



ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999

Sanday & North Ronaldsay

Hazel Moore &
Graeme Wilson
EASE Archaeology

with contributions by
Alan Stapf, Arkensol

Commissioned by
ORKNEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Funded By
HISTORIC SCOTLAND

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North Ronaldsay



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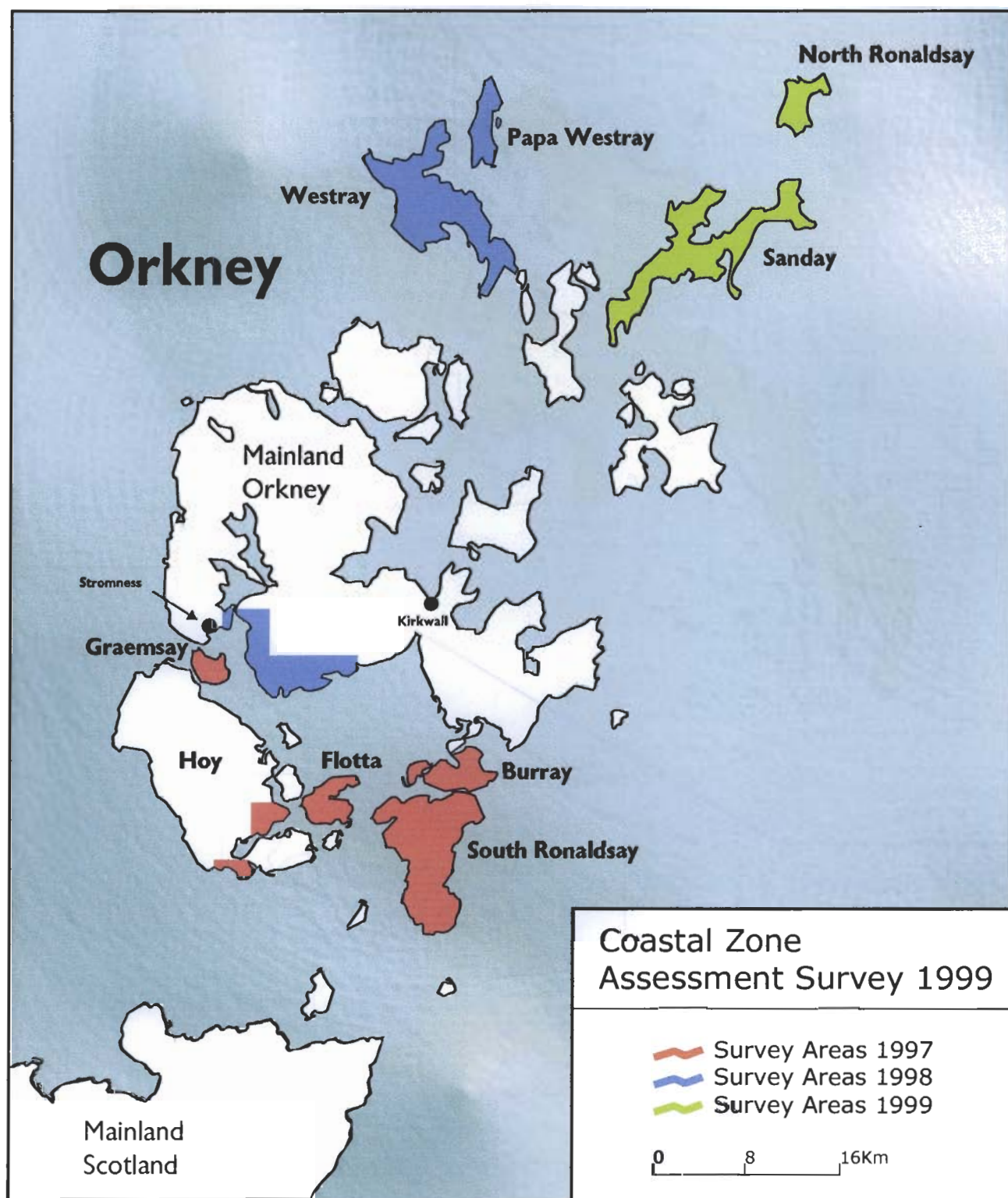
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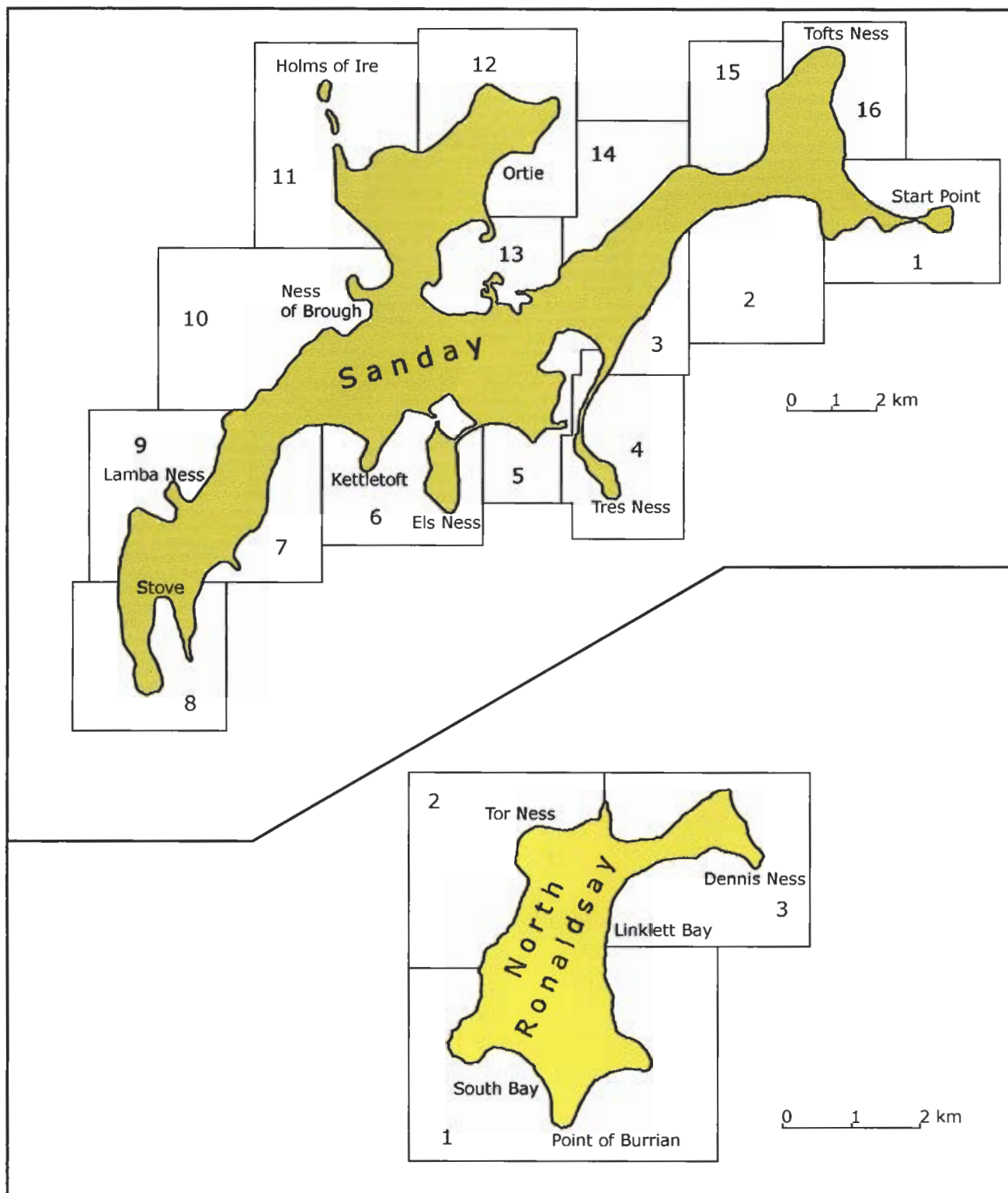
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Introduction

This report documents the findings of a coastal zone assessment survey carried out on the islands of Sanday and North Ronaldsay in 1999. It forms the final part of a three year programme of coastal assessment in Orkney (see map for locations of other areas). The aims of the programme are to gather specific data on the archaeological resource and on the actual and potential risks to its survival. The results, together with those provided from similar programmes of work being undertaken throughout Scotland, will go forward to inform future management strategies. All parts of this work were grant funded by Historic Scotland through Orkney Archaeological Trust.

The archaeological survey was carried out by Hazel Moore and Graeme Wilson, EASE Archaeology; Alan Stapf, ARKENSOL, conducted a complementary survey of the coastal geology, hinterland geomorphology and erosion on Sanday.

This report follows the format and specifications set down in Archaeology Procedure Paper 4: Coastal Zone Assessment Survey, Historic Scotland (1996).

The Survey

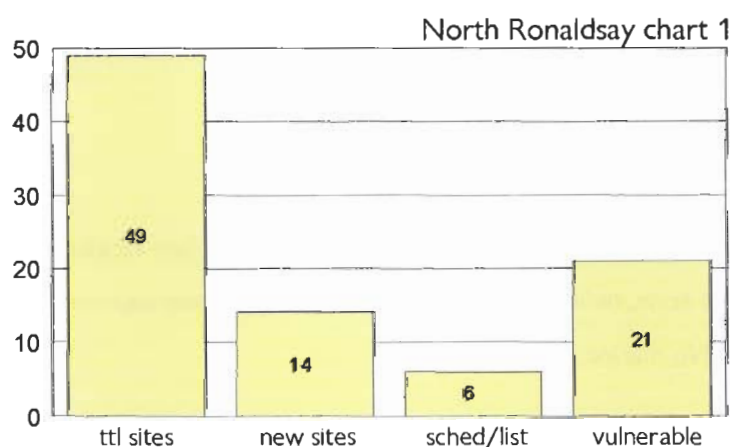
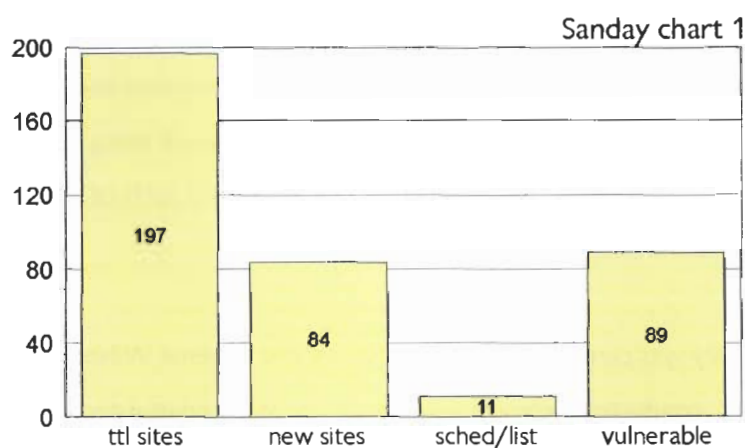
The survey area covered the islands of Sanday and North Ronaldsay (see location map). Investigation was limited to the coastal zone, defined as a 50-100m wide strip of land adjacent to the coast edge, including the foreshore. No marine survey was undertaken.

The area covered by this survey takes in 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 1:25,000 the combined length of the Sanday and North Ronaldsay coastlines is estimated to be 138km, with Sanday at 119km and North Ronaldsay at 19km. At a scale of 1:10,000, the combined distance is estimated to be in the region of 150km.

Background

A desk-based review of the known sites and monuments indicated that 148 sites had previously been recorded in the survey area: 113 of these are **located on Sanday** and 35 on North Ronaldsay. Of these, 17 are protected as scheduled ancient monuments or as listed buildings. 11 protected sites are located on Sanday and 6 on North Ronaldsay.

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 this instance, the site description provided within this report is taken directly from the NMR or SMR record cards. Such sites are labelled 'not seen' or 'not located', as appropriate.



Conditions

Most of the survey area in Sanday is low-lying and under cultivation and therefore relatively accessible by foot. In the case of North Ronaldsay, access to the hinterland was occasionally hampered by the sheep dyke. In general, the vegetation cover on both islands is low and did not impede site visibility.

The survey was carried out during August - September 1999 and the weather conditions generally varied from good to fair. One exception to this good weather was on North Ronaldsay, when the weather conditions were very poor. Due to time constraints, the work was continued, but it was not possible to make a photographic record at all of the sites.

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.

This survey was limited in scope; its purpose was to rapidly locate and assess all sites within the coastal zone. While not exhaustive, the data collected should, however, be sufficient to generally characterise each of the sites identified and to facilitate its re-location by others in the future.

A survey of the geology and geomorphology of the coastal zone was carried out simultaneously with the archaeological survey. This part of the work was designed to characterise the natural background of the survey area. The data gathered at this stage will provide a benchmark from which to assess future coastal change and to predict the possible effect this may have on the archaeology and built heritage. The Sanday survey was carried out by Alan Stapf while the North Ronaldsay survey was carried out by Hazel Moore and Graeme Wilson, with advice from Alan Stapf.

Methodology

The entire coastline of the survey area was walked over and was inspected from both the hinterland and foreshore, where possible. On occasion, especially on rough and hilly ground where visibility was impaired, it proved necessary to conduct the survey using 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. SY65 = Sanday, site 65). Some of the field records have been separated into more than one entry for the purposes of 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.

The Survey Areas

Sanday Background

Sanday is the largest of the Northern Isles of Orkney, measuring 21 km from north to south. The population is currently numbers around 500 inhabitants, the majority of whom are engaged in agriculture or fishing. The main conurbations on the island are located at Kettletoft and Lady Village. The island is served by regular air and ferry connections to Kirkwall, some 40 miles away.

Sanday Geomorphology (Alan Stapf)

Sanday lies to the north west of Mainland Orkney with Stronsay to the west and North Ronaldsay to the north. The topography is fairly flat to the east, moderate slopes at most, and a small ridge of hills to the west side of the island. These hills include the highest point, The Ward, at 65 m OD.

Most of the land is under agricultural use although a small proportion of this is not cultivable and down to rough grazing due to vegetated sand dune areas or low lying and wet. Beef and sheep are the main agricultural enterprises with perhaps up to 20% of the cultivable land utilised for arable crops. Good stocking rates are possible as many of the soils are freely draining.

Most soils to the east and centre of the island are sandy skeletal soils or freely draining podzol. There are more poorly draining gley and peaty soils present to the west side. The coastal hinterland is generally dominated by the freely draining skeletal soils, other than in the extreme west. Vegetated dune areas are mostly found around the coastal edge on the south and eastern side of the island. An extensive dune area covers the hinterland beneath The Ward, to the south west of the island.

Sanday Built Heritage and Archaeology

The wealth of archaeological remains on Sanday and the frequently remarkable state of their preservation has long been appreciated. The 1842 New Statistical Account records the locations of numerous sites and also documents a number of early archaeological investigations. Antiquarians and historians such as Marwick, Petrie and Farrer wrote of their own excavations on the island in the 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as documenting the findings of others.

The first systematic survey of the archaeological remains of Sanday was carried out by the Royal Commission in the 1920's. The results were published in 1946 as the 'Twelfth Report with an Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Orkney and Shetland'.

In the 1950's Prof. V. G. Childe' carried out largescale excavations at Quoyness on behalf of the Ministry of Works. This most spectacular chambered cairn had previously been ransacked by antiquarians, Farrer and Petrie, on the mistaken assumption that it was a broch. The published results provided considerable new insights into the construction and use of chambered cairns. Following excavation, the structure was consolidated and opened to the public. Unlike other areas in Orkney, largescale publically-funded excavation and site consolidation was limited on Sanday and, for all its archaeological richness, Quoyness remains the only publicly presented archaeological site on the island.

Periodic archaeological survey carried out by Ordnance Survey provided updates for existing records, and made a number of new site discoveries. In the 1970's, however, a major new survey of the island was carried out by Dr. R G Lamb for RCAHMS. The results presented as an inventory of sites incorporated previous records but importantly included new fieldwork identifications and reappraisals. A number of sites were identified for the first time and the importance of previously unregarded remains, such as treb dykes, was brought to the fore. In the wake of this work, the realisation that many important sites on Sanday were at risk from coastal erosion provided the impetus for major excavations.

The largest of these was conducted by a team from Bradford University at the extensive multi-period settlement at Pool (Hunter 1985, 1987, 1988, 1990). Work continued throughout the 1980's and was extended to examine funerary and settlement remains at Tofts Ness (Dockrill, 1985, 1986, Hunter and Dockrill, 1990). The results of these programmes of work is awaited and will undoubtedly radically alter our understanding of the archaeology of Sanday and Orkney.

Smaller scale assessment and salvage excavation was carried out at the Neolithic settlement site at Stove Bay (Bond et al 1995, Morrison, 1995) and at the Iron Age/Pictish funerary complex at Hermisgarth (Downes and Morris, 1997). New topographic surveys have been carried out at both Tofts Ness (Dockrill, 1985, 1986) and at Els Ness (Downes, 1998). In addition, some work has been carried out on the composition of farm mounds (Bertelson and Lamb, 1993, Davidson, 1994) and several eroding or threatened potential burial sites have been assessed (Downes, 1998).

During the winter of 1991 excavation commenced on a Viking boat burial at Scar. The boat contained the remains of a man, woman and a child, along with grave goods. Exposed through coastal erosion, the site was identified during a programme of coastal monitoring instigated and carried out through the offices of the Orkney Archaeologist. This rare discovery provides important new insights into the Scandinavian heritage of the island (Owen and Dalland, 1999). More recently, in the late 1990's an

assessment was carried out at Brough of Styes in association with Channel 4's Time Team television programme. This work investigated another site with Viking associations, but the results indicate that most of the remains are actually of prehistoric date (Bond, Dockrill, Owen and Gibson, forthcoming).

North Ronaldsay Background

North Ronaldsay is the most northerly and remote island of the Orcadian archipelago. It measures some 4.3 km from north to south and about 1.9 km from east to west. Modern settlement is focused on the road network and is concentrated around Holland, Hooking and Ancum. While farming is the main livelihood on the island, tourism and fishing are also important sources of income. There are regular air and ferry connections with Kirkwall. The island is perhaps best known for its seaweed-eating sheep, which live almost permanently on the shore, and for the drystone Sheep Dyke, which extends around the entire island to keep the sheep out of the fields.

North Ronaldsay Geomorphology

This is a low-lying island; at its highest point at Holland on the west side of the island, it reaches just 23m OD. In general, however, it does not rise above 10m OD. The land is mostly flat but it rises to the north at Tor Ness and at the south at Hollandstoun. The coastline can be roughly divided into three areas: the north coast (including Dennis Ness) which is dominated by storm beaches; the south and east coasts with their dune systems and; the west coast, which is defined by a rock platform and visible drift deposits.

The underlying geology is Rousay flags; a considerable area of which is covered by windblown sand (Mykura 1976, 116). These sand deposits are not immediately apparent, except around the southern and eastern sides of the island where there are dunes.

There are large storm beaches at the northern tip of Dennis Ness and at Dennis Head. The former appears to be advancing landward while the latter is apparently stable. There are other, more minor, storm beaches on the island, notably on the north coast between Tor Ness and Easting. There is some degree of cobble cover over most of the upper foreshore. The west coast of the island is edged with an extensive rock platform.

Coastal erosion on North Ronaldsay has two main causes: the action of the sea and poaching of the land surface by sheep. The relegation of such large numbers of animals to the coastal zone has had a highly detrimental effect upon the condition of the land. In some areas, sheep represent the sole or main agent

of erosion, caused by overgrazing and trampling. In other areas the sheep are exacerbating erosion initiated by other causes, such as wind or wave action. The effects of the sheep are most noticeable around the southernmost tip of North Ronaldsay at Strom Ness. Here the sheep dyke is very close to the coast edge and being thus corralled, the degree of erosion caused by the herds are that much greater. There are extensive areas of coastline which have been stripped bare of all vegetation through overgrazing which are now very vulnerable to desiccation and removal by wind, sea or animal poaching.

North Ronaldsay Built Heritage and Archaeology

North Ronaldsay, although a small island with limited natural resources, is rich in the remains of the past. This was recognised by the local lairds, the Traills of Holland, who were responsible for a number of excavations in the 19th C. At Brae of Stennabreck and Howmae Brae well-preserved and unusual structures of prehistoric/early historic date were uncovered. Excavations at the Broch of Burrian revealed secondary 'Pictish' occupation and evidence of Christian inhabitants. Fortunately, the results of these excavations were reported, albeit in summary, in a series of articles and the substantial finds assemblages recovered from the sites were donated to the NMS. Later on, in the 1970's, the Broch of Burrian excavations were reassessed by MacGregor, and the large assemblage of worked bone was re-evaluated.

The first systematic survey of archaeological remains on the island was carried out in the 1920's by the Royal Commission and published in 1946 as the 'Twelfth Report with an Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Orkney and Shetland'. Further field survey was carried out by Raymond Lamb for RCAHMS and published as an updated inventory in 1980. This report recorded the threat and effects of coastal erosion on the archaeological resource. Since then, very little new archaeological work has been carried out and assessment at a few sites is now critically overdue.

The Survey and Report:

Built Heritage & Archaeology

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, Arkensol. The following notes explain the terminology and shorthand descriptions used throughout the report.

Gazetteer Entries

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

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
Site Code (NMR Number)	SY62 (HY63NE1)
Grid Reference	HY 6766 3779
Place name	Quoyness
Site type	Chambered Cairn
Date (approximate)	4th-3rd millennium BC
Condition	Good
Recommendations	Monitor

Site Description Entries

Site Code: Each site has been given a unique reference code for the purposes of this survey. The two letters which begin each code refer to the survey area: SY- Sanday.

Site Type: While the categories of site types was 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.

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.

The Survey and Report: Hinterland Geology, Coastal Geomorphology and Erosion Class

Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology: Gazetteer Entries

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

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
Label - Place name	1 Gerra Taing
Grid Reference (to centre of area)	HY 759 435
Length of Unit	0.8 km
Foreshore Type	Rock platform.
Coast Edge Type	Coast edge is <5m.
Hinterland Type	The drift/rock interface is generally visible
Description	The rock platform has up to 30% cobble cover...

Erosion Class: Gazetteer Entries

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

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>EXAMPLE</u>
Label - Place name	3 East Ayre
Grid Reference (to centre of area)	HY 739 439
Length of Unit	0.31 km
Erosion Class at time of visit	Accreting to Stable
Description	A small area where there is evidence of...

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.

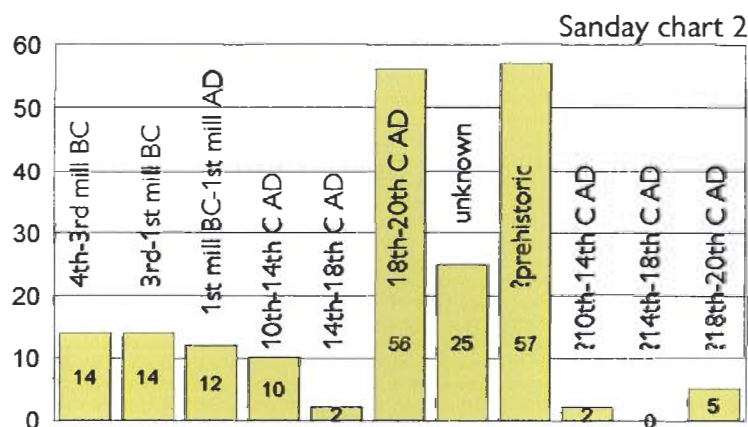
Discussion

The Coastal Archaeology of Sanday

The narrow, elongated and highly indented form of the island of Sanday means that nowhere is far from the sea and, as such, there is no clear distinction between the coastal zone and its hinterland. Over much of the island modern land use is less intensive on the coast than it is in the hinterland, especially where there are dunes or large deposits of windblown sand. It could be anticipated, therefore, that coastal remains are likely to survive better than those inland.

The coastline is affected both by sea erosion and the constant shifting of windblown sand deposits, however. In some instances sites which would not otherwise be visible as topographical features, have been revealed in section by erosion, while it may be presumed that there are also sites which have been completely obscured by the shifting sands.

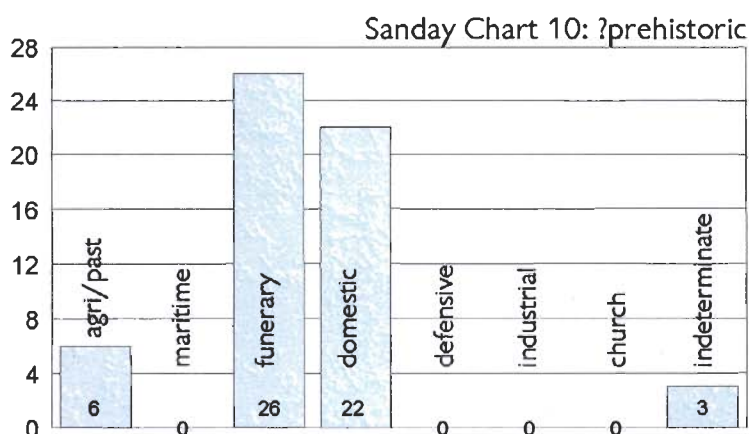
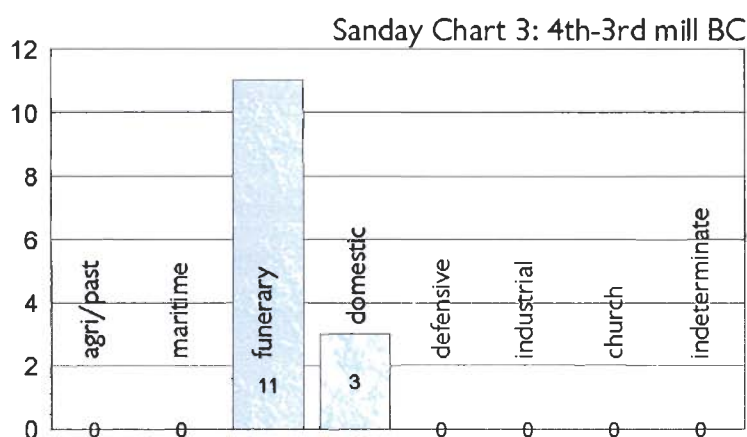
In consequence, the distribution of sites set out here is unlikely to be representative of the totality of archaeological remains actually present, since the type of survey conducted is reliant on sites being readily visible. Whereas, for example, relatively few sites could be identified in sandy areas such as the Bay of Lopness, or below The Wart on the south east coast, many more were recorded on fast-eroding headlands and on promontories such as Tres Ness and Els Ness.



Neolithic Period

The earliest sites identified on Sanday belong to the Neolithic period, here defined as 4th to 3rd millennium BC. Both funerary remains, such as chambered cairns, and settlements are represented. The chambered cairns are best exemplified by Quoyness on Els Ness (**SY62**); other examples include Augmund Howe (**SY63**), Tres Ness (**SY44**) and Mt. Maesry (**SY14**). It is probable that one or more of the large mounds on Tofts Ness may contain a chambered cairn, but this has yet to be demonstrated. A probable chambered cairn was destroyed at Stove (**SY107**) in the past, while damaged cairns at Hacks Ness (**SY99**) and Rethie Taing (**SY146**) are also likely to be chambered.

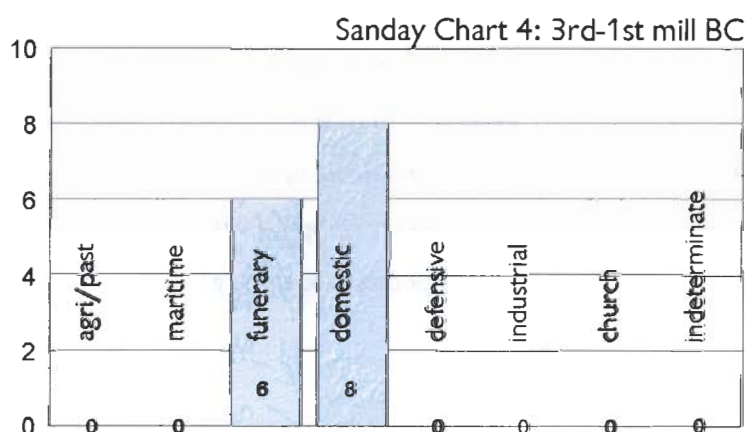
Neolithic settlements have been identified through field work at Pool (**SY117**) and Stove (**SY103**). It is probable that several of the large multi-period 'farm mound' sites also include Neolithic levels. A relict soil layer noted in section at Woo (**SY156**) and settlement-type deposits seen at Boloquoy (**SY119**) would appear to be of early date, although this cannot be determined through surface observation alone.



Bronze Age Period

Sites within the date range 3rd-1st millennium BC, broadly defined here as Bronze Age period, are well represented in the coastal zone: burnt mounds, funerary remains and settlement sites have been recorded. A notable concentration of burnt mounds occurs between Colligarth and Cleat (Maps 13-14) on the northernmost part of the island. Excavations at Tofts Ness (**SY193**) uncovered late Bronze Age settlement and burnt mounds. Bronze Age levels were absent at Pool, however. This hiatus is undoubtedly of local significance, but how far it is reflective of more general developments on Sanday in this period has yet to be determined. Other of the many multi-period sites on the island, such as Northskaill (**SY170**) for example, may include Bronze Age levels.

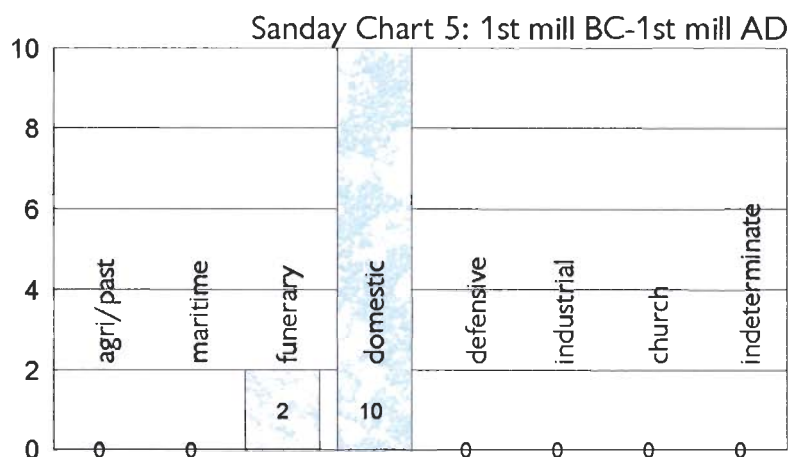
The most numerous site type ascribed to this period are burial mounds. At Tofts Ness (**SY193**) and Els Ness (**SY64, SY66**) large numbers of small mounds are to be found. At Els Ness, these mounds cluster around the larger chambered cairns of Quoyness and Augmund How, at Tofts Ness they cluster around large mounds, which may be chambered cairns, as well as forming complex linear groupings. At both sites the presence of cist-like structures or at least the presence of stone has been noted in a proportion of these mounds and several have been found to contain burials or, at Els Ness, to be associated with cramp. Few of the mounds have been firmly identified or dated, however and it is probable that a good deal of variation exists behind this generalised picture.



Iron Age Period

Brochs, such as Wasso (**SY47**) on Tres Ness, form the most identifiable site type of the Iron Age period. There are, however, relatively few definite broch sites known on Sanday in comparison with Westray, for example. The least ambiguous examples are located at Buryan (**SY18**), where there may also be an unenclosed settlement of contemporary or slightly later date (**SY19**), and at Backaskail (**SY89**), where substantial masonry is exposed in the coastal section. A new exposure in the large mound at Colliness

(SY176) may indicate the survival of a broch in a location previously thought to have been levelled by 20th C military activity. It is highly likely that at least a proportion of the sites now classified as farm mounds are wholly or partially composed of broch or broch-period remains.



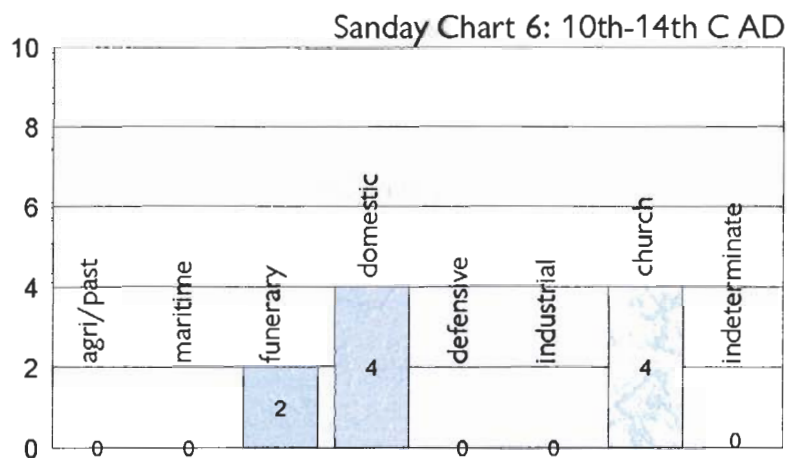
The topography of Sanday is such that there are very few locations suitable for siting a promontory fort. Only one possible site has been recorded, at Scuthi Head (SY126). This is not a typical of Iron Age fort, however, and it is suggested that it may date to the latter part of the 1st millennium or later.

Iron Age burials are rare throughout Scotland and therefore it is fortunate that a late Iron Age/early Pictish period burial site has been identified at Hermisgarth (SY140). The inhumation burial was set in a short cist beneath a cairn, containing at least one further cist. The fact that, were it not for dating evidence, this site would probably have been ascribed to the Bronze Age period, provides a salutary warning that remains cannot be properly interpreted from field observation alone. It is also instructive that work at the site uncovered an extensive funerary complex with pyre settings and cremation burials which, but for excavation, would have lain unsuspected below the ground.

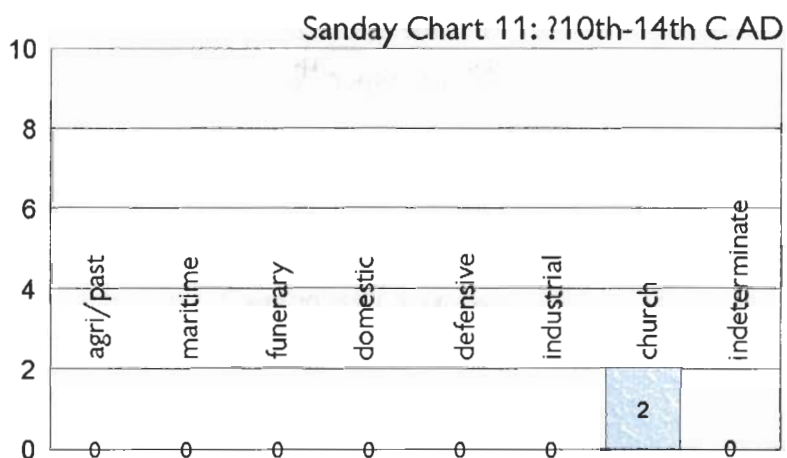
Viking, Norse and Medieval Periods

The settlement at Pool (SY117) which continued throughout the 1st millennium AD and into the Viking and Norse periods provides almost all of the archaeological evidence for the Viking period on Sanday. The transition into the Viking period here appears gradual, marked mainly by changes in agricultural practice, the use of steatite and, eventually, changes in architectural styles. The high skat or taxable valuation placed on Sanday in Norse times reflects the wealth of the island which was based on the success of its agriculture; the fertile soils produced high yields of barley. Yet, little is known of the individual farmsteads of this period. It has been noted that many of the farm mounds were given Scandinavian names which indicate not only that they existed prior to the coming of the Vikings, but that

they formed a focus for primary Viking settlement on the island. The boat burial at Scar (**SY159**), in which the dead were buried with a range of grave goods, provides an insight into this world.

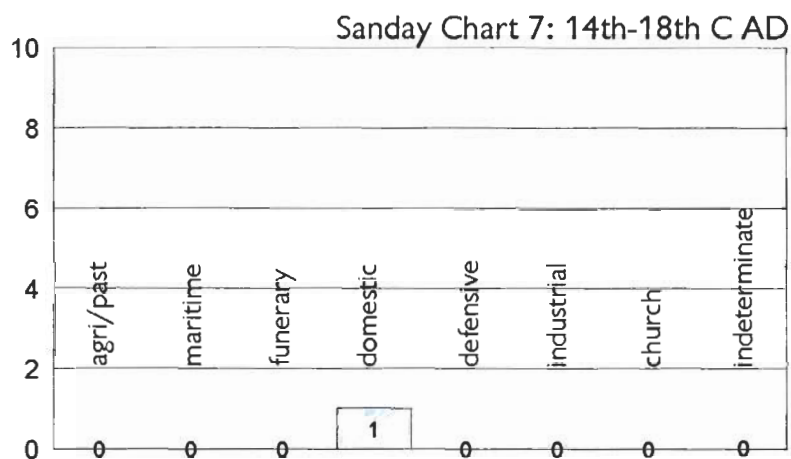


Norse and later Medieval period settlement appears definitely to be associated with the farm mounds. Probable sites have also been identified at Newark (**SY35** & **SY36**), Ouse Point (**SY79**), Ladykirk (**SY78**) and beneath Cross Church (**SY87**) at Backaskaill Bay.



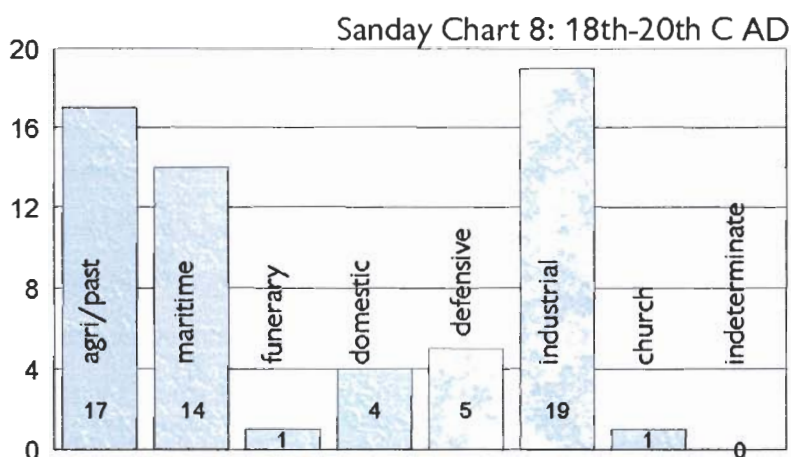
A large number of chapels and churches are recorded on Sanday, although in many cases no actual structural remains survive. It has been suggested that the multiplicity of sites reflects the early Norse settlement pattern and the custom for each wealthy household to support a chapel. Where remains do survive, such as at Lamba Ness (**SY115**), it is by no means certain that they represent the remains of a chapel. At sites such as Kirk Geo (**SY144**), chapel locations are suggested on the strength of placename evidence. In a number of cases there is documented evidence of the previous existence and destruction of churches and cemeteries. A church and burial ground at Stove (**SY105**) was destroyed by building work in the 19th C, while military activity at Colligarth (**SY176**) was responsible for the destruction of a

church, of probable early date, and the accompanying cemetery. A modern building which now stands on the site incorporates re-used architectural fragments which are likely to have come from the demolished church. The most complete early church which can be identified on Sanday is St. Colm's Chapel on the Holms of Ire (**SY148**). The ruins have been recently damaged by vandals and are now being covered over by an advancing storm beach.

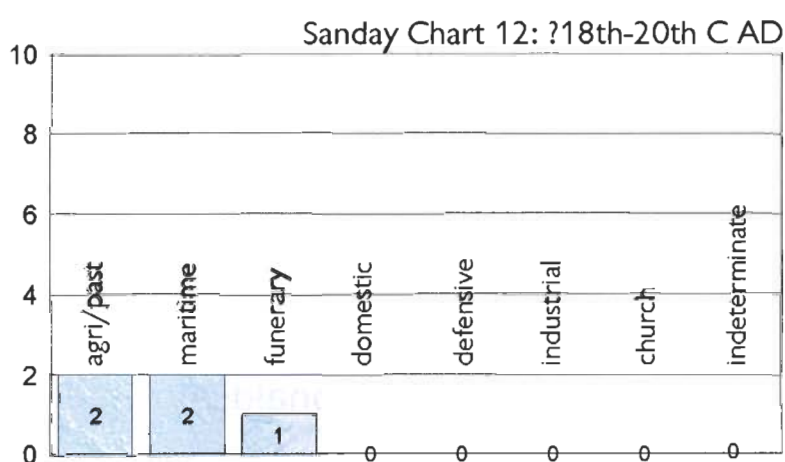


Post-Medieval Period

The most numerous type of remains recorded in the coastal zone by this survey belong to the 18th-20th C period. Kelp working areas, dating from the early 19th C, are particularly well represented. As at Hacks Ness (**SY100**), kelp workings are usually indicated by stone-lined pits set into the ground behind the shore in which the seaweed was burnt and left to cool into a solid mass. In several locations on Sanday, such as on the Holms of Ire (**SY149**), there are traces of the sheds or bothies used by the kelp workers, sometimes associated with levelled working areas or low stone platforms.



There are also numerous farmsteads, croft houses and agriculturally-related remains of this date. These include the large model farm and estate buildings at Stove (**SY106**) and an abandoned traditional farm at Hellihow (**SY167**), which retains its slab-partitioned byres. At New Ortie (**SY168**) a group of 19th C cottages and outbuilding are arranged in a long 'kloss', set back from the coast. In its heyday, this township housed a population of up to sixty people but it now lies largely abandoned. The two-storied mill at Boloquoy (**SY121**), although no longer in use survives in good condition, while a windmill base which has been superimposed on a probable burial mound stands at the tip of Hacks Ness (**SY99**). Several putative fish traps have been recorded around the coast, at Start Island (**SY16**) and Newark (**SY34**), for example, but it is not known when these structures may have been made.

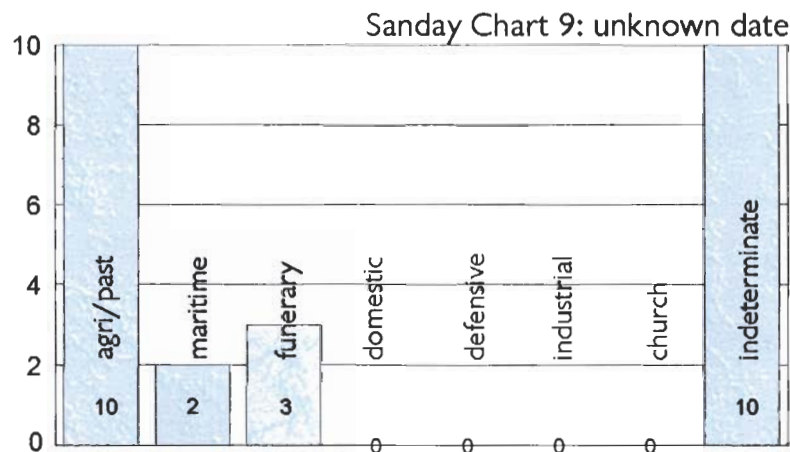


Military remains of the 19th C and 20th C are relatively scarce on Sanday. Nothing is now visible of the C19th battery which once stood on top of the mound at Colliness (**SY176**) and only a control room marks the location of a WWII decoy airfield at (**SY53**). The WWII radar station at Whale head (**SY23**), in contrast, is very well preserved and most of the buildings remain accessible. The hulk of a WWI German destroyer, the B98 (**SY33**), forms a focal point to the centre of the Bay of Lopness, while the wreck of WWI H-class destroyer, HMS Goldfinch (**SY196**) has been recorded off Start Point.

Multiperiod Sites

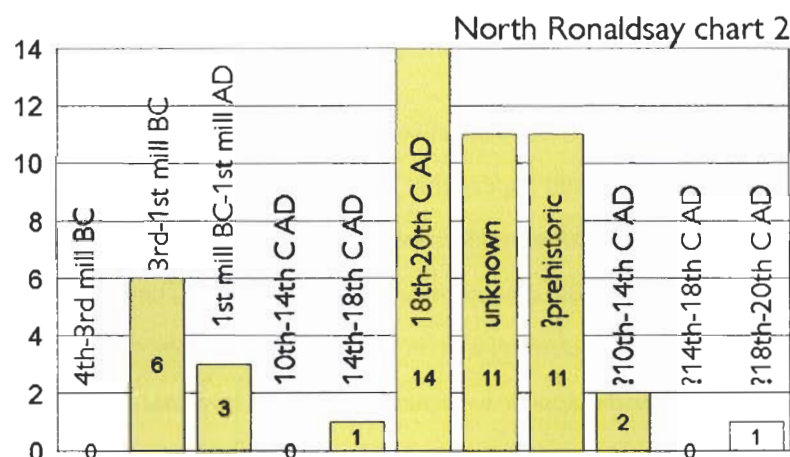
Farm or settlement mounds form the most distinctive archaeological feature on Sanday. While few have yet been examined in any detail, it would appear that they represent 'tell-like' accumulations derived from settlement in the one area over an extended duration. Most are very substantial and highly visible and many have modern settlements built on top or to one side of them. They are not exclusive to Sanday, but are most numerous and substantial here. It is unlikely that they share a single commencement date and while some appear to include prehistoric remains, others are more likely to comprise wholly or mostly of later remains. It is probable that a proportion of these sites include

otherwise elusive remains, such as Viking and early medieval settlements. In general, conditions within the mounds which are open to observation appear well-suited to the preservation of organic remains and, as such, represent a treasury of archaeological and environmental information. It would appear that these mounds are more commonly located in the hinterland than on the coast edge, in a central rather than peripheral relationship to the farm land.



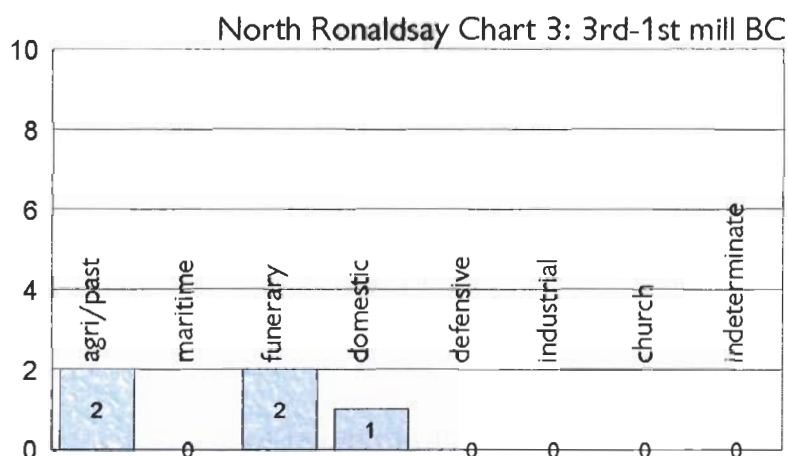
The Coastal Archaeology of North Ronaldsay

North Ronaldsay is a small, elongated island and, as with Sanday, nowhere lies far from the coast. While there is, as such, no clearly defined coastal zone, the Sheep Dyke acts as a barrier between the coast edge and its hinterland. In many places there are substantial differences to either side of this wall in the condition of the land and of the archaeological remains. Behind the wall, the land is sheltered and largely cultivable. To the seaward side much of the vegetation has been removed through poaching by the flocks of semi-wild sheep which live on the shore.



Prehistoric and Early Historic Periods

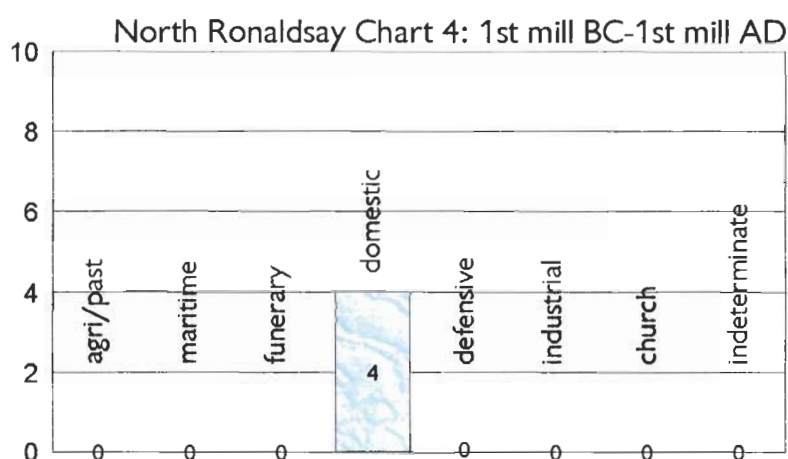
There are no sites within the coastal zone of North Ronaldsay which can definitely be ascribed a Neolithic date, although it is possible that some of the many settlement mounds, such as that at Hooking (**NR2**), may include remains of this period. The Muckle Gairsty (**NR5**) and Matches Dyke (**NR47**) may be of early prehistoric date. This pair of large and well-preserved treb dykes predate the township divisions and divide the island into three unequal parts.



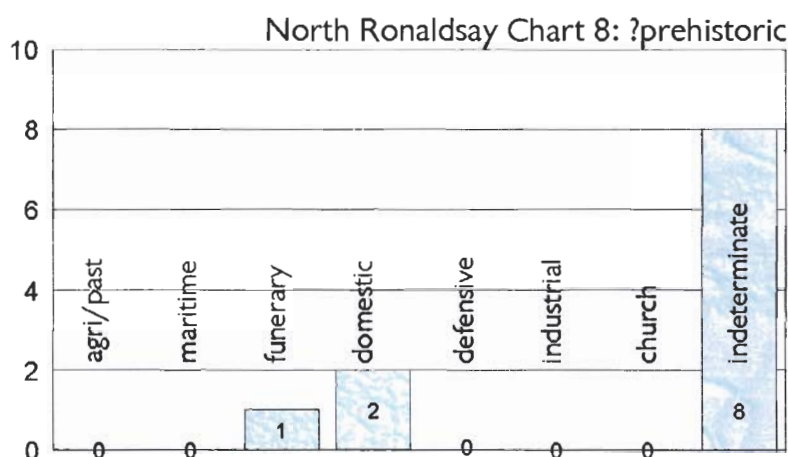
There are numerous burnt mounds and cists and cairns of probable Bronze Age date recorded on the island, but most lie outside the coastal zone. Three funerary monuments which were previously recorded on the coast (**NR32**, **NR42** & **NR43**) are no longer in evidence.

Bronze Age settlement is less easy to identify; it is probable that there are remains of this period present within some of settlement mound and unenclosed settlements, such as Brae of Stennabreck (**NR3**), may include Bronze Age levels. This house site was excavated in the 19th C and while some of the artefacts found within it are undoubtedly of Iron Age or later date, the earliest period of occupation was not conclusively established and may extend back in to the Bronze Age. The opportunity to test this has not been lost; the remains were re-covered by sand and survive beneath a small mound.

The Broch of Burrian (**NR7**) was a focus for settlement throughout the Iron Age and into the Pictish period. The broch and remains of extra-mural buildings which occupy a small headland defended by four stout ramparts were excavated in the 19th C. The latest phase of settlement to be identified was associated with a wheelhouse, built inside the broch. A cross slab and other artefacts of Christian association were found at this stratigraphic level.



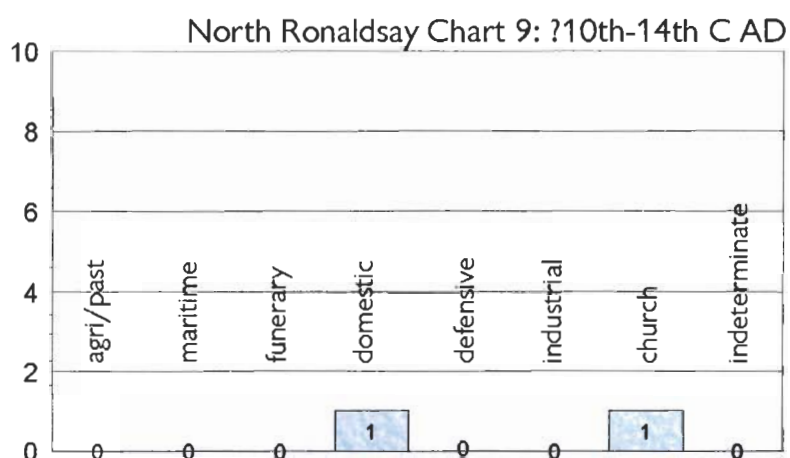
Another settlement which was probably in use during the middle or latter part of the Iron Age is Howmae Brae (**NR11**). Excavated in the 19th C, this site was described as a pair of wheelhouses, which if it is to be believed is a rare, if not unique, discovery in an Orcadian context. This site which is now only visible as an amorphous mound, suggests itself as a good candidate for reassessment in the future.



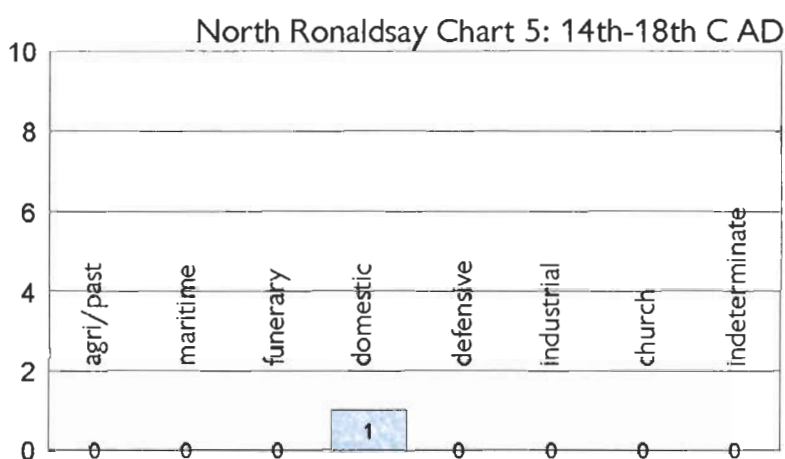
Viking, Norse and Medieval Periods

Remains of the Viking Period, as distinct from the Norse, are not readily identified through visual survey alone. This is because the period is of relatively short duration, extending from approximately 800 to 1050 AD. With only a handful of excavated sites, few specific characteristics have yet been identified, and most, such as the use of rectangular structural forms, continue relatively unchanged into the Norse period and beyond. At Howar (**NR8**), however, structural remains eroding from the base of a mound have been tentatively identified as a Viking settlement. This interpretation is supported by a probable pagan Viking burial recorded nearby. Further structures are visible at a higher stratigraphic level and it is probable that the mound represents settlement over a long duration, possibly beginning in the

pre-Viking period. The mound has been laid bare by sheep poaching and is now extremely vulnerable to destruction.

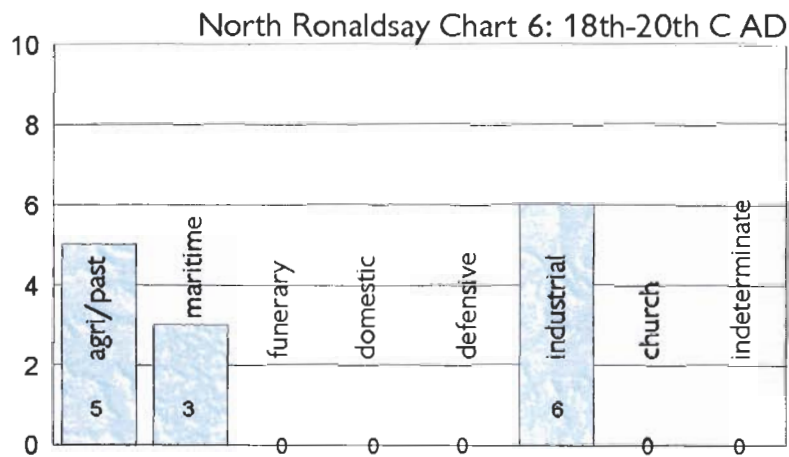


Sites of Norse and Medieval date are not well represented in the coastal zone of North Ronaldsay. A low mound at Brides Ness (**NR4**) has been tentatively identified as the site of an early church and it seems probable that large settlement mounds, such as that at beneath the farm at Eastings (**NR29**), include remains of these periods. In common with Sanday, settlement mounds on North Ronaldsay appear to be more commonly located at some remove from the coast.

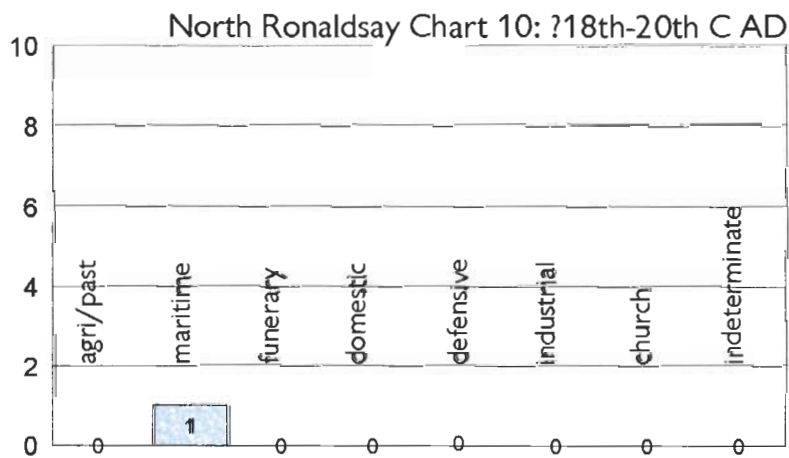


Post-Medieval Period

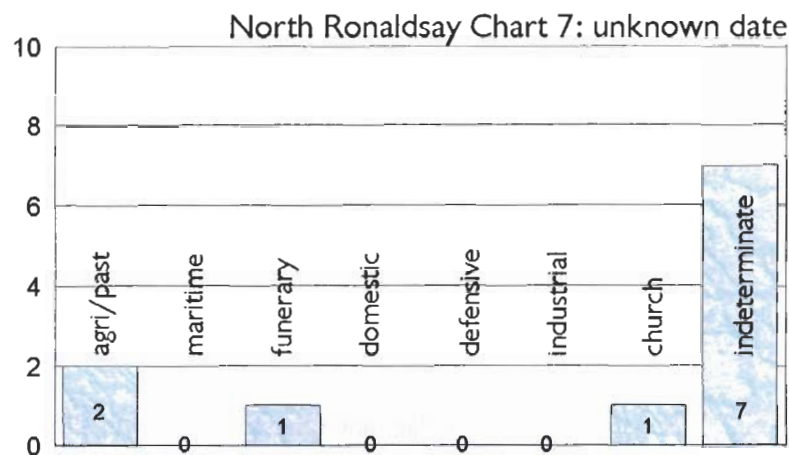
The earliest post-medieval remains relate to a house mentioned in valuations from 1653 at Strom Ness (**NR9**); there is little to see on the ground, however. At Howar (**NR10**) a ruinous but substantial stone building which lies on the foreshore represents a store of 18th C date. At that time, rents were commonly paid in kind, often in grain, and buildings such as this one served as a collection point for commodities which would then be stored, awaiting shipment to Kirkwall and beyond.



The rise of the kelp industry in the mid-18th C brought a major new source of income to the island. The raw material, seaweed, is found in abundance around the coast and evidence for kelp-making, such as burning-pits and drying walls, survive around Dennis Ness and at Ancumtoun (**NR22**). The industry went into decline from the 1820's; it is said that the Sheep Dyke (**NR48**), which runs around the coastline of the island, was built at this time by surplus kelp-workers.



The most impressive structural remains of this period are lighthouses; the Old Beacon (**NR35**) and its replacement tower at Dennis Head (**NR31**). The beacon, constructed in 1789, was the first purpose-built lighthouse in Scotland; it was replaced in 1852 by the tallest land-based lighthouse to be built in Britain. Dennis Head lighthouse remains the main light in the north of Orkney.



Sanday Geology, Geomorphology and Erosion (Alan Stapf)

Aims and Methods

The aim of the survey was to identify and categorise sections of the coastline of Sanday into erosion classes as defined by Historic Scotland, (Ashmore P. 1996), and describe the various components which make up the coastal morphology. The survey also indicates the coastal areas more susceptible to erosion in the near future.

The survey was carried out on Sanday by one person between September to October 1999. All areas were surveyed within the given remit. All surveying was carried out from the hinterland and/or foreshore as conditions allowed.

Marine erosion, although the most important, is not the sole eroding agent as sub-aerial erosion by water and wind also 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.

The survey therefore includes the prerequisite geomorphological and erosion information as laid down in the procedural guidelines by Historic Scotland, (Ashmore P. 1996), with additional notes referring to drift type, soils, drainage and land-use.

Background Descriptions of The Survey Area

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 (cyclothems) and have been grouped into chronological groups. The three main groups found in the survey areas are (oldest first):-

Stromness Flags which tend to be grey siltstone and sandstones.

Rousay Flags which are very similar to Stromness Flags but have in some cases more pronounced weathering and a few purplish, soft limestone, fishbed layers.

Eday Beds are yellow or red sandstones and marls, some derived from volcanic sediments.

The Eday beds are more readily eroded than the Rousay Flags as some of the intervening deposits are soft and so erosion can undermine upper tougher layers. The differing laminates of the Rousay Flags within the survey area are generally uniform as regards 'erodability'. 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 30° or more. On Sanday the dominant geological unit is Rousay Flags with Eday Beds within the syncline to the west of the island.

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. During this last glaciation there was probably only one local glacier on North West Hoy with the major glaciation dominated by the westerly flowing Scandinavian ice sheet. Further gelifluction 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. The most prominent lie along the west coast facing Eday where over eight metres of red till are exposed in the cliff section.

The islands have been submerging since the last ice age due to an isostatic uplift of mainland Scotland, with the loss of ice, and a consequent down warping of peripheral land masses such as Orkney. Added to this there have been eustatic changes in sea level i.e. global rises of sea level. A post glacial shoreline of -4 m, south Orkney, to - 6 m, north Orkney, approximately 6,500 BP has been derived by Smith et al (1996); and a 20 m rise in mean sea level change since 7,000 BP has been approximated by Lambeck (1995), the latter based on a mathematical model.

If the submergence was consistent over time, which is unlikely, this would equate to approximately 0.92 and 2.9 mm / year change in sea level for the respective researchers. More specifically Emmery and Aubrey (1985) have estimated that at present there is two to four mm/year change in sea level at the specific locations of:- Enloch Bay and Links on Burray and Herston Head, Widewall Bay, Newark and Manse Bay on South Ronaldsay, both within the Southern Isles of Orkney. Within the survey area evidence of submergence can be seen where a peat layer is found at or below the high water mark along the eastern side of Otters Wick on the isthmus of Lama Ness.

Apart from till the other main drift deposit is blown sand which makes up a large proportion of Sanday's eastern coastline. Blown sand is also widespread within the hinterland especially north west of Doun Helzie, to north of Backaskail Bay, north east of Sty Wick, around the hinterland of Rusness and Northwall and to the south of Whitemill Bay. As can be gleaned from the above, most sandy hinterlands are to the south of the island. One of the more interesting dune ridges makes up the isthmus of Tres Ness with a long high ridge of dunes. In some parts the height is over ten metres. There are two gullies cut through the ridge by deflation. It is not clearly evident if the dunes are migrating slowly back into Cata Sand as they have a profile which resembles westward migrating sand dunes, i.e. steeper side facing east and Lee side to the west.

Apart from the exposed horizon at Lama Ness there are no true drift deposits of peat.

Soils and Land Use

The natural soils tend to be gleys or podzols with most having mixed, uniform horizons due to cultivation, thus they are modified soils. There are no large units of contemporary peat although there are areas of peaty podzol, on the higher ground to the east, and peaty gleys in the low lying areas such as the area to the south of Otters Wick. The horizons tend to be unmodified by cultivation.

The more freely draining and improved soils are cultivable, i.e. they could be cultivated by mechanical means. Although much of the cultivable land is down to grass the pastures are made up of improved grassland for the most part. There is more unimproved grassland around the coast hinterland. Most of the arable crops have been planted to the west side of the island and include potatoes and some brassicas although the dominant arable crop is barley.

In most places the fields are fenced to the edge of the coastline or fenced to the landward side of dunes. There are very few places where fence lines have been relocated further back from the coast line due to erosion.

Susceptibility to Erosion

The coast lines most susceptible to erosion are the low, less than five metres high, edges with soft drift materials, tills and sands, close to or below the high water mark.

Most of the rock platforms of Sanday, especially the south facing bays and the north facing Otters Wick have a gentle gradient with a great deal of sand cover. These areas tend to dissipate the wave energy more effectively compared to the west facing side of Sanday where the intertidal rock platforms tend to be steep and so forms a much narrower beach.

Another main factor 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 affecters of wave size, although Wright, (1976), reviewed meteorological data and found that between 1920 - 1974 there was an increase in north westerly and northerly winds at the expense of westerly and south westerly winds. However the winds are still predominantly westerly or southerly (Borne 1997) with wave height exceeding 1.5 m for 10% of the year and 0.5 m for 75% of the year on the south and western facing coasts (Draper 1991).

The currents are also likely to affect erosion. This would be more pronounced within narrow sounds such as the channel of Eday Sound, 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 and leads to landslip after mechanical undercutting of the cliff face or scouring of the coastal edge. The cutting of geos and coves into the coastal edge can instigate the consequent separation of land mass which leads to sea arches and stacks. There is evidence of this process taking place to the south west of Sanday.

If the wave height, speed and direction are constant along the coast then the rate of erosion is also moderated by the rock platform gradient and the depth of the cove. A deeper cove and a more shallow rock platform tends to dissipate the waves energy before hitting the coastal edge and a forward breaking wave is the dominant wave form.

Marine erosion also takes place as a storm beach which gradually migrates 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 as one cannot see 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 along with following water run-off accounts for some denudation of the soil and drift deposits. There are relatively few places where this is evident around Sanday but is evident at Taing of the Pund, west of Broughtown and a few other localised points.

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

Sub-aerial erosion is the second main eroding agent and is mainly due to rain, water and wind. With rain water the affects are seen as soil creep, peat flow, land slip and water erosion, i.e. rill and gully formation or stream erosion caused by run-off. A few areas are observable where active gully erosion is taking place and lay to the south of Scuthie Head where the soft Eday Beds are easily eroded. It is primarily surface water run-off which is most erosive and 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. Sub-aerial erosion tends to be locally confined yet aids or instigates localised sea erosion. In some areas this is a substantial part of the total erosion as found along various parts of the west facing coast, especially so where the hinterland is steep.

Wind erosion is usually manifests itself in the soft sand drift deposits as deflation troughs and scouring of sand dunes as is apparent in many localised areas on the east side of Sanday. The two deflation hollows or cuts along the isthmus to Tress Ness are of exceptional size.

Other eroding agents are biological. In this survey the agents are limited to animal, (mainly sheep, cattle and rabbits) and human disturbance all of which can be controlled by management policies. One significant area of drift erosion lies close to Quoy Geo to the south west of Sanday where rabbits are actively contributing to the erosion of overlying sands above the cliff face. Land use practices and management tend to aggravate or alleviate sub-aerial erosion but appear to have little effect on sea erosion.

Accretion

Sanday appears to have more small areas of accretion than other islands previously surveyed within Orkney. Sand is the major accreting material due to strong, variable, winds and the size of erodible particle. 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 and rainy marine climatic zones sand makes up almost a half to two thirds of bottom sediments respectively, (Hanson 1988). Large areas of sea bottom sand sediments have been located to the west of Orkney, (I.G.S.1977). Currents circulate the sands around the islands and it is possible that the deeply cut coves which make up Sanday's distinctive coast line are efficient sand trapping mechanisms.

Many of the dunes around Sanday are coastal ridges lying on the lower ground to the east. There are however other inland areas where sands have accumulated, most notably within the hinterland of Backaskail Bay and further to the south west a large area within the hinterland by Doun Helzie. The sand dunes are the result of dried sands being blown directly from adjacent beaches.

Cobble and shingle storm beaches may or may not be accreting, in nearly all cases there appears to be erosion co-existing 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, e.g. dying or decaying vegetation beneath an advancing front of cobbles.

The most prominent storm beaches lie around the Holms of Ire where large boulders make up part of the thrown material. Yet one of the better constructed and symmetrical storm beaches lies to the north west of Sanday between Crow Taing and Point of Cresso. This incorporates a berm lying directly in front of the top storm beach, both parts are made up of fairly uniform cobbles.

There are a few ayres found around the coast and it is hard to gauge their current state of flux although the south ayre of Little Sea and Lang Taing east of Sty Wick are possibly accreting.

Survey Results

Although rock platform is observable at many points around Sanday and dominates the west coast, most areas have a covering of sand if not a sandy foreshore. This is especially true of the south facing bays. The distinctive convoluted coastline of Sanday with shallow gradients to many foreshores is probably responsible for the entrapment of so much sand.

Cobble foreshores and storm beaches are more abundant along the northern facing coasts. Where the cobbles are lying along the coast they are generally limited to narrow bands within the mid and/or upper foreshore.

Sand dunes and ridges are common around most of the coast of Sanday except the shore facing Eday. It is hypothesised that most sand is brought up from the sea floor by currents circulating Sanday and trapped within the many coves. Subsequent to drying conditions winds then carry part of the sand onto the coastal edge and hinterland.

The survey results on erosion class have been grouped into their respective map numbers then totalled. They are ordered in an anticlockwise direction around Sanday beginning at Hine Greenie to the east of the island and north of Start Point. The data is presented in the table below.

Overall, the main erosion class is *stable* with *eroding to stable* the next most common. Although there is over 5% of the coast line in the *eroding* class there is almost 5% which is *accreting to stable* and the same for the *accreting and eroding* class. The main agent of erosion is due to marine action which dominates all *eroding* classes. Subaerial erosion is associated with less than a third of the localised erosion in the *eroding to stable* class.

Of the islands thus far surveyed Sanday has the greatest proportion of the coastline where some type of accretion has been noted, just over 10% as compared to less than 2% for any one of the other islands Westray, Papay, South East Mainland, Flotta, Graemsay, South Ronaldsay, South Hoy and Burray.

Most of this accretion is due to sand and lies behind sandy foreshores on generally low lying areas. Most of these areas are along the south shores of Sanday.

Although erosion is found around most of the coast the main areas of coastal edge erosion lie to the south west of Lopness Bay and along the west coast facing Eday where the soft Eday Beds have been exposed.

The total length of the surveyed coastline is 102.4 km. Of this 54 km (53%) is definitely stable with 31 km (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, especially where the coastal land mass volume is greater, i.e. high cliffs. Therefore one can estimate that probably 66% (80 km) of the surveyed coastal edge is at present stable which compares favourably with other surveyed islands.

Given that the 1997 coastal survey of the Southern Isles demonstrated that almost 20% of the coastal edge was eroding it is surprising to find that in this survey only 5% of coastal edge is definitely eroding.

Analysis of The Survey Results

Erosion Class Distances (km)

	E	E/S	S	A/S	A	A/E	Total
Map1		0.76	4.78			0.8	6.34
Map2		0.94	2.65	0.31			3.9
Map3	0.9	1	0.45			0.3	2.65
Map4		2.55	3.1			1.54	7.19
Map5	0.61	0.6	4.7	0.5		0.34	6.75
Map6	0.51	3.37	7.88	0.4	0.45	0.3	12.91
Map7		1.49	1.86	0.36	0.1	0.15	3.96
Map8	0.84	2.66	5.44		0.37	0.33	9.64
Map9	1.77	2.34	2.47				6.58
Map10	0.49	3.07	2.8	0.45			6.81
Map11		1.62	4.32	0.27		0.61	6.82
Map12		2.18	2.4	0.95	0.6	0.4	6.53
Map13		3.48	7.49	0.49			11.46
Map14	0.15	0.85	1.9	0.15			3.05
Map15	0.15	1.17	0.98	1.14		0.2	3.64
Map16		3	1.15				4.15
Total (km)	5.42	31.08	54.37	5.02	1.52	4.97	102.38
Proportion %	5.29	30.36	53.11	4.9	1.48	4.85	

E = Eroding

E/S = Eroding to Stable

S = Stable

A = Accreting

A/S = Accreting to Stable

A/E = Accreting and Eroding

Sanday Geology, Geomorphology and Erosion: Discussion

Physical

Overall the geomorphological features concur with a mass of evidence that the sea level has been and is still rising due to the relative down-warping of the islands and global increases in sea level since the last glaciation. Within this 1999 survey only one small area of peat was found at HWM and is presently being eroded at Lama Ness. There are other recordings of drowned peat deposits found around Orkney's coast, Mykura 1976, Moore *et al* 1998. In the latter case the peats were at, or slightly below high water mark. A complete absence of raised beaches may also be interpreted as a drowned landscape.

The predominant geology of flags and sandstones where the bedding in the majority of cases is, or close to, horizontal, leads to straight edged cliffs where marine erosion is greater than sub-aerial erosion. The cliff faces with lack of talus is most apparent on the west coast of Sanday. The cyclothems of the various groups of flags makes prediction of erodibility uncertain although in the main the Eday Beds are far more erodible than the Rousay Flags.

The most easily erodible units are the soft drift deposits which are mainly made up of tills or sand deposits capped by some soil type. The deep tills, sometimes along with underlying saprolite, are generally found in low lying areas as a result of past glacial erosion of higher ground and deposition within low troughs or basins although there is a large deposit along the western shore where the ground slopes steeply down.

The sand ridges and dunes which are common around the east side of the island have been formed by aeolian activity where sands from the foreshore have been blown inland giving the dunes a fairly distinctive cross section showing build up on the Lee (landward) side.

Of archaeological importance are the midden mounds and buried soils which have presently been exposed. These are found around most parts of the coastal edge.

Erosion

Where the coastal edge is made up of rock which is at least over two metres above the high water mark there is very limited erosion. In the case where the coastal edge is low or soft sediments lie within reach of high water there is erosion of the coastal edge. The depth of soft sediment does not appear to lessen

the erosion other than the volume is likely to slow down the rate that the coastal edge is eroded back. As an example the till of 8 m depth at Hoo Back on the south western peninsula is eroding at a similar volumetric rate as the lesser depth of till to the north at Stany Ayre.

Sub-aerial erosion is limited and occurs either on steep slopes to the west, generally due to water run-off, or within the soft sandy sediments to the east, generally due to aeolian activity. The latter is instigated by animals or human activity on the hinterland.

Elsewhere the recessed coastline and shallow bays tends to trap sediments. The large areas of uncovered sands at low tide have a greater capacity for drying and therefore vulnerable to wind blow than steeper sloping shores. Although there is definite accretion along the coastal edge it is not known if the sand dunes are also migrating slowly landwards.

There is very little accretion along the western coastal edge. Although currents are known to circulate around Sanday the smaller channel of Eday Sound would increase the flow rate as compared to the other sides of the island so lessening the chances of sand deposition within the Sound.

As regards erosional control measures, the sub-aerial erosion can be tackled at a more economical level than marine erosion. With careful management of the hinterland and the implementation of good husbandry and farming practices, which prevent or reduce erosion, much of the sub-aerial erosion could be reduced by as much as 25% even on Sanday where management is good.

In practical terms such practices which denude the soil of vegetation on the more sloping areas for great lengths of time could be lessened by procedures such as avoidance of overstocking and reducing or judicious timing of cultivation on the more vulnerable sites.

There is little that can be done to negate marine erosion of the coastal edge unless huge resources are committed to local problems. However where concrete and rubble is more readily available sea erosion can be slowed down considerably.

Ultimately, where there are monuments of singular and significant importance the cost of more elaborate sea defences may be the only option in order to slow down marine erosion significantly.

Sanday Geology, Geomorphology and Erosion: Summary and Recommendations

The main erosive power of the sea appears to be generated from the south and westerly directions. Added to this, the low lying and softer geological areas are more at risk from erosion than the tougher geological units and higher coastlines. The effect of a shallow rock platform and the recesses of the Sanday coastline appears to aid the accumulation of sands within the bays and subsequent accretion of dunes and ridges around the eastern part of the island.

The archaeological monuments lying on solid rock which is at least two metres above the high water mark and on fairly level slopes are not likely to be eroded in the short term. Monuments around the lower lying coast are prone to erosion.

Sub-aerial erosion can be as damaging to archaeology as marine erosion and since much archaeology is located within the softer upper sediments it is important to limit surface water run-off by reducing poaching and disturbance of the sediments and increasing infiltration and natural drainage by encouraging vegetation. Although the infiltration rates are good on the majority of the soils there are problems with deflation instigated by cattle scrapes, rabbit warrens and man-made disturbances on the soft sand sediments.

It is likely that land management and agricultural practices account for only a minor proportion of the sub-aerial erosion. Various practical remedies caused by sub-aerial erosion could be implemented, e.g. creating a small grassed headland between the coast and cultivated fields or decreasing stocking levels in particularly wet conditions. However these management strategies appear to have been implemented on Sanday. Also, the nature of the soil is generally freely draining which allows for greater stocking rates before poaching occurs.

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 appears to be very little or no data.

Although one may invoke a policy of a coastal management policy, Sanday has few apparent conflicts between agriculture, mineral extraction, nature and archaeological conservation, leisure and amenities.

It is recommended that monitoring of coastal erosion be implemented to assess the patterns and rates of erosion, especially of the more vulnerable low lying areas and archaeological sites.

Built Heritage & Archaeology: 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.

