

Map 8: Quoy Ness to Loth

Landscape, Built Heritage & Archaeology

This map section extends from the low promontory of Quoy Ness on the east coast of Sanday, around the two long promontories of Hacks Ness and Spur Ness, which are separated by the shallow waters of Stove Bay. From Spur Ness, which forms the southernmost tip of the Island, this section continues up the west coast as far as the new ferry terminal at Loth. The only modern settlement in the area is centred on Stove and, prior to the construction of the ferry terminal in the 1990's, there was no road beyond this point. This southern part of Sanday is characterised by higher, more rugged land and a harder, mostly rocky coast edge. While much of the land on both Hacks Ness and Spur Ness is given over to rough grazing, new areas have recently been taken into cultivation on Spur Ness as access to the area has opened up.

Just as modern settlement is concentrated at the head of Stove Bay, so it was in earlier times. In the recent past, the farmstead at Stove (SY106), built in the 1860's, was a model of its kind by the standards of the day and it was one of the first to mechanise, boasting a steam-powered threshing machine. A church (SY105) of possibly early 17th C date, said to have once served as the private chapel of the Sinclairs of Stove, and a probable burial ground, are thought to have been disturbed or destroyed by the 19thC farmstead. Much earlier remains are exposed in the coast section on the east side of the Bay of Stove. Here recent investigations have determined the presence of a Neolithic settlement (SY103) and identified further remains in the hinterland. This site remains very vulnerable to further erosion.

A series of mounds on Hacks Ness (SY97, 98, 99, 102) may be burial monuments of early prehistoric date, while a chambered mound (SY107) is said to have been demolished close to Stove farm. The description of its contents, however, may be more indicative of a settlement than a burial site. At Spur Ness, a grassy mound (SY108) has been thought to represent settlement remains, although its elevated position and defined shape may suggest that it is a burial monument. A possible burial mound previously recorded near Loth (SY111) is no longer in evidence and would appear to have been destroyed during the construction of the ferry terminal.

