Orkney Coastal Zone Assessment Survey 1998

Westray
Papa Westray
Holm of Papa Westray
West Mainland

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Orkney
Coastal Zone
Assessment
Survey
1998

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West Mainland

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Introduction

This report documents the findings of a Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of islands of Westray, Papa Westray, Holm of Papa Westray and part of the West Mainland of Orkney. The work was commissioned by Orkney Archaeological Trust and funded by Historic Scotland.

The archaeological fieldwork was carried out over four weeks in September 1998. It followed the methods defined within Historic Scotland Archaeological Procedure Paper 4: Coastal Zone Assessment Survey (1996). The results have been summarised for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland 1998.

Westray

Westray lies to the northwest of the Orkney archipelago and is the largest of its northern islands. The economy of the island is based on beef cattle husbandry, fishing and, increasingly, tourism. Much of the land has been improved and is fertile. The landscape is predominantly one of enclosed fields of grassland, with wilder unclosed land along the cliff tops to the north and west. There are important sea bird colonies around the coast, the largest being at The Noup, which is an RSPB reserve. The island is the main port for Orkney’s fishing fleet. There are facilities for processing white fish and crustaceans on Westray and much of the catch is exported to the continent. While the island has suffered some depopulation, it is nonetheless the most prosperous and populous of the northern islands. Since 1992, Westray has been served by a ro-ro ferry service which operates from Rapness. This has made it possible to travel to and from Mainland Orkney on a daily basis. There is also an air service with connections to Kirkwall and Papa Westray and a daily passenger ferry connection to Papa Westray.

Westray has been continuously settled for at least six thousand years. Within the present living landscape there are abundant remains of earlier settlements and burial places. At Links of Noltland on the north coast, the extensive remains of a late Neolithic/Bronze Age ‘grooved ware’ settlement have been partially excavated. The findings point to a small self-sufficient community carrying on a mixed farming regime (Clarke and Sharples, 1985). Many burial mounds of this period also survive, often as upstanding features in the landscape. At Point of Cott on the east coast, recent excavations investigated the remains of a chambered cairn, part of which had already been eroded away by the sea (Barber, 1998). Bronze Age burnt mounds and barrows are also present. At Gill Pier, Pierowall, a burnt mound damaged by coastal erosion has recently been assessed (Lehane, 1990). At Stancro, Rapness, excavation investigated two burial cairns
Broch, Duffy & O'Sullivan, 1996). Brochs and substantial Iron Age settlements often form highly visible mounds and are frequently sited close to the coast. While none have been investigated in recent times, it would appear that several of these sites are built over the remains of earlier settlements. During the Norse period, Westray was home to several influential men, some of whom are mentioned in the Sagas. The high status hall and associated settlement excavated at Tuquoy (Owen, 1993) and the nearby Cross Kirk church have been associated with Hálfri Thorkelsson. There are few known sites which can be clearly assigned to the later medieval period. Noltland Castle which is of 16th C date survives relatively intact and is a guardianship monument. Remains of 18th-20th C date are very numerous. These include deserted farmsteads, mills, boat roosts, keip-working areas and field boundaries. Within the coastal zone, there are currently ten sites which have been accorded a scheduled or listed status. Of these, two sites (both of medieval date) are in guardianship and readily accessible to the public.

Papa Westray & Holm of Papa Westray

The island of Papa Westray lies immediately to the northeast of Westray. To the east side of this small island lies the even smaller, uninhabited Holm of Papa Westray. In Orkney, Papa Westray is usually referred to simply as 'Papay'. It measures about 7km in length by 2km wide. The fluctuating population currently lies below one hundred people. The island is reliant for its income on beef farming and, to a lesser extent, on fishing. An island co-operative runs the shop and is also involved in the promotion of tourism. The southern end of the island is low-lying and predominantly made up of cultivated fields. The northern end, which is higher and more exposed is largely unoccupied. Part of this area is designated as a nature reserve. The island is served by a daily passenger ferry connection to Pierowall on Westray and a less frequent connection to Kirkwall. There is an air service from Westray which rates a mention in the Guinness Book of Records as the shortest scheduled service in the world.

The oldest known settlement in Orkney, dated to the latter part of the fourth millennium BC, is located at Knap of Howar on Papay. Here, two stone buildings, standing to roof height, were uncovered in an archaeological excavation (Ritchie 1984). Analyses of the materials recovered from the site indicated that the economy of the site was based on mixed farming and the exploitation of marine resources. On the Holm of Papay there are probably up to five chambered cairns dating to the same period as the settlement at Knap Howar. Of the two which have been excavated, one is in guardianship and is open to the public. Sites of the later prehistoric period include the extensive settlement known as Munker Hoose, located west coast. Here, remains dating from the latter part of the second millennium BC were the subject of recent
investigations (Lowe, 1998). The remains, which are exposed in the coastal section, include a broch and several other buildings along with extensive midden deposits. The 12th C church of St. Boniface is situated on top of this mound. It was used as the parish church until the early part of this century. After this, it fell into disrepair for a number of years, but has recently been restored and is once again in use. There are four scheduled or listed sites located in the coastal zone of Papay, with a further three scheduled sites on the Holm of Papay.

West Mainland

The part of the West Mainland investigated by this survey largely comprises low-lying, fertile land, much of which is under cultivation. The A964 Kirkwall to Stenness road runs behind the coastline over much of this locality. The first part of the survey area lies between Waulkmill Bay and Houton Head, in the parish of Orphir. This area faces into Scapa Flow and is relatively sheltered. The landscape is dominated by several large farms, with a mixture of pasture land and arable fields. Within this area there are several sheltered sandy bays. The Bay of Houton houses the ferry terminal serving the oil terminal on Flotta and the island of Hoy. The area between Houton Head to Bu Point extends from Clestrain Sound into the Bay of Ireland, with the Loch of Stenness at its head. Here, settlement is slightly more dense but the landscape continues to be dominated by enclosed, cultivated fields.

To date, little archaeological work has been carried out in this area. Previous surveys have recorded several settlement mounds of probable Iron Age date concentrated around the Bay of Ireland. The most extensive programme of archaeological work in the area was that carried out in the vicinity of the Earl's Bu, Orphir. Much of the excavation in this area took place earlier this century, when a complex of Norse buildings were partially uncovered. In recent times, part of a horizontal water mill of Norse/Medieval date was excavated (Batey and Morris 1993). Some of the most visible remains present in the survey area are those relating to wartime defence, in particular the large coastal battery situated at Houton Head.
Survey

Area
The survey area covered the islands of Westray, Papa Westray, Holm of Papa Westray and part of the West Mainland (see location map). Investigation was limited to the coastal zone, defined as a 50-100m wide strip of land adjacent to the coast edge, including the foreshore. No marine survey was undertaken. A list of shipwreck sites currently being compiled by The Scottish Institute of Maritime Studies was not available for incorporation into this report.

The area covered by this survey covers the entire length of the coastline indicated on the location map. The actual distance covered on the ground varies according to the scale of map used for measuring (see Ashmore, 1993). At a scale of 1:10,000 the length of the coastline is estimated to be 225km.

Background
A desk-based review of the known sites and monuments indicated that 143 sites had previously been recorded in the survey area: 19 are protected as scheduled ancient monuments, 6 are listed buildings. Where possible, each known site was visited in the field and re-examined. In a very few cases it was either not possible to locate a known site or to inspect a site. In such instances the site description given in this report has been taken directly from the NMR or SMR record cards; such sites are labelled 'not inspected' or 'not located', as appropriate.

Conditions
Much of the survey area is low-lying and under cultivation and therefore relatively accessible by foot. Exceptions to this are parts of the West coast of Westray and the North coast of Papa Westray which are high and exposed. In general, the vegetation cover is low and does not impinge upon site visibility. The survey was carried out during September and the weather conditions varied from good to fair.

Aims
The aim of the survey was to characterise the built heritage and archaeology of the coastal zone. To achieve this, all previously known sites were revisited and assessed for change. New sites were also located, identified and recorded. Site vulnerability to erosion was assessed. Sites of all types and periods within the coastal zone were investigated.

5
This survey was limited in scope, its purpose was to rapidly locate and assess all sites within the coastal zone. While this means that the results are not conclusive, the data collected about each site should be sufficient to characterise it generally, and to facilitate its location by others.

A survey of the geology and geomorphology of the coastal zone was carried out simultaneously. The aims of this work were to characterise the natural background of the survey area and thereby provide a benchmark for assessing future change and its likely effects on the cultural heritage.

Methods

The entire coastline of the survey area was walked over and was observed, where possible, from both the hinterland and foreshore. Where the land was rough or hilly, it was necessary to walk over transects set at regular intervals and perpendicular to the coast.

The field record consisted of a card system. Each site was given a unique identifier made up of an area code and a unique number (e.g. ML20 = Mainland, site 20). These identifiers have been kept as the primary site reference within this report, although some of the field records have been separated into more than one entry in the report, while others have been amalgamated.

The dimensions and characteristics of each site were recorded and a measured sketch plan and photographic record was made. Measurements were calculated with a tape for smaller sites, while the dimensions of larger sites were estimated by systematically pacing out the area.

Directions were found using a compass. The sites were located onto a 1:25,000 OS Pathfinder base map, measured, where possible, from fixed features such as field boundaries.
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The Report

This report is the product of both field survey and desk-based research. The body of the report was produced by EASE Archaeological Consultants. The gazetteers which accompany the Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology and Erosion Class maps, along with other (marked) contributions to the text are by Alan Stapf, Arksendl. The following notes explain the terminology and shorthand descriptions used throughout the report.

Built Heritage and Archaeology Gazetteer Entries

The gazetteer entries comprise a set of characteristics for each site. The categories are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site Code (NMR Number)</td>
<td>W614 (HY44 SE1)*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grid Reference</td>
<td>HY 4550 4315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place Name</td>
<td>Cross Kirk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site type: protected status</td>
<td>Church: Scheduled &amp; Listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(HS Index)</td>
<td>(HS Index 90312)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date (approximate)</td>
<td>10th-14th C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General location</td>
<td>Located on the coast edge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendations</td>
<td>Monitor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Where the site code is underlined this denotes that the site is vulnerable to erosion.

Built Heritage and Archaeology Site Description Entries

- Site Type: While the categories of site types were not restricted (i.e. types were not selected from a predetermined list), efforts were made to standardise the labels given for this report. For example, ruinous buildings of 18th/20th C date which could be positively identified were divided into categories such as dwelling houses, mills, or outbuildings; where their use was not apparent, they were labelled as 'structures'. The use of 'croft' and 'farmstead' and 'smallholding' has been avoided where possible, since it was often not apparent whether the 'structure' was associated with a parcel of land.
Prehistoric sites, and mounds in particular, are frequently difficult to date and characterise from the visible remains. The identification of mounds as chambered cairns, burial mounds or more recent refuse or farm mounds, for example, was made on the basis of previously recorded information, or where this was not available, the most probable explanation of the visible remains.

- **Date Ranges:** The date ranges set out for various site types within this report are based on comparison with similar sites in the area which have already been dated or characterised. These ranges represent a general consensus; it must be noted that there is much debate about the date ranges of specific sites (such as brochs, for example). It is also likely that there are many local variations which provide exceptions to the rule. The date ranges used are as follows:
  - 4th-3rd millennium BC
  - 3rd-1st millennium BC
  - 1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD
  - 10th century AD-14th century AD
  - 14th century AD- 18th century AD
  - 18th century AD- 20th century AD

**Condition**

The condition of each site entry was assessed under the following criteria:

- **Good:** This label was applied where a site exhibited either high potential or had sufficient visible elements surviving to properly characterise it. An archaeological site was considered to be in ‘good’ condition where it was undisturbed or only slightly disturbed and retained obvious archaeological potential. Further work at such sites could reasonably be expected to provide information regarding date, nature, extent and complexity. Buildings (especially the large category of 18th/20th C structures) were considered ‘good’ where there were multiple site elements represented and survived in a reasonable enough condition to provide information regarding their construction, development and use.
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- Fair: This label was applied to sites considered to have some potential or where limited elements remained and the site could be generally characterised. Archaeological sites of this type were generally somewhat disturbed but retained some potential; a sufficient part of the site remains that it could be more fully characterised via excavation. Standing buildings were considered 'fair' when, although ruinous or disturbed, sufficient of the site remained that it could be generally characterised.

- Poor: Sites described as 'poor' have visible elements which are very disturbed and offer little potential for further characterisation. This assumption was made on the basis of the evidence available at the time of this survey and it must be noted that, without recourse to full assessment, the true potential of many sites can only be estimated.

Recommendations

Three types of action have been recommended:

- Survey: This has been used as a general term covering all forms of further archaeological investigation or site protection. It includes topographical survey, section recording, trial trenching and open area excavation.

- Monitor: This is recommended either to keep a site of known potential under surveillance or to check for new exposures on sites currently considered to be of low or unknown potential. This will entail regular site inspections and include cross-checking of known information against new exposures and should be carried out by an archaeologist.

- Nil: No action has been recommended where a site is not immediately vulnerable to change, or is of very low potential.
Analysis

A total of 287 site entries were recorded within the survey area. A summary of site data is provided in spreadsheet form in Appendix II, and is presented here, in chart form, to provide a more readily accessible overview of the information.

Where possible, charts which display similar types of information have been placed together to facilitate comparison between findings in the different survey areas. In considering the import of this data, it should be borne in mind that the findings relate only to the coastal zone and therefore are unlikely to be representative of the wider area. This is illustrated on Chart 9, where no sites of the 4th to 3rd Millennium BC have been listed on Mainland. Many sites of this period are known to exist in the area outwith the coastal zone, however. The survey results are therefore not generally representative, but more a reflection of the fact that survey was limited in scope.

The charts illustrating site type/per date range have been grouped by survey area. While it would have been possible to combine information from the various areas on one chart, it was felt that this approach might tempt invalid comparisons between the areas.

Much effort has been made to separate multiple or contiguous sets of remains into individual sites so that a true picture of the resource can be gained from the statistics. Where a noost is located adjacent to a cairn, for example, the two sites have been given separate site numbers. The exceptions to this rule are multi-period sites and sites, such as broch mounds, which have been characterised on the basis of their most visible element. The variety and type of all of the remains present is documented within the individual site descriptions, but in some instances the data has been simplified for statistical purposes.

Discussion

Charts 1 to 5 summarise the overall findings of this survey. A total of 144 new sites were discovered by this work (Chart 5). This represents a twofold increase in the known archaeological resource of the survey areas. The proportion of new sites discovered was evenly spread over each part of the survey area, however. The largest proportion of new sites were recorded on Mainland, with new sites making up 59% of the known coastal resource (Chart 2). The scale of this increase probably reflects the relatively small amount of work previously carried out in this area. On Westray, new sites make up 53% of the archaeological resource of the
coastal zone (Chart 1). On Papa Westray new sites make up 40% and on Holm of Papa Westray, the figure is 25% (Charts 3 and 4). The relatively small proportion of new sites discovered on Papa Westray is perhaps due to a combination of the small size of the island and the large amount of previous work. It is all the more surprising therefore that many of the new sites located are potentially important.

Overall, a total of 193 sites, representing 67% of the total resource, were regarded as vulnerable to damage or destruction primarily from coastal erosion (Chart 5). The largest number of vulnerable sites occur on Westray, where 70% of sites within the coastal zone are considered to be at risk (Chart 1). On Papa Westray 63% of sites are at risk, on Mainland the figure is 69% and 37% on the Holm of Papa Westray (Charts 2-4).

With the exception of the Holm of Papa Westray, vulnerable sites form the majority within each part of the survey area. This may reflect a relationship between site distribution and vulnerable parts of the coastline: the most desirable places for settlement being low-lying and close to the sea, it also reflects factors such as higher site visibility within eroding sections of coastline.

Charts 6 to 10 illustrate the numbers of sites per date ranges. This is the type of information is often used as the starting point for the formulation of research priorities for an area, but it should be noted 93 sites, representing 32% of the total, could not be dated with any certainty. Further work will be required to characterise these sites and inferences drawn must be considered to be speculative.

It might be expected that the number of sites recorded for individual periods would increase through time. It might also be expected that there should be an increase in the variety of types of site represented. This expectation supposes that society has become more complex over time and that population density has increased: any slight fluctuations in population density might be expected to be obscured by the increase in the greater range of site types represented. It also supposes that sites of more recent date could be expected to have a better survival rate and to be more readily visible to archaeological survey.

In the case of this survey, there is no such trend visible. It is possible that this is because the survey area has been limited to one particular part of the landscape and thus the results are not representative of the resource as a whole.
It is, however, much more likely that the survey area is over, rather than under representative of the overall area. This is not only because the coastal zone is an attractive place for settlement, but also because it has been the focus for a number of specialised activities, not carried out in further inland. This over-representation presents its own problems, which may partly explain some of the results of analysis.

One explanatory factor may be that over much of the survey area the coastal zone has been considered a desirable location for settlement in the past. Access to the sea for fishing and transport has been important during all periods up to the present day. In addition, the desire to maximise the available agricultural land appears to be responsible for the duration of settlement in particular locations.

This is illustrated by the large number of settlement mounds recorded by the survey. Excavation on a few such sites in Orkney has demonstrated that they represent settlement and activity over a long period of time. Thus it is likely that sites of earlier date are obscured beneath those of later date.

Two broad types of settlement mound appear to be represented: those of prehistoric date, at which the latest and most visible component element is often a broch; and those of Norse/Medieval date at which the latest and most visible component is often an 18th-20th C farmstead. In the former case, the earliest period of settlement may date to the Neolithic or Bronze Age periods but be largely obscured by Iron Age remains; in the latter case Norse and early Medieval period settlements may be obscured beneath post-Medieval remains.

This may explain the apparent abundance of Iron Age and 18th-20th C remains and the apparent paucity of remains dating to the earlier prehistoric and the Norse/Medieval periods.

Not all of the gaps in the data can be explained in this way. As noted above, a third of sites could not be assigned any date. This is partly due to the particular characteristics of the archaeological resource in Orkney; the use of stone from the earliest times means that a fragment of walling seen in an eroding section may date from any period from the Neolithic onward. While in other areas it might be possible to rule out a Neolithic or Bronze Age date for coursed stone structures, in an Orcadian context such sites can only be properly understood by recourse to assessment or excavation.
Even taking account of the presence of multi-period sites where the earlier phases are obscured, and sites of indeterminate date which cannot be assigned any date, there are periods to which it seems too few sites can be assigned. A glance at charts 6-10 reveals that only one site could be assigned to the 14th-18th C AD. The choice of this date range was intended to reveal the potential of the resource for an important period in Orkney history, but instead it has pointed towards a real lack of knowledge. A good deal of further work is required in order to arrive at any understanding of the development of rural settlement during this time.

Other gaps in the record become apparent when charts 6-10, which divide sites by date are cross-referenced with charts 16-44 which further divide sites into type. Here it becomes apparent that sometimes where there appear to be many sites within a date range, they are mostly of one type. For example, most of the sites which could be dated to the 4th-3rd Millennium BC represent burial monuments. The majority of sites in the 10th-14th C AD category represent church sites, for which there is some documentary record. These deficiencies reflect the state of knowledge as it is at present, as well as problems of site characterisation.
Charts 29-35: Papa Westray
Sites by Date and Type
Charts 36-39: Holm of Papa Westray
Sites by Date and Type

CHART 36: 4th-3rd Millennium BC

CHART 37: 3rd-1st Millennium BC

CHART 38: 18th-20th C AD

CHART 39: Indeterminate date
Discussion

Archaeological Resource

In addition to updating records for previously known sites, the findings of this survey have doubled the number of sites known in the overall area. If the figures are broken down, it will be noted that substantial increases in knowledge about the archaeological resource have been made even in areas which have been the subject of much previous investigation.

The number of known sites on the islands of Westray and Papa Westray have increased by 53% and 40% respectively even though both had been surveyed on a number of previous occasions. Surveys were carried out by RCAHMS in the early part of the century (RCAHMS, 1946) and again in the 1980's (Lamb, 1983), and by the Ordnance Survey on several occasions; in addition, there have been a number of excavations on these islands in recent years.

On Mainland, known sites have been increased by 59%. In view of the fact that this area had not previously received much attention, this figure may not appear surprising. What is noteworthy, however, is that this area is extensively cultivated and archaeological remains are not readily visible in the hinterland.

One explanation for the increase in site numbers is that many of the previous surveys have been more broadly based in scope and tended not to record sites of more recent date or to closely examine the coast edge. While a large number of the new sites recorded by this survey are of 18th-20th C date, many new sites of earlier date have also been recorded. In addition, many sites recorded here as being of indeterminate date may, on examination, turn out to be of early date.

On Mainland, close examination of the coastal zone indicates a level of archaeological potential which is not so readily discerned in the hinterland. In some areas, the coastal zone is one of the few areas not to be ploughed flat and can be likened to a road line in that it offers a window onto the wider area.

This survey was limited in scope, being confined to the coastal zone. This is, therefore, not the place to make detailed comparisons between these results and the archaeological resource of the wider area. Even a summary appraisal of the findings, however, indicates that all of the areas must be considered to be of high archaeological potential. Westray and Papa Westray,
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and their coastal areas in particular, contain an archaeological resource unsurpassed anywhere else in Scotland, in number, quality, and variety. Unfortunately, it is also likely to be unsurpassed in the extent to which sites are vulnerable to destruction.

Site Visibility and Interpretation

Within the survey areas, sites are visible both as topographic features and as deposits in eroding sections. In both cases, the visible component may be only part of a more complex and extensive site. In general, sites in Orkney were frequently used over a considerable duration and the visible component at any site may not be representative of the remains as a whole. Many sites have had complex histories and the archaeological record may preserve information about some or all of the major events which took place. This information can only be gleaned from intensive investigation; it is not readily amenable from survey alone.

Site recognition is also affected by current understanding of the nature of the archaeological resource. It is impossible to interpret the unknown without reference to the known, therefore gaps or weakness in the record will be reflected in the ability to conclusively identify new sites. The absence of sites of certain types or dates from the survey record cannot be taken to indicate that no such sites exist in the area; only that they could not be recognised by this type of survey.

Threat

The major threat faced by the sites within the survey areas comes from coastal erosion. Subaerial erosion and farming practices also impact on the survival of archaeological remains. There is, however, only a very limited threat from developments such as housing, roads or quarrying.

The geology, geomorphology and erosion class element of this survey characterises the nature and condition of the coastline in a general manner. The findings should be used to gain an impression of the current situation, but cannot be used to directly determine vulnerability at site level. Even within stretches of stable coastline there may be localised areas of erosion which may impact upon archaeological remains. By virtue of being atypical among the surrounding deposits, archaeological remains have a tendency to erode at a different, and usually faster, rate. An example of this is where heavy masonry structures, exposed in section, collapse in a catastrophic fashion causing extensive damage to the surrounding archaeological deposits.
Conclusions

The areas investigated by this survey have a rich archaeological resource which is severely threatened, primarily by coastal erosion. Many of the sites located during the survey could not be identified, but of those that could, it is unlikely that their full potential has been recognised.

![Chart 45: Entire Survey Area, Condition and Recommendations](image)

It has been recommended that assessment should be carried out on a large number of sites. This is envisaged only as a first step. It is unlikely that more than a small proportion of the sites can ever be protected or excavated and will, therefore, be destroyed. Assessment will not only assist in deciding which sites are most suitable for excavation but for those which are not, will provide a more detailed record than currently exists.

Settlement mounds represent one of the site types which deserve much more investigation. Two broad types of settlement mound have been distinguished: those of prehistoric date which may include elements of Neolithic to Late Iron Age date, and those originating in the Norse period which may be occupied today by modern farmsteads. Such sites, although numerous on Westray and Papa Weeray, have not been excavated or even fully assessed. Many have been classified simply as brochs, although the evidence would suggest that they represent settlement of much longer duration.

The record of recent excavation indicates a preference in favour of single period sites, but although the scale of some of these mounds and the costs involved in their excavation may
appears daunting, they cannot continue to be overlooked if we are to advance our knowledge of earlier periods. Settlement mounds offer an unparalleled opportunity to investigate the dynamics of continuity and change.

This work has a limited usefulness and a limited 'shelf life'. Its ultimate value depends on it being integrated within a more comprehensive management framework. To make any progress beyond this point will require that long term strategies are formulated, and implemented. Mechanisms need to be set in place to facilitate the feedback of new information and to regularly reassess priorities.

Recommendations

Every site recorded within this survey has been assessed to determine if further investigative work is required. The conclusions are given in outline form in the site gazetteers and site descriptions which form the body of this report. In those sections recommendations are given as one of three types: Survey, Monitor or Nil, in accordance with Historic Scotland guidelines.

The term 'Survey' has been used as a general term covering all forms of further archaeological investigation or site protection. This may include topographical survey, section recording, trial trenching and open area excavation.

This section expands upon the specific type of work required where survey or monitoring has been recommended. These sites have been divided into four categories:

- **Category 1**: Urgent action required
- **Category 2**: Assessment required
- **Category 3**: Assessment desirable
- **Category 4**: Monitoring required
The main criteria used to categorise sites were the level of vulnerability to destruction, followed by the degree of archaeological potential.

**Category 1** sites are therefore both highly vulnerable and likely to be of high archaeological potential. The sites in this category are listed in order of priority. Within the other categories sites are listed in the order in which they occur on the map sections. **Category 2** sites are vulnerable but either are of lower or unknown archaeological potential. **Category 3** sites may be of low vulnerability/some potential or vulnerable/unknown potential. The monitoring of **Category 4** sites is recommended either to keep a site of known potential under surveillance or to check for new exposures on sites currently considered to be of low or unknown potential.

In a majority of cases, it is difficult to accurately assess archaeological potential from surface examination alone. The most immediate requirement here is for further site assessment. The findings of site assessment can be used to inform future management decisions or may act as a salvage operation if further work is either not possible or desirable. A small proportion of assessed sites may go on to be excavated or protected; the remainder will eventually be destroyed. Assessment in advance of destruction will, at the minimum, provide an enhanced site record with empirical evidence of the nature, date and extent of the remains.
Category 1: Urgent Action Required

Knowe of Skea, Westray (WT53, Map 5)

**Description:** A large amorphous mound, measuring 26m in diameter, is situated on the extreme tip of Brist Ness. The land on which it is sited is becoming cut off by the sea and is currently joined to the Ness by a low-lying shoulder of sea-washed rock. There are several short exposures to the south side of the mound, caused by coastal erosion. Here, fragments of animal bone, shell, burnt material and pot which may be of Bronze Age date, form inclusions within anthropogenic soil deposits. Occasional protruding stones provide an indication that the mound may cover structural remains. The centre of the mound lies 5m from the coast edge and the site is very vulnerable to further erosion.

**Potential:** The site appears to be relatively intact at present, although it is highly vulnerable to coastal erosion. The islet on which the site is located is extremely small and the soils are shallow. It is likely, therefore, that the topographical indications are truly representative of the extent of archaeological deposits present. The site cannot be conclusively identified from its visible components alone, but it would appear to be a non-broch settlement, possibly of Bronze Age date.

**Threat:** Actively eroding and vulnerable to further damage from coastal erosion

**Action:** The location is not suitable for sea defences or other forms of protective measures. The minimum level of work required will be limited open area excavation orientated to establish the nature, date and extent of the remains. Test trenching is not recommended since it is probable that the horizontal complexity is such that the method of assessment is unlikely to provide results which are either comprehensible or representative.
Peterkirk, Westray (WT125, Map 8)

Description: A large, amorphous mound measures 2.5m in diameter and stands up to 2m high. The sides of the mound are pitted and structural remains are revealed both in the side of the mound and in a coastal exposure to the seaward side. To the Northwest side of the mound an oval depression appears to form the interior of a structure, measuring 5m wide by 6m long. A short exposure in the seaward side of the mound reveals stony midden deposits with peat ash and inclusions of bone, shell, charcoal and worked whalebone. Two later structures overlie the mound. To the south side, a rectangular structure may be the chapel which stood on this site and from which the placename is derived. It measures 7m by 3.5m and is defined by coursed wailing. Inside, there is a central division formed by an upright slab set at 90° to the inner wall face. To the west side of the mound there is a length of substantial wailing which is visible for almost 10m and stands to at least 0.3m high.

Potential: This site comprises multiple components likely to range from the later prehistoric to the early historic period. The mound, which forms the earlier phase of the site, appears to comprise both structural and midden-type deposits, indicative of settlement. The nature of the structures represented is unclear and the presence of a broch cannot be confirmed, on present evidence. The probable chapel building is well-defined and internal features appear to be preserved. The site is located on a small headland and the extent of surviving deposits is likely to be restricted to the area of the mound. The soils of the hinterland are shallow and unlikely to preserve extensive remains.

Threat: The site has already been truncated by coastal erosion, it continues to erode and its exposed location renders it vulnerable to further damage.

Action: The site could be protected in the short term by a sea wall built on the rock platform which surrounds the headland. It would be preferable, however, to carry out archaeological investigations by means of open area excavation. While the deposits are restricted in area, they are likely to be of some depth and complexity. Test trenching is, therefore, unlikely to be a suitable method of assessment.
Built Heritage and Archaeology

East Suirgorth, Westray (WT104, Map 10)

Description: A mound, measuring 20m long and standing up to 1m high, has been truncated by the sea. The surviving portion measures about 8m wide. The coastal exposure contains structural remains, including several columns of masonry, which have collapsed in-situ, along with edge-set blocks and upright slabs. Towards the centre of this 25m long exposure, there are remnants of coursed wailing which stands up to 0.7m high. A large horizontal slab which is located to the south end of the section may be part of a larger feature.

Potential: The remains are tentatively identified as a chambered cairn. An unknown proportion of the site has already been lost to coastal erosion and the extent of the surviving deposits is unclear. Unusually, this site does not appear to have been previously investigated. There is the potential for the recovery of undisturbed remains.

Threat: This site lies on the coast edge and is actively eroding.

Action: An assessment of the surviving deposits is required in the first instance. Assessment should combine the recording of the coastal section with test trenching in the hinterland. Section recording will provide insights on site stratigraphy, over an extended area, while test trenching should determine the inland extent. The location is unlikely to be suitable for the construction of coastal defences.
Description: Fragments of walling and anthropogenic deposits are exposed in an eroding coastal section for over 50m. The topography of the immediate hinterland area indicates the presence of sub-surface deposits. To the west end of the section, deposits of structural stone, probably the remains of walling, are interspersed with highly organic soils. A length of claystone walling, over 0.5m high, extends for 8m. Two fragments of walling extend over an area of some 30m and probably represent parts of a single structure. Both walls are bonded with clay and finished to a high standard. Together, they appear to form two sides of a rectilinear structure, the corner of which has been removed by coastal erosion. Neither wall is uncovered in its entirety. Stratified anthropogenic deposits associated with this walling include peatlash, fish, mammal and bird bone.

Potential: This site is tentatively identified as a settlement of Viking/Norse date. It lies close to a known Norse period high-status settlement at Tuquoy (WT65, Map 5) and Croasdaik church (WT64, Map 5) which is of contemporary date. Since it was not recorded prior to this survey, the site may not have been eroding for very long. The structures appear to be well preserved; the soil deposits are clearly stratified and materials such as bone and shell survive in good condition.

Threat: The site is actively eroding. The presence of concentrations of heavy masonry among the archaeological deposits renders the section inherently unstable; as the stones fall forward they cause the collapse of the soil deposits. The rate of retreat is therefore affected as much by the instability of the remains as it is by the frequency of storms. A vehicle track passes immediately over the coastal exposure and the passage of traffic may contribute to further destabilisation. Moreover, the site lies on a public footpath to the sites at Croasdaik and Tuquoy and the eroding deposits may attract unwelcome attention.

Action: There is a requirement for test pitting in order to confirm the date of this site. Work should also record the eroding deposits, as these are likely to give some indication of the complexity of the site. Test pits should also seek to establish the extent of the deposits. This site is unlikely to be suitable for protection due to the nature of the foreshore.
The Cains, Mainland (ML36, Map S)

Description: The site and the land which immediately surrounds it has not been cultivated and is very overgrown. The remains are sufficiently substantial to be described as an artificial mound or platform with adjoining enclosure. The platform stands up to 3m high, measures 54m by 30m, and is aligned north-south, parallel to the coast. The top of the platform is relatively level but rises slightly to the periphery, possibly indicating the presence of a surrounding bank. Some stone is visible in the sloping sides, suggesting that there may have been a revetment wall. A smaller mound lies to the south east side. To the seaward side, a curvilinear bank encloses an area of at least 50m by 10m. The banks are earthen and although somewhat reduced by cultivation and coastal erosion, have the appearance of defences. Bone pins are said to have been recovered from this area. The site has a direct line of view to Stromness and beyond through Hoy Sound.

Potential: This extensive site is classified and scheduled as a group of cairns (HS Index 1248), although it had traditionally been known as the site of a Danish fort. The substantial and defensive nature of the remains and the strategic location strongly suggests that this is a fortification of early historic or medieval date. Such a site would be unusual in an Orcadian context. Although much reduced, the surviving remains are likely to be sufficiently well preserved to provide a representative picture of the whole.

Threat: The seaward portion of the site is actively eroding. The likelihood that this site has been wrongly classified increases the possibility that future management decisions will be ill-informed or inappropriate.

Action: In the first instance, this site requires a detailed survey of its standing elements. Assessment via trial trenching, possibly in combination with geophysical survey, could be most usefully used to determine the nature, extent and date of the remains. The eroding coastal section could be protected with sea defences. The management of this site could be enhanced by controlling the access of cattle on to the area and by keeping the vegetation in check. If further archaeological investigations confirm the reclassification of this site, it may be suitable for public access.
Clestrain, Mainland (ML29, Map 4)

**Description:** A subterranean passage, aligned at 90° to the coast edge, is exposed in the coastal section. It lies beneath 0.2m of topsoil and turf and a further 0.2m of colluvium. The claystone walls, which stand up to 1.1m or 16 courses high, are revetted against bedrock. The passage, therefore, is either partially cut into the rock or has utilised a natural cham. It is 1.05m wide and can be followed into the section face for a distance of about 2.2m. Beyond this point the passage is filled with refuse which has been washed in by the sea.

**Potential:** This structure may be part of a souterrain, or alternatively may be a noost or boat shed of some antiquity which has been buried. If it represents part of a souterrain, the possibility exists that it extends inland and is associated with a larger settlement. The hinterland in this area has been rendered featureless by cultivation. Remains, such as these, which are visible outwith the cultivated fields may provide the only opportunity to locate archaeological sites in this landscape.

**Threat:** This site is open to the sea and is vulnerable to destruction. The hinterland is under arable crop and any surviving archaeological remains may be disturbed by cultivation.

**Action:** An assessment will be required to determine the nature, date and extent of these remains. The methods likely to be most suitable for this purpose will be trial trenching, possibly carried out in combination with geophysical survey. The question as to whether the ‘passage’ extends further inland could be rapidly addressed with limited trial trenching. Field walking may provide further indications of archaeological remains in the wider area.
Bay of Skoill, Westray (WT1, Map 1)

Description: Structural remains and shell midden deposits are exposed in a sand-cliff to the fore of a ridge of dunes. These remains are visible over a distance of some 60m and are up to 3m thick. They are situated in the upper portion of the dunes, some 4m above the level of the beach. The remains are covered by deposits of wind-blown sand and topsoil. At least two separate structural levels are represented in the section. They are separated by an anthropogenic soil that contains shell and fragments of bone. A drystone wall protrudes end-on to the section face towards the southern end of the exposure. It stands up to 0.3m high and appears to be curved. It is known locally as 'The Pic's House'. It was opened at some time before 1928, revealing a circular chamber and a long passage. It has been eroding since at least 1928, when RCAHMS surveyors noted the presence of midden, a pot sherd and a fragment of bronze.

Potential: The site cannot be fully characterised by the deposits currently visible or from previous records. It would appear, however, that it represent prehistoric settlement.

Threat: The site is being eroded by the sea and the wind and has been further damaged by rabbits and nesting fulmars.

Action: The level of the threat is such that any further work, whether assessment or salvage excavation, should be carried out without delay. The initial work should determine the nature extent and date of the site. This could be addressed by means of trial trenching and section recording.
Description: A slight mound lies inland from a coastal exposure containing archaeological deposits. The mound is amorphous and has no distinguishing features. The exposure extends for 13m and stands up to 1.2m high. The visible archaeological deposits chiefly comprise loose stonework, apparently representing a wall aligned parallel to the modern shoreline. This is covered by soil deposits containing inclusions of peat ash and charcoal and latterly by shell midden. There are further deposits of peat ash beneath the wall. The coastal section has slumped to either side of the visible deposits and thus their full extent could not be determined.

Potential: It is probable that these remains are part of a more extensive prehistoric settlement, although further assessment will be required to determine this.

Threat: The visible deposits lie above a soft till which is being washed out by the sea. The undermined section is thus threatened with further collapse.

Action: Assessment via trial trenching and section recording is required to determine the nature, extent and date of this site.
Queena Howe, Westray (WT30, Map 2)

**Description:** The site is comprised of at least two distinct sets of remains: a mound and extensive structural remains which are visible in the coastal section. These remains are located in close proximity but may not be associated. The structural remains revealed in the section is associated with anthropogenic soils and midden deposits and would appear to represent a settlement. The mound has a well-defined form which appears more designed than the result of post-abandonment build-up.

**Potential:** The site is scheduled as a broch although it is probable that the remains represent activity over a considerable duration. The overburden of deposits covering the site has had a benign influence on its survival. The structural remains in section appear well preserved and both artefacts and ecofacial materials survive in good condition. The area in which the site is situated appears to be a sand-trap and there may be a considerable depth of sand covering any archaeological deposits which survive in the wider locality.

**Threat:** An extensive area of structural deposits is currently exposed in the eroding coastal section. A vehicle track runs immediately above this exposure and appears to have truncated the seaward edge of the mound. Traffic on this track is likely to cause more damage to the already vulnerable remains.

**Action:** The various elements of this site need to be more conclusively identified and the extent of the remains should be determined. The deposits in the eroding section face should be recorded as a matter of urgency, in order to clarify what is represented and to provide a detailed record for the future, should no further work be carried out. These aims could be met through a programme of section recording and trial trenching; geophysics may not be suitable in this context since there is a deep overburden of sand. The coastal section could be protected, at least in the short term, by coastal defences. The remains could be further protected by the re-routing of the vehicle track.
Hodgalske, Westray (W170, Map 6)

Description: Part of a large overgrown mound, which probably originally measured up to 50m by 30m, stands up to 5m high. The seaward side of the mound has been truncated by coastal erosion. There are traces of stone structural remains visible in the side and at the top of the mound. The coastal section in front of the mound is overgrown and disturbed, and although structural remains are visible, it is difficult to discern their nature. To the Southeast side of the mound, there are extensive structural and midden deposits visible in section for almost 100m. The walls of a circular or sub-circular structure, some 12m in diameter, are exposed. The walls are up to 1.75m wide and protrude from the section at an oblique angle. The structure is filled with and covered by shell-rich deposits; an andir was also noted within these deposits.

Potential: The scale and nature of this mound suggests that it covers a substantial building such as a broch. The relationship between the broch and the house exposed in the section cannot be easily determined without recourse to excavation but the two should not be assumed to be of contemporary date. The extent of remains in this area indicates that it was a focus of activity and occupation over a long duration. The evidence of the coastal exposure indicates that the surviving remains are well preserved and that the site stratigraphy is well defined.

Threat: Coastal erosion has caused further, serious damage to this site since it was last examined in 1990 and continues to pose the greatest threat to the remains. The section contains heavy masonry which is liable to slumping and collapse.

Action: The extent and range of remains at this site need to be more fully characterised and elements of the site other than the probable broch need investigation. Due to the scale and likely complexity of the remains, limited open area excavation is likely to be the only method which provides an adequate level of information. Site extent could be investigated through a complimentary programme of test trenching. Section recording would add information on depth and stratigraphy, however given the great length of the eroding section this should be limited to specific areas of interest.
Mound of Skelwick, Westray (WT105, Map 10)

Description: An extensive settlement mound, measuring at least 40m in diameter, lies adjacent to the coast edge. A modern road cuts through the centre of the mound, while the seaward side is protected, to some degree, by a sea wall. The initial construction of the road revealed traces of stone structures and anthropogenic deposits containing quantities of horn. In more recent years, the construction of a new passing place has exposed further archaeological deposits. These deposits include both structural elements and anthropogenic deposits containing large amounts of fish bone. This exposure measures up to 30m in length and stands to 1m high.

Potential: This site appears to be a multi-period settlement of some duration. The deposits exposed in the new exposure have not been recorded and may provide insights into the composition and possibly the date of the mound.

Threat: The major part of this site is not threatened and requires no further work at this time. The newly exposed section lies beneath a dyestone dyke and is now very undermined and unstable. This may cause the collapse of a larger part of the mound. It must also be a concern that any consolidation of the section by the roads authority is likely to cause further damage to the archaeological remains.

Action: An assessment of the exposed remains is now urgently required, after which the section will require consolidation. It is recommended that the consolidation work be supervised by an archaeologist.
**Description:** Structural remains and anthropogenic soil deposits are visible in a coastal exposure that extends for over 100m. The section stands up to 3.5m high; in most places the basal archaeological deposits are obscured by a storm beach. The densest concentration of structural remains occurs towards the centre of the section. Here several walls are visible, forming at least two major structural phases. Wall ends protrude at 90° to the section and measure up to 0.6m wide by 1.3m or more in height. A cursory inspection suggests that at least four structures are present, none of which appear particularly substantial or defensive. Some of the structures appear to have been revetted into midden. The midden deposits contain inclusions of shell, bird, mammal and fish bone, peat ash, charcoal and burnt stone; some of the bone is unburnt and articulated. The latest structural phase lies beneath a very substantial farm mound. This, in turn, lies beneath a farmstead of 18th-20th C date. Further structural remains survive in front of the section also, but here they have been partially covered by the storm beach and are not readily identifiable.

**Potential:** The extensive archaeological remains in this area apparently represent a settlement of some duration. Of the several parts of buildings currently visible, none is obviously of Iron Age type and it is possible that they predate this period. The occupation and midden deposits appear to be well preserved, to the extent that articulated bone is readily visible in the section. The overburden of farm mound material has helped, no doubt, to preserve the site and may have assisted in the preservation of organic materials. The presence of farm buildings in the immediate hinterland places restrictions on the area available for archaeological investigation. These buildings, and in particular a silage pit, may have damaged or erased a proportion of the archaeological remains.

**Threat:** This site is very vulnerable to further losses as a result of coastal erosion.

**Action:** Assessment to determine, at the minimum, the nature, extent and date of the remains is required. These aims may be achieved by means of section recording in combination with limited trial trenching. The presence of modern buildings in the area makes it unlikely that open area excavation could be attempted.
Kings Craig, Papa Westray (PWT59, Map 2)

Description: Substantial archaeological deposits and structural remains are exposed in the coastal section around the headland at Whitehove. The cliff stands up to 4m high and, of this, up to 2m is comprised of archaeological deposits. The exposure extends for about 30m. At the base of the section, glacial till is covered by a cultivation soil, which in turn is covered by a layer of blown sand. The earliest structural remains visible in the section are built over this layer of sand. They comprise a flagged surface, associated with up to three separate structures and a series of stone-lined drains. The walls of the structures vary in construction; one is double faced with a hollow core, others appear to be revetted. The impression gained is that the structures are conjoined or closely associated. Layers of anthropogenic soils and midden-type deposits surround and fill into the structures, and there is some indication of a secondary phase of construction. Further deposits of shell midden and agricultural soils fill into the uppermost structures and render the area level.

Potential: The earliest remains appear to relate to cultivation while later remains suggest a substantial settlement, occupied over a long duration. The later structures visible in section are reminiscent of Viking or Norse buildings, but this cannot be conclusively demonstrated with the available evidence. At the abandonment of the settlement, the area appears to have been farmed once again. The farmstead which now occupies part of the site is of 18th-20th C date.

Threat: The remains have already been affected by coastal erosion and are very vulnerable to further losses.

Action: This site is so extensive that it is unlikely to be suitable for protection with coastal defences. An assessment to ascertain the extent, date and nature of the remains is required. The most appropriate methods may be selective section recording in combination with trial trenching. The presence of modern buildings in the hinterland area makes it unlikely that open area excavation can be carried out and therefore assessment should aim to provide a representative record of the remains.
Orushir Bay, Mainland (ML17, Map 2)

**Description:** The footings of a rectangular structure, measuring 8m by 3m, are located on the foreshore and exposed in the coastal section. The building is aligned east-west. Previous recorders (Batey, 1980) have noted the presence of a cross-wall, but this is no longer clearly visible. Further, more ill-defined structural remains survive nearby to the south.

**Potential:** This site lies close to the extensive complex of Norse period remains at the Earl’s Bu and the possibility that it may be of similar date needs to be addressed.

**Threat:** This site is has already been reduced by coastal erosion and is very vulnerable to complete destruction.

**Action:** A limited programme of trial trenching should quickly establish the nature date and extent of this site.
Cummi Ness, Mainland (ML39 & 55, Map 5)

**Description:** Two sites in urgent need of assessment lie close together at the head of the Bay of Ireland. Part of a curving wall exposed in the coastal section appears to belong to an oval or sub-circular structure (ML39), measuring some 10m in diameter. The wall stands up to 3 courses or 0.45m high and is associated with deposits of burnt bone, charcoal and peatash lenses. Nearby, two rectangular structures (ML55) are visible from aerial photographs. The buildings are aligned east-west and parallel to one another. The southernmost structure is the larger of the two buildings.

**Potential:** Site ML39 appears to be an undefended settlement of the later prehistoric period. Site ML55 may represent a house and a barn, possibly of Norse or Medieval date.

**Threat:** Both sites have already suffered losses from coastal erosion. They are located on a narrow spit of land within an estuarine environment which is subject to inundation.

**Action:** Assessment by means of test pitting would be an appropriate initial response at both sites. Limited section recording at ML39 may provide additional information about site stratigraphy.
Bu of Coirston, Mainland (ML40, Map 5)

**Description:** A coastal exposure, over 50m long, contains structural remains, but is so overgrown, that these are not clearly identifiable. The section face stands up to 3m in height and along with series of upright slabs there are anthropogenic soil deposits which contain inclusions of bone and shell. The site has been eroding for many years and collections of artefacts and unworked bone have been collected and deposited at Tankerness House Museum.

**Potential:** Previous recorders have interpreted the site as a broch and associated settlement. The site has never been thoroughly assessed, however, and it may be that significant remains of both earlier and later periods are also present.

**Threat:** The site is being removed by coastal erosion.

**Action:** Assessment should investigate the nature, date and extent of this site by means of limited section recording in combination with test trenching.
Category 2: Assessment required

Hahouse, Westray (WT25, Map 1)
An eroding mound and earthwork requires assessment to characterise the nature, date and extent of the deposits.

Trenabie, Westray (WT15, Map 1)
This site is scheduled as a standing stone but now appears as an amorphous, eroding mound. An assessment is required to determine the nature, date and extent of the site. The classification under which this site is scheduled may need to be changed.

Quoygrew, Westray (WT16 & WT17, Map 1)
Shell midden and structural deposits exposed in section have been subjected to limited investigations recently. Further assessment may be necessary to determine the nature and extent of the deposits.

Norr Ness, Westray (WT28, Map 1)
Two mounds at risk from coastal erosion require assessment to characterise their nature and date.

Hourness, Westray (WT32, Map 2)
Settlement remains exposed in section may relate to a substantial prehistoric house or broch. The site cannot be characterised from the visible deposits alone. An assessment of the remains is now required.

Our Ness, Westray (WT33, Map 2)
An earthwork which may be a prehistoric land boundary is eroding at its seaward end. Assessment is required to investigate the nature, date and extent of this site.

Noup, Westray (WT34, Map 2)
Three eroding mounds, of possible prehistoric date, require assessment to characterise their nature and date.
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Knowe of Burnstane, Westray (WT50, Map 5)
The footings of a building, set back from the coast edge, have been previously identified as a prehistoric settlement but may represent a chapel. Assessment is required to characterize the nature, date and extent of the remains and to investigate the remains of a field system which appears to be associated with it.

Knowe of Burnstane, Westray (WT51, Map 5)
The remains of a substantial house or broch exposed in section. At present, there is no detailed record of this site and it is unlikely to survive for much longer. A programme of rapid section recording in combination with salvage excavation is urgently required.

Berst Ness, Westray (WT54, Map 5)
Four structures of probable prehistoric date are spread over a small promontory. They have been variously interpreted as either houses or cairns. A detailed topographic survey of the area is required and could be combined with assessment via trial trenching.

Mae Sand, Westray (WT56, Map 5)
This is an extensive area of deflating dunes in which sand quarrying is also being carried out. There are slight indications of possible early prehistoric activity and further assessment is required. The most suitable methods will be a controlled walk-over survey, possibly combined with trial trenching or surface cleaning.

Ness of Tuquoy, Westray (WT67, Map 6)
Settlement remains of probable prehistoric date are eroding from a coastal section. An assessment is required to determine the nature, date and extent of this site. The most appropriate method of assessment will be trial trenching or limited open area excavation.

Links of Garth, Westray (WT71, Map 6)
An eroding mound requires assessment via trial trenching to determine its nature and date.
Tafts, Westray (WT130, Map 7)
A large mound, which may represent prehistoric settlement over a long duration, is eroding on the coast edge. Assessment by means of limited open area excavation, supplemented by trial trenching should examine the nature, extent and date of the remains.

Whitelet, Westray (WT114, Map 8)
Structural remains seen in section appear to be associated with a slight mound in the hinterland. The site cannot be characterised from the visible remains alone and assessment is required. Trial trenching should determine the nature and date of the remains as well as their inland extent.

Weather Ness, Westray (WT138, Map 8)
An amorphous mound may either represent the structural remains of a prehistoric house, or a burial place. The remains are vulnerable but not actively eroding. Assessment, via trial trenching, is necessary in order to determine nature date and extent of the remains.

Castle ofBurrian, Westray (WT142, Map 9)
Structures of an unknown character have been observed on this stack. The location is vulnerable, however assessment is required to determine nature and date. This site is most likely to be suitable for field survey and trial trenching.

Swartmill, Westray (WT111 & WT112, Map 10)
Two sites are visible as eroding deposits in the coastal section. Site WT111 appears to represent structural remains, while WT112 may be industrial debris. The date, extent and nature of these remains requires to be assessed; limited section recording in combination with trial trenching are likely to be the most suitable methods.

Cleat, Westray (WT159, Map 11)
Midden deposits eroding from the coastal section have been the subject of limited assessment in recent times. Further assessment via a more extensive programme of trial trenching may be required to characterise the remains more fully.
Mayback, Papa Westray (PWT30, Map 1)
A large eroding mound, which may be a farm mound, requires assessment to characterise its nature, date and extent. This may be achieved via a programme of limited open area excavation in combination with trial trenching.

