

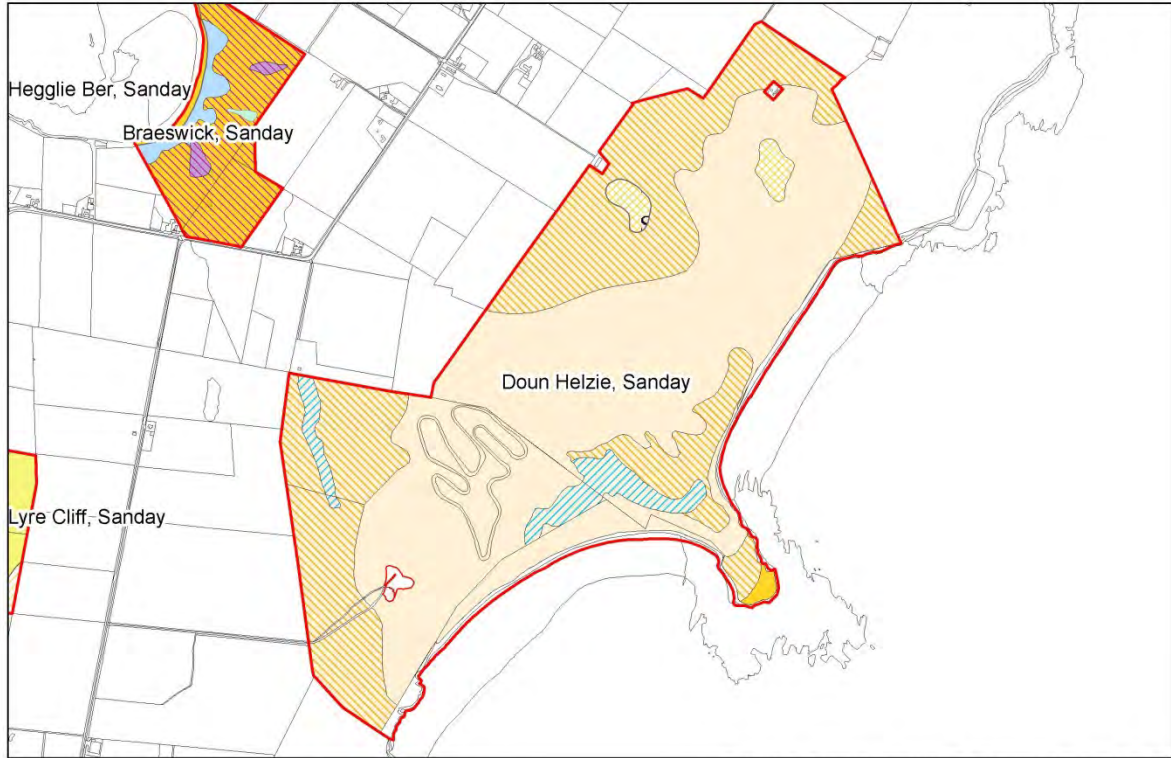
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<b>Doun Helzie.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Sanday.
<b>Area:</b> c. 104 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 61.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This large site mainly comprises a spectacular hillside of climbing sand dunes rising to a height of 60m near the Wart, the highest point in the island of Sanday. Below, an equally impressive coastline consists of broad sandy beaches and low cliffs with caves. This is one of the best places in Sanday for the rare great yellow bumblebee. Several other species that occur are uncommon locally or nationally.</p> <p>The area has not been surveyed for nesting birds, but the habitats can be expected to attract some breeding waders such as lapwing, oystercatcher and ringed plover, with small birds including skylark, meadow pipit and wheatear. Short-eared owls have been recorded here in the breeding season.</p> <p>Landscape features here have also been recognised for their geomorphological (the shape and evolution of landforms) interest and importance.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope* .</p> <p>Coastal sand dunes* .</p> <p>Links.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Breeding waders and grassland birds.</p> <p>Short-eared owl* .</p> <p>Limestone bedstraw.</p> <p>Great yellow bumblebee* .</p> <p>Moss carder bee* .</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



