

Map 14: Cleat to Westayre Loch

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

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

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

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

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

Geology and Geomorphology

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

Erosion

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

SY180 HY74SW18

HY7039 4302

Cleat

Coastal exposure: probable burial cairn

?3rd-1st mill BC

Fair/poor

Survey

SY181 HY74SW3

HY7096 4315

Butter Knowe

Burnt Mound

3rd-1st mill BC

Good

Nil

SY182 HY74SW7

HY7136 4363

Peterkirk

Mound & coastal exposure

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

Fair/poor

Monitor

SY183 HY74SW2

HY7162 4383

Knowe of Scartan

Mound & coastal exposure

Unknown: ?prehistoric

Fair/poor

Monitor

SY184 HY74SW17/20/26

HY719 441

Seater

Farmstead, settlement mound & jetty

18-20th C

Good/poor

Monitor

SY185

HY7208 4432

Seater

Stone-capped drain

18-20th C

Good

Nil

SY186

HY7244 4462

Westayre Loch

Store and enclosures

18-20th C

Fair

Nil

SY187

HY7256 4466

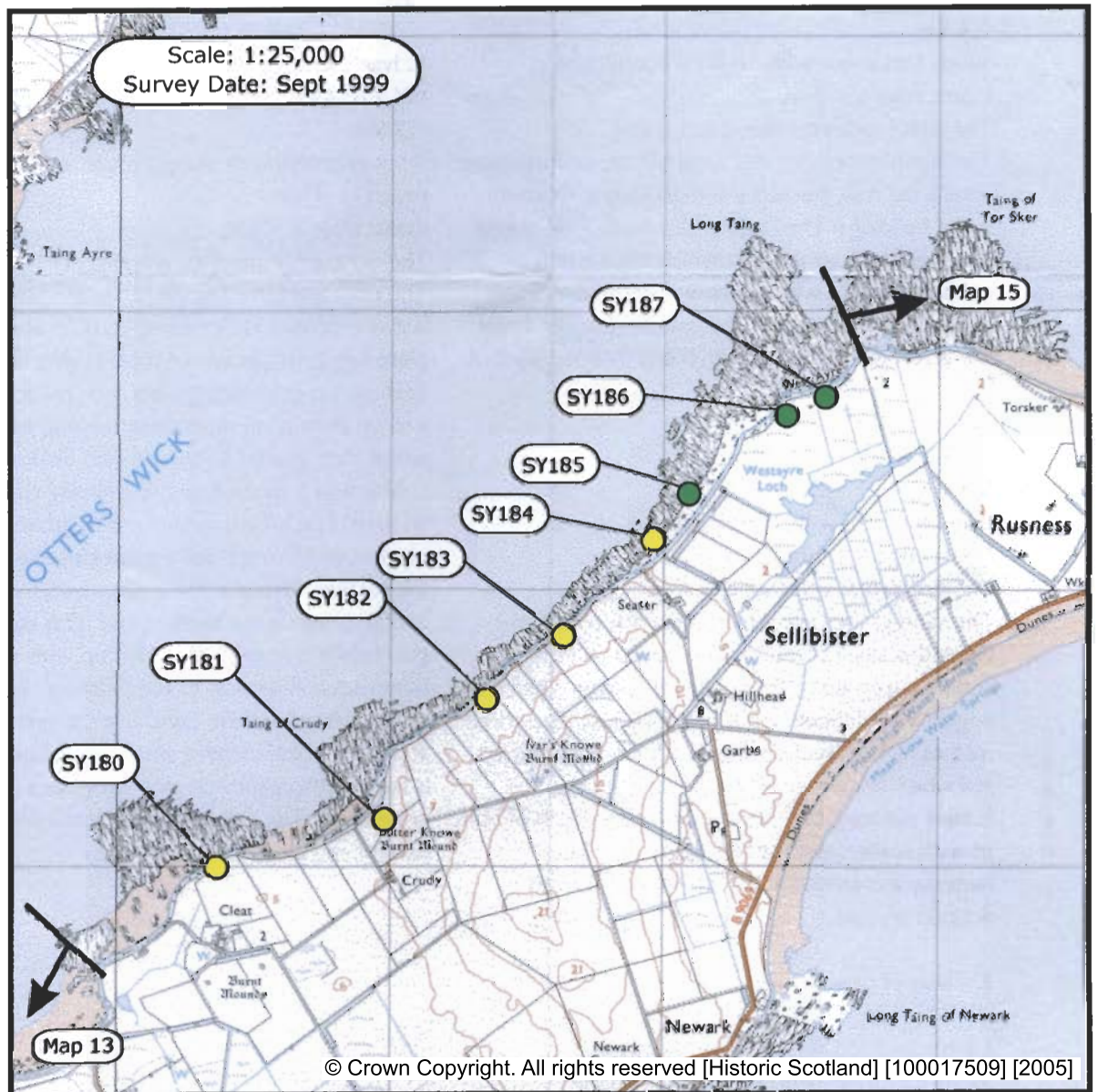
Westayre Loch








Kelp drying walls

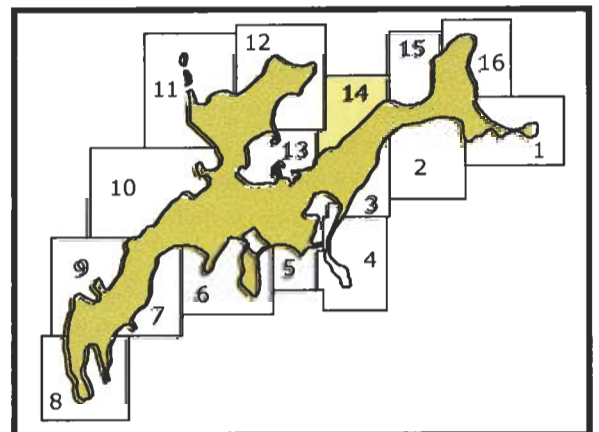
18-20th C

Fair

Nil



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



1. Cleat

HY 702 428

0.6 km

Sandy foreshore with 50-80% cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

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

2. Cleat (East)

HY 704 430

0.4 km

Rock platform with some cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is visible.

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

3. Taing of Crudy

HY 710 434

1 km