Claybraes, Papa Westray (PWT66, Map 2)
A mound which lies on the coast edge and is vulnerable to erosion requires assessment to characterise its nature and date. Trial trenching is likely to be the most appropriate method of assessment.

Holland, Papa Westray (PWT53, Map 2)
Midden deposits, exposed in the coastal section, lie in close proximity to the excavated Neolithic houses at Knap of Howar. These deposits should be assessed to determine their nature, extent and date. The most appropriate assessment method is likely to be either limited open area excavation or trial trenching.

Toy Ness, Mainland (ML13, Map 1)
A group of mounds, some of which are eroding, may represent prehistoric burial monuments. Assessment is required to determine their nature and date and can best be achieved by trial trenching.

Head of Banks, Mainland (ML18, Map 2)
An eroding mound may contain structural remains. Assessment, via trial trenching, is required to characterise the remains more fully.

Bay of Myre, Mainland (ML19, Map 3)
A mound, which is alleged to be the site of a chapel, is being damaged by cattle poaching and is vulnerable to coastal erosion. Assessment is required to determine the nature, date and extent of the remains. The most appropriate assessment method will be limited open area excavation or trial trenching.

Buxa, Mainland (ML26, Map 4)
Archaeological deposits of a possibly structural nature, are eroding from the coastal section. Assessment, via trial trenching, is required to determine the nature, extent and date of these remains.
Clestrain, Mainland (ML32, Map 4)

Deposits of stone seen in the coastal section may represent part of a structure. The remains cannot be more fully characterised without recourse to assessment. The most appropriate method of assessment at this site will be trial trenching.

Corm Hillock, Mainland (ML37, Map 5)

A large mound, which may represent a multi-period settlement, lies close to the coast edge. Assessment via limited open area excavation or trial trenching will be required to more fully characterise the deposits.
Category 3: Assessment Desirable

Hahouse, Westray (WT23, Map 1): traditional farmstead suitable for buildings survey

Boy of Skail, Westray (WT26, Map 1): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Ailkier Ness, Westray (WT15, Map 1): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

The Ouse, Westray (WT24, Map 1): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Ailkier Ness, Westray (WT8 & WT9, Map 1): Kelp workings

Vovol, Westray (WT11, Map 1): eroding mound, indeterminate type & date

Heugh, Westray (WT13, Map 1): earthwork and mound, indeterminate type & date

Norr Ness, Westray (WT27, Map 1): kelp workings

Clemmar, Westray (WT36, Map 2): earthworks, indeterminate date

Nous Head, Westray (WT172, Map 3): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Bigeau, Westray (WT43, Map 3): two stable mounds, indeterminate type & date

Kestro, Westray (WT58, Map 5): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Tuquoy, Westray (WT69, Map 6): disturbed mound, indeterminate type & date

Garth, Westray (WT74, Map 6): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Branstone Hill, Westray (WT90, Map 6): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Hamor, Westray (WT95, Map 7): eroding mound, indeterminate type & date
Taitend Farm, Westray (WT98, Map 7): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Stancro, Westray (WT126, Map 7): Indeterminate remains, associated with cairns?

West Sous, Westray (WT122, Map 8): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Rapness, Westray (WT119, Map 8): disturbed mound, indeterminate type & date

Crow Tuo, Westray (WT116, Map 8): disturbed mound, indeterminate type & date

Sand Geo, Westray (WT135, Map 8): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Weather Ness, Westray (WT126 & WT137, Map 8): field system, indeterminate date

The Ship, Westray (WT139, Map 8): indeterminate remains, possible burial site

Bight of Stanger Hooe, Westray (WT141, Map 9): stable mound, indeterminate

Sheepright Geo, Westray (WT101, Map 9): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Cleat, Westray (WT145, Map 11): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Leckquoy, Westray (WT151, Map 11): traditional farmstead suitable for survey

Bay of Brough, Westray (WT156, Map 11): well, located on foreshore

Sandquoy, Westray (WT153, Map 11): workers cottages suitable for buildings survey

Comhouse, Westray (WT155, Map 11): store buildings suitable for buildings survey

Newbigging, Papa Westray (PWT19, Map 1): Stable burnt mounds

Weelies Toing, Papa Westray (PWT17, Map 1): Structures, indeterminate type & date

Nth & Sth Vio, Papa Westray (PWT24, Map 1): stable mound, indeterminate
Cuppin, Papa Westray (PWT42, Map 2): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Bay of Burland, Papa Westray (PWT44, Map 2): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

East Cott, Papa Westray (PWT61, Map 2): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Rattie Geo, Papa Westray (PWT3, Map 2): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Geo of Clyar, Papa Westray (PWT4, Map 2): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Holm of Papa Westray (HPW5, Map 2): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Holm of Papa Westray (HPW6, Map 2): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Holm of Papa Westray (HPW8, Map 2): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Point, Mainland (ML4, Map 1): Earthworks of indeterminate date and type

Hillock of Breabna, Mainland (ML8, Map 1): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Orphir Bay, Mainland (ML50, Map 2): stable mound, indeterminate type & date

Houston Head, Mainland (ML22, Map 3): possible chapel site
Category 4: Monitoring required

Verve Point, Westray (WT22, Map 1): chambered cairn, enclosure and mounds

Evertaft, Westray (WT2, Map 1): eroding deposits, indeterminate

Aiker Ness, Westray (WT6, Map 1): eroding deposits, indeterminate

Aiker Ness, Westray (WT7, Map 1): eroding deposits, indeterminate

Holm of Alkerness, Westray (WT84, Map 1): site of chapel

Trenable, Westray (WT14, Map 1): mound, indeterminate

Biggins, Westray (WT19, Map 1): eroding deposits, indeterminate

Links of Noltland, Westray (WT29, Map 2): extensive, vulnerable settlement remains

Leam, Westray (WT31, Map 2): eroding deposits, indeterminate

Flag Beri/Andrew Scatter’s Breast, Westray (WT45, Map 4): cairn, possibly modern

Longskail, Westray (WT82, Map 5): mound, indeterminate

Tuquoy, Westray (WT65, Map 5): eroding Norse settlement remains

Crosskirk, Westray (WT64, Map 5): chapel ruins and burial ground

Grinaby, Westray (WT92, Map 7): eroding deposits, indeterminate

Sands of Woo, Westray (WT133, Map 8): site of mound

Stavers Geo, Westray (WT134, Map 8): eroding mound, possibly modern
Built Heritage and Archaeology

Rackwick Mill, Westray (WT143, Map 9): 18th C mill

Height of the World, Westray (WT149, Map 11): possible settlement or farm mound

Cleat, Westray (WT147, Map 11): site of settlement and burial ground

Nether Brough, Westray (WT154, Map 11): eroding deposits, indeterminate

Pierowall, Westray (WT77, Map 11): site of find spot

Ladykirk, Westray (WT75, Map 11): church grounds & wider area, Norse remains?

Knoll of Skutzie, Westray (WT81, Map 11): site of mound, indeterminate

Gill Pier, Westray (WT76, Map 11): eroding burnt mound

St. Boniface/Munker House, Papa Westray (PWT6 &7, Map 1): settlement & chapel

Newbigging, Papa Westray (PWT8, Map 1): mound, indeterminate

Nouster, Papa Westray (PWT35, Map 2): eroding deposits, indeterminate

Hookin, Papa Westray (PWT39, Map 2): settlement remains and farm mound

Cunnan Gairsty, Papa Westray (PWT43, Map 2): treo dyke

East Comy Quoy, Papa Westray (PWT48, Map 2): possible settlement mound

Bay of Moclett, Papa Westray (PWT51, Map 2): buried soils

Bight of Quoyolie, Papa Westray (PWT66, Map 2): eroding deposits, indeterminate

Backaskaill, Papa Westray (PWT58, Map 2): eroding deposits, indeterminate

Holland, Papa Westray (PWT54, Map 2): eroding deposits, indeterminate
Built Heritage and Archaeology

Knap of Howar, Papa Westray (PWT1, Map 2): Neolithic houses

Holm of Papa Westray (HPW2, Map 2): possible site of mariner’s graves

Holm of Papa Westray (HPW7, Map 2): eroding deposits, indeterminate

Holm of Papa Westray (HPW4, Map 2): chambered cairn

Earl’s Bu, Mainland (ML56, Map 2): extensive Norse period remains

Houton Head, Mainland (ML23, Map 3): WWII coastal battery

Sower, Mainland (ML27, Map 4): mound, indeterminate

Salthouse Bay, Mainland (ML51, Map 4): buried soils

Hall of Ireland, Mainland (ML34, Map 5): site of chapel and burial ground

Cummi Howe, Mainland (ML38, Map 5): eroding settlement remains
Introduction

Alan Stapf

Aims
The aim of the survey was to describe the various components which make up the coastal morphology and to identify and categorise sections of the coastline into erosion classes. Additional notes referring to drift type, soils, drainage and land-use were made because, although marine erosion presents the most important threat, it is not the sole eroding agent. Subaerial erosion by water and wind play key roles; especially within areas of softer drift deposits which contain the majority of archaeological information. Present land use is also of importance, in that erosion of drift deposits can be instigated or aggravated by land use, e.g. cultivation on steeply sloping land or sand extraction from foreshore or hinterland.

Geology
Geologically, the Orkney islands are similar to the flags and sandstones of Caithness. This is reflected in the subdued topography of all islands except Western Hoy, West Mainland, Rousay and parts of Westray. Old Red Sandstones are the major underlying geological unit for all the surveyed areas.

The Old Red Sandstones are a laminated succession of hard and soft layers which repeat as cyclic units (cyclolithems) and have been grouped into chronological groups. The three main groups found in the survey areas are (oldest first):

- **Stromness Flags**: these tend to be grey siltstone and sandstones
- **Rousay Flags**: these are very similar to Stromness Flags but have, in some cases, more pronounced weathering and a few purplish, soft limestone, fishbed layers.
- **Eday Beds**: these are yellow or red sandstones and marls, some derived from volcanic sediments.

The Eday beds are more readily eroded than the Stromness and Rousay Flags, as some of the intervening deposits are soft and so erosion can undermine upper tougher layers.
The differing lithologies of the Stromness and Rousay Flags within the survey area are generally uniform as regards susceptibility to erosion. Most of the beds are generally close to the horizontal or have shallow angles of dip, although where a syncline or anticline is evident the beds can dip by as much as 40° or more.

Geomorphology
The topography has been softened in many places by the deposition of till, predominantly during and towards the end of the last ice age. Apart from till, the other main drift deposits are blown sand and peat. During this last glaciation, there was probably only one local glacier on northwest Hoy, with the major glaciation dominated by the westerly flowing Scandinavian ice sheet. Further gelification or colluvial deposits have also accumulated down slope since the last glacial retreat. There are relatively few places where deep layers of till are evident in section over the survey area.

The islands have been submerging since the last ice age due to an isostatic uplift of mainland Scotland, the loss of ice and a consequent down warping of peripheral land masses such as Orkney.

Added to this, there have been eustatic changes, that is global rises, in sea level. A post glacial shoreline of 4m for south Orkney, to 6m for north Orkney, approximately 6,500 BP has been derived by Smith et al (1996). A 20m rise in mean sea level change since 7,000 BP has been approximated by Lambeck (1995), based on a mathematical model.

If the submergence was consistent over time, which is unlikely, this would equate approximately to between a 0.92mm and 2.9mm/year change in sea level. Emery and Aubrey (1985) have estimated that, at present, there is a 2mm to 4mm/year change in sea level at specific locations within the Southern Isles of Orkney, on Burra at Enloch Bay and Links, and on South Ronaldsay at Herston Head, Widewall Bay, Newark and Manse Bay.

Within the survey area, evidence of submergence can be seen where peat layers are found at or below the high water mark. This occurs especially along the eastern side of Westray within Bay of Skalil and at Bay of Brough. Within the survey area, and especially on Westray, blown sand is much more widespread than pure peat along the coast edge.
Soils and Land Use

The natural soils tend to be peaty gleys or peaty podzols, however cultivation has modified the soils into more uniform, mixed horizons. The more freely draining and improved soils are cultivable: they could be cultivated by mechanical means, although most are down to grass. A few of the less exposed areas are under cultivation, with barley forming the dominant arable crop. In most places the fields are fenced to the edge of the coastline. In the areas which are more vulnerable to erosion, fence lines have had to be relocated further back from the coast as erosion advances.

Susceptibility to Erosion

The coastlines most susceptible to erosion are those which are low-lying, generally below 5m, and have edges composed of soft drift materials, which lie close to, or below, the high water mark.

Some of the rock platforms within bays, such as the Bay of Traquair and Bay of Ireland, are quite wide and shallow. This is also the case in sounds, such as those between Westray, Papa Westray and Holm of Papa Westray. Such long shallow platforms are more capable of dissipating wave energy than coastlines facing the open seas, where coastlines tend to have a steep intertidal rock platform, forming narrower beaches.

Another main factor to be taken account of is the exposure of the coast to the long reaches of storm waves. There is little long-term information on wind speeds and direction, two factors which affect wave size. Wright (1976) reviewed meteorological data and found that between 1920 and 1974 there was an increase in northwesterly and northerly winds, at the expense of westerly and southwesterly winds. However, the winds are still predominantly westerly or southerly (Borne 1997). Wave height exceeds 1.5m for 19% of the year and 0.5m for 75% of the year on the south and western facing coasts (Draper 1991).

Currents are also likely to affect erosion. This would be more pronounced within narrow sounds, where a venturi effect is likely to increase the velocity of the current.
Types of Erosion

The sea is the main agent of erosion within the survey area. Landslip can occur after mechanical undercutting of the cliff face or scouring of the coastal edge. The sea is also directly responsible for erosion through the cutting of gulls and caves into the coastal edge. This can instigate a consequent separation of landmass, creating sea arches and stacks. If the wave height, speed and direction are constant along the coast, then the rate of erosion is moderated by the rock platform gradient and the depth of the cove. A steeper cove and a longer, more shallow rock platform tends to dissipate wave energy before it hits the coast edge; a forward breaking wave is the dominant form.

Marine erosion is also manifested in storm beaches which gradually migrate landwards. This type of erosion is not always obvious and a cursory look, or a snapshot in time, may lead one to assume an accretion of shingle, since one cannot discern the gradual landward migration of the coast. If a storm beach lies on a steeply rising foreshore then the waves are more likely to throw the cobbles against the base of the cliff or coastal edge, so increasing the erosive power of the waves.

Marine erosion also takes place along the hinterland of exposed coastal edges and headlands, where wave throw and splash followed by water run-off causes some denudation of soil and drift deposits. This is especially evident along the northwestern coast of Westray at the Noup, but is also found in localised areas mainly along the western facing coasts.

Chemical erosion by salt spray is a rather more protracted process. It has not been alluded to in this survey other than in combination with observable weathering processes of rocks and the denudation of stabilising vegetation.

Subaerial erosion, caused by rain water and wind, is the second main eroding agent. With rain water, the effects are seen as soil creep, peat flow, landslip and water erosion, i.e. rill and gully formation, or stream erosion caused by run-off. No active gully erosion was seen in the survey. It is primarily surface water run-off which is most destructive. If infiltration of water into the soil or drainage is impeded, then the surface run-off increases. Cattle poaching and smearing of the soil decreases infiltration, whereas vegetation increases infiltration and also slows down the water run-off velocity. Subaerial erosion tends to be locally confined, yet aids or instigates localised sea erosion. In some areas, such as along the west facing coast in the Bay of Noup on Westray, this is the primary cause of soil and drift erosion.
Wind erosion is usually manifested in salt drift deposits, mainly sand in this case, where wind
blow can lead to deflation troughs and scouring of sand dunes as is apparent at Grabust and
Moe Sand, Westray.

Other agents of erosion are biological. In the survey area, the agents are limited to animal
(mainly sheep, cattle, rabbits) and human disturbance, all of which can be controlled by
management policies. Land use practices and management tend to aggravate or alleviate
subaerial erosion but appear to have little effect on sea erosion.

Accretion

Within the survey area accretion was found to be limited and localised. Sand is the major
accreting material, due to strong variable winds and the particle size. If sands are deposited on
the foreshore by the sea they can be easily blown onto the hinterland and subsequently
stabilised by vegetation. Although coastal edge erosion may contribute to some sandy
sediments, the major proportion of source material comes from deeper sea bottom sediments.
Under rainy temperate to rainy marine climatic zones sand makes up almost a half to two thirds
of sea bottom sediments respectively (Hanson, 1988). Large areas of sea bottom sand sediments
have been located to the west of Orkney (G.S.1977).

Cobble and shingle storm beaches may or may not be accreting; in nearly all cases there
appears to be erosion coexisting with the accretion. Generally, it is suggested that the storm
beaches are eroding the shoreline by migrating landwards. In most cases there is evidence to
support this view, such as the presence of dead or decaying vegetation beneath an advancing
front of cobbles.

There were very few cairns encountered within the survey area. The most significant lies within the
bay of Tuquoy. This shows no definite signs of accretion, although there is evidence that caves
are stabilising the landward area behind the cairn. Overall, the cairns are probably stable or
accreting at a very slow rate.
Survey

Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology: Gazetteer Entries
The gazetteer entries comprise a set of characteristics for each coastal unit. The categories are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Label - Placename</td>
<td>1 Wouklmill Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grid Reference (to centre of area)</td>
<td>HY 380 055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of unit</td>
<td>1.0 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreshore Type</td>
<td>Rock platform with 60-80% cobble or shingle...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coast Edge Type</td>
<td>Coast edge is &gt; 5m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinterland Type</td>
<td>The drift/rock interface is visible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The rock platform has 60-80% cobble...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Erosion Class: Gazetteer Entries
The gazetteer entries comprise a set of characteristics for each coastal unit. The categories are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Label - Placename</td>
<td>1 Wouklmill Bay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grid Reference (to centre of area)</td>
<td>HY 380 054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length of Unit</td>
<td>1.40 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erosion Class at time of visit</td>
<td>Stable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The coast edge is over 5m to the east...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Erosion Classes

The following definitions have been used:

- Eroding: Where more than 70% of the coastline is actively eroding.

- Eroding to Stable: Where there is both active erosion and stable areas, with 30-70% of either one.

- Stable: A section which is more than 70% stable. Usually any erosion is limited and local; any variation is specified in the accompanying text.

- Accreting to Stable: Where there are both accreting and stable areas, with 30-70% of either one

- Accreting: A section with accretion over more than 70% of its length.

- Accreting/Eroding: There are both accreting and eroding processes taking place and may vary from 20% to 80% of each process. The erosion and accretion may not be arranged in a linear fashion along the coastline; there may be erosion of the coastal edge and deposition of sands along the foreshore.
Results

The majority of the coasts surveyed have a foreshore made up of rock platform with a clear distinctive coastal edge. There appears to be no single, main direction in which storm beaches may face, although on Westray the high energy storm beaches lie to the north and face northwest and northeastwards. On Papa Westray they face northeast and there is a well sorted storm beach to the southwest. Within the Mainland survey area, storm beaches are of much lower energy than those encountered on the Northern Isles. This is as could be expected given that most of this coastline faces into Scapa Flow.

There are a number of sandy beaches within each of the areas surveyed. There are more hinterland dune and links areas, resulting from wind blow, on the exposed Northern Isles of Westray and Papa Westray than there are on the Mainland area, however.

Cobbles are fairly widespread throughout the survey areas, tending to lie as a narrow band along the upper foreshore. The exposed western and northern facing coasts of the Northern Isles with steep rock platforms are generally devoid of cobbles.

Westray: Geology and Geomorphology

Westray can be divided into two broad land forms. To the south and east, the hills are low and gently rolling with predominantly shallow slopes and cultivable fields. The majority of the northeastern side is also partially sheltered from westerly winds because of the hills to the west. Along the northwest of the island, the land form is dominated by a ridge of hills with steep slopes and little cultivation. Here, high cliffs dominate much of the coast edge. Two smaller peninsulas which are exposed and less well cultivated lie to the extreme north at Aikerness and the extreme south west along the west side of Rapness. The underlying geology of the island comprises of Rousay Flags, which are part of the laminated Middle Old Red Sandstone series.

Generally, the soils are in good condition, with exposure presenting the limiting factor to crop growth.

As the most northwesterly island of the Orkney group, Westray is exposed to the long fetches of northerly and westerly storms. Most of the foreshore is gently sloping and fairly shallow with exceptions along the west coast from Noup Head to Ingaa Ness, the north west of Aikerness and the west side of Rapness where the rock platforms are narrow and steep. There are two
significant offshore shallow marine areas, The Bay of Tu quoque and the area between Ailkemess and Papa Westray. The coast has many small sandy bays; larger expanses of sand are found within the Bay of Tu quoque, Bay of Tofts, The Ouise, Grobus and Maesand. Most have substantial areas of hinterland composed of sands. This is clearly seen at Maesand and Grobus. A links area extends across from the rear of Grobus Bay as far as Pierowall Bay. Smaller sandy beaches are mainly located along the south and east facing shores.

**Westray: Erosion**

The main points of erosion occur within the bays of the south and east of the island. This is as might be expected, given the presence of higher cliffs to the northwest with a lower coastal edge to the south and east. The softer drift sediments are most easily eroded where there is little protection afforded by solid geology, where there is a low coast edge or where an area faces open, exposed water. Marine action is the main agent of erosion although sub-aerial erosion by aeolian activity does constitute a large proportion of the dune and links erosion, particularly at Grobus and Maesand. There are only three localised areas where accretion is of note. Some accretion is occurring to the west side of the Rapness peninsula.

**Papa Westray and Holm of Papa Westray: Geology and Geomorphology**

Papa Westray lies to the northeast of Westray, just over 1km east of the Holm of Ailkemess, from which it is separated by the shallow Papa Sound. The island is approximately 7km long by 2km wide. It is low lying, with most coast edges under 5m high. There are exceptions to this rule to the north and southeast. The highest inland point is North Hill at 48m. As with Westray, the underlying geological unit is of the Rosay Flags, Middle Old Red Sandstone. Papa Sound is relatively shallow at 4m to 5m deep. (Admiralty 1993) and given that the islands have been submerging since the last ice age and that some depth of drift must have been eroded from this area it can be hypothesised that Papa Westray may have been linked with Westray at a point in the relatively recent past. The Holm of Papa Westray, a small island to the east of Papa Westray is separated by shallows which are less than 1m deep to the north. This island may also have been linked to Papa Westray in the past. In general, the coast edge tends to be well defined, even along the beach areas which are most prominent to the east.

**Papa Westray and Holm of Papa Westray: Erosion**

Generally, erosion is more prominent to the south of the island and along the middle and east shore. The most stable areas are to the north and southeast where high cliffs afford much more protection to the coast edge.
Mainland: Geology and Geomorphology

The underlying geology within the area to the south and east of Houton is composed of Eday Beds, with Stromness Flags to the north. The North Scapa Fault runs almost WSW to ENE and divides the two geological units. Most of the coast edge is under 5m in height with a wide rock platform. Some degree of cobble cover is present along the upper foreshore throughout the area. The hinterland has gentle to moderate slopes for the most part, with steeper slopes at Waulkmill and Houton Head. Further inland, the hills of Ailla, Scora Dale and Midland dominate the area. Some of Orkney’s better agricultural land is situated around the sheltered Orphir area. Over the whole area the land is generally well farmed. There are two notable exceptions to this at Waulkmill Bay and Houton Head, where soils and topography place constraints on land usage. Soils tend to be poorly to imperfectly drained gleys on the whole with more peaty soils on the less intensively farmed areas.

Mainland: Erosion

Most of the active erosion is due to marine action and lies to the southwest of the survey area predominantly north of Houton Head to Norton. The main factors which account for such erosion are likely to be the low-lying coast edge with mainly soft drift deposits and the western facing coast line. Although the island of Graemsay partially protects the shores from the worst storm fetches, there is substantial exposure to the open sea through Hoy Sound. Other more localised areas of erosion lie within Swabister Bay and Orphir Bay. These areas also have softer drift deposits over rock and low coastal edges.
Analysis

The total length of the surveyed coastline is 121.5 km, (measured at a scale of 1:50 000). Overall, the main erosion class is stable with eroding to stable the next most common and eroding third. The main agent of erosion is due to marine action which dominates the eroding class. Subaerial erosion is associated with approximately half of the localised erosion in the eroding to stable class.

The survey results on erosion class have been grouped into the three main survey areas of Westray, Papa Westray and Mainland.

### Erosion Class Distances (km)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>E</th>
<th>ES</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>AS</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>AE</th>
<th>Area Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Westray</td>
<td>10.95</td>
<td>22.89</td>
<td>38.47</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>72.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papa Westray</td>
<td>3.93</td>
<td>8.18</td>
<td>8.76</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>21.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainland</td>
<td>6.37</td>
<td>5.24</td>
<td>15.65</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>27.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Survey</td>
<td>21.25</td>
<td>36.31</td>
<td>62.88</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>121.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Erosion Class Proportions (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>E</th>
<th>ES</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>AS</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>AE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Westray</td>
<td>14.97</td>
<td>31.29</td>
<td>52.59</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papa Westray</td>
<td>18.62</td>
<td>38.75</td>
<td>41.50</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainland</td>
<td>23.37</td>
<td>19.22</td>
<td>57.41</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Survey</td>
<td>17.49</td>
<td>29.88</td>
<td>51.74</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E = Eroding    ES = Eroding to Stable    S = Stable
A = Accreting   AS = Accreting to Stable
AE = Accreting and Eroding

In total, 63km (52%) of the coastline surveyed is definitely stable, with 36km (30%) in the eroding to stable class. It has to be borne in mind that the eroding to stable class is made up of localised erosion with a combination of both stable and eroding areas, between 30-70%, an average of 50%, of either one. Also, much of the erosion of coastal edge is of a low rate,
Hinterland Geology, Coastal Geomorphology and Erosion Class

especially where the coastal landmass volume is greater, i.e. high cliffs. Therefore one can estimate that probably 66% (80km) of the surveyed coastal edge is at present stable.

Given that a similar coastal survey of the Southern Isles, carried out in 1997 (Stapf in Moore and Wilson 1998) demonstrated that almost 20% of the coastal edge was eroding it is not surprising to find that in this survey over 17% of coastal edge is eroding.

Westray has proportionally more coastal edge which is stable and Papa Westray the least however the Mainland area has more coastline which is definitely eroding.

There is very little coastal edge which appears to be gaining land by accretion, approximately only 1%, and this is occurring on each of the two Northern Isles. There is undoubtedly sand which is being blown onto the hinterland and which is being trapped by vegetation, but this has not been investigated.
Discussion

Overall, the geomorphological features concur with a mass of evidence that the sea level has been and still is rising due to the relative down-warping of the islands and global increases in sea level since the last glaciation. During this survey it was observed that small areas of peat are at present being eroded on the northwestern foreshore of Westray. There are other recordings of drowned peat deposits found around Orkney’s coast (Mykura 1976, Stapf in Moore and Wilson 1998), in the latter work peat was noted at, or slightly below, high water mark. A complete absence of raised beaches may also be interpreted as a sign of a drowned landscape.

The predominant geology of flags and sandstones, where the bedding is largely horizontal, gives rise to straight edged cliffs where marine erosion is greater than subaerial erosion. Only in a few localised areas, such as the eastern side of Rapness, Westray, does subaerial erosion exceed sea erosion. In this area, talus accumulation below the cliffs has not yet been removed by the sea. However, this would appear to be a temporary state due to recent landslip.

The cyclothsms of the various groups of flags makes predicting susceptibility to erosion uncertain, although, in the main, Eday Beds are most susceptible, followed by Rousay Flags and then by Stromness Flags.

The most easily eroded units are the soft drift deposits, made up mainly of tills or sand deposits, capped by soil. The deep tills sometimes along with underlying saprolite, are generally found in low-lying areas. This results from past glacial erosion of higher ground followed by deposition within low troughs or basins. Therefore, the deeper tills tend to be found along the lower lying sections of coastline. The topography of such areas will have gentle slopes, as this type of medium is also susceptible to subaerial erosion.
At four points within the survey area, Admiralty charts show the marine floor to be very shallow at the Lowest Astronomical Tide:

- the sound between Westray and Papa Westray (depth 4m to 5m)
- the sound between Papa Westray and Holm of Papa Westray (depth <1m to 1m)
- the area within the Bay of Tuquoy (depth 1m to 3m)
- the area within the Bay of Ireland (depth 2m to 5m)

If it is assumed that since 6,500 BP there has been a submergence of the Northern Isles at a figure between 6m (Smith et al., 1996) and 20m (Lambeck, 1995), then it is probable that the islands of Westray, Papa Westray and Holm of Papa Westray were once joined. Similarly, the Bay of Tuquoy would have extended seawards by up to 1km and a bar of land would have run across the Bay of Ireland from Norton to Bu Point.

**Erosion**

Where the coastal edge is made up of rock standing 2m or more above the high water mark, there is very limited erosion. Conversely, where the coastal edge is low, or soft sediments lie within reach of high water, there is appreciable erosion. The depth of soft sediment does not appear to impede erosion, although the volume of material may slow down the rate at which this occurs.

Another point to be noted, particularly in reference to the Mainland survey area, is that although the area contains the greatest proportion of eroding coastal edge, it also has the greatest proportion of stable coastal edge. There is a very clear cut boundary between the eroding class, where soft sediments are close to high water mark, and the stable class, where rock lies above the high water mark.

Although subaerial erosion may only account for 5% to 10% of the erosion of the actual coastline, it probably accounts for perhaps as much as 25% of the total erosion if the hinterland areas are included. This is most obviously seen at Grobust and Mose Sand, Westray, where aeolian activity is eroding the dune hinterland and accounts for over 90% of the erosion at
These two locales. There is a strong possibility that there is a consequent build up of sand further inland, as sands can be seen trapped within field vegetation of the far hinterland.

There is very little accretion along the coastal edge within the surveyed area. The most significant areas lie on the Northern Isles, predominantly Westray. The source of the sand probably lies on the sea bottom to the west of Westray, where there are vast expanses of sand (R.G.S. 1977). The most notable areas of accretion lie to the southwest of Westray. To the north of Tattie Bay, at Tattend on Westray, a build up of sand along the upper foreshore is most likely due to longshore drift.
Recommendations

The lack of a national policy for coastal management gives rise to the potential for a conflict of interests between agriculture, mineral extraction, natural heritage, archaeology and recreation. One overall recommendation is that some form of coastal management policy be established and invoked. There is possibly more scope for instigating a holistic coastal management regime on islands, such as Orkney.

Subaerial erosion can be controlled to some extent through the implementation of changes in land management. With careful management of the hinterland and the implementation of good husbandry and farming practices subaerial erosion could be reduced by as much as 50%. Practical remedies which could be implemented include:

- a small grassed headland could be created between the coast and cultivated fields
- stocking levels could be decreased in particularly wet conditions.
- surface water run-off could be limited through the reduction of poaching and ground disturbance.
- infiltration and natural drainage could be increased by encouraging vegetation.
- cultivation could be reduced or judiciously timed to avoid leaving land denuded of vegetation.

All of these measures are based on good management and husbandry techniques, necessary for sustainable agriculture and soil conservation. They should be actively promoted within any coastal management policy.

There is little that can be done to negate marine erosion, unless huge resources are committed to local problems. However, even roughly dumped deposits of concrete and rubble may slow down the rate of erosion, as was observed along the eastern facing coasts of Houton Bay and Bay of Myra, Mainland.
It would also be advisable to monitor the survey areas, perhaps every few years, in order to
discern changes in erosion patterns and to increase the information on rates of erosion, for
which there is very little data.
Archaeology and Built Heritage

The area covered by this map sheet extends from the northeast side of the island, around the north coast and down the western seaboard. To the east, the land within the coastal zone is low-lying and enclosed in regular fields of grassland. From Bow Head to Vatol, the coastal strip is largely enclosed and is covered with rougher vegetation. This area has higher cliffs and is more exposed. Moving towards Trenchie and beyond, the landscape becomes softer, with enclosed fields of improved grassland.

There is no modern settlement within the coastal zone, although three ruinous farmsteads (WT10, 18, 23) of 18th-20th C date lie close to the coast edge. Of the other sites which could be characterised as prehistoric, three are settlements (WT1, 20, 25), one is a chambered cairn (WT22) and the other is a site which contained a cremation (WT83). There are two sites of Norse or medieval date (WT17, 84) and a further four sites associated with the kelp industry which flourished in the 19th C (WT89, 127, 170).

Over half of the sites recorded could not be characterised with any degree of certainty. At least nine of these may be of prehistoric date. Seven of these sites are visible today as green mounds; two are cist sites of unknown date (WT85, 86). Five of the mounds may represent settlement sites (WT14-16, 24, 26), while two may be burial monuments (WT5, 11). Two sites, here labelled as indeterminate, may be associated with the kelp industry (WT7, 28), while another may be the last remains of a noast (WT6). A further five sites represent dykes or earthworks which could not be dated or more fully characterised.

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Geology and Geomorphology

The peninsula's topography is gently undulating with a low profile, generally below 1.5m, with a maximum inland height of 3.5m to the south. The coastal edge is predominantly less than 5m.

The eastern side is entirely below 5m and is marked by outer drift sediments. Sand makes up a large intertidal area within the Ouse. Drift deposits, such as sand and till, become less abundant to the north and western sides of the peninsula. The rock platforms are much broader to the east and join the Holm of Ackerness, which is accessible on the lowest tides.

The hinterland is covered by good pasture land, with most fields cultivable and underlain by an imperfectly drained peaty podzol or mineral podzol. To the north west, around The Neu, the soils are poorly drained gleys and rankers supporting only rough grazing. Cobbles are a common feature around most of the coastline, forming well sorted storm beaches to the northeast and southwest of this map section.

Erosion Class

There are two main areas of active erosion within this map section, at Bay of Skal and The Vian, both of which are located on the east coast. Two areas can be characterised as eroding to stable. These lie to the south of The Neu and to the west of Links House. The latter area has been affected by aeolian erosion.
sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined
3. Ouse Ness
HY 457 495
0.5 km
Rock platform with 50-70% cobbles/shingle cover. Coast edge < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible. The rock platform has approximately 50% cobble cover across the south which grades into shingle to the north and increases to perhaps 70% cover. Cobble sizes are concentrated along the upper foreshore. The hinterland is gently sloping with cultivable fields. Soils are generally impermeable to freely draining podzol.

2. North Uistness
HY 436 302
0.4 km
Sandy foreshore with 40-70% cobbles. Coast edge < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible. The sandy foreshore has some cobble cover which is concentrated along the upper foreshore, where the cover may be as much as 90%. The hinterland is gently sloping with cultivable fenced fields. Soils are freely to poorly drained podzols.

3. Vara Point
HY 459 505
0.3 km
Rock platform with 40-50% cobble cover. Coast edge < 5m.
The driftrock interface is generally visible. The rock platform is prominent with less cobble cover towards the point. The rock/soft rock interface is generally visible. Soils are generally freely draining podzols with localised areas of sandy soils.

4. The Ouse
HY 450 311
2.9 km
Sandy foreshore, 50-80% cobble cover to the north. Coast edge < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not generally visible. The Ouse is a sandy bay, almost a beach, which is uncrowded at low tide with 50-60% cobble cover on the north side. A cobbled area, 40-60% cover to the west and up to 80% on the east side, extends out into the bay from the north east. The sands continue further north of the bay with < 30% shingle cover and some rock outcropping along the lower foreshore. Within the northern western corner of the bay the upper foreshore blends into the coast edge by way of small stacks of soil with salt-resistant grasses. The fields to the south are cultivable whilst those to the north are down to pasture as the underlying drift contains little drupe sands. Soils are freely draining sandy rankers, skeletal sands with a few localised areas of podzol to the south. Although the pasture has stabilised most of the hinterland there are a few areas with deflation hollows.

5. Alkness (South West)
HY 460 522
2.4 km
Rock platform with 30-100% cobble cover. Coast edge < 5m.
The driftrock interface is generally visible. The sands give way to a rock platform with cobbles mainly lying along the upper foreshore. The cobble cover increases towards Alkness from 30% to 90% along the upper foreshore. On the north, cobble cover all of the foreshore and run into a storm-beach further north before cover lessens to the north of Bow Head. Sands overlie a 0.1m thick peat lens at the beginning of this section which in turn overlies 0.3m of reddish till. By Alkness only the till remains and this becomes more sporadic to the north. The soils are freely to imperfectly drained sandy rankers and podzols with more poorly drained gleys to the north.

6. Bow Head
HY 447 523
2.8 km
Rock platform, discrete areas of cobble & boulder. Coast edge > 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible. There are varying degrees of boulder cover and some cobble cover to the north of this section. Below West Breck there is almost 100% boulder and cobble. From this point to the south there is a cliff face with little or no cover of the rock platform. At Scour there is some evidence that the area is part of a high storm beach, at least 1.5m up, where some rock throw can be seen. The till, up to 1m deep in places, has been removed from most of this area and extends eastwards from The Nave. To the south of The Nave the turf runs up to the cliff edge and is moderately better grazing. Soils are thin skeletal soils which tend to be imperfectly to poorly draining over till or rock supporting rough grazing to the north.

7. Heugh
HY 444 505
1.3 km
Rock platform with increasing cobble cover to the south from 40-100%. Coast edge < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not generally visible. The rock platform broadens out to extend the foreshore area to perhaps 100m from the coast. Cobble cover is perhaps 40-60% along the upper foreshore from Heugh to Quögrew as the coast edge continues to slope down to less than 2m. Slightly further south a lens of till thickens to 0.5m. From Rock Wrick to the end of this section there is an immense storm beach composed of rounded cobbles and small boulders. The hinterland has walled cultivable fields to the north. Soils are imperfectly drained podzols to the north, freely draining sandy rankers to the south.

8. Niar Ness (East)
HY 436 499
0.6 km
Rock platform with cobble cover grading out to 0-1m 30-100% over till. Coast edge < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible. The rock platform is fairly low and extends out to sea. Cobble cover diminishes to negligible amounts by the point of Niar Ness. The hinterland is gently sloping with turf and unfoxed areas to the coast edge. Soils are freely draining and either sandy rankers or skeletal soils over sand or cobbles.
Erosion Class
Westray
Map 1

1. Ouse Ness
   HY 455 504
   2.74 km
   Stable
   This section can be generally described as being stable although there are two small localised areas of erosion, one north of Ouse Ness where marine erosion is cutting into a small nick of land and another less severely eroding area to the west of Vere where some of the till is eroding along the strand line and coast edge.

2. Ayre of Ouse
   HY 456 515
   1.37 km
   Eroding
   There is partial erosion of the coast edge and the hinterland within the Ouse partly due to marine action but mainly because of wind deflation of the sandy soils. The main area of erosion however is due to erosion of the coast along the Ayre of Skall. Here there is massive erosion of the dune area especially so towards the Ayre. Although the tip of the ayre is stable there has been definite erosion at the neck of the ayre since the beach survey by Mathew et al (1974). The eastern side of the ayre and northern coast is actively eroding at present with some deflation of the hinterland close to the ayre and to the extreme north.

3. Ailer Ness
   HY 464 516
   0.67 km
   Stable
   The coast edge is stable to the south of Ailer Ness with some localised erosion along the east facing shore north of the point.

4. Ailer Ness Airfield
   HY 462 521
   0.48 km
   Eroding
   The coast edge of this section is eroding due to marine action.

5. The Vian
   HY 459 524
   0.81 km
   Eroding to Stable
   There is sporadic, localised erosion with many cobbles from the southern storm beach migrating landwards with erosion of the coast edge and relict storm beaches to the north.

6. Bow Head
   HY 454 528
   1.54 km
   Stable
   The section is mainly stable with a small area west of Bow Head which could be classed as eroding to stable. Here many boulders lie within the hinterland with minor erosion of the hinterland although there is very little actual erosion of the coast edge. Further west still there is only localised cattle erosion from poaching of a poorly drained hinterland.

7. The Neiv
   HY 445 519
   0.09 km
   Eroding to Stable
   There is much disturbance of the hinterland due to dumping and perhaps due to some quarrying of the upper flags at The Neiv. The coast edge itself is stable and erosion is of the top soil, till and some soft rock shingle layers within the near hinterland. Apart from the man-made disturbance the erosion is mainly due to wave throw and subsaerial erosion. Part of the hinterland has areas of erosion up to 50m into the hinterland.

8. Heugh
   HY 443 510
   1.50 km
   Stable
   Other than slight soil creep and a few cattle scraps the coast edge is stable with a small section where past archaeological work has caused minor erosion north of Quoygrew. To the south of this area there are some cobbles thrown up onto the coast edge, although they do not appear to be migrating landwards. There is also slight coast edge erosion close to Biggings.

9. Links House
   HY 438 500
   1.08 km
   Eroding to Stable
   The large storm beach has definite erosion to the east with areas of cobbles, especially to the centre, which are migrating landwards.

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Built Heritage and Archaeology

Much of the coastal strip within this map section is unenclosed and rugged from the low-lying links at Grobust, the ground rises, with the steepest section lying between Our Ness and Noup, behind Couters Hill. At Noup a small valley issues out onto the coast and there is a narrow bay with a sandy beach. Beyond this, the land rises again with North Hill and the cliffs are steep and rocky. There is no modern settlement within the coastal zone.

Ten sites, of which six can be characterised, were recorded in this area. Three substantial prehistoric settlements are located towards the start of the map section (WT29, 30, 32). The Links of Noltland settlement (W29) lies beneath a deflating dune system behind Grobust Bay. Excavations carried out here in the 1970s and early 1980's revealed extensive remains of Neolithic settlement. Only a small proportion of the site was excavated and this has been backfilled so that there is now little for the visitor to see. The site, which is scheduled, continues to suffer from aeolian erosion and rabbit damage. At Queena Howe (WT30) substantial structural and anthropogenic soil deposits are exposed in the coastal section and there is a large green mound located immediately in the hinterland. The site is scheduled as a broch but in reality it is a composite, with settlement of more than one period represented. It is not clear that the mound represents a broch, since its present form is well defined and more resembles a burial mound. At Houmess (WT32) which lies about 350m to the northwest of Queena Howe, the remains of a substantial circular house or broch are exposed in section. Of later date, the site of a church (WT37) which is alleged to have stood close to Noup farmhouse is no longer in evidence and may be entirely destroyed.

A group of three mounds at Noup (WT34) could not be positively characterised. There are deposits of blown sand in this area and it was not certain that the mounds were not, at least partially, of natural origin. The presence of stone of a potentially structural nature within the mounds would suggest that further investigation may be warranted, however.

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Geology and Geomorphology

The section begins at Narr Ness with a fragile soil/vegetation hinterland based on blown sands which finishes behind Grobust. The soils then present are imperfectly to poorly drained peaty gleys and peat. The underlying geology is of Rousay Flags which dip locally into a syncline running north-northeast to south-southwest through Noup. Towards the Point of Scorraber the coast becomes more rugged, with little cobbles cover in evidence. In general, the hinterland becomes more steeply sloping and, further to the west, the higher coastal edge coincides with rough grazing pastures.

Erosion Class

The sands around Grobust dominate this section from the point of view of erosion. This is mainly because much of the erosion is aeolian in nature and so covers greater areas than would be seen with localised coastal edge erosion. There is other subaerial erosion of the hinterland, here mainly due to soil creep, within the syncline centred on Noup and where the flags dip westwards along Our Ness.
WT29 (HY44 NW33)  
HY 428 493  
Links of Nolton  
Settlement: Scheduled (HS Index 90337)  
4th-3rd millennium BC  
Fair  
Monitor

WT30 (HY44 NW11)  
HY 4250 4948  
Queena Howe  
Settlement and mound: Scheduled (HS Index 1457)  
3rd-1st millennium BC  
Fair  
Survey

WT31  
HY 4240 4952  
Lean  
Walling  
Indeterminate  
Poor  
Monitor

WT32 (HY44 NW22)  
HY 4227 4960  
Houness/Howarness, Noup  
Substantial house/broch  
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD  
Poor  
Survey

WT33 (HY44 NW40)  
HY 4173 4941 TO HY 4195 4929  
South of Our Ness  
Boundary bank  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Survey

WT34  
HY 4137 4904  
Noup  
Indeterminate remains  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Survey

WT35 (HY44 NW21)  
HY 41 48  
Noup  
Alleged site of chapel  
10th-14th C  
Not Located

WT36  
HY 4113 4906  
Noup  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

WT37 (HY44 NW21)  
HY 41 48  
Noup  
Alleged site of chapel  
10th-14th C  
Not Located

WT38  
HY 4065 4934  
Bare Geo  
Walling and enclosures  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined
1 Narr Ness
HY 430 494
0.9 km
Intermittent rock platform, two sandy foreshores. Coast edge < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not generally visible. A rock platform lies to the north of the section and can also be observed at Nis Barries between two sandy foreshores. There is a small storm beach of cobbles to the east of this section. The sands have perhaps 10-30% cobbly cover along the upper foreshore and coast edge much of which apparently due to relative accumulation by deflation of the sands. Within the hinterland there is a large area of sand with small talonds of vegetated butte dunes, some over 3m high, lying within the hinterland with more vegetated dunes to the west. Some deflated areas reveal a till lying beneath the sand. Vegetation is sparse on the deflating sands but marram and some lyme grass has stabilised much of the area to the west. Soils are freely draining sandy runkiers and skeletal sandy soils with freely drained podzols to the west.

2 Queena Howe
HY 421 496
1.0 km
Rock platform with <60% intermittent cobbly cover. Coast edge is generally < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible. The rock platform is denuded between the previous section of sand and a cobbly cover below the broch. After this discrete area of 60% cobbly cover there are then smaller areas with perhaps 40% cover. The coast edge rises to over 5m west of the broch for perhaps 100m before returning to under 5m. Most of the hinterland has a poorly to imperfectly drained soil which has been improved and now supports good pasture. The soils tend to be imperfectly drained podzols to the east and more poorly drained gleyes to the west.

3 Our Ness
HY 416 492
0.8 km
Rock platform with negligible cover. Coast edge is > 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible. The rock platform appears to be fairly narrow with the flags dipping almost 40° to the west into a syncline which has an apparent axis NNE to SSW through The Noup. This slope of the flags continues up into the hinterland where areas have been denuded of soil cover due to erosion. Strictly the coast edge may be deemed to be under 5m as there is little real edge to the coast to the north of this section where the flags slope into the sea. The edge is much better defined along Rock Brack. The soils are rankiers and poorly drained peaty gleyes for the most part and becoming imperfectly drained peaty podzols to the south. Rough grazing with uncultivable fields are dominant.

4 Bay of Noup
HY 412 488
0.2 km
Sandy foreshore, cobbles at centre of the cove. Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible. The sandy foreshore has a small storm beach of cobbles and boulders within the centre and running up to the upper foreshore. The hinterland has disturbance due to tractor, cattle and sheep traffic. Soils are mainly freely drained sandy soils and rankiers.

5 The Noup (West)
HY 408 493
1.2 km
Rock platform with negligible cover. Coast edge is > 5m.
The driftrock interface is generally visible. The flags along this side of the Noup now dip to the east with a rock platform containing only a few discrete areas of cobbles within geos. The hinterland has moderate to steep slopes with moderate grazing and at least one cultivable field before giving way to rough grazing. The soils become more peaty to the west and are dominantly imperfectly to poorly drained gleyes throughout this sector with very localised podzolisation.
1. Narr Ness
   HY 432 496
   0.30 km
   Eroding
   An area of hinterland south of Narr Ness is eroding due to aeolian activity. The sands have many more deflation areas than when Mathew et al (1974) surveyed the beach at Grobust. There are more butte dunes, large talusds of sand around three metres high, to the west of the area as the erosion becomes less severe in that direction. There is possibly an accretion of sands further back into the hinterland, i.e. further back than 50m.

2. Grobust
   HY 428 493
   0.57 km
   Eroding to Stable
   Although there is some erosion due to aeolian activity much of the sandy hinterland has been stabilised by man-made windbreaks and vegetation of marram and lyme grass. There are small pockets of accreting sands next to the windbreak fences and within the dune area. There are areas of deflation hollows which are more common to the east and less so to the west of this section.

3. Queena Howe
   HY 422 496
   0.81 km
   Stable
   This north facing section as far as Hao o' Ourness is predominantly stable with minor areas of cattle poaching of the imperfectly drained soils.

4. Hao o' Ourness
   HY 417 493
   0.66 km
   Eroding to Stable
   The main cause of erosion is mainly due to subaerial erosion where ground water is accelerating soil creep especially where the soil and till are thin over the plane face of the eastward dipping flag. Some of the erosion must also be attributed to wave throw, especially on the point itself.

5. Back Breck
   HY 414 490
   0.38 km
   Stable
   As the dip of the underlying rocks lessens there is very little visible erosion of the hinterland, the coast edge is also stable.

6. Noup
   HY 412 488
   0.19 km
   Eroding to Stable
   A small cove where erosion is localised and due in part to marine action but also due to animal and tractor erosion of small areas within the hinterland.

7. Bay of Noup (West)
   HY 407 494
   1.13 km
   Stable
   The majority of this section is stable with a small area of partial erosion within the inlet west of Ciemmar which is due to marine action.
Built Heritage and Archaeology
The area between Point of Scorraber and southeast side of North Hill is exposed and rugged. The coastline is fringed with high cliffs, in which there are a number of caves. The cliffs support large seabird colonies in the breeding season and part of this area is a designated RSPB Sanctuary and Nature Reserve. The land is largely unclosed and is covered in rough grasses and moorland vegetation. From North Hill to Neven O’Grinni the landscape becomes increasingly softer and greener. The coastline remains rugged and highly indented but the cliffs diminish in height. There is no modern settlement within the coastal zone.

The sites which could be characterised all date to the period 18th-20th C. They include the Noup Lighthouse (WT40), built in 1898, which is a grade B listed building. a 20th C transmitter station (WT39), and a cave site (WT17) allegedly used as a refuge by Jacobite Lairds in 1746. Other remains include keep pits (WT41) and dyestone walls (WT158).

Two mounds at Bisgeos (WT43), although forming very distinct landscape features, could not be characterised. They are both covered with grass, are oval in shape and rise up within arable fields. There are no surface indications that the mounds are other than natural in origin, but even as such, they are not readily explicable. Further assessment will be required to determine the nature of these sites, although neither is immediately threatened by coastal erosion. A mound at Noup Head (WT172) may be a prehistoric burial monument but could alternatively be a beacon or navigation cairn. This site lies on the coast edge and is vulnerable to erosion.

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Geology and Geomorphology
The hinterland becomes very steeply sloping beyond Scorraber and culminates in a sharp cut off at Noup Head. The south of the peninsula from Noup Head is both dramatic and severe in appearance compared to the northeastern side. The cliffs rise in a sheer, flag-laminated edge. The cliffs are up to 70m high to the north end, dropping off to an average height of about 20m. There is very little rock platform visible at the base of the cliffs along this map section, apart from at Noup Head itself. North Hill, at 104m high, dominates the peninsula; the south side of this hill has exposed beds of the Rousay Flags, which emphasise the almost horizontal bedding along The Hammar. The area is fairly bleak with rolling, undulating hinterland for the most part and poorly drained peaty gleys and peat. Rough grazing land predominates within this map section, although there are some cultivable fields, currently under barley, on the moderate to steep slopes below Backarass.