SANDAY CATEGORY 1: ACTION REQUIRED			
MAP	SITE	PLACENAME	SITE TYPE
1	SY18	Buryan	Broch
3	SY34	Bay of Lopness /Newark	Coastal exposure, mounds, (?) fish trap
3	SY35	Newark	Mound & coastal exposure
6	SY79	Ouse Point	Coastal exposure
9	SY118	North Mire	Cairn & coastal exposure
10	SY132	Broughtown	Coastal exposure: ?human bone
12	SY170	Northskaill	Mound & coastal exposure
14	SY180	Cleat	Coastal exposure: probable burial cairn
SANDAY CATEGORY 2:ASSESSMENT REQUIRED			
MAP	SITE	PLACENAME	SITE TYPE
2	SY27	Lopness	Coastal exposure: settlement
4	SY42	Hangie Head, Tres Ness	Mound & earthwork
5	SY57	Russ Ness	Mound & coastal exposure
6	SY63	Augmund Howe or Egmondshowe	Cairn
6	SY78	Ladykirk	Mound & coastal exposure
9	SY119	Boloquoy	Coastal exposure: ?settlement mound
11	SY146	Rethie Taing	Possible chambered cairn
11	SY155	Runna Clett	Mound & coastal exposure
13	SY176	Colli Ness	Probable broch, chapel & cemetery
SANDAY CATEGORY 3:ASSESSMENT DESIRED			
MAP	SITE	PLACENAME	SITE TYPE
1	SY16	Start Island	Fish trap
5	SY58	Sty Wick	Enclosure, mound & possible fish trap
6	SY71	Els Ness	Enclosure, mound & kelp pits
8	SY95	Quoy Ness	Enclosures
9	SY123	Ebb of Seater	Mound & coastal exposure
10	SY139	North Bay	Boat noosts & coastal exposure
10	SY133	Styes of Brough	Structure
10	SY131	Broughtown	Mound
10	SY137	Westbrough	Mound & coastal exposure
10	SY126	Scuthi Head	Possible promontory fort
11	SY154	Rue	Mound
13	SY172	Thorsness	Probable burial mounds
13	SY171	Northskaill	Store & dwelling
15	SY188	Taing of Tor Sker	Possible fish trap
SANDAY CATEGORY 4: MONITORING DESIRED			
MAP	SITE	PLACENAME	SITE TYPE
1	SY8	Start Island	Mound
1	SY11	Alisters Geo	Mound & crue
1	SY5	Park	Site of burnt mound
1	SY19	Park	Alleged site of settlement
1	SY22	Scofferland	Mound & coastal exposure
1	SY4	Park	Site of chapel

1	SY1	Crue Marron Deme	Mound
1	SY14	Mt. Maesry	Chambered Cairn
1	SY23	Whale Head	Radar Station
1	SY17	Buryan	Burial ground
1	SY3	Park	Coastal exposure: shell midden
1	SY12	Start Point	Lighthouse & cottages
1	SY9	Start Island	Mound: possible site of church
2	SY29	Stackald Brae	Site of a chapel
2	SY25	Lop Ness	Structural remains
2	SY30	Stackald Brae	Coastal exposure: possible settlement
2	SY31	Lopness	Coastal exposure & mound
3	SY36	Newark Farm	Structural remains & dated lintel stone
3	SY38	Newark Farm /Sanday Golf Course	Mound & coastal exposure
3	SY37	Newark	Mound & coastal exposure
4	SY52	Tresness	Mound
4	SY43	Tres Ness	Mound
4	SY49	Tingly Loup	Mound
4	SY50	Tingly Loup	Coastal exposure
4	SY41	Tres Ness	Mound
4	SY40	Tressness	Farmstead
4	SY48	Knap of Girndish, Tres Ness	Mound(s)
4	SY47	Broch of Wasso, Tres Ness	Broch
4	SY44	Tres Ness	Chambered cairn
5	SY55	Neigarth	Mound
5	SY60	Sty Wick	Coastal exposure
5	SY56	Bressigarth	Earthworks
5	SY54	Canker	Mounds & earthworks
6	SY82	Kettletoft Bay	Coastal exposure
6	SY84	Kettletoft	Coastal exposure: cultivation remains
6	SY73	Els Ness	Mound
6	SY80	Kettletoft Bay	Coastal exposure: cultivation soil
6	SY85	Bea Ness	Coastal exposure
6	SY81	Kettletoft Bay	Coastal exposure
6	SY75	Elsness	Alleged site of broch
6	SY77	Elsness	Farmstead
6	SY65	Els Ness	Coastal exposure
6	SY70	Els Ness	Mound
6	SY61	Sty Wick	Jaw crusher
6	SY86	How	Mound
6	SY74	Els Ness	Coastal exposure
6	SY72	Els Ness	Noost, kelp pits and bank
6	SY69	Els Ness	Mound
6	SY67	Els Ness	Structure, noost, mound, kelp pits
6	SY66	Elsness	Cairns
6	SY76	Elsness	Old ground surface
6	SY64	Augmund Howe West	Group of small mounds
6	SY68	Els Ness	Mound & kelp pits
6	SY87	Cross Kirk	Parish church, disused
6	SY62	Quoyness	Chambered cairn
7	SY88	Backaskail	Farmstead
7	SY91	Moo Geo	Mound
7	SY92	Nebister	Treb dyke
7	SY89	Backaskail	Possible broch
7	SY93	Croos of Nebister	Broch or settlement
8	SY106	Stove	Farmstead, outbuildings, cottages

8	SY96	Quoy Ness	Site of middens
8	SY107	Stove	Site of chambered mound
8	SY97	Hacks Ness	Mound
8	SY104	Bay of Stove	Coastal exposure: cut feature
8	SY102	Hacks Ness	Mound
8	SY109	Hangie, Spur Ness	Burnt mound
8	SY98	Hacks Ness	Mound and coastal exposure
8	SY111	Loth, Spur Ness	Mound
8	SY99	Hacks Ness	Mound & navigation marker or windmill
8	SY105	Stove	Site of chapel
8	SY108	Spur Ness	Mound
8	SY103	Bay of Stove	Coastal exposure: settlement remains
9	SY120	Boloquoy	Cairn
9	SY124	Grunavi Head	Enclosed promontory
9	SY112	Spaney Geo	Boundary bank/treb dyke
9	SY122	Boloquoy	Mound
9	SY125	Mires	Banks
9	SY116	Pool	Possible fish trap or basin
9	SY117	Pool	Settlement
9	SY114	Lamba Ness	Coastal exposure
9	SY115	Lamba Ness	Mounds: alleged site of chapel
10	SY142	Howland	Coastal exposure
10	SY141	Howland	Coastal exposure: indeterminate
10	SY143	Howland	Mound
10	SY135	Ness of Brough	Buried soil and kelp pits
10	SY138	Westbrough	Mound: possible settlement
10	SY127	Fea Hill	Treb dyke
10	SY136	Ness of Brough	Mound & coastal exposure
10	SY140	Hermisgarth	Cist burials and stone pyre settings
10	SY129	Ayre	Coastal exposure: settlement remains
10	SY134	Styes of Brough	Mounds
10	SY130	Chapel Head	Mound & alleged chapel site
11	SY145	Knowe of Yarrow	Site of mound & cist
11	SY144	Curcasetter or Kirk Geo	Alleged site of chapel
11	SY153	Whale Point	Cairn
11	SY148	Holms of Ire	Chapel
11	SY156	Woo	Coastal exposure: settlement
12	SY163	Whitemill Bay	Coastal exposure: wall
12	SY157	Quoy Banks	Mound
12	SY161	The Crook	Mound
12	SY167	Helliehow	Farmstead & coastal exposure
12	SY164	Whitemill Point	Mound and possible boat noosts
12	SY165	Whitemill Point	Mound
12	SY159	Quoybanks, Scar	Site of boat burial
12	SY158	Quoy Banks	Coastal exposure
13	SY174	Quivals Loch	Burnt mound
13	SY179	Cleat	Possible farm or settlement mound
13	SY175	Russ Ness	Mound
13	SY177	Colligarth	Burnt mounds
14	SY184	Seater	Farmstead, settlement mound & jetty
14	SY183	Knowe of Scartan	Mound & coastal exposure
14	SY182	Peterkirk	Mound & coastal exposure
15	SY191	Tafts	Mound and coastal exposure
15	SY190	Sandquoy	Coastal exposure & alleged souterrain
16	SY195	Tofts Ness	Coastal exposure

16	SY193	Tofts Ness	Mounds and settlement complex
16	SY192	Braesgar	Mound
NORTH RONALDSAY CATEGORY 1: ACTION REQUIRED			
MAP	SITE	PLACENAME	SITE TYPE
1	NR8	Howar, Strom Ness	Settlement mound
3	NR33	Dennis Loch	Mound
NORTH RONALDSAY CATEGORY 2: ASSESSMENT REQUIRED			
MAP	SITE	PLACENAME	SITE TYPE
1	NR6	Burrian	House
1	NR10	Howar	Grain store & dwelling
3	NR25	Westness Farm	Coastal exposure
3	NR26	Garso	Mound & shell midden
3	NR39	Scottigar	Coastal exposure: shell midden
3	NR40	Quoybanks	Mound & coastal exposure
NORTH RONALDSAY CATEGORY 3: ASSESSMENT DESIRED			
MAP	SITE	PLACENAME	SITE TYPE
1	NR7	Burrian, Strom Ness	Broch
3	NR24	Westness	Mounds
3	NR29	Sennes	Mound and coastal exposure
NORTH RONALDSAY CATEGORY 4: MONITORING DESIRED			
MAP	SITE	PLACENAME	SITE TYPE
1	NR2	Hooking	Settlement mound & coastal exposure
1	NR3	Brae of Stennabreck	Settlement mound & structure
1	NR4	Brides Ness	Brides Kirk
1	NR5	Muckle Gairsty	Treb dyke
1	NR9	Strom Ness	House
1	NR11	Howmae Brae	Settlement
1	NR12	Nouster	Mound
1	NR17	Lurand	Coastal exposure: shell midden
2	NR20	Antabreck	Mounds
2	NR21	Ancumtoun	Mound
3	NR23	Westness	Platform and pund
3	NR27	Garso	Possible cist
3	NR28	Garso	Coastal exposure & possible mound
3	NR30	Dennis Ness	Structural remains
3	NR32	Dennis Ness	Cairn, cist & walls
3	NR35	Dennis Head, Kirk Taing	Old Beacon & keepers cottages
3	NR36	Dennis Loch	Stone rows
3	NR41	Quoybanks	Possible settlement mound
3	NR42	Neven	Cist & mound
3	NR43	Neven	Site of cist burial
3	NR44	Neven	Possible settlement

3	NR45	Linklet Bay	Shipwreck: the Eva
3	NR46	Linklet Bay	Wall
3	NR47	Matches Dyke	Treb dyke

Map 1: Scuthvie Bay to Lop Ness

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section extends around the easternmost extremity of Sanday, from Scuthvie Bay to Start Island and onward to Lop Ness. At Scuthvie Bay a ridge of dunes stands between the sandy beach and the hinterland; the local topography of this area is endlessly shaped and reshaped by large quantities of blowing sand. In illustration of this, a mound (SY1) last noted here in the 1980's could not now be relocated because the drifting sands have rendered it indistinguishable from the surrounding dunes. At Park, however, localised coast erosion has exposed shell midden and concentrations of stone, which may be part of a settlement of prehistoric date. Further indications of prehistoric activity in this area are provided by a burnt mound site (SY5) recorded previously but now destroyed.

To the centre of this section lies Start Island, which can only be reached at low tide. Fragments of rough walling found among the reefs between Start Island and the mainland of Sanday may be part of a fish trap (SY16). This walling surrounds a pool, which may have been artificially deepened. While its exact nature and usage remain uncertain, it is likely that such a trap would work by filtering fish into the pool at high tide and trapping them there to be readily caught when the water subsided again at low tide.

On Start Island, the earliest remains are those of a chambered cairn (SY15), which although not affected by coast erosion, has been damaged by antiquarian investigations and through use as a potato store. This Maes Howe type cairn is said to have a rectangular chamber and no side cells; part of the entrance passage remains visible. The lighthouse at Start Point was originally built as a beacon in 1802 to partner the beacon at Dennis Head on North Ronaldsay. Rebuilt in brick in 1870, it forms a striking landmark with its vertical black and white stripes. The accompanying keepers cottages are currently under renovation.

There is evidence of Iron Age settlement at Buryan, where a broch (SY18) has been bisected by coast erosion and old records indicate a possible cemetery (SY17) and probable undefended settlement (SY19). On the opposite side of the Bay of Wheevi, faint traces point to eroding structures of unknown date at Scofferland (SY22). This map section finishes with remains of more recent date; the WWII radar station at Whale Head (SY23). This station, which was part of the chain of home defences guarding Britain against aerial attack, remains in good condition.

Geology and Geomorphology

The underlying geology is made up of Rousay Flags but there are very few areas where the geology can be seen due the large amount of drift cover, comprised largely of sand. Other than the sand dunes at the beginning of this unit, there are few prominent natural hills. The hinterland is mostly flat or gently sloping. The foreshore has rock platform for the most part with a large sandy foreshore at Scuthvie Bay. As would be expected most coast soils are freely draining with a notable exception to the North Side of Start Point where there is an area of waterlogged saltings.

Erosion

While there are large stretches of eroding coast edge to the western side of Start Island there is also a great deal of sand accretion on the lower-lying eastern side. Most of the accretion is due to sand blow; stabilising vegetation has trapped further blown sand, culminating in the formation of coast ridge sand dunes.

SY1 HY74SE16
HY7668 4404
Crue Marron Deme
Mound
Unknown
Not seen
Monitor

SY2
HY7684 4392
Scuthvie Bay
Crue
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

SY3
HY7715 4382
Park
Coastal exposure: shell midden
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Poor
Monitor

SY4 HY74SE14
HY771 437
Park
Site of chapel
10-14th C
Not seen
Monitor

SY5 HY74SE1
HY7727 4371
Park
Site of burnt mound
3rd-1st mill BC
Not seen
Monitor

SY6 HY74SE29
HY780 436
Start
Farmstead
18-20th C
Fair/poor
Nil

SY7
HY7829 4370
Start Island
Channel
Good
Nil
Unknown: ?18-20th C

SY8
HY7840 4368
Start Island
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Good
Monitor

SY9 HY74SE17
HY7840 4368
Start Island
Mound: possible site of church
10-14th C
good
Monitor

SY10
HY7844 4393
Start Island
Wreck
18-20th C
Poor
Nil

SY11
HY7871 4374
Alisters Geo
Mound & crue
Unknown: ?18-20th C
Poor
Monitor

SY12 HY74SE20
HY7868 4350
Start Point
Lighthouse & cottages
18-20th C
Fair
Monitor

SY13
HY7861 4344
Start Island
Noost & channel
Fair
Nil
18-20th C

SY14 HY74SE4
HY7831 4351
Mt. Maesry
Chambered Cairn
4-3rd mill BC
Fair
Monitor

SY15 HY74SE18
HY7831 4353
Start Island
Alleged site of mariner's graves
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

SY16
HY7795 4355
Start Island
Fish trap
Unknown: ?18-20th C
Fair
Survey

SY17 HY74SE7
HY7730 4339
Buryan
Burial ground
Unknown
Not seen
Monitor

SY18 HY74SE2
HY7724 4340
Buryan
Broch
1st mill BC/1st mill AD
Poor
Survey

SY19 HY74SE3
HY7719 4355
Park
Alleged site of settlement
1st mill BC/1st mill AD
Not seen
Monitor

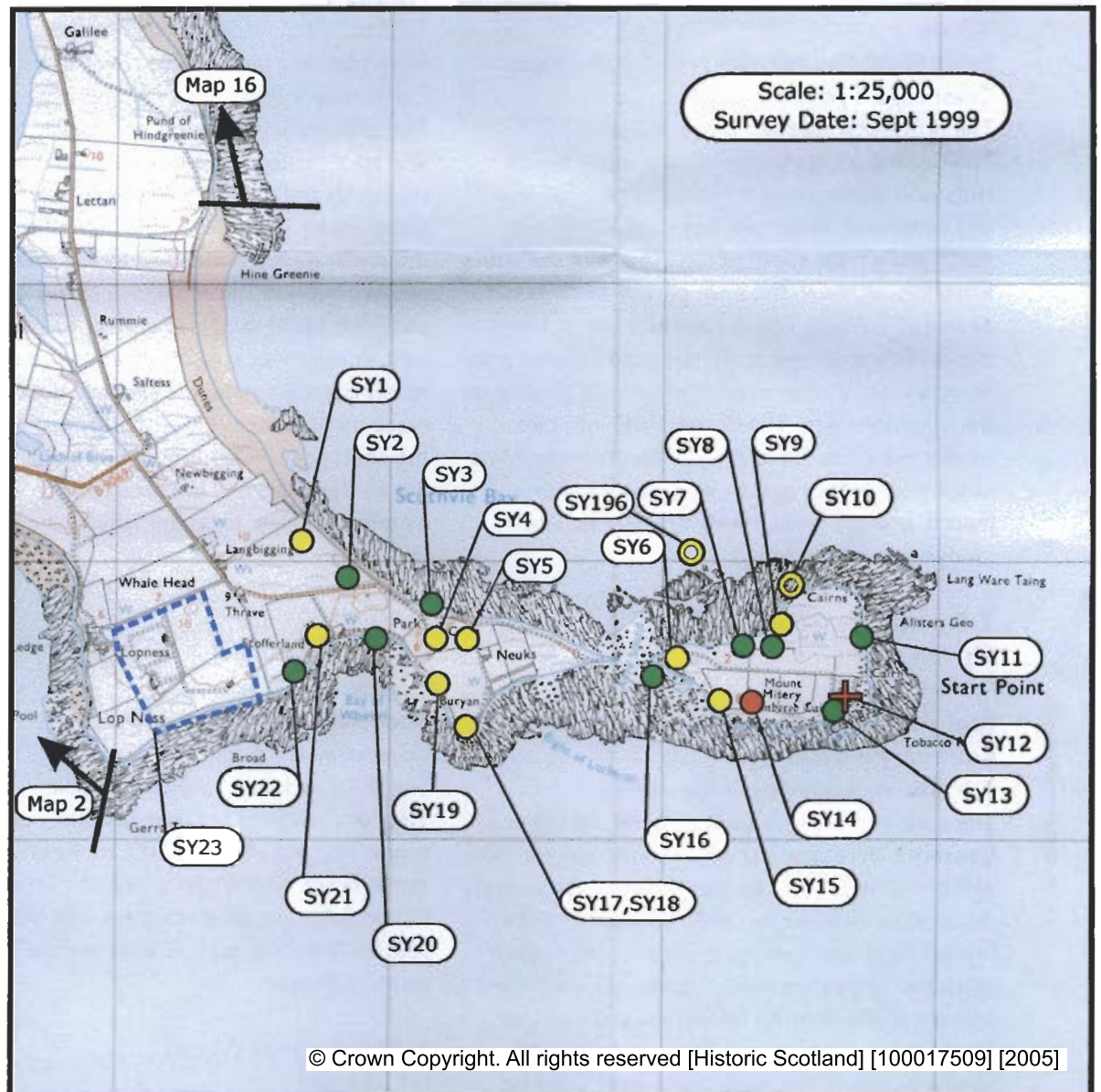
SY20
HY7693 4373
Bay of Wheevi
Channel & possible noost
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

SY21 HY74SE24
HY767 437
Scofferland
Farmstead
18-20th C
Fair/poor
Nil

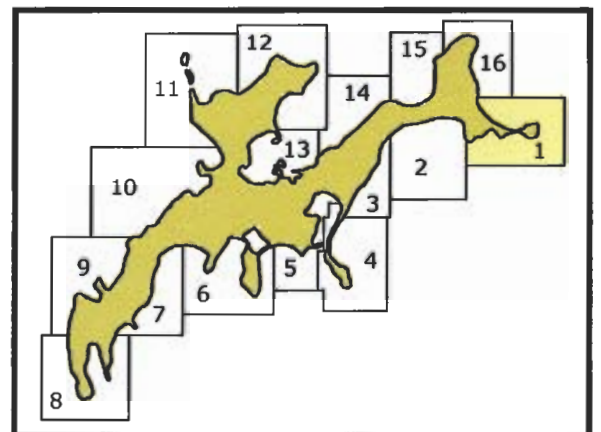
SY22
HY7665 4360
Scofferland
Mound & coastal exposure
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY23
HY74SE23.00/.01/.03
HY761 436
Whale Head
Radar Station
18-20th C
Good
Monitor

SY196 HY74SE8002
HY7816 4410
Start Point
Wreck of HMS
'Goldfinch'
18-20th C
Not seen
Nil



- Built Heritage & Archaeology**
- Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - + Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
 - Site complex



1. Hindgreenie

HY 762 447

1.3 km

Sandy foreshore, generally with < 10% cobbles.

Coast edge is generally < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The bay has a large gently sloping sandy beach with sand dunes along the coast edge coast edge and hinterland. There are some cobbles to the north and the far south of this section of the upper foreshore although the main part of the beach is devoid of cobbles. The dunes rise to over 5m to the north and are generally stabilised by lyme grass along the coast edge with other tussock grasses to the hinterland side. The dunes divide into two smaller ridges to the south. On the hinterland side of the dune ridge ragwort is ubiquitous within fenced, grassed fields. Freely draining skeletal sands make up the soils.

2. Scuthvie Bay (South)

HY 774 438

1.2 km

Rock platform with 50 - 80% cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The rock platform has cobbles along the upper foreshore increasing from 50% in the west to 80% at the east end of the section. The vegetated sand dune ridges fade out to sandy soils before Park. Fenced fields are down to grass with less ragwort apparent. Slopes are gently sloping at most. The soils are freely draining brown calcareous types. The littoral zone between Start point and the Sanday mainland has many rocks over a shingle shore area.

3. Start Point

HY 789 436

1.7 km

Rock platform with cobble cover to the S and W.

Coast edge < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The rock platform is generally devoid of cobbles to the north and eastern side of this tidal island with some cobble cover along the upper foreshore to the south west. To the west by the causeway there are two substantial berms on a storm beach which are made up of shingle and shells for the most part. A large wet area of hinterland to the north east is classed as saltings. The field boundaries are made up of stone walls set back 7 to 15 m from the coast edge. A lighthouse and buildings lie to the western side and are set back into the hinterland. Apart from the saltings the soils are imperfectly or freely drained.

4. Neuks

HY 773 434

1.5 km

Rock platform with up to 90% cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The rock platform has perhaps 80% cobble cover to the east and less than 50% to the west with a storm beach on the east shore of Weevie Bay. The fenced fields are down to grass with freely draining soils for the most part. A small sea wall lies to the south of Buryan.

5. Bay of Weevie (West)

HY 762 434

0.7 km

Rock platform.

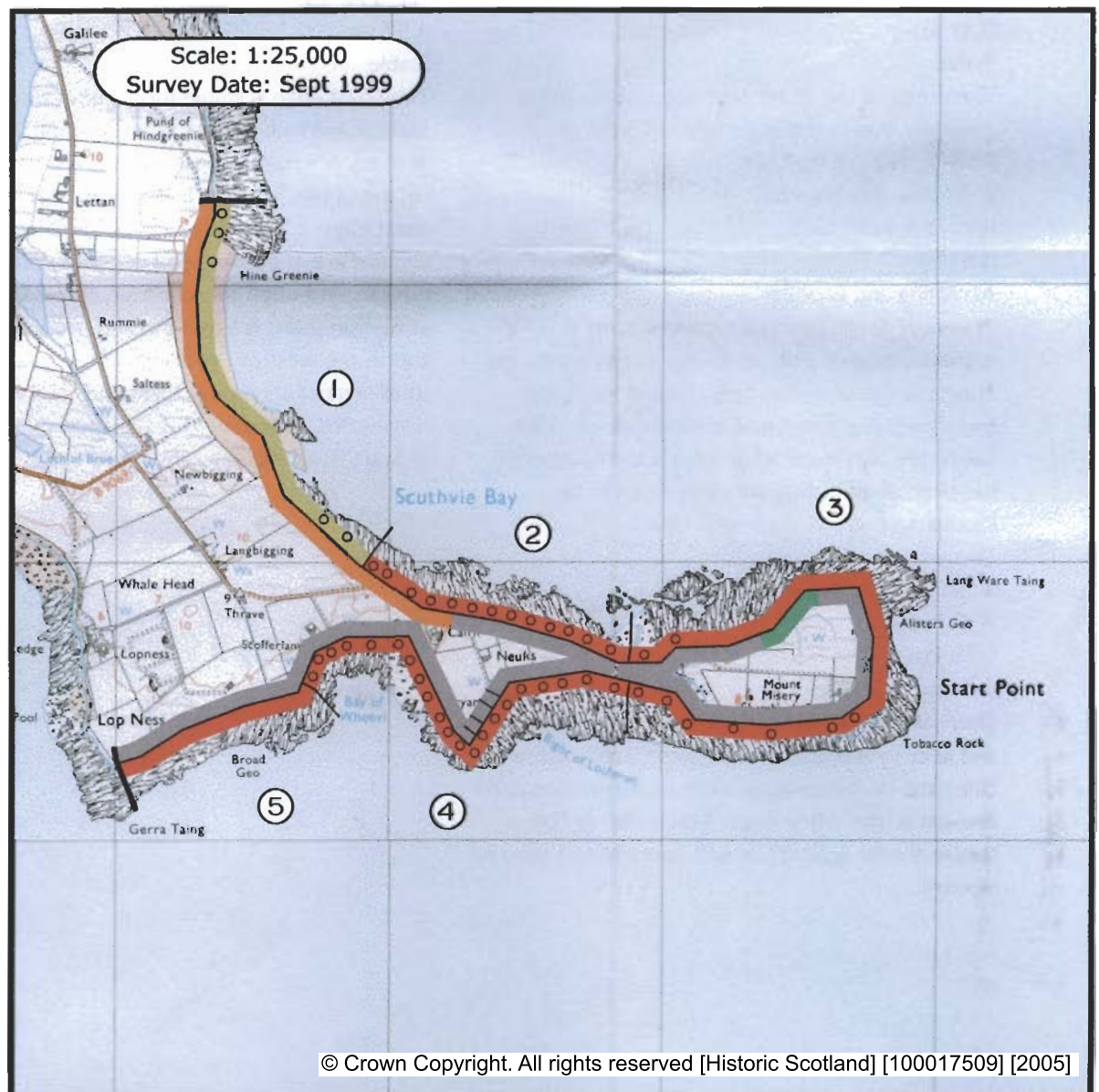
Coast edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The cobble grades out to negligible cover by Gerra Taing. Although the coast edge is well defined it rarely exceeds 3 m in height. Again slopes on the hinterland are negligible to gentle gradients with fenced grassed fields on imperfectly to freely draining soils.

Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

Sanday Map 1



Foreshore

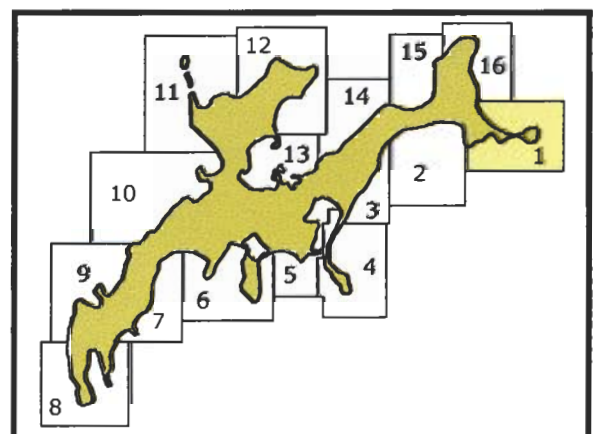
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance



1. Hindgreenie

HY 763 452

0.41 km

Stable

The dunes at the coast edge are stable. This is generally due to the vegetation of lyme grass.

2. Scuthie Bay (North)

HY 764 445

0.8 km

Accreting and Eroding

There are large areas of accreting sand along the upper foreshore and coast edge running into the dunes. Some of the accretion along the upper foreshore may constitute seasonal storm wash. There are also small areas where the coast edge has been eroded although this tends to be localised.

3. Scuthie Bay (South)

HY 768 440

0.76 km

Eroding to Stable

There is less evidence of accretion to the south and as the sand dunes decrease in size and the coast line becomes more definite there is localised erosion of the sandy edge. This is mainly due to cobble throw against the soft unprotected sand or till edge.

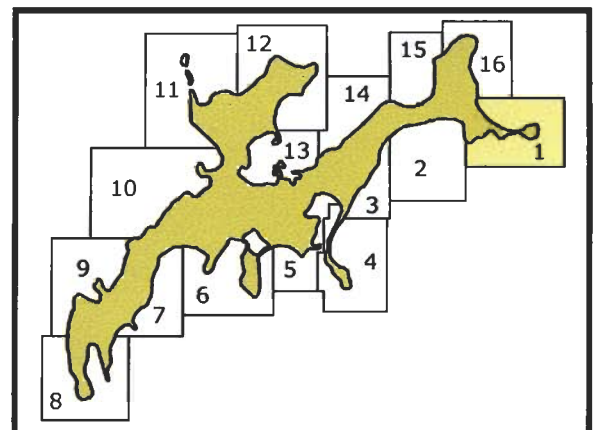
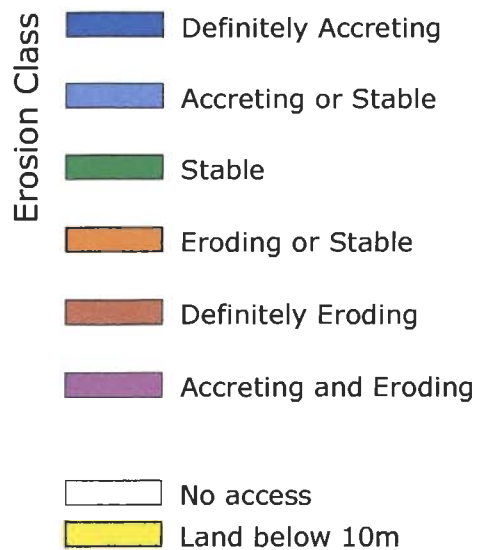
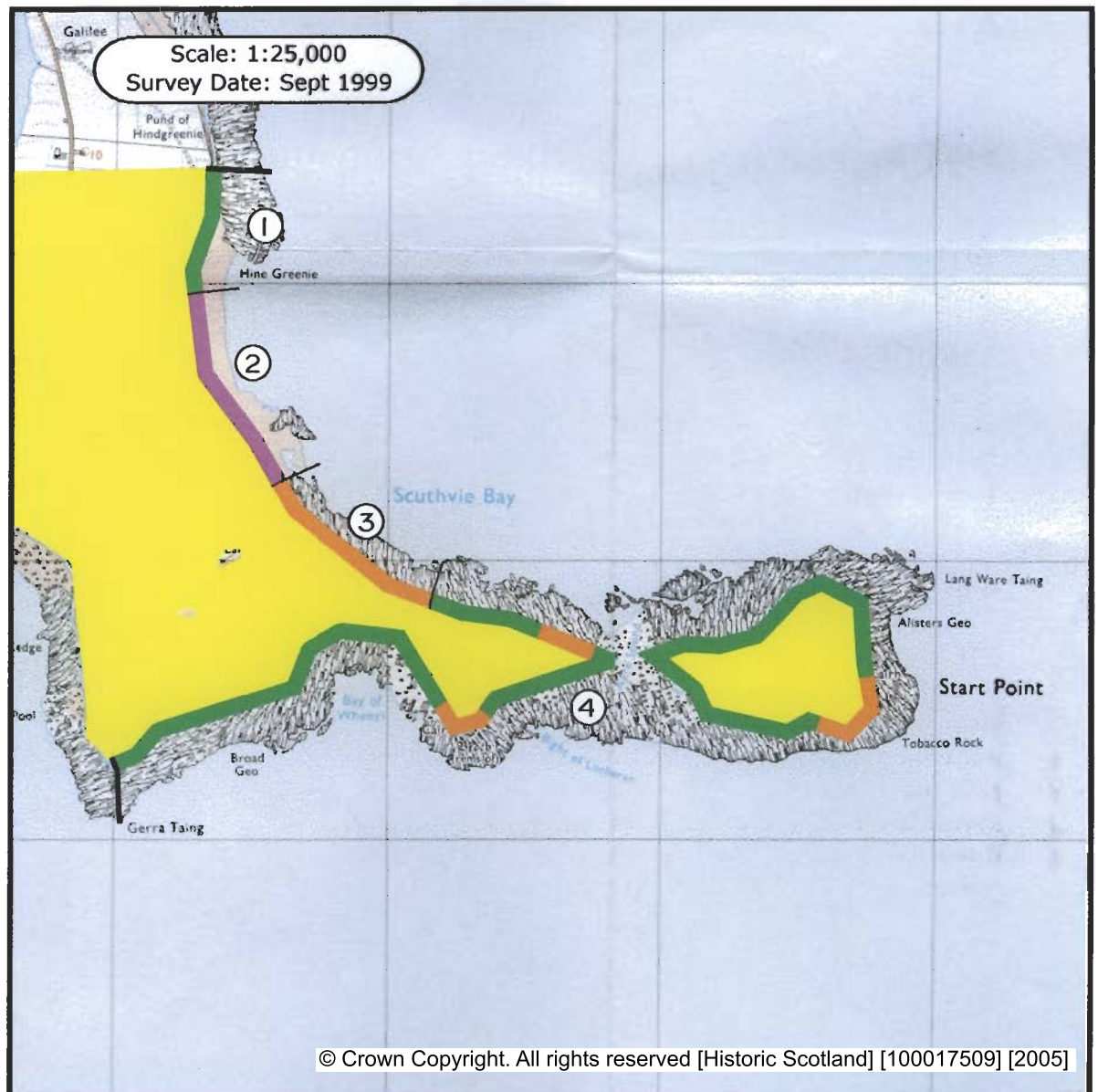
4. Park

HY 772 434

4.37 km

Stable

The coast edge is stable throughout most of this section and includes the tidal island of Start Point. In many places the coast line is protected by cobble upper foreshore as it grades up to the coast edge. Most prominent points of localised erosion are at Neuky, east of Mount Merry Buryan. Although there is a small sea defence wall at Buryan there is some erosion around the sides and to the west of the point. There is also a very small area of accreting shales and shell which constitutes a berm or small ayre on the western tip of Start Point island by the farm.



Map 2: Lop Ness to Sellibister

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

From Whale Head, at the north east end of the Bay of Lopness, this map section extends along a sandy beach, backed with dunes. From the low reefs after West Langamay, the section continues along East Ayre to conclude at Sellibister. Over much of this distance the coast edge is formed by high dunes which are mostly consolidated by turf cover. A few occupied settlements lie along the road, which runs parallel to, but screened off from, the coast by the dunes. The fields to either side of the road support rough pasture; some are untended and prey to ragwort infestation.

Sea erosion to the northeast side of the Bay of Lopness has exposed archaeological deposits in the coast section in several places. At Lopness (SY27), part of a probable prehistoric stone structure, which has a flagstone floor, and midden-type deposits associated with it are exposed in section. Topographical features in the surrounding hinterland suggest that further buried remains may lie inland.

More enigmatic remains exposed in section at Stackald Brae (SY30) include columns of coursed masonry and anthropogenic soils; it is possible that these remains may be associated with a church (SY29) recorded in this area, the location of which is currently unknown.

In the northern corner of the bay, eroding deposits are revealed in a 15m long coast section. These include soils rich in bird, fish and mammal bone, shell and organic content. The deposits are eroding from the peripheries of a very large, grassy mound, which is more than likely a 'farm mound' or multi-period settlement of extended duration.

Military remains are represented in this area by the wreck of a WWI German destroyer, the B98, which lies just off-shore (SY33). It was grounded here while under tow to Scapa Flow for salvage in 1919, and although it has been divested of much of its metal, it is clearly visible from the shore. In contrast, very little remains of the WWII accommodation camp (SY32) which served the radar station (map 1) and which stood near the centre of the bay. This is because most of the camp would have comprised nissan huts and temporary structures which could be easily dissembled, leaving only the concrete bases behind.

Geology and Geomorphology

This unit is dominated by the sandy foreshore of Lopness Bay and accompanying sand dunes along the coast edge. Cobble cover tends to be sporadic, generally; with less than 30% of the cover confined to the upper foreshore. The topography is generally flat with grassed, cultivable fields extending up to the small sand dune or sandy lip of the coast edge. The rock to drift interface is visible along some parts of the coast edge to the east side of the bay.

Erosion

Apart from two small areas of definite erosion, this unit is generally stable. The coast edge to the east side of the bay has localised erosion where there are exposures of till or accumulated soils. This latter situation, soil exposure, occurs at one point only in the eastern corner of the bay. The edge becomes less definite along the sandy foreshore of Lopness Bay, where a dune ridge runs along the coastline.

SY24

HY7599 4328
Lop Ness
Structural remains
18-20th C
Poor
Nil

SY25

HY7590 4345
Lop Ness
Structural remains
18-20th C
Fair
Monitor

SY26

HY7581 4342
Lop Ness
Wall
Unknown
Fair
Nil

SY27 HY74SE15

HY7590 4368
Lopness
Coastal exposure: settlement
1st mill BC/1st mill AD
Fair/poor
Survey

SY28 HY74SE21

HY 7594 4368
Lopness
House & channel
18-20th C
Good
Nil

SY29 HY74SE12

HY7589 4379
Stackald Brae
Site of a chapel
10-14th C
Not seen
Monitor

SY30

HY7585 4397
Stackald Brae
Coastal exposure: possible settlement
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY31

HY7570 4410
Lopness
Coastal exposure & mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY32 HY74SE23.02

HY7537 4429
Lopness
WWII military accomodation camp
18-20th C
Fair/poor
Nil

SY33 HY74SW23/8001

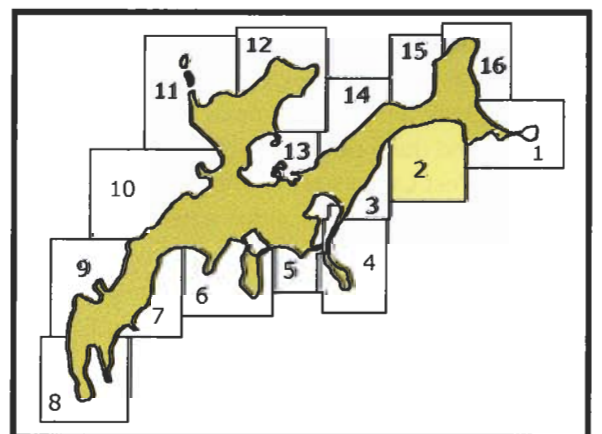
HY7462 4414
Bay of Lopness
Wreck:B98 WWI German destroyer
18-20th C
Poor
Nil

SY197 HY74SE8001

HY7531 4412
Bay of Lopness
Wreck of the trawler 'Strato'
18-20th C
Not seen
Nil



- Built Heritage & Archaeology
- Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - + Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
 - Site complex



1. Gerra Taing

HY 759 435

0.8 km

Rock platform.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible.

The rock platform has up to 30% cobble cover in places. The coast edge is better defined in this section but only exceeds 5 m to the extreme north. The rock drift interface is more visible to the north with some exposure of up to 40 cm of a buff till and some colluvium. The profile to the north end of this section has over 1 m of sand overlying :-

15-20 cm of dark sandy loam

10 cm of dark shelly loam plus bone inclusion

20 cm of fine shelly loam

10 cm brown shelly loam over a buff till and rock.

There is some dumping of farm waste along the coast edge to the south. Soils are freely drained podzol with sandy skeletal soils to the north.

2. Whale Head

HY 750 442

1.8 km

Sandy foreshore with some cover on the upper foreshore.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

There is only minor cobble and shingle cover, perhaps 30% along the upper foreshore especially at each side of this section. The coast edge drops to under 5 m at the east side and becomes less well defined as it runs into a sand dune ridge. The sand ridge has a slightly levelled appearance towards the centre. At the centre of this section there is a car park by the coast edge where the road runs along the top with a small sea defence wall running along part of the road. As regards the hinterland, grassed fields lie behind the vegetated sand dune ridge along the eastern side as far as West Langamay. There is at least one large deflation hollow within a field on the hinterland. A small sand ridge then runs between the road and the coast edge on the west side of this section. Soils are made up of skeletal sands.

3. Millhouse (East)

HY 734 439

1.3 km

Predominantly rock platform with sporadic cobble cover.

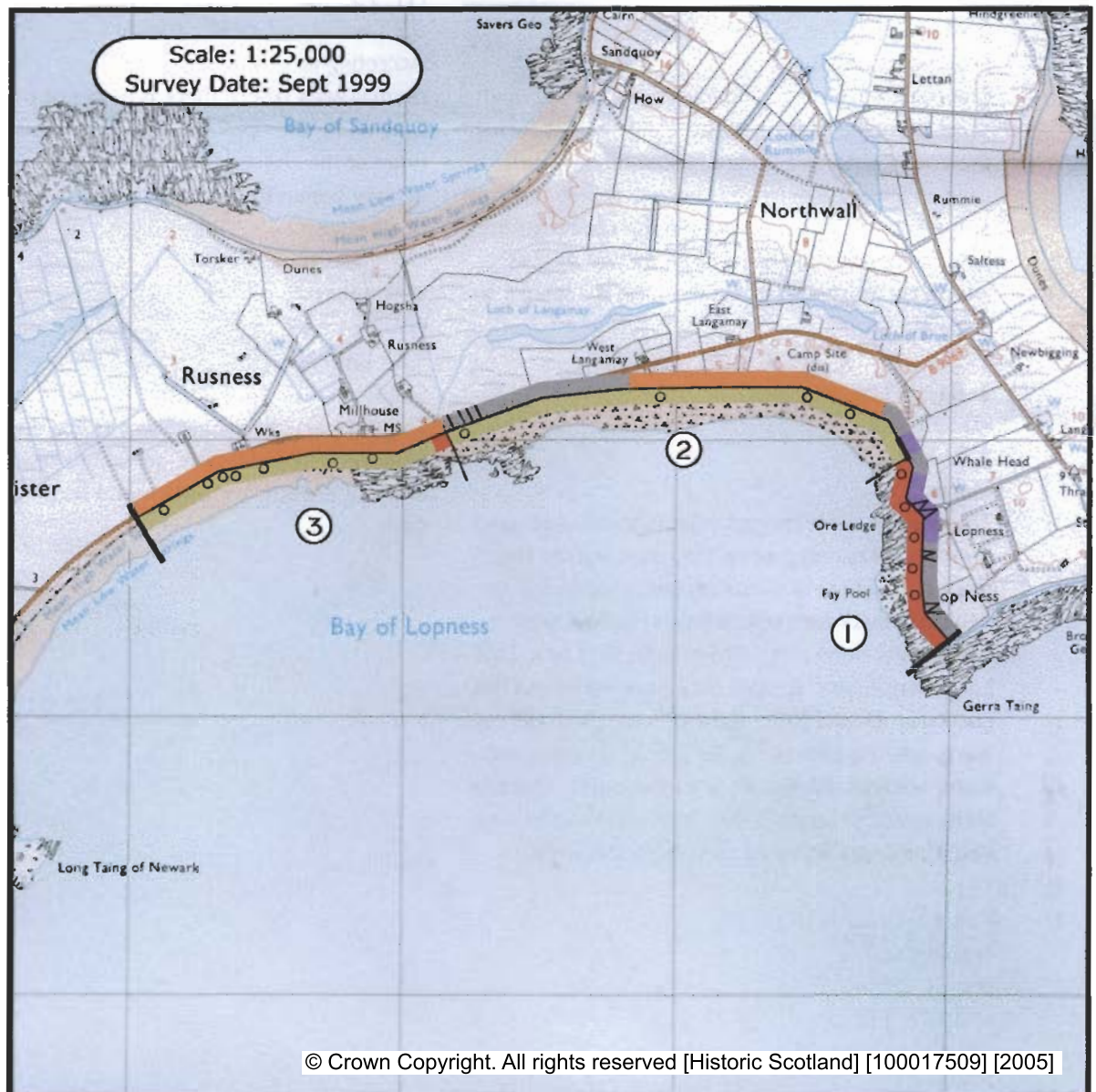
Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

A rock platform is evident at the beginning of this section and is much more apparent along the lower foreshore. The rest of the section has a sandy foreshore with more sporadic areas of cobbles along the upper foreshore to the west. The coast edge has sand dunes running the length of this section with a road lying behind the ridge. Grassed, fenced fields lie beyond the road. Soils are freely drained skeletal sands.

Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

Sanday Map 2



Foreshore

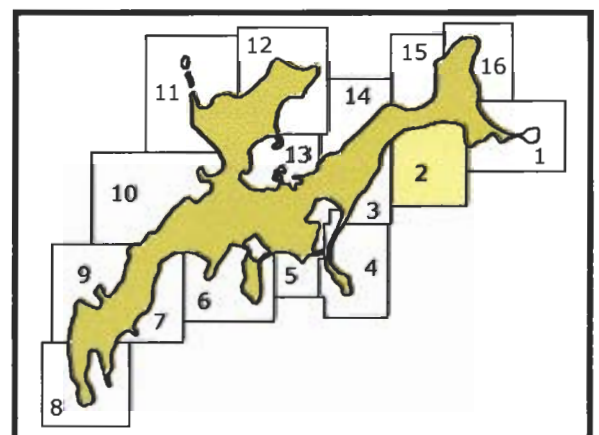
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



1. Gerra Taing

HY 758 436

0.94 km

Eroding to Stable

The coast edge is eroding in a few areas although some dumping of farm waste is aiding in reducing the erosion. At Ore Lodge rubble tip has been used as a marine defence. There is definite erosion at the end of this section within the corner of the bay. The coast edge has a large section of soils which are more vulnerable than the shallow till to erosion.

2. Bay of Lopness (East)

HY 748 441

2.02 km

Stable

The majority of this coast edge is stable with sand dunes ridge running along the coast line for the most part. There is minor erosion mainly due to aeolian activity with one deflation hollow lying beyond the dune ridge in the hinterland near East Langamay. Cattle scrapes may have enhanced this particular localised site. Further west the road runs along side the coast edge for a brief distance and a stone sea wall also lies close to this point. There is some minor erosion of the coast edge to the west end of the wall and then further to the west.

3. East Ayre

HY 739 439

0.31 km

Accreting to Stable

A small area where there is evidence of accreting sand along the upper foreshore and into the dune ridge at the coast edge. Some lyme grass has already begun to vegetate the loose sand at the coast edge.

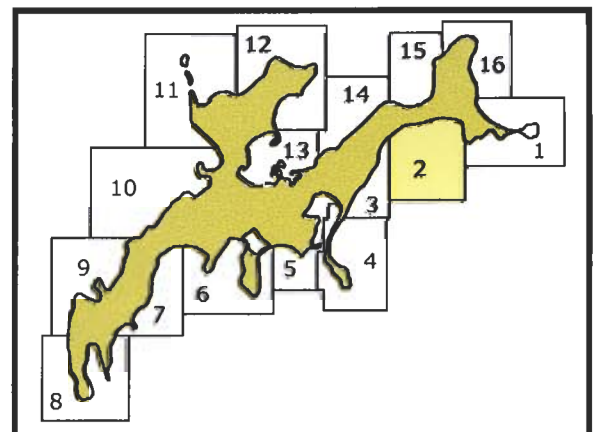
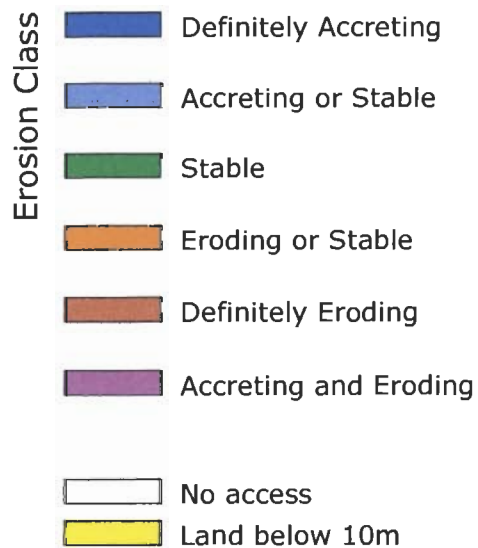
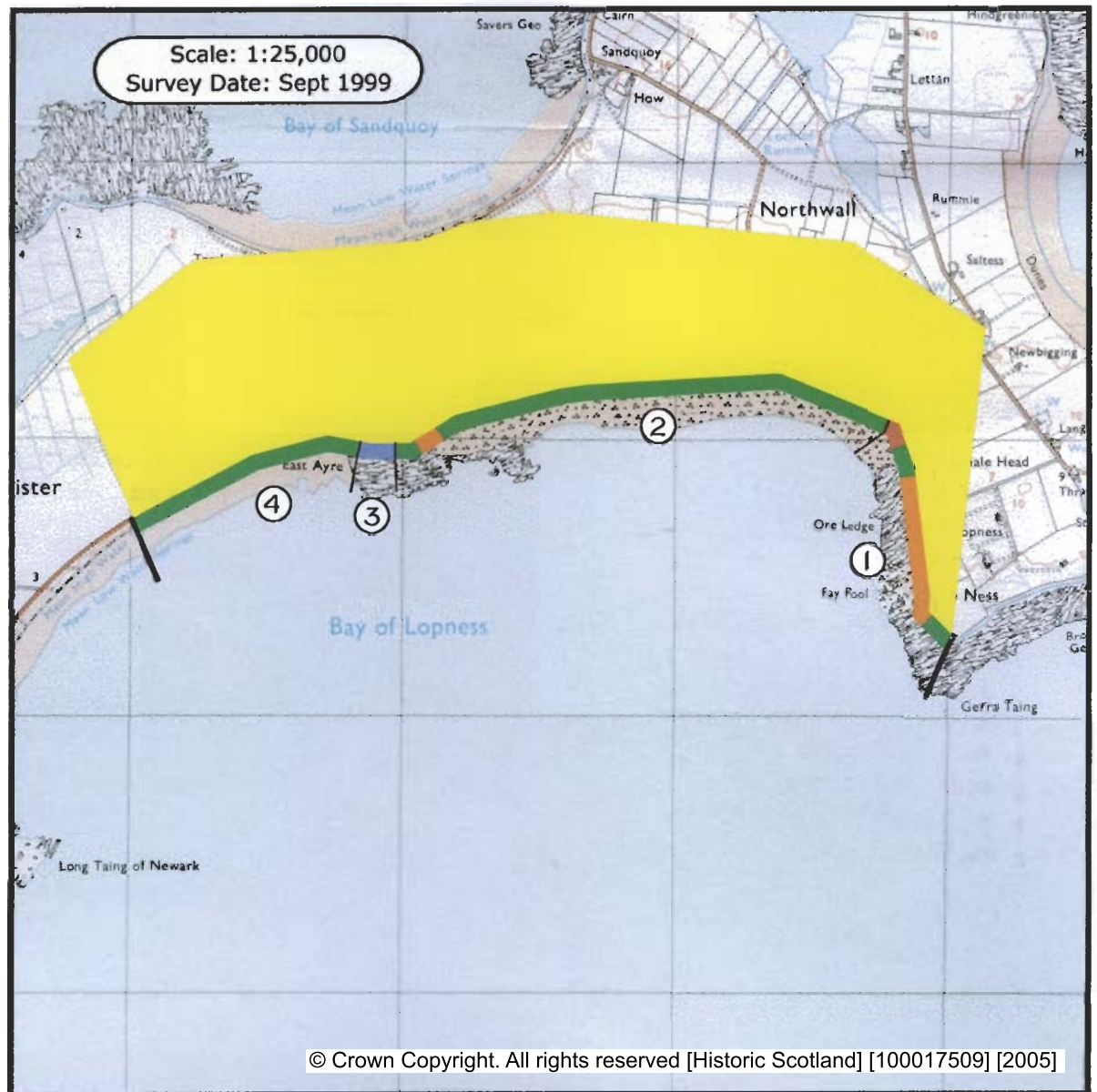
4. Rusness

HY 734 439

0.63 km

Stable

The last part of this unit has a stable dune ridge in front of the road. There are only a few minor areas of erosion and ephemeral accumulations of sand.



Map 3: Sellibister to Plain of Fidge

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

The section of coastline covered by this map section extends from the sandy beach to the southwest side of the Bay of Lopness, past the rocky headland at Newark, to the dune ridge which forms the coast edge at Plain of Fidge. The only modern settlement in this area is at Newark; the higher and possibly more stable ground on this headland has been the focus for settlement over an extended period, as the extensive archaeological deposits can testify. The surrounding hinterland comprises good, level grazing land over deep sandy soils.

Very substantial archaeological deposits are exposed in the coast along this section of the coast. While typical of farm mounds seen elsewhere on Sanday, the remains in this area are noteworthy for their extent and the presence of several structural features between the thick layers of organic soil. To the north side of the headland, a coast exposure (SY34) reveals deep layers of organic soils containing frequent shell, charcoal and fish bone inclusions. The fish bone appears to be articulated and present in quantities which may suggest some form of semi-industrial processing. A possible fish trap is located in the adjacent intertidal reefs. Further around the headland, fragments of coursed walling and several stone-lined drains, which may be of Viking/Norse date, are visible among the thick organic 'farm mound' layers (SY35).

To the south, the present farmhouse at Newark (SY36) stands beside the grassed-over footings of an earlier building, probably its predecessor. A lintel bearing the date 1637, said to come from an earlier building, has been preserved in an outbuilding. It would appear that while the centre of the settlement shifted over time, the headland at Newark may have been continuously occupied since at least Viking/Norse period.

A little way further along the coast, two eroding mounds (SY37 & SY38) appear to represent settlement remains of an earlier period; the latter site exhibits coursed stonework associated with extensive anthropogenic deposits. Topographic features indicate that these deposits are likely to continue inland.

Geology and Geomorphology

The sandy Bay of Lopness finishes and runs onto a rock platform before returning to a sandy foreshore. The sand dunes are absent from the centre of the section but re-emerge again to the south side of the farm mound at Newark. In the hinterland, the fields are fenced, mainly grassed over freely drained skeletal sands and sandy soils.

Erosion

A large proportion of this unit has an eroding coast edge; the majority of the erosion is occurring along the south western side of Lopness Bay and is due to marine action.

SY34

HY7237 4263
Bay of Lopness/Newark
Coastal exposure, mounds, (?) fish trap
Possibly 10-14th C
Fair/poor
Survey

SY35

HY7230 4241
Newark
Mound & coastal exposure
Possibly 10-14th C
Fair
Survey

SY36 HY74SW19

HY720 422
Newark Farm
Structural remains & dated lintel stone
14-18th C
Not seen
Monitor

SY37

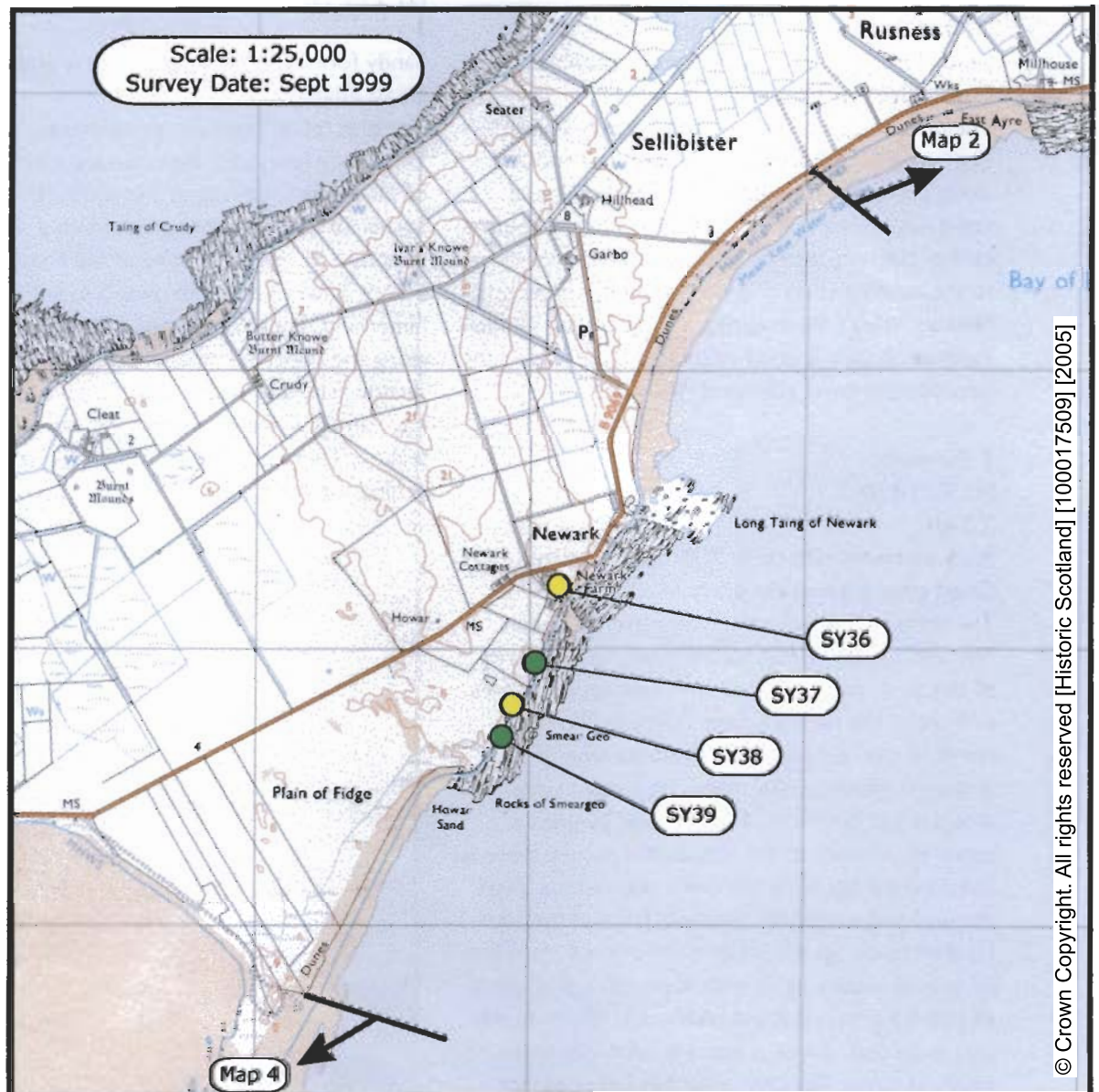
HY7202 4199
Newark
Mound & coastal exposure
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY38 HY74SW16

HY7198 4181
Newark Farm/Sanday Golf Course
Mound & coastal exposure
Fair/poor
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Monitor

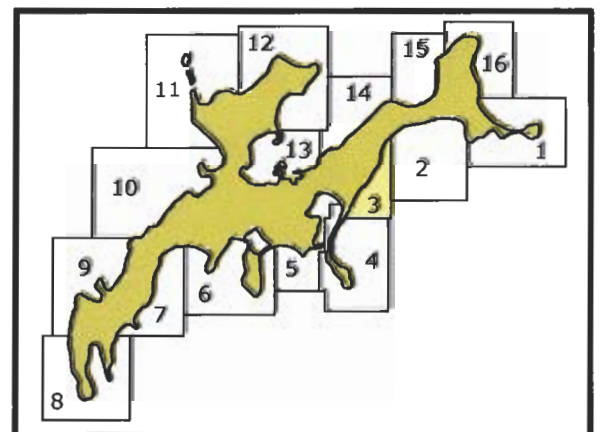
SY39

HY7190 4171
Smear Geo
Noost
18-20th C
Fair
Nil



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- Built Heritage & Archaeology
- Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - + Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
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1. Rusness (East)

HY 725 432

1.4 km

Sandy foreshore with some areas of cobble cover.

Coast edge is predominantly < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

The sandy foreshore has a few areas of cobbles along the upper foreshore. The sandy ridge of coast edge has a buried soil horizon to the south east of the section. This is about 30 cm thick close to the road junction and intermittently visible until Newark where there appears to be buried midden material. A well drained vegetated dune ridge runs between the coast edge and the road.

2. Newark

HY 720 420

1.1 km

Rock platform with up to 70% cobble cover.

Coast edge is generally < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible.

The rock platform has cobble cover to the north of this section with a small storm beach of cobbles in front of the Newark farm buildings. To the north of this section a large accumulation of archaeological material makes up a coast edge which is just over 5 m. This material overlies a sandy till. In front of the houses at Newark there is some rubble tip along the coast edge with a short sea wall and some farm waste in front of the farm. Further to the south the drift to rock interface can be seen in places, again with about 30 cm of sandy till overlying the rock but with a relic storm beach also in section. There is also a small midden mound south of Smear Geo and a further minor storm beach on the upper foreshore. After the buildings there is a stone wall and then an open grassed area to the south. Soils are sandy and imperfectly to well drained.

3. Howar Sand

HY 715 414

1 km

Sandy foreshore with only discrete areas of cover.

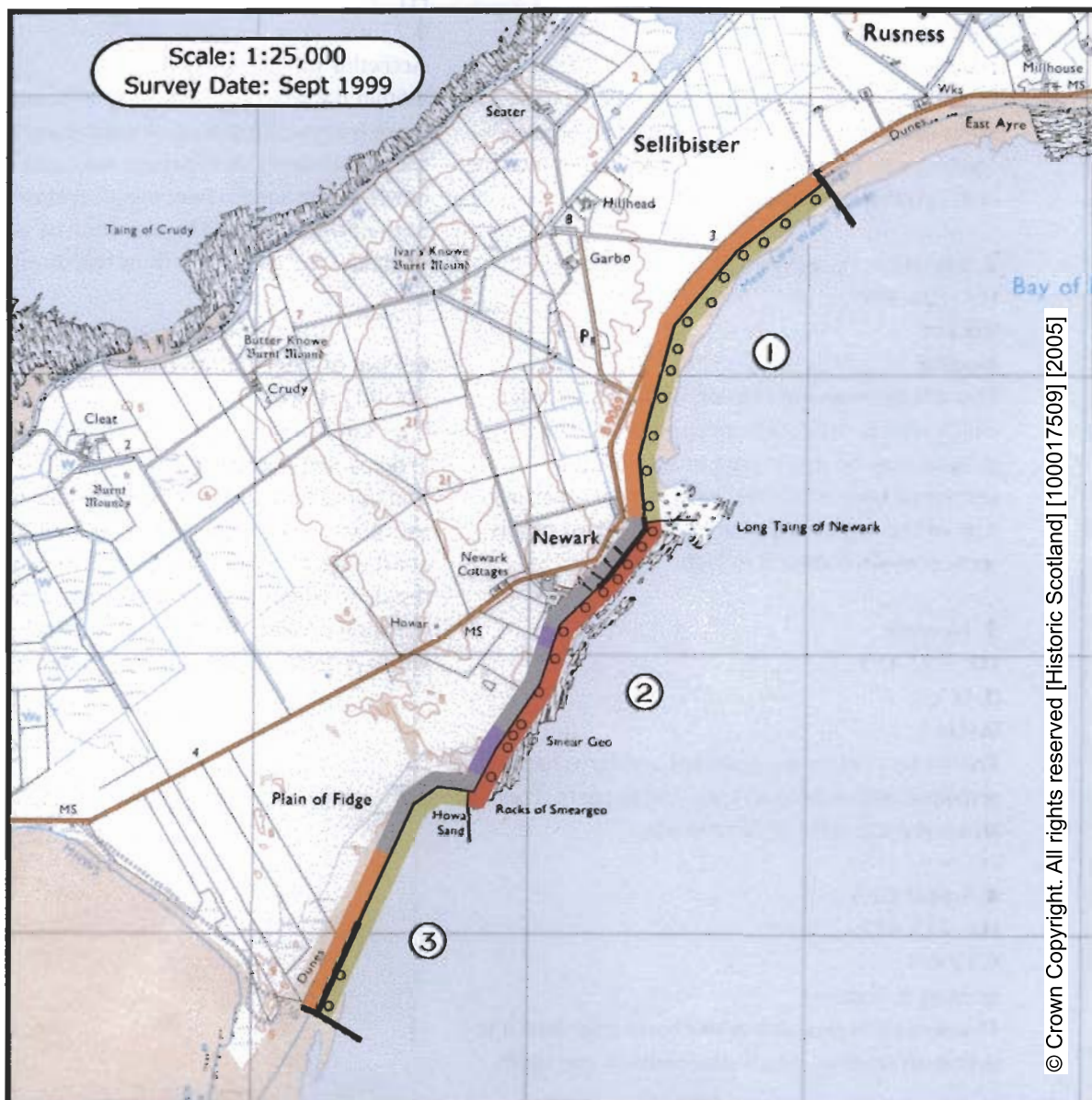
Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

This sandy foreshore becomes a part of a long spit of sand dunes running to the south. The north corner of the foreshore grades into a shelf structure of vegetated sand at the coast edge before again rising up to over 5 m within the hinterland. There is perhaps 30% cobble cover along the upper foreshore to the south of this section. The dune ridge draws closer to the coast edge and is well over 5 m to the south of this section. There is some fencing of grassed fields behind the dune ridge.

Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

Sanday Map 3



Foreshore

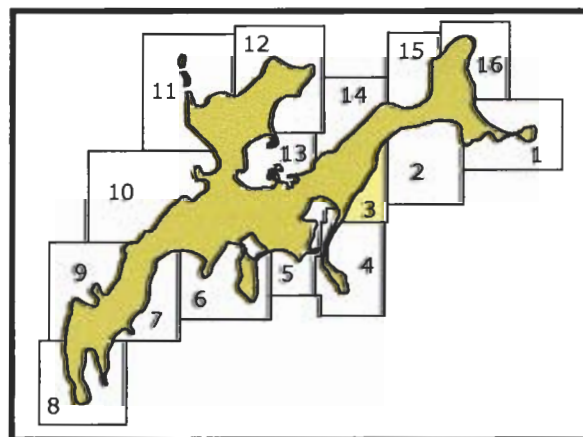
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



1. Rusness (East)

HY 727 434

0.45 km

Eroding to Stable

Continued stable coast edge with more localised areas of coast erosion to the west. The erosion continues to become worse and so grades into the next eroding section.

2. Bay of Lopness (West)

HY 724 429

0.9 km

Eroding

There is fairly severe erosion of the dunes ridge which now forms a definite coast edge. The erosion may be due in part to the soft soil sediments lying within the sand. This is especially true of the large midden area to the west of this section which is over 5 m high.

3. Newark

HY 722 423

0.46 km

Stable

The section below the buildings and farm has been stabilised with rubble and sea wall in parts. There is also some dumping of farm waste.

4. Smear Geo

HY 719 417

0.55 km

Eroding to Stable

The section begins with a low coast edge which is definitely eroding, which decreases to the south.

5. Howar Sand

HY 715 413

0.72 km

Accreting to Stable

Within the small bay and along the south coast line there is an accumulation of sand along the back shore and sandy shelf behind the coast edge. The newly blown sand is becoming vegetated along both of these areas. The accretion of sand continues for a few 100 m to the south of the cove.

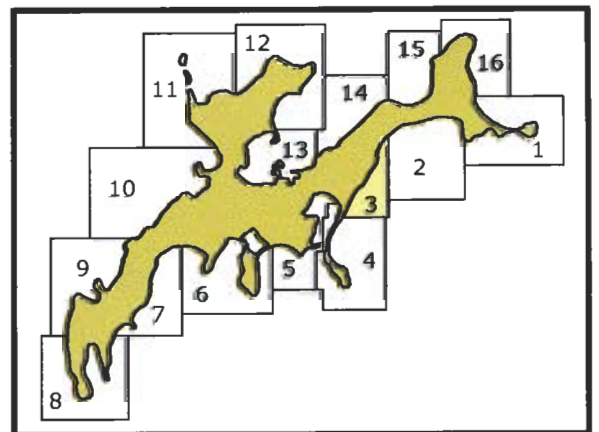
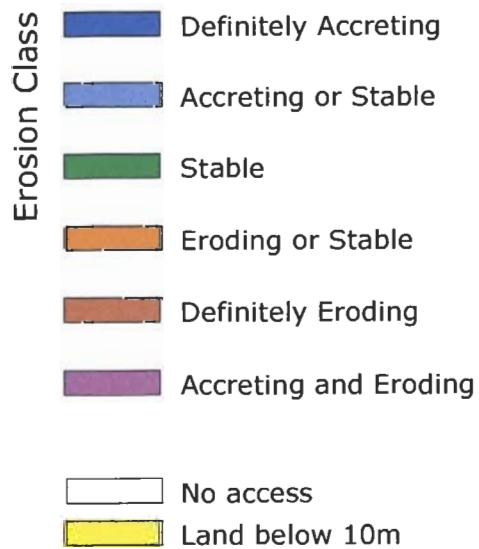
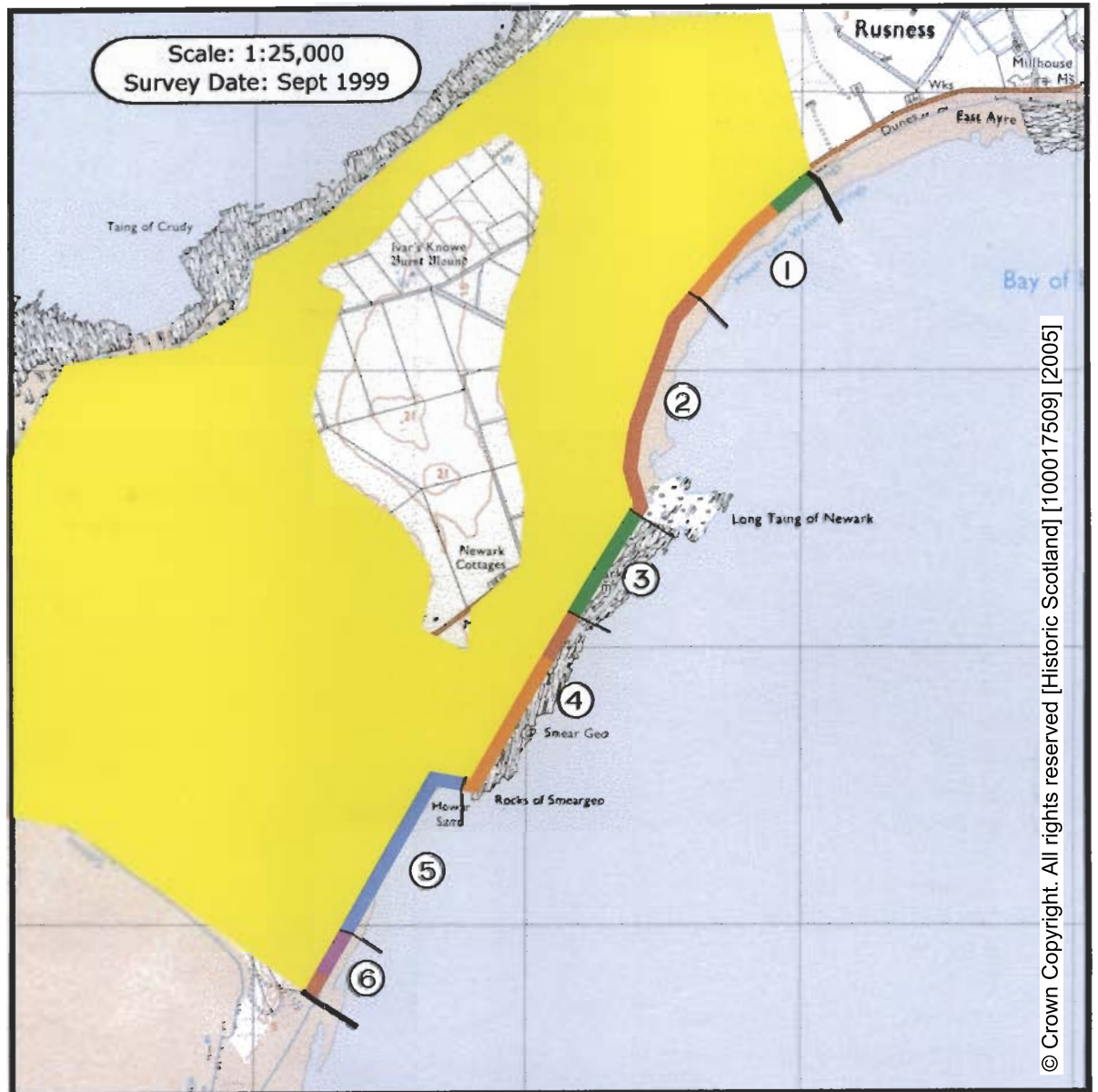
6. Plain of Fidge (South East)

HY 712 408

0.33 km

Eroding and Accreting

The dunes have areas of accretion along the back shore and coast edge with erosion of the dunes coast edge by marine action and some erosion of the dune where aeolian activity has created a few deflation pockets. The section also includes an area which is definitely eroding due to deflation.



Map 4: Plain of Fidge to Cata Sand

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section extends around the elongated peninsula of Tres Ness. The peninsula, although itself surrounded by a rocky reef is tenuously joined to the mainland by a narrow sand spit, less than a couple of hundred metres across in places. There is only one modern settlement in the area, Tresness Farm, and the land comprises both improved and unimproved pasture.

Tres Ness is rich in archaeological sites. One of the most impressive sites is located in an elevated position at the tip of the ness. Here a large chambered cairn (SY44) has been damaged by coastal erosion. Recent investigations at the site indicate that the cairn may comprise up to three separate phases of construction. It has been scheduled as an ancient monument but remains at risk from continued sea erosion.

Several other mounds recorded in this area (SY41-43, 48, 49, 52) may also be burial monuments. These mounds extend along the western coast and may be part of a more extensive concentration of burial mounds, similar to Els Ness (Map 6) which lies directly opposite on the other side of the bay and Tofts Ness (Map 16), further north. Of interest, is a mound conjoined with an earthwork (SY42), which shares similarities with examples at Tofts Ness. Another mound (SY48) at Knap of Grindish is partly surrounded by what may either be a bank or a series of smaller mounds; this may have parallels with burial mounds at both Tofts Ness and Els Ness.

The Broch of Wasso forms a massive grassy mound in which very little detail is apparent. The surrounding defences remain visible and there are strong hints of further, extra-broch settlement in the immediate area. Antiquarian investigations in the 19th C were not well recorded, but do not appear to have been extensive or particularly destructive. The broch lies in an area of marshy land, close to a loch and this factor may hold potential for the preservation of materials in waterlogged deposits.

Geology and Geomorphology

This long spit of dune ridge culminates in a promontory of land, Tres Ness. The sand ridge has vegetated dunes some of which are well over ten metres in height.

Erosion

The isthmus of sand dunes joining Tres Ness to Sanday is generally eroding on the sea-facing (east) side but there is also accretion of sand along the lower face of the dunes. Most of the south and east coast of Tres Ness is stable, but there is localised erosion along the western side of the isthmus. The northwestern coast of Plain of Fidge is stable. Two major gullies through the sand ridge isthmus are probably due to both aeolian and marine action.

SY40 HY73NW10
HY7038 3877
Tressness
Farmstead
18-20th C
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY41
HY7048 3857
Tres Ness
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY42 HY73NW3
HY7120 3800
Hangie Head, Tres Ness
Mound & earthwork
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair/poor
Survey

SY43 HY73NW8
HY7119 3757
Tres Ness
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY44 HY73NW4
HY7110 3752
Tres Ness
Chambered cairn
4th-3rd mill BC
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY45 HY73NW9
HY7068 3798
Tres Ness
Kelp Workings
18-20th C
Good/fair
Nil

SY46
HY7090 3785
Tres Ness
Reservoir
18-20th C
Good
Nil

SY47 HY73NW2
HY7092 3794
Broch of Wasso, Tres Ness
Broch
1st mill BC-1st mill AD
Good
Monitor

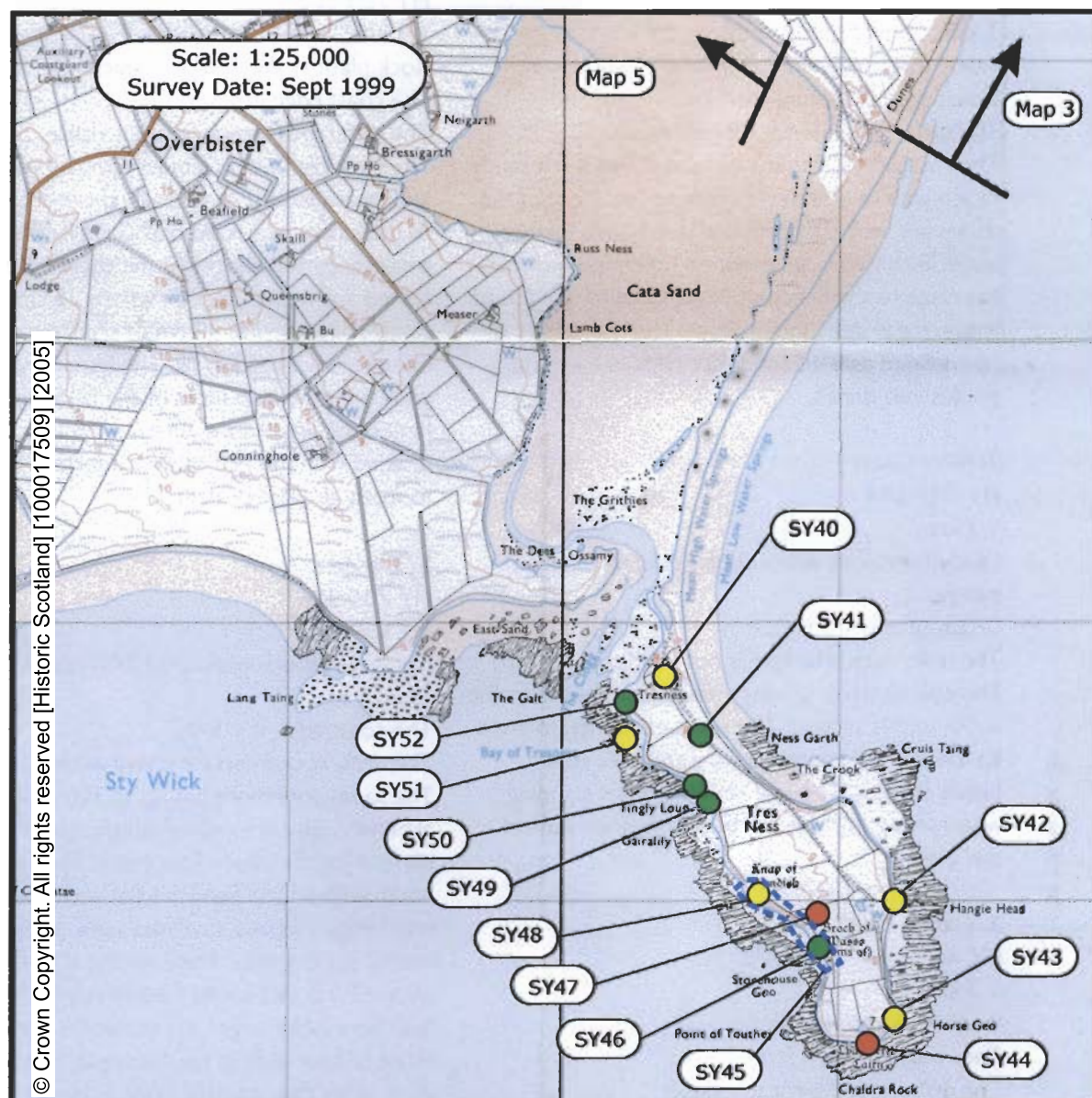
SY48 HY73NW1
HY7069 3802
Knap of Girndish, Tres Ness
Mound(s)
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY49
HY7051 3839
Tingly Loup
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Good
Monitor

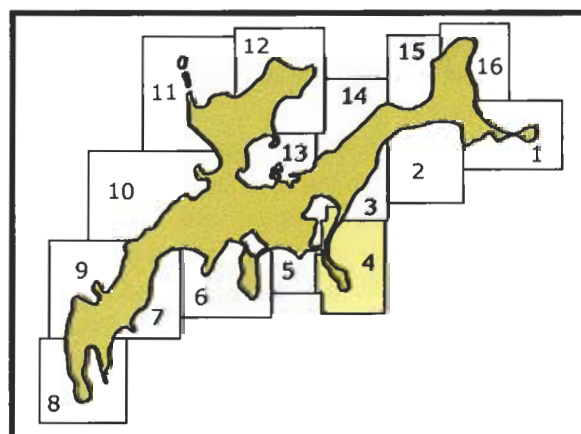
SY50
HY7046 3844
Tingly Loup
Coastal exposure
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY51 HY73NW11
HY7015 3857
Kirk Taing
Natural feature
Unknown
Not seen
Nil

SY52
HY7022 3868
Tressness
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor



- Built Heritage & Archaeology
- Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
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 - Undesignated wreck
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 - ⬢ Site complex



1. Dunes (Newark Bay)

HY 706 398

2 km

Sandy foreshore with discrete areas of cover.

Coast edge is generally > 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The east side of this line of sand dunes has a sandy beach with only limited cobble cover. Most of the dunes are well over 5 m and over 10 m further south with two large deflation hollows which cut the ridge to the far coast edge. Cobbles are found within these deflation hollows. The coast edge is not definite as the back shore rises as the sand grades into dunes.

2. Ness Garth

HY 707 384

1.2 km

Sandy foreshore with cobbles grading to storm beach.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The cobble cover grades into a storm beach to the south of this section. The coast edge then forms a lip made up of contemporary and relic storm beach cobbles. The low hinterland has standing water in places. Soils are poorly drained podzol and gleys.

3. Hangie Head

HY 711 375

1.3 km

Rock platform with storm beach.

The coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform has storm beach to the east and west of Tres Ness with up to 70% cobble cover around the head. The drift to rock interface is visible with some till and saprolite evident at Hangie Head. Around Chaldra Rock the coast edge has a scalloped appearance. The till is almost absent from the southern head but up to 1 m is evident at Storehouse Geo. The soils are imperfectly to poorly drained podzol and gleys. Stone walls lie around the fields although most fields are set back 4 - 5 m from the coast edge.

4. Knap of Girndish

HY 703 386

1.3 km

Rock platform with storm beach.

The coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The rock platform is almost covered with cobbles and storm beach. At Gairalily there are two berms to the storm beach. Also at Gairalily there is a small sandy foreshore. At the coast edge there is a buried soil seen in section where 25 cm of dark sandy soil underlies 30 cm of sand and stones. The soil overlies a reddish till. The hinterland is grassed with stone walls to most of the fields. The hinterland around the Broch of Wasso is poorly drained with the rest of the hinterland imperfectly to freely drained podzol.

5. Tresness

HY 705 396

2.2 km

Sandy foreshore with up to 70% cobble cover to south.

The coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The sandy foreshore has up to 70% cobble cover around Tresness much of which makes up a hard surface for the upper foreshore. The sands to the north within Cata Sand are flat and fairly firm. The coast edge has two small sea walls to the south, one to the north of Tresness and a further one within the dunes a little further north. The sea wall may have been larger as remnants now stand three to four metres on the upper foreshore. The dune ridge rises to over 10 m in places with the two same breached areas from the east side obvious on this Cata Sand side. The dunes fade out to sandy soil in the north with some fencing.

Dunes and soils are freely drained.



