

REPORT ON A COASTAL ZONE ASSESSMENT SURVEY OF

WESTSIDE, SHETLAND

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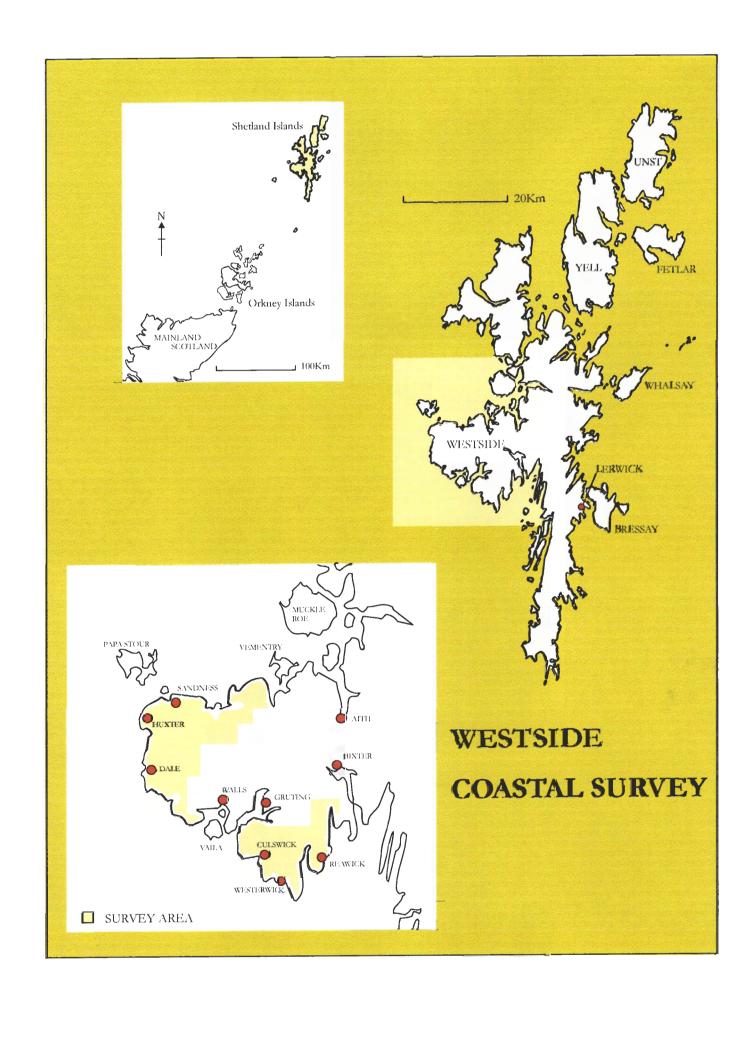
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report documents the findings of a Coastal Zone Assessment Survey of parts of the Walls Peninsula, Shetland. The work was commissioned by Shetland Amenity Trust and funded by Historic Scotland.

The archaeological fieldwork was carried out in accordance with methods defined within the commission and was completed by November 1996. The results were prepared for inclusion into the Shetland SMR and were summarised in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (DES 1996).

In November 1996 a more detailed specification for coastal survey and reporting was published by Historic Scotland (Procedure Paper 4: Coastal Assessment Survey). The objective was to systematise coastal survey and thereby produce data which could be compared on a national level. In addition to archaeological survey, the new specification required that the natural background of the survey area should be investigated.

In order that the work already completed could be presented within the new format, a survey of the geology, geomorphology and erosion status of the same areas of coastline was undertaken in 1997. This was carried out for EASE by Alan Stapf (Arkensol). This report now integrates the findings of both strands of survey work.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Westside

The survey areas are located on the Walls Peninsula to the west side of the mainland of Shetland. It forms part of a wider area which is more commonly known in Shetland as Westside. The area covered extends from Garderhouse (Seli Voe) in the south up to Brindister in the north. The inner coast of Gruting Voe was omitted in favour of examining a greater length of the more exposed parts of the coastline.

2.2 Modern Settlement

Much of the coastal part of this area is uninhabited or very sparsely settled. The main clusters of modern settlement focus on the road network rather than the coast, although most are within view of the sea. The largest concentrations of settlement lie around the head of Gruting Voe and at Sandness. There are several long stretches of the coastline which are only accessible on foot. Here, the land is used for little other than rough grazing. The evidence of this survey, and of previous works, indicates that settlement was more widespread in the past and the land was more intensively used.

2.3 Previous Archaeological Work

Several of the sites documented here were previously recorded during the Royal Commission surveys in the earlier part of this century (RCAHMS, 1946). For the Walls Peninsula, the inventory records sites ranging in date through all periods of prehistory and into the historical era. Following on from the publication of this work, a number of new sites, reported both by archaeologists and by members of the public, have been recorded on the Shetland sites and monuments record (SMR) and the national monument archive (NMR).

While little archaeological excavation has taken place in the area, the work that has been carried out has provided much of the information for the study of early prehistoric times in Shetland as a whole. In the 1950's Charles Calder excavated the well-preserved remains of an exceptionally large building of late Neolithic date at Staneydale. This structure, thought to be a temple or communal centre, remains unique in Shetland (Calder, 1952). In the same area were found the remains of several prehistoric houses, together with field systems. Excavations at Gruting School (Calder, 1958) and a survey of the burial monuments (Henshall, 1963,1972) served to enhance the picture of this area as a centre of prehistoric settlement.

At Scord of Brouster an extensive study of the landscape was carried out to examine not only the various houses, burial monuments and field boundaries, but also to investigate the nature of the environment in which these sites were situated (Whittle *et al*, 1986). Further survey and palaeoenvironmental work has been conducted in more recent times in this area (Edwards and Whittington, 1996, Edwards, Whittington and Buckland, 1997). All of these sites lie outwith the area covered by this survey; here modern excavation has been limited to the assessment of an earthwork at Watsness in 1997 (Purdy, forthcoming).

Cumulatively, the evidence suggests that this area contains a high number of sites of early date, compared to Shetland as a whole. Many of the known settlements of prehistoric date appear to cluster around low lying land in the hinterland of Gruting Voe, with frequent burial cairns of similar date situated on the higher ground.

2.4 Threats to the Archaeological Resource

There are few man-made pressures on the land and its archaeological resources. To date, housing, industrial and roads development has been limited in scale and localised within a few areas. There is little pressure from farming either. Sheep husbandry is the predominant form of activity and grazing land is frequently unimproved and is generally stocked at low densities. The erection of modern fencing has caused some damage to archaeological remains, but this is not a widespread problem.

There is no risk to the archaeological resource from tree or bracken invasion and little damage from rabbit burrowing was noted.

The main factors which impact upon the archaeological resource are inundation, coastal erosion and subaerial erosion. Coverage by peat, should not perhaps be considered a threat to

site survival, but it does have implications for site visibility in several places within the survey area.

3.0 THE SURVEY

3.1 Survey Area

The survey area covered parts of the Walls Peninsula which is located to the west side of the mainland of Shetland (see location map). Survey 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, although previously recorded sites are included in the report. A fuller list of shipwreck sites is currently being compiled under the auspices of RCAHMS, but was not available for incorporation into this report.

The area covered by this survey covers the entire length of the two stretches of coastline indicated on the location map. The actual length of the coastline varies according to the scale of map used for measuring (see Ashmore 1993). At a scale of 1:10,000 the length of the coastline is estimated to be 143.5km.

3.2 Desk-Based Study

A desk-based review of the known sites and monuments indicated that there were 38 previously known sites (including shipwrecks) located within the survey area. Nine of these sites are protected either as scheduled ancient monuments or listed buildings. Where possible, each known site was visited in the field and re-examined. In a very few cases it was either not possible to locate a known site or to inspect a site. In such instances the site description given in this report has been taken directly from the NMR or SMR record cards; such sites are labelled 'not inspected' or 'not located', as appropriate.

3.3 Survey Conditions

Much of the coastline in the survey area is high or exposed and is accessible only by foot. This meant that a considerable amount of time was taken up in walking out to the coast from the road and back again. The weather conditions varied from fair to very poor; high winds, torrential downpours and snow showers were frequent.

3.4 Built Heritage and Archaeology Survey

The aim of the survey was to characterise the built heritage and archaeology of the coastal zone. Previously known sites were revisited and assessed for change and new sites were identified and recorded; vulnerability to erosion was also assessed. There was no selection criteria; sites of all types and periods within the coastal zone were investigated. A survey of

the geology and geomorphology of the coastal zone was also carried out and the results will provide a tool for assessing the effects of future coastal erosion on the cultural heritage

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

The field record comprised a card system; each site was given a unique identifier made up of an area code and a number (e.g. W10 = Walls Peninsula, site 10). These identifiers have been kept as the primary site reference within this report, although some of the field records have been separated into more than one entry in the report, while others have been amalgamated. The dimensions and characteristics of each site were recorded and a measured sketch plan and photographic record was made. Measurements were calculated with a tape for smaller sites, while the dimensions of larger sites were estimated by systematically pacing out the area. Directions were found using a compass. The sites were located onto a 1:25,000 OS Pathfinder base map, measured, where possible, from fixed features such as field boundaries. It should be noted, however, that over much of the survey area there were few secure points from which to calculate site co-ordinates.

This survey was limited in scope; its aim was to rapidly locate and assess all sites within the coastal zone. The data collected about each site should be sufficient to locate and identify it to others and to characterise it generally. In most cases, the information supplied should be taken as an intermediate statement rather than a conclusive identification, and should not be used in later analyses other than in the most basic reviews of the archaeological potential of the area. It is hoped that this work will act as a spring-board for more in-depth field assessment and survey.

3.5 Geology/Geomorphology and Erosion Class Survey (Alan Stapf)

The aim of the survey was to characterise the hinterland geology and coastal geomorphology and to locate areas of coastline which are eroding, are susceptible to erosion or which are likely to be at risk in the future. The entire length of the coast (between the given points) was surveyed and all survey areas were observed from hinterland and/or foreshore as conditions allowed. The survey record comprised field notes, a photographic record and annotations made on 1:25000 OS pathfinder base maps. The field records for hinterland geology/coastal geomorphology and erosion class were made separately, although field observation was carried out at the same time.

Marine erosion is not the only important eroding agent as subaerial erosion by water and wind also play key roles, especially of softer drift deposits. Present land use is also of importance, in that erosion of drift deposits can be instigated or aggravated by land use, for example where there is cultivation on steeply sloping land. The survey examined, therefore, the geomorphological and erosional nature of the coastline (as per Historic Scotland guidelines) and additional notes were also made on the geology, drift type, drainage and land-use.

Each map has an area of coastline which is referred to as a unit. Within the unit there is a breakdown of the various stretches of coastline, defined by some erosion class or geomorphological feature, which are referred to as sections. The survey direction is from east

to west on the south-eastern Walls peninsula area and from south to north-east on the northern area.

4.0 THE BUILT HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT

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

4.1 Gazetteer Entries

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

CATEGORY EXAMPLE

Site Code (NMR Number) Grid Reference Placename Site type: protected status (HS Index or listed category) SMR#

Date (approximate) **General location** Condition

Recommendations

W140 (HU25NW 2)*

HU 216 582 Ness of Garth

Promontory Fort: Scheduled (HS Index 5540 03HU216582)

SMR#2532

1st mill BC/1st mill AD

Elements located on coast edge

Fair/poor Monitor

4.2 Site Description Entries

The site description entries comprise a set of characteristics for each site, as per gazetteer entries, but also includes the Historic Scotland index number for scheduled sites, a short text description and, occasionally, a sketch drawing or photograph. .

4.3 Site Type

While the categories of site types was not restricted (i.e. types were not selected from a pre-set 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

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

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. In such cases, a conclusive identification would require further assessment and/or excavation.

4.4 Dating

The date ranges set out for various site types within this report are based on an overview of similar sites in Shetland (and elsewhere) which have already been dated or historically recorded. 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

With some exceptions, it is frequently difficult to ascribe a date to many prehistoric remains when assessment is based on their visible component alone. In the case of mounds, the general rule employed was to separate them into two categories. They were categorised as a 'burial mounds' if they appeared to be old and if it lay within the bounds of acceptable size and shape. The age of a mound was estimated by examining the shape and spread of the deposits, the relationship between the mound and any nearby features and the condition and type of soil and vegetation cover. Where a site was accepted as a burial mound but appeared to have a more complex underlying structure, indicated in many cases by large, protruding stones or substantial hollowed areas, it was classed as a chambered cairn.

Sites which were considered to represent chambered cairns or burial mounds were ascribed a date within the range 4th-3rd millennium BC. Where there were any suspicions regarding the origin and date of a mound, it was labelled 'indeterminate'.

In this report, abandoned houses or structures are frequently labelled as of 18th/20th C date. This date range indicates that the structure had elements which appeared to lie within this date range. In many cases the fabric of the building may be largely of 19th C date, with later additions of 20th C date, while some structures may incorporate earlier elements as well. The earliest period of use is often difficult to ascertain; the internal features of most structures were subject to rearrangement and features which would point to an earlier date (e.g. hanging lums, box beds etc.) are likely to have been replaced by what ever was fashionable at the period of the latest occupation. The materials used in the construction of such buildings are usually locally available and seldom give a clue as to date; the frequent repairs required to maintain traditional houses in Shetland means that construction techniques also generally date to the period of the latest occupancy.

4.5 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 reasonable 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.

4.6 Recommendations

Recommendations for further work were assessed under the following criteria:

Survey: Where no previous survey was carried out, where previous survey should be enhanced or, where substantial changes have occurred since the last survey and further work is now required.

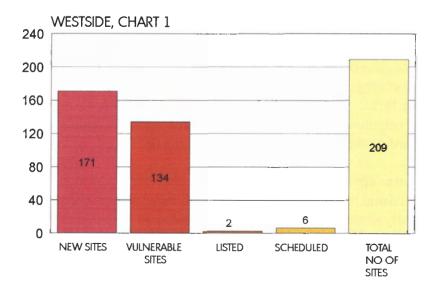
Monitor: Where there has been little or no change since the last survey or where indeterminate or limited remains are visible and further remains may become exposed in the future.

Nil: Where there has been no change since the site was last surveyed, where a site is not immediately vulnerable to change, or where a site belongs to a type which is common and is unlikely to represent the best example of its type.

5.0 BUILT HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY: ANALYSES

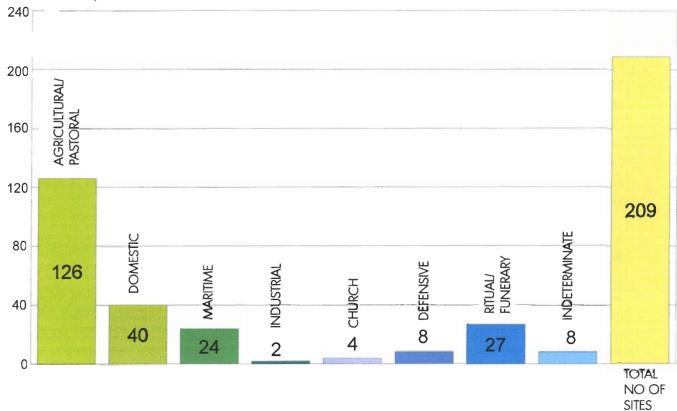
5.1 Total Number of Sites

A total of 209 sites have been recorded in the survey area. Of these, over 75% (171, in all) had not been documented previously. Of those which were known prior to the survey, eight sites are protected: six are scheduled ancient monuments and two are listed buildings.

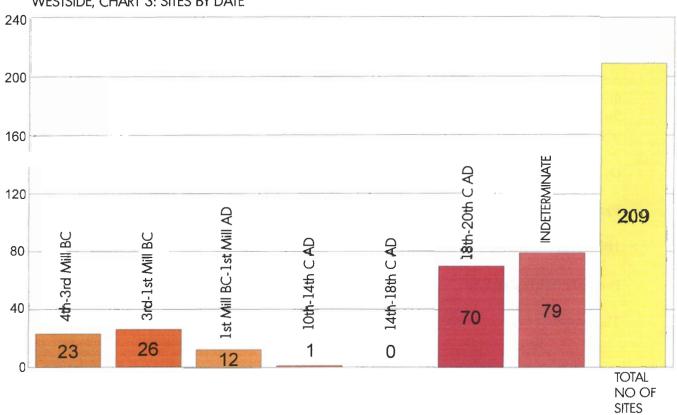


Almost two thirds of the sites (79 in all) were considered to be vulnerable to erosion; this number also includes those sites which are actively eroding at present and those which have suffered some degree of erosion in the past.









5.2 Site Types

By far the greatest number of sites (126 in all) represent the remains of agricultural or pastoral activities. Such sites include field systems and larger land boundaries, enclosures used for cultivation and for stock containment, click mills and sheep shelters. This group is followed by domestic sites, representing houses of all periods, of which 40 sites in all were recorded. There were 27 sites which have been classed as ritual or funerary sites. These sites include burial mounds and cairns, churchyards, unmarked graves, and standing stones. Noosts, piers, shipwrecks and boat houses, collectively classed as maritime sites, were represented by 24 sites. In addition, there were 8 defensive sites (promontory forts, and brochs which are classed as both domestic and defensive), 4 church sites (including alleged monastic stack sites and leper colonies), and two industrial sites (both lime kilns). There were a further 8 sites which could not be positively identified (labelled as Indeterminate type).

5.3 Date Ranges

The sites have been separated into seven date ranges. The largest group are represented by monuments of indeterminate date (79 in all), followed by those of 18th-20th century date (70 in all). Only one site was identified as being of 10th-14th century date; no sites of the period 14th-18th century were recognised. The largest group of prehistoric sites (26 in all) are attributed to the 3rd-1st millennium BC. A large number of these are sites are represented by settlement remains, which can only be loosely attributed to this period. While such settlements often display some distinctive features, in contrast to mounds and cairns, for example, there does not exist a convincing typology for Shetland houses from which sites of different periods might be differentiated. For the period 4th-3rd millennium BC, the bulk of the 23 sites recorded are represented by mounds and cairns, thought to be funerary monuments. Since there was frequently very little information to be gained about the date of such sites from observation alone, they have been placed within their earliest possible date range, while, in reality many may be of later date. A total of 12 sites have been placed within the date range 1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD. While certain of these sites (brochs, for example) are well accommodated within this date range, there is little evidence available with which to date sites such as promontory forts or alleged monastic stack sites.

Overall, the sites can be separated into three broad groups:

Prehistoric period: 61 sites

18th-20th century period: 70 sites

Indeterminate date: 79

The outlier is one site of the 10th-14th century period.

6.0 BUILT HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY: DISCUSSION

6.1 Site Recognition and Archaeological Potential

One of the main conclusions which can be drawn from the results of this work is that the archaeological potential of the area is far greater than had previously been indicated. This is amply illustrated by the fact that this survey, although carried out within the narrow confines of a 50-100m strip adjacent to the coastline, has more than quadrupled the number of sites known within the area.

One reason why the number of sites recorded has increased so greatly with this survey is that all sites found within the area were noted whereas previous surveys were more selective. The Royal Commission surveys, for example, did not record many sites of 18th-20th century date, unless they were in some way special or unusual. Features such as land boundaries and field systems are only recorded on occasion, as are boat noosts, click mills and planticrues. A large number of the 'new' sites reported here for the first time represent the remains of 18th-20th century farming, fishing and settlement activity. No survey is without bias, however, and it will be the work of later surveyors to 'see' what has been overlooked by this work and fill in the gaps.

It should be pointed out that the increase in the number of known sites is not based merely on an increased awareness of 18th-20th century sites by this survey. A good many 'new' sites of prehistoric date were also found, and a large number of sites of indeterminate date were recorded here for the first time. The discovery of, amongst others, a heel-shaped cairn (W37), a promontory fort (W51) and a prehistoric field system with settlement (W111) serve to illustrate the point that the full archaeological potential of this area has yet to be fully realised. There are, undoubtedly, many more sites waiting to be found in the hinterland.

6.2 Site Visibility (and invisibility)

The majority of the sites recorded by this survey survive as topographic features in the landscape. The exceptions are one or two sites which were revealed in eroding coastal sections; these are visible as deposits which can be distinguished from the surrounding natural soils and which appear to be 'anthropogenic' or man-made.

The remains which are visible at each site today are the result of the sum total of activity which has taken place at that site over time. In some cases, the remains may offer a fair approximation of what the structure looked like when it was in use, but more often structures will have been used and reused over time, possibly for a range of different purposes, and what survives may provide only partial information about what has previously existed or occurred. This may seem self evident, but it should be taken into consideration when using this document that what has been recorded are very simplified, shorthand accounts of what are likely to be far more complex site histories.

This factor also has implications for the apparent invisibility of sites of certain types and periods. The very low number of sites (1 in all) attributable to the period 10th-14th century

and the lack of any sites of the 14th-18th century does not imply that none existed or that they have been entirely erased. While it is surprising that more sites of these dates were not identified, the problem is more likely to be one of site visibility and recognition.

Many of the sites labelled as being of indeterminate date within this report may, in fact, belong to the 10th-18th century, but in the absence of any identifying traits, cannot be more securely dated. With regard to visibility, it may be that a proportion of the sites belonging to these date ranges remained in use, albeit as rebuilt or remodelled structures, up to modern times.

6.3 Dating and Interpretation: The Hidden Assumptions

The opportunities to analyse each monument were limited during this survey. In many instances the visible remains were sufficient to provide an adequate interpretation and date for sites. There were many sites, however, which could not be readily identified, or if identified could not be ascribed a date. In such cases, the interpretations reached must be considered to be the result of educated guesswork. Some of the interpretations challenge previous assumptions and many will, no doubt, be challenged by others in the future. The use of broad date ranges within this work is intended to act as a general guide. The aim behind this loose categorisation is to point readers in the right direction without adding too great a burden of unproven assumption.

There are several categories of site which are unlikely to divulge further information without recourse to assessment or excavation. These include a good many of the mounds and cairns included within this report. It is likely that at least a proportion of them are not, in fact, funerary monuments and equally likely that some are of a later date than has been supposed here. In interpreting these monuments, we have taken into consideration the large number of early prehistoric funerary monuments known in the wider Walls Peninsula area and have decided that, on balance, potential sites should be treated as such until they have been more precisely identified.

It will have been noted that all of the prehistoric settlement sites have been interpreted as belonging to the period 3rd-1st millennium BC. Here again, it is likely that a proportion of the structures may be of earlier date than this, while some may be of later date. The majority of these sites have been truncated or are obscured by vegetation or rubble and it is often barely possible to determine even the overall size and shape of a site, much less to differentiate different phases of construction or duration of use. Previous excavation work in Shetland has indicated that house sites were frequently used over a long period of time, with the buildings being regularly repaired, remodelled or rebuilt. For this reason such sites have been allocated to the 3rd-1st millennium period, since it is likely that the majority will have been in use at some time during this period.

The difficulty with interpreting prehistoric settlements, and to some extent funerary sites, in Shetland comes down to the fact that, while many such sites are known and have been documented, few have been excavated or conclusively dated. There is a considerable variety of house types, many appear to have been used over a long duration and to have overlapped with other types. We know almost nothing about local variation within Shetland and can only guess that some of the structures interpreted as houses may have, in fact, had a more

specialised or non-domestic purpose. Equally, there are many types of burial or ritual monuments, such as square cairns for example, about which very little is known. These problems are compounded by the fact that in many instances the artefacts found in association with these structures are only broadly datable and are open to a variety of interpretations. The only way in which this situation will be remedied is to assess or excavate a variety of such sites, and not merely the largest or most impressive examples. Absolute dating of both structures and artefact assemblages is urgently required, as is the need for a fresh and detailed analyses of prehistoric Shetland pottery.

There are inherent problems with the dating of promontory forts, monastic stack sites and leper colonies. For the purposes of this report, all have been ascribed a date within the 1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD date range. It is assumed, admittedly with little evidence, that promontory forts belong to the Iron Age.

Several of the promontory forts encountered during this survey comprised solely of sets of massive earthen banks which cut off the promontory from the mainland. Their scale was such that it was difficult to envisage that they were created only for containing stock. This assumption is challenged by the fact that large earthen boundaries are also sometimes found in association with post-medieval estates (for example at Reawick, map 2) and it is possible that here they are defining ownership of promontory land. On balance, however, the fact that most of the sites are enclosed by more than one bank, suggests a defensive, or at least symbolically defensive role, is suggestive of an Iron Age or Early Historic date.

The monastic sites and leper colonies within the survey area are located on off-shore stack sites or inaccessible pinnacles and so were not visited. Since none of these sites have been excavated or even closely examined, their interpretation remains uncertain. Following on from the pioneering work carried out by Dr. Raymond Lamb, there has been a tendency to label all such sites as potential hermitages. If even a proportion of the sites currently considered to be hermitages were proven to be so, the coast would have been a populous place indeed. That is not to say that all such sites have been misidentified, but rather that there is no evidence to confirm or deny the interpretation. Even today, one may observe sheep grazing on the pinnacles of small off-shore stacks, while in living memory such sites were frequently used as additional grazing land. It may be, therefore, that a proportion of these sites are in fact no more than sheep shelters.

6.4 Condition and Survival: Factors For Consideration

The purpose in carrying out a survey of the geology, geomorphology and erosion status of the coastline is to add further information which may be used to build up a predictive model with which to assess future risk to the archaeological resource. It must be emphasised, however, that while the nature and condition of the coastline have a bearing on the longer-term survival of sites, this information cannot be used alone to determine the vulnerability of individual sites.

Many sites which lie on stable stretches of coastline are being degraded by subaerial erosion (W6- burnt mound, Map 1 and W44- prehistoric house, Map 3, for example). In our opinion, at each site there is a critical point after which insufficient of it remains to reward

archaeological investigation. This point cannot be accurately anticipated in all cases, but in many is not solely tied to coastal or other types of erosion.

Within this report, the condition of each site has been briefly described as *good*, *fair* or *poor* (see part 4.5 Built Heritage and Archaeology: condition for explanation of these terms). In some cases, particularly in the case of extensive or complex sites, the condition has been described as both *fair* or *good* and *poor*. This is not meant to be misleading, but rather to indicate that while parts of the site are stable, while others are degraded. This is a very subjective opinion, since it relies on assumptions as to the nature and date of the site being described. Therefore, a site of early prehistoric date which survives as a visible slight earthwork may be considered 'good' or 'fair', but if it were of 18th-20th century date it would be considered 'poor'. Since many of the sites reported here are not identified or dated with great certainty, their relative importance or suitability for excavation should not be gauged from information contained here alone. In some cases more detailed field assessment or salvage excavation will be required.

It is worth considering that an 18th-20th century croft house in poor condition may lie over a broch (such as at Scatness, South Mainland, Dockrill et al 1997) and that a couple of stones seen in section may be all that is visible of a well-preserved settlement (such as at Bayanne, Yell, Moore and Wilson, 1998). In conclusion, it is hoped that this report will provide a tool both for future survey and for excavation, but it does not claim to provide either a conclusive or exhaustive account of the archaeological potential of the area.

7.0 BUILT HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY: RECOMMENDATIONS

Specific recommendations are given for each site within the gazetteers and site descriptions. The recommendations set out in this section cover all of the sites at which topographical survey, site assessment or salvage excavation has been recommended. Most of the recommendations given below are concerned with sites of prehistoric date. This is partly because they are more scarce and are often more vulnerable than sites of later date and partly because it is difficult to assess which of the many sites of later date should take precedence. By its nature coastal survey is limited in scope it may well be that the sites recorded within the coastal zone are either not representative of the archaeology of the wider area or not the best examples of their kind. Therefore, decisions as to the relative importance, or otherwise, of all of the proposed sites should be judged from a more distant standpoint, where the totality of known archaeology remains can be assessed and the criteria for deciding whether a site may be of local or national importance can be considered.

A major part of this work was to investigate the threat to the archaeology and built heritage from coastal erosion. While the condition and vulnerability of a site will be an obvious factor in determining the speed and type of future action, it should not be the only one. Some sites which are eroding or very vulnerable may be too damaged to repay further investigation, whereas proactive or preventative action on sites which are not vulnerable but which lie within the coastal zone may be more worthwhile in terms of the information which can be gained.

NB: the term 'assessment' is used as per Historic Scotland definitions. 'Survey' within these recommendations means a comprehensive scale plan of the site or area, with locations tied into the national grid.

Sites marked by an asterix require urgent attention.

Map 1: Recommendations

W2. Bod at Leeans, Seli Voe

This building is now vulnerable to coastal erosion and should be surveyed.

W4, two mounds at Garderhouse

These mounds are of unknown date and nature, but are not imminently vulnerable to erosion. Topographical survey is required and could usefully be combined with assessment via test-trenching.

**W6, burnt mound at Seli Voe

This site is currently suffering aerial erosion and is also vulnerable to coastal erosion. A topographic survey is urgently required. Since the mound is already quite depleted it may be more appropriate to combine topographic survey with salvage excavation.

Map 2: Recommendations

Sites W18-23, extending from Roesound Skerry to Johnny Sinclair's nose

There are frequent remains of land boundaries and field systems in this area. Some (W18, for example) are of 18th-20th century date, the other sites could not be readily dated from their visible components alone. It is probable that some of the larger earthen banks are also of post-medieval date and that they are associated with the Reawick Estate. Many of these boundaries are now eroding, although none are threatened with complete destruction in the near future. It would be desirable to carry out a large-scale survey of this landscape. This could be combined with historical research, since it may be possible to date some of the remains from documentary sources.

W29, structure at Tent Ayre

This site is probably a prehistoric house and it is not immediately vulnerable to coastal erosion. It is desirable that more detailed topographic survey be carried out in this area, with the purpose of more fully assessing the structure as well as investigating the surrounding area (beyond the coastal zone) for traces of associated features.

W35, Enclosure at Tarasta Ayre

The date of this enclosure could not be ascertained from the part which was visible. While it may be a simple sheep crue, it could alternatively be a house or shelter, and may be of prehistoric date. It is vulnerable to erosion and requires topographic survey. This could be combined with limited trial trenching to determine the status and date of the site.

**W37, Heel-shaped cairn at Daal

This site has not been recorded prior to this survey; it now requires more detailed topographic survey and assessment. If further work confirms that it is a heel-shaped cairn, it may be considered for protection as a scheduled ancient monument.

Map 3: Recommendations

**W38, burnt mound at Scarvister

This burnt mound is already much reduced and is vulnerable to further coastal erosion. It may have a structure associated with it. The site requires topographical survey and, given its poor condition, it may be prudent to carry out salvage excavation to determine the nature of any structural remains and to recover samples for dating.

W40, structure at Muckle Hamar

This structure is most probably a prehistoric house; it is not threatened by coastal erosion. It appears to be in a good state of preservation and has several interesting features.

Topographical survey is desirable and the site may be considered suitable for protection as a scheduled ancient monument.

**W44, structure at East Moulie Geo

This depleted prehistoric house is situated close to the edge of high cliffs and is very vulnerable to sub-aerial erosion. Topographic survey is urgently required and could be combined with assessment via trial trenching.

**W49, cairn at Squidel

This cairn may originally have been square in form but has been damaged by erosion. It is situated on a narrow rock promontory which has been denuded of vegetation by salt-spray. The cairn is under imminent threat of further damage, if not complete removal. A topographic survey is now urgently required and assessment or, preferably, salvage excavation, should also be considered here.

**W51, probable promontory fort at Lambigarth

This site is thought to be a promontory fort, possibly of later prehistoric date. The defences comprise two substantial earthen banks, one of which survives to a height of 2m. These are eroding. The site has not previously been recorded and now requires topographic survey.

W54, earthen bank at Westerwick

An earthen bank land boundary, of indeterminate date, extends to the coast edge and is eroding. Topographic survey of this site and the wider area would be desirable.

W57, structure, south of Fografiddle

This site may be a prehistoric house of some complexity. It is not imminently threatened by coastal erosion. A topographic survey is required and could be combined with assessment via trial trenching.

W58, Enclosure and ruinous structures, south of Fografiddle

This area would benefit from topographic survey; it contains the remains of several structures of 18th-20th century date.

Map 4: Recommendations

W62, structure at Stanypunds

This well-preserved substantial structure, probably a prehistoric house, is not threatened by coastal erosion. An 18th-20th century enclosure lies nearby and may have borrowed stone from the house for its construction. The unusual size and location of this site make it a worthy candidate for further investigation: topographical survey and assessment would be desirable. It may also be suitable for protection as a scheduled ancient monument.

**W63, Cairn at Crooie Taing

This cairn is dilapidated and eroding and has also been disturbed by hill walkers and by rocks cast up by the sea. Survey and salvage excavation are recommended as a matter of urgency at this site.

**W65, Cairn or structure at Swinsi Taing

The very ruinous remains of a structure may represent either a square or rectilinear cairn or a house, of prehistoric date. It is situated in a very exposed location and is threatened by further losses from sub-aerial erosion. A topographic survey and assessment are urgently required; given the small size of the site it may be more efficient to carry out a salvage excavation.

W71, cairn, south of the Broch of Culswick

This square cairn, which may be a burial monument, is not immediately threatened by coastal erosion but would benefit from topographical survey and assessment.

W73 & W74, Structures at Lough of the Broch

Three structures are thought to represent prehistoric houses, although not necessarily of contemporary date. They are not immediately threatened by coastal erosion but are already diminished and would benefit from topographical survey and assessment.

**W76, structure at Keolki Field

A probable prehistoric house is vulnerable to erosion, although it has not yet begun to erode. Peat has developed over the area and may obscure further structures or features associated with this house. A topographic survey is required and could be combined with a peat-probing survey and/or assessment via trial trenching.

Map 5: Recommendations

W87, structural deposits at Olas Voe

A line of stones, visible in the coastal section, may be part of a larger structure. The deposits currently visible are not informative and it is unlikely to be worth carrying out assessment at this stage; the site should be monitored, however, since further remains may be revealed by erosion.

W91& W92, enclosures at Olas Voe

Two enclosures have been engulfed by peat, but remain just visible. It is possible that these sites are of prehistoric or early historic date and site W92 is substantial and has unusual features. Neither site is threatened by coastal erosion. It is recommended that topographical

survey is carried out while the sites are still visible. A peat-probing survey might also be useful and may assist in the location of further sites in this area.

Map 6: Recommendations

W100, structure at Uskie Geo

This site may be a prehistoric house; it is not immediately threatened by coastal erosion. A topographic survey of the area would be desirable.

W103, Orthostat at The Peak

This may be a prehistoric standing stone and topographical survey is required.

Map 7: Recommendations

**W104, broch at Voe of Footabrough

This scheduled site is located on a small headland and it has been damaged by coastal erosion and stone robbing. It is surrounded on three sides by the sea is currently eroding. It is recommended that the site be monitored for change but if possible, salvage excavation would be a preferable option.

Map 8: Recommendations

W108, two earthen banks at Ness of Bakka

These boundaries are eroding at their seaward end. Topographical survey of these sites and their hinterland is required.

**W111, field system and structures at Mu Ness

The remains of at least four earthen-banked structures and an associated field system of probable prehistoric date are located above high cliffs. In most cases, the structures have been reduced to less than 0.5m in height. A combined topographic survey and assessment of the area is urgently required.

W113, enclosed promontory at Mu Ness

An earthen bank extends across the neck of this promontory, restricting access. The bank is eroding slowly and has been much reduced in height. Topographical survey and assessment are desirable at this site.

W116, field system and possible structures at Runkie Head

There are numerous fragmentary remains in this area which would appear to represent an extensive prehistoric field system with associated houses or enclosures. A topographic survey of the area is required.

**W117, defended promontory at Weinnia Ness

A series of very substantial defences cut off a steep-sided promontory: the defences are currently eroding. The site has been briefly recorded in the past but now requires urgent detailed topographic survey, preferably in combination with a site assessment.

W118, two earthen banks at Steis Point

These boundaries may form part of a larger field system, of unknown date. Topographic survey of these sites and their hinterland is required.

Map 9: Recommendations

W119, mounds at Ayre of Deepdale

It was not possible to inspect these sites in close detail during this survey due to poor weather conditions. They lie close to a high cliff edge and may be burial mounds. It is recommended that the sites are revisited and topographically surveyed.

W120, structure at Deep Dale

This probable prehistoric house is situated in an exposed and isolated location. It is not threatened by coastal erosion but should be topographically surveyed.

W124, W127 & W129, dyke and earthen banks

These land boundaries all contain portions which are being eroded by the sea. They each extend into the hinterland and therefore are not under imminent threat of destruction. Topographic survey of these sites and their hinterland is desirable.

W125, earthen bank at Rotten Craig

This boundary is of unknown date and may form part of a larger field system which was not visible in the coastal zone. Its is eroding at its seaward end. Topographic survey of this site and its hinterland is recommended.

W126, structure at Pobie Skeo

This site may be a cairn or a skeo and is of unknown date. It is vulnerable to coastal erosion and has already been reduced in height. Topographic survey and assessment are required..

Map 10: Recommendations

W134, W135 & W136, earthen banks

These three earthen banks may form part of a larger field system, possibly old estate lands. They each have portions which are subject to erosion and W136 has also been reduced by cultivation. Topographic survey of these sites and their wider hinterland is required and an assessment of these sites may be assisted by a study of historical and documentary sources relating to land tenure in this area.

Map 11: Recommendations

Topographic survey has been recommended at fourteen sites out of the twenty-one which occur in the area covered by this map sheet. None of the sites is under imminent threat and therefore while further survey work is desirable it is not considered urgent at this time. In brief, the sites where survey is required are:

W142- field system with clearance cairns of 18th-20th century date, west of Little Bousta

- W143- a rectangular enclosure of indeterminate date, west of Little Bousta
- W144, a lime kiln of 18th-20th century date at Little Bousta
- W145- a semi-circular enclosure and earthen bank of indeterminate date at Little Bousta
- W146- a possible house and noost of 18th-20th century date at Muckle Bousta
- W148- an oval enclosure of indeterminate date at Bay of Brenwell
- W152- an earthen bank of indeterminate date at Bay of Brenwell
- W153- the site of a click mill of 18th-20th century date at Breiwick
- W155- a probable burial mound of prehistoric date at Breiwick
- W162- structures and field system of 18th-20th century date at Voe of Snarraness
- W163- probable prehistoric burial cairn at Voe of Snarraness
- W164- earthen banks of indeterminate date at Snarra Ness
- W169- two probable prehistoric burial cairns at Snarra Ness
- W170- possible prehistoric burial mound at Snarra Ness
- W171- possible prehistoric burial mound at Snap Hevda

Map 12: Recommendations

None of the following sites is under imminent threat and therefore while further survey work is desirable it is not considered urgent at this time. In brief, the sites where survey is required are:

- W176, drystone dykes of 18th-20th century date at West Burra Firth
- W179- possible prehistoric burial cairn at West Burra Firth
- W190- structures of unknown date at Pundswell Knowe
- W189- probable prehistoric burial cairn at Head of Onibery, Crockna Vord

**W186, enclosure and burnt mounds, opposite Holm of Tafts, West Burra Firth

Three stony mounds, forming an arc, are situated inside a stone bank. This site is located close to the coast edge and is vulnerable to coastal erosion. Topographical survey and assessment via trial trenching is recommended here.

W192 & W193, landscape with structures and field systems at Vatnabrenda

The remains of structures and field systems of both prehistoric and 18th-20th century date abound in this area. They are mostly contained within a narrow U-shaped valley which issues out on to the coast. None of the sites are directly threatened by coastal erosion. A landscape survey and assessment of the area, although not urgently required, would offer the opportunity to investigate land use and management over a long period of time.

Map 13: Recommendations

None of the following sites is under imminent threat and therefore while further survey work is desirable it is not considered urgent at this time. In brief, the sites where survey is required are:

- W197- probable burial cairn at Muckle Hoo Field
- W199- probable prehistoric house and field system at Geo of Djubabery

W200- possible prehistoric house at Northgreen Hill

W203- enclosures and structures of 18th-20th century date at Papa Geo

**W201 & W202, two probable burial cairns at Face of Neeans

Two denuded cairns, both apparently containing central cists, are located in an exposed situation and urgently require more detailed topographic survey. It may be advisable to carry out salvage excavation at the same time.

**W207 & W208, burnt mounds at Brindister Voe

Two depleted burnt mounds are situated in close proximity. One (W207) has been damaged by cultivation and there are several small exposures from which mound material is eroding. The other (W208) lies close to the coast edge, has also been damaged by cultivation and is vulnerable to coastal erosion. This mound may have a kerb or structural elements. Topographical survey is required at both sites.

8.0 BACKGROUND: GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND EROSION (Alan Stapf)

8.1 Geology

Geologically, the Walls peninsula is dominated by the Sandness and Walls formations. Much of the coast to the south, however, is underlain by the Sandsting Granite Complex, whilst the northern coast is bordered with metamorphic and plutonic rocks. The extreme north west tip of the peninsula is underlain by the softer Melby formation. In general, the geological structures can be grouped as those most resistant to weathering and those which are least resistant:

C 1 - 1 C 1 1	T1 '414h1 1 11
Sandsting Granite Complex	Tough granites although some less coherent

granites are also found with various localised

intrusions.