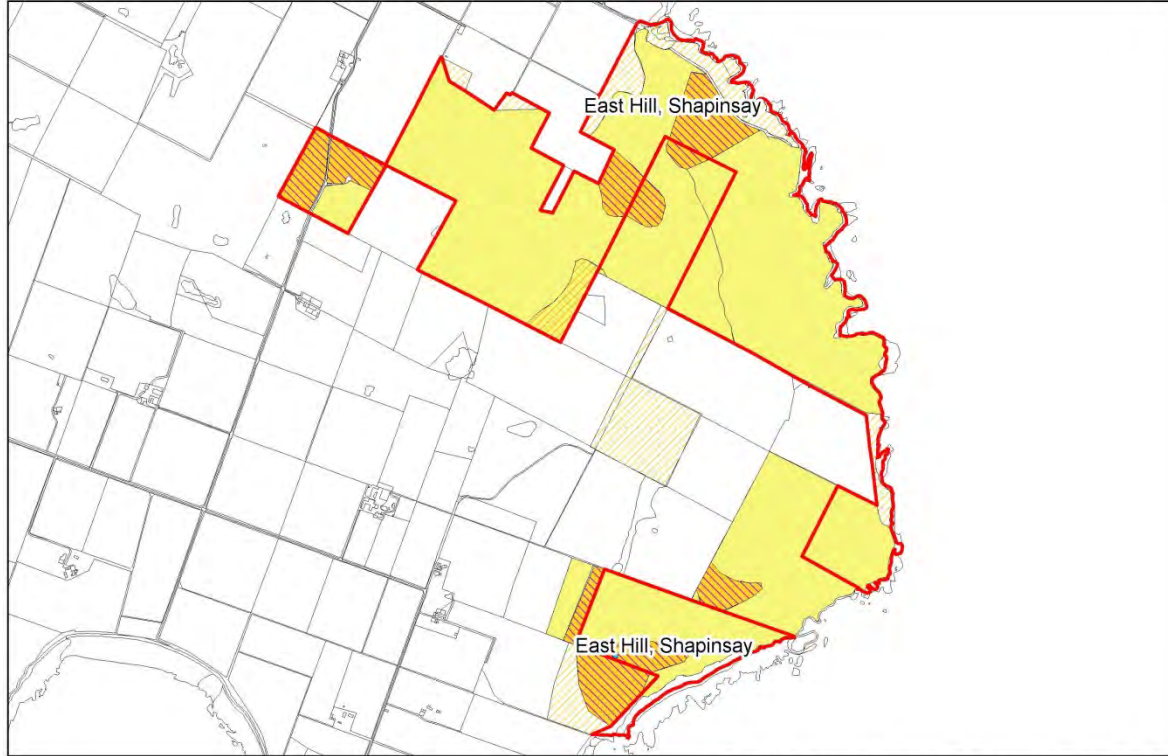
Doun Helzie, Sanday (Site ref No: 61)

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<b>East Hill.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Shapinsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 74 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 62.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The East Hill is the largest area of moorland remaining in Shapinsay, on its southeast coast where there is high exposure to sea spray. The area is somewhat fragmented by intervening fields of improved grassland and is in two blocs with a connecting coastal strip. Some of the area is a Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve. There is a large disused quarry at the northern end of the site.</p> <p>The dominant vegetation cover is heather moorland, on thin peat. This varies from being tall and almost all heather to wind-clipped and short with various other species, including crowberry, bog cotton, lichens and mosses. Several nationally and/or locally unusual plant and lichen species occur: wild strawberry at one of its very few Orkney locations, northern yellow cress in dried-up pools, juniper on a cliff top and several lichens. Lichen experts who have surveyed the area (including the SWT reserve) concluded that it is of at least regional and probably Scottish importance for its lichen cover and scarce species. There are marshy areas on the site too, some of them rushy pasture, others more natural and with diverse plant species, such as ragged-robin and wild angelica.</p> <p>The site is important for breeding waders, including many oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew and snipe, and some redshank. Several species of ducks nest here, including pintail, shelduck, teal and shoveler. There are colonies of black-headed gulls, common gulls and arctic terns, and the odd pair of arctic and great skua. There are two pairs of ravens. Smaller birds breeding here include skylark, meadow pipit, rock pipit and twite. Guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes and shags nest on the cliffs.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Crowberry heath.</p> <p>Lichen heath.</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope*.</p> <p>Maritime heath.</p> <p>Maritime grassland.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic tern*</p> <p>Arctic skua*</p> <p>Great skua</p> <p>Lapwing*</p> <p>Curlew*</p> <p>Snipe</p> <p>Redshank</p> <p>Pintail*</p> <p>Shoveler</p> <p>Black-headed gull*</p> <p>Twite*</p> <p>Otter*</p> <p>Moss carder bee*</p> <p>Juniper*</p> <p>Wild strawberry</p> <p>Northern yellow cress*</p> <p>The lichens: Cetraria islandica</p> <p>Cladonia zopfii*, C phyllophora*,</p>

*Melaspilea interjecta*\*, *Micarea ternaria*\*  
and *Pertusaria xanthostoma*\*.

\* Nationally important habitats and species.