Erosion Class
When it is taken into consideration that most of this peninsula is exposed to the southwesterly gales, the coastline is very stable. The most obvious reason for this is that there are huge volumes of rock buttressing the coastal edge. There are occasional small and localised areas of erosion present, however, much of it is subaerial erosion. The largest such occurrence is located to the south of Monliev.
WT39
HY 3920 4995
Noup Head
Transmitter Station
20th C
Fair
Nil

WT40 (HY34 NE3)
HY 3920 4990
Noup Head
Lighthouse: Listed (Category 'B')
18th-20th C
Good
Nil

WT172 (HY34 NE1)
HY 3921 4971
Noup Head
Mound
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

WT171 (HY34 NE2)
HY 3978 4859
Gentlemen's Cove
Cave
18th-20th C
Not Inspected

WT41
HY 408 478
Russa Taing
Kelp pits and bank
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WT42
HY 4102 4786
Russa Taing
Noosits
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined
1 Point of Scorraber
HY 396 478
1.3 km
Rock platform.
Coast edge is > 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
The rock platform becomes less obvious west of Heelt Geo although it appears to broaden out at The Noup. The slope of the hinterland increases and becomes very steep towards The Noup. The hinterland is dominated by unfenced rough grazing over poorly drained peaty gleys.

2 Noup Head
HY 398 486
3.3 km
Rock platform.
Coast edge is > 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
The rock platform appears to be almost non-existent in places along the base of the cliff. The cliff face itself is almost sheer with a height of approximately 70m above sea level close to the lighthouse dropping to around 40m to south of North Hill and finally down to 1.5m by the end of this section where there is substantially more rock platform in evidence at the base of the cliffs. The hinterland tends to be moderately sloping; steeply sloping west of North Hill. The soils are imperfectly to poorly drained rankers, peaty gleys and localised peat with denuded areas within shallow dips, especially so close to John Harcut Windows and just north of Ramni Geo.

3 Backarass
HY 411 478
1.0 km
Rock platform with negligible cover.
Coast edge is > 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
The rock platform has only a few areas of localised cobble cover within the double geo of North Bo Geo. Some till is evident in section as a thin layer, approximately 0.5m deep. The coast edge and hinterland topography is very similar to the previous section although there is a slight change in the soils due to cultivation improvement. Some fields are down to barley along the inner hinterland. Cultivable fields are fenced down to the coast edge and soils are imperfectly to poorly drained gleys with more freely draining on the inner hinterland slopes.

4 Crowals Ber
HY 417 472
0.9 km
Rock platform.
Coast edge is > 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
The cliff is approximately 23m high at Bis Geo and remains around this height to the end of the section although the hinterland is steeply sloping to the south. The soils are poorly drained with rough grazing and some areas of denudation due to water run-off. This is most prominent within the vale past Finchaley. There is evidence of storm throw back into the hinterland, perhaps 20m, where some rock fragments now lie. Soils are poorly drained rankers or thin gleys.
1. Point of Scorabar
   HY 402 494
   0.33 km
   Eroding to Stable
   A small section where erosion is mainly due to marine activity such as coast edge erosion and wave throw.

2. Hest Geo
   HY 394 493
   3.49 km
   Stable
   This section, which makes up a third of the unit, is mainly stable. The stability is due to the high cliff faces which protect the hinterland and lessen any noticeable effects of coast edge erosion. There are three small areas where localised erosion is most notable. At Dell Pice and Redo Ber erosion of the top soil is due to exposure and subaerial run-off waters whereas at South Hillman the hinterland suffers unusual minor disturbance and erosion of topsoil due to the activity of puffins. Elsewhere erosion is negligible.

3. Monivey
   HY 406 479
   1.34 km
   Eroding to Stable
   Local erosion is found within the hinterland where run-off is depleting soil and the underlying till, mainly localised at Monivey. There is also minor coast edge erosion in many areas along this section due to marine action.

4. North Bis Geo
   HY 414 472
   0.57 km
   Stable
   Despite an imperfectly drained hinterland there is little erosion of the hinterland. There is also negligible coast edge erosion.

5. Sturry Geo
   HY 417 472
   0.57 km
   Eroding to Stable
   The erosion is mainly within the hinterland where soft drift is being washed away and is due to both run-off and wave throw with many small stones thrown 20m into the hinterland. The coast becomes more stable again to the south.

6. Finchaley
   HY 419 469
   0.20 km
   Stable
   The coast edge becomes more stable from north to south.
Built Heritage and Archaeology
The area contained within this map section lies to the seaward side of the ridge formed from Knucker Hill, Gallo Hill and Fitty Hill. The landscape is wild, exposed and uncultivated until the farmland of West Kiribist is reached. The coastal edge is fairly indented and the land slopes down to moderately high cliffs. There are several caves in the cliffs along the coast. The rough moorland vegetation is occasionally broken with areas of rough grass and less frequently with scree slopes and areas which have been denuded by salt spray. There are no paths or tracks leading into this area and it is one of the most isolated locations on the island. There is no modern settlement within the area.

Only three sites were recorded in this area and two, which were characterised, are of recent origin (18th-20th C). A rectangular sheep fold and dressy dyke (WT46) reflect the use of this area as rough grazing land. At Kiribist there are the remains of kelp pits and kelp-working platforms, together with probable drying walls and a shed or store (WT147). The pits were used for processing the raw, dried seaweed. It was heated and became semi-liquidified and was then allowed to cool and set into a hardened mass. This was later removed and could be broken up into smaller lumps for ease of transport. It was exported to be used for the extraction of potassium salts and iodine and as an alkali-ash in industrial processes, such as glass-making.

One site, which could not be characterised, comprised a mound of stone (WT45). This is unlikely to be a prehistoric burial cairn but does not, at the same time, appear to be of natural origin. There are several prehistoric burial mounds recorded in the wider area, however, such as those at Fitty Hill (HY44 SW3), Gallo Hill (HY44 NW15) and Knucker Hill (HY44 NW16). There is also a record of a group of mounds (HY44 NW), allegedly associated with a battle against Lewis men in the area between Fitty and Gallo Hills (NSA, xv, 126).

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Geology and Geomorphology
The coast has a more indented appearance than that of the previous map section. The hills undulate along a ridge, culminating in Skea Hill to the south. The southern sides of the hills have a slightly more craggy appearance, similar to that at The Hommor (Map 3). Almost horizontal bedding is exposed along these faces. Although exposed, there is good grazing land towards the centre of this area, but the land is very poor on the southern hillsides. When, eventually, the coastal edge drops below 5m in height, the rock platform also broadens out and, there is a storm beach to the end of this map section. In this area the hinterland is flatter and there are more cultivable fields present.

Erosion Class
Within this map section erosion is localised and there are stable areas of coast. The erosion stems from the exposed nature of the coast: subaerial action and wave-throw are the main agents of erosion.
WT45
HY 4195 4435
Between Flag Ber and Andrew Seatter's Breast
Calm
Indeterminate
Poor
Monitor

WT46
HY 4240 4360
Close to Whey Geo
Sheep fold and dyke
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WT47
HY 4240 4360
Hoo Nager, Bay of Kirbist
Structure, dykes, kelp pits and platforms
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined
1 Neven d' Grinst
HY 420 453
3.9 km
Rock platform.
Coast edge is > 5m.
The drift/rock interface is visible.
The rock platform shelves off steeply below the cliffs along most parts of the section. The hinterland has steep to moderate slopes and is fairly undulating in character. Large areas of topsoil are absent in the stream depression just north of Andrew Setter’s Breast. This is also evident in the small vale towards the coast between Fitty Hill and Skea Hill although in this case there are many lichens and mosses colonising the till. Also at Andrew Setter’s Breast there are some gulleys eroded into a till which appears to be almost two metres deep in places. A series of long stabilised ridges which run down hill towards the coast by Red Ness are approximately 1m to 2m deep and 1.5m to 20m apart. To the south of Skea Hill there are a few of small terraces where the horizontal bedrock is visible around the steep slopes. Soils are generally poorly draining peaty and saline gley soils with skeletal ronkers where topsoil is deficient and an area of peaty podzol to the south of Ingo Ness. Some peaty podzols were evident on the south side of Skea Hill. Apart from the denuded areas where lichens predominate, vegetation tends to be rough grazing with some areas of improved grassland to the north.

2 West Kirkist
HY 423 436
0.6 km
Rock platform, cobbled cover increasing to the east.
Coast edge is < 5m.
Drift/rock interface is generally visible to the east.
The rock platform broadens out along this section with increasing cobbled cover towards the east. The cobbles then grade into a storm beach at the end of this section and is described more fully in the next unit although a relic storm beach behind the contemporary one lies partly within this section. Where the coast edge drops to below 5m there is a dramatic improvement in the hinterland. The slope is generally gentle almost level with cultivable fields perhaps twenty metres in from the coast edge. This is partly due to some old cobbled throw along the near hinterland. Although low lying with naturally poorly drained gley soils some of the fields have drainage ditches and are cultivable although down to pasture for the most part. The soil is a poorly draining saline gley.
1 Buxa
HY 294 057
0.88 km
Eroding
To the south of the section a 3m coast edge of red till is eroding. The fence line has been repositioned 3m to 4m back from the coast edge. At Lower Sower there is slightly less erosion with some tipping of rubble along the coast edge. The erosion increases again to the north.

2 Upper Sower
HY 293 063
0.41 km
Eroding to Stable
There is partial erosion of the coast edge which becomes less pronounced towards the north.

3 Clestrain Point
HY 292 065
0.23 km
Stable
The small point to the west of Clestrain is stable. Stability is afforded by slightly raised and more pronounced outcropping of flags.

4 Skerries of Clestrain (South)
HY 291 068
0.44 km
Eroding to Stable
Localised erosion of the coast edge increases to the north.

5 Skerries of Clestrain (North)
HY 291 071
0.36 km
Eroding
Midway along this eroding section there is a small nick in the coastline where concrete posts may have been utilised as coast edge protection. They no longer serve this purpose and are now scattered along the upper foreshore. There is a deep, 0.7m, soil further to the north.

6 Standing Stone Point
HY 291 073
0.22 km
Stable
The flags are perhaps one to two metres above the strand line and so stabilise the point. A well constructed noast lies above the high water mark with some erosion of the coast edge to the north.

7 Moo Taing
HY 292 080
1.02 km
Eroding
To the south there is a buried soil lying under 0.6m of a darker soil in one area with other buried soils evident at a few localised points to the north. Otherwise the section has a very soft eroding till.

8 Norton
HY 292 086
0.34 km
Eroding to Stable
This section also incorporates part of the coast edge from the next unit. There is localised erosion of the coast edge. A section of sea wall below Norton is eroding in a few places. Further to the north an old eroding sea wall now stands four metres into the upper foreshore from the coast edge. A dilapidated groynes also runs onto the foreshore at the north end of the section.
Built Heritage and Archaeology

The first part of this map section comprises mainly of enclosed and cultivated fields, with occasional areas of unenclosed land. Berst Ness is quite exposed but the east side of the Ness is more sheltered. At Moe Sand a sandy beach backs onto an extensive area of dunes, which are being quarried. From this point to the sandy beach at Whale Sand there are enclosed cultivated fields in the hinterland. There is no modern settlement within the coastal zone.

Of the nineteen sites recorded in this area, four are attributed to the prehistoric period. At Knowe of Sleat (WT53), a settlement mound with structural elements and midden deposits is being eroded by the sea. A group of four structures and associated earthworks at Berst Ness (WT54) have been variously been interpreted as houses and as burial mounds. The survival of such a group of dispersed structures is unusual in an Orcadian context and must result from the fact that the area has not been intensively managed in recent times. At Moe Sand (WT56) quarrying has sporadically exposed an old ground surface along with a possible hearth setting. The area is reminiscent of Links of Noltland and it is probable that remains of early dense are present. A broch at Knowe of Burraystoe (WT31) is exposed in the coastal section and is being gradually destroyed by erosion. A mound at Kestra (WT58) which contains probable stone structures and anthropogenic soils may be a settlement of prehistoric date, although it could not be conclusively characterised. Norse period sites are also well represented. At Tuquoy (WT65), part of a large settlement, including a Norse hall and a smithy have been excavated. The settlement lies close to Crosskirk chapel (WT64), regarded as one of the finest 12th C churches in Orkney. Recorded here for the first time, a settlement of probable Norse date at Kestra (WT59) is exposed in the coastal section and vulnerable to destruction by the sea. A rectangular structure (WT50) to the west of the Knowe of Burraystoe, previously interpreted as a prehistoric house, is reinterpreted as a structure of probable 10th-14th C date. It was identified earlier this century as the site of the church of Kirbost and this interpretation may be correct.

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Geology andGeomorphology

The topography of this unit is low lying and gently undulating, with more moderate slopes around Longskail. The rock platform is very broad for the most part, perhaps stretching out to a lower foreshore 200m out from the coastal edge, but decreasing before Berst Ness. Cobbles form a storm beach to the extreme west of this section; to the extreme eastern side they are present along the upper foreshore. An expanse of sand extends for over 100m into the hinterland at Moe Sand. Cultivable fields are generally located some 20m from the coastal edge. Apart from specific areas of poor drainage behind the storm beach to the west, most of the soils are freely draining.

Erosion Class

The western-facing coast is generally stable; most of the erosion occurs along the south-facing shore where there are substantial areas of sands. The sands suffer from deflation and this is more readily apparent than actual coastal edge erosion.
WT48
HY 4271 4345
Grassy Ber. Eay of Kiribist
Structure
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WT49
HY 4291 4299
Muckle Water
Indeterminate remains
Indeterminate
Poor
Nil

WT50 (HY44 SW6)
HY 4308 4295
West of Knowe of Burristoe
Structure and boundary banks
10th-14th C
Good
Survey

WT51 (HY44 SW1)
HY 4317 4291
Knowe of Burristoe
Broch: Scheduled IHS Index 14520
1st mill BC-1st millennium AD
Fair
Survey

WT52
HY 435 423 to HY 440 419
Bent Ness
Kelp pits and drying wall
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WT53 (HY44 SW2)
HY 4414 4181
Knowe of Skea
Settlement
3rd-1st millennium BC
Good
Survey

WT54 (HY44 SW3)
HY 440 420
Bent Ness
Structures: houses or cairns
3rd-1st millennium BC
Good
Survey

WT55 (HY44 SW17)
HY 4411 4215
Torristoe, Bent Ness
Noota
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WT56
HY 4416 4295
Moe Sand
Isolated deposits: old ground surface and hearth area
3rd-1st millennium BC
Fair
Survey

WT57 (HY44 SW18)
HY 4486 4298
Tuquoy Links
Noota
18th-20th C
Fair
Monitor

WT58 (HY44 SW11)
HY 4471 4214
Kestro
Site of Cast
Indeterminate
Not located

WT59
HY 4501 4317
Kestro
Structure and anthropogenic deposits
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

WT60 (HY44 SW16)
HY 431 429
Kirist
Alleged site of chapel
10-14th C
Not located

WT61 (HY44 SW12)
HY 4331 4281
Ayre of Burristoe
Mound
Indeterminate
Not located

WT62 (HY44 SW20)
HY 445 429
Moe Sand
Site of Cats
Indeterminate
Not located

WT63 (HY44 SW10)
HY 4471 4214
Kestro
Site of Cast
Indeterminate
Not located

WT64 (HY44 SE1)
HY 4500 4315
Cross Kirk or Westside Church,
Tuquoy
Church and graveyard:
Scheduled (HS Index 90312),
Listed (Category B)
10th-14th C
Good
Monitor

WT65 (HY44 SE5)
HY 4546 4313
Tuquoy
Settlement: Site proposed for
scheduling in 1999
10th-14th C
Fair
Monitor

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined
I 06
1. Grassy Bar
Henty 429 432
0.7 km
Rock platform with > 80% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible.
The rock platform extends over 100m out from the coast edge with a storm beach composed of rounded cobbles and small boulder sized rocks. A ridge of cobbles runs along the length of the storm beach. To the west there is a second raised rim of a relic storm beach lying between the first in two areas. The storm beach also overlies a relic cobbles beach in places. Some stones litter the hinterland to a distance of up to 20m inland. Generally the hinterland slopes down from the raised coast edge into a poorly drained gley with grasses and sedges. Standing water lies within the hinterland at Muicke Water. Typically soils are poorly to imperfectly drained glye and podzol.

2. Knowe of Butstooe
Henty 432 429
0.4 km
Rock platform with discrete cobble areas.
Coast edge is predominantly < 5m.
The driftrock interface is generally visible.
The rock platform has only two small areas of cobbles. The hinterland is low lying to the west and begins to rise to the east with cultivable fields behind the broch. Poorly drained glye lie to the north of the broch with imperfectly drained podzol to the south.

3. Greet Ness
Henty 437 423
1.2 km
Rock platform with negligible cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
The coast edge rises over five metres with a broad rock platform which becomes slightly narrower to the south. A small area of shingle lies within the coast just north of Cuin Geo. There are a number of dumped old vehicles on the hinterland close to the cliff edge to the south of Greet Ness. A till of perhaps 0.3m depth lies below the imperfectly drained podzol and a poorly drained peaty gley to the south.

4. Buret Ness
Henty 441 421
0.9 km
Rock platform with negligible cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
The rock platform rises to a small isolated promontory, Knowe of Skea, to the mainland. The flags are generally clear of cobbles. Both island and mainland coastal edges are below 5m. The remains of archaeology are found along the extreme south east of the island peninsula. At Torstooe there is disturbance of the coast edge with dumping of rubble on the hinterland. The till is > 1m in depth to the north of this section. Soils are poorly drained peaty gleys on the head grading to freely drained podzol to the north.

5. Moe Sand
Henty 443 428
0.6 km
Sandy foreshore, 40-60% cobbles on upper foreshore. Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible.
The sandy foreshore has a small cobbles bank along the backshore and coast edge which is most prominent to the high northern part of the beach. The sands extend further back than 100m into the hinterland. There are many large butte dunes left standing, some over three metres in height, most capped with vegetation. Deformation of the sand is most apparent to the south although the north also has many deflation hollows within a more natural dune setting. The dunes to the north appear to be more rounded and vegetated with lime grass and some marram. To the extreme south side there is an area of cliff-top which appears to have been disturbed from a butte dune or talus formation. There are a few areas of stone cobbles to which the sands are now being deflated to. These appear to be in situ as some of the stone layers continue beneath the talus at a depth of over 2m and may represent an old ground surface. There is some disturbance of the extreme hinterland sands due to possible sand extraction. The sands continue to the north east and lie beneath a grassed field. The soils are freely draining skeletal rorawet.

6. Flagg o Bokie
Henty 448 430
0.5 km
Rock platform with negligible cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
The rock platform reappears abruptly east of Moe Sands. Within the cove by Kestro a coast edge section reveals that beneath a 0.3m soil cover lies sand up to 2m in depth over flags. Within the cove the hinterland has signs of much disturbance in the past with dumping of rubble and possible ploughing or disturbing of area. The extreme hinterland has a rather hummocky appearance. Soils are freely drained as they lie over sand. The area is ploughed over to agriculture which would damage the fragile stabilising vegetation cover of a sandy ranker or sandy skeletonal soil.

7. Bokie
Henty 454 431
0.9 km
Sandy foreshore along the mid to upper foreshore. Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
A rock platform broadens out to perhaps 200m with overlying sands covering the mid to upper foreshore and running almost the whole length of this section. The sands to leave the east. A cobble cover of the upper foreshore also overlie the sands. The fields are grassed and lie up to 20m back from the coast edge. Cross Kerk has a protecting sea wall. From the kirk westward the sand cover disappears although the cobbles remain with perhaps up to 70% cover of the upper foreshore. A red till up to 0.6m also appears intermittently in section. Soils are freely to imperfectly drained sandy rankers with localised podzol.

108
1 Grassly Bar
HY 435 423
2.69 km
Stable
Although a low coast edge the coast is stable with
only localised minor erosion by marine action and
cattle/sheep activity. More substantial areas of
coastal erosion lie in front of Buristaw Broch and by
Great Ness due to dumping disturbance. Another
small area of localised erosion lies to the extreme
south east of Knowe of Skews. These few areas of
erosion are relatively minor.

2 Rinake
HY 442 428
0.80 km
Eroding
There is some erosion of sands over bedrock at the
coast edge to the south of Mose Sands. The area of
Mose Sands itself appears to be eroding due to
aeolian activity, especially to the south west. Here
there are a few large blocks of outcropping
aeolianite which have toppled from the upper
horizons of sand due to undercutting and deflation
of sand buttes. This erosion is not confined to the
coast edge but stretches some 100m into the
hinterland. Some of the sand buttes are 3m or 4m
high with the deflation base along a more
compacted sand, probably an old ground surface.
In some areas there are rounded cobble sized
stones which appear to be set into this horizon and
run under 3m or 4m of butte sand in at least two
places. Other areas of compaction would require
further analysis in order to establish the
lithostratigraphical order and dates. If they underlie the
same horizon as the aeolianite then they are likely
to be over a few thousand years old. There is an
area of possible sand extraction to the north west
and far hinterland. From the survey of this beach by
Mother et al 1974, it appears that some of the
fore dunes at the coast edge to the west have
been substantially deflated with perhaps some
minor accumulation by mussel sand trapping to
the eastern side. The coast edge to the extreme
east is also cut by deflation hollows but less so than
to the west. Overall the section is classed as
eroding.

3 Flag o' Bakie
HY 449 430
0.72 km
Eroding to Stable
Much of the coast edge is eroding because of
marine action although there is a stable area to the
point where flags underlie 0.2m to 0.4m of soil. To
the eastern side the areas of erosion are perhaps
worse as 0.2m of soil overlies 2m of sand over flags.
There is evidence of past quarrying and some rubble
dumping within this small corner cow. The hinterland
now appears to be stable. To the
extreme east of this section the coast edge is
again stable.

4 Bakie
HY 454 431
0.81 km
Eroding to Stable
Although in the same erosion class as the previous
section there appears to be slightly more erosion of
a well defined coast edge. The erosion is much
more active to the west, the only truly stable area
lies in front of Cross Kirk which is protected by a sea
wall at present. Two areas of exposed archaeology
lie within the exposed sections. The western area has
probably been uncovered recently whereas the
eastern element is documented as the Tuquoy
monument.

110
Built Heritage and Archaeology
The area covered by this map section extends around the Bay of Tuquoy, which is a deep sheltered inlet containing an expanse of sand. The hinterland is divided in a regular pattern of fields, comprising both arable and grazing land. There is a small sandy beach at Links of Garth, to the east side of the Bay, but beyond this the coastline is largely rocky. There is some modern settlement within the coastal zone.

There are frequent remains of 18th-20th C date in this area, reflecting the settled nature of the landscape in this period. A deserted farmstead at Nethergarth (WT73) comprises a dwelling house and outbuildings with several small sheds and enclosures. The buildings are roofed with flagstones, in the traditional manner. Evidence for the kelp industry is provided by the numerous kelp pits, outbuildings and drying walls which are to be found around the Ness of Tuquoy (WT68). There are also several noots in this area which would have accommodated small fishing vessels; one of the noots is still occupied by a disintegrating wooden boat. A stone-lined well (WT89) exposed in section at Taphland may have provided fresh water for boats using the area as well as the nearby farmstead.

The remains of earlier settlement are in evidence at Hodgolee (WT70) on a rocky headland between the Ayre of Frib and the Links of Garth. This is a complex site which is suffering from coastal erosion. In one area the remains of a substantial stone house or broch is partially exposed in section. The mound which covers the major part of the site stands up to 5m high and is surrounded by what may be a ditch and earthworks. In addition, there are the remains of further stone structures and extensive midden deposits which suggest that activity on the site was carried on over a long duration. At Ness of Tuquoy (WT57) archaeological deposits have been recorded in the eroding section face since the 1980s. The remains of at least one structure are visible in section, along with extensive midden deposits which may be of early prehistoric date. Topographic indications suggest that the site extends some way inland, beneath a deserted farmstead. Three mounds which could not be conclusively characterised may also be sites of prehistoric date. At Tuquoy (WT69) the mound appears to contain structural remains. Two mounds at Links of Garth (WT71) and Garth (WT74) lie close together; their size and shape suggests that they may be burial monuments.

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Geology and Geomorphology
The Bay of Tuquoy which is extremely shallow and generally less than 3m in depth. The shallowness of the bay is well illustrated by the broad rock platforms which lie at the neck of the bay. The hinterland is also relatively low lying with gentle slopes. The soils tend to be poorly drained gleys although most fields are cultivable.

Erosion Class
The shallow bay and an extensive rock platform in some areas tend to dissipate much of the wave energy, but even so the marine erosion easily removes the soft tills and sands. The erosion is almost entirely along the eastern side of the bay which is open and exposed to south westerly storms. The shore within the bay to the north and west is protected from the south westerlies hence there is little or no erosion, apart from on the exposed Ness of Tuquoy.
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| WT67 (HY44 SE9) | HY 4593 4325  
Ness of Tuquoy  
Settlement  
3rd-1st millennium BC  
Fair  
Survey |
| WT68     | HY 4590 4369  
Bay of Tuquoy  
Noosts, kelp pits and walls  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil |
| WT69 (HY44 SE12) | HY 4542 4397  
Tuquoy  
Mound  
Indeterminate  
Poor  
Survey |
| WT70 (HY44 SE3) | HY 4644 4473  
Hodgatee  
Broch, settlement, noosts  
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD  
Good  
Survey |
| WT71 (HY44 SE8) | HY 4673 4472  
Links of Garth  
Mound  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Survey |
| WT72     | HY 4686 4482  
Garth  
Structure  
18th-20th C  
Good  
Nil |
| WT73     | HY 4605 4492  
Nethergarth  
Farmstead  
18th-20th C  
Good  
Nil |
| WT74     | HY 4670 4471  
Garth  
Mound  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Survey |
| WT77     | HY 4731 4455  
Taphland  
Pit  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Nil |
| WT78 (HY44 SE10) | HY 4734 4447  
Taphland  
Noost  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil |
| WT89     | HY 4733 4442  
Taphland  
Wall  
Indeterminate  
Good  
Nil |
| WT90     | HY 4744 4424  
Branstone Hill  
Structure, mound and noost  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Survey |
| WT91     | HY 4815 4372  
Cubbigeo  
Noosts  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil |

Sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined.
1 Whole Sound
HY 457 438
1.8 km
Rock platform, >90% cobbles on upper foreshore.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is intermittently visible.
The rock platform has little cobbles cover around the point although this increases substantially to the north where boulder and cobble sized stones give perhaps 70% cove. The size grades to flat cobbles by the new pier and persists with more shingle to the end of the section having between 50-90% cover. The red till at the beginning of the section reaches a depth of approximately 2m around the Ness of Turquoy before fading off by the pier and reappears in small lenses of perhaps 0.2m depth to the north. A sea wall lies along the new pier and intermittently along the side of the coastal road. Poorly drained gleyes support grassed fields.

2 Lotto Sands
HY 452 452
1.7 km
Sandy foreshore with 30-60% shingle cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible.
Shingle and sand dominate the foreshore with a small relic shingle beach evident on the south western corner of this bay area. A road runs along the head of the bay and is protected by a sea wall. An Ayre of shingle and cobbles run out into the bay from a spit of land on the eastern side. The hinterland becomes very wet with standing water to the south west which disappears on the north west side after the sea wall. A large area of rushes appears to be colonising the spit and much of the hinterland. Behind the road the hinterland has cultivable fields. Generally the fields behind the wetlands and centre of the bay are poorly drained gleyes.

3 Damaquoy
HY 452 448
1.2 km
Intermittent sandy foreshore, 50-70% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is generally visible.
The shingle grades into cobbles along a rock platform foreshore which is intermittently covered by sands. A sea wall lies in front of the farm at Damaquoy. Around the area of Hodgalee, where the coast edge may reach over 5m in height, the cobble cover increases to perhaps an 80% cover of the upper foreshore. A deep red till of 0.5m depth at the beginning of this section tails off and is replaced to the east of Hodgalee by 0.2m of grey till or colluvium which underlies 0.3m of peat.
Generally the soils are poorly drained gleyes within the hinterland which support many fenced pasture fields.

4 Links of Garth
HY 470 448
0.7 km
Sandy foreshore with up to 30% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible.
Cobbles lie along the upper foreshore with less than 10% cover in places. Dunes have built up along the coast edge and within part of the hinterland where lyne grass dominating the dunes and good grazing on some of the improved area to the far hinterland.

5 Taphland
HY 478 440
1.7 km
Predominantly rock platform with intermittent sandy foreshore and cobble cover.
Coast edge is predominately < 5m.
The driftrock interface is generally not visible to the south. The rock platform extends out perhaps over 100m with a sandy foreshore to the north and to the south of Braestone but not below the large sea defences there. Cobbles and shingle are found within a few discrete areas but cobbles make up 60% to greater than 90% of the rock platform cover to the south of Braestone which can be described as a storm beach. The coast edge reveals 0.3m of sandy loam over 0.2m peat over 1.5m of red till at one point to the north of Taphland. To the south of Braestone the coast edge rises to over 5m with a till of over 5m in depth dominating the cliff face. Perhaps 0.3m of loam covers the till. Fields are cultivable and mainly down to grass over an imperfectly drained gley within the majority of the hinterland.
1 Whole Sand
HY 460 453
0.46 km
Eroding
Although there are a few stable areas on the north-facing coast edge the majority of this section is eroding where a 2m deep red till is being undercut by the sea.

2 Ness of Tuquoy (North)
HY 458 437
0.90 km
Stable
A stable section which includes a small pier and sea walling to the north. There are perhaps three small localised areas of erosion which are under 2m in length.

3 Tuquoy
HY 453 444
0.84 km
Eroding to Stable
Small areas of erosion along the coast edge. The softer drifts of a relic storm reach, up to 0.2m of till and a top soil are eroding in localised areas.

4 Lotto Sands
HY 453 452
1.21 km
Stable
This is a low energy environment with a small cove protecting the coast edge which also has a sea wall running next to the coastal road. Ripples behind the cove also help in stabilisation of the coast edge.

5 Damaquoy
HY 460 450
0.66 km
Eroding to Stable
Partial erosion of the coast edge. A sea wall in front of Damaquoy protects the farm buildings at present although a second group of farm buildings at Nethergarth have been abandoned as the sea erodes the coast edge and buildings.

6 Nethergarth (South)
HY 463 448
0.27 km
Eroding
The coast edge with up to 0.5m of red till is being eroded. Where the flags outcrop there is much less erosion.

7 Hodgalee
HY 466 448
0.46 km
Eroding to Stable
Erosion is of the softer till and soil drift with stable areas around outcropping rock.

8 Links of Garth (North)
HY 470 448
0.37 km
Accreting and Eroding
Sands are accreting within the north corner of the cove, both upper foreshore and hinterland, by aeolian activity. There is also some localised coast edge erosion of dune area by marine action.

9 Links of Garth (South)
HY 472 448
0.34 km
Eroding to Stable
At present there appears to be little accretion of sand by wind blow to the south of the bay although localised coast edge erosion is evident.

10 Taplad
HY 476 441
1.22 km
Eroding
As the till becomes deeper to the south so the erosion of the coast edge becomes greater. A large sea wall in front of Branstone has stabilised this small section for the present. A cliff made up of over 5m of till is being eroded by marine action with the added attrition of cobble scouring at the base of the cliff.

11 Cubbiggeo
HY 482 437
0.39 km
Eroding to Stable
Although till overlies the flags there is less erosion south of Cubbiggeo and may be due in part to a slightly more raised rock platform which helps to dissipate more of the wave energy.
Built Heritage and Archaeology
From Grinaby to Hamar, the land is low-lying and comprises of enclosed fields and a rocky coastline. Between Hamar and Tafts, the area is predominantly open with marshy margins and is covered in rough vegetation. The small peninsula of Twiness provides shelter to the east side of Bay of Tafts. There is a long sandy beach at the head of this bay, with a sea link to the rear. From here to Stancro the are large fields and enclosed areas within the coastal zone and although there are a few modern settlements near the coast, most are focused on the B9066 road which lies further inland.

As the name might suggest, there is a large settlement mound [WT130] at the head of the Bay of Tafts. Although there are currently no coastal exposures, the site has been affected by erosion in the past and midden deposits have been recorded. Occasional stones which protrude through the turf may be structural remnants. It seems unlikely, given what is known of its composition, that this site is a farm mound and its large size suggests that it may be a multi-period settlement. An deserted farmstead of 18th-20th C date [WT131] partially overlies this site. Other remains of early date within this area include a burnt mound at Loch of Wasbist [WT96] and burial mounds at Stancro [WT126]. Two of these mounds have been excavated [WT126, 1 & 2] and dated to the mid-late second millennium BC. Each contained a single cist and the cremated remains of a single adult [Barber, Duffy and O'Sullivan, 1996]. Two further mounds also at Stancro [WT127, 128] appear likely to be burial monuments, possibly together forming a barrow cemetery. One of the mounds has a cist-like structure exposed in its side. At Tafts [WT98], a large mound which lies beyond the outbuildings of the farm may be a farm mound or may represent an early settlement. At Hamar [WT97], Ill and Grinaby [WT93], Ill grassy mounds found close to 18th-20th C structures may be of much earlier date, although their composition is not known and they could not be characterised.

An earthwork and hollow way [WT129] Snaky Nook may be of 18th-20th C date, but could conceivably be older. The nooks at Hamar [WT94] are more certainly of recent date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites recorded</th>
<th>Sites characterised</th>
<th>Sites not characterised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>No. of which at risk</strong></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Geology and Geomorphology
The unit covers the west side of a low lying peninsula of Westray leading to Rapness. The coast contains two good clean sandy beaches with incumbent dune hinterland which are both fairly narrow, perhaps 20m on average. Soils are mainly poorly to imperfectly drained gleys and most of the enclosed fields are down to pasture.

Erosion Class
The unit is, on the whole, more stable than the previous unit especially so around Twiness. Most of the active erosion lies to the south of Bay of Tafts. There are also small areas of sand accretion at Taftend and Tafts.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Code</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Periods</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Visibility</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WT98</td>
<td>HY 4910 4226</td>
<td>Toftend Farm</td>
<td>Mound</td>
<td>Indeterminate</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>WT99</td>
<td>HY 4963 4171</td>
<td>Tofts</td>
<td>Settlement mound</td>
<td>3rd-1st millennium BC</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT100</td>
<td>HY 4963 4171</td>
<td>Tofts</td>
<td>Farmstead</td>
<td>18th-20th C</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT101</td>
<td>HY 5015 4055</td>
<td>Snally Noust</td>
<td>Bank and hollow way</td>
<td>Indeterminate</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT102</td>
<td>HY 5013 4049</td>
<td>Stancro</td>
<td>Probable burial mound</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT103</td>
<td>HY 5006 4044</td>
<td>Stancro</td>
<td>Burial cairns</td>
<td>3rd-1st millennium BC</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT104</td>
<td>HY 4831 4349</td>
<td>Gneibay</td>
<td>Structural remains</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Monitor</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WT105</td>
<td>HY 4838 4329</td>
<td>Gneibay</td>
<td>Structures and mound</td>
<td>18th-20th C</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Nil</td>
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<tr>
<td>WT106</td>
<td>HY 4851 4295</td>
<td>Hammar</td>
<td>Noosts</td>
<td>18th-20th C</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT107</td>
<td>HY 487 427</td>
<td>Hammar</td>
<td>Mound</td>
<td>Indeterminate</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT108</td>
<td>HY 4898 4263</td>
<td>Loch of Wasibst</td>
<td>Burnt mound</td>
<td>3rd-1st millennium BC</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT109</td>
<td>HY 4889 4250</td>
<td>Loch of Wasibst</td>
<td>Structure and mound</td>
<td>18th-20th C</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined.
1. Grinsbay
HY 458 431
1.0 km
Rock platform with 40-60% cobbled cover and one stump beach.
Coast edge is < 5m
The driftrock interface is generally visible.
The rock platform has 40-60% cobbles cover with a small cobbles storm beach to the west of Hamor.
There are also two distinct areas of sandy foreshore a little way to either side of the storm beach. More boulder sized stones are evident to the south of this section. The coast edge has between 2m to 3m depth of till. The hinterland has some disturbance with tipping of rubble close to the coast edge west of Hamor. Fencad fields are cultivable and down to pasture with most of the gley's imperfectly drained.

2. Tafsan (North)
HY 490 424
0.8 km
Sandy foreshore with up to 30% single cover on upper foreshore.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible.
The sandy foreshore has very little cover with only a small ribbon of shingle along the upper foreshore. The coast edge is less well defined to the north against the sand ridge and becomes more well defined as a coast edge to the south. The hinterland is made up of a narrow band of sand dunes, perhaps 20m to 30m wide, with fenced pasture lying behind them. The dunes are dominated by lyne grass. A wet area with standing water lies to the centre of this section and further into the hinterland. Soils are poorly to imperfectly draining gley's to the centre and for hinterland with more freely draining sandy ranners to the fore hinterland elsewhere. There is also evidence of sand and shingle extraction from the upper foreshore in one area by a culvert.

3. Twinesse
HY 493 414
1.4 km
Rock platform with 20-40% cobbles cover to the north.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
The majority of the cobbles cover lies to the north below Twinesse with negligible cover round the peninsula. There is also a moderate amount of tipping to the north of the form. The hinterland is made up of three grassed fields, the peninsula being unfenced with a poor tussocky grass. Soils are imperfectly to poorly drained gleys.

4. Bay of Tafts
HY 499 417
1.1 km
Sandy foreshore with 20-40% cobbles or shingle cover along the upper foreshore.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible.
The sandy foreshore has an indistinct coast edge with 20-40% cover along the upper foreshore and within the vegetation of the coast edge. Small sand dunes lie around most of the hinterland with a small hillock around Tafts. To the extreme south east of the cove the coast edge is well defined as it rises up to over 4m. A till, greater than 4m in depth, lies to the eastern side. Lyne grass is dominant along the coast edge and within the hinterland to the east. Better grazing lies within the fields east of Tafts and to the far hinterland. Tussock grass lies close to Tafts on the west side and a track leads down to the beach. Most of the soils are freely draining.

5. Knowe of Hamor
HY 502 407
1.1 km
Rock platform with discrete areas of cobbles and boulder cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
The cobbles cover is found in a few discrete areas with perhaps 40% areas in the north to 90% cobbles and boulders by Geo of Stancro. The coast edge is well defined with tipping of farm wastes to the extreme north and dumping of rubble on the hinterland south of Crab Geo. Some of the fields are bounded by stone walls which are grassed down. Soils are poorly to imperfectly drained on moderate slopes.
1 Grinaby
HY 485 430
1.18 km
Eroding to Stable
This section is quite variable in the degree of erosion. Localised erosion dominates most of the coast edge with some stable areas north of Hamar. To the south of Hamar two areas of definite erosion have rubble dump along the coast edge and hinterland. The erosion is almost entirely due to marine action. To the south of this section there is a large stretch of sand running to Toftend. To the north there is some localised erosion of the sand dunes and minor localised sand extraction along the upper foreshore.

2 Toftend (North)
HY 490 424
0.42 km
Stable
This section incorporates the stretch of sand south of a culvert where the coast edge is much more stable.

3 Toftend
HY 492 421
0.20 km
Accreting to Stable
At Toftend it appears that there is an accretion of sand along the upper foreshore. This may be due to sand migration by marine longshore drift and trapping within the corner of the cove. There is little evidence that sand is accreting on the hinterland at this point.

4 Styne
HY 493 417
0.77 km
Eroding to Stable
The coast edge is generally stable with erosion of tipping material by the farm with some coast edge erosion instigated by cattle scarping and poaching.

5 Twiness
HY 494 414
0.71 km
Stable
The coast edge is stable although there is some poaching of the hinterland by cattle. There is at least one small area of erosion due to marine action to the east inner corner of Twiness.

6 Tafts
HY 496 417
0.27 km
Accreting to Stable
Although there is a track which has been cut down to the beach the coast edge is relatively stable. There is some accretion of sand within the hinterland field and possibly along the upper foreshore, mainly due to wind blow. Marram and lyme grass is stabilising the upper foreshore.

7 The Links
HY 500 416
0.44 km
Stable
There is no coastal erosion along the dune edge. It is possible that some accretion is occurring within the hinterland although of limited extent.

8 Bay of Tafts (South)
HY 503 413
0.53 km
Eroding
Towards the south end of the Bay of Tafts beach the coast edge rises. This edge of till and sand is being eroded. Over the rock platform the till edge continues as does the active sea erosion of the face. Large scale gouging of the till by marine action has left a rather scalloped appearance to the coast edge face.

9 Crab Geo
HY 502 409
0.36 km
Stable
The softer till lies on high steps of flags rising from the upper foreshore so elevating the soft sediments away from wave action.

10 Snaky Noust
HY 502 407
0.20 km
Eroding to Stable
Partial erosion of the softer drift deposits along the coast edge has occurred.

11 Geo of Stancro
HY 501 404
0.40 km
Eroding
The softer drift deposits are being actively eroded by the sea. In this case some of the drift deposits, up to 0.8m deep, include a buried soil horizon under colliuvium.
Built Heritage and Archaeology
The area covered by this map section extends around the Rapness Peninsula to the most southerly point of the island, along the shores of Rapness Sound to the tip of Weather Ness and beyond, along the eastern coast. The landscape is one of lush enclosed grassland as far as the ferry terminal at Sands of Woo. There is some coastal settlement and a road runs parallel to the shore from Benziecott to Sands of Woo. From the quarry at Grimburst the landscape becomes progressively more hilly and rugged and there is no modern coastal settlement.

The majority of the characterised sites are of 18th-20th C date, while several of those which could not be characterised also probably also date to this period. Kepp pits and dowing walls are located at Ness, while there are several boat nooks around the coast of Rapness Sound (WT113, 117, 118, 132). Traces of a field system on Weather Ness (WT136, 137) may be of relatively recent origin, as may structural remains exposed in a coastal section at Stavers Geo (WT134).

At Peterkirk (WT125), the ruins of a chapel of 10th-14th C date occupy the site of an earlier settlement, which may be of Iron Age date. The settlement is visible as a large, amorphous, green mound, with midden-type deposits exposed in the coastal section. Two mounds at Peterkirk (WT124) and one at Rapness (WT177) are characterised as prehistoric burial monuments, Mounds at West Sour (WT122) and Craw Tua (WT116) may be of similar age and type, but cannot be positively identified without recourse to further assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geology and Geomorphology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The south and Westray has a narrow peninsula on the south west with two hills at 30m and 26m height. The majority of the coastal edge is under 5m around this peninsula and most of the fields are down to permanent pasture. The eastern side of this unit is far more bleak and wild. A large quarry, below Grimburst, is cut into the spine of a long hill which makes up the eastern side of Rapness peninsula. The coastal edge rises to over 5m on the northwestern and eastern flanks of this peninsula. There are only a few minor isolated areas of sand and cobble cover. The main soil types are poorly drained gleyis and imperfectly drained podsol. The majority of the fields within the hinterland are down to grass, while large unfenced areas provide rough grazing to the southeast.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Erosion Class
Apart from the small section to the northwest, which lies towards the beginning of this map section, the whole coastline can be considered as being generally stable. Minor erosion occurs only in very localised areas. There are generally only thin till deposits along the coastal edge, with flags buttressing the upper foreshore in most areas. Within Rapness Sound the shore is further protected from long storm reaches especially from the eastern quarter by the islands of Faray and Holm of Faray. Along the eastern shore the coastal edge rises to over 25m with the general dip of the flags to the east so enhancing the cliff face protection. Larger, progressive landslide areas on this side are apparent. Although insidious in nature, they may culminate in a catastrophic erosion event perhaps once every ten of years or so. |

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Sites recorded</th>
<th>Sites characterised</th>
<th>Sites not characterised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of which at risk</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WT123 (HY44 SE2)
WY 4998 4008
Peterkirk
Chapel and settlement mound
3rd-1st mill BC, 10th-14th C
Fair
Survey

WT124 (HY54 SW6)
WY 5005 4006
Peterkirk
Possible burial mounds
3rd-1st millennium BC
Fair
Nil

WT123
WY 5010 3982
West Sous
Structure
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WT122
WY 5011 3980
West Sous
Mound
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

WT121
WY 4953 385
Ness
Kelp drying walls and kelp pits
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WT120
WY 4952 385
Geo of Lincro
Earthan and stone bank
Indeterminate
Fair
Nil

WT119 (HY53 NW9)
WY 5003 3863
Rapness
Burial mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Fair
Survey

WT118
WY 5019 3920
Benziecott
Enclosure and noots
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WT117 (HY53 NW10)
WY 5025 3943
Rapness
Site of noots
18th-20th C
Not Located

WT116 (HY53 NW5)
WY 5020 3950
Craw Tuo or Clog Tuo
Mound
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

WT115 (HY54 SW5)
WY 5059 4014
Claybrees
Site of burnt mounds and grassy mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Fair
Nil

WT114
WY 5076 4020
Whiteleet
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

WT113
WY 5076 4032
Sands of Helvie
Noots
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WT112 (HY54 SW9)
WY 5104 4081
Rapness
Burial mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Fair
Survey

WT111
WY 5111 4086
Sands of Woo
Mound
Indeterminate
Not Located
Monitor

WT110 (HY54 SW16)
WY 5114 4069
Sands of Woo
Mound
Indeterminate
Monitor

WT109
WY 5118 4054
Sand Geo
Mound and structure
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

WT108
WY 5210 4050
Weather Ness
Boundary bank
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

WT107
WY 5239 4030
The Ship
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Poor
Survey

WT106 (HY54 SW8)
WY 5218 4051
Weather Ness
Enclosure
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

WT105 (HY54 SW13)
WY 5215 4050
Weather Ness
Mound
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined

1 30
1 Point of Peterlirk
HY 499 395
1.9 km
Rock platform, some areas 40-60% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is generally visible.
A rock platform with a well defined coast edge with cobbles in localised areas. There are more
scattered cobbles and a relic storm beach for perhaps 200m south of Point of Neaval. There is
also a minor cobbled storm beach within the
northerly corner of West Sou. South of Taingi Skerry
there is an area of sandy foreshore with a grass
covered sandy hinterland. The hinterland is
moderately sloping, steeper on the north side of
Hamar Brae. Soils are mainly poorly drained gleys
with imperfectly drained podzols at each corner of
West Sou and a freely to imperfectly drained
raker to the extreme south over a sandy subsoil.

2 Geo of Lincro
HY 502 393
3.5 km
Rock platform, areas of <70% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is generally visible.
There are scatterings of cobbles around all of this
section with up to 70% cover on the west side and
two small coves with storm beaches at Less Hamar
with a larger area south of Scarra Toing, by a small
pier on the east side of the peninsula. There is also
a relic storm beach to the south of this pier covering
the rock drift interface. A small cove has over 90%
cobble cover north of Point of Geldiskill. A walled
sea defence lies within the cove at East Sou in front
of an electricity sub-station with a small area of
sandy foreshore lying in front of this one point. A
road runs down most of the east side of the
peninsula and in some areas runs along the coast
drive. The land is moderately sloping and steeply
sloping within East Sou. Again the fields are down
to permanent pasture and mainly fenced. Soils are
poorly to imperfectly drained gleys to the south and
imperfectly drained podzols to the north with a
peaty podzol and organic ranker to the extreme
south Point of Hurro.

3 Helzie
HY 511 409
1.3 km
Rock platform and two areas of sand cover.
Coast edge is generally < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible.
Although this section is mostly fronted by rock
platform there are two areas of sandy foreshore.
The first lies at Sands of Helzie to the west of the
section and the second at the Sands of Woo. The
ferry pier lies below Sulland with sea defences and
nubble making up the coast edge around Sands of
Woo. The walled sea defence runs into a
man-made coast edge made up of quary
overburden nubble. The rest of the section to the
south east has boulders making up the coast edge
from the quary where there is much disturbance of
the once steep sloped hinterland. The grassed fields
of the north and west hinterland are poorly drained
gleys.

4 Stavers Geo
HY 522 404
2.5 km
Rock platform with one area of sandy foreshore.
Coast edge is < 5m to the north west and > 5m for
the rest.
The driftrock interface is visible.
The rock platform has approximately 70% cobble
cover within Stavers Geo with only localised areas
of cover towards Sand Geo and negligible cover
on the east facing side. A sandy foreshore lies for
perhaps 200m along Sandy Geo. It is here that the
coast edge rises to over 5m but drops to less than
5m again at Weather Ness. There are also two
cobble covers to the south and west of this Ness
with a small partial island. The Ship, on the tip of the
Ness at high water mark, The coast edge then rises
dramatically along the north eastern edge. A red
cliff can be seen in section to the north west from 0.2m
to 1m in depth. The western hinterland is
moderately sloping and at least one relic stream
bed is evident, now grassed and stable. The
hinterland on eastern flank of the peninsula is bleak
with a more more exposed aspect. Consequently
the poorly to imperfectly drained gleys on the west
side give way to a more saline gley on the east with
the same poor drainage. The topography of this
eastern facing Hinterland is of high cliffs and areas
of potential landwash which gives way to very steep
descents, > 40° in one area. There is a hummocky
hinterland north of Holnes of Blossom exuding to
post landwash which has now stabilised.
1 Point of Peterlirk
HY 000 401
1.05 km
Eroding
Both the till and the flags are being eroded by the sea.

2 West Sous
HY 499 395
1.03 km
Stable
The coastal edge is stable although there is minor erosion along the hinterland due to poor drainage and cattle poaching.

3 Point of Neven
HY 495 388
0.85 km
Eroding to Stable
South of the point there is localised erosion where small scoops of coastal edge have been eroded by the sea with many cattle scrapes along the sandy parts of hinterland.

4 Point of Huro
HY 499 384
0.98 km
Stable
There is a small area to the west of Huro Point, approximately 30m where damage and partial erosion of the hinterland and coastal edge has occurred due to cattle poaching, otherwise the section is stable.

5 Scarra Toaing (South)
HY 501 388
0.21 km
Eroding to Stable
A small section where localised marine erosion is occurring along a relic storm beach at the coastal edge.

6 Scarra Toaing
HY 502 394
0.99 km
Stable
There is very minor localised erosion of the red till at the coastal edge where there is neither grass or sea wall protection.

7 Point of Geldibist
HY 505 3975
0.11 km
Eroding to Stable
Approximately 100m where partial coastal edge erosion is taking place.

8 Point of Geldibist (North)
HY 506 400
0.34 km
Stable
There is only minor localised areas of coastal edge erosion.

9 Whitelet
HY 507 402
0.18 km
Eroding to Stable
Localised erosion is occurring along the low coastal edge due to marine action.

