

# Glossary

## Built Heritage and Archaeology

**Broch:** a circular tower found mostly in Northern and Western Scotland. Generally interpreted as the residences of local elites. Evidence suggests that they were built in the last centuries BC and continued in use into the 1st millennium AD.

**Boat shed:** for the purposes of this survey, this site type refers to a structure designed for the storage of boats or gear associated with boats or fishing.

**Bod:** this term is used to describe both trading booths and fishing warehouses, both of which may contain a dwelling area, usually situated on an upper floor.

**Chambered tomb:** type of burial monument dating to 4-3rd millennium BC, may be subdivided into two main categories (i) 'Orkney-Cromarty' type, where the entrance passage leads into a chamber which is sub-divided into compartments, often by upright slabs; (ii) Maes Howe type, passage leading to a large square or rectangular chamber with further entrances in the central chamber walls leading to side-cells.

**Clearance cairn:** a pile of stone or rubble formed from material removed from elsewhere, usually from fields under cultivation.

**Crue/Cru/Crub/Kru:** An enclosure, either of dry-stone walling or earthen banks, which may serve as a sheep pound or shelter or contain a cultivable area.

**Fishing Station:** this term may either refer to 18th- early 20th C fishing 'villages' which were used as temporary accommodation during the fishing season, or to 20th C industrial complexes engaged in the processing of fish and sometimes whales. The former type served as centres for processing fish caught by tenants on behalf of their landlords. The latter were commercial operations.

**Haa:** A mansion-house or hall, usually of at least two-stories.

**Hulk/wreck:** Both terms refer to abandoned boats; hulks have been taken to refer to boats which lie on the foreshore; wrecks lie in the marine zone.

**Lodge:** A small, usually roughly-built, structure used mainly by fishermen as a temporary abode. Groups of lodges, together with fish-drying beaches and bods are usually referred to as fishing stations within this report.

**Noost/Naust/Noust:** a shelter for boats located above the HWM. Some are little more than a hollow dug into the ground; others have retaining walls and may have winding gear and be associated with a slipway.

**Planticrue/Planticrub/Planticru:** small enclosed garden plot usually used for bringing on cabbage plants from seed. These small enclosures are frequently found close to 19th C settlements, but may also be found in isolated locations.

**Pund:** a dry-stone enclosure for containing animals, often with a sheep dipping tank incorporated into the walls.

**Skeo:** a dry-stone 'shed' used for wind-drying and storing foodstuffs, especially fish. Skeos were built in exposed positions to catch the wind.

**Slipway:** a passage cleared on the foreshore to facilitate the transport of boats to and from the sea. They may be lined with stone, and some may also have had a wooden component.

**Souterrain:** an underground passage, built of stone and sometimes comprising one or more chambers. Usually regarded as of Iron Age date, and interpreted as storage places; may be associated with above-ground settlement.

**Settlement mound:** A mound containing the remains of earlier settlement and other activity, often representing several phases of use.

## Hinterland Geology, Coastal Geomorphology and Erosion

**Aeolianite:** Blown sand which has been cemented together, in this case, by precipitation of calcium carbonate.

**Ayre:** Shingle isthmus running out from the mainland usually covered by water at HWM.

**Backshore:** Strictly, the zone of beach between the HWM and the coastal edge.

**Berm:** A small ridge running along a storm beach parallel to the coast. In this case the berm is specified as one of the cobble ridges between HWM and LWM and not the main storm beach ridge.

**Boulder:** The British standard classification is used, i.e. > 20 cm

**Butte Dune:** An outlier of sand which is vegetated on top and is eroding around the sides. Usually from 1m to 4m high. Erosion is predominantly from deflation.

**Cobble:** The British standard classification is used, i.e. 6- 20cm.

**Colluvium:** Weathered rock or mixed with till (sometimes other drift materials) which have run down hill.

**Cyclothem:** A set of deposits that are laid down by cyclic or rhythmic sedimentation. The set is then repeated.

**Cultivable:** The land/ fields which have few physical constraints such as undrained or rocky and could be, or are, tilled mechanically, i.e. ploughed. Most fields in the survey area are down to grass but are still cultivable.

**Deflation:** Term which signifies material blown out or scoured from an area due to aeolian activity.

**Drift:** The softer material which overlies solid geology, e.g. till, peat, soil.

**Eustatic changes:** Sea-level changes caused by the absolute rise or fall of sea levels.

**Foreshore:** The intertidal area between the HWM and LWM.

**Fluvio-glacial:** Sediments laid down with the aid of water under glacial conditions.

**Gelifluction:** Slow movement of debris down slope under permafrost conditions. Almost synonymous with solifluction where the freeze-thaw action of water is more important and does not imply conditions of permafrost.

**Gley:** A soil type which is normally waterlogged, reducing conditions.

**Gravel:** The British standard classification is used, i.e. 2-60mm Also described as pebbles.

**HWM:** High water mark as taken from Ordnance Datum at Newlyn.

**Isostatic changes:** Sea-level changes caused by the relative movement of the land itself.

**LWM:** Low water mark as taken from Ordnance Datum at Newlyn.

**Lag:** Residual coarse material where the finer sediments have been removed.

**Coastal Migration:** Movement of the coast edge landwards which may be due to transgression and/or erosion

**Peat:** A pure organic soil. In absolute terms one which is > 30cm but in this survey any organic material > 10cm.

**Ranker:** Shallow soil over rock with no B horizon, generally <5cm.

**Rendzina:** As for *ranker* but overlying calcareous rock or shelly sand.

**Rock Platform:** Intertidal marine platform or wave-cut platform of the solid rock.

**Salting:** Large area where the vegetation is covered intermittently by salt water, hence the vegetation is salt resistant to some degree. In the survey area most areas were intertidal along the upper foreshore.

**Saprolite:** The soft weathered rock of *in-situ* material.

**Shingle:** Mixture of gravel and cobble sized material.

**Skeletal Soil:** A shallow soil generally < 5 cm deep with no B horizon. The A horizon is almost totally made up of organic material supporting a fragile plant community usually over sand.

**Slope:** Three divisions have been arbitrarily delineated

Gentle	5 to 9°
Moderate	10 to 19°
Steep	> 20°

**Strandline:** Within the *backshore* an accumulation of debris such as seaweed and vegetation.

**Talard:** An outlier of soft material, from 10-50 cm high, which is usually vegetated on the top and is eroding around the sides. Usually occurs on salting where erosion is very slow. Where outliers of sand have the same form they are referred to as Butte Dunes.

**Till:** Collective term for sediments laid down by glacial action. Also includes boulder clay.

**Transgression:** The inundation of the coast due to rising sea level.

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