East Hill, Shapinsay (Site ref No: 62)

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<b>Echna Loch.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Burray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 9 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 63.
<b>Site Description:</b> The loch is separated from the sea at Echnaloch Bay by a shingle ayre and road. Around the loch is some wet meadow and marsh. The loch supports little grebe and breeding wildfowl including mute swan, tufted duck and wigeon, the last in exceptional numbers. It is also an important site for wintering wildfowl.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Eutrophic standing water*.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Wigeon. Little grebe. Wintering wildfowl.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	

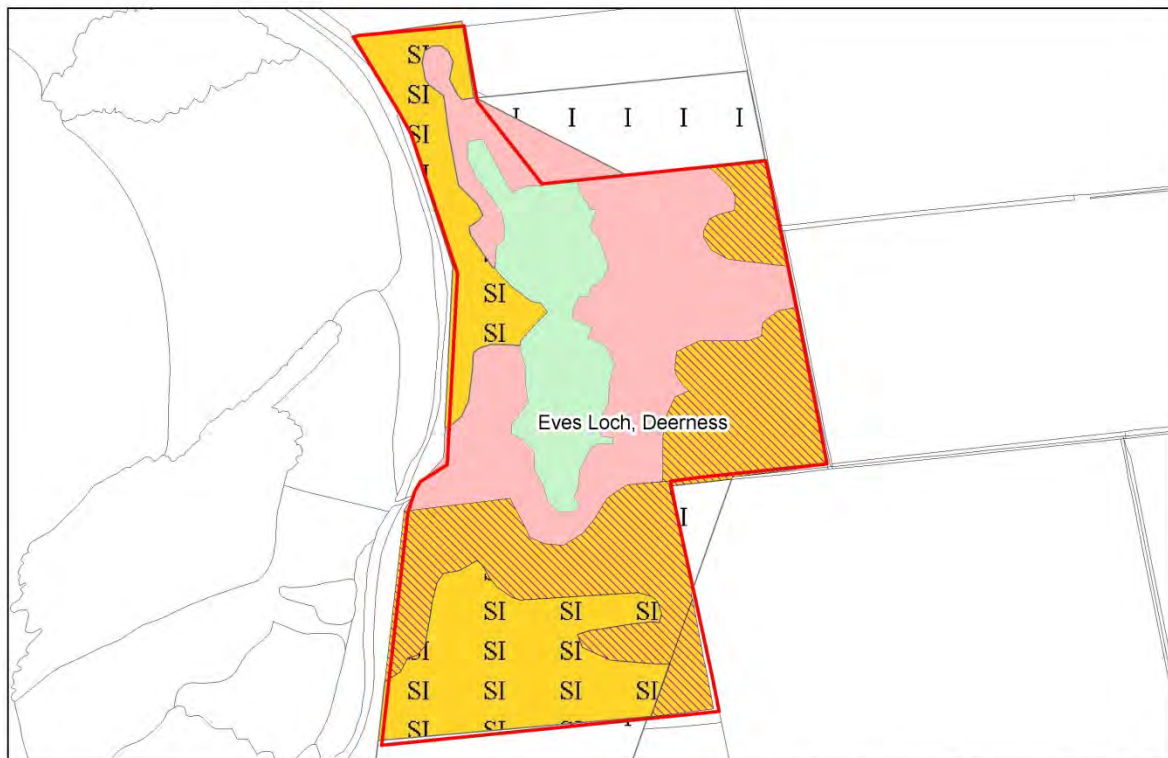


Echna Loch, Burray (Site ref No: 63)

