

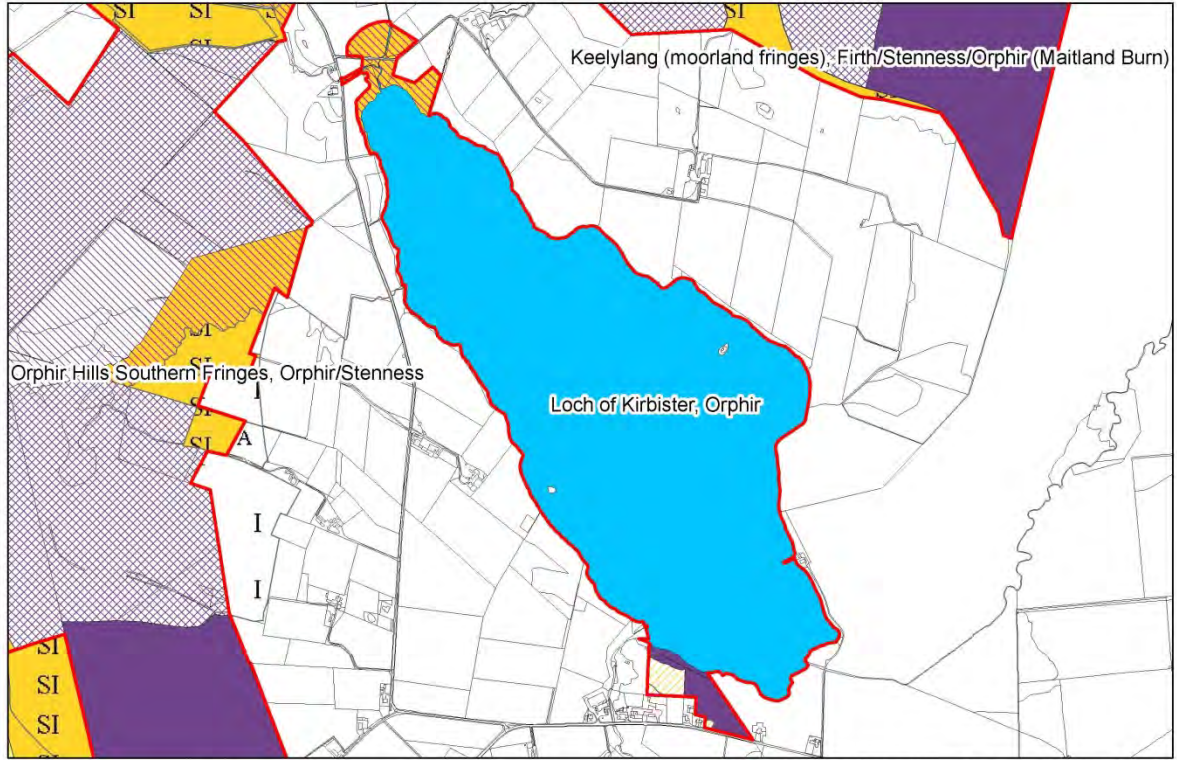
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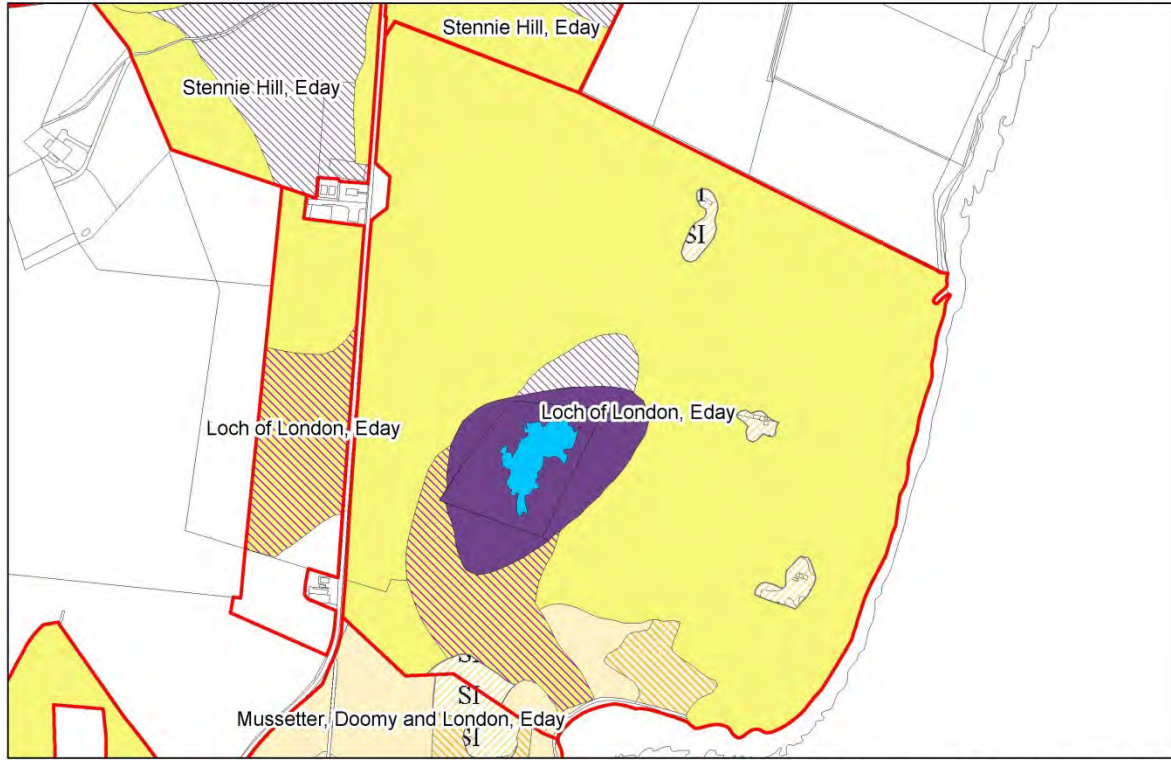
<b>Loch of Kirbister.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Orphir.
<b>Area:</b> c. 110 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 121.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site comprises the Loch of Kirbister and areas of marsh and peatland at its northern and southern ends. The loch itself has a variety of aquatic plants, including nationally uncommon species. Marsh at the north end of the loch is dominated by tall plants such as yellow iris and meadowsweet, and native willow scrub is extensive. At the southern end of the loch is an area of blanket bog with typical vegetation cover of bog cotton, heather and deer grass, some of which has been replaced by more grassy vegetation as a result of grazing by livestock. The stony margin of the loch in this area has a fringe of marshland plants, among them the nationally uncommon holy grass.</p> <p>Red-throated diver nest by the loch. A variety of waders nest on the site, including lapwing, oystercatcher, snipe and curlew, also ducks including tufted duck and red-breasted merganser. The loch is also important for wintering wildfowl, especially wigeon and pochard.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic lakes* .</p> <p>Lowland fens* .</p> <p>Wet woodland* .</p> <p>Blanket bog* .</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Red-throated diver* .</p> <p>Curlew * .</p> <p>Lapwing* .</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Wigeon.</p> <p>Pochard.</p> <p>Brown trout.</p> <p>Holy grass.</p> <p>Grey willow.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed* .</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed* .</p> <p>Lesser bearded stonewort* (this plant has not been recorded for many years but could well be still there).</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Kibister, Orphir (Site ref No: 121)

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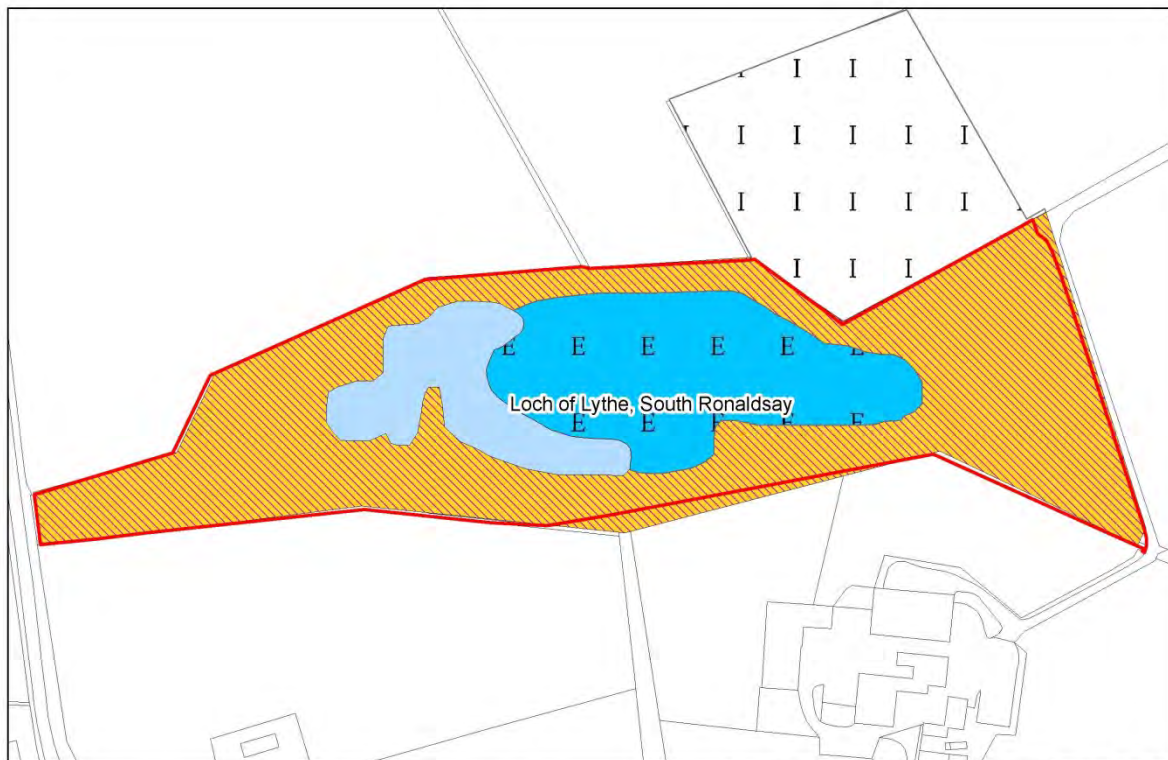
<b>Loch of London.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Eday.
<b>Area:</b> c. 56 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 121.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site includes a large area of heather moorland with a central basin occupied by a loch and surrounding bog. Most of the heather moorland is dry and quite dominated by heather, with very few other plants. Deep peat around the loch supports bog vegetation including bog cotton, bog asphodel and sphagnum moss. Round-leaved sundew (a carnivorous plant) also occurs here. Wet conditions with similar vegetation extend southwards on thinner peat towards the Bay of London, where there is an abrupt change to dry grassland and heathland dominated by crowberry on wind-blown sand.</p> <p>Breeding waders are present on the site, including oystercatcher, snipe, curlew and redshank. A pair of red-throated diver is found on the loch along with ducks such as shelduck and mallard. Eider ducks and a colony of common gulls breed on the moorland. A variety of small birds also nest here – skylark, meadow pipit, wren, stonechat, linnets and twite.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.  Blanket bog*.  Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes*.  Crowberry heath.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Red throated diver*.  Snipe*.  Curlew*.  Redshank.  Twite*.  Linnets*.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Loch of London, Eday (Site ref No: 122)

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<b>Loch of Lythe.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 4 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 123.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  A shallow loch with a fringe of swamp and marshy grassland. The wettest areas have plants such as mare's-tail and bogbean, while meadowsweet is abundant in the marshy grassland.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Small numbers of ducks, such as mallard, wigeon, moorhen and coot also breed here, along with black-headed gull, meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Eutrophic standing waters*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Curlew*.  Lapwing*.  Snipe.  Redshank.  Wigeon.  Reed bunting*.  Black-headed gull*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

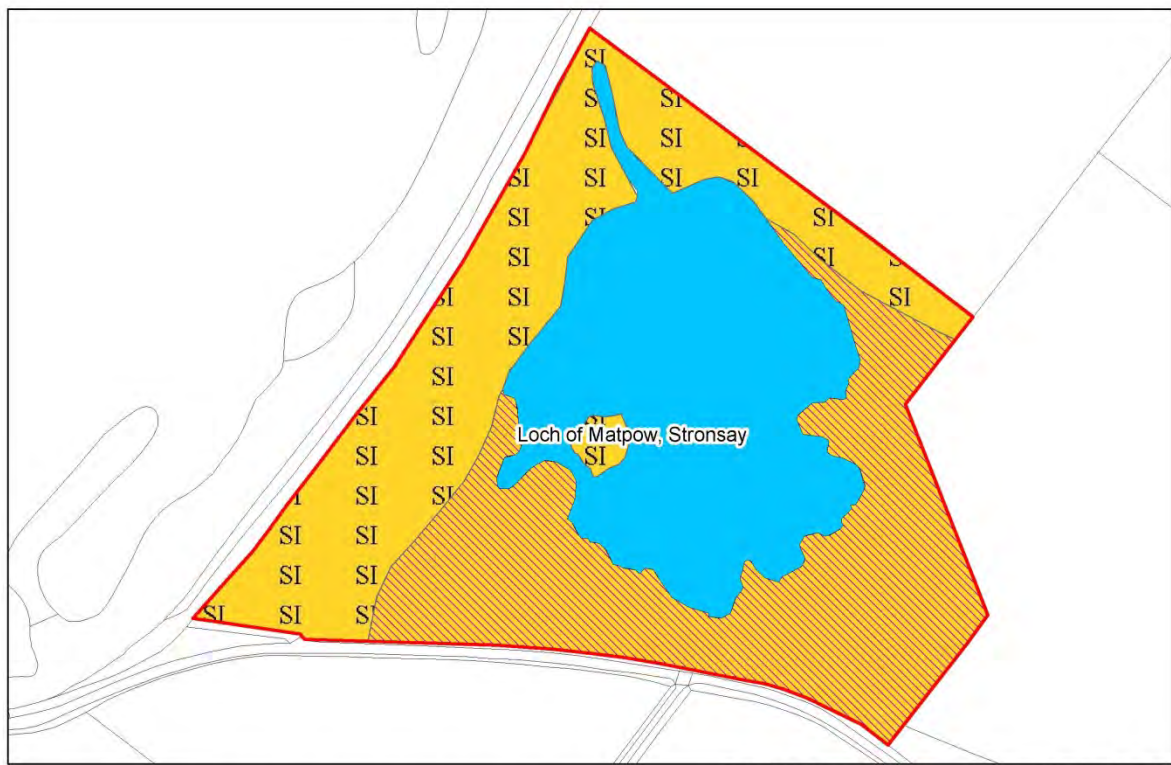


Loch of Lythe, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 123)

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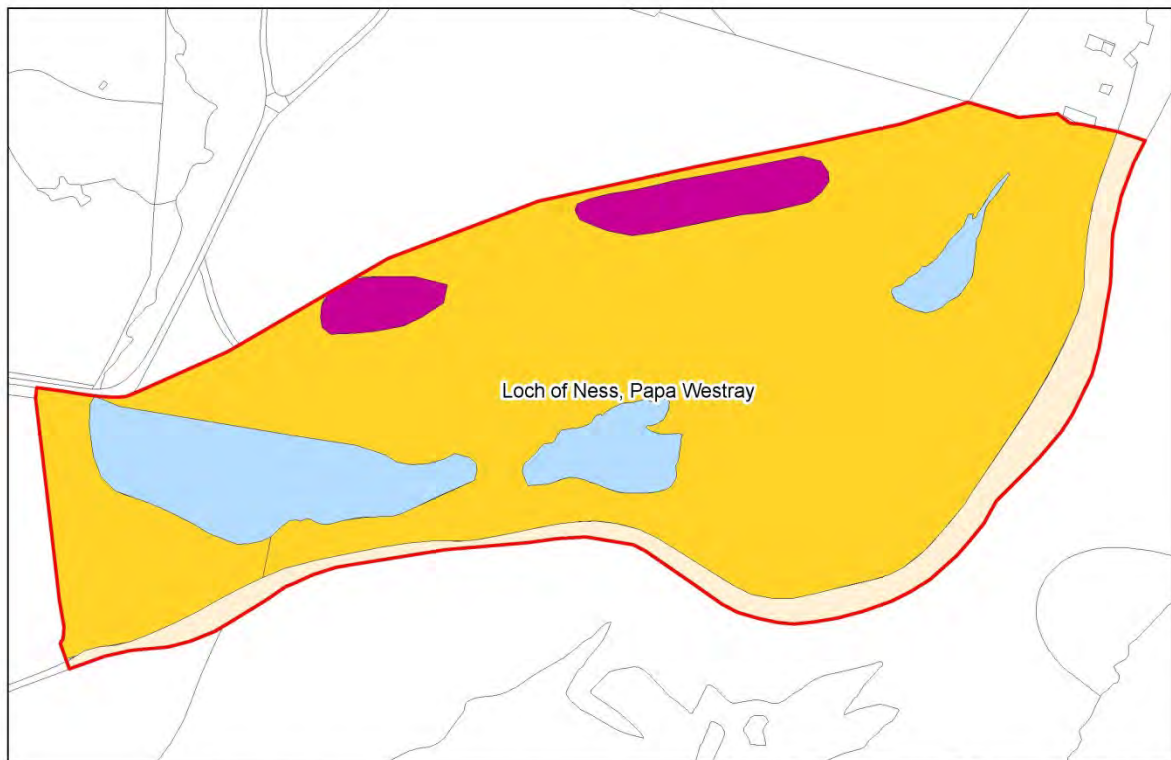
<b>Loch of Matpow.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Stronsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 5 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 124.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  A small, shallow loch surrounded by sandy links, wet meadow and marsh. The marsh has varied plant species including ragged robin and marsh marigold. Various water plants occur in the loch including a nationally scarce species. Other unusual plants grow here or have been found in the past - grey club-rush, curved sedge and whorl grass.</p> <p>Waders nest on the site in small numbers, including oystercatcher, curlew and redshank, along with a few ducks. A variety of migrating and wintering wildfowl also visit the site.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Eutrophic standing water*.  Links.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Curved sedge*.  Slender-leaved pondweed*.  Whorl grass.  Grey club-rush.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Matpow, Stronsay (Site ref No: 124)

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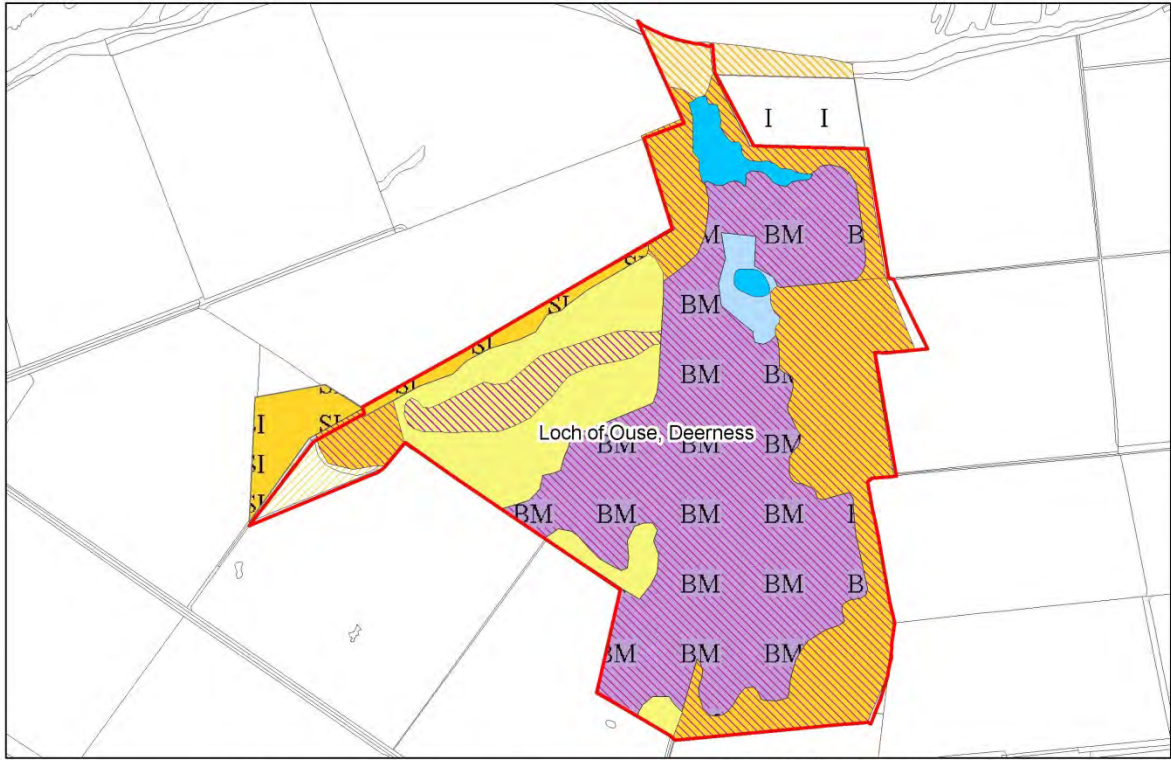
<b>Loch of Ness.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Papa Westray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 6 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 125.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  An area of damp, flowery grassland containing plants such as yellow rattle, water mint and ragged robin. Variety of plant life further increases where springs locally create more lime-rich conditions. Close to the shore there are winter flood pools, some of these drying up in summer, others remaining swampy. The coastal edge is fringed by low sand dunes and coastal grassland.</p> <p>Waders such as oystercatcher, snipe, curlew and redshank nest here along with ducks such as shoveler, mallard and teal. It is also a good site for wintering waders.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Lowland meadow*.  Lowland fen*.  Coastal sand dunes*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Snipe.  Curlew*.  Redshank.  Shoveler.  Wintering waders.  Northern yellow cress*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Ness, Papa Westray (Site ref No: 125)

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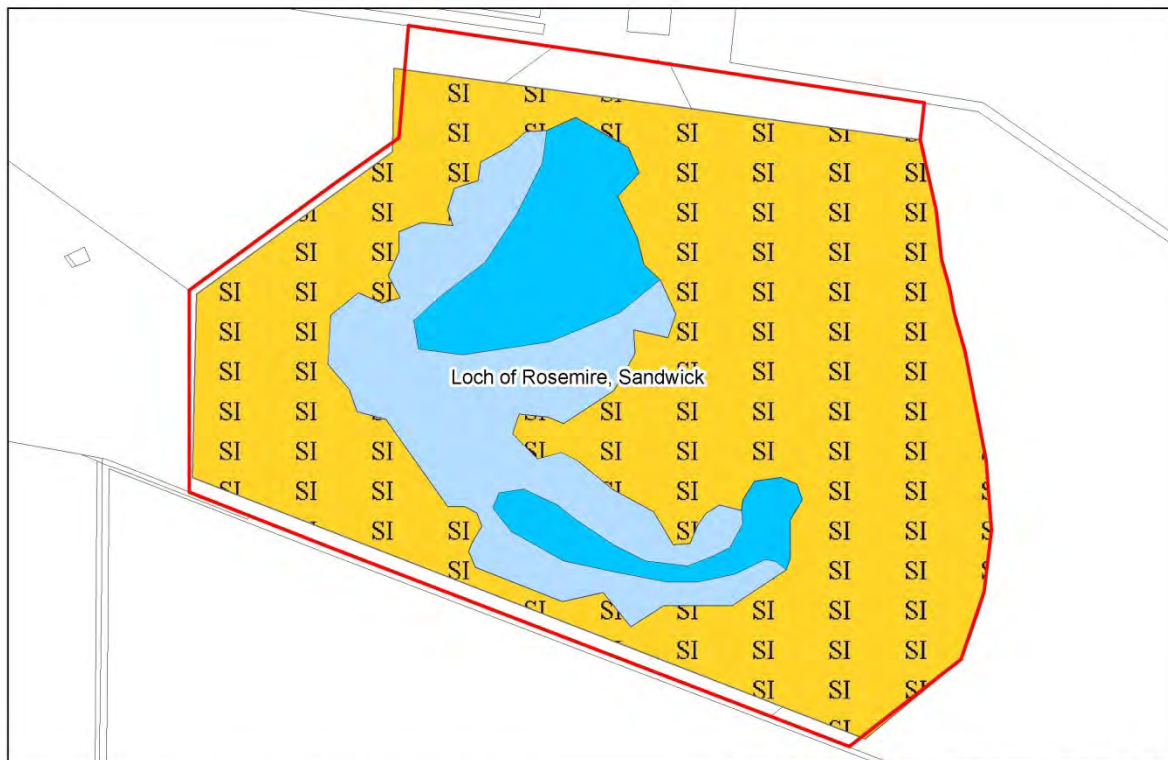
<b>Loch of Ouse.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Deerness.
<b>Area:</b> c. 20 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 126.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site is a large peaty basin, somewhat modified by drainage though many of the ditches have silted up. There has been some peat cutting, but the impacts have been light. There is an area of drier heather moorland at the western side. The eastern edge has dense beds of yellow iris, with some meadowsweet, rushes and reed canary-grass. The central basin and wettest part of the site has a variety of sedges, grasses and flowers such as bog cotton and marsh horsetail. Among this marshy vegetation are swampy areas and pools, as well as drier patches of peat with heather and crowberry. By the coast there is some dune grassland or links.</p> <p>The site supports a variety of breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew, snipe and redshank. There is also a common gull colony. Sedge warbler and reed bunting breed here too.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Lowland dry acid grassland*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Mesotrophic loch*.</p> <p>Links.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Common gull.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Ouse, Deerness (Site ref No: 126)

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<b>Loch of Rosemire.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Sandwick.
<b>Area:</b> c. 3 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 127.
<b>Site Description:</b> This site comprises the small Loch of Rosemire and marshy grassland on its margins. The shallow margins of the loch are overgrown with plants like bogbean. The surrounding rushy pasture is rather poor in plant species but supports breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew and redshank. Skylark also nest here.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Eutrophic standing waters*.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Lapwing*. Curlew *. Redshank. Skylark*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	