Foreshore

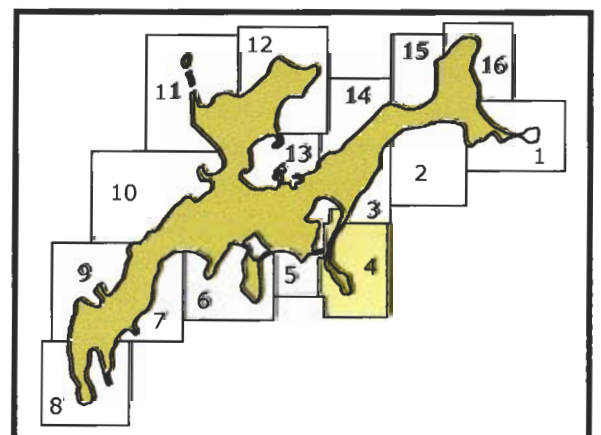
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



1. Tres Ness Isthmus (East)

HY 707 399

1.7 km

Accreting and Eroding

While there is evidence of accretion along both the back shore and coast edge of the dunes there are two large gullies which have cut right through the ridge to the north and to the south. Both have evidence of accretion and continuing erosion by wind action. The gullies have a base of cobbles and may be due to wave throw or relative accumulation during deflation.

2. Tresness (East)

HY 705 388

0.9 km

Eroding to Stable

Localised erosion is found along the coast edge as the sand ridge flattens out to the south with marine erosion of the coast edge east of Tresness buildings. The erosion then becomes more localised again further south where a storm beach becomes prominent and protects some of the coast edge.

3. Ness Garth

HY 711 375

2.2 km

Stable

The coast edge is stable with only minor erosion of the relic storm beach at the coast edge. Further to the south west of Tres Ness the small cliff at the coast edge is vaguely scalloped due to localised erosion. At one point only is there definite erosion taking place at the coast edge where marine action is cutting into a till at Storehouse Geo.

4. Knap of Girndish

HY 703 384

1.04 km

Eroding to Stable

Marine action has brought about localised erosion of the coast edge with definite erosion at Gairalily where a buried soil lies within the section and to the west of Tresness farm. Here up to 3 m of coast edge has disappeared as an old sea wall now lies on the upper foreshore. The erosion is continuing.

5. Tresness (West)

HY 703 390

0.25 km

Stable

A stable coast edge lies to the north west of the farm buildings and is protected by the eroding coast edge of the previous section. A discontinuous sea wall is intact and vegetated with a foreshore that can support vehicles.

6. Tres Ness Isthmus (West)

HY 704 395

0.64 km

Eroding to Stable

There is localised erosion of the coast edge which is fairly steeply sloping on this section. The coast edge is stable to the centre and a sea defence wall can be seen along part of the coast.

7. Tres Ness Isthmus (North West)

HY 706 401

0.64 km

Accreting and Eroding

This section contains the gullies which cut through the dunes from the seaward side. There is also an accretion of sand along the back shore and coast edge of the dunes.

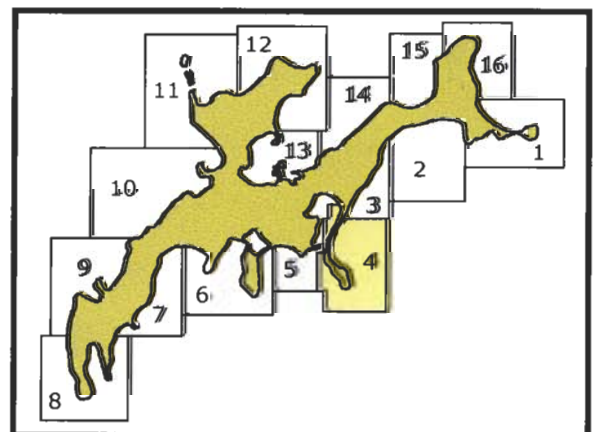
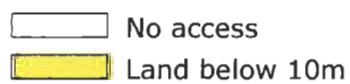
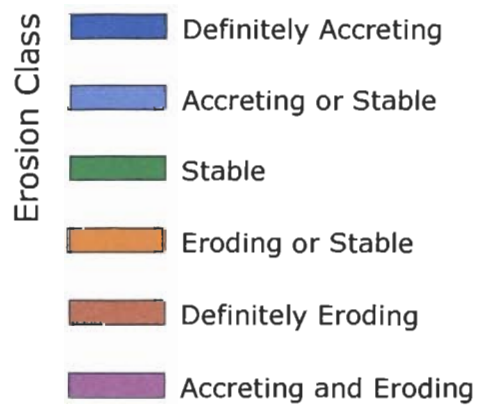
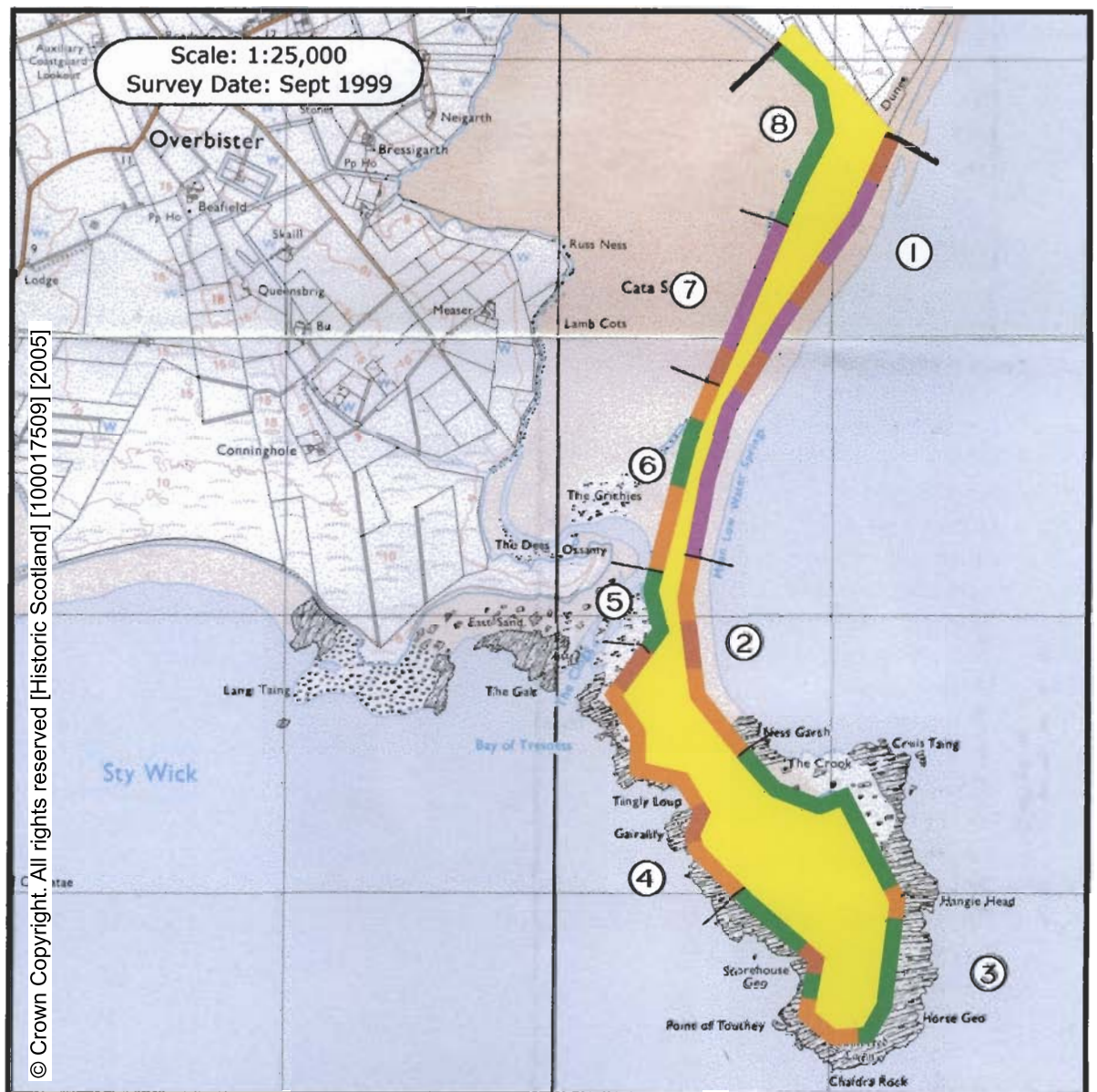
8. Plain of Fidge (South West)

HY 709 407

0.65 km

Stable

Although the coast is low and made up of soft drift the coast edge is stable with only minor elements of marine erosion apparent.



Map 5: Cata Sand to Els Ness

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section extends along the coastline from the neck of Tres Ness, around the inner sea coast of Cata Sand and back to Sty Wick on the outer coast. The land is low-lying and fertile, especially around the inner coast where conditions are more sheltered. The Plain of Fidge backs onto east side of Cata Sand and is largely unenclosed; the hinterland to the west side of the bay has numerous small pasture fields. Beyond the mouth of the inlet, this changes again to open and rough ground. Modern settlement is concentrated to the west side of Cata Sand, but is set back some distance from the coast edge.

While archaeological remains are not abundant in this area, early activity is indicated by two probable prehistoric settlements and a possible burial mound. It is likely that further remains survive but are not readily visible due to drifting sand deposits which have a tendency to level out the topography. Sites recorded in the coast section here are situated on fast-eroding headlands and points and have thus been rendered visible. It is probable that even gradually eroding sites would be difficult to identify since they would be likely to be obscured by blown sand.

A possible burial mound was recorded at Neigarth (SY55); it lies inside a pasture field and is not currently under threat from erosion. A larger mound at Russ Ness (SY57) is being eroded by the sea; the coast section reveals stratified anthropogenic deposits suggestive of domestic activity. This may be a farm mound or multi-period settlement of extended duration. Chance finds include pumice, small chips of flint and undiagnostic prehistoric pot sherds. The site is infested with rabbits and fulmars.

At Sty Wick, an unusual oval enclosure is defined by stout earthen and stone banks (SY58). It appears to be built over a pre-existing mound, although it is difficult to be certain since there is such an accumulation of blown sand in the area and the vegetation is overgrown. The location, on a headland close to a sandy bay, is reminiscent of the type of areas selected for settlement in the Viking /Norse period. A pool, visible in the shingle bar which lies immediately offshore may be artificially deepened for use as a fish trap. The location would appear suitable since there is a strong tidal current through the narrow channel which joins the inner coast of Cata Sand to the sea.

Another unusual site, but of more recent date is the decoy airfield, a relict of WWII (SY53), very little of which now survives.

Geomorphology

A relatively level hinterland faces Cata Sand, which is itself very flat. The seaward facing coast edge is generally lined with sand dunes. These have small slopes of moderate gradient. A large area of cobbles and boulders lies around Lang Taing. Within the confines of Cata Sand, most of the hinterland is fenced but is generally unfenced along the seaward facing side.

Erosion

Apart from localised areas, the coast line within Cata Sands is stable. There is more accretion of cobbles and shingle than sands to the south side. More erosion occurs to the west of the unit.

SY53 HY74SW28

HY7035 4138
Plain of Fidge, Cata Sand
WWII decoy airfield
18-20th C
Poor
Nil

SY54

HY6979 4131
Canker
Mounds & earthworks
Unknown
Fair
Monitor

SY55

HY6966 4090
Neigarth
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY56

HY6938 4059
Bressigarth
Earthworks
Unknown
Poor
Monitor

SY57

HY6999 4035
Russ Ness
Mound & coastal exposure
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Survey

SY58

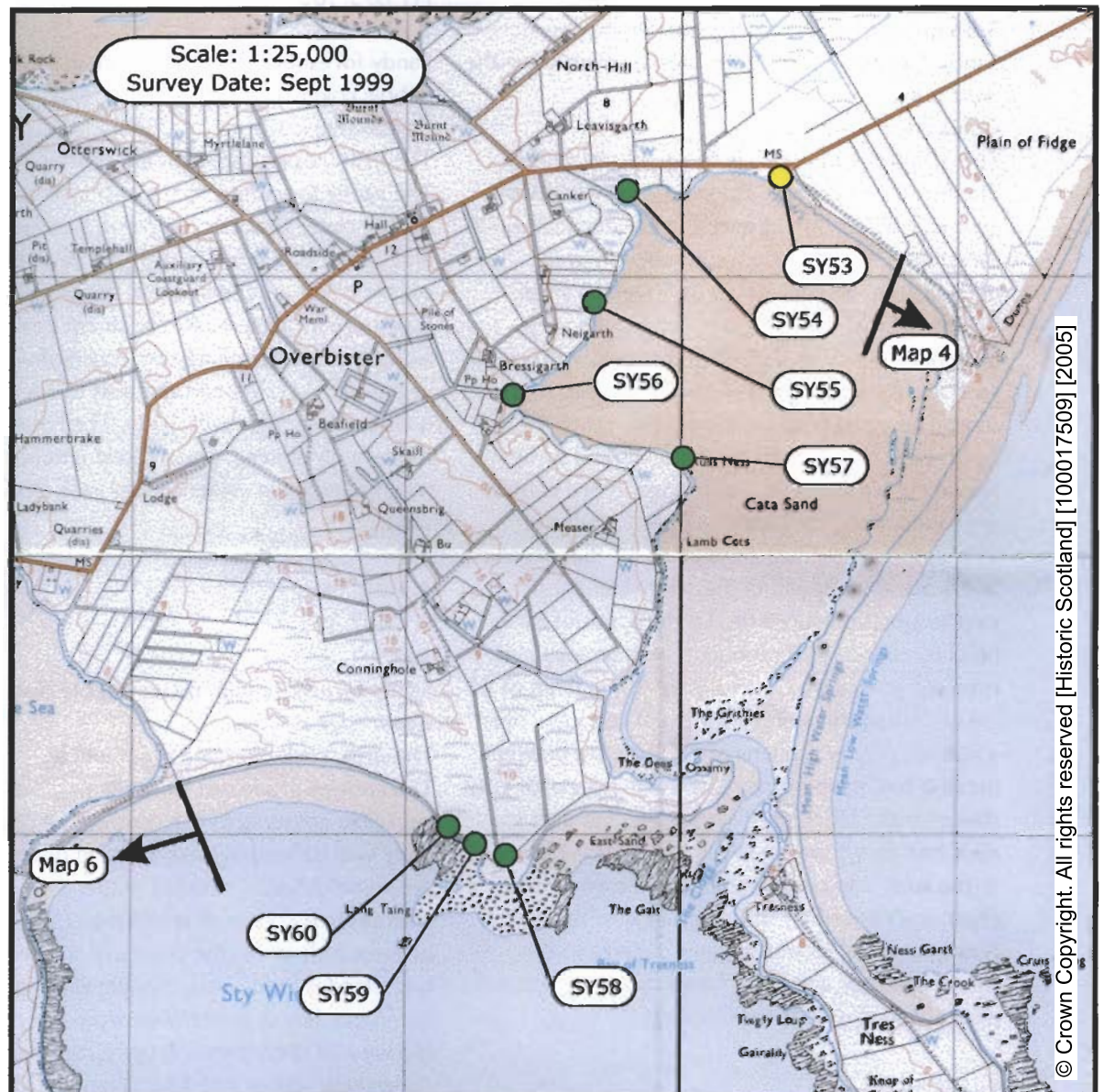
HY6935 3893
Sty Wick
Enclosure, mound & possible fish trap
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Good
Survey

SY59

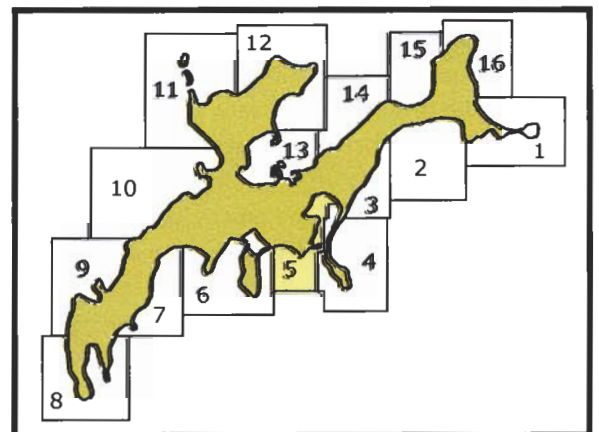
HY6925 3897
Sty Wick
Kelp workings
18-20th C
Fair/poor
Nil

SY60

HY6914 3901
Sty Wick
Coastal exposure
Unknown
Fair/poor
Monitor



- Built Heritage & Archaeology
- Protected Ancient **Monument** or area of Designated **Wreck**
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - + Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
 - Site complex



1. Cata Sand

HY 697 409

3.8 km

Sandy foreshore with some cobble cover along the west side.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

The foreshore within Cata Sand is very flat with very little distinction between upper and lower foreshores. The coast edge is generally well defined with an edge of 20 to 50 cm. A small buried soil, over 15 cm, is evident at the very beginning of this section which lies below 30 cm of sand and extends to below the upper foreshore sand. The coast edge resembles saltings to the north west corner with small talards and some tipped rubble along the coast edge. More cobbles are found along the eastern upper foreshore.

Within the small coast edge up to 15 thin organic layers are evident within the sandy loam and overlie a buff coloured till. To the south of Russ Ness there is a small mound of archaeology and exposed in section. Generally this is made up of 45 cm of dark loam over 15-20 cm of red loam over a buff till. A grey ash lens of 5-10 cm lies between the first two main horizons and a thin layer of grey clay over the till. A small section has the drift to rock interface showing in section. Fields are fenced to the west side of the sands and are down to grass. Soils are freely draining sands to the east, poorly draining to waterlogged saltings to the western corner and imperfectly to poorly drained podzol and gley to the south west.

2. The Dees

HY 701 391

1.2 km

Sandy foreshore.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

A sandy foreshore runs around this small promontory with varying amounts of cobble cover. Most of the patchy cover lies to the east and south of this section. The dunes rise to over 3 m and have a well defined coast edge. A great deal of shell also lies to the east by the neck of Cata Sand. The dunes are vegetated and are freely draining.

3. East Sand

HY 693 388

0.7 km

Sandy foreshore grading to rock platform with cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible.

The sandy foreshore to the east increases in cobble cover towards the point. Between the point and Lang Taing there is a large area of boulder and cobble cover extending from upper to lower foreshore as an ayre. A relic storm beach lies along the coast edge as a lip, much of which is vegetated. At one point the drift to rock interface is visible in section over 10 m. The hinterland is moderately sloping, grassed and unfenced with much ragwort in evidence. Soils are freely draining sands.

4. Lang Taing

HY 687 393

1 km

Sandy foreshore with minor cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The cobbles grade out from the east side with negligible amounts to the centre. The coast edge is fairly well defined against the sand dunes. There are some deflation hollows within the dune ridge with some dumping of waste materials within one of these hollows to the centre of the section. The hinterland is moderately sloping and slightly hummock like in appearance from the centre to the west of the section. A fence runs behind the dune ridge with grassed fields beyond infested with ragwort. Soils are freely drained sands.



Foreshore

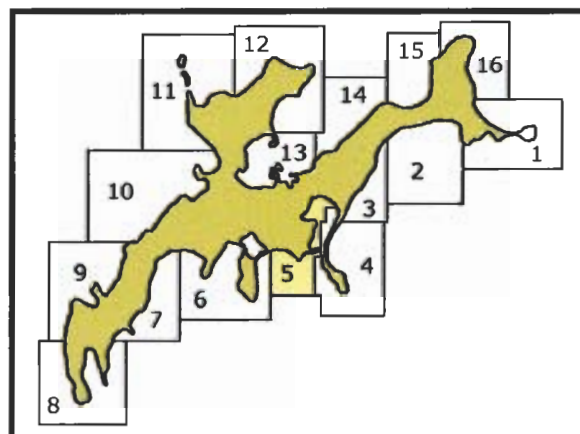
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



1. Cata Sand

HY 694 405

3.4 km

Stable

Although there is probably a slow insidious erosion of the coast edge to the north west of the bay there is little observable erosion apart from three small lengths of coast where there is only localised erosion. One lies close to the east of the road where the erosion could also be coupled with some minor accretion of sand. The second lies to the west of Russ Ness where there is only mild erosion of the coast edge talards. The third area has a small area of definite erosion at Lamb Cata where archaeology in section is being eroded.

2. Cata Sand (South West)

HY 697 394

0.32 km

Eroding to Stable

The beginning of this section has definite erosion of the sandy coast edge which lessens to the south and eventually runs into stable coast line.

3. The Dees

HY 699 392

0.5 km

Stable

Although the coast edge is made up of a sand ridge it is stable and probably due to the aspect which faces north into the sheltered bay.

4. Ossamy

HY 699 390

0.5 km

Accreting to Stable

The upper foreshore and back shore have an accumulation of sand and shingle. The back shore accretion has some vegetation stabilising the area.

5. East Sand

HY 695 390

0.34 km

Accreting and Eroding

A small section which also includes a small area of accreting to stable coast line. There is also more cobble along the foreshore and coast edge.

6. Lang Taing (East)

HY 694 388

0.21 km

Stable

A cobble ayre and old cobble storm beach protect the coast edge from erosion although there is evidence of minor erosion as a few freshly thrown cobbles are pushed back over the coast edge lip.

7. Lang Taing (West)

HY 692 389

0.28 km

Eroding to Stable

A small section where there is localised erosion. This is coupled with some accretion of cobbles on the east side.

8. Sty Wick (East)

HY 688 391

0.59 km

Stable

A stable coast edge with a stable storm beach to the east before sand dunes.

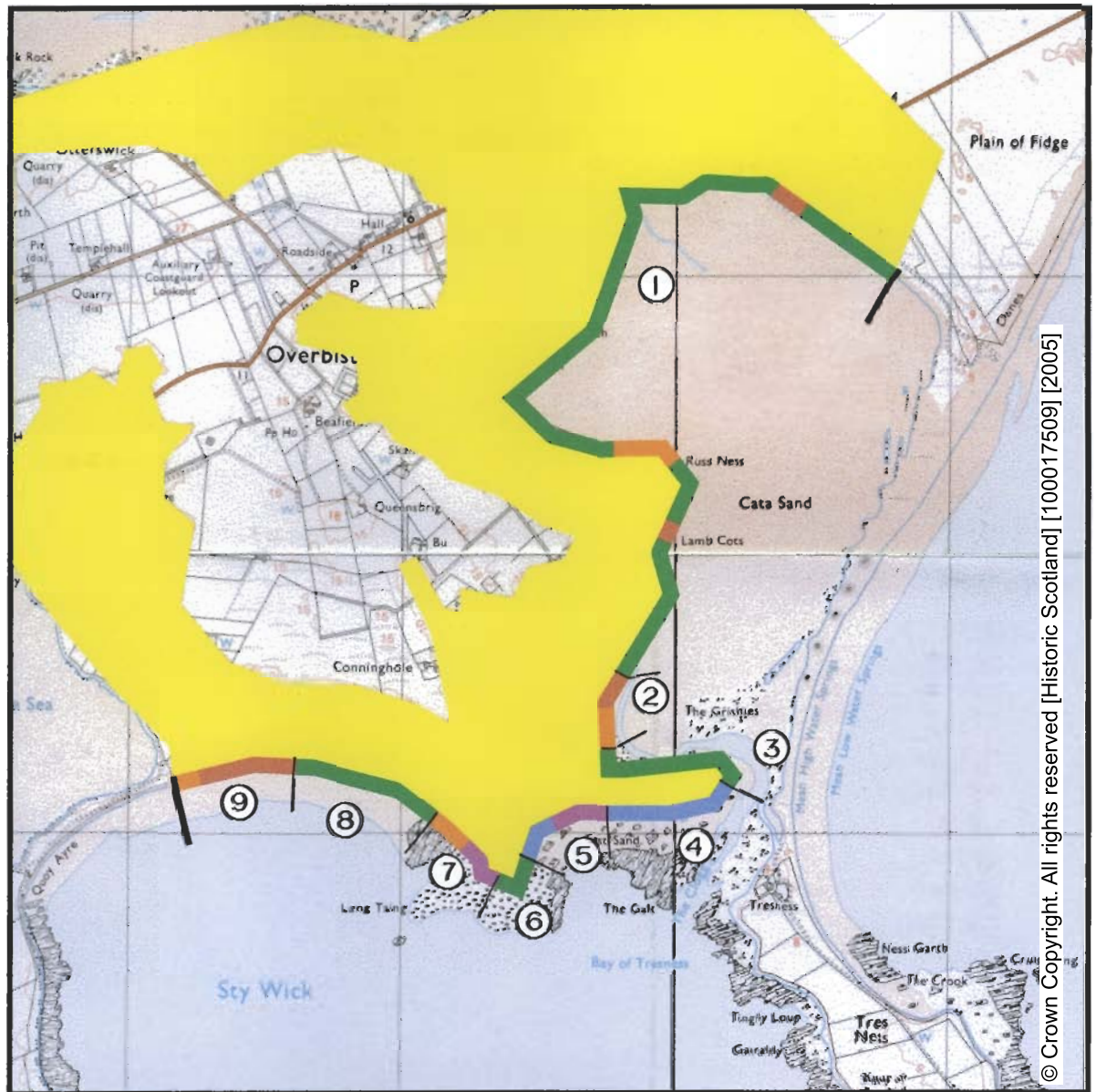
9. Sty Wick (West)

HY 683 392

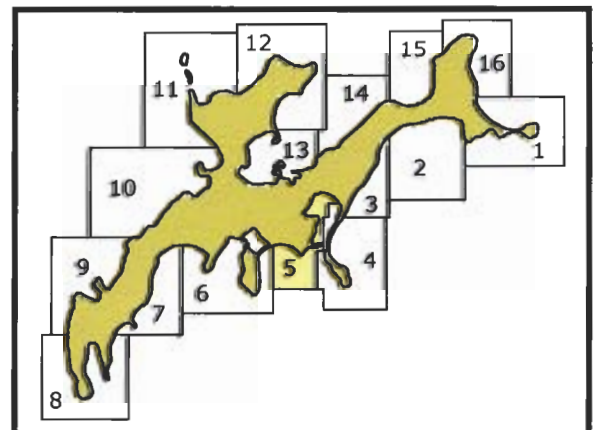
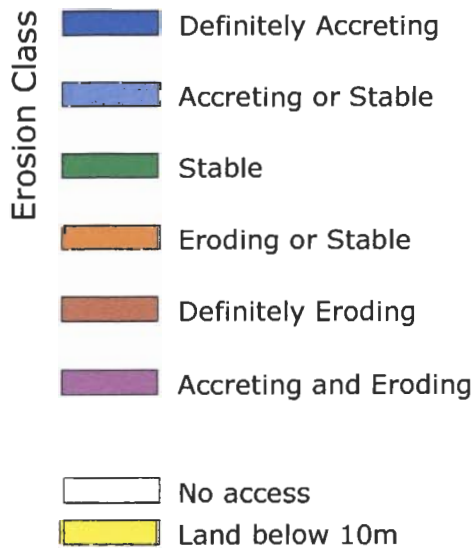
0.61 km

Eroding

The erosion of the Sand ridge is mainly due to wind action which has created some deflation hollows along the ridge. There is also some marine erosion of the coast edge in these places. The erosion becomes more localised to the west.



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Map 6: Els Ness to Backaskaill Bay

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section commences at the narrow ridge of dunes at Quoy Ayre, which joins Els Ness to the mainland. The ayre measures only a couple of hundred metres across in places, although the dunes are relatively stable and are consolidated beneath a cover of lush vegetation. From here, the section extends around the Ness, into the inner coast bay, known as the Little Sea. From here it continues around Kettletoft Bay, around Bea Ness and beyond to the arching sandy beach at Backaskaill Bay.

Modern settlement in the area is centred on the sheltered inner coast shore of the Little sea and around the western side of Kettletoft Bay. In the main, settlement lies at some distance from the coast, with the exception of the buildings which stand around the harbour side in Kettletoft Village. The hinterland mostly comprises of enclosed pasture land, but there is open, rough ground from the tip of Bea Ness to the conclusion of this section at Backaskaill Bay.

This section is particularly rich in archaeological remains, ranging from Neolithic burial monuments to probable Viking/Norse period settlements and later industrial and agricultural sites. Els Ness, in particular, contains a wealth of funerary monuments including the magnificent chambered cairn of Quoyness (SY62). This Maes Howe-type tomb was excavated on several occasions, most recently by Childe in the 1950's, with a quantity of human bone and sherds of Neolithic pottery being recovered. The interior is well preserved. Near to Quoyness, is the more damaged tomb, known as Augmund Howe (SY63). This lies on the coast edge and has already been partially destroyed by sea, and possibly by casual digging. A chain of eleven smaller mounds (SY6) surround the rear of Augmund Howe; one at least is known to have contained cist burials. In the wider area upwards of twenty six further mounds (SY66) extend around the tip of the ness. A series of possible outliers have been identified by this survey, either as topographical features or as deposits seen in section (SY65, 67-71, 73). This concentration of burial monuments is paralleled on Sanday at Tofts Ness and possibly at Tres Ness (see Map 4).

At Ladykirk (SY78) eroding deposits seen both in section and on the beach may be part of a Viking/Norse period settlement. The remains are visible in front of the abandoned church, below the cemetery wall. They include a flagged floor, coursed walling and soils rich in domestic debris. At Backaskaill, in a similar location, deposits suggestive of settlement (SY87) have been recorded beneath the abandoned Cross Kirk parish church. The coast edge in this area has now been armoured and no further exposures were visible during this survey. It has been suggested that the nature and location of this site may be indicative of a high-status Norse settlement.

Geomorphology

There are moderate to gentle slopes around most of this unit. The sand dunes gradually fade out to the west side of Quoy Ayre, with more substantial soils becoming predominant. In this case most of the soils are podzol. The unit also contains a small area of saltings around Ouse Point.

Erosion

Most of this coast edge is stable, although there are a few areas of localised erosion. These are most prominent on the west side of Els Ness. The soft sediments of the coast edge within Little Sea and to the west are protected by the enclosed bay. Sea defence walls lie along much of the west coast. While there is a substantial storm beach along the west side of Els Ness, extending as far as Quoyness chambered cairn, most of the area appears to be stable.

SY61 HY63NE19
HY676 389
Sty Wick
Jaw crusher
18-20th C
Not seen
Monitor

SY62 HY63NE1
HY6766 3779
Quoyness
Chambered cairn
4th-3rd mill BC
Good
Monitor

SY63 HY63NE3
HY6765 3754
Augmund Howe or
Egmondshowe
Cairn
4th-3rd mill BC
Poor
Survey

SY64 HY63NE5
HY676 375
Augmund Howe West
Group of small mounds
4th-3rd mill BC
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY65
HY6754 3729
Els Ness
Coastal exposure
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY66 HY63NE6
HY673 375
Elsness
Cairns
4th-3rd mill BC
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY67
HY6719 3759
Els Ness
Structure, noost, mound,
kelp pits
4th-3rd mill BC/18-20th C
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY68
HY6710 3759
Els Ness
Mound & kelp pits
4th-3rd mill BC/18-20th C
Poor
Monitor

SY69
HY6705 3765
Els Ness
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Poor
Monitor

SY70
HY6700 3781
Els Ness
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY71
HY6696 3785
Els Ness
Enclosure, mound, kelp pits
18-20th C/?prehistoric
Fair
Survey

SY72
HY6697 3796
Els Ness
Noost, kelp pits and bank
18-20th C/?prehistoric
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY73
HY6706 3849
Els Ness
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY74
HY6701 3855
Els Ness
Coastal exposure
Unknown
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY75 HY63NE7
HY672 390
Elsness
Alleged site of broch
1st mill BC-1st mill AD
Not seen
Monitor

SY76
HY6721 3919
Elsness
Old ground surface
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Poor
Monitor

SY77 HY63NE20.00-.04
HY6726 3903
Elsness
Farmstead
18-20th C
Good/fair
Monitor

SY78 HY63NE11
HY6767 3986
Ladykirk
Mound & coastal exposure
Unknown: ?10-14th C
Fair
Survey

SY79
HY6715 3948
Ouse Point
Coastal exposure
Unknown: ?10-14th C
Poor
Survey

SY80
HY664 393
Kettletoft Bay
Coastal exposure
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY81
HY6628 3913
Kettletoft Bay
Coastal exposure
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Poor
Monitor

SY82
HY6602 3885
Kettletoft Bay
Coastal exposure
Unknown
Fair/poor
Monitor

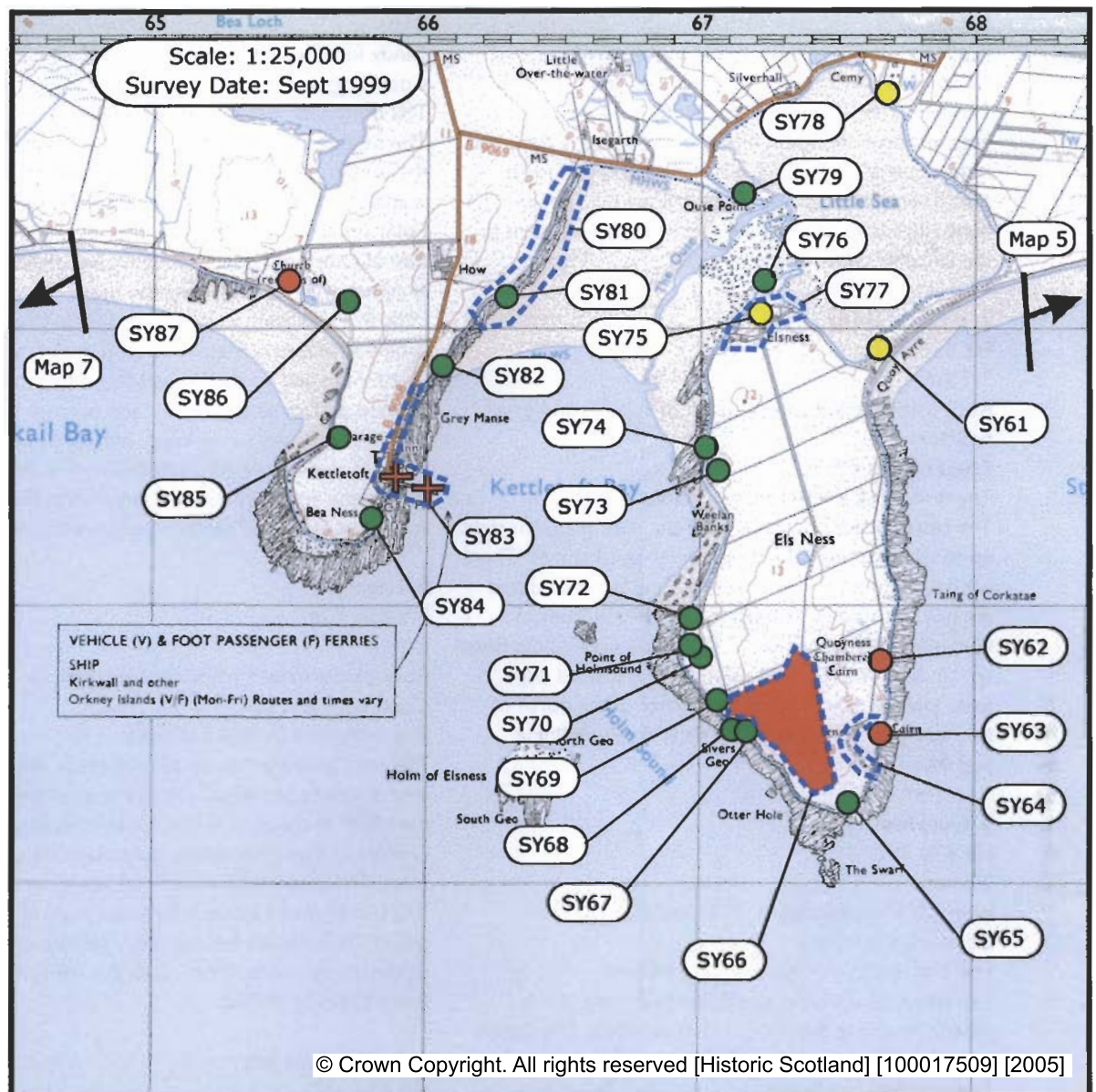
SY83
HY63NE18.0/.01/21-25
HY659 384
Kettletoft
Village
18-20th C
Good
Nil

SY84
HY6579 3830
Kettletoft
Coastal exposure:
cultivation remains
Unknown
Fair
Monitor

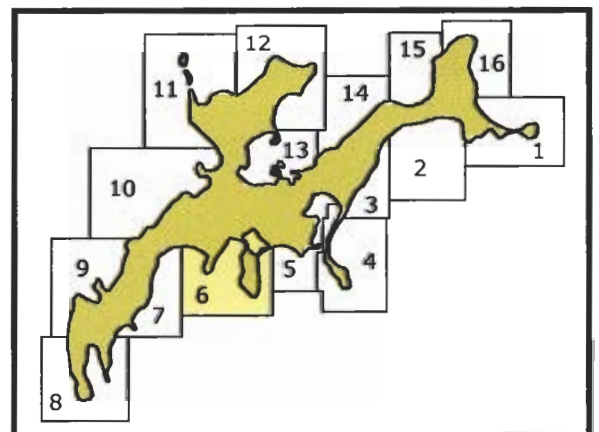
SY85
HY6565 3862
Bea Ness
Coastal exposure
Unknown
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY86
HY6569 3913
How
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY87 HY63NE8
HY6537 3920
Cross Kirk
Parish church, disused
10-14th C & 18-20th C
Fair/poor
Monitor



- Built Heritage & Archaeology**
- Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - ✚ Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
 - Site complex



1. Sty Wick

HY 678 390

0.7 km

Sandy foreshore with negligible cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

This section is the south facing shore of Quoy Ayre and is made up of sand dunes with a road on the north side. There are very few cobbles along this section. The dune ridge is vegetated with more deflation evident to the extreme eastern side.

2. Els Ness (East)

HY 676 382

1.1 km

Rock platform with storm beach of cobbles and small boulders.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The storm beach covers most of the rock platform right up to the coast edge forming a small lip of stones. There are many stones thrown back into the hinterland and are now grassed in. A small sea wall lies in front of Quoyness chambered cairn. The stone walls of the fields are set back from 4 m to 10 m from the coast edge. A deep loam of 40 cm lies in the corner at the north of this section. Soils are imperfectly to freely draining podzol.

3. Quoyness

HY 670 380

2.8 km

Rock platform with up to 70% cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is mostly visible.

The storm beach fades out at the beginning of this section revealing the rock to drift interface. The cobble cover becomes greater again along the west coast with a small storm beach within Siver's Geo. There are remnants of sea wall along the north west of Els Ness with intact sea wall closer to the farm of Elsness. Soils are imperfectly to freely drained podzol. The field stone walls are set back from the coast edge from 5 m to 10 m.

4. Elsness

HY 678 396

4 km

Sandy foreshore with cobble cover to the east.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The sandy foreshore has up to 70% cobble cover along the eastern side of Little Sea. An almost continuous ayre is apparent at low tide running from Elsness to Ouse Point almost as a barrier to Little Sea. Along the west side of Little Sea the coast edge is well defined with a small sea wall running along the north east coast of Little Sea and again to the west of Ouse Point where gabions are also in place. The sand dunes run along Quoy Ayre and sandy soils grading into imperfectly drained podzol along the east and north sides. Some of these soils are sandy loams and up to 50 cm deep. There is standing water east of Silverhall and saltings behind the sea walls and bridge by Ouse Point. The road runs along the northern edge of this section.

5. Isegarth

HY 658 384

2.1 km

Rock platform with some cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform has up to 50% cover in places and a well defined coast edge. There is a small area of sand to the south of the pier. A storm beach made up of cobbles and small boulders lies around the point of Bea Ness. The deep reddish loams of 40-50 cm lie over till. The buildings of Kettletoft have sea walls at the coast edge. The fields are fenced, well maintained with moderate or gentle slopes. Soils are imperfectly to freely draining podzol.

6. Bea Ness (West)

HY 654 392

1.5 km

Sandy foreshore with negligible cover.

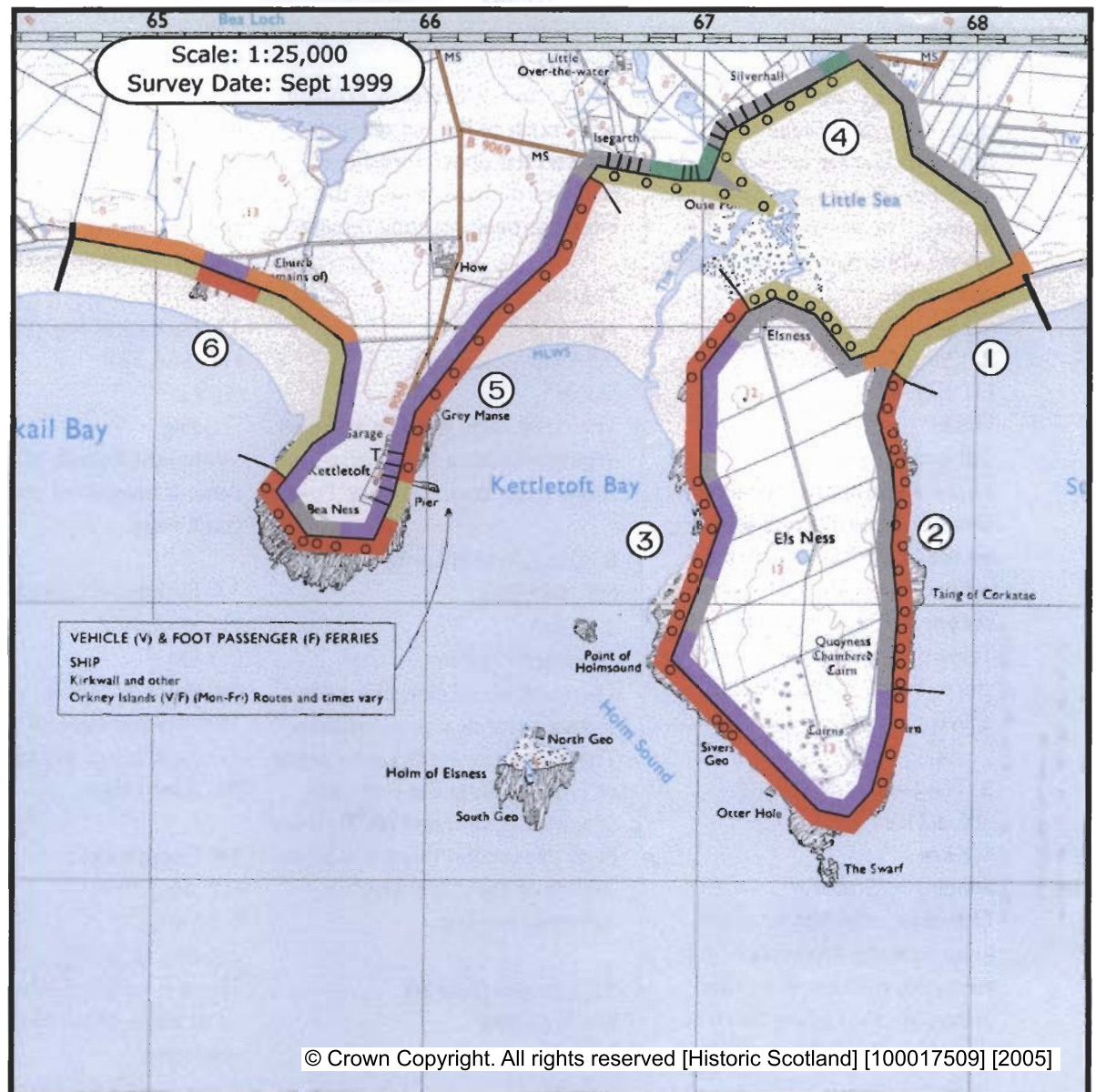
Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible.

The sands grade over the rock platform at the beginning of the unit and lie against a well defined coast edge with a visible drift to rock interface. The beach at Backaskail Bay runs up against vegetated sand dunes and the coast edge is not so well defined. A small rock platform lies in front of the church. The hinterland has moderately sloping fenced fields with some stone walls to the south east of the section which run into vegetated sand dunes around the bay. Soils are imperfectly drained podzol running into freely draining sands.

Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

Sanday Map 6



Foreshore

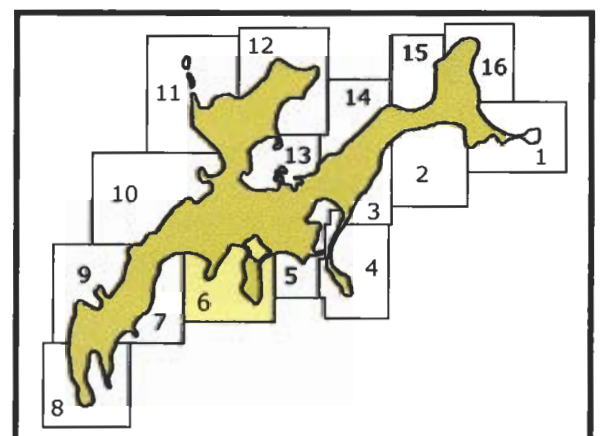
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Hinterland

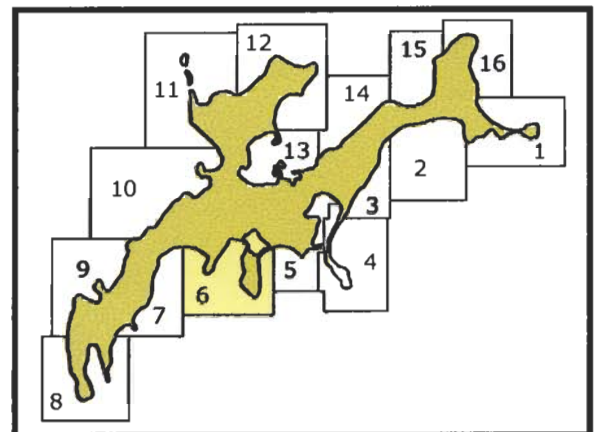
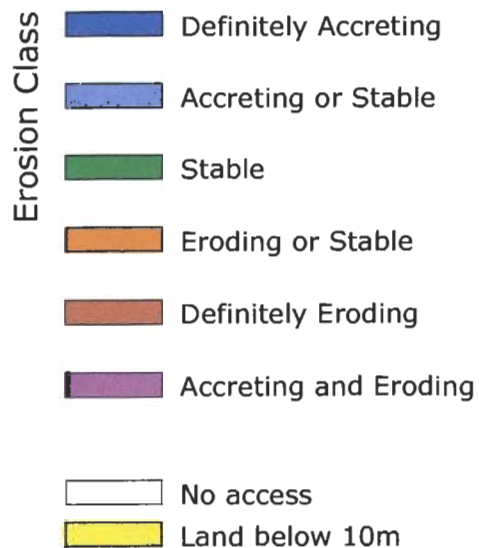
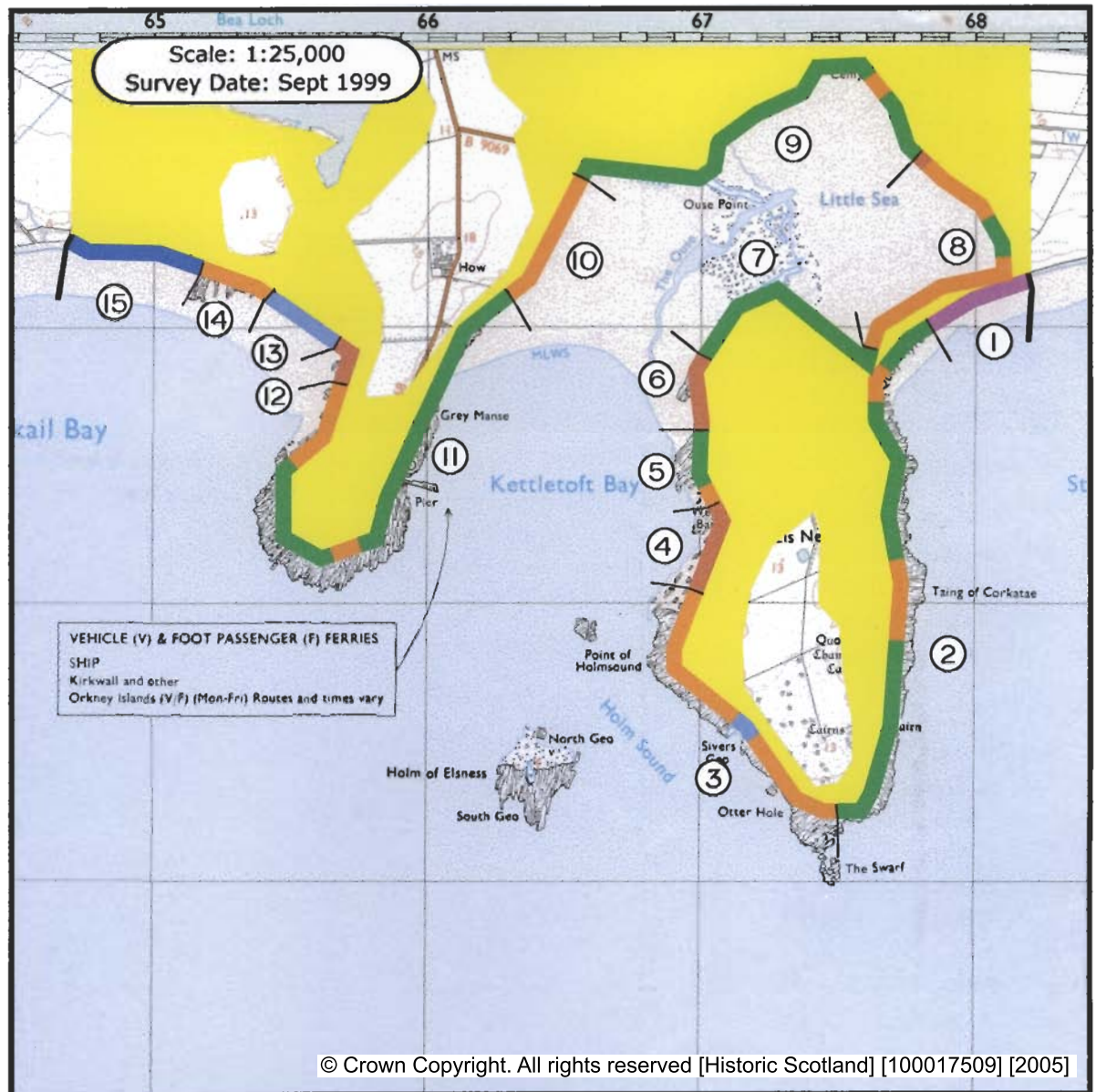
- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1. Sty Wick
HY 680 391
0.3 km
Accreting and Eroding.
There is localised erosion of the dune ridge coast edge due mainly to marine action with accretion of sand due to aeolian activity. The accreting sands lie on the upper foreshore and coast edge.</p> | <p>6. Els Ness (North West)
HY 670 387
0.21 km
Eroding
This section is definitely eroding with much of the old sea wall now on the upper foreshore. Some of the wall close to the edge has been recently repaired.</p> | <p>11. How
HY 657 382
1.85 km
Stable
There are two small areas where erosion is occurring. On the point of Bea Ness a storm beach is eroding small areas of coast line. On the west side of the ness there is localised erosion.</p> |
| <p>2. Quoy Ayre (South)
HY 677 379
Stable
1.8 km
There are only two, localised, areas of erosion along this section, both due to marine action. These are at the western corner of Quoy Ayre and at Taing of Corkatae, where the storm beach appears to be active and migrating landwards.</p> | <p>7. Elsness
HY 672 391
0.94 km
Stable
The coast edge is stable and well vegetated with a stable ayre running out towards Ouse Point.</p> | <p>12. Backaskail Bay (East)
HY 656 388
0.09 km
Eroding
Within the corner of the bay there is erosion of the sandy coast edge.</p> |
| <p>3. The Swarf
HY 671 375
1.2 km
Eroding to Stable
The coast edge has localised erosion along this section. All the erosion is due to marine action. At Sivers Geo there is accretion of cobbles in the geo.</p> | <p>8. Quoy Ayre (North)
HY 681 392
1.13 km
Eroding to Stable
The road which runs alongside gives a great deal of protection. There are more substantial areas of erosion along the E of Little Sea, of soft sand and till. To the N of this section there is a 30 m stretch of coast line which is definitely eroding.</p> | <p>13. Backaskail Church (East)
HY 655 390
0.4 km
Accreting to Stable
There is accretion of sands along the back shore and coast edge of the dune ridge.</p> |
| <p>4. Els Ness (West)
HY 670 382
0.21 km
Eroding
A section of coast edge is definitely eroding where there is exposed till.</p> | <p>9. Little Sea (North)
HY 673 398
2.29 km
Stable
Most of the coastline is stable along the north edge due to the sea wall defences. There is some localised erosion outside the cemetery walls.</p> | <p>14. Cross Kirk
HY 652 391
0.17 km
Eroding to Stable
There is localised erosion of the coast edge. Much of this edge is vegetated.</p> |
| <p>5. Weelan Bank
HY 670 384
0.32 km
Eroding to Stable
The coast edge has localised erosion which is fairly stable to the centre. An old sea wall has been eroded out in a few places.</p> | <p>10. Isegarth
HY 664 393
0.55 km
Eroding to Stable
The coast edge has localised erosion due to some undercutting of the soft till.</p> | <p>15. Backaskail Bay (West)
HY 649 392
0.45 km
Accreting
One of the few areas where there is evidence of accretion in the form of sands covering vegetation. Although the survey took place almost at the end the growing season there was little evidence of new vegetation colonising the accreted sands.</p> |



Map 7: Backaskail Bay to Quoy Ness

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section extends from the centre of the sandy beach at Backaskail Bay, along the progressively more rugged and higher coast below The Wart, which is the highest point on the Island at 65m OD, to arrive at the low promontory of Quoy Ness. There is no modern coast settlement in this area and much of the southern part of this section comprises rough, unenclosed sloping land. Sand hills and large areas of drifting sand, mostly consolidated with turf, extend inland almost to the summit of The Wart. This area is very overgrown and it is difficult to identify any archaeological remains other than those which have been exposed through erosion.

At Backaskail, the large farmstead (SY88) comprises substantial 19th C buildings ranged around a rectangular yard include a Grieve's house, threshing barn and farmhouse. The farm remains in use but many of the buildings are much deteriorated. Exposures in the banks in front of the farmstead reveal archaeological deposits, said to represent a broch (SY89). The site was investigated in the 19th C by Petrie but has been much damaged by both coast erosion and sand extraction since then. Nevertheless, a 3m thick section of wall exposed in the section would seem to concur with this interpretation; a mounded area to the rear of the section may indicate the presence of further remains inland.

A second possible broch site, recorded further along the coast at Croos of Nebister (SY93) is less readily verified. Here, a large overgrown mound lies on the coast edge and is eroding. As it is above moderate cliffs, it was not possible to examine the section face at close range; but no trace was found of the substantial masonry which might be expected at a broch.

Few other sites were identified in this area due to the deep coverage of sand; a treb dyke previously recorded here could not be relocated and has probably been covered over with sand. The outline of rig and furrow cultivation (SY90) was noted on the hillside above Mirky Geo, however and testifies to the fact that what is now unworkable due to sand movement was once cultivated.

Geology and Geomorphology

There is a marked change in topography from the previous units to the east. The hinterland has slopes of moderate gradients with a few becoming steep into the far hinterland. The coast edge is predominantly over five metres in height, except within the sandy bays where there are sand dunes. An extensive area of dunes extends back into the hinterland at the south end of this unit; these extend into the following unit. Again the soils are predominantly podzol with skeletal sands around the dunes.

Erosion

The majority of cliff-faced coast line is stable and there is accretion along the sandy foreshores.

SY88 HY63NW51

HY6417 3927

Backaskail

Farmstead

18-20th C

Good/poor

Monitor

SY89 HY63NW1

HY6414 3919

Backaskail

Possible broch

1st mill BC- 1st mill AD

Fair/poor

Monitor

SY90

HY634 383

Mirky Geo

Cultivation remains: rig and furrow

Unknown: ?18-20th C

Fair

Nil

SY91

HY6332 3748

Moo Geo

Mound

Unknown: ?prehistoric

Good/fair

Monitor

SY92 HY63NW43

HY632 371

Nebister

Treb dyke

Unknown: ?prehistoric

Not seen

Monitor

SY93 HY63NW2

HY6316 3701

Croos of Nebister

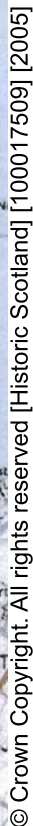
Broch or settlement

1st mill BC- 1st mill AD

Fair/poor

Monitor

Sanday Map 7



-

1. Backaskail Bay

HY 642 392

1 km

Sandy foreshore.

Coast edge is < 5 m, then > 5 m to the west.

The drift/rock interface is only visible to the west.

The sandy foreshore continues through to the end of this section although the sand dunes are replaced with a rock cliff face over 5 m. Between the two hinterland areas of dune and cliff is a farm with disturbance and farm waste at the coast edge. The sands are freely draining to the east of the farm with imperfectly drained podzol above the cliffs. A buried soil, 15 cm thick, is also evident in a soil section above the cliff face and overlies till. A fine stone wall has been built up between a gully of the cliff face at one point. Fields are fenced and down to grass on a moderate slope which steepens further into the hinterland.

2. Queen of Hoe

HY 634 380

2.1 km

Rock platform.

Coast edge is > 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform has negligible cover to the north with cobble cover grading into a storm beach south of Moo Geo. The coast edge is generally over 5 m with the rock to drift interface visible for the most part. The storm beach lies in the small bight between Moo Geo and Croes. It is also here that the coast edge drops to under 5 m. A number of small stacks are developing along the coastline between Milky Geo and Moo Geo. The hinterland is moderately to steeply sloping with fenced, grassed fields. Soils are imperfectly drained podzols to the north becoming increasingly sandy more freely draining to the south.

3. Croes

HY 627 365

0.9 km

Sandy foreshore.

Coast edge is predominantly < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

Between the rock platforms of Croes and Quoy Ness there is a large beach with sandy foreshore. The cliff face abruptly comes to a finish and is replaced with sand dunes. Incidentally, at the point where this occurs there is a large accumulation of cemented sand down part of the cliff face similar to aeolianite although probably laid down by seeping water and cemented by calcite. The dunes decrease in size towards the south. There is slight cobble cover of the upper foreshore to the centre of the bay which appears to have been a storm beach to the south and is now covered with sand. The cliff face emerges to the south of the bay and is coincidental with the emergence of the rock platform. The coast edge is under 5 m at this end of the bay and a buff coloured till is prominent. The soils are skeletal sands which run far back into the hinterland. The area is down to rough grazing with some fencing.

Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

Sanday
Map 7



Foreshore

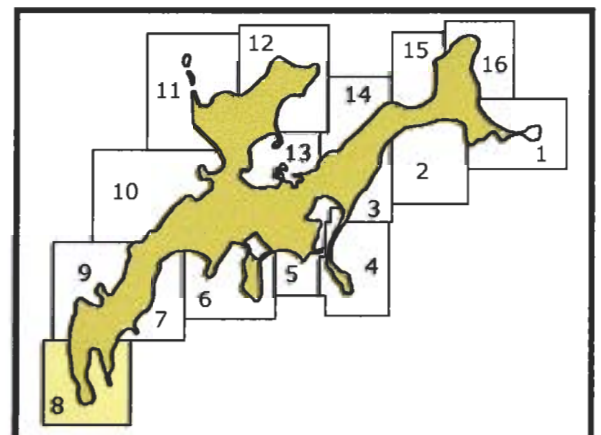
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance



1. Backaskail Bay (West)

HY 644 392

0.36 km

Accreting to Stable

The sands on the back shore and coast edge of the dunes to the east are accreting with more stable conditions prevailing to the western side of this section.

2. Backaskail

HY 639 390

0.62 km

Eroding to Stable

There is some erosion of the coast edge by the farm where disturbance is caused due to farm work. The coast edge is stable before there is more erosion of sediments above the rock cliff.

3. Knowes

HY 635 383

1.25 km

Stable

The rock platform and cliff at the coast edge are stable with only minor localised erosion.

4. Langie

HY 633 373

0.55 km

Eroding to Stable

There is more localised erosion as the coast edge drops to under 5 m. There is an eroding sea stack to the north of this section.

5. The Croos

HY 630 369

0.36 km

Stable

As the coast edge rises over 5 m the coast line becomes stable. Within the corner of the next bay the cliff runs into sand dunes. The cliff face at this point is also coated in cemented sand, a type of aeolianite.

6. Croos Bay (North)

HY 628 368

0.15 km

Accreting and Eroding

There is an accumulation of new sand in front of the dunes at the coast edge. The erosion is localised within the dunes themselves in the form of small deflation hollows.

7. Croos Bay (Centre)

HY 627 366

0.25 km

Stable

The dunes are stable with a small ribbon of storm beach in front of the coast edge.

8. Croos Bay (South)

HY 626 364

0.1 km

Accreting

The accreting sands now lie over the small storm beach which continues from the previous section. There is very little erosion within the dunes on this side of the bay.

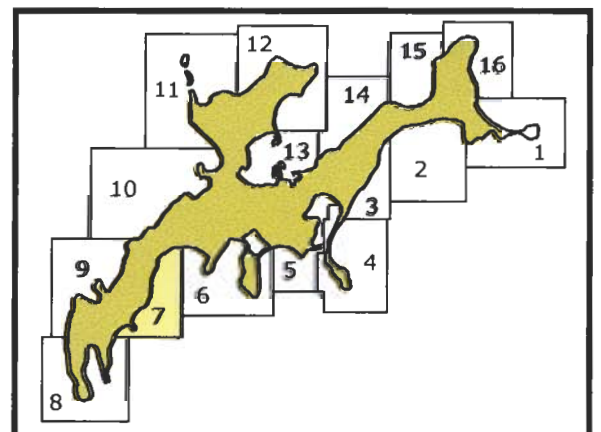
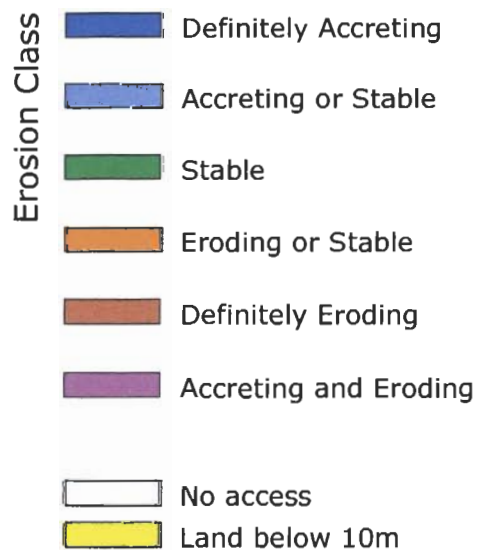
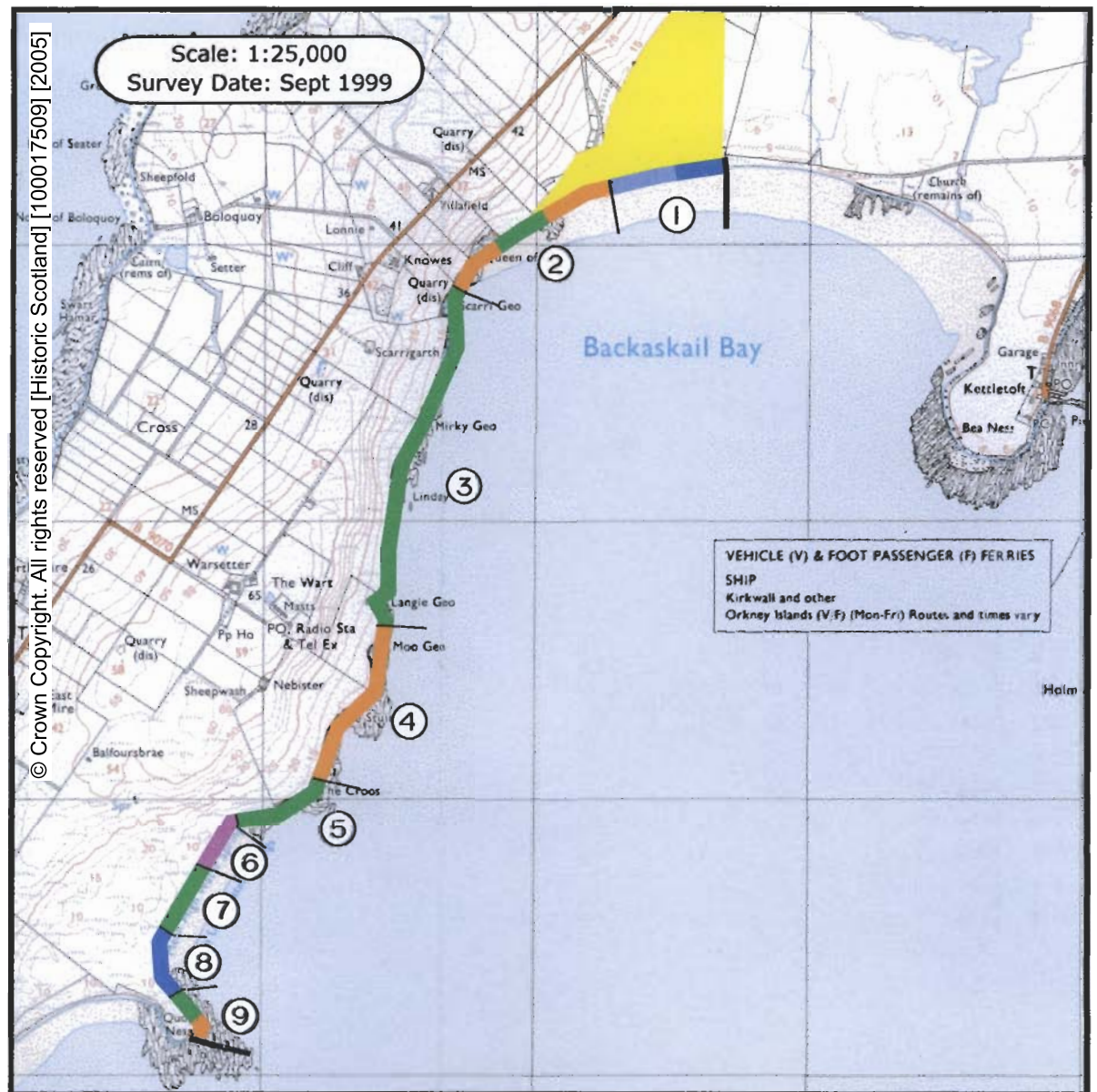
9. Quoy Ness (North)

0.32 km

HY 627 362

Eroding to Stable

Most of the coast edge is stable although there is some localised erosion of sediments lying over the rock towards the point on the north side.



Map 8: Quoy Ness to Loth

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section extends from the low promontory of Quoy Ness on the east coast of Sanday, around the two long promontories of Hacks Ness and Spur Ness, which are separated by the shallow waters of Stove Bay. From Spur Ness, which forms the southernmost tip of the Island, this section continues up the west coast as far as the new ferry terminal at Loth. The only modern settlement in the area is centred on Stove and, prior to the construction of the ferry terminal in the 1990's, there was no road beyond this point. This southern part of Sanday is characterised by higher, more rugged land and a harder, mostly rocky coast edge. While much of the land on both Hacks Ness and Spur Ness is given over to rough grazing, new areas have recently been taken into cultivation on Spur Ness as access to the area has opened up.

Just as modern settlement is concentrated at the head of Stove Bay, so it was in earlier times. In the recent past, the farmstead at Stove (SY106), built in the 1860's, was a model of its kind by the standards of the day and it was one of the first to mechanise, boasting a steam-powered threshing machine. A church (SY105) of possibly early 17th C date, said to have once served as the private chapel of the Sinclairs of Stove, and a probable burial ground, are thought to have been disturbed or destroyed by the 19thC farmstead. Much earlier remains are exposed in the coast section on the east side of the Bay of Stove. Here recent investigations have determined the presence of a Neolithic settlement (SY103) and identified further remains in the hinterland. This site remains very vulnerable to further erosion.

A series of mounds on Hacks Ness (SY97, 98, 99, 102) may be burial monuments of early prehistoric date, while a chambered mound (SY107) is said to have been demolished close to Stove farm. The description of its contents, however, may be more indicative of a settlement than a burial site. At Spur Ness, a grassy mound (SY108) has been thought to represent settlement remains, although its elevated position and defined shape may suggest that it is a burial monument. A possible burial mound previously recorded near Loth (SY111) is no longer in evidence and would appear to have been destroyed during the construction of the ferry terminal.

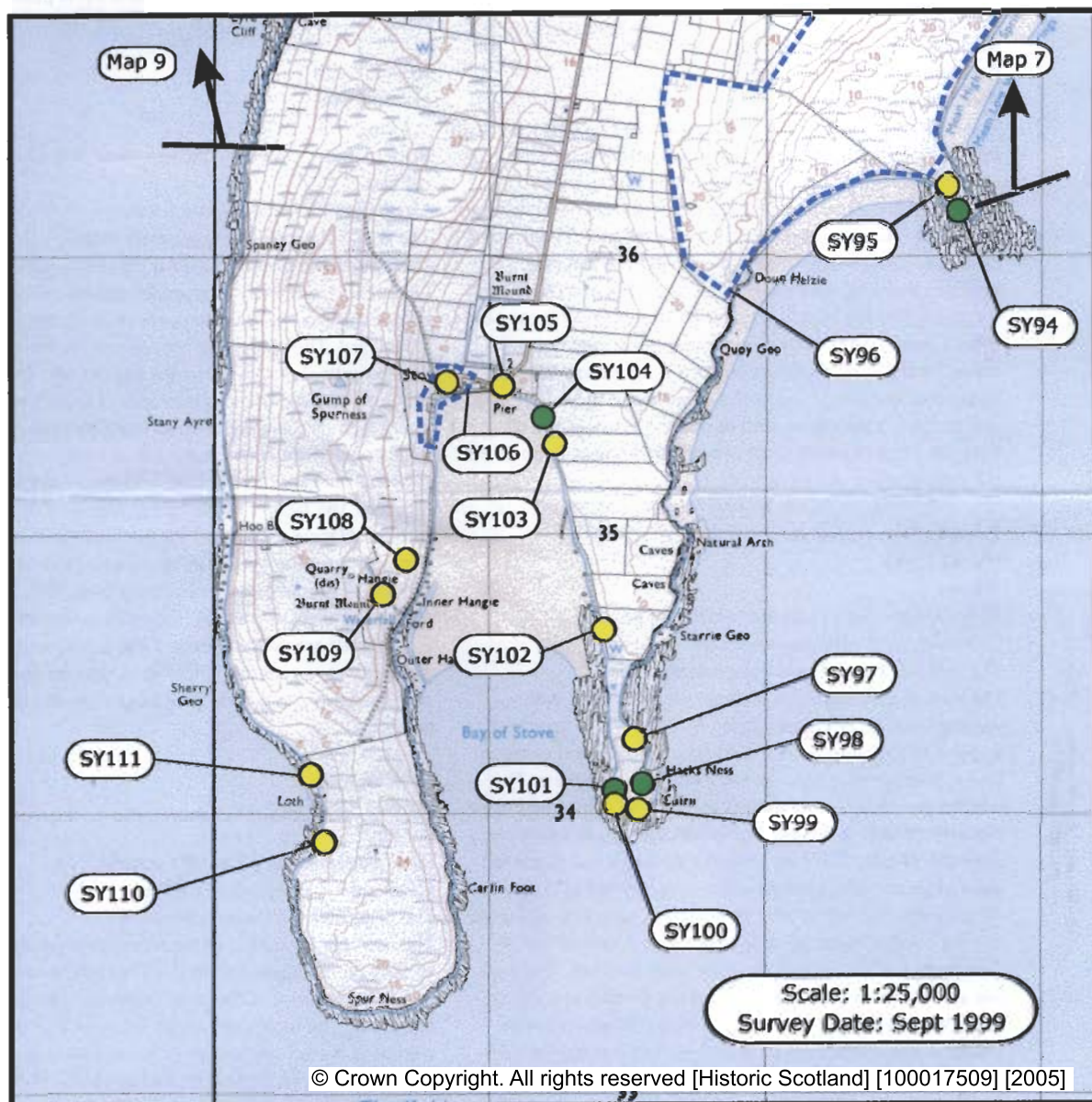
Geology and Geomorphology

This unit has a fairly rugged coastline for the most part but there are also some sandy beach areas to the south of Quoy Ness. The Bay of Stove takes up a natural syncline, which continues north and is echoed in the small vale which extends to the north from Stove. Slopes are generally steeper on the Spur Ness peninsula than on Hacks Ness. Soils are also more poorly drained on the western peninsula. The new ferry terminal has utilised rock from an adjoining quarry at Loth to form its sea defences.

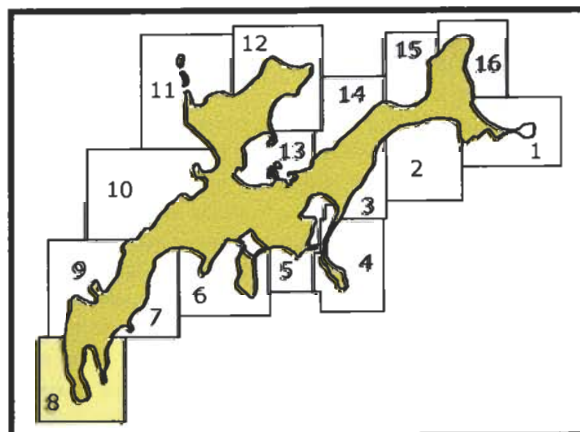
Erosion

The majority of this rugged coast line is stable. There is accretion of sands in the north western bay and there are also a few specific areas of definite erosion. The erosion is generally linked to the deep tills or soft sediments within the cliff face, or in one case on the western coast, due to a rabbit problem.

<p>SY94 HY6265 3618 Quoy Ness Noost & kelp pits 18-20th C Fair Nil</p>	<p>SY100 HY63SW23 HY6146 3407 Hacks Ness Kelp working site 18-20th C Fair Nil</p>	<p>SY106 HY63NW39.00-.03 HY608 355 Stove Farmstead, outbuildings, cottages 18-20th C Fair/poor Monitor</p>
<p>SY95 HY63NW8 HY6269 3620 Quoy Ness Enclosures Unknown: ?prehistoric Fair/poor Survey</p>	<p>SY101 HY6145 3405 Hacks Ness Noost & channel 18-20th C Fair Nil</p>	<p>SY107 HY63NW10 HY608 355 Stove Site of chambered mound 3rd-1st mill BC Not seen Monitor</p>
<p>SY96 HY63NW11 HY625 367 Quoy Ness Site of middens Unknown: ?prehistoric Not seen Monitor</p>	<p>SY102 HY6140 3464 Hacks Ness Mound Unknown: ?18-20th C Fair Monitor</p>	<p>SY108 HY63SW8 HY6067 3488 Spur Ness Mound Unknown: ?prehistoric Fair Monitor</p>
<p>SY97 HY63SW HY6149 3426 Hacks Ness Mound Unknown: ?prehistoric Fair/poor Monitor</p>	<p>SY103 HY63NW9 HY6121 3531 Bay of Stove Coastal exposure: settlement remains 4th-3rd mill BC Fair/poor Monitor</p>	<p>SY109 HY63SW6 HY6060 3479 Hangie, Spur Ness Burnt mound 3rd-1st mill BC Fair Monitor</p>
<p>SY98 HY6157 3410 Hacks Ness Mound and coastal exposure Unknown Poor Monitor</p>	<p>SY104 HY6119 3540 Bay of Stove Coastal exposure: cut feature Unknown Fair Monitor</p>	<p>SY110 HY6041 3390 Spur Ness Enclosure Unknown Fair Nil</p>
<p>SY99 HY63SW5 HY6152 3403 Hacks Ness Mound & navigation marker or windmill 4th-3rd mill BC/18-20th C Fair Monitor</p>	<p>SY105 HY6110 3551 Stove Site of chapel 18-20th C Not seen Monitor</p>	<p>SY111 HY63SW11 HY6036 3414 Loth, Spur Ness Mound Unknown Not seen Monitor</p>



- Built Heritage & Archaeology
- Protected Ancient **Monument** or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - + Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
 - ⬢ Site complex



1. Quoy Ness

HY 618 357

1.8 km

Rock platform grading into sandy foreshore.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible to the S.

The rock platform at Quoy Ness grades into a sandy foreshore to the S. At Quoy Ness the coast edge is 4 - 5 m. A small buried soil is also evident in section on the point. The sandy foreshore has negligible cobble or shingle cover for the most part. The northern third of the hinterland is made up of sand dunes which extend back over 100 m. A cliff face emerges from the sand dunes at Doun Helzie and continues S for the rest of the section. The rock cliff face (> 5 m) rises out from a pure sand foreshore with many small sand floored caves. To the S of Quoy Geo a rabbit warren lies within the sandy soils and the 50 cm thick buff till above the cliffs. Here, and to the S, a well delineated buried soil lies over the till. Soils are freely draining sandy types with stone walls up to the cliff edge in many places or fenced fields.

2. Hacks Ness Peninsula

HY 615 340

1.9 km

Rock platform with some areas of storm beach.

Coast edge is predominantly < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

The rock platform persists throughout this section with varying amounts of cobble cover. As the cliff face drops to under 5 m S of Starrie Geo so the cobble cover increases to storm beach proportions on the E side of Hacks Ness. The cobbles persist around the Ness and may be considered to be a poorly defined storm beach. The cobbles grade out to the N of the W side. The rock to drift interface is not visible to the S of Starrie Geo with the coast edge defined by a lip of cobbles which are vegetated for the most part although there is a 1-2 m edge made up of till to the N. Also S of Starrie Geo there is < 1 m of buff till visible over the rock. The Ness has a continuing relic storm beach around much of its coast edge. Where the section can be seen the till appears more yellow in colour than the usual buff till. The last fenced fields are S of Starrie Geo with rough grazing to the S. Soils are freely drained podzols with vegetated relic storm beach around Hacks Ness.

3. Bay of Stove

HY 610 355

1.6 km

Sandy foreshore, < 80% cover along the W shore.

Coast edge is < 5 m to the E, > 5 m on the W.

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible.

Some rocks stand out from the sandy foreshore along the E side of the. There is some cobble and shingle cover in the E corner and an increasing amount of cobble and boulder cover along the W shore. The coast edge is well. There is a small sea wall defence along the NW corner of the bay. The yellow till fades out before the archaeology at Stove to the usual buff colour. Just to the S of the archaeological section there is a deep soil, over 1.5 m thick which overlies 5 cm of reddish soil over 60 cm of buff till which overlies a saprolite. The slopes are gentle along the E and N sides with steep to moderate slopes along the cliff tops to the W. Fields are fenced with the more uncultivable land along the western side. Soils are freely

drained podzols along the E hinterland with more imperfectly to poorly drained gleys to the N and W. A poorly drained peaty podzol also lies towards the end of this section.

4. Inner Hangie

HY 604 334

3.7 km

Rock platform with only discrete areas of boulders and cobbles.

Coast edge is predominantly > 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible.

The boulder and cobble cover is greatest within the cove at Outer Hangie before it disappears around the promontory before some cobble cover appears from Sherry Geo northward. The coast edge is over 5 m for the most part with two exceptions at Outer Hangie and at Loth. The rock to drift interface is evident at most points apart from Loth. There is some dumping of scrap metal by Outer Hangie with large boulder sea defences at Loth and the ferry terminal and rubble disturbance by the quarry to the N of the ferry terminal. The tills are red in colour with very deep tills of 5 m by Inner Hangie on the E of the peninsula and a much deeper 8 m red till on the W side at Hoo Back. Otherwise the reddish till is usually less than 30 cm thick. The slopes are of steep to moderate gradient, the more moderate slopes to the S. The fields are well maintained and fenced with barley or grass. Soils are generally imperfectly drained podzol to the E and imperfectly to poorly drained gleys to the W of the peninsula.