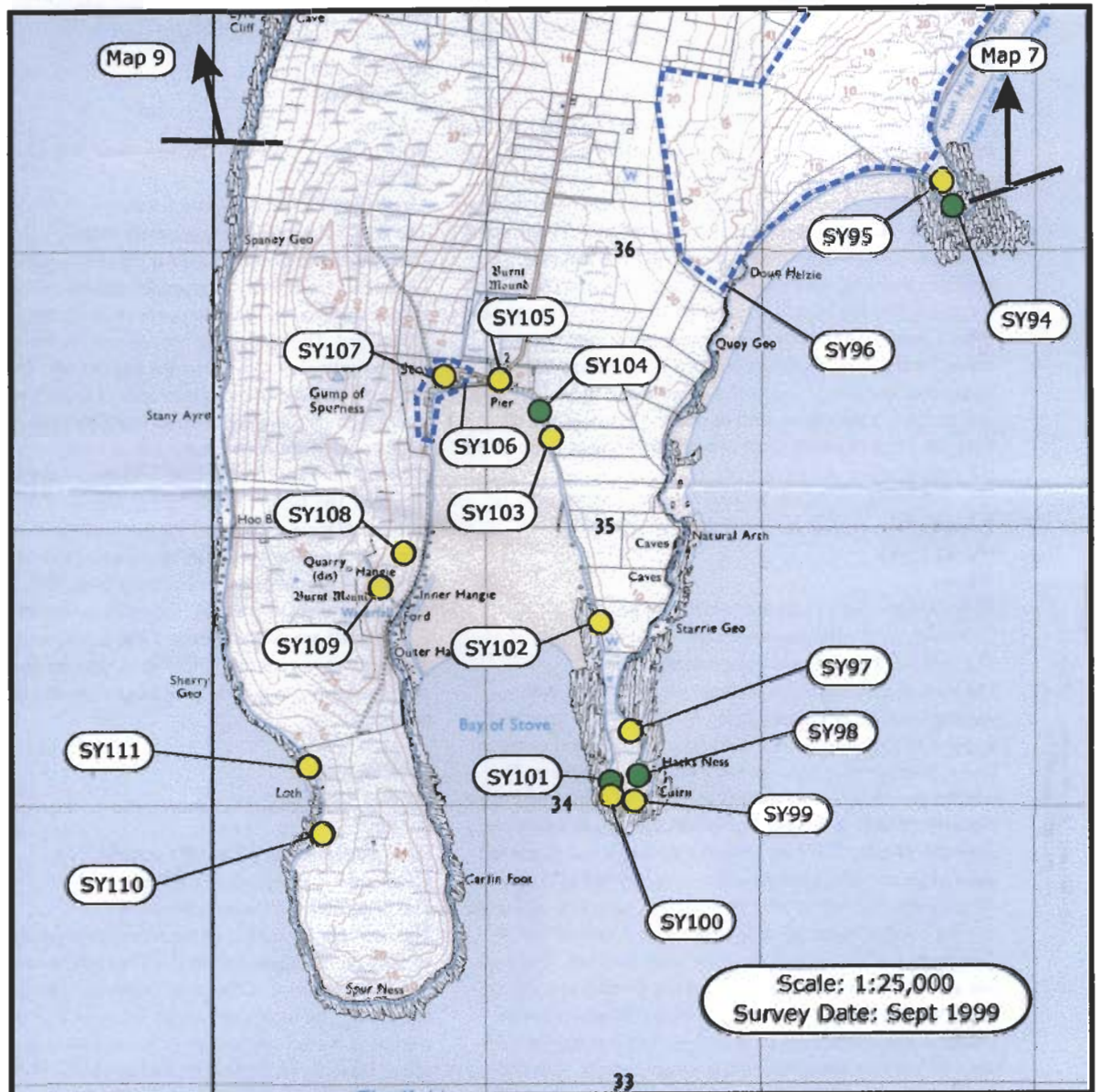
Geology and Geomorphology

This unit has a fairly rugged coastline for the most part but there are also some sandy beach areas to the south of Quoy Ness. The Bay of Stove takes up a natural syncline, which continues north and is echoed in the small vale which extends to the north from Stove. Slopes are generally steeper on the Spur Ness peninsula than on Hacks Ness. Soils are also more poorly drained on the western peninsula. The new ferry terminal has utilised rock from an adjoining quarry at Loth to form its sea defences.

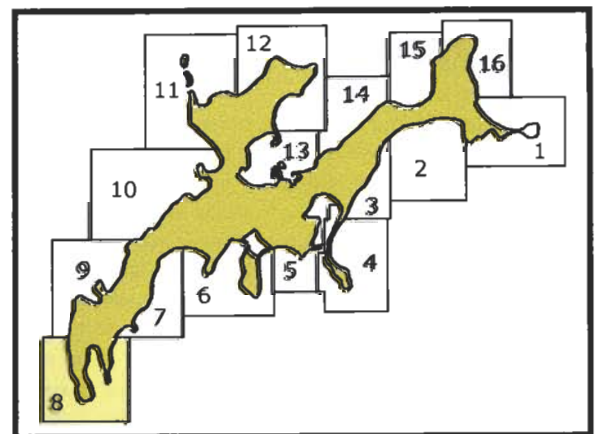
Erosion

The majority of this rugged coast line is stable. There is accretion of sands in the north western bay and there are also a few specific areas of definite erosion. The erosion is generally linked to the deep tills or soft sediments within the cliff face, or in one case on the western coast, due to a rabbit problem.

<p>SY94 HY6265 3618 Quoy Ness Noost & kelp pits 18-20th C Fair Nil</p>	<p>SY100 HY63SW23 HY6146 3407 Hacks Ness Kelp working site 18-20th C Fair Nil</p>	<p>SY106 HY63NW39.00-.03 HY608 355 Stove Farmstead, outbuildings, cottages 18-20th C Fair/poor Monitor</p>
<p>SY95 HY63NW8 HY6269 3620 Quoy Ness Enclosures Unknown: ?prehistoric Fair/poor Survey</p>	<p>SY101 HY6145 3405 Hacks Ness Noost & channel 18-20th C Fair Nil</p>	<p>SY107 HY63NW10 HY608 355 Stove Site of chambered mound 3rd-1st mill BC Not seen Monitor</p>
<p>SY96 HY63NW11 HY625 367 Quoy Ness Site of middens Unknown: ?prehistoric Not seen Monitor</p>	<p>SY102 HY6140 3464 Hacks Ness Mound Unknown: ?18-20th C Fair Monitor</p>	<p>SY108 HY63SW8 HY6067 3488 Spur Ness Mound Unknown: ?prehistoric Fair Monitor</p>
<p>SY97 HY63SW HY6149 3426 Hacks Ness Mound Unknown: ?prehistoric Fair/poor Monitor</p>	<p>SY103 HY63NW9 HY6121 3531 Bay of Stove Coastal exposure: settlement remains 4th-3rd mill BC Fair/poor Monitor</p>	<p>SY109 HY63SW6 HY6060 3479 Hangie, Spur Ness Burnt mound 3rd-1st mill BC Fair Monitor</p>
<p>SY98 HY6157 3410 Hacks Ness Mound and coastal exposure Unknown Poor Monitor</p>	<p>SY104 HY6119 3540 Bay of Stove Coastal exposure: cut feature Unknown Fair Monitor</p>	<p>SY110 HY6041 3390 Spur Ness Enclosure Unknown Fair Nil</p>
<p>SY99 HY63SW5 HY6152 3403 Hacks Ness Mound & navigation marker or windmill 4th-3rd mill BC/18-20th C Fair Monitor</p>	<p>SY105 HY6110 3551 Stove Site of chapel 18-20th C Not seen Monitor</p>	<p>SY111 HY63SW11 HY6036 3414 Loth, Spur Ness Mound Unknown Not seen Monitor</p>



