven short papers edited by the author and Carina Andersen. The first network meeting was held back in September 2010. The report was published in a limited number, and may be downloaded from the Northern Worlds homepage at the address:

http://nordligeverdener.natmus.dk/fileadmin/site_upload/nordlige_verdener/pdf/Farming_on_the_edge_rapport_web.pdf





The author and Mass Hoydal at the museum in Lerwick

The field work during 2011 took place from June 15th to July 17th where more than 12 sites were surveyed and six sites were mapped with precision GPS operated by the assistant, curator Mass Hoydal. Some of the sites will be described or mentioned in the following.

Also the network meeting, which took place in Lerwick during September 5th to September 9th shall be more closely mentioned below. Here I will restrict myself by mentioning the extension of the network during 2011 with Gabriel Cooney and Will Megarry from Dublin University, Lauren Daughton from the University of Manchester and Alison Sheridan from the National Museum of Scotland.

The project *Shetland – the Border of Farming 4000-3000 BC* is funded by the Augustinus Foundation

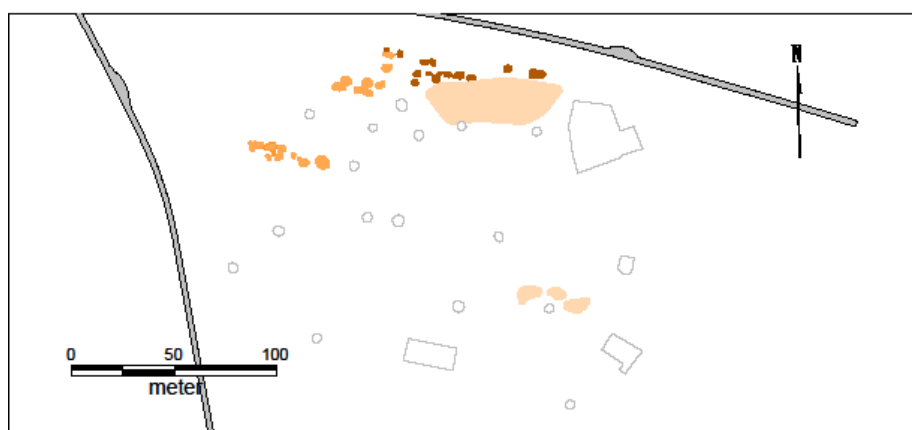
Brunt Hill



Brunt Hill seen from the East. The red flags mark some of the shallow pits

It was decided that the field work 2011 should begin at Brunt Hill, West Mainland. The site is a sand stone quarry and it was supposed it could be a quarry for stone ard points, which are well known during the Neolithic and later prehistoric periods. During the days at the site in 2011 it became clear that the 19th Century ruined farmstead nearby had seriously disturbed the possible prehistoric quarries.

These look like shallow pits (dark brown on the drawing) with debris from the production of rough outs. It became clear that the deep pits must be of recent date, and there are at least 17 krobbs (grey circles) and four pens at Brunt Hill, and the material for these structures had been quarried at the site (light brown). Only 12 shallow pits of prehistoric nature have survived until today.



Mapped and processed by M. Hoydal

Stanydale



One of the five cairns above Stanydale Village.

At Stanydale we mapped more than $3 \times 1 \text{ km}^2$ and several hitherto unknown structures were discovered. The reason for this is the supposed ritual character of the Stanydale Hall, and whether it is possible to link the hall to a ritual landscape stretching from the Stanydale Village to Lardie Hill. There are at least three cairns up on Hamars to the west of the hall and five north of Stanydale Village North of the hall. To the North of some of these cairns there are traces of orthostats, all of them are now fallen. Up at Lardie Hill there are some hundred meters of a border dyke just 50 m below the two cairns on the top of the hill. It seems that the dyke separates the land of the living from the land of the dead, and there is a parallel to this phenomenon in connection with the famous cairn at Vementry. The Stanydale area contains at least six house

structures beside the hall, and the many dykes give a hint about a possible relative chronology. At Stanydale there are at least four house structures which are likely to be older than the hall. One lonely structure not far to the West of the hall, which probably is the oldest site, and three house structures to the North of the hall bound together by dykes. There



The border dyke at Lardie Hill can be seen in the middle of the picture as a line of protruding stones.

are also known house structures to the South which will not be further mentioned here. The single house structure and the three bound together by dykes – and two round field systems - are interesting parallels to the suggested relative chronology at Pinhoulland.

