

Appendix 8-1: Desk Based Assessment

Topography and Geology

The British Geological Survey (BGS, 2021) records the majority of the site underlain by Clift Hills Phyllitic Formation- Semipelite, a metamorphic bedrock formed approximately 541 to 1000 million years ago formed in deep seas. The south-eastern area of the site is underlain by Quarff Succession and Melange- Shear-bounded Metamorphic Rock Slices forming Tectonic Melange; Quarff Type, also formed approximately 541 to 1000 million years ago in deep seas.

The superficial deposit on the site is recorded as peat, an organic accumulation formed up to three million years ago in the Quaternary period.

A gouge auger sediment survey was undertaken in 2012 (Bailey and Dalland, 2013) in the northern portion of the site (centred Event 32) for the 2011 Consented Development. Peat was identified between 0.1 m and 2.75 m in thickness in the area surveyed, within the northern portion of the site. The deepest areas of peat were found to be around the northern site boundary and in the centre northern portion of the site. The peat thickness at the proposed T2 was recorded between 0.5m and 1.5m with the peat thickness increasing from north to south.

Wood and plant fragments and small charcoal flecks, indicative of burning vegetation were identified in lithostratigraphic units during the auger survey. The burning may be of anthropogenic origin and relate to vegetation management or may be of non-anthropogenic origin. Interpretation of the plant remains suggested that peat development started in an open, boggy landscape. Identified wood fragments have been interpreted as woodland in the hillside around 4000BP (Bailey and Dalland, 2013: 8-9).

Prehistoric

An extensive programme of archaeological survey and excavation at Kebister (centred Asset 2), to the west of the site, revealed remains of a settlement dating from the prehistoric through to the modern period. The earliest indications of human presence at Kebister occur in the palynological record which suggests that the earliest phase of activity dates from around the third millennium BC. The primary clearance at Kebister took place before c.2590 BC and it is likely that any vegetation on the site could have been cleared around the same time. Whilst no evidence of pre-Bronze Age settlement was identified during the excavations at Kebister, it has been suggested that earlier settlement may have consisted of wooden or canvas structures which may have left little or no trace in the archaeological record. Probable Neolithic cultivation marks were identified and dated beneath the remains of a later house structure (Asset 7) which suggests that the area around Kebister was indeed in use in the Neolithic period (Owen and Lowe 1999, 252-3).

Seven burnt mounds (Assets 8 & 9) and a group of mounds and burnt mounds originally interpreted as Viking burials, but later reinterpreted as part of Asset 8 are dated by analogy to the Bronze Age. Owen and Lowe (1991: 254) have suggested that it is not inconceivable that structural remains associated with the mound have been found in a flatter area of land beneath the later Iron Age remains excavated at Asset 10. A double-post ring outlining a sub-rectangular building is the earliest structure discovered at Kebister was dated to the early Bronze Age and is thus roughly contemporary with the burnt mounds (Owen and Lowe, 1999: 255). Several possible Bronze Age structures were identified through excavation and/or survey (Owen and Lowe, 1999: 260-261 & 267). A cist and two cremation pits containing burnt bone (Asset 16) are also likely Bronze Age in date and were located south-east of the main settlement in a prominent location overlooking Dale Voe (Owen and Lowe 1999).

Between 1900 and 1500 BC, in the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age, there was a rapid shift in climate to cooler and wetter conditions and an increase in blanket bog led to a shift in farming related activity. Study of the pollen record from Kebister has shown an increase in heather (*Calluna*) during the Bronze Age, indicative of blanket bog encroachment (Owen and Lowe, 1999: 49). The pollen record indicates that peat spread on the upper hillside during the Bronze Age but that most of the lower slopes remained free from peat for another 1500 years. In view of the elevation of the site and its proximity to Kebister, it is thus likely that peat encroachment within the site began during the Bronze Age. Following peat encroachment, land on the higher slopes of the site was likely unviable for anything other than grazing.