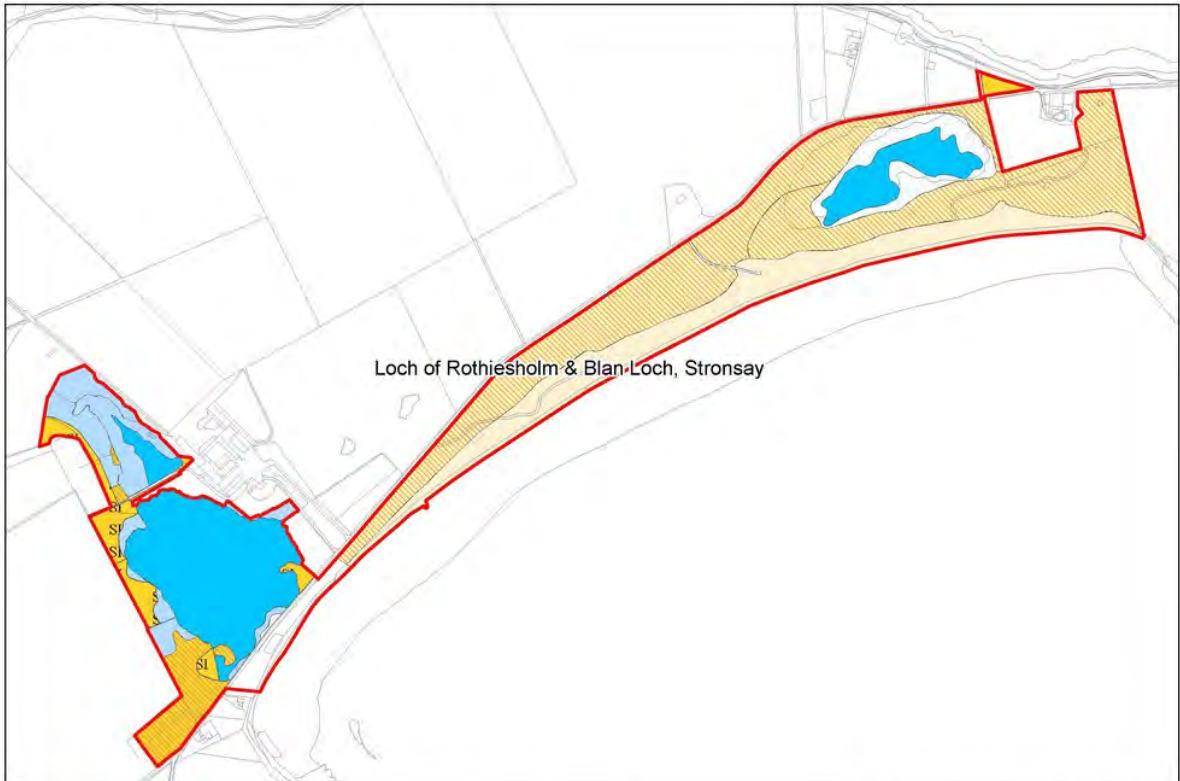


Loch of Rosemire, Sandwick (Site ref No: 127)

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<b>Loch of Rothiesholm and Blan Loch.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Stronsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 36 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 128.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This is a very varied site including coastal, wetland and open water habitats. It includes the beach, which is backed by sand dunes and the flat sand plain or links (often referred to as machair) behind the dunes. Blan Loch is shallow; it can flood a large area of the links in winter but almost dry out in the summer. The short, damp turf is rich in flowers such as early marsh and northern fen orchids, grass of Parnassus and the rare frog orchid. The nearby Loch of Rothiesholm does not fluctuate in the same way. It is unusual for having stands of greater pond sedge, which is very rare in Orkney. It is surrounded by marsh and wet meadows.</p> <p>The site supports a variety of breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, redshank and curlew. Loch of Rothiesholm has a few breeding wildfowl, including coot and mallard, also mute swan.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p> <p>Mesotrophic lakes*.</p> <p>Lowland fen*.</p> <p>Coastal sand dune*.</p> <p>Machair*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Frog orchid*.</p> <p>Northern yellow cress*.</p> <p>Lesser bearded stonewort*.</p> <p>Greater pond sedge.</p> <p>Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



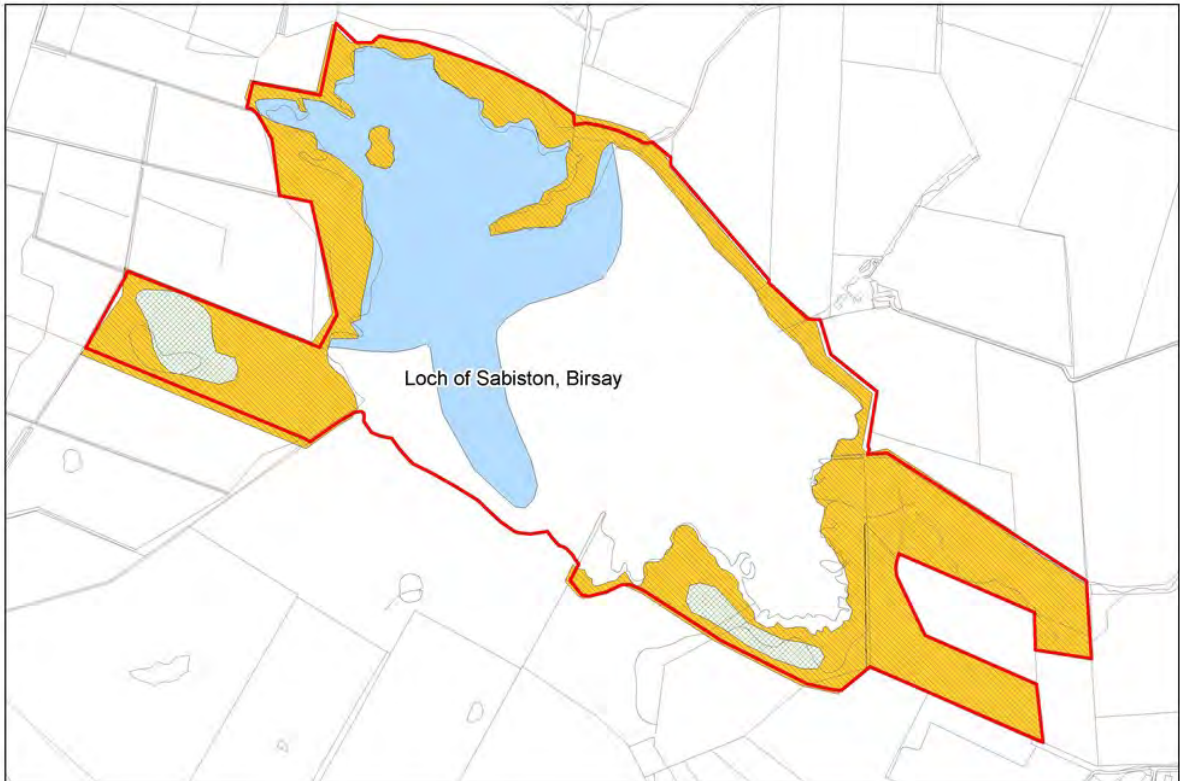


Loch of Rothiesholm & Blan Loch, Stronsay (Site ref No: 128)

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<b>Loch of Sabiston.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Birsay.
<b>Area:</b> 38 hectares	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 129.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises the Loch of Sabiston and areas of marsh around its margins, especially at the western and eastern ends. The loch itself has a great variety of aquatic plants. The marsh and marshy grassland are dominated by meadowsweet, with other common plants including yellow iris, rushes and reed canary-grass. In places, lime-rich springs and seepages support a greater variety of flowering plants and sedges. A special feature of the site is the patches of native willows.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew and redshank. A small colony of arctic terns has been present in some years. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting. Hen harrier hunt over the area.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Wet woodlands*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Dunlin*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Grey willow.</p> <p>Tea-leaved willow.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

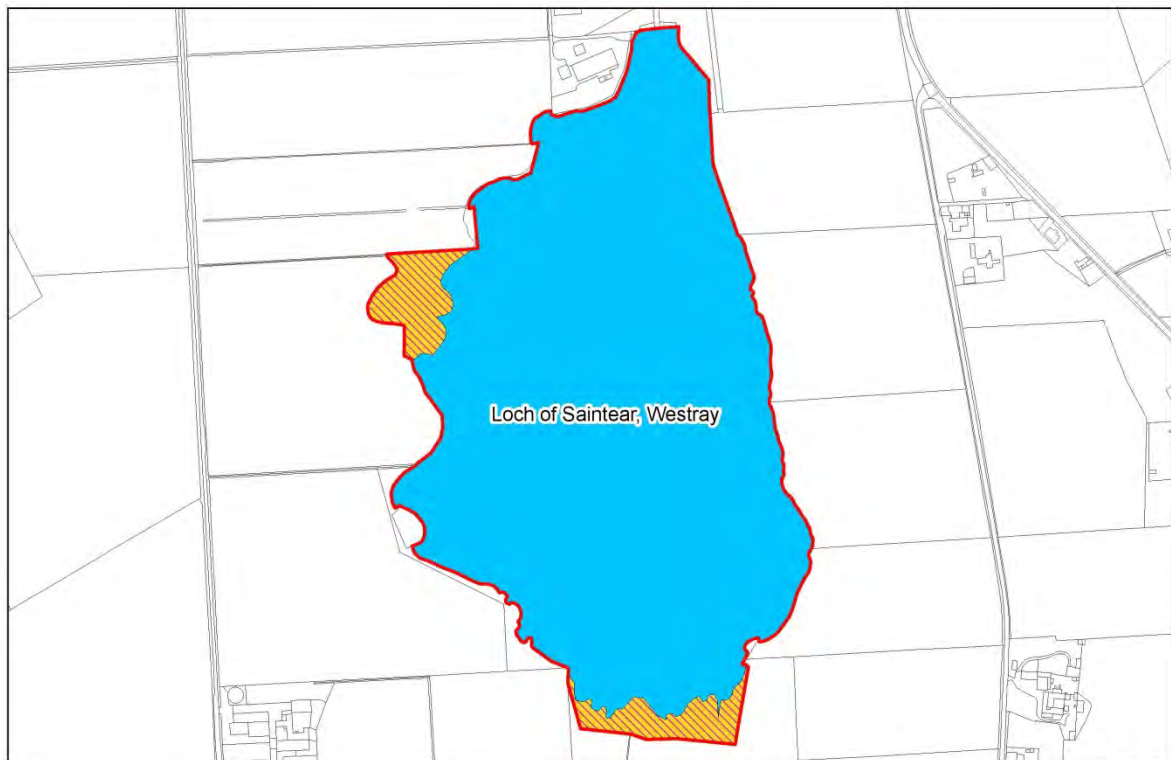




Loch of Sabiston, Birsay (Site ref No: 129)

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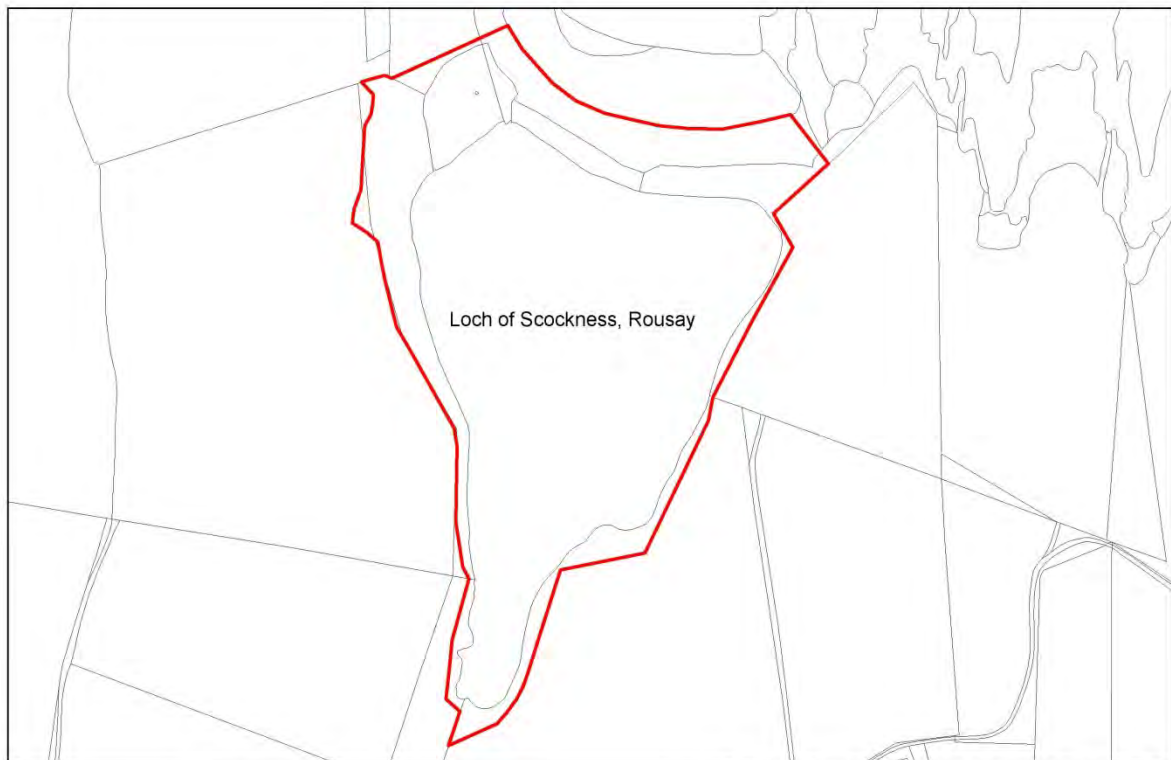
<b>Loch of Saintear</b>	<b>Location:</b> Westray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 18 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 130.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  A freshwater loch surrounded by mostly improved grassland, with just some small areas of marsh along the shore. Many water plants occur in the loch, including nationally scarce species.  A few waders and ducks nest here, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew, redshank, teal, tufted duck and coot. However, the loch is more important as a site for wintering wildfowl.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Eutrophic standing water*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Wintering wildfowl.  Lapwing*.  Redshank.  Flat-stalked pondweed*.  Slender-leaved pondweed*.  Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Saintear, Westray (Site ref No: 130)

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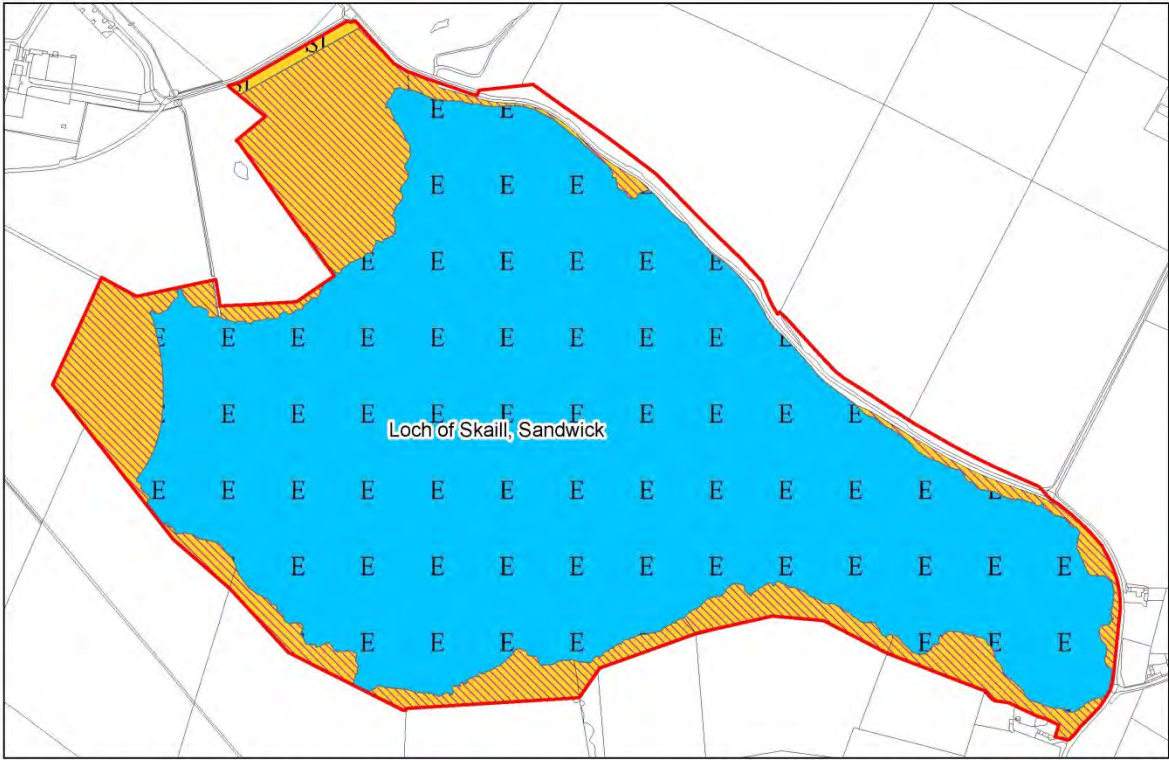
<b>Loch of Scockness.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Rousay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 7 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 131.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>A loch and fringe of marshy grassland with yellow iris, meadowsweet and rushes. Many pondweeds, including nationally uncommon species, and other water plants have been recorded here. The common blue damselfly is present, and this is a known otter site.</p> <p>The area has not been surveyed for nesting birds, but waders including curlew, snipe and lapwing have been noted as present in the breeding season.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Breeding waders.</p> <p>Otter*.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Common blue damselfly.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Scockness, Rousay (Site ref No: 131)

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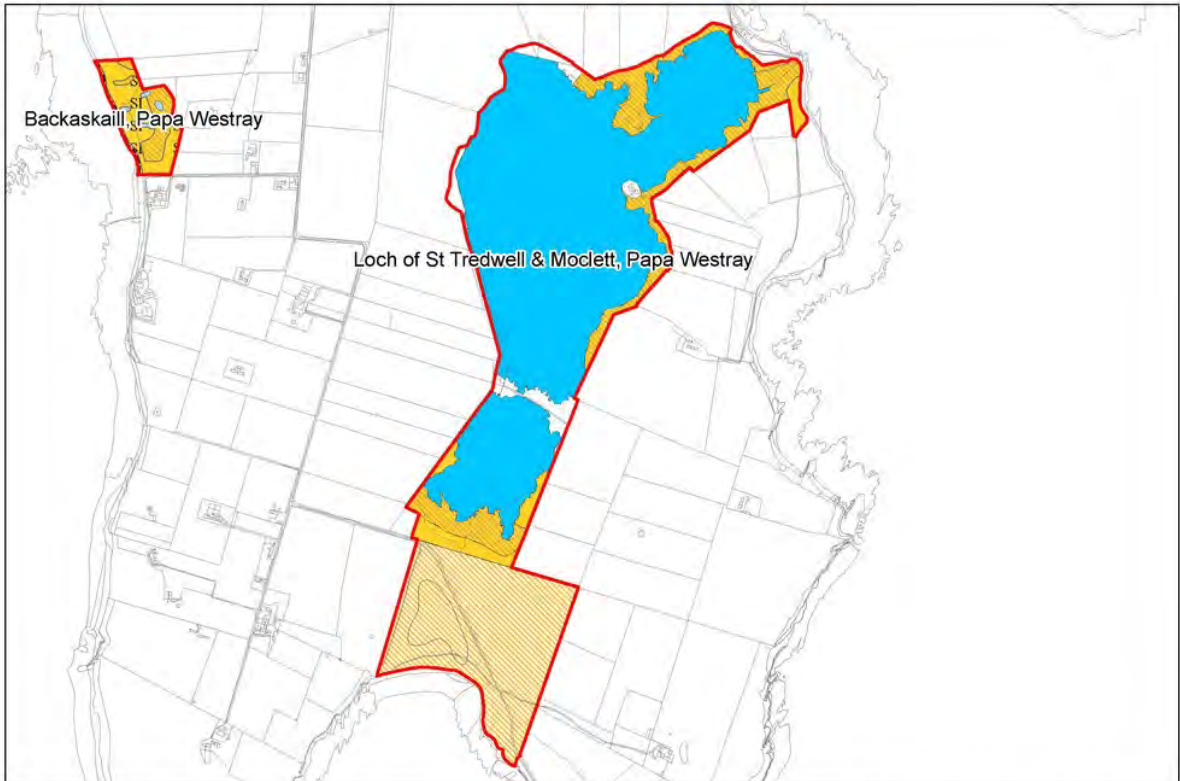
<b>Loch of Skail.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Sandwick.
<b>Area:</b> 77 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 132.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises the loch and its margins, the latter including substantial areas of tall marshy vegetation at the western end of the loch. This taller vegetation has plants such as meadowsweet, yellow iris and reed canary-grass. Shorter vegetation along other margins, especially between loch and public road, has flowers such as marsh marigold and ragged robin. Brown sedge grows here at its only Orkney location. The site includes the steep banks along the public road on the opposite side to the loch, which have flowery, semi-natural grassland. The loch has many pondweeds and other water plants, including nationally uncommon species.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank in good numbers. There is a colony of common gulls. Smaller birds nesting here include meadow pipit, sedge warbler, reed bunting, and pied wagtail. The loch is also important for wintering wildfowl.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p> <p>Lowland meadows*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Wintering wildfowl.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Lesser bearded stonewort*.</p> <p>Brown trout.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Skail, Sandwick (Site ref No: 132)

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<b>Loch of St Tredwell and Moclett.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Papa Westray.
<b>Area:</b> 67 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 133.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The Loch of St Tredwell is a large freshwater loch with a fringe of semi-natural grassland, marsh and swamp. Several species of pondweeds and other water plants grow in the loch, including one that is nationally scarce. To the south of the loch, near the coast, is Moclett Links. These sandy links are in many places rich in flowers, including orchids, wild thyme, violets, grass of Parnassus and eyebright. Some are nationally or locally unusual. It is the only place where hair sedge has been found in Orkney.</p> <p>Waders and ducks nest on the site and the loch is also an important wintering site for these birds. Other breeding birds include arctic tern, great black-backed gull, wheatear and skylark.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland meadow*. Eutrophic standing water*. Links.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*. Snipe. Redshank. Arctic Tern*. Skylark. Wintering waders and wildfowl. Hair sedge. Frog orchid*. Small adder's tongue (fern)*. Slender-leaved pondweed*. Autumn gentian*. Ivy-leaved water-crowfoot.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



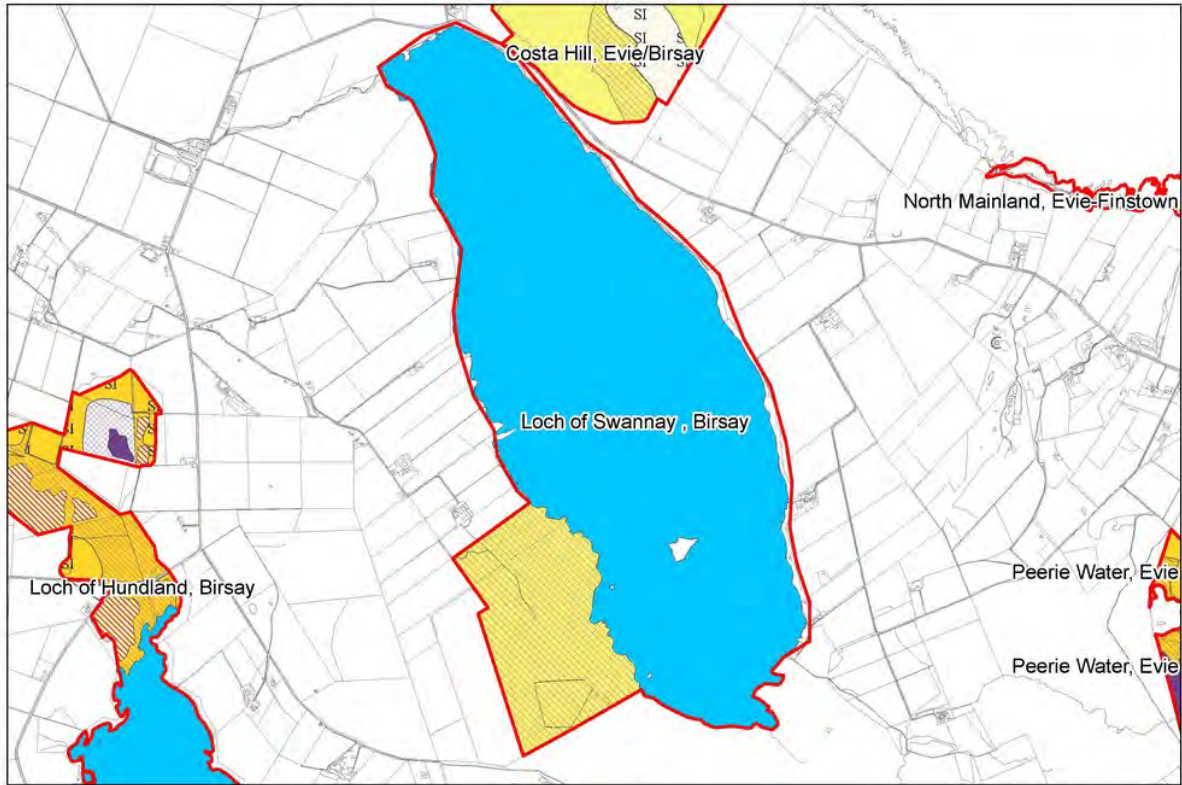
Loch of St Tredwell & Moclett, Papa Westray (Site ref No: 133)

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<b>Loch of Swannay.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Birsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 287 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 134.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises the loch itself, fringing marshy grassland along parts of the shore (round much of the loch, improved grassland reaches to or very nearly to the shore), and some nearby rough grassland. The loch has many pondweeds and other water plants, including a nationally uncommon species.</p> <p>Red-throated diver has nested here. A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, ringed plover, curlew, common sandpiper and redshank. There is a pair of mute swans and small colonies of black-headed and common gulls. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, twite, sedge warbler, reed bunting and pied wagtail.</p> <p>The loch is also important for wintering wildfowl, especially white-fronted geese.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Mesotrophic lakes*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Red-throated diver*.</p> <p>Greenland white-fronted goose*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Common sandpiper.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Twite*.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Slavonian grebe*.</p> <p>Wintering wildfowl.</p> <p>Brown trout.</p> <p>Large red damselfly.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Blunt-leaved pondweed.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