Pinhoulland



Pinhoulland seen from Browland East of the Voe.

In all 68.000 m² were mapped and surveys show up to 20 structures most of them presumable house structures, besides many dykes and clearance cairns. The many clearance cairns indicate that the area must have been intensively farmed either for grazing or for producing crops, presumably barley. Many of the cairns measure several meters in diameter.

Most of the house structures are rather clear, and in at least two cases it is possible to distinguishing several phases. House 1 has been rebuilt at least once but has kept the same entrance towards the South or South East. The small house 6 which measures about 6.5 m internally has been built upon an older and larger structure measuring about 10.5 m in length. Structure 11 could very well be the remains of an older house site. On the other hand, the relationship between structure 5 and 8 is unclear. We could be facing two house structures as is

the case with house 6 and 11. What is talking against it is that both structures consist of rather large stones tumbled together.

Structure 4 could be a pen built on to the dyke running towards the Loch of Grunnavoe, but the two other structures are more likely to be house sites. Structure 4 could even be of much younger date. The structures 3, 4, 5, 8 and 19 are all high lying with a wide view over the Voe of Browland to the East and over the Loch of Grunnavoe to the South West, and this could indicate that one or more of the structures in fact are the remains of very dilapidated burial cairns.

House 10 lies beneath a krobb and is rather dilapidated because of being robbed of stones; the same goes for structure 12, but both 10 and 12 are likely to be house structures. In front of house 12, to the North West, there is an orthostat (standing stone); one of the two orthostats at Pinhoulland. One of the most central house structures, is house 9 as the connected dykes bind many of the other structures together with house 9, and the dykes could have a chronological implications.



The site seen from the Northwest. To the left of the center the cluster of house structures can be seen

The question mark South of house 1 marks an oval structure measuring c. 8 m in diameter and with protruding stones indicating that the small mound must be manmade and may be covering a house structure. There are traces of a cluster of houses East of the mound and somewhat lower down the slope surrounded by dykes and two banks. Five of the houses are built together, and at

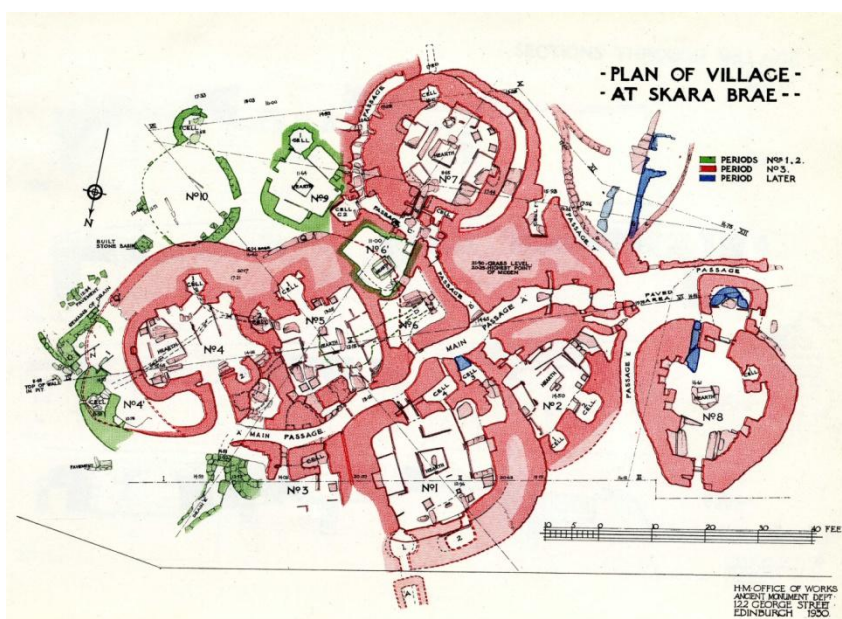
least four have entrances pointing to the South, towards house structure 17, where protruding stones indicate an entrance pointing to the North. This gives an impression of the existence of a kind of passage between the houses indicating that they were in function at the same time. South of house 17 there is a stone paving leading up to the other orthostat at the site.

The water courses look as if they have been regulated, and West of the dyke between house 1 and 2 there is a very wet area, and some of this dyke could have been damming a small wetland at the time of the prehistoric use of Pinhoulland.

