

## Map 16: Tofts Ness to Scuthvie Bay

### **Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology**

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

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

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

### **Geology and Geomorphology**

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

### **Erosion**

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

**SY192** HY74NW1

HY7490 4653

Braesgar

Mound

Unknown: ?prehistoric

Good

Monitor

**SY193** HY74NE3

HY760 470

Tofts Ness

Mounds and settlement complex

3rd-1st mill BC

Fair/poor

Monitor

**SY194**

HY7620 4733

Tofts Ness

Kelp workings

18-20th C

Fair

Nil

**SY195**

HY7632 4727

Tofts Ness

Coastal exposure

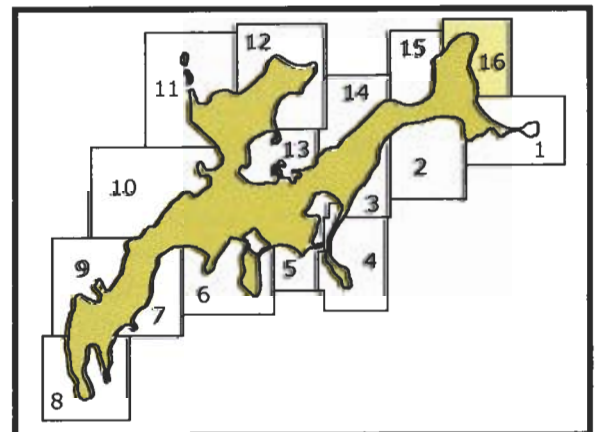
Unknown

Fair

Monitor



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



## 1. Crow Taing

HY 750 466

0.9 km

Rock platform and sandy foreshore with storm beach.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

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

## 2. Point of Cresso

HY 762 473

2.1 km

Rock platform with cobble cover and storm beach.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible.

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

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

## 3. Bay of Sowerdie

HY 763 456

1.2 km

Predominantly sandy foreshore with patchy cobble cover.

Coast edge is generally < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

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

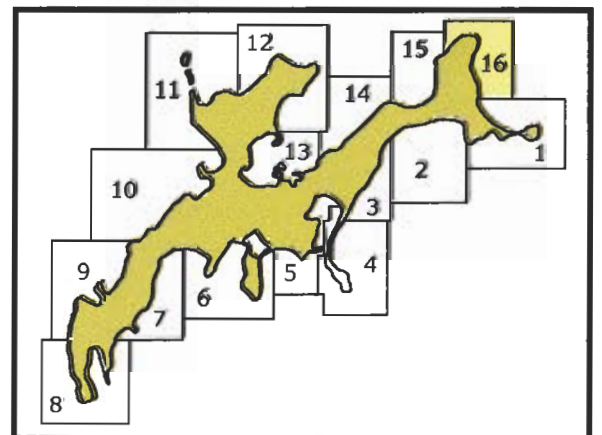




- Foreshore**
- Rock platform
  - Mainly sand
  - Mainly alluvial/marine mud
  - Marsh

