

INTRODUCTION TO MAP 9: Blackhead of Breigeo to Whalwick Taing

Built Heritage and Archaeology

The area covered by this map sheet comprises mainly gently undulating land to either side of the sheltered waters of Hamna Voe. There are frequent parcels of relatively good land, much of which has been cultivated or improved in the past. Modern settlement is sporadic, and set back from the coast.

Within this area, lie the ruins of a number of buildings associated with an 18th-20th C fishing station (NM144 & NM148), similar in detail, if not in scale, to that at Stenness (Map 8). A scheduled burnt mound (NM303) may incorporate a circular structure. A new, potentially prehistoric, settlement was discovered by this survey at Burro Stacks (NM328). It is worthy of note that a broch site at Hamnavoe is set back further from the coast and on the opposite side of the road than is shown on the OS map.

Geology and geomorphology

The down like gentle slopes give way to a more rugged coast by Grind of Navir. The northern coastline is more undulating than the previous unit with some outcrops of rocks along the hinterland and storm beaches along the exposed coast. Within the relative protection of Hamnavoe there are two sandy coves and lower energy storm beaches. The soils are generally imperfectly draining peaty podzols and peaty gleys with poorer grasses on the north facing slopes.

Erosion class

There are only a few areas where erosion can be demonstrated within this unit. The coastal edge is fairly stable for the most part with erosion localised or less evident due to landward migrating storm beaches.

BUILT HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGY

MAP 9

NM153

HU 2142 8008
Gruna Stack
Clearance cairns
Indeterminate
Fair
Nil

NM328

HU 2159 8052
Burro Stacks
Structure and cairn
3rd-1st mill BC
Fair-poor
Survey

NM152

HU 2159 8052
Burro Stacks
Enclosure and dykes
18th-20th C
Good
Survey

NM151

HU 222 803
Geo of Ure
Cultivation remains
Indeterminate
Good
Survey

NM150

HU 230 804
Raasmi
Pound, planticrues and dyke
18th-20th
Fair
Survey

NM149

HU 2316 8026
Houlma
Enclosures
18th-20th
Fair
Survey

NM148

HU 232 800
Houlma
Fishing station & cultivation
remains
18th-20th C
Fair-poor
Survey

NM147

HU 2410 8029
Scarff
Structure: shed
18th-20th C
Good
Nil

NM303 (HU28SW 6)

HU 2405 8044
Hamnavoe
Burnt mound: Scheduled,
SMR#501
3rd-1st mill BC
Good
Monitor

NM146

HU 2402 8039
Hamnavoe
Enclosures
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

NM145

HU 2377 8042
Hamnavoe
Pier
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

NM144

HU 234 804
Hamnavoe
Fishing station
18th-20th C
Fair-poor
Survey

NM354 (HU28SW 286)

HU 2360 8030
Hamnavoe, Hamna Voe
Unassigned vessel
18th-20th C
Not inspected

NM355 (HU28SW 826)

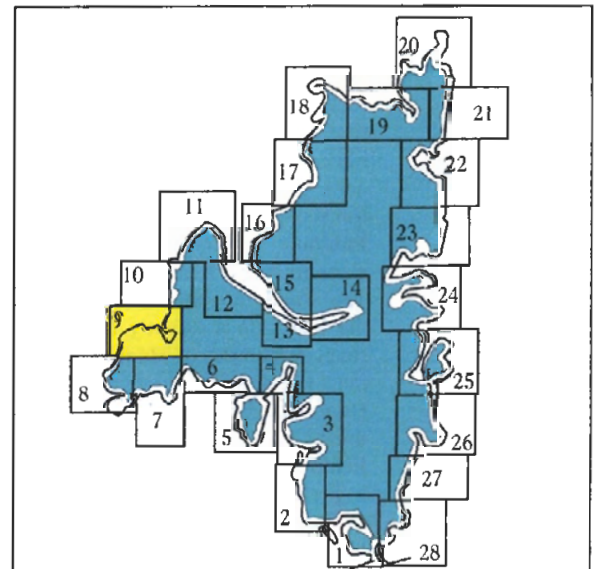
HU 2350 8040
Hamnavoe, Hamna Voe,
Esha Ness
Angler, fishing vessel
18th-20th C
Not inspected