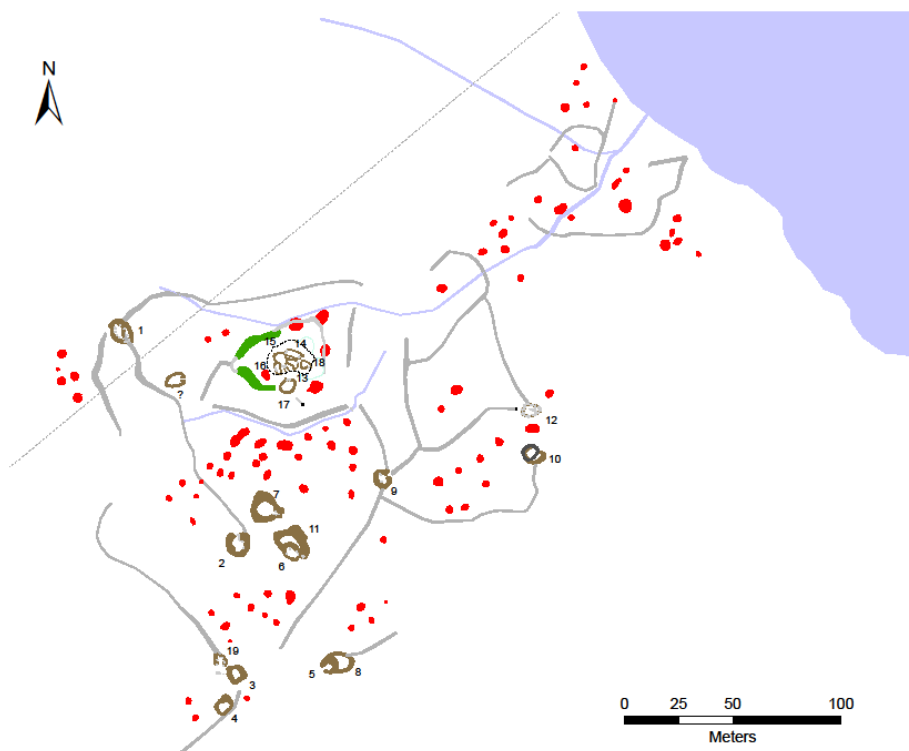
Dating Pinhoulland

In the case of Pinhoulland, dating can only be verified through coring or excavation, but it is very likely that Pinhoulland was in use during the Neolithic Period and during the Older Bronze Age. House 2, 6, 7, 9 and 11 belong to the pre-blanket peat strata, and thus must be older than Late Neolithic or Older Bronze Age. The many dykes connecting the house structures may indicate a relative chronology, as mentioned earlier. Preliminary analyses indicate at least a relative chronology in three phases. One scenario could be that House 6, 7 and 11 constitute phase 1 seen as single lying structures. It is impossible to say whether they could be contemporary other than 6 is younger than 11.

Phase 2 could be the houses which are interrelated with dykes forming three groups of houses: House 1-2 as one; 3, 4, 19 and 5 as another interrelated group and last House 9, 10, 12 as the third.



After G. Childe 1931



An overview of Pinhoulland. Grey: Dykes; green: Two banks; red: Clearance cairns; brown: Presumed house structures. Mapped by M. Hoydal/ processed by P. Jensen

What the chronology is between these groups is yet unknown, but what we see today is very probably a diachronic picture. The cluster of houses (House 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18) are built together and with the exception of house 14 could have been in contemporary use and constitute the third phase. The nearest parallels to the cluster of houses are Jarlshof house 8 and settlement

types such as Skara Brae from Orkney (Hamilton 1956: 9 ff.; Childe 1931: Plan of Village). Jarlshof house 8 is dated to the Older Bronze Age, and Skara Brae is dated between c. 3100 and 2500 cal. BC. Thus it is reasonable to presume at least as a model that Pinhoulland actually began its settlement phases some time during the Neolithic Period, and considering the number of houses, it could be quite early, and that the activity lasted until the late Neolithic Period and Older Bronze Age.



The cluster of house structures

Skiords and Gruni Gill at Uni Firth, Aithsting



View towards Gravlaba from Skiords. What the semicircular dyke was used for is unknown.