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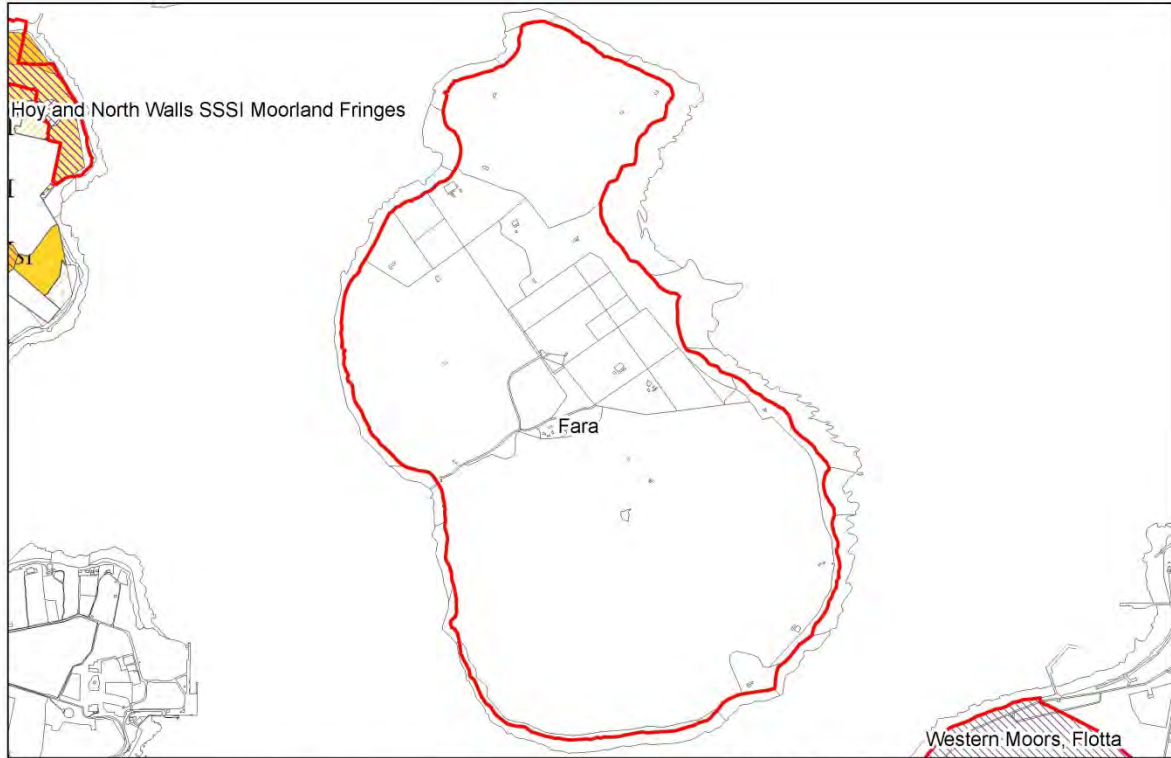
<b>Eves Loch.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Deerness.
<b>Area:</b> c 7 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 64.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  A brackish loch with surrounding saltmarsh, grading into freshwater marsh and then semi-improved grassland at the edges of the site. The saltmarsh, with its salt-adapted grasses and other plants, is extensive.</p> <p>The site is much used by shorebirds and wildfowl for roosting and feeding. There are small numbers of breeding waders including oystercatcher, ringed plover, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Coastal saltmarsh*.  Saline lagoons*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Curlew*.  Lapwing*.  Redshank.  Snipe.  Visiting waders.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Eves Loch, Deerness (Site ref No: 64)

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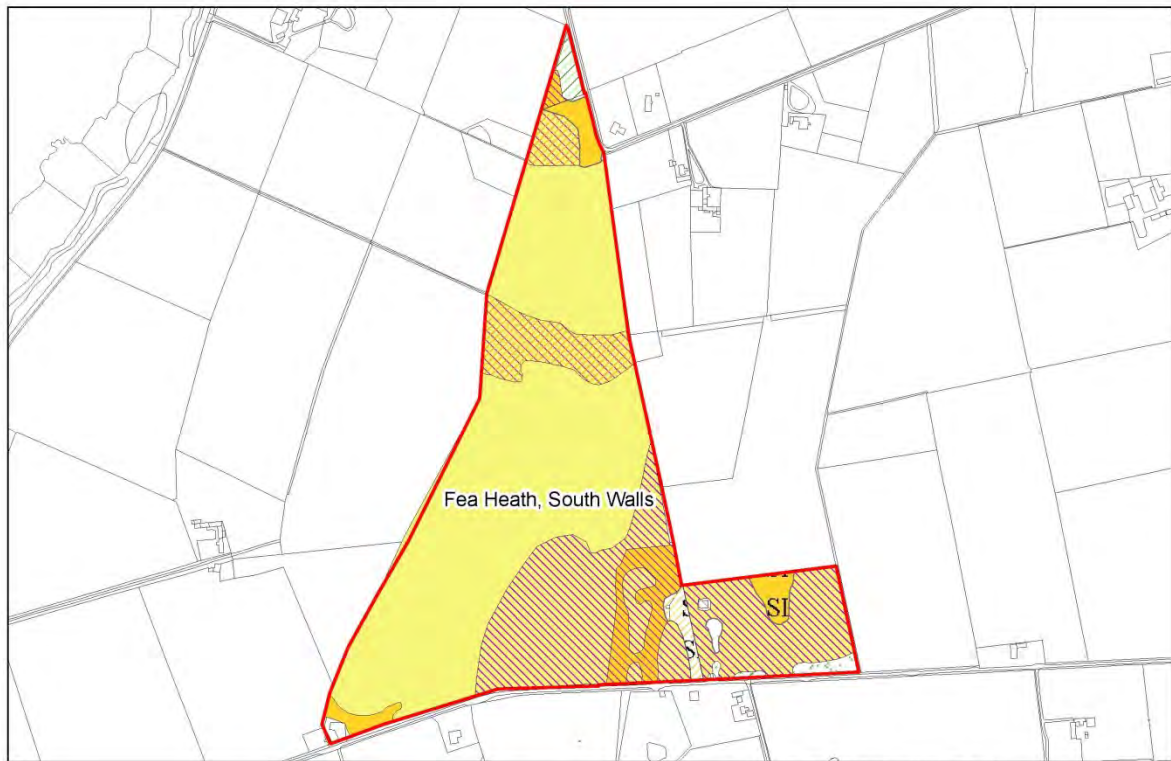
<b>Fara.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Scapa Flow.
<b>Area:</b> c. 286 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 65.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>Most of the island is peat-covered. Much of the deeper peat has been cut over and has become quite dry, with the result that heather completely dominates the vegetation. A difference can be seen in the centre of the southern part of the island where there is a shallow basin with wetter peat where little cutting has taken place: here, and elsewhere over much smaller areas, there is more typical bog vegetation, with plants including bog cotton, deer grass, and sphagnum mosses, as well as heather. Bog bilberry, a rare plant in Orkney outside of Hoy, grows in one spot. In other parts of the island the peat layer is thinner and supports drier moorland, again dominated by heather. Former cultivated land and improved grassland round abandoned farmsteads is now mainly semi-improved acid grassland, marshy and infested with rushes in places. Some of the farm ruins have elder trees overgrowing them.</p> <p>Much of the shoreline is of boulders and coarse shingle, at the foot of sloping grassy banks, except for about 100 metres at the south end of the island, where it is steep and rocky to a height of 4 – 6 m. All the shoreline is accessible to sheep and well grazed.</p> <p>Breeding birds are the outstanding wildlife feature of the island. Between 15 and 20 pairs of arctic skuas have been nesting here for many years, and only slightly fewer great skua. Gulls are a feature too, with great black-backed, lesser black-backed, common and herring gulls all breeding, several of them in good numbers. Arctic terns also breed here. A variety of waders nest here in good numbers - oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew, redshank and ringed plover. Other breeding birds include eider duck and red grouse in small numbers and a variety of smaller birds including skylark and meadow pipit. Red-throated diver have bred here for many years but were not found on the most recent survey.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic skua*.</p> <p>Great skua.</p> <p>Arctic tern*.</p> <p>Herring gull*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Redshank*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Red-throated diver*.</p> <p>Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Fara (Site ref No: 65)