NM356 (HU28SW 227)

HU 2370 8030
Hamnavoe, Hamna Voe
Unassigned vessel
14th-18th C
Not inspected



- 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



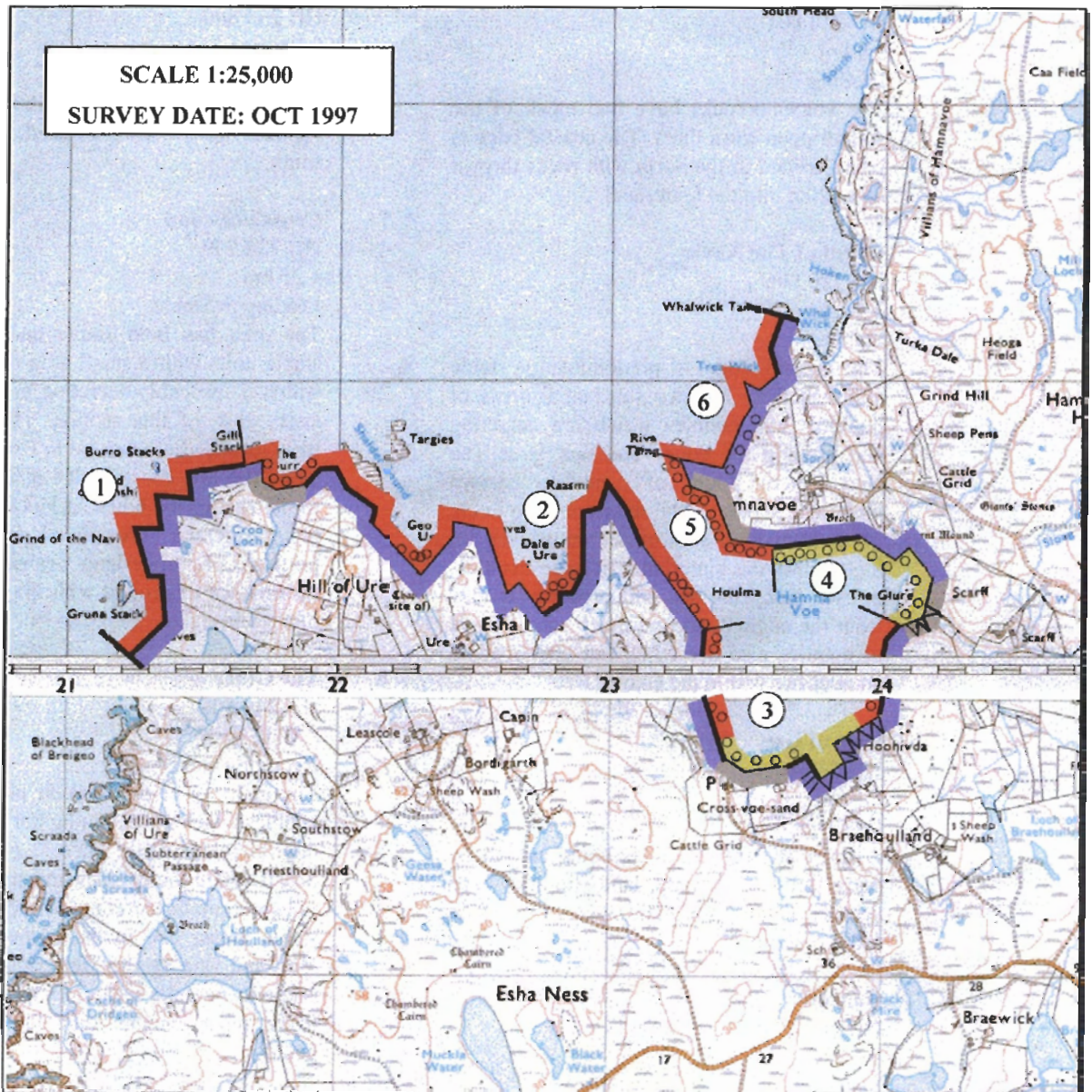
HINTERLAND GEOLOGY & COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY

MAP 9

- 1 Blackhead of Breigeo**
HU 214 805
1.31 km
Rock platform usually with negligible cover.
Coastal edge is generally > 5m.
The drift/rock interface is visible
The gentle undulations of the hinterland come to an end by the Grind of Navir where large areas of exposed rock lavas outcrop into the hinterland and some blocky storm washed boulders have been throw up over the 5m edge to the north. The coastal edge is not as shear as the crumbling ignimbrite and other volcanics grade down to the edge. The slopes are moderate to gentle with peaty rankers and thin imperfectly to freely draining peaty saline gleys supporting short grasses.
- 2 The Burr**
HU 227 801
3.11 km
Predominantly rock platform with 40- > 80% shingle and sand cover.
Coastal edge is generally < 5m.
The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible
The section contains three well developed storm beaches. The first at the Burr is primarily made up of blocky boulders and cobbles which lie over the hinterland right up to Croo Loch. The second storm beach lies within the Geo of Ure with less boulders than the previous storm beach and the third lies in the Dale of Ure where there is some landslip and a deep till to the east side. On the east side of Raasmi and partly down to Houlma there are boulders and cobbles thrown up to 100m onto the hinterland. For the most part the hinterland is moderately to steeply sloping with imperfectly drained saline gleys, rankers and peaty podzols. Rough grazing is dominant.
- 3 Cross-voe-sand**
HU 237 797
1.4 km
Sandy foreshore with some shingle cover.
Coastal edge is < 5m.
The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible
To the north some cobbles are found overlying a rock platform before it grades into the sandy foreshore with a terraced field area along the hinterland. The cove itself has gritty sand with a berm or possible storm beach at the head of the foreshore. The hinterland directly behind the foreshore is very gently sloping with a steep slope to the west and moderate slope to the east. The sands are increasingly shingle covered to the east with a recently constructed pier in the small inlet west of Hoohivda. The sand grades out to shingle covered rock platform at Hoohivda. The hinterland has much disturbance due to track construction behind Hoohivda. Most fields are fenced which are grassed down over imperfectly to poorly drained peaty gleys and rankers on the small rocky outcrops to the east of Cross-voe-sand.
- 4 The Glure**
HU 240 804
1.15 km
Rock platform with 30-60% shingle cover grading into a sandy foreshore.
Coastal edge is predominantly < 5m.
The drift/rock interface is intermittently visible
A storm beach lies in the centre of this bay although stream erosion has taken back much of this feature to the south west. The gritty sand has a moderate amount of shingle cover becoming increasingly shingle dominant to the west which then grades into a storm beach below Hamnavoe. The hinterland has a coastal edge over 5m on each side of the Glure. The hinterland below Hamnavoe is moderately sloping over a thick, 1-5m, of till. The Glure appears to be an old glacial channel with poorly drained gleys within it and imperfectly drained podzols to each side on the higher ground. Grazing is moderate or poor to the south and better to the north and west. All fields are fenced.
- 5 Hamnavoe**
HU 233 805
0.75 km
Predominantly a rocky platform with 20-50% boulder/cobble cover.
Coastal edge is < 5m.
The drift/rock interface is not visible
A large high energy storm beach dominates this section of coastline. The lower rock platform is fairly clear of cobbles and the actual storm beach is made up of boulders and cobbles. The hinterland is gently sloping with some cobbles thrown back onto the grass.. Soils are rankers or poorly drained, thin gleys.
- 6 Riva Taing**
HU 235 808
0.91 km
Rock platform with discrete areas of cobble cover.
Coastal edge is < 5m.
The drift/rock interface is generally visible
There are two small storm beaches within coves along this section. The first is to the east of Riva Taing where there is also some disturbance at the cove head. The second is in Trea Wick which also has some disturbance at the head of the cove due to machine digging of the soil. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping with more grass than the previous section. Soils are imperfectly drained rankers and gleys.