Metamorphic and Plutonic Rocks

The northern complex is very variable with the

Neeans Group of hard feldspathic schists dominating the extreme north east of the coastline and the generally softer, incoherent Snarra Ness group of hornblende schists dominating the coast around Sandness.

Sandness and Walls Formations Generally sandstones which are fairly tough

although there inclusions of soft siltstone beds

which give rise to locally softer rock.

Melby Formation Some of the beds are very soft sandy siltstone

and mudstone which are easily eroded and therefore lead to the break up of overlying

sandstones.

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This is a generalised working model only, as within each of these formations there are other intrusions on a smaller local scale. The largest regional intrusion is a volcanic group which lies within the Sandness and Walls formations but is only evident in the Voe of Dale.

Structurally there are three main faults which run across the survey area and these are easily identified. The first is the Walls Boundary fault and runs north to south making up Seli Voe and the vale that runs to the north. The second is the Sulma Water fault which is seen as a long west-south-west to east-north-east trending vale which emerges at Voe Dale. The third is the Melby fault with a north east to south west trend and is identified by a definite line of high ground to the east and a low plateau to the west.

With regard to the softer geological sediments, these tend to be variable, although there are perhaps more deep tills in the gullies and vales to the west with a buried Ipswichian sediment at Sel Ayre. The peats have now been dated to give dates around 3500 years BP (Hall *et al* 1996). The sediments are being eroded from the top of the cliff within Sel Ayre.

8.2 Geomorphology

The topography has been softened, especially to the west of the peninsula, by the deposition of till predominantly during, and towards the end of, the last ice age. Although no real U-shaped valleys are seen within the survey area, the valley at Dale has a rather rounded appearance. There are several candidates for glacial outwash channels; the most likely of which lies on Neeans to the north east. The more craggy areas of rock outcrops generally lie to the north east and south of the peninsula and tend to emerge from the tougher rocks, although there are real crags found in the limestone rocks around Ness within the metamorphic and plutonic rock complex. The higher cliffs tend to be found towards along the western coast to the north.

The islands have been sinking since the ice age due to isostatic uplift of mainland Scotland, with the loss of ice and a consequent down warping of peripheral land masses such as Orkney and Shetland. Added to this, there have been eustatic changes in sea level (ie. sea level rises). A post glacial shoreline of -9 metres, approximately 5,500 BP has been estimated by Hoppe, (1996) who analysed submerged peats around south Shetland, and a massive 30 metre rise in mean sea level change since 7,000 BP has been approximated by Lambeck (1991), using a mathematical model.

There is little direct evidence for submergence within the survey area. No raised beaches were seen in the survey area nor have they been documented.

One seemingly slight anomaly to the expected subsidence of the islands occurs at Cullavoe. Here, a voe that gave passage to small boats during the last century is now completely filled with sediments, leaving only a wet boggy area within the valley. From local knowledge a storm was reputed to have blocked the mouth of the voe with boulders and rubble and so caused sedimentation of the vale.

Within the survey area there were relatively few bars, tombolos and ayres, which are a common feature of the Shetland Islands. Of those that were noted, the majority appear to be

quite stable, with some accretion taking place on many. Steers (1973) indicates that the bars may be accreting at a pace which is equal to the submergence of the islands.

8.3 Soils and Land Use

The natural soils tend to be peat, peaty gleys or peaty podzols with many peaty rankers around the craggy outcrops, (strictly speaking rankers are termed rendzina if they overlie calcareous rocks such as those around Ness). There is little cultivation around the coast but where it has taken place there is modification of the soils with more uniform cultivated horizons.

The more freely draining and improved soils which are cultivable tend to lie over softer sediments. Consequently most cultivable soils lie to the north-west, around Sandness and in sporadic areas to the south-east. Apart from these areas, very little of the land is cultivable, although there is one exception around the derelict croft of Hogan to the west of Olas Voe where the hinterland appears to be cultivable but has now become less well maintained. The majority of coastline and hinterland is unfenced and left open for rough grazing, although in some areas along the west and north eastern coast the stocking rate is very low.

9.0 THE GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND EROSION REPORT (Alan Stapf)

9.1 Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology: Gazetteer Entries

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

CATEGORY

Label_Placename
Grid Reference (to centre of coastline stretch)
Length of unit
Foreshore Type
Coast Edge Type
Hinterland Type
Description

EXAMPLE

1 Head of Keedon
HU 200 491
0.7 km
Rock platform with cobbled storm ...etc.
Coastal edge is <5m
The drift-rock interface is visible...etc.
A rock platform with two shingle....etc.

9.2 Erosion Class: Gazetteer Entries

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

CATEGORY EXAMPLE

Label Placename 7 Skerries of Watsness HU 1730 5005 Grid Reference (to centre of coastline stretch)

Length of Unit 0.8 km

Erosion Class at time of visit Eroding to stable

Localised erosion becomes much....etc. **Description**

9.3 Erosion Classes

The following definitions have been used:

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

Where there are both active erosion and stable areas, with 30-70% of **Eroding**

to Stable: either one.

A section which is more than 70% stable. Usually any erosion is limited and Stable:

local; any variation is specified in the accompanying text.

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

to Stable:

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

Accreting/ There are both accreting and eroding processes taking place and may vary **Eroding:**

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.

10.0 ANALYSIS: GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND EROSION (Alan Stapf)

10.1 Table of Erosion Classes

(distances are given in kilometres)

Map	Area (Unit)	Eroding	E/S	Stable	A/S	A/E	Accr	Totals
1	Gideonfield	0.85	1.1	2				3.95
2	Roesound Skerry	0.9	5.65	4.32	0.4			11.27
3	Badni Taing	0.12	2.5	8.35		0.15		11.12
4	Fografiddle	0.45	1.1	5.5		0.6		7.65
5	Seli Stack	2.4	1.05	0.28	0.5	0.5		4.73
1-5	South East	4.72	11.4	20.45	0.9	1.25	0	38.72
6	Burrastow	0.75	3.7	1.7				6.15
7	Head of Keedon	1.88	3.5	0.9				6.28
8	Giddigill	0.9	2.35	4.05				7.3
9	Erne's Stack	3.05	1	2.2				6.25
10	Humabery	2.4	0.9	0.35		0.6		4.25
11	Bay of Garth	0	4	4.85				8.85
12	Snap Hevda	0	2.9	3				5.9
13	Turl Stack	0.12	0.55	3.7				4.37
6-13	North & West	9.1	18.9	20.75	0	0.6	0	49.35
1-13	Walls	13.82	30.3	41.2	0.9	1.85	0	88.07

10.2 Proportions of Erosion Classes

This table gives percentages for individual areas under respective erosional classes with total percentage for the two areas and the whole. Bold type is used to highlight the more important erosion classes within a unit which are mentioned to within the text.

Proportions are given as a percentage

Map	Area	Eroding	E/S	Stable	A/S	A/E
1	Gideonfield	22	28	51	0	0
2	Roesound Skerry	8	50	38	4	0
3	Badni Taing	1	22	75	0	1
4	Fografiddle	6	14	72	0	8
5	Seli Stack	51	22	6	11	11
1-5	South East	12	29	53	2	3
6	Burrastow	12	60	28	0	0
7	Head of Keedon	30	56	14	0	0
8	Giddigill	12	32	55	0	0
9	Erne's Stack	49	16	35	0	0
10	Humabery	56	21	8	0	14
11	Bay of Garth	0	45	55	0	0
12	Snap Hevda	0	49	51	0	0
13	Turl Stack	3	13	85	0	0
6-13	North & West	18	38	42	0	1
1-13	Walls	16	34	47	1	2

11.0 DISCUSSION:GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND EROSION (Alan Stapf)

11.1 Maps 1-5: Summary

Within the Gideonfield unit (map 1) the coastal edge is generally stable. The main area of erosion lies to the east of the voe where weak, crushed (cataclastic) and undifferentiated metamorphic rocks underlie the eastern side of the Walls Boundary Fault. Localised erosion becomes widespread within the Roesound unit (map 2) with almost all of the erosion around Skelda Voe. The coastal edge becomes quite stable within the next two units (maps 3-4). Within the final unit, Seli Stack, (map 5) there is considerable erosion mainly due to the low coastal edge and the easily eroded soft sediments of till and peat.

Overall the major erosional class is stable. This does not take into account that the *eroding to stable* class probably has over half of the coastal edge in a stable condition at any one time. Therefore, adding this to the *stable* class, a realistic figure indicates that three quarters of the coastal edge is in a stable condition. The greatest erosion within this south eastern area occurs within and to the east of Olas Voe.

11.2 Maps 6-13: Summary

Localised erosion is the dominant erosional class within the first two units (maps 6-7) with more erosion within the second unit (map 7) and very little stable coastline. Most of the erosion is taking place on the south west or south-south west facing coasts, particularly along the stretches of Easter Phaill and The Hamar. Both of these areas have many small faults running through them although it is more likely that the sandstones are less coherent than elsewhere along this coastline.

The coastal edge becomes a great deal more stable within the next unit from Giddigill (map 8) although erosion does occur within Voe of Dale where volcanic rocks intrude and within Sel Ayre where there are greater depths of soft till overlying the sandstone.

Further north there is a dramatic change in geology within the next unit (map 9) and is marked by the Melby Fault. This is reflected in the erosional class where the rocks are much more easily eroded as the sea undermines the cliffs by scouring out the lower shale beds. The erosion is even more pronounced in the next unit (map 10) where soft metamorphic rocks, (mica schists) of the Snarra Ness Group dominate the coastline. There is very little stable coastal edge within these two units of the north western peninsula.

Perhaps due to the erosion and longshore drift there is also a large area which can be classed as *accreting and eroding*. Within The Crook there is a build up of sand along the hinterland however there is also evidence to suggest that the beach is migrating landwards as there is erosion within the corner edges of the bay. The western side has been stabilised by sea defences.

The following two units (maps 11-12) are fairly stable with much localised erosion in evidence and the last unit (map 13) has the most stable of all the coastline surveyed over the Walls peninsula. The underlying geology of this latter unit is made up of the Neeans Group which although a metamorphic schist like the Snarra Ness group is much tougher and coherent with a greater silicate content, (feldspathic).

Overall although erosion is fairly dominant to the south west of the peninsula the erosion is far more extreme to the north east of the peninsula, the Melby and Sandness coast. There is relatively little erosion along the mid section of the west coast and the north eastern side of the survey area is very stable.

11.3 Types of Erosion

The sea is the main agent of erosion in the survey area and leads to landslip after mechanical undercutting of the cliff face or scouring of the coastal edge. Separation of a landmass leading to sea arches and stacks can be instigated by the cutting of geos and coves. Here the sea is directly responsible for erosion. 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 longer, more shallow rock platform tend to dissipate the waves energy before hitting the coastal edge.

Marine erosion also takes place as a storm beach gradually migrates landwards. This type of erosion is not always obvious and a cursory look or a snap-shot in time may lead one to assume an accretion of shingle as one cannot see the gradual landward migration of the coast. Chemical erosion by salt spray is rather more insidious and has not been alluded to in this survey other than in combination with observable weathering processes of rocks.

Subaerial erosion is the other 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. This tends to be locally confined yet aids sea erosion. It is quite likely that in some areas this is the primary cause of drift erosion.

Wind erosion is usually manifested in soft drift deposits, mainly sand in this case, where wind blow may lead to deflation troughs and scouring of sand dunes. There is only one area where sand has accumulated on the hinterland within the confines of the survey area, this is on the hinterland of The Crook close to Norby on the north coast.

Other eroding agents are biological. In this survey the agents are limited to animal, (rabbit, sheep, cattle, etc.) and human disturbance all of which can be controlled by management policies.

Land use practices and management tend to aggravate or alleviate subaerial erosion but appear to have little effect on sea erosion without large resource input.

11.4 Susceptibility to Erosion

The coastlines most susceptible to erosion are the low coastal edges, less than five metres, and areas of soft drift materials, tills, peats and the soft geological beds of shales.

Most of the coastal edge of Shetland has a steeply shelving or almost non-existent rock platform and consequently there is little moderation of the high energy waves. Here the intertidal rock platforms tend to be steep and so forms a much narrower foreshore which is not capable of dissipating the wave's energy as does a long shallow platform.

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, the two main 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. Work by Palutikof *et al* (1997) has found that there is cycle of severe gales which appear to crop up every 12 to 18 years. Using the Gale Index for Northern British Isles they observed that storms have increased in severity since 1920. Although there was a short period in 1970 where the number of storms decreased, the number is increasing again.

11.5 Accretion

Within the survey accretion was found to be limited and localised. Shingle is the major accreting material. Although cliff erosion may contribute to the sediments there is also a substantial input from sea bottom sediments. Under rainy temperate to rainy marine climatic zones sand makes up almost a half to two thirds of bottom sediments respectively, (Hanson, 1988).

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 they are eroding the shoreline.

Ayres may also be accreting and may be symptomatic of longshore drift of sediments, notably shingle in relatively sheltered waters. Overall these are probably stable or accreting at a very slow rate.

The accretion of many ayres and bars is not generally obvious as it occurs over hundreds of years and may be linked to the gradual submergence of the islands.

11.6 Results and Recommendations in Brief

The majority of the coasts surveyed have a foreshore of rock platform with a clear distinctive coastal edge. Most high energy storm beaches are south west facing.

Overall the main erosion class is *stable* with *eroding to stable* the next most common. The main agent of erosion is the sea which dominates both the *eroding* and *eroding to stable* classes.

Looking at more specific areas, the Melby formation with the softer mudstone and shale layers are most easily eroded along with the weak, mica-schist metamorphic rocks of the Snarra Ness Group to the north of Sandness. Low lying areas with deep tills or peats are also easily eroded and is especially true of the coastal edge west of Olas Voe.

Subaerial erosion is associated with less than a third of the localised erosion in the *eroding to stable* class. Although land management and practices account for some of the subaerial erosion which in turn enhances the sea erosion there was very little evidence of coastal management mal practice.

12.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: GEOLOGY, GEOMORPHOLOGY AND EROSION (Alan Stapf)

Although no direct evidence was found during this survey of island submergence taking place the mass of geomorphological evidence suggests that the sea level has been and is still rising due to the relative down-warping of the islands since the last glaciation.

As regards the areas of erosion the main factor within this survey appeared to be the underlying geology with perhaps both aspect and coastal edge height of slightly less importance overall.

With regard to the coastal edge height it must be borne in mind that a much higher coastal edge lessens the observable landward migration of marine erosion in as the much as for the same loss of hinterland area a much larger volume of material has to be eroded away in comparison to the volume of a low coastal edged hinterland. Hence even though the erosion is as bad if not worse along the mid western coast of the peninsula the rate of landward migration must be considerably lower than for the lower edged Olas Voe.

There is very little accretion within the surveyed area. Most of the accretion lies close by large areas of erosion such as Olas Voe and The Crook. This leads to the supposition that the accreting material is likely to be redeposited local material and although this may be true for the shingle areas it may not be true of the sands along The Crook which have grains that are well rounded and so likely to have been subject to long term weathering and mechanical action. Longshore drift may account for only the more localised deposit of larger unweathered material.

It seems that there is little that can be done to negate marine erosion unless huge resources are committed to the control. 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.

The softer geological units and the lower lying areas are more at risk from erosion than the tougher geological units and higher coastlines. The coast lines around the north west and south west of the peninsula and the coast line along Olas Voe are more likely to undergo further erosion in the future. Erosion along the north west coast are primarily due to geological features, the south west coast due to aspect from south westerly gales and the Olas Voe area due to both geological and a lower coastal edge.

Subaerial erosion, although damaging to archaeology, is very limited around the coast and is not contributing significantly to coastal erosion

As regards further work there are two recommendations:

The main recommendation is that monitoring of coastal erosion be implemented to assess the rate of erosion especially of the more vulnerable low lying areas. There is no firm data at present on rates of erosion. Perhaps a second survey of the more sensitive areas could be carried out in five or so years time to give an average annual erosion rate.

A second recommendation is that with increasing amounts of data becoming available of coastal erosion a more complete statistical analysis of erosional classes versus geology, coastal height and aspect would be justified in assessing the risk of erosion.

Both of these recommendations will identify areas that are likely to be at risk within the near future which in turn will enable efficient allocation of funding to rescue or take preventative action for the more vulnerable monuments.

INTRODUCTION TO MAP 1:

Gideonfield to Roesound Skerry

Built Heritage and Archaeology

The area covered by this map sheet extends from the eastern side of Seli Voe, around the Voe head, and along the western side and as far as the sandy beach at Red Ayre. The area is sparsely populated; there is a small cluster of settlement around the head of Seli Voe, with further houses lying at intervals along the west side of the Voe, close to the B9071 road. In recent times, work in this area has been limited to a study of local place names (Waugh, 1996), focused largely on sites which lie outwith the remit of this survey.

A total of seventeen sites were recorded during this survey, fourteen of which are documented here for the first time. Ten of the sites can considered to be vulnerable to either coastal or subaerial erosion. A further three sites, which could only be imprecisely located, may also be threatened. The majority of the sites represent the remains of earlier agricultural activity (boundary dykes and enclosures). In one case, these remains were associated with an abandoned house (W10), dating to the 18th-20th century period, but many could not be assigned a date on the basis of topographical survey alone. It is possible that at least a proportion may predate the modern era. At least three sites can be assigned to the prehistoric period. At Leeans (W3) two cremation burials in urns were accidentally uncovered in the 1830's. No surface indications of the site are now visible, although the area has not been substantially developed in modern times. A probable prehistoric settlement (W12), uncovered during the construction of a crue at Trowie Burn, is not now visible, although it is unlikely to have been entirely obliterated by the works. A previously unrecorded burnt mound (W6) was identified in an rather unusual location, sited on a steep rise between two glacial gullies towards the head of the voe.

Geology and Geomorphology

Generally, the east side of Seli Voe has a gentle rolling topography and the west side is dominated by the steep slopes of Garderhouse Hill and Muckle Ward. The two sides are separated by a low vale. The hills have a north-south trending axis as does the voe itself. This east/west differentiation results from the Walls Boundary Fault, which runs north-south. To the east lie the voe and vale with metamorphic rocks, to the west granite formations make up the hills. Underlying a small area at the head of the voe on the west side of the fault there is Walls Sandstone. Here the coastal edge is less than five metres in height with only a few outcrops of sandstone visible. Elsewhere, the coastal edge is greater than five metres in height on both sides of the voe.

Most of the hinterland on either side of the voe is covered by poorly to imperfectly drained peaty podzols. The hinterland at the head of the voe to the north is poorly drained with deep peat and is marshy. To the east, there is enclosed cultivable grazing land, while to the west side much of the hinterland is covered with heathers and fescues and is largely unfenced.

Erosion Class

Most erosion is taking place along the eastern side of Seli Voe and is due to both subaerial and marine action. Erosion is rather sporadic along the western coastline with the majority of coastal edge in a stable condition.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 1

W1

HU 3361 4792 Leeans, Seli Voe

Noost, enclosure and cru

18th-20th C

Fair Nil

<u>W2</u>

HU 3364 4804 Leeans, Seli Voe Structure: bod? 18th-20th C Fair

Fair Survey

W3 (HU34NW 8 & 9)

HU 337 482/336 482 The Glebe, Leeans Cremation burials: 3rd-1st mill BC Not located

W4

HU 3325 4790 Garderhouse Mounds Indeterminate Fair

Fair Survey

W5

HU 3334 4778 Seli Voe Enclosure 18th-20th C Nil

W6

Survey

HU 3320 4767 Seli Voe Burnt mound 3rd-1st mill BC Good **W**7

HU 3320 4740 Seli Voe

Enclosure and dykes Indeterminate

Fair

Fair Nil

<u>W8</u>

HU 3319 4720 Seli Voe Enclosure Indeterminate

Fair Nil

<u>W9</u>

HU 3318 4710 Seli Voe Earthen bank Indeterminate

Fair Nil

W10

HU 3317 4706 Seli Voe

Structure and dykes

18th-20th C Fair Nil

W11

HU 3316 4700 Seli Voe

Enclosure and dyke Indeterminate

Fair Nil

W12

HU 332 469

Trowie Burn, Garder House Structural remains and artefacts: SMR#3625

Indeterminate Not located W13

HU 3315 4626 Trout's Ness Disturbed ground Indeterminate

Fair Nil

W14

HU 3306 4589

opposite Kirk Holm
Enclosure and dyke
Indeterminate

Fair Nil

W15

HU 3377 4606 Kirk Holm

Possible monastic settlement:

SMR #2376

1st mill BC-1st mill AD

Not inspected

W16

HU 3300 4570 Red Ayre

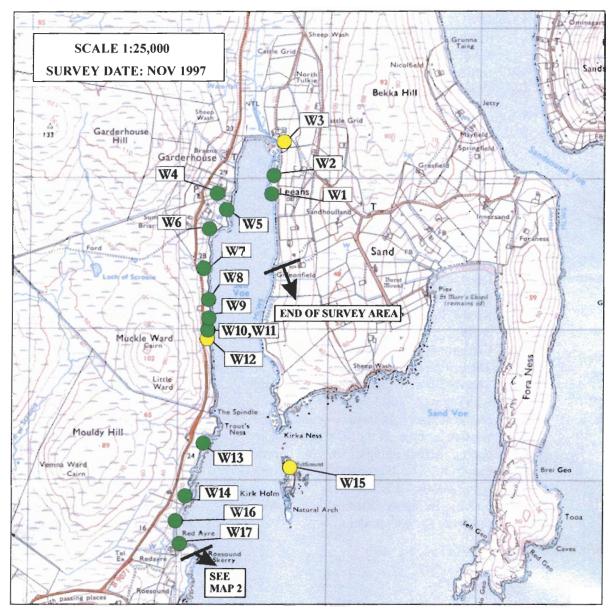
Noosts and shell midden

Indeterminate Fair/poor Nil

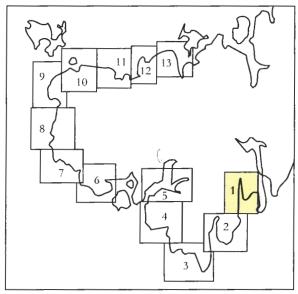
W17

Nil

HU 3301 4560 Red Ayre Dyke 18th-20th C Fair



- 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



HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY MAP 1

1 Gideonfield

HU 337 478

0.85 km

Sandy foreshore with 70-90% shingle or cobble cover.

Coastal edge is $> 5 \,\mathrm{m}$.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The sandy foreshore is dominated by shingle cover with more cobbles towards the upper foreshore. The coastal edge is steeply sloping with many broad rills evident. The fields on the hinterland are cultivable and down to grass over improved peaty podzols.

2 Head of Seli Voe

HU 334 483

0.2 km

Sandy foreshore with 40-60% gravel cover.

Coastal edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The foreshore is made up of gritty sand with gravel sized pebbles. A rock platform becomes more evident in the western corner. There is slightly more cobble sized shingle on the upper foreshore. The hinterland is low lying with poorly drained peat which is marshy in areas. Rushes and sedges dominate the wetter areas.

3 Garderhouse

HU 332 456

2.55 km

Rock platform with discrete areas of 40-50% cobble cover.

Coastal edge > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible.

The rock platform has more cobbles to the north which grade out completely just south of Summerside. There are a number of stabilised, vegetated rills near Garderhouse and a few larger stabilised gullies south of Summerside. The slope becomes steeper below Muckle Ward. Soils are generally imperfectly to freely drained peaty podzols with heathers to the south of Summerside and a few grassed fields to the north.

4 Red Ayre

HU 330 456

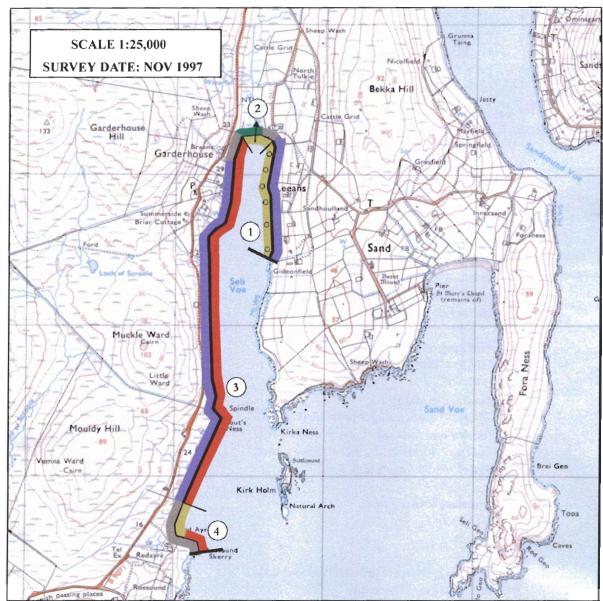
0.35 km

Sandy foreshore with 50-70% shingle cover with rock platform to the north and south.

Coastal edge <5m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The sands of the foreshore are gritty and partially covered with shingle. The underlying geology is not evident in the bay itself although a rock platform is exposed immediately to the north and south of the bay. The hinterland has fenced grass fields with an underlying imperfectly drained peaty podzol.



FORESHORE



ROCK PLATFORM MAINLY SAND MAINLY ALLUVIAL/MARINE MUD MARSH

HINTERLAND

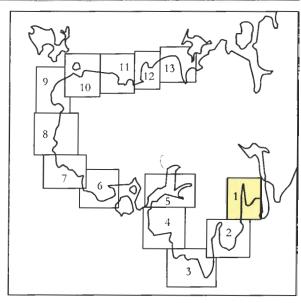


DRIFT DRIFT ON VISIBLE ROCK RAISED BEACH ETC BLOWN SAND GLACIAL SAND/GRAVEL ALLUVIUM

MODIFIERS



LOW EDGE <5M CLIFF >5M MAN MADE BARRIER SHINGLE/STORM BANK HUMAN DISTURBANCE



EROSION CLASS MAP 1

1 Gideonfield

HU 3365 4780

0.85 km

Eroding

Broad rills run towards the Voe indicating sub-aerial erosion however marine action is also removing pieces of the coastal edge. There is slightly more stability to the north of this section within the corner of the bay.

2 Head of Seli Voe

HU 335 483

0.2 km

Stable

The head of the voe appears to be quite stable with no erosion or accretion only movement of foreshore sediments and

backwash patterns.

3 Garderhouse

HU 334 480

0.55 km

Eroding to stable

Most of the localised erosion is due to the sea and although there are some rills on the hinterland these have been stabilised by vegetation.

4 Summerside

HU 332 471

1.2 km

Stable

This section has stabilised rills and little sea erosion. There are a few areas along the hinterland, just south of Briar Cottage, where there is soils creep may be taking place.

5 The Spindle

HU 332 463

0.55 km

Eroding to Stable

Localised erosion due to sea action with the majority taking place on Trout's Ness.

6 Red Ayre

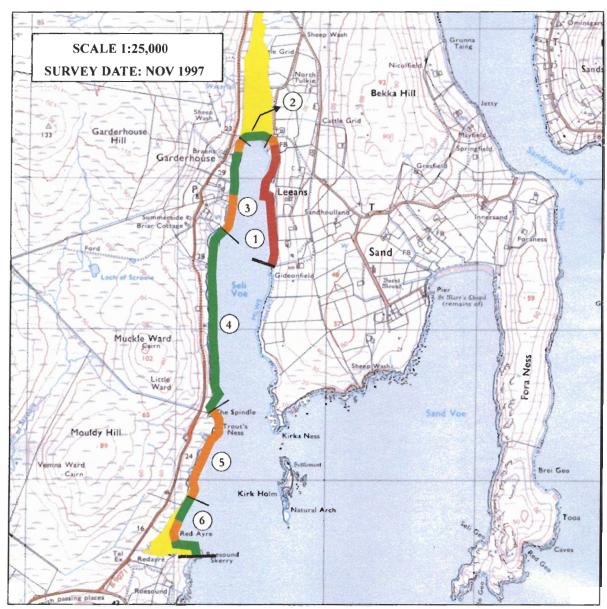
HU 330 458

0.6 km

Stable

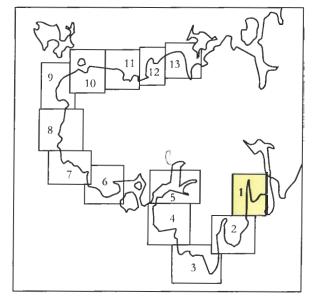
The majority of the coastline is quite stable although there is localised erosion on the north side of Red Ayre itself. There is limited localised erosion only to the south.

WESTSIDE MAP 1





DEFINITELY ACCRETING ACCRETING OR STABLE STABLE ERODING OR STABLE DEFINITELY ERODING ACCRETING AND ERODING NO ACCESS LAND BELOW 10M



INTRODUCTION TO MAP 2:

Roesound Skerry to Badni Taing

Built Heritage and Archaeology

Modern settlement in this area is largely concentrated at Reawick and spread out along the road between Easter and Wester Skeld, elsewhere there are very few occupied houses on or near the coastline. Of the twenty sites recorded in this area, only one had been previously documented. At least fifteen of these sites are located less than 10m from the coast edge and can be considered vulnerable to erosion.

Eight of the sites date to the 18th-20th C period, representing land boundaries and field systems, settlements and boat noosts. Of similar date, a non-domestic structure at Bowpund (W27) may have served as a fishing booth or storehouse. A series of five large earthen land boundaries (up to 4m in width), located in the area to the south-east of Reawick, could not be assigned a date, but would appear to be of pre-modern origin and may be associated with estates belonging to Reawick House (built c.1730) or its predecessor.

Previously, evidence for prehistoric activity in this area was limited to the chance find in 1962 of a miniature stone axe at Wheo Taing. The find spot was said to have been on the coast edge, but no further deposits of an archaeological nature were found in the area. A prehistoric house (**W29**) was located by this survey at Tent Ayre. This sub-circular structure was built into the slop and appears to have internal subdivisions and a porch-type feature at the entrance. A new heel-shaped cairn (**W37**) was located at Daal. Much of the facade survives in a recognisable form and several orthostatic stones were visible to the centre of the cairn. This site lies close to old peat cuttings and may have been covered by peat and later exposed during cutting work.

Geology and Geomorphology

The area is generally characterised by NNE-SSW trending hills. The exposed bluffs and headlands have rock outcrops. The coastline is scalloped and crenulated on the southerly aspects. The coastal edge is generally dominated by a very narrow rock platform apart from at Skelda Voe where there is a sandy foreshore and four small bays. The cobbled coves on the south westerly facing coast testify to the greater strength of the storms generated from this quarter. The underlying geology is predominantly granite, which is overlain with peaty podzols.

Erosion Class

The more exposed coastline to the east of the area is quite stable. Coastal erosion occurs to the south of the Roeness peninsula and there is a great deal more erosion within Skelda Voe and along the south west side of the voe. As there is little change in the underlying geology of the granite complex, it is most likely that the erosion is a consequence of exposure to the south westerly storms, in combination with the topography of the coastal edge and the form of the bay.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 2

<u>W18</u>
HU 330 454
Roesound Skerry
Field boundaries and
cultivation remains
18th-20th C
Fair
Survey
<u>W19</u>

W19
HU 330 450
Groti Ayre
Earthen banks
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

W20 HU 3325 4455 Reawick Earthen bank Indeterminate Fair Survey

W21
HU 3320 4432
Reawick
Earthen bank
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

W22
HU 3315 4424
Reawick
Earthen bank
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

W23
HU 3284 4377
Johnny Sinclair's
Nose
Earthen bank
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

W24 HU 3266 4348 Toog Enclosure 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W25
HU 3228 4247
Sirwick Taing
Enclosure
Indeterminate
Fair
Nil

W26
HU 315 433
Burn of Swartagill
Field systems
Indeterminate
Fair
Nil

W27 HU 3130 4338 Bowpund Structure 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W28 HU 3125 4354 Bowpund Enclosure 18th-20th C Fair Nil W29 HU 3139 4375 Tent Ayre Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC Fair Survey

W30 HU 3139 4389 Tent Ayre Noost and enclosure 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W31
HU 3160 4440
Greenbraes
Structure
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

W32 HU 3115 4449 Skelda Voe Noost and dyke 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W33 (HU34SW 4) HU 3105 4392 Wheo Taing Find spot: stone axe 4th-3rd mill BC Not located

W34
HU 3075 4369
Kirka Ness
Clearance cairns
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

sites vulnerable to erosion are <u>underlined</u>

<u>W35</u>

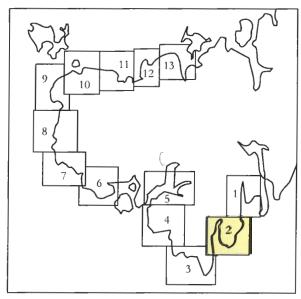
HU 3066 4374 Tarasta Ayre Enclosure Indeterminate Fair Survey

W36 HU 3039 4365 Tarasta Ayre Two mounds Indeterminate Fair Nil

W37 HU 3049 4298 Daal Heel-shaped burial cairn 4th-3rd mill BC Good Survey



- PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT OR AREA OF DESIGNATED WRECK
- OMONUMENT 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



HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY MAP 2

1 Roesound

HU 330 452

0.75 km

Predominantly rock platform with 30-60% shingle cover and discrete areas of sand.

Coastal edge predominantly > 5m to the south.

The drift/rock interface is generally not visible.

A rock platform lies under the head at Roesound Skerry although there is some shingle cover. There are two areas where sandy foreshores are composed of gritty sand. The sand at Grosti Ayre has some cobble cover below a cliff edge. Slopes are moderately sloping apart from Grosti Ayre where the gradient is slightly steeper. Soils are imperfectly drained peaty podzols with fenced pasture.

2 Rea Wick

HU 330 446

0.5 km

Sandy foreshore.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The sands are less gritty than other areas. There are sea defences along the south eastern edge of the foreshore in front of Shore House and there is minor disturbance on the hinterland in this area. The coastal edge is greater than five metres on either side of the bay with moderate sloping hinterland becoming slightly steeper on the south side. A road lies close to the foreshore. Rough grazing lies behind the foreshore with fenced, grass fields on either side of the bay. Soils are imperfectly to freely drained peaty podzols.

3 The Taing

HU 328 436

2.95 km

Rock platform with negligible cover other than small discrete areas.

Coastal edge is predominantly > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform is fairly narrow and cover is minimal. Areas where there is some cobble cover are restricted to small indents within the cliff face, eg. on the north side of Johnny Sinclair's Nose. The coastal edge is over five metres although the edge is less than five metres just before Sirwick Taing. The hinterland is exposed so there is rough grazing with the majority of this coast line unfenced. Soils are imperfectly drained peaty podzols with rankers in a few areas over exposed rocks.

4 Sirwick Taing

HU 315 430

2.8 km

Rock platform with two coves containing sandy foreshores.

Coastal edge is generally < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible.

The rock platform has some areas of cover especially within the coves. The Ayre of Deepdale and the cove by Swarta Gill have small sandy foreshores. A cobble storm beach lies within each of these coves above the sandy foreshore. There is also some sand covering the rock platform below the cliff at Aaskerry Taing and cobble cover to the south of the head at Bowpund. The coastal edge is predominantly unfenced and is generally less than five metres. Soils are poorly to imperfectly drained peaty podzols and peaty gleys. There are more rankers on the exposed headlands. Vegetation is mainly rough grazing with sedges in the vales of Deepdale and Swarta Gill.

5 Skelda Voe

HU 314 450

1.97 km

Sandy foreshore with 50->90% shingle cover.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

The sands have a large cover of shingle. In one area below Greenbraes an ayre is primarily composed of gravels. Shingle lies within the head of the voe and there are more cobbles on the western shore south of the pier. The hinterland is steeply to moderately sloping, being more undulating on the eastern side. The pier and a small area below the road has sea defences. The hinterland has some disturbance by the road and around buildings. The fields to the west are under grass. Soils are poorly to imperfectly drained peaty podzols and gleys to the east with imperfectly drained peaty podzols to the west.

6 South of Easter Skeld

HU 309 438

1.2 km

Rock platform with minor cobble cover to the north.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform has 20-40% cobble

cover to the north becoming negligible by Kirka Ness. The hinterland becomes moderately sloping towards the south with partially fenced grass fields. Soils are imperfectly drained peaty podzols.

7 Tarasta Ayre

HU 304 436

0.45 km

Sandy foreshore with 70-90% cobble cover.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible.

The sandy foreshore has a predominance of beach cobbles and a storm beach of such cobbles along the upper foreshore and hinterland. There is also evidence of disturbance, perhaps from quarrying. The hinterland is moderately sloping with fenced grazing and imperfectly drained soils.

8 Yahaarwell

HU 305 432

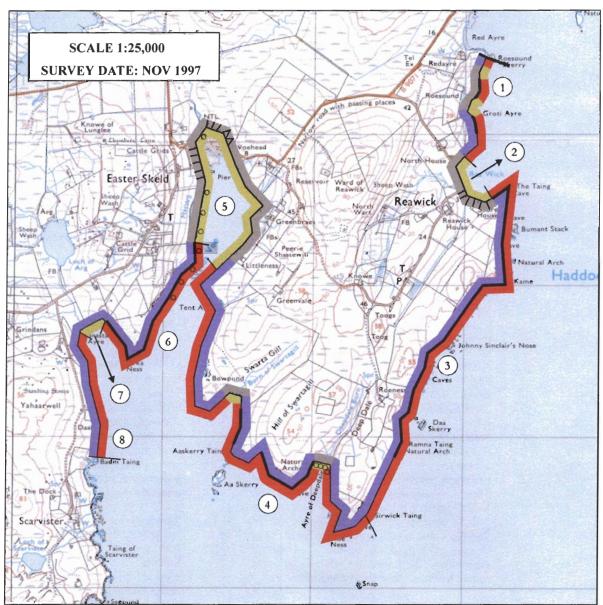
0.65 km

Rock platform negligible cover.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform runs directly up to a low coastal edge. The hinterland is moderately sloping with unfenced grass fields which are imperfectly drained.



FORESHORE



ROCK PLATFORM MAINLY SAND MAINLY ALLUVIAL/MARINE MUD MARSH

HINTERLAND

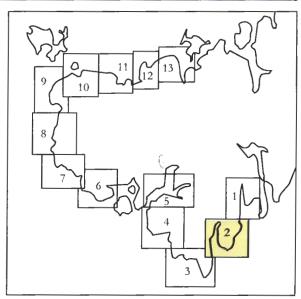


DRIFT
DRIFT ON VISIBLE ROCK
RAISED BEACH ETC
BLOWN SAND
GLACIAL SAND/GRAVEL
ALLUVIUM

MODIFIERS



LOW EDGE <5M CLIFF >5M MAN MADE BARRIER SHINGLE/STORM BANK HUMAN DISTURBANCE



EROSION CLASS MAP 2

1 Roesound Skerry

HU 330 451

0.75 km

Stable

The majority of this section is quite stable with grasses growing up to the coastal edge and lichen covered rock faces. There is some localised marine erosion within Grosti Ayre.

2 Rea Wick

HU 330 446

0.7 km

Eroding to Stable

There is localised erosion along the north side of Rea Wick and sea defence walls to the south have limited erosion here. There is definite erosion of the cliff face where the sea defences end and localised erosion around The Taing.

3 Bumant Stack

HU 326 432

3.1 km

Stable

Virtually the whole length of this section is stable with only minor erosion south of Bumant Stack and perhaps only a hundred metres of definite erosion to the extreme south west of Sirwick Taing. Within The Ayre of Deepdale the storm beach is marked as stable although this could possibly be slowly migrating landwards.

4 West of Deepdale Ayre

HU 316 429

1.4 km

Eroding to Stable

There are many small areas of stable coast with localised erosion between them and three areas of definite erosion, within the bay below Hill of Swartagill, and in each corner of the larger bay of Bowpund. Most of the erosion is of the till deposits over the granite rock. Overall the whole section has been classed as *eroding to stable*.

5 North of Bowpund

HU 312 433

 $0.47~\mathrm{km}$

Stable

A small section which is entirely stable.

6 Tent Ayre

HU 313 440

0.8 km

Eroding to Stable

Localised marine erosion is taking place all around Tent Ayre. There is however a substantial area of definite erosion to the north of this section, below Littleness, where a low coastal edge is being eroded.

7 Greenbraes

HU 316 444

0.4 km

Accreting to Stable

Most of this section is stable. Below Greenbraes itself there is an area of shingle and sand which appears to be accreting although the coastal edge itself is still exposed to erosion, the washed sediments accreting further away from the edge itself as an ayre.

8 Voehead

HU 313 450

0.9 km

Eroding to Stable

There are small areas of localised erosion of the coastal edge with the areas to the west of the Voe stabilised because of the pier and sea defences.

9 Easter Skeld

HU 312 445

0.45 km

Eroding

There is both subaerial and marine erosion of this section.

10 Skelda Voe (West)

HU 309 439

1.2 km

Eroding to Stable

Although there is a stable length of coastline after the previous section the coastal edge has much minor erosion south of the small head of land mainly due to marine erosion and undercutting of the cliff face making the upper areas unstable.