5. Stany Ayre

HY 601 356

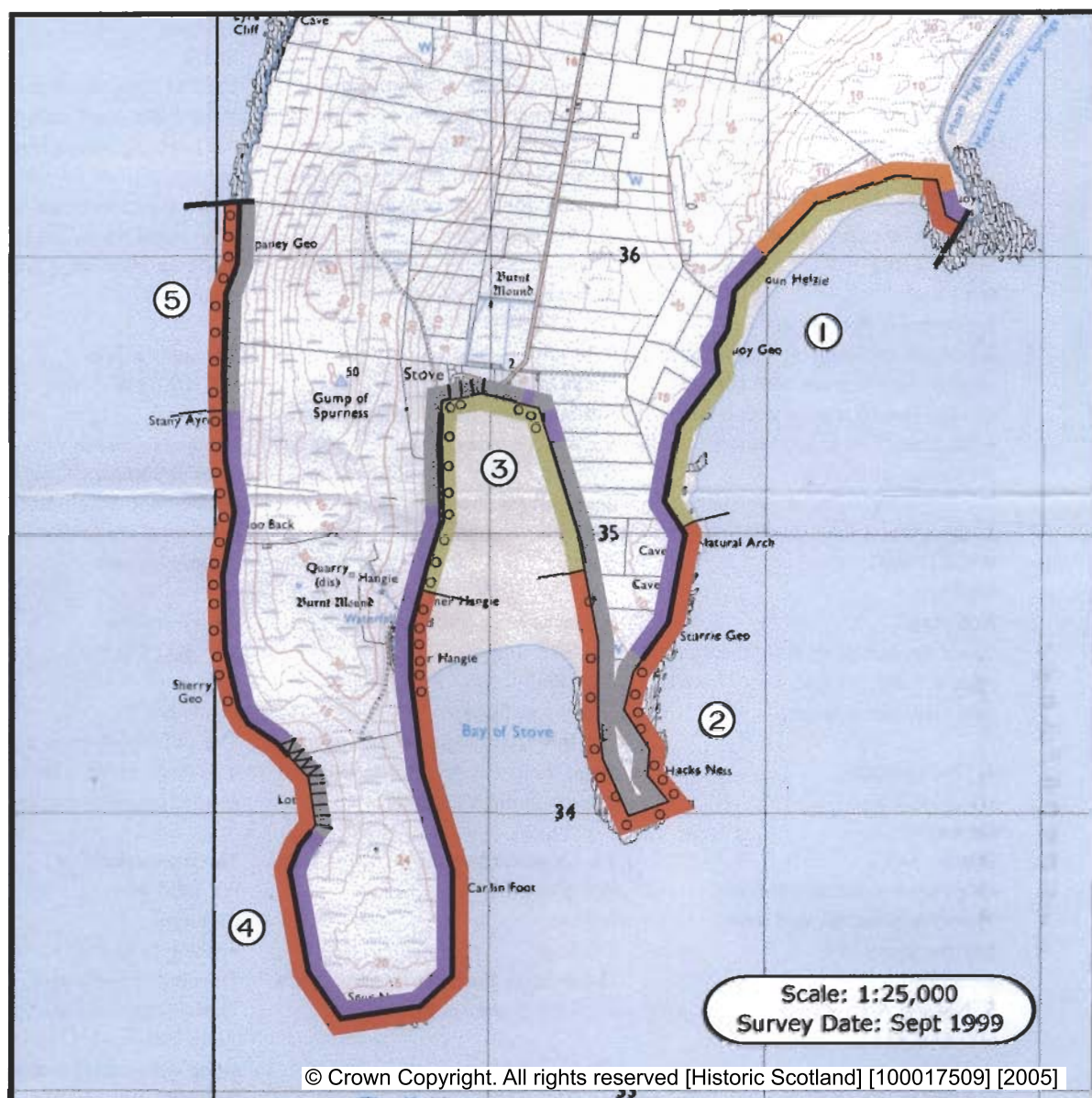
0.7 km

Rock platform with 30 to 60% cover.

Coast edge is intermittently > 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The rock platform has varying amounts of cobble cover, up to 60% on the upper foreshore. The drift to rock interface is not visible because of the great depth of red till, over 10 m in one place. The coast edge drops to under 5 m in places with a truncated buried soil lying directly beneath a contemporary soil at Stany Ayre. A small area of sandy foreshore also lies below the cliff a little further to the N. The hinterland is moderately to steeply sloping with grassed fenced fields and a few stone walls. There are large areas of heather also. The soils are imperfectly to poorly drained gleys.



Foreshore

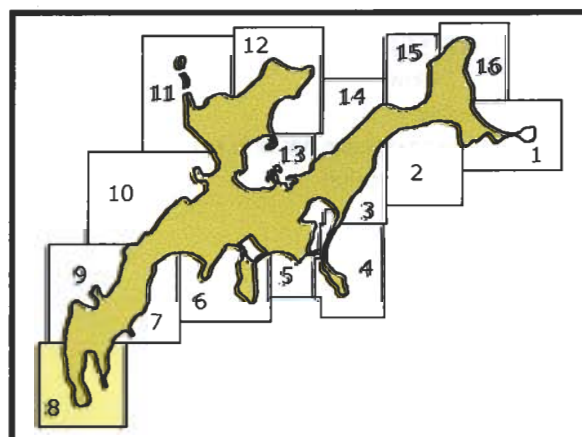
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



1. Quoy Ness

HY 625 362

0.16 km

Stable

The point to the south has a stable coast edge although there is some localised erosion in the corner of the bay.

2. Quoy Ness Bay (North)

HY 623 362

0.33 km

Eroding and Accreting

Sands are accreting along the coast edge and back shore with some erosion due to marine action and wind blow. The erosion lessens to the centre of the bay.

3. Quoy Ness Bay (South)

HY 620 360

0.37 km

Accreting

Sands are accreting along the coast edge in front of the dunes. There is minor aeolian erosion.

4. Doun Helzie

HY 618 356

0.69 km

Stable

Large area of stable cliff coast. Minor localised erosion from terrestrial sources.

5. Natural Arch (North)

HY 616 351

0.27 km

Eroding to Stable

Most erosion of the drift materials is due to rabbit activity with subsequent loss by rain wash and sea spray. There is some definite marine erosion to the south around a sea cave.

6. Natural Arch (South)

HY 616 348

0.24 km

Stable

The coast edge has only minor marine erosion.

7. Starrie Geo

HY 615 342

0.68 km

Eroding to Stable

There is definite erosion to the north where a large proportion of cliff face is made up of till. Further south a low coast edge has localised erosion due to damage from thrown cobbles.

8. Hacks Ness (West)

HY 614 343

0.44 km

Stable

Although the coast edge is as low as the eastern side of the Ness and has cobbles, marine action is not undercutting the edge. Cobbles in the hinterland have been grown over.

9. Hacks Ness (North West)

HY 613 348

0.61 km

Eroding to Stable

The low coast edge, seldom over three metres in height, has localised erosion along it's length.

10. Stove Settlement

HY 612 353

0.3 km

Eroding

The erosion becomes less and more localised to the north.

11. Bay of Stove

HY 608 353

1.07 km

Stable

The coast edge is stable including the low edge at the head of the bay. There is negligible soil creep on the steep slopes to the west.

12. Inner Hangie

HY 606 346

0.22 km

Eroding

The high coast edge is eroding due to marine action on the deep, soft till part of the cliff.

13. Outer Hangie

HY 604 333

2.84 km

Stable

Most of this coast line is stable. Where the coast edge is lower and has been disturbed, due to the construction of the new pier and quarrying to one side, the edge has been stabilised by sea defences made up from large boulders and quay wall.

14. Sherry Geo

HY 600 348

0.44 km

Eroding to Stable

There is some localised marine erosion and also localised sub-aerial erosion of the hinterland on the steeper slopes.

15. Hoo Back

HY 600 352

0.32 km

Eroding

The cliff face is made up of red till c. 8 m thick. Much is being badly eroded by marine action.

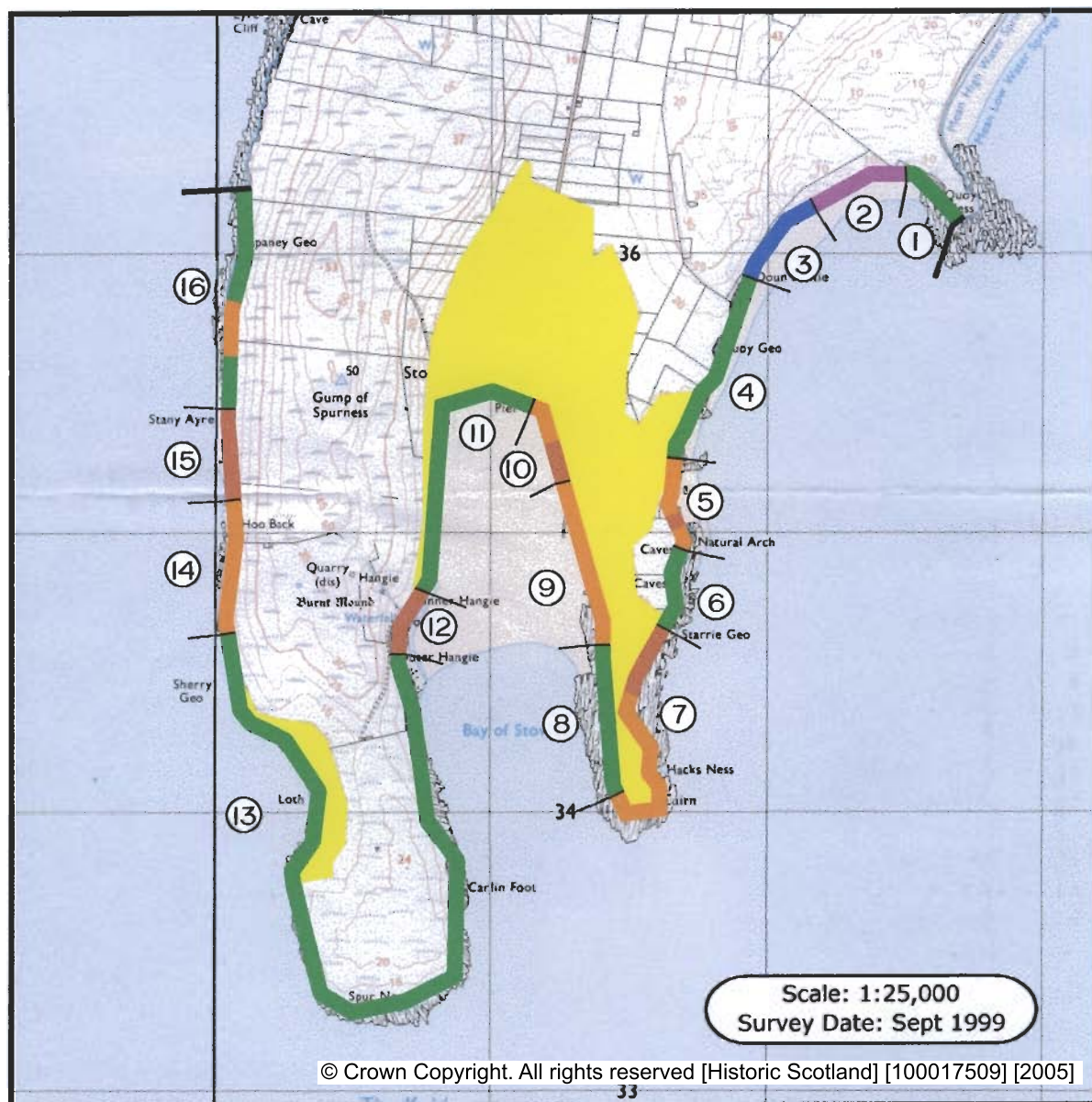
16. Staney Ayre

HY 600 358

0.66 km

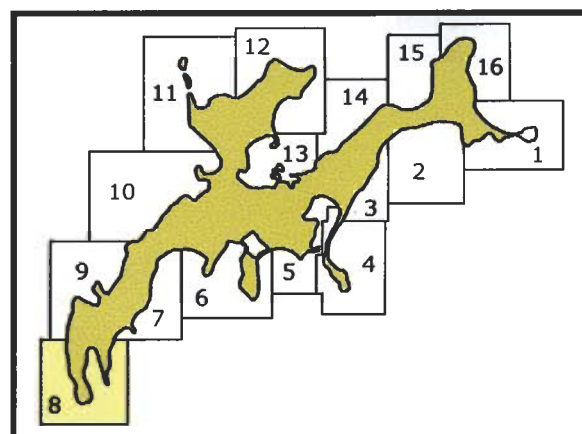
Eroding to Stable

The coast edge is generally stable. There is localised erosion of the lower cliff face by marine action along with cobble undercutting of the edge.



- Erosion Class**
- Definitely Accreting
 - Accreting or Stable
 - Stable
 - Eroding or Stable
 - Definitely Eroding
 - Accreting and Eroding

- No access
- Land below 10m



Map 9: Loth to Scuthi Head

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

From Loth, this map section extends along the southwest coast of the Island, over high rugged ground with fine views over to the neighbouring island of Eday. At Braeswick, a small bay marks a lowering in the cliff edge and from here the landscape becomes progressively more gentle, even and green.

Between Boloquoy and Mires, at the end of the section, there are further areas of rough ground, but here the coast edge is low-lying. Modern settlement in this area is concentrated around Braeswick and along the roadside to North Mire; but it is set back from the coast edge. The hinterland is divided in a pattern of regular small fields, most of which support grazing.

A site (SY117) which formed the subject of intensive recent investigations is located to the centre of this section, on the east side of Pool Bay. The extensive multi-period settlement was first noted in a coast exposure; excavation revealed a series of buildings and deposits dating from the Neolithic period to the Norse period. This is the only such 'farm mound' site to have been investigated in depth and thus the results of excavation are eagerly awaited. The site remains visible as a series of substantial organic soil deposits in the eroding coast section.

Further along the coast at North Mire, a probable cairn (SY118) is eroding over rocky cliffs. Part of a small chamber or cist-like structure is visible to the centre of the section and further structural elements can also be identified. The cairn extends inland and may be more substantial than it appears.

At Boloquoy, archaeological deposits revealed in a coast exposure may mark an early settlement (SY119). This exposure has not been recorded before and it may be that this site has only begun to erode. Finds recovered from the section include fragments of struck flint and coarse pot of Neolithic/Bronze Age type. The exposure flanks an overgrown mounded area, which may represent further buried remains. It is very vulnerable to continued erosion.

Early activity in this area is further indicated by a cairn at Boloquoy Farm (SY120). the cairn has been dug into in the past and little of it now remains. A second mound in an adjacent field (SY122) may also be a burial site; this also appears to have been investigated in the past. At Ebb of Seater a grassy mound which lies close to exposed layers of ashy deposits and a patch of burnt, reddened ground surface (SY123) may be comparable to the burials and pyre settings recently identified at Hermisgarth (Map 10).

Geology and Geomorphology

The hinterland slopes become more moderate to the north of this unit. There are two well defined storm beaches within coves in this area and an impressively carved coast edge along North Mire. The coast edge is over five metres at the beginning and end of the unit, but in between these points it is generally lower.

Erosion

The unit contains a number of sections which are eroding. The most significant is the coast edge from North Mire to Swart Hamar, where the softer shale layers of the Eday Sandstone are eroding. Other erosion sections are also due to the exposure of softer Eday Sandstone seams.

SY112

HY6021 3668
Spaney Geo
Boundary bank/treb dyke
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Good
Monitor

SY113

HY6039 3735
Strang Quoy
Kelp pits and ?marl quarry
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

SY114

HY6140 3801
Lamba Ness
Coastal exposure
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY115 HY63NW12

HY6138 3797
Lamba Ness
Mounds: alleged site of chapel
Unknown: ?10-14th
Fair
Monitor

SY116

HY618 378
Pool
Possible fish trap or basin
Unknown
Fair
Nil

SY117 HY63NW17

HY6194 3785
Pool
Monitor
Settlement
Fair
4th mill BC-1st mill AD

SY118 HY63NW27

HY6205 3799
North Mire
Cairn & coastal exposure
4th-3rd mill BC
Fair/poor
Survey

SY119

HY6248 3892
Boloquoy
Coastal exposure: ? settlement
mound
4th-3rd mill BC
Fair
Survey

SY120 HY63NW4

HY6260 3896
Boloquoy
Cairn
3rd-1st mill BC
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY121 HY63NW38

HY6257 3906
Boloquoy
Mill
18-20th C
Good
Nil

SY122 HY63NW29

HY6256 3927
Boloquoy
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Good
Monitor

SY123

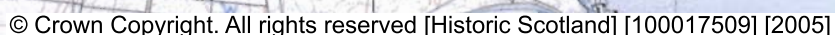
HY6249 3931
Ebb of Seater
Mound & coastal exposure
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Survey

SY124

HY6264 3960
Grunavi Head
Enclosed promontory
Unknown
Fair
Monitor

SY125 HY63NW40

HY6295 3957
Mires
Banks
Unknown
Fair
Monitor



-

1. Spaney Geo

HY 604 373

1.7 km

Rock platform with intermittent cover.

Coast edge is generally > 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is visible to the N.

Cobbles and small boulders grade out to the N with some more cobble cover beginning to the E of Strang Quoy. The drift to rock interface becomes visible at Lyre Cliff. The till thins to < 1 m by Hegglic Bar. Here there is a small quay like platform with steps cut into a conglomerate rock. There is also some tipping on the hinterland. At the point of Strang Quoy there is a large exposed section of saprolite in the form of a yellow marl bed > 5 m thick which appears to be an excellent source of pottery clay. The harder sandstones which overlie this bed are collapsing. The hinterland is moderately sloping with fenced grass fields. The area around the clay exposure is rather hummocky, perhaps due to erosion of the soft marl bed or past quarrying of this resource. Soils are imperfectly drained gleys at Spaney Geo becoming freely drained podzol towards the N.

2. Braes Wick

HY 614 372

0.8 km

Sandy foreshore with up to 100% cover.

Coast edge is predominantly < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

The sandy/shale foreshore is almost covered by a storm beach made up of cobbles and boulders. These lie below the cliff at Braeswick but form a lip of relic storm beach where the coast edge drops to < 5 m. The storm beach grades out to rock platform on the NW of Braes Wick. The hinterland has grassed fields with a more water-logged area around the centre of the cove with iris and reeds. On the N side there are fenced fields down to grass although there is a headland of perhaps 5 to 7 m which has vegetated relic storm beach. Soils are freely drained podzols with a poorly drained peaty alluvium to the centre.

3. Laminess

HY 613 380

1 km

Rock platform with varying cover.

Coast edge is generally < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

There are small areas of cobbles almost making up small storm beaches in two areas on the west of this promontory. There is a more typical storm beach, of cobbles and small boulders, along the N shore. The coast edge is well defined by small cliffs with a drift to rock interface showing up to 1.5 m of buff till to the S and a more reddish brown till to the N. The hinterland

is gently sloping with grassed fields lying on a freely drained podzol.

4. Pool Bay

HY 618 376

0.4 km

Sandy foreshore.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The sandy foreshore has some shingle and a few cobbles to the edges with the remnants of a vegetated storm beach at the coast edge. Gabions lie along the coast edge next to a sea wall on the S of the section. Two buried soils are also evident below the relic storm beach. Under top soil lies 40 cm of relic storm beach, over 30 cm of dark loam, over 2-5 cm of sand, over 30-40 cm of black peaty soil. The hinterland is gently sloping/level with a poorly drained to waterlogged area of peaty gley.

5. North Mire

HY 624 386

1.5 km

Rock platform with discrete areas of cobbles.

Coast edge is predominantly < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible.

There is boulder and cobble cover around Tarristy with up to 60% cobble cover further N and a large storm beach made up of cobbles and boulders at Noust of Bolonquoy. Just N of Swart Hamar there is an unusually clear black buried soil, perhaps only 5 cm thick and up to 50 cm below the soil. It truncates the subsoil in a very horizontal fashion with sharp horizon boundaries and is likely to be a cultivation layer. A further two buried soil horizons lie closer to the storm beach, each 10 cm thick separated by a thin stone layer. Further into the Noust of Bolonquoy the storm beach runs over the coast edge. The cobbles grade out as the coast edge rises to the N. Soils are freely drained brown soils running to podzols with poorly drained gley behind Noust of Bolonquoy.

6. Ebb of Seater

HY 628 396

1.2 km

Rock platform with varying cover.

Coast edge is > 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

There are a few small areas of cobbles along the rock platform with a storm beach made up of boulders and cobbles at Grunavi Head. The cliff edge is over 5 m high with > 1 m of till at Grunavi Head, otherwise the dark red till thickness ranges from 30 cm to negligible amounts. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping with fenced fields underlain by freely drained podzol to the S and imperfectly drained gley and podzol to the N.



Foreshore

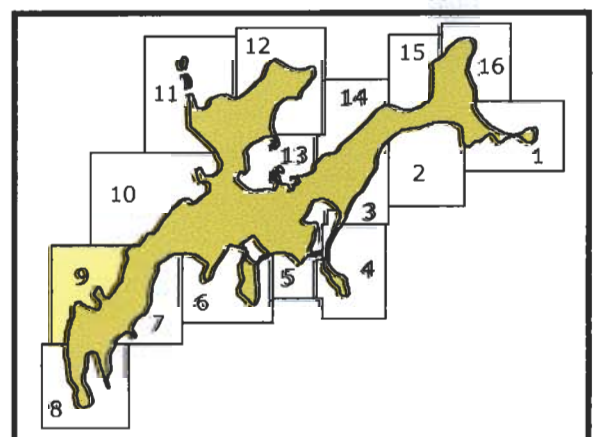
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

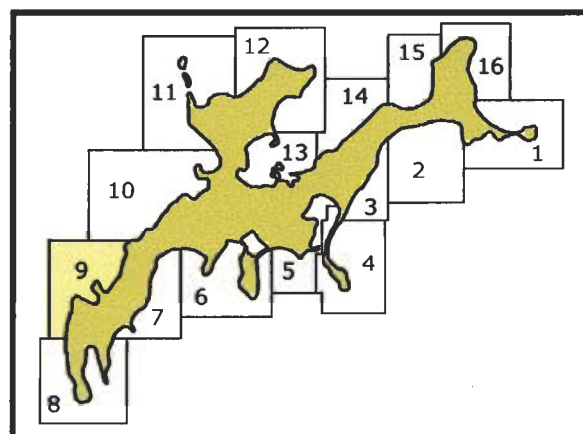
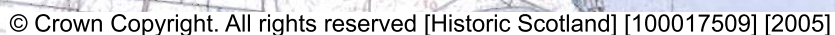
- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1. Spanney Geo
HY 601 362
0.2 km
Eroding to Stable
Localised erosion of the coast edge due to marine action on the softer exposed till. There is also minor sub-aerial erosion by water run off.</p> | <p>5. Braeswick
HY 611 372
0.14 km
Eroding
As the cliff face drops to under five metres so the upper soft sediments are more prone to erosion by marine action. This is also enhanced by cobbles undercutting parts of the coast edge.</p> | <p>9. North Mire
HY 622 383
0.91 km
Eroding
Most all of this section is being actively eroded at the present time. Much of the rock strata of sandstone is overlying soft laminations of shales with the result that large pieces of rock are undercut and break off from the coast edge as small areas of land slip.</p> |
| <p>2. Lyre Cliff
HY 603 368
0.93 km
Stable
Much of the coast edge is over 5 m, and has less till exposed to the sea. There is a slight change in the rock layers with some conglomerate bands appearing.</p> | <p>6. Breas Wick
HY 614 373
0.51 km
Stable
The boulder and cobble storm beach give protection to the coast edge and hinterland around this section of the bay.</p> | <p>10. Swart Hamar
HY 624 387
0.33 km
Stable
A short length of coastline is stable as there are no soft shales exposed in section. There is only minor localised erosion of the top sediments.</p> |
| <p>3. Strang Quoy
HY 604 373
0.13 km
Eroding
The softer laminations of the Eday Beds are evident with a thick, soft yellow clay or marl lying beneath a harder sandstone. Where this is exposed the coast edge is eroding.</p> | <p>7. Lamba Ness
HY 612 379
0.59 km
Eroding
Although there are stable areas to the north and south of this section the majority of the coast edge has some active erosion due to marine action alone. The storm beach to the south may be migrating landwards.</p> | <p>11. Noust of Boloquoy
HY 625 395
1.56 km
Eroding to Stable
The coast edge is being eroded in localised areas throughout the section. A large storm beach within the first bay is definitely migrating on the north side. Overall there is an impression of less erosion to the north because of the higher cliffs. However there is substantial erosion at Grunavi Head on the two north facing points. At Belfour's Geo, and running to Scuthi Head in the next unit, the softer beds of shale run closer to the surface and dip to the west. This has caused some landslip and soil creep with large gullies running coastward. Most of the gullies are vegetated but further north they are being eroded by sub-aerial action mainly due to stream action.</p> |
| <p>4. Strangquoy Taing
HY 607 373
0.58 km
Eroding to Stable
Although the clay layer is not exposed in this section the overlying sandstones are soft and easily eroded. There is localised erosion along this cliff edge.</p> | <p>8. Pool Bay
HY 615 377
0.7 km
Stable
The majority of this section is stable. There is localised erosion on each side of a sea wall and gabions close to the road.</p> | |



Map 10: Scuthi Head to Howland

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section commences at a central point on the west coast of the island. The coastline in this area is characterised by low banks and a relatively regular pattern of small fields of pasture in the hinterland. Exceptions occur at Scuthi Head, a high promontory and at Ness of Brough, where more open, rough land prevails. The section continues from here as far as the north side of North Bay, where despite a harder coast edge, erosion is occurring. Modern settlement in this area is concentrated around Broughtown, but most houses are set back from the coast, focusing instead on the road.

At Scuthi Head, a series of stout banks mark out parallel rectangular enclosures and a probable structure on a narrow promontory (SY126), surrounded by high cliffs. The site is one of the most likely locations on Sanday on which to find a defensive fort of prehistoric date. In this case, however, the regularity and rectangular shape of the enclosures are more indicative of a later, possibly early historic or medieval date.

Interestingly, there are other examples of large-scale earthworks in this area, although such remains are not otherwise commonly found on Sanday. At Fea Hill, a substantial land boundary or treb dyke (SY127) runs uphill from the coast and can be followed for over 100m, while part of an enclosure survives at Ayre (SY128). This theme can be developed further if two sites from the preceding Map 9 are included: at Mires (SY125) two banks of uncertain purpose are located in a valley base; while at Grunavi Head a bank and ditch close off access to a small promontory.

Remains exposed in the coast section at Ayre (SY129) apparently represent a rectilinear structure; associated anthropogenic deposits suggest a domestic context. The structure is buried by a layer of ploughsoil, up to 1m deep, suggesting that it is likely to be of some antiquity. This site may be associated with a nearby mound (SY130), which is eroding and has the appearance of a typical 'farm mound' or settlement of extended duration.

A possible human burial, eroding from the banks towards the south side of the Bay of Broughtown appears to be aligned east-west and may therefore be Christian. It is possible that, if confirmed, this burial may be part of a cemetery, possibly associated with the hitherto unconfirmed church site, previously thought to have stood at Chapel Head, nearby.

Geology and Geomorphology

The geomorphology can be separated into three areas. The south is high cliffed with moderate to steep slopes, the centre of this unit from Broughtown to Hermisgarth is relatively low lying with storm beaches and sands, and the third smaller area to the north has a coast edge of moderate height with gently to moderately sloping ground.

Erosion

Apart from the sections around Ayre and Ness of Brough the majority of the coast line in this unit is stable. There is also some accretion of shingle and cobbles in two areas around the Bay of Brough.

SY126 HY64SW5

HY6330 4007
Scuthi Head
Possible promontory fort
?1st mill BC - 1st mill AD
Fair
Survey

SY127 HY64SW6

HY640 406
Fea Hill
Treb dyke
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY128

HY6472 4130
Ayre
Enclosure
Unknown
Fair
Survey

SY129 HY64SE41

HY6522 4123
Ayre
Coastal exposure: settlement remains
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY130 HY64SE13

HY6536 4136
Chapel Head
Mound & alleged chapel site
?prehistoric or 10-14th C
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY131

HY6547 4135
Broughtown
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Survey

SY132

HY6541 4142
Broughtown
Coastal exposure: ?human bone
Unknown: ?10-14th C
Fair/poor
Survey

SY133

HY6554 4209
Styes of Brough
Structure
18-20th C
Fair/poor
Nil

SY134 HY64SE18, 26 & 30

HY654 421
Styes of Brough
Mounds
?prehistoric or 10-14th C
Good/fair
Monitor

SY135

HY653 422
Ness of Brough
Buried soil and kelp pits
18-20th C
Fair
Monitor

SY136 HY64SE6

HY6544 4256
Ness of Brough
Mound & coastal exposure
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY137

HY6589 4231
Westbrough
Mound & coastal exposure
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Poor
Survey

SY138 HY64SE14

HY6633 4235
Westbrough
Mound: possible settlement
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY139 HY64SE47

HY6633 4288
North Bay
Boat noosts & coastal exposure
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

SY140 HY64SW55

HY6627 4288
Hermisgarth
Cist burials & stone pyre settings
1st mill BC-1st mill AD
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY141

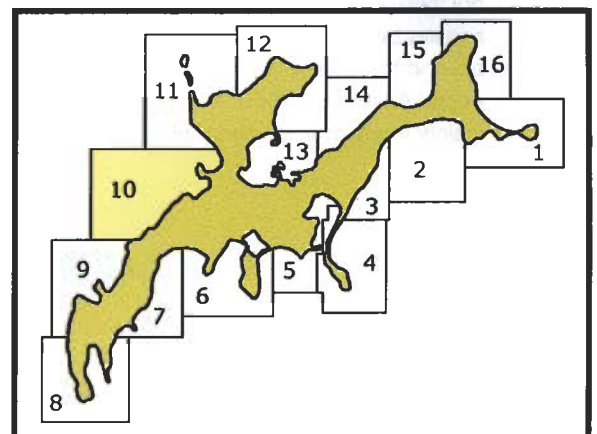
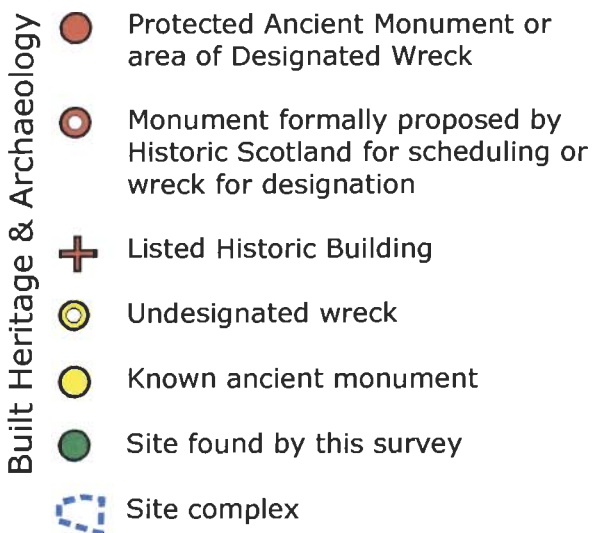
HY6610 4330
Howland
Coastal exposure: indeterminate
Unknown
Fair
Monitor

SY142

HY660 434
Howland
Coastal exposure
Unknown
Poor
Monitor

SY143

HY6594 4352
Howland
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair/poor
Monitor



1. Belfour's Geo

HY 642 409

2.7 km

Rock platform with negligible cover.

Coast edge is > 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

The rock platform has negligible cover with a cliff faced coast edge > 30 m in some areas. Between Belfour's Geo and Scuthie Head there is some gullying with landslip along natural structural weakness creating hummocks and gullies. There is also a soil > 35 cm deep towards Scuthie Head. The soils lie directly over a saprolite, soft red sandstone or marl for the most part. One gully north of Belfour's Geo stretches 40 m into the hinterland. The other main areas of the cliff face are fairly coherent. Further north at Taing of the Pund rock shards have been thrown back over 40 m. The hinterland is fenced although this generally lies 20 - 30 m from the coast edge. The near hinterland is down to rough grazing with arable crops in the far hinterland. Soils tend to be poorly to imperfectly drained gleys in the south with more imperfectly drained podzol to the north.

2. Broughtown

HY 655 414

0.9 km

Rock platform with storm beaches.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible

The rock platform grades into cobble cover with a small storm beach at Ayre running up to the road. There is then some cobble cover around a small jutting promontory and then a long storm beach to the end of this section. The coast edge is generally well defined. To the north of the small promontory by Noust of Ayre there is much dumping of general waste and scrap onto the upper foreshore and along the coast edge. The cobbles give 100% cover further to the north. The hinterland is grassed with a stone wall along the northern end. The promontory is fenced and grassed and lies between the road. A wet area of hinterland lies beyond the road at Noust of Ayre and to the extreme north. Apart from these two waterlogged areas soil are mainly freely drained podzol.

3. Bay of Brough (North)

HY 657 421

0.7 km

Sandy foreshore with some cobble and shingle cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible

The storm beach grades out slowly into shingle overlying sand. The cobbles then increase to the north again. A berm of cobble and shingle lies to the south along the upper foreshore. The coast edge is less well defined but runs onto a lip of sand and cobbles with a wet hinterland of saltings and a body of water. There is some fencing along parts of the hinterland. The soils at the ridge and to the north are freely drained.

4. Point of Styes

HY 654 425

1.2 km

Rock platform with storm beach.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible

The storm beach begins with shingle cover and increases in size to cobble cover to the north. A red till 30 - 40 cm thick overlies the rock. The storm beach washes over the coast edge in two areas to the west and north of Ness. On the west side the cobbles grade into a berm and shingle with the rock to drift interface being obscured. The Brough of Ness is mainly unfenced with old two dilapidated walls. The hinterland is down to grass over a freely drained podzol.

5. Westbrough

HY 663 426

0.5 km

Sandy foreshore.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible

The sandy foreshore is generally free from shingle and cobble to the centre of the section. A small ridge of sand lies at the coast edge with grassed skeletal sands which is now fairly flat to gently sloping.

6. Hermisgarth

HY 661 433

0.9 km

Rock platform with some cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible

The sandy foreshore grades onto rock platform with a more well defined coast edge. There is some tipping of farm waste at the beginning of the section. The rock to drift interface is not always visible due to a large depth of reddish till which is >1.5 m in places. Soils are freely drained podzol with fenced grass fields.

Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

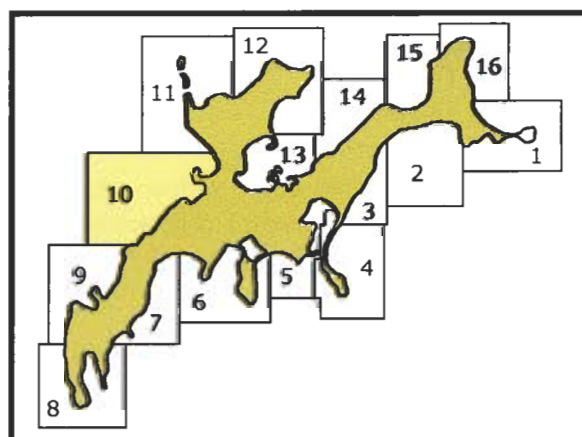
Sanday Map 10



- Foreshore**
- Rock platform
 - Mainly sand
 - Mainly alluvial/marine mud
 - Marsh

- Modifiers**
- Low edge <5m
 - Cliff >5m
 - Man made barrier
 - Shingle/storm bank
 - Human disturbance

- Hinterland**
- Drift
 - Drift on visible rock
 - Raised beach etc.
 - Blown sand
 - Glacial sand/gravel
 - Alluvium



1. Scuthi Head

HY 633 400

0.59 km

Eroding and Stable

The landslip from the last section continues up to Cuthie Head with a stable cliff edge along the next promontory before another area of erosion.

2. The Wheems

HY 639 406

1.1 km

Stable

The cliff edge is generally stable although there are a few areas where some minor rock fall has taken place at Clay Face and some minor erosion due to stream erosion.

3. Back Punds Geo

HY 646 413

0.95 km

Eroding to Stable

There are some localised areas of cliff erosion with some hinterland erosion at Taing of the Pund which is mainly due to wave throw and water run off.

4. Ayre

HY 652 412

0.12 km

Eroding

The coast edge is eroding due to the soft archaeological and soil materials within section. The buildings are in danger of erosion.

5. Noust of Ayre

HY 653 413

0.27 km

Eroding to Stable

The area to the south is stable with most erosion on the small promontory. Here the soil sediments are being eroded at a few localised points.

6. Broughtown

HY 656 415

0.34 km

Accreting to Stable

This is a stable section with an area to the north of the coast house with a large accretion of shale and cobbles.

7. Bay of Brough

HY 658 419

0.66 km

Stable

The coast edge is low but stable with a gently sloping beach.

8. Point of the Styes

HY 654 420

0.11 km

Accreting

The cobble and shingle along the upper foreshore and coast edge appears to be accreting with little evidence that the beach is migrating landward.

9. Ness of Brough

HY 653 423

0.46 km

Eroding to Stable

The coast edge is < 1 m for much of the section with localised erosion along the length.

10. Ness of Brough (North)

HY 655 425

0.37 km

Eroding

The low coast edge is being eroded around the north head of the Ness.

11. North Bay

HY 661 424

0.91 km

Stable

The low coast edge is quite stable although there are small areas where past erosion has exposed some of the coast edge.

12. Hermisgarth

HY 661 432

0.8 km

Eroding to Stable

Localised erosion is more common to the south of this section with a stable length of coast line to the centre.

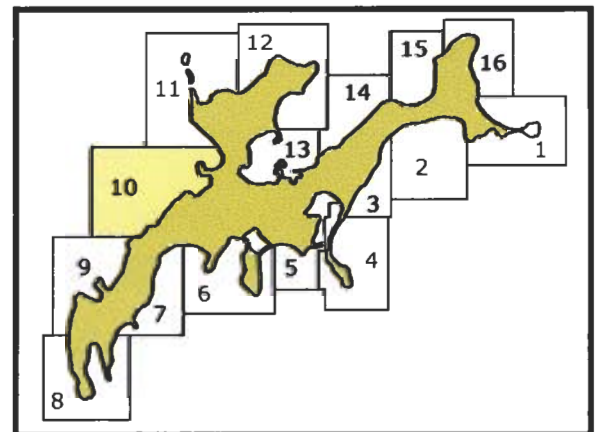
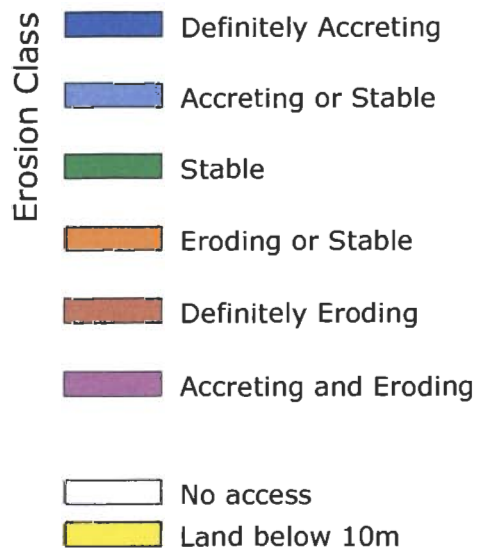
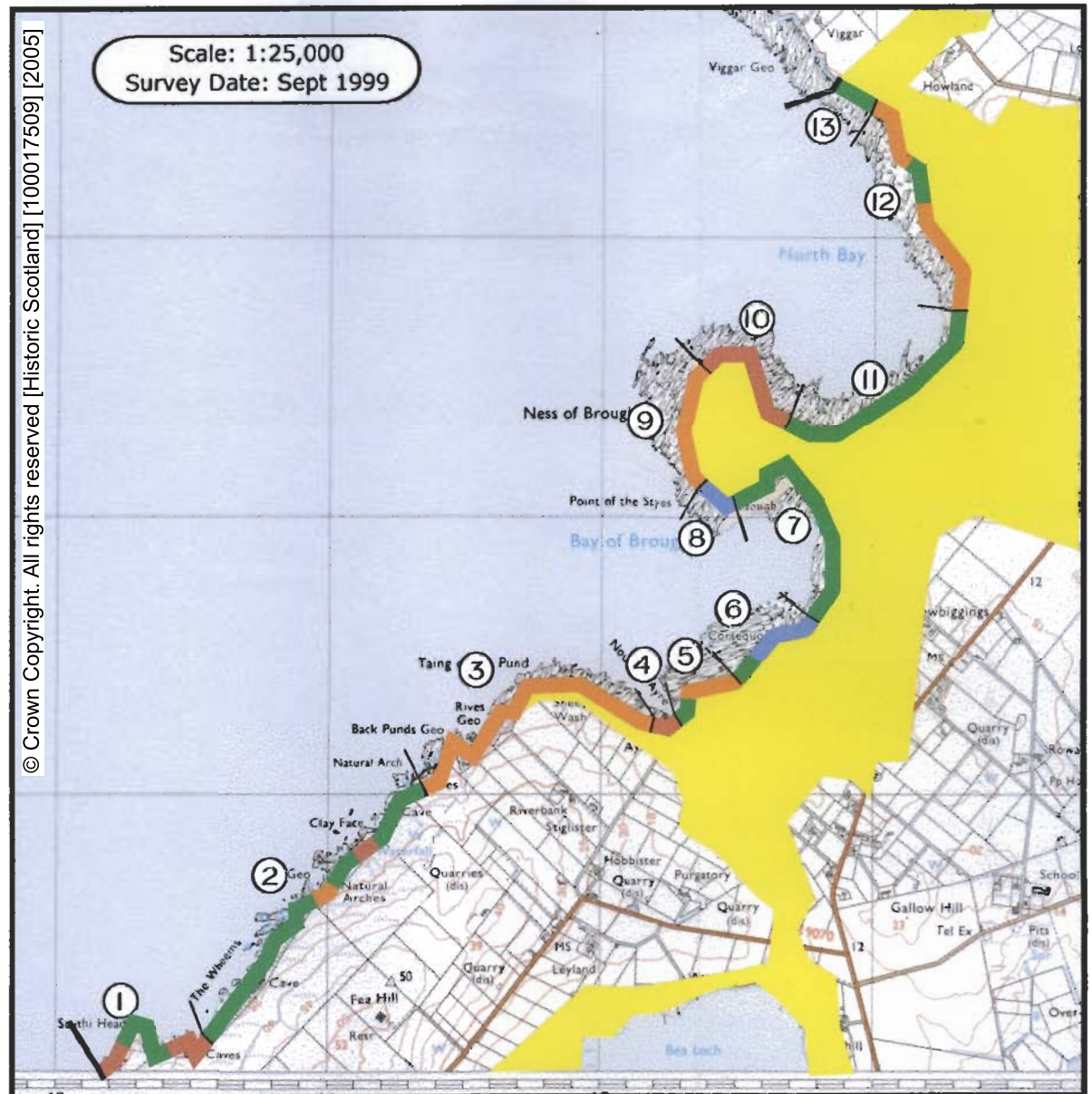
13. Howland

HY 651 435

0.13 km

Stable

The rock coast edge rises and so provides better sea protection giving this coast edge more stability.



Map 11: Howland to Scar

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

From the rugged coastline at the North shore of North Bay, this map section progresses north to Whale point. From here, access can be gained at low tide to the Holms of Ire: two small islets joined by a reef. Returning from the holms, this map section progresses into the small bay of Roos Wick, and eastward along the rocky shore to Woo and the dunes of Sand Ayre. There is little modern coast settlement in this area. Much of the hinterland is enclosed pasture land, but there are also wilder and more marshy areas, particularly to the east side of Roos Loch.

A dispersed group of probable burial mounds lie to the south of this area. The Knowe of Yarrow (SY145) is known only from records, having been destroyed some time before 1928. It is said to have contained a burial in an urn, of which no trace remains. At Rethie Taing (SY146) a chambered cairn lies on the coast edge and is eroding. Part of the entrance passage is visible to the seaward side; the cairn is very vulnerable to destruction from continued erosion. Further to the north, an undistinguished grassy mound at Rue (SY154) may also be a funerary monument; it is situated over 50m from the coast and is not currently at risk.

A low mound close to the coast edge at Runna Clett (SY153) has been recorded as the site of a broch. Coastal erosion to the seaward side of the mound has exposed archaeological deposits, but while some large stone blocks and midden-type deposits are present in the section, there is little to indicate the presence of such a substantial structure. In another coastal exposure at Woo (SY156), shell midden is revealed in close association with a relict soil. these deposits may be suggestive of an early prehistoric settlement. They derive from a long, low mound which is being eroded by the sea.

Two churches have been reported here; one at Kirk Geo (SY144) may be based merely on place name evidence, but the other (SY148) is located on the inner Holm of Ire and can still be seen. Said to be dedicated to St. Colm, this small and presumably early chapel has been damaged both by coast erosion and impromptu investigations. Situated close to a storm beach, the interior is now covered by quantities of loose stone, which although obscuring it may serve to protect the remains to some degree.

Geology and Geomorphology

In this unit, the west shore comprises of rocks which dip slightly to the west, with a well defined coast edge. A quarry lies to the north of this coastline while a lake lies within Roos Wick. Cobble and boulder storm beaches are a main feature of the north shores and Holms of Ire. Gradients are moderate along the west and gentle elsewhere.

Erosion

There is little erosion around the coast line of this unit although most localised erosion occurs along the northern facing coast. There is also accretion of boulders and cobbles on the southern island of Holms of Ire.

SY144 HY64SE23

HY6568 4381
Curcasetter or Kirk Geo
Alleged site of chapel
Unknown: ?10-14th C
Not seen
Monitor

SY145 HY64SE17

HY6547 4401
Knowe of Yarrow
Site of mound & cist
3rd-1st mill BC
Not seen
Monitor

SY146 HY64SE39

HY6511 4424
Rethie Taing
Possible chambered cairn
4th-3rd mill BC
Fair/poor
Survey

SY147 HY64SE64

HY651 448
Airon
Sheep fold
18-20th C
Not seen
Nil

SY148 HY64NE1

HY5605 4577
Holms of Ire
Chapel
10-14th C
Poor
Monitor

SY149 HY64NE10

HY651 457
Holms of Ire
Kelp workings
18-20th C
Fair/poor
Nil

SY150 HY64NW3

HY6498 4598
Holms of Ire
Crues & structures
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

SY151 HY64NW2

HY647 461
Castle Geo, Holms of Ire
Natural feature
N/A
Not seen
Nil

SY152 HY64NW8001

HY6475 4710
Holms of Ire
Wreck of the Alex Hastings
18-20th C
Not seen
Nil

SY153

HY6511 4542
Whale Point
Cairn
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY154

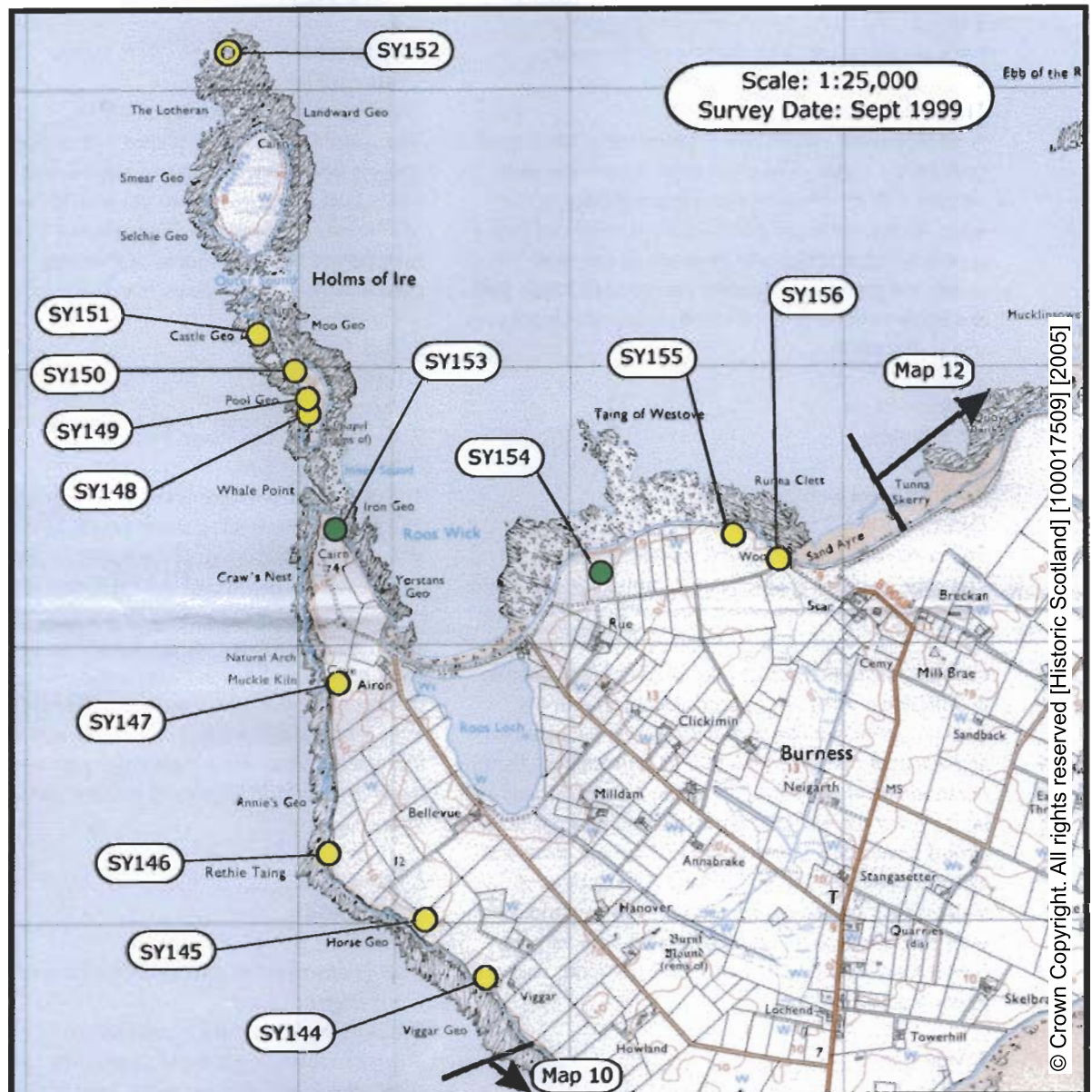
HY6610 4527
Rue
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Survey

SY155 HY64NE3

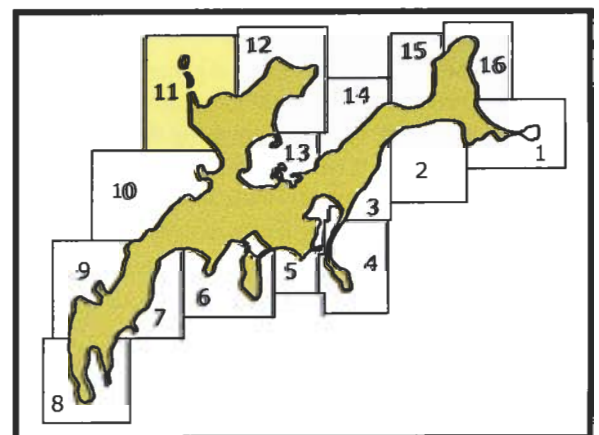
HY6659 4540
Runna Clett
Mound & coastal exposure
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair/poor
Survey

SY156 HY64NE5

HY6679 4533
Woo
Coastal exposure: settlement"
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair/poor
Monitor



- Built Heritage & Archaeology**
- Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - + Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
 - Site complex



1. Viggar

HY 651 442

2 km

Rock platform with only discrete cobble cover.

Coast edge is intermittently < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

A small discrete cobble storm beach lies within a small cove below Viggar. The coast edge is generally well defined with a stone wall running along close to the edge. To the north the promontory is unfenced with a quarry which appears to be in use of the time. The slopes are generally moderate with grassed fields. Soils are freely to imperfectly drained podzol which are very thin to the north.

2. Holms of Ire

HY 649 468

2.4 km

Rock platform with storm beaches.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible.

The rock platform extends out to both intertidal islands.

The main feature of the coast line are the large storm beaches mainly composed of boulders with some cobbles. Most of the coast edge is covered by cobbles and boulders along the eastern sides. Some of the boulders have been thrown > 40 m into the hinterland and are now overgrown. A buff till is prominent on the north island where it is > 1 m deep. An old sea wall also lies to the south east of the north island which is now almost covered by storm beach with an old coast wall almost obliterated. The hinterland is fairly clear of thrown rock on the west side of the north island. The west side of the south island has much boulder and cobble thrown over 20 m into the hinterland. Soils are freely drained podzol.

3. Iron Geo

HY 652 453

0.7 km

Rock platform with intermittent cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible.

The rock platform has intermittent cobble cover with up to 40% cover mainly along the upper foreshore. The coast edge is well defined with a moderate to steeply sloping hinterland. Fields are grassed with stone walls and an underlying freely drained podzol.

4. Airon

HY 656 449

0.4 km

andy foreshore with large storm beach.

Coast edge is > 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The upper foreshore is covered with a storm beach of cobbles which extends up to a ridge with a track. A newly built stone wall lies to the east of the bay in front of a house. The hinterland drops down to Roos Loch lying behind the ridge. Some of the ridge may well have been enhanced and appears man made in areas.

5. Rue

HY 664 454

1 km

Rock platform with storm beaches.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible.

The rock platform has a storm beach to the west grading to cobble cover of the upper foreshore with another storm beach past the first point which then grades to cobble cover of the upper foreshore again which grades to more shingle further to the east. The coast edge is well defined with some overgrown cobble throw on the east side. Further to the east the coast edge is better defined and may be up to 3 m high in a few places. Generally the soils of the hinterland are freely drained podzol with more sand content towards Woo.

6. Woo

HY 670 453

0.4 km

Rock platform grading to sandy foreshore..

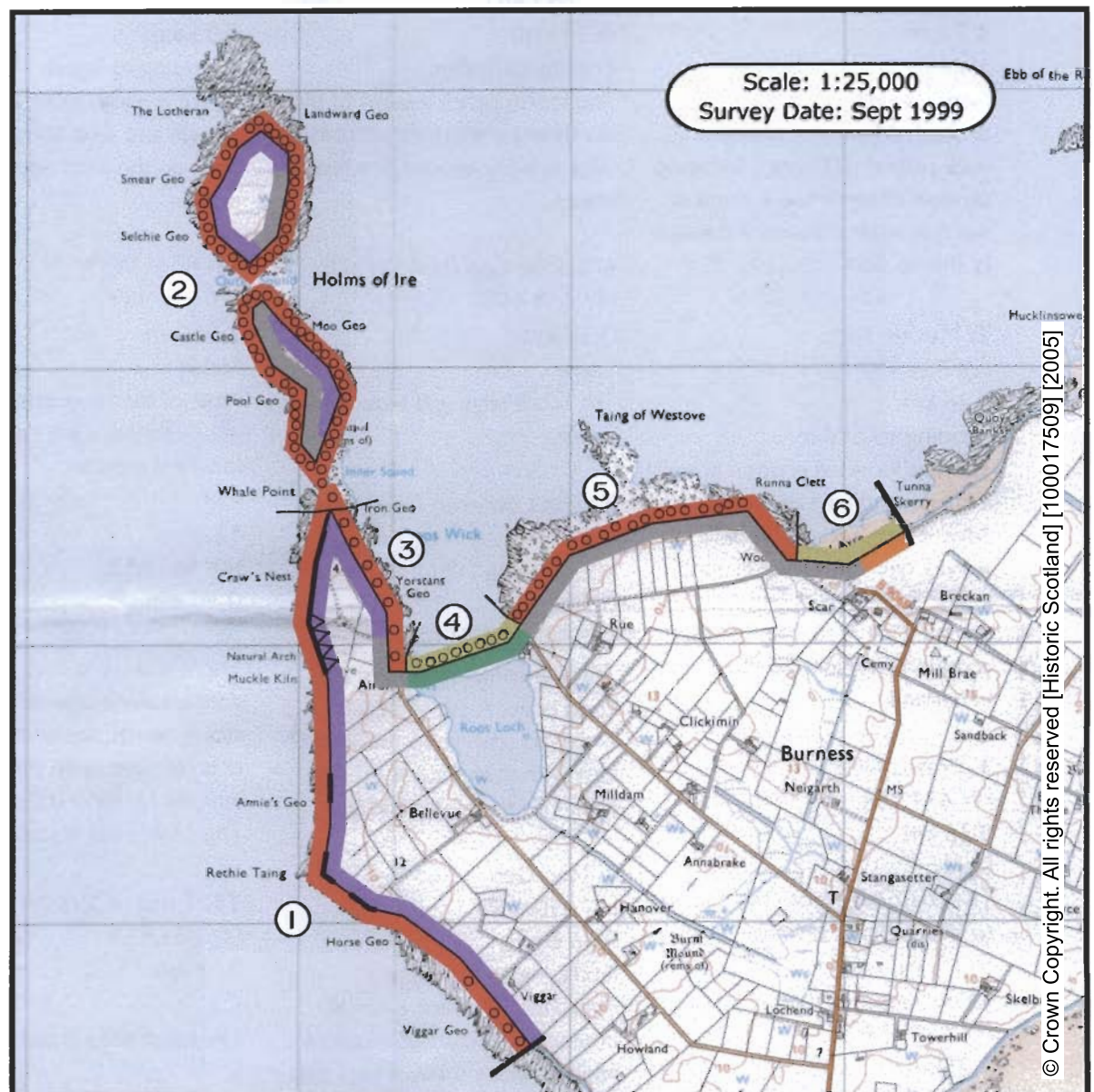
Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The rock platform has more sand cover to the east. The coast edge is well defined to the west with some farm waste in front of Woo to help slow down erosion. A berm of sand grades into cobble along the upper foreshore over the sand with a sandy ridge along the coast edge to the east of Woo. The cobble increases along the upper foreshore and coast edge to the east of this section. A small dumping area of farm waste lies on the coast edge to the west of Woo. The hinterland has a freely drained podzol to the west of Woo with a wet area behind the buildings and sand dune ridge to the east.

Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

Sanday
Map 11



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Foreshore

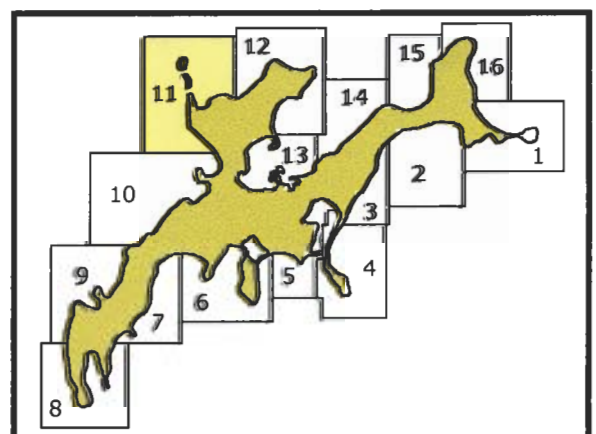
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

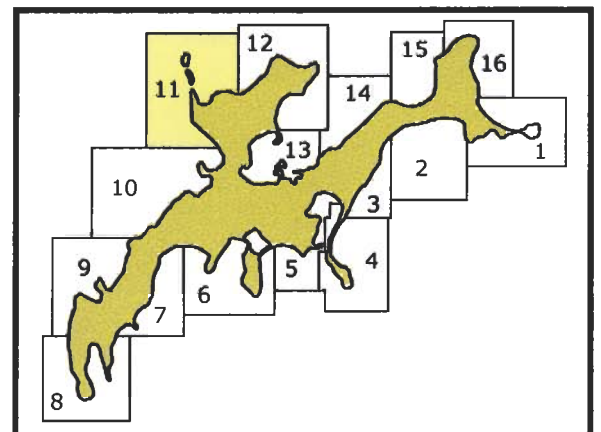
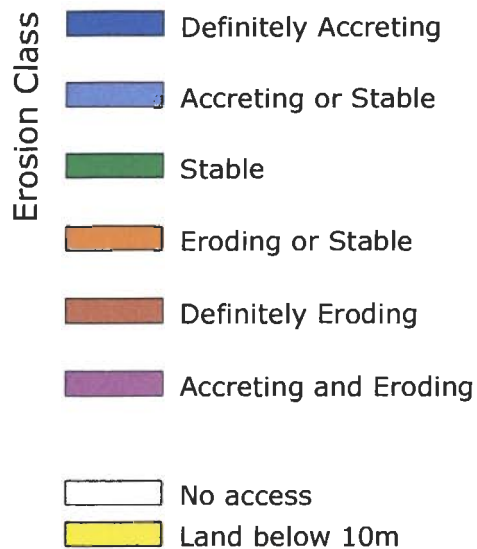
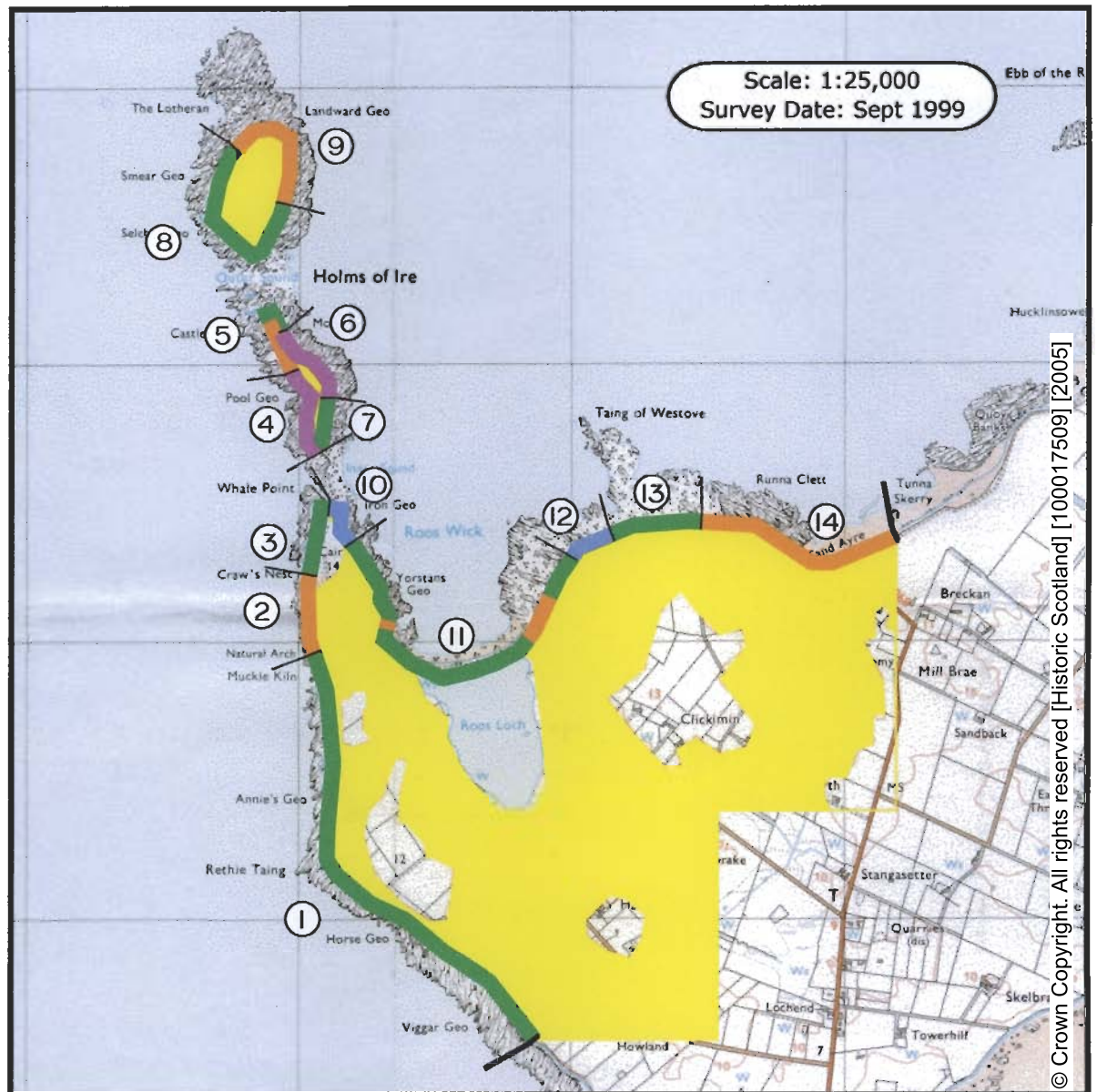
- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>1. Viggar
HY 651 442
1.7 km
Stable
Generally the coast edge is protected from the sea by a rock platform. There is localised erosion of some soil in front of the field walls that run the length of this section.</p> | <p>5. Castle Geo (Holmes of Ire)
HY 649 461
0.34 km
Eroding to Stable
The storm beach lessens to the north and a well defined coast edge is being eroded in a few places.</p> | <p>10. Iron Geo
HY 651 455
0.15 km
Accreting to Stable
There is some accretion of shingle and sand in the small cove on the west side of the point.</p> |
| <p>2. Muckle Kiln
HY 651 451
0.26 km
Eroding to Stable
There is localised erosion around a quarry and part of the coast edge. Much is due to sub-aerial activity over disturbed ground, ie. the quarry faces and surrounding area. Most of the erosion is confined to the hinterland.</p> | <p>6. Selchie Geo (Holmes of Ire)
HY 648 465
0.57 km
Stable
The coast edge and hinterland is stable.</p> | <p>11. Roos Wick
HY 656 449
1.26 km
Stable
Most of the coast edge is stable although there are two areas of localised erosion.</p> |
| <p>3. Craw's Nest
HY 651 454
0.26 km
Stable
The coast edge from the quarry to Whale Point is stable.</p> | <p>7. The Lotheran (Holmes of Ire)
HY 649 468
0.28 km
Eroding to Stable
There is some erosion of the coast edge. A storm beach begins to emerge to the south east with some (stable) throw back into the hinterland.</p> | <p>12. Rue
HY 660 453
0.12 km
Accreting to Stable
There is some accretion of cobbles along one section of the storm beach. Some of the cobbles have been thrown back into the hinterland in two places. The coast edge is stable.</p> |
| <p>4. Pool Geo (Holmes of Ire)
HY 650 458
0.25 km
Accreting and Eroding
Large boulders and cobbles are being thrown up along this section of coast. There is obviously some accretion but there is also some erosion of the coast as the storm beach is migrating landwards in some areas.</p> | <p>8. Moo Geo
HY 650 460
0.36 km
Accreting and Eroding
There is a large accretion of boulders and cobbles much of which is being thrown back into the hinterland destroying the old field wall. There is some apparent migration of the storm beach landwards.</p> | <p>13. Taing of Westove
HY 663 454
0.28 km
Stable
The coast edge is stable.</p> |
| | <p>9. Holmes of Ire Chapel
HY 651 458
0.25 km
Stable
The south west of the island has a stable coast edge.</p> | <p>14. Woo
HY 669 452
0.74 km
Eroding to Stable
Parts of the coast edge are eroding, inc. a section below the house at Woo where marine action is the main eroding agent. There is some tipping of farm waste to the west in a bid to lessen the erosion.</p> |



Map 12: Scar to Northskaill

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

From the sandy shore at Quoy Banks, this map section extends around a headland into Whitemill Bay. Here a long sandy beach is bordered by high dunes, which are mostly consolidated with turf cover. Rounding Whitemill Point, this section continues in a southerly direction along the shores of Otters Wick. From Taing Ayre to Ortie and further on to Northskaill, the coast edge is generally low-lying and soft. Over most of this section, the hinterland is dominated by a pattern of large regular fields of pasture, once part of the wealthy Scar estate. For the most part, the fields do not extend to the coast edge, however. There are larger areas of rough, unenclosed ground around Whitemill Point until Helliehow is reached; from here onward, the coast is again bounded by enclosed pasture land. There is no modern settlement in the coastal area, and indeed very little in the hinterland.

One of the most impressive archaeological discoveries of recent times was the discovery of a Viking boat burial at Quoybanks, Scar (SY159). The burial of a man, woman and child with their grave goods in a small wooden boat was found eroding out from the sandy banks. Rescue excavation was carried out just in time, before the winter storms destroyed the remaining part of the site. The site is marked with a small sign, but nothing now remains of the burial. It has been suggested that a large mound which stands close by, at The Crook (SY161), may also be a funerary monument. If this is the case, and there is yet no conclusive evidence, it may more probably be of early prehistoric than Viking date, since none of the known Viking examples in this part of the world have yet been found beneath such a large mound.

Early settlement activity is indicated in this area at Whitemill Point, Helliehow and Northskaill. At Whitemill point, a low grassy mound (SY164) located on the back shore contains two boat shaped hollows. Given its proximity to the Scar boat burial, this site was the cause of some excitement when it was first noted during survey; on reflection, however, it was considered more likely to represent a probable settlement mound into which a pair of boat noosts had been cut at a later stage! A much larger mound nearby (SY165) lies on the coast edge and is eroding. Protruding stone and anthropogenic soils are indicative of a settlement mound, but the whole is so overgrown that little more can be said about its composition. At Helliehowe (SY167) and Northskaill (SY170) eroding archaeological deposits appear to derive from accumulated settlement debris; in the case of Northskaill, sherds of Bronze Age-type pottery found in the section imply an early commencement to this settlement.

Geology and Geomorphology

The majority of this unit's coast is made up of sand or dunes. The Hinterland is fairly flat with only a few areas of gently sloping ground. The largest storm beaches lie along this coast. The west side is dominated by one long storm beach with another to the north east and smaller area to the south east. Soils are generally freely draining sands.

Erosion

There are no large sections of erosion within this unit which covers the coast line around a flat peninsula. Most of the localised erosion occurs to the north and is as much due to wind erosion as to marine erosion of the sandy hinterland. Most accretion lies along the south eastern shores within Otters Wick. The unit includes one of the largest farm mounds seen on the survey and lies at Northskaw.

SY157

HY6766 4577
Quoy Banks
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Good
Monitor

SY158

HY6770 4581
Quoy Banks
Coastal exposure
Unknown
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY159 HY64NE7

HY6780 4584
Quoybanks, Scar
Site of boat burial
1st mill BC-1st mill AD
Fair
Monitor

SY160 HY64NE9

HY6790 4592
The Crook Beach
Kelp workings
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

SY161 HY64NE6

HY6800 4595
The Crook
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY162 HY64NE11

HY6850 4668
Whitemill Bay
Kelp workings
18-20th C
Fair/poor
Nil

SY163

HY6867 4660
Whitemill Bay
Coastal exposure: wall
Unknown
Poor
Monitor

SY164

HY6990 4637
Whitemill Point
Mound and possible boat noosts
Unknown: ?prehistoric/18-20th
Poor
Monitor

SY165 HY64NE8

HY6997 4633
Whitemill Point
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric/18-20th
Fair/poor
Monitor

SY166 HY64NE12

HY6999 4612
Whitemill Point
Kelp workings
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

SY167 HY64NE17

HY695 456
Helliehow
Farmstead & coastal exposure
18-20th C
Fair
Monitor

SY168 HY64NE16

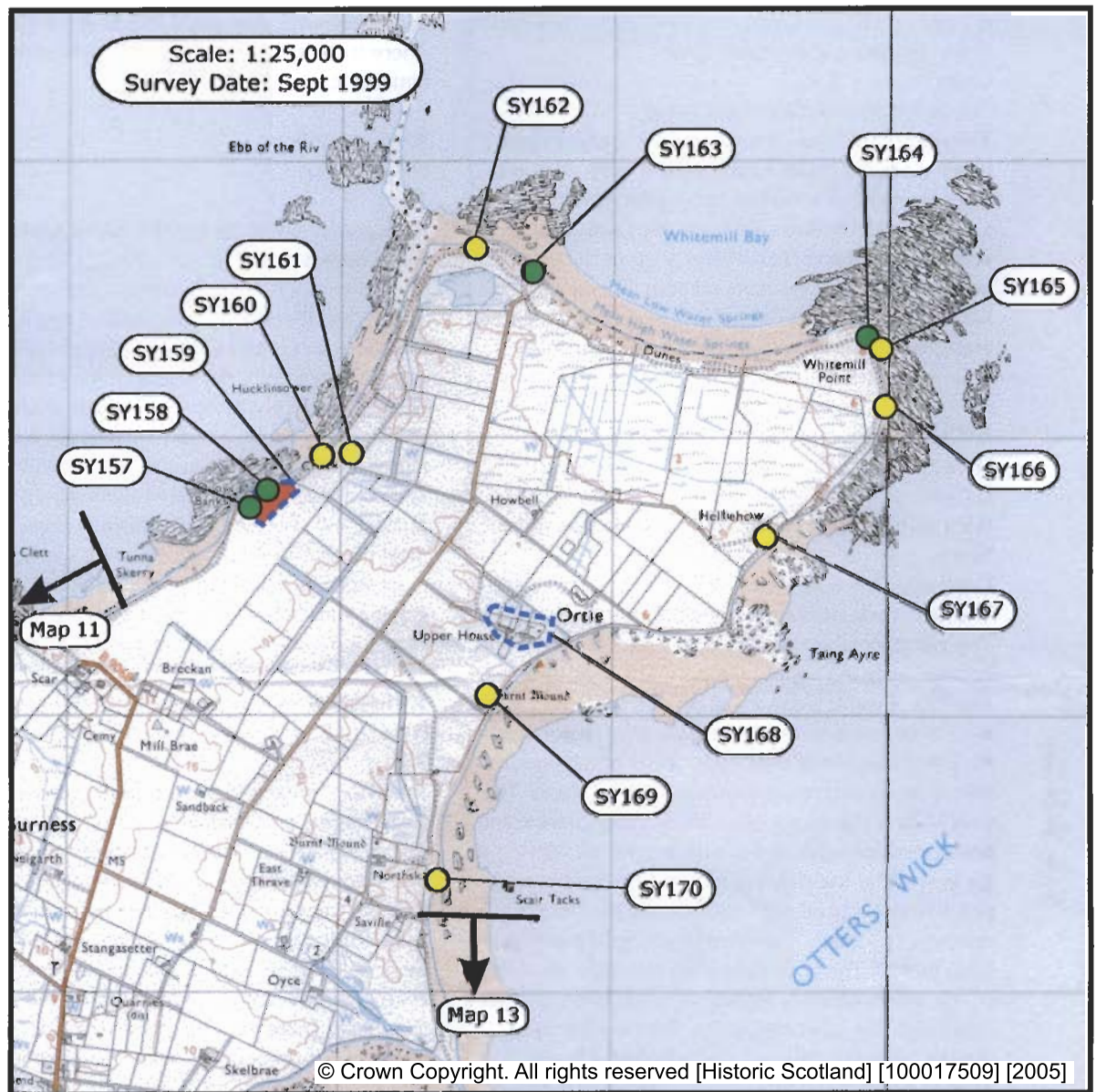
HY6868 4528
New Ortie
Village
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

SY169 HY64NE2

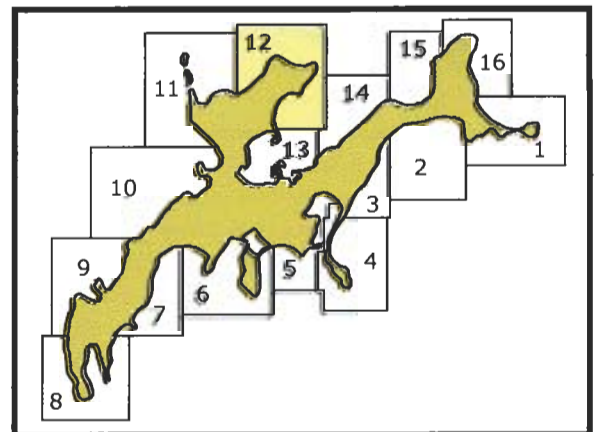
HY6853 4505
Ortie
Burnt mound
3rd-1st mill BC
Fair
Nil

SY170 HY64SE12

HY6836 4442
Northskaill
Mound & coastal exposure
?3rd-1st mill BC
Fair
Survey



- Built Heritage & Archaeology
- Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - + Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
 - Site complex



1. Scar

HY 674 455

0.5 km

Sandy foreshore with cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible

The sandy foreshore continues with a cobble storm beach along the upper foreshore and coast edge with some dumping of scrap just behind the dune ridge. Some deflation hollows are being filled with cobbles and sand by natural accretion. A few areas of buried soil can be seen in some of the dune sections. The hinterland has a sandy topsoil beyond the dune ridge with fenced grass fields. Soils are either sandy skeletal or freely drained podzol.

2. Quoy Banks

HY 679 459

0.7 km

Rock platform with cobble cover grading into storm beach.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible

The sandy foreshore grades onto a rock platform with cobbles along the upper foreshore. The rock to drift interface is visible along a well defined coast edge to the west of this section only. The coast edge section has <1.2 m of reddish till over rock. Some of this rock is turning to an incoherent saprolite in a few places. The rock to drift interface is covered by a large cobble and boulder storm beach to the east. An old sea wall lies to the east of the site which grades into the cobble storm beach where a small amount of cobble has been removed by loader. The hinterland is fenced with grass fields behind. The coast edge rises forming a small ridge of relic storm beach to the north so the hinterland lies a little below the coast edge ridge. Soils are thin over skeletal sands for the most part although a freely drained podzol is evident in section close to the Scar viking site.

3. Hucklinsower

HY 688 465

2.1 km

Sandy foreshore with some storm beach.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The sandy foreshore has a large storm beach on the western shore continuing from the previous section. Round the head the cobbles lessen and finally grade out along the northern shore. The coast edge is raised slightly with an accompanying low hinterland. The edge itself shows at least one buried soil lens at the point. A little further to the east from the point the dune ridges begin and continue to Whitemill Point. There are a series of deflation hollows to the rear of the dunes exposing in some cases a well built stone wall which

presumably runs along the coastline beneath the sand dunes for some way. The hinterland is lower than the coast edge with very sandy soils beyond the dune ridge. There is some fencing of grassed fields to the far hinterland.

4. Whitemill Point

HY 700 460

1 km

Rock platform with up to 80% cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The rock platform has some sand on the middle foreshore and cobbles along the upper foreshore. The cobbles represent a storm beach along most of the coast but most notably on the eastern shore where some of the cobbles extend 40 m back into the hinterland. The cobbles are overgrown with vegetation. The coast edge is well defined although is only 1 m high at most and very little in the way of a ridge and for the most part is flat. A relic storm beach can be seen in most sections. The hinterland is flat and down to rough grazing with only a few fences. Soils are freely drained sands, some showing signs of podzolisation.

5. Helliehow

HY 688 452

2.2 km

Sandy foreshore with some cobble cover.

Coast edge is predominantly < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The sandy foreshore has cobbles along the upper foreshore and constitute a storm beach around Taing Ayre. The coast edge becomes less well defined around by Ortie where a ridge of sand dunes lies up against the coast edge with some vegetation along the sandy upper foreshore. There has been some extraction of sand from the dunes south of Ortie. The coast edge rises to c 5 m at Northskaw. The hinterland is fairly flat apart from the dunes south of Ortie with fenced grass fields. Soils are freely drained skeletal sands and sandy podzol with a small areas of imperfectly drained gley to the far hinterland.



Foreshore

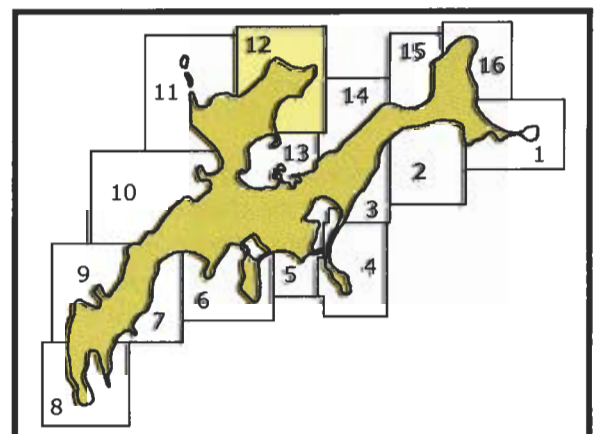
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



1. Scar

HY 675 455

0.55 km

Accreting to Stable

Although there is some localised erosion of the dune ridge to the west most of this section has sand accretion along the upper foreshore and coast edge. There is also an accretion of cobbles to the north east in the form of a long storm beach on the upper foreshore.

