

Map 2: West Burra, Southerhouse to Papil, Steina to Coast Guard Lookout

Built Heritage and Archaeology

The area covered by this map section takes in the central part of the island. There is no modern or recent settlement on the west coast and settlement on the east coast is confined to the area around Sunnybank. The west coast is rugged and exposed; the east coast is more sheltered but the better land occurs in small pockets close to the coast.

A total of 17 sites are recorded in this area, of which seven sites are new discoveries. Sites of the period 3rd-1st millennium BC predominate; accounting for nine sites in all. They include at least four settlements with field systems, four burial mounds or cairns and two burnt mounds. Four sites lie on the west coast and five are on the east coast.

There are four sites of 18th - 20th C date. These include five click mills and an enclosure. Sites of unknown date account for the remainder of entries within this area. These include a structure, a mound, a crop mark and an enclosure.

Geomorphology

The eastern side of this section has a gently sloping hinterland with low coast edge while the western side is a complete opposite with generally high cliffs and a rugged broken hinterland.

Erosion

There is more erosion on the exposed western side of the island than the more sheltered eastern side - even though the eastern side has a lower coast edge.

WB12

HU 361 320
Ruff Loch
Click Mill
18th-20th C
Unknown
Survey

WB13 HU33SE53

HU 362 321
Ruff Loch
Structure, house or cairn
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

WB14 HU33SE10

HU 3622 3210
Ruff Loch
Structure, house or fort
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair-poor
Survey

WB15 HU33SE56

HU 363 325
Whinner Hevda
Possible burial cairn
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

WB16

HU 367 334
The Alter
Enclosure
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WB17

HU 3745 3450
Southerhouse
Settlement and field system
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

WB30

HU 3795 3455
Southerhouse
Possible burial cairn
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

WB31

HU 3795 3455
Southerhouse
Possible burial mound
3rd-1st Mill BC
Good-fair
Survey

WB32

HU 3710 3210
South Voe, opp Holm of Papil
Indeterminate structure
Unknown
Poor
Survey

WB33

HU 3710 3210
South Voe, opp Holm of Papil
Indeterminate mound
Unknown
Fair-poor
Monitor

WB45 HU33SE3

HU 3758 3379
Tougs
Burnt mound, structures and
field system
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

WB46 HU33SE15

HU 3740 3343
Tougs
Burnt mound
3rd-1st Mill BC
Good
Survey

WB47 HU33SE64

HU 3742 3342
Tougs
Mound, possible burial site
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

WB48 HU33SE22

HU 371 331
Grunasound
Click mills
18th-20th C
Fair-poor
Nil

WB49 HU33SE25

HU 3613 3207
Ill Craig, Papil
Click mill
18th-20th C
Poor
Nil

WB50 HU33SE54

HU 362 321
Ruff Loch
Enclosure
Unknown
Fair
Survey

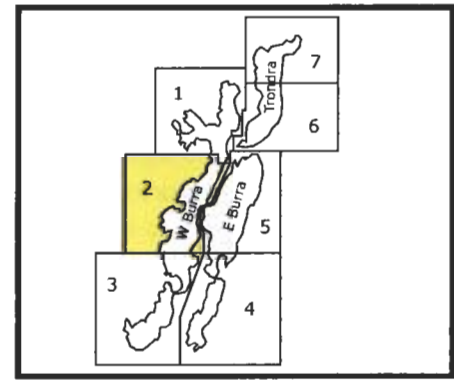
WB51 HU33SE57

HU 3632 3250
Loch of Sandwick
Crop mark
Unknown
Unknown
Monitor



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- 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. Southerhouse

HU 379 344

0.6km

Rock platform with 30 to 50% cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is not visible.

Where there is some erosion to the S of Southerhouse a deep soil of approximately 1m overlies a greyish till over 0.4m deep. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping. Soils are imperfectly drained peaty podzol and gley. Fields are fenced pasture.

2. Burnt Mound (South)

HU 370 330

2.9km

Rock platform with 30 to 50% cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is visible.

The drift rock interface is now generally visible with cobble cover along the upper foreshore. Cobble cover tends to increase slightly to the north of Papil. The coast edge is well below 5m, in some cases to the S less than 1m. There is one point where the edge rises over 5m, on a small hook south of 'Standing Stone'. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping with grassed fields. Soils are predominantly poorly to imperfectly drained peaty gleys and podzols.

3. Steina

HU 360 328

3.3km

Rock platform.