Settlement at Kebister has been interpreted as continuing from the Bronze Age into the Iron Age (Owen and Lowe, 1999: 265). Radiocarbon evidence suggests two main phases of activity in the period, during the last two to three centuries of the first millennium BC and in the first two or three centuries of the first millennium AD (Owen and Lowe, 1999: 269). Kebister was intensively farmed throughout the Iron Age and a succession of domestic houses were built, clustered together on good land adjacent to the voe (centred Asset 7 & Asset 10). No evidence of a Broch has been found at Kebister but a cellular structure, Structure 5 was identified during excavation works (Owen and Lowe, 1999: 279). Evidence for prehistoric land management practices include early cultivation evidence in the form of ard marks (Asset 48) found in direct association with fine stone ard points. The palynological record from Kebister includes hulled and naked barley (Owen and Lowe, 1999:281). Iron Age buildings at Kebister appear to have been abandoned by 400 AD.

An undated structure and two possible enclosures (Asset 5) were identified during works at Kebister to the south-west of the later March Dyke (Asset 12) which largely encloses the remains found. Asset 5 suggests that further evidence of settlement and land use may be found along the lower lying land on the south side of Dale Voe.

Within the 5 km study area there are two brochs; Hawks Ness broch (Asset 39) located c. 3.1 km north on a promontory of land on the north side of the voe, and Clickimin broch (Asset 72) located c. 3.6 km south of the site. Settlement at Clickimin broch (Asset 72) began in the Bronze Age. Due to limited previous investigations at Hawks Ness no further dating evidence is available, however it cannot be discounted that the settlement originated in the Bronze Age period as well.

There are a further seven brochs (Assets 41, 42, 45, 47, 48, 82 & 94) within 10 km of the site. Brochs are well documented in Shetland (Mackie, 2002). There are 25 Scheduled Monuments between 5 km and 10 km of the site which are defined as domestic and defensive sites (Assets 43, 44, 46, 52, 54, 55-58, 60, 63-68, 74, 76, 78, 84, 85, 88, 90 & 92), five cairns (Assets 49-51, 59 & 79), four standing stones (Assets 80, 83, 89 & 93) and one promontory fort (Asset 73).

Neolithic timber (Asset 30) was identified in Lerwick Harbour within 1 km of the east of the site and dated to between 5670-5550 cal BC, the Early Neolithic. It has been suggested that a drowned Early Neolithic landscape is present in Bressay Voe. The timber is most likely associated with a submarine forest (Asset 20) identified during dredging works in the north entrance of Lerwick Harbour. Dredging works were undertaken between 7-9 m below sea level. The record for the forest (Asset 20) also notes that in 1990 previous dredging works identified a stone axe in association with woody material.

The site occupied relatively high land around the Hill of Gremista. Prehistoric remains have been identified at Kebister within metres to the west of the site, although this settlement and its continuance is associated with the agricultural land, and lower lying land around Dale Voe. Peat development may have begun around the Bronze Age and thus from this date the soils would have precluded cultivation. It cannot be discounted that the site was cultivated prior to this period. The site may have been used for pasture in the later prehistoric period. A possible cairn (Asset 1) has also been identified on the site, within 10 m of the proposed hardstanding for T2. As such there is judged to be a medium potential for prehistoric remains to survive on the site. Any prehistoric remains are likely to lie beneath peat accumulations.

Early Historic and Early Medieval (AD 400-1500)

Minimal Roman activity is known in the Shetland Islands, although there may be evidence of a trading relations with the Roman Empire. As such the end of the prehistoric period is generally regarded as the ninth century and the arrival of Norse peoples (SIC, 2019).