11 Tarasta Ayre

HU 305 437

0.45 km

Eroding

The majority of the cove is eroding due to marine action although human disturbance, possible some quarrying, within the cove may well have enhanced the erosion.

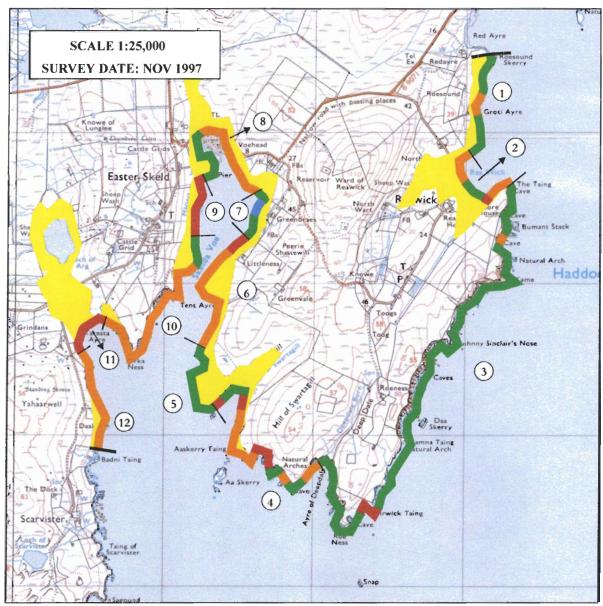
12 Yahaarwell

HU 305 433

0.65 km

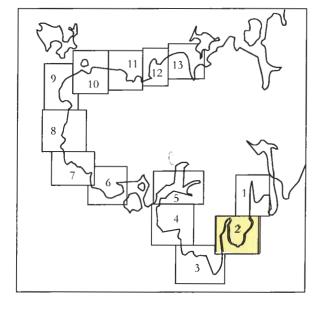
Eroding to Stable

Localised marine erosion due to minor undercutting of the cliff face.





DEFINITELY ACCRETING ACCRETING OR STABLE STABLE ERODING OR STABLE DEFINITELY ERODING ACCRETING AND ERODING NO ACCESS LAND BELOW 10M



INTRODUCTION TO MAP 3:

Badni Taing to Fografiddle

Built Heritage and Archaeology

Beyond the road end at Scarvister, the is no modern settlement close to the coast until the bay at Westerwick is reached. Access into the area is by foot from the track ends at Scarvister, Silwick and Westerwick.

Of the twenty-two sites recorded by this survey, only four had been documented previously. At least fifteen sites are vulnerable to erosion. Although the area is now isolated and largely uninhabited, it contains frequent indications of past human activity. Sites of the 18th-20th century period comprise sheep shelters and land boundaries and a shipwreck. A number of the earthen and stone boundaries and enclosures, recorded here as being of indeterminate date, may belong to this period also; but a proportion may have earlier origins (for example see W50). Monuments of the early historic period may be represented by stack sites W48, W55/W56, which have been variously described as monastic settlements or leper colonies. It was not possible to gain access to these sites and thus these interpretation cannot be confirmed or denied.

Of six sites identified as dating from the prehistoric period, only one (W44) had been documented previously. This oval-shaped house, located close to the cliff edge at East Moolie Geo, is defined by an earthen bank and is internally divided into at least two small cells. The site is under threat from the denudation of the soil surrounding it caused by salt spray. A similar house was discovered to the south of Fografiddle (W58). A larger settlement (W40) at Muckle Hamar, which may date to the later prehistoric period, was found while returning from the coast. It lies outside of the coastal zone but is included here since it was not previously documented and its presence illustrates the potential for further survey work in the hinterland area. An eroding square cairn (W49) at Squidel, one of a number of such sites identified by this survey, is of a type hitherto poorly represented in the archaeological record. A burnt mound (W38) at Scarvister, which stands up to 2m high, may have a structure associated with it. At Lambigarth (W51), a large promontory is cut off by two massive parallel banks, formed from earth and stone. The landward bank is up to 10m wide and stands to 1.5m high. The scale of these banks is such that it is difficult to reconcile them merely as livestock barriers and the therefore it has been interpreted as a promontory fort of prehistoric or early historic date.

Geology and Geomorphology

The Skelda Ness peninsula is much more rugged than the preceding units. The western facing coast is more indented and exposed than the steep cliffs to the east. Further along, between Silwick and The Nev, the cliff edge is over fifty metres in height. Owing to their exposed southerly aspect, the cliffs are deeply crenulated and there are more sea stacks lying off shore.

Erosion Class

Considering that most of the coast is open to the south westerly gales the coastline is very stable. The coastal edge on the western side of Skelda Ness is low, yet this too has a stability which is due in part to the coherent nature of the granite. Erosion is mainly confined within Wester Wick and along the point of The Nev.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 3

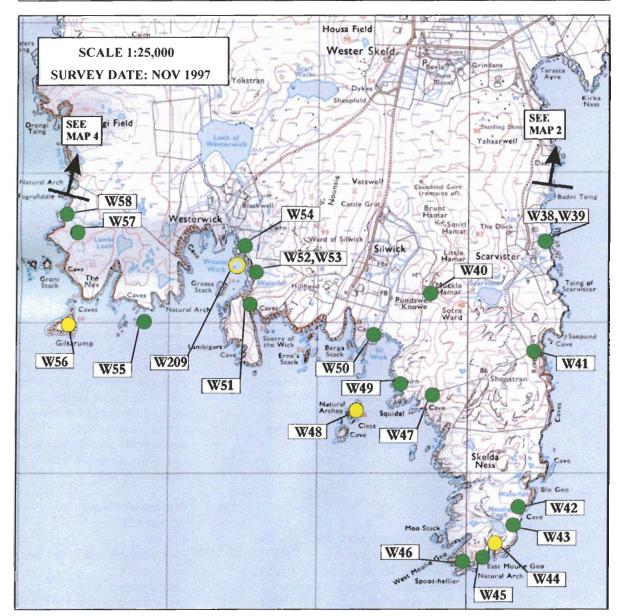
W38 HU 3050 4254 Scarvister Burnt mound 3rd-1st mill BC Fair Survey	W44 (HU34SW 9) HU 3020 4055 East Moulie Geo Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC Fair Survey	W50 HU 2936 4195 Silwick Enclosure Indeterminate Poor Nil	W56 HU 27 42 Clett or Giltarump Structure:SMR#2048 Indeterminate Not inspected
W39 HU 3051 4252 Scarvister Drystone wall 18th-20th C Fair Nil	W45 HU 3009 4049 East Moulie Geo Wall Indeterminate Poor Nil	W51 HU 285 421 Lambigart Enclosed promontory 1stmillBC/1stmillAD Fair Survey	W57 HU 2739 4260 south of Fografiddle Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC Fair Survey
W40 HU 2975 4217 Muckle Hamar Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC Good Survey	W46 HU 2996 4043 West Moulie Geo Marker cairn &dyke Indeterminate Fair Nil	W52 HU 2859 4231 Westerwick Enclosure 18th-20th C Fair Nil	W58 HU 2732 4270 south of Fografiddle Enclosure&structures 18th-20th C Fair Survey
W41 HU 304 417 Longa Berg Earthen bank Indeterminate Fair Nil	W47 HU 2973 4155 Skelda Ness Dyke & burnt mound /clearance deposits Indeterminate Fair Nil	W53 HU 2859 4238 Westerwick Enclosure 18th-20th C Fair Nil	W209 HU 285 425 Westerwick, Wester Wick Ustetind/ Ustenlind, Cargo Vessel 18th-20th C Not inspected.
W42 HU 303 407 Moulie Loch Drystone wall Indeterminate Fair Nil	W48 HU 2925 4140 Clett Structure:SMR#3647 1stmillBC/1stmillAD Not inspected	W54 HU 2848 4251 Westerwick Earthen bank Indeterminate Fair Survey	
W43 HU 303 406 Moulie Loch Earthen bank Indeterminate Fair	W49 HU 2951 4160 Squidel Cairn 4th-3rd mill BC Poor	W55 HU 2781 4200 stack E of Giltarump Ruinous structure or cairn Indeterminate	

sites vulnerable to erosion are <u>underlined</u>

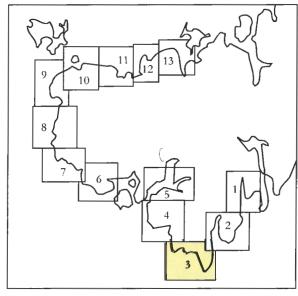
Not Inspected

Survey/excavate

Nil



- PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT OR AREA OF DESIGNATED WRECK
- OMONUMENT 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



HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY MAP 3

1 Badni Taing

HU 305 412

3.8 km

Rock platform with negligible cobble cover. Coastal edge is predominantly > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

A rock platform is continuous along the foreshore with negligible cover although there is an area of talus below the cliff at Saepund and to the north of Blo Geo. The coastal edge rises to over five metres in height by Scarvister increasing in height to almost forty metres by Shoostran. From Spoot-hellier, on the western side of the peninsula, there are many bare rocks which are host to lichens. At the head of East Moulie Geo some of the top soil on the cliff edge has been pushed back onto a site (W44). The soils are poorly to imperfectly drained peaty podzols and gleys on the eastern side and become imperfectly to freely draining peaty podzols by the head of the peninsula. There are also large areas of rankers on the western side. Fields are fenced although very few on the coastal side. Rough grazing dominates the whole area of hinterland although the grasses are shorter and of possible better quality grazing on the western side of the peninsula.

2 Skelda Ness (West)

HU 298 413

1.2 km

Rock platform.

Coastal edge is predominantly < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform has negligible cover apart from an area south of Squidel where there is some cobble cover. This section of coastline is deeply crenulated. The hinterland is craggy with short grasses for the most part over freely to imperfectly drained podzol and ranker.

3 Sil Wick

HU 295 419

0.25 km

Sandy foreshore with 70-90% shingle cover. Coast edge is \leq 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

The shingle grades into a cobble and boulder storm beach to the upper foreshore and coastal edge. The hinterland is quite wet to the centre of the bay with grass over a poorly drained peaty gley soil.

4 Berga Stack

HU 286 418

3.25 km

Rock platform with discrete areas of cobble cover.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The cliff rises to approximately 60 metres by Skerry of the Wick fronting a deeply gouged coastline. There are a few areas of cobble cover lying beneath the cliff face and are likely due to localised rockfall. Fields tend to be fenced at the beginning of this section with grass dominating the hinterland vegetation. Soils are rankers or shallow peaty podzols.

5 Wester Wick

HU 282 426

0.3 km

Sandy foreshore with >90% shingle cover.

Coastal edge is predominantly > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible. The hinterland slopes down to the cove at one point with steep cliffs to each side. The land is cultivable on the east side of this section with fenced fields. A potato crop lies within one field. Rough grazing predominates the west side and exposed cliff tops. Soils are imperfectly to freely drained improved podzol.

6 Westerwick (West)

HU 276 423

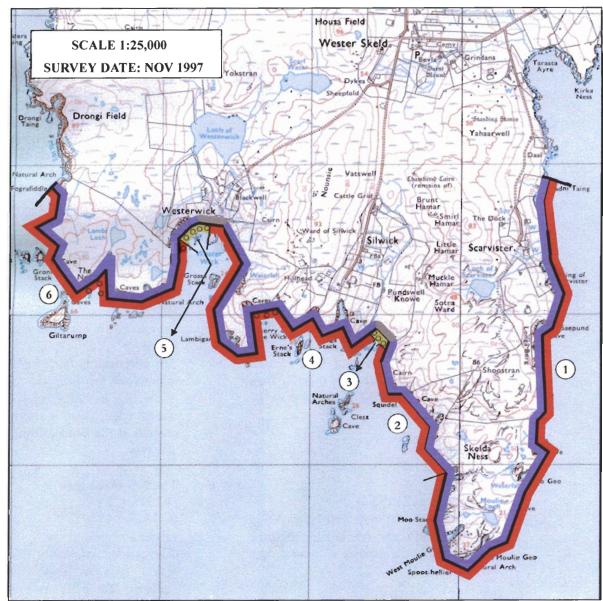
2.32 km

Rock platform with a few discrete areas of cobble cover.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The cliff face is predominantly 30 to 40 metres high along most of this section. The rock platform has only a few areas of cobble cover caused by landslip and rock fall on the head past Grossa Stack and along the geo by The Nev.



FORESHORE



ROCK PLATFORM
MAINLY SAND
MAINLY ALLUVIAL/MARINE MUD
MARSH

HINTERLAND

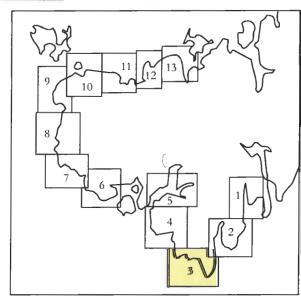


DRIFT DRIFT ON VISIBLE ROCK RAISED BEACH ETC BLOWN SAND GLACIAL SAND/GRAVEL ALLUVIUM

MODIFIERS



LOW EDGE <5M CLIFF >5M MAN MADE BARRIER SHINGLE/STORM BANK HUMAN DISTURBANCE



1 Badni Taing

HU 303 407 5.0 km

Stable

Although there are a few areas of local erosion, notably Badni Taing, north of Blo Geo, East Moulie Geo, north of Moo Stack and Squidel, the vast proportion of this coastline is very stable. This may be due in part to the height of the cliffs which suggest less erosion taking place than may otherwise be seen on a low edged coastline. Of interest is the small localised rockfall north of Blo Geo and a wash of rubble from wave throw within East Moulie Geo where the rubble has been thrown possibly over thirty metres. This constitutes the formation of a lengthening geo. The rocks on the western side of Skelda Ness grade down to the coastal edge and have lichens which are intact although there is little soil cover within the clefts of rock by the coastal edge.

2 Sil Wick

HU 295 419

0.15 km

Accreting and Eroding

The storm beach may well be accreting cobbles whilst the whole appears to be migrating landwards over the vegetation.

3 North of Sil Wick

HU 288 420

2.65 km

Stable

The coastal edge rises steeply and the edge itself appears quite stable. To the east of Berga Stack there is some minor erosion of the top soil due to sheep and soil creep and peat flow. The cliff face is so high that erosion would only show itself as a large landslip or rockfall which may take place many years apart. During this survey the coastal edge was stable.

4 Wester Wick

HU 282 426

1.6 km

Eroding to Stable

There are parts of the coastal edge which are eroding in small ten metre stretches caused by marine undercutting and destabilisation of the cliff face. There is also some stream erosion along the hinterland and the erosion at the base of a boat house on the coastal edge within the bay. There is also minor subaerial erosion to the west of the section due to exposure and soil creep and marine erosion where part of the lower cliff faces has collapsed.

5 West of Wester Wick

HU 276 422

0.7 km

Stable

The cliff face is fairly stable with only minor rock fall from the lower reaches of the face and no erosion of the upper coastal edge. There is also minor stream erosion at the head of the cove east of The Nev.

6 The Nev (East Side)

HU 275 422

0.12 km

Eroding

The erosion is mainly due to marine action with a large rock fall and landslip. There is also some minor subaerial erosion of the soils due to exposure and perhaps some wave throw.

7 The Nev (West Side)

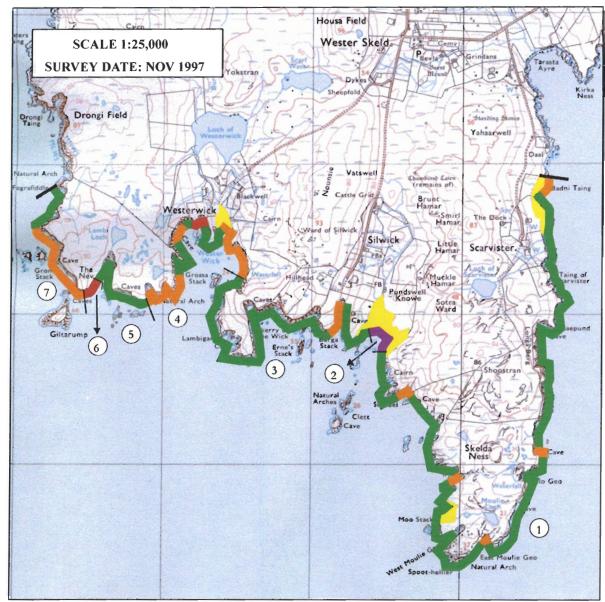
HU 273 425

0.9 km

Eroding to Stable

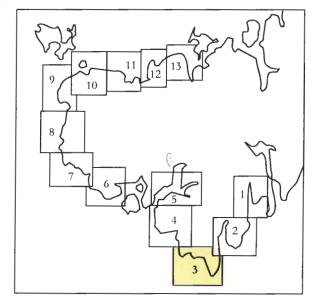
There is localised marine erosion which becomes less apparent towards the north of this section whereby the section is considered to be quite stable apart from a small section where the rocks along the coastal edge are devoid of lichens and there are a series of small ridges due to soil creep further into the hinterland.

WESTSIDE MAP 3





DEFINITELY ACCRETING ACCRETING OR STABLE STABLE ERODING OR STABLE DEFINITELY ERODING ACCRETING AND ERODING NO ACCESS LAND BELOW 10M



INTRODUCTION TO MAP 4:

Fografiddle to Seli Stack

Built Heritage and Archaeology

The area covered by this map sheet extends around the south-west facing coast beyond Culswick. What modern settlement as exists in this area is clustered around Culswick: there is no modern settlement on the coast. There are no modern roads beyond Culswick; the few tracks which lead into the area terminate before the coast.

In contrast to its current remote nature there is much evidence to indicate that this area was populated and utilised by people in the past. A total of twenty-one sites were identified, of which five had been recorded previously. Ten sites lie within 10m of the coast edge and are likely to be vulnerable to erosion.

The majority of the seven sites identified as belonging to the 18th-20th century period represent sheep enclosures and land boundaries. A settlement (**W66**), comprising a dwelling house, click mill, noosts and an associated field system occupies a small valley to the west of Swinsi Taing. A further five sites, representing land boundaries and enclosures, were identified but could not be precisely dated. It has been alleged that a leper colony or structure or early historic date is located on Burri Stack (**W67**), but since it was not possible to inspect the site, this cannot be confirmed.

Three sites of prehistoric date have been recorded previously in this area. The broch at Culswick (W72) stands on a rise above high cliffs and is visible over a wide area. Until the 18th century, when it was robbed of some of its stone, it was said to be the second tallest broch in Shetland, after Mousa. It remains largely intact and has not been excavated. Close to the broch are the remains of three prehistoric houses (W73 & W74). All are oval or sub circular in plan and have stone revetted earthen walls. Two new houses have been identified: W62 at Stanypunds appears to have been a substantial stone building, possibly dating to the later prehistoric period, while W76 is slighter and is defined by coursed walling and earthen banks. Three small cairns (W63, W65 & W71) appear to have a square plan and may be further examples of this unusual type.

Geology and Geomorphology

The coastal edge in this area is predominantly over five metres in height, with three deeply recessed coves along the southerly facing edge. The hinterland is unfenced and becomes far more rugged, craggy and lower lying to the north of Broch of Culswick, where there is less soil cover.

Erosion Class

The coastline within this unit is fairly stable, with erosion confined to the south westerly facing cliffs to the south of the Broch of Culswick. The small gorge within the Stead of Culswick has some accretion and according to local knowledge the vale up to Culswick itself was not always land filled.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 4

W59

HU 2719 4363 opp Shalders Taing Enclosure 18th-20th C Fair

W60

Nil

HU 2719 4379 **Shalders Taing** Enclosure and dyke 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W61

HU 2755 4385 Stanypunds Enclosure& dwelling 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W62

HU 2755 4385 Stanypunds Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC Fair Survey

W63

HU 2680 4408 Crooie Taing Cairn 4th-3rd mill BC Fair Survey/excavate

W64

HU 2680 4408 Crooie Taing Dyke and enclosure 18th-20th C **Poor** Nil

W65

HU 2634 4410 Swinsi Taing Cairn or structure 4th-3rd mill BC Fair/poor Survey

W66

HU 262 443 W of Swinsi Taing Field system, dwelling house, mill, noosts etc. 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W67 (HU24SE 10)

HU 2610 4410 Burri Geo/Burri Stacks Alleged site of leper colony: SMR #3641 1st mill BC/1st mill AD

W68

Not inspected

HU 2564 4416 opposite Burga Stacks Enclosure 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W69

HU 2645 4495 Loch of Sotersta Enclosure or structure Indeterminate Fair Nil

W70

HU 255 445 N of Burga Stacks Dyke and remnant field system: SMR #2060 Indeterminate Fair Nil

W71

HU 2531 4472 S of Broch of Culswick Cairn 4th-3rd mill BC Fair Survey

W72 (HU24SE 4)

HU 2530 4480 Culswick Broch of Culswick: Scheduled, SMR #2056 1st millBC-1st mill AD Good Nil

W73

HU 2547 4485 Loch of the Brough Structure: dwelling: SMR #2055 3rd-1st mill BC Fair Survey

W74

HU 2543 4496 Loch of the Brough Dwellings:SMR#2054 3rd-1st mill BC Fair Survey

W75

HU 253 450 opposite Muckle Flaes Drystone dyke 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W76

HU 2532 4521 Keolki field Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC Good Survey

W77

HU 2521 4531 Taing of Keolkifield Earthen and stone bank Indeterminate Fair Nil

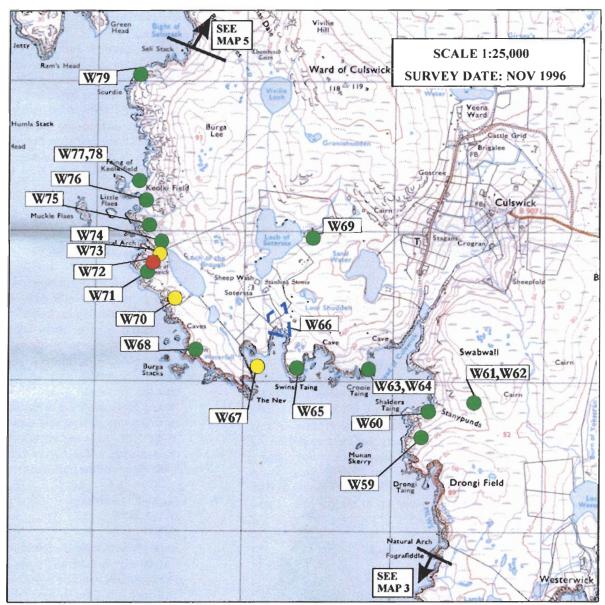
1 200

W78

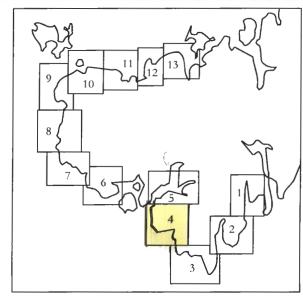
HU 2529 4531 Keolki Field Drystone dyke Indeterminate Fair Nil

W79

HU 2525 4603 north of Scurdie Walling, 'shaped'stone Indeterminate Fair Nil



- PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT OR AREA OF DESIGNATED WRECK
- O 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



HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY MAP 4

1 Fografiddle

HU 271 436

2.0 km

Rock platform with negligible cover.

Coastal edge is predominantly > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible part.

The hinterland is steeply to very steeply sloping. Soils are peaty podzol, and peat with rankers close to the coastal edge especially so to the south of Drongi Field where wave throw has eroded and degraded soils. The vegetation is rough grazing with some heathers to the north of Stanypunds. Peat cutting has taken place just beyond the hinterland.

2 Stead of Culswick

HU 2715 4440

0.06 km

A sandy foreshore with >80% shingle cover and storm beach.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is only visible on either side of the cove.

A storm beach lies on the upper foreshore and lower hinterland. The hinterland behind the storm beach has a small loch with poorly drained marine and alluvial organic soils. It is interesting to note that the area behind the present bay was at one time a voe running up to Culswick. In 1870 a great storm blocked up the mouth of the voe with incumbent silting up of the old voe. (Local pers. com.)

3 West Culswick Stead

HU 266 441

1.42 km

Rock platform with negligible cover.

The coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform is clear of cover apart from an area of minor landslip on cliff side of Culswick Stead. A shallow till underlies the soils to the east of this section. Soils are imperfectly drained peaty podzols with moderate grazing.

4 East of Swinsie Taing

HU 261 442

0.7 km

A sandy foreshore with > 60% cobble cover. Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface not generally visible. The twin coves have large amounts of cobbles and gritty sand within them, with less sand around the jutting rock which separates them. Soils are imperfectly drained peaty gleys and podzol. Moderate grazing.

5 The Nev

HU 256 443

1.32 km

Rock platform with negligible cover.

The coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The cliff face is storm battered although the grass grows close to the edge. This is due to the fact that the sloping hinterland runs up to the coastal edge so sheltering much of the hinterland from wave throw. There are however many small rock fragments that have been thrown back up to fifty metres into the hinterland to the north west. The Broch of Culswick (W72) stands to the extreme north west of this section at the end of the cliff. Soils are imperfectly to poorly drained peaty podzols and peaty gleys on the lower slopes of the hinterland.

6 Loch of The Brough

HU 253 456

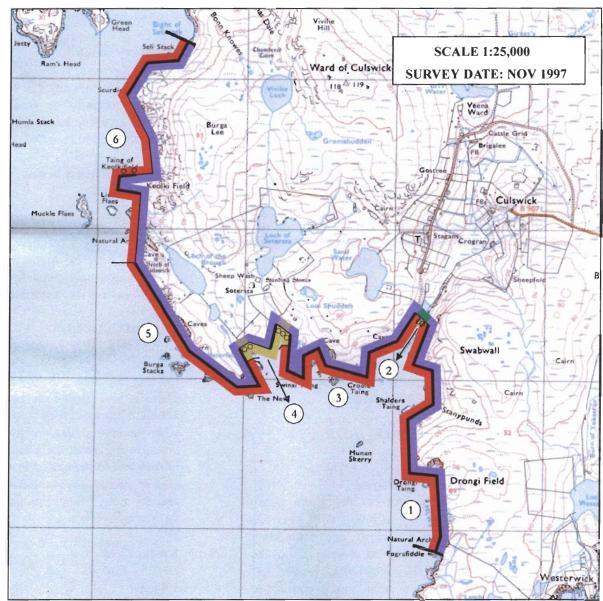
2.15 km

Rock platform with discrete storm beaches.

Coastal edge is generally < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform is generally devoid of cobbles apart from a few isolated storm beaches within the coves. Immediately below The broch (W72) there is a cove with a cobble storm beach on each side of a small promontory. There is also a large area of rubble which has been washed back up to fifty metres onto the craggy hinterland. There are another three storm beach areas up to Keolki Field. The hinterland is generally rocky and craggy with moderate to steep gradients sloping toward the coastal edge. There is also an area with boulders and rock tumble from the back hinterland. The soils between the rocks are rankers for the most part with grasses. There are less rock outcrops to the north of this section with a greater peat cover. A number of stabilised rills and gullies also appear in this area.



FORESHORE



ROCK PLATFORM
MAINLY SAND
MAINLY ALLUVIAL/MARINE MUD
MARSH

HINTERLAND

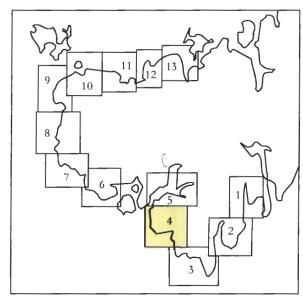


DRIFT
DRIFT ON VISIBLE ROCK
RAISED BEACH ETC
BLOWN SAND
GLACIAL SAND/GRAVEL
ALLUVIUM

MODIFIERS



LOW EDGE <5M CLIFF >5M MAN MADE BARRIER SHINGLE/STORM BANK HUMAN DISTURBANCE



1 Fografiddle

HU 273 434

1.4 km

Stable

The coastal edge is stable although there is some localised peat flow and soil creep along the hinterland.

2 Stanypunds

HU 273 439

0.2 km

Eroding to Stable

Erosion is due to subaerial activity alone. Surface water is eroding the topsoil and has exposed some till in the NW corner of this sloping hinterland.

3 Swabwall

HU 2715 4415

0.4 km

Stable

The coastal edge and hinterland is stable with only very weak soil creep and water erosion evident.

4 Stead of Culswick

HU 2715 4440

0.06 km

Accreting and Eroding

The cobble and boulder storm beach appears to be accreting with evidence that the cobbles are migrating landwards and some erosion within the corners of the cove. The hinterland was at one time a small voe according to local knowledge and was blocked by rocks and rubble after a great storm in 1870. Thereafter the voe has silted up now leaving a wet vale.

5 West of Culswick Stead

HU 263 441

2.9 km

Stable

A stable coastline of moderately high cliffs. Localised erosion is mainly confined to the small coves on either side of Swinsi Taing. There are only small lengths of erosion, one or two metres at a time, along the edge to the east of the Taing and to the west there is a migration inland of the st storm beach.

6 Burga Stacks

HU 256 443

0.35 km

Eroding to Stable

Localised erosion is due to severe wave throw against the rocks. This erosion increases steadily to where there is definite erosion as described in the following section.

7 South of Culswick Broch

HU 2545 4450

0.45 km

Eroding

Chunks of rock have been torn away from the bedrock along the section. Many shards have been found thrown up to 50 metres into the hinterland.

8 Broch of Culswick

HU 253 448

0.55 km

Eroding to Stable

There is less erosion on the head itself although pieces of rock from the coastal edge lie around the broch. Below the broch to the north there is a stable spit of rock and to the east of this there is an area of rubble, approximately 1,000 m² and 50 metres inland, which has been thrown up by the sea.

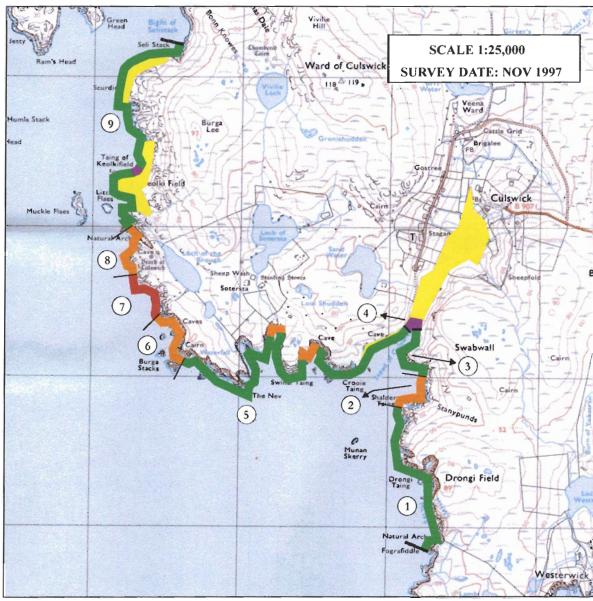
9 Keolki Field

HU 253 456

1.8 km

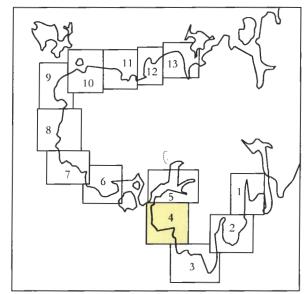
Stable

The majority of the coastline is stable with only localised erosion mainly from small streams. Just north of Keolki Field there is an accretion of wave thrown rubble. A few rills and gullies on the north side of Scurdie have been stabilised by vegetation.





DEFINITELY ACCRETING ACCRETING OR STABLE STABLE ERODING OR STABLE DEFINITELY ERODING ACCRETING AND ERODING NO ACCESS LAND BELOW 10M



INTRODUCTION TO MAP 5:

Seli Stack to Olas Voe

Built Heritage and Archaeology

The area covered by this map sheet extends from the mouth of Gruting Voe as far as Olas Voe. There is no modern coastal settlement in this area and it is not accessible by road; although there are several rough tracks which leading towards the coast. Sixteen sites were recorded in this area, three of which were already documented. Thirteen sites were considered vulnerable to erosion.

Of the five sites for which a date could be assigned with a reasonable degree of confidence, all belong to the 18th-20th century period. A large number of the dykes and enclosures labelled as being of indeterminate date may also belong to this period, although one large enclosure (W92) may have prehistoric origins. This enclosure is oval in shape, measuring 50m by 30m and has a watercourse running through its centre. It is defined by an earthen and stone bank, part of which is now lies beneath peat. Several other sites of indeterminate date are partially covered by peat. Sheep folds and enclosures form the most common site type in this area and it would appear that the area has been used exclusively as grazing land in the recent past. If other types of site of earlier date exist here, they are likely to be completely obscured beneath the deep deposits of peat.

In view of the fact that the area may have been more suitable for settlement in the past prior to the onset of peat development, and that it has not been disturbed or developed in recent times, it may be a suitable place in which to carry out a peat probing survey to locate buried sites.

Geology and Geomorphology

The topography of the area contained on this map sheet changes noticeably from that of the previous unit. The hinterland is less craggy, with more rolling hills, eventually running down to a gently sloping area along the south side of Olas Voe. To the north of Bight of Selistack the geology changes from granite to sandstone. This change may be partially responsible for the lower coastal edge and more gently sloping hinterland. The coastal edge is defined by eroding peat to the extreme eastern side, where the soils have changed from humic, peaty soils to pure peat which supports poor grazing. There are no fenced fields here.

Erosion Class

This unit covers the northern side around the Ward of Culswick. The land becomes lower lying towards the east. Although the whole unit suffers from erosion there is substantially more definite erosion further to the east.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 5

W80

HU 256 467

opposite Skerries of Tunasdaal/Tunas Dale Enclosures: SMR #3648

Indeterminate

Fair Nil

W81

HU 264 470

Hogan

Structure: dwelling and field

system 18th-20th C

Fair Nil

<u>W82</u>

HU 266 471

to east side of Hogan

Clearance cairns and earthen

bank

Indeterminate

Fair Nil

W83

HU 2686 4722 Inner Taing Enclosure Indeterminate

Poor Nil

W84

HU 2718 4715 near Hulma Taing Enclosures and dykes

18th-20th C Fair Nil

W85

HU 2729 4711 Olas Voe Sheep fold Indeterminate

Poor Nil W86

HU 2750 4701 Olas Voe

Sheep folds: probably equivalent to SMR #3637

18th-20th C Fair Nil

W87

HU 2757 4701 Olas Voe

Structural deposits (in section)

Indeterminate

Fair Monitor

W88

HU 2764 4698 Olas Voe Sheep fold

18th-20th C Fair

Nil

W89

HU 2779 4688 Olas Voe Enclosure 18th-20th C

Fair Nil

W90

HU 2792 4684 Olas Voe Enclosure Indeterminate

Fair Nil

W91

HU 278 466 Olas Voe Enclosure Indeterminate

Fair Survey W92

HU 2793 4672 Olas Voe

Enclosure Indeterminate

Good Survey

W93

HU 2806 4680

Olas Voe Dyke

Indeterminate

Fair Nil

W94

HU 2831 4675

Olas Voe

Enclosure: probably equivalent

to SMR #3638 Indeterminate

Fair Nil

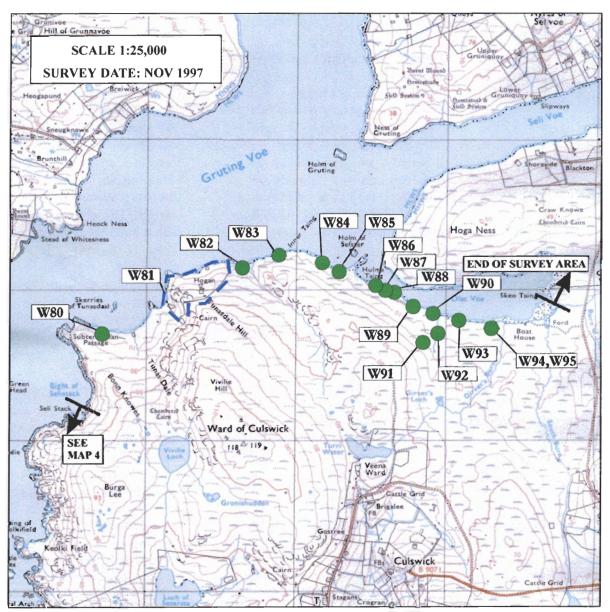
<u>W95</u>

HU 2831 4675 Olas Voe

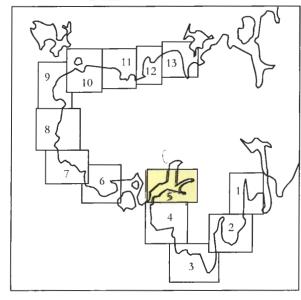
Noost

Indeterminate

Fair Nil



- PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT OR AREA OF DESIGNATED WRECK
- O 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



HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY MAP 5

1 Seli Stack

HU 256 465

0.8 km

Rock platform with negligible cover.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The coastal edge is just over five metres in most parts with a steeply to very steeply sloping hinterland. There are less rock outcrops and more soil cover of peaty podzols and peat. Grasses are of poor quality. There is a geological change to the north of Bight of Seli stack where granite gives way to sandstone.

2 Tunas Dale

HU 259 467

0.7 km

Sandy foreshore with two shingle and cobble storm beaches.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is partially visible.

This is a wide sweeping, sandy bay with a second smaller bay to the east. A storm beach at the centre of the first bay is made up of sub angular cobbles while the one in the second bay is made up of shingle and may be a berm or accreting ayre. The hinterland is part of a vast saucer-like vale which slopes moderately to the centre and more steeply to the sides. The south western side has deep peat, waterlogged peaty gleys to the centre then peaty podzols and rankers to the east. Grasses are of poor quality with rush and sedge in the waterlogged centre.

3 Hogan

HU 267 472

1.2 km

Rock platform with 30-80% shingle cover to the east.

Coastal edge is predominantly < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform becomes increasingly shingle covered towards the east and there is a small shallow cove midway along this section which almost covers the rock platform with gritty sand and shingle. The coastal edge is unfenced with a hinterland of improved grassland which is moderately to gently sloping. A stream bank has been revetted slightly. The croft at Hogan (W81) is derelict and soils are freely to imperfectly drained, improved peaty podzols which overly patchy areas of till.

Holm of Sefster

HU 280 468

2.0 km

Sandy foreshore with 80->90% shingle cover.

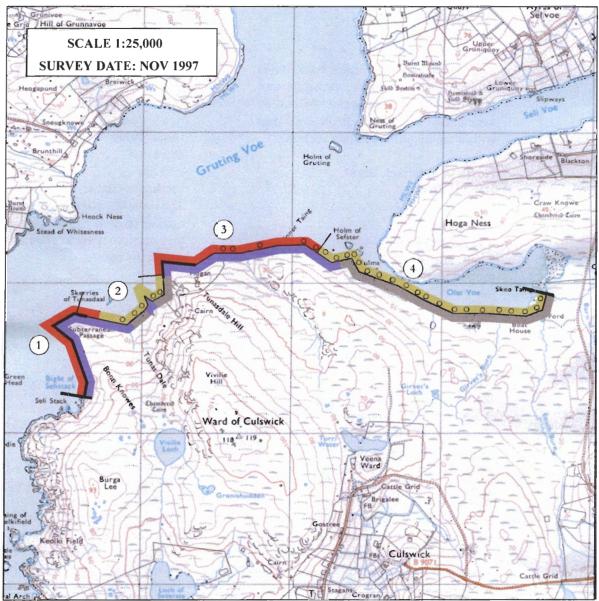
Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

Cobbles lie along the foreshore to the west of Hulma Taing. The Taing itself is made up of a tombola of gritty sand and a rock island. Cobbles lie to the east of the Taing which then grade into shingle. A small ayre of shingle lies three to four hundred metres east of the Taing. The hinterland is gently sloping with much peat with an underlying till. The peats of the hinterland are partially eroded with standing pools of water.

HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY

WESTSIDE MAP 5



FORESHORE



ROCK PLATFORM MAINLY SAND MAINLY ALLUVIAL/MARINE MUD MARSH

HINTERLAND

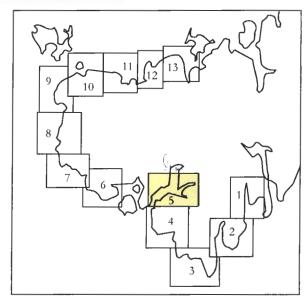


DRIFT ON VISIBLE ROCK RAISED BEACH ETC **BLOWN SAND** GLACIAL SAND/GRAVEL ALLUVIUM

MODIFIERS



LOW EDGE <5M CLIFF >5M MAN MADE BARRIER SHINGLE/STORM BANK HUMAN DISTURBANCE



EROSION CLASS MAP 5

1 Seli Stack

HU 256 463

0.18 km

Stable

This small stretch of stable coastline is a continuation from the previous unit with rills which have been stabilised by vegetation. There is perhaps more peat within the hinterland of this section.

2 North of Selistack Bight

HU 255 467

0.85 km

Eroding

The coastal edge is eroding both on the south and north eastern side of this promontory with more localised erosion on the head itself. The erosion runs along into the wide sweeping Bay of Tunas.