2. Scar Site

HY 677 458

0.2 km

Eroding to Stable

There is a buried soil seen in the sandy section to the west. The section ends as the coast edge becomes stable at the scar monument.

3. Crook

HY 682 462

1.1 km

Stable

A large storm beach runs along the mid and upper foreshore with a stable coast edge and hinterland. There is some evidence that small amounts of cobble have been removed from the storm beach.

4. Whitemill Bay

HY 690 464

1.53 km

Eroding to Stable

There is erosion of the coast edge in some areas and also parts of the sandy coast ridge have been eroded by wind leaving deflation hollows and revealing a buried wall, more to the centre and east of the bay. The sand has accreted to < 1 m in depth over parts of the wall but there is very little evidence that any substantial accretion is taking place at the present time.

5. Whitemill Point

HY 699 459

1.3 km

Stable

Apart from a solitary dune or hillock at the Whitemill Point the coast edge has only a small lip and no dune ridge. There is evidence of a past storm beach accretion but both coast edge and hinterland are now stable. There is very localised erosion of a farm mound at Helliehow.

6. Taing of Ayre

HY 694 453

0.35 km

Accreting

There is accretion of sand along the upper foreshore and coast edge along this section with more shingle on the upper foreshore at the point itself.

7. Ortie

HY 689 452

0.4 km

Accreting to Stable

There is less accretion towards Ortie yet it still persists to a lesser degree than the previous section.

8. Upper House

HY 686 451

0.25 km

Accreting

The accretion of sand increases again to the west of Ortie. Much of the sand is being trapped in the dune ridge. There has been some extraction of sand within the ridge yet much of this is now being in filled with wind blown sand.

9. Burial Mound

HY 684 448

0.4 km

Accreting and Eroding

There are some deflation hollows gouged out at and behind the coast edge with accretion of sands in a few areas. The accretion becomes less obvious to the south of the section.

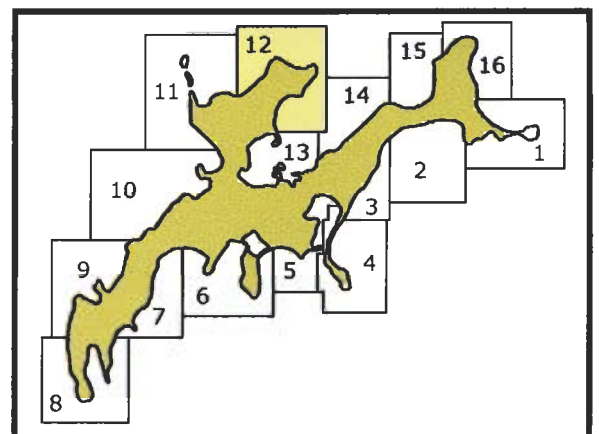
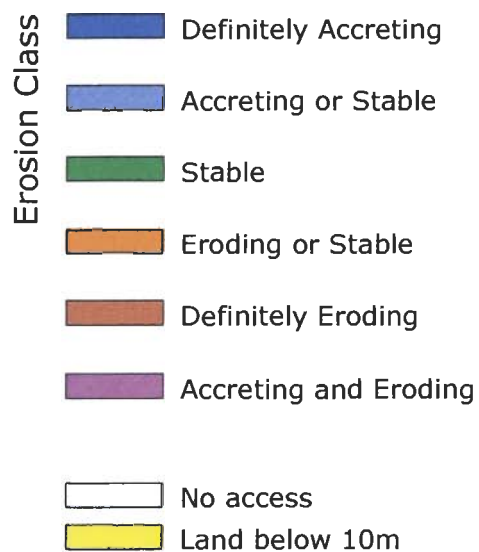
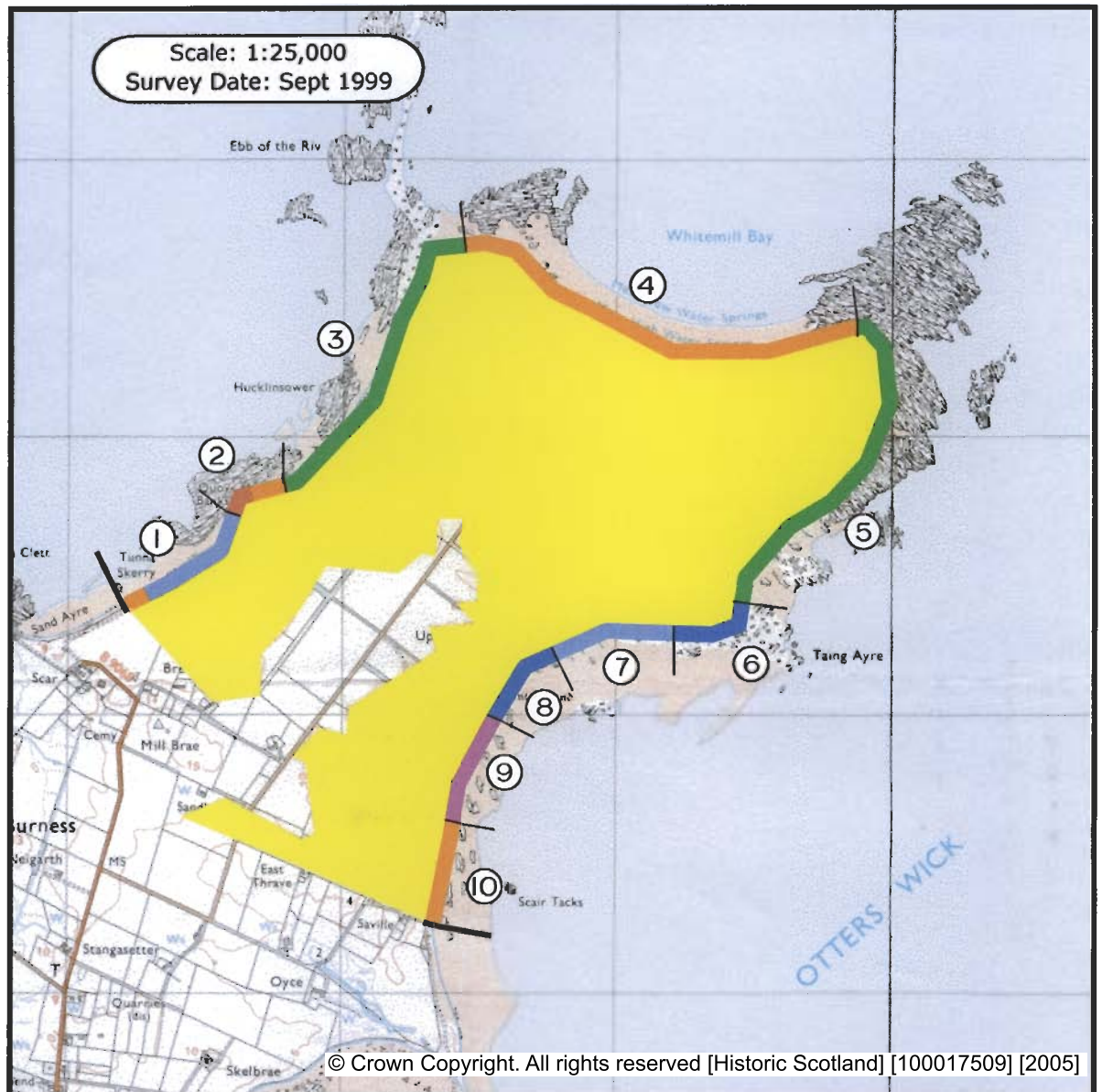
10. Northskaw

HY 683 444

0.45 km

Eroding to Stable

Most erosion is due to marine action.



Map 13: Northskaill to Cleat

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section progresses around the inner coast of Otter's Wick. Here, the sheltered, shallow tidal waters are fringed by sandy beaches. The dune system does not extend much past Lama Ness and from here, the coast edge is generally formed from low, grassy banks. Around the bay to Cleat, the hinterland is divided into a regular pattern of small fields, mostly of pasture but with some arable and vegetable crops also in evidence. This area is quite well settled, by local standards, although most of the modern houses focus on the roads rather than the coast.

At Thorsness, three hitherto unreported probable burial mounds were identified by this survey (SY172). They are located close to a fourth mound which was previously noted. Old records state that an urn was recovered from a mound in this area; but it is unclear which, if any, of these mounds is referred to. The mounds are not at risk from coastal erosion, but they are suffering from cattle poaching.

A well-defined crescentic mound (SY174) located close to Quivals Loch is in good condition and is completely covered with turf. It is most likely to be a burnt mound, of which there are number in this area. Three burnt mounds have been recorded at Colligarth (SY177), for example, and several more are located outwith this map section in the hinterland between Cleat and Sellibister. A grassy mound at Russ Ness (SY175) may belong to this group, but could not be positively identified.

A large and very interesting site is located on top of a prominent rise on Colli Ness. Records indicate that this was formerly the site of a broch, over which a chapel and cemetery were built in later times. The remains were disturbed in recent times when the top of the rise was used by the military. Architectural fragments, which may derive from the earlier church, have however survived through being incorporated into the stone and concrete army building which currently occupies the summit. Furthermore, substantial masonry, seen in an exposure, suggests that a large structure and possibly a broch survives beneath the modern constructions.

A large grassy mound at Cleat, at the end of this map section, is likely to be a farm mound or settlement of extended duration. It extends beneath the modern road and is not currently eroding.

Geology and Geomorphology

The unit runs around the shallow bay of Otters Wick. A small vegetated sandy isthmus runs south from Saville to Lama Ness. The coast edge is well defined along the western and south shores although it rarely exceeds two metres in height. The coast edge is less well defined around the saltings and ayres of Mid Holm to the south east of the bay and only becomes more well defined from Point Nevin. The hinterland is fairly flat to gently sloping with fenced grassed fields. Soils are generally freely drained podzol for the most part with imperfectly to poorly drained salting areas to the south east.

Erosion

The inner bay of Otters Wick is generally stable with a few obvious points of erosion and accretion. The small bars and salting area to the south east is fairly stable with as much accretion as there is erosion. However most of this area is low lying and evidence suggests that much of the hinterland in this area is flooded during high tides.

SY171

HY6830 4420
Northskaill
Store & dwelling
18-20th C
Fair
Survey

SY172 HY64SE2

HY6723 4304
Thorsness
Probable burial mounds
3rd-1st mill BC
Poor
Survey

SY173 HY64SE53.00/.01

HY6705 4204
Quivals
Farmstead
18-20th C
Not seen
Nil

SY174 HY64SE40

HY6703 4186
Quivals Loch
Burnt mound
3rd-1st mill BC
Good
Monitor

SY175

HY6797 4174
Russ Ness
Mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor

SY176 HY64SE21

HY6850 4212
Colli Ness
Probable broch, chapel & cemetery
1st mill BC-1st mill AD
Fair/poor
Survey

SY177 HY64SE3

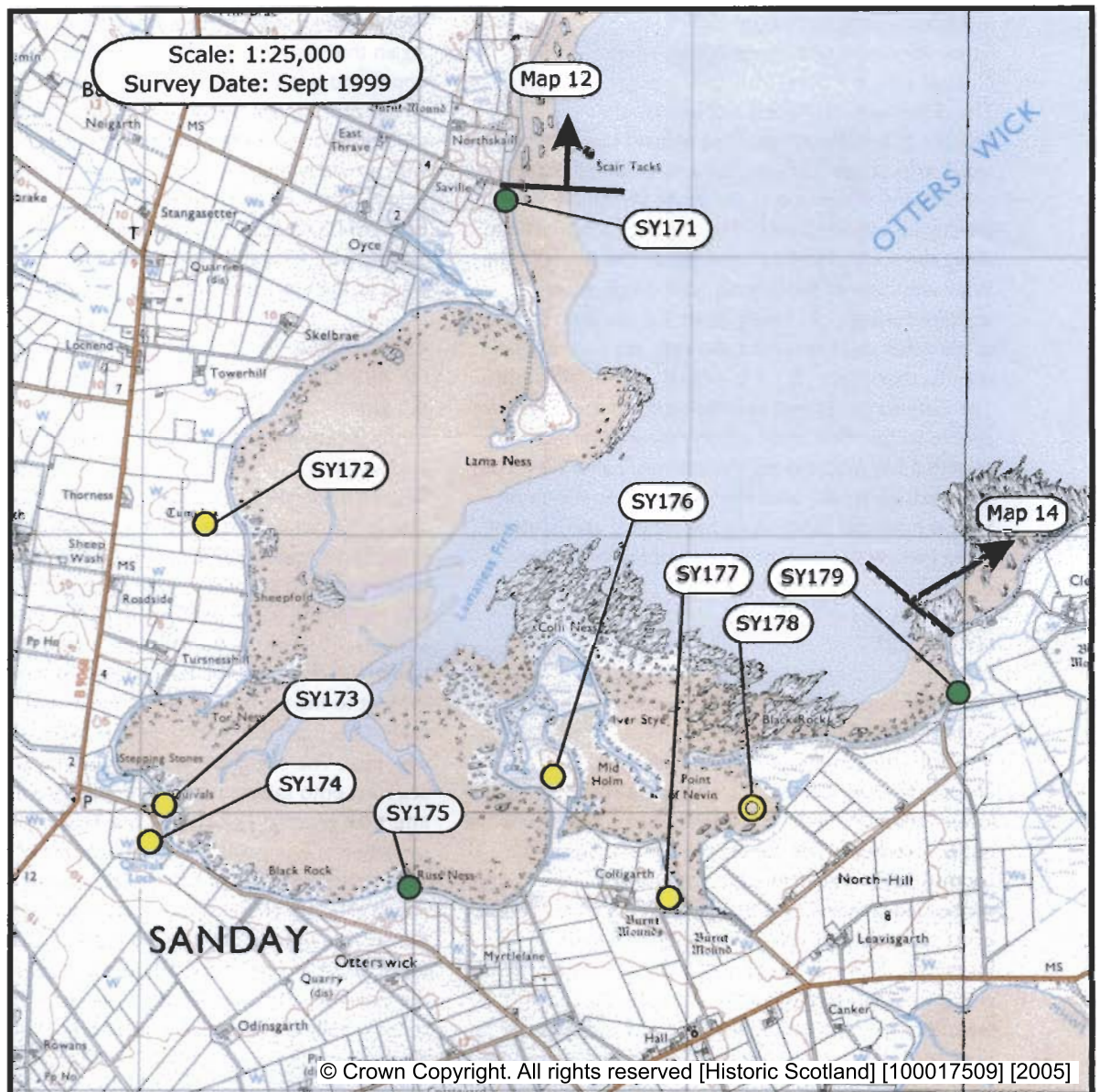
HY689 416
Colligarth
Burnt mounds
3rd-1st mill BC
Fair
Monitor

SY178

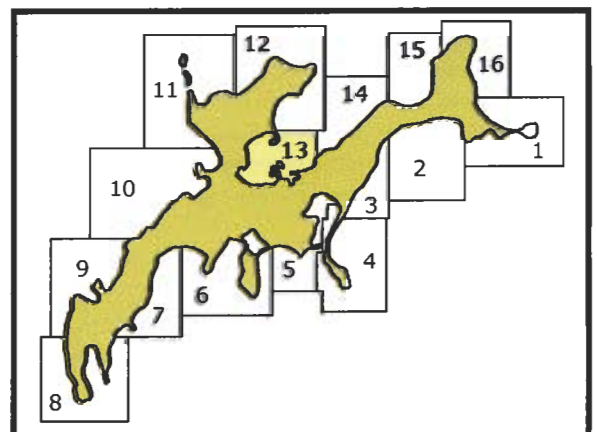
HY6920 4201
Cleat
Vessel: hulk
18-20th C
Fair/poor
Nil

SY179

HY6996 4243
Cleat
Possible farm/settlement mound
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Fair
Monitor



- Built Heritage & Archaeology**
- Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - + Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
 - Site complex



1. Saville

HY 685 433

1.6 km

Sandy foreshore with some cobble cover.

Coastal edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The sandy foreshore continues around Lama Ness. The small strip of sands linking Lama Ness with Sanday has cobbles and shingle along the upper foreshore almost making up a storm beach. The storm beach is definite along the south shore of Lama Ness. The sands to the inner west side of the isthmus have much more scattered shingle. At Saville there is a sea wall made up of old tyres and then rocks. An relic sea wall can be seen further south, 2 - 4 m onto the upper foreshore. The isthmus has almost been breached in one place with cobble throw. Peat at or slightly below HWM can be seen in a few places along the isthmus. Lama Ness has some cobble throw onto the hinterland to the south. Soils are skeletal sands along the isthmus and most of Lama Ness with freely drained podzol elsewhere.

2. Skelbrae (East)

HY 673 431

2.7 km

Sandy foreshore with shingle and cobble cover.

Coastal edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

The sandy foreshore has minor shingle cover along the lower foreshore with up to 90% cobble cover along the upper foreshore. The cobble cover increases to the south. The coastal edge is fairly well defined for most of the section. A small ayre lies at Tor Ness with a cobble cover increasing to over 70% along the upper foreshore. There is dumping of rubble to the north west of the isthmus with old cars along the upper foreshore to the south of Skelbrae and some rubble tip close to the tumulus. In most areas of the coastal edge a red till can be seen which is > 1 m to the north yet this changes to a buff colour to the south. Some small organic lenses of soil are apparent with some sections to the north. The hinterland is gently sloping for the most part with grassed fenced fields. Soils are freely drained podzol with more imperfectly drained podzol or gley to the south. A small area of salting lies to the extreme south of this section at Quivals where some fencing runs across the area.

3. Quivals

HY 677 416

1.9 km

Rock platform & sandy foreshore, cobble cover.

Coastal edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

The rock platform emerges at Quivals with the rock to drift interface visible. Up to 90% of the upper foreshore has cobble cover. There is also much scrap metal

around the farm area on the foreshore. The sandy foreshore then continues albeit under a cover of cobbles and shingle before the rock platform emerges. Again the cobble cover is still predominant over the upper and mid foreshore until the end of this section where more there is more sand along the lower and mid foreshore.. A sea wall lies along the coastal edge with a road running alongside for much of the bays length. There is some dumping of farm waste to the north of Myrtelane. The hinterland is flat to gently sloping with fenced grass fields to the west and stone walls to the east. Soils are imperfectly drained podzol.

4. Mid Holme

HY 685 426

4.5 km

Sandy foreshore and rock platform with shingle and cobble cover.

Coastal edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

The coastal edge meanders around the bulk of Mid Holm and then around an ayre back in towards a bay and meanders out to another ayre. The foreshore has cobbles or shingle in discrete areas with most along the upper foreshores of the two ayres. The rock platform is evident to the north east of Mid Holm and to the east side of the inner bay with a smaller exposure before the new pier. The edge itself is less well defined where the sea runs onto salting areas with small talards of intertidal grasses. The ayre at Iver Styne has been breached at one point with cobble cover of 40 to 60%. The hinterland is flat to moderately sloping and with rough grazing. There is also a stone wall at the start of the section with fencing around the rest apart from the ayres. A small rise of coastal edge to the east side of the inner bay shows at least 0.5 metres of buff till in section. Soils are imperfectly to poorly drained sandy gleys.

5. North Hill

HY 699 423

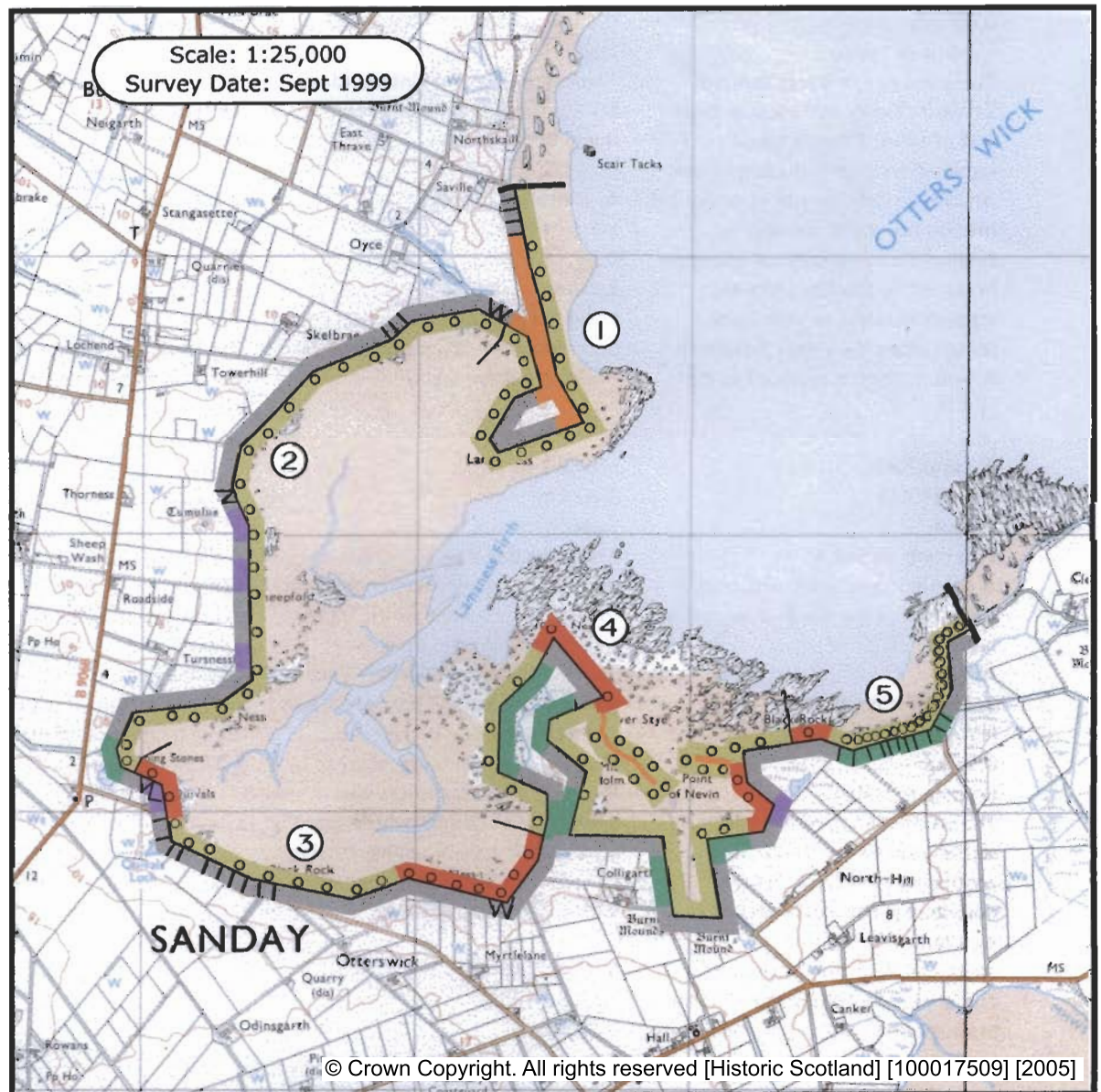
0.8 km

Sandy foreshore with storm beach.

Coastal edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The sandy foreshore has up to 90% cobble cover along the mid to upper foreshore and is of storm beach proportions. The cobble cover is slightly less to the east. To the east of the pier the coastal edge is rather like a made up embankment that is now vegetated and separates the bay from a wet hinterland. To the east of the embankment a sea wall runs below along side a road. The hinterland is made up of wet salting along the middle of the bay with grassed fenced fields on each side. The soils are imperfectly drained podzol on each side of the waterlogged salting.



Foreshore

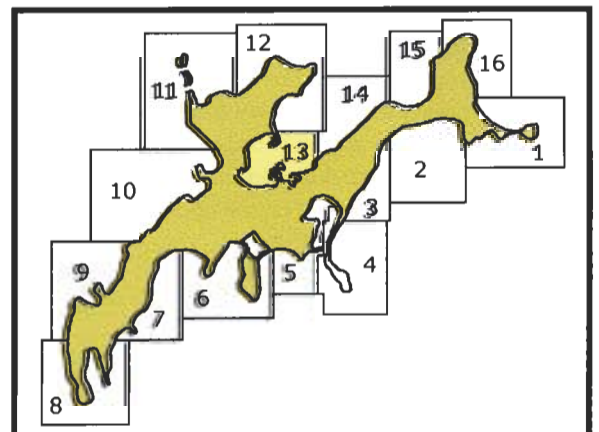
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



1. Saville
HY 684 439
0.85 km
Eroding to Stable
There are sea defences around Saville including one unusual small wall of tyres. There is some localised erosion of the sand ridge. An old sea defence wall now lies 2-4 m onto the upper foreshore. Further S a sandy isthmus has been breached by the sea. Here the vegetation is sparse with some shingle along the upper foreshore. A peat horizon is exposed at the HWM.

2. Lama Ness
HY 684 433
0.2 km
Accreting to Stable
A cobble storm beach is accreting along part of the south shore of the Ness.

3. Lama Ness (West)
HY 684 435
0.55 km
Eroding to Stable
The coast edge generally has more stable areas to the S and more erosion to the N. The breach described in the Saville section is apparent, where there is a continuation of the exposed peat. The erosion becomes worse to the N where some tipping of rubble has acted as a sea defence.

4. Skelbrae
HY 678 437
1.11 km
Eroding to Stable
There is much more stability to this section than the last. Much of the coast edge erosion lies to the centre and west. Most erosion is localised and probably quite slow since fences have not been renewed recently. There is a small sea wall to the east side of the section with no apparent erosion around the sides. A number of old cars also lie on the upper foreshore to the SW.

5. Tumulus
HY 674 430
0.6 km
Stable
The coast edge and hinterland are stable. There is a minor rubble dump at the coast.

6. Sheepfold (South)
HY 674 425
0.23 km
Eroding to Stable
Localised erosion of the coast edge becomes more apparent towards the south of the section.

7. Tor Ness
HY 680 417
3.62 km
Stable
The inner bay is stable. There is accretion of shingle and cobbles on the upper foreshore which appears to be extending the small ayre. Some of the coast edge has a sea wall defence around part of Quivals and along the side of the road. There is some dumping of scrap by the farm. The edge is less well defined W of Quivals where there is a very small area of salting. Further E there is a lower coast edge with salting to the extreme NE.

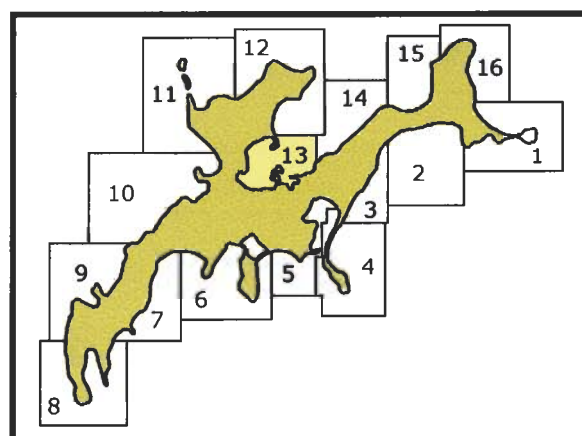
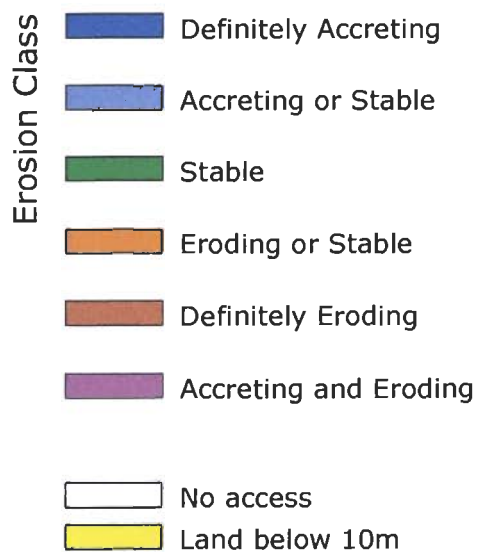
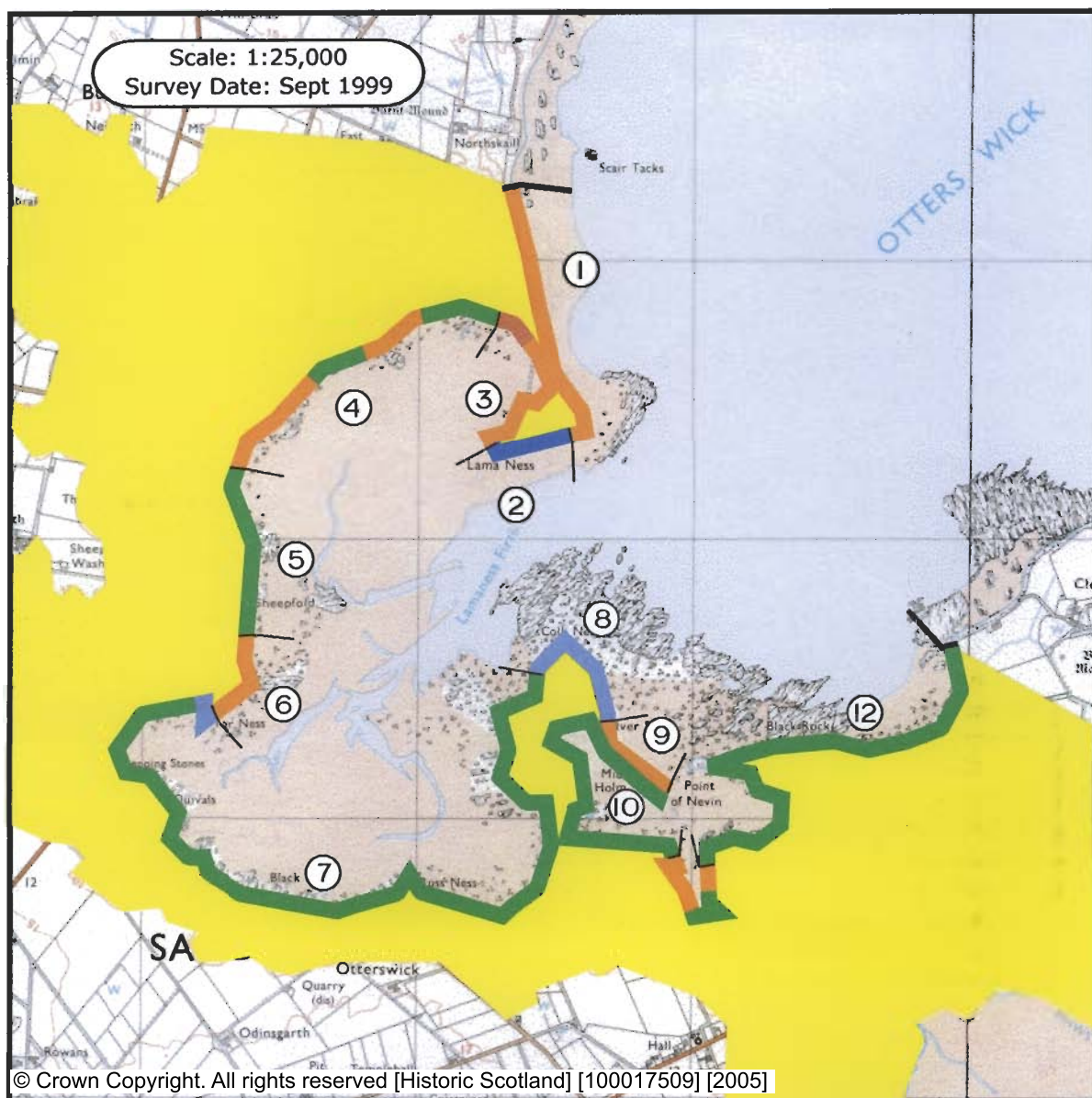
8. Colli Ness
HY 686 425
0.29 km
Accreting to Stable
Shingle is accreting along the upper foreshore with some marine grasses now colonizing small areas in front of the coast edge.

9. Iver Sty
HY 688 422
0.34 km
Eroding to Stable
There is localised erosion of the coast edge particularly at the point where Iver Sty is separated from Colli Ness.

10. Mid Holm
HY 686 421
1.32 km
Stable
Although salting dominates the hinterland the coast edge appears to be stable.

11. Colligarth
HY 690 416
0.4 km
Eroding to Stable
The salting areas on both sides of this small inlet appear to be eroding, particularly the talards along the coast edge and may be due to sheep as much as marine erosion.

12. Point of Nevin
HY 694 422
1.95 km
Stable
A new pier at Black Rock has added stability to the coast edge. An embankment, (? artificial), is well vegetated. A small sea wall also runs along by the side of the road to the E of this section.



Map 14: Cleat to Westayre Loch

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section advances along the west-facing shore of Otters Wick. The coastline is generally low-lying with a mixture of sandy and rocky shore. Small, regularly spaced fields of pasture and arable land run up to the coast edge. Settlement is sparse and set back from the coast. From Westayre Loch, at the end of this section, the land is unenclosed and more rough and uneven.

A probable burial cairn (SY180) is exposed in the coast section at Cleat. Previously, a cist was noted here but new exposures have revealed that the cist was surrounded by a stony mound and may have had an outer stone kerb. Layers of ashy soil are sealed beneath the mound and an old ground surface, reddened by burning, is exposed in section. It is possible that these deposits are the result of in-situ burning and possibly of a pyre area.

A mound (SY181) known as Butter Knowe and located at some remove from the coast may represent another burial mound or may, as previous records prefer, be a burnt mound. As noted in the Introduction to Map 13, a group of burnt mounds are concentrated in this area between Quivals Loch and Sellibister.

At Peterkirk, an elongated mound which stands close to the shore has been cut by erosion. The exposed deposits include sections of coursed masonry, shell midden and layers of organic soil, much as might be seen in a typical 'farm mound'. It is traditionally said to be the site of a broch upon which a chapel was built in later times. There is now little evidence to suggest that either type of structure is represented by the surviving remains. Other probable farm mounds in this area include the Knowe of Scartan (SY183), which is eroding, and the large mound which underlies the present farmstead at Seater (SY184).

Geology and Geomorphology

There is a mixture of sandy foreshore over rock platform with cobble cover some of which constitute storm beaches. The hinterland has grassed fields almost all of which are fenced to the coast edge. There are at least two places with buried soils are evident in section. The hinterland is flat or has gentle slopes with imperfectly to freely drained podzol.

Erosion

Most of this unit tends to be featureless with the coast line delineated only by changes in erosion class.

SY180 HY74SW18

HY7039 4302

Cleat

Coastal exposure: probable burial cairn

?3rd-1st mill BC

Fair/poor

Survey

SY181 HY74SW3

HY7096 4315

Butter Knowe

Burnt Mound

3rd-1st mill BC

Good

Nil

SY182 HY74SW7

HY7136 4363

Peterkirk

Mound & coastal exposure

1st mill BC- 1st AD/10-14thC

Fair/poor

Monitor

SY183 HY74SW2

HY7162 4383

Knowe of Scartan

Mound & coastal exposure

Unknown: ?prehistoric

Fair/poor

Monitor

SY184 HY74SW17/20/26

HY719 441

Seater

Farmstead, settlement mound & jetty

18-20th C

Good/poor

Monitor

SY185

HY7208 4432

Seater

Stone-capped drain

18-20th C

Good

Nil

SY186

HY7244 4462

Westayre Loch

Store and enclosures

18-20th C

Fair

Nil

SY187

HY7256 4466

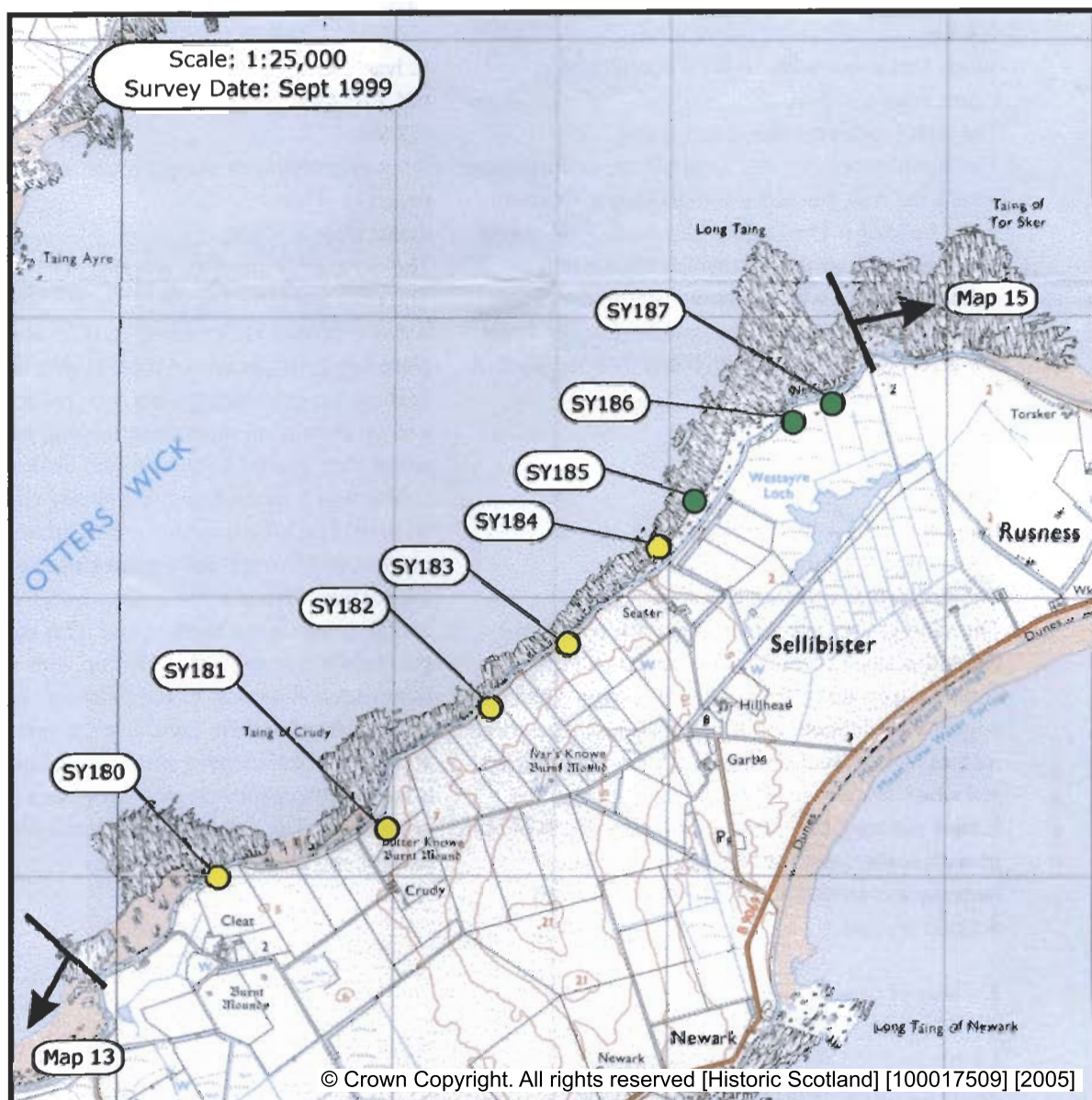
Westayre Loch

Kelp drying walls

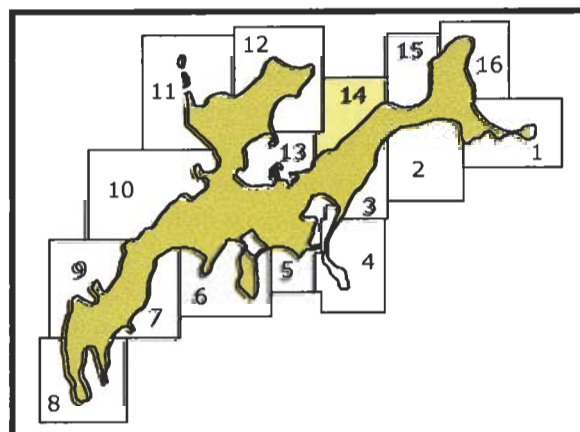
18-20th C

Fair

Nil



- Built Heritage & Archaeology**
- Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - + Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
 - Site complex



1. Cleat

HY 702 428

0.6 km

Sandy foreshore with 50-80% cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The sandy foreshore has a cobble upper foreshore with a sea wall, boulders and gabions in front of some buildings. The cobble foreshore grades into a storm beach to the east which has a berm of cobbles most of which is now vegetated. A road runs along side most of the coast edge. The fields are grassed and fenced with freely drained podzol.

2. Cleat (East)

HY 704 430

0.4 km

Rock platform with some cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The sand grades away from the rock platform along this small section which has up to 60% cobble cover along the upper foreshore. The coast edge is well defined and is generally less than three metres high. A section shows a 5 cm thick buried soil which lies under 30 cm of sandy loam. The buried soil itself lies over a one metre depth of buff till with some saprolite below the till. The hinterland is fenced and grassed over a freely drained podzol.

3. Taing of Crudy

HY 710 434

1 km

Sandy foreshore with some cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The sandy foreshore has up to 60% cobble cover along the upper foreshore to the west of this section and generally grades out to less than 30% to the east beyond an old jetty. There is also a localised area of cobbles on the east side of the jetty. The coast edge is slightly raised above the hinterland at the beginning of this section with a good short sea defence wall a little further east. There is also some tipping of farm waste further east. The till increases in depth from the west at 15 cm depth to approximately one metre deep to the east. A saprolite lies beneath most of the till. The hinterland has fenced and walled grass fields with an underlying freely to imperfectly drained

podzol. The slightly wetter land is to the north east.

4. Ivar's Knowe

HY 720 441

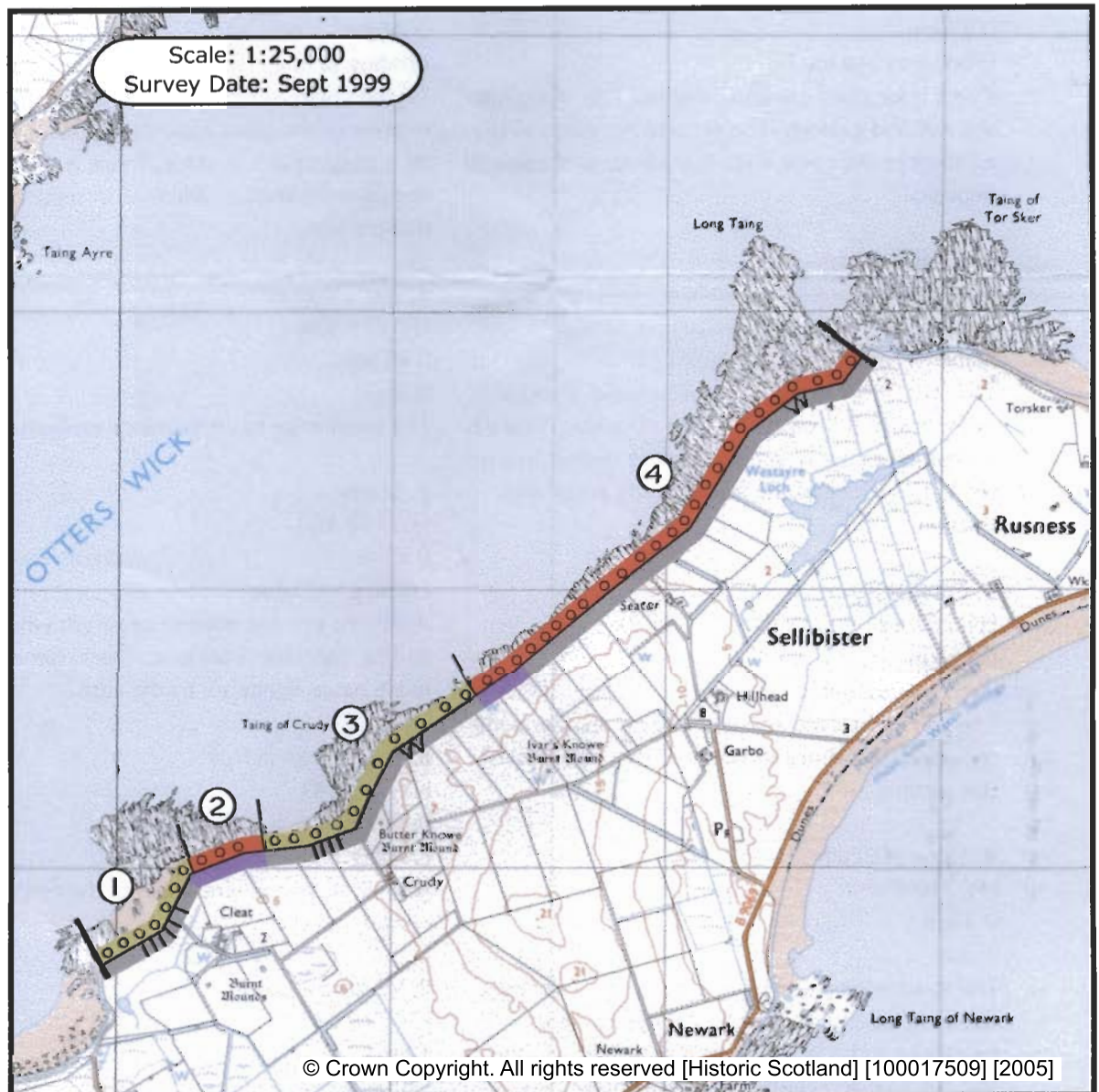
1.7 km

Rock platform with shingle cover and storm beach.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

The rock platform has more shingle cover than the last section and increases up to 60% cover in places. A storm beach of cobbles also lies below Seater. Although designated rock platform there is a large amount of sand along the mid foreshore which then grades to shingle past Seater then to cobble and a storm beach and finally runs out into an ayre. The ayre is made up of cobble and runs out to Long Taing from a point close to the east of the section. There is some disturbance of the cobble cover at the eastern end. The coast edge is generally < 3 m with a midden tip with shell and bones seen in section to the extreme west of the section. A relic storm beach can be seen in section at Seater which forms a small ridge. The hinterland is fairly flat to gently sloping with stone and fenced grass fields. The soils are imperfectly drained podzol and gley.



Foreshore

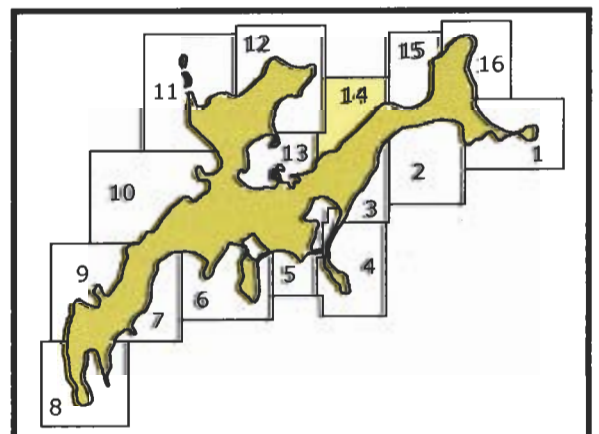
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



1. Cleat

HY 701 426

0.35 km

Eroding to Stable

There is localised erosion on either side of a small sea wall and gabions. The erosion increases to the east where the coast edge is made up of thicker till deposits.

2. Cleat (North)

HY 704 430

0.6 km

Stable

The coast edge becomes stable around the head even though it drops to < 2 m to the east. There is a small exposure with buried soil in section to the west. This is one of the few localised areas with erosion.

3. Butter Knowe

HY 707 431

0.15 km

Accreting to Stable

The accretion is minimal with mostly shingle along the upper foreshore to both the east and west of this section.

4. Taing of Crudy

HY 710 433

0.3 km

Stable

The coast edge is stable. A small berm of cobbles has accreted to the west on the mid to upper foreshore and is presumably a seasonal variation and not true accretion.

5. Taing of Crudy (North)

HY 711 435

0.25 km

Eroding to Stable

To the north east of the point there is some erosion of the coast edge and appears where the till is deepest at 1 m thick. There is also some erosion of a black midden soil in section at the far eastern side.

6. Ivar's Knowe

HY 714 436

0.65 km

Stable

The coast edge has only minor erosion.

7. Seater

HY 718 440

0.25 km

Eroding to Stable

Again the erosion is more apparent where the till and/or saprolite is thickest. The erosion becomes much more significant to the east.

8. Seater (North)

HY 720 441

0.15 km

Eroding

A small section where much of the coast edge is eroding severely.

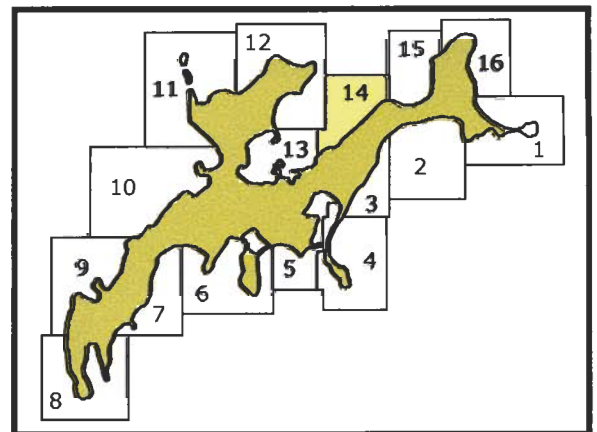
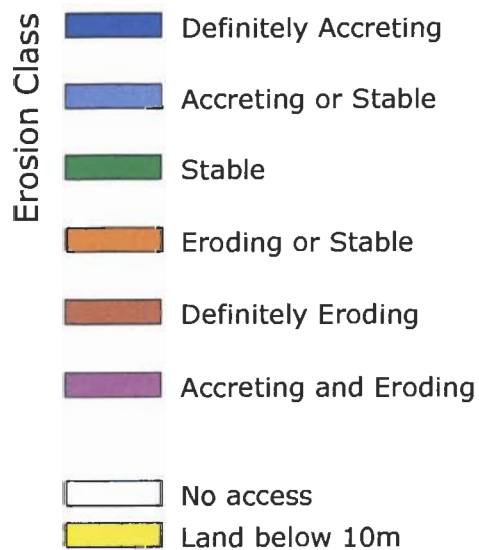
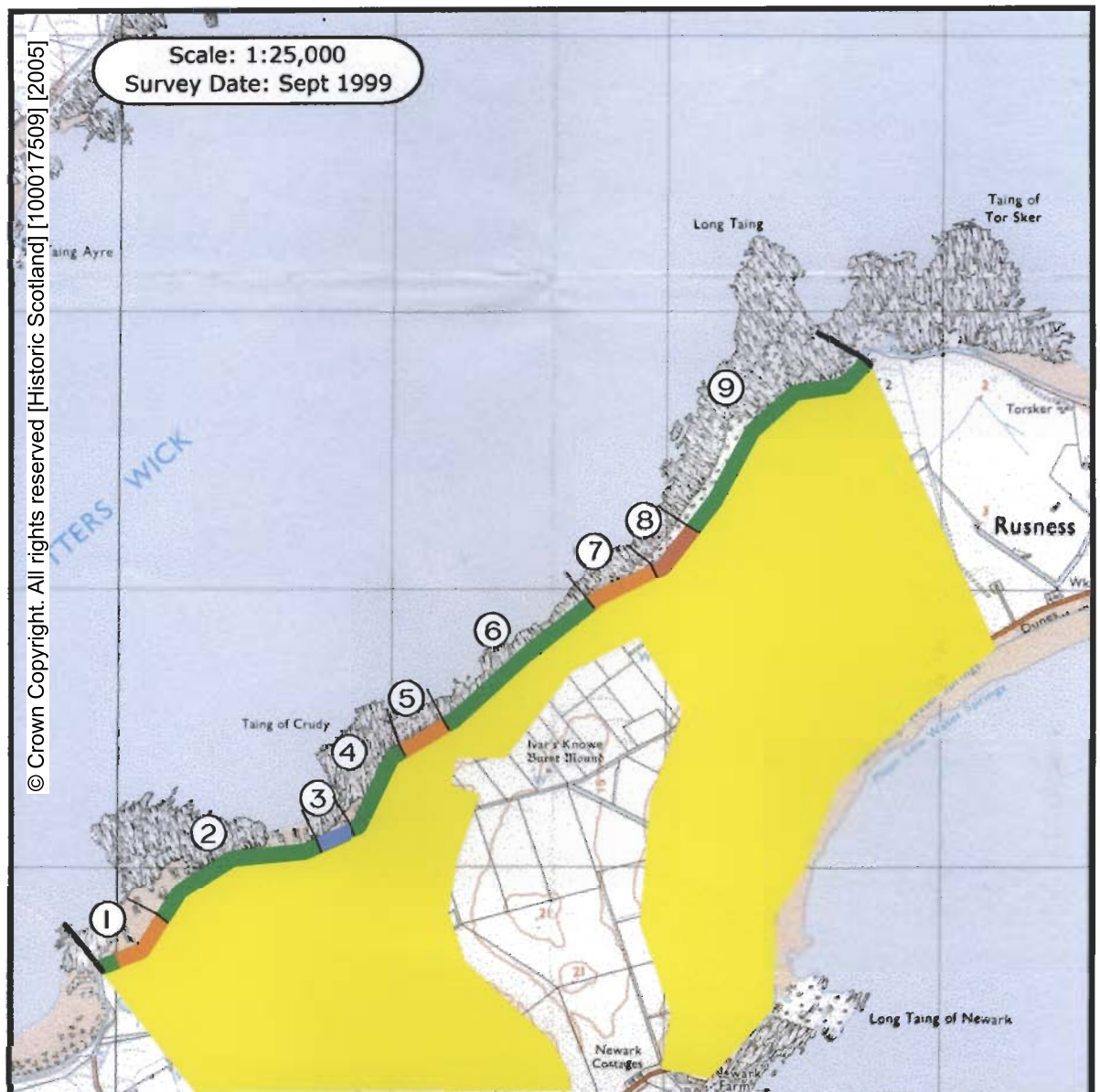
9. Westayre Loch

HY 724 447

1 km

Stable

Both coast edge and hinterland are stable. There is minor disturbance of cobble at the coast edge.



Map 15: Westayre Loch to Tofts Ness

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section commences at a sharp headland which lies to the north of Westayre Loch. It extends into the Bay of Sandquoy, where the long sandy beach is bordered by dunes and there are quantities of unconsolidated, drifting sand. Along the east side of the bay to Tofts and beyond, the coast becomes progressively more rugged and less sandy. Over most of this area, the hinterland comprises large open areas of pasture land which are prone to sporadic blow-outs and coverage by drifting sand. From How, on the east side of the Bay of Sand Quoy onwards to Tofts, there are smaller more regular fields in the hinterland and bordering North Loch. The little modern settlement present within this section lies to the northeast of the area.

At Taing of Tor Sker, a pool set into the shingle bar in the intertidal area may have been artificially deepened for use as a fish trap (SY188). It lies close to the 19th C farm buildings at Torsker (SY189). This abandoned farmstead is slowly being inundated with drifting sand; stonework visible in a short section on the coast is probably a feature of recent date which has become buried beneath the sand rather than evidence of earlier activity.

Stonework exposed in the coast section at Sandquoy (SY190) may be part of a prehistoric burial mound or house. Old records describe how a structure which was opened and demolished in this area had three compartments and contained human skulls. While it has been classified as a possible souterrain, the description is more suitable to a chambered cairn or burial mound with multiple cists. It is unlikely that much of this site survives.

The most substantial indication of earlier activity in this area is provided by the massive farm mound which underlies the present farmstead at Tofts. This mound, which measures at least 100m in diameter extends to the coast edge and is eroding. The exposed deposits, which include many interleaving layers of peatash and highly organic soil with shell, bone and flint, are up to 2m thick. There were few diagnostic finds among the deposits and of those that were seen, all relate to the latest period of deposition, probably in the 19th C.

Geology and Geomorphology

The unit has the large sandy Bay of Sandquoy to the centre with rock platform and storm beaches at either end. The hinterland has fenced grass fields with sand dunes behind the bay. Much of the soils are poorly drained gleys and water logged sandy soils to the far hinterland behind the dunes. The dune ridge is vegetated overlying freely drained skeletal sands.

Erosion

The Bay of Sandquoy is a generally stable to accreting coastal edge of sand dune ridge. Further north where the rock platform emerges there is a large cobble storm beach. Although much of this is stable there are a few areas where erosion is taking place.

SY188

HY7273 4484
Taing of Tor Sker
Possible fish trap
Unknown
Fair
Survey

SY189

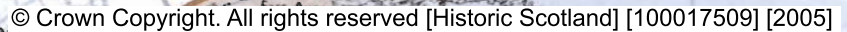
HY7342 4470
Torsker
Farmstead & coastal exposure
18-20th C
Fair/poor
Nil

SY190 HY74NW3

HY7467 4532
Sandquoy
Coastal exposure & alleged souterrain
?3rd-1st mill BC
Poor
Monitor

SY191 HY74NW5

HY7475 4615
Tofts
Mound and coastal exposure
Unknown: ?prehistoric
Good
Monitor



-
- A map of the Japanese archipelago, including Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu. The map is divided into 16 numbered regions. Region 15, located in the northern part of Honshu, is highlighted in yellow.

1. Long Taing

HY 730 448

0.6 km

A rock platform with storm beach.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The rock platform has a cobbled storm beach along the mid to upper foreshore which forms a lip at the coast edge. Soils are poorly to imperfectly drained gleys with fenced grassed fields.

2. Bay of Sandquoy

HY 740 447

1.9 km

Sandy foreshore with areas of cobble.

Coast edge is > 5 m on the west side only.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

This sweeping bay is dominated by the large expanse of sandy foreshore. There are small areas of cobble cover along the upper foreshore. This cover extends 100 m from the west side before grading out and reappears briefly towards the centre then again to the east of centre where a 40% cover of the upper foreshore grades into a storm beach with one berm which finally grades into cobble cover before the east side of this section. The coast edge is > 5 m along the west side due to the height of the sand dunes. There is some deflation of the dunes especially to the centre where the coast edge drops to < 5 m. The dunes form a ridge with a level hinterland beyond. Some of the dune ridge is fenced and incorporated into the fields beyond. Soils are freely drained sands with some gleys and waterlogged soils to the far hinterland. A small mound lies close to Sandquoy and then a stone wall lies around the house.

3. Sandquoy

HY 747 460

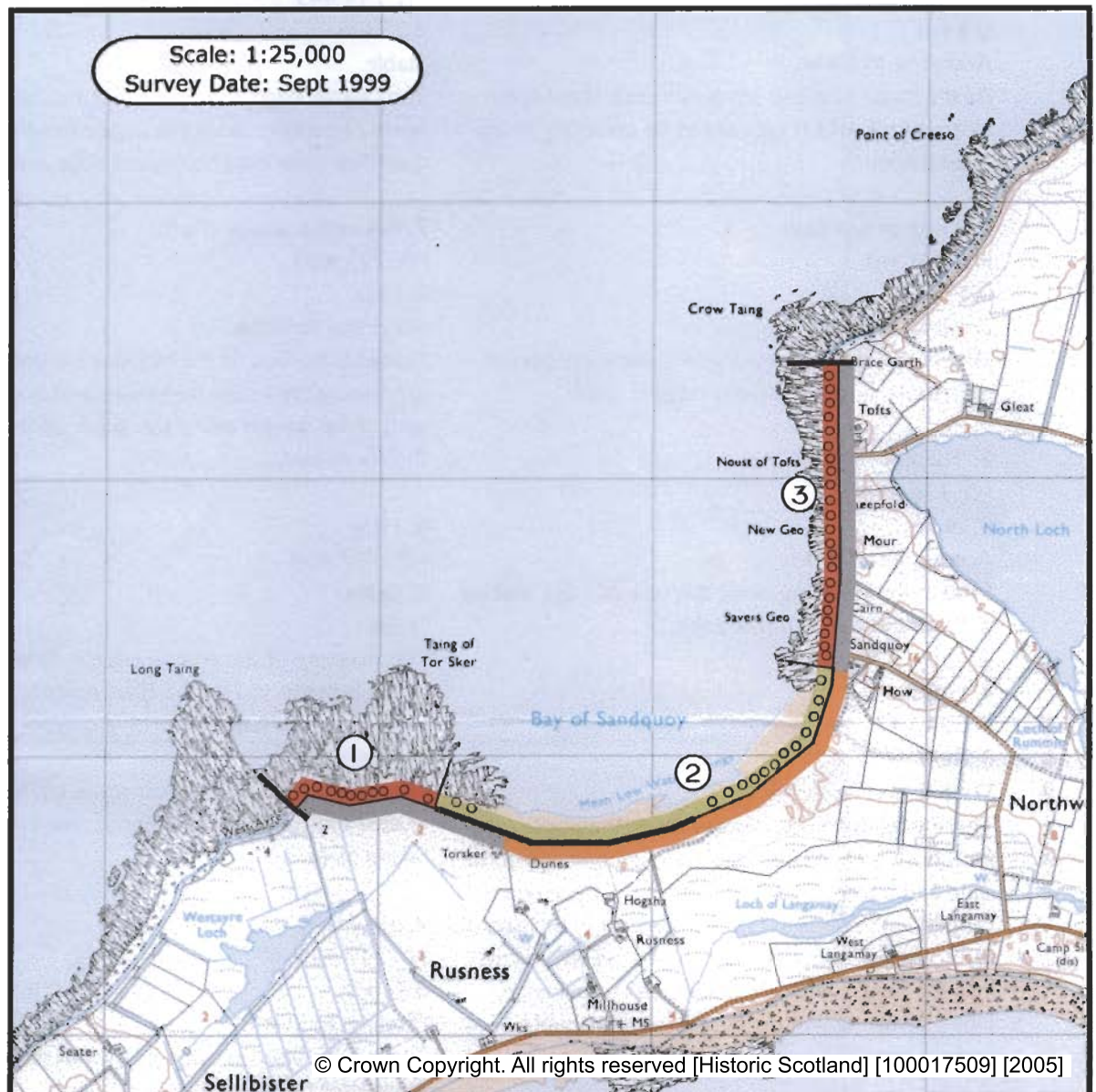
1.2 km

Rock platform with storm beach.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The rock platform has a large storm beach which lies the length of this section. A berm is more evident past the farm at Tofts. The coast edge has a road running along side from Sandquoy to Tofts. Some of the cobble of the storm beach lies up against the road in places. At Tofts there is some tipping of farm waste used as sea defence. Fields are grassed and generally have stone walls to the coast side. Soils are freely drained sandy podzol.



Foreshore

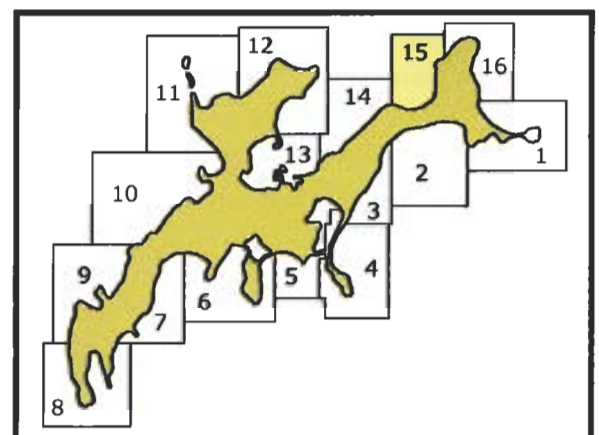
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance



1. Long Taing

HY 729 449

0.4 km

Accreting to Stable

As the sands begin to cover the rock there is a storm beach which appears to be accreting at the coastal edge.

2. Taing of Tor Sker

HY 732 448

0.41km

Eroding to Stable

Where the dunes begin there is some erosion of the coastal edge. The dune ridge is stable.

3. Torsker

HY 736 446

0.54 km

Accreting to Stable

Sand is accumulating along the coastal edge making a rather indistinct coastal edge.

4. Hogsha

HY 740 47

0.2 km

Eroding and Accreting

There is an accretion of sand along the upper foreshore and coastal edge making up an apron of sand and covering older vegetation. The apron is capped with cobbles. There is also some erosion of the coast line above the apron of sand which cuts into the dune making up a definite coastal edge. Due to wave action the cobbles are probably undercutting the sand dune edge.

5. Bay of Sandquoy (West)

HY 742 447

0.2 km

Eroding to Stable

There is some erosion of the coastal edge as described in the previous section although most erosion is due to deflation of the dunes just beyond the coastal edge on the hinterland side of the dune ridge.

6. Bay of Sandquoy (Centre)

HY 744 449

0.23 km

Stable

The coastal edge and hinterland are stable with a berm of cobbles along the upper foreshore which does not contribute to coastal edge erosion.

7. Bay of Sandquoy (East)

HY 745 450

0.2 km

Accreting to Stable

Towards the end of the bay there is accretion of sand along the upper foreshore and coastal edge with some shingle along the upper foreshore to the north east.

8. How

HY 747 454

0.75 km

Stable

The majority of the coastal edge is stable, much of which is protected by the road running alongside the edge and a bank of thrown cobbles and boulders. There is one point where erosion stands out. This is a small knoll just south of How that lies against the coastal edge where some erosion is taking place.

9. New Geo

HY 747 459

0.16 km

Eroding to Stable

There is localised erosion of the coastal edge by the side of the road.

10. Noust of Tofts

HY 747 461

0.15 km

Eroding

A small portion of coastal edge is eroding in front of the farm. Farm waste and rubble has been added to the edge as a form of defence.

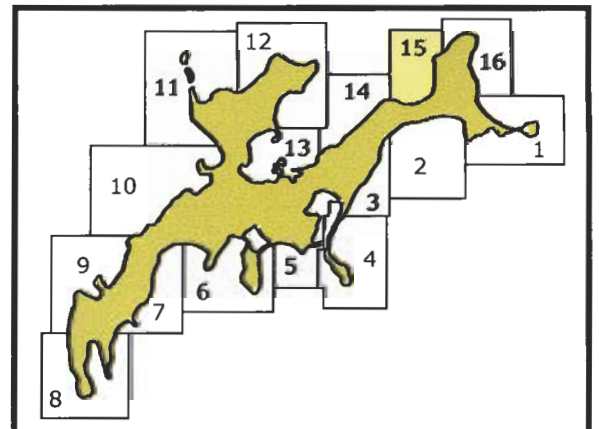
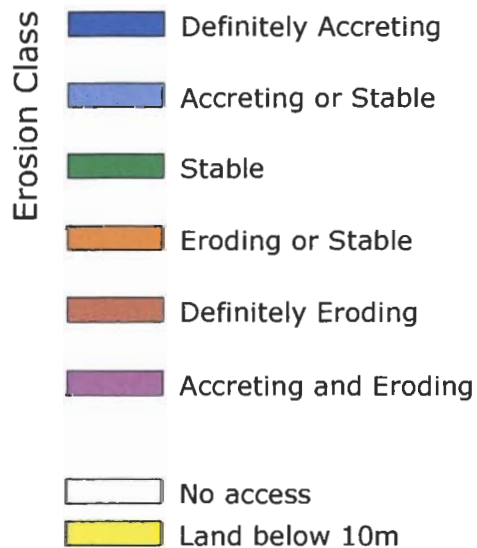
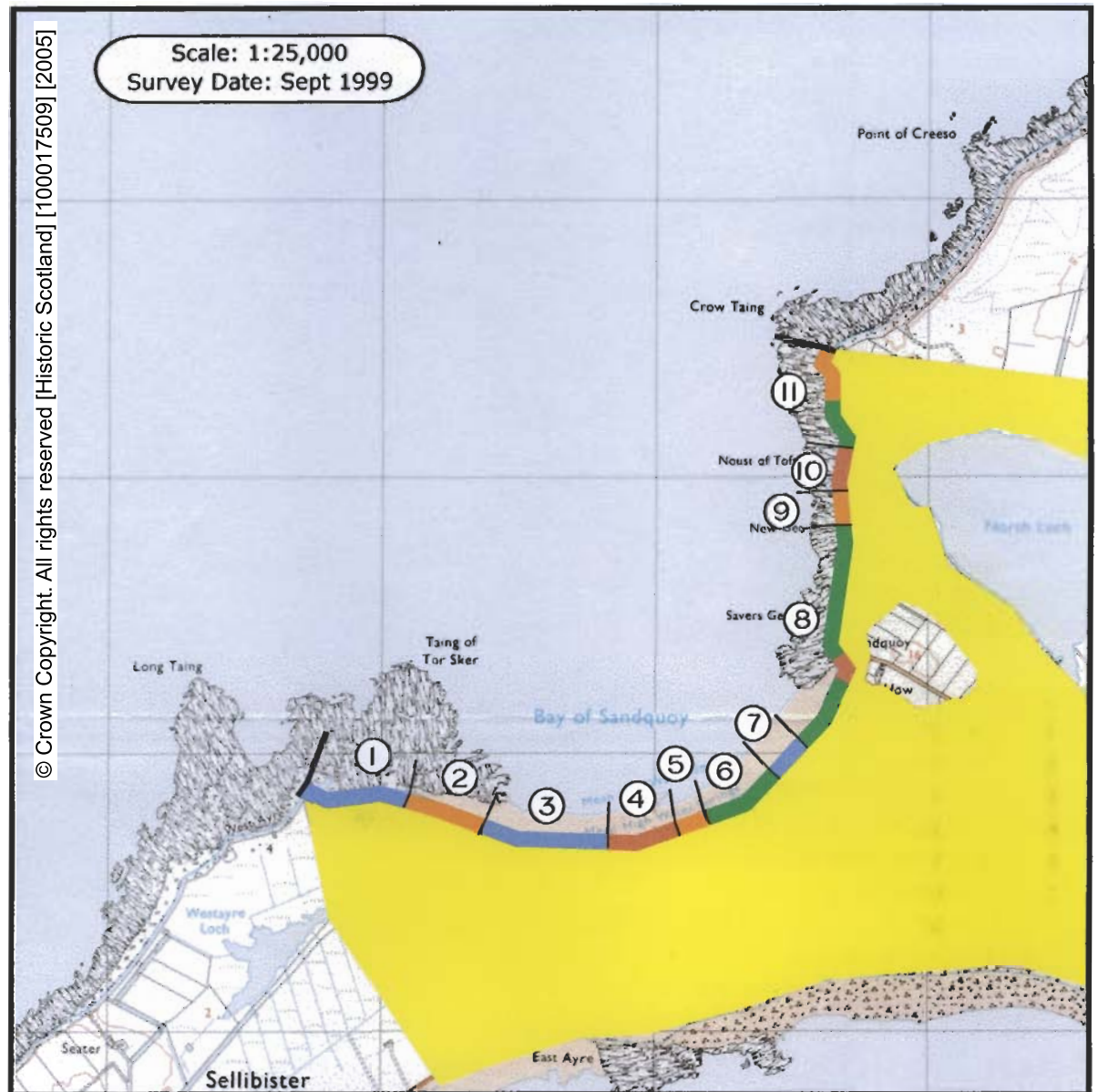
11. Tofts

HY 747 463

0.4 km

Eroding to Stable

The coastal edge is stable to the south with increasing erosion of the coastal edge to the north and around Crow Taing.



Map 16: Tofts Ness to Scuthvie Bay

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section extends around the head of Tofts Ness, along a rocky shore faced with sandy banks. It progresses along the east-facing shore into the small Bay of Sowerdie, on to Hine Greenie and finally into Scuthvie Bay. There is no modern settlement in this area and much of the hinterland is open rough pasture prone to localised deflation and coverage by drifting sand.

A very extensive area of archaeological remains has been recorded at Tofts Ness. Several hundred small mounds and cairns are located in close association with a complex series of banks, enclosures and several larger mounds. While the majority of the mounds are thought to represent prehistoric burial monuments, recent investigations revealed that Bronze Age settlement and cultivation remains were also present. Several mounds lie close to the coast edge and are eroding; the remains are also at risk from rabbit burrowing and cattle poaching.

Two other sites in this area may indicate early activity: at Braesgar (SY192) a large grassy mound has been thought to be the remains of a broch or prehistoric settlement, while eroding deposits of stone seen in the section face at the northeastern tip of Tofts Ness (SY195) may mark the remnants of structures.

Geology and Geomorphology

This last section has one of the most uniform storm beaches on the islands which develops at Crow Taing and continues to Point of Cresso. Other storm beaches lie to the north with very few along the eastern side. Much of Tofts Ness is flat with only fenced fields and rough grazing over the Neolithic landscape to the east. Soils are Predominantly freely drained sands and sandy podzol with some gleys into the far hinterland.

Erosion

The last unit has more uniform erosion classes along its length. The coastal edge has much localised erosion and very little hinterland erosion.

SY192 HY74NW1

HY7490 4653

Braesgar

Mound

Unknown: ?prehistoric

Good

Monitor

SY193 HY74NE3

HY760 470

Tofts Ness

Mounds and settlement complex

3rd-1st mill BC

Fair/poor

Monitor

SY194

HY7620 4733

Tofts Ness

Kelp workings

18-20th C

Fair

Nil

SY195

HY7632 4727

Tofts Ness

Coastal exposure

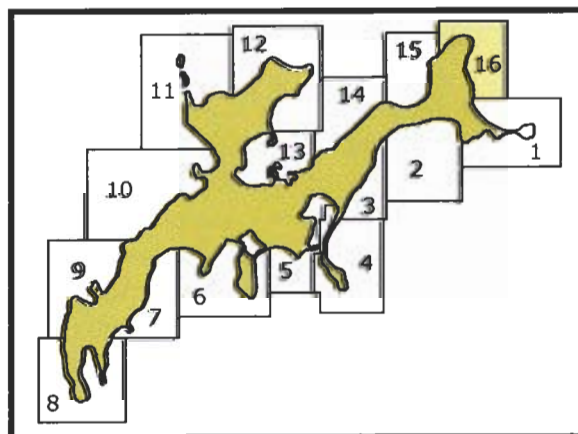
Unknown

Fair

Monitor



- Built Heritage & Archaeology**
- Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - + Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
 - Site complex



1. Crow Taing

HY 750 466

0.9 km

Rock platform and sandy foreshore with storm beach.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

This section begins with rock platform and grades into a sandy foreshore to the north east however the main feature of both the mid and upper foreshore is the well constructed storm beach which is almost entirely made up of cobbles. More cobbles can be seen on the lowest part of the foreshore also. With a first berm at 45° - 60° from the horizontal which has a flattened top and then runs up to the main berm or storm beach at the same angle or perhaps slightly less. The top of this storm beach is generally level with the grassed coast edge. In a number of cases the cobble lies scattered over the hinterland <10 m inland. The hinterland is grassed with fenced fields over a freely drained sandy soil.

2. Point of Cresso

HY 762 473

2.1 km

Rock platform with cobble cover and storm beach.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible.

The rock platform has varying amounts of cobble cover and a few well formed storm beaches. The cobble cover lies along the upper foreshore with two small areas of storm beach to the north west and a much better storm beach Geo of Toftsness..

The cobble cover along the eastern shore is sparse and only lies along the upper foreshore. The coast edge is well defined and rarely exceeds three metres in height. Where the rock to drift interface is visible along the north western coast a relic storm beach can be seen in section overlying a buff to reddish till. On the eastern shore there is one area where the rock to drift interface is seen with sand lying over rock and included in this section is a portion of aeolianite. The coast edge has a small lip along parts of the north western face. The hinterland is down to grazing with fenced fields. Most of this area is flat or very gently sloping with only the occasional cairn breaking the skyline. Soils are freely drained sands or podzol along the near hinterland with some imperfectly to poorly drained gleys further in.

3. Bay of Sowerdie

HY 763 456

1.2 km

Predominantly sandy foreshore with patchy cobble cover.

Coast edge is generally < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The sandy foreshore has only patchy areas of cobble along the upper foreshore with slightly more to the extreme south. The coast edge is over five metres to the north for approximately 200 m where the dunes begin although they become smaller to the south. The coast edge is fairly well defined even along the side of the dunes. At the end of this area where deflation has taken place netting has stabilised the coast edge. There is some disturbance of the sandy coast edge south of this point with what appears to be till over more sand. The hinterland is flat on the far side of the dune ridge with some fencing of grassed fields. Soils are freely drained sands to the fore grading to imperfectly and poorly drained gleys in the far hinterland.



Foreshore

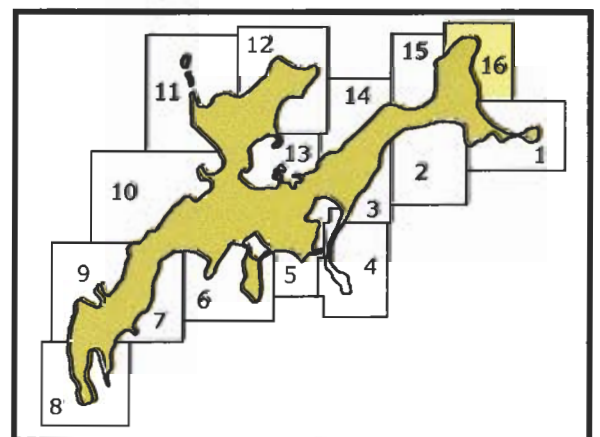
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



1. Crow Taing

HY 750 466

0.8 km

Stable

As described in the geomorphology section, the large well formed storm beach gives much protection to the coastal edge.

2. Point of Cresso

HY 756 473

1.3 km

Eroding to Stable

Where the storm beach runs below the coastal edge there is some localised erosion revealing an old relic storm beach in section. There are more stable areas towards the eastern point of Tofts Ness.

3. Geo of Toftsness

HY 763 472

0.35 km

Stable

The exposed rocks give more protection to the point and a few hundred metres to the south. There are also a number of protruding rock along the mid and upper foreshore which helps to diminish the wave energy.

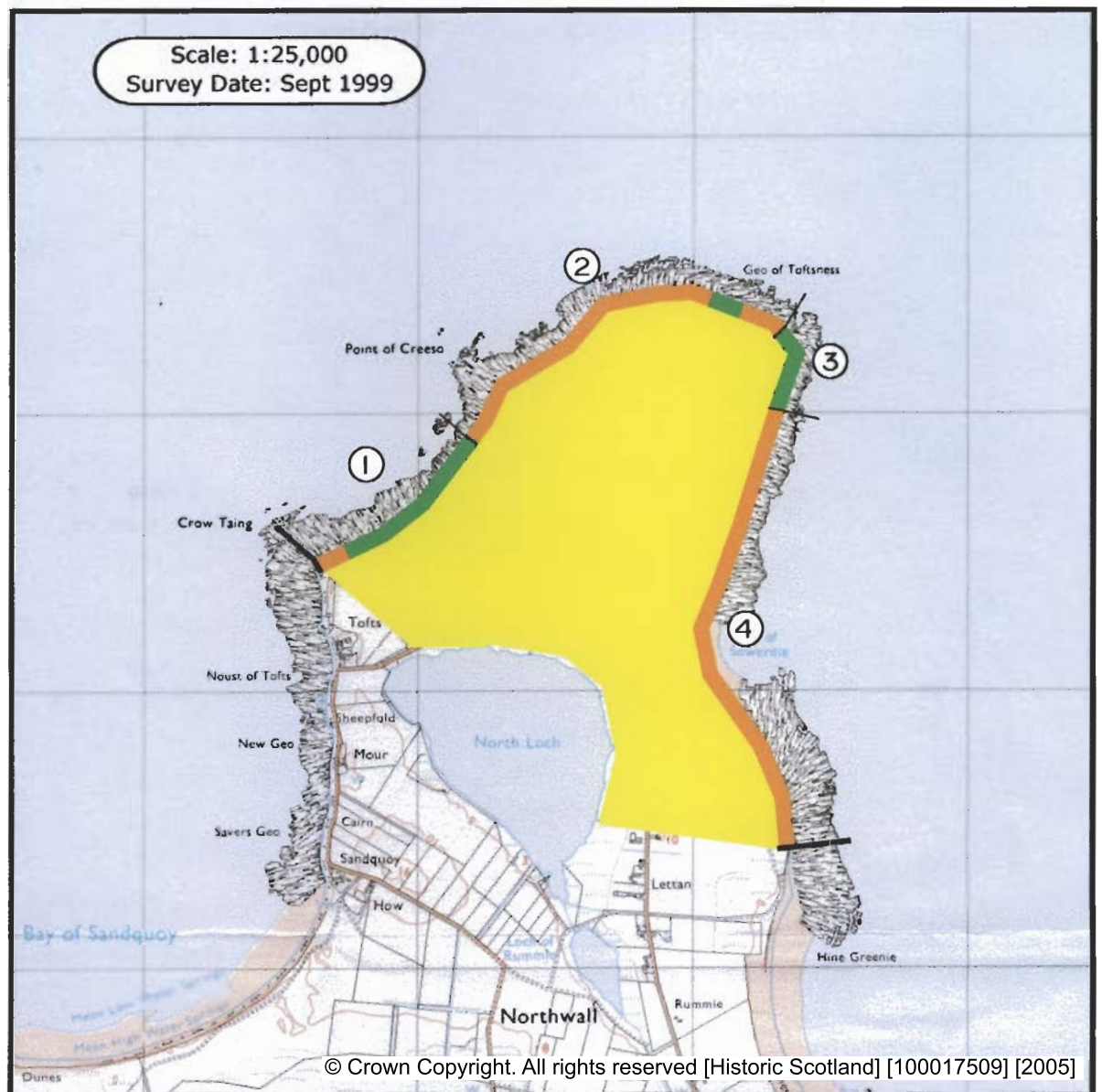
4. Tofts Ness (East)

HY 760 462

1.7 km

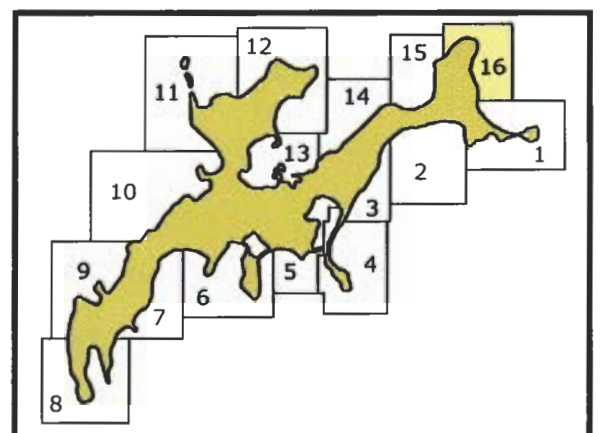
Eroding to Stable

The erosion is much less than many other areas of the same class to the north of this section. However the erosion increases slightly towards the south. Just below the first cairns marked on the OS map there is more stability to the coastal edge and includes pieces of aeolianite whereas to the south around Pund of Hindgreenie there is deflation of the dune ridge. Some stability has been achieved by the incorporation of nylon netting in the deflation hollows.