The Viking invasions started about 800 AD and settlement subsequently followed. The Orkenyinga Sagas record Shetland as the northern third of the great earldom of Orkney (SIC, 2019). Smith (in Owen & Lowe, 1999) notes that it is common in Shetland for places to be known by several different names, sometimes at the same time, which can make the identification of etymology difficult. The origin of the placename "Kebister" to the west of the site is problematic, as discussed by Smith (in Owen & Lowe, 1999: 17), and does not conform to exact Norse origins. Kebister was also known as Handigert, which is thought to have Norse etymology, although Smith (in Owen & Lowe, 1999: 18) suggests that Handigert probably relates to the medieval and later extension to the original settlement of Kebister.

Between AD 550-800 there was a cold period, followed by subsequent warming in the ninth and tenth centuries which lasted until the thirteenth to fourteenth century (Owen and Lowe, 1999: 289). Palynological evidence suggests that the outfield at Kebister (centred Asset 6) to the west of the site was in use during the first millennium, with arable expansion in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries before contraction in the fifteenth century (Owen and Lowe, 1999: 289). The remains of two coffins, associated with a small structure aligned east to west, at Kebister are potentially indicative of an early Christian chapel (Asset 13). A redeposited incised carved stone (Asset 55) of seventh or eighth century date was discovered during the excavation of the sixteenth century Teind Barn (Asset 89).

Artefactual, landscape and place name evidence all point to a late Norse farm (AD 1100-1400) at Kebister and structural evidence Asset 7 for a later medieval farm. Medieval activity at Kebister also includes 33 dykes (centred Asset 6) of various types and lengths demonstrating a complex history of land management. The dykes served a variety of functions as field edges, field boundaries and enclosure boundaries and radiocarbon and historical dating suggests that the major dykes were constructed in the medieval period thus indicating that other sub-peat dykes in Shetland previously assumed to have been prehistoric in date may be more recent (Owen and Lowe 1999, 290). A sub peat dyke (Asset 27) of unknown date, close to the remains of a possible structure (Asset 26) has previous been identified as extending into the site and these may date from the medieval period onwards.

Law Ting Holm, thingstead (Asset 40) comprises a small mound located west of the site on a small promontory at the north end of the Loch of Tingwall and marks the location of the annual summer meeting place of the Law Ting or senior law-giving assembly of Shetland between the eleventh and mid sixteenth centuries.

Scalloway (centred Asset 37), centred c. 7.46 km south-west of the site is the original capital of Shetland and is now described as the second town of Shetland. Scalloway was the landing place for delegates of the annual parliament or Ting at Asset 40, from at least the Early Medieval period and latterly held the Ting from 1602. Following the change in law from Norse to Scots implemented in Shetland by Earl Patrick Stewart, who construct the Scheduled Scalloway Castle (Asset 71) in the seventeenth century the Ting parliament did not sit again and instead the civic structures were moved to Lerwick (centred Asset 36).

There is one further Scheduled Monument of Early Historic/Medieval date, the chapel and burial ground at Wick (Asset 81), c. 5.56km south of the site.

Kebister, to the west of the site continued to be in use as a agricultural settlement throughout the Early Historic and Early Medieval period. There is no evidence of activity on the site, although it cannot be discounted that as the peat development precluded cultivation the land was used for sheep grazing. As such there is judged to be a Low potential for remains of this date to survive, although it cannot be wholly discounted.

Medieval and Post-Medieval (AD 1500-1900)

Shetland was mortgaged to the Scottish crown in 1468 as part of the dowry of Princess Margaret in her marriage to James III of Scotland (SIC, 2019). In 1471, as the Danish struggled to pay Margaret's dowry, Scotland annexed Orkney and Shetland in lieu of the dowry (SIC, 2019). As such, the annexation of Shetland to Scotland in 1471 draws to an end the period of Norse rule and as such acts as the boundary between the Early Historic and medieval period.

The etymology of Luggie's Knowe also known as the "*Knop of Kepsiter*" appears to relate to a story which stated that a wizard or "Luggie" would be found on this high place or steep mountain or "Knop" when the weather prevented fishing (Jamieson, 2011). The "Knop" element references a geological feature and the etymology is likely Norse in origin, although the story is likely of later date.