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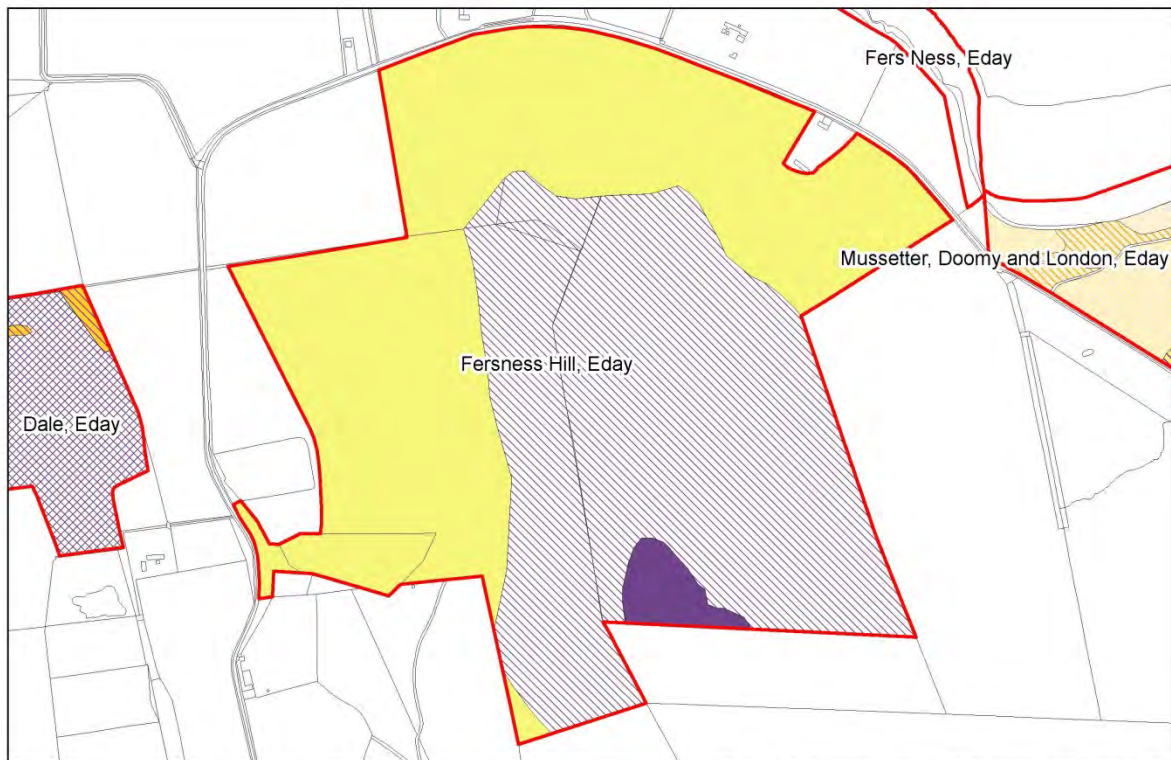
<b>Fea Heath.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Walls.
<b>Area:</b> c. 19 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 66.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  An area mostly of dry heather moorland, with some bell heather and crowberry. There is wetter moorland too, where heather is joined by plants such as cross-leaved heath, purple moor-grass and mosses, also abundant lichens in places. There are smaller grassy areas influenced by stock grazing, and some patches of gorse. Waders breeding on this site include oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. There are colonies of common gull and arctic tern, and single pairs of great skua and great black-backed gull recently recorded. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Upland heath*</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Curlew*.  Lapwing*.  Redshank.  Arctic tern*.  Snipe.  Great skua.  Skylark*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Fea Heath, South Walls (Site ref No: 66)