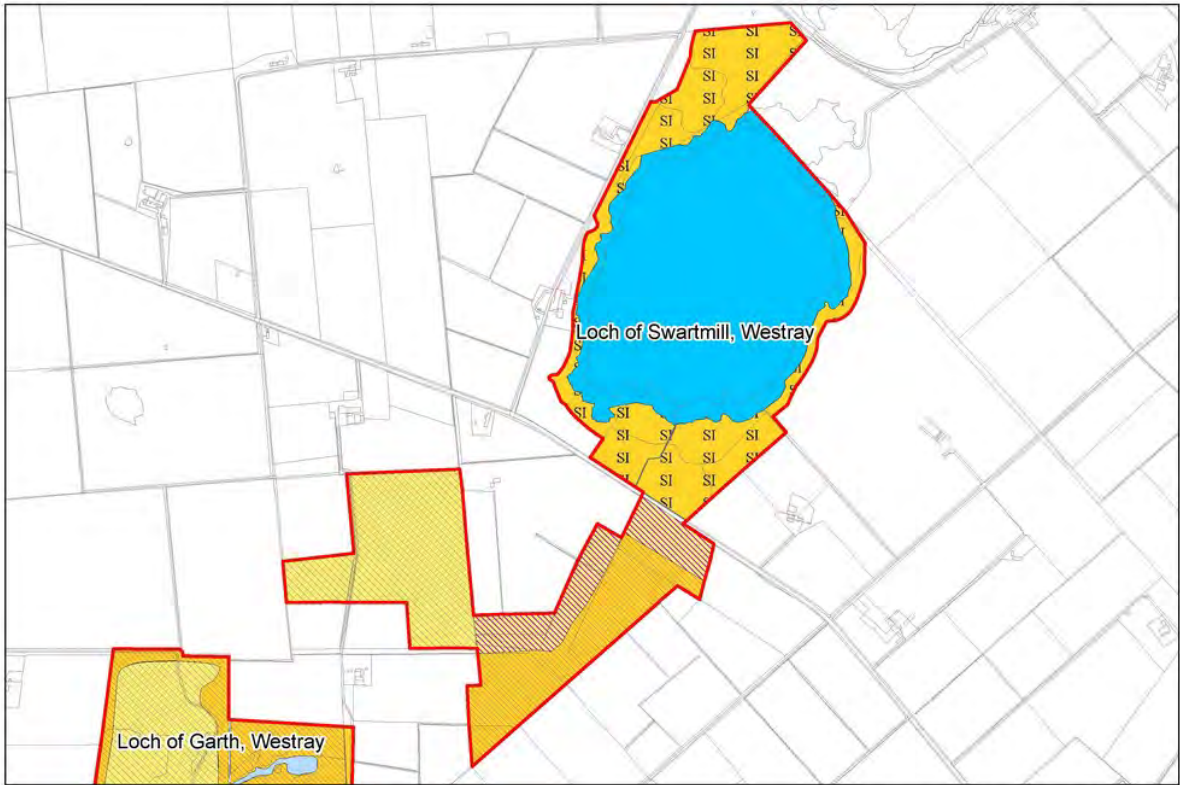




Loch of Swannay, Birsay (Site ref No: 134)

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<b>Loch of Swartmill.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Westray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 36 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 135.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area of open water fringed by semi-improved grassland. Many water plants occur in the loch, including nationally scarce species. Also part of the site, on the south side of the public road, is an area of mixed heather moorland and marshy grassland. The moorland is wet and there is abundant bog cotton with the heather. The marshy parts are mostly dominated by meadowsweet, with many other plants including marsh marigold, ragged robin and orchids. Very locally the variety of plant life is further enhanced by the influence of lime-rich springs.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Shelduck and mute swan also nest here. Small birds breeding on the site include meadow pipit and wheatear. The loch also attracts many migrant vagrant waders.</p> <p>This site used to support many more breeding waders, and several species of ducks that no longer breed here. This is a result of a reduction in the area of marshland following lowering of the water level of the loch.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing water*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Migrating waders.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Otter*.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Loch of Swartmill, Westray (Site ref No: 135)

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<b>Loch of Tankerness.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Tankerness.
<b>Area:</b> c. 77 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 136.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site includes the loch and a narrow grassy margin, except at the south west corner where it includes a larger area of marshy grassland along the edge of the loch and the Mill Burn. This marshy grassland is mainly dominated by meadowsweet, with more variety along the Mill Burn, which has some patches of heather and native willow scrub.</p> <p>The water level in the loch was lowered in the mid-1990s, leaving a stony margin, broad in places, which has developed a sparse vegetation cover of mosses and small wetland plants. The former loch edge (i.e. prior to lowering of the water level) in most places comprises a bank 2 – 3 metres high, with a band of yellow iris and marshy grassland at the top and drier, semi-natural grassland on steep slopes. These banks, grading into flower-rich wetland along the loch edge, provide shelter and flowers for butterflies (including common blue and meadow brown) and bumblebees.</p> <p>The loch has a variety of water plants including a species of pondweed at its only known Orkney site. The site supports a variety of breeding birds, notable redshank, arctic tern and reed bunting. The loch is also an important site for wintering ducks and has attracted many species of migrant and vagrant waders and water birds. Otters have been recorded.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Mesotrophic loch*.</p> <p>Wet woodlands*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Arctic tern*.</p> <p>Wintering ducks.</p> <p>Migrant waders.</p> <p>Otter*.</p> <p>Great yellow bumblebee*.</p> <p>Moss carder bee*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Long-stalked pondweed.</p> <p>Brown trout.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

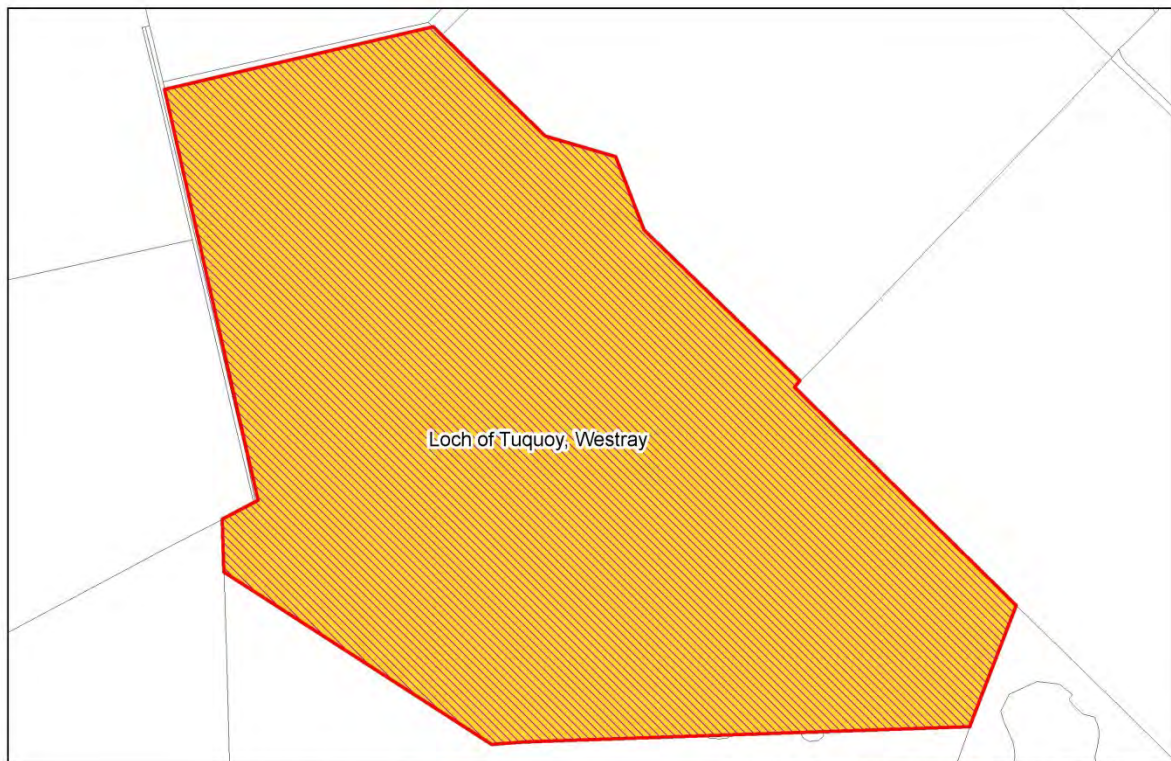


Loch of Tankerness (Site ref No: 136)

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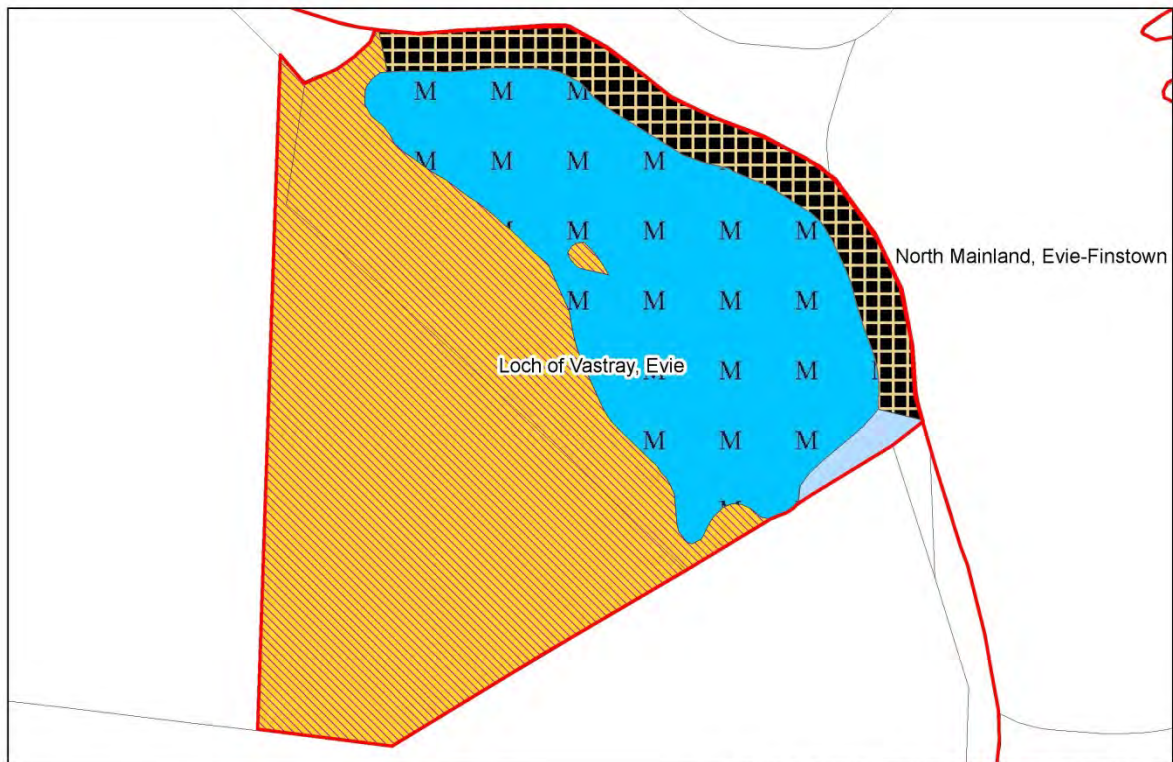
<b>Loch of Tuquoy.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Westray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 9 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 137.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area of wetland with a network of small pools. Yellow iris and meadowsweet are abundant.</p> <p>Oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew and snipe all nest here, along with colonies of black-headed and common gulls. Colonies of sandwich tern have bred here in some years. One and sometimes two pairs of corncrake have used the early cover in recent years.</p>	
Special Habitats:	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Corncrake*.</p> <p>Sandwich tern*.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Loch of Tuquoy, Westray (Site ref No: 137)

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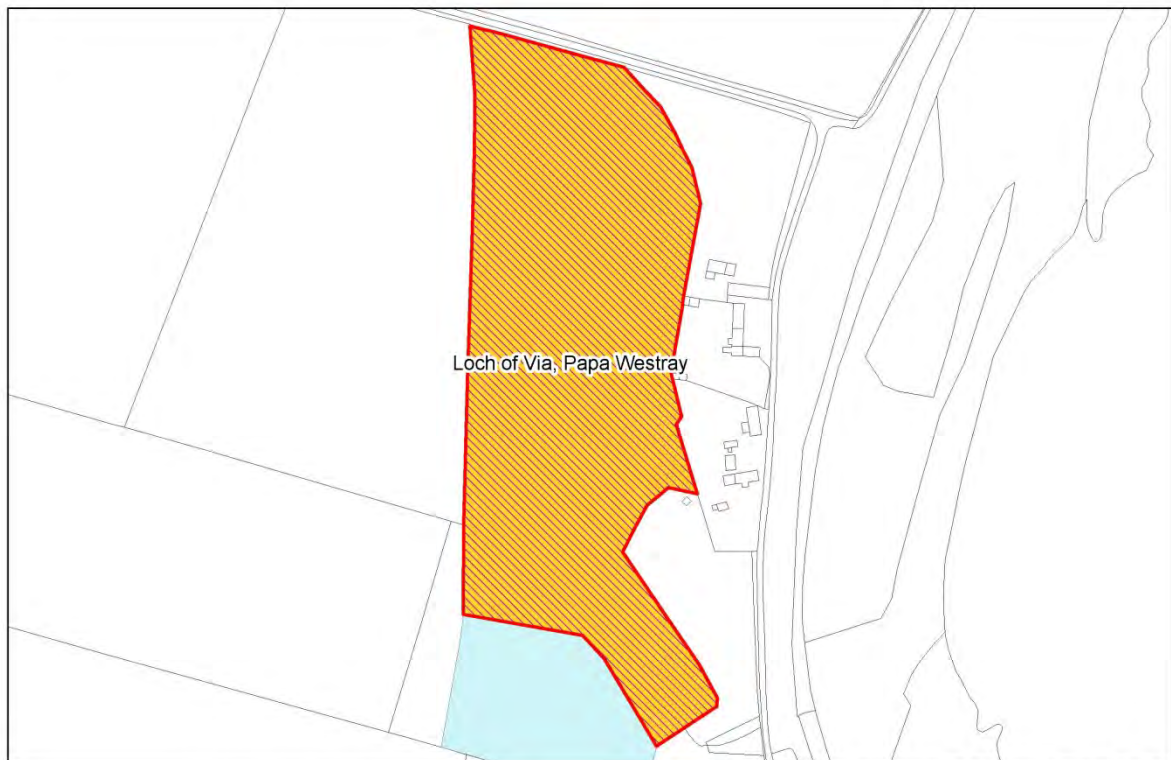
<b>Loch of Vastray.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Evie.
<b>Area:</b> c. 2 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 138.
<b>Site Description:</b> A small loch separated from the sea by a shingle ayre, with an area of marshy grassland on the landward side of the loch. The loch has a variety of pondweeds and other aquatic plants.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Mesotrophic loch*.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Otter*. Slender-leaved pondweed*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Loch of Vastray, Evie (Site ref No: 138)

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<b>Loch of Via.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Papa Westray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 2 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 139.
<b>Site Description:</b> An area of marshy grassland, dominated by meadowsweet and yellow iris. In winter part of the marsh becomes standing water. A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, snipe, curlew and redshank. There are colonies of black-headed gulls, common gulls and arctic terns, and a pair of water rail.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Eutrophic standing water*.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Snipe. Curlew*. Redshank. Arctic tern*. Black-headed gull*. Water rail. Sedge warbler.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	

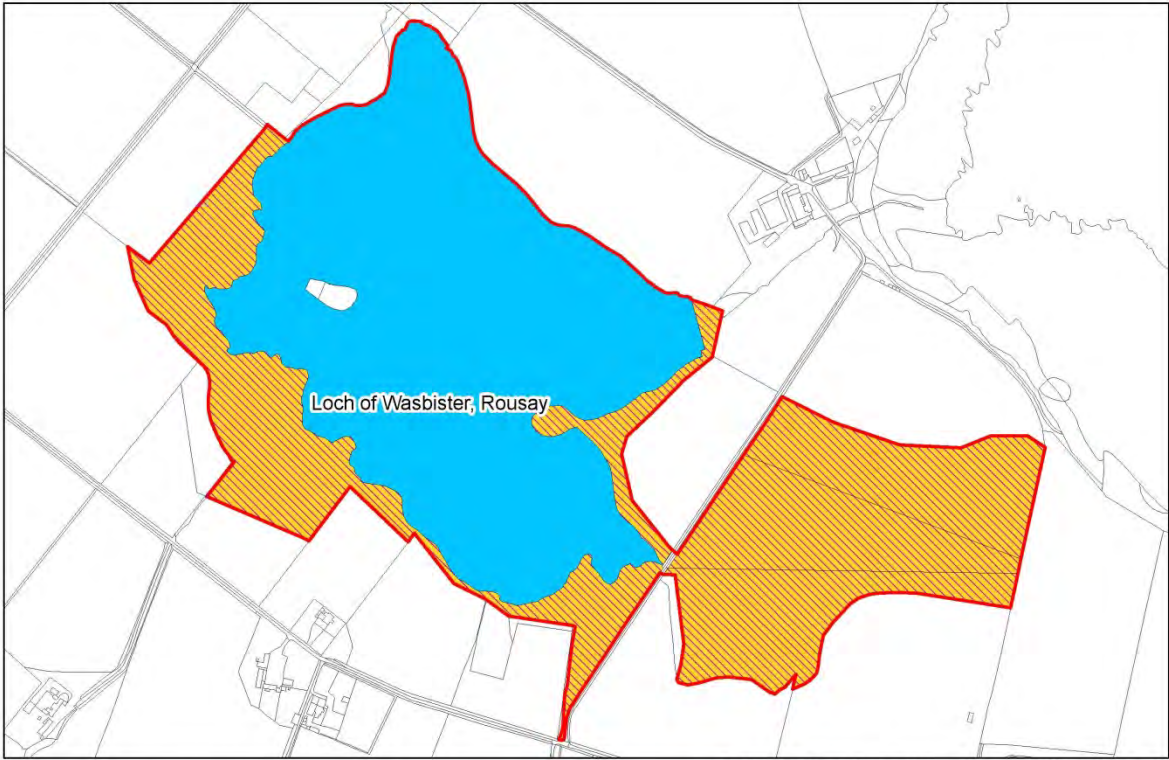


Loch of Via, Papa Westray (Site ref No: 139)

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<b>Loch of Wasbister.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Rousay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 32 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 140.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>A loch with a narrow fringe of marsh on some sides. An area of marshy grassland to the east, across the road, is dominated by meadowsweet and yellow iris, but also has areas that are more varied with a range of flowers present, including marsh marigold, water mint and bogbean. Many species of pondweeds and other water plants have been recorded in the loch.</p> <p>The site is important for breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew, snipe, common sandpiper and especially redshank. Mute swan, mallard, tufted duck and coot also nest here. Smaller birds nesting here include meadow pipit, wheatear, reed bunting, pied wagtail and many sedge warblers.</p> <p>Otters have been recorded as present at this site.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Common sandpiper.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Otter*.</p> <p>Common blue damselfly.</p> <p>Glaucous club-rush.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Clustered stonewort*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

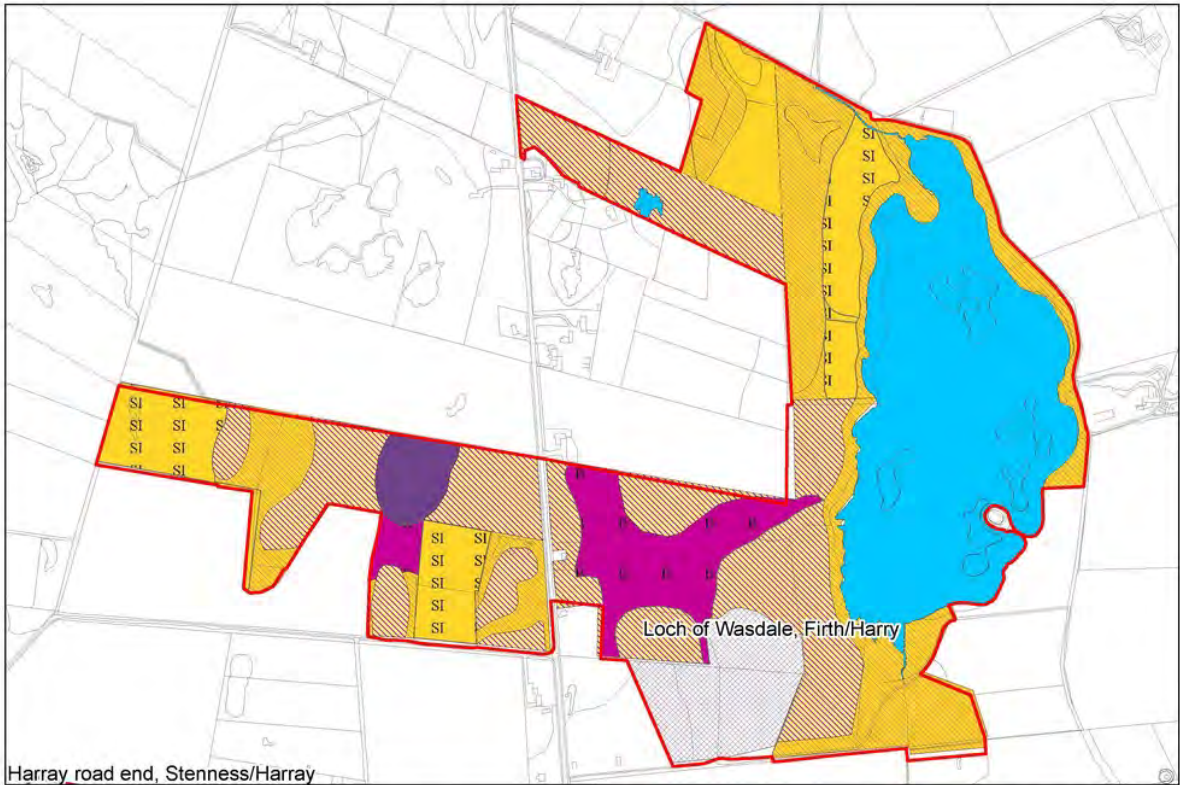


Loch of Wasbister, Rousay

Loch of Wasbister, Rousay (Site ref No: 140)

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<b>Loch of Wasdale.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Harray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 57 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 141.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises the Loch of Wasdale and an area of moorland, marsh and damp grassland to the west of the loch. Much of the moorland is wet, the dominant plants being heather and bog cotton, with purple moor grass and sphagnum moss. In several places, diffuse calcium-rich springs add a variety of other plants – butterwort, orchids and sedges. The marshland has meadowsweet, yellow iris, rushes, ragged robin and many other species. There are many small pools, and these have characteristic plants including bogbean. There is damp, semi-natural grassland, with red and white clover, vetches and meadow buttercup together with some marshland species. Some native willow bushes grow near the loch.</p> <p>There are breeding red-throated divers on the loch, and common sandpipers on its margins. Tufted ducks and a variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting. Hen harrier and short-eared owl hunt over the area.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland meadows*.</p> <p>Lowland dry acid grassland*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Mesotrophic lakes*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Red-throated diver*.</p> <p>Common sandpiper.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Blue-tailed damselfly.</p> <p>Grey willow.</p> <p>Tea-leaved willow.</p> <p>Lesser tussock-sedge*.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Brown trout.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Harray road end, Stenness/Harray

Loch of Wasdale, Firth/Harry (Site ref No: 141)

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<b>Loch of Work.</b>	<b>Location:</b> St Ola.
<b>Area:</b> c. 4 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 142.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  An ayre loch, formed behind a stabilised shingle barrier. There is little open water in summer, much of the site being marsh and wet grassland with rushes, with other plants such as yellow iris, marsh marigold and ragged-robin.  The site supports a variety of waders, including lapwing, curlew and redshank. There is a small colony of black-headed gulls. Ducks including teal, shoveler and wigeon have been present in spring/summer but breeding is unconfirmed.</p>	
<b>Special Habitats:</b>	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Lapwing*. Curlew*. Redshank. Black-headed gull*. Breeding ducks (probable).
* Nationally important habitats and species.	