3 Tunas Dale

HU 260 468

0.5 km

Accreting and Eroding

The cobbles and gravels within the centre of the large bay appear to be accreting and are definitely migrating inland over the vegetation. A small spit of rock separates this bay from a second where there is accretion of gravels and some erosion of the coastal edge by the sea and partial erosion due to a stream. There is further localised erosion within the corner of the cove.

4 Tunasdale Head

HU 2615 4705

0.1 km

Stable

The south side of the promontory is quite stable.

5 Hogan

HU 265 472

0.5 km

Eroding to Stable

Only localised erosion is taking place along the coastal edge, none of which is severe. The edge is slightly more stable towards the east side of this section.

6 West of Inner Taing

HU 268 472

0.2 km

Accreting to Stable

A small area of gritty sands accreting against the coastal edge. There is no erosion of the edge itself.

7 Inner Taing

HU 271 472

0.55 km

Eroding to Stable

The coastal edge has only localised marine erosion to the west and east of this section with a good stable area within the centre.

8 Hulma Taing



0.3 km

Accreting to Stable

Within the eastern corner of this Taing there is an accretion of gritty sand running out towards a stable rocky point rather like a bar.

9 Olas Voe

HU 280 468

1.55 km

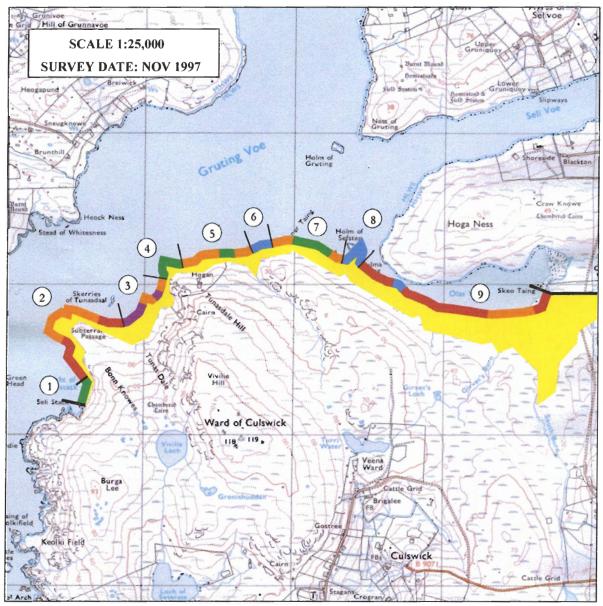
Eroding

There is marine erosion of the peat and underlying till to the west of Hulma Taing. This is almost continuous to Skeo Taing. There is only localised erosion around a boat house at the eastern end of the Voe. There is also a small accretion of gritty sand and shingle approximately 300 metres east of Hulma Taing which spreads out to the fore of the coastal edge in an apron. The coastal edge itself is not eroding at this one point.

1

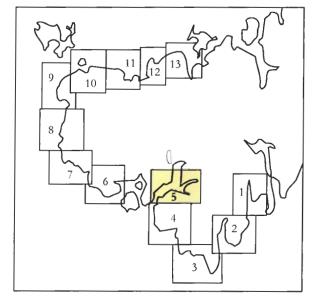
EROSION CLASS

WESTSIDE MAP 5





DEFINITELY ACCRETING ACCRETING OR STABLE STABLE ERODING OR STABLE DEFINITELY ERODING ACCRETING AND ERODING NO ACCESS LAND BELOW 10M



INTRODUCTION TO MAP 6:

Burrastow to Head of Keedon

Built Heritage and Archaeology

This map section commences on the north side of Gruting Voe, with a start point beyond Burrastow House. It extends through an uninhabited area with no access roads as far as the mouth of the Voe of Footabrough. It does not follow directly on from the previous map section since the inner coastline of Gruting Voe was not included in the remit of this survey.

A total of eight sites were identified, of which two had been previously documented. Four sites were considered vulnerable to erosion.

Two sites were identified as belonging to the 18th-20th century date range; a click mill and noost (W96) and a small rectangular building (W98), which may have been a boat shed. A further three sites, including clearance cairns and enclosures, are classed as indeterminate, but may also be of 18th-20th century date. Three sites of probable prehistoric date were identified. A large, previously documented, crescentic burnt mound (W102) at The Peak survives in good condition despite being surrounded by a later settlement and field system. Nearby, an orthostatic stone (W103) which stands to the centre of an 18th-20th century enclosure has been tentatively interpreted as a prehistoric standing stone. A t Uskie Geo, a curvilinear earthen bank defines a probable prehistoric house.

Geology and Geomorphology

The majority of the coastal edge contained within this map section is under 30m in height. To the south, the hinterland is grassed to the edge, in most instances. There is bare rock and crags on the more exposed areas to the north. The geology is composed mainly of sandstones with overlying peaty gleys and peaty rankers.

Erosion Class

Most of the eroding coastline faces directly south-west into the open sea. Of this area of coast, most is classed as *eroding to stable* where erosion is fairly localised. The south-easterly facing coast is generally quite stable.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 6

W96 (HU24NW 38)

HU 2230 4771

Burrastow

Click mill and noost

18th-20th C

Fair

Nil

W97

HU 223 475

Opposite Holm of Burrastow

Clearance cairns

Indeterminate

Fair

Nil

W98

HU 223 475

Opposite Holm of Burrastow

Structure

18th-20th C

Poor

Nil

W99

HU 217 475

Wards of Mucklure

Structures and dyke

Indeterminate

Fair/poor

Nil

W100

HU 2098 4719

Uskie Geo

Structure: dwelling?

3rd-1st mill BC

Fair

Survey

W101

HU 2088 4757

Corn Knowe

Enclosure

Indeterminate

Fair

Nil

W102 (HU24NW 13)

HU 2044 4784

The Peak/Littlure

Burnt mound: Scheduled (HS Index 6222

03HU204478)

3rd-1st mill BC

Good

Nil

W103

HU 2043 4792

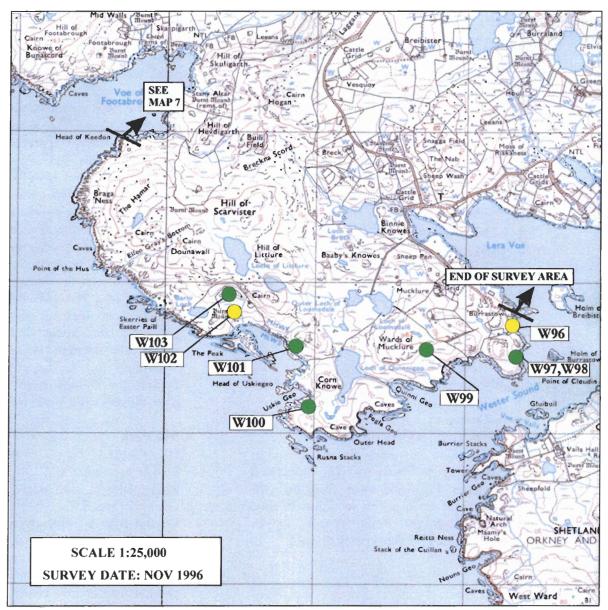
The Peak

Orthostat

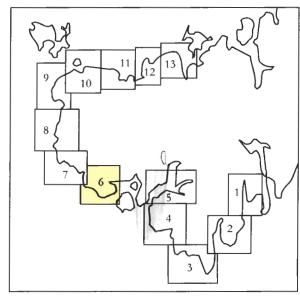
4th-3rd mill BC

Good

Survey



- PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT OR AREA OF DESIGNATED WRECK
- O MONUMENT FORMALLY PROPOSED BY HISTORIC SCOTLAND FOR SCHEDULING OR WRECK FOR DESIGNATION
- + LISTED HISTORIC BUILDING
- O UNDESIGNATED WRECK
- KNOWN ANCIENT MONUMENT
- SITE FOUND BY THIS SURVEY
- SITE COMPLEX



HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY MAP 6

1 Burrastow

HU 220 476

1.6 km

Rock platform with small, shingle and cobble coves, (one sand).

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible.

From the rock promontory there is a gravel cove with a garden wall close to the coastal edge. A second shingle cove lies two hundred metres further on and a small sandy cove this cobbles lies within Quinni Geo. The hinterland is moderately to steeply sloping in parts with an unfenced coastal edge. Soils are imperfectly drained peaty podzol and peat for the most part.

2 Fogla Geo

HU 212 470

1.2 km

Rock platform generally with less than 30% cover.

Coastal edge is predominantly > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

There are only a few discrete patches of cobbles within geos. The hinterland slopes down and away from the cliff face for much of this section with good grass cover. Soils appear to be imperfectly drained peaty gleys.

3 Uskie Geo

HU 208 476

1.15 km

Rock platform and sandy foreshore to north west with up to 80% cobble and boulder cover.

Coastal edge is predominantly < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform appears to broaden for most of this section. Most of the larger boulders are lying within Uskie Geo with more cobbles past the head of Uskie geo. The cover grades into shingle to the north west of the main cove and finally grades into a sandy foreshore in the far north western corner which runs onto the inner facing shore of The Peak. The coastal edge has a scalloped appearance past Head of Uskiegeo for about four hundred metres. The hinterland is fairly low with moderate to good grazing over imperfectly drained peaty gleys and more rankers to the north west.

4 The Peak

HU 195 481

2.2 km

Rock platform with <30% cover and one storm beach.

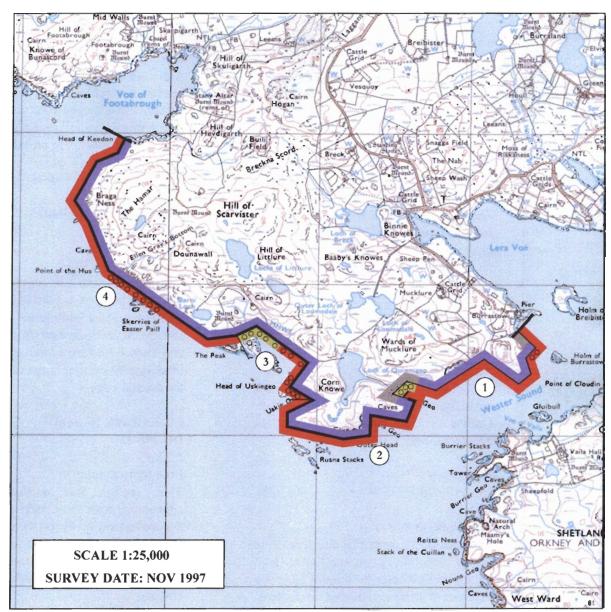
Coastal edge is generally > 5m to the south east and < 5m to the north west.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform is less broad than the previous unit and the coastal edge is far more exposed to a higher energy environment. The rocks tend to be stripped bare of soil within ten metres of the coastal edge with storm throw of shingle and broken rock scattered within 30 metres of the edge. To the west of Easter Pail there is a blasted area of bare rock and scattered shingle covering up to 40 metres of the hinterland and extending almost to Ellen Gray's Bottom. From here on there is more lichen on the rocks with more soil cover becoming common, in the form of rankers, by The Head of Keedon. The hinterland then comprises bare rock with some scattered grazing becoming more frequent to the north.

HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY

WESTSIDE MAP 6



FORESHORE



ROCK PLATFORM MAINLY SAND MAINLY ALLUVIAL/MARINE MUD MARSH

HINTERLAND

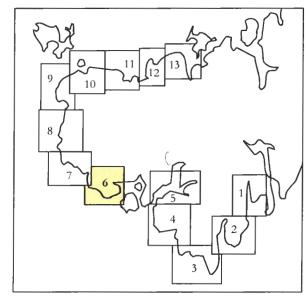


DRIFT DRIFT ON VISIBLE ROCK RAISED BEACH ETC BLOWN SAND GLACIAL SAND/GRAVEL ALLUVIUM

MODIFIERS



LOW EDGE <5M CLIFF >5M MAN MADE BARRIER SHINGLE/STORM BANK HUMAN DISTURBANCE



1 Burrastow

HU 223 477

0.35 km

Stable

The coastal edge is quite stable even though there is some movement of the foreshore shingle within the cove.

2 Wester Sound

HU 222 475

0.55 km

Eroding to Stable

Localised erosion due to both marine and subaerial agents. Within the corner of the cove there is definite erosion due to marine action. The head is quite stable.

3 Wards of Mucklure

HU 218 472

0.8 km

Stable

The coastline is stable and there is a small localised area of accretion within Quinni Geo where gravel is accumulating.

4 Fogla Geo

HU 210 470

1.75 km

Eroding to Stable

The erosion is primarily due to marine action especially so around Outer Head where rocks along the coastal edge are exposed with many devoid of lichens. There is also stream erosion into Uskie Geo where there is also rubble deposition from wave action ten metres into the hinterland.

5 North of Uskiegeo Head

HU 207 477

0.4 km

Eroding

The coastal edge is eroding on a broad front characterised by scalloped edging.

6 The Peak

HU 202 477

0.65 km

Eroding to Stable

Although there is a small area of headland which is stable the rest of the section has exposed rock and areas of storm thrown rubble most of which is angular and appears to have been ripped from the coastal edge. The erosion becomes worse towards the north.

7 Skerries of Easter Paill

HU 198 480

0.35 km

Eroding

Leading on from the previous section this coastline has a blasted appearance where boulders, splinters of rock and shingle have been torn from the edge and thrown into the hinterland. There is little vegetation within twenty metres of the coastal edge.

8 Ellen Gray's Bottom

HU 196 482

0.5 km

Eroding to Stable

This section has a half blasted appearance with some rocks thrown into the hinterland however there are some lichens growing on stable areas of the coastal edge. There is also some soil creep on the lower reaches of The Hamar.

9 Braga Ness

HU 194 486

0.55 km

Stable

A section of fairly stable coastline with only weak areas of soil creep along the hinterland and very localised edge erosion.

10 Head of Keedon (West)

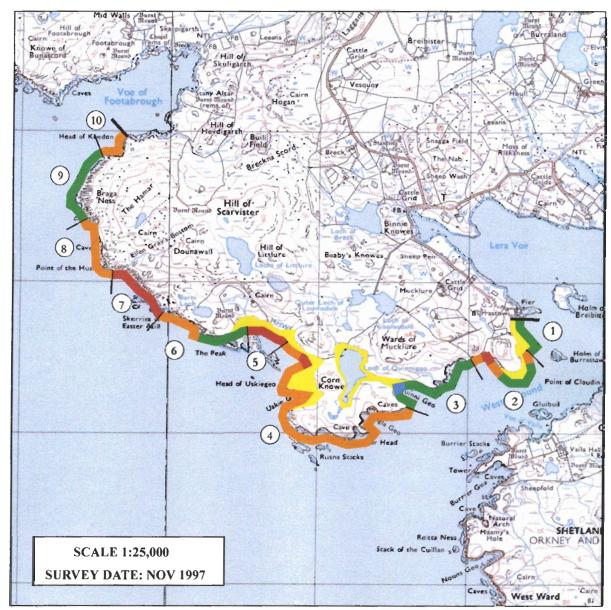
HU 196 489

0.25 km

Eroding to Stable

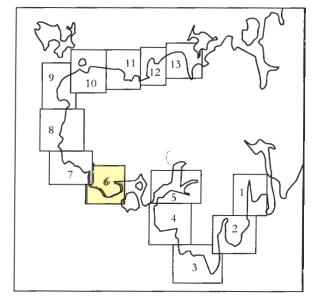
The localised erosion of the coastal edge becomes much more widespread towards Keedon Head.

WESTSIDE MAP 6





DEFINITELY ACCRETING ACCRETING OR STABLE STABLE ERODING OR STABLE DEFINITELY ERODING ACCRETING AND ERODING NO ACCESS LAND BELOW 10M



INTRODUCTION TO MAP 7:

Head of Keedon to Giddigill

Built Heritage and Archaeology

This map section covers the area from the south side of the Voe of Footabrough, past Mid Walls and along past the Loch of Watsness. The area is sparsely settled, with a cluster of modern houses at Mid Walls and further settlement around Swinister. The modern roads in the area do not extend to the coast. Parts of the coastal zone are enclosed by modern fences, but much of the area is unenclosed.

The four sites in this area were all previously documented; one site, **W104**, is a scheduled ancient monument. All are considered vulnerable to erosion. The scheduled site, a broch at Footabrough, lies on the coast edge and is actively eroding; up to one third of the structure has been removed or damaged by the encroachment of the sea. What remains is recognisable as a broch, standing over 1m high, with a rubble-filled interior. A sheep crue has been fashioned out of loose rubble to the landward side of the broch and further stone robbing and small 'diggings' have caused damage to this part of the monument.

At Watsness, a massive earthen bank (W107) extends between the shore of the loch and the cliffs. It stands to 2.5m high, is 7m in width, and is eroding at both its landward (loch) and seaward end. An assessment excavation carried out at this site in 1997 indicated that boundary as it is presently constituted was formed over time with successive enhancements of soil. The site has not been dated. It is argued in the site Data Structures Report (Purdy, forthcoming) that the earthwork is of probable prehistoric date.

Geology and Geomorphology

The Voe of Footabrough gives some shelter to the coastal edge from the full strength of the sea. The bay is low lying with small hummocky hills. To the north, the coastal edge is exposed once again and has a blasted appearance resulting from wave throw. The cliff height increases after the Wick of Watsness; the land runs down away from the coastal edge and so shelters the hinterland from wave throw. Soils tend to be rankers or poorly drained peaty gleys supporting moderate grazing.

Erosion Class

Most of the coastline has some degree of erosion, even within the Voe of Footabrough. The more stable section of coastline to the north is west facing. Here, the high cliff faces and apparently more resistant rock slopes down on the landward side, protecting the hinterland vegetation from exposure.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 7

W104 (HU24NW 27)

HU 2001 4952

Voe of Footabrough

Broch: Scheduled (HS Index 2089 03HU200495), SMR #2420

1st mill BC-1st mill AD

Fair

Monitor

W105 (HU14NE 1)

HU 1981 4960

Mid Walls

Chapel and burial ground: SMR #2457

10th-14th C

Not located

W106 (HU15SE 17)

HU 176 502

Wick of Watsness

Enclosures, noost and click mills

18th-20th C

Fair/poor

Nil

W107 (HU15SE 20)

HU 173 507

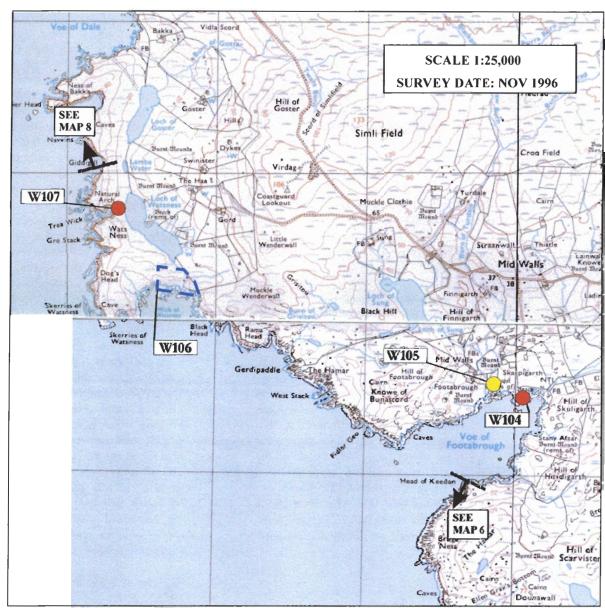
Loch of Watsness

Two earthen banks: Scheduled (HS Index 5524 03HU173507)

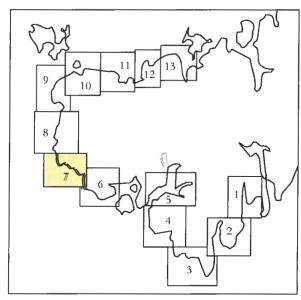
Indeterminate

Good

Monitor



- PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT OR AREA OF DESIGNATED WRECK
- OMONUMENT FORMALLY PROPOSED BY HISTORIC SCOTLAND FOR SCHEDULING OR WRECK FOR DESIGNATION
- + LISTED HISTORIC BUILDING
- UNDESIGNATED WRECK
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- SITE FOUND BY THIS SURVEY
- SITE COMPLEX



HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY MAP 7

1 Head of Keedon

HU 200 491

0.7 km

Rock platform with two cobbled storm beaches.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible. A rock platform with two shingle and cobbled storm beaches within two of the three small coves along this section. The soils are poorly drained behind the storm beaches with peaty gleyed soils covering much of the hinterland. The hinterland is generally slightly to moderately sloping with unfenced rough grazing.

2 Voe of Footabrough

HU 200 495

0.5 km

Predominantly a sandy foreshore.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

The sandy foreshore has a small area of rock platform visible at the centre of the bay, where a small broch lies on a rocky outcrop of the hinterland splitting the beach into two. More shingle lies to the west. A high cobbled storm beach lies along the coastal edge at the top of each sandy foreshore, the cobbles are well rounded as opposed to those of the next section. A stream runs into the bay on the west side. The hinterland is low lying with moderate grazing and some fenced fields. Soils are poorly drained peaty gleys and peat.

3 Footabrough

HU 196 493

0.7 km

Rock platform with 50-70% cobble cover. Coastal edge is ≤ 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible. The majority of the cobble cover lies to the east of the section and are quite angular in contrast to the preceding section. To the west a semi-collapsed cave is developing into a small geo. The hinterland is moderately sloping with a few craggy outcrops of rock. Soils are imperfectly drained peaty gleys and rankers under moderate grazing, unfenced.

4 Fidlar Geo

HU 186 496

2.0 km

Rock platform with only slight cover.

Coastal edge is generally > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The coast is far more exposed and has far more bare rock running back into the hinterland, especially so at The Hamar. Here the rocks have been blasted clean of vegetation by the sea with much rubble thrown up to 30 metres back into the hinterland. This probably constitutes a storm beach with more obvious storm beaches further west. Many of the rocks, cobbles and boulder sizes, are angular. Vegetation is sparse with more lichens on rocks at the far eastern side of the section. Soils are predominantly peaty rankers.

5 Wick of Watsness

HU 177 502

0.4 km

Rock platform with 30-70% cobble cover.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

There is some cobble cover of a rock platform which extends out to 100 metres. Glacial tills can be seen to overlie the bedrock along this section of coastal edge. The till is up to two metres in depth. Three streams cut into the coastal edge with a horizontal mill lying within the hinterland. The hinterland is moderately sloping to the shore. Soils are poorly drained peaty gleys supporting grasses, sedges and rush.

6 Skerries of Watsness

HU 172 504

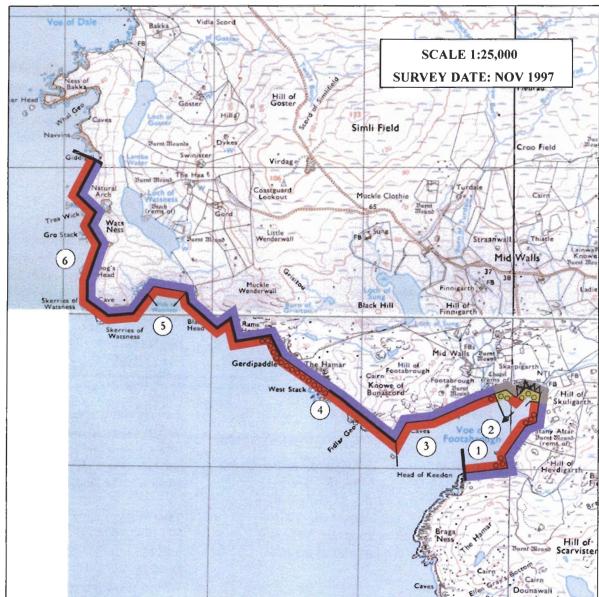
1.98 km

Rock platform with < 30% cobble cover.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The coastal edge rises to over five metres with the hinterland sloping moderately to steeply away from the coastal edge and landwards. To the south the rocks have been stripped of most lichens. The height of the cliffs and the negative slope gives stability to the coastal edge. There are three deep indents in the coastal edge to the north of this section. There is some shingle and cobble within Tree Wick where up to two metres of till is visible underlying up to 50 cm of imperfectly drained organic gley soil. The soils elsewhere are peaty gleys with rankers to the south.



FORESHORE



ROCK PLATFORM MAINLY SAND MAINLY ALLUVIAL/MARINE MUD MARSH

HINTERLAND

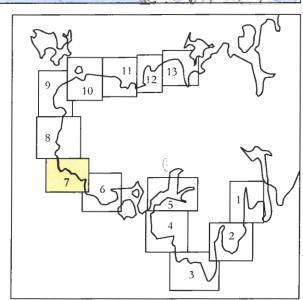


DRIFT DRIFT ON VISIBLE ROCK RAISED BEACH ETC BLOWN SAND GLACIAL SAND/GRAVEL ALLUVIUM

MODIFIERS



LOW EDGE <5M CLIFF >5M MAN MADE BARRIER SHINGLE/STORM BANK HUMAN DISTURBANCE



1 Head of Keedon

HU 200 490

 $0.7 \, \text{km}$

Eroding to Stable

Localised erosion from marine action and some subaerial erosion due to water flow and stream erosion. There is also an accretion of gravels and cobbles in the cove west of Keedon however these are migrating landwards.

2 Stany Alter

HU 2015 4940

0.4 km

Eroding

The low coastal edge has a characteristic scalloped edge where erosion is taking place. There is also about 80-100 metres of coastline where accretion of rounded cobbles is taking place to the east of the broch. These do not appear to be migrating landwards.

3 Voe of Footabrough (North)

HU 193 493

1.55 km

Eroding to Stable

Localised erosion is found throughout the section although points of notable erosion are around the broch and by a stream below the chapel site (W105) and close to an eroding pier. There is landslip into a geo just east of the head.

4 The Hamar

HU 186 497

0.9 km

Eroding

This is another blasted area where splinters of rocks and boulders have been broken from the coastal edge and thrown inland with little vegetation within the hinterland.

5 Rams Head

HU 181 500

0.45 km

Eroding to Stable

There is less severe erosion to the north of the head with some stable areas of lichen covered rocks *in-situ* although the vegetation is still quite sparse.

6 Wick of Watsness

HU 1780 5015

0.5 km

Eroding

Marine action is eroding the softer till sediment covering of the rocks. Up to two metres of this till lies over the bedrock. There is also some stream erosion within the hinterland.

7 Skerries of Watsness

HU 1730 5005

0.8 km

Eroding to Stable

Localised erosion becomes much more common north of the head where some of the rocks have the half blasted appearance of erosion. Lichens have colonised much of the coastal edge.

8 Dog's Head

HU 172 505

0.5 km

Stable

A fairly stable area where the sheer cliff face appears to have a more resistant nature to sea erosion. A deep geo to the north of Dog's Head has some localised erosion at the landward end.

9 Tree Wick

HU 1732 5078

0.08 km

Eroding

Within the cove of Tree Wick there is fierce erosion of the deep, soft till. This erosion is cutting further in towards the Loch of Watsness and also beginning to erode a broad dyke. The sides of Tree Wick are fairly stable.

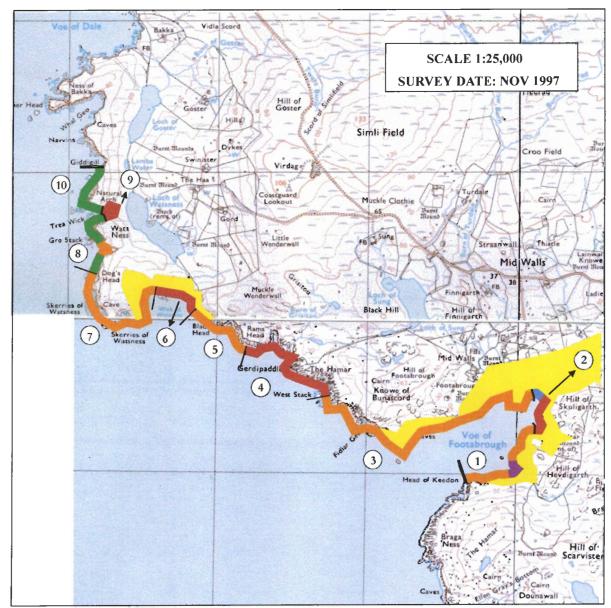
10 Giddigill (South)

HU 171 508

0.4 km

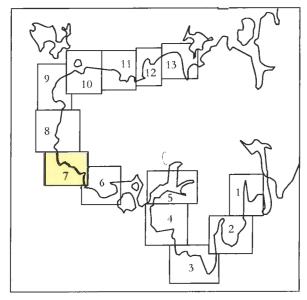
Stable

The cliff faces are quite stable with only minor rock fall and soil erosion by the edge.





DEFINITELY ACCRETING ACCRETING OR STABLE STABLE ERODING OR STABLE DEFINITELY ERODING ACCRETING AND ERODING NO ACCESS LAND BELOW 10M



INTRODUCTION TO MAP 8:

Giddigill to Erne's Stack

Built Heritage and Archaeology

From above the Loch of Watsness, almost to the Bay of Deepdale, there is little modern settlement other than a small cluster of houses at Dale, which are located away from the coast. Several houses, with their associated field systems and noosts (W110), which lie closer to the coast are now abandoned and in ruins. Dale is served by a modern road linking it with Mid Walls to the south and Sandness to the north, but neither stretch of the road runs close to the coast and the coastline is accessible only by foot.

Of the eleven sites noted in this area, four had been recorded previously; nine sites were considered vulnerable to erosion. Other than the remains of crofting activity at Dale (W110), there were no sites of the 18th-20th century period found within the coastal zone. The majority of sites identified in this area are considered to be of prehistoric or early historic date. They include three enclosed promontories which have been previously noted (W109, W113 & W117). That at Weinnia Ness has a series of stout banks and defences, along with probable structures, and may be a fort of Iron Age date.

The very slight remains of a field system and associated houses of probable prehistoric date lie on a sloping hillside at Mu Ness, overlooking the Voe of Dale (W111). The four houses are small, oval or sub-circular in shape and defined by earthen banks. A similar complex of structures with traces of associated boundaries, found at Runkie Head (W116), are more obscured by rough vegetation.

Geology and Geomorphology

Other than a small section within the Voe of Dale, the coastal edge stands well over 5m and is deeply indented. A hill, long since eroded, must once have stood along the southern section from Skerries of Watsness to Barrier Head. This is reflected in the slope which runs away from the coastal edge and down to the hinterland. Apart from this section, the slopes run down towards the coastal edge. The area to the north of Dale is dominated by only two hills, Blouk Field and Dale Hill. Deep tills are exposed within this unit especially to the north at Sel Ayre where there are at least two tills evident. Peat dominates the higher ground which is unfenced and used as rough grazing.

Erosion Class

The coastal edge here is far more stable than that of the previous unit. The height of the cliff faces tend to slow down landward erosion, however, with the effect of rendering the erosion less apparent to observation. Where there are greater depths of the softer tills, within Voe of Dale and to the north around Sel Ayre, these are easily eroded when exposed.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 8

W108

HU 172 515 Ness of Bakka Earthen banks; mill Indeterminate

Good Survey

W109 (HU15SE 8)

HU 1690 5145 Burrier Head

Promontory fort: SMR #2470 1st mill BC-1st mill AD

Fair/poor Monitor

<u>W110</u>

HU 1742 5231 Voe of Dale

Field system and noosts

18th-20th C Fair/poor Nil

W111

HU 171 522 Mu Ness

Field system and structures

3rd-1st mill BC

Fair Survey

W112 (HU15SE 9)

HU 1691 5216 Clett Rock Structures 1st mill BC/1st mill AD Not inspected

W113

HU 1682 5242

Mu Ness

Enclosed promontory: possibly equivalent to

SMR #2476

1st mill BC/1st mill AD

Good Survey W114

HU 1695 5267 The Groud

Two orthostatic stones

Indeterminate

Good Nil

W115

HU 1696 5275 The Groud Three earthen banks Indeterminate

Fair Nil

W116

HU 1739 5312 Runkie Head Field system and possible structures 3rd-1st mill BC

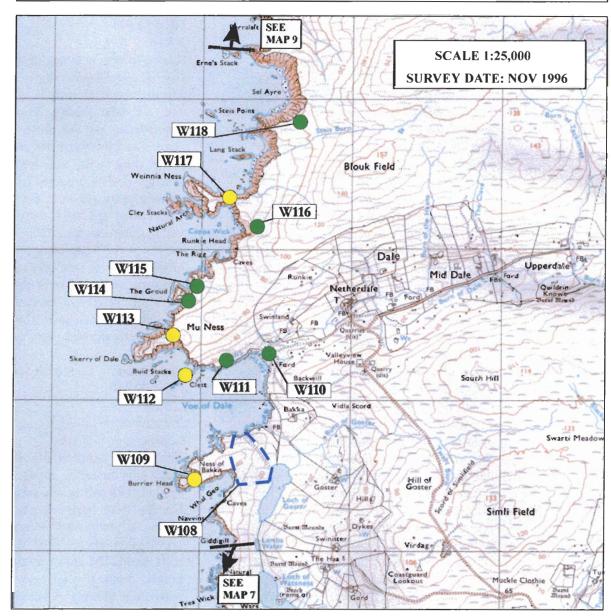
Fair Survey

W117 (HU15SE 10)

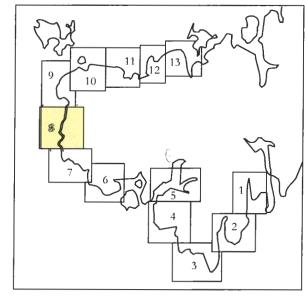
HU 171 533
Weinnia Ness
Defended promontory: SMR #2474
1st mill BC/1st mill AD
Fair
Survey

W118

HU 1759 5385 Steis Point Earthen banks Indeterminate Fair Survey



- PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT OR AREA OF DESIGNATED WRECK
- OMONUMENT FORMALLY PROPOSED BY HISTORIC SCOTLAND FOR SCHEDULING OR WRECK FOR DESIGNATION
- + LISTED HISTORIC BUILDING
- UNDESIGNATED WRECK
- NOWN ANCIENT MONUMENT
- SITE FOUND BY THIS SURVEY
- SITE COMPLEX



HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY MAP 8

1 Gidigill

HU 170 516

2.2 km

Rock platform with slight cobble cover. Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

Within Whal Geo there is slight sand and cobble cover of the rock platform. The coastal edge is generally over thirty metres and slopes away from the edge down to the hinterland. The slope takes on a more normal gradient to the north and runs towards the edge from the hinterland. Soils tend to be freely or imperfectly drained along the coastal edge and poorly drained towards the hinterland. Rough grazing is dominant.

2 Voe of Dale

HU 174 523

0.3 km

Rock platform with > 60% sand and cobble cover.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

A large amount of sand covers some of the rock platform. Gravel with a few cobbles on the upper foreshore and coastal edge form a storm beach. The hinterland has a form which is reminiscent of a glacial outwash valley with flat terraced sides. The small fields further back from the hinterland are fertile and cultivable with arable crops in two. Soils are imperfectly drained improved gleys or peaty gleys where inaccessible to machinery.

3 Mu Ness

HU 172 530

3.8 km

Rock platform with negligible cover.

Coastal edge is generally > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

coastal edge rises almost immediately on the north side of the cove. The hinterland has a moderate to steep slope with unfenced, moderate grazing. Soils are poorly to imperfectly drained peaty gleys. In the cove before The Groud the soils become rankers with lichen covered rock into twenty metres of the hinterland. Discrete areas of talus lie over small areas of the rock platform north of The Rigg and to the north of Weinnia Ness. The grasses become more coarse to the north with more poorly drained peaty gleys.

4 Steis Point

HU 176 541

1.0 km

Rock platform.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

Deep tills underlie almost all of this section. The soft tills have given rise to landslip with part of the hinterland having a hummocky appearance from previous, now stabilised, landslip and soils creep. The soils are imperfectly to poorly drained peaty gleys and peat with rough grazing. A buried soil below the till is thought to be of Hoxnian age, i.e. 35000 to 40000 years BP, (Mykura and Phemister, 1976).



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 Gidigill

HU 170 516

1.8 km

Eroding to Stable

Most of the coastline is stable however there are areas where localised erosion is more prevalent such as to the south and within Whal Geo and to the north west of Ness of Bakka where there is some erosion of the upper coastal edge. The hinterland is quite stable including a mill and stream to the north of this section.

2 Voe of Dale

HU 1745 5220

0.6 km

Eroding

Tills which lies over this area are being eroded at the coastal edge. There is also some landslip to the south. There is a small area within the NE corner of this cove where there is some accretion of sand and shingle. It is accompanied by migration of the larger cobbles inland.

3 Voe of Dale (North)

HU 171 522

0.45 km

Eroding to Stable

The coastal edge is fairly stable to the north of the Voe. Erosion increases to the west.

4 Mu Ness

HU 166 523

0.8 km

Stable

The coastal edge and hinterland are very stable to the south of the Ness and Mu Ness itself appears quite stable at present.

5 The Groud

HU 170 528

1.2 km

Eroding to Stable

Just to the NE of Mu Ness there is some localised erosion along the edge of the cove. The coastal edge becomes much more stable at The Groud and further north with only minor localised erosion. Within Coppa Wick the edge has had considerable landslip at some point but is now fairly stable with some erosion of the talus along the foreshore and subaerial erosion towards the upper slopes of the cones.

6 Weinnia Ness

HU 173 533

1.25 km

Stable

There is minor erosion of small localised areas of the soil along the coastal edge.

7 Lang Stack

HU 175 538

0.7 km

Eroding to Stable

the main areas of erosion are due to landslip, much of which appears to be fairly stable although may collapse at any time. Within the hinterland there are also areas where soil has been eroded by sheet erosion of water flow. The coastal edge is also eroding on both sides of the knife edged point. To the north of the point the hinterland is quite hummocky close to the coastal edge due to past landslip.

8 Sel Ayre

HU 176 542

0.3 km

Eroding

The hummocky hinterland close to the coastal edge continues around the bay a little further from the previous section however there is erosion where the deep tills and Ipswichian sediments exist. This is accompanied by large landslip areas and some gullying of the hinterland.

9 Sel Ayre (North)

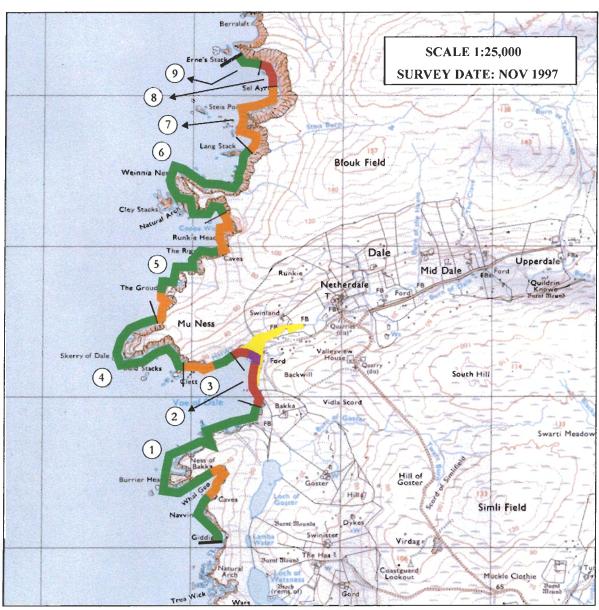
HU 174 543

0.2 km

Stable

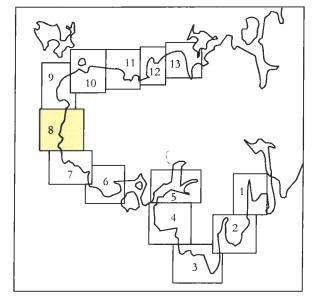
The north side of the cove becomes quite stable as the tills grade out and a very thin till layer or rock underlies the soil.

WESTSIDE MAP 8





DEFINITELY ACCRETING ACCRETING OR STABLE STABLE ERODING OR STABLE DEFINITELY ERODING ACCRETING AND ERODING NO ACCESS LAND BELOW 10M



INTRODUCTION TO MAP 9:

Erne's Stack to Humabery

Built Heritage and Archaeology

There is no modern coastal settlement in this area until Huxter is reached. Up to this point, the high sea cliffs are bounded by steep hills and unenclosed moorland and access is possible only by foot. On the north coast from Huxter, to Garth and beyond, the road runs parallel to the coast with much of the modern settlement focused upon it. The coastal strip is subdivided into a series of field systems, bounded by a substantial head dyke which extends across the entire width of the headland. Older houses, some occupied and some abandoned and in ruins, focus on these boundaries.

Thirteen sites were encountered in this area. Two of these sites had been documented previously; nine were considered to be vulnerable to erosion. The majority of the sites have not been assigned a date range. They include five earthen or stone land boundaries, a ruinous structure (W126) which may be a cairn but could alternatively be a skeo, some indistinct mounds (W119) and a possible noost (W123).

One prehistoric house site was identified at Deep Dale (W120). Built on an artificial platform cut into the hillside, this house has an outer wall formed from earth and stone. Inside, a heap of rubble which covers the floor may be the remains of internal partitions. Peat has developed over part of the structure.