10 Sands of Hetzie
HY 511 409
1.46 km
Stable
The section has a stable coastal edge, East of the pier at Sulland most of the coastal edge is now made up of rubble from the quarry below Grimnibust.

11 Stevies Geo
HY 518 406
0.41 km
Eroding to Stable
The majority of the section has a stable coastal edge with only two main localised areas of erosion within the hinterland. The first is at Stevis Geo where some stream erosion, by two streams, is cutting into the hinterland with some minor coastal edge erosion by the sea and the second is west of Sand Geo where there is localised erosion of the hinterland due to cattle and sheep.

12 Sand Geo
HY 521 408
1.62 km
Stable
There is minor and localised erosion of the coastal edge on the south point of this section. At Lea Toaing there is a large area of landslip where the land is breaking away from the hinterland although at the present time there is only erosion of the cracking edges. Further hummocky areas where landslip and slides have taken place have been stabilised to some extent by vegetation.
Built Heritage and Archaeology
From the open, rough landscape around Hamars, this section takes in a lack of enclosed cultivated fields around Sangoan/Newbigging. Beyond this point, around Stanger Head to the east side of Rack Wick, the hinterland slopes to a high and rocky coast edge. Here the vegetation is rough and the land is unfenced and the cliffs provide nesting grounds for seabirds during the breeding season. Beyonf Rack Wick, although there are cultivated fields in the hinterland, much of the coastal strip is unfenced and has moorland vegetation. Modern settlement in the area is very sparse and lies outside of the coastal zone.

The low intensity of farming over much of this area should have positive repercussions on the survival of archaeological remains. While sites may be better preserved in this area, however, the ruggedness of the terrain and the roughness of the vegetation impairs visibility and is a particular problem for this type of rapid survey.

Of the sites which can be characterised, the earliest remains are likely to be those on the stack site known as Castle of Buirian (WT142). This stack is now cut off from the coast and was not visited during this survey. Previous surveys have recorded the presence of two sub-rectangular buildings, reduced to their footings. This site has been tentatively interpreted as a monastic refuge. While it is likely to be of later 1st millennium AD date, only further assessment, including excavation, can hope to determine the function of the buildings. The remainder of the sites recorded in this area are of indeterminate or 18-20th C date. Those of 18th-20th C date include a cove refuge, the Gentlemen’s Ha (WT140), which is said to have been used in 1746 by a group of Jacobite lairds, boat noots (WT99, 100) and a mill at Rack Wick (WT143). This latter site is listed and has two mill ponds surviving to the rear. A stone-lined pit at Swart Hellia Geo (WT102) may have served as a kelp kiln.

Two mounds, one at Sheepright Geo (WT101) and the other at Bight of Stanger Head (WT141), could not be characterised and may be sites of early date; alternatively they may be entirely natural in origin.

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Geology and Geomorphology
The coastline in this map section faces eastward and is exposed. The ground slopes from high ground at Rapsyn at the south end, to a more low-lying area at the north end. The higher ground is covered with heather and rough grass, which provides rough grazing. There are few cultivable fields along the hinterland, however, although most are located to the north of Rack Wick.

Erosion Class
This map section can be considered, for the most part, as being stable. This is due to the presence of high cliffs and rock buttressing. Within Rack Wick there are soft deposits of till and consequently there is some erosion. Landslip along the southern part of the unit is, on the whole, insidious in nature and a landslip may not be preceded by any warning. There is little erosion of the hinterland caused by animal poaching within this unit.
WT140 (HY54 SW10)
HY 5163 4191
Gentlemen’s Ha’ Cave
18th-20th C
Not Inspected

WT141
HY 5080 4278
Right of Stanger Head Mound
Indeterminate Fair
Survey

WT142 (HY54 SW7)
HY 5039 4292
Castle of Burnian Stack site
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD Fair
Survey

WT143
HY 5016 4248
Rackwick Mill: Listed (Category ‘C’)
18th-20th C Fair Monitor

WT99 (HY44 SE14)
HY 4991 4248
Rack Wick Noosts
18th-20th C Fair Nil

WT100 (HY44 SE13)
HY 4980 4287
Scotto Noost and enclosure
18th-20th C high Fair Nil

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined
138
1. Hamars
HY 510 427
3.3 km
Rock platform with negligible cover.
Coast edge is > 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible
The rock platform is quite narrow with the probability that the dip angle of many flaggs, perhaps 40° to the south, continues beneath low water mark. In some areas the coast edge has a cliff edge and in others a very steep slope. Much of the hinterland is punctuated by evidence of subsidence or landslip. One such area is around Close of Gottly Geo. Boulders lie between an island stack and the cliff edge at Castle o’ Buman. Heather is found in a few areas, mainly from Geo of Chival to past Stangar Head and usually overlies peat. Soils are poorly drained gleys with rough grazing for the most part and areas of peat.

2. Rack Wick
HY 498 425
0.6 km
Rock platform with 70-90% cobbles cover.
Coast edge is predominantly < 5m to the north.
The driftrock interface is not visible
The rock platform broadens out slightly with a cover mainly composed of cobbles with some boulders. As the cliff edge drops slowly down to the north west the underlying rock is replaced by a deep till running from over 5m depth in the south of the bay to less than 2m to the north. The hinterland has a small track running down to the cove with fenced cultivated fields behind. Soils are imperfectly to poorly drained gleys.

3. Scoatto
HY 497 437
1.6 km
Rock platform with negligible cover.
Coast edge is predominantly > 5m.
The driftrock interface is generally visible
The rock platform runs out to perhaps 40m in most places to the south becoming narrower below the steeper slopes in the north. There is much rough grazing with areas of heathers. Soils are imperfectly to poorly drained gleys with areas of peat. One anomaly along the hinterland at South Peat Geo is a huge mound of peat, 50m x 40m x 4m at the apex, of which half has been removed at some time. In section the peat is layered in continuous bands and is slightly powdery. Another smaller mound lies to the north. It is supposed from the layered internal appearance that the mound is natural although a singular anomaly. It is likely to have been formed in a wet depression and grown into a raised bog.
1. **Yarmers**
   HY 510 427
   3.12 km
   Stable
   Previous areas of landslip to the south of this section have stabilised. The whole section is classed as stable with only four erosion points of note. There is minor erosion of the hinterland south of Gitty Geo with some soil creep along a particularly wet stretch of land and minor landslip. Further north at Geo of Chival there has been some loss of top soil in the recent past possibly due to wave throw. Vegetation is beginning to colonise the bare drift material. At Bore Rowa there is some erosion of the till which is due to water run-off but was probably instigated by landslip as the terrain is hummocky due to past landslip. There is also some slight erosion along the sides of a small stream south of Point a’ Bunnan. None of the above locations are large enough to constitute an Eroding to Stable class.

2. **Craw Neav**
   HY 500 424
   0.17 km
   Eroding
   Where a deep, greater than 5m, till has been deposited along the coast edge to the south there is erosion of the cliff face by marine action.

3. **Rock Wick**
   HY 498 425
   0.48 km
   Eroding to Stable
   Although there is some erosion along the length of this section it is less severe due to the outcropping rock.

4. **Swartaback**
   HY 498 429
   0.34 km
   Eroding
   The softer drift deposits are eroding along the coast edge due to marine action.

5. **South Peat Geo**
   HY 497 437
   1.38 km
   Stable
   The coast edge and hinterland are stable. There is however some removal of peat from a large hillock of raised peat which has led to some erosion at this one particular point.
Built Heritage and Archaeology

From an open landscape at Swart Hellia Geo, this map section extends through a patchwork of enclosed, cultivated fields of both arable and grazing land. The coastline is rocky and generally low-lying. Alongside several deserted farmsteads, there is some modern coastal settlement in the area, notably around the head of the deep inlets of Skel Wick and Bay of Swartmill. In both of these areas there is a road adjacent to the coast edge.

As could be expected in this relatively populous area, the majority of the remains recorded are of 18th-20th C date. There are, however, several sites of earlier date, including a previously unrecorded site at East Surnigarth which is highly likely to be a chambered cairn [W1104]. This site is visible as a low mound which is located on the immediate coast edge. It has already been damaged by coastal erosion and structural remains are visible in the coastal exposure. In size and location, it compares approximately with the excavated chambered cairn at Point of Cott [W1150, Map 1]. This site is vulnerable to imminent destruction and salvage recording should be considered. Attention is also urgently required at the nearby mound at Skelwick [W1105]. This extensive mound, which most likely represents multi-period settlement, has been damaged in the past by both coastal erosion and road building. In very recent times it has again been damaged during road widening and the creation of a new passing place. During this operation archaeological deposits were removed in the area adjacent to the road and a section face containing an array of remains has been left at the road side. Since the section, which lies beneath an undamaged drystone wall, has not been shored or consolidated it is liable to collapse and thereby disturb further parts of the site. Two coastal exposures at Swartmill [W1111] and Ayre of Swartmill [W1112] appear to represent sites of be of pre-16th C date, but they may be considerably older. The remains at Swartmill are difficult to interpret but appear to represent part of a structure. At Ayre of Swartmill, a thick deposit of blackened sand containing slag and vitriferous material (possibly cramp) is exposed in the coastal section where it stands out very distinctly against the surrounding white sands.

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Geology and Geomorphology

The coastal area is low-lying, with almost all the coastal edge being below 5m. The majority of the hinterland is gently sloping. Because of the aspect within many coves, the area is fairly well sheltered, and the shallow rock platform has the effect of moderating the full erosive power of the sea. Although the majority of the soils are imperfectly drained, most of the fields are fenced, cultivable and in well maintained. There are sand deposits within the Bay of Swartmill and the low-lying hinterland contains a small loch.

Erosion Class

To the north side of Skel Wick, the coastal edge is dominated by erosion. This is mainly due to the presence of soft drift sediments and the low coastal edge along much of this unit. Even where large stretches of rock platform are likely to moderate the wave energy, the coastal edge is actively eroding.
WT103
HY 4970 4460
Gestaquoy
Farmstead
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WT104
HY 4921 4520
East Surrigarth
Chambered cairn
4th-3rd BC
Poor
Survey

WT105 (HY44 NE6)
HY 4893 4524
Mound of Skelwick, Surrigarth
Settlement
3rd-1st millennium BC
Fair
Survey

WT106 (HY44 NE8)
HY 489 452
Old Kirkhouse
Site of chapel
10th-14th C
Not located

WT107 (HY44 NE17)
HY 4899 4593
Ramsay Ness, Bay of Havey
Noosts
18th-20th C
Good
Nil

WT108
HY 4867 4647
Spo Ness
Farmstead
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WT110
HY 4855 4650
Spo Ness
Farmstead
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WT109 (HY44 NE18)
HY 4852 4642
Spo Ness
Noosts and structure
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WT111
HY 4805 4608
Swartmill
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

WT112
HY 4800 4605
Ayre of Swartmill
Indeterminate remains
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

WT114 (HY44 NE16)
HY 4793 4607
Ayre of Swartmill
Noosts
18th-20th C
Not Located

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined
146
1. Swart of Hellia Geo

HY 496 450

1.1 km
Rock platform with <10-30% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible
The cobble cover is fragmented with most cover laying within small geos. The rock platform becomes broader with the rocks along the coast edge north of Swart of Hellia devoid of soil cover or having only thin rankers and lichens. This changes after only 200m to a low lying coast edge with sporadic till lenses over the rock, up to 0.5m thick. In one such area to the south of Glen Point there is 0.1m soil over 0.3m colluvium over a 0.1m black layer, perhaps aeolianite, over 0.3m of till. The black, brittle layer may well contain indurated organic matter with manganese and/or iron cementing the particles. A small stabilised storm beach then runs for perhaps 0.5m to the north. The hinterland is generally fenced with grassed fields and imperfectly drained gley.

2. Point of Furtigeo

HY 490 459

1.8 km
Rock platform with zero to 90% shingle and boulder cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible
To the east of Skel Wick bay there is no cover on the flagged rock platform but increases to 40% shingle cover on the west side of the bay. The cover then increases as does size with a large storm beach running up to and past Ramsay. There are then a few discrete areas of shelly sand before cobble cover becomes sporadic to the north of this section. Sea wall defences lie below two groups of buildings and a road within Skel Wick. The coast edge section shows a deep, approximately 1m, black soil before the first sea wall. After the last sea wall there is a deep till of 2m which fades to less than 0.4m within 40m to the north. All fields are grassed and mainly fenced. Soils are imperfectly drained gley for the most part with a more freely drained podzol to the east of the bay.

3. Back Geo

HY 485 464

1.4 km
Rock platform with 30-80% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible
The rock platform has much cover around Spo Ness with most of the cobbles lying along the upper foreshore and some within the coast edge boundary. The drift rock interface is not evident for the majority of this section due to the cobbles and/or till cover along the upper foreshore. Sand cover increases towards the centre of Swartmill Bay. Spo Ness is very low lying with some cobbles lying up to 30m inland with much vegetation cover. The soil is a poorly draining gley to the east of Leadberry, stoney around Spo Ness, and freely draining sandy soils west of this point.

4. Swartmill Bay

HY 479 461

0.4 km
Sandy foreshore with some outcrops of rock.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible
The sandy foreshore has more rock outcropping to the north. There is perhaps 10-30% cobble cover of the upper foreshore especially to the north. Towards the centre of the beach a road runs on a coast edge sand ridge with a wet area and standing water lying along part of the hinterland. Along the coast edge to the north west of the beach there are a number of gobbies in front of the sand dunes as coastal protection. The soils are freely draining thin rankers over sand along the ridge with standing water and poorly drained organic alluvium to the far hinterland supporting some grasses, rushes and sedges.

5. Smithyquoy

HY 475 467

1.2 km
Rock platform with 20-60% cobble cover.
Coast edge is predominantly < 5m.
Driftrock interface visible only west of the point.
The rock platform has most of the cobble cover to the south along the upper foreshore with small quantities around the point. The cover then increases to perhaps 40 or 60% by the end of this section. The coast edge is perhaps greater than 5m at the beginning of the section under Smithyquoy but drops to less than this after 200m. This coast edge is made up of a deep red till which can be seen to be over 5m deep to the south and 0.5m deep to the west of Sneuk Point. Fields are partially fenced pasture to the south with more dry stone walls to the west over poorly drained gley.
1. Swart of Helliott Geo
HY 478 445
0.20 km
Stable
This section is stable with no significant erosion. Uplifted covered rocks and jetties dominate the near background.

2. Gostaquoy (North)
HY 496 450
1.03 km
Eroding to Stable
There is localised coastal erosion in the vicinity where the low edge faces are made up of drift deposits. The coast edge becomes more stable within Skel Wick where there are some sea wall defences below Sumburgh although one of these has recently been breached at one point.

3. Skel Wick (South)
HY 490 452
0.22 km
Stable
A sea wall accounts for much of the coastal edge stability.

4. Skel Wick (North)
HY 489 456
0.78 km
Eroding
Directly after the sea wall defences the north there is gouging of the coastal edge and erosion. Large cobbles and boulders are assisting the sea in undercutting part of the coastal edge.

5. The Grid
HY 489 459
0.25 km
Eroding to Stable
Erosion of the coastal edge is much more localised within this small area.

6. Greenalme
HY 487 462
0.34 km
Stable
The coast edge is made up of outcropping flags and old cliff-face saltmarsh.

7. Spa Ness
HY 486 466
0.58 km
Eroding to Stable
The edge drops to under 2m around most of the Ness. The majority of the erosion is due to storm beaches made up of cobbles flags migrating landwards covering areas of vegetation.

8. East Thorn
HY 485 463
0.42 km
Stable
The flags step up along the upper foreshore making a very stable platform and coastal edge.

9. Swartmill
HY 483 461
0.57 km
Eroding to Stable
There is localised erosion of the coastal edge. Port of the section is made up of drift deposits close to the farm which are eroding.

10. Bay of Swartmill (East)
HY 481 460
0.19 km
Eroding
A large section has been eroded through the sand dunes along the coastal edge.

11. Bay of Swartmill (West)
HY 478 461
0.43 km
Eroding to Stable
The dune ridge has some local areas of erosion due to marine action along it's length. Where the erosion may have been threatening, to the north, gabions have been placed in front of the dune ridge. A road runs along and partly to the west side of the dune ridge so stabilising most of the near background.

12. Smithyquoy
HY 476 465
0.67 km
Eroding
A coastal edge of deep cliffs, over 5m to the south, are being actively eroded by the sea. This continues for the length of this section and around the head.

13. Height of the World (East)
HY 476 466
0.53 km
Eroding to Stable
Although there is some erosion of the coastal edge directly related to undercutting and loss of drift a substantial part remains under a storm beach which is actively migrating landwards in places. The typical marine coastal edge erosion is more prominent to the west side in localised areas.
Built Heritage and Archaeology
This map section extends around the coastline of three curving bays. At the start of the section, modern coastal settlement is very sparse. From the rocky shore around Bay of Cleat, the Point of Cott is rounded and the Bay of Brough comes into view. There is a long narrow sandy beach at the head of this bay and large enclosed fields of regular size in the hinterland. Coastal settlement increases from Scarflhall point, at the south side of the Bay of Pierowall, culminating in the modern village of Pierowall, which is laid out along the head of the Bay. Gill Pier marks the end of the village, and from here to the end of the section there are cultivated fields in the hinterland faced by a rocky shoreline.

There are several sites of early date in this section. At Point of Cott [WT130] a chambered cairn suffering coastal erosion was excavated in the 1930's and 1980's. The cairn was found to be of complex construction and contained human and animal remains and pottery. The area to the west side of Bay of Cleat contains numerous remains, extending from the prehistoric to Norse periods and up to the 18th-20th C. These include a mound [WT144] which, on the basis of earlier records, would appear to be a prehistoric settlement, an exposure containing structural and midden deposits, possibly of Viking-Norse date [WT159], and a chapel and graveyard site which is thought to be associated with further settlement [WT147].

Pierowall was an important harbour in the Norse period, although little remains in evidence of the settlement which grew up around it. There are numerous records which tell of the discovery of Viking-Norse period graves in the Pierowall area, many of which were richly endowed with grave goods. The sites are no longer visible, but it may be conjectured that further remains lie beneath the modern village. The 13th C Lady Kirk Church [WT75], which lies to the north of the modern village, served as the parish church until the late 19th C. It is now in ruins but contains two carved grave slabs of 17th C date. There are numerous remains of the 18th-20th C period in this area, including deserted farmsteads and agricultural buildings, roofs, and kelp working sites. Industrial remains include Gill Pier [WT80] and the site of a hand winch [WT78].

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Geology and Geomorphology
The topography is subdued with a low lying hinterland and low coastal edge. Gradients are generally gentle to the south and moderate from Bay of Pierowall. Much of this bay is protected by sea walls. There are two good sandy beaches within this section, one within the Bay of Brough and the other at Sand O'Gill. Fields tend to be cultivable although most are down to grass with exceptions of field crops around Nether Banks. Soils are more varied and generally better than other east coast soils.

Erosion Class
The more significant stretches of erosion lie between Point of Cott and Scarflhall Point. This is largely due to the prominence of drift deposits within the Bay of Brough. The Bay of Pierowall has a stable coastal edge, partly due to walled sea defences around the bay. There is a large stretch of eroding coastal edge to the northeast of Pierowall. This may be due to the more exposed position and aspect of the coast.
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<td>Dwelling houses</td>
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<td>Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>WT154</td>
<td>Farmstead and structural remains</td>
<td>HY 4524 4766</td>
<td>Poor</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18th-20th C</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>WT155</td>
<td>Farmhouse</td>
<td>HY 4490 4820</td>
<td>Fair</td>
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<td>Stonehouses</td>
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<tr>
<td>WT156</td>
<td>Bay of Brough</td>
<td>HY 4563 4724</td>
<td>Fair</td>
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<td>18th-20th C</td>
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<td>Survey</td>
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<tr>
<td>WT157</td>
<td>Lady Kirk or Pierowall Church; Scheduled (H6 Index '92/40), Listed (Category B)</td>
<td>HY 4395 4891</td>
<td>Pierowall</td>
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<td>10th-14th C</td>
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<td>Monitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>WT158</td>
<td>Settlement</td>
<td>HY 4670 4663</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<td>3rd-1st millennium BC</td>
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<td>3rd-1st millennium BC</td>
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<td>Monitor</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WT160</td>
<td>Doevoe; Listed (Category B)</td>
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<td>18th-20th C</td>
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<td>Indeterminate</td>
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<td>WT162</td>
<td>Pierowall</td>
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<td>Hand winch</td>
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<td></td>
<td>18th-20th C</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not located</td>
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<tr>
<td>WT163</td>
<td>Pierowall</td>
<td>HY 4395 4891</td>
<td>Lady Kirk or Pierowall Church; Scheduled (H6 Index '92/40), Listed (Category B)</td>
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<td>10th-14th C</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monitor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT164</td>
<td>Gil Pier</td>
<td>HY 446 489</td>
<td>Pier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18th-20th C</td>
<td></td>
<td>Good</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WT165</td>
<td>Knoll of Slabbeys; Mound and find spot stone axes</td>
<td>HY 4472 4904</td>
<td>3rd-1st millennium BC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monitor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT166</td>
<td>Burnt Mound</td>
<td>HY 4502 4923</td>
<td>Ouse Ness</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd-1st millennium BC</td>
<td></td>
<td>Outbuildings and noost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WT167</td>
<td>Stonehouse</td>
<td>HY 4522 4931</td>
<td>18th-20th C</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Faaness</td>
<td></td>
<td>Monitor</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined.
1 Height of the World
HY 467 460
0.5 km
Rock platform with shingle and sand cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
Driftrock interface is generally visible to the east.
The rock platform has scattered cobble cover, 30-60%, which becomes greater and grades to 80% shingle to the centre of the cove with sand lying within the western corner. A partially intact sea wall lies within the cove with some dumping of farm waste and rubble within sea wall breaches. The fields of the hinterland have stone walls and are down to grass over poorly drained gley. A farm track runs close to the coast edge.

2 Cleet
HY 464 475
1.7 km
Rock platform; 40-80% cobble and boulder cover.
Coast edge is generally < 5m.
The driftrock interface is generally visible.
The coast edge rises to over 5m for 40m over a possible drum mounds. Although mostly covered in vegetation there are parts where some soil can be seen at perhaps 1m depth. A red turf, up to 0.4m depth underlies much of the soil towards the north.
To the west of Cott Point the coast edge drops to under 2m with cobbles increasing and obscuring the driftrock interface. The soils are imperfectly drained podzols to the south and poorly drained gley to the north with cultivable grassed fields. A small poorly drained area, almost marsh, exists around part of Nether Banks.

3 Bay of Brough
HY 453 473
0.9 km
Sandy forest, < 70% cobble cover to the east.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible.
The rock platform is covered by cobble grading to shingle towards the east which thins and grades into sand by Barks, There is minor shingle cover, < 10% to the north. Buried peat can be seen along the backshore and high water mark running north for 100m from Nether Brough. There are also small areas of breached sea wall around this area. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping with imperfectly drained gley to the east and a freely drained soil over sand for the rest of the section. Arable crops are grown in a few of the fields with the majority down to grass.

4 Ness of Brough
HY 452 481
1.0 km
Rock platform with 40-80% cobble or sand cover along the north shore.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not generally visible.
The rock platform has most cover along the north facing shore with a storm beach and some sand cover. There is evidence of localised rubble tipping along the storm beach and coastal edge. Most of the coast edge lies below 3m. Cobbles of cover of up to 40% lies to the north west of the section. Soils are poorly to imperfectly drained gley and podzol.

5 Bay of Pierowall
HY 439 487
3.1 km
Rock platform, discrete areas of shingle/sand cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not generally visible.
The rock platform extends around the whole bay with sandy forest in front of Grindlay and within Sands o’ Gill. The first area is noticeably gppy with shingle while the latter is clean with only minor shingle cover along the upper foreshore. Cobbles and shingles, up to 40%, are also found scattered elsewhere within the bay in discrete areas. There is a large area of rubble tip at Scarfand Point where some of the coast edge has been extended out by perhaps 10m. A road runs around the bay with a sea wall probably covering half the coast edge within the bay. There is also some tipping of rubble close to the hotel. The rock/drift interface is visible to the north of the church and before the sands. Here the cobbles cover is up to 90% in this one locale. Pierowall lies around the bay and along the hinterland with no buildings above the Sands o’ Gill.
The section ends with the sea wall to the east of the pier.

6 North West of Pierowall Bay
HY 454 493
1.4 km
Rock platform with generally 50% cobbles cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
North east of the pier the rock platform has up to 30% cobbles cover. This increases to over 90% of the upper foreshore in front of an eroding drum mound and drops to 50% further north with more shingle north of Cuxe Ness. The hinterland slopes are moderate to gentle with some stone walled, grassed, cultivable fields. Soils are imperfectly to freely drained podzol.

156
Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

FORESHORE
- ROCK PLATFORM
- MAINLY SAND
- MAINLY ALLUVA/MARINE MUD
- MARSH

HINTERLAND
- DRIFT
- DRIFT ON SHINGLE BEACH
- RAISED BEACH ETC
- BLOWN SAND
- GLACIAL SAND/TOBBLE
- ALLUVA

MODIFIERS
- LOW EDGE <5M
- CLIFF >5M
- MAN-MADE BARRIER
- SHINGLE/TOBBLE BANK
- HUMAN DISTURBANCE

SCALE 1:25,000
SURVEY DATE: SEPTEMBER 1998

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1. Height of the World
   HY 469 465
   0.29 km
   Eroding
   Although there is some degree of stability to the central portion of this section the overall class is Eroding. This is due entirely to marine action. Port of a sea wall along the middle section has been severely breached.

2. Bay of Cleat [West]
   HY 466 466
   0.25 km
   Eroding and Stable
   The section contains two fairly well defined areas. The eastern side is fairly stable with only minor erosion of a sea wall while the western side has erosion of some midden deposits close to the farm.

3. Cleat
   HY 466 469
   0.29 km
   Stable
   The bedrock forms a stable buttress to marine erosion however wave throw has toppled parts of the dry stone wall running along the top of the coast edge.

4. Cleat (North)
   HY 464 471
   0.15 km
   Eroding to Stable
   On a small point there is partial erosion of some drift.

5. Point of Cott (South)
   HY 465 473
   0.41 km
   Stable
   The rocky outcrop, beneath thin soil is stable. There is minor pouching of a poorly drained hinterland.

6. Point of Cott
   HY 464 475
   0.47 km
   Eroding
   Most erosion lies to the north and constitutes erosion of the coast edge by marine action.

7. Nether Bongs
   HY 461 473
   0.34 km
   Stable
   The very low coast edge is afforded some protection by a cobbled foreshore and well vegetated coast edge. Erosion is negligible.

8. Bay of Brough
   HY 455 472
   0.89 km
   Eroding to Stable
   There is a small coherently stable area to the east of Snaadouy, other than this small area the coast edge has much localised erosion. At Snaadouy the sea wall has been breached in several places. Many outcrops of eroding peat can be seen at and below high water mark to the north of Snaadouy.

9. Nether Brough
   HY 453 478
   0.80 km
   Eroding
   Many outcrops of eroding peat can be seen at and below the high water mark to the north of Nether Brough. There are fragments of what may have been a sea wall now lying 2m out from the coast edge on the foreshore.

10. Comhouse (East)
    HY 451 481
    0.47 km
    Eroding to Stable
    There is localised erosion of the coast edge with some tipping of rubble to alleviate the erosion close to fences. A storm beach partially protects part of this section, which may be migrating landwards.

11. Comhouse (West)
    HY 448 483
    0.23 km
    Eroding
    There is erosion of the coast edge to and around Scornhall Point. Some tipping of material, mainly rubble has led to some reclamation of the coast edge at the point. However some of this material is also being eroded by marine action.

12. Bay of Pierwall
    HY 440 489
    3.16 km
    Stable
    A sea wall runs along the southern part of the bay from Scornhall Point and has stabilised the area. The sea wall is not continuous around the bay although rubble has been dumped in a few areas, notably in front of the hotel to extend the car parking. Even where there is no sea wall such as Sand o’Gill, the coast edge is stable with only minor erosion in very localised areas. There is more localised erosion of soil and rubble tipping to the east of Gill Pier.

13. Burnt Mound
    HY 454 493
    0.80 km
    Eroding
    A continuous section is eroding due to marine action. The general aspect of this section is probably the major factor leading to the proportional change of coast edge erosion from the sections on either side.

14. Osse Ness
    HY 457 495
    0.21 km
    Stable
    The point itself and the north side is stable.
Built Heritage and Archaeology
This map section covers the northern part of the island of Papa. From Geo of Clyar to Clestrain, the landscape is dominated by enclosed cultivated fields which run almost to the coast edge. There is some modern settlement in this area, although there are no houses within the coastal zone. From Clestrain to Mull Head at the northern tip of the island, to Hundland there is no modern settlement. The landscape is rugged, exposed and hilly with coarse vegetation and occasional bog land. From Hundland to Mayback the density of settlement increases and cultivated field are more numerous. The coastline is more sheltered and there are sandy beaches at North Wick and around Mayback.

The vast majority of the sites which could be characterised within this area are of 18th-20th C date. Noots are well represented, with most being located on the more sheltered east coast of the island (WT21, 25, 27, 71). Other site types of this period include kelp working remains (WT5, 13, 15), wind engine sites (WT22, 23, 28, 29) and farmsteads (WT18, 24). A farm mound of probable 14th-18th C date lies beneath the modern farm buildings at Mayback (WT30). Where the mound has been cut by coastal erosion deposits of highly organic soils, containing fragments of post-medieval pottery and metal, can be seen. The mound appears to cover an earlier stone structure. The church of St Boniface (WT6) which dates to the 12th C has recently been renovated and is again in use as a place of worship. This church and its surrounding graveyard cover an extensive area of prehistoric and early historic remains (WT7). This site is eroding into the sea and has recently been partially excavated. At Cott (WT26) another extensive settlement, possibly of Neolithic-Bronze Age date, is being eroded away by the sea. The site lies beneath a large farm mound which appears to have assisted in its preservation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites recorded</th>
<th>Sites characterised</th>
<th>Sites not characterised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of which at risk</td>
<td></td>
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Geology and Geomorphology
The unit includes the more exposed northern cliffs and two sheltered sandy beaches on the east coast. The coastal edge rises to over 5m at Brinkwall and finally drops to under 5m to the south of Foul Craig along a fault line. There is an extensive high energy storm beach to the south of the coastal faulting. The first sandy cove of North Wick is sheltered partially by the extensive rocks and storm beach to the north west and the second smaller beach at Mayback is sheltered by Suthouse Taing and Holm of Papa. Immediately behind the two beaches, the land is low-lying; this marks the start of a syncline which runs to the south through South Bay. The soils tend to be imperfectly drained to the south and poorly drained to the north. The north westerly part of this unit has very shallow soils. In consequence, the north is dominated by rough grazing and most of the area is designated as a nature reserve. Most cultivable fields lie to the south, with some arable use on the eastern side.

Erosion Class
The west of the island is more stable than the east as there are less drift deposits to the west. The north end is more stable again, with the rock faces providing a stalwart defence against the sea. The southeast of the unit has many areas of erosion which generally correspond to soft drift sediments and very low coastal edges.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>HY 506 541 TO HY 505 539</td>
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<td>HY 4956 5320</td>
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<td>WY22</td>
<td>HY 4954 5344</td>
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</table>
1. Gres of Chayr
VH 490 530
1.4 km
Rock platform with 30-60% cobble cover.
Coastal edge is < 5 m.
The driftrock interface is generally visible.
There is a cobble storm beach with two bars within Haro Geo.
Up to 40 cm depth of till overlies the flaggs up to 40 cm of B
and A soil horizons above. Some soils lie over the sand.
The fields are walled, with some fencing, more than 10 m from the coastal edge. Soils are imperfectly drained mainly over
sands to the south and podsol north of Haro Geo. Pasture
dominates, with coastal grazing along the coastal edge.

2. Træstads Geo
VH 491 535
0.5 km
Rock platform with < 20% cobble cover.
Coastal edge is < 5 m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
There is a relic storm beach and partially eroding till at the top of
the cliff at one point. The north slope is a patchy desertion probably due to limited grazing at the back. The coastal edge then becomes flat and a wedge of till, almost 4 m in height lies within a rock cove. The north slope is a relic cliff.
This cliff becomes less evident with the north with rough grazing becoming more prominent in this direction. Soils are imperfectly drained mainly over the south, generally shallow to the north and grade into poorly drained gley and podsol.

3. Krossonie Geo
VH 476 544
1.4 km
Rock platform with 20-50% cobble cover.
Coastal edge is predominantly < 5 m.
The driftrock interface is visible. The driftrock surface is more noticeable to the south of this section. The coastal edge drops to less than 1 m south of Mad Geo. The driftrock has some cobble throw in intermittent patches with areas where soil cover is almost negligible. Soils tend to be poorly drained thin ranker soils till 5 m podsol with gley's to the north. Unfavourable rough grazing dominates the area.

4. Fowr of Bokshest
VH 503 555
2.6 km
Rock platform generally with negligible cover.
Coastal edge is predominantly > 5 m.
The driftrock interface is visible. The coastal edge height ranges from 3.5 m. The coastal landform tends to be narrow around the north western point before broadening at Fowr Flag. A cobble inset to the north is the relict where cover of the rock platform is generally negligible. There are two locations where the coastal edge drops to < 5 m one at the cobble inset and the other just north of Gold Rock. The drifts are shallow and partially undrained along Fowr Craig. The driftrock interface is more noticeable along Mud Head as areas where soils have been stripped due to cliff of Fowr Hooks. Generally the coastal facing is a relic cliff. This cliff is a relic cliff.

5. Leapers Geo
VH 497 527
1.1 km
Rock platform with < 10-80% cobble cover.
Coastal edge is < 5 m.
The driftrock interface is generally visible.

The coastal edge drops below 5 m at Leapers Geo where one can estimate the fault line that has created the steep hillside which runs SWW into the hinterland. The rock platform is relatively devoid of cover over the almost horizontal bedding to the north with increasing cover at Nether Hill where there is a large high energy storm beach made up of large boulders almost covering the entire rock platform with boulders predominant on the upper foreland and ridge of the coastal edge. A relic storm beach can also be seen towards Soll Rocks. Past this point the boulders grade out with the cobble cover diminishing also. The hinterland is gently sloping south of the foot line and then dips towards the hinterland from the coastal edge along the storm beach with a west canvas and standing water to the south. Cobble and
boulders lie within 20 m of the storm beach. There is a foreland to the south and grading into imperfectly drained sandy soils along the south facing gazing. Grazing is marginally better from the previous section although the field areas are somewhat utilized behind the storm beach and to the south.

6. North Wick
VH 500 536
1.1 km
Sandy foreshore with < 10-30% cobble cover.
Coastal edge is < 5 m.
The driftrock interface is not visible. The sandy foreshore grades into a coastal edge ridge of sand with some thin browns dominating the immediate edge. Cobble become negligible to the centre of the bay and increase towards Glad Point. A cobble line on the ridge from The Ness to the south. The ground generally slopes down into the hinterland from the coastal ridge. In a gently north-south trending syncline of the land gently the hinterland has some localised standing water with, rhy and silt. Although the fields are generally well managed with fairly draining sandy soils and poorly draining gleys to the furthest hinterland only. Fowr Banks and Soll Rocks. Over this area there is evidence of localised sand extraction within 10 m of the coastal edge.

7. Shorehouse
VH 477 527
0.7 km
Sandy foreshore with rock platform around the north eastern point.
Coastal edge is < 5 m.
The driftrock interface is not generally visible. A rock platform is prominent at Shorehouse and can be seen extending out for several 100 m's Southwards along the low tide. The bay is then dominated by the parvis and large areas of Shorehouse. Cobble cover of the upper foreland is extensive with up to 50% cover. Between 100% of the upper foreland, on either side of the point by Shorehouse and terminating to the centre before increasing to the south of the bay. The coastal edge rises to an ending edge on the point with archaeology, up to 2 m deep, present in section. The archaeological unit rests on up to 1 m of sand and lies over a yellow till up to 0.6 m deep. A road and track lie close to the coastal edge with form buildings at Shorehouse and Magdas. The coastal edge becomes more ridge like south of Shorehouse and cliff like below Magdas due to extensive erosion of deep middenfoliace and sand deposits 3 m deep. Also at this point a relic stone wall can be seen within the upper foreland sands and may lie up to 3 m or 4 m away from the coastal edge at the present time. The hinterland has good cultivable fields, some underirable use, over north to imperfectly drained sandy soils and podsol with poorly drained gleys to the extreme north and south of this section.
1. Geo of Cuyr
HY 696 525
0.46 km
Eroding to Stable
There is localised erosion of the coast edge with perhaps slightly more erosion to the south of St Boniface. The erosion is due to marine action although there are areas to the south where cattle or sheep have enhanced or intensified some of the coast edge erosion.

2. Clayre
HY 488 528
0.60 km
Stable
The section is relatively stable with only minor areas of coast edge erosion. Other than subaerial weathering of exposed surfaces of the excavation at St Boniface the area is now being stabilised to some degree by colonising vegetation.

3. Hart Geo
HY 491 235
0.83 km
Eroding to Stable
The hill along the coast edge is eroding in small localised areas especially so to the south and below the burnt mounds. A 4m deep pocket of till is also being eroded at the coast edge to the extreme north.

4. The Snack
HY 492 540
0.44 km
Stable
Although there is some disturbance along the hinterland at Snack, possibly due to local quarrying, both the coast edge and hinterland are stable.

5. Kweennie Geos
HY 493 546
1.15 km
Eroding to Stable
There is localised erosion of the coast edge with some erosion of the hinterland due to soil creep and run-off. This is more concentrated to the south of this section. There is also some minor landslide to the north.

6. Brinixwell
HY 502 554
2.43 km
Stable
The section is stable with localised erosion within the hinterland close to John's Boat where exposure to wave throw and subaerial activity is stripping the thin layer of some moderately to steadily dipping rock outcrops. There is also some localised erosion of the cliff face at Berryhithe although difficult to assess as the cliff face cuts back into caves.

7. Berry Hill (South)
HY 507 545
0.35 km
Eroding to Stable
Most of the erosion is within the hinterland and due to subaerial agents, mainly water run-off. There is only minor erosion of the coast edge flags.

8. Naill's Halt
HY 506 542
0.35 km
Stable
A high energy storm beach with many large boulders protects the coast edge from marine erosion. There is little evidence that the boulders are migrating landwards as cobbles lie on the upper foreshore in front of a partially intact relic storm beach.

9. Hundland
HY 505 539
0.30 km
Eroding to Stable
Localised erosion of the coast edge by marine action with some evidence that cobbles are migrating landwards in localised patches.

10. Sadd Less
HY 503 538
0.60 km
Stable
As cobbles give way to more sand along the upper foreshore the coast edge remains stable throughout with only minor erosion observable.

11. Northwick (North)
HY 499 534
0.40 km
Eroding
The sand ridge making up the coast edge has varying degrees of erosion. The erosion is more prominent to the centre of this section. There is also some localised extraction of sand along the sand ridge just south of North Vea.

12. Northwick (South)
HY 498 531
0.24 km
Accreting to Stable
A small section of coast has an accretion of sand along the upper foreshore and trapped within some of the tyme grass of the front dune ridge.

13. Cott
HY 499 529
0.38 km
Eroding
Although the coast edge directly in front of the farm house is stable, marine erosion is extremely active to the south and on the point.

14. Shorehouse (South)
HY 496 526
0.49 km
Eroding to Stable
The two sides of this section are relatively stable with most localised erosion taking place to the centre. The majority of the localised coast edge erosion is due to marine action with some minor migration of cobbles beyond the coast edge. The erosion becomes to worse to the extreme south of the unit at Moyback.
Built Heritage and Archaeology
This map section covers the southern part of the island of Papa and the small offshore islet, Holm of Papa Westray. The eastern coast of the island is more sheltered than the western side. There is more settlement, both modern and 19th C, within the eastern coastal zone. From Mayback to Bay of Burland there are enclosed cultivated fields in the hinterland and a low-lying rocky shore, with occasional stretches of sandy beach. After Red Craig, at the south side of the Bay of Burland, the landscape becomes more rugged, with fewer cultivated fields and a higher rocky coastline. The ferry terminal is located in the Bay of Mucklett but there is no modern settlement in the coastal zone; the hinterland being mainly an open links area. Beyond Vast Ness, there is an open area with rugged maritime vegetation until Claybraes is reached. The area between Claybraes and Cyar is largely down to pasture and is dominated by the large enclosed fields of Holland farm, which lies to the north of this section.

While the vast majority of the sites recorded in this area are of 18th-20th C date, there are several important sites of early prehistoric date. The excavated settlement at Knapp of Howar (WT1) dates to the later 4th millennium BC and is the earliest known house site in Orkney. The Holm of Papa Westray is remarkable for having three chambered cairns (HPW1, 3, 4), two probable chambered cairns (WT5, 6) and a probable burial mound (WT78) within its limited confines. There are turf mounds at Knowes of Mayback (WT31) and Backaskailly (WT55) and possible prehistoric settlement remains at Holland (WT53, 54), Backaskailly (WT58) and East Comy Quay (WT48). A buried soil (WT51) which is visible in the coastal section to the west side of the Bay of Mucklett provides evidence of early agriculture, while mounds at Cuppin (WT142), Bay of Burland (WT44) and Rattle Geo (WT13) may be burial monuments. A substantial settlement which is visible in the eroding cliff section at Kings Craig (WT59) may be of Viking/Norse date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites recorded</th>
<th>Sites characterised</th>
<th>Sites not characterised</th>
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<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of which at risk</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>16</td>
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</table>

Geology and Geomorphology
This unit incorporates the description of the Holm of Papa Westray. With the exception of the high cliffs to the southeast, the area is lower lying than the northern part and has a less stark exposed nature. Slopes are gentle to moderate with some steeper slopes occurring to the southeast. Cobble cover tends to be negligible along the south facing coast, and there is negligible sand cover to the southeast. Storm beaches lie on either side of the island, with higher energy environments to the east. It is of significance that the southwest of this unit appears to have an underlying buried soil, generally a brown sandy soil, which can be seen intermittently along the southwest coast.

Erosion Class
This unit includes Holm of Papa and approximately 100m from the previous map section, which is under Mayback. Holm of Papa is fairly stable along the eastern facing shore. There is only localised erosion of the lower coastal edge along the western shore. Most erosion around the southern area of Papa Westray is localised with the main eroding section along the western side from Whiteshoe to Claybraes. Other areas which show active erosion lie within Mucklett Bay, Bay of Burland and a small section within South Wick at Mayback.
PWT31 (HY45 SE9)  
HY 4938 S526  
Knowes of Moybook  
Bum mounds; Scheduled  
PS Index 40601  
3rd-1st millennium BC  
Fair  
Nil

PWT32 (HY45 SE51)  
HY 4555 S222  
Moybook-Skennist  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Not located

PWT33 (HY45 SE55)  
HY 4964 S198  
Skennist  
Nocots and cottages  
Indeterminate  
Not located

PWT34  
HY 4972 S193  
Skennist  
Structures: stone, house  
and smithy  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT35  
HY 4980 S185  
Nouster  
Structural remains  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Monitor

PWT36 (HY45 SE52)  
HY 4983 S175  
Nouster  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT37 (HY45 SE50)  
HY 4986 S144  
Links  
Site of noocot  
18th-20th C  
Not located

PWT38 (HY45 SE29)  
HY 4993 S131  
Hoolin  
Wind engine  
18th-20th C  
Not located

PWT39 (HY45 SE43)  
HY 4992 S127  
Hoolin  
Formed mound and form  
mound  
18th-20th C  
Poor  
Monitor

PWT40 (HY45 SW4)  
HY 5005 S122  
Hoolin Mill  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT41 (HY45 SE11)  
HY 4987 S1076  
Knowe of Bylund  
Mound  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Nil

PWT42  
HY 4990 S050  
Cuppin  
Mound  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Survey

PWT43 (HY45 SE36)  
HY 4848 S034 TO HY  
5990 S050  
The Cunnan Gosiy  
Treb dyke  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Monitor

PWT44  
HY 4899 S050  
Bay of Bylund  
Mound  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Survey

PWT45 (HY55 SW6)  
HY 5000 S035  
Bay of Bylund  
Enclosure and noocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT46  
HY 5005 S019  
But Flag  
Pls, noocot and bank  
18th-20th C  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Nil

PWT47 (HY44 NE14)  
HY 4952 S497  
Moclett  
Nocot  
Indeterminate  
Not located

PWT48 (HY44 NE14)  
HY 4952 S497  
Moclett  
Nocot  
Indeterminate  
Not located

PWT49 (HY44 NE2)  
HY 4956 S472  
Castle of Bothikin or  
Cottle of Millmoy  
Alleged site of broch  
Indeterminate  
Not located

PWT50 (HY44 NE13)  
HY 4970 S496  
Bothikin, Bay of Moclett  
Bothikin, Bay of Moclett  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT51  
HY 4900 S496  
Bay of Moclett  
Buried soil deposits  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Monitor

PWT52  
HY 4910 S491  
Bay of Moclett  
Hulk  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT53  
HY 4920 S492  
Bay of Moclett  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT54  
HY 4920 S492  
Bay of Moclett  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT55  
HY 4920 S492  
Bay of Moclett  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT56  
HY 4920 S492  
Bay of Moclett  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT57  
HY 4920 S492  
Bay of Moclett  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT58  
HY 4920 S492  
Bay of Moclett  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT59  
HY 4920 S492  
Bay of Moclett  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT60  
HY 4920 S492  
Bay of Moclett  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT61  
HY 4920 S492  
Bay of Moclett  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT62 (HY45 SE39)  
HY 4844 S534  
Gouryville  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT63  
HY 4843 S529  
Bight of Gouryville  
Structural remains  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Monitor

PWT64  
HY 4846 S510  
Claybroes  
Sheds and kelp walls  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT65 (HY45 SE53)  
HY 4838 S514  
Gouryville  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Not located

PWT66  
HY 4837 S490  
Claybroes  
Mound  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Survey

PWT67 (HY44 NE15)  
HY 4834 S496  
Nisbetin  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

PWT68 (HY44 NE15)  
HY 4834 S496  
Nisbetin  
Nocots  
18th-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

This gazetteer is continued on page 172

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined
PWT61 (HY45 SE42)
HY 4830 5044
Fastcott, South Rendall
Mound
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

PWT70
HY 4840 5060 To HY 4850 5044
South Rendall
Kelp, pits
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

PWT76 (HY45 SE37)
HY 4840 5060
Whithegome
Nook
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

PWT59 (HY45 SE14)
HY 4840 5162
King’s Craig
Settlement
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

PWT58
HY 4844 5082
Bockkaikill
Anthropogenic deposits
Indeterminate
Fair
Monitor

PWT57 (HY45 SE49)
HY 4844 5082
Bockkaikill
Nook
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

PWT55 (HY45 SE2)
HY 4853 5090
Knowe of Bockkaikill
Bum mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Fair
Nil

PWT19 (HY45 SE64)
HY 484 509
Bockkaikill
Find spot: polished stone ball
4th-3rd millennium BC

PWT54
HY 4829 5144
Holmford
Structural remains and buried soil
Indeterminate
Fair
Monitor

PWT63
HY 4829 5163
Holmford
Anthropogenic deposits
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

PWT1 (HY45 SE1)
HY 4830 5180
Knapp of Howar
Settlement: Scheduled HS Index 90193
4th-3rd millennium BC
Good
Monitor

PWT2
HY 4833 5183
Windmill base
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

PWT3
HY 4849 5218
Rattle Geo
Mound
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

PWT4
HY 4855 5238
Geo of Ciar
Mound
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

HOLM OF PAPA WESTRAY

HPW1 (HY55 SW1)
HY 5044 5229
Holm of Papa Westray
North
Chambered cairn:
Scheduled HS Index 2198
4th-3rd millennium BC
Fair
Nil

HPW2 (HY55 SWB)
HY 5042 5224 & HY 5080 5144
Holm of Papa Westray
Monitors graves
18th-20th C
Unknown
Monitor

HPW5 (HY55 SW2)
HY 5043 5228
Possible chambered cairn
4th-3rd millennium BC
Fair
Survey

HPW6 (HY55 SW2)
HY 5046 5229
Holm of Papa Westray
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Fair
Monitor

HPW7
HY 5046 5229
Holm of Papa Westray
Probable burial mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Fair
Survey

HPW8
HY 5075 5185
Ramills Geo, Holm of Papa Westray
Chambered Cairn
Scheduled HS Index 6424
4th-3rd millennium BC
Fair
Nil

HPW9
HY 5091 5183
Holm of Papa Westray
South, The Dishes of the Holm
Chambered cairn:
Scheduled HS Index 50163
4th-3rd millennium BC
Good
Monitor

HPW3 (HY55 SW3)
HY 5070 5185
Ramills Geo, Holm of Papa Westray
Chambered Cairn
Scheduled HS Index 6424
4th-3rd millennium BC
Fair
Nil

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined
172
The driftrock interface is generally visible. West of the pier is a small area of cobbles, almost a storm beach, before a sandy foreshore. To the west of the sands there is a grading into shingle and then cobble, similar to the storm beach on the east side of the sands. The rock platform then continues to the south west with generally negligible cover. Soils are imperially drained clay to the east of the pier with more freely drained gravelly sites over sand in the centre then more sandy soils west of centre which then become more imperially drained sandy soils to the south west. Fields are fenced and grazed on both sides of the sandy. Skypes are moderately sloping, steeply in localized areas. There is some disturbance of the horticultural to the southern extent of Fruit Gea, and dumping of organic wastes to the centre of the sandy coast edge. A buried soil appears in the wild coastal area. The area consists of 50 cm of sandy soil over 30 cm of subsoil over 50 cm of sand over 60 cm of a slightly organic brown sandy soil over 40 cm of yellow-brown sandy soil. The area has some significance as it does appear in more than one area around the south west of the island.

4 Sand Gea
HF 684 500
2.3 km
Intermittent rock platform with ~10-90% cobble cover and areas of sandy foreshore.
Coast edge is ~5 m.
The driftrock interface is intermittently visible. There is some cobble cover along the whole coast edge irrespective of sand or rock foreshore. The rock platform has under 10% cobble cover at the south end and then increases to 100% along the upper foreshore as a long flat shelf, and a portion lower. The cobbles are well sorted and rounded. There is a second storm beach further to the north, with well rounded cobbles and sand along the lower and mid foreshore. The cobble cover then diminishes before South Point. Here there is a sandy foreshore for perhaps 100m before running into rock platform. Another area of sandy foreshore lies below and between the two storm beaches with up to 80-90% cover of the upper foreshore and coast edge. Soils are intermittently visible along most of the lower foreshore. North of Clayboreas, a relic beach cliff, c.1 m deep can be seen in a 50cm section. At Whitehouses the deep archaeological roads overly sand which in part over a buried sandy soil. A reddish till then underlies this buried soil. The road is a buried soil, overlain by sand, in many sections. There is dumping of farm waste south of Whitehouses. The horticultural is generally moderately sloping with ferricled fields down to grass. Soils are imperially drained sandy ponds, with this sandy soils to the extreme south, poorly drained and gravelly below collium at Ministers Ring. A waterlogged to poorly drained ground water clay and silty clay north of Bucklebank.