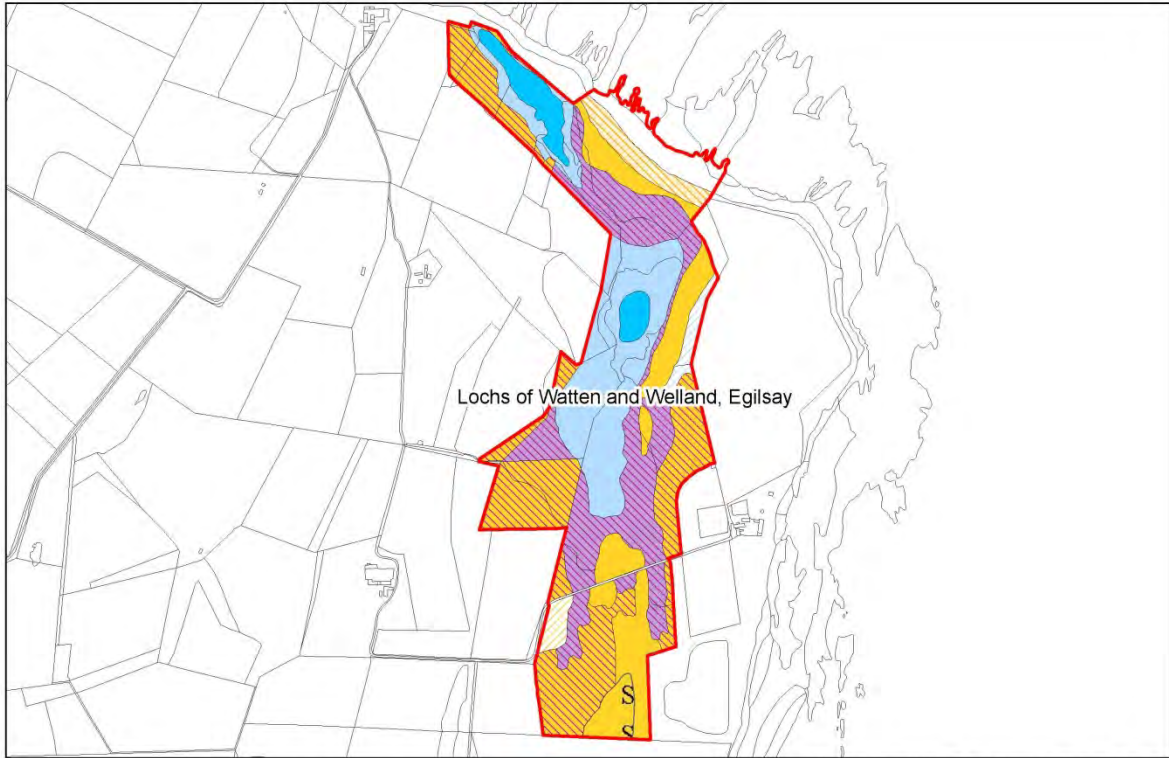


Loch of Work, St Ola (Site ref No: 142)

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<b>Lochs of Watten and Welland.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Egilsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 20 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 143.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>These two lochs have a great variety of water plants, including locally and nationally unusual species. The Loch of Watten is one of the few sites in Orkney to have a large reedbed. Marsh surrounds both of the lochs, parts of which consist of tall plants, especially meadowsweet, yellow iris and reed canary-grass. Other parts have shorter vegetation with many different species of plants, including ragged robin, marsh marigold, sedges, horsetails and the nationally rare holy grass. Marshy grassland extends southwards from Watten to merge with damp, sandy pasture, which is semi-natural and also rich in species, including vetches, yellow rattle, orchids and grass-of-Parnassus.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site in good numbers, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Ducks, including mallard, teal and tufted duck also breed here, as do a pair of water rail. The rare spotted crake has been heard here in the breeding season. Smaller birds nesting here include meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Reedbeds.</p> <p>Lowland meadows.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Little grebe.</p> <p>Spotted crake*.</p> <p>Blue-tailed damselfly.</p> <p>Common blue damselfly.</p> <p>Holy grass*.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Lesser bearded stonewort*.</p> <p>Cowslip.</p> <p>Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

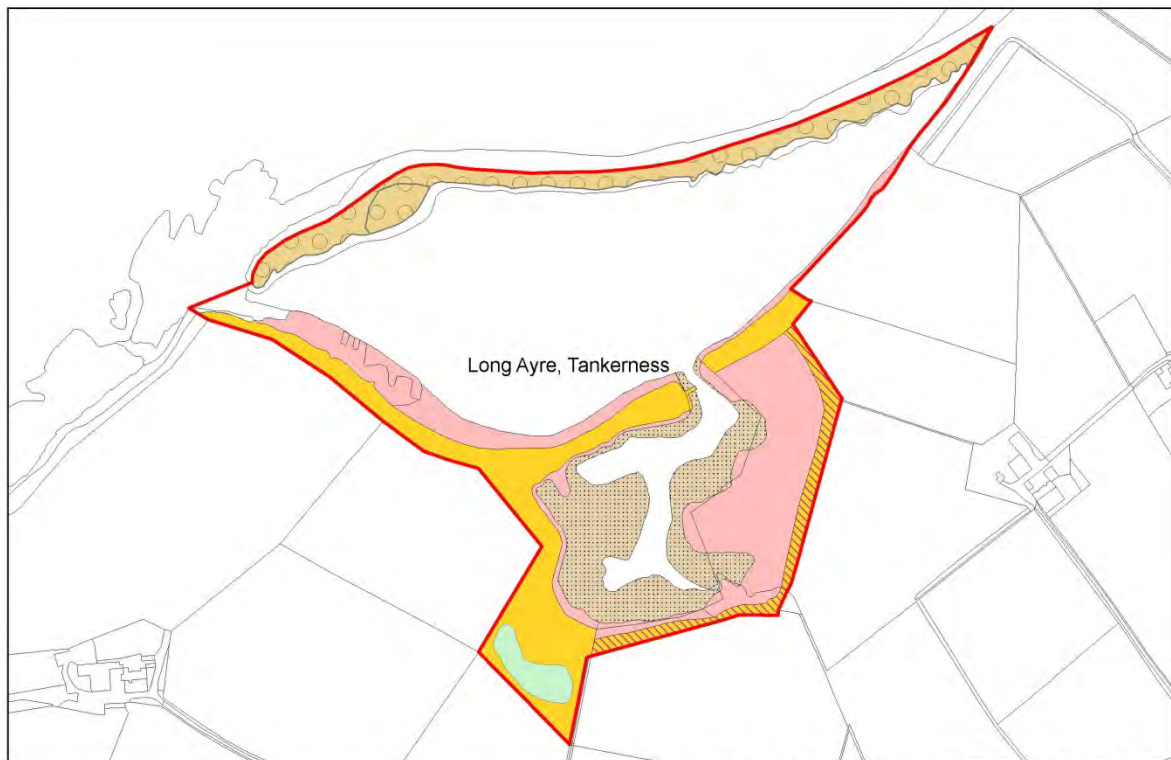




Lochs of Watten and Welland, Egilsay (Site ref No: 143)

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<b>Long Ayre.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Tankerness.
<b>Area:</b> c. 14 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 144.
<p><b>Site Description:</b></p> <p>The site consists of two tidal pools almost enclosed by a long shingle bar. The bar is partially vegetated with plants including sea mayweed and sea campion. On the landward side the pools are edged with saltmarsh, with salt-adapted grasses and other plants. There is a more extensive area of saltmarsh at the southeast of the site. There are also small areas of marshy grassland dominated by yellow iris, and drier, flower-rich grassland.</p> <p>The area has not yet been surveyed for birds, but the habitats can be expected to attract shorebirds and ducks, and probably some nesting waders.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b></p> <p>Coastal saltmarsh*.  Coastal vegetated shingle*.  Saline lagoon*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b></p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

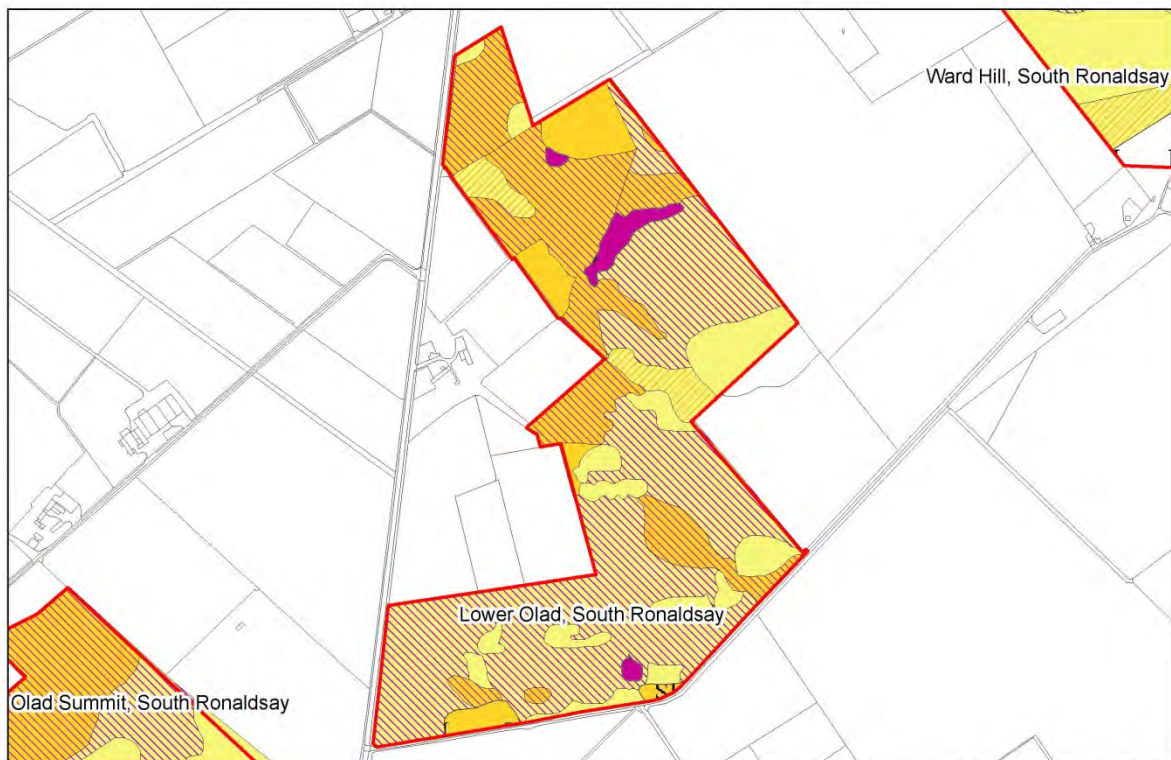


Long Ayre, Tankerness (Site ref No: 144)

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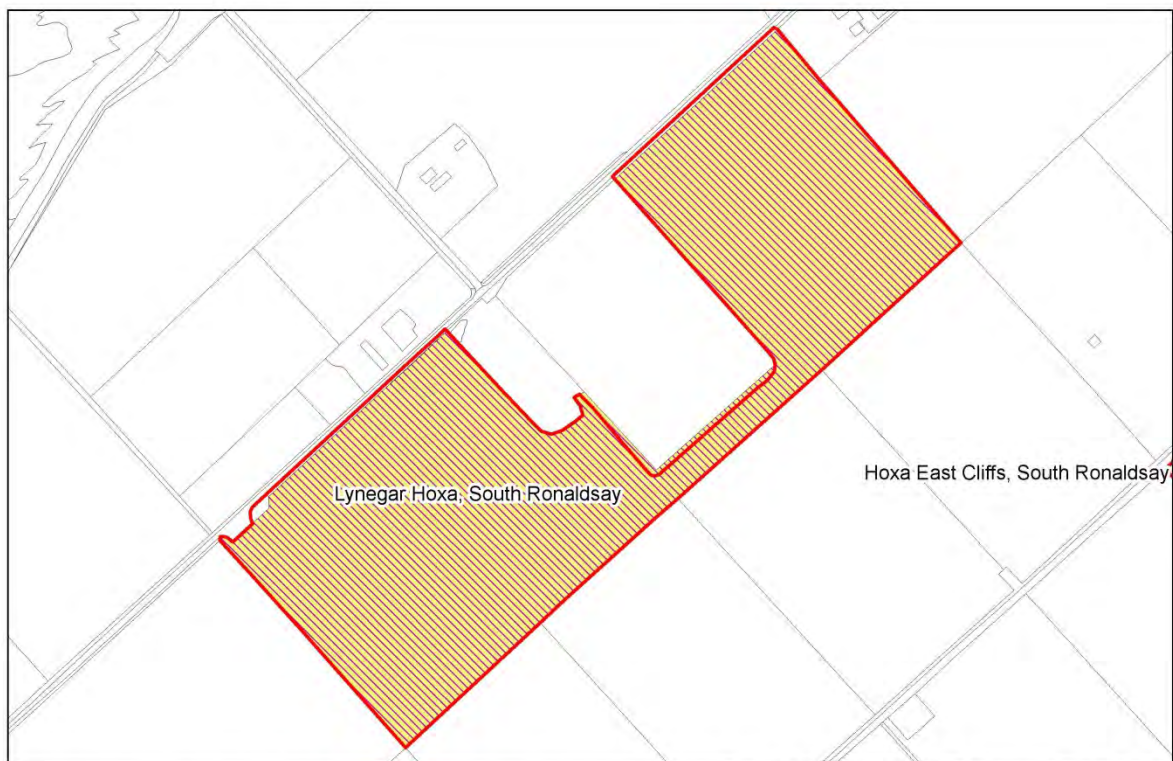
<b>Lower Olad.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 23 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 145.
<p><b>Site Description:</b></p> <p>To the east of the Olad Hill summit on the main road the land slopes down to the north and this area has a cover mainly of heather moorland, with marsh in places. Much of this moorland and marsh is rich in flowering plants and sedges. Variety of plant life further increases where springs locally create more lime-rich conditions. An interesting feature is a small, disused water-filled quarry once used as a milldam. Fragrant-orchid grows near the summit car park.</p> <p>Waders including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe and curlew breed here, along with common gull, skylark and meadow pipit. A pair of short-eared owl also nests on the site.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b></p> <p>Upland heath*.  Lowland fens*.  Upland flushes, fens and swamps*.  Empetrum heath.  Lichen heath.  Maritime heath.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b></p> <p>Curlew*.  Lapwing*.  Snipe.  Skylark*.  Short-eared owl*.  Heath Fragrant-orchid*.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Lower Olad, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 145)

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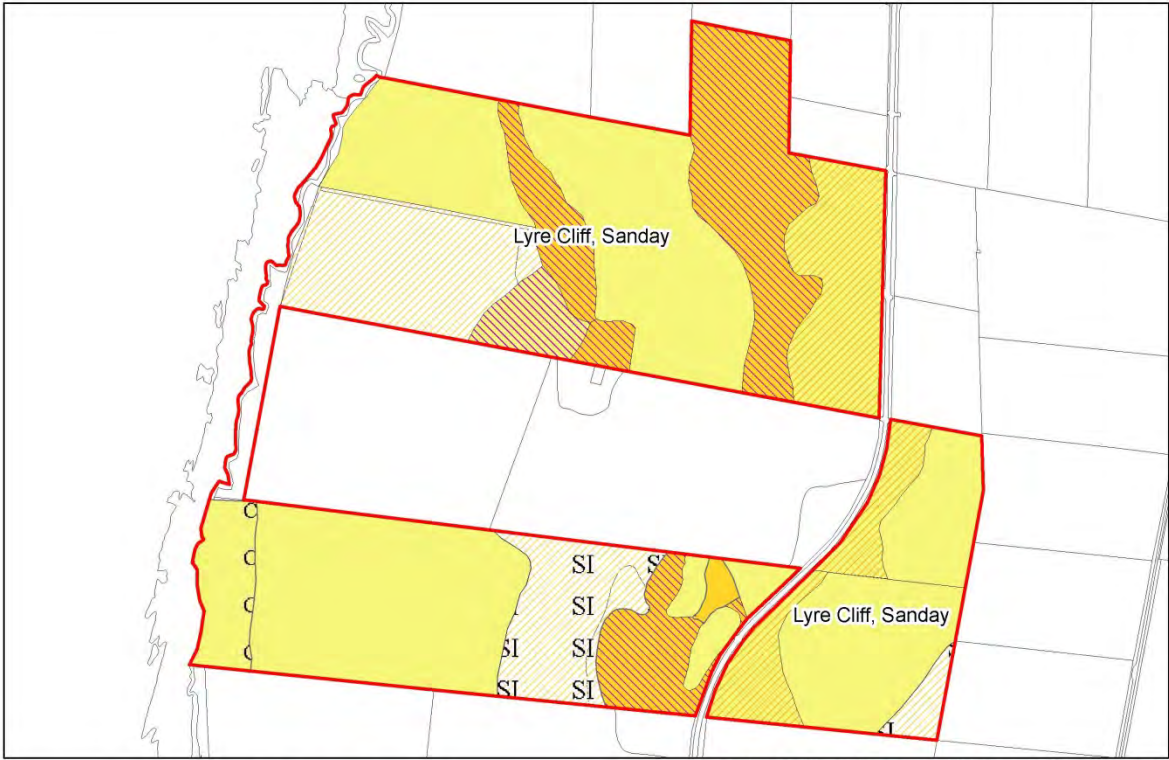
<b>Lynegar.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 5 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 147.
<b>Site Description:</b> An area of wet heather moorland with pools. Unusually for South Ronaldsay, dragonflies and damselflies are found here. The area has not been surveyed for nesting birds, but the habitats can be expected to attract nesting birds such as skylark and meadow pipit.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Upland heath*. Crowberry heath.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Black darter dragonfly. Blue-tailed damselfly.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Lynegar Hoxa, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 147)

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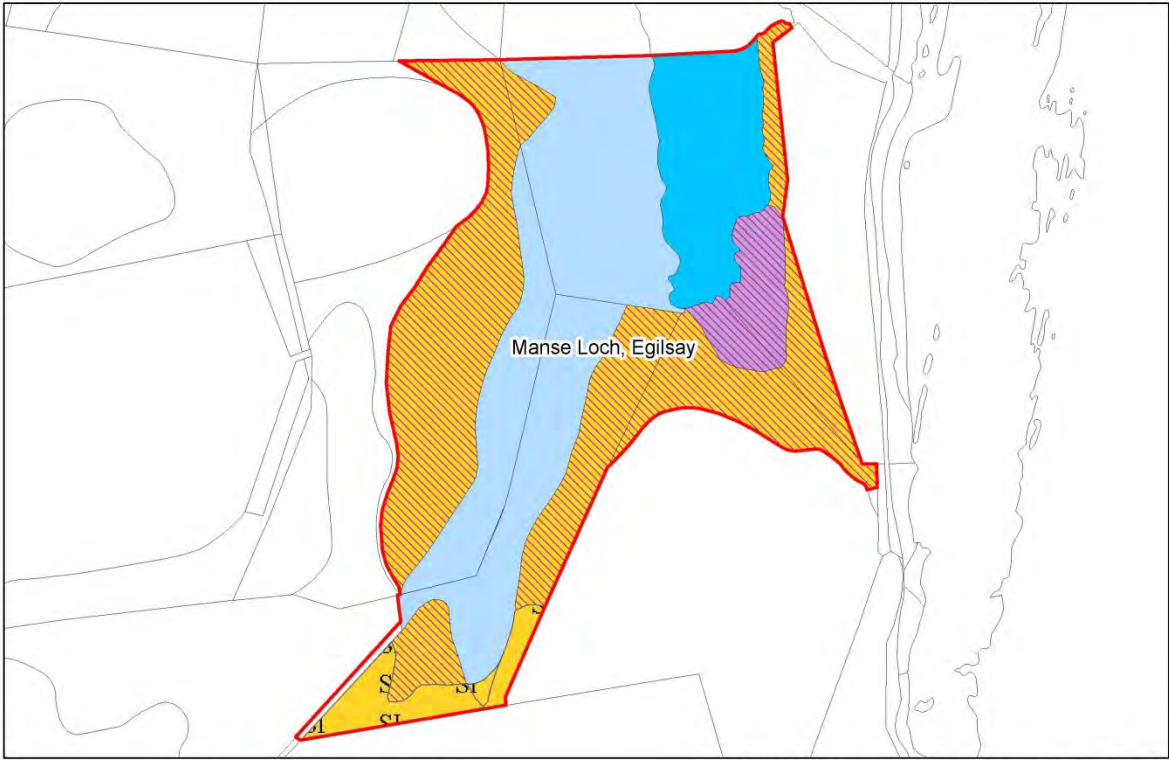
<b>Lyre Cliff.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Sanday.
<b>Area:</b> c. 43 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 148.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises two areas of heather moorland, semi-natural grassland and marsh linked by a narrow strip along the coast. The moorland includes both wet and dry areas and is in places dominated by lichens and mosses. The grassland has fine grasses and many small flowering plants such as bird's-foot trefoil and violet.</p> <p>The site supports many breeding waders, especially oystercatcher and lapwing, also snipe, curlew and redshank. There is a small colony of common gulls and pairs of Arctic and great skuas. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Crowberry heath.</p> <p>Maritime heath.</p> <p>Lichen heath.</p> <p>Lowland dry acid grassland*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Arctic skua*.</p> <p>Great skua.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Moss carder bee*.</p> <p>Heath bumblebee.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



**Lyre Cliff, Sanday (Site ref No: 148)**

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<b>Manse Loch</b>	<b>Location:</b> Egilsay.
<b>Area:</b> 8 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 149.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site comprises the southern half of Manse Loch (the northern half is part of Egilsay RSPB reserve) and surrounding marsh. The loch has a variety of water plants, including locally and nationally unusual species. Plants growing in the shallows including a locally rare bur-reed. The marsh is varied in character. Most consists of tall plants, especially meadowsweet, yellow iris and reed canary-grass. Other parts have shorter vegetation with a greater variety of plants, including ragged robin, marsh marigold, sedges and horsetails.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site in good numbers, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Ducks, including mallard and tufted duck also breed here, as do a pair of water rail. Smaller birds nesting here include meadow sedge warbler and reed bunting. Barbut's cuckoo-bee, an insect rare in Orkney and Scotland, was discovered here in 2010.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Water rail.</p> <p>Barbut's cuckoo-bee.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Unbranched bur-reed.</p> <p>Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

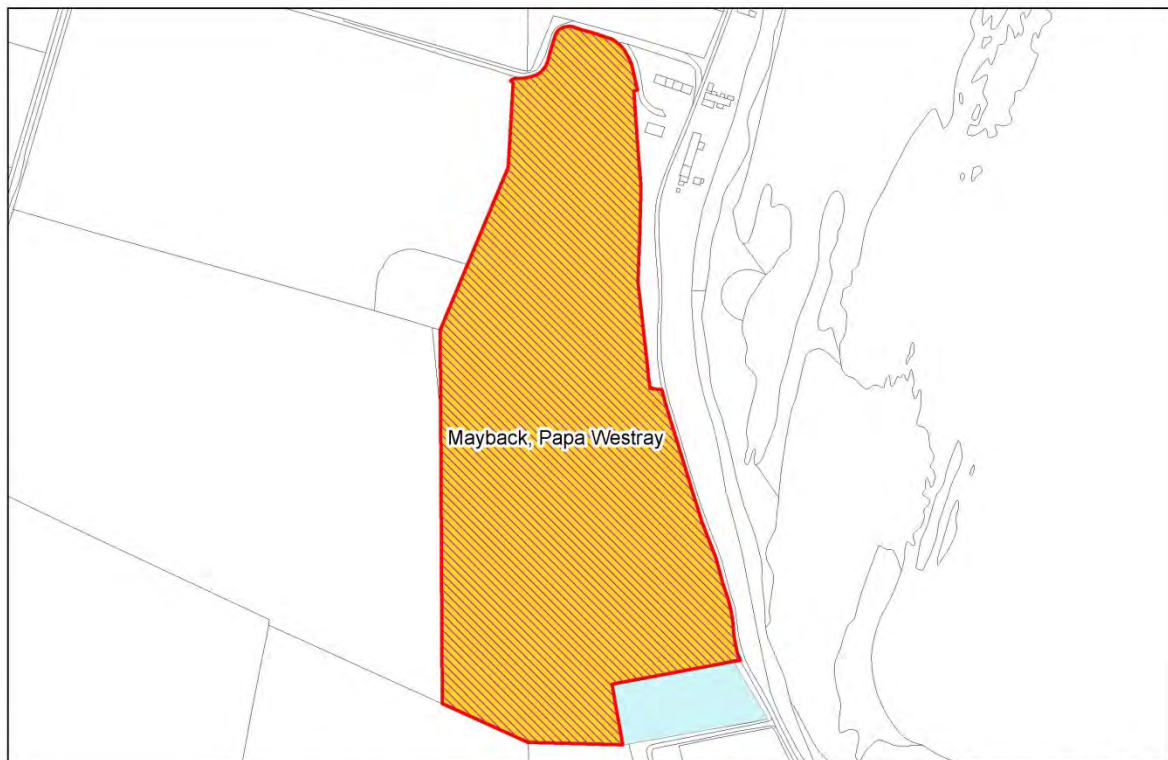


Manse Loch, Egilsay (Site ref No: 149)

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<b>Mayback.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Papa Westray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 5 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 150.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  An area of marsh/marshy grassland dominated by yellow iris and stands of reed canary grass. A small shallow pool is dominated by mare's-tail.</p> <p>The site supports a variety of breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Ducks such as teal, mallard and shoveler also nest here. There is a good-sized colony of black-headed gulls and a few breeding meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<b>Special Habitats:</b>	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Curlew*. Lapwing*. Snipe. Redshank. Black-headed gull*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	

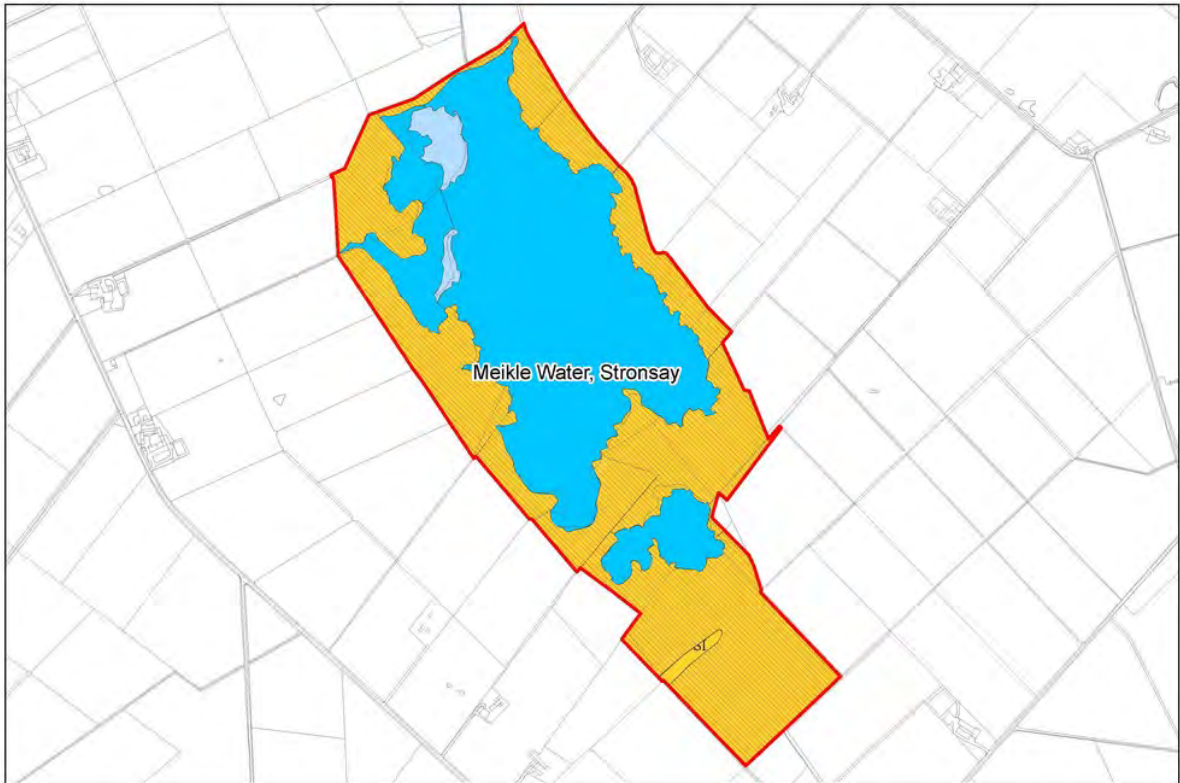


Mayback, Papa Westray (Site ref No: 150)

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<b>Meikle Water</b>	<b>Location:</b> Stronsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 41 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 151.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>A large freshwater loch with areas of wetland. The loch is important for its pondweeds and other water plants. The loch is shallow and its wide shallow margins are overgrown with emergent plants, especially mare's-tail. Yellow iris forms dense stands around much of the loch.</p> <p>Waders breed in the wetlands, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Various wildfowl nest here, including wigeon, mallard, shoveler, tufted duck, coot and mute swan. Larger numbers of wildfowl visit during migration or in the winter. Small birds nesting on the site include skylark, meadow pipit and sedge warbler.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fen*.</p> <p>Eutrophic standing water*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Wigeon.</p> <p>Shoveler.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