On Saturday June 25th we had an excursion together with John Hunter, Jenny Murray and Laurie Goodlad, all Lerwick Museum, because John Hunter would like to show us two sites in Aithsting. Later during the field season Mass Hoydal and I decided to map both sites. The data has not yet been processed. At Skiords a rather large and a somewhat dilapidated house was mapped, and both field dykes and a circular dyke together with clearance cairns witness the agricultural use of the area.

At Gruni Gill, Longaness to the West of Skiords there are two house constructions and dykes which indicate that the houses could be contemporary. The site is very nicely exposed to the Southwest. These few examples give a picture of a variation in settlement structures: Single house structures lying alone; small communities consisting of two or more households with field systems; and finally clusters of houses such as the one at Pinhoulland consisting of six or more structures. As far as I know the house cluster at Pinhoulland stands alone on Shetland, but further

surveys and mapping will undoubtedly reveal that this kind of settlement type is more widespread.



Gruni Gill, Longaness, seen from the Ford West of Uni Firth. Black arrows mark the two house sites; white marks some of the dykes.

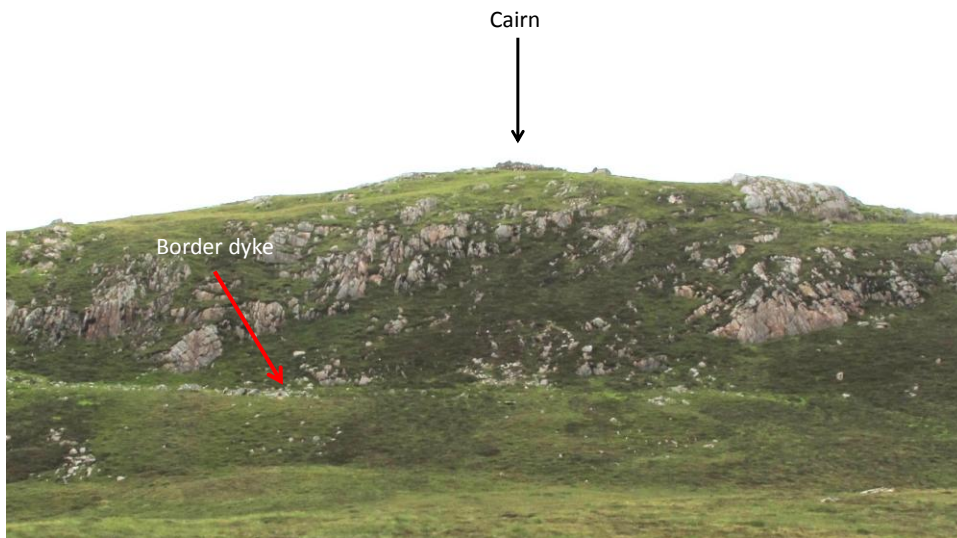
Caldback



The cairn at Caldback, Unst, seen from South East. In the background some 19th Century structures can be seen, which very likely are built with robbed stones from the passage grave.

With regards to the expansion of the agrarian societies, the Shetland Islands were the ultimate Northern boundary lying 60° northern latitude. Within the time span 4.000-3.000 BC an agrarian population established themselves on the Shetland Islands among many other things with material and immaterial elements characteristic of the Neolithic process in all of Europe. Amongst these elements are monumental sites such as the chambered cairn at Caldback, Unst, which probably is the Northern most passage grave of Europe still in existence. Many cairns and megaliths were destroyed during the 19th Century as a result of the population pressure on the Islands. In our search for the Northern most passage grave we surveyed the cairns at Little Hoeg and Muckle Hoeg, though one is chambered, they all seem to be dated to the Bronze Age or even to younger periods. At Saxa Vord, the highest hill at Unst, there once was five cairns of which one originally was chambered, but no remains are left of the cairns today. The cairn at Caldback was mapped with precision GPS during the field season 2011.

Vementry. A passage grave and a border dyke



The cairn (black arrow) seen from South East. The red arrow marks a border dyke, which could have connection with the cairn.

At the island of Vementry several cairns are known, one of them is the famous heel shaped multi period cairn. The facade of the cairn point to South East in the direction of the only known house site on the island some 1100 m away. Walking in the direction of the house structure we discovered a border dyke beneath the hill on which the passage grave was built. The dyke can be followed at least over a 100 m, and may be this is a parallel to the border dyke at Lardie Hill near Stanydale, where the dyke also separates the land of the dead from the land of the living. In last year's network report I wrote about the cairn, and from C.S.T. Calder's drawing it is clear that the heel shaped façade is secondary.