- 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. Quoy Ness

HY 618 357

1.8 km

Rock platform grading into sandy foreshore.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible to the S.

The rock platform at Quoy Ness grades into a sandy foreshore to the S. At Quoy Ness the coast edge is 4 - 5 m. A small buried soil is also evident in section on the point. The sandy foreshore has negligible cobble or shingle cover for the most part. The northern third of the hinterland is made up of sand dunes which extend back over 100 m. A cliff face emerges from the sand dunes at Doun Helzie and continues S for the rest of the section. The rock cliff face (> 5 m) rises out from a pure sand foreshore with many small sand floored caves. To the S of Quoy Geo a rabbit warren lies within the sandy soils and the 50 cm thick buff till above the cliffs. Here, and to the S, a well delineated buried soil lies over the till. Soils are freely draining sandy types with stone walls up to the cliff edge in many places or fenced fields.

2. Hacks Ness Peninsula

HY 615 340

1.9 km

Rock platform with some areas of storm beach.

Coast edge is predominantly < 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

The rock platform persists throughout this section with varying amounts of cobble cover. As the cliff face drops to under 5 m S of Starrie Geo so the cobble cover increases to storm beach proportions on the E side of Hacks Ness. The cobbles persist around the Ness and may be considered to be a poorly defined storm beach. The cobbles grade out to the N of the W side. The rock to drift interface is not visible to the S of Starrie Geo with the coast edge defined by a lip of cobbles which are vegetated for the most part although there is a 1-2 m edge made up of till to the N. Also S of Starrie Geo there is < 1 m of buff till visible over the rock. The Ness has a continuing relic storm beach around much of its coast edge. Where the section can be seen the till appears more yellow in colour than the usual buff till. The last fenced fields are S of Starrie Geo with rough grazing to the S. Soils are freely drained podzols with vegetated relic storm beach around Hacks Ness.

3. Bay of Stove

HY 610 355

1.6 km

Sandy foreshore, < 80% cover along the W shore.

Coast edge is < 5 m to the E, > 5 m on the W.

The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible.

Some rocks stand out from the sandy foreshore along the E side of the. There is some cobble and shingle cover in the E corner and an increasing amount of cobble and boulder cover along the W shore. The coast edge is well. There is a small sea wall defence along the NW corner of the bay. The yellow till fades out before the archaeology at Stove to the usual buff colour. Just to the S of the archaeological section there is a deep soil, over 1.5 m thick which overlies 5 cm of reddish soil over 60 cm of buff till which overlies a saprolite. The slopes are gentle along the E and N sides with steep to moderate slopes along the cliff tops to the W. Fields are fenced with the more uncultivable land along the western side. Soils are freely

drained podzols along the E hinterland with more imperfectly to poorly drained gleys to the N and W. A poorly drained peaty podzol also lies towards the end of this section.

4. Inner Hangie

HY 604 334

3.7 km

Rock platform with only discrete areas of boulders and cobbles.

Coast edge is predominantly > 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is generally visible.