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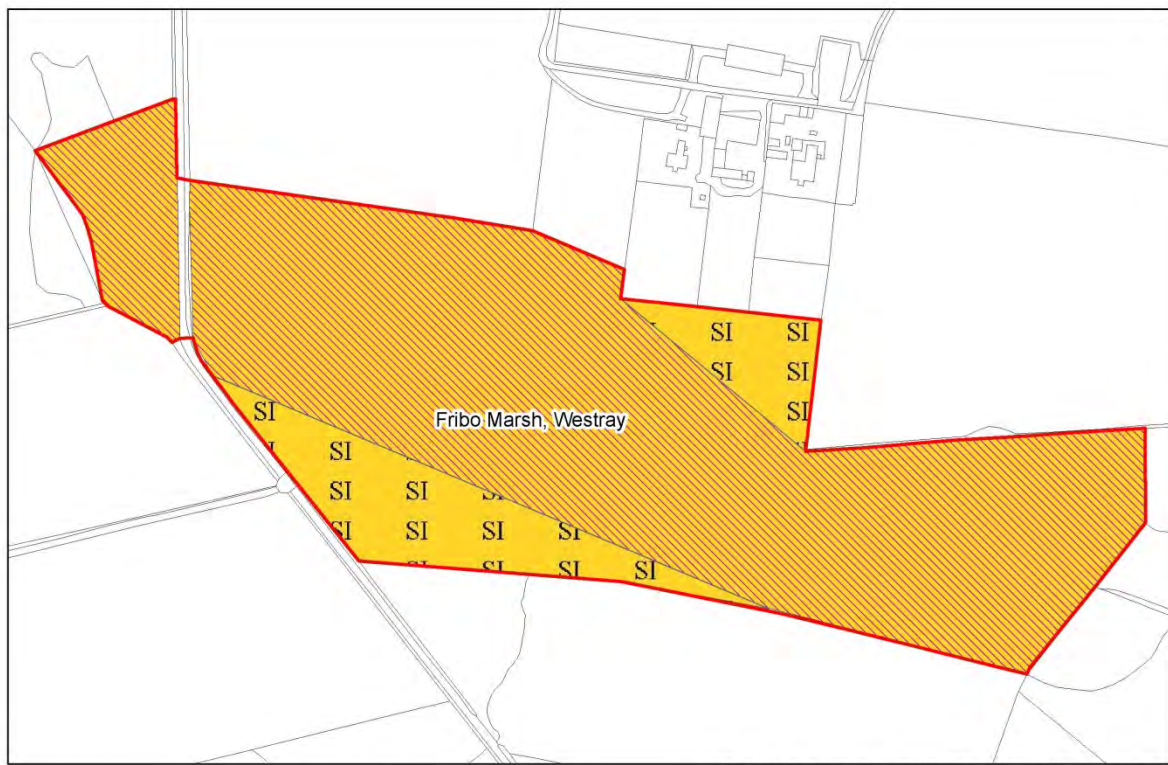
<b>Fersness Hill.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Eday.
<b>Area:</b> c. 44 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 68.
<p><b>Site Description:</b></p> <p>This site comprises Fersness Hill, to the west of Whitemaw Hill and adjoining the Doomy and Whitemaw Hill SSSI. The flanks of the hill to west, north and east mainly support dry heather moorland on thin peat and the remains of deeper peat that has been drained and cut over. The top of the hill is an area of wet bog that has not been cut, with bog cotton, bog asphodel and sphagnum mosses. At the Dale of Carpoquoy, on the western slope of Fersness Hill, native trees have been planted on the sides of a gully running the hill. The trees are well established but growth is slow. Lower down, non-native trees and shrubs such as sycamore and Fuchsia have been planted to form a thicket next to the road.</p> <p>The area has not been surveyed for nesting birds, but the moorland can be expected to attract nesting waders like curlew and snipe, also skylark and meadow pipit. Linnet and robin have been recorded in the trees and bushes below.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b></p> <p>Upland heath*.          Blasket bog*.          Upland willow scrub.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b></p> <p>Breeding waders*.          Linnet*.          Robin.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Fersness Hill, Eday (Site ref No: 68)