It is clear that the original passage has been blocked by the later facade.

Shetland Fieldwork 2011

Diary

Ditlev L. Mahler



Cairn at Punds Water

Wednesday June 15th.

To the airport at 7 o'clock, arrival at Sumburgh 4 pm. Meet Jenny Murray at the airport, and she transports us to Kantersted Road (Mass Hoydal's accommodation) and Upper Baila (my accommodation). I go out to do my shopping.

Thursday June 16th. Cloudy with rain; wind from SE

Laurie Goodlad picks us up at half past nine, and we go to the museum meeting with Ian Tait, Brian Smith, John Hunter and Carol Christiansen about this year's fieldwork. Later we had a

discussion of the demographic problems peopling Shetland, chronology etc. At 11 am Laurie Goodlad takes Mass and me to Isleburgh; unfortunately it is a little misty. We have picnic at Nibon. From Nibon to Punds Water with a very nice passage grave and maybe several chambers, entrance from SE. Nice three foiled chamber. Nearby we visited a well preserved house construction with a forecourt and six recesses within. Somewhat brighter in the weather. Go to Jenny's for a cup. At home at 5.30 pm.

Friday June 17th. Sun and clouds

Jenny Murray takes us to the Museum Store at 9 o'clock: Mass Hoydal borrows some equipment from Eric. Around 11 o'clock off to Brunt Hill. We both have a closer look at the area before lunch. Mass sets up the GPS. We meet the tenant's wife, so he may know we shall work in the area the coming days. Mass maps the recent structures. Up Brunt Hill the rock is more like mudstone in contrary to the quarries where the rock is more like slightly slated sandstone.

The locals informed me that for two to three generations ago the area was used as quarries for building a farmstead nearby and at least 14-15 plant kroobs, two large pens and a long stone dike. There are obviously two types of quarries. In the East there are shallow quarries, oval of form containing many small flakes and wastes. In the West the quarries are larger and deeper and more irregular and with no wastes, so obviously these quarries were used for providing boulders for building the recent structures. At home at 6.30 pm.

Saturday June 18th. Sun

From Upper Baila at 9 o'clock. Drive to Stanydale and Scord of Brouster, so that Mass may have an impression not at least of Stanydale as we are going to map the area next week. Arrive at Brunt Hill at 10 o'clock and begin the mapping. After mapping 10 traces of quarries, the quarries were divided into three groups: One recent, one of unknown date, and one of likely to be prehistoric of date. There is only a small group of quarries left on the eastern ridge which could be of prehistoric age. We map the presumed prehistoric quarries and left for Lerwick at 4 o'clock.



Brunt Hill. The red flags mark the shallow quarries.

Sunday June 19th. Overcast but dry

Prepare for my input to Pure and the meeting with Val Turner and Chris Dyer the following day and the area of Stanydale. Lunch together with Mass at the Museum and afterwards a tour through the exhibitions.

Monday June 20th. Overcast but dry

Meet Val Turner and Chris Dyer at a quarter past nine talking about my field work and the coming network meeting including the participation of Lauren Doughton. Mass works with the trunks for the GPS. At Stanydale at 11.30 having a closer look at the landscapes. Lunch in the hall, the large building excavated by C.S.T.Calder during 1949. Drive to Sefster and Stanydale Village. Back to Stanydale area planning the strategy for the mapping. At home at half past four sorting my mails and prepareing for the following day's mapping.

Tuesday June 21st. Overcast but dry

At Stanydale at a quarter to ten. Problems with setting the gear up. Surveying the flat area between the two "peaks" called Nabs of Fillaster on the map. There is the remains of an 18th Century farmstead, which obviously has used all the stones from a now completely cleared cairn. The Cairn could have been placed either on the flat area between the two peaks or on the highest

peak just North of the farmstead. The model fits with the division of the area between places for the living and places for the dead partly divided by the burn. Later the same day Mass Hoydal map the three house sites and one uncertain. Mass maps the roads, streams/burns and Loch of Gruting. Survey East and Southeast of the large hall where a large circular dike and connected dykes are situated. On Hamars there are clear traces of a third cairn! In Lerwick at 5 o'clock pm.