The boulder and cobble cover is greatest within the cove at Outer Hangie before it disappears around the promontory before some cobble cover appears from Sherry Geo northward. The coast edge is over 5 m for the most part with two exceptions at Outer Hangie and at Loth. The rock to drift interface is evident at most points apart from Loth. There is some dumping of scrap metal by Outer Hangie with large boulder sea defences at Loth and the ferry terminal and rubble disturbance by the quarry to the N of the ferry terminal. The tills are red in colour with very deep tills of 5 m by Inner Hangie on the E of the peninsula and a much deeper 8 m red till on the W side at Hoo Back. Otherwise the reddish till is usually less than 30 cm thick. The slopes are of steep to moderate gradient, the more moderate slopes to the S. The fields are well maintained and fenced with barley or grass. Soils are generally imperfectly drained podzol to the E and imperfectly to poorly drained gleys to the W of the peninsula.

5. Stany Ayre

HY 601 356

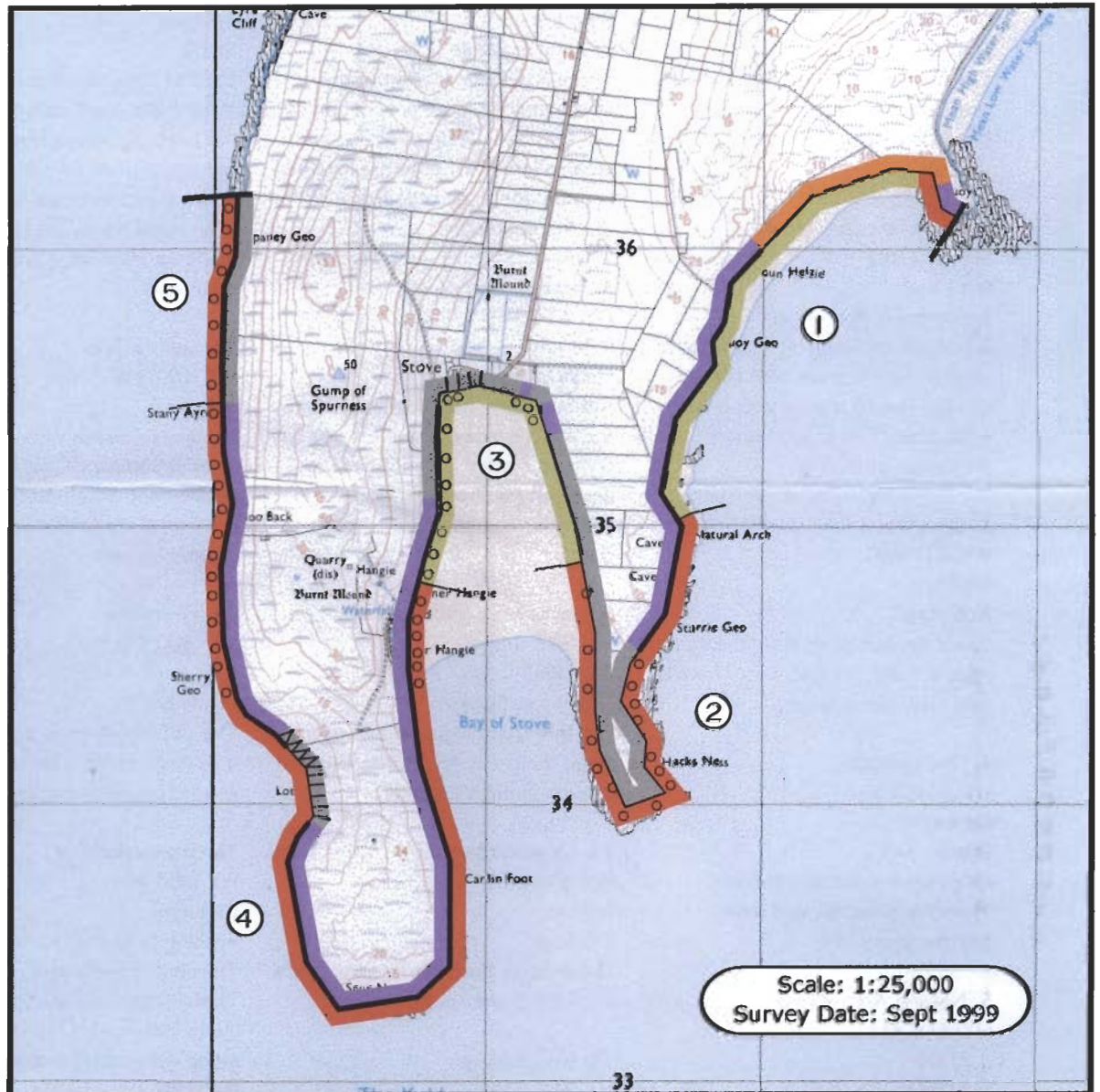
0.7 km

Rock platform with 30 to 60% cover.