7 Knaps of Howar (South)
HF 684 520
2.1 km
Rock platform with 90-90% cobble cover.
Coast edge is ~5 m.
The driftrock interface is visible. Cobble cover is concentrated on the upper foreshore. The edge is well defined and in section sand, sometimes greater than ~1 m deep overlies a reddish till to the south of Knaps of Howar. There are intermittently trough lenses of buried soil to the south of the Knaps, usually ~5 cm deep, none seen to the north. The area well protects the Knaps of Howar. There is an area of sand extraction c.150m to the north. The horticultural has gentle to moderate slopes and grassy fields with stone work. It west to the coast then they lie back perhaps 20-30 m from the coast edge. Soils are generally freely draining, thin covers over sand.
1. Holm of Papa (East and South) HY 509 520 1.41 km Stable
Despite a large high energy storm beach along the north east side of the island the coast is relatively stable. The edge has negligible erosional and only slight localised erosion of the hinterland top soil mainly due to wave throw.

2. Holm of Papa (West) and Calm Head HY 505 520 0.78 km Eroding to Stable
There is minor localised erosion along most of the west facing shore. The north west of the Holm incorporates small areas of cliffs which appear to be migrating landwards. This includes one recent throw of shingle to the extreme north west.

3. Mayback HY 496 524 0.24 km Eroding
The centre of this cove is eroding severely due to marine action on the soft drift deposits. An old sea wall now lies up to 4m within the upper foreshore presently with old service pipes extending out from the eroding coast edge by up to 2m.

4. Knowes of Mayback HY 497 520 0.57 km Eroding to Stable
Erosion is more localised to the south of this bay. The coast edge is then stabilised by a sea wall and pier. To the south of the pier a small section with localised erosion is due to marine action.

5. Mouter HY 499 517 0.24 km Stable
Section stable post due to slightly higher rock outcroppings protecting the coast.

6. Links HY 501 511 1.15 km Eroding to Stable
Most of the edge is eroding locally with more erosion of the coast edge due to direct marine action north of the mill. Around Mill Point there is a sea wall which protects the north side of the point and a fairly stable natural edge 80m to the south. South of Mill Point there is a shallow migrating and locally eroding storm beach along a very low edge.

7. Bay of Burland HY 500 505 0.64 km Eroding
The coast is eroding along the north of the bay. Within the cove there is a substantial cobble strewn beach with a fairly high edge, up to 2m above high water mark. This is migrating landwards and cobble/pebbles have begun to build up and come into a fenced area. There is less erosion to the south of the bay although there is a striking example of wave throw where cobble and shingle has been thrown back against a stone wall almost 50m inland.

8. Bred Craig HY 501 500 0.79 km Stable
The coast edge increases in height with stable flaggs protecting it. There are some small areas of localised erosion within the hinterland where wave throw is limiting vegetation cover and causing minor felling to take place.

9. Sheephill HY 499 494 0.51 km Eroding to Stable
The coast edge is stable with localised erosion of the hinterland taking place on the steeper slopes. Soil creep and erosion due to water run-off is prominent. A trackway has instigated limited erosion to the south on this section.

10. Head of Mucklett HY 497 494 0.51 km Stable
The section is stable apart from some localised coastal edge erosion 50m east of the pier.

11. Bay of Mucklett HY 490 497 0.74 km Eroding
There are varying degrees of erosion within this section. The coast edge erosion becomes progressively greater to the centre of the bay. The erosion of the coast edge is then more localised until Peat Geo, where there is more continuous erosion. Within Peat Geo there is erosion of c. 2m of buried soil and drift deposits. Cattle extend some of the erosion back into the hinterland.

12. Ross Geo HY 486 490 0.95 km Stable
Most of the coast has very minor erosion but is stable apart from some localised erosion to the west of the point due to marine action. A cobble storm beach lies in front of the west facing coast edge.

13. Veesmudd [South] HY 484 494 0.20 km Eroding
The coast edge is eroding between two long cobble storm beaches. The break in the two storm beaches may be due to a small, eroding point jutting into the sea.

14. Veesmudd [North] HY 484 495 0.35 km Eroding to Stable
There is intermittent erosion to the south and a more stable area to the north where a cobble storm beach lies in front of the upper foreshore. The beach affords some protection to the coast edge.

15. Minister's Flag HY 483 503 0.55 km Eroding
A large section of coast edge is eroding. Some tipping of rubble has been undertaken to the south of the beach to protect the eroding face, with little effect.

16. Whitehows [North] HY 484 510 0.67 km Eroding to Stable
The erosion of the coast edge to the north of the farm is localised but fierce. To the north of Backsill it is less fierce with very little of a storm beach, at a point where the edge is particularly low.

17. Hallion HY 483 515 0.38 km Eroding
The section of coast edge is eroding along most of its length.

18. Knaps of Howar HY 539 519 0.43 km Eroding to Stable
Erosion of the coast edge is localised, although the erosion to south side of the sea wall. Erosion is slightly more intense to the north, for c. 50m before becoming more localised again. There is minor sand extraction to P6 extreme north of this section within the hinterland, close to the coast edge.

19. Castles Ebb HY 485 522 0.22 km Stable
Coast edge and hinterland are stable.

20. Kinterich HY 483 524 0.15 km Eroding to Stable
There is localised erosion of the coast edge due to marine action with evidence of cattle enhancing the erosion.
**Built Heritage and Archaeology**

This map section begins to the southwest side of Waulkmill Bay, extends around Ve Ness into Swanbister Bay, concluding on the south side of Toy Ness. The area beneath Venness Hill at Waulkmill Bay slopes steeply and is covered in rough, overgrown vegetation. The upper slopes are enclosed and serve as rough grazing for cattle. From Valley onward, enclosed fields and cultivated land become more frequent, although there are still open areas with rough vegetation within the coastal zone. Between Smoogro and Swanbister, the coastline is intermittently rocky and sandy and the hinterland comprises large fields of improved grassland. There are sand flats at Sands of Piggar. The hinterland between here and Toy Ness is low-lying and occasionally marshy. Modern coastal settlement is sparse and, with the exception of a single house at Valley, lies outside the coastal zone.

The coastline faces into Scapa Flow, which was the base for the Home Fleet, and there are military remains from both world wars, in the area. The site of a seaplane base (ML54) lies near to Swanbister House. At Smoogro (ML6), a plaque commemorating a naval airman killed while attempting a landing on HMS Furious in 1917 stands by a jetty at the water’s edge. Other military remains include structural remains at Valley (ML1), fobson in Swanbister Bay (ML5, 7), anti-submarine netting at the Sands of Piggar (ML9) and structures at Toy Ness (ML10, 11, 14). Remains of 18th-20th C date in the area include a possible noast at Valley (ML2), a house and enclosure at Point (ML3, 4) and a harbour at Toy Ness (ML12). The site of a church, possibly of 10th-14th C (ML3) date was previously recorded at Swanbister House, but may have been disturbed during the wars by the erection of military structures. Of earlier date is a settlement mound at Hillock of Breakna (ML8B). On previous occasions, surveyors have noted the presence of a large section of curved walling, suggesting the presence of a broch or substantial stone house. Three semi-circular earthworks at Point (ML4) appear to represent structures of probable prehistoric date. At Toy Ness a group of four mounds (ML13) lie close together, on the coast edge. They could not be conclusively identified and, while any interpretation must be treated with caution particularly since the area contains frequent military remain, it is at least possible that they represent prehistoric burial monuments.

<table>
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<th>Sites not characterised</th>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of which at risk</td>
<td>10</td>
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**Geology and Geomorphology**

The topography is generally higher to the east and low lying around Swanbister Bay. Normally the slopes are moderate, but there are slightly steeper slopes within Waulkmill Bay and to the east of Hillock of Breakna. The hinterland at Toy Ness slopes very gently, and in places is level. Most fields are cultivable, with the exception of the more open land along Waulkmill Bay and at Toy Ness.

**Erosion Class**

The east and west sides of this unit are generally stable. Most of the erosion which is occurring lies within Swanbister Bay.
ML1
HY 3759 0508
Valley, Ve Ness
Structural remains, possibly associated with military sites at Smoogro
20th C
Fair
Nil
ML2
HY 3749 0511
Valley, Ve Ness
Structural remains
18th-20th C
Poor
Nil
ML3
HY 3730 0520
House and enclosure
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil
ML4
HY 3721 0531
Point
Putative prehistoric structures
3rd-1st millennium BC
Fair
Survey
ML5
HY 370 054
Dyke-end, Swambister Bay
Possible of military origin
20th C
Fair
Nil
ML6
HY 3640 0547
Smoogro
Jetty and WWI memorial
20th C
Fair
Nil
ML7
HY 3605 0539
Smoogro
Military remains
20th C
Fair
Nil
ML8 (HY30 NE13)
HY 3532 0508
Hillock of Breka
Probable settlement mound:
Scheduled (N5 Index 1445)
3rd-1st millennium BC
Fair
Survey
ML9 (HY30 SE1)
HY 3531 0499
Swambister House
Site of chapel and burial ground
10th-14th C
Not located
ML10
HY 3519 0460
Sands of Piggar
Structure, possibly military
20th C
Good
Nil
ML11
HY 3542 0450
Smoogro
Structure, possibly military
20th C
Fair
Nil
ML12
HY 355 044
Toy Ness
Harbour
18th-20th C
Good
Nil
ML13
HY 3560 0429
Toy Ness
Mounds
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey
ML14
HY 3560 0429
Toy Ness
Military remains: concrete plinths
20th C
Fair
Nil

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined
180
1 Vuillemill Bay
HY 360 035
1.0 km.
Rock platform with 60-80% cobble or shingle cover.
Coast edge < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
The rock platform has 60-80% cobble cover along the upper foreshore. There is very little of the red till, less than 10cm, within coastal sections. The hinterland has a moderate slope which is steep in localised areas. The vegetation is predominantly rough grazing. Fenced rough grazing lies within the far hinterland.

2 Ye Ness
HY 371 034
1.9 km
Rock platform with 80-90% cobble or shingle cover.
Coast edge < 5m.
The driftrock interface is predominately visible. Again most of the cobble cover tends to lie along the upper foreshore. More till is evident in small pockets, up to 0.4m and a localised 1m deep saprolite by the track from Dyke End farm. The till is yellowish within a cave to the west of the saprolite with shingle cover along the upper foreshore. The fields are fenced to the coast edge and cultivable although mainly down to grass. Soils grade out from the peat of the previous section to imperfectly drained peaty podzol and then to poorly drained gley to the west.

3 Swannister Bay
HY 358 035
1.0 km
Sandy foreshore then rock platform with 30-70% cobble cover.
Coast edge predominately < 5m.
The driftrock interface is intermittently visible. The sandy foreshore has some shingle cover along the upper foreshore and extends for perhaps 300m before grading into the rock platform. Sands occur again to the far west of the section although they are limited to the lower foreshore. At the centre of the sandy foreshore beach there is a 1m deep organic soil in section. Further to the west of the section and towards Hill of Bracklin up to 4m of red till overlie the rock platform. There is also a small sea wall in a vale at this point. Perhaps 200m before this area there is evidence of an old sea wall now lying 4m into the upper foreshore away from the coast edge. The slopes are moderately sloping becoming steeper to the west. Fields are fenced, cultivable and down to grass. Soils are poorly to imperfectly drained gley's with more freely drained podzol on the steeper slopes.

4 Sands of Piggar
HY 352 046
1.2 km
Sandy foreshore with <10-50% cobble cover.
Coast edge < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible. There are angular boulders along the upper foreshore to the east of the section. A sea wall runs around most of the bay with a substantial amount of submarine netting along the whole's base. Cobble cover diminishes slightly to the south and the sea wall is replaced by rubble and submarine netting along the coast edge. A long pier over 80m in length lies to the south of the bay and is in good condition. Sands lie to the south of the pier for perhaps 100m before grading onto rock platform. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping with good cultivable fenced fields and down to grass along the north with poorer grazing to the south and west. Soils are imperfectly drained podzol and gley to the north and low lying poorly drained gley's to the south and west. Standing water lies in small pools within the hinterland on some of the lower lying ground and has characteristics of salt marsh in localised areas.

5 Toy Ness
HY 354 041
0.9 km
Rock platform with mostly 80-90% cobble cover.
Coast edge <5m to the east and >5m to the west.
The driftrock interface generally only visible to the west.
The rock platform has less then 50% cover along the east shore and 80-90% along the south shore. On the east facing coast edge there is a section with 0.3m soil over 0.4m peat over a grey till. The land is low lying with standing water along the eastern hinterland. The land is slightly hummocky along the southern side before rising above 5m. The low lying area to the east is unfenced and grassed with more fenced fields to the west. Soils range from poorly drained gley on the east facing hinterland to gley and peaty gley along the low lying south face and grading into imperfectly drained peaty podzol on the higher ground to the west.
1 Waulkmill Bay
HY 380 054
1.40 km
Stable
The coast edge is over 5m to the east and is stable. The hinterland is well vegetated and also stable. There is very little till underlying the peat and soil.

2 Valley
HY 374 052
0.14 km
Eroding
This small section has an eroding coast edge due to marine action along the low coast edge where there are a few lenses of soft till.

3 Point
HY 372 053
0.56 km
Stable
There is more rock lying above high water mark than in the previous section and less drift deposits. Even where there is a soft siltstone to the west side of this section, little significant erosion is observable.

4 Swambister Bay (East)
HY 364 055
1.41 km
Eroding
The erosion is less severe to both the east and west sides and at the centre of this section. The coast edge rises towards the west side but is formed from red till which is eroding. Portal sea wall defences can be seen in front of the eroding edge which now lie along the upper foreshore from 1m to 4m away from the coast edge.

5 Swambister Bay (West)
HY 354 051
0.72 km
Stable
The coast edge becomes progressively more stable to the west with only minor, localised areas of erosion to the east.

6 Sands of Piggar
HY 355 044
1.32 km
Eroding to Stable
There is localised erosion of the coast edge, especially so where there is no sea wall. Some tipped rubble is also eroding to the south of this small bay. The hinterland is generally stable although there is localised erosion of small hummocks along the south of Toy Ness with partial erosion of the coast edge. Soil within the hinterland is eroding due to water run off, possible wave throw and minor cattle scrapes while the coast edge erosion is due to marine action.

7 Toy Ness (West)
HY 352 040
0.44 km
Stable
The coast edge becomes stable before it rises to over 5m as more rock outcrops from the coast edge. There is minor erosion of peat and soil along the hinterland due to water run-off.
Built Heritage and Archaeology
This short map section begins at Bellinory, on the south side of Tay Ness. The land rises gradually towards The Breck and is largely unclosed and overgrown with coarse grasses. At The Breck there are several occupied houses lying on the periphery of the coastal zone. Long narrow plots extend from the houses to the coast edge. A coastal path extends between The Breck and Earl's Bu at Orphir; the walk is sign posted and equipped with benches and affords good views over Scapa Flow. At Orphir the shore is predominantly rocky and the sand is fenced to the coast edge. From the south side of the Bay, the land rises upward to Head of Banks. The hinterland is fenced and down to arable crops.

Half of the six sites recorded in this area can be characterised. The most extensive area of archaeological remains is located at The Earls Bu, Orphir (ML56). This estate was the seat of Earl Holon Paulison whose deeds are recounted in the Orkneyinga Saga. The visible remains include the early 12th C St Nicholas Church, part of a Norse settlement and a horizontal watermill. While none of these sites is located in the coastal zone, it is highly probable that further remains, which are not visible, survive below the ground surface and thus the scheduled area extends to the coast edge. Visitor facilities at Orphir include The Saga Centre which provides an illustrated text commentary and video film about the Orcadian places and people mentioned in the sagas. Other remains in this area include a noot of 18th-20th C date (ML16), a structure (ML17) and a mound (ML50). Neither the structure nor the mound could be positively identified. Rectangular in shape, the structure has badly damaged by coastal erosion but appears to have been sub-divided inside. It may be of relatively recent date or alternatively may belong to the Norse/Medieval period. The mound, in common with a mound at Bay of Myres (ML18), may be a burial monument, possibly of prehistoric date.

<table>
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<td>No. of which at risk</td>
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GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY
This map section covers Orphir Bay and the coastline to each side. The foreshore is predominantly formed from a rock platform, with some sandy foreshore within Orphir Bay. The hinterland is generally fertile. Slopes are moderate to gentle, much of the coastal edge is over 5m high to either side of Orphir Bay. Deep tills and saprolite are more commonly found to the east side of the bay.

EROSION CLASS
Within this small unit, the majority of the coastal edge in a stable condition. The main points of erosion lie within Orphir Bay.

187
ML15
HY 3459 0381
The Breck
Structures and slipway
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

ML56 (HY30 SW2)
HY 335 044
Earl's Bu, Orphir
Norse settlement and mill; Scheduled (HS Index 90236)
10th-14th C
Fair
Monitor

ML16
HY 3350 0430
Orphir Bay
Noost
18th-20th C
Poor
Nil

ML17 (HY30 SW16)
HY 3325 0422
Orphir Bay
Structure
Indeterminate
Poor
Survey

ML50
HY 3323 0422
Orphir Bay
Mound
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

ML18
HY 3283 0387
Head of Banks, Bay of Myre
Mound
Indeterminate
Poor
Survey

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined
I.B.B.
1 Bellrory
HY 343 040
1.7 km
Predominently rock platform, 80-90% cobble cover.
Coast edge is intermittently above and below 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
The rock platform is fairly narrow along The Breck
before broadening to the west with the coast edge
also dropping to below 5m for perhaps 500m west
of The Breck before rising again. As the coast edge
drops to under 5m again towards the west of the
section there is a thick 5m deposit of drift
composed of an in-situ saprolite under a red silt. The
hinterland is gently to moderately sloping with
fenced grass fields. Soils are imperfectly to freely
drained podzols.

2 Orphir Bay
HY 333 042
0.6 km
Sandy foreshore with 70-90% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not generally visible.
The cobbles along the foreshore to the west of the
bay are relatively angular as compared to most
other cobbles within this unit. The sand has some
shingle to the east side of the bay and a rock
platform is evident along the lower foreshore in
places. The hinterland is low-lying. Fields are
cultivable and down to pasture or arable
cultivation. The soil is an imperfectly drained gley
with poorer drainage to the east.

3 Head of Banks
HY 330 039
0.5 km
Rock platform with < 10% cover.
Coast edge is > 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
This is one of the very few places on this survey
where the cobble cover is below ten percent. The
Hinterland is moderately sloping with cultivated
fields down to barley for the most part over
imperfectly drained gleys which tend to be more
freely draining closer to the coast edge.
1 Bellinory
HY 343 039
1.32 km
Stable
Although the coast edge is stable there is minor erosion of the hinterland peat and soil due to both wave blow and wind exposure.

2 Orphir Bay (East)
HY 338 042
0.17 km
Eroding
Along this small section of coast edge there is a deep till over saprolite which is being eroded by marine action.

3 Orphir Bay (Mid)
HY 336 043
0.20 km
Stable
The coast edge and hinterland are stable.

4 Orphir Bay (West)
HY 333 042
0.49 km
Eroding
The coast edge is eroding due to marine action along most areas within this section.

5 Head of Banks
HY 330 039
0.67 km
Stable
Both hinterland and coast edge are stable with negligible erosion.
Built Heritage and Archaeology
From Head of Banks, the land slopes gradually towards the Bay of Myre. The coast edge is rocky and there is no modern settlement within 100m of the coast edge. The hinterland is partly enclosed and down to grass. To the west side of the Bay on Midland Ness there is open land with coarse vegetation. Here, the ground surface is uneven and lumpy as a result of military activity during both world wars. On the coast edge, quantities of buried refuse of early 20th C date, probably associated with the military camp, are spilling out onto the beach. After the tip of Midland Ness, the Bay of Houton comes into sight. This bay provides sheltered harbours and houses the ferry terminal for connections to the islands of Hoy and Flotta, where the oil terminal is located. The Bay is further protected from the open seas by the Holm of Houton, which lies to its west side. This islet is accessible at low tide. There is some modern settlement around the bay. Beyond the bay, Houton Head rises abruptly to the west side. The land here is open and covered in rough vegetation, which is not apparently used for grazing. From Breck to Buxa the land is low-lying, divided into a regular field pattern and mostly down to grass.

The remains in this area are dominated by military sites from both world wars. Midland Ness (ML20) was the site of a WWI camp and a WWII coastal Battery, while Houton Bay housed a seaplane base during WWII and an anti-aircraft battery during WWII (ML21). There is now very little to see at either of these sites other than disturbed ground and concrete fragments. There was a coastal battery at Houton Head during both wars (ML23) and the remains still survive largely intact. There are three concrete searchlight emplacements situated on the coast with magazines, an observation point and other buildings located in the hinterland. This battery defended a boom which cut off firing Driggs which lies between Mainland and the island of Hoy. Three chapel sites are recorded in this area, although none are readily visible now. At Bay of Myre (ML19) an amorphous mound is said to mark the place where a chapel once stood. The site at Kirkhouse (ML22) yielded four bronze bells but the structural remains were considered unlikely to be those of a chapel by previous surveyors. At Orakirk (ML25) a chapel is said to have stood until the latter part of the last century, but the site is no longer visible.

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<td>No. of which at risk</td>
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</table>

Geology and Geomorphology
The topography changes from moderate slopes to the east of Houton, to steep slopes around Houton Head. To the northwest, the slopes are more uniformly moderate to gentle. This area is devoid of hillocks and other topographical anomalies. There are no major changes in the soil types present, although there is peat on the slopes of Houton Head.

Erosion Class
The unit includes Bay of Houton which has a stabilised coastal edge with piers and sea walls. The whole area to the south is relatively stable. As the coastal edge drops to less than 5m along the western shore, so erosion of the coastal edge becomes more dominant.
ML19 (HY30 SW6)
HY 3248 0400
Bay of Myre
Mound: alleged chapel site
10th-14th C
Fair
Survey

ML20 (HY30 SW41 & 44)
HY 3239 0366
Midland Ness
Site of WWI military camp and
WWII anti-aircraft batteries
20th C
Poor
Nil

ML21 (HY30 SW42)
HY 3201 0390 & HY 312 039
Houton
WWI seaplane base
20th C
Poor
Nil

ML22 (HY30 SW7)
HY 3124 0359
Howton Head, Kirkhouse
Site of chapel: Scheduled (HS Index 3245)
10th-14th C
Unknown
Survey

ML23 (HY30 SW40)
HY 3080 0360
Houton Head
WWII coastal battery and site of WWI
coastal battery
20th C
Fair
Monitor

ML24
HY 3035 0442
Breck
Structures: farmstead and boat house
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

ML25 (HY30 SW3)
HY 3010 0462
Orakirk
Alleged site of chapel
10th-14th C
Not located

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined
196
1 Bay of Myre
HY 354 040
0.5 km.
Sandy beach with 80-90% shingle cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible.
Rubble has been laid along the coast edge above the sands to the west of the bay as sea defence. The hinterland is low with fenced grass fields, most of which are cultivable with poorly drained gley soil. On the west side of the bay just to the south of the rubble there is a small seaward of white clay, about five centimetres thick, grading out below the soil.

2 Midland Ness
HY 320 040
2.6 km
Rock platform with up to 90% cobbles.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible.
Along the foreshore and coast edge to the east side of Midland Ness there are concrete blocks and rubble, some from old sea defences and some derived from the old military installation on the hinterland. Within the Bay of Houton most of the coast edge has sea defence walling with the greater cobbled cover of rock platform to the west. A track along the top of the coast edge from Leading Lights to the south has a rubble coast edge to protect the track from erosion. Another small sea wall lies slightly south of c house below Quoy of Houton. The hinterland is flat to gently sloping on Midland Ness and gently to moderately sloping around the Bay of Houton. There is some tipping of scrap and rubble close to the slipway on the east of Midland Ness. Rough grazing now dominates Midland Ness witherry installations within the bay and fenced grass fields beyond the track on the west of the bay. Soils are imperfectly drained gley.

3 Houton Head
HY 308 035
1.0 km
Rock platform with negligible cover.
Coast edge is > 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible.
Although there is little cover of the rock platform on each side of Houton Head itself there is localised 90% cobbled cover of the upper foreshore in the form of a storm beach within a cove at the head. The coast edge is over 5m predominately with steep slopes. The hinterland is down to rough grazing with some brochans, heather and gorse on the south western facing slope and soils mainly made up of peat with peaty gley to either end of the section. There is also an area of old landslide area to the east of the head.

4 Breck
HY 300 046
2.0 km
Rock platform with 30-90% cobbles cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible to the south. As the coast edge drops to under 5m there is a long stretch of low coast with over 90% cobbled cover along the upper foreshore and of storm beach dimensions and nature towards the centre. The cover decreases to negligible amounts west and north of Breck. The cover then increases again to 80% from Orskirk. Along the coast close to Breck there are a few small vegetated tallics, mainly salt grasses, with a strandline which lies above the grasses. Therefore there is some ambiguity, within 1m or so, as to the actual line of coast edge. To the north of this area the coast edge is well defined as the ground rises slightly and up to 4m of red till is exposed over the rock platform. The hinterland is low lying with long, plain, moderate to gentle slopes. The area to the south of Breck is generally unfenced with poor grazing and poorly draining gley soil, slightly peaty to the south. The rest of the hinterland to the north is an imperfectly to poorly drained gley which is cultivable and improved. Fields are down to grass or barley.
1. Bay of Myre
HY 329 040
0.60 km
Stable
The whole bay is generally stable with rubble along the western side adding further protection to the coast edge. There is minor coast edge erosion to the west and increasing to the south.

2. Midland Ness
HY 324 035
0.71 km
Eroding to Stable
There is localised erosion of the coast edge with some protection afforded by a few blocks of concrete and rubble which has itself been eroded from the shore at one time.

3. Bay of Houton
HY 314 040
3.05 km
Stable
The coast edge and hinterland are stable with sea walls around much of the bay. There is minor erosion of rubble by a track south of Leading Lights. On Houton Head there has been some landslip on the steep slope in the past which is now vegetated and appears to be stable.

4. Breck
HY 304 042
0.46 km
Eroding to stable
The localised erosion increases to the north before decreasing again. Most active erosion is of the coast edge especially so to the north where there is a four metre high coast edge of red till. To the extreme north end of the section there is a small eroding sea wall.

5. Breck (North)
HY 302 044
0.14 km
Stable
A small section of coast edge which is stable probably due to rock outcropping above the high water mark.

6. Orakirk
HY 299 049
1.19 km
Eroding
The low coast edge of soft till is being eroded by marine action. There is slightly less localised erosion by Orakirk although the erosion increases again to the north.
Built Heritage and Archaeology
The landscape covered by this map section is a uniform pattern of fertile, enclosed fields. There is some modern settlement, but this mostly lies beyond the coastal zone. The coastal edge is low-lying and most of the fields are fenced up to the edge.

The effects of farming in this area over a long period of time has produced a level land surface and in the process has, no doubt, smoothened out topographical indications of other activities. That is not to say, however, that the area is devoid of archaeological remains. The buried cultivation soils recorded at Salthouse Bay (ML51) and Clesstrain (ML32) are indicators of past agricultural efforts and it is probable that the remains of associated settlements are also preserved beneath the present-day land surface. Structural remains visible in the coastal section at Buxa (ML26) could not be characterised more fully, but may be of early date. A previously unrecorded site at Clesstrain may be part of a souterrain (ML29). This structure is only visible on the coast edge, but would appear to extend inland. At Sower, a large mound (ML27) which is readily visible, has been identified as both a prehistoric burial cairn and a prehistoric settlement in the past. The latter interpretation seems most appropriate to the present surveyors, but conclusive evidence is unlikely to be forthcoming before further assessment is carried out. Four sites of 18th–20th C date were recorded. A mill and accompanying store are located at Dyke (ML28). The mill, which is constructed from dressed stone, had an undershot wheel. The mill pond has been filled in but the area remains marshy. A large building on the coast edge at Clesstrain (ML30) may have served as a store-house.

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<td>No. of which at risk</td>
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Geology and Geomorphology
Although there is much sand and cobbles cover of the foreshore, the underlying Shetness flags are frequently visible and particulary at the lower end of the foreshore. The cover is almost always concentrated along the upper foreshore. In many areas the rock-to-drift interface cannot be seen along the coastal section, even though there is much erosion of the coastal edge. The drift deposits are mainly composed of red till and there are areas where a deep soil is also visible in section. The hinterland, once again, is gently to moderately sloping. It tends to be featureless with few topographical anomalies. Fields are fenced and cultivable. The soils are improved and the land is mainly down to grass, although there are occasional fields of barley.

Erosion Class
Almost the entire coastal edge of this unit is eroding due to marine action. The hinterland is stable throughout the unit.
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</tr>
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<td></td>
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</table>

Sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined.
1. Buxa
HY 294 056
0.7 km
Rock platform with 85-90% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The drift/rock interface is not visible.
The coast edge is well defined with greater than 3m of red till underlying the soil cover. Fencing is perhaps 5m back from the coast edge. The fields of the hinterland are cultivable which are down to grass or barley. Soils are imperfectly drained gleys with more freely draining areas closer to the coast edge.

2. Lower Sower
HY 295 082
0.7 km
Sandy foreshore generally with 30-40% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.
The sandy foreshore has some shingle in localised areas as well as the upper foreshore cobble cover. To the south of this section there is some tipping along the coast edge probably to alleviate coast edge erosion. The hinterland is gently sloping with good cultivable fenced fields.

3. Clestrain
HY 291 070
1.3 km
Predominantly rock platform with some sandy foreshore.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible.
The cover is generally of 40-60% cobble and boulder with some sand in two main areas to the north and south of this section. The coast edge is well defined, usually due to erosion with some concrete posts lying at the edge and upper foreshore opposite the Skermies of Clestrain. A deep organic soil of 0.7m depth lies in one area and another 0.7m - 0.9m deep towards the north of this section. The hinterland is gently sloping with fenced, cultivable fields. Soils are imperfectly drained gleys with areas of freely drained podzol.

4. Moo Tsing
HY 292 080
1.2 km
Sandy foreshore with up to 60% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The drift/rock interface is not visible.
The sandy foreshore has negligible observable bedrock in this area. A deep soil is underlain by a buried soil at the south end of this section with 0.6m of soil over a 0.3m deep buried soil which overlies a very soft till. There are also intermittent glimpses of more buried soil horizons to the north. At Norton there is a sea wall which is eroding slightly to the south end and an old eroded groynes and sea wall to the north. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping with fenced, cultivable fields down to grass and barley. Soils are imperfectly drained gleys with some freely draining deeper soils towards the coast edge. The northern part of this unit grades into a rock platform which is included within the first section of the next unit.
1 Buxa
HY 294 057
0.88 km
Eroding
To the south of the section a 3m coast edge of red till is eroding. The fence line has been repositioned 3m to 4m back from the coast edge. At Lower Sower there is slightly less erosion with some tipping of rubble along the coast edge. The erosion increases again to the north.

2 Upper Sower
HY 293 063
0.41 km
Eroding to Stable
There is partial erosion of the coast edge which becomes less pronounced towards the north.

3 Clestrain Point
HY 292 065
0.23 km
Stable
The small point to the west of Clestrain is stable. Stability is afforded by slightly raised and more pronounced outcropping of flags.

4 Skerries of Clestrain (South)
HY 291 068
0.44 km
Eroding to Stable
Localised erosion of the coast edge increases to the north.

5 Skerries of Clestrain (North)
HY 291 071
0.36 km
Eroding
Midway along this eroding section there is a small rick in the coastline where concrete posts may have been utilised as coast edge protection. They no longer serve this purpose and are now scattered along the upper foreshore. There is a deep, 0.7m, soil further to the north.

6 Standing Stone Point
HY 291 073
0.22 km
Stable
The flags are perhaps one to two metres above the strand line and so stabilise the point. A well constructed nouse lies above the high water mark with some erosion of the coast edge to the north.

7 Moo Taing
HY 292 080
1.02 km
Eroding
To the south there is a buried soil lying under 0.6m of a darker soil in one area with other buried soils evident at a few localised points to the north. Otherwise the section has a very soft eroding till.

8 Norton
HY 292 086
0.34 km
Eroding to Stable
This section also incorporates part of the coast edge from the next unit. There is localised erosion of the coast edge. A section of sea wall below Norton is eroding in a few places. Further to the north an old eroding sea wall now stands four metres into the upper foreshore from the coast edge. A dilapidated groyne also runs onto the foreshore at the north end of the section.

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Built Heritage and Archaeology

This map section extends around the Bay of Ireland to Brigg O’Waiithe, at the mouth of the Loch of Stenness, and beyond to Bu Point. On the east side of the Bay, the landscape is one of low-lying enclosed fields with some modern settlement set back from the coast edge. The main Orphie-Stenness road, the A964, runs parallel to the coast in this area. At the head of the Bay, at Brigg O’Waiithe, much of the coastal zone is made up with sand flats and salt marshes. The bridge spans the outflow from the Loch of Stenness into the sea. Beyond the bridge, on the west side of the bay, the land rises upward at Howe and between here and Bu Point at the end of this section, the coastal zone comprises of rough grassy slopes leading to shingle and rocky foreshore. The hinterland is enclosed with fields of improved grassland.

The area around the shores of Stenness has been acknowledged as one of the richest locations for sites of the early prehistoric period in the British isles. Most of the known monuments lie outwith the coastal zone, but there are three sites on the coast which may date to the later prehistoric period. A large mound at Cram Hill (ML37) appears to cover the remains of a substantial circular building. At Cummi Howe (ML38) a second, similar, mound lies close to the coast edge and is eroding, while at Bu of Cairston (ML40) extensive structural remains are revealed in a coastal exposure. In all cases, the sites have previously been interpreted as brochs because the most visible component at all three sites are substantial stone structures. It is very probable, however, that these sites may comprise multiple elements of various date, as was demonstrated by excavations at Howe on the west side of the Bay of Ireland (Ballin Smith, 1994). Previously unrecorded structural remains were identified during this survey at Cummi Ness (ML39). Located on a small peninsula towards the head of the Bay, this site appears to be a circular homestead, rather than a broch, of prehistoric date. Further remains in this area (ML55), although difficult to identify in the field, are visible on aerial photographs as two rectangular buildings of probable 10th-14th C date. A re-examination of an extensive area of earthworks at Hall of Ireland (ML36) suggests indicated that this site may have been mis-identified previously. It is scheduled as a group of cairns, but, although damaged by coastal erosion and farming, the site is more likely to be a rare example of an early historic fortification. It is located on the opposite side of the Bay to the site of a 12th C castle at Bu of Cairston (ML41).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sites recorded</th>
<th>Sites characterised</th>
<th>Sites not characterised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No. of which at risk

6

Geology and Geomorphology

The hinterland around The Bay of Ireland continues to be gently to moderately sloping along the eastern side with more moderate slopes on the western shore. The Loch of Stenness drains into the bay from the north. The coastal edge to the north east has estuarine characteristics with low vegetated tidal flats bluming the coastal edge; although this sitting type of habitat lies only as a very narrow corridor on the eastern side. Soils are a mixture of poorly draining gleys to more freely draining podzol and skeletal rankers over beach cobbles.

Erosion Class

The estuarine area at the head of the Bay of Ireland and the eastern facing shore are perhaps slightly more stable than the western facing shore and very much more stable than the previous unit. The section around Norton has been included in the previous unit.
ML34 (HY20 NE3)
HY 2937 0960
Hall of Ireland
Site of chapel and burial ground
10th-14th C
Not located
Monitor

ML35 (HY20 NE21)
HY 2931 0969
Knowe of Gemashowe, Hall of Ireland
Alleged site of mound
Indeterminate
Not located

ML36 (HY20 NE1)
HY 2905 0987
The Cairns, Hall of Ireland
Putative fort: Scheduled (HIS Index 1248)
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD
Fair
Survey

ML37
HY 2848 1015
Com Hilllock
Putative broch or settlement site
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD
Fair
Survey

ML38 (HY21 SE17)
HY 2824 1039
Cummi Howe
Broch mound: Scheduled (HIS Index 1256)
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD
Fair
Monitor

ML39
HY 2809 1059
Cummi Ness
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

ML55
HY 2810 1061
Cummi Ness
Structural remains
Possibly 10th-14th C
Fair
Survey

ML40 (HY20 NE71)
HY 2772 096
Bu of Cainton
Settlement- possible broch
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD
Fair
Survey

ML41 (HY20 NE10)
HY 2720 0956
Bu of Cainton
Site of Castle
10th-14th C
Poor
Nil

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined
1. Norton
HY 291 087
0.4 km
Rock platform with up to 90% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible.
The rock platform extends from Norton and the sea wall from the last section only as far as the point. The coast edge is well defined with a gently sloping hinterland of fenced, cultivable fields. Soils are imperfectly drained gleys and freely draining podsol.

2. Coldomo
HY 294 092
1.1 km
Sandy foreshore with partial rock platform evident.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible.
There is up to 90% of cobble cover along the upper foreshore. Some rock platform is evident along the mid and lower foreshore in front of Coldomo. There is also some tipping of scrap to the north of the farm before the cobble cover diminishes to less than 20% cover. The sands fade out in front of a sea wall by the Hall of Ireland. The hinterland is low lying and gently sloping with imperfectly drained gleys to the south of the farm and poorly draining gleys to the north. The hinterland is generally wet with fields down to pasture.

3. Hall of Ireland
HY 289 100
1.8 km
Rock platform with variable 30-90% shingle and sand cover.
Coast edge is > 5m.
The driftrock interface is not generally visible. There is perhaps 30% shingle cover by the Hall of Ireland which then grades into sand and then back to shingle and cobbles. The cobbles increase to over 50% cover to the north of Cam Hillock with isolated sand pockets within small coves. The coast edge becomes lower to the north with vegetation growing over old beach cobbles or old river lag with a sort of sand and cobbles separating the coast from Dead Sand. The rock platform can not be seen to the north of this section. North of the Hall of Ireland and close to a cairn area there are two areas where there are large deep black soils in section, both greater than 1m deep and approximately 2m across. There is some tipping to the north of Cumniness Bay. The hinterland is gently sloping to flat with fenced fields to the south and more open rough grazing to the north.

4. Dead Sand
HY 282 111
2.9 km
Sandy foreshore with >90% shingle and boulder cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is not visible.
The east side of the estuary is low lying with a small area of saltet with finer grained marine sand and silt along the upper foreshore. Tollards of salt resistant grasses lie along the coast edge probably built on alluvial or marine muds. A boulder cover lies along an outcrop north of Dead Sand with more small angular boulders and cobbles along the west side of the estuary. A road bridge with sea defences runs over the estuary before the Loch of Stenness. The hinterland to the east has grassed fields beyond the saltet edge with poorly drained gleys along the coast edge and imperfectly drained gleys and podsol to the far hinterland while the hinterland to the west is predominantly down to grass over imperfectly to poorly drained gleys A portion of coast edge has been built up from rubble on the west side of the road bridge. Some of the soils around the estuary, especially on the up, and small outcrops above Dead Sand, are thin rankers over beach cobbles or river lag.

5. Sands of Congesquoy
HY 273 098
2.0 km
Rock platform with localised sand cover and up to 80% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5m.
The driftrock interface is visible to the south. Sandy areas are found at Sands of Congesquoy and another 100m to the south, otherwise the rock platform is dominant with generally 60-80% cobble cover diminishing to under 30% by Bu Point. The coast edge is well defined with deep soils by 8u of Cairston and midden material to the south of the farm. A well protected pipe line runs out into the bay south of the farm. Till deposits are thinner, generally under 0.3m, than on the eastern side of the bay. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping with grassed fenced fields up to the coast edge. Soils are poorly to imperfectly drained gleys with more freely draining podzol prevalent around and south of Cairston 8u.
1. Ness
HY 294 092
0.94 km
Stable
A large section of coast edge is stable where the Bay of Ireland begins. There is some tipping of scrap by Coldomo Farm.

2. Hall of Ireland
HY 290 099
1.00 km
Eroding to Stable
The coast edge has localised erosion. The stream which runs to the side of the Hall has been built up to form a culvert which is stable. There is a stretch of coast edge, perhaps 80m, below the stone walled enclosure in front of the Hall of Ireland which is eroding. Further to the north there is localised erosion of softer deposits such as two areas of deep black soil.

3. Corn Hillrock
HY 285 101
0.49 km
Eroding
Although the point itself is stable erosion of the coast edge on both sides of the point is pronounced. There is also some localised tipping to the extreme south of the section.

4. Cummi Howe
HY 283 103
0.23 km
Eroding to Stable
The erosion of the coast edge is more localised within small scalloped inlets or coves.

5. Cummi Ness
HY 282 112
3.16 km
Stable
The coast edge on both sides is stable. This is probably due to the sheltered character of the area. Cobble and small boulders also line the upper foreshores of the south east and the west side of the section. The low lying area to the east which lies behind the protection of Cummi Ness is aptly named Dead Sand. Here there is little wave motion and tallfards of soil and grass are prominent along the upper foreshore and strand line. It is possible that there is an insidious erosion of the soil but is not evident. A road bridge to the north and dumped rubbish to the west of the bridge, much of which is now vegetated, has added further stability to the shore line.

6. Sands of Congesquay
HY 274 103
0.22 km
Eroding
A small section where there is active erosion of the coast edge.

7. Congesquay
HY 274 101
0.33 km
Eroding to Stable
There is partial erosion of the coast edge, predominantly the drift deposits which lie over the flags.

8. Skatelan Skerry
HY 272 095
2.00 km
Stable
The coast edge is stable as flags dominate the lower sections of the edge. There are small localised areas of light erosion the most severe of which lies to the north of Cairston Bu. There is also some erosion of a sill and rubble tip to the south of the form. The coast edge is extremely stable to the south and Bu Point.
WT21
HY 4577 5015
Nether Guseness
Noasts
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
Two boat noasts lie to the landward side of a rough track, some 5m from the head of the shore. The noasts are defined by a semi-circular drystone wall with an internal stone wall partition. They have pointed ends and measure 2m in width and 4m in length; the walls stand up to 0.5m high. One noast is overgrown with rough grass, the other is in use and houses a modern boat.
Good
Nil

WT22 [HY45 SE19]
HY 4583 5045
Vere Point
Chambered Cairn, enclosure and mounds
4th-3rd millennium BC
Located >20m from the coast edge
A disturbed, partially grass-covered cairn lies within an enclosed field. The cairn was opened in the 1920s and the description of the findings has been taken to indicate that the site is a burial monument of the Orkney-Cromarty type with a stalled or tripartite chamber (Davidson & Henshall, 1989, 167, no.52). The cairn measures some 19m in diameter and has been reduced to 1m or so in height. Orthostatic stones protrude from the centre although the surrounding turf has regenerated around the disturbed area and little can be discerned of the structure. It is alleged that three skeletons were found within the cairn around the year 1906. A possible intrusive cist burial is indicated by two slabs at the northeast side of the cairn. The cairn was said to be set within an oval enclosure which also contained two further stone mounds; a third mound was located at a distance of some 10m to the south of the chambered cairn. These sites are not now clearly visible and may have been removed by farming.
Poor
Monitor
WT23
HY 45135116
H House
Farmstead
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
A complex of buildings, incorporating byres, stores and a dwelling house enclose three
sides of a central yard. The structures are roofless and largely ruinous. A dwelling house
which bears the date 1886 (inscribed above a window in the gable end) forms one side
of the range. It measures 17m in length and 6.5m in width and is internally divided into
two chambers of unequal size, both of which contain fireplaces. Adjoining this house,
and aligned at a right angle to it, are three outbuildings. Each measures approximately
3m by 3m and is provided with a doorway onto the yard. Facing the dwelling house and
adjoining these buildings is a range of outbuildings and lean-to sheds. These were not
investigated closely on account of their dangerous structural condition.
Fair
Survey
WT24
HY 4529 S17
The Ouse
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <10m from the coast edge
A large amorphous grass-covered mound lies some 6m from the coast edge. It measures 28m in diameter and stands up to 1.75m high. The surface of the mound is pitted and uneven and disturbance caused by rabbit burrowing affects between 10% and 15% of the site. The material cast up in the rabbit scarp consists entirely of clean sand and no recognisable archaeological deposits or features were recognised; although it is likely that the mound is an artificial rather than a natural feature. It lies in an enclosed field of improved grassland.
Fair
Survey

WT25 (HY45 SE61)
HY 4539 S119
Hahouse
Mound and earthworks
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located <10m from the coast edge
An amorphous grass-covered mound is associated with three sections of what appears to be a much reduced earthen bank. The mound measures 50m in diameter and stands up to 4m high. The surface is uneven and pitted, possibly the result of aeolian erosion which particularly affects the south side of the site where an erosion face has been formed. Two sections of earthen bank extend from the east and west sides of the mound; a third fragment of banking occurs between them. There are no topographical indications as to the nature or date of this site. Previous recorders have noted the presence of wailing and midden material in this area, and a saddle quern and boar's tusks are said to have been recovered.
Fair
Survey

WT85 (HY45 SE60)
HY 455 S12
Bay of Skall
Site of cist
Indeterminate
Located <100m from the coast edge
A cist is said to have been uncovered and destroyed by ploughing at this location. There is no trace of this site now.
WT1 (HY45 SE18)
Hy 4554 5124
Bay of Skaiill
Settlement
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located on the coast edge
Structural remains and shell midden deposits are exposed in a sand-cliff to the fore of a ridge of dunes. These remains are visible over a distance of some 60m and are up to 3m thick. They are situated in the upper portion of the dunes, some 4m above the level of the beach. The remains are covered by deposits of wind blown sand and topsoil. At least two separate structural levels are represented in the section. They are separated by an anthropogenic soil that contains shell and fragments of bone. A drystone wall protrudes end-on to the section face towards the southern end of the exposure. It stands up to 0.3m high and appears to curved. The site is being eroded by the sea and the wind and has been further damaged by rabbits and nesting fulmars. It is known locally as 'The Pict's House'. It was opened at some time before 1928, revealing a circular chamber and a long passage. It has been eroding since at least 1928, when RCAHMS surveyors noted the presence of middens, a pot sherd and a fragment of bronze. The site cannot be characterised by the deposits currently visible or from previous records. The level of the threat is such that any further work, whether assessment or salvage excavation, should be carried out without delay.
Fair
Survey
WT2
HY 4554 5132
Evertaif
Indeterminate remains
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A scatter of stones is visible in section towards the base of eroding dunes. These deposits extend for approximately 8m and are up to 1m high. The nature of these deposits is unclear; they may represent part of an eroding structure, but are perhaps more likely to be part of a dyke or packing for fence posts.
Poor
Monitor

WT26
HY 4550 5140
Bay of Skail
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <20m from the coast edge
This rounded, circular mound measures some 30m in diameter and stands up to 3m in height. It is situated on improved grassland and is itself grass-covered. Two modern fence lines run over the mound.
Fair
Survey

WT3
HY 4576 5164
Bay of Skail
Dyke
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
The remains of a drystone dyke are visible in an eroding coastal section. It is not regularly coursed, measures 0.75m in width and stands up to 1m high.
Poor
Nil
WT4
HY 4592 5168
Aiker Ness
Dyke and structure: shed
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
(i) A rectangular structure, set at 90° to the coast edge, is constructed from irregularly
coursed, bonded stone. It measures 1.2m long by 6m wide and stands up to 6m high at
the gables, which have crow-steps. The central portion of the building is most ruinous;
elsewhere, while some structural timbers survive in-situ, the roof is now ruinous and in
danger of imminent collapse. There is a door in the south end gable. A concrete ramp,
of later date than the building, extends to the shore. The building appears to have
originally functioned as a boat shed but to have been used more recently as a byre or
hay store.
(ii) The grass-covered footings of a wall, less than 0.5m high, lie 100m to the east of (i).
Fair
Nil

WT5
HY 4625 5166
Aiker Ness
Mound
Indeterminate
Located 30m from the coast edge
An amorphous grassy mound lies immediately behind a modern fence line, less than
10m from the coast edge. It measures approximately 30m in diameter and stands up to
2m high. The sides of the mound are fairly steep in places.
Good
Survey
WT6
HY 4640 5187
Ailer Ness
Indeterminate Remains
Located on the coast edge
A concentration of flat stones, together with shell fragments, are visible in the coastal section over a distance of some 6m. These deposits lie immediately below topsoil and turf and may represent the remains of a boat noast.
Poor
Monitor

WT7
HY 4638 5197
Ailer Ness
Indeterminate remains
Located on the coast edge
Two distinct layers of horizontally-laid stone are exposed in the coastal section. Both layers are associated with soil deposits which contain inclusions of charcoal and peat ash. The lower layer lies immediately above till, while the upper layer is covered by topsoil; both are visible for over 8m in a section which stands up to 3m high. These deposits may derive from the processing or burning of seaweed for the kelp industry.
Fair
Monitor
WT8 & WT9
HY 460 521 TO HY 459 527
Ailkerr Ness
Kelp dries walls and processing pits
18th-20th C

Elements located on the coast edge
There are frequent kelp-burning pits and processing "floors" in this area. The majority of
the pits are at least partially filled up and most are grass-covered. They are now visible
as slight circular depressions and are usually less than 1m in diameter and 0.5m deep.
Some have a stone lining. Several pits are also exposed in the eroding coastal section.
Their ashly fills render them readily visible, as does the reddened, heat-affected nature of
the till into which they have been cut. The pits are closely associated with a series of
ruinous drystone walls. The majority of these walls are aligned at 90° to the coast; they
sit in rough grassland immediately behind a storm beach. There are also occasional
lengths of walling aligned parallel to the coast. On average, the walls measure 0.3m in
height, 0.5m in width and approximately 7m in length. They are constructed from
uncoursed rubble. There are also more recent kelp-drying structures in this area, some of
which are constructed from lengths of plastic and concrete piping supported on columns
of stone or brick.
Fair
Survey

WT83 (HY45 SE22)
HY 460 522
Skail
Cist and find spot
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located <100m from the coast edge
A cist was exposed at this location during ploughing in the 1920's. It is said to have
been circular or oval in shape and filled with 'ashes' and cremated bone. A saddle
quern was found nearby and many large stones, of unknown significance, have been
turned up in the surrounding area. There is now nothing visible at this location.