Sandy foreshore with some cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

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

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

4. Ivar's Knowe

HY 720 441

1.7 km

Rock platform with shingle cover and storm beach.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

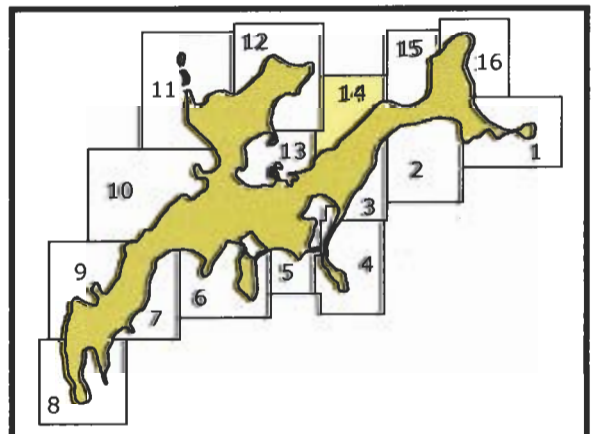
The rock platform has more shingle cover than the last section and increases up to 60% cover in places. A storm beach of cobbles also lies below Seater. Although designated rock platform there is a large amount of sand along the mid foreshore which then grades to shingle past Seater then to cobble and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



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

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

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



1. Cleat

HY 701 426

0.35 km

Eroding to Stable

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

2. Cleat (North)

HY 704 430

0.6 km

Stable

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

3. Butter Knowe

HY 707 431

0.15 km

Accreting to Stable

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

4. Taing of Crudy

HY 710 433

0.3 km

Stable

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

5. Taing of Crudy (North)

HY 711 435

0.25 km

Eroding to Stable

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

6. Ivar's Knowe

HY 714 436

0.65 km

Stable

The coast edge has only minor erosion.

7. Seater

HY 718 440

0.25 km

Eroding to Stable

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

8. Seater (North)

HY 720 441

0.15 km

Eroding

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

9. Westayre Loch

HY 724 447

1 km

Stable

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