The Scheduled Castle Holm (Asset 77) has been dated to the twelfth century and is located on an islet in Loch of Strom, c. 6.9 km west of the site. Scalloway Castle (Asset 71) is a Scheduled Monument built between 1599 and 1607 as an L-shaped tower house. The Castle was built as a dominant structure overlooking Scalloway and is located c. 7.61 km south-west of the site.

Fort Charlotte (Asset 97) was constructed in 1665-7 during the Second Dutch War and was pentagonal in shape with a battery set behind a zig-zagged parapet wall facing east over Bressay Sound. The battery was never fully armed, and the rampart had not been finished by the time peace was made in 1667. During the Third Dutch

War, the Dutch landed and burnt the abandoned barrack block. The fort was completed during the War of American Independence (1776-83) and named after George III's queen, Charlotte. The ramparts which follow the outline of the fort were left incomplete in 1667 with a seaward battery for up to 12 guns and bastioned defences landward. It survives as a well-preserved example of a late eighteenth century coastal battery.

Lerwick Central Area/Lanes (centred Asset 36) extends within c. 3.09 km south of the site. Lerwick (centred Asset 36), or the "muddy bay" became Shetlands capital in the seventeenth century, by which time the herring industry was a major employer of islanders and islanders were described as "[fishermen] with a croft" (SIC, 2010a: 9). Whilst rather blunt this statement does sum up the majority of people in Shetland in the post-medieval period. Within the Conservation Area there are 104 Listed Buildings including six Category A Listed Buildings; The Lodberry (LB37242), Lerwick Town Hall and boundary Walls and gatepiers (LB37256) and three elements of the Scheduled Fort Charlotte- Fort Charlotte, South Block Fort Charlotte and North Barracks Fort Charlotte (LB37255) which all date to the post-medieval period.

Lerwick New Town Conservation Area (centred Asset 35) extends within c. 3.04 km of the site. The town of Lerwick was extended in the nineteenth century to accommodate town parks and provide further space for housing, within the Lane (centred Asset 36) having become very overcrowded. The land between Hillhead and Burgh Road was lain out in a grid pattern and was designed with civic buildings (SIC, 2010b). There are eight Listed Buildings within the Conservation Area which date from the early 19th to early 20th centuries.

The Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape at Gardie House (centred Asset 38) is an example of a eighteenth century formal garden constructed around a classical Category A Listed house (Asset 100) built in 1724. The Garden also encloses the Category B Listed Outbuilding (Asset 101), pier (Asset 120), steading (Asset 121), and boat store (Asset 124) as well as the Category C Listed Maryfield House (Asset 99) built in the early 19th century. The extent of the Garden has not undergone much change since its inception.

Domestic Listed Buildings to the west of the site include the eighteenth century Category C Listed Laxfirth House (Asset 125), and the Category C Listed nineteenth century Veensgarth (Asset 128) and steading (Asset 127). A group of designated assets c. 3.98 km south-west of the site includes the Scheduled seventeenth century Tingwall Parish Church burial aisle (Asset 86), the Category B Listed, late eighteenth century St Magnus' Church and Churchyard (Asset 102) and the Category C nineteenth century associated manse (Asset 126).

Listed Buildings to the south-east of the site around Lerwick are largely of later post-medieval date and reflect the expansion of settlement in and around Lerwick in that period and include domestic, commercial and funerary buildings. Larger houses, most likely that of the emerging merchant class are also found in this area. The Listed Buildings closest to the site, the Bod of Gremista (Asset 103), c. 1.31 km south and Heogan pier and fishing station (Asset 123), c. 1.65 km south-east of the site exemplify the importance and wealth of Lerwick as a port in the post-medieval era.