Wednesday June 22^{sc}. Overcast but brighter

Mass Hoydal mapped the watercourses, while I surveyed the figure of eight dykes and the connected house site. Discover several traces of dykes, which bind the different house sites together. Follow the small burn (Rubicon) to where it meets Styx (Burn of Scutta Voe) and walk towards School of Gruting, where there is a several 100 m long dyke running parallel to the Burn of Scutta Voe. Walk back over Hamars and connect a very long dyke running to the South from the figure of eight dyke. Down by the road to Sefster there are several dykes and the introduction board describing the area by Amenity Trust is placed directly on one of them. To the museum store for lending a shovel and some string. At home at half past five.



Stanydale. House structure built on to the dyke East of the hall.

Thursday June 23rd. Sun and clouds

At Stanydale. Begin the day in the old peat cuttings down by the road, cleaning up the sections where the dykes appear to come out of the peat. New photos of the 18th Century house and the presumed location of the cairn. Trace the dyke from the figure of eight dyke to the Neolithic house

some 50 m to the North of the hall. The GPS runs out of electricity, so we return at 1 pm to Lerwick.

Friday June 24th. Overcast

Map the figure of eight dyke and connected house structure and then the long dyke running North-South. Most of the area North and North West of the hall is now mapped. At Lerwick at 5 o'clock pm.



The house site at Skiords

Saturday June 25th. Overcast

Of to Bixter where we meet Jon Hunter, Laurie Goodlad and Jenny Murray. From Bixter to Skiords where there is a very nice Neolithic house structure, a circular dyke and clearance cairns. From Skiords to Noonsborough, where we park and walk across to Gruni Gill, Longa Ness, where there are two Neolithic houses and several dykes, all well preserved. Walk along Longa Ness to the tip and cross back to Noonsborough. We are back in Lerwick at 5 pm.

Sunday June 26th. Over casted, later drizzle

Lunch at Sumburgh Hotel, then Jarlshof and Old Scatness. Back at 5 pm.

Monday June 27th. Sunny patches

Stanydale. Mapping house 2, 3 and 4. After lunch we map the house by the burn, where there possibly is another, smaller house. Map the entrance stones and the gangway over the burn – both correspond with the later entrance to the hall. To Stanydale Village where we map three cairns and two standing stones. Photo of cairn 2, then 1 and 3. Back at half past five.



One of the cairns above Stanydale Village



One of the houses at Ness of Gruting

Tuesday June 28th. Sun

Mapping Lardie Hill with three cairns, one of them later put to use as a sheep shelter. It is not possible to see the hall from the last mentioned cairn. The kisted cairn near the hill top must have been a very large cairn, but most of the stones have been removed. Some 50 m down the North slope runs a border dyke parallel with Lardie Hill. To Stanydale Village, where we above the village find two more cairns. Four of the cairns have a (now toppled) standing stone some 10 m behind seen from the hall. To Gruting from where we walk out to Ness of Gruting, and have some nice shots of Calder's houses. To Amenity Trust where we meet Chris Dyer about our trip to Unst.

Wednesday June 29th. Sunny patches

To Scalloway and from there to a farm at Hill of Houlland. Walk from there to Burwick, where there are several Neolithic dykes and two house sites. The valley is covered in heather, so surveying is difficult. One of the houses is very large some 7 by 10 m, but somewhat changed in recent times. The same can be said of the smaller house. There has obviously been much activity during the 19th and beginning of the 20th Century. We decide not to map the area.

Thursday June 30th. Sunny patches

We drive to Skiords near Noonsborough where we map the Neolithic house structure and two dykes – one circular of shape and clearance cairns. At 1 pm to Pinhoulland surveying the possibilities for mapping a defined part of the area. From Pinhoulland we go to the museum store returning Laurie's shovel.

Friday July 1st. Sunny patches

Pinhoulland. Mass Hoydal sets up the GPS near the farm house. In the meantime I mark house 1-19. House 17 is uncertain. Photos of all the houses. Home at half past four.

Sunday July 3rd. Overcast

Lunch at Buster House. To North Roe. Photos of standing stones and a chambered cairn at Loch of Housesetter.