**HINTERLAND GEOLOGY &
COASTAL GEOMORPHOLOGY**

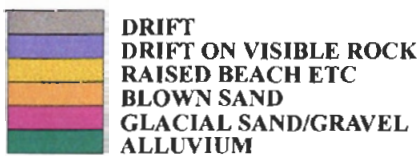
**NORTHMAVINE
MAP 9**



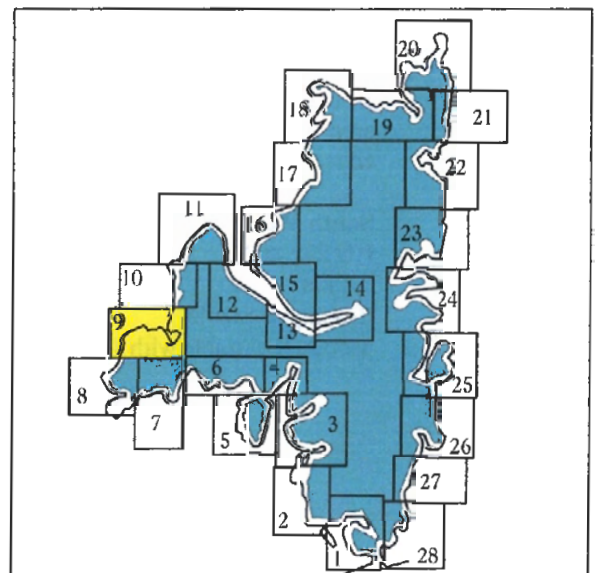
FORESHORE



HINTERLAND



MODIFIERS



EROSION CLASS

MAP 9

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Blackhead of Breigeo
 HU 214 801
 0.4 km
 Eroding
 The volcanic rocks have had much of the soil stripped from them. The coastal edge is being eroded to the north with rocks thrown up to 20m into the hinterland.</p> | <p>6 Houlma
 HU 233 800
 0.63 km
 Stable
 The coastal edge is stable with stable rills or rig and furrow and terraced field to the south.</p> |
| <p>2 Grind of The Navir
 HU 220 806
 2.4 km
 Stable
 The coastal edge is predominantly stable although there are two substantial areas of boulders and cobbles which are accreting and eroding the edge. The first is at The Burr where 200m of boulder strewn hinterland separates the sea from Croo Loch. There is a small area of accretion over 5m high within the hinterland, of large boulders thrown in by the sea and probably eroded from the edge. A second much smaller area of cobbles also accreting, but also eroding an inlet lies within the Geo of Ure.</p> | <p>7 Cross-voe-sand
 HU 238 799
 1.25 km
 Eroding to Stable
 The area has both stable and eroding to stable units with a small area of gritty sand which is probably accreting to stable at the start, west, of this section. The areas that have localised erosion lie in Cross-voe-sand along the low coastal edge and around and to the east of the house at Hoohivids. There is considerable erosion along this latter portion of hinterland caused by the disturbance of ground with the construction of a trackway.</p> |
| <p>3 Dale of Ure
 HU 228 802
 0.5 km
 Eroding
 A deep till, 1m to 2m, is being eroded by wave throw, soil creep, land slip and sheep scrapes. Overall the main agents of erosion are sub-aerial.</p> | <p>8 The Glure
 HU 240 804
 0.9 km
 Accreting and Eroding
 The majority of this section is made up of cobbles which are accreting but are probably migrating landwards. There is a small area at Scarff where the cobbles and shingle appear to be definitely accreting. There are also two stable areas, one in the corner of Hamna Voe and one at the western edge of this section where the rock outcrops and appears to be much tougher than the surrounding geology.</p> |
| <p>4 Raasmi
 HU 230 807
 0.65 km
 Stable
 Overall the section is stable although there are areas where stones have been thrown back onto the hinterland, especially so around the point and the plantcubs in this area. There are no obvious signs of coastal edge erosion at these points.</p> | <p>9 Hamnavoe
 HU 234 805
 0.5 km
 Accreting and Eroding
 Boulders and cobbles are accreting along the shore line which are definitely migrating landwards. There is also localised erosion to the east of this section.</p> |
| <p>5 South West of Raasmi
 HU 232 803
 0.4 km
 Eroding to Stable
 Moderately stable with some erosion.</p> | <p>10 Riva Taing
 HU 235 808
 1.0 km
 Eroding to Stable
 Most of the marine erosion is confined to the coves and inlets. There is a small amount of erosion close to tea Wick which has been instigated by machine digging.</p> |

SCALE 1:25,000
SURVEY DATE: OCT 1997