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<b>Fribo Marsh.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Westray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 8 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 69.
<b>Site Description:</b> An area of low-lying wetland with marsh and marshy grassland. The wetter marsh is dominated by meadowsweet and yellow iris, while drier areas are a mix of grasses and rushes. The wetland is good for breeding waders and ducks. Oystercatcher, snipe, curlew, redshank and lapwing all nest here, along with occasional pairs of mallard and moorhen. A few pairs of black-headed and common gull are also present. Small birds such as reed bunting and meadow pipit breed here too.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b>	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Curlew*. Snipe. Redshank. Reed bunting*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Fribo Marsh, Westray (Site ref No: 69)

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<b>Gairsay and Hen of Gairsay.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Gairsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 138 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 70.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises the hill ground that occupies about half the island, and the Hen of Gairsay. The hill ground is mainly short heather moorland, with crowberry, grasses and herbs. There are patches of grassland on dry slopes, where the lime-rich underlying sandstone provides conditions for a range of specialised plants, including thyme, and limestone bedstraw. There are springs on the hill, and runnels below them: these too have distinctive small plants and mosses, such as butterwort and grass of Parnassus. The coastline is mainly grassland with salt-loving plants. Vegetation on the Hen is a mosaic of short coastal heath and grass. The site is an important one for breeding arctic terns and arctic skuas. There are also a few great skuas and several species of gulls nesting. Waders including oystercatcher, ringed plover, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank also breed here. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, wheatear and twite.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Maritime heath.</p> <p>Maritime grassland.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic skua*.</p> <p>Arctic tern*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Ringed plover.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Moss carder bee*.</p> <p>Great yellow bumblebee*.</p> <p>Limestone bedstraw.</p> <p>Silver hair-grass.</p> <p>Limestone bedstraw.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

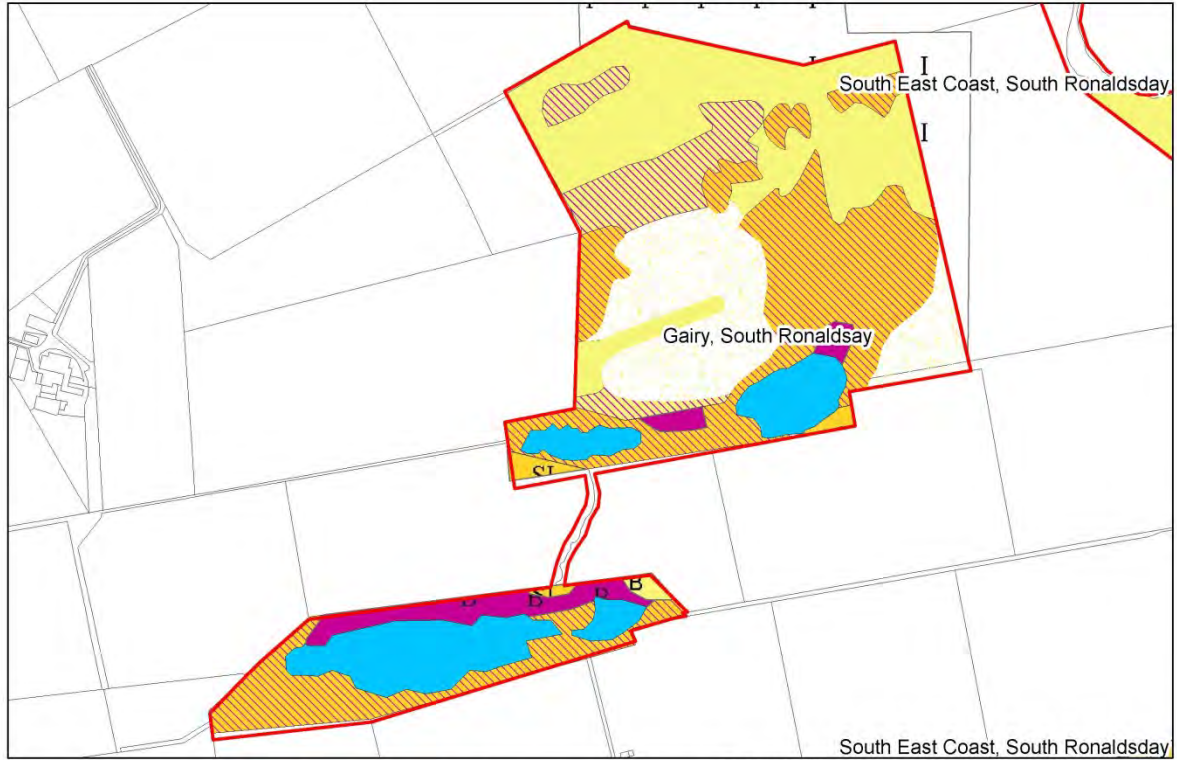


Gairsay and Hen of Gairsay (Site ref No: 70)