Pre-Ordnance Survey maps tend to be schematic and lack detail, although they give some idea of the nature of settlement. A map by Hondius dated 1638 (not illustrated) and by Blaeu dated 1654 (not illustrated) records a settlement at Gremista to the south of the site and the Bressay Voe and "Brawick" probably Lerwick or its predecessor are annotated to the south-east. Kebister was not recorded in the Scot book c. 1510 which suggests that it was abandoned by that date (Owen and Lowe, 1999: 297), however the Scheduled Teind Barn (Asset 69) was constructed to the west of the site sometime between 1501-1529 and a corn drying kiln (Asset 14) was later inserted into the structure. Kebister in some form would have likely existed by 1638, however it was not recorded by Hondius or Blaeu. Kebister is not recorded on Moll's 1745 map (not illustrated), however the Loch of Kebister is depicted.

Preston's 1781 hydrographical map (not illustrated) does annotate "Kebisters Point" and thus suggests some knowledge of the settlement of Kebister and better depicts the landscape around the site, however due to the purpose of the map, it does not record any further details about the site. Kebister is also recorded on a French map dated 1804-05 (not illustrated).

Kebisters Point is annotated on map from 1827 (not illustrated), which suggests that the landscape retained an historically association with the settlement. Kebister had been cleared in 1817. The map depicts the topography of the site, with the Hill of Grimista depicted as occupying the relatively higher land and relatively steep slopes depicted to the north, west and south of the site.

The southern portion of the site is depicted on an Ordnance Survey map surveyed between 1877-78 and published in 1894 (not illustrated). This map depicts the shape of the Loch of Grimista, annotates the summit of the Hill of Grimista and depicts a roughly aligned ENE-WSW plot boundary annotated “Und” running across the southern area of the site. Old, degrading fence posts associated with this plot boundary were identified during the walkover survey. The landuse on the site is not detailed, although as Kebister was cleared for sheep farming it could be assumed that the site was in use as sheep pasture by the late nineteenth century. Sheep pasture on the site today which suggests a continuance of this land use from the early nineteenth century.

“Luggie’s Knowe” is annotated in the northern area of the site on the OS map published in 1881 (Figure 8-4). The Hill of Grimista is annotated in the southern area of the site and the Valley of Kelhammar is annotated along the eastern site boundary. Kebister and the Burn of Kebister are labelled to the west of the site and March Dyke (Asset 12) also appears to have been depicted on this map.

At Kebister, the March Dyke (Asset 12) is thought to date from the post-medieval period on the basis of its good preservation and little evidence for surrounding peat growth. Six distinct groups of cultivation rigs were recorded, and three rectangular structures upslope of the cultivation remains near the March Dyke are interpreted as turf walled plantiecrub (Asset 6; Owen and Lowe 1999). Excavations at Kebister revealed the remains of a substantial post-medieval structure likely to have been a two storey teind (tithe) barn (Asset 69). A richly decorated armorial stone from above the door was commissioned by Henry Phankouth, Archdeacon of Shetland 1501-29. There are no other buildings known from the fifteenth or sixteenth century in Shetland and the closest extant parallel is the Bod of Gremista (Asset 103). The teind barn (Asset 69) had fallen into disuse by the middle of the sixteenth century and Kebister seems to have reverted to a typical Shetland scattald. Arable activity was confined to very restricted peat free soils along the coast where six individual sets of cultivation rigs were recorded mostly within fields or enclosures. Pasture was available higher up the slope. The palynological evidence for quite intensive grazing, leading to an expansion of herb-rich grassland replacing some of the long-established heathland of the upper slopes could reflect either an early intensification of sheep farming by the inhabitants of the farm at Kebister or a wholesale shift to sheep farming after the people had been cleared off the land. A small post-medieval farmstead (Asset 15) at Doo’s Cove is recorded within the northern extent of the Dyke. In its final form Kebister was a crofting settlement enclosed by head dyke (Asset 11) containing seven conjoined units associated with a watermill, corn drying kiln (Asset 14), enclosures, sheep pen and an area of rig. Kebister was permanently cleared in 1817 to make way for a sheep farm and was the earliest township to be cleared in this way (Owen and Lowe 1999, 305).