At Huxter, a series of click mills (W128) were built to utilise the outflow of water from the nearby Loch. Three of the mills are intact, the site of a fourth mill lies nearby. The mills, which are listed category 'B' buildings, are currently being repaired and conserved for public access.

Geology and Geomorphology

There is a dramatic change of topography within this unit. The high hills to the south with the well named Deep Dale changes with an abrupt delineation, marked by the Melby Fault, to a lower and gently sloping almost flat topography to the north. The rocks of the latter area, the Melby Formation, are composed mainly of soft sandstones with some siltstone. There appears to be more deep peat within this area than in previous units.

Erosion Class

As with the topography there is a very marked difference in the erosion classes where the Melby Fault arises. To the south of the fault the coastal edge is much higher with steep sided hills and the Sandness and Walls rock formations and to the north the land is flatter over the Melby formation. Generally the Melby formation contains more of the softer sediments than the does the Sandness and Walls formation of sandstones. So there is more erosion to the north of this fault than to the south.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 9

W119

HU 1782 5470 Ayre of Deepdale

Mounds Indeterminate Fair

Monitor/survey

W120

HU 1822 5468 Deep Dale

Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC

Good Survey

W121

HU 1784 5484 Deep Dale

Human burials: SMR #2478

Indeterminate
Not Located

W122

HU 171 555 The Cup Earthen bank

Indeterminate

Fair Nil

W123

HU 1665 5623 Hack Field

Structure: possible noost Indeterminate

Fair Monitor

W124

HU 1681 5634 Rotten Craig Drystone dyke Indeterminate

Fair Survey W125

HU 168 564 Rotten Craig Earthen bank Indeterminate W131

HU 177 575

18th-20th C

Fair/poor

Nil

Noosts and kail yards

Clumpers

Fair Survey

W126

HU 1694 5663 Pobie Skeo

Structure: skeo or cairn

Indeterminate

Fair Survey

W127

HU 170 568 Loch of Huxter Earthen bank Indeterminate

Fair Survey

W128 (HU15NE 19,25,26, 27)

HU 172 571 Huxter

Click mills: Listed 'B'

18th-20th C Good Nil

W129

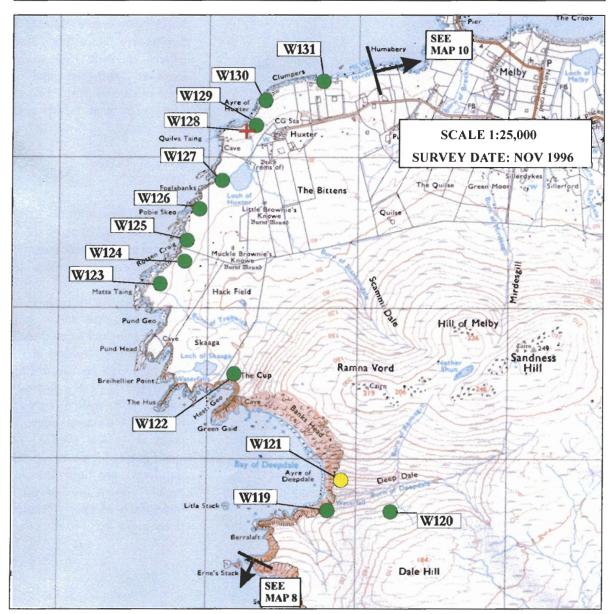
HU 172 572 Ayre of Huxter Earthen bank Indeterminate Fair/poor Survey

W130

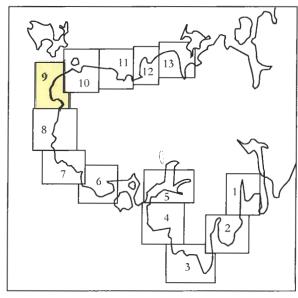
Walls: Map 9 HU 1735 5737 Ayre of Huxter Structure: dwelling

18th-20th C Fair Nil

sites vulnerable to erosion are underlined



- PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT
 OR AREA OF DESIGNATED WRECK
- OMONUMENT 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



HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY MAP 9

1 Erne's Stack

HU 178 550

3.25 km

Rock platform with some cobble and boulder cover to the north.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

The rock platform appears to be slightly more coherent than other areas of the coastline giving the impression of a rock shelf within the Ayre of Deepdale. Cobbles lie within the Ayre of Deepdale where the stream drops three metres to the foreshore. Some boulders and scree material lies at the foot of Banks Head. The hinterland is steep to very steeply sloping with some gullying into the Burn of Deepdale. There are varied amounts of till lying beneath the soils from 0.1-1.5 metres in depth. Further to the north the hinterland has a more hummocky appearance especially so as the hinterland drops from over 180 metres to less than 50 metres by The Cup. Soils tend to be imperfectly drained for the most part with freely drained soils on the steeper slopes. Peat and peaty podzol along the high ground and slopes respectively with peaty gleys in the lower lying troughs. Rough grazing dominates although heather areas lie to the north of Deepdale.

2 Pund Head

HU 168 565

2.0 km

Rock platform with areas of 30-70% cobble cover.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

There is little cover of the rock platforms on the more exposed heads although there are areas of cover within the geos. The cover tends to comprise of angular broken rock which is being eroded from the softer siltstone and sandstone laminations within the Melby Formation. The cover becomes more pronounced to the northern end of this section with large broken boulders. The hinterland is flat or very gently sloping with the short grasses growing right up

to the coastal edge. Soils are imperfectly drained further back from a two to five metre freely draining edge. There is little till underlying the exposed sections and soils are predominantly peaty podzol to peaty gleys with peat further back into the hinterland.

3 Ayre of Huxter

HU 176 575

1.0 km

Rock platform with 50-90% cobble and boulder cover.

Coastal edge is predominantly < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible

The rock platform has more cover towards the east and is predominantly made up boulder sized material. West of Clumpers the boulders and cobbles are part of a high energy storm beach. The hinterland is gently sloping with some fenced and walled fields within 10 metres of the coastal edge. The restored mills at Huxter (W128) lie within a small grassed gully to the west. Most of the fields are cultivable although are mainly down to grass. Soils are imperfectly to poorly drained gleys and peaty gleys.



FORESHORE



ROCK PLATFORM
MAINLY SAND
MAINLY ALLUVIAL/MARINE MUD
MARSH

HINTERLAND

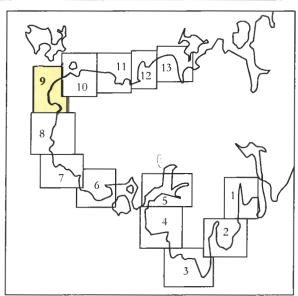


DRIFT DRIFT ON VISIBLE ROCK RAISED BEACH ETC BLOWN SAND GLACIAL SAND/GRAVEL ALLUVIUM

MODIFIERS



LOW EDGE <5M CLIFF >5M MAN MADE BARRIER SHINGLE/STORM BANK HUMAN DISTURBANCE



1 Erne's Stack

HU 175 546

0.95 km

Stable

The coastal edge is relatively stable with only minor erosion of soil at the extreme edges.

2 Deepdale

HU 179 548

0.2 km

Eroding to Stable

The coastal edge drops down to the stream. On the south side of the valley slope, within the hinterland area, there is deep soft till which has led to gullying. Some have been stabilised by vegetation while others are actively eroding due to subaerial action. The coastal edge has only local erosion at this point and increasing to the north. The north side of the vale has little erosion of the hinterland.

3 Ayre of Deepdale (North)

HU 1790 5505

0.3 km

Eroding

There is erosion of the cliff face and coastal edge due to marine action with erosion on the scree slopes.

4 Ramna Vord

HU 175 554

1.25 km

Stable

Although there is scree around the base of much of the cliff the material has been stabilised to some degree by vegetation. The coastal edge at the top of the cliff and the hinterland is also stable. To the west of The Cup there is minor rockfall from the cliff face and minor erosion on the hinterland where a hummocky terrain leads down to the much lower and flat side of the Melby Fault.

5 The Hus

HU 166 557

1.2 km

Eroding

The section has been classed as eroding although there is a small stable length of perhaps 60 metres at Breihellier Point and over 100 metres on the south side of Pund Head. Erosion consists of landslip by The Hus, localised coastal edge erosion to the north of The Hus and larger scale erosion of coastal edge elsewhere. At Pund Geo softer laminations of shale at the base of the cliff are being undercut leading to collapse of the coastal edge. Large sandstone blocks have dropped from the cliff face and are being pounded against the cliff base to the south of Matta Taing.

6 Matta Taing

HU 168 564

0.8 km

Eroding to Stable

This is similar to the previous section, however the erosion is more localised with some intervening stable areas. A small section at Rotten Craig is perhaps eroding over a greater area than the coastal edge to each side.

7 Foglabanks

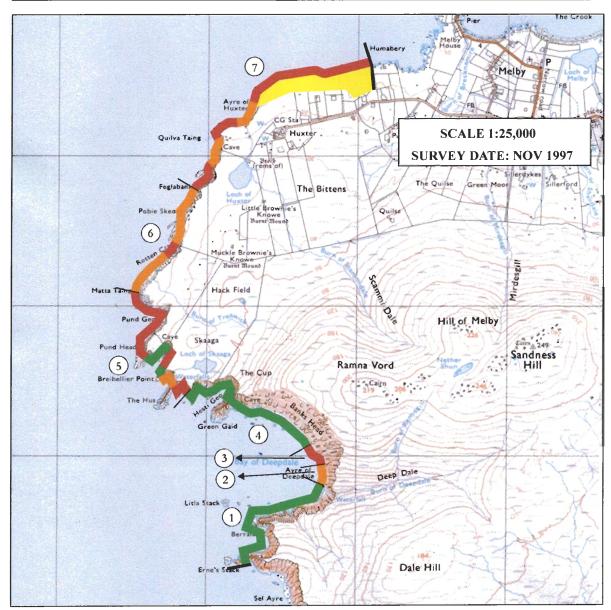
HU 174 574

1.55 km

Eroding

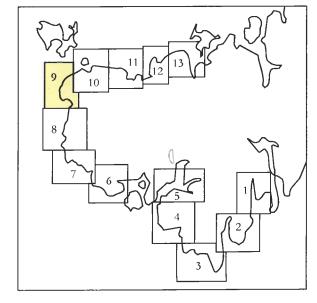
There is substantial coastal edge erosion due to marine action along the whole length of this section with only two areas where there is less erosion: Just south of Quilva Taing and within the Ayre of Huxta by the emerging stream. Elsewhere the coastline is characterised by eroding coastal edge with many boulders and cobbles, especially east of Clumpers, being implemented by the sea in breaking the cliff base. Where the rock debris has accumulated there is some degree of protection of the coastal edge in localised areas. Fences have been moved back from the coastal edge by two to five metres east of Clumpers.

WESTSIDE MAP 9





DEFINITELY ACCRETING ACCRETING OR STABLE STABLE ERODING OR STABLE DEFINITELY ERODING ACCRETING AND ERODING NO ACCESS LAND BELOW 10M



INTRODUCTION TO MAP 10:

Humabery to Bay of Garth

Built Heritage and Archaeology

From Melby to Garth modern settlement lies inland from the high coastal edge. The area is served by the A9071 road and by several smaller roads and tracks leading to settlements which are set back from the coast.

Five sites were recorded in this area; one had been noted previously. All five sites are considered to be vulnerable to erosion. Two sites are of 18th-20th century date. Melby House (W132), built around 1800, was the seat of the Scott family, proprietors of the Melby Estate until 1893. It is a listed category C building. A group of four disused noosts (W133) are cut into the dunes at the head of the sandy beach at The Crook.

Three large earthen banks of unknown date form land divisions between Neap of Norby and Garth (W134, W135 & W136). They run inland from the coast at a point where the land drops steeply inland away from high cliffs.

Geology and Geomorphology

The softer sedimentary rocks of the Melby Formation gives way to metamorphic and plutonic rocks to the east of Melby. This becomes more noticeable to the east of Neap of Norby, where the coastal edge rises to well over five metres. From here, the hinterland slopes down away from the coastal edge for most of the section. Sandy foreshores lie within three coves, the best represented within The Crook. Within this bay, the hinterland is also composed of much blown sand which has now stabilised. The coastal edge along the Sand of Gord is quite rugged and fairly unstable. Marine erosion has exposed at least two different rock types along this cliff face. Tills are more evident towards the eastern side of this unit.

Erosion Class

The major part of the coastline is being eroded, while the sandstones give way to more volcanic and metamorphic rocks, their vulnerability to erosion by the sea is similar. Of note within this unit are the large areas of sand, and the substantial area of land stabilised by man-made defences within The Crook.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 10

<u>W132</u> (HU15NE 24)

HU 1865 5785

Melby

Melby House: Listed 'B'

18th-20th C

Good

Nil

W133

HU 1975 5794

The Crook

Noosts

18th-20th C

Fair

Nil

W134

HU 198 581

Neap of Norby

Earthen bank

Indeterminate

Fair

Survey

W135

HU 202 579

Sand of Gord

Earthen bank

Indeterminate

Fair

Survey

<u>W136</u>

HU 211 580

The Kame

Earthen bank

Indeterminate

Fair/poor

Survey



- PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT OR AREA OF DESIGNATED WRECK
- O MONUMENT FORMALLY PROPOSED BY HISTORIC SCOTLAND FOR SCHEDULING OR WRECK FOR DESIGNATION
- + LISTED HISTORIC BUILDING
- O UNDESIGNATED WRECK
- KNOWN ANCIENT MONUMENT
- SITE FOUND BY THIS SURVEY
- SITE COMPLEX



HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY MAP 10

1 Humabery

HU 185 579

0.95 km

Rock platform with 30->90% cobble cover.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible

The cobble cover is greatest within the cove at Humabery with many cobbles thrown up onto the grassy hinterland. There is much less cover around the Ness of Melby with some shingle within a small geo. The hinterland is grassed although on the Ness itself walls protect good cultivable land and gardens. The Ness itself is being progressively isolated by a gully on the western side as it erodes into the neck of the isthmus. Soils are imperfectly drained gleys with some thin rankers to the north of the Ness.

2 Melby House

HU 188 578

0.4 km

Predominantly sandy foreshore with 50->90% cobble and shingle cover.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible

The bay is predominantly a cobble covered area with bedrock, sand and shingle dominant in a few localised areas. Much of the coastal edge is faced with sea defences and a pier. A road runs almost the whole length of the bay close to the coastal edge with stone walls and a few buildings by the road on the western side of the bay. Fields appear cultivable although are down to grass over an imperfectly drained gley soil.

3 Melby

HU 191 579

0.25 km

Rock platform with 20-50% shingle cover.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

Although the coastal edge rises around this small promontory it is still under 5m high. The hinterland is grassed with an imperfectly drained gley soil.

4 The Crook

HU 195 578

0.6 km

Sandy foreshore with negligible cover.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible

A few cobbles on the western side grade into a clean sandy beach. The coastal edge to the west is protected by boulders on the western side and plastic matting which has stabilised the sand and is almost hidden now by vegetation and blown sand. The coastal edge is cut in two places, by streams. The hinterland to the west has cultivable fields down to pasture and to the east there is much tussock grass. The hinterland, the eastern side especially, has the appearance of accreting blown sand. Soils are imperfectly drained gleys to the west and becoming much more sandy, freely draining, skeletal soils to the east.

5 Neap of Norby

HU 199 582

1.15 km

Rock platform with 40-70% sand and shingle cover.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

The rock platform becomes evident at the eastern end of The Crook with shingle and sporadic areas of sand cover. There is more shingle cover on the eastern side of the point. The coastal edge rises steeply to almost 50 metres where the steep to moderate gradient slopes down and away from the cliff edge into the hinterland. Along the cliff face tougher rocks stand out against the erosive sea although these areas are being undermined by erosion of the softer rocks around them. Some tallus lies along the eastern side of this section. The hinterland is grassed and fenced with freely to imperfectly drained gley and peaty gley soils.

6 Sand of Gord

HU 206

0.45 km

Sandy foreshore with up to 90% shingle cover.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

The shingle, mainly gravel size, lies closer to the foreshore with more sand lying further out, perhaps 30 metres, from the foreshore. Some tallus from landslip lies along the foreshore. The coastal edge gives an overall impression of crumbling cliff face. There is a greater amount of till lying over the rock along this section. Soils are peaty gley and gley with moderate to good grazing.

7 The Kame

HU 211 581

 $0.45\;\mathrm{km}$

Rock platform with 30-70% shingle cover.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

The foreshore is littered with the remnants of tallus and landslip perhaps spread along the coastline from Sand of Gord although there is landslip within this section to the east. The hinterland is grassed with freely to imperfectly drained podzol and gley soils.



FORESHORE



ROCK PLATFORM MAINLY SAND MAINLY ALLUVIAL/MARINE MUD MARSH

HINTERLAND

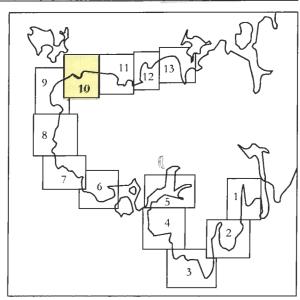


DRIFT DRIFT ON VISIBLE ROCK RAISED BEACH ETC BLOWN SAND GLACIAL SAND/GRAVEL ALLUVIUM

MODIFIERS



LOW EDGE <5M CLIFF >5M MAN MADE BARRIER SHINGLE/STORM BANK HUMAN DISTURBANCE



1 Humabery

HU 185 576

0.95 km

Eroding

The coast edge is being eroded back by the sea with many pieces of rock lying below the edge and the fence has been moved back a few metres from the edge as far as the cove east of Humabery. Here there is slightly less erosion as the cobbles and gradually sloping foreshore tend to dissipate the wave energy before reaching the coastal edge. Further to the north the edge is being actively eroded especially on the west coast behind Melby House where a large geo is being scoured out by the sea and is migrating towards the house. If the erosion persists then the Ness of Melby could be cut off from the mainland.

2 Melby House

HU 190 578

0.7 km

Eroding to Stable

The pier and a small sea wall in front of the road have stabilised the eastern side of Melby House. There is localised erosion to the east of the bay and partial erosion of the coastal edge to the extreme west of The Crook. The intervening headland is stable.

3 The Crook

HU 195 577

0.6 km

Accreting and Eroding

This huge foreshore of sand has a moderate slope to the sea. The coastal edge on the west side has been stabilised by a plastic matting which has been subsequently vegetated and wind blown sand has been captured within the stable vegetation. The upper foreshore has also had some boulders laid down as sea defences. To the east of The Crook there is some erosion of the wind blown sands which can be attributed to some stream erosion and localised marine erosion. It is possible that the sands are slowly migrating landwards.

4 Neap of Norby

HU 198 581

0.8 km

Eroding

The coast edge here is being eroded noticeably even on the much higher eastern side where a softer rock type, (?) volcanic, is crumbling away. A small amount of tallus lies at the foot of the cliff; this is being removed fairly quickly by the sea. This contrasts with the next section.

5 East of Norby Neap

HU 202 580

0.35 km

Stable

This unit contains a much harder, (?) metamorphic rock. There is a little localised erosion in some places. Some erosion, when it takes place, is probably catastrophic, resulting in large rockfalls. This has taken place at one time as there is tallus lying beneath the cliff. The tallus at the base of this section is quite steep and appears fairly stable.

6 Sand of Gord

HU 206 579

0.6 km

Eroding

The tallus below this section has a low angle and is fairly unstable so delineating it from the previous section and rock type, which appears to consist of shales. The cliff face is eroding and part of the fence here is undermined. There are also areas where landslip has taken place exposing the soil, till and shales to subaerial weathering and erosion. Debris from tallus appears to have been transported out to sea a little way where a bar of sand and shingle is lying just out from the upper foreshore.

7 West of The Kame

HU 210 580

0.2 km

Eroding to Stable

The coastal edge is eroding in localised areas only.

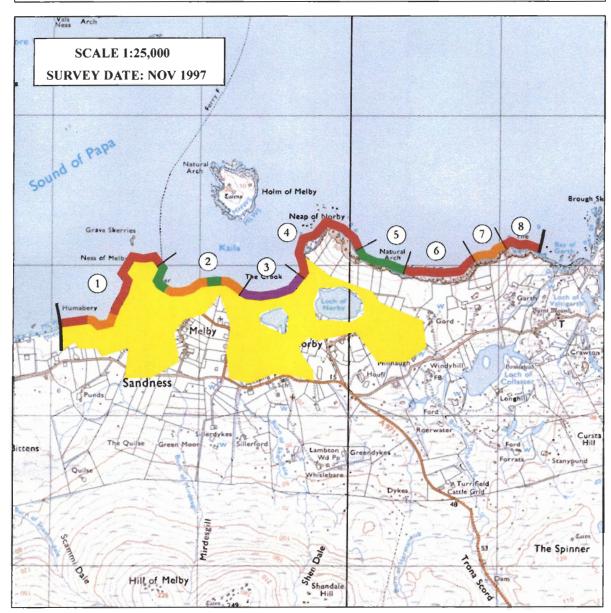
8 The Kame

HU 2110 5805

0.3 km

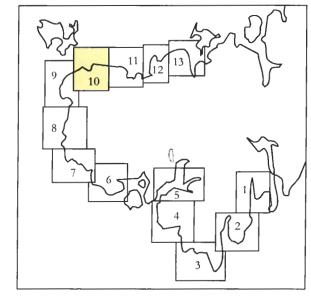
Eroding

The coastal edge has some areas of landslip, the debris is scattered over the rock platform.





DEFINITELY ACCRETING ACCRETING OR STABLE STABLE ERODING OR STABLE DEFINITELY ERODING ACCRETING AND ERODING NO ACCESS LAND BELOW 10M



INTRODUCTION TO MAP 11:

Bay of Garth to Snap Hevda

Built Heritage and Archaeology

This section commences with sparse settlement, located away from the coast, and continues into uninhabited rough terrain with no access roads around the Voe of Snarraness. To the east side of Snarra Ness a road leads towards West Burrafirth and back into to a sparsely settled landscape.

A total of thirty-seven sites were encountered in this area. Only six of these sites had been documented previously. Twenty-two sites are considered vulnerable to erosion. The majority of the sites recorded represent remnants of past agricultural or pastoral activity, dating to the 18th-20th century period. Of particular interest are two lime kilns (W144 &W168), one of which is a scheduled monument. The majority of sites labelled here as being of indeterminate date may, in reality, be of 18th-20th century date. They include many enclosures and land boundaries. The promontory fort at Ness of Garth (W140) is thought to be of later prehistoric or possibly even early historic date. Cut off from the mainland at high tide, the fort is defended by two stout ramparts. The footings of at least one structure are visible on the promontory.

Two possible prehistoric houses were discovered in this area: one (W146) is defined by a stone-faced earthen bank, the other (W173) is visible as a slight earthen bank, partially obscured by collapsed rubble. Other sites of possible prehistoric date include four earthen mounds and four cairns. A site at Loch of Kellister (W159) which had previously been described as a platform and structure is here interpreted as a burial cairn. The site noted at Snap Hevda (W170) may be a burnt mound; although a second similar structure nearby (W171) would appear to be a burial mound.

Geology and Geomorphology

In the area covered by this map section the coastline becomes more rugged with many indentations and a very craggy hinterland. Bare rocks are interspersed with shallow rankers in many areas. Larger hills rise to the south eastern side of this unit. Here the mainland coastline is sheltered from the sea by the small promontory of Snarra Ness. This promontory is joined to the mainland by a small bar, which has been fortified against the sea. The coastline maintains a rugged appearance to the east of Snarra Ness. Small areas of sand have accumulated in three bays: at Little Bousta, Bay of Brenwell and at the head of Voe of Snarraness. The hills are steepest along the western shore of the voe. Peaty Podzols and peaty rankers become more frequent to the east.

Erosion Class

The underlying geology changes slightly with the harder plutonic rocks along much of the coastline of this unit. This is expressed in a much more stable and a rather craggy and undulating topography. There are a few areas where the sandstones of the Sandness and Walls formations lie. Here, in two such at Breiwick and at the head of Snarraness Voe, there is more localised erosion. On the whole, however, the coastline is quite stable.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 11

W137 HU 212 580 The Kame Clearance cairns Indeterminate Fair Nil

W138 HU 213 579 Bay of Garth Enclosures and clearance cairns 4th-3rd mill BC & 18th-20th C Fair

W139 (=?HU25NW 12) HU 2162 5800 Bay of Garth Structure and noost 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W140 (HU25NW 2) HU 216 582 Ness of Garth Promontory Fort: Scheduled, SMR #2532 1st mill BC/Ist mill AD Fair/poor Monitor

W141 HU 216 581 opposite Ness of Garth Clear. cairns & terrace 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W142 HU 219 579 west of Little Bousta Clearance cairns 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W143 HU 2208 5788 West of Little Bousta Enclosure Indeterminate Fair/poor Survey

W144 HU 2228 5792 Little Bousta Lime Kiln 18th-20th C Good Survey W145 HU 2225 5785 Little Bousta Enclosure and earthen bank Indeterminate Fair Survey

W146 HU 2242 5751 Muckle Bousta Structure: possible dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC & 18th-20th C Fair Survey

W147 HU 223 574 Muckle Bousta Drystone dyke 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W148 H∪ 2238 5739 Bay of Brenwell Enclosure Indeterminate Fair Survey

W149
HU 223 572
Bay of Brenwell
Drystone dyke, possible
structure and clearance
caim
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

W150 HU 2252 5695 Bay of Brenwell Enclosure Indeterminate Fair Nil

W151 HU 225 568 Bay of Brenwell Clearance cairns, dykes and enclosures 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W152 HU 225 568 Bay of Brenwell Earthen bank Indeterminate Fair Survey W153 (=?HU25NW 15) HU 2265 5684 Breiwick Click mill 18th-20th C Fair Survey

W154 HU 228 567 Breiwick bay Drystone dyke 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W155 HU 2292 5668 Breiwick Mound 4th-3rd mill BC Fair Survey

W156 HU 2295 5662 Breiwick Drystone dyke 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W157 HU 2319 5654 Voe of Snarraness Sheep fold 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W158 HU 2370 5600 Voe of Snarraness Two noosts 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W159 HU 2387 5660 Loch of Kellister Cairn: may be equivalent to SMR #2538 4th-3rd mill BC Fair Survey

W160 HU 2386 5615 Voe of Snarraness Noost Indeterminate Poor Nil W161 HU 2395 5610 Voe of Snarraness Stone setting: SMR #2541 Indeterminate Not located

W162 HU 2393 5619 Voe of Snarraness Structures, dykes, enclosure and clearance material 18th-20th C Fair Survey

W163 HU 2389 5651 Voe of Snarraness Cairn 4th-3rd mill BC Fair Survey

W164 HU 237 567 Snarra Ness Earthen banks Indeterminate Fair/poor Survey

W165 HU 2366 5680 Snarra Ness Structure: dwelling and clearance cairns 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W166 HU 235 570 Snarra Ness Earthen and stone bank Indeterminate Fair Nil

W167 HU 2349 5743 The Ward Sheep folds 18th-20th C Fair Nil W168 (HU25NW 10) Snarra Ness HU 2361 5743 Lime kiln and quarry: Scheduled 18th-20th C Fair Nil

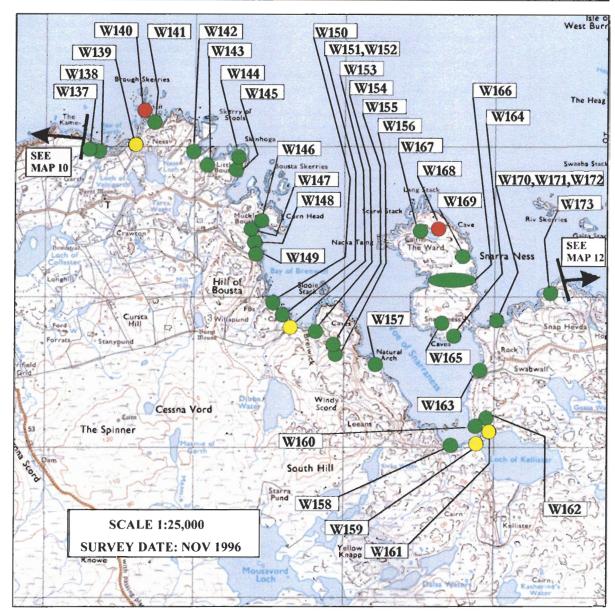
W169 HU 2380 5727 Snarra Ness Two cairns 4th-3rd mill BC Fair Survey

W170 HU 2401 5685 Snap Hevda Mound 4th-3rd mill BC Fair Survey

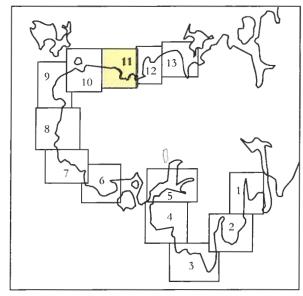
W171 HU 2401 5685 Snap Hevda Mound 4th-3rd mill BC Fair Survey

W172 HU 2405 5682 Snap Hevda Enclosure and dyke 18th-20th C Fair Nil

W173 HU 243 570 Snap Hevda Stone scatter 3rd-1st mill BC Fair/poor Nil



- PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT
 OR AREA OF DESIGNATED WRECK
- OMONUMENT 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



HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY

MAP 11

1 Bay of Garth

HU 220 581

1.7 km

Rock platform with discrete bays of cobbles or shingle. Coastal edge is predominantly < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

Cobbles are found mainly within the small coves and geos. Storm beaches lie in some of these inlets especially to the eastern side of this section. The small promontory fort (W140) is almost isolated from the mainland by the sea. The coastline becomes much more rocky with more rock outcrops along the hinterland. The small hills are steep with poor grazing over rankers or peaty podzol soils.

2 Bousta Skerries

HU 224 576

0.75 km

Sandy foreshore with rock platform becoming more evident to the south east.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible

The small bay to the south of Little Bousta is fairly well sheltered and has a predominantly sandy foreshore with up to 70% shingle. The rock platform can be seen at various points and is more evident to the south east by Corn Head. A storm beach of cobbles lies in the cove closest to Muckle Bousta. The hinterland is slightly less rugged than the preceding unit. A small sea wall lies to the north of the small bay by Little Bousta. Peaty rankers and peaty gleys are the dominant soil types with moderately good grasses.

3 Corn Head

HU 224 571

0.95 km

Rock platform with up to 30% cobble cover.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

Within the first cove to the south of Muckle Bousta lies a discrete area of boulders and cobbles. The rock platform tends to have little else along this section of coast line. The steeply sloping hinterland becomes scree like to the centre of Brenwell Bay and then easing into a small stream, marshy gully to the south before steepening again under the craggy rock outcrops. Soils are rankers and poorly drained peaty gleys to the south. Grasses are sparse and of poor quality.

4 Breiwick

HU 227 568

0.25 km

Sandy foreshore with rock platform more evident to the east.

Coastal edge is generally < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

A shingle and sandy foreshore has been added to from material slipping down a scree to the western side of the bay area. The hinterland is moderately to very steeply sloping with peaty rankers, peat and peaty gleys.

5 Voe of Snarraness

HU 233 565

1.5 km

Rock platform with discrete areas of shingle cover. Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

The shingle cover, where it exists, is mainly composed of cobble sized rocks which grades into more shingle to the south. The hinterland becomes very hilly. A large hump separates this section from the previous section

and a steeply sloping hillside runs towards the coastal edge. This becomes very steep to the south with a semi-stabilised scree area. Soils are peaty podzols with peat and peaty gleys on the lower poorly draining ground. There are huge stands of bracken within this section along with poor grasses and a few sedges.

6 Loch of Kellister

HU 238 560

0.3 km

Sandy foreshore with 40-70% shingle cover.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible

A small sandy bay with more cobbles to the top of the foreshore which almost constitutes a storm beach. This separates the sea from Loch Kellister. A rough track runs along the hinterland which appears to have been improved recently. There is some man made disturbance. Peat lies along the undisturbed area to the south and behind the road, peaty podzols to the east.

7 Swabwall

HU 231 565

0.5 km

Rock platform with very little cover.

Coastal edge is generally > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

The rock platform is steeply shelving. The hinterland slopes down steeply to the coastal edge. The slope has many rock outcrops and thin rankers with peat cover and poor grass cover.

8 Snarra Ness Bar

HU 2315 5680

0.25 km

Cobble bar with some boulders on the north side.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible

The bar has a sea wall to the south side. A track runs along the top of this with some man made disturbance. The cobbles are larger on the northern facing side; the cobbles appear to be more numerous to the south. Some grass grows along the top of the causeway.

9 Snarra Ness

HU 235 576

2.3 km

Rock platform with discrete areas of cobbles to the south of the island.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

A distinct cliff edge is around most of the perimeter. A few areas of cobbles lie to the south and west within a small cove and geo respectively. The hinterland is moderately to steeply sloping with more rocky outcrops to the north end. Soils are imperfectly to freely drained peaty podzols and rankers with rough grazing.

10 Snap Hevda (West)

HU 241 569

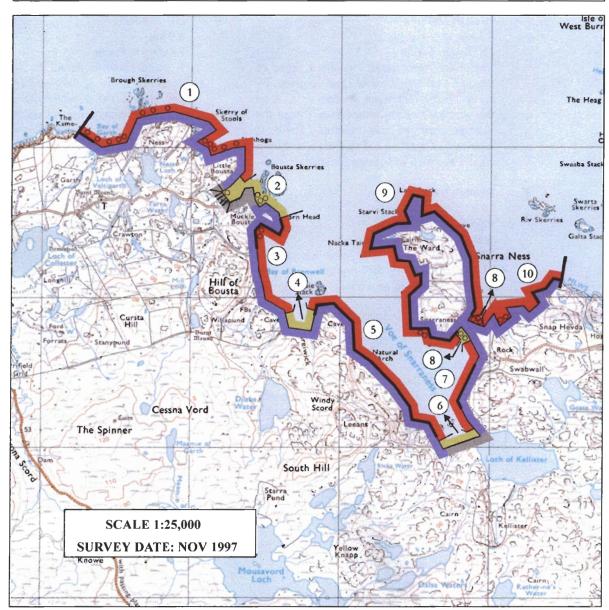
 $0.45~\mathrm{km}$

Rock platform with discrete areas of cobbles.

Coastal edge is mainly < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

Cobbles lie as storm beaches within two coves. Many of the cobbles have been thrown over 20 metres into the hinterland by the eastern most cove. The hinterland itself is craggy with steep to moderate slopes. Peaty podzols and glcys lie within the crags and peaty rankers on the higher ground. Rough grazing predominates the area.



FORESHORE



ROCK PLATFORM MAINLY SAND MAINLY ALLUVIAL/MARINE MUD **MARSH**

HINTERLAND

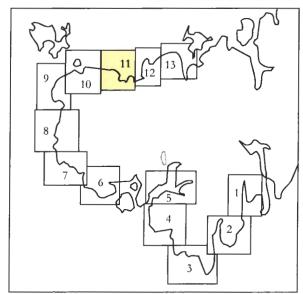


DRIFT ON VISIBLE ROCK RAISED BEACH ETC **BLOWN SAND** GLACIAL SAND/GRAVEL ALLUVIUM

MODIFIERS



LOW EDGE <5M CLIFF >5M MAN MADE BARRIER SHINGLE/STORM BANK HUMAN DISTURBANCE



1 Bay of Garth

HU 216 580

0.5 km

Eroding to Stable

There are many small, localised areas of erosion: stream erosion; soil erosion by sheep on the hinterland; marine erosion on the west side of the promontory fort to the extreme east of this section. There is landward migration of cobbles within a small cove west of Brough Skerries.

2 Brough Skerries

HU 220 581

0.95 km

Stable

The coastal edge is stable from the east side of the promontory fort onwards. There is accretion of shingle within a cove to the west of Skinhoga.

3 Skinhoga

HU 224 576

0.75 km

Eroding to Stable

There is localised erosion of the coastal edge with some debris thrown back onto the hinterland to the east of Skinhoga and erosion in the extreme western corner of the bay. A small sea wall has stabilised the edge from the eroding corner. A slight cove to the north of Corn Head carries cobbles which are definitely migrating landwards.

4 Corn Head

HU 224 571

0.95 km

Stable

Almost all of this section is stable, including a steep scree slope in the hinterland. There is localised rockfall into a small double headed geo below the Hill of Bousta.

5 Breiwick

HU 227 568

0.25 km

Eroding to Stable

A scree slope is fairly unstable with boulders now along the foreshore. The steeper slopes have soil creep.

6 Voe of Snarraness (West)

HU 231 566

0.9 km

Stable

This length of coastline is stable with only one small area of coastal edge erosion.

7 Voe of Snarraness (South East)

HU 238 560

0.9 km

Eroding to Stable

A steep scree slope to the west is fairly unstable. There is localised erosion in the bay and of the coastal edge where some man-made disturbance has taken place.

8 Swabwall

HU 239 567

0.35 km

Stable

This steeply sloping section is stable.

9 Snarra Ness Bar

HU 239 567

0.3 km

Eroding to Stable

There is erosion of the coastal edge on the SE side of the bar. Localised erosion of the bar is occurring at the ends of the S sea wall.

10 Snarra Ness (South)

HU 235 568

0.6 km

Stable

The cliffs show no signs of erosion either on the face or at the coastal edge.

11 Snarra Ness (North West)

HU 234 574

0.6 km

Eroding to Stable

There is perhaps a much greater percentage of erosion than normally classed as *Eroding to Stable*. The section includes edges where the erosion decreases to almost *Stable* class. The erosion is expressed as rock fall along The Ward with localised erosion of the coastal edge on either side.

12 Snarra Ness (East)

HU 238 573

1.1 km

Stable

The cliff faces are all coherent and stable with negligible erosion.

13 Snap Hevda (West)

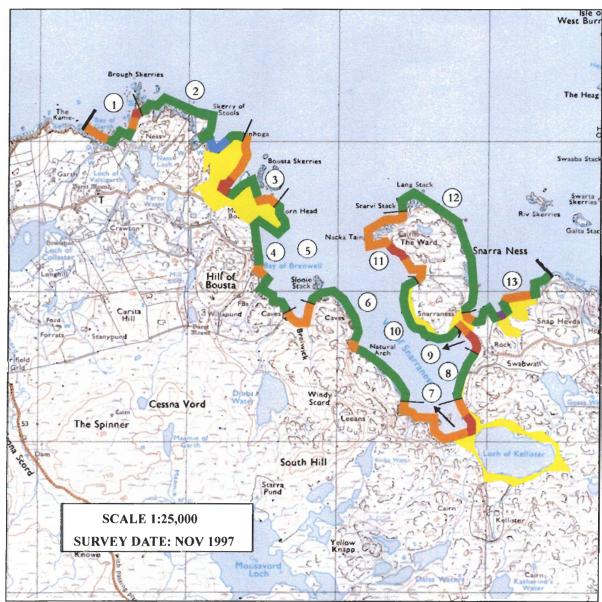
HU 242 569

0.7 km

Eroding to Stable

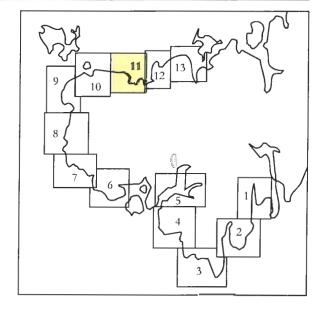
There is localised erosion along this section with the worst found in the cove below Snap Hevda to the east of this section. A cove to the E has shingle which is accreting. It is migrating landwards over vegetation.

WESTSIDE MAP 11





DEFINITELY ACCRETING ACCRETING OR STABLE STABLE ERODING OR STABLE DEFINITELY ERODING ACCRETING AND ERODING NO ACCESS LAND BELOW 10M



INTRODUCTION TO MAP 12:

Snap Hevda to Turl Stack

Built Heritage and Archaeology

The area covered by this map section extends around both sides of West Burra Firth and continues past the Isle of West Burrafirth. The area is easily accessible from the road as far as West Burrafirth. There are several occupied settlements along the road and a further cluster around West Burrafirth. Beyond this point, there is no road and no modern coastal settlement, although the ruins of several old farmsteads indicate that the area was more heavily settled in the last century.

This survey noted twenty-one sites in this area; three of these sites had been recorded previously. Thirteen sites are considered vulnerable to erosion. The majority of the sites are of 18th-20th century date and include three isolated farmsteads, surrounded by the remains of associated field systems, click mills and noosts (W173, W191 & W193).

Of the earlier sites, West Burrafirth broch (previously noted) which is located on the Holm of Hebrista (W183) was not inspected during this survey since it is cut off from the mainland. This site appears to be suffering from erosion and inundation. A group of three possible burnt mounds (W186) were found in rough grassland opposite the Holm of Tafts. The slight outlines of two structures of probable prehistoric date were noted at Starastet (W192); the sites occupy a small terrace above a U-shaped valley. Nearby, a possible ard point was found amongst stone in a group of clearance cairns. Further evidence for prehistoric activity in the area come in the form of two cairns (W179 & W189), a mound (W181) and a standing stone (W189).

