

Map 2: Lop Ness to Sellibister

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

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

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

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

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

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

Geology and Geomorphology

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

Erosion

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

SY24

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

SY25

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

SY26

HY7581 4342
Lop Ness
Wall
Unknown
Fair
Nil

SY27 HY74SE15

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

SY28 HY74SE21

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

SY29 HY74SE12

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

SY30

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

SY31

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

SY32 HY74SE23.02

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








SY33 HY74SW23/8001

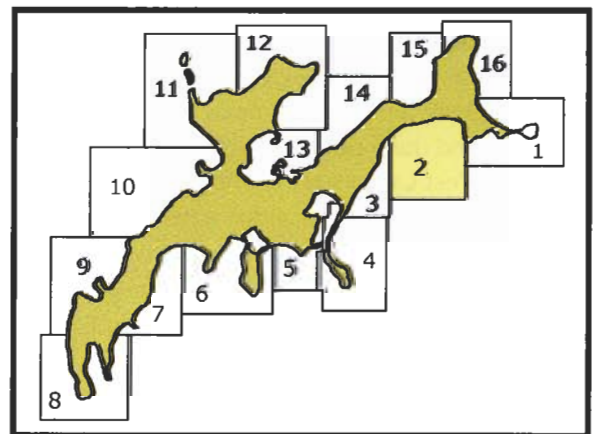
HY7462 4414
Bay of Lopness
Wreck:B98 WWI German destroyer
18-20th C
Poor
Nil

SY197 HY74SE8001

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



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



1. Gerra Taing

HY 759 435

0.8 km

Rock platform.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible.

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

15-20 cm of dark sandy loam

10 cm of dark shelly loam plus bone inclusion

20 cm of fine shelly loam

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

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

2. Whale Head

HY 750 442

1.8 km

Sandy foreshore with some cover on the upper foreshore.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

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

Soils are made up of skeletal sands.

3. Millhouse (East)

HY 734 439

1.3 km

Predominantly rock platform with sporadic cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

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

Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

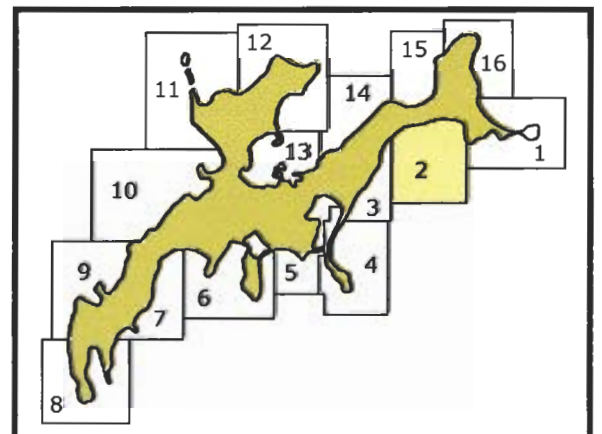
Sanday Map 2



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

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

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



1. Gerra Taing

HY 758 436

0.94 km

Eroding to Stable

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

2. Bay of Lopness (East)

HY 748 441

2.02 km

Stable

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

3. East Ayre

HY 739 439

0.31 km

Accreting to Stable

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

4. Rusness

HY 734 439

0.63 km

Stable

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