Handigert (centred Asset 11), also to the west of the site is thought to be a post-medieval extension or secondary settlement to the older Kebister. Excavations at Handigert found no evidence of pre- post-medieval remains however the etymology of the place name suggests an earlier date (Owen and Lowe, 1999: 296). The placename however may be evidence of the long durée of Norse influence in Shetland.

Another possible extension site associated with Kebister is the settlement at Vatsland (Asset 25), which is thought to have originated as an animal enclosure associated with Kebister in the medieval period. Later Vatslands is documented within Kebister (centred Asset 2) as the foci of a scattland, part of the estate of the archdeacon of Shetland in the sixteenth century. Historic OS map records an unroofed farmstead at Vatsland in the late eighteenth century.

Between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries hill dykes in Shetland often took the form of turf-built dykes, dividing settlement and infield from the scattald (common grazing land). The turf dykes tended to meander taking in earth fast stones and rock outcrops. A sub peat dyke (Asset 27) of unknown date, close to the remains of a possible structure (Asset 26) within the north-western site boundary may date to this period and be an example of hillside management.

Post–medieval activity is documented within the 1km study area, with unroofed structures representing the remains of farmsteads (Assets 3, 4, 23 & 28) to the west of the site. A schooner (Asset 19) sunk in 1886 is recorded to the east of the site.

The site does not appear to have been intensively used in the post-medieval period probably due to the continuing development of peat. Whilst the site may have part of the upland grazing for Kebister, Green Holm and Vatsland (Asset 25) are also documented as having been used for pasture. The site may have also been a source of peat fuel (Owen and Lowe, 1999: 303). The tax records for Kebister do not seem to refer to the land



within the site and as such it is possible that the site was unused common land in the post-medieval period. There is judged to be a low potential for post-medieval remains to survive on the site.

Modern 1901-Present

Ordnance Survey mapping of the twentieth century suggests that there was very little change on the site or to the surrounding area in this period. Indeed, few land boundaries or historic dykes are depicted on the OS map published in 1959 (not illustrated) which suggests that the land use of the 1950's, most likely sheep pasture, no longer necessitated these historic boundaries.

The road to the north and east of the site was constructed around 1985 to provide access to the oil rig supply base (Asset 31) (Owen and Lowe, 1999:305). An extensive programme of archaeological works began at Kebister to the west of the site in early 1985 when Lerwick Harbour Trust confirmed the construction of an oil rig supply base (Asset 31) at Kebister, Dales Voe (Owen and Lowe, 1999).

The NRHE records a sewage works (Asset 34) and the site of a former Second World War coastal battery (Asset 18) to the east of the site. Another Second World War coastal battery (Asset 21), which was located on the Point of Scattland was located to the south-east of the site. A sluice (Asset 24) is depicted on historic maps at the northern end of the Loch of Kebister. Green Head to the east of the site was developed as a commercial quay (Asset 33) in the twentieth century. The University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) also have a campus in this area.

Between 5 km and 10 km of the site there are five military remains dating to the twentieth century. Two Scheduled First World War defences (Assets 61 & 62) are located on the eastern side of Bressay, and three Second World War defences (Assets 70, 87 & 96) are located to the south-east of the site, south of Lerwick.

The site may have been crossed for access to Kebister as an early tourist destination, based on the variety of early modern pottery identified to the west of the site. The abandoned Kebister seems to have been a fairly well used picnic spot, however it could more easily have been reached via boat (Owen and Lowe, 1999: 305).

The site may have been used, as it is today, for upland sheep grazing in the modern era. No modern structures have been identified on the site. As such there is judged to be a low potential for modern remains to survive on the site.

Undated

A small cist and two pits (Asset 16) were identified during excavations at Kebister to the west of the site. Human remains were identified however no date has been attributed to the remains.

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