WT84 (HY45 SE20)
HY 4697 5250
Holm of Ailkerness
Chapel
10th-14th C
Located <200m from the coast edge
The ruins of a chapel are alleged to have stood on the Holm of Ailkerness until the end
of the 17th C. The site is not now visible from the air (information corroborated by local
pilot), but has not been investigated on the ground since the site is not readily
accessible.
WT10
Hy 4542 S24S
West Breck
House and outbuildings and field system
16th-20th C
Located 80m+ from the coast edge
A two-storied stone house and adjoining outbuildings form an L-shaped range around a
yard. The ground floor of the house is divided into two apartments by a gabled partition.
Both end walls and the partition wall have chimney apertures and hearths. This structure
is now dilapidated and its slate roof has begun to collapse. The outbuildings are
partially roofed with flagstones. A series of small fields are marked out with drystone
walls.
Fair
Nil

WT11 (Hy45 SW3)
Hy 4663 S17S
Valvul
Mound
Indeterminate
150m+ from the coast edge
A turf-covered mound, 12m in diameter by 0.7m high, is situated on top of a low rise.
There is a modern marker cairn on top of the mound. Land subsidence has affected the
north side of the mound and sub-aerial erosion threatens to reduce it still further.
Fair
Monitor

WT12
Hy 4448 S16S
Valvul
Dyke
Indeterminate
Elements located on the coast edge
A section of ruinous drystone wall is situated on the cliff edge, over bedrock. It stands up
to 0.4m or six courses high, is 0.5m wide and extends for about 1.5m from the coast
edge. It is aligned at 90° to the coast and is formed from rough stone set in irregular
courses. It may form part of a larger land boundary of which all trace has been erased
in the hinterland area.
Fair
Nil
WT170
HY 4432 5103 To HY 4433 5065
Trenable-Guoygrew
Kelp pits
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
There are several grass-covered kelp pits cut into the ground along the coastal strip.
Most of the pits are filled up with stone.
Fair
Nil

WT16 (HY45 5W7)
HY 443 506
Guoygrew
Shell Midden
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
Several exposures of shell midden and archaeological deposits are visible in the
eroding coastal section. Two of the larger exposures are described in more detail:
(i) In a curved indent in the banks at the northern end of this area deposits of wrinkle
shells are visible immediately beneath turf and topsoil. Towards the base of the section,
beneath the shell, is a line of horizontally-set flagstones. The base of the section
is obscured by collapsed turf and debris. The exposure is approximately 4m long and
0.4m high. Other stones visible in this section are more likely to be storm-cast material
rather than structural remains.
(ii) To the south of (i), a longer exposure contains both midden deposits and structural
remains. The section measures 12m in length and is up to 1.3m high; it lies above a
storm beach, over bare bedrock. Beneath turf and topsoil, the uppermost
archaeological deposits comprise large quantities of fish bone and shell together with
some charcoal fragments in a soil matrix. Some of the fish skeletons remain articulated,
indicating in-situ decay; the shell is predominantly cockle. These deposits appear to have
filled in to the shell of a ruinous drystone structure, of which three sections of walling are
visible in section. At the level of the base of the wall are several large flagstones which
may have formed a floor.
Good
Survey

229
WT10
HY 4542 5245
West Breck
House and outbuildings and field system
18th-20th C.
Located 80m+ from the coast edge
A two-storied stone house and adjoining outbuildings form an L-shaped range around a yard. The ground floor of the house is divided into two apartments by a gabled partition. Both end walls and the partition wall have chimney apertures and hearths. This structure is now dilapidated and its slate roof has begun to collapse. The outbuildings are partially roofed with flagstones. A series of small fields are marked out with drystone walls.
Fair
Nil

WT11 (HY45 SW3)
HY 4463 5173
Vaval
Mound
Indeterminate
150m+ from the coast edge
A turf-covered mound, 12m in diameter by 0.7m high, is situated on top of a low rise. There is a modern marker cairn on top of the mound. Land subsidence has affected the north side of the mound and sub-aerial erosion threatens to reduce it still further.
Fair
Monitor

WT12
HY 4448 5168
Vaval
Dyke
Indeterminate
Elements located on the coast edge
A section of ruinous drystone wall is situated on the cliff edge, over bedrock. It stands up to 0.4m or six courses high, is 0.5m wide and extends for about 1.5m from the coast edge. It is aligned at 90° to the coast and is formed from rough stone set in irregular courses. It may form part of a larger land boundary of which all trace has been erased in the hinterland area.
Fair
Nil
WT13
HY 443 512
Heugh
Earthbank
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A turf-covered bank, aligned parallel to the coast edge, extends for some 70m. It is up to 0.5m wide and stands to 0.4m high. In one area, a receding geo has cut through and removed a segment of the bank. It appears to represent the remnants of a field boundary. A mound [WT14] lies in the immediate hinterland.
Fair
Survey

WT14 (HY45 SW2)
HY 4439 5113
Trenabie
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <50m from the coast edge
A sub-circular, turf-covered mound is situated 50m from the coast edge inside a fenced field. It is aligned northwest-southeast, measures 8m by 6m and stands up to 0.75m high. The top is slightly dished, but there are no denuded exposures. This site was disturbed in the past and a stone net-sinker is said to have been found.
Fair
Monitor

WT15 (HY45 SW1)
HY 4432 5103
Trenabie
Mound: Scheduled [RIS Index 1388]
Indeterminate
Located >10m from the coast edge
This site has been variously interpreted as a possible settlement mound, a broken standing stone and a possible grave site. It has been scheduled as a standing stone, but is now visible as a very slight mound with occasional protruding stones. It measures some 50m by 25m and it would appear to have been greatly reduced since it was first recorded. Assessment is required to determine the nature of the remaining archaeological deposits.
Poor
Survey
WT170
HY 4432 5103 To HY 4433 5065
Trenigle-Guoygrew
Kelp pits
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge.
There are several grass-covered kelp pits cut into the ground along the coastal strip.
Most of the pits are filled up with stone.
Fair
Nil

WT16 (HY45 SW7)
HY 443 508
Guoygrew
Shell Midden
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge.
Several exposures of shell midden and archaeological deposits are visible in the eroding coastal section. Two of the larger exposures are described in more detail:
(I) In a curved indent in the banks at the northern end of this area deposits of winkle shells are visible immediately beneath turf and topsoil. Towards the base of the section, beneath the shell, is a line of horizontally-set flagstones. The base of the section is obscured by collapsed turf and debris. The exposure is approximately 4m long and 0.4m high. Other stones visible in this section are more likely to be storm-cast material rather than structural remains.

(II) To the south of (I), a longer exposure contains both midden deposits and structural remains. The section measures 1.2m in length and is up to 1.3m high; it lies above a storm beach, over bare bedrock. Beneath turf and topsoil, the uppermost archaeological deposits comprise large quantities of fish bone and shell together with some charcoal fragments in a soil matrix. Some of the fish skeletons remain articulated, indicating in-situ decay; the shell is predominantly cockle. These deposits appear to have filled in to the shell of a ruinous drystone structure, of which three sections of walling are visible in section. At the level of the base of the wall are several large flagstones which may have formed a floor.
Good
Survey
WT17 (HY45 SW4)
HY 4433 5065
Quoygrew
Settlement
10th-14th C
Elements located on the coast edge
A coastal exposure containing extensive archaeological deposits coincides with a slight rise in the ground level in the hinterland area. The exposure extends for about 30m and stands up to 1.75m high. Structural deposits, including walls and drains, are visible among substantial midden deposits. In the hinterland, there are topographical indications of further buried remains over an area of some 25m parallel to the coast and up to 10m inland. There are kelp pits of 18th-20th C date cut into the turf above these deposits. An assessment was carried out at this site in 1997 (Barrett, Simpson & Davis, 1997).
Fair
Monitor

WT18
HY 4439 5067
Quoygrew
House and outbuildings
18th-20th C
Located >50m from the coast edge
An L-shaped complex of buildings is arranged around a yard; the yard is further enclosed by a dyestone wall. The buildings stand up to 1m high in places, but are mostly reduced to footings. The shorter of the two ranges of buildings measures some 20m in length. It comprises two adjoining rectangular buildings which have been internally partitioned, apparently on several occasions. The rooms in both buildings are 4m wide. The longer range, which is approximately 30m long, comprises four adjoining chambers of unequal size. The walls in all of the buildings are in the region of 0.75m thick and they are bonded with clay. Some retain traces of render on their internal faces. In places, cement and concrete repairs are in evidence, indicating that some parts of the complex remained in use into recent times. It is not possible to date the surviving remains with any degree of certainty, but by comparison with other farmsteads of the area, it is probable that they are of 18th-20th C date, although they may have been preceded by earlier structures on this site.
Fair
Nil

230
WT19
HY 4435 5054
Biggings
Wall
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A wall protrudes from low banks at the head of the shore. It stands up to two courses or
0.4m high, is 0.6m wide and extends from the coastal section for 0.8m or so. It is
eroding. The date and nature of this wall could not be determined.
Poor
Monitor

WT20
HY 4440 5044
Biggings
Mounds and possible settlement debris
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located on the coast edge
(i) A slight mound lies inland from a coastal exposure containing archaeological
deposits. The mound is amorphous and has no distinguishing features. The exposure
extends for 1.3m and stands up to 1.2m high. The visible archaeological deposits chiefly
comprise loose stonework, apparently representing a wall aligned parallel to the
modern shoreline. This is covered by soil deposits containing inclusions of peat ash and
charcoal and littered by shell midden. There are further deposits of peat ash beneath the
wall. The coastal section has slumped to either side of the visible deposits and thus their
full extent could not be determined. These deposits lie above a soft till which is being
washed out by the sea, threatening further collapse. It is probable that these remains
are derived from a more extensive prehistoric settlement although further assessment will
be required to determine this.
(ii) The 18th-20th farmstead at Biggings is situated over a large mound. This mound lies
over 100m from the coast. It is at least 40m in diameter and stands to an average
height of 2m. It may be a farm mound or a settlement mound.
Fair
Survey
WT27
HY 443 503 TO HY 425 495
Narr Ness– Links of Noltland
Kelp-drying walls and burning pits, boat sheds or noots
18th–20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
(i) A series of up to seven conjoined boat sheds or noots are represented by ruinous, roughly-built rubble and beach stone walls. They are rectangular in shape, measuring up to 5m in length by 3m in width; the walls stand up to 0.75m high. The bases or floors of these structures are roughly paved.
(ii) In its area there are frequent lengths of drystone walling which previously served to dry kelp upon. They measure up to 10m long by 1m wide and are constructed from a range of materials including beach stone, rubble, cast concrete supports, wood, metal and disused barrels. Most are aligned at 90° to the coast edge and some have been completely covered up by blown sand deposits and grass.
(iii) There are also frequent kelp-burning pits and roughly cobbled surfaces for kelp-working along this stretch of coastline. The majority of the pits are partially filled in, but in some cases a stone lining remains visible.
(iv) Underlying the more recent remains of kelp processing, see (ii) and (iii) above, there are faint indications of old boundary walls or banks which have been entirely covered over with blown sand. These appear to define a series of small rectangular fields.
Good
Survey

WT86 (HY45 SW6)
HY 435 500
Narr Ness
Site of clt
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
An empty clt, orientated north-south, was recorded in the cliff section at this location. It measured 0.5m by 0.8m and was 0.4m deep. The clt was surrounded by loose stones. The stones continued into the adjacent hinterland and could be seen protruding through the turf. There are now no surface traces of the clt or any associated features.
Not Located

WT28
HY 433 4987
Narr Ness
Mounds
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
Two grass-covered mounds, each c. 1.5m in diameter and up to 1.75m high are situated on the coast edge. One has a kelp pit cut into its upper surface, the other is topped by a stretch of drystone walling. There are no visible indications of any archaeological deposits within the mound, but they stand out quite distinctly within the surrounding topography and are unlikely to be of natural origin.
Fair
Survey
WT29 (HY44 NW33)
Hy 428 493
Links of Noltland
Settlement: Scheduled (HS Index 90337)
4th-3rd millennium BC
Elements located on the coast edge
An extensive settlement of the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age period is located beneath sand dunes around the Bay of Grobus. An examination of aerial photographs taken in 1947 indicates that some deflation was occurring at this time, with the western area being worst affected. Photographs taken in 1987 show only a slight worsening in the situation. The finding of this survey indicate that there has been a substantial increase in the rate of deflation since 1987, with larger areas of the site now denuded of vegetation and eroding. This situation may have been hastened by sand quarrying in the immediate hinterland. The site was excavated between 1978 and 1981. In one area, a sequence of stratified midden deposits and structural remains were recorded, in another a large multi-chambered structure was uncovered. Traces of field boundaries and cultivation soils were also identified. A large number of artefacts, together with quantities of environmental materials were recovered (Clarke & Sharples, 1985). The excavation area has been reinstated and over much of the site there is little visible sign of any archaeological deposits. An arc of walling, possibly part of a circular or oval structure was noted, however. This structure is defined by an inner wall face comprising intermittent stones. It is estimated that this structure measures some 14m in diameter. It lies about 70m from the coast edge. Inside the walling were a series of uprights and a rectangular stone setting, which may be part of a hearth. There are frequent exposures of an old ground surface and there are scatters of bone, shell and stone. The scheduled area is now surrounded by rabbit-proof fencing, although this does not appear to have been very effective in keeping rabbits off the site. There are frequent burrows over the entire area and in some places the fencing has been entirely covered up by wind blown sand deposits.
Fair
Monitor
WT30 (KY44 NW11)

HY 4250 4948
Queen Howe
Settlement and mound: Scheduled (HS Index 1457)
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located <100m from the coast edge

A large mound and a coastal exposure containing structural remains are located in close proximity but may not necessarily be associated. It has been suggested previously that these remains represent a broch and adjacent settlement. The structure(s) revealed in the section is associated with anthropogenic soils and midden deposits and would appear to represent a settlement; if not a broch, then a substantial house. The mound, which has been identified as a broch, however, has a well-defined form which appears more designed than the result of post-abandonment build-up. The broch mound interpretation cannot be entirely ruled out at this stage, but the possibility that it may be a burial monument should be borne in mind. The area in which the site is situated appears to be a sand-trap and there may be a considerable depth of sand covering any further archaeological deposits in the wider locality. Clearly, this is a complex site with two or more large structures represented. The substantial depth of deposits would suggest that activity in the area continued over a long period of time. The depth of sand covering this site suggests that the remains may have survived well up to now, but it is currently being destroyed by coastal erosion and attention is very urgently required.
A puddling-shaped mound with steep sides lies approximately 5m from the coast edge. It measures some 22m in diameter and stands up to 2.2m high. The summit is disturbed and the tops of some large stones are visible within the hollow. The surface of the mound is lumpy and uneven. There are further, more amorphous mounds to the north and east sides of the main mound. Over 90% of the overall site area is grass-covered. The large mound is separated from the coast edge by a track which appears to run over buried archaeological deposits.

There are extensive archaeological deposits visible nearby in the eroding coastal section. Here, the remains of several curvilinear walls and wall ends protrude from the section face. Towards the northern end of this exposure are the remains of a corbelled cell. These walls are all substantial drystone constructions formed from regularly coursed slabs. Interspersed between the walls are anthropogenic deposits containing inclusions of shell and bone. The exposure extends for some 90m, with up to 3m of archaeological deposits being visible above the level of the storm beach. These deposits extend below the level of the beach and the base of the section was not exposed.

Fair
Surveys

WT31
HY 4240 4952
Lean
Walling
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A length of ragged walling is visible in a short coastal exposure, located 120m to the south of the extensive settlement at W30. The walling is visible for over 10m and stands up to 0.75m high. There are no associated archaeological deposits visible in this section, although there are kelp pits cut into the ground surface in the hinterland nearby.
Poor
Monitor
WT32 (HY44 NW22)
HY 4227 4960
Houmess/Howamess, Noup
Substantial house/broch
1st millennium BC–1st millennium AD
Located on the coast edge
There are archaeological remains exposed in the coastal section over some 30m in length and up to 2.5m in depth. They comprise both structural and midden-type deposits. A wall face, standing to 1m high, and part of a slab partition now visible may be the same as features previously described as the inner wall face of a circular house and a radial partition, but they are not so readily interpretable as such now. The remains lie over till and are situated 2m above the level of the storm beach. The hinterland area has been levelled and disturbed by cattle trampling and there are no visible topographical features.
Poor
Survey

WT33 (HY44 NW40)
HY 4173 4941 TO HY 4195 4929
South of Our Ness
Boundary bank
Indeterminate
Elements located on the coast edge
A grass-covered bank, aligned at 90° to the coast edge, extends up a steep slope from the coast edge and is visible for some 250m. Here and there along its length there are stones protruding from beneath the turf covering. It is up to 2.5m wide and stands to a maximum height of 0.5m.
Fair
Survey
WT34
HY 4137 4904
Noup
Indeterminate remains
Indeterminate
Elements located on the coast edge
(i) Stone deposits are visible in an exposure, caused by aeolian erosion, to one side of a small oval mound. The mound, which is mostly grass-covered, measures 10m by 4m and stands up to 1.5m in height. It appears to be largely comprised of blown sand deposits which may have built up around a structure. The visible stone comprises slabs which have been set into a column along with several flat slabs, which may be part of a surface.
(ii) A second small grass-covered oval mound, situated 1.5m to the west of (i) measures 7m by 3m. It is aligned east-west and stands to 1m high. Some stone is visible in a small exposure on its seaward side; but it is not clear whether these deposits form part of a structure or are of natural origin.
(iii) A third mound, approximately 30m in diameter and 2m high, lies to the east side of a track leading to the beach. It is grass-covered and, again, appears to be largely composed of blown sand. A possible stone setting, which resembles a drain or cist, lies at the foot of the seaward side of this mound. The origin of this mound is unclear and it may be entirely natural, but as with (ii) above, it may represent a structure encased in a covering of blown sand.
Fair
Survey

WT37 (HY44 NW21)
HY 41 49
Noup
Alleged site of chapel
10th-14th C
A chapel is said to have stood close to the farmhouse at Noup. The site could not be found.
Not Located

WT35
HY 4113 4906
Noup
Noost
18th-20th C
Located on coast edge
An overgrown noost with drystone walls is situated some 2.5m above the head of a sandy beach, in the side of a large sand dune. It measures 4.5m in length and 1.75m in width. The walling stands up to 0.5m high and is formed into a point at the landward end.
Fair
Nil
WT36
HY 4080 4930
Clemnar
Earthan banks
Indeterminate
Located <10m from the coast edge
(i) A grass-covered earthan bank runs inland for over 100m from the coast edge up to a drystone field boundary. It is up to 7m in width and stands to 0.75m high. A kelp pit and the remains of drystone walling stand in the near vicinity.
(ii) A second bank, situated some 50m from (i) to the west side of Windy Geo, is aligned perpendicular to the coast edge. It is up to 2.5m in width and stands to 0.5m high. It extends inland for 60m or more; the coastal end is eroding.
(iii) At about 40m to the west side of (ii) there is an intermittent line of stones which may be part of a much reduced drystone dyke. The stones are aligned perpendicular to the coast and extend for over 100m. The remains of several kelp pits are situated nearby.
Fair
Survey

WT38
HY 4065 4934
Bare Geo
Walling and enclosures
18th-20th C
Located >50m from the coast edge
A ruined wall runs parallel with the coast edge for over 100m before turning a corner and extending inland, where it is very ruined and soon lost to sight. Two rectangular enclosures, probably plantcrubs, adjoin the coastal section of this wall. Their walls stand to 1.75m high and the interiors are overgrown with rough vegetation.
Fair
Nil
WT39
HY 3920 4995
Noup Head
Transmitter Station
20th C
Located <20m from the coast edge
Four concrete blocks arranged around a concrete shed. The site is disused and lies 1.5m from the coast edge, to the north side of the lighthouse
Fair
Nil

WT40 (HY34 NE3)
HY 3920 4990
Noup Head
Lighthouse: Listed (Category 'B')
18th-20th C
Located <20m from the coast edge
Designed by David Stevenson and built in 1896, the Noup Head lighthouse provides warning of the North Shoal. The light has been automated and the keepers cottages are sealed up. The surrounding area is a designated RSPB sanctuary with one of the largest colonies of kittiwakes and guillemots in Britain.
Good
Nil

WT172 (HY34 NE1)
HY 3921 4971
Noup Head
Mound
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A mound which measures 4.5m in diameter and 0.2m high may be the remains of a burial monument.
Fair
Survey

239
WT171 (HY34 NE2)
HY 3578 4859
Gentlemen’s Cave
Cave
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
This cave is reached by descending a long sloping ledge to the south side of Noup Head. It is said to have been used as a refuge by Jacobite lairds from the North Isles in 1746 (see also WT140).
Not Inspected

WT41
HY 408 478
Russa Taing
Kelp pits and bank
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
(i) A stone lined kelp pit measures 1.25m in diameter and is up to 0.2m deep. It is located in rough grass 15m from the coast edge and is filled with loose earth and stones.
(ii) A second kelp pit is located nearby, at a distance of 2m from the coast edge. It measures 1m in diameter and is filled with stones.
(iii) A third kelp pit, located 100m to the northeast of (ii), measures 1m in diameter and 0.25m in depth. It is lined with coursed masonry and slabs. It lies in rough grass, 25m from the coast edge and is filled with loose soil and stone deposits.
(iv) An earthen and stone bank runs inland from the coast edge, approximately 30m to the northeast side of (iii). It is up to 6m in width and stands to 1m in height. It is set perpendicular to the coast and is visible for 70m or more.
(v) The slight turf-covered footings of a rectilinear enclosure are visible in this area, at a distance of some 30m from the coast edge.
Fair
Nil

WT42
HY 4102 4786
Russa Taing
Noosts
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Two disused boat noosts are built, one behind the other, in the lee of a drystone wall. Defined by coursed drystone walling, both measure 3.5m in length by 1.75m in width and have pointed ends. The landward noost contains the remains of a wooden boat.
Fair
Nil
WT43
HY 4135 4795
Bisgeos
Mounds
Indeterminate
Located >50m from the coast edge
Two grass-covered mounds lie in a cultivated field. They form highly visible features in the landscape, although it is not certain if they are natural or artificial in origin.
(i) This mound lies some 80m from the coast edge. It is oval in shape and measures 1.5m by 9m and stands up to 1.7m high. It is irregularly shaped in that it is higher to the seaward side, sloping to an ill-defined edge on the landward side.
(ii) This mound lies 100m or more from the coast edge, behind field, and is also oval in shape. It measures 20m by 18m and stands to 2.75m high. There are stones visible in the upper part of the mound, but these may be superficial rather than structural.
Good
Survey

WT158
HY 4212 4622
Fincholey
Walling
18th-20th C
Located <20m from the coast edge
A drystone wall extends inland from the coast edge for 50m or more. It stands up to 0.75m high and is 0.75m wide. It is adjoined by several shorter stretches of walling, which form small crues.
Fair
Nil
WT45
HY 4195 4435
Between Flag Ber and Andrew Seatter’s Breast
Cairn
Indeterminate
Located <40m from the coast edge
An amorphous heap of stone, some 5m in diameter, is situated on flat grassland 40m from the coast edge. The heap may represent storm-cast up or quarry debris which has been ‘tidied’ into a heap rather than a site of any archaeological significance.
Poor
Monitor

WT46
HY 4240 4360
Close to Whey Geo
Sheep fold and dyke
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
A drystone dyke extends inland aligned at 90° to the coast edge. Its landward end is adjoined by a modern fence. A rectangular sheep fold adjoins the wall. Measuring 1.5m by 20m, its roughly coursed walls are 0.75m wide and up to 1.5m high.
Fair
Nil

WT47
HY 4240 4360
Hoo Noger, Bay of Kirbist
Structure, dykes, kelp pits and platforms
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
A ruinous structure is located in rough grass some 8m from the cliff edge. Measuring 10m by 6m, it is largely reduced to its foundations, although part of one gable end survives to a height of 3m. In the near vicinity are the remains of several ruinous drystone walls along with a series of kelp pits and rough stone platforms which are likely to be kelp working areas.
Fair
Nil
WT48
HY 4271 4345
Grassy Ber, Bay of Kirkist
Structure
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
A ruinous rectangular structure, probably a shed or store, lies 8m from the coast edge. It measures 8m by 4m and is aligned north-south. The gabled ends survive to a height of 3m. There are two doors: one in the north wall is 2.5m wide; that in the north-eastern wall is 1m wide. The walls are roughly coursed and bonded with mortar, the floor is paved and some structural timbers survive.
Fair
Nil

WT49
HY 4291 4299
Muckle Water
Indeterminate remains
Indeterminate
Located <20m from the coast edge
A very ruinous structure is indicated by two slabs set into the ground on edge at right angles to one another. The slabs measure 1.2m in length by 0.12m in thickness. The structure is set immediately behind a storm beach. It may be part of a kelp pit or a cist or a well/reservoir.
Poor
Nil

WT50 (HY44 SW6)
HY 4308 4295
West of Knowe of Burristoe
Structure and boundary banks
10th-14th C
Elements located on the coast edge
A rectangular or sub-rectangular structure is indicated by grass-covered wall footings. It is located on short, rough grass some 30m from the coast edge. It measures 10m by 6.2m and is aligned east-northeast-west-southwest. The walls appear to be about 1m wide and to be faced on both sides. The north end wall may be curved or bowed, while the entrance may have been set in the south end wall. Two large sub-rectangular fields are defined by turf-covered wall footings. The walls adjoin the structure and the fields lie to its seaward side. This structure was previously interpreted as a prehistoric house and field system, but a re-examination suggests that it is more likely to be of later date and could represent a chapel rather than a house.
Good
Survey

243
WT51 (HY44 SW1)
HY 4317 4291
Knowe of Burristae
Broch: Scheduled (HS Index 1.452)
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD
Located on the coast edge
A grass-covered mound sited on the coast edge and a row of upright slabs on the beach constitute the visible remains of a broch which has been badly damaged by coastal erosion. The surviving portion represents an area of about 10m by 5m of the central part of the interior. A feature previously described as a door lintel can now be more clearly seen; it may be part of an intra-mural cell but alternatively may be of more modern origin. The scarcement remains visible as does an internal partition, which extends on to the beach as a row of upright stones. The walls stand up to 4m above the level of the beach. The interior is filled with quantities of collapsed stone and deposits containing quantities of pottery, much of which is of a well-fired red fabric type. There is also much shell and bone present, including large fragments of antler.
This site, although damaged, deserves consideration as a candidate for further work. Erosion has provided a natural section through the entire structure of the broch making it amenable to investigation and recording with a minimum of disturbance. The surviving walls and structural deposits appear to be well-preserved, while the anthropogenic soil deposits are well stratified, survive to 4m or more and are rich in artefactual and ecofactual inclusions.
Fair
Survey
WT60 (HY44 SW16)
HY 431 429
Kirbiest
Alleged site of chapel
10-14th C
The existence of a chapel in this area is suggested by the place name 'Kirbiest'. A site has not been identified and it has been suggested that it is most likely to have been located in the vicinity of the farmsteads at West, Mid and East Kirbiest.
Not located

WT61 (HY44 SW12)
HY 4331 4281
Ayre of Burristae
Mound
Indeterminate
Previous survey have recorded a low rectangular mound at the back shore of the Ayre of Burristae. The mound is said to have measured 3m by 2.5m and to be associated with a pair of flat slabs and a pair of upright slabs. This site could not be relocated.
Not located

WT82 (HY44 SW13)
HY 4344 4256
Langskail
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <10m from the coast edge
An amorphous grassy mound measures 4.5m in diameter and stands up to 0.2m high. The tips of several stones protrude through the grass near to its summit. It may be of natural origin.
Fair
Monitor

WT52
HY 435 423 TO HY 440 419
Bersit Ness
Kelp pits and drying wall
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
A series of ruined kelp pits and drying walls are located close to the coast edge in the area between Cuin Geo and Bersit Ness.
Fair
Nil
WT53 (HY44 SW2)
HY 4414 4181
Knowe of Skea
Settlement
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located on the coast edge
A large amorphous mound, measuring 26m in diameter, is situated on the extreme tip of Berst Ness. The land on which it is sited is becoming cut off by the sea and is currently joined to the Ness by a low-lying shoulder of sea-washed rock. There are several short exposures to the south side of the mound, caused by coastal erosion. Here, fragments of animal bone, shell, burnt material and pot which may be of Bronze Age date, form inclusions within anthropogenic soil deposits. Occasional protruding stones provide an indication that the mound may cover structural remains. The centre of the mound lies 5m from the coast edge and the site is very vulnerable to further erosion.
Good Survey

WT54 (HY44 SW3)
HY 440 420
Berst Ness
Structures: houses or cairns
3rd-1st millennium BC
Elements located <20m from the coast edge
The remains of four circular structures are situated around the tip of Berst Ness. They are spread out over an area of about one hectare, on level ground. The structures have been variously identified by previous surveyors as both cairns and houses. There are also several kelp pits located in the nearby area.
(i) A grassy mound 12m in diameter stands up to 2m high. The centre of the mound has been disturbed and several stones of a structural nature are visible. The concentration of structural stone in this position within the mound is more suggestive of a chamber within a cairn, rather than a house. There are occasional stones visible around the periphery of the mound which may be part of a kerb. A modern marker cairn has been built to one side.

(ii) An annular earthen bank encloses an area measuring some 8m in overall diameter. The bank stands to an average height of 0.5m high and the inner side is faced with upright stones. The interior area is sunken some 0.2m below the level of the surrounding ground surface. This site appears to have been robbed of stone and is not now readily interpreted as either a cairn or a house from surface examination alone.

(iii) An earthen bank encloses an area some 12m in overall diameter, encompassing a central area of some 5.5m diameter. It stands between 0.75m and 1m high and has an external stone revetment or kerb; there are some indications that it may also have an inner facing of stone. This structure is tentatively identified as a house. A single upright slab which is situated about 2m to the south-southwest may be the remains of an associated boundary.

(iv) This amorphous grassy mound has a dip to its centre and may represent the collapsed remains of an earthen banked enclosure or house. Overall, the mound stands up to 1m high and measures some 15m in diameter; the dipped central area is 6m in diameter. There are indications that the central area was defined by stone revetting. Good Survey

WT55 (HY44 SW17)
HY 4411 4215
Torristsaig, Brirst Ness
Noosts
18th-20th C

Located on coast the edge
A noost was recorded previously in this area, but could not be located from the grid reference supplied. That site may be equivalent to one or other of the noosts at this location.

(i) A noost is set into the banks and further defined by earthen banks. The base is roughly paved. The noost measures 4m by 6m and has a rounded end. It issues out onto flat rocks

(ii) A second noost lies 5m from (i) but is set parallel to the coast edge. It is cut in to the banks and utilises protruding rock as part of its wall. It measures 8m by 6m, is up to 1.2m deep and has a pointed end and roughly paved base. It issues out onto a sandy beach. Fair

Nil

247
WT56
HY 4416 4295
Mae Sand
Isolated deposits: old ground surface and hearth area
3rd-1st millennium BC
Elements located <20m from the coast edge
An examination of aerial photographs taken in 1948 indicates that some deflation was occurring at this time. Photographs taken in 1987 show only a slight worsening in the situation. The finding of this survey indicate that there has been a substantial increase in the rate of deflation since 1987, with larger areas of the site now denuded and eroding. This situation appears to be largely caused by quarrying. Sand extraction has removed deep deposits of blown sand, exposing remnants of an old ground surface. This surface contains discreet concentrations of shell and bone and probable anthropogenic deposits. The only feature which could be clearly identified was a setting of small stones surrounding a bed of horizontal slabs, tentatively identified as a hearth. This measured 2m by 1m and was associated with organic soils containing a small amount of bone and shell. The entire area required thorough survey and continued monitoring, since the ground surface and associated deposits, which may be of considerable date, are exposed and very vulnerable to erosion.
Fair
Survey

WT62 (HY44 SW20)
HY 445 429
Mae Sand
Site of Cists
Indeterminate
Not located
Four or five cists were uncovered at this locality during ploughing in the 1950's. One cist is said to have contained a crouched inhumation. The cists are no longer visible.
WT58 (HY44 SW11)
HY 4479 4315
Kestro
Settlement
Indeterminate
Located >100m from the coast edge
A large amorphous turf-covered mound lies over 100m from the coast edge. It measures 30m in diameter and stands up to 2m high. The surface of the mound and its surrounding area has been disturbed in the past and there are traces of structural stone over a wide area. The scale of these remains, together with the evidence for midden-type deposits visible in small occasional exposures, would suggest that the site represents an extensive settlement, probably of prehistoric date. A quarry, situated between the mound and the coast edge contains traces of stone walling and structures, but these are likely to be of later date than those associated with the mound.
Fair
Survey

WT63 (HY44 SW10)
HY 4471 4314
Kestro
Site of Cist
Indeterminate
Not located
A short cist containing an inhumation was uncovered in the 1970's at this location. The cist is said to have been found in an incomplete state and had probably already been disturbed. The site now lies within a pasture field and is no longer visible.

WT57 (HY44 SW18)
HY 4486 4298
Tuquoy Links
Noosts
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Eight noosts, defined by turf-covered walls, lie 2m or so behind the coast edge. The walls stand to 1.1m high and they measure approximately 3.6m long by 2.2m wide. They face out onto flat rocks. Two further noosts lie nearby. These are not so clearly visible and may be older. They have pointed ends and are about half the size of the others.
Fair
Monitor

249
WT59
HY 4501 4317
Kestro
Structure and anthropogenic deposits
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge

Fragments of walling and anthropogenic deposits are exposed in an eroding coastal section for over 50m. The topography of the immediate hinterland area indicates the presence of sub-surface deposits, but there are no clear indications of structural remains. The deposits in section are covered by wind blown sand and topsoil and turf to a depth of 0.4m. These deposits are described as they occur moving from west to east.

(i) To the west end of the section, deposits of structural stone, probably the remains of walling, are interspersed with highly organic soils. These deposits extend for 20m or so and are up to 0.5m thick.

(ii) A length of drystone walling, over 0.5m high, extends for 8m or so and is associated with soil containing frequent shell and occasional large charcoal fragments. The wall is only partially exposed; the base lies below the level of the beach.

(iii) Further deposits of rubble and midden extend for 20m.

(iv) Two fragments of walling extend over an area of some 30m and probably represent parts of a single structure. One length of walling measures 10m in length and stands up to 1.5m high; it runs parallel to the section face. The other fragment protrudes from the section face at an oblique angle. Both walls are constructed from regularly coursed thin slabs, bonded with clay and finished to a high quality. Together, they appear to form two sides of a rectilinear structure, the corner of which has been removed by coastal erosion. Neither wall is uncovered in its entirety since the base of the section is obscured by slumped turves. There are well-stratified anthropogenic deposits associated with this walling; a band of peatash up to 0.2m thick, is interspersed between soil deposits containing fish, mammal and bird bone.

Survey and assessment is highly recommended at this site which is very vulnerable to further losses.

Fair
Survey

250
WT65 (HY44 SE5)
Hy 4546 4313
Tuquoy
Settlement: Site proposed for scheduling in 1999
10th-14th C
Located on the coast edge
The extensive remains of a high-status Norse settlement extend for over 100m parallel to
the coast. The eroding coastal section contains frequent lengths of walling, relating to a
series of separate structures, along with associated features such as drains, pits and
paved surfaces. The site has been partially excavated over several seasons in the 1980's
and early 1990's (Owen, 1993). The current section face has changed little since the last
season of work in 1993; the majority of the features which were then visible could be
relocated. Where there has been recent damage, this has removed no more than 0.5m
of the section face and then only in isolated areas. What is more worrying, however, is
the degree to which the section has been undercut by the sea. The softer deposits at the
base of the section have been scoured out, creating an overhang of between 0.5m to
1m in depth. There has been very little turf regeneration over the 1993 cuttings and thus
the exposed deposits, which
include heavy masonry, are
very vulnerable to further
erosion.
Fair
Monitor

WT64 (HY44 SE1)
Hy 4530 4315
Cross Kirk or Westside Church, Tuquoy
Church and graveyard: Scheduled (H5 Index 90312), Listed (Category B)
10th-14th C
Located on the coast edge
This 12th C chapel lies close to a Norse site of high status (WT65) and has been
tentatively ascribed to Hofliki Thorkelsson. It originally had a barrel-vaulted chancel,
measuring 2.87m long by 2.1m, but is now roofless. The original rounded arch doorway
and one lancet window survive. The nave was originally 4.1m wide by 5.56m long but
was later lengthened to 14.17m by removing the west wall. A rounded arch, supported
on slightly inclined jambs, separates the nave from the chancel. These changes are
usually ascribed to the 13th C, although the moulding which surrounds the later
doorway are considered to be of 16th-17th C date and may be contemporary with the
use of the chapel as a parish church. It is surrounded by a small graveyard. The site,
which is in guardianship, is protected by a sea wall and has been consolidated for
public access.
Good
Monitor
WT67 (HY44 SE9)
Hy 4593 4325
Ness of Tuquoy
Settlement
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located on the coast edge
A comparison between what was visible during this survey and what was previously recorded indicates that this site has suffered severe erosion and substantial archaeological deposits have been lost since the early 1980's. There are traces of very degraded walling, together with anthropogenic midden-type deposits visible over a distance of 1.5m in the eroding coastal section. The upper 0.3m of the section is made up of topsoil and turf; below this the archaeological deposits are visible for 2m above the level of the storm beach. Fragments of walling, in very poor condition, stand to a height of 0.4m or six courses high. There are several upright slabs and edge-set stone nearby, but it is difficult to determine any form. The associated soil deposits contain infrequent shell fragments. There are slight topographic indications that further remains survive in the immediate hinterland area. The ruins of an 18th-20th C farmstead lie above this site. Assessment is urgently required.
Fair
Survey

WT68
Hy 4590 4369
Bay of Tuquoy
Noaa, kelp pits and walls
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
(i) Around the Ness of Tuquoy there are numerous kelp pits and the remains of rubble walls used for kelp-drying. There are also several stone platforms for kelp working.
(ii) Four adjoining noas occupy level ground 6m from the coast edge. They are defined by walls of rough beach stone which stand up to 1m high. The largest measures 5m by 5m; the remainder are, on average, 5m long by 3m wide. They are very overgrown and one contains an old wooden boat.
Fair
Nil
WT69 (HY44 SE12)
HY 4542 4397
Tuqoy
Mound
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A concentration of collapsed and slumping stonework is visible in a coastal exposure measuring 7m in length. One small column of stone stands to 0.45m or five courses in height, nearby a spread of stone may be part of a very degraded wall which is aligned parallel to the section face. A small pit is also visible in section. These deposits lie beneath 0.3m of top soil and turf and over bedrock. To the rear of the exposure, behind a road which runs parallel to the coast edge, there is a small mound which may be associated with these deposits. The mound is oval in shape, measuring 4m by 3m, and stands up to 1m high. It is turf-covered. A milestone has been set into one side of this mound. The site is vulnerable to destruction and requires assessment.
Poor
Survey

WT73
HY 4605 4492
Nethergarth
Farmstead
18th-20th C
Elements located <10m from the coast edge
A farmstead comprising one dwelling house and a range of outbuildings and small sheds extends along the coast edge for over 100m. The dwelling house is aligned end-on to the coast and measures 10m by 8m. The coursed, mortar-bonded walls stand up to 3m at the gables. The exterior is harled. Inside, two hearths are set into either end wall. There is a single, central doorway which is flanked by two glazed windows. The front of the house looks onto a walled garden plot. To either side of the house are a series of byres and sheds. These buildings have flagstone roofs which are now in a state of disrepair.
Good
Nil
WT70 (HY44 SE3)

HY 4644 4473

Hodgalee

Broch, settlement, noots

1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD

Elements located on the coast edge

This site has suffered further serious coastal erosion since it was examined in 1990. The relationship between the broch and the settlement centred on the house which is visible in section cannot be easily determined without recourse to excavation and should not be assumed to be of contemporary date; the extent of remains in this area may indicate that it was a focus of activity and occupation over a long duration. A more thorough assessment of the remains is now overdue and should be carried out without delay.

(i) Part of a large overgrown mound, which probably originally measured up to 50m by 30m, stands up to 5m high. The seaward side of the mound has been removed by coastal erosion. There are traces of stone structural remains visible in the side and at the top of the mound. The coastal section in front of the mound is overgrown and disturbed, and although structural remains are visible, it is difficult to discern their nature. A cut feature, possibly a ditch, was noted to the southeast side of the mound and a series of upright slabs intervene between the mound and structure (ii). The scale and nature of this mound suggests that it covers a substantial building such as a broch.

(ii) To the southeast side of the mound, there are extensive structural and midden deposits visible in section for almost 100m. The walls of a circular or sub-circular structure, some 12m in diameter, are exposed. The walls are up to 1.75m wide and protrude from the section at an oblique angle. The structure is filled with and covered by shell-rich deposits; an ard tip was also noted within these deposits.

(iii) Two noots, probably of 18th-20th C date, lie nearby. They measure approximately 2m by 6m, have pointed ends and are very overgrown.

Good Survey
WT74
HY 4670 4471
Garth
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <10m from the coast edge
A grassy mound is situated to the east side of Hodgalee (WT70). It measures 30m by 15m and stands up to 1.5m high. There are no indications of any structural elements but the mound appears not to be of natural origin.
Fair
Survey

WT71 (HY44 SE8)
HY 4673 4472
Links of Garth
Mound
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
An amorphous grass-covered mound lies on the coast edge and has been cut back by coastal erosion. It measures 100m by 60m and stands up to 6m high. There are slight indications of structural stones visible in an exposure to the southeast side but it is not possible to determine what form is represented.
Fair
Survey

WT72
HY 4686 4482
Garth
Structure
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
A single storied rectangular structure, measuring 6m by 4m internally, is aligned end-on to the sea. The walls are between 0.75 and 1m in thickness. The flagstone roof is ruinous and the interior of the building is now filled with blown sand. A single door faces on to the sea in the gable end, while two opposed windows, one of which has been blocked up, are set into the landward end of the side walls. There is a hearth set into the landward gable end. The walls are bonded with mortar and are regularly coursed and rendered on the interior. The structure appears to have served as a dwelling, and latterly as a store.
Good
Nil
WT87
HY 4731 4455
Taphland
Pit
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A pit cut is exposed in the coastal section, beneath a covering of turf and topsoil. It measures 2.3m in width and is 1.6m deep. It is filled with dark brown silty sand deposits and stone and may be a kelp pit.
Fair
Nil

WT88 (HY44 SE10)
HY 4734 4447
Taphland
Noost
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
A noost, set into the banks, measures 3m long by 1.8m wide and is up to 1.2m deep. The sides are revetted with stone and there are slight indications that the base was paved. Where the noost probably originally sat at the top of a slope, through the effects of erosion it is now located above an eroding vertical section at a distance of 1.4m above the beach. It is now very overgrown.
Fair
Nil

WT89
HY 4733 4442
Taphland
Well
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A stone-line well is revealed in an eroding coastal section. Up to one third of the structure has been lost to erosion. It measures 1.2m in diameter at the upper end, diminishing to 0.75 at the base. It is 1m deep and is capped by flagstones. The base is cut into wet till. The revetted walls are regularly coursed but apparently unbonded.
Good
Nil
WT90
HY 4744 4424
Branstone Hill
Structure, mound and noost
18th-20th C

Located on the coast edge
An unusual structure, which may be of early 18th C date is eroding over low banks. It is
associated with a mound and a noost and may have served as a fishing booth or
storehouse. The remains of several land drains are exposed in section in front of the
structure.
(i) A ruinous rectangular structure, measuring 4m by 9m, is located on the coast edge
and has been damaged by coastal erosion. There is a door to the northeast corner and
a window in the east wall. The walls are up to 1m thick and the window aperture is
recessed and is smaller on the exterior than on the interior. There are hearths at either
end of the building, both appear to be secondary additions. The walls stand up to 2.5m
high at the gables and traces survive of a flagstone roof.
(ii) An amorphous grass-covered mound lies to the north side of the structure (i). It
measures 8m in diameter and stands up to 1m high.
(iii) A noost is cut into the banks directly in front of the structure. It has drystone walls and
terminates in a pointed end. It measures 2m in width and survives to a length of 2.5m,
the remainder having been eroded away. It is up to 0.5m deep.
Fair
Survey

WT91
HY 4815 4372
Cubbigeo
Noosts
18th-20th C

Located on the coast edge
Four noosts are located at the head of the foreshore, close to occupied houses,
outbuildings and a concrete slipway. The noosts are formed from slabs set up on end
and they have pointed ends. On average, they measure 5m by 2m and all are roughly
paved. A winch lies close by.
Fair
Nil
WT92
HY 4831 4349
Grinaby
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A line of stones is exposed in the eroding coastal section. The stones extend for 2.5m and are coursed to a height of 0.3m or three courses. They are covered by topsoil and turf and sit over till. There are no topographic indications of further remains in the hinterland area.
Poor
Monitor

WT93
HY 4838 4329
Grinaby
Structures and mound
18th-20th C
Elements located <20m from the coast edge
The very depleted remains of two structures lie to the seaward side of a modern fence; a mound lies close by but is not necessarily associated.
(i) The corner of a rectangular building survives to a maximum height of 2.2m. The stonework is bonded with mortar. One angle survives to a length of 3.5m; the other is 6m long. The latter wall contains a window aperture.
(ii) Part of the side of a second building, which has also been comprehensively robbed out, extends for 8m and stands up to 2m high. This wall also contains a window.
(iii) An amorphous grass-covered mound lies 20m from the coast edge. It is 10m in diameter and stands to 1m high. The surface is pitted and disturbed.
Fair
Nil

WT94
HY 4851 4295
Hamar
Noosts
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Two noosts, each measuring 6m by 2m, are set into the head of the banks. Both have walls of coursed drystone. The landward ends are rounded and they have both been reduced in length by coastal erosion.
Fair
Nil
WT95
HY 487 427
Hamar
Mound
Indeterminate
Elements located on the coast edge
A lumpy, mounded, grass-covered headland measures 50m by 50m and is 2m high. The surface of the mound is pitted and although there are no clear indications, there is at least a suggestion of buried structural remains. It is also possible, however, that this mound is of relatively recent origin, since there are heaps of modern rubble and debris in the nearby vicinity.
Fair
Survey

WT96 (HY44 SE4)
HY 4898 4263
Loch of Wasbist
Burnt mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located 100m+ from the coast edge
A grass-covered burnt mound lies on marshy ground at the northeast margin of the loch, some 110m from the coast edge. It was disturbed at some time prior to the 1920's, but is said to have originally measured 17m by 9m and to have stood to 1.4m high.
Fair
Nil

WT97
HY 4889 4250
Loch of Wasbist
Structure and mound
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
(i) A disused shed with one door and two window apertures measures 5m by 4m and stands up to 3m high. The roof is angled from the facade downward to the back wall, which is at a lower level. The exterior is harled. It stands end-on to the sea and has been damaged by coastal erosion.
(ii) A group of modern buildings at Hamar, located over 100m from the coast edge, are built over a large mound which may be a farm or settlement mound of prehistoric/early historic date.
Fair
Nil
WT98
HY 4910 4226
Tatfend Farm
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <20m from the coast edge
A large, amorphous grass-covered mound is located beyond the outbuildings at the north end of Tatfend Farm. It is up to 50m in diameter and stands up to 2m high. There are no visible archaeological deposits nor any clear indications of buried structural remains but it is highly probable that this site is a settlement mound of prehistoric/early historic date.
Good
Survey

WT130 (HY44 SE11)
HY 4963 4171
Tatf
Settlement mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located on the coast edge
A large grass-covered mound lies adjacent to the coast edge. It measures 40m in diameter and stands up to 6m high. Here and there stones protrude through the turf, but it is difficult to discern if these are associated with the buried remains or are remnants of later agricultural features. The seaward side of the mound has been truncated by coastal erosion but the regeneration of turf in this area obscures any exposures. Previously, midden material including animal and bird bone and shell were noted in section. The scale of this mound suggest that it may cover a substantial structure such as a broch, or a multi-period settlement. It should be assessed in the near future since it is very vulnerable to further damage from coastal erosion.
Good
Survey

WT131 (HY54 SW9)
HY 4963 4171
Tatf
Farmstead
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
A dwelling house together with a series of outbuildings are located on top of the mound at Tatf (WT130). The house measures 12m by 5m and stands up to 5m high at the gables; the roof is intact. The outbuildings are in a more ruinous state and their roofs have largely collapsed.
Fair
Nil
WT129
HY 5015 4055
Snaky Noust
Bank and hollow way
Indeterminate
Elements located on the coast edge
A grass-covered earthen and stone bank runs at 90° to the coast edge. In places there
are large slabs protruding from beneath the turf. One large slab forming a fence post
lies at the seaward end of the bank. It measures 1.5m wide, stands up to 0.5m high and
is visible for over 100m inland. A hollow track runs parallel to the bank.
Fair
Nil

WT127 (HY54 SW12)
HY 5013 4049
Stancro
Probable burial mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located <20m from the coast edge
A grassy mound lies 30m to the north of WT126 (i) and 16m from the coast edge. It
measures 8m in diameter and stands up to 0.5m high. Several stones protrude through
the turf around the sides of the mound.
Fair
Nil

WT126 (HY54 SW11)
HY 5006 4044
Stancro
Burial cairns
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located <10m from the coast edge
Two excavated burial cairns are located in a pasture field, adjacent to the coast edge
(Barber, Duffy & O’Sullivan, 1996). Both mounds have been ravaged by erosion in recent
times and are vulnerable to further damage. The excavated cairns have been backfilled.
Slight topographic features indicate the possible presence of further archaeological
remains in the area.
(i) This cairn has been truncated by coastal erosion. Excavation revealed a cairn
constructed of random rubble retained by a drystone kerb. It contained a central cist.
The cairn is estimated to have had an overall diameter of 14m, it stood to 0.5m high.
Deposits underlying the cist were dated to 2955±30 BP.
(ii) This cairn was partially excavated. It lies 4m southeast of (i) and close to the coast
dge. Measuring 9m in diameter; it stood to 0.8m high prior to excavation. It was similar
in construction to cairn (i). A central cist contained burnt bone.
Fair
Survey
WT128
HY 5006 4037
Stancro
Probable burial mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located <10m from the coast edge
A low, amorphous grass-covered mound lies in a pasture field, adjacent to that which contains probable burial mounds WT126 and WT127. It measures 12m in diameter and stands up to 0.5m high. To the southwest periphery there are three large stones protruding from beneath the turf which may be part of a cist structure; this measures 1.25m by 0.5m.
Fair
Survey
WT125 (HY44 SE2)
HY 4998 4008
Peterkirk
Chapel and settlement mound
3rd-1st millennium BC, 10th-14th C
Located on the coast edge
A large, amorphous mound measures 25m in diameter and stands up to 2m high. The sides of the mound are pitted and structural remains are revealed both in the side of the mound and in a coastal exposure to the seaward side. Structures (i) and (ii) are set into a mound which appears to predate them. A short exposure in the seaward side of the mound reveals stone-midden deposits with peat ash and inclusions of bone, shell, charcoal and worked whalebone. It would appear that these deposits derive from an earlier period of settlement, possibly associated with structure (iii).
(i) To the south side of the mound a rectangular structure may be the chapel which is alleged to have stood on this site. It measures 7m by 3.5m internally and is defined by coursed walling which protruded from beneath a turf covering. Inside, there is a central division formed by an upright slab set at 90° to the inner wall face.
(ii) To the west side of the mound there is a length of substantial walling which is visible for almost 10m and stands to at least 0.3m high. It may form an outer wall face to the chapel (i) or part of an associated enclosure wall.
(iii) To the northwest side of the mound an oval depression appears to form the interior of a structure. There is some stone visible to the sides of this depression which may be walling. This putative structure measures 5m wide by 6m long.
This site is very vulnerable to further losses and requires thorough assessment as soon as possible.
Fair
Survey

WT124 (HY54 SW6)
HY 5002 4006
Peterkirk
Possible burial mounds
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located on the coast edge
(i) An amorphous mound measures 11m northwest-southeast by 6m and stands to 0.3m high. It has been partially eroded by the sea and some stone is exposed in the coastal section. Previously, it was recorded that an upright slab was set into the ground to the northwest side of the mound, but this is no longer visible.
(ii) The very slight remains of a mound are indicated by a few stones visible in the coastal section. These sites have already been much reduced by erosion and are vulnerable to being completely removed in the near future. Assessment is urgently required.
Fair, Nil
WT123
HY 5010 3982
West Sous
Structure
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
A dilapidated stone structure has a concrete base and a slab roof. It lies 6m from the coast edge and measures 7m by 5m. The walls stand up to 4m high at the gable ends, which are crow-stepped. There is a block of drystone buttressing built against one of the side walls. Several concrete bars have been placed over the slab roof, presumably for protection. The walls are roughly coursed and are bonded with mortar. There is a single door in the landward gable end. The structure is currently in use as a store.
Fair
Nil

WT122
HY 5011 3980
West Sous
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <20m from the coast edge
An oval, grassy mound measures 9m by 6m and is aligned northeast-southwest. It stands up to 0.75m high and has an uneven surface. There are no archaeological deposits visible within the mound or in the surrounding area.
Fair
Survey

WT121
HY 495 385
Ness
Kelp drying walls and kelp pits
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
A series of kelp-drying structures are indicated by drystone pillars set up close to the coast edge and several large driftwood poles strewn about nearby. There are occasional stone-filled kelp pits in the surrounding area.
Fair
Nil

266
WT120
HY 495 385
Geo of Lincro
Earthen and stone bank
Indeterminate
Elements located on the coast edge
The remains of a boundary bank, constructed from earth and stone, forms a corner at
the coast edge. It extends inland for at least 50m. It is up to 3m wide and stands to a
maximum height of 0.3m. The remains of a rubble-built kelp drying wall are located
nearby.
Fair
Nil

WT119 (HY53 NW9)
HY 5003 3963
Rapness
Burial mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located <10m from the coast edge
An oval mound, which has been much reduced, is set against the slope near to the tip of
Rapness. It measures 10m east-west by 7m and lies 5m from the coast edge. There are
two upright slabs set into the top of the mound which appear to form part of a cist
structure. It is not entirely clear if the mound is of artificial or natural origin.
Fair
Survey

WT118
HY 5019 3920
Benziecott
Enclosure and noots
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
(i) A drystone enclosure is aligned parallel to the banks, adjacent to the coast edge. It
encloses an area 14m by 14m and the walls stand up to 1.1m. Part of the seaward
side wall has been removed by coastal erosion. It appears to have been used as a
plantcrub.
(ii) Two noots, measuring 2.5m wide and 3.5m long have drystone walls. They are
located on the top of the banks overlooking the foreshore.
Fair
Nil
WT117 (HY53 NW10)
HY 5025 3943
Rapness
Site of noots
18th-20th C
Four stone built noots have been recorded in the area between the road and the head of Sandy Geo. They are no longer visible.
Not Located

WT116 (HY53 NW5)
HY 5020 3950
Crow Tua or Crow Tuo
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <50m from the coast edge
A large grassy mound has the appearance of an artificial construction. It measures 30m in diameter and stands up to 2.5m high. There are no clear indications of any archaeological deposits within or surrounding the mound. Upwards of 15% of the surface is denuded and damaged by cattle poaching.
Fair
Survey

WT115 (HY54 SSW)
HY 5059 4014
Claybraes
Site of burnt mounds and grassy mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located <100m from the coast edge
(i) Two burnt mounds once stood to the east side of the road, opposite a house at Claybraes. They have been destroyed.
(ii) A slight grassy mound in the same field may either be the remains of one of these burnt mounds or a previously unidentified site. It measures 20m in diameter and stands up to 1m high.
Fair
Nil

WT114
HY 5076 4020
Whitelet
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A coastal exposure, measuring 20m long by 1m high, contains the remnants of a coursed masonry structure. There are no associated deposits, although a slight rise in ground level behind the section may indicate the presence of further buried remains.
Fair
Survey

268
WT113
HY 5076 4032
Sands of Helzie
Noosts
18th-20th C.
Located on the coast edge
Three overgrown noosts are set into the grass at the head of the beach. They are defined by drystone walls and measure 5m by 2m and are up to 1m deep. The landward ends of the noosts are rounded. They have all been diminished by erosion.
Fair
Nil

WT132 (HY54 SW9)
HY 5104 4081
Sands of Woo
Noosts
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
Four noosts lie close to the track leading to the shore. Another four, located nearby, do not survive so well.
Fair
Nil

WT133 (HY54 SW16)
HY 5111 4086
Sands of Woo
Mound
Indeterminate
A probable settlement mound was previously recorded at this location. Described as a steep-sided mound, it is said to have measured 60m by 20m and stood over 2m high. Some stonework was visible to the northwest side of this mound, where it had been damaged by quarrying. The area is now very overgrown and the site could not be definitely relocated.
Not Located
Monitor

WT134
HY 5164 4069
Stairies Geo
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Located <10m from the coast edge
(i) Three sides of a small box-type feature are formed from upright slabs set into the ground. It measures 0.4m by 0.35m and is located 8m from the coast edge. It may represent part of a kelp pit of 18th-20th C date.
A length of coursed masonry is revealed in a coastal exposure. It occurs towards the top of a slight rise and measures 1.3m in length by 0.35m high. It is covered by topsoil and turf and is built over subsoil and till. This feature does not appear to be of any great age and may also be associated with kelp working.