Geology and Geomorphology

The main part of this unit is taken up by West Burra Firth. This cove is ensconced between steep sided craggy hills. To the south, lies Burraview, which has a pier and some sea defences; to the east of the firth a long valley issues out onto the coast. The hills to the north which form Crokna Vord are fairly steep with many craggy outcrops of rock. The soils tend to be peaty gleys and peaty podzols with more rankers and peat to the north.

Erosion Class

This unit has some erosion, although, on the whole, the erosion is localised and overall the coastline is fairly stable. Erosion is most common within West Burra Firth and along the western facing coasts.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 12

<u>W174</u>
HU 249 568
West Burra Firth
Structure: dwelling,
field system, noosts etc
18th-20th C
Fair
Nii

W180 HU 2575 5663 West Burra Firth Clearance cairn &dyke Indeterminate Fair Nil

<u>W185</u>
HU 255 574
West Burrafirth
Clearance cairns and
cultivation remains
Indeterminate
Fair
Nil

<u>W190</u>
HU 253 583
Pundswell Knowe
Structures
Indeterminate
Fair
Survey

<u>W175</u>
HU 2516 5704
West Burra Firth
Enclosure
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

<u>W181</u>
HU 2578 5665
West Burra Firth
Mound
4th-3rd mill BC
Fair
Nil

<u>W186</u>
HU 2504 5735
opposite Holm of Tafts
Enclosure and possible
burnt mounds
3rd-1st mill BC
Fair
Survey
-

W191
HU 256 582
Starastet
Structures: dwelling,
field system etc
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

W176
HU 253 569
West Burra Firth
Drystone dykes
18th-20th C
Fair
Survey

W182 (HU25NE 7)
HU 2582 5718
West Burrafirth
Standingstone:
SMR # 2550
4th-3rd mill BC
Fair
Nil

<u>W187</u>
HU 2490 5783
Crockna Vord,
opposite Swaaba Stack
Enclosure
Indeterminate
Poor
Nil

W192
HU 256 582
Starastet
Structures: dwelling
and outbuildings
3rd-1st mill BC
Fair
Survey

<u>W177</u>
HU 2559 5680
West Burra Firth
Two noosts
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

<u>W183</u> (HU25NE 4)
HU 2562 5720
Holm of Hebrista,
West Burrafirth Broch
Scheduled, SMR #2549
1st millBC-1st mill AD
Not inspected
•

<u>W188</u>
HU 2494 5788
Crockna Vord,
opposite Swaaba Stack
Structure
Indeterminate
Poor
Nil

W193 (HU25NE 38 & 39)
HU 258 582
Vatnabrenda
Structure: dwelling,
mill & field system etc
18th-20th C
Good
Survey

<u>W178</u>
HU 2568 5668
West Burra Firth
Two noosts
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

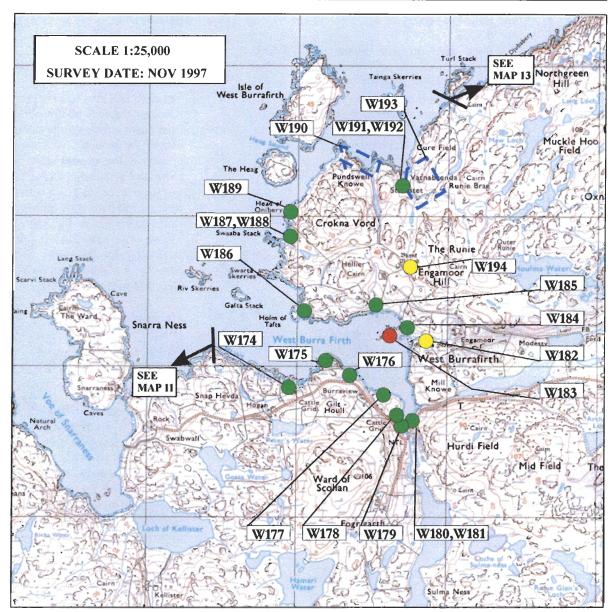
W184 HU 2571 5725
West Burrafirth
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

W189
HU 2495 5805
Head of Onibery,
Cairn
4th-3rd mill BC
Fair
Survey

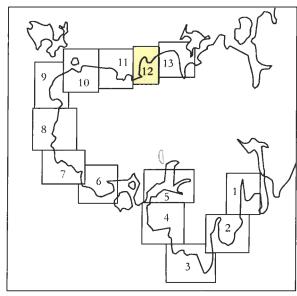
W194 HU 2575 5767 Engamoor Hill Burnt mound 3rd-1st mill BC Good Nil

W179

HU 2568 5661 West Burra Firth Cairn 4th-3rd mill BC Fair Survey



- PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT OR AREA OF DESIGNATED WRECK
- O 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



HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY MAP 12

1 Snap Hevda (East)

HU 2450 5705

0.3 km

Rock platform with intermittent 20-40% shingle cover.

Coastal edge is generally > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible

There is more shingle along the foreshore to the east of this section. The coastal edge is very steep to steeply sloping for the most part. Grasses of poor quality are found between rock outcrops on peaty rankers.

2 Hogan

HU 249 569

0.5 km

A sandy foreshore with 60-90% shingle cover

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible

A cobble storm beach lies within a small cove to the eastern side of this section. Shingle cover is variable and patchy. The hinterland is steeply to moderately sloping with grass over peaty gley, peat and rankers.

3 North of Burraview

HU 2520 5705

0.4 km

Rock platform with negligible cover.

Coastal edge is predominantly > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

This small promontory has a high edge with an apron of rock platform. The hinterland is steep sided with peat and peaty rankers.

4 Burraview

HU 258 568

1.5 km

Sandy foreshore with 40.70% shingle cover. Coastal edge is predominantly < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible

Shingle is more commonly found to the extreme eastern sides with more cobbles along the north eastern side. A cobble storm beach also lies north of the island broch. On the south side some sea walling with a pier lies just below Burraview and a road runs along the top of the coastal edge to the south of Mill Knowe. The Hinterland is intermittently steeply to moderately sloping and the peaty podzol and peaty gleys are underlain by tills on the eastern side of the Firth. Some of the eastern side is fenced with moderate grazing.

5 Crokna Vord

HU 250 580

2.6 km

Rock platform with very little cover.

Coastal edge is intermittently but predominantly < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible.

Although the rock platform is generally free from cover cobbles lie to the extreme south east of the section with some cobble wash up above the coastal edge and onto the hinterland by Head of Onibery. Just north of this some scree has fallen onto the hinterland from the hill behind. A further small isolated storm beach lies to the north of Pundswell Knowe. The hinterland is fairly hilly with steep to moderate slopes broken by rock outcrops. Soils are peaty podzols with peaty gleys and peat in the troughs.

6 Starastet

HU 257 582

0.1 km

Sandy foreshore with 30-50% cobble cover cover.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

This small cove has a foreshore dominated by sand with a small cobble storm beach on the upper foreshore. A relic storm beach can be seen underlying this more modern storm beach. The hinterland in this section slopes moderately to the coastal edge with imperfectly drained peaty gley.

7 Cure Field

HU 258 585

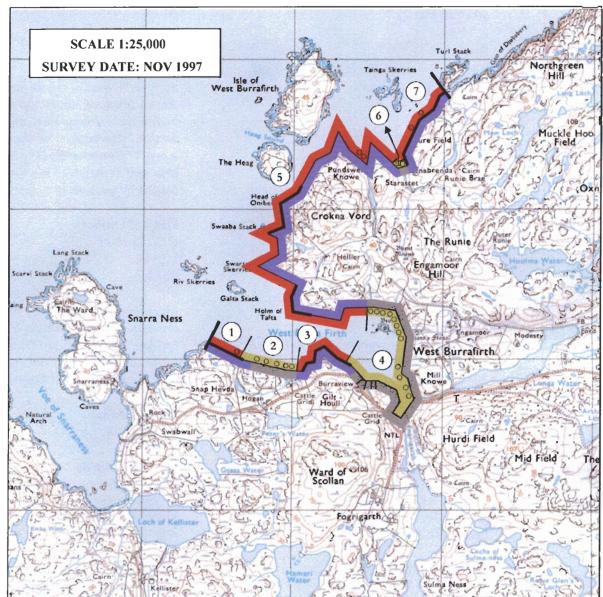
0.5 km

Rock platform with a discrete area of cobbles.

Coastal edge is > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

The only area with cobbles lies to the north in a small cove. The hinterland is steep faced with craggy rocks. Peaty rankers are common with poorly drained peaty gleys and peat at the base of the rocks.



FORESHORE



ROCK PLATFORM
MAINLY SAND
MAINLY ALLUVIAL/MARINE MUD
MARSH

HINTERLAND

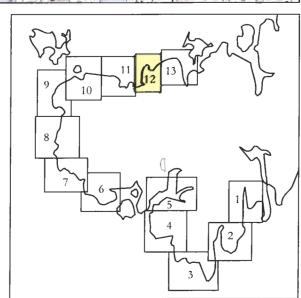


DRIFT DRIFT ON VISIBLE ROCK RAISED BEACH ETC BLOWN SAND GLACIAL SAND/GRAVEL ALLUVIUM

MODIFIERS



LOW EDGE <5M CLIFF >5M MAN MADE BARRIER SHINGLE/STORM BANK HUMAN DISTURBANCE



1 Snap Hevda

HU 247 570

0.5 km

Stable

The coastal edge is composed of hard, coherent, plutonic rock.

2 Gilt Houl

HU 251 569

0.3 km

Eroding to Stable

An accreting storm beach is migrating landwards to the west of this section. There is then some localised erosion of the coastal edge.

3 Burraview

HU 255 568

0.7 km

Stable

This section is very stable and also includes the pier with some sea walling.

4 West Burrafirth

HU 258 570

1.2 km

Eroding to Stable

There is patchy localised erosion. There is definite erosion to the north of the bridge, with smaller stretches around the bay area of the broch where tills are being eroded.

5 Hellier (South)

HU 253 573

0.55 km

Stable

The coastal edge is stable although a stream at the centre of this section is causing some mild erosion of the hinterland.

6 Holm of Tafts

HU 249 577

0.75 km

Eroding to Stable

Erosion of the coastal edge has occurred in several places. There are also rock strewn areas of hinterland to the south and to the extreme northern end of this section. The erosion of the coastline is worst at Swaarba Stack where there is also some erosion of the hinterland soil caused by wash from a small loch.

7 Head of Onibery

HU 253 584

1.25 km

Stable

The coastal edge is stable with only one exception, an area to the west of Pundswell Knowe which has localised erosion. By the Head of Onibery there is some rock fall from the far hinterland onto the fore apron of hinterland.

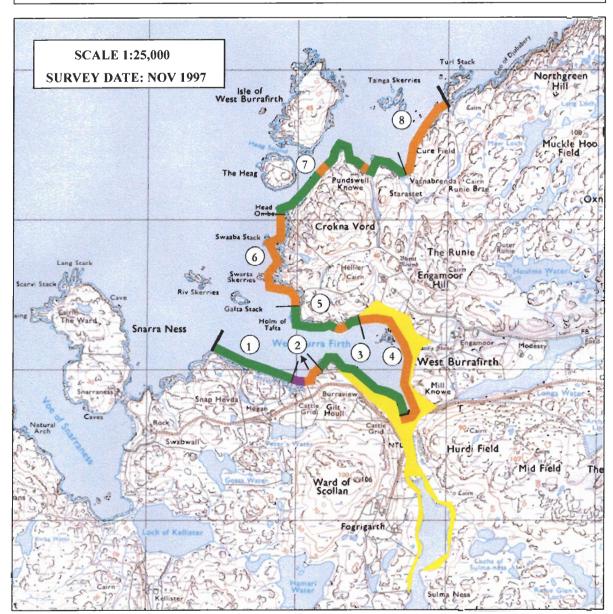
8 Vatnabrenda

HU 258 584

0.65 km

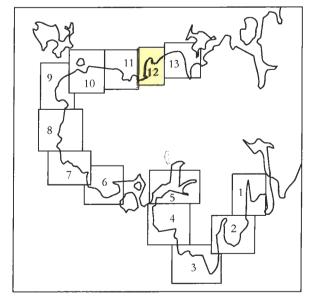
Eroding to Stable

At the south end of this section there is a cove where a small cobbled storm beach is eroding also revealing an older relic storm beach beneath. Further to the north there is localised erosion, mainly of the hinterland and caused by water run-off, some stream erosion and sheep scrapes. The latter two occur to the north of this section.





DEFINITELY ACCRETING ACCRETING OR STABLE STABLE ERODING OR STABLE DEFINITELY ERODING ACCRETING AND ERODING NO ACCESS LAND BELOW 10M



INTRODUCTION TO MAP 13:

Turl Stack to Brindister

Built Heritage and Archaeology

From below Northgreen Hill, the area covered by this map sheet extends around Neeans Neap, then southwards along Brindister Voe. There is no modern settlement until Brindister, where one or two houses lie close to the road end.

Of the fourteen sites recorded by this survey, two had been noted previously and a total of three sites were considered to be vulnerable to erosion. The most frequent site type identified in this area were burial monuments; in all five cairns were noted. The largest of these, a probable heel-shaped cairn (W195), lies over 100m from the coast edge and has been noted previously. Other prehistoric remains include houses (W199 & W200) and burnt mounds (W207 & W208). The latter burnt mound is surrounded by several large earth fast stones, possibly indicating the presence of an associated structure. The 18th-20th century category sites include an otter trap (W198), enclosures and boundaries.

Geology and Geomorphology

The hinterland to the north is rugged and very rocky and slopes steeply towards the coastal edge. Along the eastern coast the rocks become less obtrusive with moderate slopes. To the south east the landscape becomes more gentle with better grazing land and more gently rolling hills.

Erosion Class

This unit probably contains one of the most stable areas of coastline in the entire survey area. The rocks are either plutonic or metamorphic, both are very tough and hard weathering. Where erosion is occurring, it is confined to very localised areas.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 13

W195 (HU25NE 11)

HU 2623 5870 opposite Turl Stack

Cairn

4th-3rd mill BC

Good Nil

W196

HU 2625 5878 opposite Turl Stack

Cairn

4th-3rd mill BC

Good Nil

W197

HU 267 584 Muckle Hoo Field

Cairn

4th-3rd mill BC

Fair Survey

W198

HU 2615 5880 opposite Turl Stack

Otter trap 18th-20th C

Fair Nil

W199

HU 2629 5887 Geo of Djubabery Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC

Fair Survey

W200

HU 2644 5895

Northgreen Hill

Structure 3rd-1st mill BC

Fair Survey W201

HU 2698 5939 Face of Neeans

Cairn

4th-3rd mill BC

Fair Survey

W202

HU 2712 5940 Face of Neeans

Cairn

4th-3rd mill BC

Fair Survey

W203

HU 2765 5932 Papa Geo

Enclosure and structures

18th-20th C Fair/poor Survey

W204

HU 2791 5884

opposite Skewart Holm

Enclosure 18th-20th C

Fair Nil

W205

HU 2798 5841 north of Brindister

Enclosures Indeterminate Fair/poor Nil

W206

HU 281 582

opposite Longa Ness

Drystone dyke 18th-20th C

Fair Nil

sites vulnerable to erosion are <u>underlined</u>

Burnt mound: SMR #4212 3rd-1st mill BC

W207

HU 2825 5773

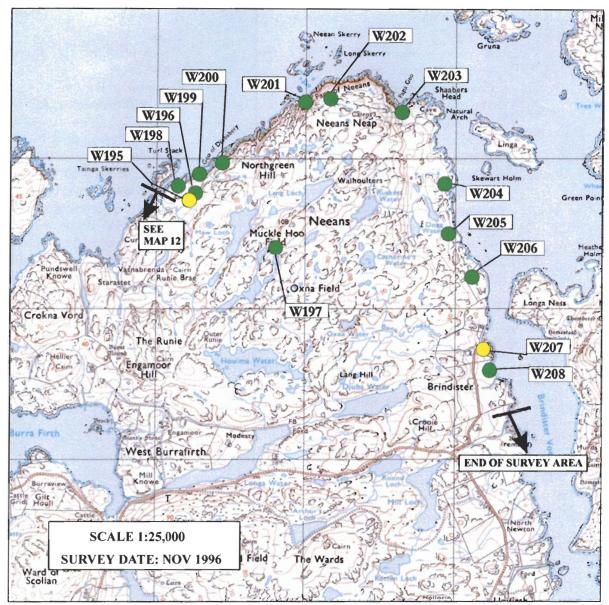
Brindister Voe

Good Survey

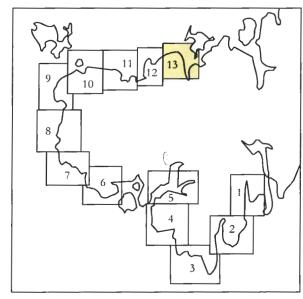
W208

HU 2821 5760 Brindister Voe Burnt mound 3rd-1st mill BC

Fair Survey



- PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT OR AREA OF DESIGNATED WRECK
- OMONUMENT FORMALLY PROPOSED BY HISTORIC SCOTLAND FOR SCHEDULING OR WRECK FOR DESIGNATION
- + LISTED HISTORIC BUILDING
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HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY **MAP 13**

1 **Turl Stack**

HU 264 590

0.9 km

A rock platform with a very few isolated areas of cobbles.

Coastal edge is predominantly > 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

A small cove with cobbles across from Tainga Skerries is perhaps the only real area of cobble cover along this section of coast. The rocks rise up steeply along the hinterland and there is some rockfall towards the fore of the hinterland by Turl Stack and close to Geo of Djubabery. Some rocks have been deposited onto the hinterland due to wave throw. A large boulder from hinterland rockfall has blocked a small gully so stopping the wave thrown rocks littering it's shadow on the hinterland. The rock outcrops are common with thin rankers. To the extreme north east of this section there is a gully which is possibly of glacial origin cut in a north easterly direction towards the coastal edge. Grasses are very thinly spread.

2 **Neeans Neap**

HU 274 595

1.5 km

A rock platform with negligible cover. Coastal edge is predominantly < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

Only one storm beach at Shaabers Head gives some cover to this rock platform. Although the actual coastal edge is less than five metres the hinterland slopes very steeply down to the edge. Bare rock is more pronounced towards the edge although a small grassy area on a promontory to the east of Face of Neeans stands out because of the grass cover and moderate slope. Soils are rankers and peat along the north facing coast becoming less craggy to the east with a podzol and peaty gley.

3 Linga

HU 282 582

2.3 km

A rock platform with discrete areas of cobble cover.

Coastal edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is generally

There appears to be only one cove with significant cobble cover and this lies just to the north of Brindister and the fishing quay. The cobbles are quite angular. Sea defences made up of large boulders also lie on the south side of this cove. Generally the hinterland takes on a topography of rolling hills to the south with the odd rock outcrop protruding from a hillock. The soils are imperfectly draining peaty gleys and peaty podzols. Poorly draining peaty gleys and peat lies further inland. The grasses are of better quality and fencing becomes common towards Brindister



FORESHORE



ROCK PLATFORM MAINLY SAND MAINLY ALLUVIAL/MARINE MUD MARSH

HINTERLAND

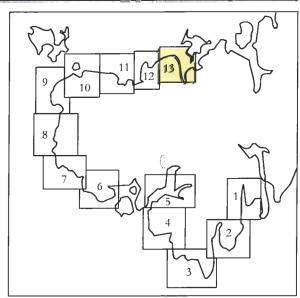


DRIFT DRIFT ON VISIBLE ROCK RAISED BEACH ETC BLOWN SAND GLACIAL SAND/GRAVEL ALLUVIUM

MODIFIERS



LOW EDGE <5M CLIFF >5M MAN MADE BARRIER SHINGLE/STORM BANK HUMAN DISTURBANCE



1 Turl Stack

HU 262 589

0.3 km

Eroding to Stable

The section is quite stable to the west with erosion of the hinterland from stream erosion and wave throw to the east. To the extreme east a large boulder has blocked a small gully and is preventing erosion from taking place at present.

2 Geo of Djubabery

HU 265 590

0.45 km

Stable

Although the rocks are exposed and there are very thin rankers the rocks are colonised by lichens and appear to be very stable.

3 Northgreen Hill

HU 267 591

0.12 km

Eroding

There is a localised area, a gully which may have been a glacial outwash stream, where there is erosion of the coastal edge.

4 Neeans Neap

HU 279 593

2.95 km

Stable

A very stable section of coastline with only localised erosion at a few points. Just behind a storm beach on the north side of Shabers Head there is an area of land that has been stripped of soil due to wave throw -approximately 100 m² in all. There is also some stream erosion to the south of the Head and some erosion within a cove 1 km further south where some angular cobbles have been broken from the coastal edge.

5 Brindister (North)

HU 282 577

0.25 km

Eroding to Stable

There is localised erosion within the north cove before a stable pier and large hillock of rock. To the south of this hillock there is a small length of coastal edge erosion.

6 Brindister

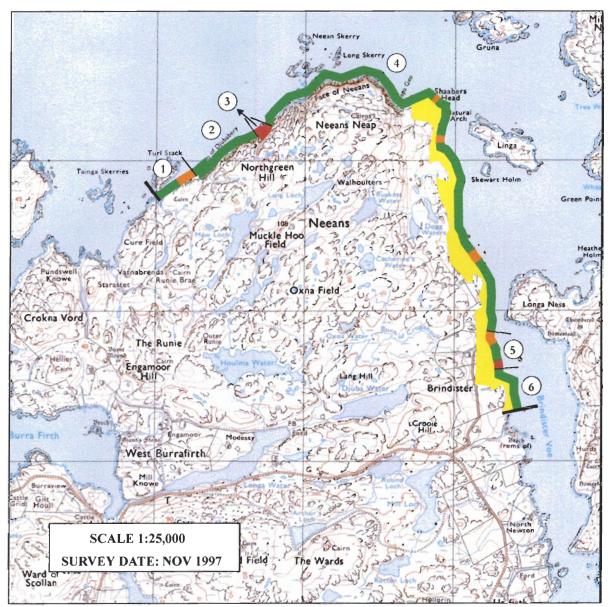
HU 283 575

0.3 km

Stable

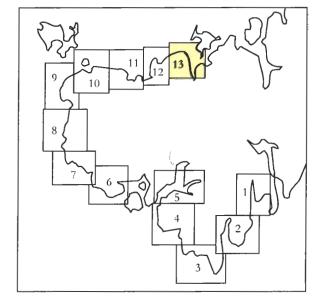
The unit finishes with a stable section of coast with tough metamorphic rock which is well protected from an open sea.

WESTSIDE MAP 13





DEFINITELY ACCRETING ACCRETING OR STABLE STABLE ERODING OR STABLE DEFINITELY ERODING ACCRETING AND ERODING NO ACCESS LAND BELOW 10M



BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 1: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

W1

Walls: Map I HU 3361 4792 Leeans, Seli Voe

Noost, enclosure and cru

18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

The remains of a noost, cru and an enclosure are situated on a low-lying strip of land adjacent to the coast edge.

1

8

- (i) A noost, measuring 2.5m by 3.5m, lies on the shore. Some structural stone survives to either side of the noost.
- (ii) To the west of (i), a square cru measures 5m X 5m (externally) and stands several courses high.
- (iii) An enclosure lies to the south east of this strip of land. It measures 8m E-W by 15m N-S. The north and west sides are defined by earthen and stone banks, while the east side is formed by a steep, natural bank; the south side is open to the sea.

Fair

Nil

W2

Walls: Map 1 HU 3364 4804 Leeans, Seli Voe Structure: bod? 18th-20th C

Located on coast edge

A ruinous rectangular structure occupies a flat strip of land at the head of Seli Voe. This land is now developing into a tidal island. The western facade of the building has a central doorway flanked by two windows. The walls are constructed from dressed, regularly coursed mortar-bonded blocks and stand up to 3.5m high at the north end gable; the south end is more ruinous. There is the suggestion of a raised, paved area against the internal face of the east side wall. Beam slots in the internal wall faces indicate that an upper story was originally present. The western wall of this building is located within 1m of the coast edge.

Fair Survey

W3 (HU34NW 8 & 9)

Walls: Map 1

HU 337 482/336 482
The Glebe, Leeans
Cremation burials:
3rd-1st mill BC

Located <50m from coast edge

Two cremation burials, placed in urns, were accidentally discovered in the vicinity of the glebe at Leeans in the last century. Descriptions of the finds suggest that they are of prehistoric date. These two burials, found in close proximity to one another, may be part of a larger cemetery. (Source: NMRS)

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 1: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

(i) (HU34NW 9) An urn, filled with black earth, was found in 1831 in the area of the glebe at Leeans by the Rev. Bryden. The urn was so decayed that it could not be lifted.

(ii) (HU34NW 8) In 1832 the Rev. Bryden uncovered a second urn which contained cremated bone, beneath the glebe dyke. The urn measured 12" across the mouth, 10" across the base and was 10" high and, when found, was covered with a stone. The urn was retained by the finder Not located

W4

Walls: Map 1 HU 3325 4790 Garderhouse Mounds Indeterminate

Located <100m from coast edge

Two grassy mounds lie within cultivated land close to the road. Neither are obviously archaeological features, but they do not appear to be of entirely natural origin.

Fair Survey

W5

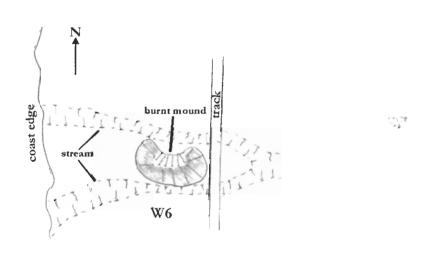
Walls: Map 1 HU 3334 4778 Seli Voe Enclosure 18th-20th C Located on coast edge

Part of a wall, exposed in a coastal section, may be part of a circular enclosure, visible further inland. The wall seen in section is 6m in length and stands to 0.75m high. It was covered by

turf and topsoil. The enclosure measures 3m in diameter and lies on improved grassland.

Fair

Nil



BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 1: SITE DESCRIPTIONS



W6

Walls: Map 1 HU 3320 4767 Seli Voe Burnt mound 3rd-1st mill BC Located <10m from coast edge

An eroding, grass-covered burnt mound is situated on a low natural rise 6m from the coast edge. It lies between two glacial gullies on steeply sloping rough grassland. The mound measures 10m in diameter and stands up to 3m in height. It may originally have been crescentic in plan, but the effects of slumping and erosion have rendered it amorphous. Reddened, burnt stone, up to 0.1m by 0.15 by 0.2m in size, is visible in an exposure to the north side of the mound.

Good Survey

W7

Walls: Map 1 HU 3320 4740 Seli Voe Enclosure and dykes

Eliciosule alid dykes

Indeterminate

Located <10m from coast edge

A sub-circular enclosure, defined by earth and stone banks, lies on steeply sloping rough grassland, leading to a vertical cliff edge. It encloses an area 6.5m by 7m; the banks stand up to 1m high. There is an entrance gap to the south east side. Two earthen dykes adjoin this enclosure; one runs southward, the other eastward. The dyke to the south is 2m wide and up to 0.5m high, that to the east varies between 1.5 and 2m in width and stands between 0.5 and 0.75m high.

Fair Nil

3.59(98)

W8

Walls: Map 1 HU 3319 4720 Seli Voe

Enclosure

Indeterminate

Located on coast edge

A rectangular enclosure lies on the edge of low cliffs on sloping rough grassland. It measures 6m by 5m and is defined by earthen banks which stand up to 0.5m high. Occasional stones to the exterior of this feature suggest that it may originally have had a stone facing.

Fair Nil

W9

Walls: Map 1 HU 3318 4710

Seli Voe

Earthen bank

Indeterminate

Elements located <10m from coast edge

An earthen bank lies to the inland (western) side of a rectangular structure (HU 332 470). It appears to run northward for 25m before turning eastward to run downslope towards the sea. It is up to 2m wide and 1m high. There was no sign of any stone element to this feature.

Fair Nil

W10

Walls: Map 1 HU 3317 4706

Seli Voe

Structure and dykes

18th-20th C

Located <30m from coast edge

The grass-covered foundations of a rectangular structure are located on sloping rough grassland, 20m from the sea. It measures 8m by 5m externally and is aligned north-south, at right-angles to the slope. The walls are up to 1m thick on the western (upslope) side, but are slightly less substantial on the eastern side. The western side wall is revetted into the slope. The walls are double-face construction, with a rubble core; the average size of the blocks used is 0.75m by 0.25m by 0.5m. An entrance is indicated by a gap in the south end wall. Outside, a short terrace runs parallel with the exterior of the eastern side wall. Two dykes lie close to the north and south ends of the structure; both are aligned east-west and extend downslope to the coast edge. That to the south side is up to 1m wide but slightly amorphous; that to the north side is up to 1m wide and stands 0.5m high. It appears to be of earthen and stone construction and may adjoin the N end of the structure.

Fair

W11

Walls: Map 1 HU 3316 4700 Seli Voe

Enclosure and dyke

Indeterminate

Located <50m from coast edge

A square enclosure (7m by 7m) is defined by uncoursed, drystone walling. It is located on steeply sloping land 15m from a road and 40m from the sea. The wall stands to over 1m in height and may be built over an earlier earthen bank. To the landward side of this structure a small amorphous mound with stone revetting may be the remains of an adjoining bank. A drystone dyke adjoins one corner of this enclosure before turning a corner and running seaward.

Fair Nil

W12

Walls: Map1 HU 332 469

Trowie Burn, Garder House

Structural remains and artefacts: SMR#3625

Indeterminate

Located <50m from coast edge

The remains of walling, together with pottery and two quartz balls, were uncovered accidentally when the ground was being prepared for the construction of a cru.

Not located

W13

Walls: Map 1
HU 3315 4626
Trout's Ness
Disturbed ground
Indeterminate

Located <30m from coast edge

Two roughly circular depressions, with flat bases, lie in uneven peatland. They each measure 2m in diameter and are up to 0.5m deep. They may have functioned as sheep shelters.

Fair

W14

Walls: Map 1 HU 3306 4589 opposite Kirk Holm Enclosure and dyke Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

A roughly circular enclosure lies close to the coast edge, above high cliffs. It measures 6m in diameter and is defined by earthen banks, standing to 0.2m high. There is an entrance to the north side. The interior is covered with rough grass, while the surrounding area is heather clad. A dyke adjoins the inland side of this enclosure. It is 1.5m wide and up to 0.3m high.

Fair Nil

W15

Walls: Map 1 HU 3377 4606 Kirk Holm

Possible monastic settlement: SMR #2376

1st mill BC-1st mill AD

Located <30m from coast edge

The placename evidence may be taken to indicate that there was a monastic settlement on the islet of Kirk Holm The footings of at least one building have been recorded previously.

Not inspected

W16

Walls: Map 1 HU 3300 4570

Red Ayre

Noosts and shell midden

Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

- (i) A grass-covered noost depression is situated on rough grass immediately adjacent to the shore. It measures 2.5m by 4m and is up to 0.75m deep.
- (ii) Deposits of shell midden, up to 0.3m thick, are visible in short coastal exposures to either side of (i).
- (iii) A second noost, of approximately similar dimensions to (i), lies further inland.
- (iv) Two further noosts and sporadic exposures of shell midden are visible along the coast, to the N.

Fair/poor

W17

Walls: Map 1 HU 3301 4560 Red Ayre Dyke 18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

Part of a ruinous dyke is visible close to an occupied house at the head of the bay. It measures 2m in width and is composed of large stones (1.5m by 1.3m by 1m). It may be part of a coastal barrier.

W18

Walls: Map 2 HU 330 454 Roesound Skerry

Field boundaries and cultivation remains

18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

On a strip of gently sloping grazing land, situated between modern houses and the coast edge, lie the remains of several field boundaries. Most are aligned at right angles to the coast, and there are also traces of field lynchets (set parallel to the coast). The lynchets are up to 0.6m in height.

Fair

Survey

W19

Walls: Map 2 HU 330 450 Groti Ayre Earthen banks Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen bank extends for over 30m, running uphill from the coast. It is 2.5m in width and stands up to 0.65m high. A shallow ditch lies to one side. A second earthen bank is situated 100m away, to the north side of the first. Running at 90° to the coast edge, this bank is 2m wide and stands up to 0.75m high. It is visible running uphill for 100m.

Fair Survey

W20

Walls: Map 2 HU 3325 4455

Reawick

Earthen bank

Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen bank is visible for over 70m, meandering roughly parallel to the coast. It is 4m wide and 1.5m high. It is eroding at one end over very high, vertical cliffs. It is situated in rough grazing land.

Fair Survey

W21

Walls: Map 2 HU 3320 4432

Reawick

Earthen bank

Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen bank, 3m wide and 0.75m high, extends from the coast edge and is visible for over 50m inland. It is eroding at one end over very high, vertical cliffs. This site is situated in rough grazing land.

Fair Survey

W22

Walls: Map 2 HU 3315 4424

Reawick

Earthen bank

Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen bank runs perpendicular to the coast. It is 3m wide and 0.5m high. It is eroding at one end over very high, vertical cliffs. It is situated in rough grazing land and is visible for over 50m inland.

Fair

Survey

W23

Walls: Map 2 HU 3284 4377

Johnny Sinclair's Nose

Earthen bank Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen bank, 3m wide and 0.5m high, runs perpendicular to the coast. It is eroding at one end over very high, vertical cliffs. It lies in rough grazing land and is visible for over 50m inland.

Fair

Survey

W24

Walls: Map 2 HU 3266 4348

Toog

Enclosure

18th-20th C

Located <20m from coast edge

A small rectangular enclosure, formed on three sides from turf and stone banks, is built against a rock outcrop. It measures 15m by 10m; the banks stand up to 0.5m high. It lies 15m

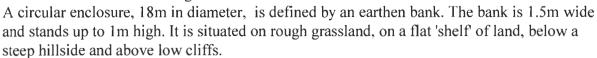
from the coast edge, above high cliffs and appears to be a sheep shelter of relatively recent origin.

Fair Nil

W25

Walls: Map 2 HU 3228 4247 Sirwick Taing Enclosure Indeterminate

Located <10m from coast edge



Fair Nil

W26

Walls: Map 2 HU 315 433 Burn of Swartagill Field systems Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

The remains of ruinous field banks and dykes are visible on flat land which forms the base of a U-shaped valley which issues out onto a pebble beach. The area is now waterlogged and peat has begun to develop in places. Most of the remains lay over 100m from the coast edge and appear to be of relatively recent origin.





W27

Walls: Map 2 HU 3130 4338 Bowpund Structure 18th-20th C

Located <20m from coast edge

A rectangular structure, measuring 18m (NE-SW) by 5m (NW-SE), is situated on rough grassland, close to a small gravel beach. The entrance lies at the south west end. An internal wall divides the building into two unequal parts (10m and 8m long, respectively). The walls are coursed and mortared; the mortar contains small pebbles and coarse sand. The remains of internal rendering survives at the south west end. The north east end wall survives a height of 1m, whereas the south west end stands up to 2.5m. This structure shows at least two phases of construction and the north eastern end wall may be a later addition. There were no indications of any internal fittings or fireplaces.

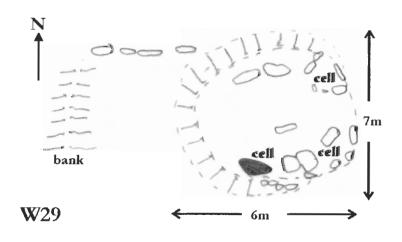
Fair Nil

W28

Walls: Map 2 HU 3125 4354 Bowpund Enclosure 18th-20th C

Located <10m from coast edge

A large rectangular enclosure, defined by turf banks, is situated in gently sloping grass land, 5m from the coast edge. The banks are 0.5m wide and stand up to 0.4m high. The area enclosed measures 25m by 30m. The ground level inside the enclosure is up to 0.4m higher than that of the surrounding area.



W29

Walls: Map 2 HU 3139 4375 Tent Ayre

Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC

Located <20m from coast edge A sub-circular structure, defined by an earthen and stone bank, is located on gently sloping land above a break in slope, leading to low cliffs. Externally, it



measures 7m by 6m; the internal area is approximately 4m by 5m. There is a probable entrance gap to the west side. The rear of the structure appears to have been cut into the slope. Internal divisions are indicated by orthostatic stones and occasional recumbent blocks. An intermittent line of stones and a very ruinous earthen bank, which are located to the west side of the exterior may form a porch-type feature. The site is situated in rough grass land. Fair

Survey

W30

Walls: Map 2 HU 3139 4389 Tent Ayre

Noost and enclosure

18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

- (i) A noost lies at the head of the beach, to the west side of a small bay. It is visible as an overgrown hollowed area, up to 1m deep.
- (ii) A rectangular enclosure is situated 10m inland of the noost. It has rubble walls and measures 10m by 15m. The walls stand to a maximum height of 0.75m. It lies in rough grassland.

Fair Nil

W31

Walls: Map 2 HU 3160 4440 Greenbraes Structure 18th-20th C

Located on coast edge

A rectangular structure is aligned parallel to the shore. It measures 20m (N-S) and 5m (E-W) and is internally divided into two equal portions. The walls are coursed and mortar-bonded and vary from 0.5m and 0.75m in thickness. The northern gable end stands to roof height, but the southern end has been reduced by coastal erosion. Inside, there is a concrete floor.



W32

Walls: Map 2 HU 3115 4449 Skelda Voe Noost and dyke 18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

- (i) A noost, with dry-stone walls, appears to be of relatively recent construction.
- (ii) A rough wall, beside (i), is built from beach stones and may be a fish-drying structure. It extends parallel to the coast edge.
- (iii) There are localised pockets of deep topsoil in this area. In some places, up to 1m of topsoil was observed, as compared to the average depth of 0.25m in the general area. This would appear to indicate cultivation over a long period of time.

Fair

Nil

W33 (HU34SW 4)

Walls: Map 2 HU 3105 4392 Wheo Taing Find spot: stone axe

Find spot: stone axe 4th-3rd mill BC

Located on coast edge

A miniature polished stone axe was discovered by Mr. G. Anderson, 'South Skeld', Wester Skeld, in 1962. The find spot was indicated by the finder to lie on the cliff edge. The find (ARC 65641) was donated to Shetland Museum by A. I. Tulloch, Reywick House, Sandsting.

(Source: NMRS) Not located

W34

Walls: Map 2 HU 3075 4369 Kirka Ness

Clearance cairns

18th-20th C

Elements located <20m from coast edge

Several small loose piles of stone, and one larger concentration, are situated on improved grassland, adjacent to the coast edge. The stones lie on the ground surface and are not earthfast. The piles probably derive from recent clearance activity.

Fair

Nil

W35

Walls: Map 2 HU 3066 4374 Tarasta Ayre Enclosure

Indeterminate

Located <10m from coast edge

An oval enclosure is defined by a low earthen bank containing intermittent large stones and orthostats. It measures 10m (N-S) by 6m (E-W). The interior is grass-covered and relatively level.

Fair

Survey

W36

Walls: Map 2 HU 3039 4365 Tarasta Ayre

Two mounds

Indeterminate

Located <10m from coast edge

Two mounds of indeterminate origin lie on gently sloping rough grassland, 8m behind the cliffs. They may be entirely natural features, or may be grass-covered mooldie bings related to peat exploitation.

- (i) An amorphous earthen mound measures 5m (N-S) and 8m (E-W) and stands to 1.5m high. The centre is uneven and contains several small depressions.
- (ii) A smaller grass-covered mound (3m in diameter by 0.3m high) lies to the south of (i). Fair

Nil

. . . .

W38

Walls: Map 3 HU 3050 4254 Scarvister Burnt mound 3rd-1st mill BC

Located <10m from coast edge A dome-shaped mound lies on gently sloping rough grassland, behind low cliffs. It measures 5m (N-S) by 8m (E-W). A modern fenceline crosses part



of the northern side of the mound. To its seaward side, the mound stands to 2m; but is slightly reduced (1.5m) to the landward side. It is mostly grass-covered, but there are short exposures in which angular, burnt stone is visible. There is the suggestion of an associated structure to the west (inland) side where intermittent large stones and stretches of turf bank appear to form an adjoining enclosure.

Fair Survey

W39

Walls: Map 3 HU 3051 4252 Scarvister Drystone wall 18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

Part of a once substantial drystone wall is now visible as a linear concentration of large stones. Individual stones measure, on average, 0.5m by 0.7m by 0.5m. The remains of the wall are visible for over 5m; it runs out over cliffs at its seaward end and is obscured by turf further inland. An accumulation of soil, banked to one side of the wall, is up to 0.5m high and be part of a lynchet.

Fair Nil

W40

Walls: Map 3 (NB Inland of survey area)

HU 2975 4217 Muckle Hamar Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC

Located < 1km from coast edge

This site lies outwith the survey area and was discovered on the return leg of a survey walk. It is located at least 800m inland of the coast opposite Clett Stack, 100m NE of Pundswell Know, and is situated on a small plateau beneath the summit of Muckle Hamar. An oval structure, 7m in diameter, is defined to the exterior by an earth and rubble bank, which is faced with large stone blocks on its interior. The largest of these blocks measures 1.1m by 0.5m by 0.5m. The banks are reduced to a single stone in height; it is probable that much of the missing stone was robbed out to be used in the construction of a large rectangular

W43

Walls: Map 3 HU 303 406 Moulie Loch Earthen bank Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen bank extends for up to 60m from a point to the north east of the loch shore towards the cliff edge. It is visible as a low turf-covered rise set in gently sloping sparse grassland. Some stone is visible in a short exposure at the loch side, but the general appearance is of a turf and rubble bank. To the north west side of this feature is a slight hollow, which is probably a partially filled ditch. This feature runs parallel to W42, a drystone dyke.