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

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



**1. Crow Taing**

HY 750 466

0.8 km

Stable

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

**2. Point of Cresso**

HY 756 473

1.3 km

Eroding to Stable

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

**3. Geo of Toftsness**

HY 763 472

0.35 km

Stable

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

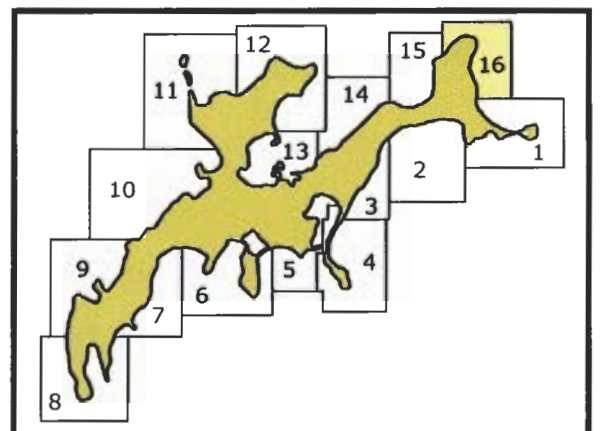
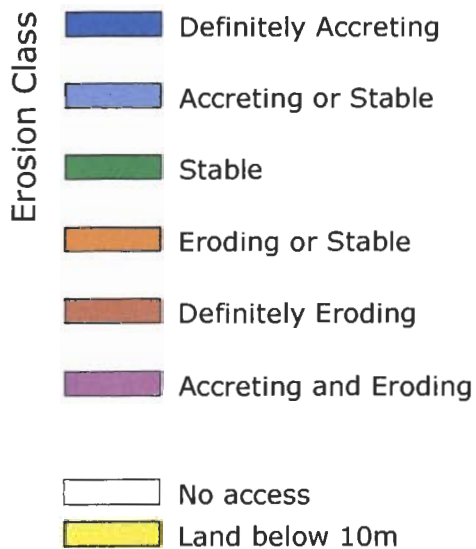
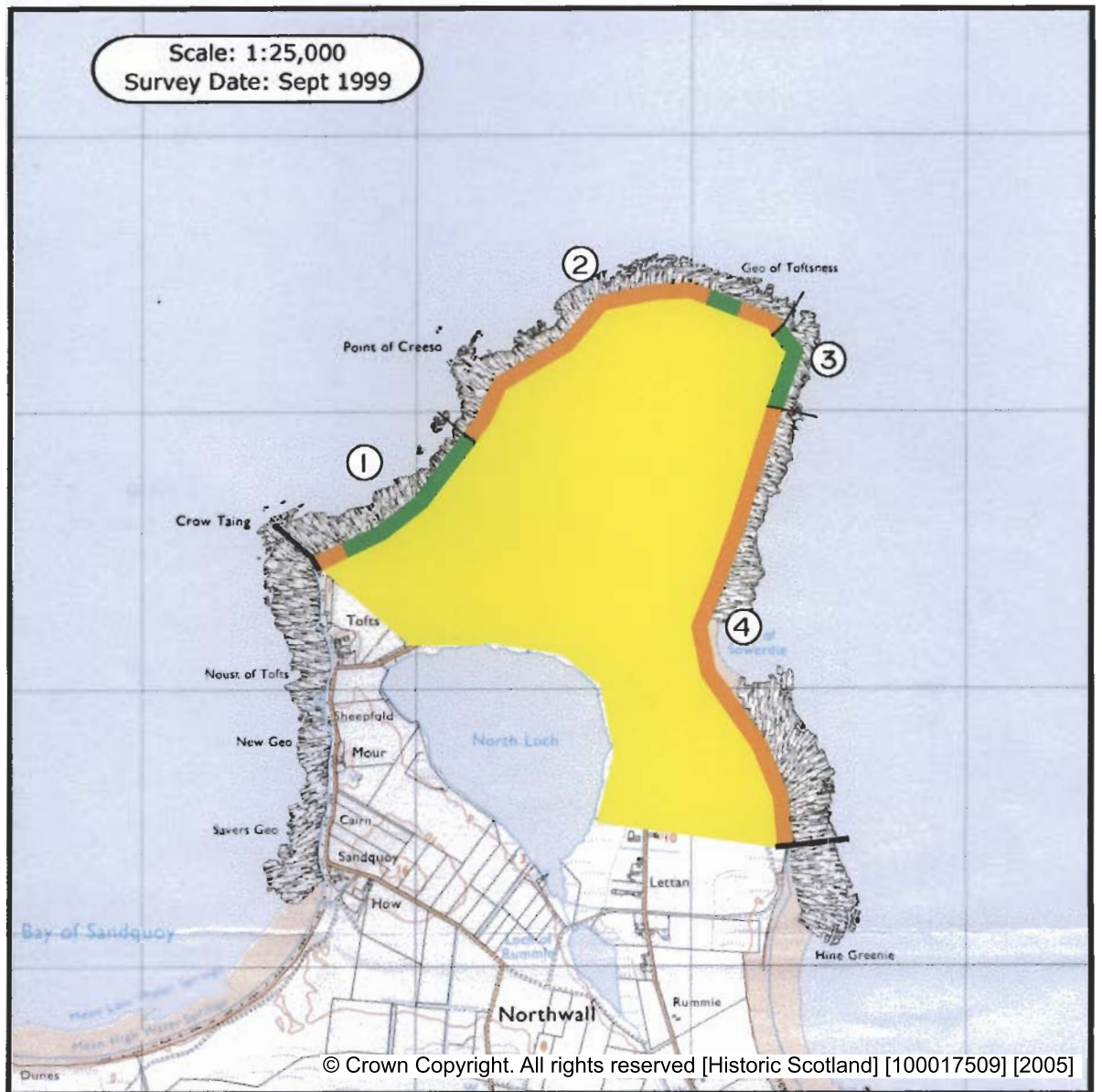
**4. Tofts Ness (East)**

HY 760 462

1.7 km

Eroding to Stable

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



9