At a distance of 40m to the southeast of (i) the sea has truncated a mound and stonework is visible in the coastal exposure. The top of the mound is covered by grass and no further structural elements are visible. The stonework comprises random slabs which cannot be readily interpreted. They are covered by 0.3m of topsoil and turf and sit over subsoil and till.

The remains of a kelp-drying wall are located 30m to the southeast of (iii). Close by, part of an old boundary, formed from upright slabs, is set at 90° to the coast edge. Fair Monitor

**WT135**

HY 5198 4054
Sand Geo
Mound and structure
Indeterminate
Elements located on the coast edge

(i) A grassy mound is situated in rough grassland between marshy ground and the coast edge. It measures approximately 7m in diameter and stands up to 1m high; it lies 10m from the coast edge. There are occasional stones protruding through the turf on the sides of the mound, while the top of the mound is pitted. Since there are no exposures, it is not clear what material the mound is composed of, but it may possibly be a burnt mound.

(ii) A concentration of earthfast slabs define an enclosure, possibly a noost, which measures 4.4m by 9m. It lies immediately adjacent to the coast edge. The stones are covered with lichen and appear to have been exposed to the elements for a long period of time. Fair Survey

**WT136**

HY 520 405 TO HY 521 407
Weather Ness
Boundary bank
Indeterminate
Elements located on the coast edge

A grass-covered bank extends across the tip of Weatherness. It is aligned at 90° to the coast edge and measures 7m in width by 1.2m in height. It is visible for over 300m. There appear to be traces of a field system associated with this bank and the area requires a thorough survey. Fair Survey

270
WT139
HY 5239 4030
The Ship
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
Several earthfast slabs protrude from the turf at the landward tip of Weather Ness. No clear form or origin could be ascertained, particularly since the surrounding area is covered with hummocks of grass and thrift. This site may be the burial place of shipwrecked men from North Ronaldsay, in common with, or perhaps instead of, WT138. It lies about 3m from the coast edge and is very vulnerable to erosion.
Poor
Survey

WT137 (HY54 SW8)
HY 5218 4051
Weather Ness
Enclosure
Indeterminate
Located <20m from the coast edge
A substantial grass-covered bank encloses a rectangular area measuring approximately 25m by 16m. There are slight traces of a stone revetment to the inner side of this bank. The bank has slumped and spread to a width of about 4m. The ground level inside the enclosure is about 0.5m higher than that outside, suggesting that it has been enriched or augmented for cultivation. On the coast edge nearby, there are several kelp pits and fragments of drystone walling.
Fair
Survey

WT138 (HY54 SW13)
HY 5215 4060
Weather Ness
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <10m from the coast edge
A slight rise, which may be natural, has several stones protruding. The stones appear to define a roughly oval shape, measuring approximately 10m by 8m. If the site is interpreted as a house, these stones may form part of an inner revetment. In this case, the external dimensions of such a house would be about 14m by 12m. This interpretation is somewhat problematic, however, in that the supposed interior of the house is not dished but rather mounded and there are no other indications of associated structural remains. For this reason, the traditional interpretation of this site as the burial place of a group of shipwrecked men from North Ronaldsay cannot be dismissed without the benefit of an assessment.
Fair
Survey
WT140 (HY54 SW10)

HY 5165 4191
Gentlemen’s Ha’
Cave
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
A cave that lies half way up the cliff face on the eastern side of Rapness is said to have
been used as a refuge by Jacobite lairds from the North Isles in 1746 (see also WT171).
The site is accessible in good weather but was not visited on this occasion due to windy
conditions.
Not Inspected

WT141

HY 5080 4278
Bight of Stanger Head
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <100m from the coast edge
An elongated grassy mound or ridge is located about 80m from the coast edge and
may be of entirely natural origin. It measures 13m by 30m and stands up to 1.25m high.
It has gently sloping sides and is aligned northwest-southeast.
Fair
Survey
WT142 (HY54 SW7)
HY 5039 4292
Castle of Burrian
Stack site
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD
Located on the coast edge
Structural remains have been previously observed on this stack site, which is now readily accessible now. The footings of two contiguous sub-rectangular buildings were noted. The footings were covered with turf but appeared to have been constructed from a mixture of earth and stone. Both buildings had bowed walls and were said to exhibit similarities with buildings at the Brough of Deerness. The northernmost building, which was the smaller of the two, measured 9m by 5m. The larger building measured 10.5m by 5.5m. It had traces of a circular cell to the west side and a possible entrance in its north side. Traces of walling were also noted at the approach to the west side of the north-eastern end of the stack. The site has been tentatively identified as a monastic retreat of Early Christian date. This has not been tested, however, and some form of assessment should be considered since the site is very vulnerable to destruction by coastal erosion.
Fair
Survey

WT143
HY 5016 4248
Rackwick
Mill: Listed (Category 'C')
18th-20th C
Located on coast edge
A large stone mill of 18th C date is constructed from random rubble with harled pointing. It has a flagstone roof, which is peindled at the south end. It lies within 2m of the coast edge. It has been repaired in recent times with modern materials including breeze blocks and asbestos sheet roofing. The mill pond has concrete and masonry walls; the remains of a second pond lies nearby.
Fair
Monitor
WT99 (HY44 SE14)
HY 4991 4248
Rock Wick
Noost
16th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Six overgrown noosts are set on the banks at the head of a geo. They appear to have pointed ends.
Fair
Nil

WT100 (HY44 SE13)
HY 4980 4287
Scotto
Noost and enclosure
16th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
A noost and enclosure are located on the banks at the head of a geo. The noost measures 8m by 2m and is up to 0.6m deep. It has a pointed end and is defined by an earthen bank, lined with upright slabs on the interior. The enclosure lies 10m to the north of the noost and measures 4m by 4m. It is very overgrown and the walls stand up to 1m high.
Fair
Nil

WT101
HY 4970 4390
Sheepright Geo
Mound
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
An amorphous grass-covered mound lies adjacent to the coast edge. It measures some 40m in diameter and stands up to 1m high. It forms a distinctive feature in the landscape but may be of natural origin.
Fair
Survey

WT102
HY 4980 4429
Swart Hellia Geo
Pit
Indeterminate
Located <10m from the coast edge
A circular, stone-lined pit measures 0.75m in diameter and is up to 0.3m deep. It lies in rough grass, within 10m of the coast edge. This feature may be the remains of a kelp pit.
Fair
Nil

275
WT103
HY 4970 4460
Gestaquoy
Farmstead
18th-20th C
Located >50m from the coast edge
A farmstead, comprising a dwelling house, three adjoining outbuildings and a small
enclosure are located about 50m from the coast edge. The buildings stand up to roof
height but are dilapidated and the roofs have collapsed. The dwelling house measures
20m by 9m and had a roof of corrugated iron. The outbuildings are 30m long, overall,
and 9m wide.
Fair
Nil

WT104
HY 4921 4520
East Sungarth
Chambered cairn
4th-3rd BC
Located on the coast edge
A mound, highly likely to be a chambered cairn, measuring 20m long and standing up
to 1m high, has been truncated by the sea. The surviving portion measures about 8m
wide. The coastal exposure contains structural remains, including several columns of
masonry, which have collapsed in-situ, along with edge-set blocks and upright slabs.
Towards the centre of this 25m long exposure, there are remnants of coursed walling
which stands up to 0.7m high. A large horizontal slab which is located to the south end
of the section may be part of a larger feature. This site is highly vulnerable to further
damage and requires urgent assessment.
Poor
Survey
WT105 (HY44 NE6)
HY 4893 4524
Mound of Skelwick, Surrigarth
Settlement
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located on the coast edge
An extensive settlement mound, measuring at least 40m in diameter, lies adjacent to the coast edge. A modern road cuts through the centre of the mound, while the seaward side is protected, to some degree, by a sea wall. The initial construction of the road revealed traces of stone structures and anthropogenic deposits containing quantities of horn. In more recent years, the construction of a new passing place has caused further archaeological deposits to be exposed. These include both structural elements and anthropogenic deposits containing large amounts of fish bone. This exposure measures 30m in length and stands up to 1m high. The exposure lies beneath a drystone dyke, which is now very undermined and unstable. An assessment of the exposed remains is now urgently required, after which the section will require consolidation.
Fair Survey
WT106 (HY44 NE8)
HY 489 452
Old Kirkhouse
Site of chapel
10th-14th C
A chapel, of which no trace has been found, is alleged to have stood in the vicinity of
the farmstead of Old Kirkhouse, which is now demolished.
Not located

WT107 (HY44 NE17)
HY 4899 4593
Ramsey Ness, Bay of Huvey
Noosts
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Two modern stone noosts are situated on the grass at the head of the geo. They
measure 3.75m in length by 2m in width and are filled with debris.
Good
Nil

WT108
HY 4867 4647
Spo Ness
Farmstead
18th-20th C
Located <50m from the coast edge
Three parallel ranges of buildings comprise a dwelling house and outbuildings. The
dwelling house, which is now used as a shed, measures 8m by 6m and survives to roof
height with a covering of corrugated iron sheeting. It has two windows and a hearth in
the gable end wall. The door is situated in the opposite end wall and leads into a small
enclosed yard, measuring 6m by 5m. A range of adjoining outbuildings lies next to the
house. Overall, the range measures 24m by 4m and is in a very ruinous state. Nearby,
the remains of a barn has a corn drying kiln, measuring 2m in diameter, at one end.
Fair
Nil
WT110
HY 4855 4650
Spna Ness
Farmstead
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
Two structures are aligned at right angles to the coast. Both are in a ruinous condition.
(4) One structure comprises a range of buildings, including a house and byre, with an
enclosed yard at either end. Overall, it measures 50m by 9m and lies 8m from the coast
edge. The house is roofless but the byre roof remains intact.
(8) The second structure is a two-storied building which has two chambers on the ground
level. The walls are regularly coursed, clay bonded and rendered. Some structural
timbers survive in-situ. Overall, it measures 5m by 9m and the walls stand up to 6m high
at the gable ends. One chamber has a large doorway (1.75m wide) in the side wall on
the ground floor and a second door in the gable end on the upper floor. There is a
hearth on the ground floor against the end wall and a window in the side wall. Two
dooryways formerly connected the two ground floor chambers; these have been blocked
up. The second chamber has two windows and a door in the end wall. It appears to
have served as a store.
Fair
Nil

WT109 (HY 44 NE18)
HY 4852 4642
Spna Ness
Noasts and structure
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
A row of six noasts lie on the shoreline. There are several further ruinous structures
nearby. These include part of a small building, which may be a fishing lodge or shed, a
series of enclosures and several more ruinous noasts.
Fair
Nil

WT111
HY 4805 4608
Swartmill
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
In an exposure created by coastal erosion there are traces of structural remains. The
exposure is approximately 10m long and is located 8m above the level of the beach.
There are columns a’ masonry and occasional edge-set stones in the section, but these
could not be further examined due to nesting fulmars. There is a slight rise in the ground
level behind the exposure, suggesting that there may be further buried remains inland.
There are no clear indications as to the nature or origin of these remains.
Fair
Survey

280
WT112
HY 4800 4605
Ayre of Swartmill
Indeterminate remains
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A coastal exposure, 12m in length, reveals extensive deposits of black sooty sand. These deposits contain frequent inclusions of vitreous material and slag as well as shell. There are several stones towards the base of the section which may form part of a drain-like structure. There is a slight rise behind the section which may indicate the presence of further and associated remains.
 Fair
Survey

WT44 (HY44 NE16)
HY 4793 4607
Ayre of Swartmill
Nooats
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
A group of nooats were recorded at this location in the past but could not be relocated on this occasion. They are said to have been situated on the landward side of the road which runs parallel to the coast. While some were overgrown, others had free-standing stone walls. They were aligned both parallel to the coast at 90° to it.
 Not Located

281
WT148
HY 4691 4660
Height of the World
Noots, kelp pits and structural remains
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
(i) A group of four noots, all of which are eroding, are defined by drystone walling. The slight remains of up to two further noots are located nearby. The largest measures 6m by 2m and up to 1.6m deep; all have rounded ends. Fragmentary walling in the nearby area may be part of a kelp-drying structure.
(ii) The rear wall of a small rectangular structure survives in the coastal section. The front and most of the side walls have been removed by coastal erosion. The rear wall is 2.3m long and up to 2m high. It is based on bedrock and the masonry is revetted into the surrounding bank. It lies close to the noots and may have served as a store or shed.
(iii) More intermittent fragments of walling extend to the southeast side of structure (i). These remains are associated with cultivation soils and possible midden deposits. A series of kelp pits are cut into the upper surface of these soils.
Fair
Nil

WT149
HY 4678 4656
Height of the World
House and enclosure
18th-20th C
Located <50m from the coast edge
(i) A dilapidated, roofless house faces seaward and measures 8m by 5m. The walls are mortar bonded and regularly coursed and stand up to 4m high at the gable ends. There are hearths at both ends of the building; part of a stone chimney survives to the north end. A central door way is flanked by a window to each side. Inside there are two chambers of unequal size and the walls are partially rendered.
(ii) A very overgrown enclosure lies close to the house. It measures 10m by 5m. It partially overlies an area of disturbed, uneven land that may indicate the presence of buried remains beneath it.
Fair
Monitor

283
WT159 (HY44 NE11)

HY 4670 4663
Cleat
Settlement
3rd-1st millennium BC/ 10th-14th C
Located on the coast edge
It is alleged that there was a mound in this area which was washed away in 1969. In the 1970’s a 30m long coastal exposure containing midden and traces of dystone structures was recorded. By 1981 much of the area had been re-colonised by grass and there was little in the way of visible archaeological deposits. The area has since been covered with modern farm refuse and a sea wall has been built in the area where deposits were previously recorded. A very small test pit (2m by 1m) dug in the area in 1997 revealed a 0.6m thick midden deposit from which a stone weight, a bone spindle whorl and steatite vessel fragments were recovered. An AMS date, calibrated to AD 870-1280, was obtained from a charred barley grain recovered during this program of work (Barrett et al, 1997, 61). The relationship between the sampled area and the deposits previously seen in section is, however, unclear.
Unknown
Monitor

WT145 (HY44 NE5)

HY 4657 4682
Cleat
Mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located on coast edge
A large mound is partially obscured by recently tipped debris. It measures 22m in diameter and standing to 2m high. It was partially dug out at some time before 1879 and it is recorded that quantities of stone and some bone were recovered. It has been variously interpreted as a cairn and a settlement mound, and while there are no archaeological deposits visible, the scale of the mound would support the latter interpretation.
Fair
Survey

284
WT146 (HY44 NE19)
HY 4643 4682
Cleat
Dovecot Listed (Category 'B')
18th-20th C
Located >100m from the coast edge
An almost square dovecot, of possible early 18th C date, adjoins the west gable of an outbuilding on Cleat Farm.
Not inspected

WT147 (HY44 NE7)
HY 4648 4685
Cleat
Possible site of settlement, chapel and burial ground
Indeterminate
Elements may be located <100m from the coast edge
Burials found here in the past may suggest the presence of a chapel site. The site is alleged to have been located on a rocky rise which has been extensively quarried and which is now located within an enclosed field. Midden deposits and a bone comb were also found in this area and may indicate the presence of a settlement of contemporary or earlier date. There is no trace of any remains visible in the area now.
Not located
Monitor

WT150 (HY44 NE3)
HY 4654 4746
Point of Cott
Chambered cairn
4th-3rd millennium BC
Located on the coast edge
This long hornd Orkney-Cromarty type stalled cairn lies on the coast edge and had already been affected by coastal erosion before being investigated and recorded in 1933. It was excavated in 1984-5 (Barber 1998) and has been partially reinstated, although it continues to erode. The minimum length of the cairn is estimated to have been over 30m, the southern façade was 16m wide while the surviving horn was 6m long. Excavation revealed that the cairn was of complex and sequential construction. At the south end a stalled cairn with four compartments was uncovered. The first three compartments contained deposits of human and animal bone and pottery. The fourth, northernmost compartment was occupied by a double cist of unusual type. Beneath the north end of the cairn were found the remains of an earlier structure that had been badly damaged by the construction of the cairn.
Fair
Nil
WT151
HY 4622 4748
Leckquoy
Farmstead
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
A large dwelling house is aligned at 90° to the coast edge and measures 12m by 5m. The gables stand up to 3m high. It contains two chambers of unequal size, both of which have a hearth in their end walls. A small shed has been tacked on to one side of the building. To the east side of the house, a range of conjoined outbuildings are aligned parallel to the coast. Overall, this range measures 17m by 5m and is divided into three parts. It lies 2m from the coast edge. Other buildings present include pigsties, a large byre, a store with a corn-drying klin to one end and a stone-built noost. All of the buildings have clay-bonded walls and all but the byre are roofed with slabs: the byre has an asbestos roof. This traditional Orcadian farmstead with its various buildings survives relatively intact and would provide a good subject for further survey.
Good
Survey
WT132
HY 4590 4721
Nether Banks
Farmstead
18th-20th C
Elements located <20m from the coast edge
Three buildings, a dwelling house and outbuildings, lie within 12m of the coast edge and are associated with a series of enclosures and ruinous drystone boundaries. The house is aligned parallel to the shore and faces inland. It measures 10m by 5m, stands up to 4.3m high and is now almost completely roofless. There are two hearths inside, located in either gable end wall. The central doorway is flanked by two windows. The outbuildings each contain two chambers and measure about 9m by 5m. One is aligned at 90° to the shore the other runs parallel to it. They are now only partially roofed and are in a dilapidated condition.
Fair
Nil

WT156
HY 4563 4724
Bay of Brough
Well
18th-20th C
Located on the foreshore
A rectangular stone box with a wood-lined channel leading into it lies on the foreshore. It is partially buried in wet sand. The box or tank measures 0.5m by 0.5m and is about 0.5m deep. The channel runs from the hinterland down to the tank. Its sides are formed from separate lengths of wood and it has a wooden base. It is about 0.19m wide and 0.1m deep. The wood is very smooth and water worn. This structure is likely to have served as a well either for animals or to provide water supplies for fishermen. The water it contains is fresh and probably tapped from a nearby spring. It would appear to be of relatively recent date.
Fair
Survey

WT153
HY 4557 4721
Sandquoy
Dwelling houses
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
A row of seven conjoined buildings is located on the coast edge. They all appear to have served as estate cottages for farm workers. They range in length from 4m to 6m and are all 5m wide. The clay-bonded walls are now reduced and stand up to 2.2m high at most. Each house appears to have had a central door flanked by either one or two windows and to have been roofed with flagstones. There are fragments of a sea wall and stone armoring on the foreshore in front of these buildings.
Fair
Survey

287
WT154
HY 4524 4766
Nether Brough
Farmstead and structural remains
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
(i) A group of structures, comprising two dwelling houses and outbuildings, is aligned at
90° to the coast edge. They lie less than 1.5m from the coast edge, which, in this area, is
protected by a sea wall. One dwelling house measures 15m by 6m and stands fully to
roof height of approximately 5m. It is internally divided into three chambers. The other
lies close by and is of similar dimensions. It has a small porch and has two rooms inside.
The outbuildings are now unsound and were not closely inspected.
(ii) In the eroding coastal section directly in front of the farmstead there are structural
remains. These comprise quantities of horizontally laid slabs that are buried beneath
0.45m of cultivated soils and modern topsoil. It could not be ascertained if these stones
represented part of revetted sea defence that had been rammed into the section face
or an earlier building that is now eroding out.
Poor
Monitor

WT155
HY 4490 4820
Comhouse
Storehouses
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
Two fine stone storehouses have regularly coursed clay bonded walls and slabbed
floors.
(i) This two-storied stone building is currently used as a byre. It stands up to 6m high,
measures 10m by 5m and is aligned east-west. The walls, which are clay bonded, are
0.65m thick and the roof is intact. There is an external staircase leading to the upper
floor against the seaward end wall.
(ii) A second two-storied building lies 8m to the northwest side of (i). It measures 12m by
5m and stands up to 4m high. The roof has collapsed. There is a large doorway, 3m in
width, to one side of the building and part of what may have been an external staircase
lies to the other side.
Fair
Survey

WT77 (HY44 NW31)
HY 437 486
Pierowall
Find spot
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located <100m from the coast edge
A number of artefacts were accidentally uncovered beside a track which runs beside the
Gospel Hall in 1970. The finds include worked bone, hammerstones and a stone trough
(Clarke, 1970). The site is not now visible.
Monitor
WT78 (HY44 NW46)
HY 4384 4833
Pierowall
Hand winch
16th-20th C
Not located
A hand winch recorded previously at this location could not be relocated.
Nil

WT75 (HY44 NW2)
HY 4395 4881
Pierowall
Lady Kirk or Pierowall Church: Scheduled (HS Index 90240), Listed (Category 'B')
10th-14th C
Located <50m from the coast edge
Lady Kirk, built in the 13th C, was extensively restored in the 17th C and is now ruinous. The nave was originally 14.5m long by 5.8m wide but was later widened by 0.5m. Because of the restoration, the church is of a very irregular rectangular plan and the chancel is out of alignment with the nave. The church is surrounded by a graveyard which contains several interesting slabs of 18th C date. It also contains a large, grass-covered mound which may cover further structural remains. Two carved grave slabs of 17th C date are set into the interior walls of the church and are protected by glass screens. This served as the parish church and graveyard and remained in use until 1679. It is probable that there was an earlier church either on the same spot or nearby; the Orkneyinga Saga relates that Rognvald went to church at Pierowall at the start of his campaign to subjugate Orkney in 1136.
Fair
Monitor
WT80 (HY44 NW45)
HY 446 489
Pier
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Built around 1875, Gill Pier serves both the modern fishing fleet and the passenger ferry to Papa Westray. It is located beyond the village, to the north of the bay and is surrounded by 19th C store houses, several of which remain in use.
Good
Nil

WT81 (HY44 NW23)
HY 4472 4904
Knoll of Skulzie
Mound and find spot: stone axes
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located <10m from the coast edge
A mound located to the north of Gill Pier was built over in the last century and the site is now occupied by sheds and industrial equipment and debris. Two stone axes and human remains are said to have been found within the mound.
Unknown
Monitor

WT76 (HY44 NE10)
HY 4502 4923
Gill Pier
Burnt Mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located on the coast edge
A burnt mound, located on the coast edge, is exposed in cross-section. The mound extends inland and is grass-covered; the surviving portion measuring 11m east-west by 3m north-south. In section, the mound deposits are up to 1.5m high at the centre of the mound, while in plan it stands to 1m. In section, the burnt stone deposits extend for 22m. The stone fragments measure approximately 0.15m by 0.2m by 0.03m and are associated with a fine, dark brown silty soil. A concentration of larger structural stones, some of which are set on end or on edge, are located beneath an overburden of burnt stone to the centre of the mound. The site is built up over glacial till. It was archaeologically assessed in 1983 (Lehane, 1990).
Fair
Monitor
WT157
HY 4522 4931
Ouse Ness
Outbuildings and noost
16th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
A group of three conjoined sheds are set end-to-end at 90° to the shore. Overall, they measure 20m long by 5m wide.
(i) At the seaward end of the range, a building stands up to 5m and has an intact slab roof. It has a central window and a doorway to one corner. The foundations at the seaward end are built up over horizontal slabs to compensate for the slope in the ground surface. It is currently in use as a hay store.
(ii) The middle building is reduced to its footings.
(iii) The building to the landward end survives in a similar condition to (i).
(iv) A noost lies on the coast edge and has been badly damaged by erosion. It was probably originally constructed from drystone masonry, but now only a few stones survive to the landward tip. It is 1.3m wide and survives to 0.7m in length.
Fair
Nil
PWT5
HY 4870 S269
Clyar
Kelp pit
18th-20th C
Located on coast edge
A kelp pit is exposed in the coastal section. It is 0.6m wide by 0.3m deep and is filled with dark brown ashy soil.
Poor
Nil

PWT6 (HY45 SE17.00)
HY 4881 S269
St. Boniface
Chapel and burial ground: Scheduled (H5 Index 1484 and 1478), Listed (Category B) 10th-14th C
Located <20m from the coast edge
The old parish church of Papa Westray (H5 Index 1484), constructed in the 12th C, was extended in the 18th C and remained in use until the 1920’s, following a period of disuse, during which the building began to fall into decay, it was renovated and re-opened in 1993 as a place of worship. Two Pictish cross slabs and a fragment of a reliquary shrine have been recovered from the graveyard and a Norse hog-back tombstone (H5 Index 1478) remains in-situ. The graveyard has been extended in recent times. The church is built over the extensive remains of earlier settlement, some of which has been revealed in the nearby coastal section (see PWT7).
Good
Monitor

293
PW17 (HY45 SE26)
HY 487 527
Munker Hoose: Scheduled (HS Index 1466)
Broch and settlement
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD
Elements located on coast edge
An extensive prehistoric-early historic settlement underlies St. Boniface’s chapel and graveyard (PW16) and is partially exposed in the coastal section. The section stands up to 5m in height and contains a mass of structural remains interspersed with midden and occupation deposits. Tapestry excavation and section recording, carried out in the 1990’s (Lowe, 1998), confirmed the presence of a broch, an extra-mural broch settlement, a post-broch house, a wany and a farm mound of 12th-13th C date. Parts of these structures are still visible in the exposed section face. This section face is very vulnerable to further erosion and should be closely monitored so that new appearances can be evaluated and recorded.
Fair
Monitor

PW18
HY 4913 5328
Newbigging
Mound and structural remains
Indeterminate
Elements located on the coast edge
(i) A grassy mound lies about 10m from the coast edge. It is amorphous and measures approximately 1.5m in diameter by 1.5m high. A drystone wall runs over the top of this mound.
(ii) Fragments of masonry are visible in a 10m long coastal exposure. The stones are covered by 0.1m of topsoil and turf and lie directly over till. They may, together with PW10 and PW11, form part of an old wall that ran parallel to the coast edge.
Fair
Monitor
PWT9 (HY45 SE7) 
Hy 4913 5334
Newbigging
Bummt mounds
3rd-1st millennium BC
Elements located <10m from coast edge
Three burnt mounds cluster together on grassland close to the coast edge. Their proximity suggests that they form a single complex. They are arranged in such a fashion as to enclose an area of level ground, measuring 1.5m by 22m. It may, in fact, be erroneous to differentiate between sites (ii) and (iii), since they may represent the two peaks of a single mound that has been reduced by farming. Previous records suggest that the site has been damaged by quarrying, and while this may be the case, what remains is substantial and apparently forms a complex of an unusual type. It is possible that the area 'enclosed' by the mounds contained an associated working area or structure. This should be investigated through assessment soon, since the site is vulnerable not only to coastal erosion but also to animal poaching.
(i) The largest mound, measuring 20m in diameter, has occasional exposures around its circuit in which burnt stones can be seen. There is a slight depression near to the top of this mound and it appears to have been disturbed or quarried in the past. It stands up to 2.4m high.
(ii) This mound has a diameter of 14m and stands to 1.8m high. The top is uneven and slightly hollowed. It is connected to (iii) by a 'saddle'.
(iii) Measuring 12m in diameter, this mound stands up to 2m high. The surface has been partially denuded by animal poaching.
Fair Survey

PWT10
Hy 4910 5334
Round Geo
Structural remains indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
In a 5m long coastal exposure fragments of masonry are visible. The stones are in a poor condition. They are covered by 0.1m of topsoil and turf and lie over till. Together with PWT8 and PWT11, these stones may be part of a wall that ran parallel to the coast.
Poor Nil
PWT11 (HY45 SE57)
HY 4911 5341
Round Geo, possibly same as Gainty of Hoo
Earthen bank or wall
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A turf-covered wall or bank extends intermittently for over 100m parallel to the coast edge. It later turns inland and is visible for over 50m. It is 2m wide and stands up to 0.5m high. It appears to be part of a field system and may be associated with PWT8 and PWT10. This may be the dyke previously recorded as Gainty of Hoo (HY45 SE57).
Fair
Nil

PWT12
HY 493 543
Mad Geo
Navigation cairns
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Three modern navigation marker cairns have been built along the coast edge. Each is formed from drystone masonry set over large slabs. They stand up to 2m high.
Fair
Nil

PWT13
HY 4952 5502
Brinkwall
Noots and kelp pits
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Two noots are set into the grass at the head of a sloping shore. They appear to be rectangular in shape and measure approximately 10m by 4m. They are filled with washed-in storm debris. There are several kelp pits in this area, along with further possible noots, too ill-defined to be clearly identified.
Poor
Nil
PWT14
HY 5010 5572
Mull Head
Enclosures and wall
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
An drystone oval enclosure is situated in rough grass beside a storm beach. It measures 14m by 10m. An arc of walling adjoins one side of this enclosure, forming a smaller enclosure that measures 10m by 8m. The walls of both enclosures stand up to 0.75m high. They are much reduced on the seaward side and vulnerable to further erosion. A drystone wall that leads inland from the enclosures and is visible for up to 20m.
Fair
Nil

PWT15
HY 504 553
Boden
Kelp pits and structural remains
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
(i) A series of ill-defined kelp pits are located in the 10m strip behind the coast edge. They measure approximately 0.75-1m in diameter and are up to 0.35m deep. Most are covered with grass.
(ii) Intermittent, grass-covered stones, the footings of a noost or rectangular shed, measure 4m by 1.75m. The structure lies 8m from the coast edge.
(iii) At about 100m to the south of (ii), the walls of a second small structure stand up to 1m high. Measuring 5m by 2m, this may be the remains of a noost, shed or skeo. It lies 5m from the coast edge.
(iv) A ruined structure, possibly an otter trap, lies 6m from the coast edge. It measures 2m in length by 1m in width and is partially set into the ground. It lies inside an enclosure (v).
(v) A drystone enclosure, measuring 5m by 5m, lies next to the coast edge and contains a possible otter trap (vi).
(vi) Two depressions, possibly noosts, are set in the grass at the head of the banks. They lie on the far side of the geo from (v). They measure 5m by 2m and are up to 1m deep. They are now very overgrown but from the occasional stones visible in their sides, it would appear that they originally had drystone walls.
(vii) A noost lies some 250m to the south of (vi). It is visible as a slight depression set into the ground surface at the head of the banks, measuring 5m by 3m. Nearby is a box-like structure, probably a small fisherman’s store. This measures 2m by 2m and has roughly coursed walls, standing to 4m, which are up to 0.75m thick. Both the noost and the store lie less than 2m from the coast edge.
Fair
Nil
PWT16
HY 506 541 TO HY 505 539
Hundland
Enclosures and structures
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
(i) A circular drystone structure, possibly a skeo, is composed of two concentric walls that stand up to 2m high. The outer wall has a diameter of 5m, while the inner wall is 2m.
(ii) A second drystone circular structure lies close to (i). It measures 2m in diameter and stands up to 0.75m high.
(iii) Structures (i) and (ii) are situated within a rectilinear enclosure, defined by drystone walls.
(iv) A series of small drystone enclosures are located close to a storm beach. Most are square or rectangular and measure, on average, 3m by 6m. Some may have been used as plant enclosures, while others are more likely to be stock enclosures.
Fir
Nii

PWT71 (HY55 SW7)
HY 503 537
Hundland and Bewan
Site of noots
Indeterminate
It is alleged that there were noots below Hundland and Bewan, but they could not be relocated.
Not located

PWT17 (HY55 SW5)
HY 505 533
Weelies Taing
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Located on boulder spit in inter-tidal zone
Three groups of structures have been previously recorded on a boulder spit which surrounds a tidal pool. The spit is covered at high tide and is only intermittently accessible. The structures, which were not inspected during this survey, are described as a trackway, a pond and a fragmentary wall. The trackway and wall are said to be of careful construction and unknown function, while the pond is likely to have served as a refuge for sheep cut off at high tide.
Unknown
Monitor

298
BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY
PAPA WESTRAY MAP 1: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

PWT18
HY 4997 5360
Ness
Farmstead
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
A farmstead comprising of a series of ruinous buildings, is separated from the shore by a
dystone wall. Several of the buildings survive to roof height and those with intact roofs
are currently used as sheds and storage areas. There are numerous fragments of
demolished buildings and walling in the area.
Fair
Nil

PWT20 [HY45 SE47]
HY 4982 5335
North Via
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <10m from coast edge
An amorphous mound lies across the corner of a field adjacent to the coast and the
road to the north side of North Via. It is covered with grass, measures 20m by 15m and
stands up to 1.5m. It extends into a natural ridge and may itself be of partly natural
origin. Previous surveyors have suggested that it may be a refuse heap of recent origin.
Fair
Nil

PWT21 [HY45 SE56]
HY 4987 5337
Via
Noost
18th-20th C
Not located
A noost site was recorded at this location in 1982. There is now nothing remaining of the
noost, although a slight depression in the banks was noted. This depression measures
3m by 1.3m but may be the result of natural deflation rather than part of a noost.
Poor
Nil

PWT22 [HY45 SE32]
HY 4980 5327
North Via
Wind Engine
18th-20th C
Not located
An industrial windmill with an engine and threshing machine were recorded here in the
past but could not be relocated.
Unknown
Nil

299
PWT23 (HY45 SE33)
HY 4980 5324
South Via
Wind Engine
18th-20th C
Not located
An industrial windmill with an engine and threshing machine were recorded here in the past but could not be relocated.
Unknown
Nil

PWT24 (HY45 SE46)
HY 4980 5324
North and South Via
Farmsteads
18th-20th C
Elements located <50m from the coast edge
A range of buildings, some of which are ruinous, occupy an area immediately inland of a road which runs adjacent to the coast. Some of the buildings have flagged roofs and the byres have partitions formed from large orthostatic flagstones. Previous records mention an elongated farm mound which ran parallel to the shore. It is said to have measured 100m by 40m and to have stood up to 1m high. This was not relocated, however there is a mounded area to the seaward side of the road from the farmsteads, but this appears to be formed from deposits of blown sand rather than farm muck.
Good
Survey

PWT25 (HY45 SE40)
HY 4988 5301
Cott
Noosts
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Several very overgrown noosts are located in rough grassland at the head of the shore. Three have walls formed from upright slabs and measure about 5m by 2m. The individual slabs are up to 1.75m high and 1.1m wide. These noosts look out onto a sandy beach. Up to five or more further, less distinct noosts are located nearby.
Fair
Nil
PW126 (HY45 SE25)
HY 4986 5295
Cott
Settlement
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located on the coast edge
Structural remains and anthropogenic soil deposits are visible in a coastal exposure that extends for over 100m. The section stands up to 3.5m high; in most places the basal archaeological deposits are obscured by a storm beach. The densest concentration of structural remains occurs towards the centre of the section. Here several wall are visible, forming at least two major structural phases. Wall ends protrude at 90° to the section and measure up to 0.5m wide by 1.3m or more in height. A cursory inspection suggests that at least four structures are present, none of which appear particularly substantial or defensive. Some of the structures appear to have been revetted into middens. The midden deposits contain inclusions of shell, bird, mammal and fish bone, peat ash, charcoal and burnt stone; some of the bone is unburnt and articulated. The latest structural phase lies beneath a very substantial farm mound. This, in turn, lies beneath a farmstead of 18th-20th C date. Further structural remains survive in front of the section also, but here they have been partially covered by the storm beach and are not readily identifiable.

The extensive archaeological remains in this area apparently represent a settlement of some duration. Of the several parts of buildings currently visible, none is obviously of Iron Age type and it is possible that they predate this period. The occupation and midden deposits appear to be well preserved, to the extent that articulated bone is readily visible in the section. The overburden of farm mound material has helped, no doubt, to preserve the site and may have assisted in the preservation of organic materials. This site requires urgent assessment to determine, at the minimum, its nature, extent and date. It is very vulnerable to further losses and therefore should be prioritised for further work.

Good
Survey

301
PWT27 (HY45 SE54)
HY 4982 5277
Shore House
Noast
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Two noasts have been recorded in this area in the past. They are said to have had square ends and measured 5m by 3m. They had been truncated by coastal erosion. The area is now very overgrown and these sites could not be relocated.
Unknown
Nil

PWT28 (HY45 SE31)
HY 4954 5252
Roadside
Wind engine
18th-20th C
An industrial windmill with an engine and threshing machine was previously recorded at this location but could not be relocated.
Unknown
Nil

PWT29 (HY45 SE30)
HY 4956 5240
Mayback
Wind engine
18th-20th C
An industrial windmill with an engine and threshing machine was previously recorded at this location but could not be relocated.
Unknown
Nil
PWT30 (HY45 SE44)
HY 4954 5240
Mayback
Farm mound and possible structural remains
14th-18th C
Elements located on the coast edge
A farm mound which extends for about 100m by 40m stands up to 5m high. It lies beneath the 18th-20th farmstead at Mayback. To the seaward side, erosion has created an exposure into the mound in which a variety of archaeological deposits are visible. Much of the mound is formed from fine organic soils derived from farm muck. There are also deposits of shell and inclusions of metal and post-medieval pottery. Occasionally, towards the base of the farm mound material, there are stones visible which may be part of a structure or structures which are not clearly identifiable. These deposits cover a 3.5m deep layer of wind-blown sand. An assessment is recommended to clarify the nature and date of the deposits, to investigate the nature of the midden and possible structural remains and to investigate the possibility that the mound may be associated with a farmstead of medieval or earlier date.
Fair
Survey
PWT31 (HY45 SE9)
Hy 4938 5226
Knowes of Mayback
Burnt mounds. Scheduled (HS Index 4065)
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located 100m+ inland
Two mounds once lay to the north-east of Holland house, close to the loch at Mayback. One was removed in the 1960’s, the other, a crescentic, turf-covered mound, stands up to 1.8m high.
Fair
Nil

PWT32 (HY45 SE51)
Hy 4955 5222
Mayback-Skennist
Nooasts
18th-20th C
The slight traces of several nooasts were recorded in this area previously. The area is now so overgrown that no trace of them was seen on the banks; nor were they visible at the head of the foreshore.
Not located

PWT33 (HY45 SE55)
Hy 4964 5198
Skennist
Nooasts and cottages
Indeterminate
Seven stone nooasts and several fishermen’s cottages were recorded at this location. The cottages are no longer in existence and the area is now so overgrown that the nooasts could not be relocated.
Not Located

PWT34
Hy 4972 5193
Skennist
Structures: store, house and smithy
18th-20th C
Located ~20m from the coast edge
Three building are located at the head of the pier at Skennist.
(i) A two storied stone structure, comprising living apartments on the upper floor and a store on the ground floor, stands largely intact, if dilapidated. It has an external rear stair leading to the upper floor.
(ii) To the seaward side of (i), a second, conjoined, building houses a smithy.
(iii) Nearby, a second two-storied building is of similar design and function to (i).
Fair
Nil

305
PWT35
HY 4980 5185
Nooster
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
In a coastal section which stands up to 1m high there are occasional flat slabs. They extend for over 10m beneath a 0.1m covering of topsoil and turf. In places, these stones appear to be coured, surviving as low columns. Further along, about 25m to the south of this exposure, a wall butt extends at 90° to the section face. It stands to 3 courses or 0.35m high. The nature and origin of these remains is not clear but they may simply form part of a drystone boundary which extends along the coastline.
Fair
Monitor

PWT36 (HY45 SE52)
HY 4983 5175
Nooster
Noosts
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
The remains of four noosts lie at the head of the shore in the sheltered geo to the east side of Nooster. The largest contains the remains of a wooden vessel.
Fair
Nil

PWT37 (HY45 SE50)
HY 4986 5144
Links
Site of noost
18th-20th C
A noost was reported in this area by a local man who had found a cache of rivets nearby. It is not now visible and may have been entirely removed by coastal erosion.
Not located

PWT38 (HY45 SE29)
HY 4990 5131
Hookin
Wind engine
18th-20th C
An industrial windmill with an engine were recorded here in the past but could not be relocated.
Not located
PWT39 (HY45 SE43)
HY 4992 5127
Hookin
Farmstead and farm mound
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
A ruined farmstead, comprising a dwelling house and outbuildings, is built on a slight rise, which appears to be a farm mound of earlier date. Previously, numerous upright slabs, thought to be part of a settlement, were visible in the exposure. Coastal erosion has since severely truncated the mound and has undermined several of the buildings. The deposits currently exposed in the coastal section comprise organic soils related to the farm mound and occasional large stones. The site is very vulnerable to further losses and should be kept under surveillance in case further archaeological deposits are exposed.
Poor
Monitor

PWT40 (HY55 SW4)
HY 5005 5122
Hookin Mill
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
A ruined two-storied mill, used for grinding oats, stands adjacent to the shore beside the outflow from St. Tredwell’s Loch. It mill measures 10.5m by 5.3m and is aligned east-west. There are doorways to the west end of the north and south side walls. The roof has collapsed, as has the west gable; the east gable stands almost to roof height but is structurally unsound. Mill stones and the remains of mill machinery are stored inside the ruin. There is an iron-framed undershot wheel, 2.8m in diameter, outside the east end wall. The channelled mill stream, leading from the loch, is overgrown but still visible. It is reported that the mill could only operate at low tide, but even then was not very efficient.
Fair
Nil
PWT41 (HY45 SE11)
HY 4987 5076
Knowe of Burland
Mound
Indeterminate
Located 100m+ from the coast edge
A grazy mound, 30m in diameter, is situated on the crest of a ridge between St.
Tredwell’s Loch and the east coast. It has been variously interpreted as a burnt mound, a
farm mound and as a settlement mound. There are now no clear indications of any
archaeological deposits on the surface of the mound. The site lies over 100m from the
coast edge and is not imminently threatened.
Fair
Nil

PWT42
HY 4990 5050
Cuppin
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <20m from the coast edge
An elongated, rather amorphous mound is located between the deserted farmstead at
Cuppin and the coast. It is covered with grass, measures 2.5m by 10m and stands up to
1.5m high. There are no clear indications of any archaeological structures or deposits
associated with the mound but it is unlikely to be of natural origin.
Fair
Survey

PWT43 (HY45 SE36)
HY 4846 5034 TO HY 5990 5050
The Cunnan Galasty
Treby dyke
Indeterminate
Elements located <50m from the coast edge
An earthen bank or treb dyke runs across the width of Papa Westray, dividing the island
into two uneven parts. Much of this boundary has been removed by farming, but
sections survive on the east side, close to the shores of St. Tredwell’s Loch. It measures up
to 7m in width and stands up to 0.75m.
Fair
Monitor
PWT44
HY 4989 5030
Bay of Burland
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <10m from the coast edge
A grassy mound is located in an enclosed field of rough grassland, some 5m from the
cost edge. It measures 8m in diameter and stands to 0.6m high. The top is slightly
flattened. There are no clear indications of any structures or archaeological deposits
within the mound.
Fair
Survey

PWT45 (HY55 SW6)
HY 5000 5035
Bay of Burland
Enclosure and noosts
16th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
(i) A small drystone enclosure, measuring 2m by 1m, is located on the coast edge. The
walls stand up to 0.75m high.
(ii) A stone built noost was previously recorded at this location, but is not now visible. It is
said to have measured 2.2m wide by at least 2.6m long.
Fair
Nil

PWT46
HY 5005 5019
Bull Flag
Pits, noost and bank
18th-20th C Indeterminate
Elements located on the coast edge
(i) A series of ovallamorphous scooped areas or pits may be kelp pits or quarry hollows.
They measure up to 8m by 4m by 1m deep. They are filled with loose stone and are
partially covered with grass.
(ii) A noost has one side formed from upright slabs and the other from coursed masonry.
It has a pointed end and measures 4m by 1.8m. The seaward end is eroding.
(iii) An earthen bank of indeterminate date extends inland from the shore and is visible
for over 10m. It is constructed from earth and stone and stands up to 1.5m high and is
3m wide.
Fair
Nil
PWT47 (HY44 NE14)
HY 4952 4917
Moclett
Noost
Indeterminate
A noost which was recorded at this location in the past could not be relocated.
Not located

PWT48 (HY44 NE1)
HY 4934 4950
East Corgy Quoy
Alleged settlement mound
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
It has been previously recorded that middle deposits and possible structural remains were associated with a stone rise among the dunes around the Bay of Moclett. Now, only a very slight mound is visible and this is not readily identifiable as an archaeological site. A rectilinear enclosure, which was also noted previously, is still visible and is probably of 18th-20th C date. The site should be kept under surveillance since further archaeological deposits may be exposed as the coastline recedes.
Unknown
Monitor