Coast edge is intermittently > 5 m.

The drift/rock interface is not visible.

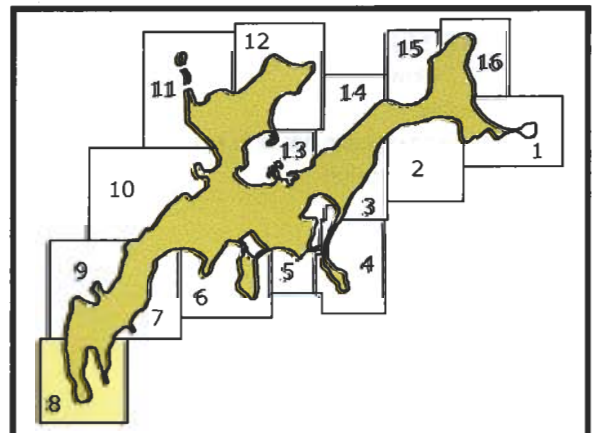
The rock platform has varying amounts of cobble cover, up to 60% on the upper foreshore. The drift to rock interface is not visible because of the great depth of red till, over 10 m in one place. The coast edge drops to under 5 m in places with a truncated buried soil lying directly beneath a contemporary soil at Stany Ayre. A small area of sandy foreshore also lies below the cliff a little further to the N. The hinterland is moderately to steeply sloping with grassed fenced fields and a few stone walls. There are large areas of heather also. The soils are imperfectly to poorly drained gleys.



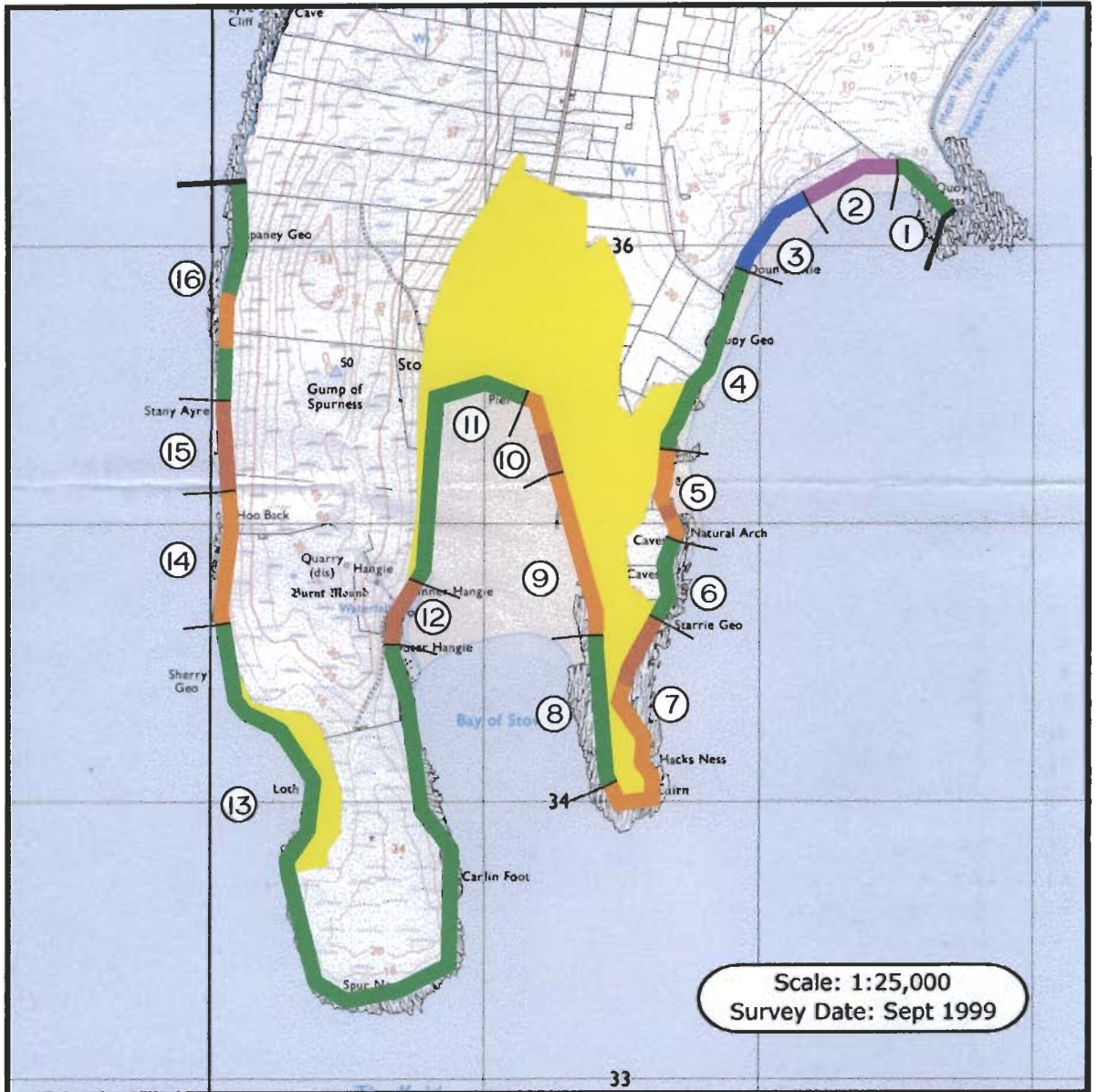
- Foreshore**
- Rock platform
 - Mainly sand
 - Mainly alluvial/marine mud
 - Marsh