- Erosion Class**
- Definitely Accreting
 - Accreting or Stable
 - Stable
 - Eroding or Stable
 - Definitely Eroding
 - Accreting and Eroding

- No access
- Land below 10m



9

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY1	HY7668 4404	449	Mound
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY74SE16					Crue Marron Deme
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<50m from coast edge		Not seen		Monitor	Unknown

description

A high and prominent mound previously recorded in this location can not be differentiated now from the surrounding natural sand dunes, which are currently accreting. Refs: RCAHMS (1980) #141; Skea map; Skea name-list.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY2	HY7684 4392		Crue
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Scuthvie Bay
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<40m from coast edge		Fair		Nil	18-20th C

description

A ruinous circular drystone crue is located on enclosed grassland, behind sand dunes which form the coast edge. It measures some 4.5m in diameter, with coursed walls standing up to 1m in height. A single large upright slab lies embedded in the ground in front of the north-facing entrance gap.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY3	HY7715 4382		Coastal exposure: shell midden
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Park
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Poor		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

Shell and stone deposits are visible in three short exposures in sand dunes which form the coast edge. The westernmost exposure measures some 10m in length and is located in the upper 1.2m of a dune ridge which stands up to 2.5m in height. Here, a 0.4m deep concentration of stone covers a 0.1m deep layer of crushed shell fragments. The base of the dunes are obscured by accumulations of sand. In a second 10m long exposure, located some 30m further east, a column of coursed masonry is visible, with concentrations of shell lying both above and below it. There is currently nothing to indicate the nature or date of these remains. The easternmost exposure lies 10m further along. Here, part of a wall can be seen to run parallel to the coast edge for some 8m. Formed from flat slabs, this coursed wall stands up to 0.4m high and is covered only by turf and topsoil; a thin band of shelly soil lies beneath it. Further, more fragmentary, remains are visible inland in this area.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY4	HY771 437	299	Site of chapel
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE14				Park	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	10-14th C		

description

An 'old church', shown at this location on Aberdeen's map, is mentioned by Marwick. Farm buildings now cover the area and no trace of earlier remains is visible. Refs: Aberdeen, A. (1760) 'Map of North Sanday'; Marwick, H (1923) 'Antiquarian notes on Sanday'; RCAHMS (1980) #192.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY5	HY7727 4371	278	Site of burnt mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE1				Park	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<50m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC		

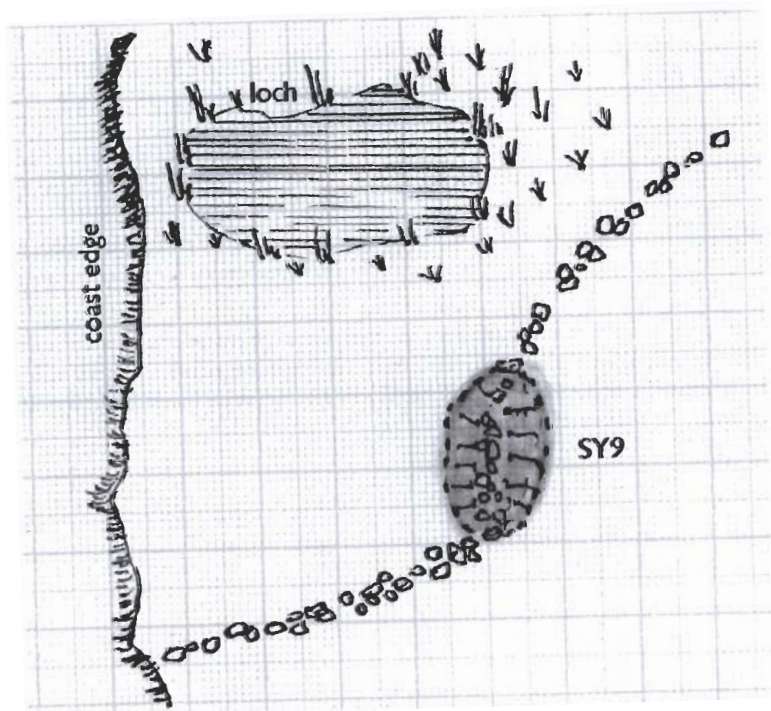
description

A mound of burnt stone was previously recorded at this location. It was subsequently damaged and leveled out through ploughing, although it remained visible and was again recorded in 1957 and surveyed by OS in 1970. The area is now very overgrown and the site is no longer visible. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946) #455; Wainwright Mss index in possession of MoPBW (HBM); RCAHMS (1980) #48.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY6	HY780 436		Farmstead
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE29				Start	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C		

description

This site comprises of an L-shaped range of domestic buildings with adjoining outbuildings, of traditional construction, set around an enclosed yard area. Some internal timbers and wall plaster survive, but the flagstone roofs are now in a very poor condition. The buildings are now used for casual storage. Ref.: RCAHMS & NMS (1998) 'Scottish Farm Buildings Survey: 2, Orkney', #34.



ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY7	HY7829 4370		Channel
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Start Island	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Intertidal & marine zones	Good	Nil	Unknown: ?18-20th C		

description

A passageway for boats, cleared of stone and debris, extends for some 35m through the intertidal zone to the sea. Measuring up to 5m in width, it is defined, in places, by a rock-cut shelf.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY8	HY7840 4368		Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Start Island	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<40m from coast edge	Good	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

An ill-defined grassy rise lies close to a small loch some 30m inland from an advancing storm beach. It has a diameter of 15m or so and stands up to 1m high. A drystone field wall runs over the rise. This may be a natural feature or may, alternatively, be the remains of a prehistoric burial mound or equivalent to the site recorded here as (SY9), HY74SE17.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY9	HY7840 4368	298	Mound: possible site of church
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE17				Start Island	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	good	Monitor	10-14th C		

description

The site of an 'old church' is noted in this general area on Aberdeen's map and is mentioned by Marwick. Subsequent investigations by Lamb recorded a large mound in this vicinity. The mound measured 30m in diameter and stood to 1m in height. It appeared to contain structures and was interpreted as the probable remains of the church. The mound, as described, could not be relocated although it is possible that the site here described as (SY8) at HY7840 4368, while differing in size, may be equivalent. Ref.: Aberdeen, A (1760) 'Map of North Sanday'; Marwick, H (1923) 'Antiquarian notes on Sanday'; RCAHMS (1946) #463; Lamb, R (1979) 'Start Island (Lady p): Chapel ' in DES 1979, 21; RCAHMS (1980) #187.



Site SY12: Start Point lighthouse

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY10	HY7844 4393		Wreck
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Start Island	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Intertidal & marine zones	Poor	Nil	18-20th C		

description

Numerous fragments of a metal-hulled vessel are strewn around the rocks in the intertidal zone. Part of what appears to be the stern of a small trawler is visible in the sea. The vessel is now so broken up as to be unidentifiable. This wreck may be the same as SY196 (HY74SE8002), wreck of HMS 'Goldfinch'.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY11	HY7871 4374		Mound & crue
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Alisters Geo	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?18-20th C		

description

A small grassy mound, located on the coast edge, is being **damaged by coastal erosion**. It measures some 3m in diameter and stands up to 0.6m high. To the west side of the mound the **fabric of the mound** is revealed to comprise of a concentration of randomly-piled stone. It is probable that this structure represents a **navigation marker**. The remains of a square drystone crue, with sides measuring 4m in length and standing to 1m in height, lie **immediately inland**.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY12	HY7868 4350	292	Lighthouse & cottages
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE20		Listed		Start Point	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	18-20th C		

description

An unlit beacon was built at Start Point in 1802 for the purpose of warning off ships which otherwise might be lured by the light on North Ronaldsay into straying too far to the east and the low-lying coast of Sanday. The beacon was topped by a large ashlar ball, later reused on the beacon at Dennis Head, North Ronaldsay. In 1806, it was fitted with the first revolving light in Scotland. Rebuilt in 1870, the 21m high brick tower was later painted in striking vertical stripes of black and white. It went to automatic in 1962 and is now a listed building. The original two-storied keepers cottages survive and are currently under renovation. To the south side of the lighthouse complex, a farmstead, of traditional design and construction, which incorporates a corn-drying kiln (surveyed) is now ruinous. Ref.: RCAHMS & NMS (1998) 'Scottish Farm Buildings Survey: 2, Orkney' #35 (corn-drying kiln); Wilson, B (1975) 'The lighthouses of Orkney'; Ritchie, A (1985) 'Exploring Scotland's heritage: Orkney & Shetland' #5; RCAHMS (1980) #201; Burgher, L (1991) 'Orkney: An Illustrated Architectural Guide' #82.



Site SY14: Mt. Maesry chambered cairn,
detail of disintegrating stonework

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY13	HY7861 4344		Noost & channel
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Start Island	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Coast edge & intertidal zone	Fair	Nil	18-20th C		

description

The remains of a rectangular boat noost, with accompanying cleared channel, lies on the coast in front of the ruinous farmstead described under entry SY12 (HY74SE20). The noost has revetted drystone walls and is set into the head of the banks. It now measures 6m long by 2m wide but appears to have been truncated by coastal erosion. The interior is now filled with washed in stone. The channel extends for some 15m from the banks into the intertidal zone; a metal pole, serving as a tie-up post, is set into the rock to one side.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY14	HY7831 4351	291	Chambered Cairn
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE4		Scheduled	1331	Mt. Maesry	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	4-3rd mill BC		

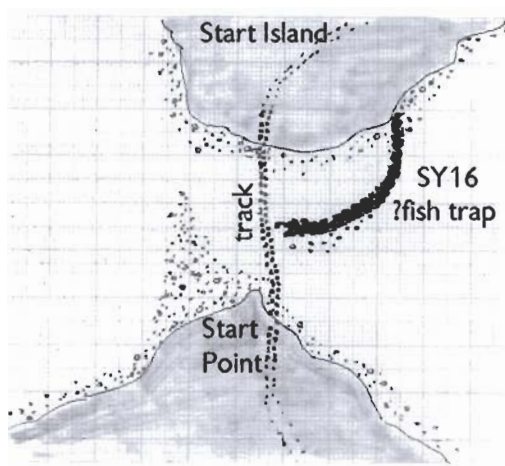
description

This Maes Howe type chambered cairn is located in an enclosed field. It measures some 23m in diameter and stands up to 3.5m high, forming a prominent feature on the otherwise flat landscape of Start Island. It was opened and used for a time as a potato store but has now been closed up again. It was last entered in the 1960's by Mr. Skea of Garbo, Sanday, who reported to Henshall that it contained a passage leading to a tall, rectangular chamber with oversailing walls and an intact roof; no side cells were noted. Much of the mound is now covered with turf but there are a number of exposures, particularly to south and south-west sides. Here traces of a wall face and stony mound matrix are visible, together with a stone-filled depression, representing part of the original passage. It was noted that, where visible, the stone forming both walls and mound matrix is in an extremely poor and crumbling condition. Note: Site is incorrectly referred to in NMRS & elsewhere as Mt. Maesry or Mt. Misery. Refs.: RCAHMS (1946) #445; Skea map; Skea name-list; Henshall, A S (1963)#ORK38; RCAHMS (1980) #2.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY15	HY7831 4353	302	Alleged site of mariner's graves
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE18				Start Island	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C		

description

A small drystone walled enclosure, built against a larger field wall, is alleged to mark the location of the burial place of a group of mariners, shipwrecked in the 19th century. Previous surveyors have noted that it appears too large for a planticrue but as it does not have an entrance gap and is therefore unlikely to be a fold. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980) #229.



Site SY16: fish trap

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY16	HY7795 4355		Fish trap
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Start Island	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Intertidal zone	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?18-20th C		

description

The footings of a curvilinear wall, possibly part of a fish trap, are visible between Start Island and the coast of Sanday in the intertidal area which is accessible on foot at low tide. The wall curves from the east side of Start Island and turns northward to enclose a basin which measures some 25m across at its widest point. The northern end of the wall is obscured by a vehicle track. It is edged by a discontinuous kerb of upright slabs and is of rough construction. This structure was probably originally larger than it now appears and may have utilised a natural shingle bank, which lies to its northern edge, to form a fully enclosed basin.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY17	HY7730 4339	280	Burial ground
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE7				Buryan	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown		

description

This site has been identified in the past as a disused 'ancient' burial ground by local informants, although there was some dispute as to its actual location. There is now nothing to be seen and it has been speculated by previous surveyors that any remains in the area may more likely be associated with a nearby post-broch settlement. The site was not inspected on this occasion because access was denied by the landowner. Ref.: OS Name Book 2, 154; Marwick, H (1923) 'Antiquarian Notes on Sanday'; RCAHMS (1946) #464; RCAHMS (1980) #168.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY18	HY7724 4340	279	Broch
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE2				Buryan	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Poor	Survey	1st mill BC/1st mill AD		

description

Part of a broch survives on the coast edge at the Point of Buryan; the remainder has been eroded away by the sea. Antiquarian investigations carried out in 1880 were briefly reported by Cursiter; at this time the structure had already been damaged by erosion and it was then estimated that up to 50% had been removed. The broch is estimated to have measured between 15m and 18m in diameter, with walls up to 3.96m thick. Remains are now visible in a coastal exposure some 80m in length and up to 1m in height. The upper part of the coastal section is covered by overhanging turf, while the base is obscured by a storm beach. The visible archaeology comprises both structural stone and substantial anthropogenic deposits. The inland extent of the remains was not inspected because access was denied by the landowner. A modern marker cairn has been built at the head of the banks, above the broch remains. Refs.: RCAHMS (1946) #437; Cursiter, J W (1923) 'The Orkney Brochs' PSAS, 57 (1922-23); RCAHMS (1980) #60; Hedges, J W (1987) 'Bu, Gurness and the Brochs of Orkney' part 3 #42.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY19	HY7719 4355	281	Alleged site of settlement
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE3				Park Farm	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	1st mill BC/1st mill AD		

description

A field containing several small and irregularly-shaped rises was locally known as the site of 'Picts Houses'. The mounds are said to have yielded structural stone and limpet shells during cultivation. There are no remains currently visible at this site. Refs.: RCAHMS (1946) #441; RCAHMS (1980) #83.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY20	HY7693 4373		Channel & possible noost
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Bay of Wheevi	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Intertidal zone	Fair	Nil	18-20th C		

description

A passage for boats has been cleared from a sandy beach through the intertidal zone. It measures some 10m in length and is up to 5m wide. A level shingle berm which lies between the banks and the shore may have accommodated a noost.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY21	HY767 437		Farmstead
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE24				Scofferland	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C		

description

This farmstead, which is of traditional design and construction, is now in a state of disrepair. The buildings were surveyed by RCAHMS and all are located over 100m inland; associated enclosures extend down to the coast edge. Ref.: RCAHMS & NMS (1998) 'Scottish Farm Buildings Survey' #30.



Site SY23: Whale Head Radar Station

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY22	HY7665 4360		Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Scofferland	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A section of drystone walling is exposed to the seaward side of an amorphous mound, which is otherwise covered with grass. The mound measures some 30m in diameter and stands up to 1m in height. The walling is constructed from thin, horizontally-coursed slabs. It is visible for 3.5m, standing at least 0.3m high; the base is obscured by vegetation. It is possible that the mound covers further structural remains, which may be associated with the nearby farmstead at Scofferland (SY21, HY74SE24).

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY23	HY761 436	283	Radar Station
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE23.00/.01/.03				Whale Head	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements <100m from coast	Good	Monitor	18-20th C		

description

This was one of the primary chain of WWII air-defence radar stations. The site comprises of a complex of buildings, including an engine house, magazine, transmitter and receiver blocks, power station and standby power station. The station was defended by four Bofors guns and had a minefield around its perimeter. These are spread out over an extensive grassy plain. The buildings survive relatively intact and some are accessible; the majority lie over 50m from the coast edge. See also SY32 (HY74SE23.02): the site of the accommodation camp for radar station personnel. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980) #228.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	2	SY24	HY7599 4328		Structural remains
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Lop Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Poor	Nil	18-20th C		

description

The remains of a small structure are exposed in an eroding coastal section. A concrete plinth, covered by turf and topsoil, is set over a layer of redeposited till, which in turn is based on a foundation coursed of flat slabs. The section extends for almost 5m and is up to 0.5m high: inland, the outline of square or sub-square structure, measuring 5m across, is visible. These remains may be part of a WWII building associated with the radar station at Whale Head (SY23, HY74SE23).



Site SY27: Lopness, eroding section

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	2	SY25	HY7590 4345		Structural remains
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.		placename
					Lop Ness
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
On coast edge		Fair	Monitor		18-20th C

description

A small U-shaped structure with a concrete roof is located on sloping banks leading to the coast edge. It may have served as a signal or gun post, associated with the WWII radar station which lies nearby at Whale Head (SY23, HY74SE23). It measures approximately 4m in length by 3m in width. The walls stand up to 1.4m high and appear to be largely of drystone construction, although there are occasional traces of mortar on the surface of the stones. The single entrance is on the landward side. The roof is now cracked and the structure is vulnerable to coastal erosion.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	2	SY26	HY7581 4342		Wall
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.		placename
					Lop Ness
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
Intertidal zone		Fair	Nil		Unknown

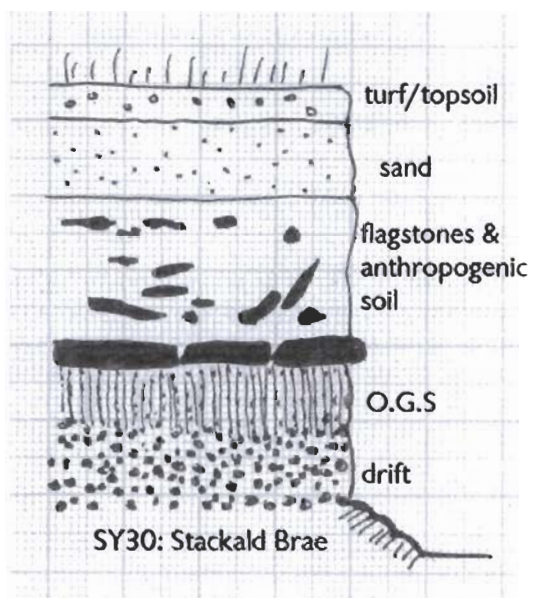
description

A wall which extends for 50m through the intertidal zone to the sea may have served as a slipway or part of a fish trap. It is constructed from pairs of stones which have been set on edge; it is 1m in width and stands up to 0.3m high.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	2	SY27	HY7590 4368	285	Coastal exposure: settlement
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.		placename
HY74SE15					Lopness
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
On coast edge		Fair/poor	Survey		1st mill BC/1st mill AD

description

Archaeological deposits are intermittently visible in a section of eroding coastline close to an occupied house (SY28, HY74SE21). The remains of at least one drystone structure is exposed. This contains a flagged floor, built over an old ground surface and is covered by a stony destruction horizon and up to 0.5m of blown sand and topsoil. To the south, a 1.5m thick band of deposits comprises structural remains and anthropogenic soils containing shell and bone. The remains would appear to be part of a settlement, possibly of prehistoric or early historic date. A mounded area behind the coast edge may indicate the presence of further archaeological deposits inland. Refs.: Skea name-list; RCAHMS (1980) #80.



ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	2	SY28	HY7594 4368		House & channel
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE21				Lopness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements in intertidal zone	Good	Nil	18-20th C		

description

An occupied house stands at the head of a stony bay. A channel for boats has been cleared through the intertidal area to the south side of the house.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	2	SY29	HY7589 4379	284	Site of a chapel
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE12				Stackald Brae	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	10-14th C		

description

The site of an 'old chapel' is marked on Aberdeen's map of 1760. It is shown with walls and gables standing on or near to a knoll known as Stackald Brae. There is now no trace of any remains in this area. Refs.: Aberdeen, A (1760) 'Map of North Sanday'; Marwick, H (1923) 'Antiquarian Notes on Sanday'; RCAHMS (1980) #186.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	2	SY30	HY7585 4397		Coastal exposure: possible settlement
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Stackald Brae	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

Archaeological deposits, possibly representing settlement remains, are visible in two coastal exposures. Together, the exposures extend for upwards of 10m and are up to 0.75m deep. The basal deposits comprise of a linear concentration of flat slabs, laid over an old ground surface; the upper levels include anthropogenic columns of collapsing masonry and soils containing shell and bone. These are buried beneath layers of blown sand, topsoil and turf up to 0.3m deep. Part of the section is obscured by modern rubble, while the base of the section is covered by a storm beach.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	2	SY31	HY7570 4410		Coastal exposure & mound
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Lopness		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

Anthropogenic soils are exposed in a 2m high coastal exposure which extends for 15m. These deposits are covered with layers of blown sand, 1m in depth. The upper levels include a buried A horizon, up to 0.5m thick, covering a 0.2m layer of highly organic soil which contains inclusions of bird, fish and mammal bone, shell and small fragments of flint. Beneath, a layer of shell, mostly comprising limpet, covers an old ground surface. An amorphous rise, located in the immediate hinterland, may be a farm mound and it is probable that the deposits seen in section may be derived from this source.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	2	SY32	HY7537 4429	283	WWII military accomodation camp
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY74SE23.02			Lopness		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C		

description

The accommodation camp for military personnel serving the Whale Head radar station extended among the sand dunes to the south of the Loch of Brue. A number of air-raid shelters and concrete nissan hut bases survive at the site. See also Whale Head radar station, SY23 (HY74SE23.00/.01/.03). RCAHMS (1980) #228

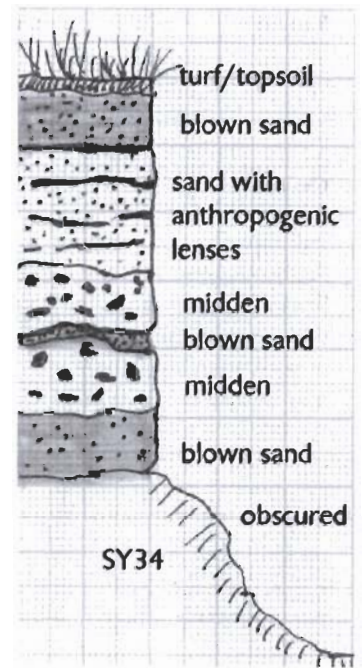
island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	2	SY33	HY7462 4414	277	Wreck:B98 WWI German destroyer
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY74SW23/8001			Bay of Lopness		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Marine zone	Poor	Nil	18-20th C		

description

The German destroyer, B98, became beached in the Bay of Lopness while on tow to Scapa Flow for salvage in 1919. The superstructure has now been largely removed and the hulk rests in shallow water some 20m from the foreshore, with framework, turbines and boilers exposed. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980) #221.



Site SY35: Newark



ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	3	SY34	HY7237 4263		Coastal exposure, mounds, (?) fish trap
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Bay of Lopness/Newark	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Coast edge & intertidal zone	Fair/poor	Survey	Possibly 10-14th C		

description

Substantial archaeological deposits are exposed in an extensive erosion face to the seaward side of a large mound. The exposure measures some 50m in length overall, with the central 15m containing the greatest depth of deposits. The visible archaeological deposits are up to 1m thick and **may be even more extensive** since the base of the section is obscured by drifts of windblown sand. In the main, the deposits **comprise successive layers of anthropogenic soils** with inclusions of shell, charcoal, fish and mammal bone. One very distinctive layer contains frequent fish bone which was seen to include a number of entire articulated skeletons. The rocky intertidal area in front of the section face, Long Taing of Newark, has several linear concentrations of stone which appear to have been artificially set in place, possibly to form a fish trap. One possible interpretation may be that fish-processing was carried out at this site and that it was associated with the nearby settlement at Newark (SY35), which appears to be of Viking/Norse date.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	3	SY35	HY7230 4241		Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Newark	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	Possibly 10-14th C		

description

An large 'farm mound' which is located immediately by the coast edge, has been eroded in places by the sea to reveal substantial structural remains. The mound measures some 50m in diameter and stands up to 3m high. Archaeological deposits are visible in the erosion face for over 120m, but the most substantial deposits are contained within a 15m long section to the south of the area. Here, fragments of coursed drystone walling stands up to 0.75m or 8 courses high; two stone-lined drains are also present. The walling runs parallel to the section face and appears to represent part of a rectangular structure which was built on sloping ground, to one side of a midden heap. The soils which lie beneath the base of the wall are highly organic and contain inclusions of shell, bone, peatash and charcoal. Traces of later buildings are suggested by further concentrations of slabs and blocks to the south. Overall, the visible remains indicate that the site was occupied over a long period of time; the exposed structural remains may be of Viking/Norse date.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	3	SY36	HY720 422		Structural remains & dated lintel stone
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SW19				Newark Farm	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	14-18th C		

description

The present farm house at Newark lies close to structural remains of an earlier dwelling. A lintel stone, dated ?1637 and said to have come from the fireplace of the older building is preserved in an outbuilding. The site was not inspected on this occasion. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946) #456.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	3	SY37	HY7202 4199		Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Newark		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A grassy mound, 40m in diameter and up to 1.5m high, has been eroded along its seaward side. The erosion face extends for 25m in length and is up to 0.75m high. It can be seen concentrations of horizontally-coursed slabs and an associated loamy soil which contains inclusions of shell. This walling may be no more than an earlier version of the dyke which now runs along the coast edge but it remains possible that it may be part of a larger structure, the rest of which lies beneath the mound.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	3	SY38	HY7198 4181	271	Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY745W16			Newark Farm/Sanday Golf Course		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A grassy amorphous mound, 30m or more in diameter, stands up to 1m high and is located adjacent to the coast edge. The seaward side of the mound is eroding and archaeological deposits are visible intermittently over a distance of some 40m. The deposits include a number of large edge-set slabs and large blocks which appear to represent part of at least one structure. Associated soils include highly organic deposits containing mammal and fishbone, charcoal and shell midden, comprised mainly of limpet and winkle. There are further mounded areas present in the immediate hinterland and it is probable that they also represent buried archaeological remains. As has been stated by previous surveyors, this is likely to be an extensive settlement site, probably of prehistoric date. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980) #86.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	3	SY39	HY7190 4171		Noost
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Smear Geo		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C		

description

An disused boat noost, which now appears as a grassy hollow, is cut into the head of the banks. It measures 16m in length and is up to 6m wide. A short length of drystone walling which stands to the south side may and may be associated.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	4	SY40	HY7038 3877	147	Farmstead
NMRS no.	Status		HS index no.		placename
HY73NW10					Tressness
Location to coast	condition	recommendation		date range	
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor		18-20th C	

description

This steading was recorded by the Scottish Farm Buildings Survey. It consists of a complex of buildings arranged around a yard. A hexagonal horse-engine house, attached to the old threshing barn, remains in fairly good condition. The buildings in general, however, are in a state of some decay. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980) #203; RCAHMS & NMS (1998) 'Scottish Farm Buildings Survey, 2 Orkney' #41.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	4	SY41	HY7048 3857		Mound
NMRS no.	Status		HS index no.		placename
					Tres Ness
Location to coast	condition	recommendation		date range	
<30m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor		Unknown: ?prehistoric	

description

A low mound, which may be artificial, has been damaged by cattle poaching. It measures some 25m in diameter and stands up to 1m high. Stone is visible in a short exposure towards the top of the mound, to its west side. The mound is vulnerable to continued erosion from cattle trampling. It lies in an enclosed pasture field, some 20m from a ridge of dunes which form the coast edge.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	4	SY42	HY7120 3800	115	Mound & earthwork
NMRS no.	Status		HS index no.		placename
HY73NW3					Hangie Head, Tres Ness
Location to coast	condition	recommendation		date range	
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey		Unknown: ?prehistoric	

description

A low mound, which may be artificial, lies adjacent to the coast edge. It is sub-oval in shape, measuring some 25m by 12m and stands no more than 1m high. A modern marker cairn has been constructed on its highest point. The seaward side of the mound has been damaged by coastal erosion and stonework, which appears to be of a structural nature, is exposed in an erosion face which extends for 10m and is up to 1m high. This area is used by nesting fulmars. To the north side of the mound can be seen the faint outline of a curvilinear earthwork. This is up to 2m in width and extends for 15m or more inland, running to the west of the mound. The Ref.: Orkney Name Book No.2, 1879; RCAHMS (1946) #446; RCAHMS (1980) #156.



Site SY44: Tres Ness chambered cairn



Site SY44: Tres Ness chambered cairn,
detail of eroding section



Site SY45: kelp pit

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	4	SY43	HY7119 3757	331	Mound
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY73NW8					Tres Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<20m from coast edge		Fair/poor		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

A low, grassy mound is located some 12m from the coast edge. It measures some 6.5m in diameter and stands up to 0.5m high. The center is dished and there is some stone visible around the periphery of the mound, although this may be of a superficial rather than structural nature. The mound is bisected by a field wall; the portion which lies within the field is more depleted as a result of cultivation over and around it. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980) #157.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	4	SY44	HY7110 3752	330	Chambered cairn
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY73NW4		Scheduled		1330	Tres Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair/poor		Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC

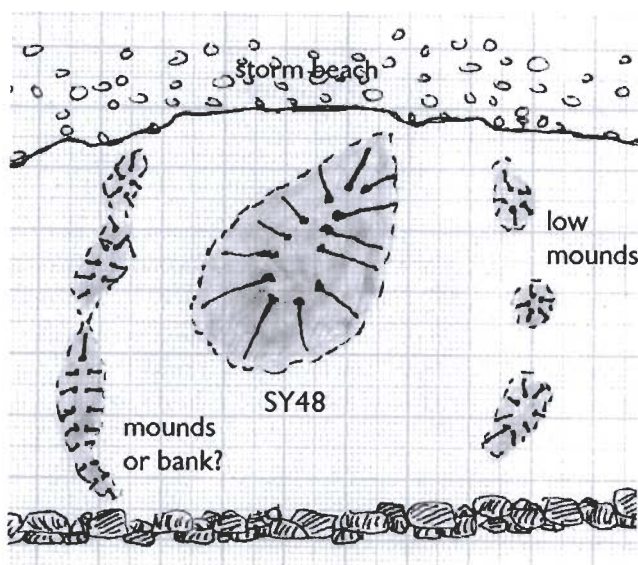
description

This chambered cairn lies adjacent to the coast edge and is eroding. Limited rescue investigation was carried out in 1983 and indicated that up to three structural phases may be present. The earliest phase, represented by a stalled cairn was later replaced with a circular structure and a rounded mound. The chamber of the stalled cairn, which is partially exposed in the coastal section, extended for at least 9m in length and was up to 1.4m wide. Fragmentary remains of a later circular structure were found at the southern end of the primary chamber. The rounded mound, which forms the latest and most prominent feature of the site, measures about 14m in diameter and stands up to 1.3m high. The site remains very vulnerable to coastal erosion. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946) # 447; Henshall, A S (1963) 'The Chambered Tombs of Scotland', 1, #ORK50; RCAHMS (1980) #5; Davidson J L & Henshall, A S (1989) 'The Chambered Tombs of Orkney, #50; Smith, B (1983) Tresness, Sanday (Lady parish) stalled tomb' in DES; Smith, B (1983) Tresness-unpublished site record & report, NMRS.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	4	SY45	HY7068 3798	249	Kelp Workings
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY73NW9					Tres Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements on coast edge		Good/fair		Nil	18-20th C

description

The remains of kelp burning pits survive along the coast to the west side of the Ness. The better preserved examples retain their lining of upright stones and measure 1.65m in diameter by 0.5m in depth. The footings of a small shed or hut located in this area may be associated with kelp working. The footings, now reduced to less than 0.25m in height, outline a structure 6m long and 4m wide. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980) #217.



ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	4	SY46	HY7090 3785		Reservoir
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Tres Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<40m from coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C		

description

A square drystone tower, with sides measuring 5m in length, is built on the line of an outflow from a small loch to the sea. The structure is recessed into the ground surface and is approximately 5m high.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	4	SY47	HY7092 3794	150	Broch
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY73NW2		Scheduled	1424	Broch of Wasso, Tres Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<50m from coast edge	Good	Monitor	1st mill BC-1st mill AD		

description

A massive grassy mound, 5m in height, marks the site of a broch. It surmounts a natural knoll, set within a marshy area between a small loch and the sea. Partial antiquarian investigations were carried out in the late 1800's, probably by Farrar, and the site was briefly noted by both Petrie and later by Dryden. The mound and surrounding platform, which are very overgrown, cover an area some 80m in diameter. Little of the actual broch structure is now visible, although some stonework is exposed to the north side of the mound. The scale of the mound strongly suggests the presence of extra-broch settlement; there are also indications of an surrounding enclosure bank. It should be noted that the waterlogged conditions in the local area may have important implications for the survival of organic materials within the archaeological deposits. Ref.: NSA (1845) Vol 15, 136; NMAS (1892) 'Catalogue of the National Museum of Antiquaries of Scotland' new ed., 228; Dryden, H (1879), 'Orkney and Shetland circles, broughs & etc: plans', Soc Antiq Scot Mss 170; Petrie, G (1890) 'Notice of the brochs or large round towers of Orkney' in Arch Scotica, 5 (1874-1890), 71-94; Petrie, G, Ms Notebook 9, Soc Antiq Scot Mss 554; RCAHMS (1946) #438; RCAHMS (1980) # 67; Hedges, J W (1987) 'Bu, Gurness and the brochs of Orkney' part 3, #43.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	4	SY48	HY7069 3802	248	Mound(s)
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY73NW1				Knap of Girndish, Tres Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A grassy mound, some 30m in diameter, is located adjacent to the coast edge. It stands up to 1.5m high. A drystone wall crosses the inland periphery of the mound. Surrounding this large mound, to the north-east and south-west sides are further earthworks which may represent either a group of smaller mounds or the remnants of a curvilinear bank. The former description is more appropriate on the north-east side; the latter suits the stony ridge which lies some 18m from the mound to the south-west side. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946) #448; RCAHMS (1980) #144.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	4	SY49	HY7051 3839		Mound
NMRS no.			Status	HS index no.	placename
					Tingly Loup
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
On coast edge		Good	Monitor		Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

A grassy mound, which may be artificial, is located immediately adjacent to the coast edge but has not yet been affected by erosion. It measures some 8m in diameter and stands up to 1m high. A drystone wall cross the flanks of the mound on its inland side.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	4	SY50	HY7046 3844		Coastal exposure
NMRS no.			Status	HS index no.	placename
					Tingly Loup
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
On coast edge		Fair	Monitor		Unknown: ?prehistoric

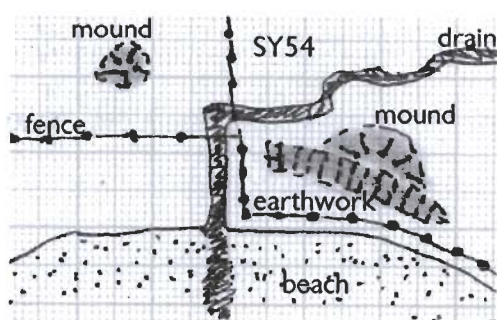
description

Anthropogenic soil deposits, containing shell (particularly winkle) and bone (including burnt and whalebone fragments), are exposed in an erosion face which extends for some 25m. The section stands up to 0.4m high; the anthropogenic soils are covered by layers of windblown sand and lie over a stony till. There are no associated remains visible in the immediate hinterland.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	4	SY51	HY7015 3857		Natural feature
NMRS no.			Status	HS index no.	placename
HY73NW11					Kirk Taing
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
<100m from coast edge		Not seen	Nil		Unknown

description

There are no visible archaeological remains at this location; the NMRS reference is to a natural feature. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946) #470.



ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	4	SY52	HY7022 3868		Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Tresness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A grassy mound, which may be artificial, is located immediately behind the coast edge but has not yet been damaged by coastal erosion. It measures 20m in diameter and stands up to 2m high. A drystone field wall crosses the inland flanks of the mound.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	5	SY53	HY7035 4138		WWII decoy airfield
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SW28				Plain of Fidge, Cata Sand	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Poor	Nil	18-20th C		

description

The remains of a control room building is all that survives of a WWII decoy airfield. The decoy airfield was located on the southwestern side of the Plain of Fidge and originally was furnished with nighttime landing lights.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	5	SY54	HY6979 4131		Mounds & earthworks
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Canker	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown		

description

A curvilinear earthwork and two mounds are located inside a field, adjacent to the coast edge. The field is slowly turning to saltmarsh and the topsoil is being eroded. The earthwork runs for over 30m from a drainage channel at the side of the field, it curves towards the coast edge. It is up to 3m in width and 0.75m high. An amorphous mound lies adjacent to the central point of the earthwork. Measuring 5m in diameter, it stands up to 0.5m high. Both mound and earthwork are covered with vegetation which is greener than that of the surrounding area. It is probably that both may be of relatively recent origin. A second mound lies nearby on the south side of the drain. Sub-circular in shape, it is up to 1m high and approximately 8m in diameter. It lies 60m or so from the coast edge.



Site SY57: Russ Ness

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	5	SY55	HY6966 4090		Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Neigarth	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<10m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A grassy mound, 10m in diameter and up to 1m high, is located inside a pasture field. It lies some 8m from the coast edge and is covered with thistles and vegetation which is more coarse than in the surrounding field.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	5	SY56	HY6938 4059		Earthworks
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Bressigarth	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<30m from coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown		

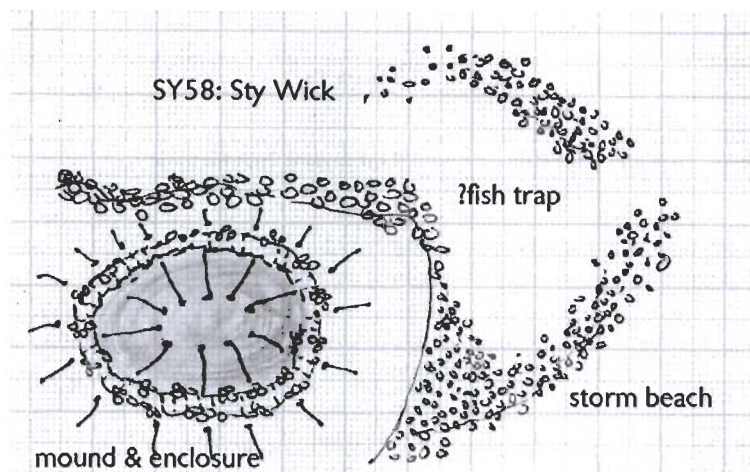
description

Intermittent traces of a curvilinear earthwork are located to the seaward and north-western sides of an occupied farmstead. The earthwork is amorphous and overgrown and may be part of an old boundary bank.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	5	SY57	HY6999 4035		Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Russ Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A mound, which may represent an enhanced natural rise, is located within a pasture field, beside the coast edge. It is up to 40m in diameter and stands 1.5m or so in height. The seaward side of the mound is being eroded by the sea and archaeological deposits, probably derived from settlement, are exposed in the section. At the west end of the exposure a 1.3m deep deposit of buried soil can be seen to extend over a distance of 9m. Further east, an old cultivation soil is associated with interleaving ashy lenses; structural remains lie over these deposits and are associated with anthropogenic layers containing peat ash and animal bone. The form of the structure is not readily visible in section but at least one stone-lined feature, possibly a drain, was seen. The section face is being further damaged by nesting fulmars and by rabbit burrowing. Chance finds from the section include fragments of pumice, pottery and small flint chips.



ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	5	SY58	HY6935 3893		Enclosure, mound & possible fish trap
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.		placename
					Sty Wick
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
Elements on coast edge		Good	Survey		Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

An oval enclosure is defined by an earth and stone bank. It is aligned north-south and measures 20m by 30m. The bank is 2m in width and stands up to 1m high. It is mostly covered with turf, but occasional stones protrude. It is located 10m from the coast edge and has been damaged by rabbit burrowing. The enclosure appears to have been built over a pre-existing mound: exposures into the mound caused by rabbit burrowing indicate that the upper levels of the mound, at least, comprise of blown sand. The mound stands up to 3m high and is not physically linked to the dunes which form the coast edge in this area. The area is very overgrown with ragwort. In the adjacent intertidal area, a linear bank of shingle, 40m in length, lies parallel to the shore and may have originally enclosed a 20m wide tidal pool or fish trap.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	5	SY59	HY6925 3897		Kelp workings
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.		placename
					Sty Wick
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
Elements on coast edge		Fair/poor	Nil		18-20th C

description

A series of fragmentary kelp-drying walls are exposed in the coastal section. They are of rough build and are now in poor condition. There are also several overgrown kelp-burning pits along the head of the banks in this area. The remains of a rectilinear structure, which may also be associated with kelp working, stands to the rear of the dunes, some 5m from the coast edge. It measures 18m in length and is up to 5m wide. An enclosure, some 15m in diameter and defined by a 1m high bank, lies nearby.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	5	SY60	HY6914 3901		Coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.		placename
					Sty Wick
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
On coast edge		Fair/poor	Monitor		Unknown

description

A concentration of stone, some of which may be structural, is exposed in the coastal section face. The exposure is 8m long and also contains frequent storm-cast stone. Of interest is a 2m long section of horizontally-set slabs, which do not appear to be a natural feature. It is possible that these mark the first signs of an eroding archaeological site.



Site SY62: Quoyness chambered cairn



Site SY62: Quoyness chambered cairn



Site SY62: Quoyness chambered cairn,
interior



Site SY63: Augmunds Howe



Site SY63: Augmunds Howe

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY61	HY676 389		Jaw crusher
NMRS no.			Status	HS index no.	placename
HY63NE19					Sty Wick
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
<100m from coast edge		Not seen	Monitor		18-20th C
description					

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY62	HY6766 3779	3	Chambered cairn
NMRS no.			Status	HS index no.	placename
HY63NE1			Scheduled	90243	Quoyness
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
<20m from coast edge		Good	Monitor		4th-3rd mill BC

description

This Maes Howe type chambered cairn forms a prominent feature on the low-lying peninsula of Els Ness. It was investigated by Farrer and Petrie in the 1860's with subsequent salvage excavations carried out by Childe in the 1950's. The cairn measures 20.5m by 17m and stands on an artificial platform. A 9m entrance passage leads into the central chamber. This stands 4m high and has six symmetrically-arranged side cells opening off of it. Sherds of Neolithic pottery, animal bone and stone implements were uncovered, along with a quantity of human remains. The tomb has been consolidated and partially restored and is open to the public under guardianship protection. Ref.: Farrer, J (1870) 'Note of excavations in Sanday...', PSAS, 7 (1866-8), 398-401; RCAHMS (1946) #449; Childe, V G (1954) 'Re-excavation of the chambered cairn of Quoyness, Sanday on behalf of MoW in 1951-2' in PSAS, 86 (1951-2), 121-39; RCAHMS (1980) #3; Davidson, J L & Henshall A S (1989) 'The chambered cairns of Orkney', #44.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY63	HY6765 3754	306	Cairn
NMRS no.			Status	HS index no.	placename
HY63NE3			Scheduled	1236	Augmund Howe or Egmondshowe
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
On coast edge		Poor	Survey		4th-3rd mill BC

description

This cairn is located on the coast edge and has suffered considerable damage from coastal erosion. The original dimensions are unknown; it is now sub-oval in shape, measuring 8m by 20m. It stands up to 3m high, above bedrock. The eastern side has been severely damaged by the sea; quantities of stony core material are exposed and eroding in the banks and there are occasional hints of structural stone. The western side has been damaged by cattle poaching. There was some suggestion of recent amateur digging within the body of the mound at the time of this visit. This site requires urgent attention; investigation of the remaining portion may at least provide a ground plan, a date, a summary of the stratigraphy and may determine if there was a central chamber. Ref.: NSA (1845), Vol 15, 136; Marwick, H (1923) 'Antiquarian Notes on Sanday', POAS, 1 (1922-3), 21-9; RCAHMS (1946) # 450; RCAHMS (1980) #1.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY64	HY676 375	307	Group of small mounds
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NE5				Augmund Howe West	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements <10m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC		

description

A group of eleven small mounds, connected by a stony bank, surround the western side of the large damaged cairn of Augmund Howe (SY63; HY63NE3). One of the mounds, investigated by Ordnance Survey recorders, was found to contain two conjoined cists, each of which contained human bone. The cairns measure up to about 10m in diameter and are either circular or oval in shape. The site was most recently surveyed in 1996. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946) #451; RCAHMS (1980) #7; Downes, J (1998) 'Elsness, Sanday (Lady Parish)- survey of burial mounds' in DES 1998.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY65	HY6754 3729		Coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Els Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A concentration of large stones is visible in a 15m long erosion face at the head of the banks. While it remains possible that the stone is nothing more than storm-cast debris which has become embedded in the section, the size of the stones and the manner in which they are concentrated suggests that further monitoring, at least, is warranted. It is possible that the stone may be part of a small cairn, although no further traces are visible in the immediate hinterland area.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY66	HY673 375	309	Cairns
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NE6		Scheduled	1353	Elsness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements <10m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC		

description

Twenty-six or more cairns have been recorded in the field which lies at the southern tip of Els Ness. These are scattered widely over the area and are visible as small grassy rises, mostly under 12m in diameter and 0.5m in height. Recent survey work in this area found only eighteen mounds; the remainder are likely to have been reduced or removed through cultivation and animal poaching. The NSA records that cists were once visible in some of the mounds and several contained cramp and stone objects. Ref.: NSA (1845), Vol.15, 137; RCAHMS (1946) #452; RCAHMS (1980) #8; Downes, J (1998) 'Elsness, Sanday (Lady Parish)- survey of burial mounds' in DES 1998.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY67	HY6719 3759		Structure, noost, mound, kelp pits
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Els Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC/18-20th C		

description

(i) Intermittent earthfast stones, some of which are set on edge, outline the footings of a rectangular structure. The structure measures 3m in width by 4m in length and lies 5m from the head of a small indent, known as Sivers Geo. (ii) The geo appears to have been widened, possibly to accommodate a boat. (iii) On the southeastern side of the geo there is a small grassy mound. Measuring some 7m in diameter, it stands up to 0.75m high and is slightly dishd to the center. Occasional stones protrude from its flanks. This may be an additional element to the group of cairns previously recorded in this area (SY66: HY63NE6). (iv) The overgrown remains of a series of kelp burning pits and traces of a drystone wall are spread along the coast edge, to the southeastern side of Sivers Geo.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY68	HY6710 3759		Mound & kelp pits
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Els Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC/18-20th C		

description

(i) A slight stony rise lies on the coast edge and has been cut in section by coastal erosion. It measures some 6m in diameter and stands no more than 0.25m high. Three earthfast stones, set on edge, define the perimeter of the mound on the inland side and may be part of a kerb. Further stone protrudes from the center of the mound. The coastal section also reveals a concentration of randomly set stone. This may be an additional element to the group of cairns previously recorded in this area (SY66: HY63NE6). (ii) Overgrown kelp pits lie to either side of the mound, close to the coast edge.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY69	HY6705 3765		Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Els Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A grass-covered mound lies on the coast edge and is eroding. Oval in shape, it measures 10m by 5m and stands up to 0.5m high. Stone can be seen protruding from the centre of the mound and further stones are visible in rabbit scrapes on its southern flanks. The coastal section extends for 11m in front of the mound. In it is revealed a concentration of slabs, 0.7m high, which lie in a roughly horizontal fashion. This structure, which would appear to be a cairn, may be an additional element to the group of cairns previously recorded in this area (SY66: HY63NE6).

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY70	HY6700 3781		Mound
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Els Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<50m from coast edge		Fair		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

A grassy mound, 9m in diameter and up to 1m high, lies on rough grassland, some 48m from the coast edge. Frequent earthfast stones protrude through the turf on the surface of this mound, suggesting that it may be an additional element to the group of cairns previously recorded in this area (SY66: HY63NE6).

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY71	HY6696 3785		Enclosure, mound & kelp pits
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Els Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements on coast edge		Fair		Survey	18-20th C/?prehistoric

description

(i) An earthen and stone bank runs roughly parallel with the coast edge for over 100m before curving out to meet the coast edge. Over most of its length, it lies 12m or so from the coast edge. It is up to 2m wide and stands to 0.75m high. (ii) A mound, measuring 8m by 4m, lies alongside the bank. It stands up to 1m high and contains frequent stone within it. may be yet another cairn, associated with the group (SY66: HY63NE6) previously recorded to the south of this area. (iii) A series of overgrown kelp burning pits extend along the coast, mostly located immediately behind the coast edge.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY72	HY6697 3796		Noost, kelp pits and bank
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Els Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements on coast edge		Fair/poor		Monitor	18-20th C/?prehistoric

description

(i) A depression set into the head of the banks may be part of an old boat noost. It measures 1.5m wide and extends for 5m, but was probably longer, since the coastal end is eroding. (ii) A series of overgrown kelp burning pits are located along the coast edge. Most measure 1.5m in diameter and are up to 0.3m deep. (iii) An indistinct and rather amorphous earthen bank runs parallel to the coast edge for some 25m. Covered with grass, it is up to 10m wide and stands to 0.5m high. It is set back from the coast edge by some 15m. This feature may be associated with a linear enclosure bank noted nearby (SY71).

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY73	HY6706 3849		Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Els Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<20m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A slight grassy rise lies within an enclosed pasture field. It measures 10m in diameter and stands up to 0.5m high. It has a gently rounded profile and appears to have been smoothed out by cultivation. It may represent yet another outlier of the group of cairns previously recorded to the south of this area (SY66: HY63NE6).

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY74	HY6701 3855		Coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Els Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown		

description

A concentration of stone is visible in an erosion face at the head of the banks. The exposure extends for 6m and is up to 0.4m high. The stone, which mostly comprises large horizontally-bedded slabs, appears to have been set into an old ground surface. There is little to indicate what, if any, type of a structure is represented. It is possible that this is a site which has just begun to erode and continued monitoring may be worthwhile.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY75	HY672 390	314	Alleged site of broch
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NE7				Elsness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	1st mill BC-1st mill AD		

description

Petrie recorded a 'small brough' in this area; there is no local knowledge of such a site and previous surveyors have been unable to find any remains at this location. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946) #479; RCAHMS (1980) #63.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY76	HY6721 3919		Old ground surface
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Elsness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Intertidal zone	Poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

An old ground surface is exposed in intermittent patches in the intertidal zone on the northwestern side of Els Ness. It is most visible where the cobble cover has recently been washed away. It is occasionally covered by a thin deposit of peaty soil and can be seen to lie over a stony green till. The most extensive exposure measures 5m by 2m; the OGS is up to 0.25m deep. The surface of this deposit is cracked and fissured from the action of the sea. Traces of ashy deposits, which may be anthropogenic, and a fragment of struck flint were noted in association with this soil.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY77	HY6726 3903		Farmstead
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NE20.00-.04				Elsness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Good/fair	Monitor	18-20th C		

description

This farmstead formerly had an open, rectangular plan but it has now been partially demolished and a new cow shed has been added. The detached range originally incorporated a barn, granary and a kiln. Other structures include a workshop, generator house, a hen house, workers cottages and a substantial farmhouse with a garden. The farmstead remains in use. Ref.: RCAHMS & NMS (1998) 'Scottish Farm Buildings Survey', #6.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY78	HY6767 3986	144	Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NE11				Ladykirk	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?10-14th C		

description

Suspected archaeological remains have been reported to the east and south sides of the cemetery at Ladykirk. The remains on the east side are difficult to verify; the area is uneven and overgrown and the most identifiable elements appear to be a series of quarry hollows. On the south side, an erosion face containing archaeological deposits has been exposed by the sea. This section lies to the seaward side of an amorphous mounded area, beneath the modern cemetery enclosure wall. It extends for 5m and is up to 1.5m high. The greater part of the remains comprise of a wall, buried beneath 0.8m of soil, which is up to 7 courses/ 0.9m high and slumped inward. A probable floor surface, formed from closely-fitted flat slabs, extends from the base of the wall on to the foreshore. Anthropogenic soils associated with this contain both burnt and unburnt mammal and fish bone. While the walling may be no more than the remains of an earlier cemetery enclosure, it is more likely to be the remains of an older building, possibly even of medieval date. Ref.: Marwick, H (1923) 'Antiquarian notes on Sanday', POAS, 1 (1922-3), 26-7; RCAHMS (1946) #436; RCAHMS (1980) #79.



Site SY79: Ouse Point

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY79	HY6715 3948		Coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no	placename	
				Ouse Point	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Poor	Survey	Unknown: ?10-14th C		

description

Three fragments of walling are exposed in a coastal section along Ouse Point: a narrow strip of land which extends between Kettletoft Bay and its inner bay, the Peerie Sea. The walling is coursed and stands up to 0.5m/5 courses high. Two of the wall fragments, which protrude from the section face at oblique angles, appear to represent the side and end walls of a rectangular structure with the corner already destroyed by the sea. The third fragment of walling protrudes at a right angle from the section and may be part of an internal dividing wall. On this assumption, the building measures at least 20m in length. Floor levels are suggested by successive layers of flat slabs, interspersed with grey clay and fine gravel. Associated soil deposits contain inclusions of animal bone, shell and mortar. The possible date range for this structure ranges from the Norse to post-medieval periods.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY80	HY664 393		Coastal exposure: cultivation soil
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Kettletoft Bay	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A buried ploughsoil, up to 1.1m deep, is exposed in the coastal section for over 100m. It contains well-sorted fragments of shell and bone. There are no structural remains currently visible in association with this soil but in consideration of the fact that it undoubtedly represents cultivation over an extended period, it may be worthwhile to keep this section under surveillance.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY81	HY6628 3913		Coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no	placename	
				Kettletoft Bay	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A fragment of what appears to be coursed walling is exposed in a coastal section; it extends for 2.5m and is up to 0.4m high. Further concentrations of stone lie to either side and may represent collapsed structural debris. Anthropogenic soils containing peatash and burnt bone extend for 0.15m beneath the walling. The hinterland area is very overgrown and no further archaeological remains are discernible.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY82	HY6602 3885		Coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Kettletoft Bay	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown		

description

A concentration of flat stone, possibly constituting a surface, is exposed in the coastal section. It lies beneath 0.5m deep topsoil and covers a deposit of buried soil, 0.3m in depth. **It is not clear if this is an artificial surface or a natural one, possibly created from storm cast material.** The site is worth monitoring, however, since it may mark the location of more extensive archaeological remains which have not yet begun to erode.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY83	HY659 384		Village
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NE18.0/.01/21-25		Listed		Kettletoft	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C		

description

Kettletoft Village (HY63NE25), with its pier and harbour, served the local fishing fleet as the main port on the island in the 19th and 20th centuries. Its importance as a port has diminished since the construction of a new pier and ferry terminal at Loth at the south end of the island was completed in the **1990's**. A number of buildings in the village are noted by RCAHMS. These include the post office (HY63NE21), a substantial **two-storied** stone storehouse (HY63NE22) and a cottage (HY63NE24). The pier (HY63NE18.00) and slipway (**HY63NE23**) are listed structures. A capstan (HY63NE18.01) stands to one side of the modern weighbridge, at the foot of the pier.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY84	HY6579 3830		Coastal exposure: cultivation remains
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Kettletoft	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown		

description

A concentration of stone, possibly part of a wall or a field lynchet, is exposed towards the top of a 2m high coastal section. The stone extends in a 0.5m thick band for 5m. The section also contains deep, well-sorted cultivation soils with frequent land snail shells.



Site SY87: Cross Kirk

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY85	HY6565 3862		Coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Bea Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown		

description

A 6m long concentration of stone, revealed in a coastal exposure, is closely associated with anthropogenic soils. While the stone does not form part of a recognisable structure, its discrete occurrence suggests that it may be part of an artificial construction or assemblage. Several small flint chips were noted in the exposed soils.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY86	HY6569 3913		Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				How	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A conical mound, oval in plan, lies inside a corn field, immediately adjacent to marshland. It stands to 1.5m in height and is 20m in diameter. At the time of inspection, the mound was under crop and it was notable that the vegetation over this area was significantly greener than the surrounding area. This would appear to indicate that the mound comprises, at least in part, of deeper, richer or more water-retentive soils.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	6	SY87	HY6537 3920	135	Parish church, disused
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NE8		Scheduled	1480	Cross Kirk	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	10-14th C & 18-20th C		

description

The ruins of the disused Cross parish church and cemetery lie adjacent to the coast edge, to the east side of Backaskail Bay. The building, which measures some 21m in length by 7m in width, is thought to date to the late 17th or early 18th C. This church is said to have been built on the foundations of a pre-reformation chapel, dedicated to the Holy Cross. A 16th C account mentions an earlier cemetery with outsize skeletons' being uncovered by erosion. Previous surveyors have noted the presence of midden deposits and drystone walling in the coastal section as indicative of an early settlement. It has been suggested that the site may be of prehistoric date and that the location is also a likely one for a high status Norse settlement. The coastal section is protected by a sea wall which has been recently renewed and no eroding deposits were noted on this visit. There is a mounded area which extends from the eastern side of the cemetery which may represent archaeological remains, covered beneath a thick layer of blown sand. The mound measures some 40m in diameter and stands up to 2m high. Earthworks, previously noted at the west side of the cemetery, have been tentatively identified as the remains of an early church enclosure or part of an earlier settlement. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946) #157; RCAHMS (1980) #174.



Site SY88: Backaskaill farmstead



Site SY89: Backaskaill ?broch

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	7	SY88	HY6417 3927		Farmstead
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.		placename
HY63NW51					Backaskail
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
<100m from coast edge		Good/poor	Monitor		18-20th C

description

This farmstead, built on a rectangular plan, incorporates a grieve's house with an attached farmhouse, a threshing barn, cattle and silage sheds. Some of the buildings, including the house, remain in use; the disused portions are in poor condition. Ref.: RCAHMS & NMS (1998) 'Scottish Farm Building Survey: Orkney', # 2.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	7	SY89	HY6414 3919	100	Possible broch
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.		placename
HY63NW1					Backaskail
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
On coast edge		Fair/poor	Monitor		1st mill BC- 1st mill AD

description

The site of a large structure of apparent prehistoric date, most likely a broch, lies on a rocky outcrop beside the coast edge. Petrie investigated the remains in 1867 and noted that the main structure was surrounded by a ring of large stones and that the walls had a considerable batter. The site has been badly damaged in the past by deliberate leveling and what remains is now subject to destruction by sea erosion and through small-scale sand extraction. In the coastal section, erosion has exposed midden and fragmentary structural deposits over a distance of some 20m; deep anthropogenic soils extend to the west of this for almost 100m. The structural remains include a 3m thick wall, double faced with a soil and rubble core and fragmentary floor surfaces. The midden deposits contain inclusions of bone, peatash, burnt clay and shell. Traces of an OGS are intermittently visible beneath the structural remains. To the rear of the coast, a grassy mound measuring 20m in diameter and standing up to 1.75m high may mark the presence of further buried deposits. Ref.: Petrie, G, (1859-73) Note book 9, 35; RCAHMS (1946) #159; RCAHMS (1980), #58.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	7	SY90	HY634 383		Cultivation remains: rig and furrow
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.		placename
					Mirky Geo
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
<20m from coast edge		Fair	Nil		Unknown: ?18-20th C

description

Traces of rig and furrow cultivation are visible in a field which lies adjacent to the coast edge. The marks can be seen over 2 ha area, aligned NW-SE and running with the slope. The rigs are c.2m wide, while the furrows are 1m to 1.5m wide.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	7	SY91	HY6332 3748		Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Moo Geo	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<20m from coast edge	Good/fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A mound, located in a sloping pasture field, appears to be at least partly artificial. It measures 50m in diameter and stands up to 1.5m high. It backs on to a natural ridge and may cover settlement remains.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	7	SY92	HY632 371		Treb dyke
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NW43				Nebister	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A treb dyke has previously been recorded in this area, running uphill from the cliff edge (HY6322 3713 to 6303 3729). Described as a broad bank, spread to 8m in width and 0.5m in height, it was last noted in 1981. At that time, it was said to be very confused with stabilised blown sand. It was not seen during this visit and may now be completely obscured by drifting sand.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	7	SY93	HY6316 3701	98	Broch or settlement
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NW2				Croos of Nebister	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	1st mill BC- 1st mill AD		

description

A gentle rise in an enclosed pasture field immediately beside the coast edge measures some 30m in diameter and stands up to 2m high. It is surrounded by several other small, amorphous mounds and sand dunes and the entire area is very overgrown. Occasional fragments of walling are exposed in the coastal section, but there is no sign of substantial masonry or obvious broch features noted by previous surveyors. The mounded area, together with traces of anthropogenic soils exposed in the cliff section suggest that this site represents a settlement of probable prehistoric date, but there is now no indication of a broch. The cliff section is actively eroding. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #160; RCAHMS (1980), #62.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY94	HY6265 3618		Noost & kelp pits
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Quoy Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C		

description

A disused, overgrown boat noost is cut into the head of the banks. It measures 6m in length and is 3m wide at its maximum. Several overgrown kelp-burning pits are located nearby.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY95	HY6269 3620	101	Enclosures
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NW8				Quoy Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A linear rise or barrier extends across the neck of a low promontory. It is covered with consolidated deposits of wind blown sand which may hide a stone constituent; occasional stones are visible in rabbit scrapes along its length. It is divided into two parts, with a gap in between. To the eastern side, the barrier measures 27m in length by 19m in width and stands to 3.3m high; the western section is 12m long by 13m wide and has a flattened ledge or 'apron' along its landward side. Previous surveyors have noted midden deposits and stony heaps in this area. It is probable that these remains may be of pre-modern and possibly prehistoric date. A small, rectangular enclosure, defined by a stony bank, lies at the tip of the promontory and appears to be a planticrub of recent date. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #171; RCAHMS (1980), 150.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY96	HY625 367	146	Site of middens
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NW11				Quoy Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements <100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A series of archaeological deposits, described as kitchen middens, have been previously recorded in the area lying to the north west of Quoy Ness. The area is now very overgrown and covered with blown sand deposits. The archaeological remains are no longer visible, although they are more likely to be obscured than destroyed.



Site SY99: Hacks Ness mound and windmill base

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY97	HY6149 3426	139	Mound
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY63SW					Hacks Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<30m from coast edge		Fair/poor		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

A sub-oval shaped mound, aligned east-west, measures 8m by 6m and stands up to 1m high. The centre is dished and the surface is uneven, partly due to the type of tussocky vegetation present and also due to damage caused by rabbit burrowing. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #143. It lies towards the tip of promontory, some 20m from the coast edge on the south side and 60m from the coast on the north.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY98	HY6157 3410		Mound and coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Hacks Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements on coast edge		Poor		Monitor	Unknown

description

A concentration of stone, associated with a buried soil, is exposed in a coastal section. It extends for 6m, at the top of 4m high banks. A slight rise, no more than 3m in diameter and 0.25m high, lies in the immediate hinterland. These remains may be part of a cairn or possibly related to kelp working.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY99	HY6152 3403	137	Mound & navigation marker or windmill
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY63SW5					Hacks Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair		Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC/18-20th C

description

A grassy mound, which may be a burial monument, measures 35m in diameter and 2.5m high and lies on the coast edge. Here and there around the mound, large stones protrude through the turf. Stone is also exposed in the coastal section where sea erosion has made inroads into the mound. Over 60% of the surface area of the mound is affected by rabbit burrowing. A more modern structure is built on top of the mound. This truncated conical construction is built from mortared beach stone. It stands to 2m, measuring 2.5m in diameter at its base and narrows up to 1.1m. The seaward side has begun to collapse. This structure is locally regarded as a windmill base; it has also been recorded as a navigation marker. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #9.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY100	HY6146 3407	138	Kelp working site
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63SW23				Hacks Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C		

description

There are several overgrown kelp burning pits along the coast edge in this area. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #215.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY101	HY6145 3405		Noost & channel
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Hacks Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Coast edge & intertidal zone	Fair	Nil	18-20th C		

description

A sub-rectangular boat noost, 5m long and 2.5m wide, lies overgrown and disused at the head of the banks. In front of it, a channel has been cleared for over 20m along the foreshore and intertidal areas.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY102	HY6140 3464		Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Hacks Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?18-20th C		

description

A sub-circular mound stands beside the coast edge. Measuring 6m (east-west) by 4m (north-south), it stands up to 1.25m high. In contrast to the grassland which surrounds it, the mound is covered in rough vegetation, including nettle and dock. This may be indicative either of recent disturbance to the mound or to additional dumping over it. may even be the case that the entire mound is of recent origin.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY103	HY6121 3531	136	Coastal exposure: settlement remains
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NW9				Bay of Stove	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC		

description

Extensive archaeological remains have been exposed by the sea in the coastal section. These extend for 45m or more along the coast, beneath a 0.4m covering of blown sand and topsoil. The deposits include fragments of drystone walling, probable floor surfaces and stone features, in association with various anthropogenic soil deposits. To either side of this main exposure there are deep ploughsoil deposits visible in section. Chance finds have included a Neolithic mace head and flint flakes. A programme of survey work carried out in 1992 established that the settlement extended inland for approximately 16m. The erosion face was also recorded at this time. A second, late Neolithic, settlement was identified in the field behind and fieldwalking here in 1995 recovered a quantity of artifacts, including worked flint and a fragment of a polished stone axe. The site continues to be eroded by the sea and has been further damaged by rabbits and nesting fulmars. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #172; Stevenson, RBK (1963) 'Stove, Sanday', DES 1963, 39; RCAHMS (1980), #70; Morrison, J (1995) 'Bay of Stove (Cross & Burness parish), Late Neolithic settlement site', DES 1995, 103; Bond, J et al (1995) 'Stove Bay: a new Orcadian grooved ware settlement', Scot Archaeol Rev, 9/10, 1995. 125-130.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY104	HY6119 3540		Coastal exposure: cut feature
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Bay of Stove	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown		

description

A cut feature, possibly part of a ditch, is exposed in section. The cut is most clearly visible in the till deposits at the base of the section. It is filled with stone in a matrix of dark silty soil. It measures 3.5m in width and is 0.5m deep. Above the cut there is a 0.65m thick covering of blown sand and topsoil.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY105	HY6110 3551		Site of chapel
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Stove	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	18-20th C		

description

The site of an Episcopal chapel (built 1714, demolished 1830) lies beneath modern buildings at Stove. This may have been built on the foundations of an earlier chapel. One local tradition suggests that it may have been a private chapel of the Sinclairs of Stove, dating to early 17th C. Bones are said to have been uncovered during the excavation of foundations in recent times. Ref.: Dennison, WT (1880) 'Orcadian Sketch-book', 2; Craven, JB (1883) 'The episcopal church in Orkney 1688-1882..', 115; RCAHMS (1946), #181; RCAHMS (1980), #188.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY106	HY608 355	400	Farmstead, outbuildings, cottages
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NW39.00-03				Stove	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	18-20th C		

description

The farm at Stove, now largely ruinous, represents an unusually well-appointed steading. Dating from the 1860's, it mechanised early and was provided with a steam-powered threshing machine, of which the stump of the boiler chimney remains. The substantial farmhouse remains in use and some modern outbuildings have been added. A row of farmworkers cottages stand to the rear of the farmstead, in ruins. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #202; RCAHMS & NMS (1998) 'Scottish Farm Buildings Survey: Orkney', #37.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY107	HY608 355	145	Site of chambered mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NW10				Stove	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC		

description

A chambered mound is said to have been discovered accidentally near to Stove Farm around 1910. A group of eight artifacts, now lost, which were found inside were later interpreted, from their description alone, as stone lamps. There is now no trace of any remains in this area. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #173; RCAHMS (1980), #118.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY108	HY6067 3488	366	Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63SW8				Spur Ness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<90m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

An overgrown grassy mound is located on a sloping hillside, some 80m or more from the coast. Approximately oval in shape, it measures 30m by 25m and stands to 1m high. Some stone protrudes from the surface of the mound and there are several other concentrations protruding through the turf in the immediate area. The mound has been provisionally interpreted as a settlement mound in the past, but the prominent location and discrete nature of the remains may alternatively be taken as evidence of a burial monument. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #89.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY109	HY6060 3479	99	Burnt mound
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY63SW6					Hangie, Spur Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
>100m from coast edge		Fair		Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC

description

A crescent-shaped burnt mound is located on a sloping hillside, close to a small pool. It measures 25m in diameter and stands to 2m high. Burnt stone deposits, in a matrix of dark soil, are exposed in the sides of the mound. Recent embanking has served to contain the pool, possibly as a source of drinking water for cattle. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #51.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY110	HY6041 3390		Enclosure
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Spur Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements on coast edge		Fair		Nil	Unknown

description

A curvilinear grass-covered bank, 0.5m high, runs through a fenced field to the coast edge. At the coast, the end of the bank has been eroded and the lower part of the bank is revealed to be constructed from stone and to measure 1.5m in width. The bank appears to have originally enclosed an area some 60m in diameter.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	8	SY111	HY6036 3414	369	Mound
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY63SW11					Loth, Spur Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<100m from coast edge		Not seen		Monitor	Unknown

description

Previously, a mound with projecting stones was recorded by the shore. It is said to have measured 12m in diameter and to stand 0.3m high. This site could not be relocated during the present survey and it is probable that it was destroyed during the construction of the new pier and adjoining facilities. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #154.



Site SY114: Lamba Ness

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY112	HY6021 3668		Boundary bank/treb dyke
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Spaney Geo
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements on coast edge		Good		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

A grass-covered bank runs inland, at a right angle to the coast, for over 100m. From that point, it curves away to the south-east, running uphill over heathery slopes. It spreads between 3m and 4m in width and stands up to 0.75m high.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY113	HY6039 3735		Kelp pits and possible marl quarry
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Strang Quoy
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements on coast edge		Fair		Nil	18-20th C

description

Ten or more overgrown kelp burning pits are located close to the coast edge. On average, they measure 1.5m in diameter and are 0.5m deep. In the nearby cliff section, saprolitic deposits are exposed to an overall depth of 2.5m. The hinterland in this area, which is uneven disturbed in appearance, may have been quarried to obtain marl for agricultural purposes. The deposits include very plastic clays, which would be suitable for the production of ceramics.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY114	HY6140 3801		Coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Lamba Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair/poor		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

A concentration of stone is exposed in the coastal section, at the top of 10m high cliffs. The section extends for 6m and is up to 0.4m deep. A 0.2m thick layer of buried soil separates the stone from a thin band of drift and the bedrock which lies below it. The stone is discretely packed and, while no structural features can be seen, it does not appear to be of natural origin. There is a slight rise in the immediate hinterland, which may mark further, associated buried remains; this is difficult to determine, however, since the vegetation in this area is hummocky and uneven.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY115	HY6138 3797	244	Mounds: alleged site of chapel
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.		placename
HY63NW12					Lamba Ness
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
<20m from coast edge		Fair	Monitor		Unknown: ?10-14th

description

An area of disturbed ground close to the coast edge has been alleged to be the site of an ancient chapel. Topographically, the site is visible as two conjoined amorphous mounds, separated by a slightly dished hollow; the whole covering an area some 15m long and 7m wide. It is not improbable that these remains represent a rectangular structure, such as a chapel, but this cannot be conclusively determined on present evidence. According to local tradition, a pit, covered by a large flagstone, was once uncovered and then reburied in this area. Ref.: Marwick, H (1923) 'Antiquarian Notes on Sanday', POAS, 1, (1922-3), 125; Ordnance Survey Orkney Name Book, Book 2, 125; RCAHMS (1946), #180; RCAHMS (1980), #179.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY116	HY618 378		Possible fish trap or basin
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.		placename
					Pool
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
Intertidal zone		Fair	Nil		Unknown

description

A possible fish trap or basin is located in the intertidal zone adjacent to the excavated settlement on the east side of Pool Bay. Here, at low tide, a body of water is almost completely encircled by stony reefs. It is not clear whether or not this is a natural feature but it shares similarities to fish traps seen elsewhere and may at least be a natural feature which has been enhanced through clearing or deepening the central pool. The enclosed area measures some 60m in length by 30m in width.



Site SY118: North Mire

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY117	HY6194 3785	290	Settlement
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY63NW17			Pool		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	4th mill BC-1st mill AD		

description

Extensive archaeological deposits exposed in the 100m+ coastal section are associated with a multi-period settlement. This site has been investigated over several seasons up to 1988. Interim results indicate that the earliest remains on the site date back to the Neolithic period; later Iron Age/Pictish remains, followed by Norse period structures well represented later on in the sequence. A large number of artifacts, including a Pictish symbol stone, were recovered during excavation and extensive palaeoenvironmental studies were undertaken. Deposits exposed in the section, which are up to 4m thick, include extensive deposits of midden material, structural remains and cultivation soils. The tell-like accumulation of deposits at this site shares similarities with what is currently known of several of the other 'farm mound' sites on Sanday, which may also be found to represent multiperiod settlements of very long duration. Ref.: Brogger, AW (1930) 'Den Norsk bosetningen pa Shetland-Orknøyene; Greig, S (1940) Viking Antiquities in Scotland (part II of Shetelig, H (ed) Viking Antiquities in Great Britain and Ireland); RCAHMS (1946), appendix #2; RCAHMS (1980), #84; Hunter JR (1985) 'Sanday-Pool (Cross and Burness parish) Broch, symbol stone, grooved ware settlement, stone objects', DES (1985), 66; Hunter, JR (1987) 'Sanday-Pool (Cross and Burness parish) Neolithic, Iron Age, Pictish-Norse structures: grooved ware', DES (1987), 36; Hunter, JR (1988) 'Sanday-Pool (Cross and Burness parish) Multi-period site', DES (1988).

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY118	HY6205 3799	245	Cairn & coastal exposure
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY63NW27			North Mire		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	4th-3rd mill BC		

description

The seaward side of an overgrown mound, which lies at the top of 5m high banks, is being eroded by the sea. The 12m long coastal exposure reveals a cairn, comprising a concentration of beach stone, uprights and coursed walling. To the centre of the section, a block of walling, made up of larger stones appears to be part of a small chamber or cist structure. Other structural features include a large upright slab which protrudes from the north end of the cairn and an associated 2.2m long fragment of coursed masonry. The cairn lies over an OGS, which covers a thin deposit of till over bedrock. The cairn, although badly damaged in parts, extends inland for a further 12m. It remains very vulnerable to further erosion. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #13.



Site SY119: Boloquoy



Site SY121: Boloquoy mill

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY119	HY6248 3892		Coastal exposure: ? settlement mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Boloquoy	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	4th-3rd mill BC		

description

A probable early settlement mound lies on the overgrown margin between cultivated land and the coast edge. It measures 4m in diameter and 1m high. Archaeological deposits are revealed in an exposure along its seaward side, caused by coastal erosion. These comprise structural remains, including a probable flagged floor, and layers of anthropogenic and probable cultivation soils, up to 1m in thickness. The anthropogenic soils, which are best seen to the north side of the mound, contain inclusions of bone, shell, peatash, pot and flint. Further intermittent exposures of anthropogenic soils extend for some 50m to the north. An OGS, which lies below these layers, is exposed in plan at the south side of a stony bay. Some small fragments of flint were noted in this surface.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY120	HY6260 3896	286	Cairn
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NW4				Boloquoy	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC		

description

A badly damaged cairn lies to the south west of the farm at Boloquoy. The centre has been dug out, leaving a doughnut-shaped grassy bank. It measures 13m in diameter. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #163; RCAHMS (1980), #134.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY121	HY6257 3906	287	Mill
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NW38				Boloquoy	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<10m from coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C		

description

This two-storied stone mill building has a breast-shot wheel and measures 15m in length by 7m wide. It has a slate roof, is partially mortar bonded and is, generally, in good condition. The millstones are set up against the outside wall. It is located to the rear of a stony beach. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #198.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY122	HY6256 3927	288	Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY63NW29				Boloquoy	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<10m from coast edge	Good	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A substantial, sub-circular grassy mound lies inside a pasture field, close to the coast edge. There is some suggestion that it may occupy a natural ridge, but it is unlikely to be an entirely natural feature. It measures some 35m in diameter and stands up to 3m high. The centre is slightly dished, suggesting that it may have been dug into in the past. Several earthfast stones protrude through the turf. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #135.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY123	HY6249 3931		Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Ebb of Seater	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

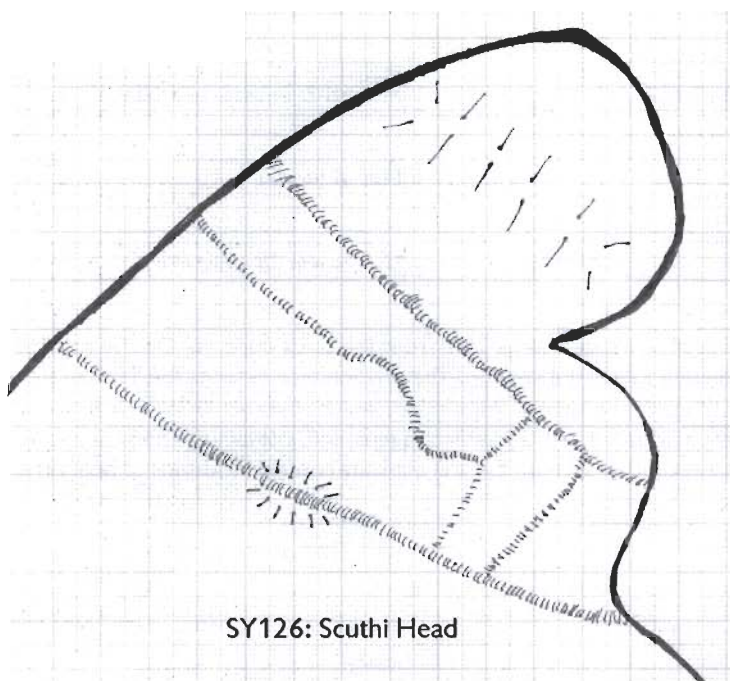
description

(i) A grassy mound, 15m in diameter and 1.5m high, is located some 20m from the coast edge. (ii) On the coast, archaeological deposits have been exposed in section by coastal erosion. The erosion face extends for 16m and is up to 1.3m deep. A concentration of horizontally-set slabs towards the base of the section, which cover an OGS, may represent a surface. To the north of this, fragments of a structure are associated with an anthropogenic soil, containing charcoal and peatash. Further north again, a probable heath setting is exposed in section; the soil deposits contain inclusions of peatash and burnt bone.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY124	HY6264 3960		Enclosed promontory
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Grunavi Head	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown		

description

The faint outlines of a bank and ditch can be seen to extend across the neck of a small promontory which is surrounded by moderately high cliffs. The boundary may indicate a defensive 'fort' but is more likely to be a livestock barrier. The seaward ends of the bank are eroding.