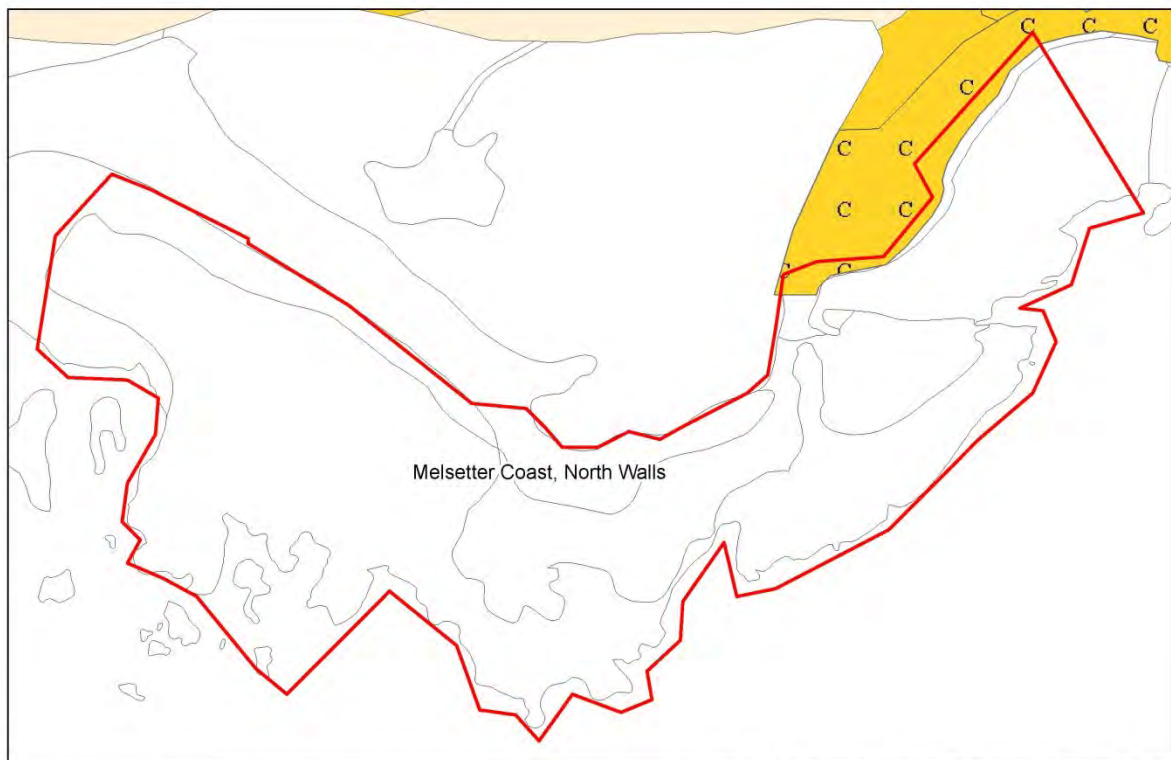




Meikle Water, Stronsay (Site ref No: 151)

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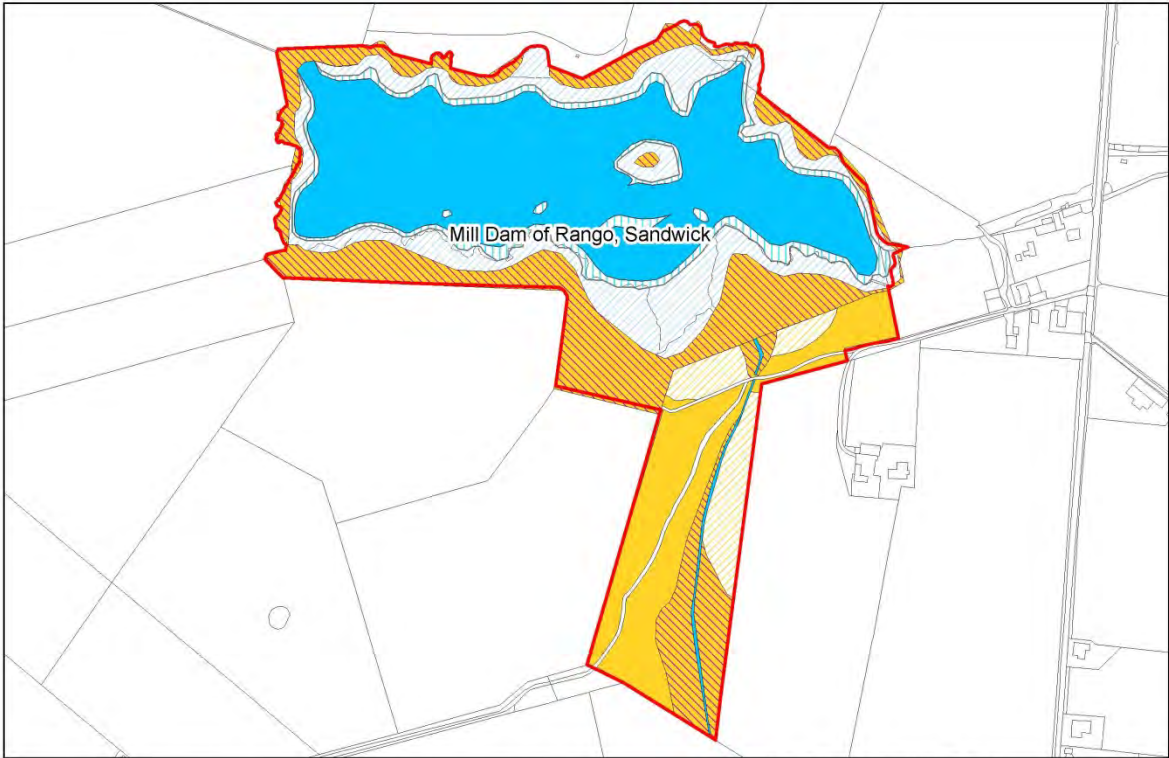
<b>Melsetter Coast Section.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Hoy.
<b>Area:</b> c. 5.0 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 152.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  The main outcrops of the Hoy Lavas are located in the north of the island but a restricted outcrop is found on the south coast between Sheep Skerry and Sands Geo. The lava forms a distinctive coastal platform in front of a small dune system at Melberry. On the west, north and east the lava is bounded by monchiquite dykes and only the top of the flow is visible. To the west the lava is overlain by channelled and cross-bedded Hoy Sandstones which are well exposed as far as Ha Wick. Further to the north, the cliffs rise sharply to over 180m and the exposure becomes inaccessible.</p>	



Melsetter Coast, North Walls (Site ref No: 152)

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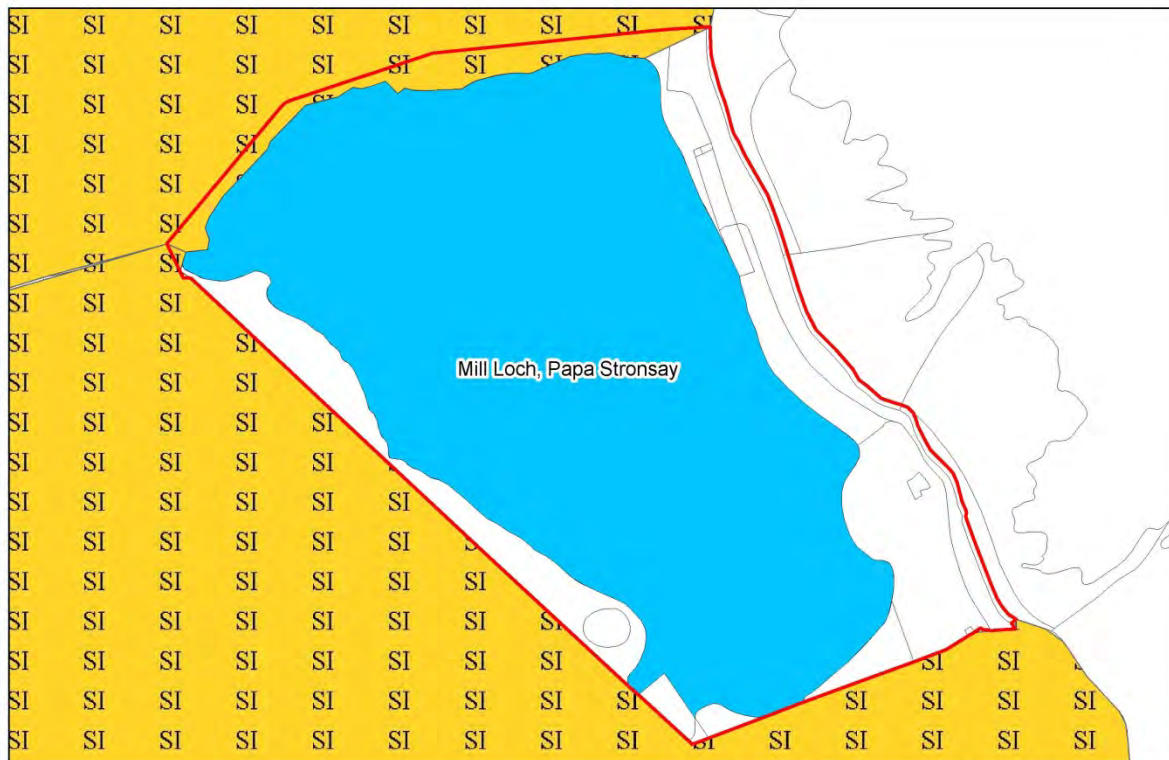
<b>Mill Dam of Rango.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Sandwick.
<b>Area:</b> c. 15 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 153.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site comprises the open water of the Mill Dam of Rango, areas of marsh around its margins and a field of dry, flower-rich grassland to the south. The loch itself has an exceptional variety of aquatic plants. Plants growing in the surrounding marsh grassland include meadowsweet, yellow iris, marsh marigold and water mint. In places along the southern fringe of this marsh, lime-rich springs and seepages further enrich the variety of flowering plants. The field to the south of the loch is natural grassland with abundant species, including red clover, yellow rattle, bird's-foot trefoil, violet and orchids. Bumblebees including the rare great yellow bumblebee are attracted to it. It is a rare survival in a largely agricultural landscape.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew, dunlin and redshank. Breeding wildfowl and gulls include mute swan, shelduck, coot, black-headed gull and common gull. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Water rail.</p> <p>Barbut's cuckoo-bee.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Unbranched bur-reed.</p> <p>Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Mill Dam of Rango, Sandwick (Site ref No: 153)

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<b>Mill Loch.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Papa Stronsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 8 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 154.
<b>Site Description:</b> A loch separated from the sea by a shingle barrier or ayre, tending to dry out in summer. Yellow iris grows around the edges. The area has not been fully surveyed for nesting birds, but there is an Arctic tern colony on the shingle bank and ducks and waders have been recorded in the breeding season. Migrating and wintering wildfowl, including whooper swans, also visit the site.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Eutrophic standing water*. Coastal vegetated shingle*.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Arctic tern*. Breeding ducks and waders. Migrant and wintering wildfowl. Otter*. Blue-tailed damselfly.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	

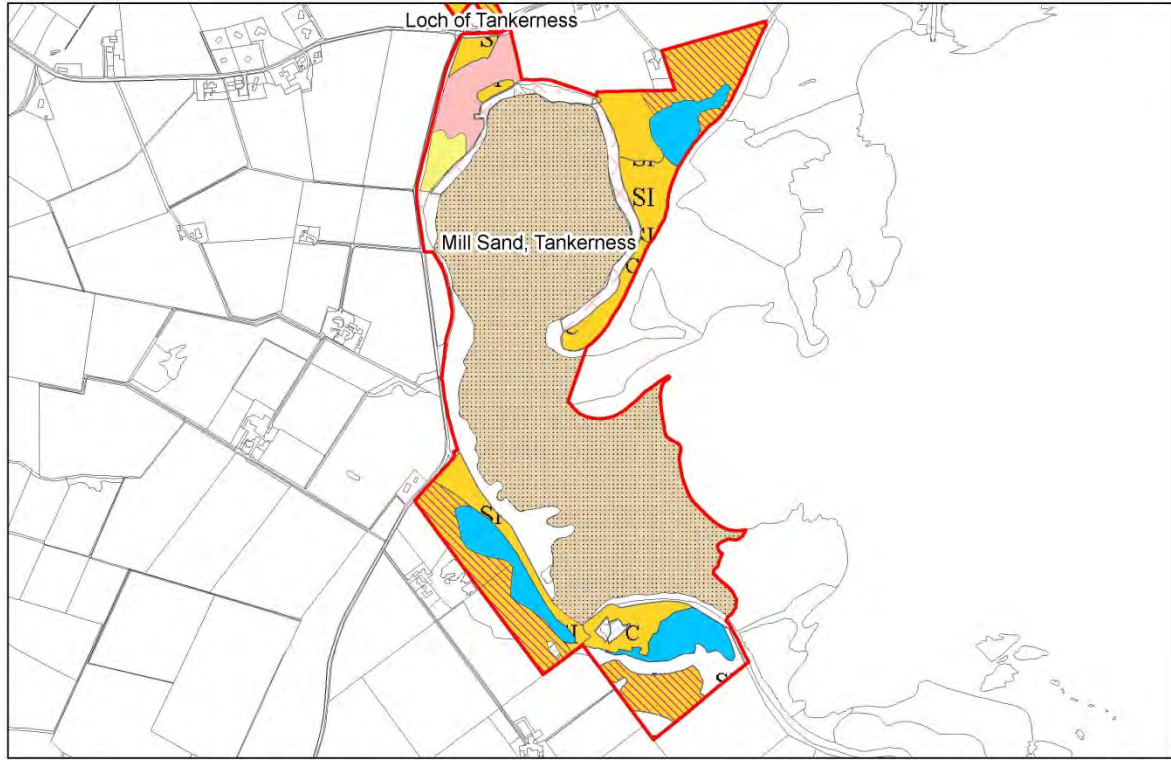


Mill Loch, Papa Stronsay (Site ref No: 154)

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<b>Mill Sand.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Tankerness.
<b>Area:</b> c. 55 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 155.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site comprises the bay of Mill Sand with its inter-tidal sand and mud flats, along with areas of semi-natural habitats at either end of the bay. The bay itself is important for migrant birds and wintering waders feeding on the exposed mud and sand.</p> <p>The area to the south of the bay includes the small Loch of Messigate, which has an open channel to the sea and is consequently brackish. Both seaward and landward sides of the loch support areas of coastal vegetation, with plants such as sea mayweed and sea campion. A small area of saltmarsh exists where the loch drains into the sea.</p> <p>To the north of the bay there is a variety of habitats including a shallow loch - the Loch of Lakequoy - with a narrow fringe of yellow flag iris, surrounded by species-rich grassland. The grassland has fine grasses and plants such as northern marsh orchid, yellow rattle and devil's-bit scabious. Also to the north of the bay is an area of saltmarsh half enclosed by a grass-covered shingle spit. The sheltered shore on the west side of the spit has small saltmarsh plants growing among the stones below HWM. Adjacent to the west shore of the bay is a small area of heather on a dry mound, with a variety of other species among it, including creeping willow, bell heather and honeysuckle.</p> <p>The site supports a variety of waders, including oystercatcher, ringed plover, curlew and redshank. Shelduck, eider, coot and moorhen also nest here.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Inter-tidal mudflats*.</p> <p>Eutrophic standing water*.</p> <p>Coastal saltmarsh*.</p> <p>Maritime grassland.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Species-rich heath.</p> <p>Vegetated shingle.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic tern*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Shelduck.</p> <p>Eider.</p> <p>Migrant birds and wintering waders.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



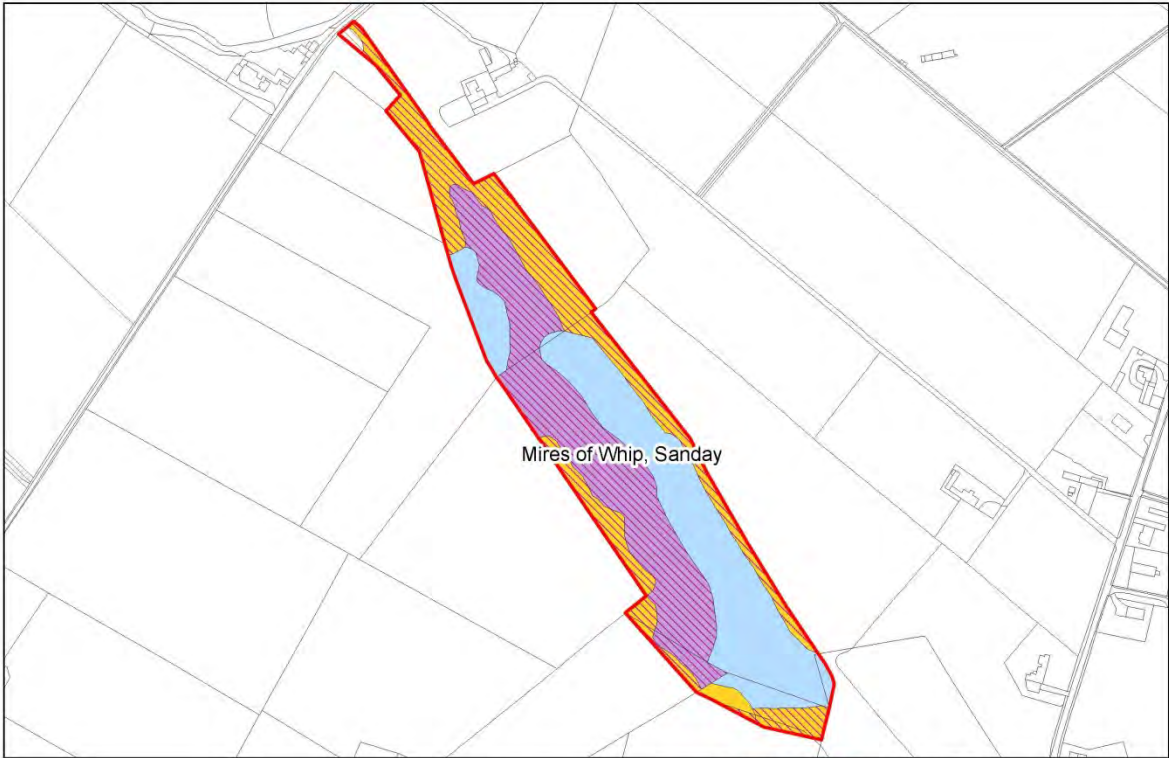


Mill Sand, Tankerness (Site ref No: 155)

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<b>Mires of Whip.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Sanday.
<b>Area:</b> c. 5 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 156.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site consists of a long, narrow basin, flooded in winter and very wet but with little open water in summer. Much of the western end has a dense cover of yellow iris and reed-grass. Most of the rest of the site has a varied cover of plants adapted to the waterlogged conditions, such as bogbean, water mint and water horsetail. In a few places, along the southern side of this marsh and swamp, the variety of plant life is enhanced by the influence of lime-rich springs.</p> <p>The site supports a variety of breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, redshank and curlew. There are a few breeding ducks, including shoveler, tufted duck and mallard, also small colonies of arctic terns, sandwich terns (in some years). The black-headed gull colony is the largest in Orkney. Smaller birds breeding here include sedge warbler, linnets and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Shoveler.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p> <p>Sandwich tern*.</p> <p>Arctic tern*.</p> <p>Linnets*.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	





Mires of Whip, Sanday (Site ref No: 156)

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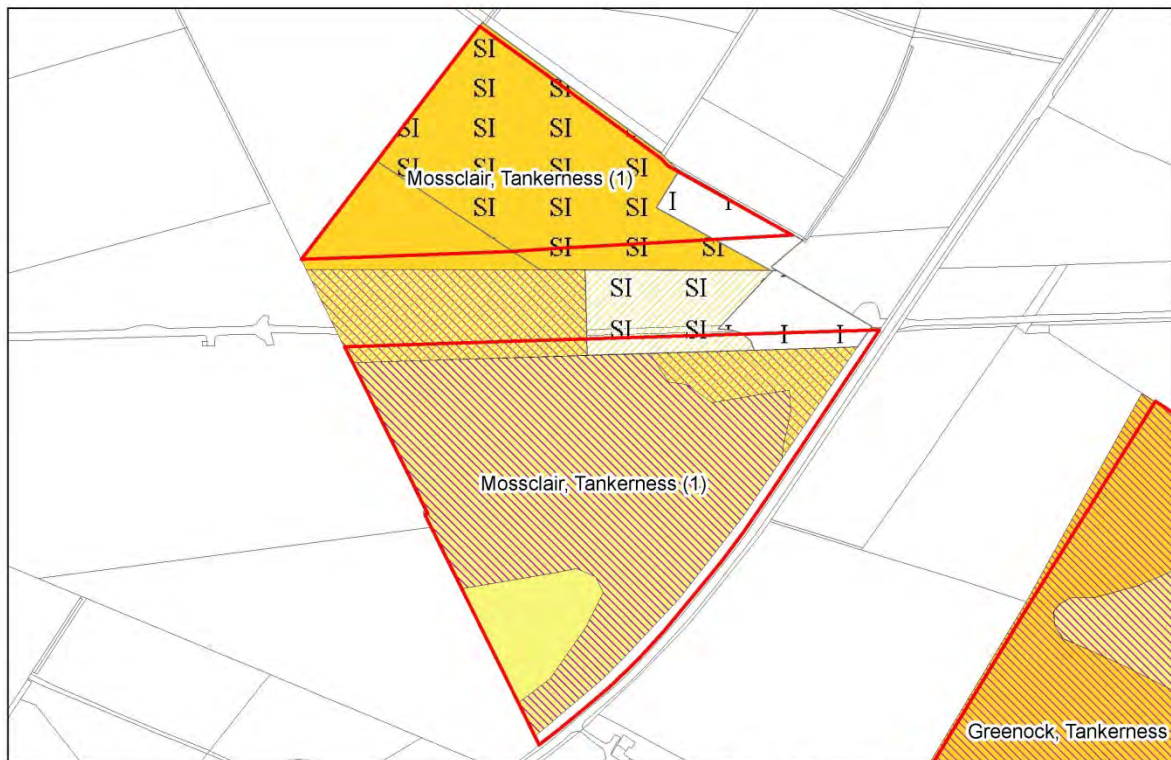
<b>Mirkady Point.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Deerness.
<b>Area:</b> c. 14 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 157.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  Mirkady Point is almost entirely an inter-tidal site, with a long spit composed of stones, shingle and sand. The highest points of the shingle spit are just above HWM and mostly have a thin cover of shore plants like sea mayweed, thickening to more permanent grass cover in places. The sheltered east side of the point has saltmarsh plants that tolerate immersion in saltwater growing among the stones on the beach. There are small numbers of nesting eiders and shorebirds including oystercatcher and ringed plover on the site. There used to be many arctic terns breeding here, and common seals haul out on the western side of the spit. The coastal features here have also been recognised for their geomorphological (the shape and evolution of landforms) interest and importance.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Saltmarsh*  Coastal vegetated shingle*</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Common seal*</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Mirkady Point, Deerness (Site ref No: 157)

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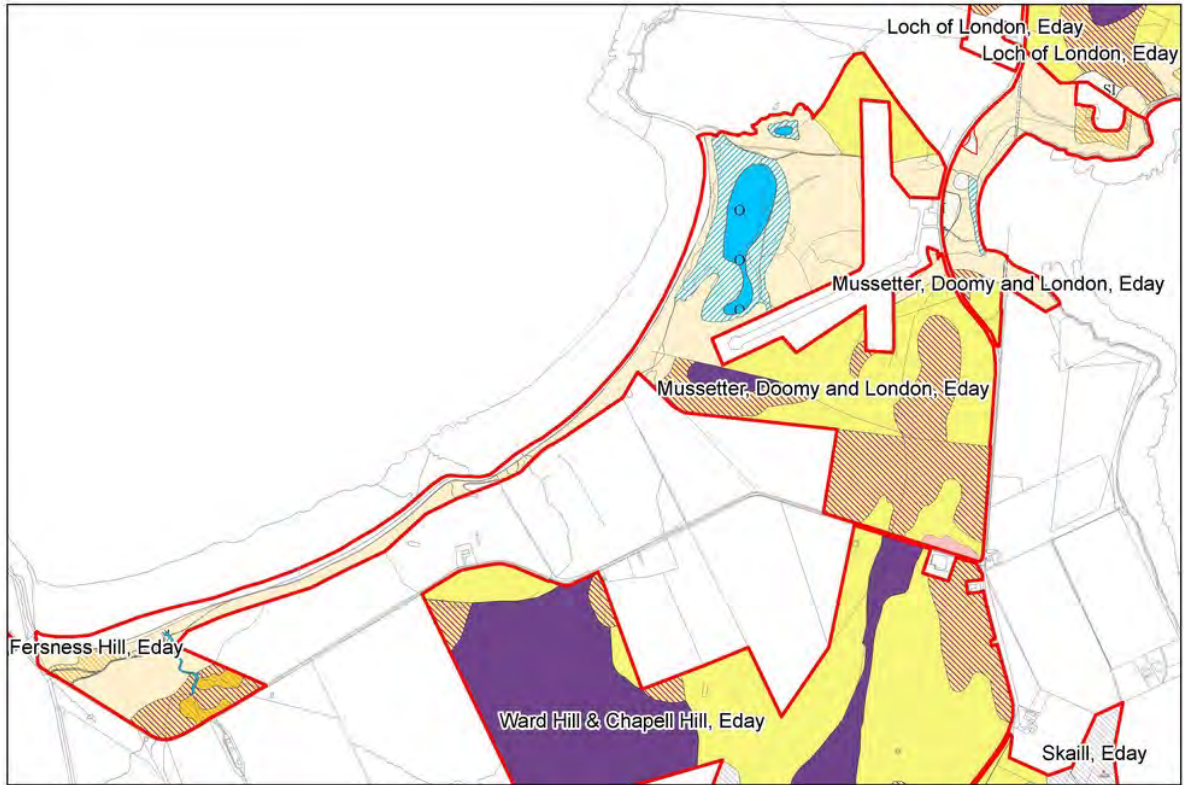
<b>Mossclair.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Tankerness.
<b>Area:</b> c. 7 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 158.
<b>Site Description:</b> The site is bisected by a road leading to the end of the airport runway, constructed during 2003. To the south of the road there is an area of dry heather moorland with a variety of other heathland plants, including bell heather and creeping willow, and a smaller area of heath/grassland mosaic. To the north of the road the land is semi-natural grassland. Snipe, curlew and redshank nest here, along with skylark, meadow pipit and stonechat. Hen harrier and short-eared owl hunt over this site.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b>	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Snipe. Curlew*. Redshank. Skylark*. Hunting birds of prey*. Moss carder bee*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Mossclair, Tankerness (1) (Site ref No: 158)

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<b>Mussetter, Doomy and London.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Eday.
<b>Area:</b> c. 67 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 159.
<p><b>Site Description:</b></p> <p>This site comprises the Sands of Mussetter and Sands of Doomy, the Loch of Doomy and Bay of London, with backing ridges of dunes, wet hollows behind the dunes and moorland. There is shallow open water in the area behind the Sands of Doomy, extensive in winter but reduced to smaller pools in summer. A small burn threads through the dune heath and the dune ridge at the western end of Mussetter. Around the margins of the site and the flanks of the hills to north and south the sand is overlain by peat. The landforms and vegetation are complex, with a variety of coastal sand dune habitats along with wet and dry moorland developed on sand and on peat overlying blown sand. These features together are unusual in a regional and perhaps national context. Sheep's-bit, an unusual plant in Orkney, grows here. Great yellow bumblebees are attracted to the flowers on the dunes.</p> <p>The site is important for breeding waders, including oystercatcher, ringed plover, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Shelduck, mallard and shoveler also nest here. Common and great black-backed gull are present, along with occasional pairs of Arctic and great skua. Small breeding birds including skylark, twite and meadow pipit are recorded on this site.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b></p> <p>Upland heath*.  Blanket bog*.  Oligotrophic and dystrophic lochs*.  Coastal sand dunes*.  Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b></p> <p>Lapwing*.  Curlew*.  Snipe.  Redshank.  Shoveler.  Arctic skua*.  Great skua.  Twite*.  Skylark*.  Great yellow bumblebee*.  Moss carder bee.  Sheep's-bit.  Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