- 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. Quoy Ness**
HY 625 362
0.16 km
Stable
The point to the south has a stable coast edge although there is some localised erosion in the corner of the bay.
- 2. Quoy Ness Bay (North)**
HY 623 362
0.33 km
Eroding and Accreting
Sands are accreting along the coast edge and back shore with some erosion due to marine action and wind blow. The erosion lessens to the centre of the bay.
- 3. Quoy Ness Bay (South)**
HY 620 360
0.37 km
Accreting
Sands are accreting along the coast edge in front of the dunes. There is minor aeolian erosion.
- 4. Doun Helzie**
HY 618 356
0.69 km
Stable
Large area of stable cliff coast. Minor localised erosion from terrestrial sources.
- 5. Natural Arch (North)**
HY 616 351
0.27 km
Eroding to Stable
Most erosion of the drift materials is due to rabbit activity with subsequent loss by rain wash and sea spray. There is some definite marine erosion to the south around a sea cave.
- 6. Natural Arch (South)**
HY 616 348
0.24 km
Stable
The coast edge has only minor marine erosion.
- 7. Starrie Geo**
HY 615 342
0.68 km
Eroding to Stable
There is definite erosion to the north where a large proportion of cliff face is made up of till. Further south a low coast edge has localised erosion due to damage from thrown cobbles.
- 8. Hacks Ness (West)**
HY 614 343
0.44 km
Stable
Although the coast edge is as low as the eastern side of the Ness and has cobbles, marine action is not undercutting the edge. Cobbles in the hinterland have been grown over.
- 9. Hacks Ness (North West)**
HY 613 348
0.61 km
Eroding to Stable
The low coast edge, seldom over three metres in height, has localised erosion along its length.
- 10. Stove Settlement**
HY 612 353
0.3 km
Eroding
The erosion becomes less and more localised to the north.
- 11. Bay of Stove**
HY 608 353
1.07 km
Stable
The coast edge is stable including the low edge at the head of the bay. There is negligible soil creep on the steep slopes to the west.
- 12. Inner Hangie**
HY 606 346
0.22 km
Eroding
The high coast edge is eroding due to marine action on the deep, soft till part of the cliff.
- 13. Outer Hangie**
HY 604 333
2.84 km
Stable
Most of this coast line is stable. Where the coast edge is lower and has been disturbed, due to the construction of the new pier and quarrying to one side, the edge has been stabilised by sea defences made up from large boulders and quay wall.
- 14. Sherry Geo**
HY 600 348
0.44 km
Eroding to Stable
There is some localised marine erosion and also localised sub-aerial erosion of the hinterland on the steeper slopes.
- 15. Hoo Back**
HY 600 352
0.32 km
Eroding
The cliff face is made up of red till c. 8 m thick. Much is being badly eroded by marine action.
- 16. Stoney Ayre**
HY 600 358
0.66 km
Eroding to Stable
The coast edge is generally stable. There is localised erosion of the lower cliff face by marine action along with cobble undercutting of the edge.



- Erosion Class
- Definitely Accreting
 - Accreting or Stable
 - Stable
 - Eroding or Stable
 - Definitely Eroding
 - Accreting and Eroding
 - No access
 - Land below 10m