Fair Nil

W44 (HU34SW 9)

Walls: Map 3 HU 3020 4055 East Moulie Geo Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC Located on coast edge

An oval structure, defined by intermittent orthostats and depleted turf banks, measures 7m

(E-W) by 6m (N-S). The interior is faced by stones

set within the enclosing bank and at least two small cells can be distinguished on the north west side. The site is covered with a thin layer of topsoil and sparse, patchy rough grassland. To the north west lies a small freshwater loch (Moulie Loch); to the south the land rises up sharply to meet a steep vertical cliff. The site lies less than 5m from the cliff edge and is vulnerable to salt spray. The cliff edge is already completely denuded of vegetation.

Fair Survey

W45

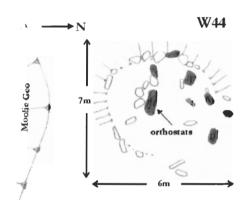
Walls: Map 3 HU 3009 4049 East Moulie Geo Wall

Indeterminate

Located <20m from coast edge

A natural knoll is surrounded by a short stretch of coursed drystone masonry. This 'wall' extends for a maximum of 6m and is up to three courses or 0.8m in height. It may be a ruinous sheep shelter or small enclosure.

Poor Nil



W49

Walls: Map 3 HU 2951 4160 Squidel Cairn

4th-3rd mill BC

Located on coast edge

A cairn, measuring 3m in diameter, may originally have had a more angular form. This is suggested by the fact that at least one corner of a probable kerb survives. The cairn stands, on average, less than 0.5m high, but the south east corner survives to 1m and is formed from coursed stone. The construction of this cairn suggests that it may be a burial monument rather than a navigational or distance marker. The site lies on a rocky promontory, 8m wide by 20m long. Small areas of tussocky grass survive in places but most of the promontory has been denuded on account of the salt spray. The cairn has already been damaged by erosion and is now in imminent danger of being removed completely.

Poor

Survey/excavate

W50

Walls: Map 3 HU 2936 4195

Silwick

Enclosure

Indeterminate

Located <20m from coast edge

A possible enclosure comprises a circular depression, edged by occasional large stones. The interior dished area measures 4m in diameter; the external diameter is 8m. An entrance is suggested to the E side. There are several dykes and clearance cairns in the area; two of the dykes appear to be associated with this enclosure. It lies 15m from very high cliffs, on improved pasture land.

Poor Nil

> W51 to promontory bank marshy area-ditch?

W54

Walls: Map 3 HU 2848 4251 Westerwick Earthen bank Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen bank, runs at 90° to the coast edge and is visible over 50m. It stands up to 0.4m high. This bank has already been truncated by coastal erosion at its seaward end.

Fair Survey

W55

Walls: Map 3 HU 2781 4200

stack to east of Giltarump Ruinous structure or cairn

Indeterminate

Located on coast edge

A concentration of stones including possible orthostats were noted on the top of a stack. The stones may derive from a collapsed structure. The site may be the same as that recorded as **W56** (SMR #2048). It was not visited.

Not Inspected

W56

Walls: Map 3 HU 27 42

(imprecise location) Clett or Giltarump

Structure: SMR #2048

Indeterminate

Located <20m from coast edge

The ruins of a structure, located on an off-shore stack, have been recorded previously; the location given may refer to either Giltarump (see **W55**) or Clett (see **W48**). The structure may represent a leper colony or monastic settlement.

Not inspected

W57

Walls: Map 3 HU 2739 4260 south of Fografiddle Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC

Located <30m from coast edge

A small oval structure is defined by earthen and stone banks. Externally, the structure measures 7m (N-S) by 5m (E-W). There are indications of internal divisions. It is located on rough grassland, over 20m behind high cliffs.

Fair Survey

W59

Walls: Map 4 HU 2719 4363 opposite Shalders Taing Enclosure 18th-20th C

Located <30m from coast edge

A large enclosure, defined by ruinous drystone walls lies, is situated on sloping rough grassland to the south of Shalders Taing. It measures 30m (N-S) by 25m (E-W). A lynchet, up to 1.5m deep, at the downslope end of the enclosure indicates that the area has been cultivated in the past. Inside the enclosure, a group of large orthostats and blocks (measuring up to 1m by 0.5m by 0.4m) may represent the last vestiges of a structure. To the SW corner, a small circular setting of stone within the enclosure wall may be a sheep shelter. This is interpreted as a cultivated field of medieval/post medieval date.

Fair Nil

W60

Walls: Map 4 HU 2719 4379 Shalders Taing Enclosure and dyke 18th-20th C

Located on coast edge

An earthen and drystone enclosure, probably a sheep fold, is situated on rough sloping grassland 2m from the cliff edge. It is oval in plan and measures 6.5m (N-S) by 4m (E-W). The inner face is of coursed stone and stands to six courses or 0.8m high at the entrance. The outer face is formed from a bank of turf. A ruinous earthen bank adjoins the enclosure and extends inland for over 40m.

Fair Nil

W61

Walls: Map 4 (NB- inland of survey area)

HU 2755 4385 Stanypunds

Enclosure and structure: dwelling

18th-20th C

Located 100m+ from coast edge

This site lies over 100m from the sea, outwith the survey area, and was visited on the return leg of a survey walk. The ruins of a rectangular building, 10m (NW-SE) by 5m (NE-SW) lie inside a large enclosure, defined by drystone walls. The building, probably an abandoned croft house, is internally divided into two equal parts. The walls are 0.75m thick and are partially grass-covered. A level terraced area lies outside the west side of the building. The enclosure wall appears to be of later date.

161



W64

Walls: Map 4 HU 2680 4408 Crooie Taing Dyke and enclosure 18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

A drystone dyke extends inland from the coast and is visible for 25m. It is ruinous and defined largely by earth-fast boulders, which are mostly obscured by peat. A scatter of stone to the east side of the dyke may represent the last vestiges of an enclosure or sheep shelter. The dyke is currently eroding over the high cliffs.

Poor Nil

W65

Walls: Map 4 HU 2634 4410 Swinsi Taing Possible cairn or structure 4th-3rd mill BC

Located <10m from coast edge

A square-shaped concentration of stone, measuring 4m (E-W) by 4.5m (N-S), may be the remains of a prehistoric house or cairn. It is situated on rough grassland in a very exposed location, above high cliffs. The concentration is defined by a kerb or wall which comprises large earthfast stones. Two rows of stone, extend outward from the southern side of the structure for 3m; possibly forming a 'porch' or entrance. A marker cairn of recent origin lies nearby.

Fair/poor Survey

W66

Walls: Map 4 HU 262 443

bay to west side of Swinsi Taing

Field system, dwelling house, mill, noosts etc.

18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

The remains of an abandoned dwelling house, outbuildings and cultivation remains are spread out over the floor and sides of a small valley which lies immediately to the west of Swinsi Taing. The remains extend inland for over 100m. It would appear that this valley was occupied over a long period of time and that it was abandoned as a working croft many years ago. Features which lie within the coastal zone include:

- (i) Two grass-covered noosts lie above the gravel beach. Both have revetted stone walls.
- (ii) A horizontal mill house stands up to 2m in height. The mill stream is embanked with stone revetting. In places the water course has become almost invisible due to peat development over it.
- (iii) There are numerous drystone dykes and earthen banks in this area. Many are now partially obscured by peat, which has developed around them. The outline of several fields and an enclosed hay meadow may still be discerned.
- (iv) To the east side of the valley, on a small promontory above the beach, stands a small turf-banked enclosure. Nearby are the ruins of a small square turf built structure, which may have served as a boat house.

Fair Nil

W67 (HU24SE 10)

Walls: Map 4 HU 2610 4410

Burri Geo/Burri Stacks

Alleged site of leper colony: SMR #3641

1st mill BC/1st mill AD

Located <20m from coast edge

It is alleged that there was a leper colony or

house on this stack site.

Not inspected

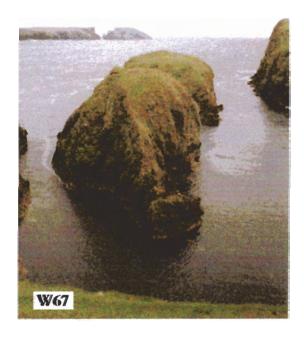
W68

Walls: Map 4 HU 2564 4416 opposite Burga Stacks Enclosure

18th-20th C

Located <10m from coast edge
A sub-rectangular enclosure, measuring 5m by 5.5m, is defined by drystone walls. The walls
are composed of angular and sub-angular stone and are now barely visible beneath a covering
of peat. The enclosure lies on rough grassland, near to the highest point of very steep cliffs.
The interior contains lush grass.

Fair, Nil



W69

Walls: Map 4 (NB- inland of survey area)

HU 2645 4495

Loch of Sotersta

Enclosure or structure

Indeterminate

Located 100m+ from coast edge

This site lies outwith the survey area, to the east side of Loch of Sotersta. It was visited on the return leg of a survey walk. A rectangular enclosure or structure is defined by turf banks. It measures 7m (E-W) by 6m (N-S) externally; internally, it is 4m by 3m. The banks have a stone facing on the exterior. The interior contains lush green vegetation. It lies adjacent to a water course which drains into the loch and is surrounded by tussocky moorland. A similar site was noted at a distance of 8m to the south.

Fair Nil

W70

Walls: Map 4 HU 255 445

north of Burga Stacks

Dyke and remnant field system: SMR #2060

Indeterminate

Elements located at coast edge

A drystone dyke runs parallel to the cliff edge for up to 100m. Its southern end is better preserved; but much of the dyke is obscured by material cast up by the sea. A series of small, adjoining structures at he south end of the dyke may be sheep shelters. Little coursing was apparent in the fabric of the dyke; it had more the appearance of a bank than a wall. But this may be due to the fact that quantities of stone,

derived from field clearance have been dumped against the wall. There are frequent traces of old field boundaries and clearance cairns in this area.

Fair Nil

W71

Walls: Map 4 HU 2531 4472 south of Broch of Culswick Cairn

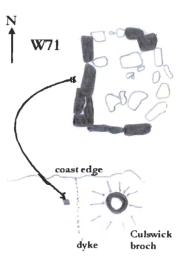
4th-3rd mill BC

Located <50m from coast edge

A square (3m by 3m) cairn is defined by a kerb of orthostats, while the centre is filled with smaller

stones. The centre survives to a higher level than do the peripheries; the whole structure appears reduced in size, however. It lies on rough grass, close to a remnant dyke, 40m from very high cliffs. It may be a burial cairn of prehistoric date.

Fair Survey





W72 (HU24SE 4)

Walls: Map 4 HU 2530 4480 Culswick

Broch of Culswick: Scheduled (HS Index 2055 04HU254448), SMR # 2056

1st mill BC-1st mill AD

Located <50m from coast edge

This broch is located on a rocky summit, above high cliffs. It is a prominent feature in the landscape and until it was robbed of stone in the 18th century, it was said to be the second tallest broch, after Mousa, in Shetland. An illustration from 1774 shows the broch standing to three stories in height (Low, 1774). The walls, built from large blocks of red granite, now stand up to 4m high and are slowly collapsing. The broch measures approximately 17m in diameter and the interior is filled with rubble. The entrance passage lies on the landward (south east) side and is topped by a large triangular lintel block. An intra-mural gallery opens into a chamber and there is a guard cell to one side of the entrance passage. The broch is surrounded by a defensive

earthwork.

Good Nil

W73

Walls: Map 4 HU 2547 4485 Loch of the Brough

Structure: dwelling: SMR #2055

3rd-1st mill BC

Located <30m from coast edge

This site lies 8m downhill from a series of ruinous 19th century structures, below the Broch of Culswick. A sub-circular structure is defined by an earthen bank. The external diameter of the structure is 7.5m in diameter; the interior is approximately 3.5m in diameter. The enclosing bank varies in thickness. From an average of 1.5m, it gradually widens towards the entrance terminals. These are off-set rather than opposed.

Fair Survey



W74

Walls: Map 4 HU 2543 4496 Loch of the Brough

Structures: dwellings: SMR

#2054

3rd-1st mill BC

Located <100m from coast edge
(i) An oval structure, measuring
5.5m (N-S) by 5m (E-W)
externally, is situated in rough
grass on a gently sloping hillside.
It is defined by walls which are
2m thick and faced with stone
both internally and externally.



The entrance lies to the west end and has been damaged.

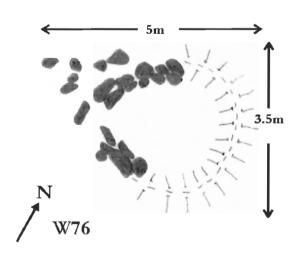
(ii) A second, similar structure is located 15m to the south east. It sits on top of a slight rise and is defined by large earthfast stones. It is sub-circular in plan, measuring 2.5m in diameter. Fair
Survey

W75

Walls: Map 4 HU 253 450 opposite Muckle Flaes Drystone dyke 18th-20th C

Located <10m from coast edge

A short length of curving wall is situated on rough grassland, some 8m behind the cliff edge. It lies 3m from the south west corner of a large square enclosure (marked on 1:25 000 OS map). Of double skin construction, it is 0.6m wide, and stands up to 3 courses high. It is partially covered by turf.





W76

Walls: Map 4 HU 2532 4521 Keolki field

Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC

Located <10m from coast edge

An oval structure is defined by intermittent stretches of coursed walling and earthen bank. Externally, it measures 5m (NE-SW)



by 3.5m (NW-SE). The interior is slightly sunken and measures 2.5m (NE-SW) by 1.5m (NW-SE). The rear of the structure is built against a slight slope, and the entrance, which is 0.5m wide, faces south west. Coursed stone is only visible in the immediate entrance area. The site is partially covered by peat and is situated in rough grassland, 7m from a low rocky cliff

Good Survey

W77

Walls: Map 4 HU 2521 4531

Taing of Keolkifield Earthen and stone bank

Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

A short length of earthen and stone bank extends for 4m inland from the coast edge, before disappearing beneath the peat. It is 0.6m wide, stands to 0.75m in high and is constructed with angular stones and turves. The average size of the stones used is 0.2m by 0.3m by 0.15m in size. It is situated on sloping rough grassland above high cliffs. There is an accumulation of soil against one side of the wall, which may be the product of soil creep.

Fair Nil

W78

Walls: Map 4 HU 2529 4531 Keolki Field Drystone dyke Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

A fragment of drystone dyke, 7m in length, extends inland from a small headland. It is c 0.8m wide. After 7m, it disappears beneath the peat. At the seaward end it is exposed, revealing stones of average size, 0.7m by 0.6m by 0.3m.

W79

Walls: Map 4
HU 2525 4603
north of Scurdie
Walling and large 'shaped' stone
Indeterminate
Located <30m from coast edge

A short curved wall, 5m long, stands to two courses or 0.5m high. It is constructed from stones, the average size of which is 0.4m by 0.3m by 0.2m. It is situated some 20m from high cliffs, adjacent to an old stream bed (which is becoming obscured by peat). Near to the wall, a very large block of stone is partly obscured by the peat. Its visible dimensions are 3.2m long and it can be detected below the peat for a minimum of 0.7m. This stone attracted attention by its 'squared off' appearance and because it is much larger than other blocks in the surrounding area; however it may be an unworked erratic.

Fair

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170

W80

Walls: Map 5 HU 256 467

opposite Skerries of Tunasdaal/Tunas Dale

Enclosures: SMR #3648

Indeterminate

Located <50m from coast edge

A series of enclosures and banks are situated on a gently sloping hillside, above the cliff edge. (i) A large semicircular enclosure (SMR #3648) which has been partly truncated by the sea, is defined by an earthen and stone bank. It measures 60m by 35m. It is adjoined to the east by an earthen bank. This stands up to 0.25m high and extends in a parallel fashion to the coast edge. (ii) Two further small enclosures, probably planticrubs, partly overlie (i) and appear to be of later date. Both are rectangular in plan and defined by drystone walls which stand up to 0.75m

high. Fair

Nil

W81

Hogan

Walls: Map 5 HU 264 470

Structure: dwelling and field system

18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

On moderately sloping grassland the remains of several drystone enclosures, terraces and field banks are visible. An abandoned, ruinous dwelling house lies upslope, 100m+ from the coast edge.

Fair

Nil

W82

Walls: Map 5 HU 266 471

to east side of Hogan

Clearance cairns and earthen bank

Indeterminate

Elements located <10m from coast edge

A curvilinear segment of earthen bank, which may have formed one side of an enclosure, stands up to 0.2m in height. There is a concentration of small clearance cairns in the near vicinity.

Fair

W83

Walls: Map 5 HU 2686 4722 Inner Taing Enclosure Indeterminate

Located on coast edge

A semi-circular arc of loose stone defines one side of an enclosure. The other side has been truncated by coastal erosion. The enclosure measures 8m in diameter and lies in rough grass on the coast edge.

Poor Nil

W84

Walls: Map 5 HU 2718 4715 near Hulma Taing Enclosures and dykes

18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

A series of enclosures (sheep folds) and land boundaries, probably of recent origin are spread over an area of rough grassland, adjacent to the coast edge.

- (i) To the west of the area, an earthen bank extends for over 10m. At its seaward end it joins an enclosure (ii).
- (ii) A sub-circular enclosure, 5m in diameter, is defined by drystone walls. The walls stand to five courses or 1m in height. There is an entrance at the north west side. This enclosure is situated on the coast edge, but has not yet been affected by erosion.
- (iii) A dyke extends inland from the coast and is visible over 18m. It is partially buried by
- (iv) An enclosure, to the east of (iii) is semi-circular in shape. It measures 6m in diameter and was probably originally circular, but has been partially truncated by the sea. It is defined by a low earthen and stone bank which stands up to 0.4m high.
- (v) A semi-circular enclosure, defined by drystone walling lies on a shelf of land behind the coast edge. It has not yet been damaged by erosion and is likely to be of recent origin. Fair

W85

Walls: Map 5 HU 2729 4711 Olas Voe Sheep fold Indeterminate

Located <10m from coast edge

A concentration of earthfast stone and earthen banks lies on rough grassland, 6m from low a cliff edge. The structure, probably a ruinous sheep fold, is Y-shaped, measuring 9m in length; the banks stand no more than 0.1m high.

Poor Nil

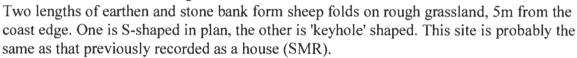
W86

Walls: Map 5 HU 2750 4701 Olas Voe

Sheep folds: probably equivalent to

SMR #3637 18th-20th C

Located <10m from coast edge



Fair Nil

W87

Walls: Map 5 HU 2757 4701

Olas Voe

Structural deposits (in section)

Indeterminate

Located on coast edge

A concentration of stones, visible in a coastal exposure, appear to relate to a man-made surface. The stones lie below 0.5m of peat and immediately above stony mineral soil and drift deposits. There were no topographic feature visible inland of the beach section.

Fair

Monitor



W88

Walls: Map 5 HU 2764 4698 Olas Voe Sheep fold

18th-20th C

Located <10m from coast edge

A Y-shaped sheep fold is formed from an arc of stone banking attached to a short wall. The bank stands up to 0.5m high. It lies on a grassy, gently sloping bank, 5m from the sea.

Fair Nil

W89

Walls: Map 5 HU 2779 4688 Olas Voe

Enclosure

18th-20th C

Located <10m from coast edge

An enclosure, measuring 5m in diameter, is defined by a curvilinear drystone wall. The wall stands up to 1m in height. There is an entrance at the north east. Inside, soil has accumulated to a depth of 1m against the internal wall face.

Fair Nil

W90

Walls: Map 5 HU 2792 4684

Olas Voe

Enclosure

Indeterminate

Located on coast edge

An earthen and stone bank defines an enclosure measuring 4m (N-S) and 6m (E-W). It is situated 2.5m from low banks leading to the sea. It lies adjacent to a water course on rough grassland.

Fair

W91

Walls: Map 5 HU 278 466 Olas Voe Enclosure Indeterminate

Located <100m from coast edge

A sub-circular enclosure, measuring 12m (E-W) by 14m (N-S) is situated on a sloping hillside, almost 100m from the coast edge. Much of the defining earthen and stone banks are buried beneath the peat, and only the very tops of the larger stones are visible now. This may indicate that this enclosure is of early, possibly prehistoric, date.

Fair

Survey

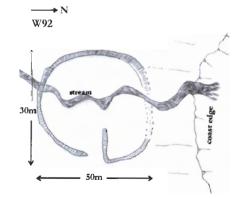
W92

Walls: Map 5 HU 2793 4672 Olas Voe Enclosure Indeterminate

Located <40m from the coast edge

An oval or sub-circular enclosure, measuring 50m (N-S) by 30m (E-W) is defined by a drystone wall.

The wall varies between 0.5m and 0.8m in width and



is constructed from roughly-piled stone. It is partially buried beneath the peat. A probable entrance gap to the east side has an associated length of walling, which turns into the interior of the enclosure. Several larger stones which were just visible protruding through the peat may be set on end. A stream runs through the centre of the enclosed area; in exposures adjacent to the stream up to 1m of peat can be discerned. This site lies 30m from the sea on gently sloping land. It is tentatively identified as an early, possibly prehistoric, enclosure.

Good Survey

W93

Walls: Map 5 HU 2806 4680 Olas Voe Dyke

Indeterminate

Located on coast edge

An 8m long arc of drystone walling, probably part of an enclosure, is visible in peat cuttings; the remainder of the structure is obscured by the peat. The wall is 0.5m wide and is constructed from roughly set stone of various sizes.

Fair

W94

Walls: Map 5 HU 2831 4675 Olas Voe

Enclosure: probably equivalent to SMR #3638

Indeterminate

Located <10m from coast edge

An enclosure, measuring 40m by 20m, is defined by an earthen and stone bank. Much of the bank lies beneath a covering of peat. An overgrown track runs close by. This site is probably the same as that which was previously recorded as a house (SMR).

Fair Nil



W95

Walls: Map 5 HU 2831 4675 Olas Voe Noost Indeterminate

Located on coast edge

A noost is defined by two rows of parallel, medium-sized, earthfast boulders, set 2m apart. They each extend for 3.5m and appear to lie beneath a peat covering toward their inland portion. At the seaward end, an indistinct line of boulders continues into the sea.

Fair

W96 (HU24NW 38)

Walls: Map 6 HU 2230 4771

Burrastow

Click mill and noost

18th-20th C

Located on coast edge

The ruins of a click mill (HU24NW 38) lie close to the coast edge, within the grounds of Burrastow House. A noost with revetted drystone walls is located nearby.

Fair

Nil

W97

Walls: Map 6 HU 223 475

Opposite Holm of Burrastow

Clearance cairns

Indeterminate

Located on coast edge

Two small grass-covered clearance cairns lie on sloping rough grassland opposite the Holm of Burrastow. They lie within 1m of the coast edge and one mound is eroding. They measure 3m by 1.5m by 0.5m high.

Fair Nil

W98

Walls: Map 6 HU 223 475

Opposite Holm of Burrastow

Structure

18th-20th C

Located <10m from coast edge

The grass-covered footings of a square or rectangular structure lie 8m from the sea. The structure measures 6m (E-W) by 3m (N-S) and may have served as a boat house.

Poor

W99

Walls: Map 6 HU 217 475

Wards of Mucklure Structures and dyke

Indeterminate

Located <50m from coast edge

The grass-covered footings of two small rectangular structures are located on the shoulder of a hill, 40m from the sea. They are set 20m apart. The walls of the southernmost structure survive to a maximum height of 0.5m. The other is less well preserved and is indicated in places only by intermittent larger stones. Both structures face seaward. There are several small clearance cairns nearby as well as a substantial drystone estate boundary wall.

Fair/poor

Nil

W100

Walls: Map 6 HU 2098 4719 Uskie Geo

Structure: dwelling? 3rd-1st mill BC

Located <30m from coast edge

A curvilinear earthen bank, possibly the remnant of a prehistoric house, encloses an area 4m (N-S) by 5m (E-W). The bank stands up to 0.5m high. Several stones protrude from the grass to the centre of the enclosed area. It is situated on sloping land, some 20m behind high cliffs. Fair

Survey

W101

Walls: Map 6 HU 2088 4757 Corn Knowe Enclosure Indeterminate

Located on coast edge

The remnants of a square or rectangular enclosure are defined by turf-covered footings, 0.3m high. Much of this structure has already eroded and the remainder lies immediately against the edge of high cliffs. It lies adjacent to a planticrub of recent origin.

W102 (HU24NW 13)

Walls: Map 6 HU 2044 4784 The Peak/Littlure

Burnt mound: Scheduled (HS Index

6222 03HU204478) 3rd-1st mill BC

Located 100m+ from coast edge This burnt mound is crescentic in plan and stands to a height of 1.5m. It covers an area some 12m in diameter. It is mostly covered with



grass and lies about 100m from the sea, close to an abandoned croft. There appears to be some field clearance material piled on top of the mound and a drainage channel has been cut to its immediate north east, where the ground is marshy and wet.

Good Nil

W103

Walls: Map 6 HU 2043 4792 The Peak Orthostat 4th-3rd mill BC

Located <100m from coast edge

A large stone stands towards the centre of an enclosed field, near to an abandoned croft. There are also several clearance cairns within the enclosure. It measures 1m by 0.5m and is 1m high; the long axis is aligned E-W. There appears to be stone packing set into the ground at the base of the orthostat. The origin of the stone is not clear; it may be associated with the crofting remains, but may equally well be of prehistoric date.

Good Survey



W104 (HU24NW 27)

Walls: Map 7 HU 2001 4952

Voe of Footabrough

Broch: Scheduled (HS Index 2089 03HU200495), SMR #2420

1st mill BC-1st mill AD Located on coast edge

The much reduced remains of a broch occupy a small, low headland. It is surrounded by the sea on three sides and up to one third of the building has already been damaged by coastal erosion. The surviving walls stand to over 1m in height and the building has an overall diameter of about 20m. The interior is filled with rubble and is largely grass-covered. Stone derived from the broch has used to build sheep shelters and dykes. These butt against and reuse part of the structure of the broch. The structure is currently being eroded by the sea and has also been damaged by stone robbing and opportunistic digging and rubble clearing. Fair

Monitor

W105 (HU14NE 1)

Walls: Map 7 HU 1981 4960 Mid Walls

Chapel and burial ground: SMR #2457

10th-14th C

Elements located on coast edge

The site of a chapel, of pre-Reformation date, and its accompanying burial ground lie close to the coast edge and have been affected by coastal erosion. Previously, traces of the chapel foundations and part of an enclosure wall, in the form of intermittent earthfast stones, were recorded.

Not located

W106 (HU15SE 17)

Walls: Map 7 HU 176 502

Wick of Watsness

Enclosures, noost and click mills

18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

- (i) The ruins of two small click mills are located beside a watercourse.
- (ii) Two noosts are set into the ground at the coast edge, 250m to the west side of (i).
- (iii) A rectangular enclosure is defined by turf-covered walls which stand up to 0.5m high.
- (iv) There are several small clearance cairns in this area.

Fair/poor



W107 (HU15SE 20)

Walls: Map 7 HU 173 507

Loch of Watsness

Two earthen banks: Scheduled (HS Index 5524 03HU173507)

Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

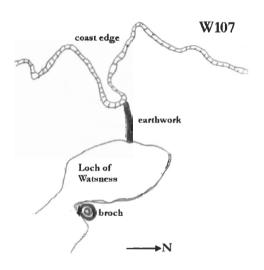
Two earthen banks run between the north shore of the Loch of Watsness and the cliffs which form the coastal edge. They lie in rough grazing land are highly visible. They are interpreted as land boundaries of probable prehistoric date.

(i) The southernmost bank, which is scheduled, measures 7m in width and is visible for 55m. It stands to a height of 2.5m. The seaward end is eroding over high, vertical cliffs. An assessment of this site was carried out in 1997 by Shetland Amenity Trust, with the assistance of the current authors. The earthwork was found to have been built up over a long period, with at least three separate episodes of consolidation or enhancement. The analysis of the site has not been completed (Purdy, forthcoming).

(ii) The northernmost bank measures 2m in width and is visible over 70m. It stands to a height of 0.75m.

Good

Monitor



W108

Walls: Map 8
HU 172 515
Ness of Bakka
Earthen banks; mill
Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

- (i) Two earthen banks run between the cliff edge at Whal Geo and the Loch of Goster. They are situated on rough grazing land. The southernmost measures 1m in width and stands to a height of 0.5m; it is visible for over 50m. The other bank, which runs on a parallel alignment, lies 30m to the north. It measures 2m in width and stands up to 0.3m. It can be traced for at least 50m.
- (i) Two similar earthen banks run between the cliff edge at Voe of Dale to the Loch of Goster. They are less than 0.5m in height.
- (iii) The ruins of a click mill lie between a field boundary and a watercourse, at the cliffs to the south of Bakka.

Good Survey

W109 (HU15SE 8)

Walls: Map 8 HU 1690 5145 Burrier Head

Promontory fort: SMR #2470 1st mill BC-1st mill AD

Elements located on coast edge

This site occupies the tip of a small promontory which is surrounded by high, steep cliffs. An intermittent line of large stones marks out a boundary bank or wall across the waist of the promontory. Previously, masonry and occupation material were visible in an erosion exposure to the south side of the promontory (Lamb, DES 1971).

Fair/poor Monitor

W110

Walls: Map 8 HU 1742 5231 Voe of Dale

Field system and noosts

18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

A relict field system is outlined by the remains of several low earthen banks. The banks and fields are now covered with rough grass and tussocky maritime vegetation. Several grassed-over noosts are set into the ground at the head of the beach.

Fair/poor

Nil

W111

Walls: Map 8 HU 171 522

Mu Ness

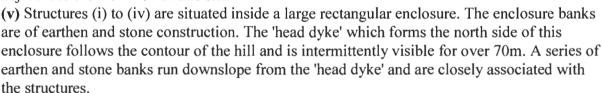
Field system and structures

3rd-1st mill BC

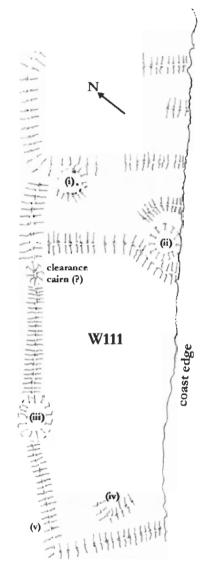
Elements located on coast edge

Four structures and a field system, probably of contemporary date may represent a prehistoric settlement. The sites are located on sloping rough grazing land behind high cliffs to the west side of the bay Voe of Dale. All of these feature have been much truncated and now appear as slight topographic features.

- (i) The easternmost structure is oval in shape and measures 6m by 5m. It appears to have been cut into the slope. It is defined by earthen and stone banks which stand up to 0.3m high. The interior is slightly dished in appearance. An earthen field boundary adjoins the eastern side of the structure.
- (ii) A second, similar, structure lies 10m to the west side of (i). It measures 8m by 7m and lies less than 0.5m from the sea. An earthen field boundary, aligned with the slope, apparently respects this structure and curves to one side of it.
- (iii) This oval structure is defined by an earthen bank which stands up to 0.5m high. It measures 7m by 6m and lies some 20m from the sea. The interior is slightly dished. It lies to one side of an earthen field bank.
- (iv) This structure is almost circular in plan, measuring 7m in diameter. It is defined by earthen and stone banks. A small right-angled portion of earth bank lies adjacent to the west side of this site.



Fair





W112 (HU15SE 9)

Walls: Map 8 HU 1691 5216 Clett Rock Structures 1st mill BC/1st mill AD

TSUMMI BC/TSUMMI AD

Elements located <10m from coast edge
The footings of structures have been recorded previously on summit of the off-shore stack of

Clett Rock (Source: NMRS).

Not inspected

W113

Walls: Map 8 HU 1682 5242

Mu Ness

Enclosed promontory: possibly equivalent to SMR #2476

1st mill BC/1st mill AD

Elements located on coast edge

A low earthen and stone bank extends across the neck of a promontory at the west end of Mu Ness. It measures 3m in width, 50m in length and stands to a maximum height of 0.3m. This site may be the same as SMR #2476, which is described as a mound.

Good Survey



W114

Walls: Map 8 HU 1695 5267 The Groud

Two orthostatic stones

Indeterminate

Located <10m from coast edge

Two orthostatic stones, set 0.8m apart, lie in rough grazing land, some 8m from high cliffs. The larger stone measures 0.7m by 0.3m and stands 1m high; the smaller stone measures 0.9m by 0.3m and stands 0.65m high. Stone packing has been used to chock the orthostats in place. Good Nil

W115

Walls: Map 8 HU 1696 5275 The Groud Three earthen banks Indeterminate

Located <50m from coast edge

Three segments of earthen bank lie adjacent to a stream bed. The banks stand to a maximum height of 0.3m but do not form any discernible pattern.

Fair Nil

W116

Walls: Map 8
HU 1739 5312
Runkie Head
Field system and
possible structures
3rd-1st mill BC
Located <100m from
coast edge
There are widespread
fragmentary remains in
this area. Segments of



earthen banks and terrace edge can be discerned along with two sub-circular enclosures or structures. One measures 10m by 8m and is defined by earthen and stone banks up to 0.5m in height. The other measures 3m by 4m with banks up to 0.5m high. Several orthostats are visible around the circuit of this bank. They may represent prehistoric houses, surrounded by a field system of contemporary date.

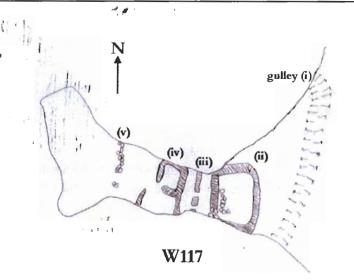
W117 (HU15SE 10)

Walls: Map 8 HU 171 533 Weinnia Ness

Defended promontory: SMR #2474

1st mill BC/1st mill AD
Elements located on coast edge
A long narrow promontory,
surrounded by high vertical cliffs, is
divided by a series of banks which
run across its width. The scale of
these barriers is more than that
required merely for stock
management and it is likely that this
may be a defended promontory,

probably of prehistoric date. There



are possible structural remains situated at the seaward end of the promontory. The site is very exposed and the terminals of the banks have already been damaged by erosion. The various elements found at the site are described here, as encountered moving from the landward to the seaward end of the promontory:

- (i) A natural glacial gully, up to 1.5m deep, cuts across the neck of the promontory at its landward end.
- (ii) At a distance of 16m further west (seaward), a rectangular enclosure is defined by earthen and stone banks. This enclosure extends across the entire width of the promontory and is 7m long. The remnants of a stone structure and stone revetted bank lie within this enclosure.
- (iii) Further along the promontory another earthen bank, standing up to 0.6m high, extends across the width of the promontory neck.
- (iv) At a distance of 4m westward of (iii), an earthen bank, 2m in width, stands up to 0.4m high. There is the feint suggestion of a rectangular structure or enclosure at the west end of this bank.
- (v) Further seaward along the promontory are a line of boulders which extend, intermittently, across the neck of land.

Fair



W118

Walls: Map 8 HU 1759 5385 Steis Point Earthen banks Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

Two earthen banks run over rough grassland to the cliff edge. From the coast the banks run close together for 100m or so. The northern bank is 3.5m wide and up to 1m high; the southern bank is 1m wide and less than 0.5m high. After this point, they converge to form a single, slightly larger, bank.

10 mm 10 9 9 9 9

W119

Walls: Map 9 HU 1782 5470 Ayre of Deepdale

Mounds

Indeterminate

Located on coast edge

Two grass-covered mounds lie immediately against very high cliffs. The first measures 10m by 5m and may be a natural feature. The second mound is located some 50m to the north of the first. It measures approximately 7m in diameter and stands up to 2m in height. The exposed location and the severe weather conditions prevailing on the day of the visit did not permit further investigation.

Fair

Monitor/survey

W120

Walls: Map 9 HU 1822 5468 Deep Dale

Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC

Located <100m from coast edge

A circular structure, possibly a prehistoric house site, lies about 150m uphill of the burn at Deep Dale. It occupies an artificial terrace or platform and is defined by earthen and stone banks which stand up to 2m high. The internal face of the bank appears to have been lined with stone. Inside, it measures 4m in diameter and there is a pile of collapsed stone to the centre of the floor which may derive from an internal division or fitting. The site is partially covered by peat and lies about 100m from the coast edge.

Good Survey

W121

Walls: Map 9 HU 1784 5484 Deep Dale

Human burials: SMR #2478

Indeterminate

Located <20m from coast edge

Human burials have been previously recorded in the area to the north of the burn.

Not Located



W122

Walls: Map 9 HU 171 555 The Cup Earthen bank Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen bank runs inland from a high cliff edge. It is visible for about 50m. It measures 3-4m in width and stands up to 0.5m high. It lies in situated in rough grassland.

Fair Nil

W123

Walls: Map 9 HU 1665 5623 Hack Field

Structure: possible noost

Indeterminate

Located on coast edge
An elongated oval structure,
possibly a noost or boat house,
is situated on flat grassland. It
has been partially eroded by the



sea. It is defined by intermittent stones, some of which appear to be orthostats. It measures 3.5m by 2.2m. An examination of the exposed section indicated the presence of several edge-set stones beneath a thin deposit of turf and topsoil.

Fair Monitor

W124

Walls: Map 9 HU 1681 5634 Rotten Craig Drystone dyke Indeterminate

Elements located <40m from coast edge

The remnants of a drystone dyke extend for over 50m. The dyke is 2m wide and is now defined by intermittent earthfast orthostats which protrude from the turf.

W125

Walls: Map 9
HU 168 564
Rotten Craig
Earthen bank
Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen and stone bank runs perpendicular to the coast can be traced for upwards of 50m inland. It measures 2m in width and stands up to 0.5m high.

Fair Survey

W126

Walls: Map 9 HU 1694 5663 Pobie Skeo

Structure: skeo or cairn

Indeterminate

Located on coast edge

A group of intermittent large stones, including occasional orthostats, mark a kerb or wall footings of a small circular structure. This structure has been truncated by coastal erosion. It now measures some 5m in diameter, but may have originally been up to 7m or more. Some earthfast stones lie to among tussocky vegetation to the interior. These ruins may belong to a skeo, as is suggested by the placename, but alternatively may be a burial cairn of prehistoric date.

Fair Survey

W127

Walls: Map 9 HU 170 568 Loch of Huxter Earthen bank Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen bank extends over rough grassland and tussocks of sea thrift between the Loch of Huxter and the seashore. It is 5m wide and 1m high and is eroding at its seaward end.

W128 (HU15NE 19, 25, 26, 27)

Walls: Map 9 HU 172 571 Huxter

Click mills: Listed 'B'

18th-20th C

Elements located <50m from coast edge

Three horizontal watermills are set over the lower reaches of the burn which flows from the Loch of Huxter to the sea. The site of a fourth mill stands nearby. They each measure approximately 5.5m by 3m. They are provided with a stone-lined lade and there is a dam with a sluice-gate further inland. The mills are currently being repaired and conserved using traditional building techniques by Shetland Amenity Trust.

Good Nil

W129

Walls: Map 9 HU 172 572 Ayre of Huxter Earthen bank Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

The remnants of an earthen dyke are visible intermittently, running inland over rough grass from the coast edge. It is 2-3m wide and stands up to 0.5m high.

Fair/poor Survey

W130

Walls: Map 9 HU 1735 5737 Ayre of Huxter Structure: dwelling 18th-20th C

Located <10m from coast edge

The footings of a long rectangular structure with an adjacent yard lie in rough grassland at the north end of the Ayre of Huxter. It measures 20m (NE-SW) by 7m (NW-SE). The walls are of drystone construction and are roughly coursed; they survive to a height of 0.5m. The structure is aligned parallel with the shore and lies at a distance of 5m from the coast edge. A capstone-covered drain runs to the north side of the structure.

W131

Walls: Map 9 HU 177 575 Clumpers Noosts and kail yards 18th-20th C

Located on coast edge

- (i) Two partly eroded noosts, with some stonework surviving at their landward ends, lie towards the western end of the beach.
- (ii) The remains of a series of drystone walls, along with scattered piles of stone, mark the site of former kail yards.

Fair/poor

Nil

W132 (HU15NE 24)

Walls: Map 10 HU 1865 5785

Melby

Melby House: Listed 'B'

18th-20th C

Elements located <10m from coast edge

Melby House, built around 1800 as a replacement for the adjacent North House (18th C). It was the seat of the Scotts of Melby until 1893. It stands to two stories, with a garret, and is three bays wide. There are later single storied additions to the rear. The porch and dormers are gabled; the roof is slated. The exterior is harled, with dressed margins and band-courses. A stout wall encloses the grounds of the house, which run down to the shore. There is a small stone pier. The house is privately owned; it is occupied and is in a good state of preservation.