Monday July 4th. Sun

To Browland opposite Pinhoulland to have a different view at the locality. At Pinhoulland Mass Hoydal maps the last house sites (20 in all), while I mark the most likely burn. Move the station to Browland in order to map the coast line. On the way home we visit Amenity Trust concerning Unst and we also meet Lauren Doughton.

Tuesday July 5th. Nice morning later overcast

To Unst, meeting Chris Dyer in Toft on the way to Yell. At Unst we drive to Caldback and from there to Saxa Vord where all traces of cairns have been removed. To Little Hoeg (cairn), then Muckle Hoeg. There could be a small cairn in front of Muckle Hoeg. Then another kisted cairn and lastly Harold's Grave – a rather dilapidated cairn. Lunch and afterwards Mass Hoydal and I go to Skaw. Then back to Caldback mapping the passage grave. Many of the stones from the passage grave have been reused during the 19th Century. We are back in Lerwick at 6 pm.



House 1, Pinhoulland

Wednesday July 6th. Overcast and quite windy

Heading for Pinhoulland, but drive out towards Brindister searching for a spot to put up the GPS in order to map the location Gruni Gill at Longa Ness, on the other side of the firth. Setting up the GPS at Browland and begin mapping at 11 o'clock Mass Hoydal maps the water courses, the coast line and clearance cairns while I search for dykes. At home at 5 pm.

Thursday July 7th. Sunny patches.

To Browland and then Pinhoulland. Mass maps the three dykes at House 1 when the bull has gone. House 1 has two phases. We map the last clearance cairns and after lunch all the dykes. We Finished at 3 pm.

Friday July 8th. Sunny patches.

We drive North Newton on the Western side of Brindister Voe, where we put up the GPS. Then to Noonsbrough and from there we walk over the hill South Wards down to Uni Firth. Mass Hoydal begins mapping at a quarter past 11 am. And while he maps the water courses and the coastline I survey the area, and discover many more dykes than first seen. Mapping completed at a quarter past 2 pm. And we then walk over the hill and back to North Newton. Visit the Museum store talking with Laurie Goodlad about a visit to Vementry the next day.

Saturday July 9th. Misty and rather cloudy.

To Vementry half past 10 together with Laurie Goodlad and her boy friend. We land beneath the Gun Point and visit the site from World War 1. Then to the famous cairn. The weather turns a little lighter. From the cairn we go for lunch at the homestead. Looking for the “Dutch Man’s Cairn” but cannot find it (neither can the farmer on Vementry, Hamish, find it).



The famous cairn at Vementry Island

Sunday July 10th. Overcast

Take lunch with Mass Hoydal in the town.

Monday July 11th. Overcast

We go to the Museum Store in order to retake photos of the axe ARC 65657. Talk with Jenny Murray about the coming network meeting in the beginning of September. At 1 o'clock to Amenity Trust talking with Lauren Doughton.

Tuesday July 12th. Overcasted.

We drive to Easter Skeld, West mainland where 12 Shetland Knives have been found. Then we visit a nice chambered cairn above the village. We go from there to Modesty, West Mainland, where 13 knives have been found and finally to Stourbrough where 19 knives have been found. After visiting Sandness we drive home.

Wednesday July 13th. Nice but dark weather.

We drive to Wick of Sandsayre and then sail to Mousa. Walk around the island and visit the famous broch.

Thursday July 14th. Sunny patches.

To Esha Ness first visiting the Neolithic homestead at Hillswick, then to nearby burnt mound. At Hamna Voe we visit the standing stones and another burnt mound. From there towards Lescole where we visit two cairns North West of Muckla Water. The one called March Cairn is interesting as it originally must have been a traditional passage grave with a three foiled chamber and later modified to a square cairn and at the same time blocking the passage! The smaller one called Muckla Water is built as a square cairn with a somewhat heel shaped facade.

Friday July 15th. Sunny weather.

Saying good bye to the museum staff.

Saturday July 16th. Sunny patches.

Day of packing and cleaning.

Sunday July 17th. Rain.

Day of departure. At home in Copenhagen at 8 pm.



Cluster of five or more house structures at Pinhoulland seen from the North.

Program for the second meeting in the Shetland Neolithic Network 2011



Barley field at Scousburgh

September 5th

The arrival of Preben, Flemming and Ditlev on the Shetland Islands

September 5th

The arrival of Alison

September 7th

The day of papers or excursion depending on the weather. Lunch at the museum or at Buster House.
Dinner at Kveldsro House Hotel.