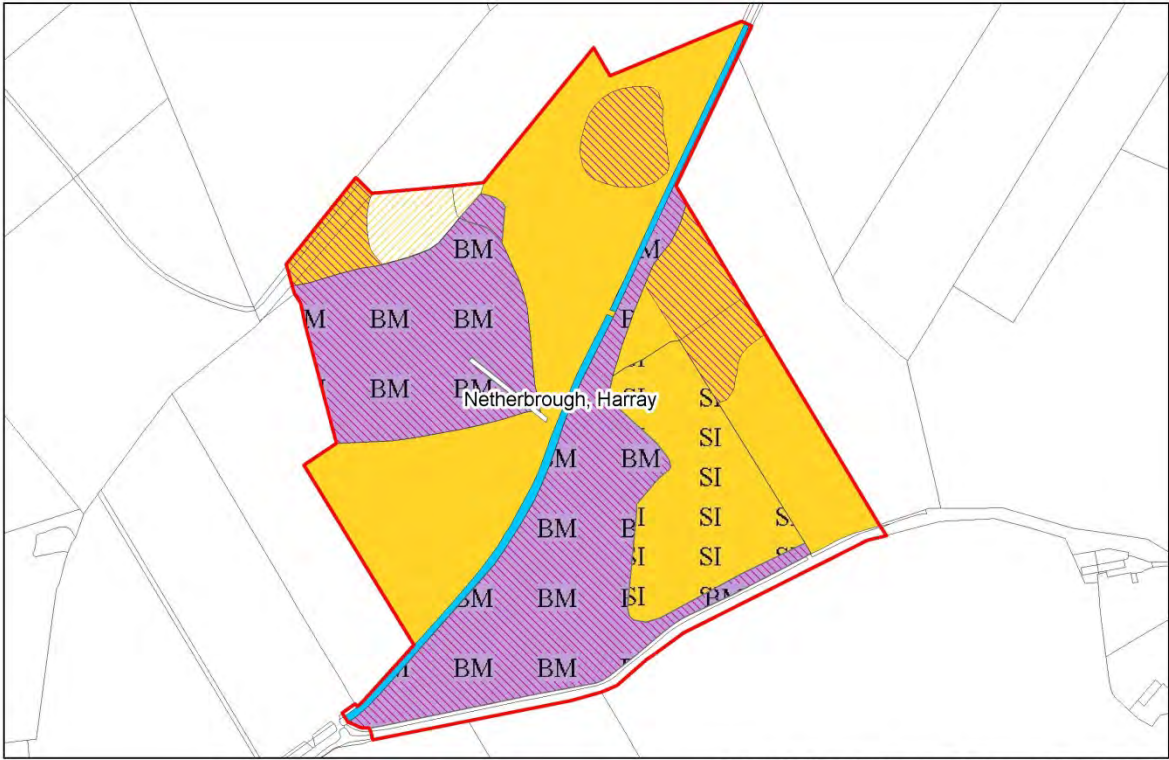


Mussetter, Doomy and London, Eday (Site ref No: 159)

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<b>Netherbrough.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Harray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 10 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 160.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises a marsh on deep peat and adjacent wet meadows used for grazing and hay. The marsh has varied vegetation. Wettest areas in the centre have mixed tall vegetation, including meadowsweet, reed canary-grass and tall sedges, with pools and swamps among it. In a few places, the influence of lime-rich springs enhances the variety of plant life. Adjacent fields used for grazing and hay have fine grasses and many smaller plants of wetland and natural grassland, such as bird's-foot trefoil and red clover. Temporary pools in these fields are attractive to waders and waterfowl. One drier and more acidic field near the north edge of the site is full of heath spotted orchids.</p> <p>The site is important for breeding waders – oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank breed here in good numbers. There are colonies of common and black-headed gulls. A variety of small birds nest here, including meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting. Great yellow bumblebees are attracted to flowers in the meadows and to nest in the thick vegetation.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland meadows*.</p> <p>Lowland dry acid grassland*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Great yellow bumblebee*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

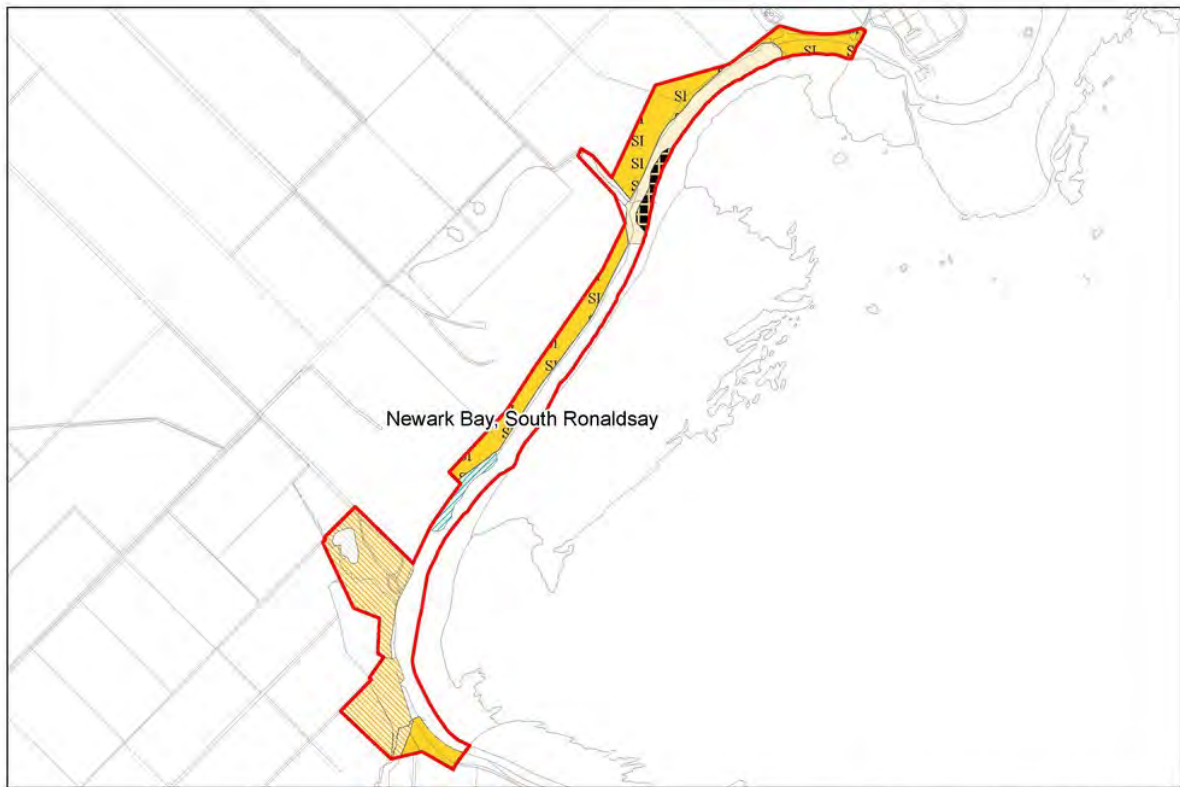




**Netherbrough, Harray (Site ref No: 160)**

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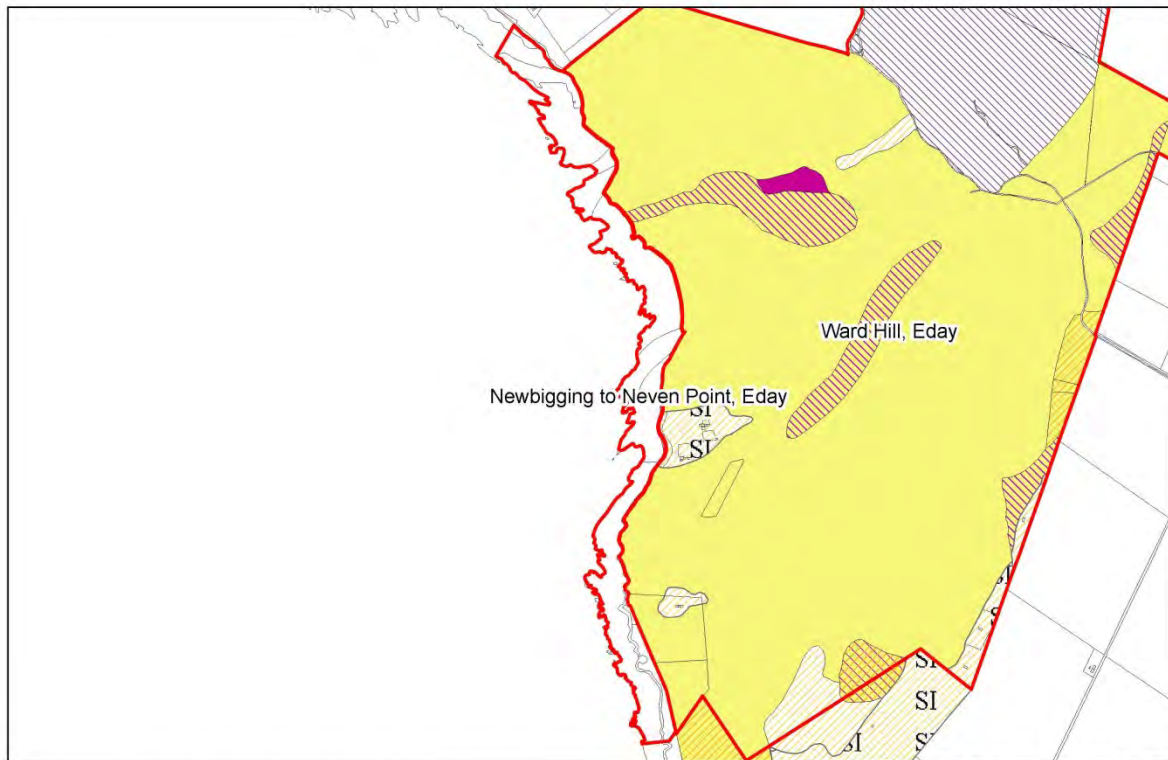
<b>Newark Bay.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 9 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 161.
<b>Site Description:</b> This site takes in the coastal sand dunes and foreshore of Newark Bay. Above the high tide line are extensive patches of the blue-flowered oysterplant, lesser meadow rue and sea bindweed.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Coastal sand dunes*.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Oysterplant. Sea bindweed. Lesser meadow-rue.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Newark Bay, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 161)

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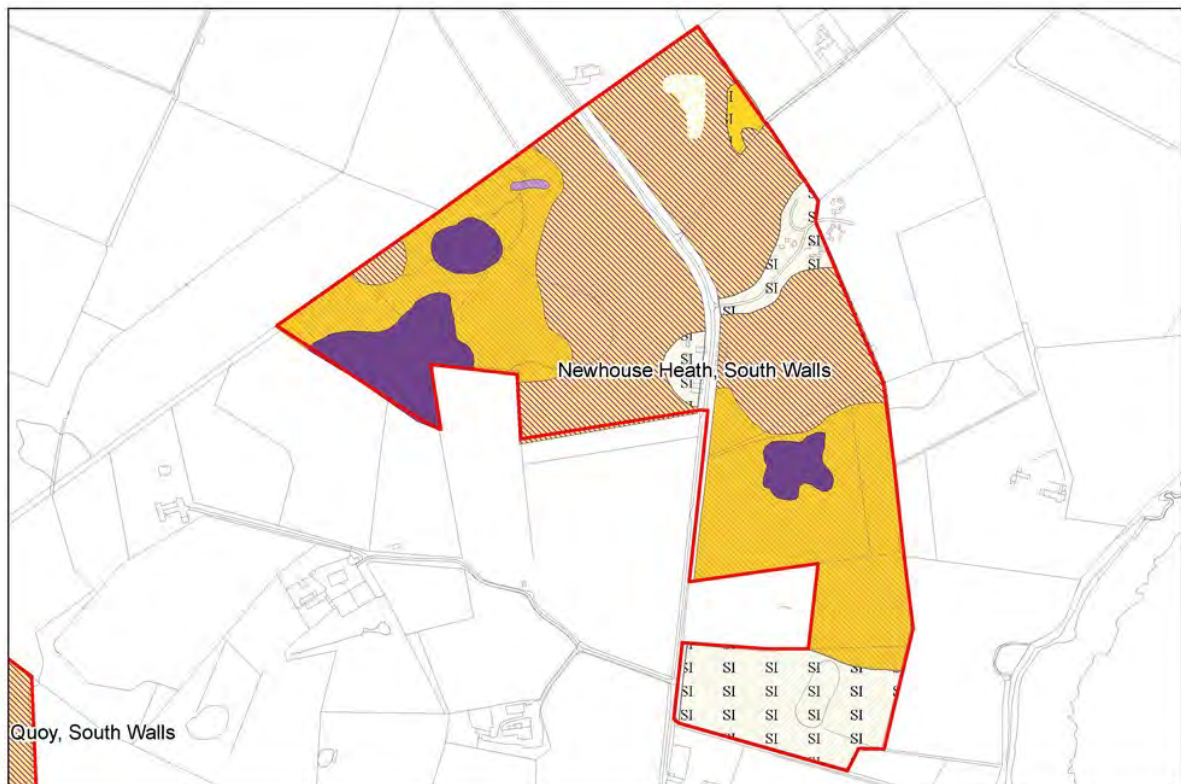
<b>Newbigging to Neven Point.</b>	<b>Location:</b> SW coast of Eday.
<b>Area:</b> 14.5 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 162
<p><b>Site Description:</b></p> <p>The Newbigging to Neven Point section exposes a sequence of strata similar to that seen in Fersness Bay – the lower Eday Sandstones, Eday Flags and Middle Eday Sandstones, all lying at the nose of the Eday Syncline and dipping northwards.</p> <p>The southern end of the section at Geo Lunataing shows the Passage Beds which separate the Rousay Flags from the Lower Eday Sandstones.</p> <p>At Dyke End, as at Sealskerry Bay, the Lower Eday Sandstones are represented by large-scale planar cross-bedded sandstones. The Lower Eday Sandstones outcrop as far north as HY 546302 where they give way to Eday Flags.</p> <p>Near Rowan (HY 546308) the Eday Flags give way to the red beds of the Middle Eday Sandstone; these consist primarily of medium-grained sandstones which tend to be massively bedded and to contain irregular concentrations of pebbles.</p>	



Newbigging to Neven Point, Eday (Site ref No: 162)

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<b>Newhouse Heath.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Walls.
<b>Area:</b> 20 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 163.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  An area of wet moorland, marsh and marshy grassland. Most of the moorland is on shallow peat, dominated by heather with crowberry and mosses, also abundant lichens in places. There are smaller areas of deeper peat with sphagnum mosses and much bog cotton, and shallow pools or swamps. Elsewhere are areas of marshy grassland with meadowsweet and rushes.</p> <p>The area has not yet been surveyed for nesting birds, but the habitats can be expected to attract nesting waders like curlew, redshank, snipe and lapwing, also skylark and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Upland heath*.  Blanket bog.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Breeding waders*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

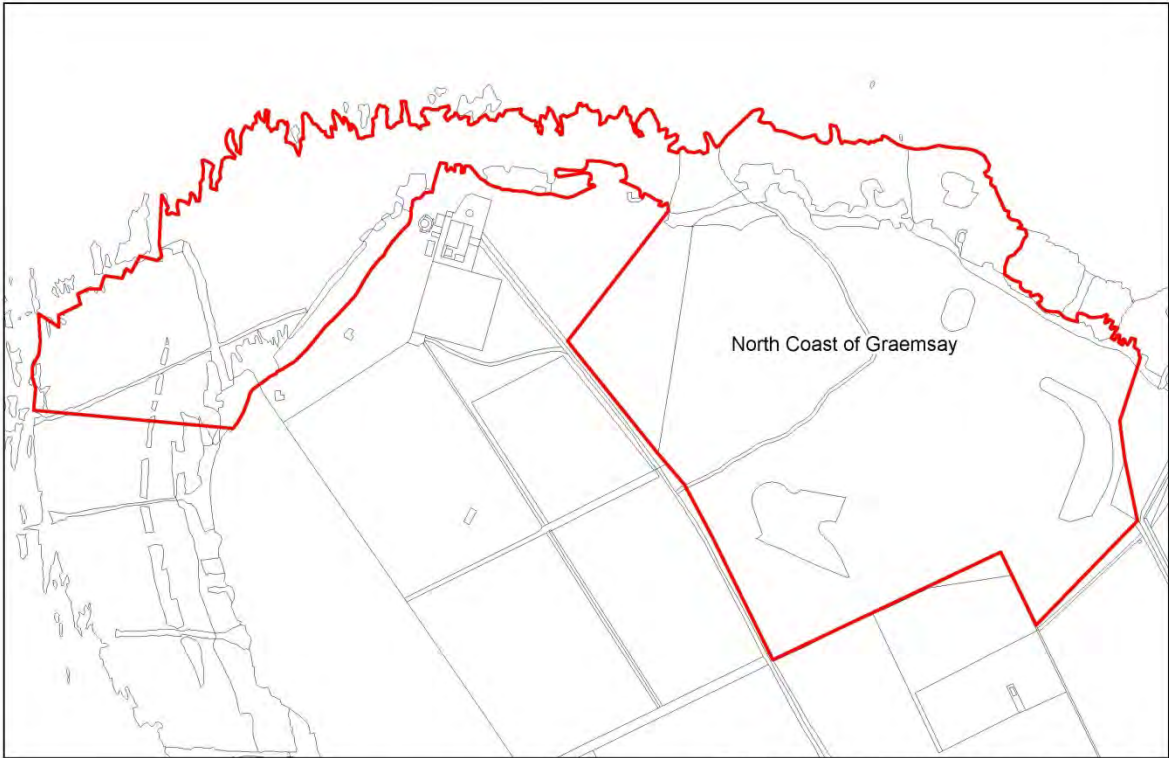


Newhouse Heath, South Walls (Site ref No: 163)

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<b>North Coast of Graemsay.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Graemsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 14 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 164.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site has a mosaic of different habitats on and around a granite outcrop. There is wet moorland vegetation dominated by heather, but with other plants including purple moor-grass, deer grass and bog asphodel. Some areas are drier and here there is bell heather. Marshy areas occur, with rushes and a variety of plants like northern fen orchid, ragged-robin and marsh marigold. There is some semi-natural grassland too, often rich in flowering plants including wild thyme, bird's-foot trefoil, red clover, yellow rattle and eyebrights.</p> <p>The area has not yet been surveyed for nesting birds, but the habitats can be expected to attract nesting waders like curlew, redshank, snipe and lapwing, also skylark and meadow pipit.</p> <p>Coastal features here have also been recognised for their geological interest and importance.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Species-rich heath.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Lowland meadows*.</p> <p>Upland calcareous grassland*.</p> <p>Inland rock outcrops and scree*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Breeding waders*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



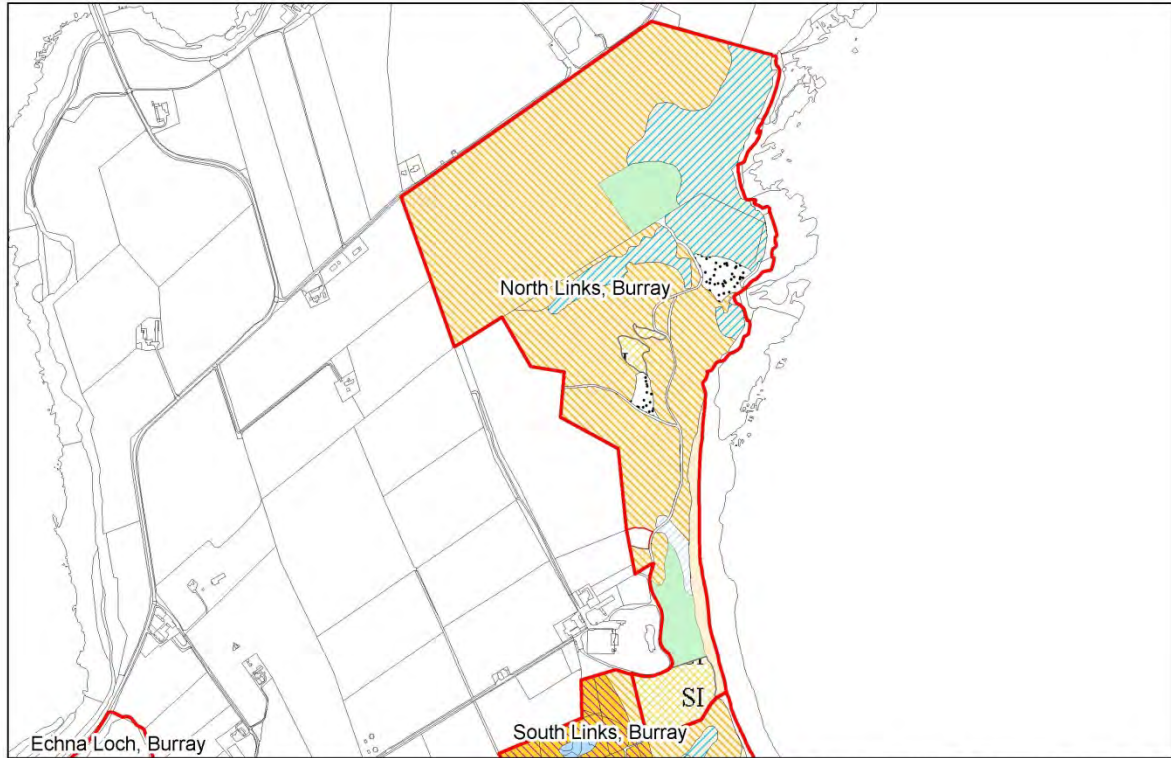


North Coast of Graemsay (Site ref No: 164)

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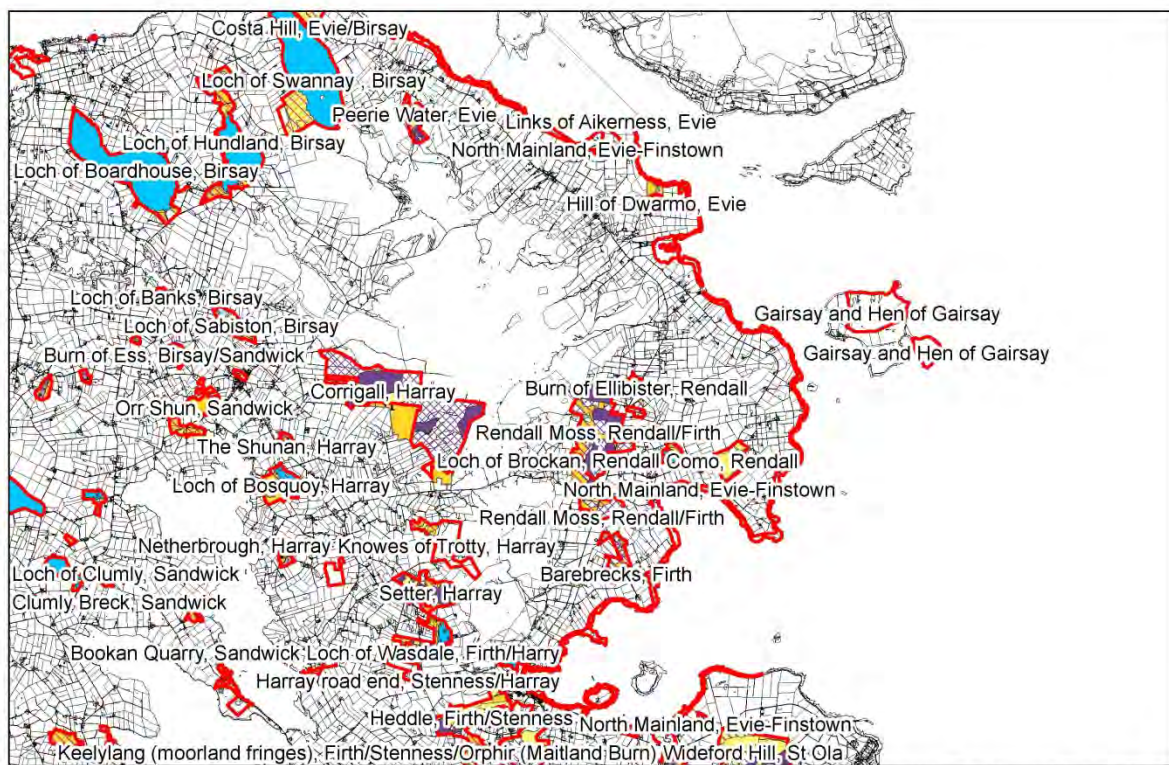
<b>North Links.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Burray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 54 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 165.
<p><b>Site Description:</b></p> <p>A large area of dunes and dune grassland, formerly an SSSI, now much altered by sand quarrying. Little of the original dunes now remain; nevertheless typical dune grassland, with tough, wiry grasses and abundant flowering plants, has regenerated over much of the area and continues to support some rare species. This is the only site (with the adjacent South Links) in Orkney with dark green fritillary butterflies. It also has the rare curved sedge. Great yellow bumblebees and heath carder bees are quite common, feeding on the abundant flowers in the short, sandy turf, especially bird's-foot trefoil and white clover. A high water table in some parts of the site, within the quarried area and that known as Norton Links, supports a range of plants adapted to wet sand and a fluctuating water table - such as grass of Parnassus, early marsh orchid, knotted pearlwort and marsh fragrant orchid.</p> <p>Not all parts of the site have recovered well after quarrying – there are areas of bare sand and soil and very weedy parts also. Efforts continue to restore the area.</p> <p>Curlew, oystercatcher, redshank, lapwing and snipe all nest on this site, also smaller birds including meadow pipit, wheatear, pied wagtail and skylark.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b></p> <p>Coastal sand dunes*. Links.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b></p> <p>Dark green fritillary. Great yellow bumble bee*. Heath carder bee*. Curved sedge*. Marsh fragrant orchid*. Curlew*. Lapwing*. Snipe. Skylark*. The Anomalous (a moth)*. Shaded Broad-bar (a moth)*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



North Links, Burray (Site ref No: 165)