Coast edge is predominantly > 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform is generally devoid of cobble cover. Some discrete areas of cobbles lie to the N of Whinner Hevda and within Ramna Geo. The hinterland is rugged with striated rock outcrops, gneiss and schists. Many areas have large amounts of wave thrown rock shards lying up to 40m inland while other areas have a thin soil cover or ranker. A recent land slip to the W of Whinner Hevda has revealed a unique gritty orange till c.2m deep. Overall, slopes are moderate to gentle with occasional steep to very steep slopes. As a point of interest Ruff Loch, which lies to the south of this section, has a definite relic shore line at 1.5m-2.5m above the present water level. Where soils are present they tend to be poorly drained peaty gleys

and rankers. To the extreme N the soils become slightly deeper with some imperfectly drained peaty podzols and gleys supporting pasture.

4. Sandwick

HU 365 330

0.1km

Sandy foreshore.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is not visible.

The sandy foreshore has some cobble cover along the upper foreshore and strand line. In the coast edge section within the cove, 0.5m of dark soil overlies a brown soil > 0.7m deep. Soils are freely to imperfectly drained podzol. Fields are fenced and down to pasture.

5. Freefield

HU 366 335

1.9km

Rock platform with discrete areas of cobbles.

The coast edge is generally > 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform has discrete areas of cobble cover with small coves to the S. The coast edge rises to over 5m to the N of Point of the Alter. The hinterland is moderately to gently sloping with a few areas where there are steep slopes. Much of the hinterland, up to 20m inland, is devoid of soil. The Alter is an area of bare broken rock which has a blasted landscape appearance. Much of the rock is splintered and broken. Where soils exist they are fragile rankers and peaty gleys.