Good Nil

W133

Walls: Map 10 HU 1975 5794 The Crook Noosts 18th-20th C

Located on coast edge

Four noosts lie at the head of a sandy bay, cut into the dunes. The uppermost lies 4m above the beach. All are grass-covered, but some show signs of stone in their sides. They measure, on average, 2m by 4m and are up to 1m deep.

Fair Nil

W134

Walls: Map 10 HU 198 581 Neap of Norby Earthen bank Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen bank, 2m wide and up to 0.5m high, runs inland from high cliffs. It is situated in rough grassland and is visible over 50m.

W135

Walls: Map 10 HU 202 579 Sand of Gord Earthen bank Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen bank extends along the coast edge, behind high cliffs, before curving inland to run downhill towards level ground. It measures 2m in width and stands than 0.5m high. It is visible for over 100m. In its original form, this bank appears to have been an earthen construction. Later, drystone walling was added to one side of the bank. Small clearance cairns lie within this field defined by this bank. They cluster on the flatter land, situated some 80m from the cliff edge.

Fair Survey

W136

Walls: Map 10 HU 211 580 The Kame Earthen bank Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

A low earthen bank runs from high cliffs at the coast edge, downhill for over 40m over rough grassland. It measures between 2.5m and 3m in width and stands up to 0.25m high. It appears to have been much truncated by cultivation.

Fair/poor Survey

W137

Walls: Map 11 HU 212 580 The Kame

Clearance cairns

Indeterminate

Located <50m from coast edge

A group of 10 or more clearance cairns are located against a break in slope, surrounding a rocky outcrop, above a relatively level field. They measure up to 1m in diameter and are less than 0.5m high.

Fair Nil

W138

Walls: Map 11 HU 213 579 Bay of Garth

Enclosures and clearance cairns 4th-3rd mill BC & 18th-20th C Located <50m from coast edge

A series of pastoral remains are concentrated in this area:

- (i) Two earthen and stone banks are positioned at right angles to each other, forming a sheep fold. One is 13m long; the other is 10m long and has a clearance cairn at its terminal. Both stand up to 0.5m high.
- (ii) Several enclosures and the remnants of drystone dykes are located in the area of (i).
- (iii) At the centre of the field, an enclosure has been constructed over an earthen mound. This mound measures 8m in diameter and may be of considerably earlier date than the enclosure. Fair

Nil

W139 (may be equivalent to HU25NW 12)

Walls: Map 11 HU 2162 5800 Bay of Garth Structure and noost

18th-20th C

Located on coast edge

The ruins of a small rectangular structure measures 7m by 2m (internally). The walls are 0.75m wide and mostly survive to 0.5m in height; the gable end stands to 2m in height. This structure may be the remains of a mill; two mill sites have been previously recorded in this area. Nearby an indistinct hollowed area, measuring 2.5m by 5m, is probably a disused boat noost.

W140 (HU25NW 2)

Walls: Map 11 HU 216 582 Ness of Garth

Promontory Fort: Scheduled (HS Index 5540 03HU216582), SMR #2532

1st mill BC/1st mill AD

Elements located on coast edge

The remains of a defended fort occupy a promontory, which is now cut off from the mainland at high tide. On the landward side of the promontory, two stone-faced ramparts are revetted into the slope, one behind the other. A small erosion face, of recent origin, was noted below the lowest of the ramparts on the landward side of the promontory. It measures 2m in length and is 1m high. No definite archaeological deposits were visible. At the top of the slope, grass-covered rubble may be part of a third line of defence, now completely ruinous. The footings of at least one small structure lie further out on the promontory. Previously, the remains of at least three structures were noted on the promontory and the defences were described as being far more substantial than they now appear (Source: NMRS). This site has apparently suffered significantly from coastal erosion in the past thirty years.

Fair/poor Monitor

W141

Walls: Map 11 HU 216 581

opposite Ness of Garth Clearance cairns and terrace

18th-20th C

Elements located <10m from coast edge

Eight or more small clearance cairns, some bounded by rough kerbs of larger stones, are situated on relatively flat land opposite to Ness of Garth promontory fort. A revetted bank forms the edge of a terrace edge, aligned parallel to the coast edge.

Fair Nil

W142

Walls: Map 11 HU 219 579

west of Little Bousta

Clearance cairns

18th-20th C

Elements located <10m from coast edge

A group of eight or more small clearance cairns lie beneath the summit of a low rocky outcrop. The remains of several drainage ditches and drystone dykes lie nearby.

Fair

Nil

W143

Walls: Map 11 HU 2208 5788 West of Little Bousta

Enclosure Indeterminate

Located <10m from coast edge

A rectangular enclosure, measuring 30m by 10m, is defined by intermittent stretches of ruinous, rough walling, interspersed with piles of stone clearance material. The enclosure occupies a sheltered hollow and is relatively sheltered. There may be other remnant features surviving here; they are obscured by clearance material and tumbled stone from rock falls. The site is less than 10m from an indented coastline with high cliffs. This site may represent the remains of an old enclosed field.

Fair/poor Survey

W144

Walls: Map 11
HU 2228 5792
Little Bousta
Lime Kiln
18th-20th C
Located <10m from coast edge
A circular lime kiln stands on a

small rocky promontory. It



measures 3m in diameter (external) and the drystone walls stand up to 1.5m high. The walls are 1m or more in thickness and the centre is hollow. There are four openings at ground level, each of which has a basal slab and is capped with a lintel stone. The openings measure 0.5m high by 0.4m wide. A small associated feature lies to the south west side.

Good Survey

W145

Walls: Map 11 HU 2225 5785 Little Bousta

Enclosure and earthen bank

Indeterminate

Located <50m from coast edge

- (i) A semi-circular enclosure, 15m in diameter, is defined by an earthen bank which also contains some upright stones. In places, the bank has been covered over with stones cleared from the land. It lies on rough grassland, up to 50m from the sea.
- (ii) To the north of the enclosure, an earthen bank extends for approximately 25m along the coast edge, before turning inland. It is 0.5m wide and stands up to 0.2m high. Traces of other, more indistinct, banks are visible in this area.

Fair

W146

Walls: Map 11 HU 2242 5751 Muckle Bousta

Structure: possible dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC & 18th-20th C Located <10m from coast edge

A circular structure, 4m in diameter, is defined by an earthen bank which incorporates several medium sized stones. There is a possible entrance to the seaward side. It lies on a gently sloping hillside, 5m from the coast edge, in rough grassland. A disused noost lies nearby, on the shore.

Fair

Survey

W147

Walls: Map 11 HU 223 574 Muckle Bousta Drystone dyke 18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

The remains of a drystone dyke meanders inland from the coast edge and is visible for over 30m. The wall contains several medium-sized orthostats and is largely reduced to its basal courses.

Fair

Nil

W148

Walls: Map 11 HU 2238 5739 Bay of Brenwell

Enclosure

Indeterminate

Located <30m from coast edge

A small oval enclosure, defined by a kerb of medium and small sized stones, is situated in rough grassland, some 20m from cliffs. It measures 2.5m (NE-SW) by 4m (NW-SE). There appears to be an entrance to the north west side.

Fair

W149

Walls: Map 11 HU 223 572 Bay of Brenwell

Drystone dyke, possible structure and clearance cairn

18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

- (i) The remains of a drystone dyke extends uphill from the sea for at least 100m. At it's seaward end, the dyke is grass-covered and survives to a height of 0.3m or one course. There is an access gap through the wall in this area. Further inland it stands up to 1m in height.
- (ii) At approximately 30m from the coast edge the very indistinct traces of a structure, represented by a grass-covered pile of stone, adjoins the dyke. This may be a sheep shelter, but could alternatively be a clearance cairn.
- (iii) Further inland, the dyke is built over a small cairn, which is probably derived from field clearance material.

Fair

Nil

W150

Walls: Map 11 HU 2252 5695 Bay of Brenwell Enclosure

Indeterminate

Located <10m from coast edge

An enclosure, measuring 10m (N-S) by 8m (E-W) is bordered by an intermittent line of stones. The interior is raised: the ground level being up to 0.5m higher than the surrounding area outside. It lies 5m from the sea, in rough grassland. Behind the enclosure there is a rocky outcrop and further inland the remnants of a stony dyke can be seen.

Fair Nil

W151

Walls: Map 11 HU 225 568 Bay of Brenwell

Clearance cairns, dykes and enclosures

18th-20th C

Elements located <20m from coast edge

Upwards of six small clearance cairns, measuring up to 4m in diameter and 0.4m in height, are spread around. The remains of several drystone dykes and sheep shelters and enclosures are located in this vicinity. They sit in rough grass land and most of the remains are located over 20m from the coast edge.



W152

Walls: Map 11 HU 225 568 Bay of Brenwell Earthen bank Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen bank extends for over 25m across a small headland between the bay of Brenwell and Breiwick bay. It is between 1.5m and 2m in width and stands up to 0.3m high.

Fair Survey

W153 (may be equivalent to HU25NW 15)

Walls: Map 11 HU 2265 5684 Breiwick Click mill 18th-20th C

Located <50m from coast edge
A ruinous click mill is situated built
between two rocky outcrops beside a
fast flowing stream, which go on to
form a waterfall over the cliffs. There
are no upstanding walls remaining; the
site has been reduced to a pile of rubble,



and only the footings survive *in-situ*. Part of a blocking wall, used to divert water, survives behind the mill. The watercourse no longer runs through the mill channel.

Fair Survey

W154

Walls: Map 11 HU 228 567 Breiwick bay Drystone dyke 18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

A drystone dyke, aligned with a watercourse, runs inland from the sea. It is up to 2m in width, and is constructed from large boulders and clearance material. It stands one course or 0.6m high. At its seaward end the dyke is adjoined by a stretch of revetted walling, which may have served to retain the stream. Further inland, it meanders around the contours of the hillside.

W155

Walls: Map 11 HU 2292 5668 Breiwick Mound

4th-3rd mill BC

Located <10m from coast edge

A slight, grass-covered, mound has several protruding stones around its periphery. It is obscured by peat which has developed over it and thus it is difficult to ascertain its true shape or dimensions. It may be natural, but is more likely to represent an enclosure, burial monument or structure, possibly of early date.

Fair Survey

W156

Walls: Map 11 HU 2295 5662 Breiwick Drystone dyke 18th-20th C

Located <100m from coast edge

A drystone dyke extends for 50m or more between two rises leading to Breiwick valley. Much of the dyke lies beneath the peat. It measures between 0.75m and 1m in width; only one course of stone is visible above the peat. It runs through boggy rough grass and heather, at an average distance of 100m from the sea.

Fair Nil

W157

Walls: Map 11 HU 2319 5654 Vde of Snarraness Sheep fold 18th-20th C

Located <10m from coast edge

A key-hole shaped sheep fold occupies a small headland. The circular portion of this feature is roughly coursed and stands up to 0.3m high. The long walls are indistinct, being less than 0.2m high. It lies in rough grassland.



W158

Walls: Map 11 HU 2370 5600 Voe of Snarraness

Two noosts 18th-20th C

Located on coast edge

Two noosts lie at the head of a pebble beach and are defined by two short stretches of walling, 1m in width.

Fair Nil

W159

Walls: Map 11 HU 2387 5660 Loch of Kellister

Cairn: may be equivalent to SMR #2538

4th-3rd mill BC

Located <10m from coast edge

A well-defined cairn lies on level ground some 8m from the sea and 30m from the Loch of Kellister. It is circular in shape, measures 3m in diameter and stands up to 1m high. There is an outer kerb which is constructed from angular stones, measuring 0.3m by 0.4m by 0.2m. Part of a possible inner kerb is visible to the south side. It is situated in rough grassland and is largely covered with turf. This site may be the same as SMR #2538 which is described as a platform and stone built structure.



W160

Walls: Map 11 HU 2386 5615 Voe of Snarraness

Noost

Indeterminate

Located on coast edge

A slight depression at the head of a beach measures 5m by 1m and is probably a boat noost. Some stone is visible to its sides. A similar, but less distinct feature lies 3m to the south east.

Nil

W161

Walls: Map 11 HU 2395 5610 Voe of Snarraness

Stone setting: SMR #2541

Indeterminate

Located <50m from coast edge

Three large stones, forming an arc, have been noted previously at this location.

Not located

W162

Walls: Map 11 HU 2393 5619

Voe of Snarraness

Structures, dykes, enclosure and clearance material

18th-20th C

Elements located <20m from coast edge

The ruins of a rectangular structure, probably a dwelling house, is surrounded by the remains of several other structures. They lie in improved grassland close to the lochside.

- (i) The rectangular dwelling house is reduced to its footings. It measures 5m by 2.5m (externally). Its walls are between 0.6 and 0.75m thick and stand up to three courses or 0.4m high. A probable entrance is located on the west side.
- (ii) A circular structure, probably a corn-drying kiln, was built onto the south western corner of structure (i). It measures 2m in diameter. The walls are between 0.5 and 0.6m in thickness, are constructed from large stones and stand up to two courses or 0.3m high.
- (iii) To the east side of structure (i), a ruinous drystone wall, of very rough construction, stands less than 0.2m high.
- (iv) Structures (i) (iii) lie within a rectangular enclosure. This is defined by a line of intermittent stones.
- (v) The remains of a possible structure adjoins the southern side of the enclosure (iv). It measures 4m in diameter and is defined by a pile of both loose and earthfast stones.
- (vi) Several grassed over amorphous piles in this area may be midden or clearance material. Fair





W163

Walls: Map 11 HU 2389 5651 Voe of Snarraness Cairn 4th-3rd mill BC

Located <40m from coast edge

A mound of stone, measuring 3.5m X 5m, may be a burial cairn of prehistoric date. A slight earthen bank is visible beneath the mass of stone on the east side. A kerb or adjoining stone feature is also indicated on the north side. The stones are relatively uniform in size, measuring, on average, 0.3m by 0.2m by 0.1m. The site sits on steeply sloping grassland, some 30m from low cliffs. It is tentatively identified as a burial cairn, since it is unlike other clearance cairns seen in the area and is composed mostly of stones of a similar size. There are several small clearance cairns in this general area, along with the remains of enclosures and dykes.

Fair Survey



W164

Walls: Map 11 HU 237 567 Snarra Ness Earthen banks Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earthen bank runs uphill from the sea through improved pasture land. It is between 1m and 1.5m wide and stands up to 0.2m high. To the immediate west of this bank, there is a ruinous stone dyke, with field clearance stones banked against it. Three similar banks lie on the same alignment, further to the west. They have all been truncated by cultivation.

Fair/poor

W165

Walls: Map 11 HU 2366 5680 Snarra Ness

Structure: dwelling and clearance cairns

18th-20th C

Located <50m from coast edge

An abandoned house appears to been inhabited until recently. It is surrounded by several small clearance cairns, which are up to 2m in diameter.

Fair Nil

W166

Walls: Map 11 HU 235 570 Snarra Ness

Earthen and stone bank

Indeterminate

Elements located on coast edge

An earth bank, faced with intermittent stones to one side, measures up to 2m in width and stands to 0.3m high. It extends fully across the peninsula of Snarra Ness.

Fair Nil

W167

Walls: Map 11 HU 2349 5743 The Ward Sheep folds 18th-20th C

Located <50m from coast edge

A keyhole-shaped enclosure is linked to a rectangular enclosure by a roughly built wall. Several other lengths of drystone walling are attached to the enclosures, forming a series of sheep folds. The walls and enclosures are located beneath a rocky prominence, The Ward, have been partially obscured by rock fall.

W168 (HU25NW 10)

Walls: Map 11 Snarra Ness HU 2361 5743

Lime kiln and quarry: Scheduled (HS Index 645603HU236574)

18th-20th C

Located <10m from coast edge

A circular lime kiln stands beneath The Ward, a rocky prominence. Externally, it measures 3m in diameter, with walls standing to 1.5m high. The walls measure 1m or more in thickness. There are four openings at ground level, each of which has a basal slab and is capped with a lintel stone.

Fair Nil

W169

Walls: Map 11 HU 2380 5727 Snarra Ness Two cairns 4th-3rd mill BC

Located <30m from coast edge

- (i) A concentration of small to medium sized stone forms a low mound which is now mostly covered with grass. It is circular in shape, measuring up to 2m in diameter and stands c. 0.2m high. It is composed of stone measuring 0.2m by 0.15m by 0.08m. It is located on a knoll in rough grassland, above a break in slope leading to the cliff edge.
- (ii) At a distance of 10m to the south east of (i), a second mound measures approximately 2m in diameter and stands less than 0.2m high. There are several medium sized stones at the peripheries of this mound and bedrock protrudes from its centre. The vegetation in this area is slightly greener. This feature may be entirely natural.

Fair

Survey

W170

Walls: Map 11 HU 2401 5685 Snap Hevda Mound

4th-3rd mill BC

Located <20m from coast edge

An amorphous mound lies on flat, rough grassland. It measures 6m in diameter and is mostly covered with grass. There is a slight depression (<1m in diameter) to the centre of the mound and a shattered stone is visible here in a small exposure. This site may be a burnt mound or burial mound of prehistoric date.

Fair

W171

Walls: Map 11 HU 2401 5685 Snap Hevda

Mound

4th-3rd mill BC

Located <20m from coast edge

A low grass covered mound measures 4m in diameter and stands to 0.5m high. There is a slight depression (0.5m in diameter) to the centre of the mound in which stone is visible.

Fair

Survey

W172

Walls: Map 11 HU 2405 5682 Snap Hevda

Enclosure and dyke

18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

- (i) A rough, uncoursed drystone dyke extends inland from the coast edge. Constructed from small stones, it measures between 0.5 and 0.75m wide and stands up to 0.75m high.
- (ii) A circular enclosure adjoins the seaward end of the dyke. The walls stand up to 1m high and taper in towards the top; the basal course is composed of large stones (1m by 0.8m by 0.5m). The ground level inside is substantially higher than the surrounding area and a small tree is growing within it. The structure is in a good state of repair.

Fair Nil

W173

Walls: Map 11 HU 243 570 Snap Hevda Stone scatter 3rd-1st mill BC

Located <10m from coast edge

A concentration of loose stone is scattered over a strip of level ground adjacent to low cliffs. Within this area, an arc of ruinous drystone walling, 0.5m wide, is defined by intermittent angular orthostats (0.5m by 0.4m by 0.3m). The remains of a probable circular structure lie in the curve of this wall. This structure is very indistinct, measuring approximately 3.5m in diameter.

Fair/poor

Nil

W174

Walls: Map 12 HU 249 568 West Burra Firth

Structure: dwelling, enclosures, field system and noosts

18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

- (i) A ruinous, rectangular house, which has apparently been abandoned only recently, measures 8m by 5m (externally). The walls stand up to roof height and are mortared; the roof has now collapsed.
- (ii) A series of field boundaries and enclosures surround the house.
- (iii) Two noosts lie at the head of a pebble beach, separated by a stone wall. One measures 3.5m by 1.5m and has a partially revetted side, the other is 5m by 2m; both are up to 0.5m deep.

Fair

Nil

W175

Walls: Map 12 HU 2516 5704 West Burra Firth

Enclosure 18th-20th C

Located <10m from coast edge

A ruinous square enclosure, probably a planticrub, lies in rough, gently sloping grassland, 4m from the shore. It measures 2.5m by 2.5m and has uncoursed walls which are 0.75m thick. It stands up to two courses or 0.3m high.

Fair Nil

W176

Walls: Map 12 HU 253 569 West Burra Firth Drystone dykes 18th-20th C

Located <20m from coast edge

Several ruinous drystone dykes extend over sloping land, to the rear of the pier area. One runs parallel to the coast and is set 15m back from the shore. It stands up to one course or 0.3m high, contains several large orthostats and looks of relatively recent construction. Further stretches of ruinous dyking in this area extend inland from the sea, adjacent to a watercourse. These may continue underneath the peat.

W177

Walls: Map 12 HU 2559 5680 West Burra Firth

Two noosts

18th-20th C

Located on coast edge

- (i) A depression which has stone-lined sides is cut into the base of a low rise, immediately above the beach. It measures between 4m and 1m in width and is 4.5m long.
- (ii) A second, similar feature lies to the west, it measures 2m by 1m by 0.3m.

Fair

Nil

W178

Walls: Map 12 HU 2568 5668 West Burra Firth

Two noosts

18th-20th C

Located on coast edge

- (i) A depression, measuring 2.5-3m by 1.5m, is set into the top end of a stony beach. Some revetted stone is visible in its sides. A metal post at the front end has an anchor attached. It is up to 0.75m deep.
- (ii) A second, similar feature lies to the west. It is covered with grass and measures 2m by 1m by 0.3m.

Fair

Nil

W179

Walls: Map 12 HU 2568 5661 West Burra Firth

Cairn

4th-3rd mill BC

Located <30m from coast edge

A rather indistinct, low cairn is made up from a concentration of small to medium-sized stone with a possible outer kerb. The kerb comprises several larger stones which are set around the periphery. The cairn measures 3m in diameter and stands less than 0.2m high. The surrounding area is much disturbed by drainage ditches and road building. This site may be the remains of a prehistoric burial cairn, but may alternatively be a clearance cairn of more recent date.

Fair



W180

Walls: Map 12 HU 2575 5663 West Burra Firth

Clearance cairn and dyke

Indeterminate

Located <10m from coast edge

A small clearance cairn, 2m in diameter lies on sloping rough grassland, 5m from the shore. There is much loose stone in the area, probably derived from a now almost totally depleted dyke.

Fair Nil

W181

Walls: Map 12 HU 2578 5665 West Burra Firth Mound

4th-3rd mill BC

Located <10m from coast edge



A stony mound, 6m in diameter, contains medium and large sized stones (0.75m by 0.5m by 0.3m). Although the mound is amorphous, there is the slight suggestion of kerb and possibly a central structure. It lies on rough grass and heather, 3m from the coast edge. It may be a prehistoric burial monument.

Fair Nil

W182 (HU25NE 7)

Walls: Map 12 HU 2582 5718 West Burrafirth

The Giants stone (standing stone): SMR # 2550

4th-3rd mill BC

Located 100m+ from coast edge

A large, irregular sandstone boulder is set into the hillside, overlooking West Burrafirth broch. It stands some 1.5m in height and is 2m wide. It is situated within a ruinous enclosure.

Fair

Nil

W183 (HU25NE 4)

Walls: Map 12 HU 2562 5720

Holm of Hebrista, West Burrafirth

West Burrafirth Broch: Scheduled (HS Index 2090 03HU256572), SMR #2549

1st mill BC-1st mill AD

Elements located on coast edge

The severely eroded remains of a broch, measuring some 20m in diameter, occupy a small islet in West Burra Firth. A causeway between the islet and the shore has now been inundated. It has been recorded that the walls are 5m in thickness and that they contain intra-mural galleries and chambers.

Not inspected

W184

Walls: Map 12 HU 2571 5725 West Burrafirth

Noosts

18th-20th C

Located on coast edge

The remains of several noosts, most of which have stone-lined sides, are located on a flat grassy area above the beach. Most of the noosts have been abandoned and are covered with grass, but some are still in use. This area has been much affected by coastal erosion in recent times.

Fair

Nil

W185

Walls: Map 12 HU 255 574 West Burrafirth

Clearance cairns and cultivation remains

Indeterminate

Elements located <10m from coast edge

A group of twenty or more small clearance cairns are spread over the floor of a narrow U-shaped valley. They measure up to 2m in diameter and stand less than 0.5m high. The valley floor appears fertile, and has been drained up until recent times. An examination of the eroding coastal section revealed that the topsoil covering is up to 0.5m in thickness.

Fair

Nil

W186

Walls: Map 12 HU 2504 5735

West Burra Firth: opposite Holm of Tafts Enclosure and possible burnt mounds

3rd-1st mill BC

Located on coast edge

Three roughly circular mounds, composed of burnt shattered stone, are arranged to form an arc, within an enclosing stone bank. The mounds, which are mostly grass-covered, each measure 5m in diameter. The central mound stands up to 0.5m; the other two are slightly smaller. The mounds are situated on gently sloping rough grassland, leading to low cliffs. They lie 3m from the coast edge. They are tentatively interpreted as burnt mounds, although they may also incorporate later deposits of clearance material. No water course was visible in the vicinity. The curvilinear bank which encloses the mounds extends for 55m or more. It is composed of earth and rubble with some larger stones visible. It runs from the coast edge, to the south side of the mounds, up to an outcrop, after which it is no longer visible.

Fair Survey

W187

Walls: Map 12 HU 2490 5783

Crockna Vord, opposite Swaaba Stack

Enclosure Indeterminate

Located <10m from coast edge

A very ill-defined linear pile of stone may be the remains of an enclosure. The stones extend for 17m in a band of approximately 2m in width. The 'enclosure' lies on gently sloping rough grassland, on a shelf of land beneath a rocky prominence and above high cliffs. There is much loose stone in this area, derived in part of tumble from the rocky slope and in part from material cast up by the sea. The abundance of stone made it difficult to be certain that this feature was in fact artificial rather than natural.

Poor Nil

W188

Walls: Map 12 HU 2494 5788

Crockna Vord, opposite Swaaba Stack

Structure Indeterminate

Located <10m from coast edge

The remains of a rectangular structure, measuring 6m (N-S) by 3m (E-W), are outlined by a group of about 10 earthfast stones. The site is located in tussocky grass less than 5m from the cost edge. Inland, the ground rises steeply and is covered in rough grass and heather. To the seaward side, the land gives away to rocky cliffs. The very ruinous nature of this site makes interpretation difficult, it would appear that its present state is the result of stone-robbing rather than coastal erosion. It's isolated location suggests that it may be a small sheep shelter.

Poor Nil

W189

Walls: Map 12 HU 2495 5805

Head of Onibery, Crockna Vord

Cairn

4th-3rd mill BC

Located <20m from coast edge

An oval cairn measures 7m (N-S) by 9.5m (E-W). The average size of the stones which make up the cairn are 0.3m by 0.2m by 0.2m; some appear to be set orthostatically. Large stones which are located around the periphery of the cairn, on the south and south west sides, may be part of a kerb. The cairn is located on a sloping terrace below a low rocky prominence and above high cliffs. The surrounding vegetation is tussocky, rough grassland and heather. This site is tentatively identified as a prehistoric burial cairn.

Fair



W190

Walls: Map 12 HU 253 583

Pundswell Knowe

Structures Indeterminate

Located on coast edge

- (i) The footings of a small rectangular structure are situated on a small promontory, beneath Pundswell Knowe, opposite West Burrafirth Isle (NGR: HU 2528 5840). Externally, it measures 4m (E-W) by 6m (N-S). The entrance appears to lie at the south end. There are indications of an internal division, 2m from the south end. The foundations comprise stone blocks and incorporate large edge-set slabs at the corners. The site is thinly covered with topsoil and surrounded by rough, tussocky grassland. The east wall may be partially revetted into the inland slope and there is the suggestion of a 'bench' or ledge-type feature which is approximately 0.4m wide to this side. The nature of this structure is unclear: it appears to be of better construction than would be usual for a sheep shelter and may be more consistent with a bothy. It does not appear to be of recent origin.
- (ii) A second structure, with similar dimensions to (i), is located on a small, level terrace above rocky cliffs to the east side of Pundswell Knowe (NGR: HU 2549 5832). Fair

Survey

W191

Walls: Map 12 HU 256 582

Starastet, near Vatnabrenda

Structures: dwelling and outbuildings, clearance cairns and field system

18th-20th C

Elements located 100m+ from coast edge

Several ruinous, abandoned structures, representing a crofting unit, are located to the rear of a U-shaped valley, 100m or more from the coast edge. The area is littered with the remnants of past cultivation, including drystone dyke boundaries and enclosures. There are further, associated remains located in the coastal zone, some of which may be of prehistoric date (see **W192**).

W192

Walls: Map 12 HU 256 582

Starastet, near Vatnabrenda

Structures: dwelling and outbuildings

3rd-1st mill BC

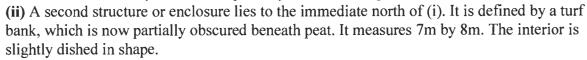
Located <50m from coast edge

A group of possibly prehistoric structures are located towards the mouth of a U-shaped valley which also contains the remains of a later crofting settlement (see W191).

(i) A ruinous oval or sub-circular structure is defined by orthostatically-set stones. It measures 9m by 6m E-W. It may represent

the remains of a small enclosure or possibly a prehistoric house. It is situated above the

south side of the valley floor and is partially covered with peat.



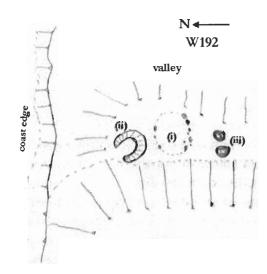
(iii) Several clearance cairns lie close to (i) and (ii). Their average diameter is 3m and most are covered by peat. A utilised stone, possibly representing a rough-out or broken ard point was noted among the stone which formed the largest of these cairns.

(iv) A number of ruinous dykes, some of which lay beneath the peat, run around the contours of the hill, about 30m above the floor of the valley. Most have been robbed out to some degree, leaving only the larger stones *in-situ*. They appear to pre-date the dykes associated with the abandoned croft.

Fair

Survey







W193 (mills: HU25NE 38 & 39)

Walls: Map 12 HU 258 582 Vatnabrenda

Structure: dwelling, outbuildings, mill and field

system 18th-20th C

Elements located <100m from coast edge

An abandoned croft occupies a fertile valley which issues out on to a pebble beach. The croft is well



built, with several distinct phases of construction being apparent. The roof has collapsed but the doorway and much of the walls remain intact up to roof height. Part of the walls are clay bonded and some are rendered internally and externally. A large number of drystone dykes and clearance cairns are located in the vicinity. The clearance cairns are rather unusual in that they are very neatly stacked into high upright piles, some reach almost 2m in height. Other features located in this area include enclosed pasture fields, the remains of boat noosts on the adjacent beach and a very well-preserved click mill (HU25NE 38). The walls of the mill survive almost up to roof height and the lower mill stone remains in-situ. The streams and dams are also visible. The site of a second mill lies nearby (HU25NE 39).

Good Survey



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BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY MAP 12: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

W194 (HU25NE 16)

Walls: Map 12 (NB Inland of survey area)

HU 2575 5767

Engamoor Hill

Burnt mound

3rd-1st mill BC

Located 100m+ from coast edge

Two peaks, joined by a broad saddle, together form a large mound measuring some 12m in diameter and standing up to 1.5m high. The mound is largely covered with grass but there are several small exposures in which burnt, shattered stone is visible. This site was previously recorded as representing two burnt mounds, possibly because there are two separate peaks. However, it is more likely that a single site is represented. There is the suggestion of structural features in the area which lies between the peaks. The site lies in marginal, boggy land, close to a watercourse, in an prominent location on the side of a hill.

Good

Nil



W195 (HU25NE 11)

Walls: Map 13 (NB Inland of survey area)

HU 2623 5870 opposite Turl Stack

Cairn

4th-3rd mill BC

Located 100m+ from coast edge

This site lies over 100m from the sea, on a sloping terrace below a rocky rise. It is a highly visible feature in the landscape. The cairn measures 7m (NE-SW) by 7.5m (NW-SE) and stands up to 1m high. The central area is obscured by rubble, but appears to be oval in plan. At least two levels of coursed stone can be discerned amongst the rubble. The uphill side of the cairn appears to be revetted into the slope and is defined by a large orthostatic kerb. The outline of one or more chambers are indicated by the curve of the internal wall face at north eastern end. To the north west side there are indications of associated structures, which may be entrance features. At the south west end, a semi-circular 'apron' of raised ground forms a small courtyard to the exterior of the cairn. A socketed stone was noted within the cairn, to the west side.

Good Nil



W196

Walls: Map 13 (NB Inland of survey area)

HU 2625 5878 opposite Turl Stack Cairn

4th-3rd mill BC

Located 100m+ from coast edge

This small, roughly circular cairn lies 50m to the north east side of **W195**. It measures 4.5m in diameter and contains orthostatic stones which are up to 1m by 0.5m by 0.8m in size. These stones appear to define the inner face of a central chamber. A structure, defined by large angular stones, adjoins the north eastern side of the cairn. It measures 4.5m by 5m. This structure appears to be later than the cairn and probably not associated with it. This site is interpreted as a burial cairn of prehistoric date.

Good Nil

W197

Walls: Map 13 (NB Inland of survey area)

HU 267 584

Muckle Hoo Field

Cairn

4th-3rd mill BC

Located 100m+ from coast edge

This site is located below a rise and above a loch, at least 0.5km from the sea. It is visible as a mound or concentration of stone within a general spread of stone, which probably derives from rock fall. The mound measures 6m in diameter and contains occasional orthostats. There is no indication of a kerb. There are several other discreet concentrations of stone in this area which may also be cairns. This site is tentatively identified as a burial cairn of prehistoric date.

Fair Survey

W198

Walls: Map 13
HU 2615 5880
opposite Turl Stack
Otter trap
18th-20th C
Located <10m from coast edge
This site is located in rough
grassland, close to the
abandoned settlement at
Vatnabrenda (see W193). It
comprises a rectangular stone



box, set into the ground, with a slab covering. The side walls are lined with up to two courses of flat stone. The base of the box is not lined. The capstones vary in size, but most span the width of the box. They are placed in such a fashion as to leave gaps between. Overall, this feature measures 1.5m in length and 0.75m in width, it stands up to 0.3m high.

Fair Nil

W199

Walls: Map 13 HU 2629 5887 Geo of Djubabery Structure: dwelling 3rd-1st mill BC

Located <20m from coast edge

An oval structure, defined by large upright and recumbent blocks, lies on rough grassland. It appears that only the larger stones have survived and it is possible that this structure had a turf or turf and rubble component originally. The structure measures 6m (NE-SW) by 3m (NW-SE). Two ruinous drystone dykes adjoin the structure. It is tentatively identified as a house of prehistoric date.

Fair Survey



W200

Walls: Map 13 HU 2644 5895 Northgreen Hill

Structure

3rd-1st mill BC

Located <20m from coast edge

A concentration of stone, set into hummocky turf, defines a roughly oval area measuring 9m (E-W) by 5m (N-S). It is located on a level ledge, 10m wide and 15m long, which lies between a rocky rise and high cliffs. This site may be a sheep shelter or may be a house of prehistoric date.

Fair Survey

W201

Walls: Map 13 HU 2698 5939 Face of Neeans

Cairn

4th-3rd mill BC

Located <20m from coast edge

A sub-circular concentration of stone,



measuring 5m in diameter, is located in rough grassland on a sloping shelf of land, beneath a high rocky rise. The stones are loosely arranged, although there are some larger, earthfast boulders present also. A rectangular cell or cist, measuring 2m by 1m, lies at the centre of the cairn. This site is tentatively identified as a prehistoric burial cairn.

Fair Survey

W202

Walls: Map 13 HU 2712 5940 Face of Neeans

Cairn

4th-3rd mill BC

Located <20m from coast edge

A small and mostly denuded cairn is located on level ground, immediately in front of a break in slope leading to high cliffs. It measures 5m in diameter, although it may have been larger originally. A small chamber or cist structure is present at the centre of the cairn. It measures 1m by 0.75m. This site is interpreted as a prehistoric burial cairn.

Fair Survey

W203

Walls: Map 13 HU 2765 5932

Papa Geo

Enclosure and structures

18th-20th C

Located <20m from coast edge

A sheep fold, of recent origin, is located in the lee of an outcrop. Several further structures, of unknown date or function, are located in the vicinity; they are defined by the very slight remains of earthen and stone banks.

Fair/poor Survey

W204

Walls: Map 13 HU 2791 5884

opposite Skewart Holm

Enclosure 18th-20th C

Located <50m from coast edge

A small rectangular enclosure, probably a sheep shelter, of which only the footings remain, is located between two outcrops of rock some 50m from the coast edge. It measures 7m by 8m and stands up to one course or 0.2m high. There is a quantity of collapsed stone in the vicinity.

Fair Nil

W205

Walls: Map 13 HU 2798 5841

north of Brindister, facing Whal Voe

Enclosures

Indeterminate

Located <80m from coast edge

A series of very truncated features may represent sheep folds or planticrubs. The area in which they are situated appears to have been re-seeded recently.

- (i) A group of intermittent stones define a sub-circular enclosure, measuring 3m by 4m. The walls stand up to two courses or 0.5m high. It stands in improved grassland within 80m of a pebble beach.
- (ii) The foundations of a square structure (5m by 5m) are located close to a watercourse. The foundations are partially turf-covered and appear to stand no more than one course or 0.2m high. The remains of a turf bank are located nearby.
- (iii) An arc formed from loosely piled stone, appears to be set into the slope. It may be a sheep shelter, but could be a natural feature.

Fair/poor

Nil

11.84

W206

Walls: Map 13 HU 281 582

North of Brindister, opposite Longa Ness

Drystone dyke 18th-20th C

Elements located on coast edge

A ruinous dyke extends uphill from the sea for over 30m. The wall has been robbed of stone and now only the larger, earthfast boulders remain. On average, these boulders are set 1m apart.

Fair Nil

W207

Walls: Map 13 HU 2825 5773 Brindister Voe

Burnt mound: SMR #4212

3rd-1st mill BC

Located <30m from coast edge

A crescentic burnt mound, comprising two peaks joined by a low saddle, is located on a rise above Brindister Voe. To the landward side is a marshy hollow, surrounded by improved grassland. The mounds are separated by a saddle, 2.5m in length. The mound measures approximately 11m in diameter and stands up to 2m in height. Burnt stone can be seen in several small exposures to the landward side. The mound has been damaged by cultivation and grazing. This site has been previously described as comprising two mounds (SMR), but in the opinion of the present surveyors, there is a single mound which has two peaks.

Good Survey

W208

Walls: Map 13 HU 2821 5760 Brindister Voe Burnt mound 3rd-1st mill BC

Located <10m from coast edge

Two small peaks, set 1m apart, form an amorphous mound, with an overall diameter



of some 12m. The mound stands up to 0.8m high and is situated on gently sloping improved grassland, close to a watercourse. The peak which lies to the seaward side has small exposures in which fragments of apparently heat-shattered stone are visible. Larger stones which protrude through the turf at, may be part of a kerb or structure associated with the mound. The landward side of the mound has been truncated by cultivation.

Fair Survey

APPENDIX I: GLOSSARY

Built Heritage and Archaeology

Broch: a circular tower found mostly in Northern and Western Scotland. They are sometimes interpreted as the residences of local elites. Evidence suggests that they were built in the last centuries BC and continued in use into the 1st millennium AD.

Boat shed: for the purposes of this survey, this site type refers to a structure designed for the storage of boats or gear associated with boats or fishing.

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, (for further information see Henshall, 1963).

Clearance cairn: a pile of stone or rubble formed from material removed from elsewhere, usually from fields under cultivation.

Crue: An enclosure, either of dry-stone walling or earthen banks, which may serve as a sheep pound or shelter or contain a cultivable area.

Fishing Station: this term may either refer to 18th- early 20th C fishing 'villages' which were used as temporary accommodation during the fishing season, or to 20th C industrial complexes engaged in the processing of fish and sometimes whales. The former type served as centres for processing fish caught by tenants on behalf of their landlords. The latter were commercial operations.

Haa: A mansion-house or hall, usually of at least two-stories.

Heel-shaped cairn: A distinctive type of chambered cairn found in Shetland. Such tombs usually have a concave facade containing a single entrance. A passage leads from the entrance to a simple chamber. The rear of the cairn is usually rounded, which together with the facade, lends a distinctive heel shape to the overall plan.

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 refered to as fishing stations within this report.

Noost (also 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: 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.

Hinterland Geology, Coastal Geomorphology and Erosion: Terms and Abbreviations

Boulder: The British standard classification is used, i.e. > 20cm

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.

Cultivatable: The land/ fields which have few physical constraints such as undrained or rocky and could be, or are, tilled mechanically, i.e. ploughed.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Saprolite: The soft weathered rock of *in-situ* material.

Shingle: Mixture of gravel and cobble sized material.

Skeletal Soil: A shallow soil generally < 5cm deep with no B horizon. Usually supporting a fragile plant community usually over sand.

Slope: Three divisions have been arbitrarily delineated

Gentle $5 \text{ to } 9^{\circ}$ Moderate $10 \text{ to } 19^{\circ}$ Steep $> 20^{\circ}$

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.

Erosional Classes

The units portrayed on the maps were over 100 metres. As an example, if there was only 40 metres of eroding section then at least a 100 metre section would be classed as eroding to stable.

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

Eroding to Stable Where there are both active erosion and stable areas with 30-70% of

either one.

Stable The section is more than 70% stable. Usually any erosion is limited and

local with any variation specified in the accompanying text.

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

one.

Accreting The section has accretion over more than 70% of it's length.

Accreting/Eroding There are both accreting and eroding processes taking place and may

have as much or little as 20-80% of each process. The erosion and

accretion may not be linearly arranged along the coastline.

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