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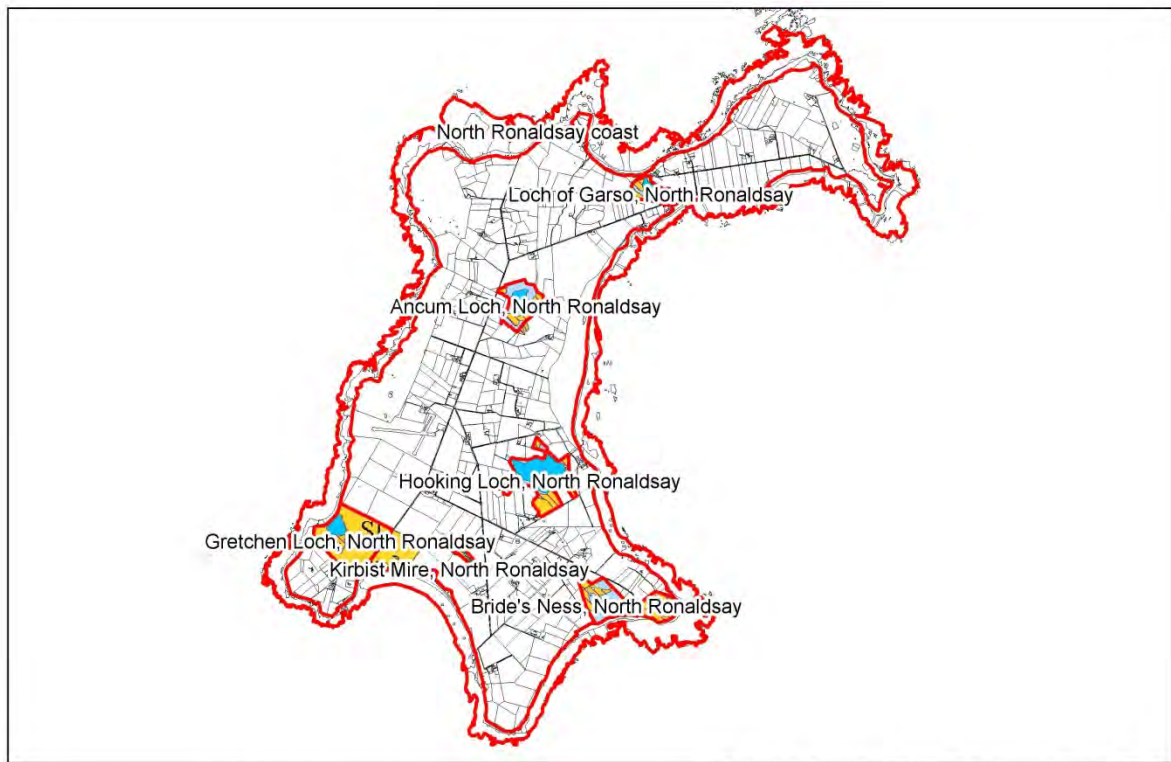
<b>North Mainland: Evie to Finstown.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Evie/Rendall/Firth.
<b>Area:</b> c. 372 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 166.
<b>Site Description:</b> This site mainly comprises rocky shoreline and strandline along the coast between Finstown and the western end of Eynhallow Sound. It also includes the sandy beach at Aikerness and, in the sheltered waters of Wide Firth, mudflats, saltmarshes and shingle bars at Finstown, Burness, and the Oyce of Isbister. This is an important feeding area for wintering waders, including curlew, turnstone and purple sandpiper.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Inter-tidal mudflats*. Coastal saltmarsh*. Strandline.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Wintering waders*. Otter*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



North Mainland, Evie-Finstown (Site ref No: 166)

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<b>North Ronaldsay Coast.</b>	<b>Location:</b> North Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 246 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 167.
<b>Site Description:</b> This site comprises the rocky shores and sandy beaches of the island. It is an important feeding area for wintering waders, including curlew, turnstone, sanderling and purple sandpiper. Piles of rotting kelp provide an abundant food source for these birds and there is little to disturb them or the seals hauled out on the taings and skerries.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Strandline.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Wintering waders*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	

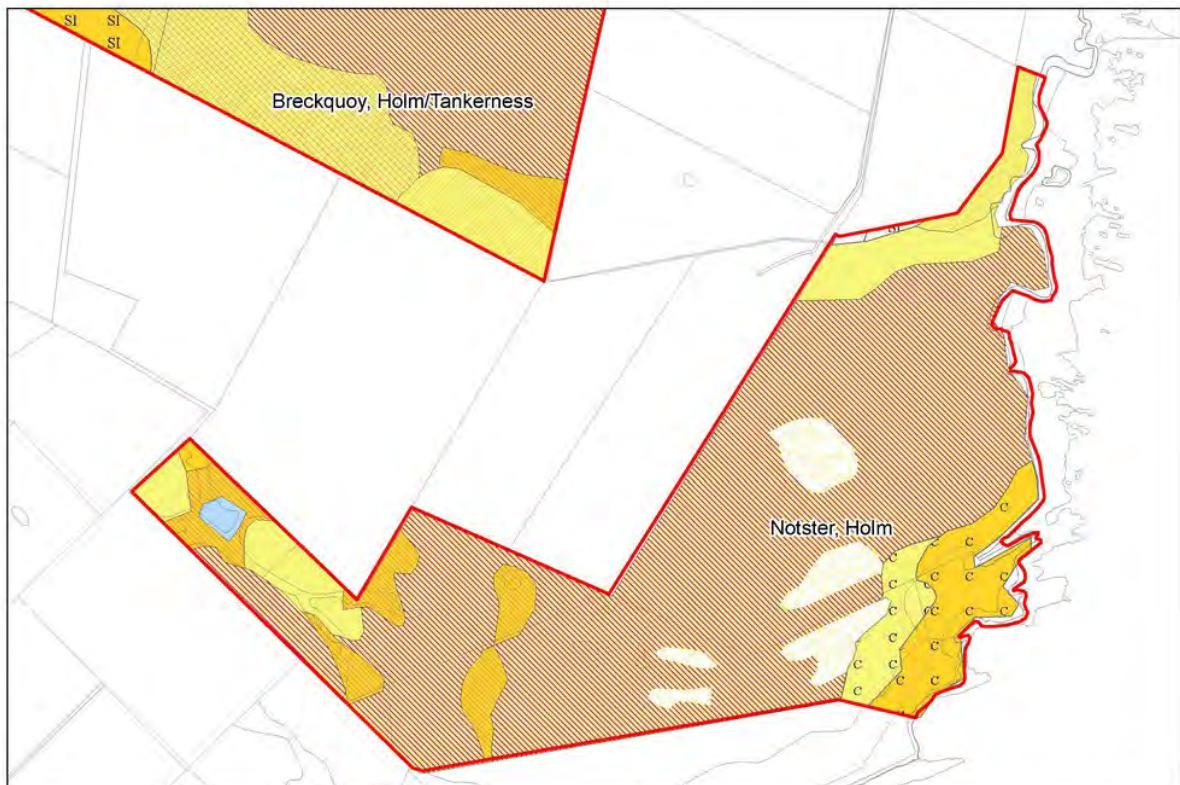


North Ronaldsay coast (Site ref No: 167)

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<b>Notster.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Holm.
<b>Area:</b> c. 27 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 168.
<b>Site Description:</b> An area of moorland along the east coast of Holm, and reaching inland to near the summit of Warthill. Most is wet heath, dominated by heather and deer grass. In places lichens are abundant, giving a frosted appearance to the ground surface. Salt spray influences the vegetation along the coastal fringe, so that plants such as sea plantain and spring squill become common among wind-clipped dwarf shrubs. The inland part of the site has a pool and swamp with a stand of branched bur-reed. The area has not yet been surveyed for nesting birds, but the habitats can be expected to attract nesting waders like curlew, redshank, snipe and lapwing, also skylark and meadow pipit and probably gulls, terns and skuas.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Upland heath*. Maritime heath. Lichen heath. Maritime cliff and slope*. Maritime grassland.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Breeding waders, moorland birds and seabirds*. Tea-leaved willow.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	

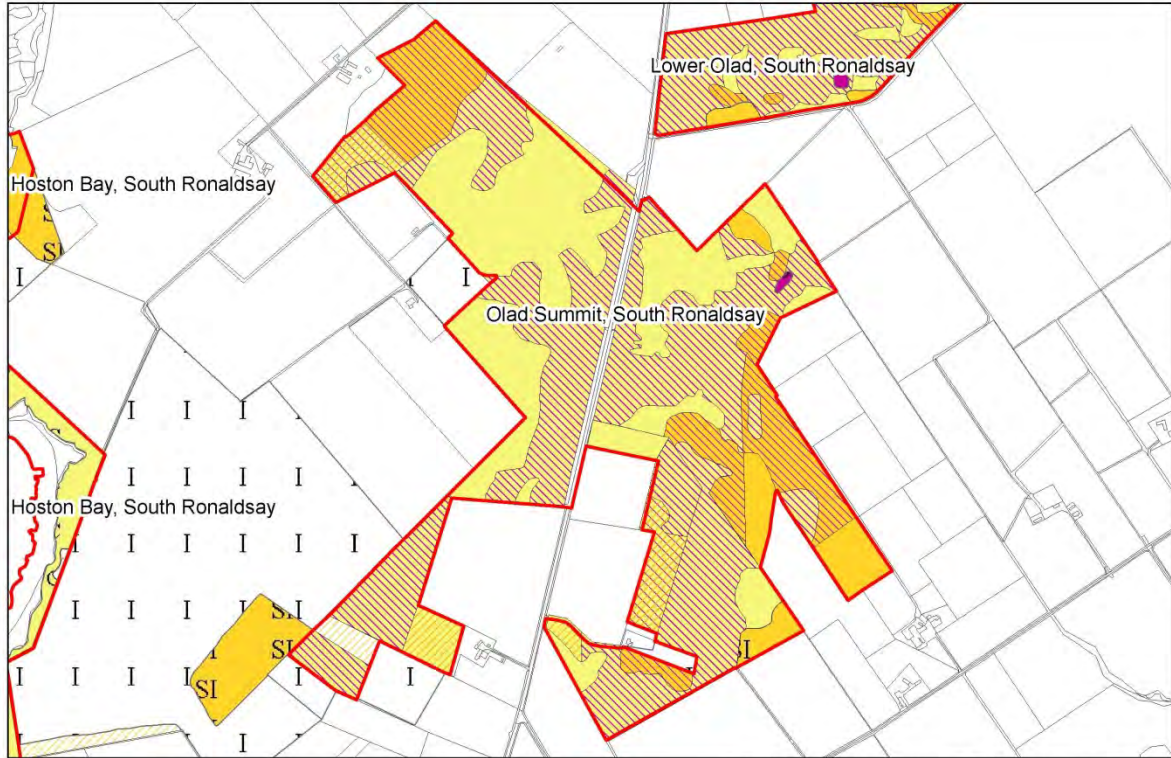


Notster, Holm (Site ref No: 168)

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<b>Olad Summit.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 51 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 169.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area predominantly of heather moorland on the northern and eastern slopes of Sandy Hill, on both sides of the public road. The moorland is variable in character. The exposed summit is wind-and-water eroded and has few species other than heather and bell heather, while some relatively sheltered lower and wetter slopes are rich in flowering plants and sedges. Variety of plant life further increases where springs locally create more calcium-rich conditions. Juniper is locally common near the summit of Sandy Hill, and scattered elsewhere. An interesting feature is a small, disused water-filled quarry once used as a milldam.</p> <p>Waders including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe and curlew breed here. A colony of about 150 pairs of common gulls has been recorded here as well. Arctic and great skua also breed here in small numbers. Small birds that breed here include skylark and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.  Lowland fens*.  Crowberry heath.  Species-rich heath.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Juniper*.  Curlew*.  Lapwing*.  Snipe.  Redshank.  Skylark*.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



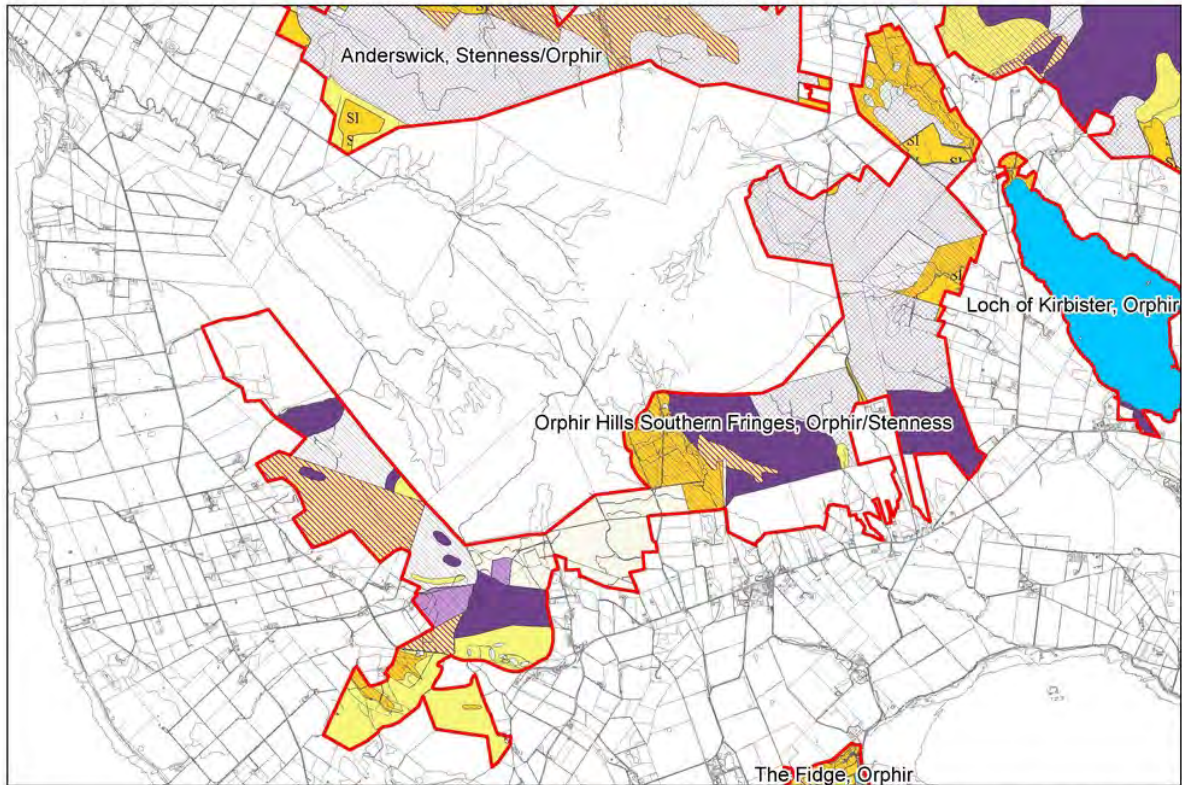


**Olad Summit, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 169)**

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<b>Orphir Hills Southern Fringes.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Orphir/Stenness.
<b>Area:</b> c. 716 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 170.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This large site stretches from the Brown Hill, above Clestrain, in the west, round the southern fringes of the Orphir hills to Tuskerbister in the east, encompassing the Hill of Midland and the Hill of Dale, Linnadale, Ramsdale and the eastern slopes of Akla hill. It encompasses hill ground with a variety of moorland habitats and low ground with marsh, marshy grassland, peat bog and heather.</p> <p>On the hill, the flatter ground and gentle slopes are covered in blanket bog, with plants including bog cotton, heather, bog asphodel and sphagnum moss. Where the slope steepens and the peat thins, there is drier heather moorland. The valleys in the hills show obvious differences in habitat – including natural grassland, willow scrub and stands of taller plants including ferns.</p> <p>On the low ground, there is cut-over peat bog, where old cuttings have flooded and turned to swamp, and thinner wet peat that is mostly heather-covered. The marsh and marshy grassland is varied also: there is a reedbed, other tall vegetation with plants such as meadowsweet and yellow iris, and short vegetation with sedges and many other plants, like ragged robin, orchids and horsetails. There are other features of special interest: lime-rich springs on hill and low ground, with their distinctive array of small plants and mosses; and scrub, including native willows, gorse and various planted species. A number of nationally and locally uncommon plants occur. The burns harbour spawning trout.</p> <p>The site is an important one for nesting hen harrier and short-eared owl. A variety of waders nest on the site in good numbers, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, redshank and especially curlew. There are breeding gulls comprising common gull, black-headed gull, great black-backed gull and lesser black-backed gull. Nesting ducks include shelduck, eider and wigeon. A few arctic skua breed here. Red grouse are quite common. Smaller birds breeding here include skylark, meadow pipit, stonechat, linnet, wheatear, sedge warbler, willow warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland meadows* .</p> <p>Lowland fens* .</p> <p>Upland fens, flushes and swamps* .</p> <p>Reedbeds* .</p> <p>Wet woodlands* .</p> <p>Upland heath* .</p> <p>Species-rich heath.</p> <p>Blanket bog* .</p> <p>Lowland dry acid grassland* .</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Hen Harrier* .</p> <p>Short-eared owl* .</p> <p>Arctic skua* .</p> <p>Lapwing* .</p> <p>Curlew* .</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Black-headed gull.</p> <p>Wigeon.</p> <p>Skylark* .</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Willow warbler.</p>

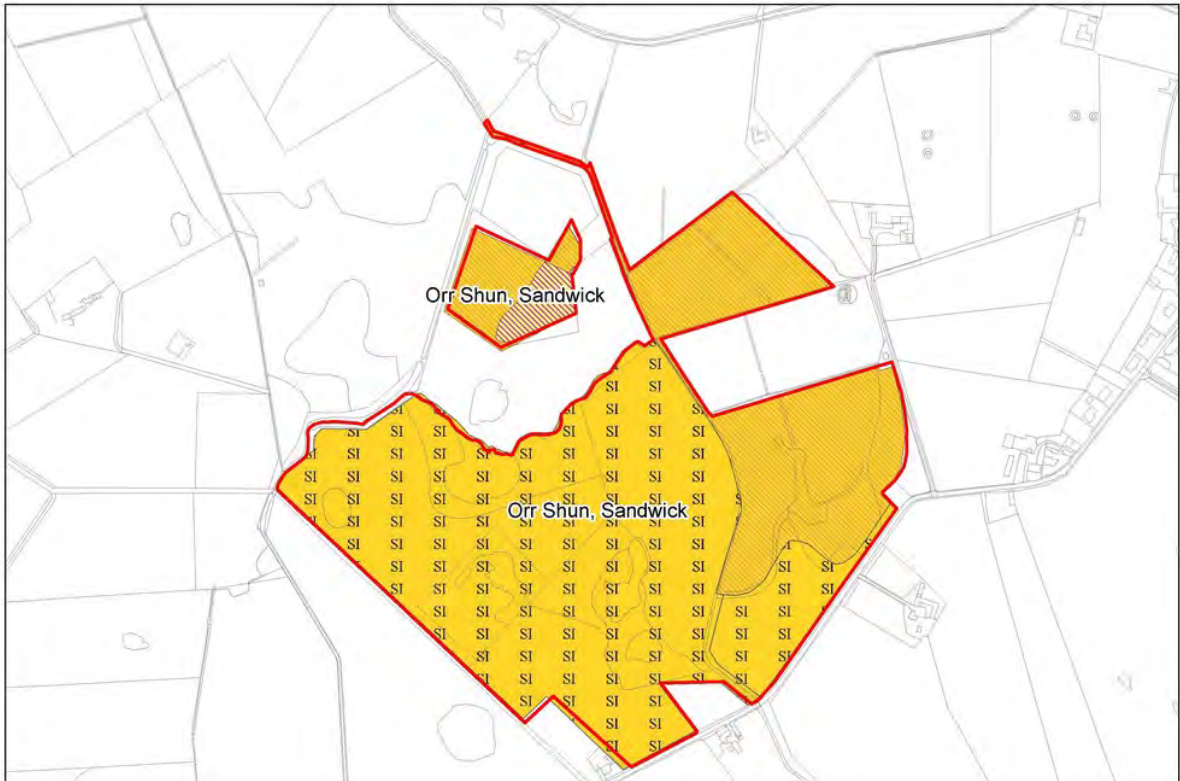
	<p>Reed bunting*.          Linnet*.          Otter*.          Brown trout.          Large heath butterfly*.          Common hawker dragonfly.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Orphir Hills Southern Fringes, Orphir/Stenness (Site ref No: 170)

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<b>Orr Shun.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Sandwick.
<b>Area:</b> c. 26 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 171.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site comprises marsh and semi-natural grassland, with several shallow pools and water-filled ditches. The marsh has abundant meadowsweet, yellow iris and rushes. Pools have marginal and floating plants that include bogbean and water mint.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. There is a colony of black-headed gulls. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Mesotrophic lakes*.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

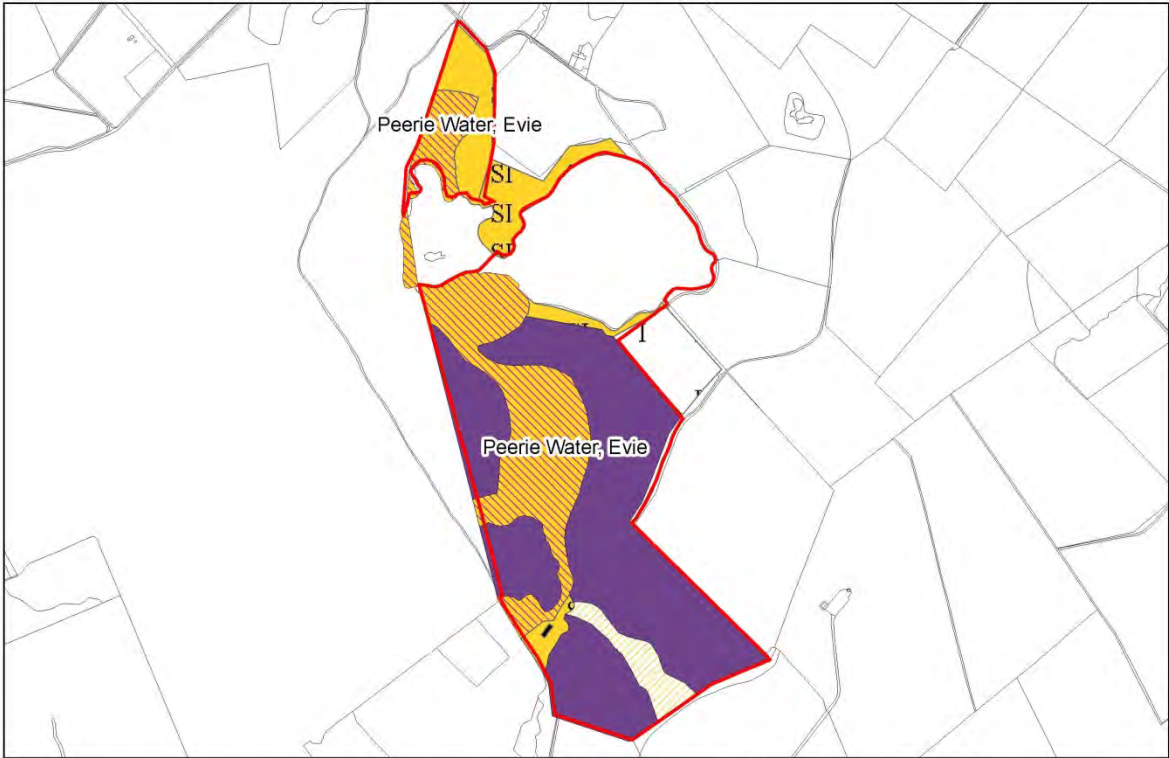


Orr Shun, Sandwick (Site ref No: 171)

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<b>Peerie Water.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Evie.
<b>Area:</b> c. 30 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 172.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site comprises a small loch, blanket bog on deep peat and marshy grassland around the loch edge. There are also smaller areas of semi-improved grassland. Bog plants are typically heather and bog cotton, with deer grass, bog asphodel and sphagnum moss. The marsh vegetation is varied: rushes are locally dominant but many other plants are common, including ragged robin, horsetails and sedges. The site supports a variety of breeding waders – oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Ducks including tufted duck breed on the site, as do some smaller birds including skylark and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Blanket bog*.  Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes*.  Burns and canalised burns.  .</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.  Curlew*.  Redshank.  Snipe.  Skylark*.  Slender-leaved pondweed*.  Floating bur-reed.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

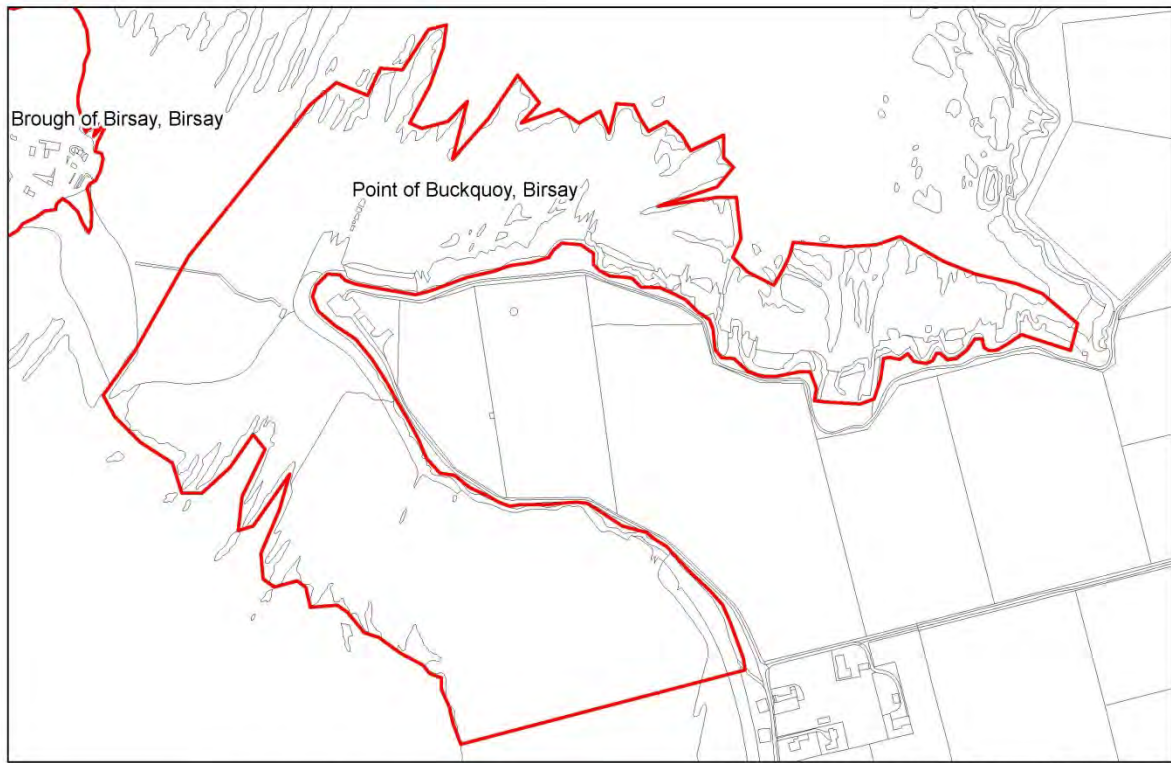




Peerie Water, Evie (Site ref No: 172)