SY126: Scuthi Head

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	9	SY125	HY6295 3957	355	Banks
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY63NW40					Mires
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<50m from coast edge		Fair		Monitor	Unknown

description

A bank curves across the base of a shallow valley, some 40m from the coast edge. It has been denuded in places by rabbit burrowing and the traffic of sheep. It is paralleled by a second similar bank, located further inland. The purpose of these banks remains enigmatic; it has been suggested that they have the appearance of a small dam, but no mill is to be found in this area. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #226.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY126	HY6330 4007	253	Possible promontory fort
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64SW5					Scuthi Head
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements on coast edge		Fair		Survey	?1st mill BC - 1st mill AD

description

A series of earth banks are located at the tip of a headland, surrounded by high cliffs. On the landward side, one bank extends for some 70m, from the east to west across the headland. It stands up to 0.5m high and has spread to 2m in width. The middle part of this bank is more mounded in appearance, standing to 1.5m high and spreading to 7m in width. At the west side of the promontory, a 10m by 13m rectangular area is defined by low banks. Two further large banks (up to 2.5m wide and 0.75m high) form parallel rectangular enclosures which back on to the coast edge. In summary, the earthworks appear to represent a complex comprising a rectangular building and two field enclosures, the whole being defended by a stout bank. It shares little in common with typical prehistoric promontory forts and may be of later date. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #57.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY127	HY640 406	354	Treb dyke
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64SW6					Fea Hill
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements on coast edge		Fair		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

An earthen bank, 8m wide and up to 1m high, runs uphill from the coast. It is visible for over 100m, running perpendicular to the coast edge. It runs between HY6400 4068 to HY6437 4045. The seaward end is eroding and elsewhere, its shape has been softened through cultivation and the traffic of animals. RCAHMS (1980), #120.



Site SY129: Ayre



Site SY130: Chapel Head

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY128	HY6472 4130		Enclosure
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Ayre
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair		Survey	Unknown

description

An L-shaped enclosure, defined by an earthen bank, lies adjacent to the coast edge and has been partially truncated by coastal erosion. It encloses a sub-square area, with sides of about 26m long. The bank is spreading to 5m and stands up to 1m high.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY129	HY6522 4123	251	Coastal exposure: settlement remains
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64SE41					Ayre
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair/poor		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

Archaeological remains are exposed in the coastal section in front of the abandoned farmstead at Ayre. The erosion face extends for some 60m in length and is up to 3m in height. Fragmentary walling, revealed in the section, appears to be part of a rectilinear structure, which is aligned parallel to the present erosion face. There is also a wall butt which protrudes from the section at a right angle. The structure(s) stands over an OGS, which covers till and bedrock. A stony destruction horizon, forms the upper level of the section. This, in turn, is covered by ploughsoil, up to 1m deep. At the east end of the section interleaving layers of anthropogenic soils, containing shell, bone and peatash appear to represent domestic midden deposits associated with the structures. The site is vulnerable to further erosion by the sea.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY130	HY6536 4136	250	Mound & alleged chapel site
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64SE13					Chapel Head
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair/poor		Monitor	?prehistoric or 10-14th C

description

An overgrown mound, measuring 15m by 19m and probably originally sub-circular in shape, lies on the coast edge and is eroding. It extends to the rear into the adjacent pasture field. On the seaward side, stone is revealed in numerous small exposures in association with anthropogenic soils containing peatash. These deposits sit over a bedrock outcrop which stands to 3m above the level of the beach. Previous surveys recorded fragments of bone in the section and have tentatively linked these remains with a chapel site alleged to lie in the area (located at HY6534 4133). Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #178; RCAHMS (1980), #170.



Site SY132: Broughton

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY131	HY6547 4135		Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Broughtown	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<50m from coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A mound, 15m in diameter and 1m high, lies inside a **pasture** field. Stones protrude through the turf around the mound. A small associated earthwork, possibly an enclosure bank runs off from the mound towards the coast.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY132	HY6541 4142		Coastal exposure: ?human bone
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Broughtown	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	Unknown: ?10-14th C		

description

A coastal exposure contains articulated bone, which may be derived from a human burial. The bone lies beneath 0.33m of turf, topsoil and subsoil and over 0.2m of stony soil over till. There are no clear indications of a cut. The exposed bones include six vertebrae and part of a long bone, either a femur or a humerus. The skeleton extends over a distance of 0.48m and is aligned east-west. It is possible that the remains may be associated with a church site and that this may be the same site as was previously recorded at Chapel Head (SY130/HY64SE13).

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY133	HY6554 4209		Structure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Styes of Brough	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C		

description

The ruins of a drystone structure lie at the south end of a **small shingle** beach. Measuring 10m by 7m, the walls stand up to 2.5m high and are 1m thick. The core of the wall is filled with **boulder clay**. The doorway is 2m wide and faces south. The nearby beach is suitable for fish-drying and it is possible that this **structure** may have been used as a boat house or store.



Site SY136: Ness of Brough

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY134	HY654 421	324	Mounds
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64SE18, 26 & 30					Styes of Brough
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements <10m from coast edge		Good/fair		Monitor	?prehistoric or 10-14th C

description

Four mounds, of which three lie within the area under investigation by this survey, were previously identified as probable Viking burials due to chance finds of Viking-period artifacts (HY64SE26) said to have been made in the area. Recent assessment has indicated that the mounds are of prehistoric date, although a disturbed boat-shaped setting was found which may be part of a Viking burial setting. The southernmost mound (HY64SE18) is 30m in diameter. It is prominently located on a natural rise, has a conical shape and lies within 10m of the coast. The surface is pitted and stony. A low grass-covered bank runs off for some 10m from the east side of the mound. A second mound (HY64SW30, 'B'), 10m in diameter and lies c.45m to the northeast. The surface is uneven and stony with what may be part of a structural feature. The third mound (HY64SW18, 'A') lies to the north, is oval in shape and measures 13m by 11m. It stands to 1m high and lies 18m from the sea. Ref.: Orkney Name Book, no.2, 73; Grieg, S (1940) 'Viking Antiquities in Great Britain and Ireland: part II' 171-2; RCAHMS (1946), #188; RCAHMS (1980), #132; Hunter, JR & Dockrill, SJ (1982) 'Some Norse Sites on Sanday, PSAS, 112, 570-76; Owen, O & Dalland, M 1999 'Scar: A Viking Boat Burial on Sanday, Orkney', Tuckwell Press/Historic Scotland, 14; Bond, Dockrill, Gibson & Owen forthcoming 'The Styes of Brough, Sanday, Orkney, re-examined for Channel 4's Time Team'.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY135	HY653 422		Buried soil and kelp pits
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Ness of Brough
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair		Monitor	18-20th C

description

A series of eight or more overgrown kelp pits are located close to the coast edge over a distance of 80m, or so. They are each about 1.75m wide and 0.3m deep. A layer of buried soil is intermittently exposed in the coastal section in this area.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY136	HY6544 4256	264	Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64SE6					Ness of Brough
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair/poor		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

A stony, sub-oval mound lies on the coast edge and is being eroded by the sea. Aligned east-west, it measures 11m by 6m and stands up to 0.75m high. The surface is uneven and there are occasional earthfast stones protruding through the turf. The coastal section reveals three layers of horizontally-banded stones in a loamy matrix. There are several other, more slight, rises in this area, which are being eroded by the sea. It is difficult, however, to determine archaeological deposits from the mass of storm-cast material in the section. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #12.



Site SY138: Westbrough

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY137	HY6589 4231		Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Westbrough	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Poor	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

An amorphous grassy mound which lies on the coast edge is eroding. In plan, the surviving part of the mound measures 10m in length by 5m in width and stands up to 0.75m high. The erosion face, which stands 0.5m high, reveals several stones which are notably larger than in the surrounding area; there is little evidence of any structure, however.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY138	HY6633 4235	321	Mound: possible settlement
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64SE14				Westbrough	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Located <100m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

An extensive mound lies immediately to the north side of the farm at Westbrough. It is over 80m in diameter and stands up to 3m in height. The placename may indicate the existence of a broch on this site, but there are currently no structural remains to be seen. Previous surveys have recorded that deposits of organic soil and shell midden were visible in exposures. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #183; RCAHMS (1980), #95.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY139	HY6633 4288	141	Boat noosts & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64SE47				North Bay	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C		

description

Two boat noosts are set into the banks at the head of a shingle beach. Measuring 2m long by 1.5m wide, they are now disused and overgrown. A coastal exposure which extends for c.35m from the south side of the noosts contains a concentration of stone which may be part of a surface or wall, possibly associated with fish or kelp drying. An OGS is also exposed in this section. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #227.



ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY140	HY6627 4288		Cist burials and stone pyre settings
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64SW55				Hermisgarth	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	1st mill BC-1st mill AD		

description

Two cists, containing inhumation burials, were exposed under a cairn in the cliff section. These were investigated and recorded in 1993. One of the burials was radiocarbon dated to the later Iron Age/Pictish period. Two pyre settings and another cairn covering cists and structural features was recorded during a later season of work in 1997. The cist and structural fragments remains visible in the erosion face, which extends for 50m. A geophysical survey of the area indicated that further remains may extend up to 100m southward of the coast edge. Ref.: Downes, J M & Morris, CD (1997) 'Hermisgarth, Sanday: the investigation of pyre settings and Pictish cist burials in Orkney', PSAS, 127 (1997). 609-626.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY141	HY6610 4330		Coastal exposure: indeterminate
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Howland	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown		

description

A concentration of flat slabs are exposed in the coastal section. The stone is laid over an OGS and is covered by 0.25m of turf and topsoil. A piece of unworked flint was noted in association with the basal layer of stone. The exposure extends for 10m in length and is up to 0.25m high.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY142	HY660 434		Coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Howland	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown		

description

Intermittent short concentrations of stone are exposed in the coastal section. Comprising flat slabs and rounded cobbles, the average length of these concentrations is 2m. They are covered by turf and topsoil and may be part of kelp-drying walls or working platforms.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	10	SY143	HY6594 4352		Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Howland	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A low, amorphous rise lies in a pasture field, 8m from the coast. Measuring 17m in diameter, it stands up to 1m high. Short exposures around the base of the mound indicate a stony matrix. The remains of a robbed out drystone wall run over the top of the rise.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	11	SY144	HY6568 4381	112	Alleged site of chapel
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64SE23				Curcasetter or Kirk Geo	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?10-14th C		

description

An ancient chapel is said to have been located in this area and to be reflected in the local placenames. Previous surveys have noted possible headstones, but these are no longer in evidence. Ref.: Orkney Name Book, no.2, 63; RCAHMS (1980), #175.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	11	SY145	HY6547 4401	108	Site of mound & cist
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64SE17				Knowe of Yarrow	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC		

description

A mound in which a cist containing an urn was found is said to have been located here. The urn is said to have contained ashes and charred bones. The mound was destroyed prior to 1928. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #187; RCAHMS (1980), #10.



Site SY146: Rethie Taing



Site SY148: Holms of Ire, chapel

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	11	SY146	HY6511 4424	140	Possible chambered cairn
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64SE39					Rethie Taing
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair/poor		Survey	4th-3rd mill BC

description

A grassy mound which lies on the coast edge has been damaged by erosion. It appears to have been originally circular or sub-circular and about 25m in diameter. The mound is prominently sited on a natural knoll, on a short headland. It extends, beneath a drystone wall, into a cultivated field and has been truncated by ploughing. On the seaward side, the erosion face is uneven and overgrown but sections of walling and part of a probable passage are visible. The passage is about 1m wide; its walls stand up to 0.4m high and can be traced into the mound for 1.6m. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #4.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	11	SY147	HY651 448		Sheep fold
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64SE64					Airon
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<100m from coast edge		Not seen		Nil	18-20th C

description

A sheep fold has been surveyed and recorded by RCAHMS. Ref.: RCAHMS & NMS (1998), 'Scottish Farm Buildings Survey: Orkney', #11.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	11	SY148	HY5605 4577	106	Chapel
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64NE1					Holms of Ire
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<10m from coast edge		Poor		Monitor	10-14th C

description

This chapel is situated on a tidal island, which is accessible at low tide. It is locally said to be dedicated to St. Colm. The line of the building is now barely visible; it appears as a shallow depression and among heaped rubble and storm beach debris, among which occasional lengths of coursed masonry can be seen. It would appear that part of the structure has been crudely rebuilt in the recent past; but this masonry has also now collapsed. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #156; RCAHMS (1980), #182.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	11	SY149	HY651 457	376	Kelp workings
NMRS no.			Status	HS index no.	placename
HY64NE10					Holms of Ire
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
Elements on coast edge		Fair/poor	Nil		18-20th C

description

Several kelp-burning pits and drying walls are located on the inner holm. The pits measure about 2m in diameter and are 0.5m deep. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #216.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	11	SY150	HY6498 4598	377	Crues & structures
NMRS no.			Status	HS index no.	placename
HY64NW3					Holms of Ire
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
Elements <10m from coast edge		Fair	Nil		18-20th C

description

The footings of two or more rough buildings of 18-20th C date and several crues are located on the inner holm, close to kelp workings. The square crues have sides measuring 5m; the walls are now reduced to 0.25m or less. The rough buildings, possibly kelp-workers huts, are very fragmentary, being indicated only by the presence of a few upright blocks. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #199.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	11	SY151	HY647 461		Natural feature
NMRS no.			Status	HS index no.	placename
HY64NW2					Castle Geo, Holms of Ire
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
On coast edge		Not seen	Nil		N/A

description

A natural geo, submerged at high tide.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	11	SY152	HY6475 4710	107	Wreck of the Alex Hastings
NMRS no.			Status	HS index no.	placename
HY64NW8001					Holms of Ire
Location to coast		condition	recommendation		date range
Intertidal & marine zone		Not seen	Nil		18-20th C

description

The remains of the Alex Hastings, an Aberdeen trawler wrecked in 1939, lie off the north end of the Holms of Ire. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #220.



Site SY155: Runna Clett

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	11	SY153	HY6511 4542		Cairn
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Whale Point	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<20m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A small rise is located close to a track leading to the Holms of Ire. The summit of the rise is surrounded by a ring of earthfast boulders, 2m in diameter and 0.8m high. Although superficially similar in appearance to a prehistoric cairn, this site may be of more recent origin.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	11	SY154	HY6610 4527		Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Rue	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<70m from coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A low mound, which has been reduced and smoothened through cultivation, lies in a pasture field, 60m from the coast. It is oval/sub-circular in shape, measuring 15m in diameter and 1m high. It is entirely covered with grass and there are no stones visible in its sides.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	11	SY155	HY6659 4540	142	Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64NE3				Runna Clett	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A slight rise is located on the coast edge. It measures 30m in diameter and is up to 1.5m high. Sea erosion in front of the mound has exposed archaeological deposits in a 25m long section. To the west side, these include a band of highly organic soil, covering shell midden, which is predominantly cockle. To the east side, occasional large stones and a block of coursed masonry protrude from the section. The block of masonry is faced on one side, extends for 1m and stands to 0.5m or 6 courses in height. The stones lie over a very distinctive, highly organic silty soil layer which is up to 0.35m deep. The site was previously recorded as a broch, on the tenuous evidence that it had been included as such on Petrie's list. Cartloads of stone are said to have been removed from the site, but there is no record of what, if anything, was uncovered during these investigations. Ref.: Orkney Name Book, 2, #24; Petrie, G (1873), 'Notice of the brochs or large round towers of Orkney', Arch Scotica, 5 (1874-1890), 71-94; Hamilton, JRC (1968) 'Excavations at Clickhimin, Shetland', 174; RCAHMS (1946), #182; RCAHMS (1980), #151.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	11	SY156	HY6679 4533	258	Coastal exposure: settlement
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64NE5					Woo
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair/poor		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

A low mound lies on the coast edge and is being eroded by the sea. In the erosion face, archaeological deposits are exposed for over 25m in section which stands no more than 2m high. These comprise mainly of layers of dirty sand, probably part of an old ground surface, which are up to 0.4m thick. This 'surface' covers a band of shell midden, up to 0.2m thick, which in turn covers till. There are occasional larger stones visible in the section, but the area is too overgrown to determine if these may constitute structural remains. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #97.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY157	HY6766 4577		Mound
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Quoy Banks
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<5m from coast edge		Good		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

An elongated, amorphous grassy mound lies close to the coast edge. Aligned north-south, it measures 20m in length by 10m in width and stands up to 1.5m high. There are some earthfast stones visible towards its summit. There are large quantities of blown sand in the near vicinity and it is possible that this feature may be entirely natural or that it may be very much exaggerated in size by the drifting sand.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY158	HY6770 4581		Coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Quoy Banks
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair/poor		Monitor	Unknown

description

A continuous 60m exposure of stone has been exposed in the coastal section as the result of sea erosion. For the most part, these deposits appear to be natural and to derive from an old storm beach which has been covered and later re-exposed. In one area, however, there are several stones which, being larger in size and apparently horizontally set, may be part of a structure. There are no anthropogenic soils visibly associated. This concentration extends for 5m and stands up to 0.8m high. The coast is being very actively eroded in this area and further exposures may provide more substantial evidence of the nature of this site.



Site SY159: Scar boat burial

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY159	HY6780 4584	259	Site of boat burial
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64NE7		Scheduled	6162	Quoybanks, Scar	
Location to coast		condition	recommendation	date range	
On coast edge		Fair	Monitor	1st mill BC-1st mill AD	

description

Part of a Viking-period boat burial, revealed by coastal erosion, was excavated here in 1991. The boat, which had been set in a stone-lined cut, contained the remains of a man, woman and a child, together with a rich array of grave goods. This pagan burial is thought to date from between the last quarter of the ninth century and the middle of the tenth century. The results of excavation are published in full (Owen & Dalland). There is now nothing to see of the burial site. Nearby, a small mound is being eroded; part of a drystone wall is revealed in the exposure. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #140; Dalland, M (1992), 'Scar, Sanday (Cross & Burness parish): Viking boat grave', DES (1992), 81-2; Dalland, M (1992), 'Scar: a Viking boat burial', Current Archaeology, 11 (1992), 457-7; Owen, O & Dalland, M (1999), 'Scar: A Viking Boat Burial on Sanday, Orkney', Tuckwell Press & Historic Scotland.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY160	HY6790 4592	260	Kelp workings
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64NE9				The Crook Beach	
Location to coast		condition	recommendation	date range	
On coast edge		Fair	Nil	18-20th C	

description

A group of stone-lined kelp-burning pits stand close to the coast edge. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #214.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY161	HY6800 4595	261	Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64NE6				The Crook	
Location to coast		condition	recommendation	date range	
<40m from coast edge		Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric	

description

A grassy mound, which lies inside a pasture field, measures 40m in diameter and stands up to 2.5m high. The ground surface around the periphery of the mound is slightly disturbed by cattle poaching and there are several rabbit scrapes in the vicinity. The northwest side has been dug into in the past, resulting now in a grassy U-shaped depression. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #139.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY162	HY6850 4668	255	Kelp workings
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64NE11					Whitemill Bay
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<10m from coast edge		Fair/poor		Nil	18-20th C

description

The footings of a rectangular building, said to have been used as a kelp store, are located close to the coast edge. It measures approximately 5.5m by 5m and has a sunken floor. Immediately adjacent to this there is an overgrown, hollowed area, which may either be part of a sunken structure or possibly a working yard. This measures 7m by 6m. A stone-revetted bank stands to the landward side of the structures, extending for 9m and standing to 0.45m high. At the east end of the bank a concentration of loose stone, 20m in diameter, may be the remains of a working platform. There are numerous overgrown kelp pits and drying walls in the area. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #218.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY163	HY6867 4660		Coastal exposure: wall
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Whitemill Bay
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Poor		Monitor	Unknown

description

A small fragment of drystone masonry, which may be part of a kelp-drying wall, is exposed in the side of an eroding dune. The erosion face is located to the east side of a trackway which leads to the shore. It lies immediately below the turf and is exposed over a distance of 1.5m. There are no anthropogenic soils visible in the section.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY164	HY6990 4637		Mound and possible boat noosts
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Whitemill Point
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<20m from coast edge		Poor		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric/18-20th

description

An ill-defined, amorphous mound lies 15m from the coast edge. The surface of the mound is uneven and there are several upright stones protruding from the turf. Overall, it measures approximately 25m by 18m and stands up to 1m in height. Up to 5% of the surface of the mound shows signs of rabbit burrowing. At the west end of the mound a boat-shaped depression is cut into the surface. Measuring 6m in length by 2m wide, this possible noost is 0.3m deep and is lined with slabs. A second hollow, which may also be a boat noost, is located on the coast edge nearby.



Site SY165: Whitemill Point

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY165	HY6997 4633		Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64NE8				Whitemill Point	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric/18-20th		

description

A prominent, grassy mound measuring 30m by 20m and standing to 3m high, is being eroded by the sea. The erosion face extends for some 40m and is up to 4.5m high. It is overgrown, however, and therefore not very informative on the nature or composition of the mound. Short exposures of masonry and occasional protruding stones are suggestive of an underlying structure. There are some fragments of animal bone among the sandy matrix but there is little in the way of obvious stratigraphy or anthropogenic deposits. A drystone enclosure, built near the top of the mound and of much later date, is now collapsing down the seaward side. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #160.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY166	HY6999 4612	255	Kelp workings
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64NE12				Whitemill Point	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C		

description

The remains of a small rectangular building, together with numerous overgrown kelp-burning pits and drying walls lie immediately behind the shore. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), # 219.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY167	HY695 456		Farmstead & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64NE17				Helliehow	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	18-20th C		

description

This farmstead was built in a U-shaped plan, around a central yard and includes parallel house and byre ranges. The byres have slab partitions. The farm is now abandoned and the buildings are in a state of disrepair. Some fragments of the original flagstone roofs survive, but the buildings are mostly roofless. The coast edge in front of the farm has been eroded by the sea and substantial deposits of organic soil layers are exposed for over 100m. These are up to 0.8m thick and contain inclusions of peatash, shell, mammal and fish bone and charcoal. It is unclear if these deposits are directly related to the last farmstead on the site or if they predate it; it is probable, however, that they represent settlement over an extended period of time. Ref.: RCAHMS & NMS (1998) 'Scottish Farm Buildings Survey: Orkney', #10.



Site SY168: New Ortie village



Site SY170: Northskail

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY168	HY6868 4528		Village
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64NE16				New Ortie	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements <100m from coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C		

description

A group of 19th C buildings, including houses, byres and outbuildings, are arranged in a long straight 'kloss'. Most of the buildings are now ruinous, although two have been renovated and are in use. This linear settlement is aligned perpendicular to the coast; the nearest building lies some 50m from the coast edge. Ref.: RCAHMS & NMS (1998) 'Scottish Farm Buildings Survey: Orkney', #18.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY169	HY6853 4505	378	Burnt mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64NE2				Ortie	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<50m from coast edge	Fair	Nil	3rd-1st mill BC		

description

A grass-covered, sub-oval mound is located to the rear of the sand dunes which form the coast edge here. It measures 25m by 15m and is aligned north-south. It stands up to 1.5m high. A depression on the west side of the mound is indicative of previous disturbance. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #167; RCAHMS (1980), #47.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	12	SY170	HY6836 4442	386	Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64SE12				Northskaill	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	?3rd-1st mill BC		

description

A substantial mound lies adjacent to the coast and has already been truncated by sea erosion. The current erosion face is cut through the highest point of the mound, exposing up to 5m of archaeological deposits in a 150m long section. The surviving portion of the mound slopes inland from the section face and is visible for some 60m. The exposed deposits are a well-stratified mix of organic soils with frequent inclusions of shell (limpet, cockle, winkle), bone, peatash and charcoal. In the section, a fragment of masonry, 1.2m long by 0.3m high, has the appearance of an outer wall face belonging to a structure only now beginning to erode. Of note, is the survival of fibrous organic material, which occurs in discrete lenses, and which appears to be a mixture of straw and dung; probably byre waste. In the scale and appearance of the mound and in the nature of the exposed deposits, this mound appears to be fairly typical of the Sanday farm mounds, but there are some indications that it may have early origins. Fragments of straight sided pottery, possibly of Bronze Age date, were recovered from deposits towards the base of the section. The remains are known to have been eroding since at least 1928; they are very vulnerable to further coastal erosion and the section is inherently unstable, being based on soft sand deposits. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #174; RCAHMS (1980), #81.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	13	SY171	HY6830 4420		Store & dwelling
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Northskaill	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Survey	18-20th C		

description

The ruined shell of a two-storied structure lies at the head of the beach, in front of Northskaill Farm. It is aligned end-on to the beach and measures 11m long by 5m wide. The building has crow-stepped gables and retains fragments of a slate roof. The walls are clay-bonded and traces of render survive both internally and externally. Fireplaces are built into both of the end walls on the upper story; that at the west end retains a fine sandstone surround. There are windows in both the side and west end walls on the upper level, while there are two opposed doorways and two window at ground level. A shed, 4m by 5m, adjoins the west end wall. The building appears to have served as a combined store (ground floor) and dwelling house (upper level). The interior is now very overgrown.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	13	SY172	HY6723 4304	380	Probable burial mounds
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64SE2				Thorsness	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements <20m from coast edge	Poor	Survey	3rd-1st mill BC		

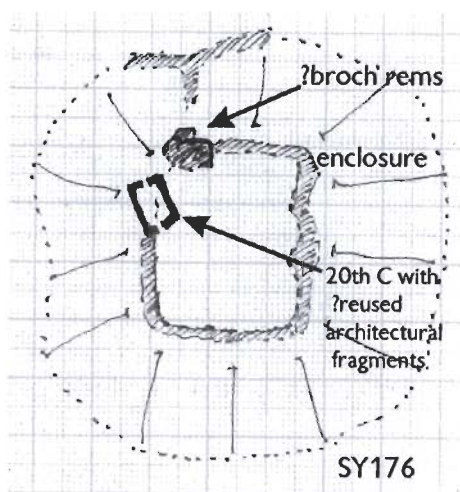
description

Four mounds are located in a pasturefield; the closest lies within 10m of the coast edge. Previously, only the largest of these mounds (A) was noted. Records indicate that a ceramic urn was recovered from a mound in this area; there are now no indications of which, if any, of these mounds may have been the subject of this investigation. The urn has since been lost. The largest mound (A), is built on a natural ridge. It measures 18m in diameter and stands up to 1.75m high. It has been badly denuded by cattle poaching and upwards of 50% of the surface is bare. As the highest point, in an otherwise relatively flat field, it provides a vantage point for the cattle and is therefore vulnerable to continued erosion. Some 100m to the north of (A), lies mound (B). This measures 10m in diameter and 1m in height and has been rounded and reduced through cultivation. In the corner of the field, approximately 100m to the northeast of (B) is a third mound, (C). Measuring 8m in diameter and 1m in height, this mound has been partially denuded by cattle poaching. A possible fourth mound (D) lies 25m to the north side of (C). It is covered with grass and measures 8m in diameter and 0.5m in height. A wall runs over its summit. Ref.: PSAS (1865) 'Donations to and purchases for the museum', PSAS, 5 (1863-4), 340-5, 16; RCAHMS (1980), #14.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	13	SY173	HY6705 4204		Farmstead
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY64SE53.00/.01				Quivals	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements <100m from coast edge	Not seen	Nil	18-20th C		

description

The farmstead at Quivals has been surveyed by RCAHMS. Ref.: RCAHMS & NMS (1998) 'Scottish Farm Buildings Survey: Orkney', #25.



ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	13	SY174	HY6703 4186	252	Burnt mound
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64SE40					Quivals Loch
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<50m from coast edge		Good		Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC

description

A well defined, conical, grassy mound, with a flattened top, is located some 50m from the coast edge at the side of a loch. It is sub-oval in plan, measuring 10m by 8m; it stands up to 1.3m high. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #50.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	13	SY175	HY6797 4174		Mound
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Russ Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

An amorphous, grass-covered mound, lies partially within a pasture field, at the coast edge. It is 25m long and 8m wide and stands up to 1.8m high. It is apparently of artificial construction.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	13	SY176	HY6850 4212	109-11	Probable broch, chapel & cemetery
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64SE21					Colli Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<50m from coast edge		Fair/poor		Survey	1st mill BC-1st mill AD

description

A prominent natural rise located at the neck of a promontory is further enlarged by an artificial mound. The site has been recorded as a chapel, burial ground and possible broch. Archaeological remains are known to have been disturbed in this area by military activity, prior to 1928. Records mention the discovery of a possible cup and ring marked stone, a possible cross slab fragment, a chapel and probable early christian cemetery and beneath it, the remains of a probable broch. The only structure now visible is a military building of 20th C date, which serves as an occasional store and cattle shelter. This building measures 8m by 3m, has a concrete roof and a doorway at either end. Interestingly, while the majority of the structure is built from mortared beach stone, several blocks of hand-dressed red sandstone have been incorporated into the walls near the doorways. These may derive from the church which previously stood on this site. This building has been built over part of an earlier enclosure wall, which extends around the summit of the mound. Enclosing an area of 25m by 18m, this drystone wall incorporates dressed stone blocks which may also derive from the chapel. In places, the wall runs slightly irregularly and is thicker; this may be because it has accommodated and incorporated pre-existing structures. At the northwest side of the mound, the collapse of part of the enclosure wall has revealed early structural remains beneath it. Below the present ground level is exposed what looks like part of a cell constructed within a thick wall. The exposed portion of this 'cell' measures 3m in length and 1.25m wide; the batter of the walls suggest that it had a corbelled roof. The best provisional interpretation of this feature is that it represents an intra-mural cell within a broch wall. If this is the case, it is possible that a great deal more archaeological remains are present that was previously thought to be the case. Ref.: NSA (1845), Vol 15, Orkney, 140, 142; RCAHMS (1946), #473; RCAHMS (1980), #173.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	13	SY177	HY689 416	262	Burnt mounds
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY64SE3					Colligarth
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements on coast edge		Fair		Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC

description

Of a group of three burnt mounds previously recorded in this area, two were revisited by this survey. One lies on the coast edge and is actively eroding; burnt stone is visible in several exposures towards the base of the mound. It measures 10m by 5m and is 1.7m high. A second mound lies further inland, in a field of improved grazing. This measures 10m by 8m and stands to 1.3m high. It is fully covered with vegetation and there are no signs of burnt stone. Ref.: NSA (1845), Vol 15, Orkney, 140; RCAHMS (1946), #442; RCAHMS (1980), #38.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	13	SY178	HY6920 4201		Vessel: hulk
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Cleat
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Intertidal zone		Fair/poor		Nil	18-20th C

description

The remains of a wooden vessel lie broken up on the rocks in the intertidal area, some 100m to the south of the Point of Nevin. It appears to have been a small fishing vessel, possibly measuring 7m or so in length and is of 20th C date.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	13	SY179	HY6996 4243		Possible farm/settlement mound
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Cleat
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements on coast edge		Fair		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

A grassy, flat topped mound extends beneath the modern road to the shore. It has been truncated by cultivation and now measures some 60m in diameter and 2m high. There are no exposures in the surface of the mound and it is covered with tall vegetation. The scale and location of this mound may indicate that it is not entirely natural; it may cover farm or settlement remains.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	14	SY180	HY7039 4302		Coastal exposure: probable burial cairn
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SW18				Cleat	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	?3rd-1st mill BC		

description

Previously, a structure exposed in the coastal section and thought to be part of a cist was presumed to be almost destroyed by erosion. The removal of further deposits from around the cist now indicate that it is surrounded by anthropogenic soils, probably within a kerbed mound. One side of the cist box, formed from a single slab (70mm x 30mm x 7mm) protrudes from the section face. The remainder of the cist has been removed by erosion, leaving a void. From the size of the projecting slab and the size of the void it can be estimated that the cist measured in the region of 0.55m in width by 0.79m in length. To the west side of the cist, a group of flat slabs extend outwards for 2m, covering a layer of ashy, organic soil which constitutes the basal deposits of the mound. A small fragment of unworked flint was noted in the ashy soil deposits. To the east side of the cist, peatash lenses extend outwards for 4m to abut large stone blocks. These blocks appear to mark the limit of the site and may form an external kerb. The ashy layers are interspersed with lenses of redeposited till and bands of charcoal rich soil. The surface of the underlying till in this area is reddened, apparently due to episodes of burning. There is no sign of a mound in the hinterland. The site is very vulnerable to continued erosion by the sea.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	14	SY181	HY7096 4315	270	Burnt Mound
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SW3				Butter Knowe	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Good	Nil	3rd-1st mill BC		

description

A grassy mound, 14m in diameter and 0.6m high, lies on improved pasture. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #453; RCAHMS (1980), #34.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	14	SY182	HY7136 4363	276	Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SW7				Peterkirk	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	1st mill BC- 1st AD/10-14thC		

description

This alleged site of a chapel and broch is an elongated mound, which has been vertically truncated by coastal erosion. The long axis of the mound runs parallel with the coast; it extends for over 70m and is up to 50m wide. At its highest point, the mound stands to 3.75m above the level of the storm beach. Inland, it extends into a pasture field and is very overgrown. A drystone wall runs along its length. At the highest point of the mound, a curving earthwork may be part of an enclosure; it appears too wide to be part of a broch wall. The erosion face has slumped and is overgrown, but there are intermittent exposures in which archaeological deposits can be seen. These occur mostly towards the base of the section and appear to continue below the level of the present beach. Exposed deposits include layers of very organic soils, some with inclusions of animal bone and shell, and possible fragmentary structures. Previous records mention a stone-lined well of the type often found in association with brochs; this is no longer in evidence. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #460; RCAHMS (1980), #181.



Site SY183: Knowe of Scartan

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	14	SY183	HY7162 4383	267	Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SW2				Knowe of Scartan	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A flat-topped, amorphous, overgrown mound lies on the coast edge and is being eroded by the sea. It extends inland for some 50m and runs parallel with the coast for 25m. In addition to coastal erosion, the mound has also been damaged by cattle poaching and is denuded of vegetation in places. The erosion face is sloping and overgrown, making it difficult to gain an overview of the archaeological deposits present. These include various layers of sandy loam and highly organic brown-black soil, peatash-rich soils and deposits containing frequent shell, fish and mammal bone and charcoal. There are also concentrations of stone present which may be part of or derive from structures. It is impossible to gauge the condition, date or importance of the remains from what is currently visible, but it is probable that they represent a settlement or farm mound. Previous records mention frequent finds of flint in the area. To the east side of the mound, cultivated soils up to 0.4m deep are exposed in section. Ref.: NSA (1845), Vol. 15, Orkney, 17; RCAHMS (1946), #443; RCAHMS (1980), #78.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	14	SY184	HY719 441	268, 269	Farmstead, settlement mound & jetty
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SW17/20/26				Seater	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Good/poor	Monitor	18-20th C		

description

The farmstead at Seater is built over a substantial mound, which is more than likely a settlement or farm mound. It lies over 100m from the coast edge and has been surveyed by RCAHMS. The jetty is now largely destroyed and is visible only as a group of intermittent edge-set stones on the lower foreshore. It can be traced for some 20m extending into the sea and is estimated to have measured between 1.75m and 2m in width. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), # 88 & 200; RCAHMS & NMS (1998) 'Scottish Farm Buildings Survey: Orkney', #31.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	14	SY185	HY7208 4432		Stone-capped drain
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Seater	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Coast edge & inter-tidal zone	Good	Nil	18-20th C		

description

A stone-covered linear water channel runs from the foreshore to the sea for some 35m. The capping is formed from tightly packed edge-set blocks, 2m in width. The channel serves as an outflow to the nearby Westayre Loch.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	14	SY186	HY7244 4462		Store and enclosures
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Westayre Loch
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<10m from coast edge		Fair		Nil	18-20th C

description

A roofless drystone structure, aligned with the shore, lies 10m from the coast edge. It is 7m long and 4m wide and stands to 2.5m high. A concrete slab has been incorporated into one of the walls. A single doorway faces inland. The footings or a crue or yard, with sides measuring 15m, lies close by. The structure and crue or yard lie within an enclosure, the walls of which are now reduced to less than 0.5m high. The building has the appearance of a storehouse or shed.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	14	SY187	HY7256 4466		Kelp drying walls
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Westayre Loch
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
<10m from coast edge		Fair		Nil	18-20th C

description

A series of kelp drying walls stand behind the coast edge on uncultivated ground. Of rough construction, they are aligned perpendicularly to the shore. On average, they measure 15m in length and 0.5m wide; most have been reduced to less than 0.5m high.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	15	SY188	HY7273 4484		Possible fish trap
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Taing of Tor Sker
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Intertidal zone		Fair		Survey	Unknown

description

A shallow tidal pool is almost completely enclosed by shingle bars, with only a small outlet on the seaward side. While no signs of artificial construction are immediately apparent, it is possible that the pool has been widened and deepened to act as a fish trap. Its location off a small headland, to the west side of the Bay of Sandquoy, appears suitable for such a trap. It measures approximately 50m by 30m.



Site SY191: Tofts farm and mound



Site SY191: Tofts farm and mound,
coastal exposure

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	15	SY189	HY7342 4470		Farmstead & coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Torsker	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C		

description

Torsker farmstead comprises three ruinous, abandoned buildings. These are situated behind the coast edge in an area of active dune movement. On the coast edge, coursed masonry (1.8m long x 0.6m high) is exposed in section, sandwiched between layers of blown sand. It is probable that the walling is part of a feature which was associated with the farmstead and that it has only recently been buried by blown sand.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	15	SY190	HY7467 4532	293	Coastal exposure & alleged souterrain
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74NW3				Sandquoy	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	?3rd-1st mill BC		

description

Previous records describe how a structure was discovered here and demolished sometime prior to 1928. According to a local informant at that time, the structure comprised three compartments in which three human skulls and shell and bone midden were found. On the basis of this, the site has been classed as a possible souterrain or house, although it would be unusual to find human remains in such a context. It is possible, therefore, that the structure was in reality a burial monument such as a small chambered cairn or a complex triple cist arrangement. Now the only remains of any archaeological potential visible in the area comprise concentrations of stones, which are visible in the coastal erosion face. No trace was seen of the midden deposits recorded previously. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #440; RCAHMS (1980), #87.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	15	SY191	HY7475 4615	247	Mound and coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74NW5				Tofts	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Good	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

Tofts farm is situated on a massive artificial mound, measuring at least 100m in diameter and 3m in height. At the coast edge, the peripheries of the mound have been eroded by the sea and archaeological deposits are exposed in the section. Given their location in relation to the mound as a whole, it should be noted that these deposits may not be generally representative. They include substantial layers of highly organic soil, up to 2m deep, and soils containing frequent bone, shell (limpet and winkle, particularly) and peatash inclusions. Several flint fragments were noted. Concentrations of stone, which may be structural, are exposed but cannot be readily interpreted because the section face has slumped and is uneven. The erosion face extends for some 20m along the coast. Sherds of brown glaze ceramic, of 19thC date, and fragments of iron occur in the uppermost layers, but there are otherwise no diagnostic artifacts visible in the section. The base of the section is obscured by a storm beach. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #92.



Site SY193: Tofts Ness



Site SY193: Tofts Ness, detail of cist

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	16	SY192	HY7490 4653	245	Mound
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY74NW1					Braesgar
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Good		Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

description

A large grassy mound lies adjacent to the coast edge but has not been affected by coastal erosion. It is sub-circular in plan, measures some 50m in diameter and stands to 3m at its **highest point**. It is unlikely to be an entirely natural formation because, although no archaeological deposits are exposed, it's 'pudding bowl' shape differs markedly from the surrounding dunes. It is probable that, whatever its original form, the mound has been augmented by a covering of wind blown sand. It has been variously identified as a prehistoric site, a broch and a sand dune in the past. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #168; RCAHMS (1980), #137.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	16	SY193	HY760 470	399	Mounds and settlement complex
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY74NE3		Scheduled		5080	Tofts Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements on coast edge		Fair/poor		Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC

description

An extensive complex of earthen banks and cairns are located to the east side and tip of Tofts Ness. Within the complex are several larger mounds and groups of smaller mounds which are located in close proximity and which together form chains or enclosures. Previously, it was speculated that the majority of the mounds were likely to be funerary monuments, possibly surrounding larger Maes-Howe type tombs, however, investigations in the 1980's revealed a Bronze Age structural complex, rich midden deposits and buried cultivation soils. The results of this work are awaited and as yet there is very little is known for certain about the remains in the wider landscape. Two mounds and two stone concentrations are located on the coast edge and are vulnerable to erosion. Stones protrude from the mounds, possibly indicating the presence of structural remains. The stone concentrations may represent remnant structures which have been damaged by erosion but could alternatively be the ex-situ remains of structures removed from further inland. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #474; RCAHMS (1980), #15; Dockrill, SJ (1985) 'Sanday (Lady parish), Tofts Ness. Settlement', DES (1985), 32; Dockrill, SJ (1986) 'Sanday, Tofts Ness. Bronze Age settlement mound', DES (1986), 22-3.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	16	SY194	HY7620 4733		Kelp workings
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Tofts Ness
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair		Nil	18-20th C

description

A drystone platform and a series of ruinous kelp drying walls are located immediately behind the coast edge.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: SANDAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	16	SY195	HY7632 4727		Coastal exposure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Tofts Ness	
Location to coast		condition	recommendation	date range	
On coast edge		Fair	Monitor	Unknown	

description

Concentrations of stone are exposed in the eroding coastal section over distance of 15m. The stones occur towards the base of the section, over till and covered by sandy soils. The presence of several edge-set stones among the concentration may suggest that this is more than merely buried storm beach deposits.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	1	SY196	HY7816 4410		Wreck of HMS 'Goldfinch'
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE8002				Start Point	
Location to coast		condition	recommendation	date range	
Marine zone		Not seen	Nil	18-20th C	

description

The WWI H class destroyer HMS Goldfinch is variously reported to have run ashore in dense fog and to have been holed and stranded ashore. The latter report was taken from a signal, dated 19 February 1915. The wreck was sold in 1919. Remains are reported to lie just to the northwest of Start Point. May be the same as SY10, unidentified wreck.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
Sanday	2	SY197	HY7531 4412		Wreck of the trawler 'Strato'
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY74SE8001				Bay of Lopness	
Location to coast		condition	recommendation	date range	
Marine zone		Not seen	Nil	18-20th C	

description

The trawler 'Strato' was sunk in the Bay of Lopness, Sanday Sound, on 20th April 1934.

MAP	SITE	GRID REF	PLACENAME	S/L	SITE TYPE	LOCATION	CONDITION	RECOM	DATE
1	SY1	HY7668 4404	Crue Marron Deme		Mound	<50m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown
1	SY2	HY7684 4392	Scuthvie Bay		Crue	<40m from coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
1	SY3	HY7715 4382	Park		Coastal exposure: shell midden	On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
1	SY4	HY771 437	Park		Site of chapel	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	10-14th C
1	SY5	HY7727 4371	Park		Site of burnt mound	<50m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC
1	SY6	HY780 436	Start		Farmstead	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C
1	SY7	HY7829 4370	Start Island		Channel	Intertidal & marine zones	Good	Nil	Unknown: ?18-20th C
1	SY8	HY7840 4368	Start Island		Mound	<40m from coast edge	Good	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
1	SY9	HY7840 4368	Start Island		Mound: possible site of church	<100m from coast edge	good	Monitor	10-14th C
1	SY10	HY7844 4393	Start Island		Wreck	Intertidal & marine zones	Poor	Nil	18-20th C
1	SY11	HY7871 4374	Alisters Geo		Mound & crue	On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?18-20th C
1	SY12	HY7868 4350	Start Point	L	Lighthouse & cottages	<100m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	18-20th C
1	SY13	HY7861 4344	Start Island		Noost & channel	Coast edge & intertidal zone	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
1	SY14	HY7831 4351	Mt. Maesry	S	Chambered Cairn	<100m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	4-3rd mill BC
1	SY15	HY7831 4353	Start Island		Alleged site of mariner's graves	<100m from coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
1	SY16	HY7795 4355	Start Island		Fish trap	Intertidal zone	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?18-20th C
1	SY17	HY7730 4339	Buryan		Burial ground	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown
1	SY18	HY7724 4340	Buryan		Broch	On coast edge	Poor	Survey	1st mill BC/1st mill AD
1	SY19	HY7719 4355	Park		Alleged site of settlement	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	1st mill BC/1st mill AD
1	SY20	HY7693 4373	Bay of Wheevi		Channel & possible noost	Intertidal zone	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
1	SY21	HY767 437	Scofferland		Farmstead	<100m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C
1	SY22	HY7665 4360	Scofferland		Mound & coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
1	SY23	HY761 436	Whale Head		Radar Station	Elements <100m from coast	Good	Monitor	18-20th C
1	SY196	HY7816 4410	Start Point		Wreck of HMS	Marine zone	Not seen	Nil	18-20th C

MAP	SITE	GRID REF	PLACENAME	S/L	SITE TYPE	LOCATION	CONDITION	RECOM	DATE
2	SY24	HY7599 4328	Lop Ness		Structural remains	On coast edge	Poor	Nil	18-20th C
2	SY25	HY7590 4345	Lop Ness		Structural remains	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	18-20th C
2	SY26	HY7581 4342	Lop Ness		Wall	Intertidal zone	Fair	Nil	Unknown
2	SY27	HY7590 4368	Lopness		Coastal exposure: settlement	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	1st mill BC/1st mill AD
2	SY28	HY 7594 4368	Lopness		House & channel	Elements in intertidal zone	Good	Nil	18-20th C
2	SY29	HY7589 4379	Stackald Brae		Site of a chapel	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	10-14th C
2	SY30	HY7585 4397	Stackald Brae		Coastal exposure: possible settlement	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
2	SY31	HY7570 4410	Lopness		Coastal exposure & mound	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
2	SY32	HY7537 4429	Lopness		WWII military accomodation camp	<100m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C
2	SY33	HY7462 4414	Bay of Lopness		Wreck: B98 WWI German destroyer	Marine zone	Poor	Nil	18-20th C
2	SY197	HY7531 4412	Bay of Lopness		Wreck of the trawler	Marine zone	Not seen	Nil	18-20th C
3	SY34	HY7237 4263	Bay of Lopness /Newark		Coastal exposure, mounds, (?) fish trap	Coast edge & intertidal zone	Fair/poor	Survey	Possibly 10-14th C
3	SY35	HY7230 4241	Newark		Mound & coastal exposure	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	Possibly 10-14th C
3	SY36	HY720 422	Newark Farm		Structural remains & dated lintel stone	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	14-18th C
3	SY37	HY7202 4199	Newark		Mound & coastal exposure	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
3	SY38	HY7198 4181	Newark Farm /Sanday Golf Course		Mound & coastal exposure	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
3	SY39	HY7190 4171	Smear Geo		Noost	On coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
4	SY40	HY7038 3877	Tressness		Farmstead	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	18-20th C
4	SY41	HY7048 3857	Tres Ness		Mound	<30m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
4	SY42	HY7120 3800	Hangie Head, Tres Ness		Mound & earthwork	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
4	SY43	HY7119 3757	Tres Ness		Mound	<20m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric

MAP	SITE	GRID REF	PLACENAME	S/L	SITE TYPE	LOCATION	CONDITION	RECOM	DATE
4	SY44	HY7110 3752	Tres Ness	S	Chambered cairn	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC
4	SY45	HY7068 3798	Tres Ness		Kelp Workings	Elements on coast edge	Good/fair	Nil	18-20th C
4	SY46	HY7090 3785	Tres Ness		Reservoir	<40m from coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C
4	SY47	HY7092 3794	Broch of Wasso, Tres Ness	S	Broch	<50m from coast edge	Good	Monitor	1st mill BC-1st mill AD
4	SY48	HY7069 3802	Knap of Girndish, Tres Ness		Mound(s)	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
4	SY49	HY7051 3839	Tingly Loup		Mound	On coast edge	Good	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
4	SY50	HY7046 3844	Tingly Loup		Coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
4	SY51	HY7015 3857	Kirk Taing		Natural feature	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Nil	Unknown
4	SY52	HY7022 3868	Tresness		Mound	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
5	SY53	HY7035 4138	Plain of Fidge, Cata Sand		WWII decoy airfield	<100m from coast edge	Poor	Nil	18-20th C
5	SY54	HY6979 4131	Canker		Mounds & earthworks	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown
5	SY55	HY6966 4090	Neigarth		Mound	<10m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
5	SY56	HY6938 4059	Bressigarth		Earthworks	<30m from coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown
5	SY57	HY6999 4035	Russ Ness		Mound & coastal exposure	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
5	SY58	HY6935 3893	Sty Wick		Enclosure, mound & possible fish trap	Elements on coast edge	Good	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
5	SY59	HY6925 3897	Sty Wick		Kelp workings	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C
5	SY60	HY6914 3901	Sty Wick		Coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown
6	SY61	HY676 389	Sty Wick		Jaw crusher	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	18-20th C
6	SY62	HY6766 3779	Quoyness	S	Chambered cairn	<20m from coast edge	Good	Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC
6	SY63	HY6765 3754	Augmund Howe or Egmondshowe	S	Cairn	On coast edge	Poor	Survey	4th-3rd mill BC
6	SY64	HY676 375	Augmund Howe West		Group of small mounds	Elements <10m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC
6	SY65	HY6754 3729	Els Ness		Coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
6	SY66	HY673 375	Elsness	S	Cairns	Elements <10m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC
6	SY67	HY6719 3759	Els Ness		Structure, noost, mound, kelp pits	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC/18-20th C

MAP	SITE	GRID REF	PLACENAME	S/L	SITE TYPE	LOCATION	CONDITION	RECOM	DATE
6	SY68	HY6710 3759	Els Ness		Mound & kelp pits	On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC/18-20th C
6	SY69	HY6705 3765	Els Ness		Mound	On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
6	SY70	HY6700 3781	Els Ness		Mound	<50m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
6	SY71	HY6696 3785	Els Ness		Enclosure, mound & kelp pits	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	?prehistoric or 18-20th C
6	SY72	HY6697 3796	Els Ness		Noost, kelp pits and bank	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	?prehistoric or 18-20th C
6	SY73	HY6706 3849	Els Ness		Mound	<20m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
6	SY74	HY6701 3855	Els Ness		Coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown
6	SY75	HY672 390	Elsness		Alleged site of broch	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	1st mill BC-1st mill AD
6	SY76	HY6721 3919	Elsness		Old ground surface	Intertidal zone	Poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
6	SY77	HY6726 3903	Elsness		Farmstead	Elements on coast edge	Good/fair	Monitor	18-20th C
6	SY78	HY6767 3986	Ladykirk		Mound & coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?10-14th C
6	SY79	HY6715 3948	Ouse Point		Coastal exposure	On coast edge	Poor	Survey	Unknown: ?10-14th C
6	SY80	HY664 393	Kettletoft Bay		Coastal exposure: cultivation soil	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
6	SY81	HY6628 3913	Kettletoft Bay		Coastal exposure	On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
6	SY82	HY6602 3885	Kettletoft Bay		Coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown
6	SY83	HY659 384	Kettletoft	L	Village	On coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C
6	SY84	HY6579 3830	Kettletoft		Coastal exposure: cultivation remains	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown
6	SY85	HY6565 3862	Bea Ness		Coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown
6	SY86	HY6569 3913	How		Mound	<100m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
6	SY87	HY6537 3920	Cross Kirk	S	Parish church, disused	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	10-14th & 18-20th C
7	SY88	HY6417 3927	Backaskaill		Farmstead	<100m from coast edge	Good/poor	Monitor	18-20th C
7	SY89	HY6414 3919	Backaskaill		Possible broch	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	1st mill BC-1st mill AD
7	SY90	HY634 383	Mirky Geo		Cultivation remains: rig and furrow	<20m from coast edge	Fair	Nil	Unknown: ?18-20th C

MAP	SITE	GRID REF	PLACENAME	S/L	SITE TYPE	LOCATION	CONDITION	RECOM	DATE
7	SY91	HY6332 3748	Moo Geo		Mound	<20m from coast edge	Good/fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
7	SY92	HY632 371	Nebister		Treb dyke	Elements on coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
7	SY93	HY6316 3701	Croos of Nebister		Broch or settlement	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	1st mill BC-1st mill AD
8	SY94	HY6265 3618	Quoy Ness		Noost & kelp pits	On coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
8	SY95	HY6269 3620	Quoy Ness		Enclosures	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
8	SY96	HY625 367	Quoy Ness		Site of middens	Elements <100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
8	SY97	HY6149 3426	Hacks Ness		Mound	<30m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
8	SY98	HY6157 3410	Hacks Ness		Mound and coastal exposure	Elements on coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown
8	SY99	HY6152 3403	Hacks Ness		Mound & navigation marker or windmill	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC/18-20th C
8	SY100	HY6146 3407	Hacks Ness		Kelp working site	On coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
8	SY101	HY6145 3405	Hacks Ness		Noost & channel	Coast edge & intertidal zone	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
8	SY102	HY6140 3464	Hacks Ness		Mound	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?18-20th C
8	SY103	HY6121 3531	Bay of Stove		Coastal exposure: settlement remains	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	4th-3rd mill BC
8	SY104	HY6119 3540	Bay of Stove		Coastal exposure: cut feature	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown
8	SY105	HY6110 3551	Stove		Site of chapel	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	18-20th C
8	SY106	HY608 355	Stove		Farmstead, outbuildings, cottages	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	18-20th C
8	SY107	HY608 355	Stove		Site of chambered mound	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC
8	SY108	HY6067 3488	Spur Ness		Mound	<90m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
8	SY109	HY6060 3479	Hangie, Spur Ness		Burnt mound	>=100m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC
8	SY110	HY6041 3390	Spur Ness		Enclosure	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Nil	Unknown
8	SY111	HY6036 3414	Loth, Spur Ness		Mound	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown
9	SY112	HY6021 3668	Spaney Geo		Boundary bank/treb dyke	Elements on coast edge	Good	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
9	SY113	HY6039 3735	Strang Quoy		Kelp pits and possible marl quarry	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C

MAP	SITE	GRID REF	PLACENAME	S/L	SITE TYPE	LOCATION	CONDITION	RECOM	DATE
9	SY114	HY6140 3801	Lamba Ness		Coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
9	SY115	HY6138 3797	Lamba Ness		Mounds: alleged site of chapel	<20m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?10-14th
9	SY116	HY618 378	Pool		Possible fish trap or basin	Intertidal zone	Fair	Nil	Unknown
9	SY117	HY6194 3785	Pool		Settlement	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	4th mill BC-1st mill AD
9	SY118	HY6205 3799	North Mire		Cairn & coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	4th-3rd mill BC
9	SY119	HY6248 3892	Boloquoy		Coastal exposure: ?settlement mound	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	4th-3rd mill BC
9	SY120	HY6260 3896	Boloquoy		Cairn	<100m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC
9	SY121	HY6257 3906	Boloquoy		Mill	<10m from coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C
9	SY122	HY6256 3927	Boloquoy		Mound	<10m from coast edge	Good	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
9	SY123	HY6249 3931	Ebb of Seater		Mound & coastal exposure	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
9	SY124	HY6264 3960	Grunavi Head		Enclosed promontory	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown
9	SY125	HY6295 3957	Mires		Banks	<50m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown
10	SY126	HY6330 4007	Scuthi Head		Possible promontory fort	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	?1st mill BC - 1st mill AD
10	SY127	HY640 406	Fea Hill		Treb dyke	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
10	SY128	HY6472 4130	Ayre		Enclosure	On coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown
10	SY129	HY6522 4123	Ayre		Coastal exposure: settlement remains	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
10	SY130	HY6536 4136	Chapel Head		Mound & alleged chapel site	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	?prehistoric/ ?10-14th C
10	SY131	HY6547 4135	Broughtown		Mound	<50m from coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
10	SY132	HY6541 4142	Broughtown		Coastal exposure: ?human bone	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	Unknown: ?10-14th C
10	SY133	HY6554 4209	Styes of Brough		Structure	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C
10	SY134	HY654 421	Styes of Brough		Mounds	Elements <10m from coast edge	Good/fair	Monitor	?prehistoric/ 10-14th C
10	SY135	HY653 422	Ness of Brough		Buried soil and kelp pits	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	18-20th C

MAP	SITE	GRID REF	PLACENAME	S/L	SITE TYPE	LOCATION	CONDITION	RECOM	DATE
10	SY136	HY6544 4256	Ness of Brough		Mound & coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
10	SY137	HY6589 4231	Westbrough		Mound & coastal exposure	On coast edge	Poor	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
10	SY138	HY6633 4235	Westbrough		Mound: possible settlement	Located <100m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
10	SY139	HY6633 4288	North Bay		Boat noosts & coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
10	SY140	HY6627 4288	Hermisgarth		Cist burials and stone pyre settings	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	1st mill BC-1st mill AD
10	SY141	HY6610 4330	Howland		Coastal exposure: indeterminate	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown
10	SY142	HY660 434	Howland		Coastal exposure	On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown
10	SY143	HY6594 4352	Howland		Mound	<10m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
11	SY144	HY6568 4381	Curcasetter or Kirk Geo		Alleged site of chapel	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?10-14th C
11	SY145	HY6547 4401	Knowe of Yarrow		Site of mound & cist	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC
11	SY146	HY6511 4424	Rethie Taing		Possible chambered cairn	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	4th-3rd mill BC
11	SY147	HY651 448	Airon		Sheep fold	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Nil	18-20th C
11	SY148	HY5605 4577	Holms of Ire		Chapel	<10m from coast edge	Poor	Monitor	10-14th C
11	SY149	HY651 457	Holms of Ire		Kelp workings	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C
11	SY150	HY64NW3	Holms of Ire		Crues & structures	Elements <10m from coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
11	SY151	HY647 461	Castle Geo, Holms of Ire		Natural feature	On coast edge	Not seen	Nil	N/A
11	SY152	HY6475 4710	Holms of Ire		Wreck of the Alex Hastings	Intertidal & marine zone	Not seen	Nil	18-20th C
11	SY153	HY6511 4542	Whale Point		Cairn	<20m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
11	SY154	HY6610 4527	Rue		Mound	<70m from coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
11	SY155	HY6659 4540	Runna Clett		Mound & coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
11	SY156	HY6679 4533	Woo		Coastal exposure: settlement	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
12	SY157	HY6766 4577	Quoy Banks		Mound	<5m from coast edge	Good	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
12	SY158	HY6770 4581	Quoy Banks		Coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown

MAP	SITE	GRID REF	PLACENAME	S/L	SITE TYPE	LOCATION	CONDITION	RECOM	DATE
12	SY159	HY6780 4584	Quoybanks, Scar	S	Site of boat burial	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	1st mill BC-1st mill AD
12	SY160	HY6790 4592	The Crook Beach		Kelp workings	On coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
12	SY161	HY6800 4595	The Crook		Mound	<40m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
12	SY162	HY6850 4668	Whitemill Bay		Kelp workings	<10m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C
12	SY163	HY6867 4660	Whitemill Bay		Coastal exposure: wall	On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown
12	SY164	HY6990 4637	Whitemill Point		Mound and possible boat noosts	<20m from coast edge	Poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric/ 18-20th
12	SY165	HY6997 4633	Whitemill Point		Mound	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric/ 18-20th
12	SY166	HY6999 4612	Whitemill Point		Kelp workings	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
12	SY167	HY695 456	Helliehow		Farmstead & coastal exposure	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	18-20th C
12	SY168	HY6868 4528	New Ortie		Village	Elements <100m from coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
12	SY169	HY6853 4505	Ortie		Burnt mound	<50m from coast edge	Fair	Nil	3rd-1st mill BC
12	SY170	HY6836 4442	Northskaill		Mound & coastal exposure	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	?3rd-1st mill BC
13	SY171	HY6830 4420	Northskaill		Store & dwelling	On coast edge	Fair	Survey	18-20th C
13	SY172	HY6723 4304	Thorsness		Probable burial mounds	Elements <20m from coast edge	Poor	Survey	3rd-1st mill BC
13	SY173	HY6705 4204	Quivals		Farmstead	Elements <100m from coast edge	Not seen	Nil	18-20th C
13	SY174	HY6703 4186	Quivals Loch		Burnt mound	<50m from coast edge	Good	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC
13	SY175	HY6797 4174	Russ Ness		Mound	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
13	SY176	HY6850 4212	Colli Ness		Probable broch, chapel & cemetery	<50m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	1st mill BC-1st mill AD
13	SY177	HY689 416	Colligarth		Burnt mounds	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC
13	SY178	HY6920 4201	Cleat		Vessel: hulk	Intertidal zone	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C
13	SY179	HY6996 4243	Cleat		Possible farm or settlement mound	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
14	SY180	HY7039 4302	Cleat		Coastal exposure: probable burial cairn	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	?3rd-1st mill BC
14	SY181	HY7096 4315	Butter Knowe		Burnt Mound	<100m from coast edge	Good	Nil	3rd-1st mill BC

MAP	SITE	GRID REF	PLACENAME	S/L	SITE TYPE	LOCATION	CONDITION	RECOM	DATE
14	SY182	HY7136 4363	Peterkirk		Mound & coastal exposure	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	1st mill BC-1st AD/10-14th C
14	SY183	HY7162 4383	Knowe of Scartan		Mound & coastal exposure	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
14	SY184	HY719 441	Seater		Farmstead, settlement mound & jetty	Elements on coast edge	Good/poor	Monitor	18-20th C
14	SY185	HY7208 4432	Seater		Stone-capped drain	Coast edge & inter-tidal zone	Good	Nil	18-20th C
14	SY186	HY7244 4462	Westayre Loch		Store and enclosures	<10m from coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
14	SY187	HY7256 4466	Westayre Loch		Kelp drying walls	<10m from coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
15	SY188	HY7273 4484	Taing of Tor Sker		Possible fish trap	Intertidal zone	Fair	Survey	Unknown
15	SY189	HY7342 4470	Torsker		Farmstead & coastal exposure	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Nil	18-20th C
15	SY190	HY7467 4532	Sandquoy		Coastal exposure & alleged souterrain	On coast edge	Poor	Monitor	?3rd-1st mill BC
15	SY191	HY7475 4615	Tofts		Mound and coastal exposure	Elements on coast edge	Good	Monitor	?prehistoric/ 10-14th C
16	SY192	HY7490 4653	Braesgar		Mound	On coast edge	Good	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
16	SY193	HY760 470	Tofts Ness	S	Mounds and settlement complex	Elements on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC
16	SY194	HY7620 4733	Tofts Ness		Kelp workings	On coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
16	SY195	HY7632 4727	Tofts Ness		Coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown

Map 1: South Gravity to Hollandstoun

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section encompasses the southern part of the island, which is generally low-lying and fertile. There is more concentrated modern settlement to the east side, between Bustatoun and Linklet. Surrounded by small fields, much of this settlement is focused on the two main roads. To the west are larger fields associated with Holland House, the estate of the Traill family, lairds of the island since 1727.

The area covered by this section is rich in archaeological remains and particularly of early settlement. At Hooking (NR2) a large eroding 'farm mound' covers structural remains which may be of prehistoric date. Excavations carried out at Brae of Stennabreck (NR3) in the 19th C uncovered the remains of an unusual house, probably of the Pictish period. Faced with stone on the interior, the exterior 'wall' was an earthen bank. Built on top of a rise, the floor appears to have been cut down below the surrounding ground surface. The rise may be natural; alternatively it may represent accumulated debris derived from earlier periods of settlement.

The Broch of Burrian (NR7), which was also excavated in the 19th C, is most notable for its earthwork defences and the substantial and well preserved assemblage of worked bone objects found within it. The broch remained in occupation (or was reoccupied) into the Pictish period. A cross slab and an iron bell found in association with the later settlement are indicative of a community which had become christianised. The broch and the unexcavated environs are now perilously close to destruction. The secondary occupation at Broch of Burrian was said to have been associated with a wheelhouse, built inside the shell of the older building. This, despite the fact that it is commonly argued that the wheelhouse is an unknown construction in Orkney. A similar claim has been made, possibly more convincingly, for two structures found at Howmae Brae (NR11). Here, 19th C excavations uncovered two large roundhouses built into the dunes. The buildings are said to have been partitioned in a radial fashion and to have had partially corbelled roofs. These features are no longer visible because the site has been recovered with sand.

Of later date, a massive settlement mound at Howar (NR8), at the extreme tip of Strom Ness, covers the remains of a structure of Viking or Norse date. In the past, a burial of probable Viking/Norse date was uncovered in this area. The site is now in a very poor condition, having been entirely divested of its turf covering by the sheep. The exposed archaeological deposits are now extremely vulnerable to both coastal and sub-aerial erosion. This is possibly the worst affected site to be encountered during the 1999 survey.

Geology and geomorphology

The coastline of the southern end of the island comprises almost entirely of rock platform, with varying degrees of cobble cover; exceptions to this are the sandy beaches at South Bay and Stennabreck. The Sheep Dyke, which encircles the island, runs very close to the coast edge for most of this section. The hinterland is mostly enclosed pasture. The only hinterland areas with large concentrations of blown sand on the island occur within the area covered by this map section; to the eastern side of South Bay around Kirbist, and at Stennabreck, on the east side of the island.

Erosion

Much of the coastline within this map section is eroding or vulnerable to erosion. In particular, the tip of Strom Ness, is possibly the most vulnerable stretch of coastline on the island. Here, the effects of marine and wind erosion have been compounded and exacerbated by the overgrazing of sheep. This is a problem all along the coastline, but it is particularly pronounced in this area.

NR1 HY75SE21
HY7675 5370
Linklet Bay
Structure
Unknown
Not seen
Nil

NR2 HY75SE1
HY7673 5388
Hooking
Settlement mound & coastal
exposure
3rd-1st mill BC
Fair
Monitor

NR3 HY75SE4
HY7702 5262
Brae of Stennabreck
Settlement mound & structure
1st mill BC -1st mill AD
Fair
Monitor

NR4 HY74SE14
HY773 522
Brides Ness
Brides Kirk
Unknown: ?10-14th C
Fair/poor
Monitor

NR5 HY75SE26
HY7507 5347-7683 5214
Muckle Gairsty
Treb dyke
3rd-1st mill BC
Fair
Monitor

NR6 HY75SE32
HY7638 5160
Burrian
House
Unknown: ?10-14th C
Fair/poor
Survey

NR7 HY75SE3.00-.01
HY7627 5138
Burrian, Strom Ness
Broch
1st mill BC-1st mill AD
Fair/poor
Monitor

NR8 HY75SE2
HY7697 5140
Howar, Strom Ness
Settlement mound
1st mill BC- 1st mill AD
Fair/poor
Survey

NR9 HY75SE19
HY7603 5153
Strom Ness
House
14-18th C
Not seen
Monitor

NR10
HY7600 5171
Howar
Grain store & dwelling
18-20th C
Fair/poor
Survey

NR11 HY75SE5
HY7583 5227
Howmae Brae
Settlement
1st mill BC- 1st mill AD
Fair
Monitor

NR12
HY7508 5243
Nouster
Mound
Unknown
Good
Monitor

NR13
HY7501 5229
Nouster
Store house
18-20th C
Good
Nil

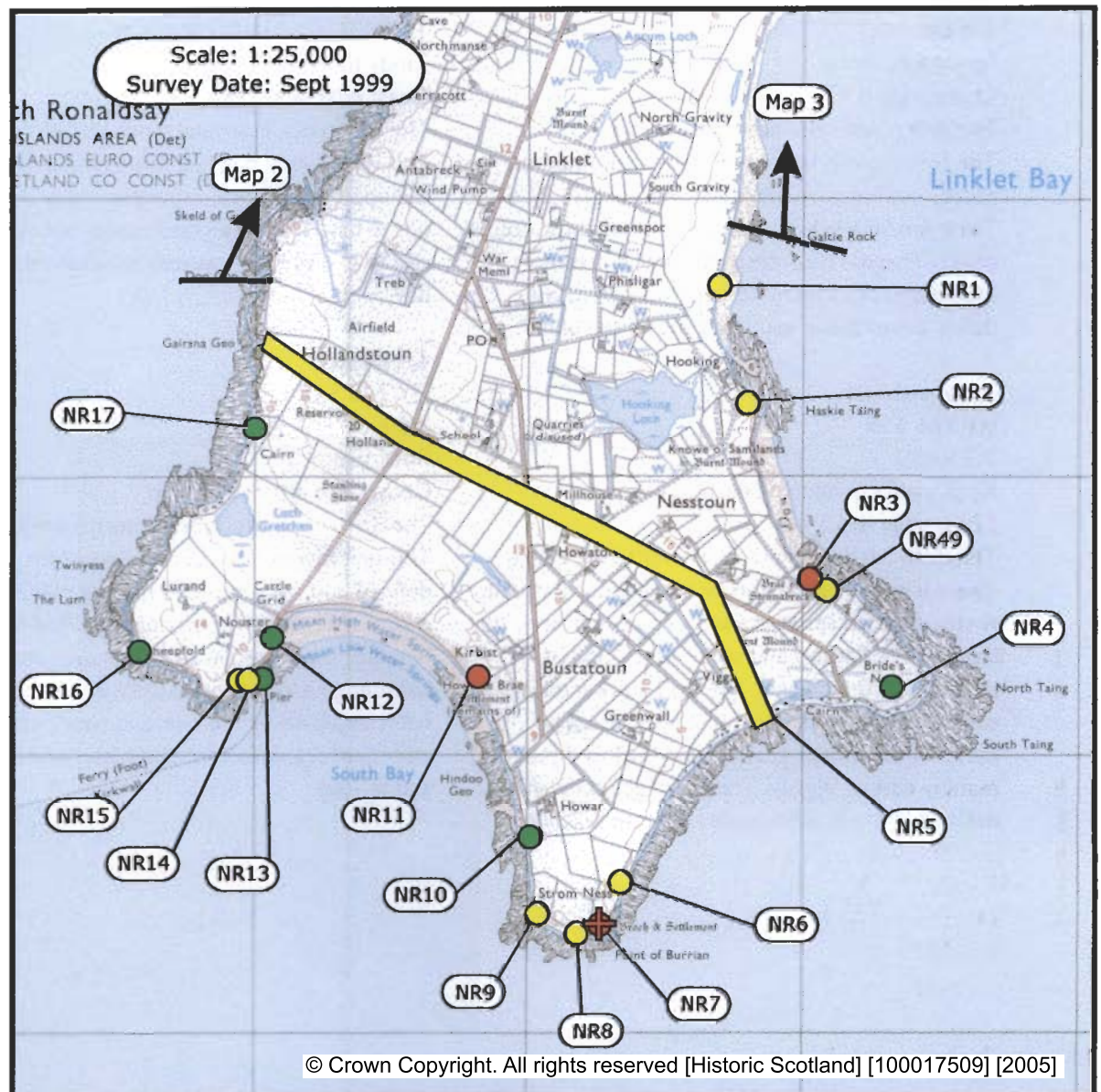
NR14 HY75SE28.00
HY7501 5222
South Pier
Pier
18-20th C
Good
Nil








NR15 HY75SE28.01
HY7495 5224
South Pier
Hand operated crane
18-20th C
Fair
Nil"

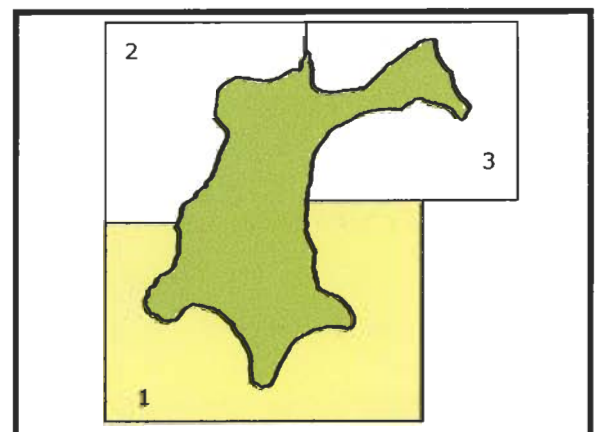
NR16
HY7456 5236
Lurand
Pund
18-20th C
Good
Nil

NR17
HY7497 5316
Lurand
Coastal exposure: shell midden
Unknown
Fair
Monitor

NR49 HY75SE29
HY7709 5260
Stennabreck
Corn-drying kiln
18-20th C
Not seen
Nil



- Built Heritage & Archaeology**
-  Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 -  Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 -  Listed Historic Building
 -  Undesignated wreck
 -  Known ancient monument
 -  Site found by this survey
 -  Site complex



1. Galtie Rock

HY 768 532

1.3 km

Sandy foreshore

Coast edge is < 5 m

The drift/rock interface is not visible

The foreshore is sandy with a small amount of patchy cobble cover. Around Hooking/Haskie

Taing the bedrock is exposed and has some cobble cover. There is a concrete sea wall in front of Hooking farm. The hinterland is grassed, with dunes towards the southern end of the unit.

2. Stennabreck

HY 766 519

3.3 km

Rock platform, storm beach to NE

Coast edge is < 5 m

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible

There is some cobble throw throughout this unit. A storm beach lies to the west of Brides Ness. It is large with a flat top and some vegetation. It extends c. 20 m inland. The drift/rock interface can be clearly seen around Strom Ness. The hinterland is mostly grassed and enclosed but it is marshy east of Viggay. There is a gabion wall sea defence in front of Stennabreck farm buildings.

3. South Bay

HY 755 524

1 km

Sandy foreshore

Coast edge is < 5 m

The drift/rock interface is not visible

This wide sandy bay has some cobble throw on the upper foreshore, especially towards the centre of the bay. The hinterland comprises dunes, which rise to c. 4 m high towards the east side of the bay.

4. Nouster

HY 748 529

2.5 km

Rock platform

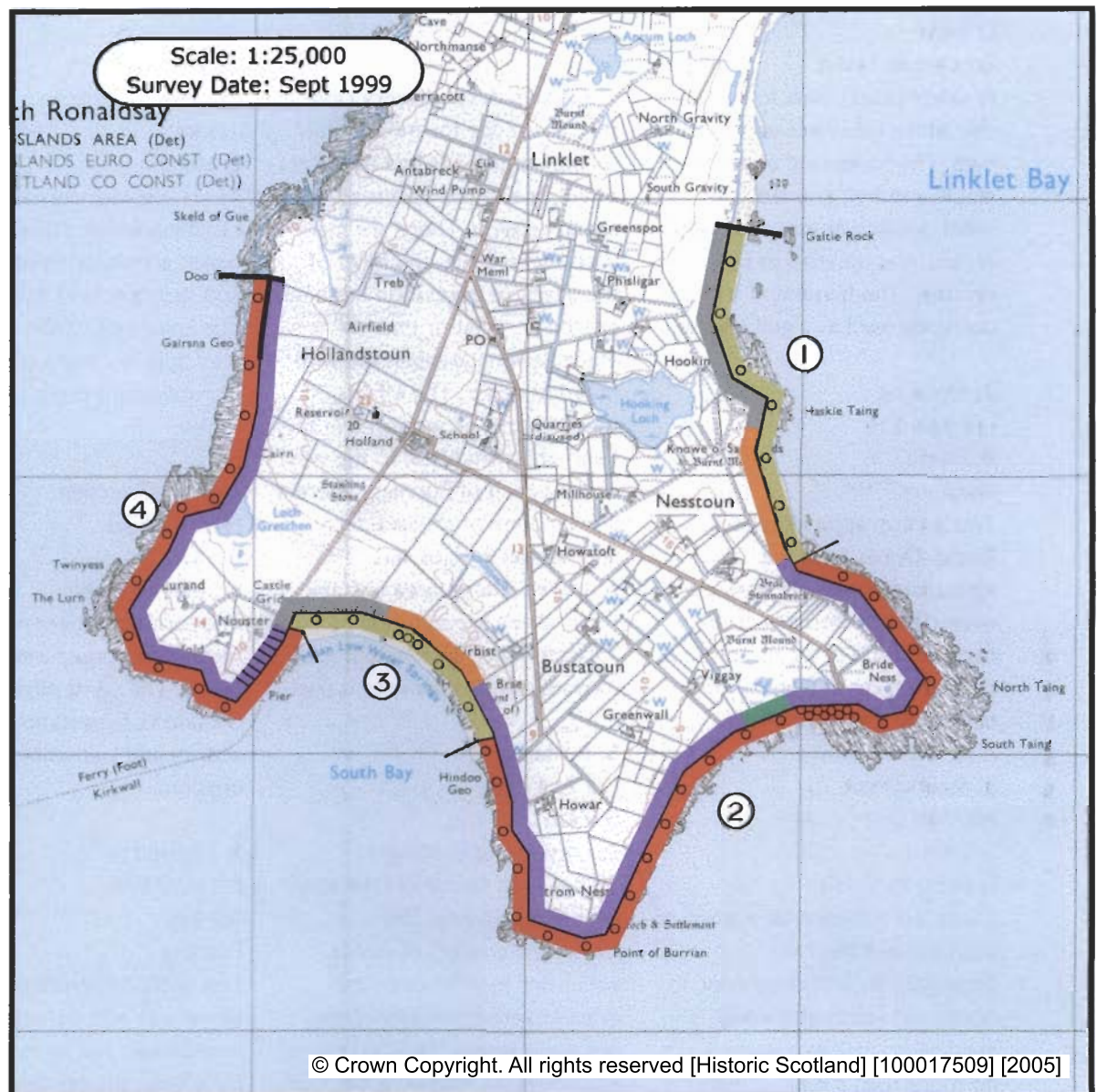
Coast edge is mostly < 5 m

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible

This unit comprises a coast edge which is well defined and has a prominent rock platform. There is some cobble cover throughout. The land around Nouster is covered in storm thrown stones. The coast edge around the eastern end of the unit has been stabilised by the pier and road, with attendant sea defences. The hinterland is grassed and fenced.

Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

North Ronaldsay Map 1



Foreshore

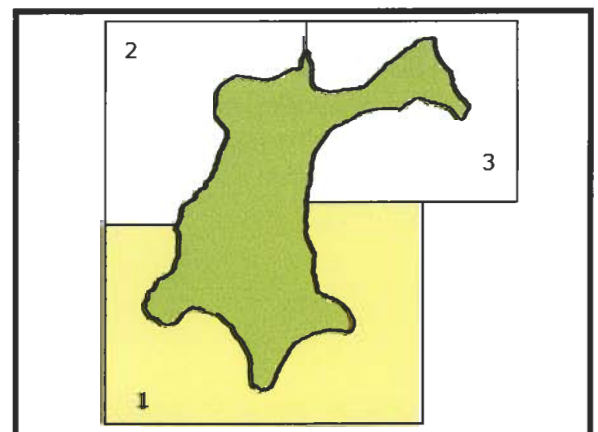
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

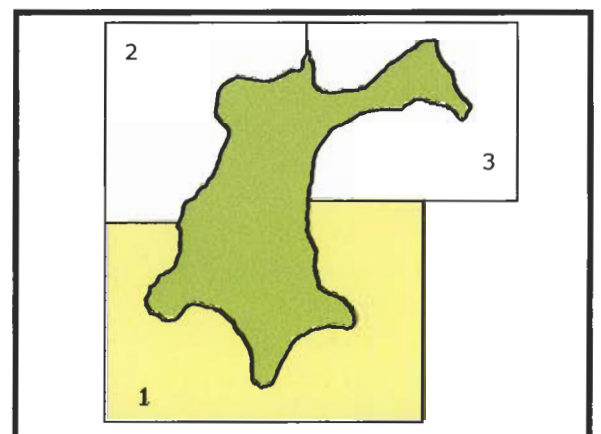
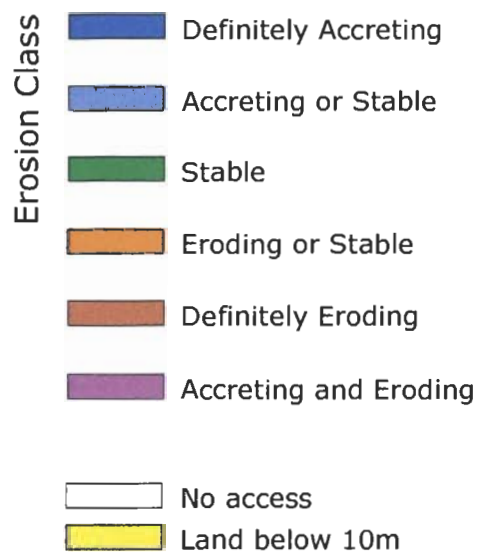
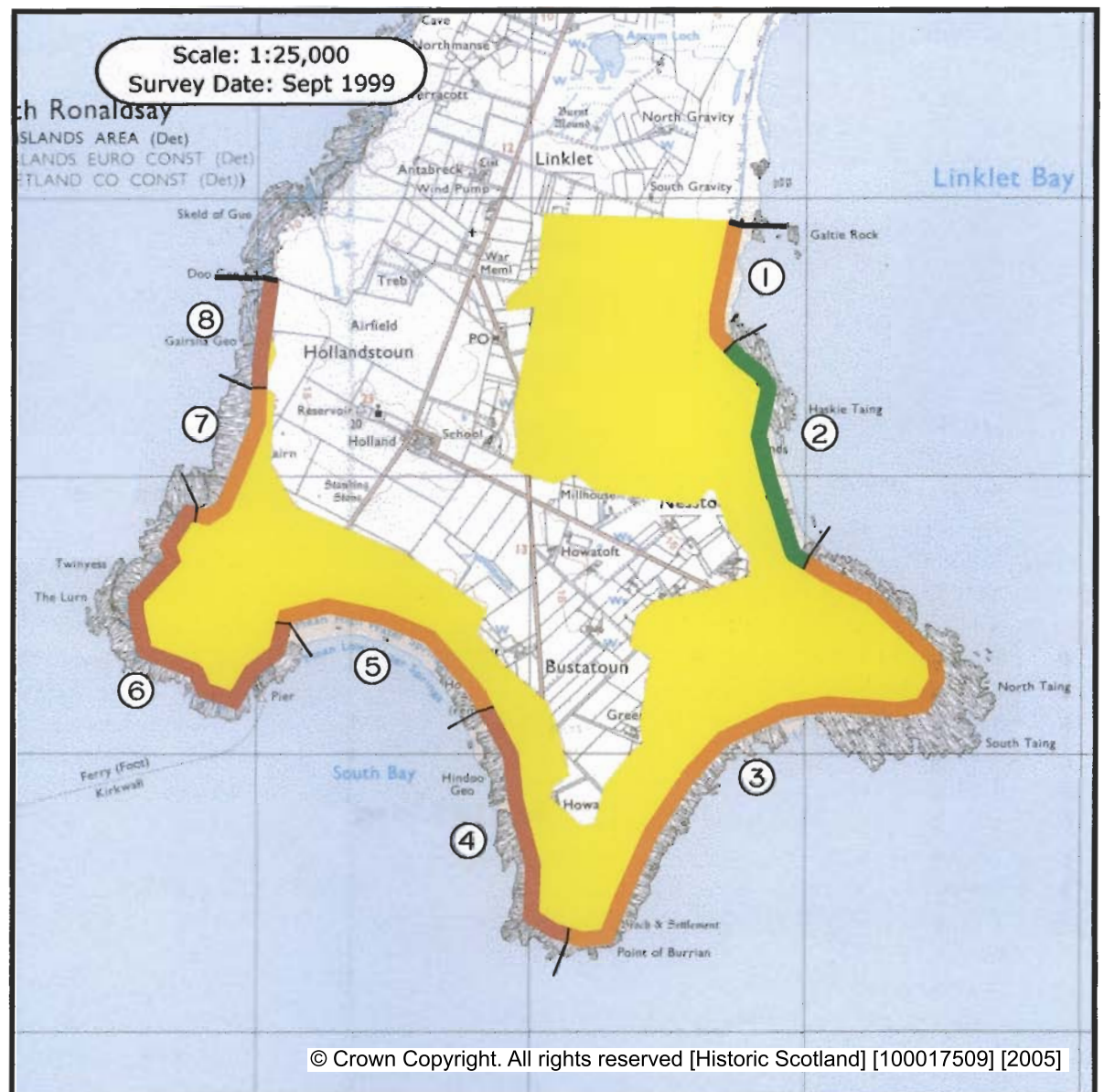
- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>1. Galtie Rock
HY 767 537
0.5 km
Eroding to Stable
A sandy beach leads to a small cliff which measures up to 1.5m high. The hinterland appears stable and well grassed. The small cliff face at the coast edge is clean and appears to be eroding. The hinterland is currently used as a golf course.</p> | <p>4. Strom Ness
HY 759 517
1 km
Eroding
The sheep dyke lies very close to the coast edge for most of this section, which has had the effect of worsening the effects of sheep erosion. There are many bare sheep trails, and most of the available vegetation has been grazed very flat or entirely eaten, leaving areas of soil with no good cover. The effects of this are most pronounced at the head of Strom Ness, to the west of the broch of Burrian, where a combination of sheep activity and aeolian erosion has rendered a large area unstable. Here, there are signs that adjacent fence lines have been moved inland in the recent past.</p> | <p>beyond the foreshore around collapsed dykes.</p> |
| <p>2. Hooking
HY 768 529
0.9 km
Stable
This section appears mostly stable. Dunes lie in the hinterland, which are grassed over. There is some erosion at the north end of a concrete sea wall which lies in front of the farm buildings at Hooking.</p> | <p>5. Bustatoun
HY 754 524
0.9 km
Accreting and Eroding
This section comprises the inner part of South Bay. The hinterland consists of dunes, which are mostly stable and grass covered however there are areas where the grass cover has been lost, exposing the sand below. This may have been caused by apparent rabbit infestation. The land closer to the shore is eroding badly. Here, on the seaward side of the dyke which encircles the island sheep damage is apparent and is undoubtedly contributing to the erosion. The erosion is evident from the lengths of collapsed dyke and from the large 'lumps' or 'pillars' of sand left standing between hollows to either side. Fence lines have also been moved inland. Sand is accreting</p> | <p>6. Nouster
HY 746 523
1.4 km
Eroding
There are many areas of the coastline within this section which are denuded of vegetation and susceptible to salt spray. The coast edge around the pier area appears more stable, due to consolidation using dumped rubble.</p> |
| <p>3. Stennabreck
HY 768 521
2.5 km
Eroding to Stable
There is a gabion wall in front of the farm buildings at Stennabreck. The coast edge to north and south of the wall is eroding in small exposures each no more than a total of 10m long. Elsewhere, the coast edge is mostly stable, with vegetation growing on top of storm beaches, but there is some damage which appears to be caused by sheep. Between South Taing and the Point of Burrian the red till has been exposed in several areas, especially towards the Point of Burrian where the sheep dyke has concentrated sheep activity within a smaller area.</p> | <p>7. Loch Gretchen
HY 749 530
0.5 km
Eroding to Stable
The foreshore over much of this section comprises a storm beach. The coast edge is denuded of vegetation by sheep activity and vulnerable to erosion.</p> | <p>8. Holland
HY 750 535
0.4 km
Eroding
This section is eroding; a new stone wall with concrete foundations has been built c. 2m back from the eroding old one. Sheep and rabbit activity is contributing to the erosion. There is little cobble cover here on the rock platform and this section is very exposed to the effects of the sea.</p> |



Map 2: Hollandstoun to Westness

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section covers the west and northwestern coast of the island. There is no modern coastal settlement in this area; what sparse settlement as exists lies behind the wild coastal margin and is focused on the road.

Few archaeological sites were recorded in this area and it is likely that this reflects a real scarcity of sites rather than an inability to identify remains. Only one site, a mound at Ancumtoun (NR21), was thought to be of possible prehistoric date. This site displays the typical 'doughnut' profile of a burial mound excavated via a central sondage, a technique most commonly employed by 19th C antiquarians. There are several other slight rises in the surrounding area and it may be that these remains represent a barrow cemetery, albeit of a very reduced nature.

Two mounds at Antabreck (NR20) may also be burial monuments of prehistoric date, but it is equally probable, in this case, that they are of natural origin.

A 'D' shaped enclosure which backs onto the coast edge at Hollandstoun may be of early date but its reduced height and poor state of preservation may alternatively be accounted for through stone robbing, the most usual fate of redundant structures in this landscape.

Of recent origin, also, is part of a wooden boat which lies on the storm beach at Ancumtoun (NR22). The hulk is notable for the preservation of its hand-made nails. It lies close to a series of kelp-drying walls which may date to the height of the kelp-working industry in the early 1800's, but more likely have been in use in the recent past; the collection and drying of seaweed for export continues as a part-time occupation for many islanders in Orkney.

Geology and geomorphology

This north and west facing stretch of coastline extends for over 100m around Tor Ness, with a rock platform along its entire length. The sheep dyke is set generally at least 100m back from the coast edge throughout this area, with a margin of uncultivated, wild ground lying between the dyke and the coast. This area serves as rough grazing for the herds of shore-dwelling sheep. The hinterland is exposed, mostly flat and low lying; only in a short stretch at the south end of the section does the coast edge rises above 5m high.

Erosion

For most of this section the coast edge appears to be relatively stable. The till is exposed only in small sections at the coast edge and the hinterland is well covered with short grass.

NR18 HY75SE20

HY7515 5389

Hollandstoun

Enclosure

Unknown

Fair

Nil

NR19

HY7530 5411

Antabreck

Noost

Unknown: ?18-20th C

Fair

Nil

NR20

HY7545 5421

Antabreck

Mounds

Unknown

Fair/poor

Monitor

NR21 HY75SE8

HY7605 5550

Ancumtoun

Mound

Unknown: ?prehistoric

Fair

Monitor

NR22

HY7623 5557

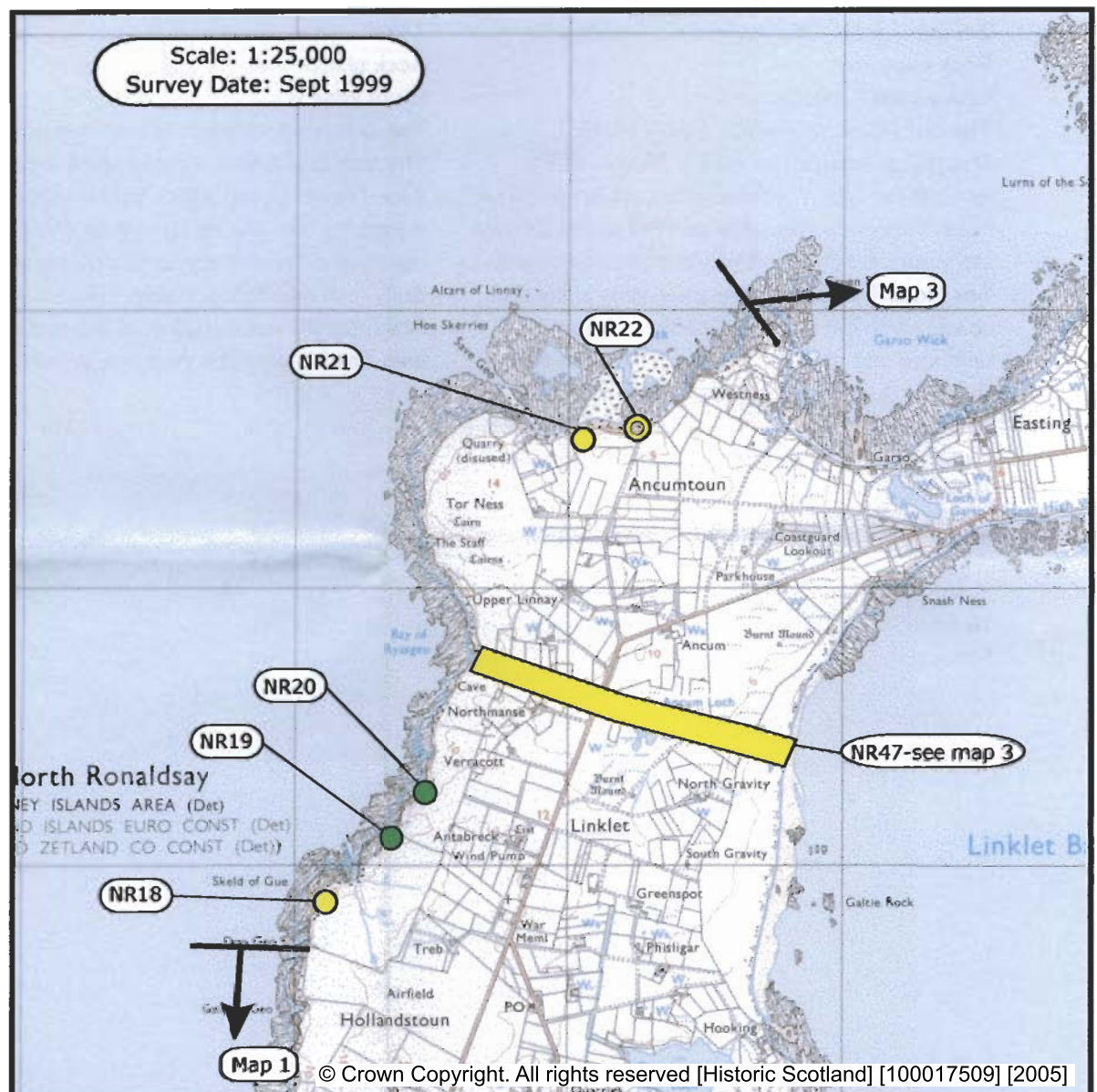
Ancumtoun

Hulk and kelp drying walls

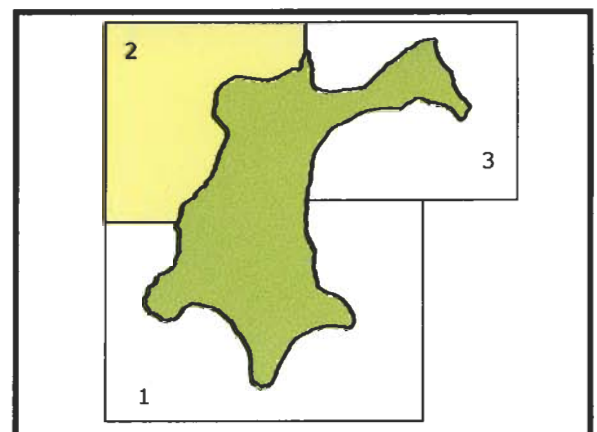
18th-20th C

Poor

Nil



- Built Heritage & Archaeology
- Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - + Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
 - Site complex



1. Doo Geo

HY 756 546

2.6 km

Rock platform

Coast edge is mostly < 5 m

The drift/rock interface is mostly visible

This unit of coast has a rock platform, which extends for 100 m + from the coast, around Tor Ness. There is a great deal of small storm thrown stone on the hinterland which increases towards Tor Ness. There are many small geos along the coast, which have cobble beaches. The land is unfenced and used for grazing. There has been sporadic dumping of building rubble along the coast between Skeld of Gue and Bay of Ryasgeo. It is unclear if this is an attempt at armouring the coastline.

2. Save Geo

HY 763 556

1 km

Rock platform with storm beach

Coast edge is < 5 m

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible

This unit begins with a rocky storm beach. There is a level berm on top which has no vegetation, suggesting that the beach may be moving. There is less cobble towards the centre of the unit, and the drift/rock interface is visible. There is a cobble beach for the last c. 200 m of the east end of the unit. The hinterland is enclosed pasture.

Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

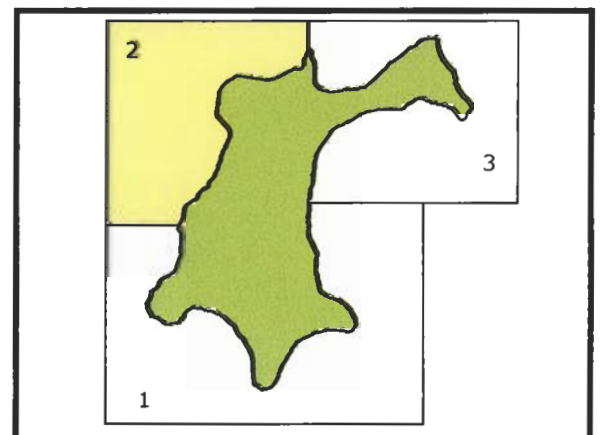
North Ronaldsay Map 2



- Foreshore**
- Rock platform
 - Mainly sand
 - Mainly alluvial/marine mud
 - Marsh

- Hinterland**
- Drift
 - Drift on visible rock
 - Raised beach etc.
 - Blown sand
 - Glacial sand/gravel
 - Alluvium

- Modifiers**
- Low edge <5m
 - Cliff >5m
 - Man made barrier
 - Shingle/storm bank
 - Human disturbance



1. Doo Geo

HY 751 539

0.7 km

Eroding to Stable

This section appears to be mostly stable with little or no severe erosion visible. The till has, however, been exposed at the coast edge and there are many small areas where sheep have denuded the vegetation through a combination of trampling and over-grazing.

2. Antabreck

HY 754 544

0.8 km

Eroding

This section is distinguished from the previous one mostly by the greater amount of storm thrown stones which litter the ground. The coast edge erosion also appears worse, with up to 0.8 m depth of till exposed in section. The long coastal dyke has apparently collapsed in this area and been replaced with one much further inland. The land is still used for rough grazing, however. There is much evidence of dumping along the coast edge, with pockets of demolition rubble lying against the coast, as well as one area which appears to have been reserved for the dumping of household refuse in the past.

3. Bay of Ryas Geo

HY 754 553

1.3 km

Eroding to Stable

This section appears to be mostly stable, with the exception of where sheep have denuded areas of vegetation. There are also localised areas of coast edge where the till has been exposed. Towards the north end of the bay, around Tor Ness, the rock platform extends in the form of level terraces for 100m+, thus giving the hinterland some protection from the sea.

4. Save Geo

HY 761 555

0.5 km

Stable

In this section there is only a small area of land between the coast edge and the sheep dyke (<10 m) with a consequent concentration of the effects of sheep. In general there is no visible erosion. Exceptions include small areas where sheep have removed vegetation, particularly at the base of the sheep dyke, where vertical sections are developing. There is a storm beach along much of this section. The level berm on top has no vegetation, this may be due either to movement of the beach or sheep grazing.

5. Lens Wick

HY 765 557

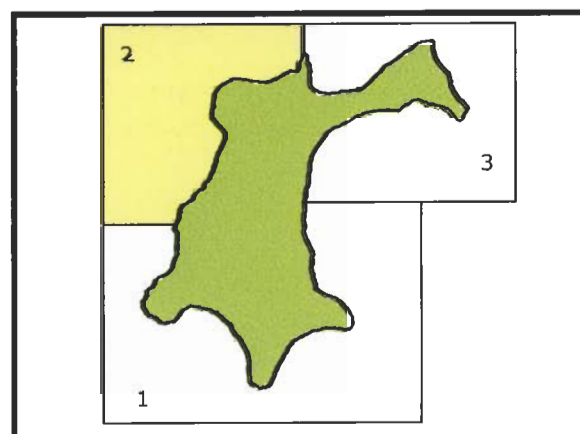
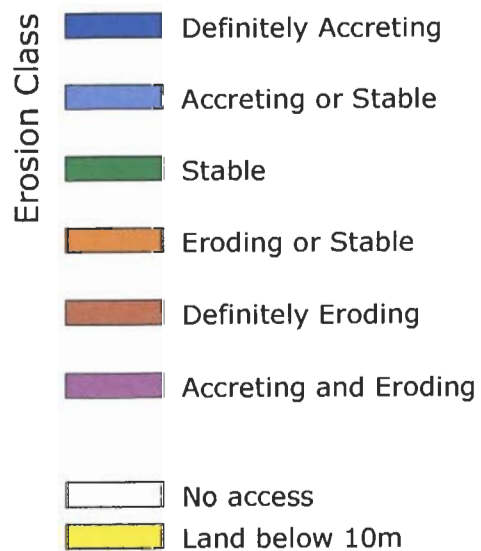
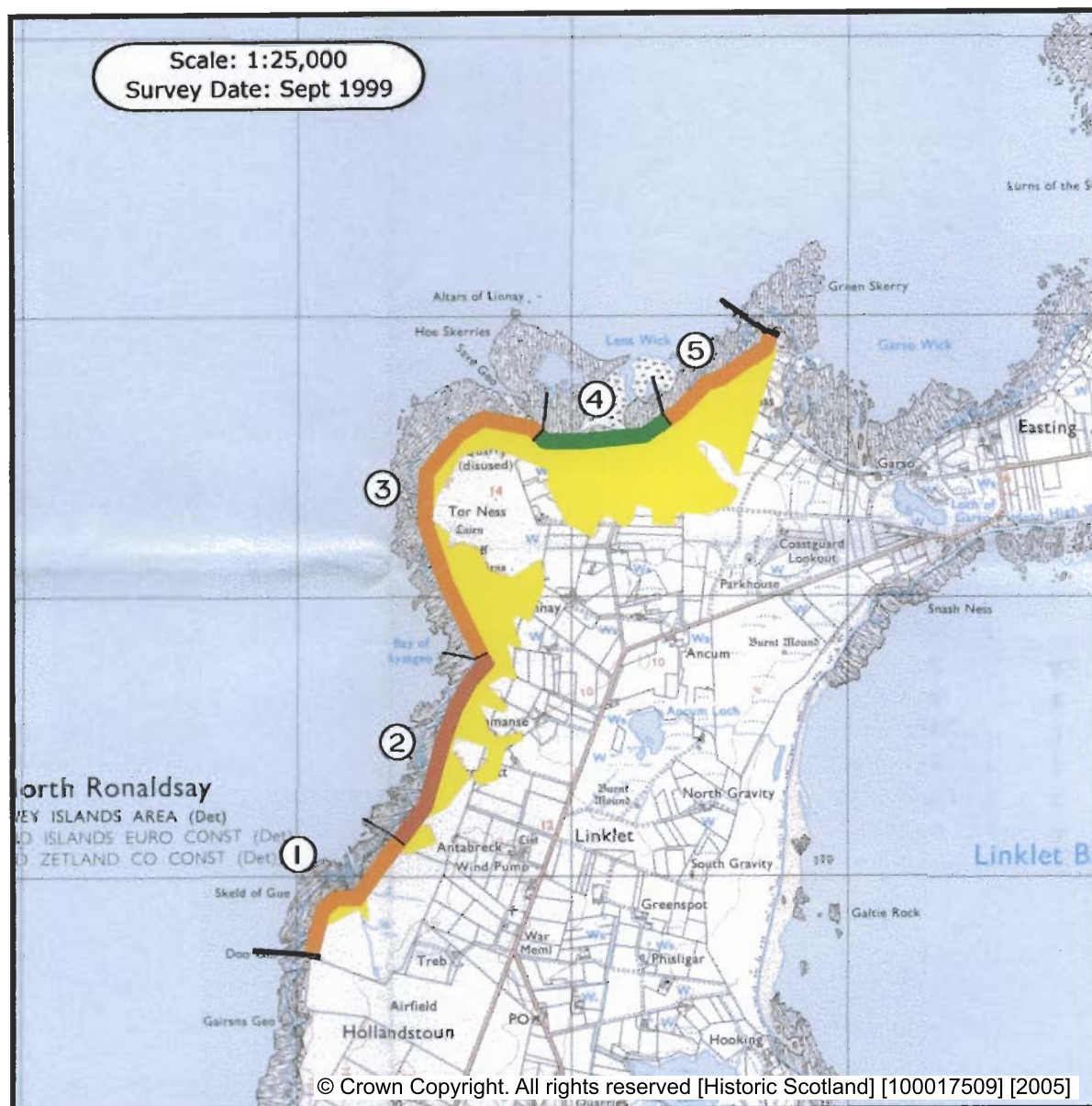
0.5 km

Eroding to Stable

Here, as with section 3, above, the coast edge appears to be mostly stable, especially with regard to the effects of the sea but it is the effects of sheep which are most noticeable. In places the sheep dyke is less than 3 m away from the coast edge.

Erosion Class

North Ronaldsay Map 2



Map 3: South Gravity to Westness

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section extends around the rugged and rocky coast of Dennis Ness and on into Linklet Bay with its sandy beaches, on the eastern coast of the island. The only modern coastal settlement lies on the east coast, but even this is sparse and accounts for no more than three or four houses. The area is served by an extension of the main road, which runs to Bewan, at the tip of the ness.

The skyline in this area is dominated by the tower of Dennis Ness lighthouse (NR31) which lies to the northern tip of the ness and the Old Beacon (NR35), which lies on the southern tip. The beacon, built in 1789 following a large number of shipwrecks in the area, was the first purpose-built light in Scotland. It was found to be unsatisfactory, however, and was replaced in 1806 by Start Point light on Sanday. Later on in 1852 a new lighthouse was built at Dennis Head to complement the Sanday light. The low-lying nature of the land upon which it stands necessitated that the tower had to be tall to be visible from the sea, and, at a height of 42.3m, this structure claims the distinction of being the tallest land-based lighthouse in Britain.

The most numerous site type recorded by survey in this area are settlement mounds. It is unlikely that they all date from the same period and some include remains of more than one period. At Westness (NR25) shell midden and enriched soil deposits are exposed behind a collapsing sea wall. At Garso (NR26) an eroding shelly mound may be associated with a row of derelict 19th C cottages, although a nearby mound recorded previously (NR28) was thought to be of prehistoric date. The abandoned farmstead at Eastings (NR29) is built over an artificial mound, similar in scale and form to the distinctive 'farm mounds' of Sanday. Of concern, is a probable prehistoric settlement at Dennis Loch (NR33). This site, which was previously recorded as a mound, has recently been disturbed. Archaeological deposits are strewn over the area and it is unclear if any of the original structure now survives in-situ. It has been recommended that an assessment survey be carried out.

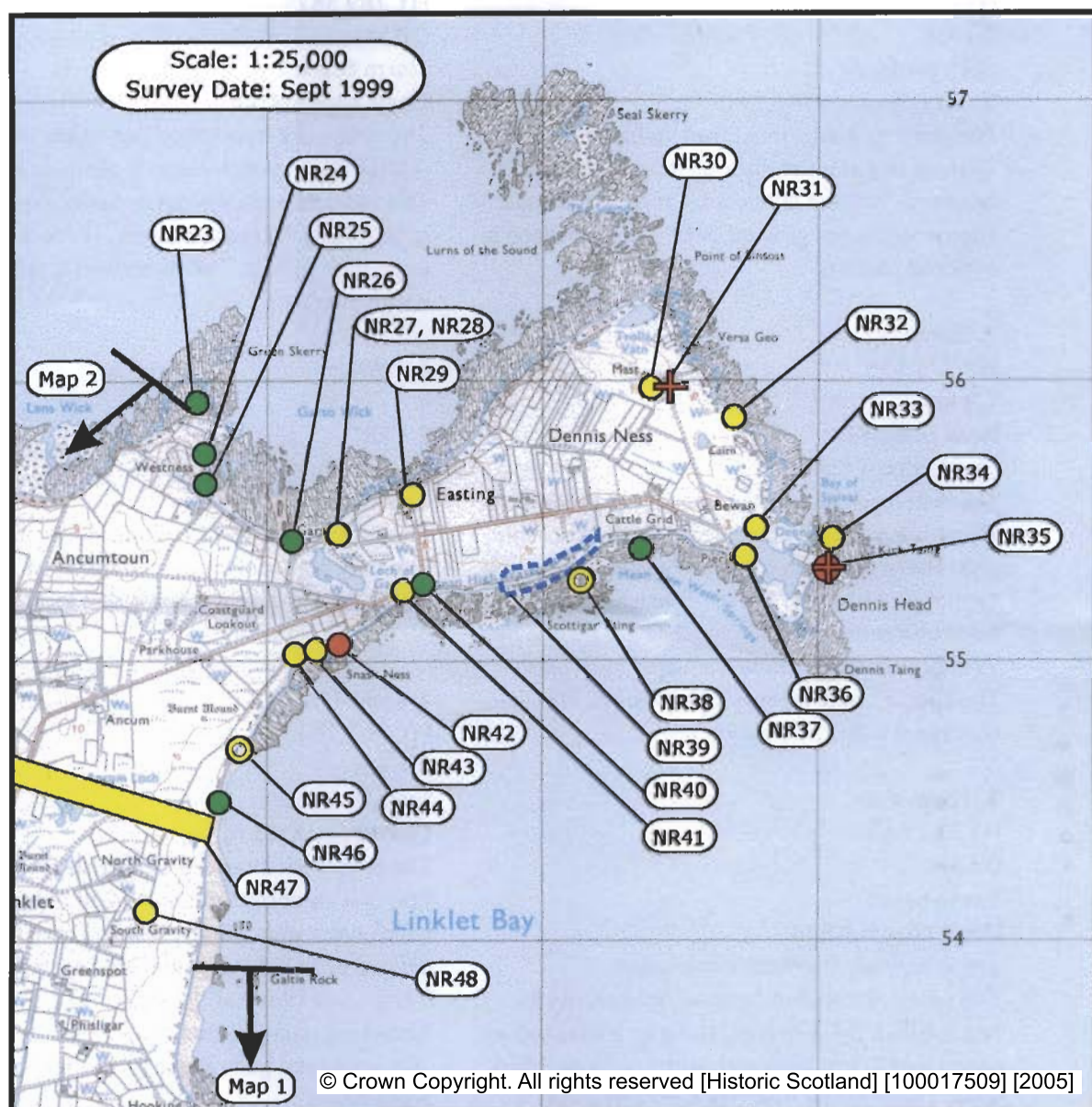
Geology and geomorphology

The most striking features in this landscape are the very large storm beaches at the north end of Dennis Ness and around Dennis Head. The storm beach at the north end of Dennis Ness appears to be advancing landward and is encroaching on Trolla Vatn, a small freshwater loch. The storm beach around Dennis Head, by comparison, appears to be more stable. The hinterland in this section is low-lying and comprises a mixture of small fields and more open grazing land. The sheep dyke comes very close to the coast edge on the north and south sides of Dennis Ness.

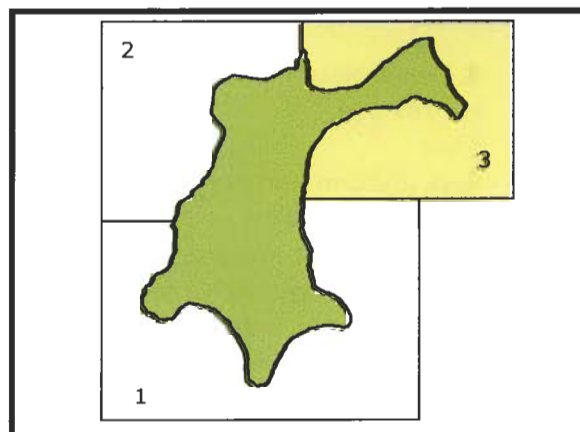
Erosion

The erosion in this section is generally on a small scale and unremarkable. On the north and south sides of Dennis Ness, where the sheep dyke is close to the coast edge, the effects of sheep poaching has exacerbated the erosion problem. A concrete sea wall in front of Westness Farm is badly damaged. Here, it appears that the level of the sandy beach in front of the farm has dropped by at least 1m since the wall was first built. This has had the effect of exposing the foundations and rendering the entire wall unstable.

NR23 HY7670 5591 Westness Platform and pund 18-20th C Poor Monitor	NR30 HY75NE5 HY7840 5599 Dennis Ness Structural remains Unknown Not seen Monitor	NR37 HY7866 5535 Bewan Pier 18-20th C Fair Nil	NR44 HY75NE20 HY7718 5504 Neven Possible settlement Unknown: ?prehistoric Not seen Monitor
NR24 HY7676 5575 Westness Mounds Unknown: ?prehistoric Fair Survey	NR31 75NE24 HY7843 5599 Dennis Head, Versa Breck Lighthouse 18-20th C Good Nil	NR38 HY75NE8001 HY7816 5524 Linklet Bay Shipwreck: Hansi 18-20th C Poor Nil	NR45 HY75SE8003 HY769 546 Linklet Bay Shipwreck: the Eva 18-20th C Not seen Monitor
NR25 HY7674 5565 Westness Farm Coastal exposure Unknown: ?prehistoric Poor Survey	NR32 HY75NE6 HY7868 5580 Dennis Ness Cairn, cist & walls 3rd-1st mill BC Poor Monitor	NR39 HY780 553 Scottigar Coastal exposure Unknown: ?prehistoric Fair/poor Survey	NR46 HY7683 5456 Linklet Bay Wall Unknown Fair/poor Monitor
NR26 HY7708 5543 Garso Mound & shell midden Unknown Fair Survey	NR33 HY75NE13 HY7875 5547 Dennis Loch Mound Unknown: ?prehistoric Poor Survey	NR40 HY7758 5523 Quoybanks Mound & coastal exposure Unknown: ?prehistoric Fair Survey	NR47 HY75SE33 HY7560 5460-7675 5440 Matches Dyke Treb dyke 3rd-1st mill BC Fair Monitor
NR27 HY75NE10 HY7725 5542 Garso Possible cist Unknown: ?prehistoric Not seen Monitor	NR34 HY75NE15 HY790 554 Kirk Taing Alleged site of church Unknown Not seen Nil	NR41 HY75NE11 HY7740 5518 Quoybanks Possible settlement mound Unknown: ?prehistoric Not seen Monitor	NR48 HY75NE26 HY7 5 North Ronaldsay Sheep Dyke 18-20th C Fair Nil
NR28 HY75NE9 HY7724 5547 Garso Coastal exposure & possible mound Unknown: ?prehistoric Not seen Monitor	NR35 HY75NE23 HY7901 5539 Dennis Head, Kirk Taing Old Beacon & keepers cottages 18-20th C Fair/poor Monitor	NR42 HY75NE1 HY7720 5504 Neven Cist & mound Unknown Not seen Monitor	
NR29 HY75NE12 HY7750 5550 Sennes Mound and coastal exposure Unknown: ?prehistoric Fair Survey"	NR36 HY75NE21 HY7878 5541 Dennis Loch Stone rows Unknown Fair Monitor	NR43 HY75NE7 HY7717 5504 Neven Site of cist burial 3rd-1st mill BC Not seen Monitor	



- Built Heritage & Archaeology**
- Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - + Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
 - Site complex



1. Westness

HY 767 559

0.2 km

Rock platform

Coast edge is < 5 m

The drift/rock interface is not visible

There is an extensive rock platform around this headland. There is little cobble throw, the coast edge is stable and grassed over. The hinterland is enclosed pasture.

2. Garso

HY 776 556

1.8 km

Rock platform

Coast edge is < 5 m

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible

There is a narrow cobble beach for most of this unit. There is sand in front of Westness farm and further east towards Garso. There are sea walls in front of Westness farm and Easting. The one by Westness has been badly damaged by erosion.

The cobble cover increases to the east. The hinterland is fenced pasture.

3. Trolla Vatn

HY 782 562

0.5 km

Storm beach

Coast edge is < 5 m

The drift/rock interface is not visible

This unit is dominated by an enormous storm beach which is < 6 m high, rising to a level top an average of 2-4 m wide with some sections 10 m wide. There is little vegetation on top and it appears to be moving landwards. The hinterland is unfenced rough grazing.

4. Dennis Ness

HY 787 558

1 km

Rock platform with storm beach

Coast edge is < 5 m

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible

This unit has some cobble cover along most of the upper foreshore in the form of a low storm beach. Gaps in the rock platform are filled with sand. The hinterland is unenclosed rough grazing.

5. Dennis Head

HY 789 552

0.8 km

Storm beach

Coast edge is < 5 m

The drift/rock interface is not visible

A large storm beach extends around Dennis Head. This extends from the upper foreshore inland for c. 10 m as a flat topped berm. There is some vegetation on top. The hinterland is unenclosed rough grazing.

6. Bewan

HY 776 552

2.1 km

Rock platform

Coast edge is < 5 m

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible

The rock platform is covered for most of the unit with a cobble beach. A sea wall is located at Snash Ness. The hinterland is fenced pasture.

7. Linklet Bay

HY 767 542

0.9 km

Sandy foreshore

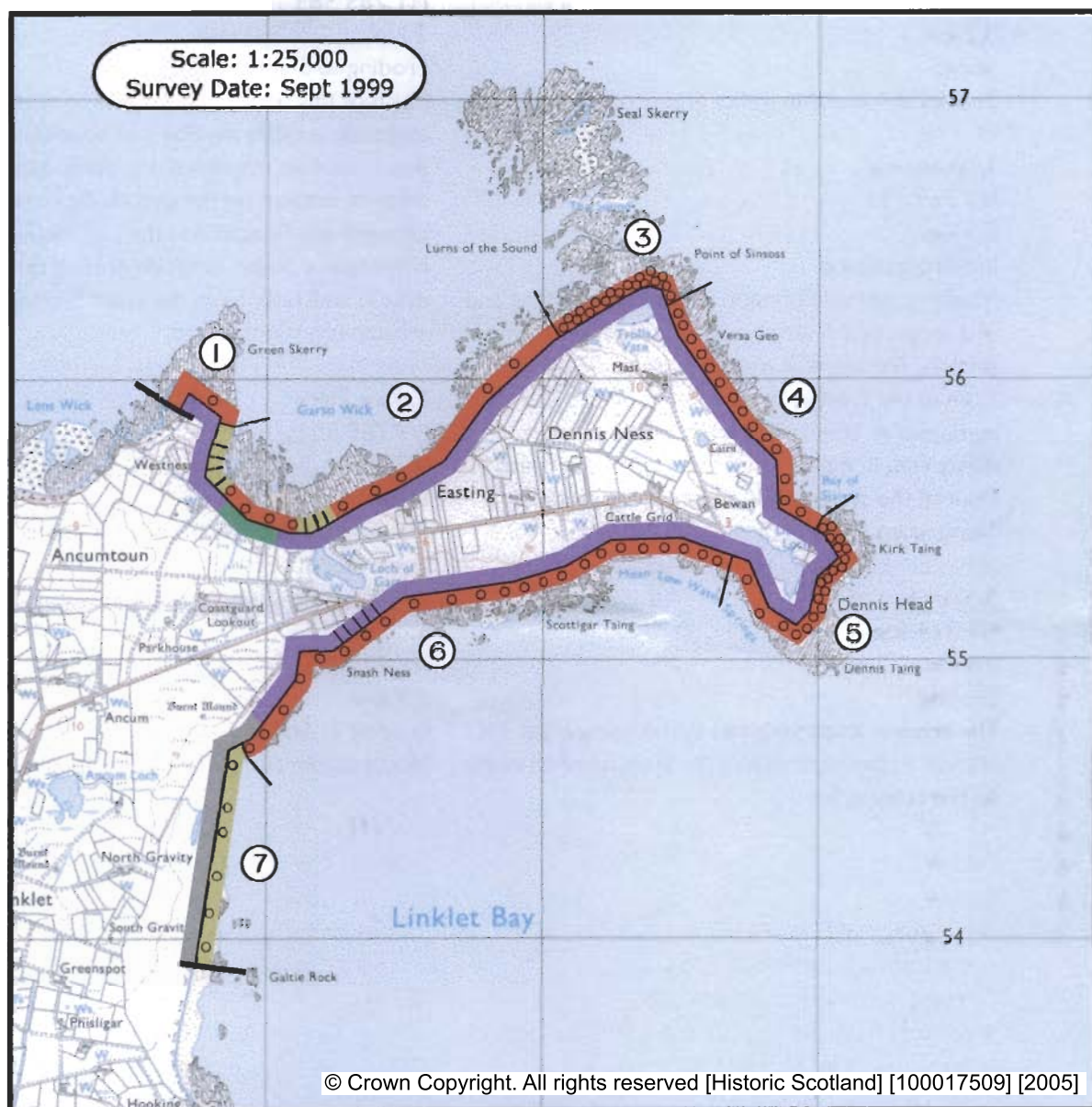
Coast edge is < 5 m

The drift/rock interface is not visible

This unit comprises the north end of Linklet bay, which has a wide, sandy, beach. There is a well defined edge between land and beach formed from a short vertical cliff section c. 1 m high. The hinterland is unenclosed rough grazing, currently also in use as a golf course (green fees available on application).

Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

North Ronaldsay Map 3



Foreshore

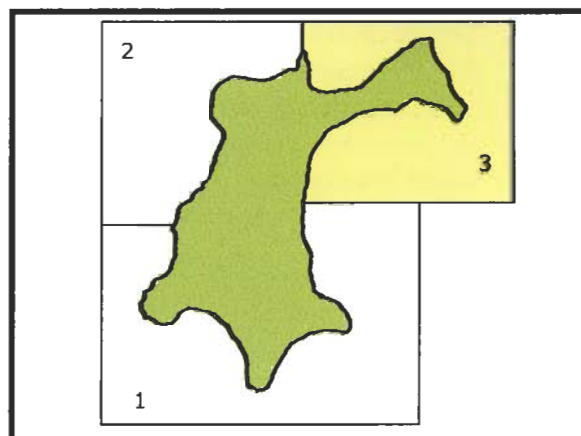
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



1. Green Skerry

HY 767 559

0.2 km

Stable

This section is stable with a grassy coast edge.

2. Westness

HY 769 555

0.9 km

Eroding to Stable

Mostly stable with erosion noticeable to either end of a storm beach which occupies most of the section. The sea wall which lies immediately in front of the farm at Westness has been badly damaged. A 10m long stretch has been entirely destroyed. It appears that the level of the beach in front of the sea wall has dropped, exposing the foundations.

3. Garso

HY 774 556

0.4 km

Eroding

The erosion is not very bad in this section but it is present in the form of lengths of exposed till visible on the coast edge.

4. Easting

HY 783 563

2 km

Eroding to Stable

Much of this section is occupied by storm beach, especially around the Point of Sinsoss. The storm beach appears vegetated and stable but there are areas of erosion on the east facing coastline between the Beacon and the Lighthouse. The hinterland is in use as rough grazing but the sheep dyke is well back from the coast here and so sheep erosion is not noticeable.

5. Kirk Taing

HY 789 551

0.7 km

Stable

The land around Dennis Head is protected by a stable storm beach.

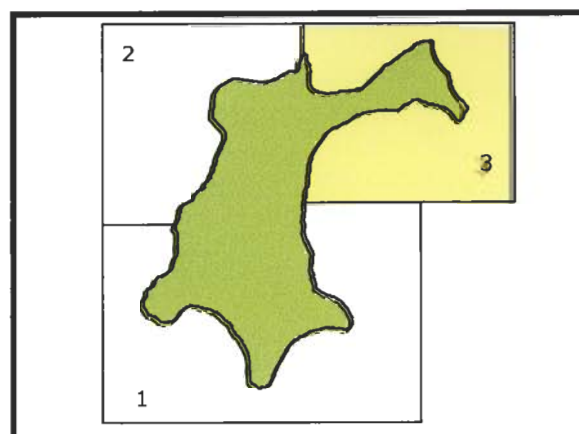
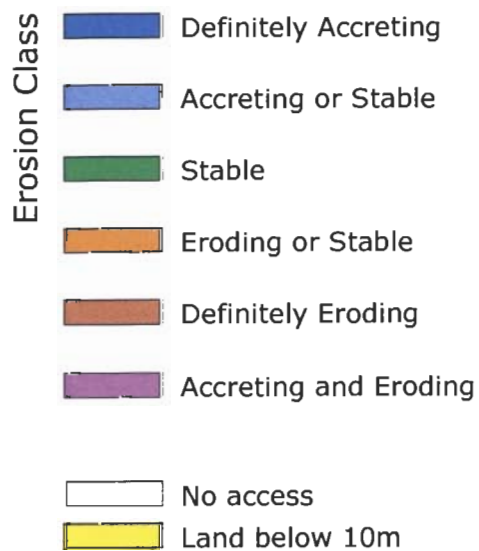
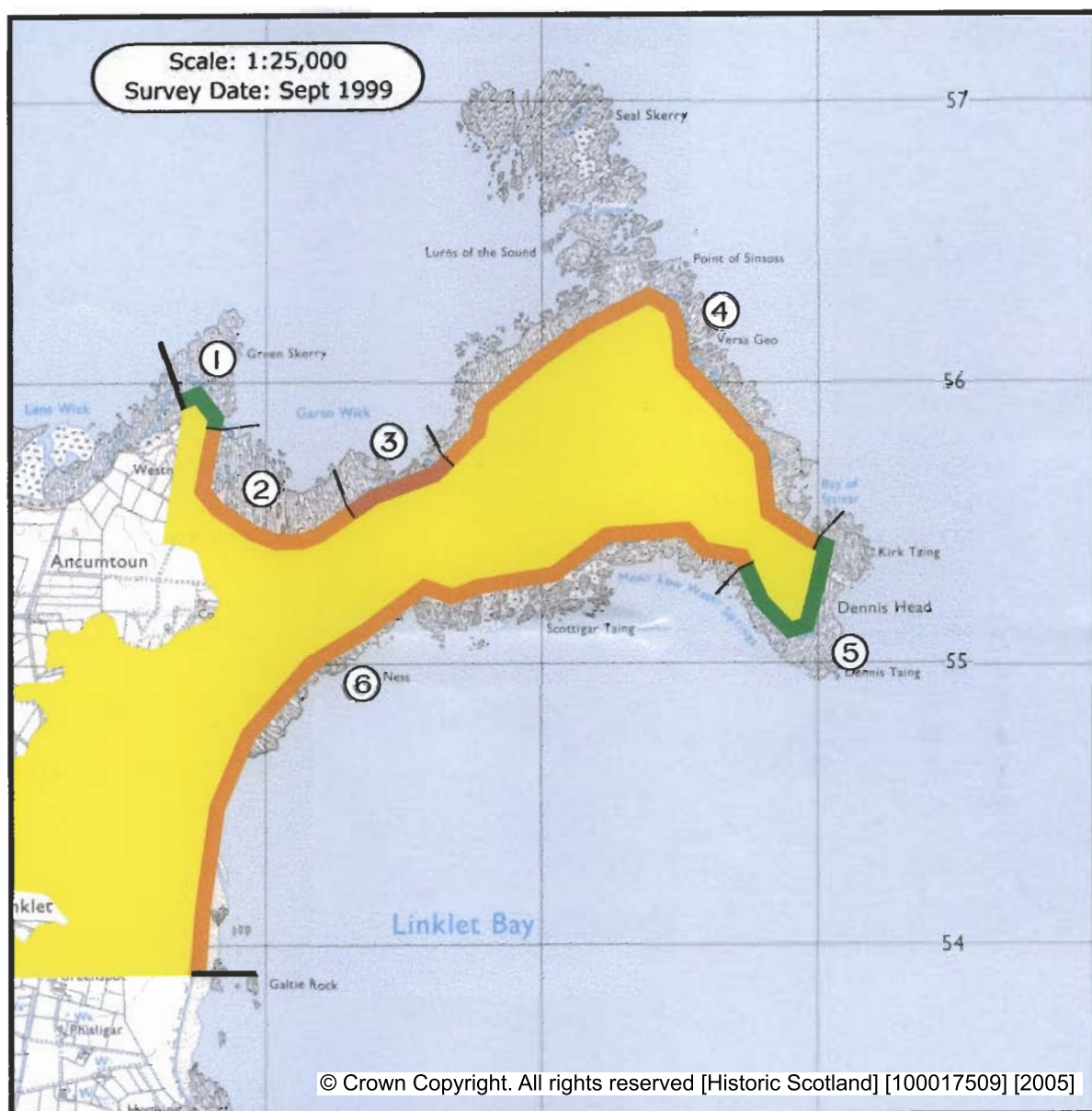
6. "Pier"

HY 772 550

2.9 km

Eroding to Stable

Mostly stable but with localised areas of erosion.



ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR1	HY7675 5370	235	Structure
NMRS no		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY75SE21					Linklet Bay
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Intertidal zone		Not seen		Nil	Unknown

description

A round structure made of upright boulders which was previously recorded in the intertidal zone is not now visible. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #232.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR2	HY7673 5388	187	Settlement mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY75SE1					Hooking
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair		Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC

description

A substantial settlement mound abuts the coast edge and is being eroded by the sea. It measures at least 50m in diameter and stands up to 4m high. A drystone lintelled passage was exposed in the section in the 1960's. Said to measure 5ft in depth and 4yds in length, the passage was oriented north-south and the north end was blocked with masonry. This is no longer visible. The current coastal exposure extends for some 40m, with structural remains concentrated in a 15m section at the eastern end. Surrounding this are deep anthropogenic 'farm mound' type soils. Modern dumping obscures the northern end of the mound. A concrete seawall retains the coast edge in front of the mound. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #106.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR3	HY7702 5262	219	Settlement mound & structure
NMRS no		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY75SE4		S		1419	Brae of Stennabreck
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair		Monitor	1st mill BC -1st mill AD

description

A structure excavated here in the 1880's is described as containing several stone-floored chambers, a stout inner wall face and a probable earthen bank to the exterior. Artifacts found inside included a whalebone key, spindle whorls, coarse pottery and fragments of iron. The structure occupies a rise, some 40m in diameter and up to 3m high. This has previously been described both as a natural hillock and a settlement mound. Towards the top of the slope, short exposures reveal some stone amid deposits of blown sand, but it is not possible to determine much about the overall composition of the mound. The seaward side of the mound is retained by the Sheep Dyke. Ref.: Traill, W (1885) 'Notice of excavations at Stenabreck and Howmae in North Ronaldsay, Orkney', PSAS 19, 1884-5, 14-23; RCAHMS (1946), #194; RCAHMS (1980), #100.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR4	HY773 522	192	Brides Kirk
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY74SE14			Brides Ness		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?10-14th C		

description

A slight, amorphous mound has several earthfast stones protruding from its surface. The placename may suggest an early church site. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #204; RCAHMS (1980), #194.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR5	HY7507 5347-768	202	Treb dyke
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75SE26			Muckle Gairsty		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC		

description

This treb dyke is one of two large earthworks which divide the island into three uneven parts (see also NR47). It runs between Gairsna Geo and Viggie, ignoring, and probably therefore predating, the township boundaries. Where it is best preserved, it stands to 1.8m high and is over 4m wide. It is much reduced at its seaward ends, however. Ref.: Marwick, H (1923) 'Place-names of North Ronaldsay', POAS 1, 1922-3, 55; RCAHMS (1980), #128.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR6	HY7638 5160	198	House
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75SE32			Burrian		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	Unknown: ?10-14th C		

description

A low, flat-topped amorphous mound, known as the house of Burrian, is said to have been the dwelling place of a blacksmith. It lies 5m from the coast edge and is eroding; some stone is visible in the exposures. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #101.



Site NR8: eroding settlement mound at Howar, Strom Ness



Site NR8: eroding settlement mound at Howar, Strom Ness

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR7	HY7627 5138	217	Broch
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75SE3.00-01	S & L	1427	Burrian, Strom Ness		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	1st mill BC-1st mill AD		

description

This broch, which was excavated in the 19th C, lies on the coast edge and is eroding. It is located on a small headland, separated from the hinterland by a series of defensive earthworks, forming a promontory fort of sorts. A large number of artefacts, including an extensive assemblage of worked bone objects, were recovered during excavation. In addition, a number of artefacts of early historic or Pictish date were found. These include a cross-slab with ogham inscription, painted pebbles and part of an iron bell of Celtic type. Part of a Pictish house was uncovered to the north east side of the broch and there are topographical indications that further structural remains may survive in the surrounding area. The site is very badly undermined by coastal erosion and is vulnerable to largescale collapse. A number of small exposures containing archaeological deposits occur along the seaward side and there are numerous rabbit scrapes in the broch interior and surroundings. Ref.: Traill, W (1880) 'Results of excavations at the broch of Burrian, North Ronaldsay, Orkney, 1870-1871', Arch Scotica 5, 2, 1880, 341-64; RCAHMS (1946), #201; MacGregor, A (1975) 'The Broch of Burrian, North Ronaldsay, Orkney', PSAS 105, 1972-4, 63-118; RCAHMS (1980), #68; Hedges, JW (1987) 'Bu, Gurness and the brochs of Orkney, Part 3', BAR, Brit series 165, 105-8.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR8	HY7697 5140	216	Settlement mound
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75SE2			Howar, Strom Ness		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	1st mill BC- 1st mill AD		

description

An extensive settlement mound, over 60m long, abuts the coast edge and is eroding. It extends from the shore into a pasture field where it can be traced for at least 30m. It is very denuded and there are frequent exposures, some up to 2.5m deep, in which archaeological deposits can be seen. Structural remains are visible on at least two separate stratigraphic levels within the mound. Towards the base, a structure which may be a Viking/Norse period dwelling, is aligned parallel to the shore. It is estimated to measure some 20m in length; a probable internal partition bisects it. This structure is built over a highly enriched old ground surface and is covered with an accumulation of anthropogenic deposits, which include peatash, shell and bone fragments. Structural remains of a later period are exposed on the surface of the mound, which has been denuded of vegetation by sheep trampling. The eastern end of the mound comprises multiple layers of highly organic 'farm mound' deposits. It is likely that the remains here represent a Viking/Norse farmstead which was continuously occupied over a long period. Previously, a probable Viking period burial, with grave goods including a stone bowl, probable steatite or glass object and a bronze pin, was found nearby. The site is now in a highly vulnerable condition and requires immediate attention. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #114.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR9	HY7603 5153	199	House
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75SE19			Strom Ness		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	14-18th C		

description

Earthworks at this location are thought to mark the site of a house named in valuations of 1653. Ref.: Marwick, H 'Place-names of North Ronaldsay', POAS, 1, 1922-3, 64. RCAHMS (1980), #113.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR10	HY7600 5171		Grain store & dwelling
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Howar		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On the coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	18-20th C		

description

This building was used as a grain store in the 18th C, when rents were commonly paid in grain. The grain would have been store here awaiting shipment to Kirkwall. The presence of a hearth suggests that it also had living accommodation upstairs. It is locally known as a place where men would go to hide to evade the press gangs. Now a ruinous two-storied building, it is being eroded away by the sea. It is oriented end-on to the coast, and the seaward end wall and part of one of the long walls have already been removed by erosion. It measures 16m in length by 5m in width (internally). The walls are over 1m thick. At their highest, the walls stand to 3m, they are clay-bonded and retain patches of shelly render on their interior face. Three window apertures are visible on the ground floor; although there were probably at least four, arranged in opposing pairs. There is a hearth set into the landward end wall, with two large slabs above forming a chimney breast. On the upper level there are also three windows, one of which pierces the end wall.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR11	HY7583 5227	218	Settlement
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75SE5	S	1449	Howmae Brae		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	1st mill BC- 1st mill AD		

description

A large overgrown mound stands on the site where, in the 19th C, excavations revealed two probable Iron Age houses. The two large round houses stood to either side of a flagged yard, flanked by smaller outbuildings. Built into a sand dune, the houses were radially partitioned and there was some evidence to suggest that they may have had corbelled roofs. Finds from the site include pottery, stone objects and a saddle quern; these were donated to NMA. The structures are now covered by blown sand. Ref.: Traill, W (1885) 'Notice of excavations at Stennabreck and Howmae in North Ronaldsay, Orkney', PSAS, 19, 1884-5, 14-33; Traill, J (1890) 'Notes on the further Excavations of Howmae, 1889', PSAS, 24, 1889-90, 444, 451-61; RCAHMS (1946), #195; RCAHMS (1980), #107.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR12	HY7508 5243		Mound
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Nouster		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<50m from coast edge	Good	Monitor	Unknown		

description

A grassy mound lies in the walled garden of an abandoned 19th C house at Nouster. The mound is 40m in diameter and up to 2.5m high. It is likely to be of artificial construction but there are no indications as to its nature or date.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR13	HY7501 5229		Store house
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Nouster		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C		

description

A 19th C store house is located at the head of the pier. Constructed from mortared stone, it has a pitched, slated roof and arched doorways. It measures 8m in length by 6m in width. A weighbridge is located to the landward side of the building.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR14	HY7501 5222	241	Pier
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75SE28.00			South Pier		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C		

description

The South Bay Pier, also known as Steamer Pier, retains the rails which were used to launch the mailboat which linked the island with Sanday. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #212.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR15	HY7495 5224	241	Hand operated crane
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75SE28.01			South Pier		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<10m from coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C		

description

A hand operated crane, made by Butler Bros. of Glasgow, is located to the north side of South Pier (NR14). Set on a large flagstone, it is not intact and is no longer in use. It lies some 8m from the coast edge.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR16	HY7456 5236		Pund
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Lurand		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<10m from coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C		

description

A drystone pund with three interconnecting compartments stands on the coast edge. The walls stand to 1.8m high and are in good condition. The pund remains in use. This, and other similar structures in the area, together with the Sheep Dyke (SY48), provide for the communal management of the flocks of shore-dwelling sheep.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	1	NR17	HY7497 5316		Coastal exposure: shell midden
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Lurand		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown		

description

Sea erosion has cut back into a low sandy cliff revealing shell midden. The exposure extends for 5m and is generally less than 0.25m deep. Limpet forms the most common shell type present in the midden.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	2	NR18	HY7515 5389	200	Enclosure
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
HY75SE20				Hollandstoun	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Nil	Unknown		

description

A 'D' shaped enclosure, defined by earthen and stone banks, backs onto a low cliff edge. The bank measures up to 1.5m wide and stands no more than 0.5m high. Overall, the enclosure is 40m wide and 65m long. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #231.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	2	NR19	HY7530 5411		Noost
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Antabreck	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Nil	Unknown: ?18-20th C		

description

An abandoned boat noost is indicated by a stone-filled depression on the coast edge. It measures 5m in width and 10m in length. Traces of revetted masonry are visible to the north side of the depression and there are several substantial stones, which may be derived from walling, in the coastal section to the south side.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	2	NR20	HY7545 5421		Mounds
NMRS no.		Status	HS index no.	placename	
				Antabreck	
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements located on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown		

description

Two mounds lie close to the coast edge. One is well defined, has a diameter of 9m and stands up to 0.75m high. It lies some 20m from the coast. The other, 50m further north, is oval in shape and measures 10m by 16m by 1m high. It lies on the coast edge and is eroding; some stone is visible in the erosion face but it is possible that the mound is at least partly natural in origin. Nearby, a 19th-20th C midden dump is exposed in the coastal section.



Site NR21: mound



Site NR22: Hulk on upper foreshore

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	2	NR21	HY7605 5550	225	Mound
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75SE8			Ancumtoun		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<50m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

An overgrown mound lies 40m from the coast edge, on the landward side of the sheep dyke. It measures 30m in diameter and stands to 2.5m in height. The centre of the mound is slightly dished, suggesting that it was dug into in the past. A drystone wall crosses over the mound. There are other smaller and more amorphous rises in the area which may also be of artificial origin. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #98.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	2	NR22	HY7623 5557		Hulk and kelp drying walls
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Ancumtoun		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Poor	Nil	18th-20th C		

description

The hulk of a wooden clinker-built vessel lies broken up some 10m inland from the head of a storm beach. The vessel is estimated to have been approximately 8.5m long and 2m wide. The nails and rivets which hold it together are hand made with a squared shank. The keel is covered with metal sheeting. There are several kelp-drying walls in the surrounding area. Constructed from rounded beach stone, these walls are aligned perpendicularly to the coast. They measure some 3m in length by 0.8m in width and stand to 0.6m tall.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR23	HY7670 5591		Platform and pund
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Westness		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Poor	Monitor	18-20th C		

description

A rectangular stony pile is located on a small headland. It measures 12m long by 6m wide and has a kerb of edge-set stones. The centre is filled with loose stone and is very overgrown. The seaward end of the structure is eroding into the sea. This structure may be a beacon base or platform for kelp working; alternatively it may be the remains of a badly depleted burial cairn. A 'P' shaped pund of 18th-20th C date lies nearby. Measuring 30m in one direction and 25m in the other, the walls of this structure stand up to 1.5m high.



Site NR25: Westness Farm, damaged sea wall with archaeological deposits exposed



Site NR25: general view from east

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR24	HY7676 5575		Mounds
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Westness		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<50m from coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

Four or more grassy mounds lie to the north side of Westness Farm. The largest is aligned north-south and measures 50m in length by 40m in width. It stands 3m high. The three smaller mounds, each measuring 10m in diameter by 1m in height, lie to the north side of the large mound, separated by a modern wall.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR25	HY7674 5565		Coastal exposure
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Westness Farm		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Poor	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A 20m section of the sea wall which runs in front of Westness Farm has collapsed to reveal archaeological deposits are revealed behind it. The uppermost deposit comprises of cultivation soils up to 1m deep. Beneath, a stony surface covers bands of organic soil and sand up to 0.5m deep. A lower 0.35m thick band of organic soil with lenses rich in shell midden covers old storm beach deposits.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR26	HY7708 5543		Mound & shell midden
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Garso		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown		

description

A grassy mound which lies on the coast edge is being eroded by the sea and by sheep trampling. It measures 15m in diameter. An erosion face, located some 1.6m above the level of the beach, contains anthropogenic soils and abundant shell. Further small rises and exposures of shell midden stretch along the coast for upwards of 50m. A row of derelict 19th C cottages lies behind the shore.



Site NR29: Eastings Farm and mound

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR27	HY7725 5542	211	Possible cist
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE10			Garso		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A disused well, formed from upright slabs set in a rectangular shape, may originally have served as a cist. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #28.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR28	HY7724 5547	212	Coastal exposure & possible mound
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE9			Garso		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

The name Garso may indicate a prehistoric mound, although none is now visible. In the past, limpet shell midden has been noted in exposures immediately opposite the house and outwith the Sheep Dyke. No such deposits were noted during this visit. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #104.

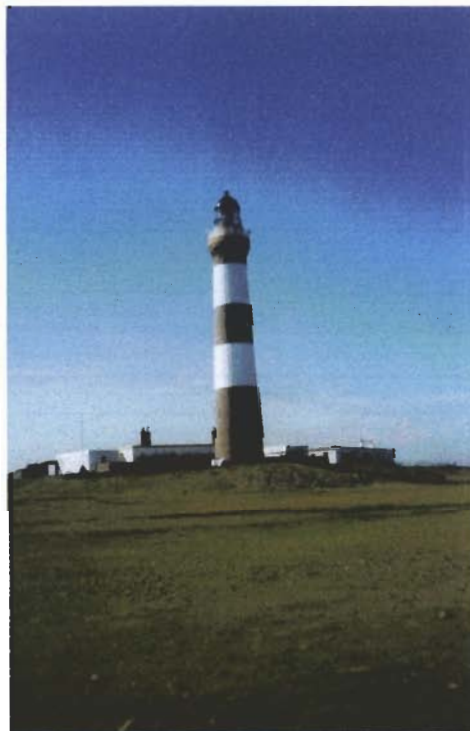
island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR29	HY7750 5550	210	Mound and coastal exposure
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE12			Sennes		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

The abandoned farmstead at Eastings is built over a substantial artificial mound which stands up to 1.5m high. It is located some 50m from the coast edge. On the coast, shell midden, comprising solely of limpet, is exposed in the eroding section. The section extends for 4m and is up to 0.5m deep. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #111).



Site NR31: Dennis Head lighthouse - foghorns



Site NR31: Dennis Head lighthouse

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR30	HY7840 5599	197	Structural remains
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE5			Dennis Ness		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown		

description

A broch site on Dennis Ness referred to by Petrie in the 19th C could not be relocated by RCAHMS in the 1920's. In the 1970's OS surveyors identified fragments of a thick-walled structure, locally referred to as a 'Picts House' in this area. The remains were said to be of uncertain type and date, but possibly of recent origin. The site was not inspected on this occasion. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #205; RCAHMS (1980), #103.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR31	HY7843 5599	238	Lighthouse
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
75NE24	L		Dennis Head, Versa Breck		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
100m+ from coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C		

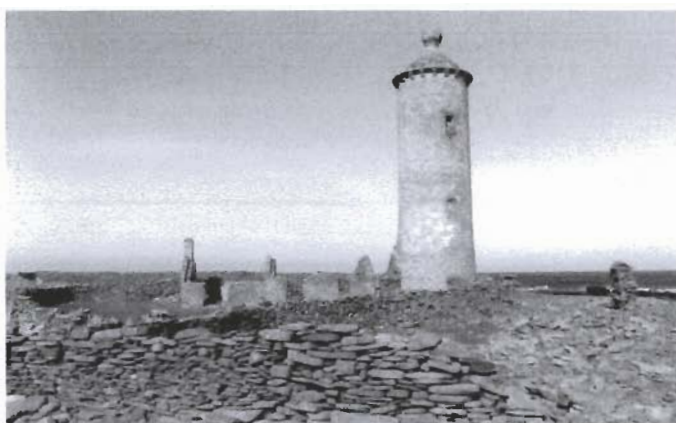
description

The lighthouse at Dennis Head was built in 1852, to replace the beacon (see NR35). Designed by Alan Stevenson, it was built by William Kinghorn of Leith for £681 8s 7d. It was constructed in brick, over a stone base and stands to 42.3m. It is the highest land-based lighthouse in Britain and the main light in the north of Orkney. It was painted with two white stripes in 1889. The fog signal and radio beacon were installed in 1930. Ref.: RCAHMS (1946), #207.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR32	HY7868 5580	213-4	Cairn, cist & walls
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE6			Dennis Ness		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Elements <10 from coast edge	Poor	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC		

description

A cairn containing a cist was excavated during WWII. It was oriented NNE-SSW, measuring 1.8m long and 0.5m deep; the width could not be determined because only one side survived. This was formed from two edge-set slabs, while the end walls were made from coursed masonry. It is said to have contained 'ashes'. Remnants of a drystone dyke ran from the SSE side of the cairn for over 100m and then formed a T-junction with a second ruinous wall. Only a few scattered earthfast wall stones now remain. The cairn survives as an amorphous mound, some 15m in diameter and 1m high. It lies 4m from the coast edge. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #17, 18.



Site NR35: Old Beacon and keepers cottages



Site NR35: Old Beacon and keepers cottages

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR33	HY7875 5547	232	Mound
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE13			Dennis Loch		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<70m from coast edge	Poor	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

A mound was previously recorded here but cannot now be clearly distinguished due to recent dumping and ground disturbance. The mound was said to have measured 5m by 4m and to stand to 0.4m high. At different times, both black soil and burnt stone were recorded in exposures. Presently, a low amorphous rise some 35m by 25m occupies this position. It lies 50m from the side of the loch and 60m from the coast. A good deal of loose stone is strewn about, apparently deriving from a dismantled structure, possibly a crue. Large slabs and heaps of organic shelly soils in the area are more indicative of disturbed remains of probable prehistoric date. It is uncertain if any associated remains survive in-situ. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #163.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR34	HY790 554	236	Alleged site of church
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE15			Kirk Taing		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Nil	Unknown		

description

The placename is said to record the site of a church, although no trace of any structure in the area. Ref.: Marwick, H (1923) 'Antiquarian Notes on Sanday', POAS, 1, 1922-3, 54, 56; RCAHMS (1980), #195.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR35	HY7901 5539	237	Old Beacon & keepers cottages
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE23	S & L	6596	Dennis Head, Kirk Taing		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	18-20th C		

description

This was the first purpose-built lighthouse to be constructed in Scotland. It was built in 1789 as a manned light for the Commissioners of the Northern Lighthouse Board. Constructed by Thomas Smith and Ezekiel Walker from undressed local stone, it stands 21m high and is estimated to have cost £199 12s 6d. The fixed light remained in use until 1809, when Start Point lighthouse on Sanday came into operation. At this point, the lighthouse was converted to an unlit beacon; the lantern was removed and replaced with a round ashlar ball which had previously topped the Sanday beacon. The tower is now rather dilapidated and the internal timber staircase and floor are gone. The ruins of the keepers cottages stand behind the tower. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #210.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR36	HY7878 5541	233	Stone rows
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE21			Dennis Loch		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<50m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown		

description

Five pairs of upright stones, each pair comprising one large and one smaller stone, protrude from the ground close to the coast edge. They are locally thought to be of ancient origin and are now used for tying up boats. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #230.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR37	HY7866 5535		Pier
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Bewan		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C		

description

The first jetty on the island was built at Bewan by William Kinghorn in 1852. It was built from massive stone slabs set on edge at a slant and held together with iron bands. A disused fish curing store stands at the head of the pier. Ref.: Burgher, L (1991) 'Orkney: An illustrated architectural guide', 100.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR38	HY7816 5524	243	Shipwreck: Hansi
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE8001			Linklet Bay		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
Intertidal zone	Poor	Nil	18-20th C		

description

The Swedish steamship Hansi, on route from Trondheim to Ellesmere Port with a cargo of wood pulp, was disabled by gales in 1939. The crew abandoned ship and she was left to run aground below Scottigar. Part of the wheel house and other fragments are strewn on the beach. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #223; Northern Lighthouse Wreck Returns.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR39	HY780 553		Coastal exposure: shell midden
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Scottigar		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

Occasional small exposures of shell midden are visible in the eroding banks. Much of the shell lies on the surface of terraces eroded by sheep trampling. The most extensive exposure measures 8m in length. Currently, there is nothing which might indicate the date or nature of this midden. The site is likely to be further depleted by erosion, but since this is likely to provide only uninformative and piecemeal exposures, site assessment may be the preferable option.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR40	HY7758 5523		Mound & coastal exposure
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
			Quoybanks		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
On coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

An elongated mound, up to 3m high, 25m wide and 30m long, lies 2m from the coast edge, behind an advancing storm beach. The larger part of the mound lies behind the Sheep Dyke. The seaward side is being eroded due to the action of the sea, but also, and more immediately, by sheep trampling. In the exposed section, the visible archaeological deposits comprise a basal layer of anthropogenic soil, 1m in depth, covered by shell midden and latterly by blown sand deposits. The scale and composition of the mound indicate a probable settlement mound.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR41	HY7740 5518	201	Possible settlement mound
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE11			Quoybanks		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

Fragments of masonry were noted in a small exposure opened in the mound which underlies Quoyness House. The remains may be part of a settlement.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR42	HY7720 5504	195	Cist & mound
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE1	S	1334	Neven		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown		

description

A cist was found in an amorphous sandy knoll in 1865. There are no indications of any archaeological remains in the area at present. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #19.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR43	HY7717 5504	231	Site of cist burial
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE7			Neven		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC		

description

A cist is said to have been found here during drain-digging. It apparently contained burnt bone and ashes. It was left in-situ and re-covered with soil. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #30.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR44	HY7718 5504	228	Possible settlement
NMRS no.	Status	HS index no.	placename		
HY75NE20			Neven		
Location to coast	condition	recommendation	date range		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric		

description

It is recorded that shell and animal bones were found in an amorphous mound, measuring 20m by 8m. This may indicate the presence of a settlement.

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR45	HY769 546	215	Shipwreck: the Eva
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY75SE8003					Linklet Bay
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Intertidal zone		Not seen		Monitor	18-20th C

description

A former British warship, the Eva was lost with a cargo of brick and tiles in Linklet Bay, near Sandsheen, in 1830. The hull was made of oak, and due to the weight of cargo, became deeply embedded in the sand. It is possible that part of the ship survives beneath the sand at low-water mark. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #222.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR46	HY7683 5456		Wall
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
					Linklet Bay
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
On coast edge		Fair/poor		Monitor	Unknown

description

A fragment of walling is eroding from the coastal section to the centre of Linklet Bay, in front of the golf course. Oriented end-on to the shore, it is 0.75m wide and up to 0.5m high; it is not discernible inland.

island	map	site code	grid reference	OR no.	site type
N Ronaldsay	3	NR47	HY7560 5460-767	203	Treb dyke
NMRS no.		Status		HS index no.	placename
HY75SE33					Matches Dyke
Location to coast		condition		recommendation	date range
Elements located on coast edge		Fair		Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC

description

This treb dyke is one of two large earthworks which divide the island into three uneven parts (see also NR5). It runs between Northyard and Linklet, ignoring, and probably therefore predating, the township boundaries. It is less well preserved than the Muckle Gairsty, but can nonetheless be traced on the ground. Ref.: Marwick, H (1923) 'Place-names of North Ronaldsay', POAS 1, 1922-3, 55; RCAHMS (1980), #127.



The shore-dwelling sheep of North Ronaldsay

ORKNEY COASTAL SURVEY 1999: NORTH RONALDSAY: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

<i>island</i>	<i>map</i>	<i>site code</i>	<i>grid reference</i>	<i>OR no.</i>	<i>site type</i>
N Ronaldsay	3	NR48	HY7 5	240	Sheep Dyke
<i>NMRS no.</i>	<i>Status</i>		<i>HS index no.</i>	<i>placename</i>	
HY75NE26				North Ronaldsay	
<i>Location to coast</i>	<i>condition</i>	<i>recommendation</i>	<i>date range</i>		
Elements on coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C		

description

The 12m long Sheep Dyke encircles the entire coastline of the island, serving to keep the flocks of sheep off the land. It is said to have been built in 1832 using surplus labour after the collapse of the kelp industry. Common grazing outwith the dyke is controlled using nine pounds (see NR16). The wall is communally maintained, according to township, with red painted marks used to indicate the limits of each section. It is now in a state of disrepair in some areas due to reductions in the population. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #211.

<i>island</i>	<i>map</i>	<i>site code</i>	<i>grid reference</i>	<i>OR no.</i>	<i>site type</i>
N Ronaldsay	1	NR49	HY7709 5260	205	Corn-drying kiln
<i>NMRS no.</i>	<i>Status</i>		<i>HS index no.</i>	<i>placename</i>	
HY75SE29				Stennabreck	
<i>Location to coast</i>	<i>condition</i>	<i>recommendation</i>	<i>date range</i>		
<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Nil	18-20th C		

description

An abandoned farm has a square corn-kiln notable for the preservation of the woodwork of the opening into the barn. Ref.: RCAHMS (1980), #213.

MAP	SITE	GRID	PLACENAME	S/L	SITE TYPE	LOCATION	CONDITION	RECOM	DATE
1	NR1	HY7675 5370	Linklet Bay		Structure	Intertidal zone	Not seen	Nil	Unknown
1	NR2	HY7673 5388	Hooking		Settlement mound & coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC
1	NR3	HY7702 5262	Brae of Stennabreck	S	Settlement mound & structure	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	1st mill BC -1st mill AD
1	NR4	HY773 522	Brides Ness		Brides Kirk	<100m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown: ?10-14th C
1	NR5	HY7507 5347-7683 5214	Muckle Gairsty		Treb dyke	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC
1	NR6	HY7638 5160	Burrian		House	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	Unknown: ?10-14th C
1	NR7	HY7627 5138	Burrian, Strom Ness	S & L	Broch	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	1st mill BC -1st mill AD
1	NR8	HY7697 5140	Howar, Strom Ness		Settlement mound	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	1st mill BC- 1st mill AD
1	NR9	HY7603 5153	Strom Ness		House	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	14-18th C
1	NR10	HY7600 5171	Howar		Grain store & dwelling	On the coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	18-20th C
1	NR11	HY7583 5227	Howmae Brae	S	Settlement	<100m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	1st mill BC- 1st mill AD
1	NR12	HY7508 5243	Nouster		Mound	<50m from coast edge	Good	Monitor	Unknown
1	NR13	HY7501 5229			Store house	On coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C
1	NR14	HY7501 5222	South Pier		Pier	On coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C
1	NR15	HY7495 5224	South Pier		Hand operated crane	<10m from coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
1	NR16	HY7456 5236	Lurand		Pond	<10m from coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C
1	NR17	HY7497 5316	Lurand		Coastal exposure: shell midden	On coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown
1	NR49	HY7709 5260	Stennabreck		Corn-drying kiln	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Nil	18-20th C
2	NR18	HY7515 5389	Hollandstoun		Enclosure	On coast edge	Fair	Nil	Unknown
2	NR19	HY7530 5411	Antabreck		Noost	On coast edge	Fair	Nil	Unknown: ?18-20th C
2	NR20	HY7545 5421	Antabreck		Mounds	Elements located on coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown
2	NR21	HY7605 5550	Ancumtoun		Mound	<50m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
2	NR22	HY7623 5557	Ancumtoun		Hulk & kelp drying walls	On coast edge	Poor	Nil	18-20th C
3	NR23	HY7670 5591	Westness		Platform & pond	Elements on coast edge	Poor	Monitor	18-20th C
3	NR24	HY7676 5575	Westness		Mounds	<50m from coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
3	NR25	HY7674 5565	Westness Farm		Coastal exposure	On coast edge	Poor	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric

MAP	SITE	GRID	PLACENAME	S/L	SITE TYPE	LOCATION	CONDITION	RECOM	DATE
3	NR26	HY7708 5543	Garso		Mound & shell midden	On coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown
3	NR27	HY7725 5542	Garso		Possible cist	On coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
3	NR28	HY7724 5547	Garso		Coastal exposure & possible mound	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
3	NR29	HY7750 5550	Sennes		Mound & coastal exposure	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
3	NR30	HY7840 5599	Dennis Ness		Structural remains	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown
3	NR31	HY7843 5599	Dennis Head, Versa Breck	L	Lighthouse	100m+ from coast edge	Good	Nil	18-20th C
3	NR32	HY7868 5580	Dennis Ness		Cairn, cist & walls	Elements <10 from coast edge	Poor	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC
3	NR33	HY7875 5547	Dennis Loch		Mound	<70m from coast edge	Poor	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
3	NR34	HY790 554	Kirk Taing		Alleged site of church	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Nil	Unknown
3	NR35	HY7901 5539	Dennis Head, Kirk Taing	S & L	Old Beacon & keepers cottages	<100m from coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	18-20th C
3	NR36	HY7878 5541	Dennis Loch		Stone rows	<50m from coast edge	Fair	Monitor	Unknown
3	NR37	HY7866 5535	Bewan		Pier	On coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
3	NR38	HY7816 5524	Linklet Bay		Shipwreck: Hansi	Intertidal zone	Poor	Nil	18-20th C
3	NR39	HY780 553	Scottigar		Coastal exposure: shell midden	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
3	NR40	HY7758 5523	Quoybanks		Mound & coastal exposure	On coast edge	Fair	Survey	Unknown: ?prehistoric
3	NR41	HY7740 5518	Quoybanks		Possible settlement mound	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
3	NR42	HY7720 5504	Neven	S	Cist & mound	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown
3	NR43	HY7717 5504	Neven		Site of cist burial	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC
3	NR44	HY7718 5504	Neven		Possible settlement	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Monitor	Unknown: ?prehistoric
3	NR45	HY769 546	Linklet Bay		Shipwreck: the Eva	Intertidal zone	Not seen	Monitor	18-20th C
3	NR46	HY7683 5456	Linklet Bay		Wall	On coast edge	Fair/poor	Monitor	Unknown
3	NR47	HY7560 5460-7675 5440	Matches Dyke		Treb dyke	Elements located on coast edge	Fair	Monitor	3rd-1st mill BC
3	NR48	HY7 5	North Ronaldsay		Sheep Dyke	Elements on coast edge	Fair	Nil	18-20th C
3	NR49	HY7709 5260	Stennabreck		Corn-drying kiln	<100m from coast edge	Not seen	Nil	18-20th C

Glossary

Built Heritage and Archaeology

Broch: a circular tower found mostly in Northern and Western Scotland. Generally 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.

Bod: this term is used to describe both trading booths and fishing warehouses, both of which may contain a dwelling area, usually situated on an upper floor.

Chambered tomb: 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/Crub/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.

Hulk/wreck: Both terms refer to abandoned boats; hulks 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 bods 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/Planticrub/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.

Skeo: 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.

Cyclothem: 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 HWM and LWM.

Fluvio-glacial: Sediments laid down with the aid of water under glacial conditions.

Gelifluction: 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.

HWM: 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.

Ranker: Shallow soil over rock with no B horizon, generally <5cm.

Rendzina: As for *ranker* but overlying calcareous rock or shelly sand.

Rock Platform: Intertidal marine platform or wave-cut platform of the solid rock.

Salting: 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.

Talard: 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 salting 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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