6. The Coall (North)

HU 374 342

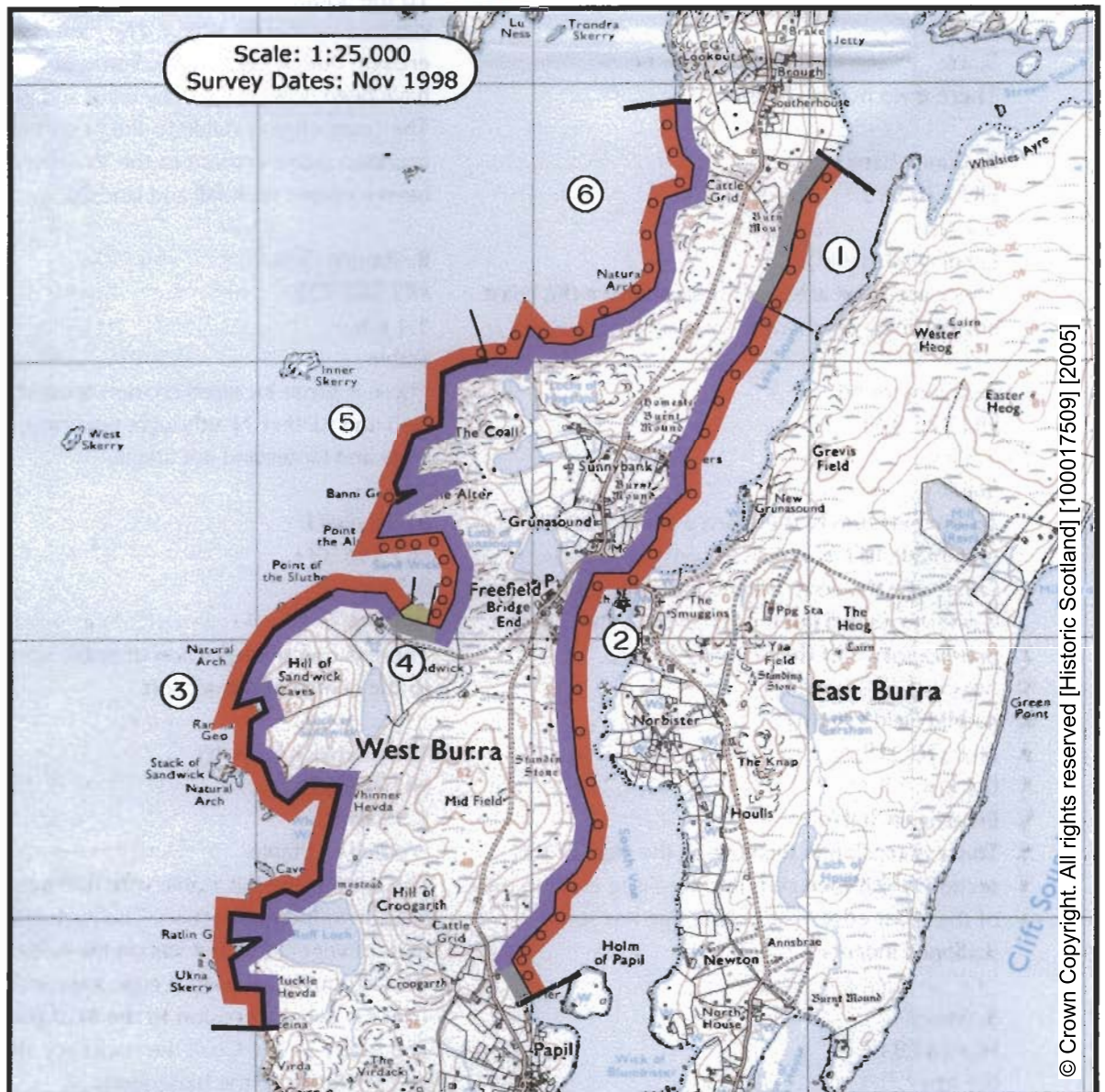
1.6km

Rock platform with minor cobble cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is visible.

The rock platform has only small amounts of cobble cover. The hinterland has large areas of rock outcrop. In one area to the S of the section there is only a fragile soil within a bowl shaped hinterland. Further N the slopes become moderate to steeply sloping with some rock fall from the hinterland. Soils are rankers or imperfectly drained peaty podzols and gleys with rough grazing.

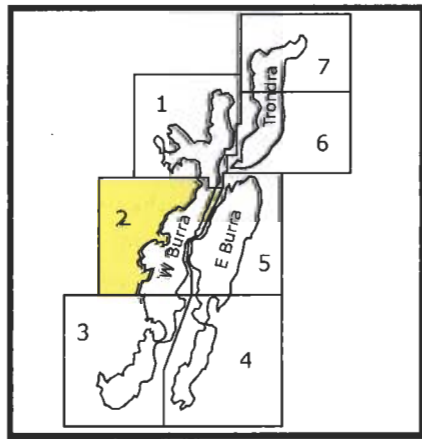


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- Foreshore**
- Rock platform
 - Mainly sand
 - Mainly alluvial/marine mud
 - Marsh

- 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. Southerhouse (South)

HU 340 377

1.4 km

Stable

There is no marine erosion.

2. Sunny Bank

HU 375 335

0.2 km

Eroding to Stable

There are small areas of erosion where the coast edge is being eaten away by marine action.

3. Grunasound

HU 371 328

1.5 km

Stable

To the extreme N there are a few areas where man-made fill has stabilised coast edge erosion. Otherwise the coast edge is naturally stable. There is one very small point of erosion to the S of the promontory S of the Standing Stone.

4. Mid Field (South)

HU 370 319

0.6 km

Eroding to Stable

There is erosion in the cove at the start of this section which then runs into localised erosion only of the coast edge. The coast edge has some scalloped indents.

5. Steina

HU 361 317

0.2 km

Eroding to Stable

Some of the coast edge rocks have been shattered by wave action and there is erosion of the hinterland soil by water flow.

6. Muckle Hevda

HU 360 320

0.7 km

Stable

Although the coast edge rocks are stripped of soil, as normal for this environment, the coast edge is stable.

7. Whinner Hevda

HU 363 324

0.85 km

Eroding to Stable

To the South of the cove there is erosion of the cliff face by marine action. The hinterland also has erosion due to water flow. Some of the rock faces have been hollowed out by wind and wave action. The coast edge is stable to the N corner of the bay and then more erosion to the W where there has been a recent rock fall and landslip.

8. Ramna Geo

HU 360 329

1.1 km

Stable

There is some localised erosion around Ramna Geo and further N although, generally, the coast edge and hinterland are stable.

9. Sandwick

HU 366 331

0.5 km

Eroding

There is one small portion of stable rock outcrop to the centre of the section.

10. Sandwick (North)

HU 366 336

1.55 km

Eroding to Stable

The area to the S is stable with more coast edge erosion in the mid section. The rock is stripped back of vegetation and soil on the head S of Banni Geo although the coastal edge appears stable. There is definite erosion to the N of this head, by The Alter. By the Coall the rocks are stripped back up to 100m into the hinterland.

11. The Coall (North)

HU 374 342

1.7 km

Stable

N of The Coall the coast edge is stable with only a few minor areas where fresh erosion has taken place. There is however some erosion of the hinterland soils in a small area to the E of the section start and is due to water run off and exposure.