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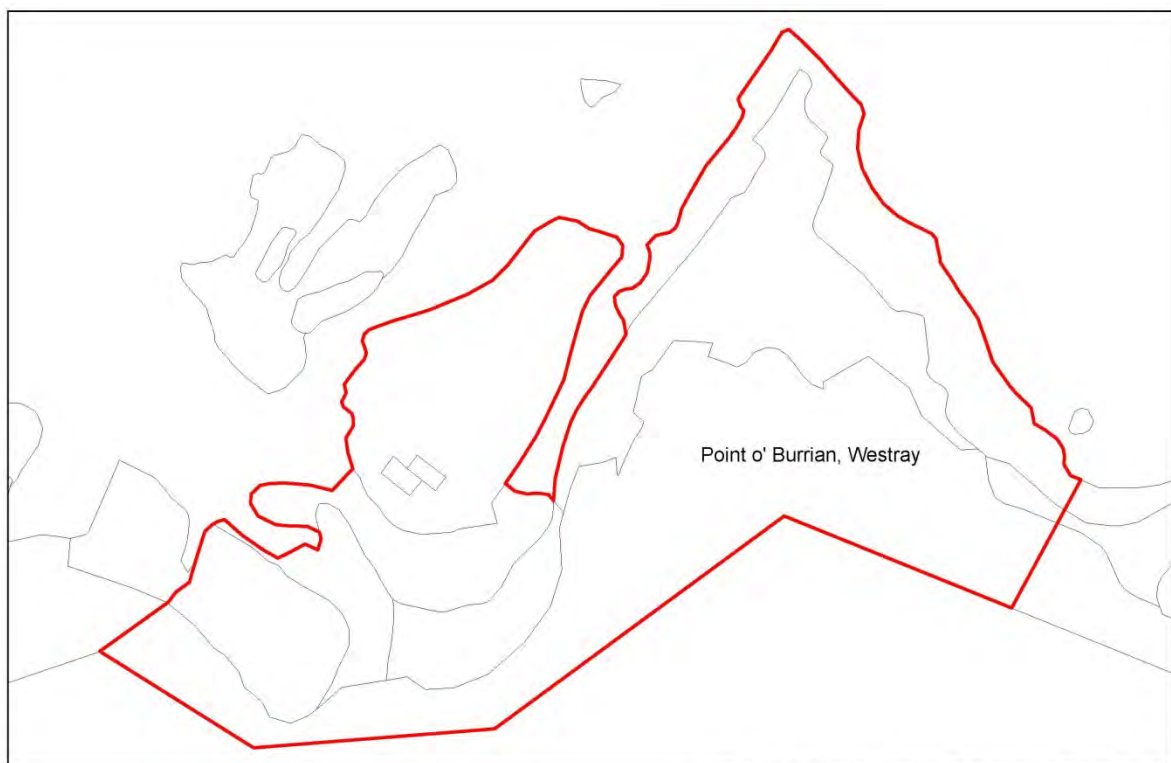
<b>Point of Buckquoy.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Birsay.
<b>Area:</b> N/A.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 173.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This unique exposure demonstrates the consequences of oscillation in the level of the Orkney Lake during Sandwich Fish Bed times.</p> <p>The Point of Buckquoy is composed of northwards dipping Lower Stromness Flags. The Upper Stromness Flags which overlie the intervening Sandwich Fish Beds are exposed for only a short distance in Skipi Geo before they are downthrown against Lower Stromness Flags by a fault running from Marwick to the west of Hesta Geo.</p> <p>Outcrops of the fish bed occur on both sides of the headland and are readily accessible from the car park near Earl's Palace and from the minor road to Hawin.</p> <p>Volcanic dykes can be clearly seen which cross the intertidal on the north coast of the Point of Buckquoy.</p>	



Point of Buckquoy, Birsay (Site ref No: 174)

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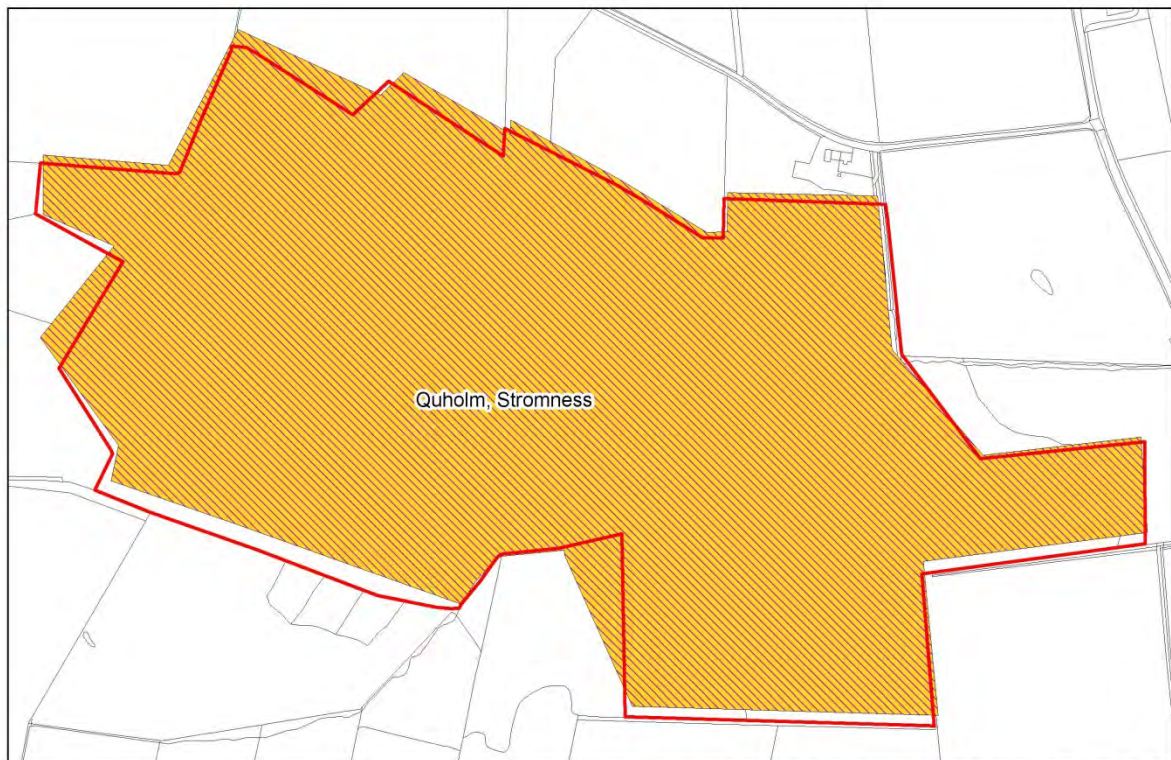
<b>Point o' Burrian.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Westray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 1.5 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 174.
<b>Site Description:</b> Cliffs and the adjacent sea stack – the Castle o' Burrian, which has a colony of nesting puffins. The stack is home to about 250 pairs during the summer months. The cliff edge has some patches of maritime heath and grassland, with plants such as sea pink and spring squill.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Maritime cliff and slope*.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Puffin.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Point o' Burrian, Westray (Site ref No: 173)

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<b>Quholm.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Stromness.
<b>Area:</b> c. 21 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 175.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site mainly comprises marshy grassland, the dominant plants being meadowsweet, yellow iris and rushes. There are some very wet areas among it, with plants such as bogbean. The Burn of Quholmslie and several ditches run through it. The site supports breeding waders in good numbers, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Smaller birds nesting here include meadow pipit, pied wagtail, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*. Curlew*. Snipe. Redshank. Reed bunting*. Sedge warbler.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

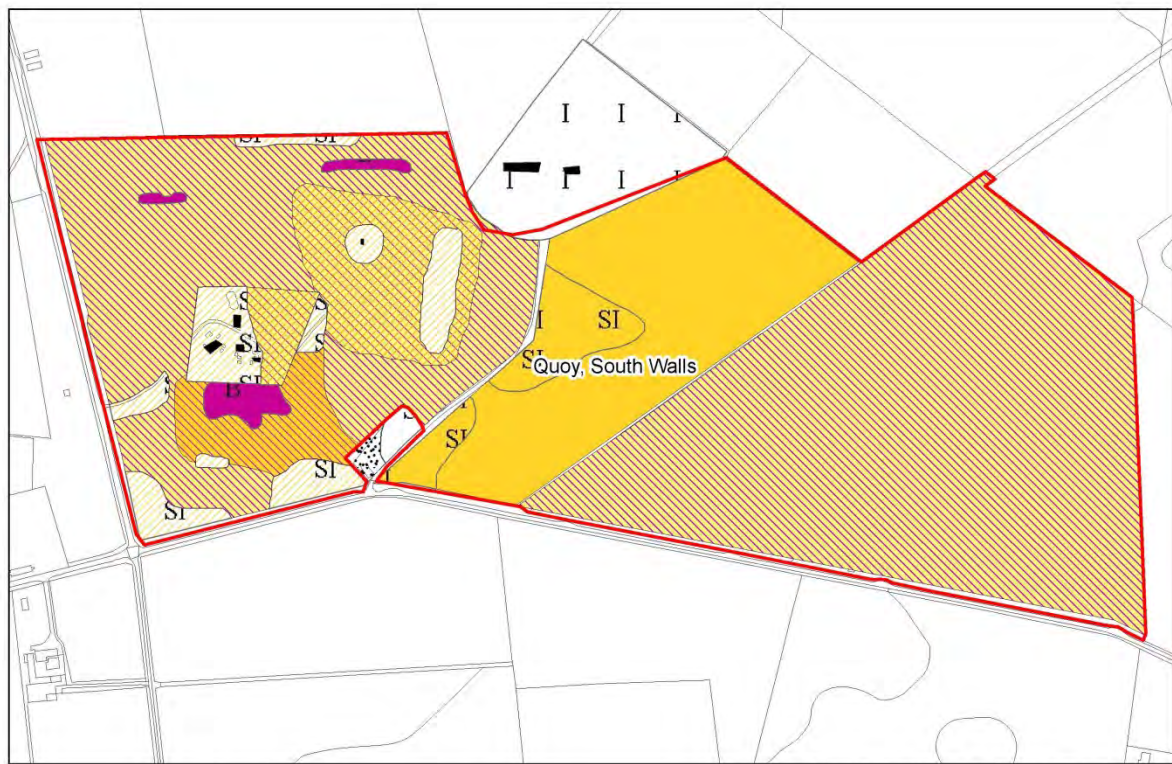


Quholm, Stromness (Site ref No: 175)

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<b>Quoy.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Walls.
<b>Area:</b> c. 23 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 176.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area mostly of wet moorland, dominated by heather but with abundant bog asphodel, and some bog cotton and deer grass. There are also some areas of meadow, some of it marshy with flowers such as ragged-robin and marsh marigold. Variety of plants further increases where springs locally create more calcium-rich conditions.</p> <p>Oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank all breed on this site, along with common gull, skylark and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.  Lowland meadows*.  Lowland fens*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.  Lapwing*.  Snipe.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

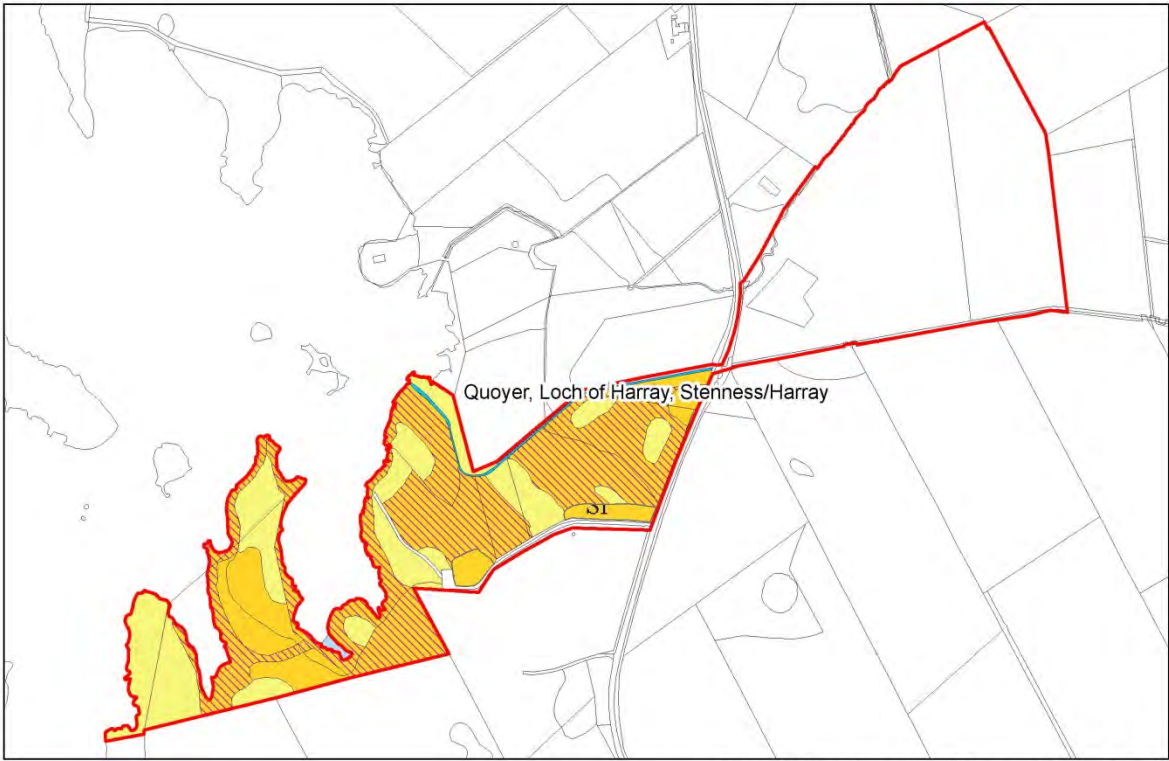


Quoy, South Walls (Site ref No: 176)

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<b>Quoyer.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Stenness/Harray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 14 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 177.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area adjacent to Harray Loch, where a variety of habitats are present within a small area, including wetland, grassland and patches of heather. The wetland is varied and includes areas dominated by taller plants like meadowsweet; others with shorter sedges, rushes and a variety of marshland plants like bog cotton and ragged robin; and pools and swamps with bogbean. Native willow bushes grow in the wetlands. There is also damp natural grassland with primrose, orchids and bird's-foot trefoil.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site in small numbers, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. There are also breeding black-headed gulls and wildfowl including shoveler, tufted duck and coot. Many smaller birds nest here including skylark, meadow pipit, sedge warbler, linnet, dunnock, song thrush and reed bunting.</p> <p>The site is popular for recreation and fishing, and has a parking area and footpaths.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland meadows*.</p> <p>Lowland dry acid grassland*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Eutrophic standing water*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Linnet*.</p> <p>Song thrush*.</p> <p>White ermine (a moth)*.</p> <p>Black darter dragonfly.</p> <p>Blue-tailed damselfly.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

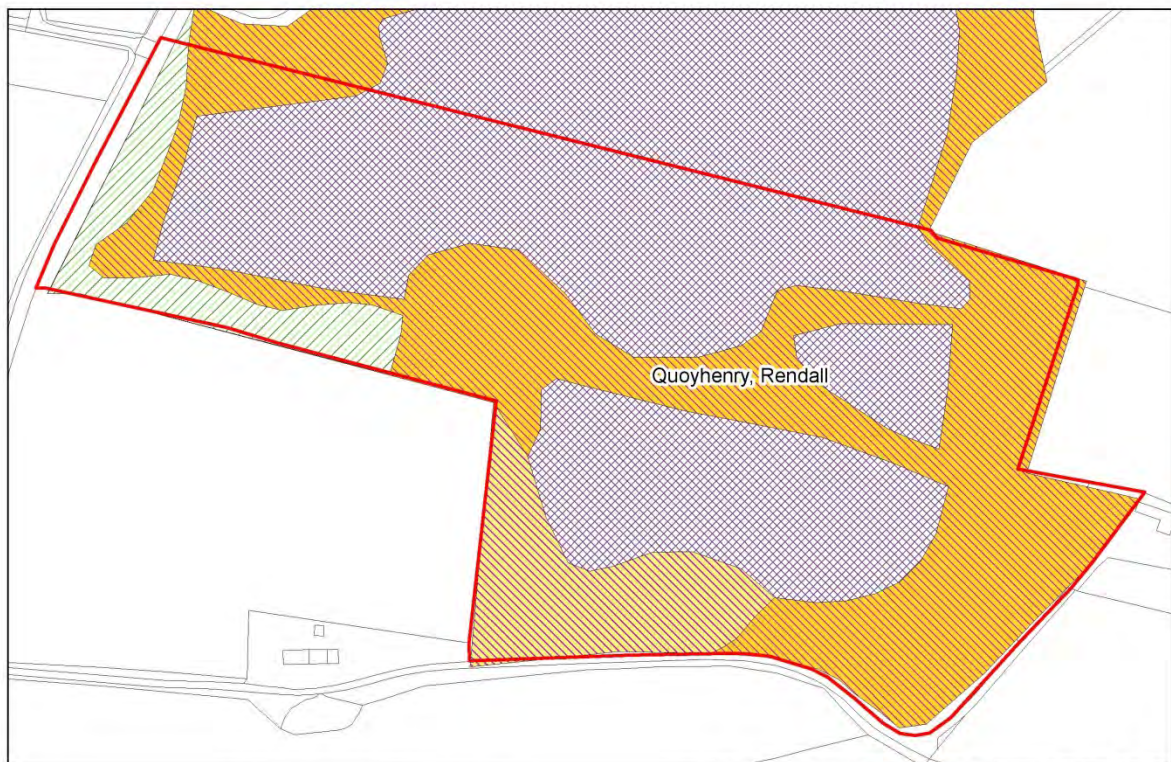




Quoyer, Loch of Harray, Stenness/Harray (Site ref No: 177)

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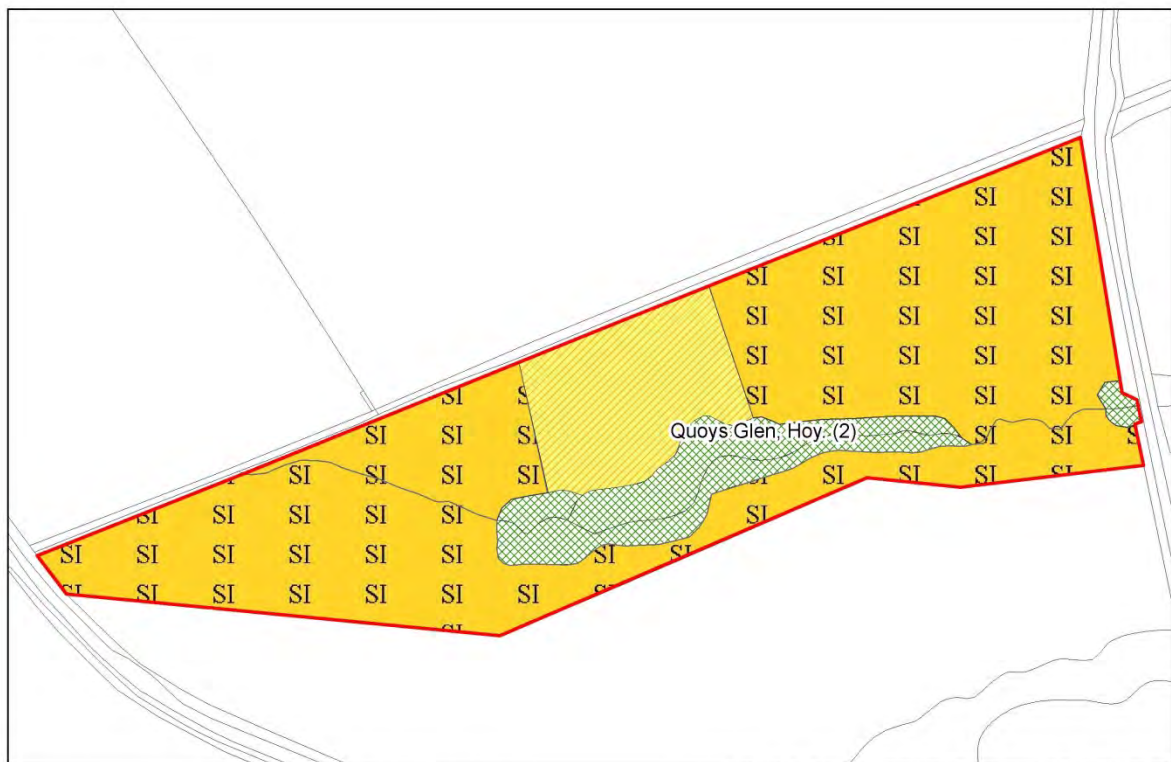
<b>Quoyhenry.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Rendall.
<b>Area:</b> c. 6 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 178.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site mainly comprises peat bog with some marsh and marshy grassland. Abundant plants of the bog are heather and bog cotton, with crowberry and deer grass. The marsh has abundant meadowsweet, with yellow iris, ragged-robin, rushes and horsetails. There are some very wet areas among it, with plants such as bogbean.</p> <p>Snipe and curlew nest on the site. Smaller birds breeding here include meadow pipit and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*. Basin bog. Upland heath*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*. Snipe. Reed bunting*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Quoyhenry, Rendall (Site ref No: 178)

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<b>Quoys Glen.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Hoy.
<b>Area:</b> c. 2 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 179.
<b>Site Description:</b> This small gully woodland is one of Orkney's few remnant native woodlands (and arguably the most northerly natural woodland in the British Isles, as it is slightly north of Berriedale). It contains downy birch, rowan, willows, wild roses and honeysuckle. Some young hazels of local Hoy origin have been planted recently and are growing well. Downy birch and rowan seed well here. On the north side of the wood is an attractive area of moorland, dominated by heather but with many other plants, including bell heather, creeping willow, greater woodrush, blaeberry, heath spotted orchid and native tree seedlings.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Upland birchwood*. Upland heathland*. Burns and canalised burns.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Downy birch. Grey willow. Tea-leaved willow. Rowan. Hazel. Northern dog-rose. Soft downy rose.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	

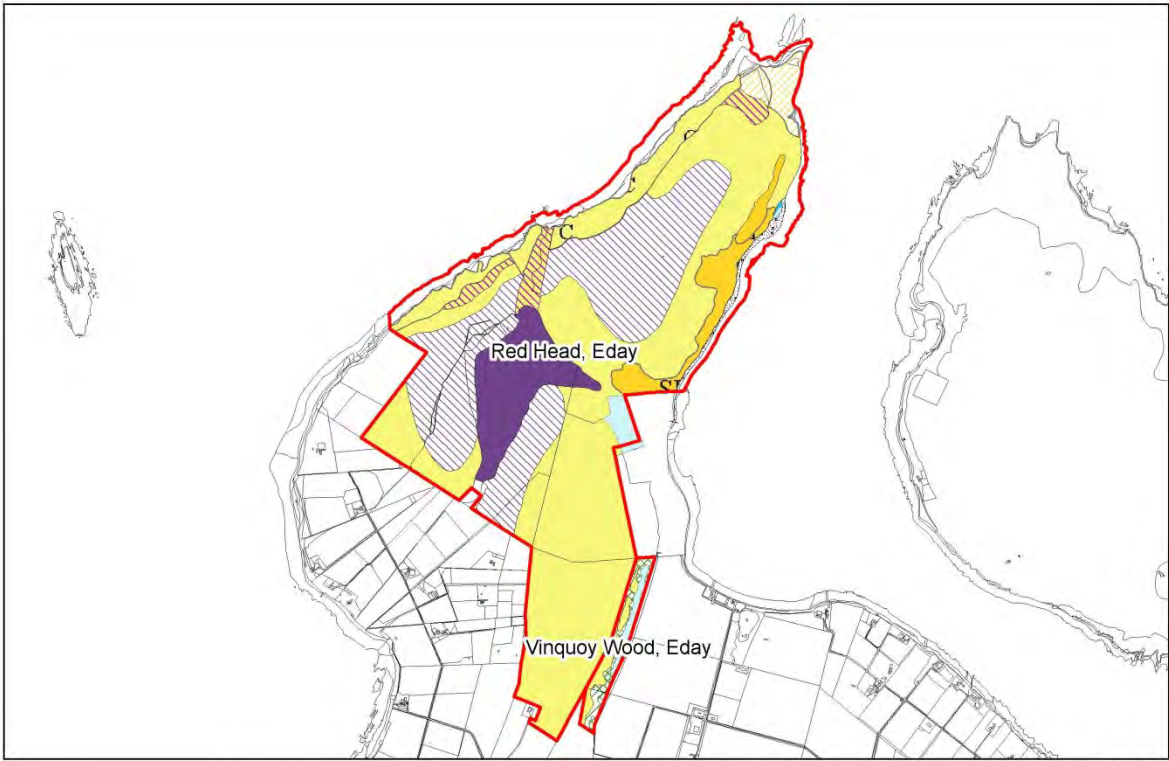


Quoys Glen, Hoy. (2) (Site ref No: 179)

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<b>Red Head.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Eday.
<b>Area:</b> c. 197 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 180.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The promontory of Red Head and Vinguoy Hill forms the northern tip of Eday. A broad ridge occupies the middle of the promontory, falling away steeply to the east and gently to the west. The eastern slopes have heather moorland and semi-natural grassland on well-drained ground. At the foot of the steepest slope there is a freshwater pool enclosed by a boulder beach. The western side is wetter, and the peat often deeper: there is some blanket bog, with bog cotton as well as heather. Along the cliff edge on this more exposed side there is coastal heath, with plants such as spring squill and sea pink.</p> <p>The other main feature of the site is a basin of deep peat, bounded by Noup Hill and Vinguoy Hill to the west and Muckle Hill of Linkataing to the south and east. Peat cutting has eaten into the edges of this bog, but the centre remains more or less intact and has abundant sphagnum mosses.</p> <p>The site is important for breeding waders, especially golden plover. Snipe are especially frequent along with oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew and redshank. Great and arctic skua also nest here, as well as common gulls. Smaller birds breeding here include skylark, meadow pipit and twite.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Basin bog.</p> <p>Maritime heath.</p> <p>Crowberry heath.</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Golden plover*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Arctic skua*.</p> <p>Great skua.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Twite*.</p> <p>Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	





Red Head, Eday (Site ref No: 180)

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