PWT49 (HY44 NE2)
HY 4926 4972
Castle of Bothikan or Castle o’ Millymay
Alleged site of broch
Indeterminate
A broch ‘explored’ by Petrie in the 1870’s was thought to be located in this area. Later, it was reported that the site had been covered over by a large sand dune. This dune is still visible and it has been partially truncated by coastal erosion. There are, however, absolutely no traces of any structures or archaeological deposits either in the dune or in the surrounding area. The exposure through the dune reveals that it is composed of layers of clean blown sand, built up over a stony storm beach. Several old turf lines are visible towards the upper surface of the dune. It seems unlikely that a site as substantial as the broch described by Petrie could be hidden in this area and thus it may be either that the site has been entirely removed by coastal erosion or that Petrie’s broch was not in this location. It has been argued recently that the broch in question may in fact be that at Munker House (PWT7, Lowe, 1994)
Not located

310
PWT52
HY 4910 4961
Bay of Moclett
Hulk
18th-20th C
Located in the inter-tidal zone
The hulk of a wooden vessel lies about 20m from the HWM towards the centre of the
Bay of Moclett and is uncovered at low tide. It measures about 10-15m long and is
largely broken up.
Fair
Nil

PWT50 (HY44 NE13)
HY 4900 4969
Bothkan, Bay of Moclett
Nooats
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Two nooats are located immediately behind a storm beach. One contains the remains of
a rotting wooden vessel, the other contains a modern vessel. They measure 5m by 2m
and have coursed drystone walls that stand up to 0.65m.
Fair
Nil

PWT51
HY 4900 4966
Bay of Moclett
Buried soil deposits
Indeterminate
Located on coast edge
A substantial deposit of buried soil is revealed in a coastal exposure. The exposure extends
for over 20m and is about 2.5m high. The upper part of the section comprises turf and topsoil
to a depth of 1.1m. Underneath, a buried cultivation soil is up to 0.6m deep. A fragment of flint was recovered from this
layer. It also contains occasional charcoal flecks and shell fragments. An old ‘B’ horizon, 0.1m deep, lies beneath this layer and above blown sand deposits, which in turn cover glacial till. The area should be kept under surveillance since further remains may be
exposed.
Fair
Monitor
PWT68
HY 485 489
Vest Ness
Earthen banks
Indeterminate
Elements located on the coast edge
(i) An earthen bank, with some stone constituent, runs inland from the coast at 90° and
may have once extended fully across the width of the Ness. It is 2.75m wide and stands
up to 0.75m high. It lies to the landward side of the enclosure bank (ii).
(ii) An earthen bank curves around behind the tip of Vest Ness, forming a semi-circular
enclosure. The bank is 2m wide and stands up to 0.75m high. It encloses an area
measuring about 20m by 30m.
Fair
Nil

PWT67 (HY44 NE15)
HY 4834 4986
Nistaben
Noosts
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Four very overgrown stone-lined noosts are located to the north of the place known as
The Minister's Flag. They measure 4m long, on average, and are up to 2m wide and
1.3m deep. They are being slowly eroded away.
Fair
Nil

PWT66
HY 4837 4990
Claybraes
Mound
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A grassy, oval mound is located on the coast edge. It measures 8m by 7m and stands
up to 1.5m high. Some stones which protrude through the turf may be superficial and
derived from a storm beach. A drystone wall, aligned at 90° to the coast, runs over the
south end of this mound.
Fair
Survey
PWT65 [HY45 SE53]
HY 4838 5014
Quoyolie
Noasts
18th-20th C
Three or four noasts have been noted previously in this area. They were said to have been reduced to 2m in length by coastal erosion. They are no longer visible and may have been entirely removed by the sea.
Not located

PWT64
HY 4846 5010
Claybraes
Sheds and kelp walls
18th-20th C
Elements located <10m from the coast edge
(i) Two ruinous sheds are located about 80m from the coast edge. One retains part of its flagstone roof. They measure 11m by 5m and stand up to 2m high.
(ii) A series of kelp wall are located within 10m of the coast edge. They are roughly built from rubble and are no longer in use.
Fair
Nil

PWT63
HY 4843 5029
Bight of Quoyolie
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
Two columns of dykstone masonry, capped with a large slab, are revealed in a coastal exposure. The columns stand up to 0.3m high, while the capstone is 0.8m long. Overall, the structure measures 1.4m in length and may be part of a drain, but could conceivably be a cist burial. It is covered by blown sand and topsoil and is built over glacial till. This site should be kept under surveillance in case further remains are exposed.
Fair
Monitor

PWT62 [HY45 SE39]
HY 4844 5034
Quoyolie
Noasts
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Two stone-lined noasts are located at the head of the shore. They have both been truncated by coastal erosion and are reduced to about 2.3m in length; they are 1.4m wide. A third, less well-defined noast lies close by, to the north. This has been greatly reduced by erosion and is now covered with grass.
Fair, Nil
PWT61 (HY45 SE42)
HY 4850 5044
Eastcott, South Rendall
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <100m from the coast edge
A grassy mound is located about 90m from the coast edge on rough grassland. It measures 20m in diameter and stands up to 2m high. A field boundary runs over this mound. While there are no visible archaeological deposits or structures, this site appears to be an artificial construction.
Fair
Survey

PWT70
HY 4840 5060 To HY 4850 5044
South Rendall
Kelp pits
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Four or more kelp pits are exposed in the coastal section between PWT60 and PWT61. They are straight-sided and are lined with stone. They measure up to 0.75m in width and are, on average, 0.4m deep. Most are filled with blown sand and loose stones. The soil surrounding the pit cuts is scorched and discoloured. Concentrations of rounded stones which are also visible in section may be part of kelp-working areas.
Fair
Nil

PWT60 (HY45 SE37)
HY 4840 5060
Whitehove
Noast
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
A noast is cut into the banks some 40m to the south of the settlement (PWT59). It has been truncated by coastal erosion and is revealed in half-section. It measures 4m in width and is up to 1.1m deep. It is filled with earth and stone.
Poor
Nil
PW159 (HY45 SE14)
HF 4840 5062
King’s Craig
Settlement
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
Substantial archaeological deposits and structural remains are exposed in the coastal section around the headland at Whitehowe. The cliff stands up to 4m high and, of this, up to 2m is comprised of archaeological deposits. The exposure extends for about 30m. At the base of the section, glacial till is covered by a cultivation soil, which in turn is covered by a layer of blown sand. The earliest structural remains visible in the section are built over this layer of sand. They comprise a flagged surface, associated with up to three separate structures and a series of stone-lined drains. The walls of the structures vary in construction; one is double faced with a hollow core, others appear to be revetted. The impression gained is that the structures are conjoined or closely associated. Layers of anthropogenic soils and midden-type deposits surround and fill into the structures, and there is some indication of a secondary phase of construction. Further deposits of shell midden and agricultural soils fill into the uppermost structures and render the area level. Although the deposits exposed at this site are extensive, they are not capable of ready interpretation. The earliest remains relate to cultivation while later remains suggest a substantial settlement which was occupied over a long duration. At the abandonment of the settlement, the area appears to have farmed once again. The farmstead which now occupies part of the site is of 18th-20th C date. The latter structures visible in section are reminiscent of Viking or Norse buildings, but this cannot be conclusively demonstrated with the available evidence. Since this phase of activity occurs at an intermediate stage in the life of the site, it is probable that the earlier remains may be of prehistoric date. The remains have already been affected by coastal erosion and very vulnerable to further losses. It is very unlikely, given its physical circumstances and extent, that this site can be provided with coastal defences and therefore it must be assessed, excavated or abandoned. As a first step, it is recommended that an assessment should be carried out as a matter of urgency to ascertain the extent, date and nature of the remains.
Fair
Survey
PWT58
HY 4844 5082
Backskail
Anthropogenic deposits
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
There are intermittent exposures of anthropogenic deposits for over 200m along the coast edge. They comprise loamy soils with inclusions of shell, bone, and burnt stone, and are up to 1m deep. The longest continuous exposure is 7m in length. Behind this, there is a slight mound in the hinterland area. In places, small concentrations of stone, which may be structural remains, are associated with the soil deposits. In others, more modern farm refuse is piled up over these soils. This area should be monitored since it is likely that new exposures will be cut by coastal erosion.
Fair
Monitor

PWT57 (HY45 SE49)
HY 4844 5082
Backskail
Noosts
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
Six contiguous noosts are sited around the head of the shore, close to a shell midden. The noosts have walls constructed from turf and upright slabs. The measure in the region of 2m to 2.5m wide and are up to 5.5m long. Two derelict winches are located nearby. The shell midden is almost wholly comprised of limpet and most probably derives from fishermen’s bait.
Fair
Nil

PWT55 (HY45 SE2)
HY 4853 5090
Knowe of Backskail
Burnt mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located >80m from the coast edge
A crescentic mound is located about 7.5m from the coast edge in an enclosed field. It is largely grass-covered, but there are occasional exposures, caused by animal poaching, in which burnt stone can be seen. The mound is about 1.5m across and stands up to 2.9m high. On the inner side of the eastern ‘arm’ several stones protrude through the turf and may be part of a structure. A rectangular flat-topped platform butts against the western side of the burnt mound. An exposure in the side of this platform reveals thick layers of organic soils and it is tentatively identified as a farm mound.
Fair
Nil
PWT29 (HY45 SE64)

Ht 484 509

Backaskaili

Find spot: polished stone ball
4th-3rd millennium BC

Possibly located <100 m from the coast edge

A polished stone ball is recorded as having been found at Backaskaili on Westray, but since no such place is known, it has been suggested that the find may have been made at Backaskaili, Papa Westray. No further information on the context or provenance of this find is available.

PWT54

HY 4829.5144

Holland

Structural remains and buried soil

Indeterminate

Elements located on the coast edge

Three exposures, two of which are on the coast edge, contain deposits which may be of archaeological interest. At present, none of the sites can be clearly identified but since they are all vulnerable to further erosion, they should be monitored for the appearance of more representative remains.

(i) A fragment of dyestone walling is visible in an exposure caused by rabbit disturbance, 10 m from the coast edge. The wall stands up to three courses or 0.3 m high and is visible over a length of 1 m. It is aligned at 90° to the coast edge and does not appear to be of recent origin.

(ii) At a distance of about 50 m to the south of (i), a concentration of loosely arranged stones is visible in a coastal exposure. The exposure is about 1 m long. The stones form a band 0.45 m thick; they are covered by 0.2 m of topsoil and turf and sit over till. While no structure or form is clearly discernible, these deposits are discreet and may be of archaeological interest.

(iii) Further to the south, at about 20 m from (ii), a band of buried soil is visible in the coastal section. This deposit is a loamy cultivation soil, 0.2 m thick, which extends for over 30 m. It covers a layer of stone and is sealed by topsoil and turf.

Fair

Monitor
PW/53
HY 4629 5163
Holland
Anthropogenic deposits
Indeterminate

Located on the coast edge

(i) At a distance of some 200m from the Knap of Howar there is a coastal exposure containing anthropogenic deposits. The exposure extends for 10m and is up to 0.25m deep. The deposits contain inclusions of limpet, oyster and razor shell along with fish and mammal bone and whale bone. They are covered by up to 0.35m of topsoil and turf and cover till. There are no structures visible either in the section or further inland.

(ii) At about 40m further south from (i) there is a second exposure. Here, there is a slight mound immediately behind the coast edge. The mound measures 1.5m in diameter and stands up to 0.75m high. The exposure extends for 8m and is up to 0.25m deep. It contains horizontally-set stones in a loamy soil, with inclusions of pumice. These deposits lie beneath 0.35m of blown sand and topsoil and cover glacial till.

Both exposures indicate the presence of more extensive archaeological remains and further assessment is required.

Fair
Survey
PWT1 (HY45 SE1)
HY 4830 5180
Knapp of Howar
Settlement: Scheduled (HS Index 90195)
4th-3rd millennium BC
Located <10m from the coast edge
This site was first excavated in the 1930's by the landowner William Traill (Traill and Kirkness, 1937). Further work was carried out in the 1970's when the site was prepared for consolidation (Ritchie, 1984). It is now open to the public. The earlier phase of work involved clearing away an overburden of sand from the house interiors and locating the outer walls. Two houses were uncovered and the presence of earlier midden deposits was noted. At this time, the site was thought to be of Iron Age date. The site was taken into guardianship in 1937 and a sea wall was built in front of it to protect against coastal erosion. Subsequent work in the 1970's uncovered the houses more thoroughly and investigated the surrounding area. The construction of the houses has now been radiocarbon dated to later fourth millennium BC, making this the earliest settlement known in Orkney. The presence of midden deposits beneath the houses indicates that they were not the first settlement in this area. An examination of flint assemblage recovered from the site environs indicated the presence of mesolithic artefacts (Wickham-Jones, 1990). The larger of the houses measures 10m by 5m, is divided by upright slabs into two rooms and contains hearths, pits and built-in cupboards. It was interpreted as the main dwelling area. The smaller house, measuring 7.5m by 3m is interpreted as a storage and working area. It is also divided into two chambers and is thought to be of slightly later date. Analyses of the recovered materials indicate a pastoral mode of subsistence with cattle, sheep and pig rearing, along with some cereal cultivation and utilisation of marine resources. The site also provides the first indications of Unstan-type pottery being used in a domestic context.
Good Monitor

PWT2
HY 4835 5183
Holland
Windmill base
18th-20th C
Located <50m from the coast edge
A square platform of bonded masonry, measuring 2.5m by 2.5m, stands to a height of 1.75m. A stairway, set into the east side, leads to the top of the platform. This is level and incorporates a large flat slab which has an off-centre hole cut into it. The base of the platform is dilapidated and has begun to collapse.
Fair
Nil
PWT3
HY 4849 5218
Rostlie Geo
Mound
Indeterminate
Located <30m from coast edge
A grassy mound is situated on rough, level grassland, 25m from the coast edge. It is
aligned north-south, measures 11m by 5m and stands up to 0.75m high. There are no
clear indications of any structural or archaeological deposits but the mound is distinctive
and not apparently of natural origin.
Fair
Survey

PWT4
HY 4855 5238
Geo of Clyar
Mound
Indeterminate
Located on coast edge
A circular mound, measuring some 60m in diameter, stands up to 1.5m high. It is
covered with grass and there are occasional protruding stones around its circuit,
although these do not form any discernible pattern. A drystone wall runs over the top of
the mound.
Fair
Survey
Holm of Papa Westray

HPW1 (HY55 SW2)
HY 5044 S228
Holm of Papa Westray North
Chambered cairn; Scheduled (H5 Index 2198)
4th-3rd millennium BC
Located <20m from the coast edge
This stalled cairn had already been robbed of some of its stone prior to being 'explored' by Petrie in the late 1850s. When it was excavated in 1982-3 several phases of construction were revealed (Ritchie, 1996, Davidson & Henscol, 1989) The final phase of the cairn is rectangular in form, measuring 11m by 6m. It is aligned northwest-southeast with its entrance to the northwest. An entrance passage, 0.8m wide and 3m long leads into the chamber, 5m by 2.7m, which is divided into four parts. A cell to the rear of the cairn was found to have been filled up and sealed early in the use of the tomb. Human remains, representing eight or nine adults were recovered. Fragments of pottery, associated with the use of the tomb, along with animal and fish bone, stone tools, shell and worked bone were recovered. The site has been partially covered and is now somewhat overgrown.
Fair
Nil
HPW2 (HY55 SW6)
HY 5042 5224 & HY 5080 5144
Holm of Papa Westray
Mariners graves
18th-20th C
Located <20m from the coast edge
Two pairs of shipwrecked mariners graves are said to be located in this area. The graves are described as having covering slabs and head and foot markers. They could not be identified with any degree of certainty on this occasion. One possibility is that they may be represented by a series of upright stones, situated to the east side of HPW6. These slabs extend from an arch of grass-covered stonework which is located on the coast edge (HPW7). There is so much cast up storm beach in this area, however, that it is difficult to determine if even the upright stones have been set up by human hands or thrown up by the sea. Another possibility is that the graves are located closer to the two prehistoric burial mounds, HPW5 and HPW6. This is suggested since there is a greater depth of soil in this area than on the coast into which graves could have been cut. There is such a quantity of stone in this area, however, that it is impossible to determine any individual features.
Unknown
Monitor

HPW5 (HY55 SW2)
HY 5045 5228
Possible chambered cairn
4th-3rd millennium BC
Located <20m from the coast edge
A grassy mound, measuring 6m in diameter, stands up to 0.3m high. It lies 1.6m to the east of HPW1 and 5m to the west of HPW6. The frequent stones which protrude from the sides of the mound may be part of a chamber. It is located less than 20m from the head of an encroaching storm beach.
Fair
Survey
HPW6 (HY55 SW2)
HY 5046 5229
Possible chambered cairn
4th-3rd millennium BC
Located <10m from the coast edge
A very amorphous mound is defined to its southern side by a concentration of flat stones, possibly forming a kerb, which protrude through the turf. A second line of protruding slabs lies immediately behind this, while to the south and east there are remnants of what may have been coursed walling. There are several depressed areas to the centre of the mound, one of which appears to have a stone lining and may be part of a badly damaged cist. Further upright slabs and stones protrude from the top of the mound but are obscured by a dense patch of nettles. The mound lies no more than 6m from the head of a encroaching storm beach which forms the northern tip of the Holm. Overall, it measures approximately 10m in diameter and stands to between 0.3m and 0.4m high.
Fair
Survey

HPW7
HY 5046 5229
Holm of Papa Westray
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
An arc of grass-covered stonework is located on the coast edge. The part which is visible measures approximately 2m by 1m, but it may extend beneath the surrounding storm beach. The area to the centre of the arc is slightly depressed and has been filled with loose stone. A line of intermittent upright slabs extends northward from this feature and several other large stones in the vicinity are suggestive of structural remains. There is such a quantity of stone in this area, however, that it is difficult to determine what has been constructed from what has been naturally cast up by the sea.
Fair
Monitor
HPW4 (HY55 SW1)
HY 5091 5183
Holm of Papa Westray South, The Disse of the Holm
Chambered cairn: Scheduled (HS Index 90163)
4th-3rd millennium BC
Located <30m from the coast edge
This Maes Howe type chambered cairn was explored in 1849 and taken into guardianship in 1929. It is located on the highest point of the Holm, about 22m from the coast edge. The cairn is sub-rectangular in plan and measures 38m long by 19.5m wide. It is aligned north-northeast- south-southwest (Davidson & Menshall, 1989, no. 22). An entrance passage to the east-southeast side, originally some 5.5m long, leads into the main chamber. This is 13.5m long and has a cell to either end, making the overall length up to some 20.4m. Ten further cells, two of which are double-cells, open off the main chamber. These are arranged in five facing pairs to either side. The tomb is thought to have contained as many as eleven stones decorated with pecking, although not all are now visible. The original contents of the tomb, which included animal bones, have been lost.
Good
Monitor

HPW3 (HY55 SW3)
HY 5070 5185
Ramni Geo, Holm of Papa Westray
Chambered Cairn: Scheduled (HS Index 6424)
4th-3rd millennium BC
Located 100m+ from the coast edge
A grassy mound, 12m in diameter stands up to 0.5m high. Three slabs, which may be parts of a tripartite chamber, protrude through the turf at the centre of the mound. Further stones, visible to the south-west side may be part of an external kerb or revetment.
Fair
Nil

HPW8
HY 5075 5185
Ramni Geo, Holm of Papa Westray
Probable burial mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located <20m from the coast edge
A grassy mound is situated to the east side of HPW3. It measures 7m in diameter and stands up to 0.4m high. A few stones are visible around the mound, but there are none which can clearly be identified as structural.
Fair
Survey

324
ML1
HY 3759 0508
Valley, Ve Ness
Structural remains, possibly associated with military sites at Smaogro
20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
A series of concrete plinths with metal fixings are situated on level ground, close to an
occupied house and 5m from a break-in slope leading to the coast edge. The plinths
cover an area measuring approximately 10m by 10m in a field of improved grassland.
They may be associated with military defences which are located over 100m inland to
the north west side of Venus Hill. The defences comprise WWII Smaogro anti-aircraft
battery and radar station, which are still standing, and the site of Smaogro naval
airbase, of which nothing now survives [Guy 1993, 80-87, survey nos. 23, 24, 25]. A
degaussing station has also been recorded in this area [HY30 NE34].
Fair
Nil

ML2
HY 3748 0511
Valley, Ve Ness
Structural remains
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
The remains of a structure, most probably a noast or boat shed, are located in a small
overgrown hollow, which issues out on to the coast edge. It measures 10m by 5m and
the walls, which are mortar-bonded, stand up to 1.6m high. It has a concrete floor and
the remains of winding gear stand to one side.
Poor
Nil

ML3
HY 3730 0520
Point
House and enclosure
18th-20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
(i) A house, which is now in use as a shed, retains its roof but is in a dilapidated
condition. It is situated 8m from the coast edge. It measures 9m by 5m and stands to
4.5m at the gable ends. The walls are constructed from roughly dressed and coursed
stones with mortar bonding. The roof is formed from flagstones. There is a central
doorway which faces seaward, flanked on either side by a window. Inside there is a
hearth with a chimney to one end.
(ii) A rectangular enclosure, some 5m², lies 100m to the north west side of the house (i).
The earthen and stone bank stands up to 0.75m. It lies some 30m from the coast edge
in an area of rough, marshy grassland.
Fair
Nil
ML4
HY 3721 0531
Point
Putative prehistoric structures
3rd-1st millennium BC
Elements located <10m from the coast edge
Three semi-circular earthen banks appear to form two or more structures or enclosures. The banks stand up to 0.5m high and are located in an enclosed field of rough grass. Two of the banks are conjoined, forming a figure-of-eight shape. This measures about 10m long by 8m wide. The other bank, which lies 10m to the east, encloses an area with an internal diameter of about 8m. The ground surface in the surrounding area is uneven and it is possible that further, less defined, structures are present. The area is somewhat vulnerable to erosion and to animal poaching. In view of the fact that these structures may be of early date, it is recommended that further survey and assessment be carried out.
Fair
Survey
ML5
HY 370 054
Dyke-end, Swanbister Bay
Flotsam, possibly of military origin
20th C
Located on the foreshore
A hollow iron box-type object lies on the foreshore. It measures 4m by 3m. There is a chain attached to one side of the box. The metal has corroded and is flaking away in large fragments. This object appears to have been washed up by the sea and may be part of a defensive boom or may be military debris of WWI or WWII origin.
Fair
Nil

ML6
HY 3640 0547
Smoogro
Jetty and WW1 memorial
20th C
Elements located on the foreshore and intertidal zone
(i) A jetty, formed from large boulders of uneven size which have been set together with a concrete capping, extends from the coast into the sea for about 50m. It is about 1m wide.
(ii) At the landward end of the jetty, a memorial stone is dedicated to Squadron Commander Edwin Dunning, a pioneering naval airman, who was killed while attempting a landing on HMS Furious on 7th August 1917.
Fair
Nil

ML7
HY 3605 0539
Swanbister Bay
Military remains
20th C
Located on the foreshore
Three metal cages, measuring 2m by 6m, are fitted on sledge runners. One is situated at the HWM, another lies 20m further down the beach and the third is 15m further into the inter-tidal zone. Together they appear to have formed the base to a mobile ramp or jetty, possibly associated with the WWII or III military stations at Smoogro (see ML1).
Fair
Nil

327
**ML8 (HY30 NE13)**
HY 3532 0508
Hillock of Brekalna
Probable settlement mound: Scheduled (HS Index 1445)
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located <30m from the coast edge
A large, well-defined grassy mound is located on improved grassland about 25m from the coast edge. It measures 20m in diameter and stands up to 2m high. The mound has been disturbed and previous surveyors noted the presence of structural remains at the centre of the mound. The remains included a section of curved wall suggestive of a broch. This is not now visible, although part of a wall face stands to the east side. An admiralty flag pole or mast was erected on the mound during WWI. Several large stones with iron fixings, which may have served as mooring posts, are strewn around the site.
Fair
Survey

**ML52 (HY30 NE12)**
HY 3515 0502
Swanbister House
Find spot
Indeterminate
Located <100m from the coast edge
A cache of finds, including fragments of deer antler, was recovered from this area in 1870. There are no visible traces of archaeological remains in this area.

**ML53 (HY30 SE1)**
HY3521 0499
Swanbister House
Site of chapel and burial ground
10th-14th C.
It is alleged that there was once a chapel in this area and it has been recorded that numerous human bones have been found in the vicinity. The site was disturbed by naval installations in WWI.
Not Located

**ML54 (HY30 SE2)**
HY3505 0490
Swanbister House
Site of WWI seaplane base
20th C.
Located <100m from the coast edge
A WWI seaplane base was located in this area.
Not Inspected
ML9
HY 351 047
Sands of Piggar
Anti-submarine netting
20th C
Located on the coast edge
Submarine netting, presumably left over from wartime defences, has been used as part
of a gabion-type barrier on the coast edge. It extends for about 200m and is built up
over dumped rubble and debris.
Fair
Nil

ML10
HY 3519 0460
Sands of Piggar- Toy Ness
Structure, possibly military
20th C
Located <20m from the coast edge
A large stone built structure, located to the west side of Swanhister Bay, may be a
military structure of WW1 or WW2 date. It measures 20m by 8m and stands to 5m high. It
is roofed with corrugated asbestos sheeting and the door and window lintels are made
of concrete. Two original entrances are located to either end of the building, while a
large barn door has been added on the landward side of the building. It is currently in
use as a shed.
Good
Nil

ML11
HY 3542 0450
Toy Ness
Structures, possibly military
20th C
Located <30m from the coast edge
Two roofless stone structures, probably of military origin, are located to the landward
side of a track which runs parallel to the coast edge.
(i) Measuring 10m by 5m, this two-storied stone building stands up to 5m at the gable
ends. It is located 20m from the coast edge and has buttressing built up against the
seaward side.
(ii) This building is aligned at 90° to (i) and measures 12m by 5m. It stands up to 4m high
and has three windows and two doors in one of its side walls. The slab roof is partially
preserved.
Fair
Nil
ML12
HY 355 044
Toy Ness
Harbour
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
A narrow harbour is enclosed on two sides by walls which extend for approximately
80m. It has a hand crane located at its seaward end. Both the harbour walls and the
crane are becoming dilapidated.
Good
Nil

ML13
HY 3560 0429
Toy Ness
Mounds
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
(i) A short coastal exposure contains a concentration of stone which extends over a
distance of 8m. The stones are covered by 0.3m of peat. In the immediate hinterland
area a slight mound, measuring 5m in diameter, stands up to 0.5m high.
(ii) A second mound, of similar dimensions, lies 25m to the south of (i).
(iii) At a distance of 5m to the south of (ii) a third mound measures 5.5m in diameter and
stands to 0.5m high. Structural stone is visible in a coastal exposure immediately in front
of the mound and in rabbit scarpes on the mound. It is located 1m from the coast edge
and is covered by peat to a depth of at least 0.2m.
(iv) An oval mound, measuring 7m by 5m, is located 25m to the south of (iii). The centre
of the mound is pitted, indicating previous disturbance. There are traces of a perimeter
bank to the outside of the mound. It lies 6m from the coast edge.
Fair
Survey

ML14
HY 3560 0429
Toy Ness
Military remains: concrete plinths
20th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
Four concrete plinths are set into the ground forming a cross-shape. Each measures 1.4m
by 1.4m and has a metal fixing attached to the upper surface. The nearest plinth stands
5m from the coast edge.
Fair
Nil
ML15
HY 3459 0381
The Breck
Structures and slipway
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
(i) Two sheds, joined by a length of walling, appear to have been remodelled from an original dwelling house. Each measures 3m by 3m, stands to about 3m high and is roofed. The buildings are situated at the top of the cliffs, in long, rough grassland.
(ii) On the shore, beneath the sheds (i), a passage or clear-way for boats has been made through the rocks of the foreshore area.
(iii) Occupied dwelling houses are located over 100m from the coast edge in this area; most have gardens and plots which extend down to the coast edge.
(iv) At a distance of some 200m to the south of (i), a slipway is defined by two parallel rows of boulders. It extends from the foreshore into the inter-tidal area for about 30m.
Fair
Nil

ML56 (HY30 SW2)
HY 335 044
Earl’s Bu, Orphir
Norse settlement and mill: Scheduled (HIS Index 90236)
10th-14th C
Elements possibly located <100m from coast edge
The Earl’s Hall at Orphir, a high status settlement of the later Norse period, is mentioned in the Orkneyinga Saga. It was the seat of Earl Hakon Paulsson who gained infamy from the slaying of Earl Magnus on Egilsay around the year 1117AD. He is also credited with the building of the round church at Orphir (Listed Category ‘A’), for which the inspiration is said to have been the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The remains of a large building that may be the Earl’s Hall, a horizontal watermill and part of the church lie close to the road, several hundred metres from the coast. The scheduled area extends from these sites to the coast edge, although there are no visible archaeological remains present within the coastal zone.
Fair
Monitor

ML16
HY 3350 0430
Orphir Bay
Noost
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
The last 1m or so of a very reduced noost is visible in the banks above the shore. It has walls of coursed masonry and has a pointed end. It measures 1.5m wide and is overgrown.
Poor
Nil

331
**ML17 (HY30 5W16)**
HY 3325 0422
Orphir Bay
Structure
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
The footings of a rectangular structure, measuring 8m by 3m, are located on the foreshore and exposed in the coastal section. The building is aligned east-west. Previous records have noted the presence of a cross-wall but this is no longer clearly visible (Batey, 1980). Further, more ill-defined structural remains survive nearby to the south. This site is very vulnerable to destruction from coastal erosion and assessment is urgently required.
Poor
Survey

**ML50**
HY 3323 0422
Orphir Bay
Mound
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
An amorphous mound is located close to the coast edge. It measures 10m in diameter and stands up to 1m high.
Fair
Survey

**ML18**
HY 3283 0387
Head of Banks, Bay of Myre
Mound
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
A grassy mound with intermittent protruding stones is located on the coast edge. It measures 9m by 3m and stands up to 1m high. The seaward face appears to have been damaged by erosion and stones, which may be structural, are exposed in the section.
Poor
Survey
ML19 (HY30 SW6)
HY 3248 0400
Bay of Myne
Mound: alleged chapel site
10th-14th C
Located <10m from the coast edge
A lumpy, amorphous mound, up to 0.5m high, is located in one corner of a pasture field. It lies 5m from the coast edge, from which it is separated by a trackway. Up to 15% of the surface of the mound, on the east side, has been damaged by cattle poaching. It is alleged that a chapel was once located in this area and that the mound may represent the remains of this structure. Previous recorders have noted the presence of stone in the area and report that, according to a local informant, the ground could not be ploughed on account of this stoniness. The area is now very overgrown and while there are no indications that the mound is of archaeological interest, survey and assessment would be required to determine the nature of the remains which are present.
Fair
Survey

ML20 (HY30 SW41 & 44)
HY 3229 0366
Midland Ness
Site of WWI military camp and WWII anti-aircraft batteries
20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
(i) (HY30 SW41) A WWI camp was located in this area. During WWII a heavy anti-aircraft battery was situated at the highest point of Midland Ness.
(ii) (HY30 SW44) A second heavy anti-aircraft battery was situated adjacent to the coast edge on the east side of Midland Ness. The site is now marked by a mass of half-buried concrete fragments.
Poor
Nil

ML21 (HY30 SW42)
HY 3201 0390 & HY 312 039
Houton
WWII seaplane base
20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
Built during WWII, this was originally planned only as a repair and maintenance base. When it became apparent that the location of the seaplane base at Stenness was unsuitable, operations were diverted to Houton and the site was built up. It was eventually equipped with slipways, hangars, concrete aprons, repair shops, a generating plant, accommodation for 600 and a kite balloon base with huts and maintenance buildings. The site was sold off after the war and was largely demolished. During WWII an anti-aircraft battery was built on the site of the accommodation camp to the east side of the Bay of Houton. The site is marked today by fragments of concrete surfaces, some old sheds and quantities of rusting iron fittings and broken-up concrete rubble.
Poor, Nil

3.3.3
ML22 (HY30 SW7)
HY 3124 0339
Houton Head, Kirkhouse
Site of chapel: Scheduled (HS Index 3245)
10th-14th C
Located <100m from the coast edge
It is alleged that a chapel stood in this area. Excavations in the area uncovered four bronze bells, two of which are now in the keeping of Kirkwall Museum. Previous surveys noted the presence of structural remains in this area but thought them unlikely to represent a chapel. The area is now overgrown with brambles and it was not possible to inspect the site closely. It is probable that archaeological remains survive in this area.
Unknown
Survey

ML23 (HY30 SW40)
HY 3080 0360
Houton Head
WWII coastal battery and site of WWI coastal battery
20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
A signal station was set up on Houton Head during WWI and a boom was established between Bring Deep and Scad Head. A coastal battery, comprising two 12 pounder guns, was set up to defend the boom. During WWII the site was reused and a signal station, boom and coastal battery were established. The battery was equipped with twin 12 pounder quick-fire guns installed in concrete gun houses. The battery and ancillary buildings, which include magazines, an observation post, engine room and shelters, lie over 100m from the coast edge. Within the coastal zone there are four searchlight emplacements and the remains of small, ancillary buildings. The searchlight emplacements, built of concrete, are reached by steps cut into the cliff edge. They are fully open at the front and look across Scapa Flow towards the cliffs of Hoy. They appear to be in fairly good condition.
Fair
Monitor
ML24
HY 3035 0442
Breck
Structures: farmstead and boat house
18th-20th C
Elements located on the coast edge
(i) A farmstead, comprising a dwelling house and a range of outbuildings, is located 80m from the coast edge. The buildings stand up to roof height but are in a ruinous condition. The house measures 20m long by 8m wide.
(ii) The remains of a rectangular boat house are located at the foot of the cliffs, on the foreshore. The building measures 6m in width and a minimum of 7m in length, although it has been truncated by the sea. The walls, which are of dry stone construction with an earthen core, stand up to 2m high. A passage for boats has been cleared through the rocks of the foreshore directly in front of this building.
Fair
Nil

ML25 (HY30 SW3)
HY 3010 0462
Orskirk
Alleged site of chapel
10th-14th C
A chapel is said to have once stood in this location and to have been demolished prior to 1880. There are now no traces of the site.
Not located
ML26
HY 2949 0539
Buxa
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
Intermittent concentrations of stone are exposed in the coastal section. There is a very slight rise in the ground surface immediately inland of the exposure, but this is ill-defined as a result of cultivation. The exposure is situated 2.2m above the level of the foreshore and extends for about 1.5m. The stones appear ordered and may be part of a structure. The largest concentration occurs to the south end of the exposure and is 5m long. The stone is covered by 0.4-0.5m of topsoil and turf. It covers a buried soil which is 0.2m deep. In turn, the buried soil covers glacial till.
Fair
Survey

ML27 (HY20 NES)
HY 2940 0620
Sower
Mound
3rd-1st millennium BC
Located <100m from the coast edge
Locally known as a ‘castle’, this site was formerly called ‘Hillock of Haose-ha’. Previous surveyors have recorded traces of a large indeterminate structure and have identified the site variously as a settlement mound and as a cairn. The former interpretation is the most probable. The remains now comprise a large grassy mound, located in a pasture field almost 100m from the coast edge. The mound measures 24m by 19m, stands up to 2m high and is aligned east-west. Some stonework is visible in small exposures around the periphery of the mound. The site appears not to have been disturbed to any great extent in the past and is not currently threatened.
Fair
Monitor

ML28 (HY20 NE25)
HY 2914 0652
Millhouse, Dyke
Mill and shed
18th-20th C
Elements located <10m from the coast edge
Two buildings, a mill and a shed, are aligned parallel to the coast and separated by a mill pond. The mill is 12m long by 7m wide and stands up to 4m high at the gable ends. The walls are constructed from dressed and regularly coursed stone. It is located 1.5m from the coast edge. There is a single door in the landward side wall and there is a slot for an undershot wheel to the north end. The shed measures 6m by 4m and stands up to 1.2m high. It is located 8m from the coast edge. The mill pond, measuring 8m across, is now filled in, although the area remains marshy.
Fair
Nil

337
ML29
HY 2906 0700
Clestrain
Putative souterrain
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD
Located on the coast edge
A subterranean passage, aligned at 90° to the coast edge, is exposed in the coastal section. It lies beneath 0.2m of topsoil and turf and a further 0.2m of colluvium. The drystone walls, which stand up to 1.1m or 1.6 courses high, are revetted against bedrock. The passage, therefore, is either partially cut into the rock or has utilised a natural chasm. It is 1.05m wide and can be followed into the section face for a distance of about 2.2m. Beyond this point the passage is filled with refuse which has been washed in by the sea. This structure may be part of a souterrain, or alternatively may be a nook or boat shed of some antiquity which has been buried. It is open to the sea and therefore vulnerable to destruction; urgent assessment is required.
Fair
Survey

ML30
HY 2909 0708
Salthouse Bay, Clestrain
Structure: Store
18th-20th C
Located <20m from the coast edge
The ruins of a large rectangular structure is located in a field of improved pasture, some 18m from the coast edge. It measures 14m by 7m and has a doorway in either side wall. The walls stand up to 3m high and are 1m in thickness. They are constructed from dressed stone in irregular courses and are bonded with mortar. The doorways have timber lintels, which are in a very dilapidated condition. The roof has completely collapsed. The local placename ‘Salthouse’ might suggest that this building, or a predecessor, may have been a salt store or that it may have been associated with the fishing industry.
Fair
Nil
ML51
HY 2906 0700 TO HY 2907 0733
Saltstone Bay, Clestrain
Cultivation soils
Indeterminate
Elements located on the coast edge
A deep layer of cultivated soil is exposed in the coastal section between these points. It is up to 0.4m deep and contains frequent lenses within it. It is covered by a deep topsoil and turf.
Fair
Monitor

ML31
HY 2907 0733
Clestrain
Nook and structure
18th-20th C
Located on the coast edge
(i) A nook, 6m long by 2m wide, is cut into grassy banks at the tip of a small headland. It has revetted drystone walls, which stand up to 1m high, and a pointed end. The interior is overgrown.
(ii) The remains of a rectangular structure survive to a height of 0.75m. It measures 8m by 2.5m wide and adjoins a boundary wall which runs parallel to the coast edge. A single doorway leads into the interior which contains two slabs which project from the back wall and may have formed a bench or cupboard. The interior is very overgrown.
Fair
Nil

ML32
HY 291 074
Clestrain
Cultivation soil and putative structural remains
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
Intermittent concentrations of stone are visible beneath a deep covering of ploughsoil in a coastal exposure which extends for about 1.5m. The stones all lie at about the same level and may be part of a loid surface. The stones lie over an old ground surface. They are covered by smaller stones and rubble, which has the appearance of a destruction horizon. Lenses of yellow clay were noted in association with the larger stones which occur to the north end of the exposure. The soil which covers this rubble contains occasional lenses and flecks of charcoal. These deposit may be part of a larger archaeological site and should be assessed and kept under surveillance.
Fair
Survey

339
ML33
HY 2910 0862
Norton
Slipway
18th-20th C
Located in the inter-tidal zone
A line of large boulders forms a slipway. It extends from the foreshore into the intertidal zone for approximately 25m and is up to 4m wide.
Fair
Nil
ML34 (HY20 NE3)
HY 2937 0960
Hall of Ireland
Site of chapel and burial ground
10th-14th C
A chapel and burial ground are said to have been sited in this area. Part of a gable is said to have survived until the 19th C but by the 1920’s only a few stones remained. The area is now very overgrown and there are no signs of either the church or the burial ground.
Not located
Monitor

ML35 (HY20 NE21)
HY 2931 0969
Knowe of Gemashow, Hall of Ireland
Alleged site of mound
Indeterminate
A mound is said to have stood in this location. It is no longer in evidence. A deep ploughsoil, indicative of cultivation over some duration, is exposed in section in this area and extends for several hundred metres.
Not located

ML36 (HY20 NE1)
HY 2905 0987
The Cairns, Hall of Ireland
Putative fort; Scheduled (HS Index 11248)
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD
Located on the coast edge
This extensive site, previously described as being a collection of ill-defined hillocks, may in fact be the remains of a small fort. It was once thought to be the site of a Danish fort. The site and the land which immediately surrounds it has not been cultivated and is very overgrown. While this impedes an examination of the remains, these are sufficiently substantial to be described as an artificial mound or platform with adjoining enclosure. The platform stands up to 3m high, measures 54m by 30m, and is aligned north-south, parallel to the coast. The top of the platform is relatively level but rises slightly to the periphery, possibly indicating the presence of a surrounding bank. Some stone is visible in the sloping sides, suggesting that there may have been a revetment wall. A smaller mound lies to the south east side of the platform and may indicate the presence of buried remains here. To the seaward side of the platform a curvilinear bank encloses an area of at least 50m by 10m. The banks are earthen and although somewhat
reduced by cultivation and coastal erosion, have the appearance of defences. Bone pins are said to have been recovered from this area. The site has a direct line of view to Stromness and beyond through Hoy Sound.

In all, this site, with its tradition of being a Danish fort, the substantial and defensive nature of the remains and the strategic location strongly suggests that this is a fortification of early historic or medieval date. In view of the fact that such a site would be unusual in an Orcadian context and that it is already subject to coastal erosion, it is recommended that assessment should be carried out as a matter of the highest priority.

Fair
Survey

ML37
HY 2848 1015
Com Hilllock
Putative broch or settlement site
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD
Located <10m from the coast edge
A grassy mound, tentatively identified as a broch or settlement, lies in the corner of a pasture field, 8m from the coast edge. It measures approximately 30m by 23m and stands up to 1.6m high. At the centre is a hollow area, measuring 1.5m in diameter. There are several earthfast stones protruding from the surface of the mound and intermittent concentrations of stone are apparent beneath the turf. The peripheries of the mound have been damaged by quarrying. The site is not currently threatened but requires further assessment to determine its nature.
Fair
Survey
ML38 (HY21 SE17)
HY 2824 1039
Cummi Howe
Broch mound: Scheduled (HS Index 1256)
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD
Located on the coast edge
Fragments of walled and structural remains have been partially exposed by coastal erosion in the seaward side of a large amorphous mound. The exposure measures 25m by 14m and stands up to 2m high. Previously, a substantial circular wall was visible, as was a passage leading to a secondary structure. These are now not clearly visible, although portions may survive beneath the dense vegetation. Now, only a fragment of walled, which may be the inner face of a gallery or intra-mural cell, is visible. While the site has undoubtedly been damaged by coastal erosion, the section face appears not continuously receding but rather it is being removed in spurts, with periods of vegetation regeneration in between. The highest point of the mound lies behind the current section face and it would appear that the major part of the structure, which is most likely to be a broch, remains relatively intact.
Fair
Monitor

ML39
HY 2809 1059
Cummi Ness
Structural remains
Indeterminate
Located on the coast edge
Part of a curving wall exposed in the coastal section appears to belong to an oval or sub-circular structure, measuring some 10m in diameter. The wall stands up to 3 courses or 0.45m high and is associated with deposits of burnt bone, charcoal and peat ash lenses. The site is currently being eroded and should be assessed in the near future.
Fair
Survey
ML5
HY 2810 1061
Curmi Ness
Structural remains
10th-14th C
Elements located on the coast edge
Two rectangular structures are visible from aerial photographs (B140 CPE/Scot/UK 185 neg. 4418, sortie date: 9.10.1946). The buildings are aligned east-west and parallel to one another. The southernmost structure is the larger of the two buildings. They may represent a house and a barn, possibly of Norse or Medieval date. The area is very overgrown and the remains could not be located on the ground with any degree of certainty.
Fair
Survey

ML40 (HY20 NE71)
HY 272 096
Bu of Calrston
Settlement- possible broch
1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD
Located on the coast edge
A coastal exposure, over 50m long, contains structural remains but is so overgrown that these are not clearly identifiable. The section face stands up to 3m in height and along with series of upright slabs there are anthropogenic soil deposits which contain inclusions of bone and shell. The site has been eroding for many years and collections of artefacts and unworked bone have been collected and deposited at Tankerness House Museum. Previous recorders have interpreted the site as a broch and associated settlement. The site has never been thoroughly assessed, however, and it may be that significant remains of both earlier and later periods are also present.
Fair
Survey

ML41 (HY20 NE10)
HY 2720 0956
Bu of Calrston
Site of Castle
10th-14th C
Located c100m from the coast edge
A castle, dated variously to the 12th and 16th C date or 12th C date with later additions, is recorded at this location. It is said to have belonged to the Gordon clan and to have measured some 20m² in plan. In recent time the site has been used for farm buildings and, with the surrounding being very overgrown, nothing of the castle is now readily visible.
Poor
Nil
Appendix I: Glossary

Built Heritage and Archaeology

Broch: a circular tower found mostly in Northern and Western Scotland. They are sometimes interpreted as the residences of local elites. Evidence suggests that they were built in the last centuries BC and continued in use into the 1st millennium AD.

Boat shed: for the purposes of this survey, this site type refers to a structure designed for the storage of boats or gear associated with boats or fishing.

Boath: this term is used to describe both trading boatsh and fishing warehouses, both of which may contain a dwelling area, usually situated on an upper floor.

Chambered cairn: type of burial monument dating to 4-3rd millennium BC, may be subdivided into two main categories: (i) 'Orkney-Cromarty' type, where the entrance passage leads into a chamber which is sub-divided into compartments, often by upright slabs; (ii) Maes Howe type, passage leading to a large square or rectangular chamber with further entrances in the central chamber walls leading to side-cells.

Clearance cairn: a pile of stone or rubble formed from material removed from elsewhere, usually from fields under cultivation.

Crue/Cru/Cruil/Kru: An enclosure, either of dry-stone walling or earthen banks, which may serve as a sheep pound or shelter or contain a cultivable area.

Fishing Station: this term may either refer to 18th- early 20th C fishing 'villages' which were used as temporary accommodation during the fishing season, or to 20th C industrial complexes engaged in the processing of fish and sometimes whales. The former type served as centres for processing fish caught by tenants on behalf of their landlords. The latter were commercial operations.

Haa: A mansion-house or hall, usually of at least two-stories.
**Heel-shaped cairn**: A distinctive type of chambered cairn found in Shetland. Such tombs usually have a concave façade containing a single entrance. A passage leads from the entrance to a simple chamber. The rear of the cairn is usually rounded, which together with the façade, lends a distinctive heel shape to the overall plan.

**Hulk/wreck**: Both terms refer to abandoned boats; hulls have been taken to refer to boats which lie on the foreshore; wrecks lie in the marine zone.

**Lodge**: A small, usually roughly-built, structure used mainly by fishermen as a temporary abode. Groups of lodges, together with fish-drying beaches and boddies are usually referred to as fishing stations within this report.

**Noost/Naust/Noust**: A shelter for boats located above the HWM. Some are little more than a hollow dug into the ground; others have retaining walls and may have winding gear and be associated with a slipway.

**Planticrue/Planticrubb/Planticru**: Small enclosed garden plot usually used for bringing on cabbage plants from seed. These small enclosures are frequently found close to 19th C settlements, but may also be found in isolated locations.

**Pund**: A dry-stone enclosure for containing animals, often with a sheep dipping tank incorporated into the walls.

**Skeos**: A dry-stone 'shed' used for wind-drying and storing foodstuffs, especially fish. Skeos were built in exposed positions to catch the wind.

**Slipway**: A passage cleared on the foreshore to facilitate the transport of boats to and from the sea. They may be lined with stone, and some may also have had a wooden component.

**Souterrain**: An underground passage, built of stone and sometimes comprising one or more chambers. Usually regarded as of Iron Age date, and interpreted as storage places; may be associated with above-ground settlement.

**Settlement mound**: A mound containing the remains of earlier settlement and other activity, often representing several phases of use.
Hinterland Geology, Coastal Geomorphology and Erosion

Aeolianite: Blown sand which has been cemented together, in this case, by precipitation of calcium carbonate.

Ayre: Shingle isthmus running out from the mainland usually covered by water at HWM.

Backshore: Strictly, the zone of beach between the HWM and the coastal edge.

Berm: A small ridge running along a storm beach parallel to the coast. In this case the berm is specified as one of the cobble ridges between HWM and LWM and not the main storm beach ridge.

Boulder: The British standard classification is used, i.e. > 20 cm.

Butte Dune: An outlier of sand which is vegetated on top and is eroding around the sides. Usually from 1m to 4m high. Erosion is predominantly from deflation.

Cobble: The British standard classification is used, i.e. 6-20cm.

Colluvium: Weathered rock or mixed with till (sometimes other drift materials) which have run down hill.

Cyclotherm: A set of deposits that are laid down by cyclic or rhythmic sedimentation. The set is then repeated.

Cultivable: The land/fields which have few physical constraints such as undrained or rocky and could be, or are, tilled mechanically, i.e. ploughed. Most fields in the survey area are down to grass but are still cultivable.

Deflation: Term which signifies material blown out or scoured from an area due to aeolian activity.

Drift: The softer material which overlies solid geology, e.g. till, peat, soil.
Eustatic changes: Sea-level changes caused by the absolute rise or fall of sea levels.

Foreshore: The intertidal area between the HWML and LWM.

Fluvio-glacial: Sediments laid down with the aid of water under glacial conditions.

Gelifaction: Slow movement of debris down slope under permafrost conditions. Almost synonymous with solifluction where the freeze-thaw action of water is more important and does not imply conditions of permafrost.

Gley: A soil type which is normally waterlogged, reducing conditions.

Gravel: The British standard classification is used, i.e. 2-60mm. Also described as pebbles.

HWML: High water mark as taken from Ordnance Datum at Newlyn.

Isostatic changes: Sea-level changes caused by the relative movement of the land itself.

LWM: Low water mark as taken from Ordnance Datum at Newlyn.

Lag: Residual coarse material where the finer sediments have been removed.

Coastal Migration: Movement of the coast edge landwards which may be due to transgression and/or erosion.

Peat: A pure organic soil. In absolute terms one which is >30cm but in this survey any organic material >10cm.

Raker: Shallow soil over rock with no B horizon, generally <5cm.

Rendzina: As for raker but overlying calcareous rock or shelly sand.

Rock Platform: Intertidal marine platform or wave-cut platform of the solid rock.
Sitting: Large area where the vegetation is covered intermittently by salt water, hence the vegetation is salt resistant to some degree. In the survey area most areas were intertidal along the upper foreshore.

Saprolite: The soft weathered rock of in situ material.

Shingle: Mixture of gravel and cobble sized material.

Skeletal Soil: A shallow soil generally < 5 cm deep with no B horizon. The A horizon is almost totally made up of organic material supporting a fragile plant community usually over sand.

Slope: Three divisions have been arbitrarily delineated

- Gentle: 5 to 9°
- Moderate: 10 to 19°
- Steep: > 20°

Strandline: Within the backshore an accumulation of debris such as seaweed and vegetation.

Talar: An outlier of soft material, from 10-50 cm high, which is usually vegetated on the top and is eroding around the sides. Usually occurs on sitting where erosion is very slow. Where outliers of sand have the same form they are referred to as Butte Dunes.

Till: Collective term for sediments laid down by glacial action. Also includes boulder clay.

Transgression: The inundation of the coast due to rising sea level.
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