September 8th

The day of papers or excursion depending on the weather. Lunch at the museum or at Buster House.
Conference dinner at Queens Hotel, 19.00.

September 9th

Alison, Torben, Preben, Flemming and Ditlev are leaving from Sumburgh Airport.

Excursion

In the hope of reasonable weather, the excursion will go to Stanydale and after lunch at Buster House either to Pinhoulland or to Punds Water and ...?

The day of papers



Beorgs of Uyea, Mainland. Dykes of felsites.

- 10.00 Ian Tait: Welcome. The day's chairperson
- 10.15 Ditlev L. Mahler: Some Aspects of the 2011 Fieldwork
- 10.45 Flemming Kaul: Multi-Period Construction of Megalithic Tombs - and the Shetland Megalithic Tombs
- 11.10 Discussion
- 11.30 14.10 Jenny Murray: Cultivating the Divine: The ritual deposition of agricultural equipment in Shetland Peat-bogs
- 11.50 Alison Sheridan: Neolithic Shetland: The View from the Mainland
- 12.15 Discussion

12.30: Lunch at the museum

- 13.30 Torben B. Ballin: The Distribution of Worked Felsite – within and outwith Neolithic Shetland, read by Gabriel Cooney
- 13.50 Gabriel Cooney: Neolithic Stone Axe Quarries in Island Contexts: Lambay and Rathlin
- 14.20 Will Megarry: About GIS
- 14.40 Discussion

14.40 Tea break

- 15.10 Lauren Doughton: The Burnt Mounds of Shetland: An Elemental Understanding
- 15.30 Preben Rønne: The northernmost Bronze Age Farms

- 15.55 Ian Tait: Dykes in prehistoric farming
- 15.40 Discussion and final discussion
- Discussion of the future conference September 2012 and deadline for papers 2011



Excursion to Stanydale. From left Will Megarry, Gabriel Cooney, Lauren Daughton, Ditlev L. Mahler, Alison Sheridan, Jenny Murray, Carol Christiansen and Flemming Kaul.

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Planning 2012



The audience at the day of papers: To the left of the boat from the front: Esther Renwick, Preben Rønne, Ditlev L. Mahler, Gabriel Cooney, Chris Dyer. To the right of the boat from the front: Jenny Murray, Lauren Daughton, Deborah Lamb, Simon Clarke, Ian Tait, Alison Sheridan, Will Megarry, John Hunter. The group to the right from behind the left: Val Turner, Flemming Kaul; and in front from the left Carol Christiansen and Laurie Goodlad.

2012 will be the last year for the project *Shetland – the Border of Farming 4000-3000 BC* as the funding from the Augustinus Foundation runs out. It is of immense importance that the project shall be publicized both through minor articles in workshops and preferably in a monographic book. The network report for the network meeting shall be published during early spring 2012 and contains pt. at least eight nice articles: Six on Shetland and two on Scandinavia.

During summer 2011 we mapped six sites, five on West Mainland and one on Unst, and only data from two of the sites have been processed. During April the rest of the data shall be processed, as all the maps are very important for the disposition of the coming monograph. At the same time the maps will reveal whether it is necessary doing more fieldwork. If it seems necessary it will only be as a supplement to the existing data and shall take place during summer partly

because of the weather, partly because of having time processing the data and have as much time for writing as possibly.

No network meeting has been planned for 2012; instead the Shetland network group has merged with the group from another project in The Northern Worlds Project: *The Farming Societies – the Expansion in the North*. This project follows the frontier of the farming societies from the Neolithic and onwards. Together with the economic aspects of the new way of life a range of other aspects followed of ideological nature as well as the creation of a cultural landscape. Part of the two groups will be invited to a conference at the National Museum of Denmark in Copenhagen from September 19th to September 21st. The conference has the preliminary title: *The Border of Farming – Shetland and Scandinavia*, and shall be joined by archaeologists from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Shetland, Scotland and Ireland.

The Northern Worlds Project will in principle end with 2012, and during November 28th to November 30th the National Museum will hold an international conference with the title: *Northern Worlds: Landscapes – Interactions – Dynamics. An interdisciplinary research initiative at the National Museum of Denmark with contributions from archaeology, history, ethnology, preservation and natural science.*