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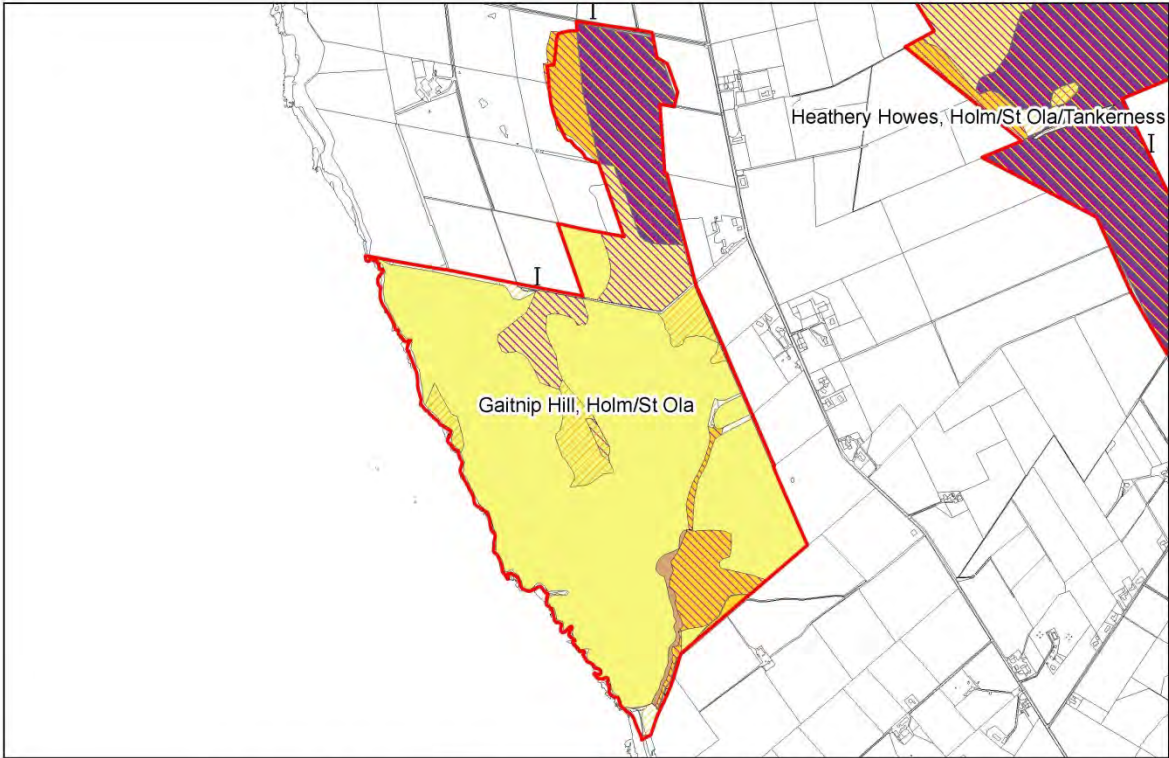
<b>Gairy.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 15 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 71.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site includes Trena Loch, the two Gairy Lochs and surrounding areas. These small lochs are shallow and the margins much overgrown with plants. Several species of pondweeds, including nationally scarce species, grow in the deeper water. Sloping down from the north to the lochs is an area of heather moorland and marshy grassland on Gairy hill. The moorland is in places dominated by lichens, giving a frosted appearance to the ground surface. The marshy grassland has many wildflowers including orchids, and peaty areas with bog asphodel and clumps of crowberry. Water avens was recorded here. Variety of plant life further increases where springs locally create more lime-rich conditions.</p> <p>Trena Loch is also a shallow loch with plants growing into its margins. On the south side is tall vegetation with much marsh cinquefoil. On the north side, a narrow strip along the loch edge is stony and alkaline, giving rise to short vegetation with many species of plant, such as butterwort and bog pimpernel.</p> <p>The site supports a variety of breeding waders including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Wildfowl such as mallard, teal and coot also nest here. There are small colonies of common and black-headed gull, plus occasional pairs of arctic and great skua. Skylark and meadow pipit also breed here.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Crowberry heath.</p> <p>Lichen heath.</p> <p>Species-rich heath.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic skua*.</p> <p>Great skua.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Gairy, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 71)

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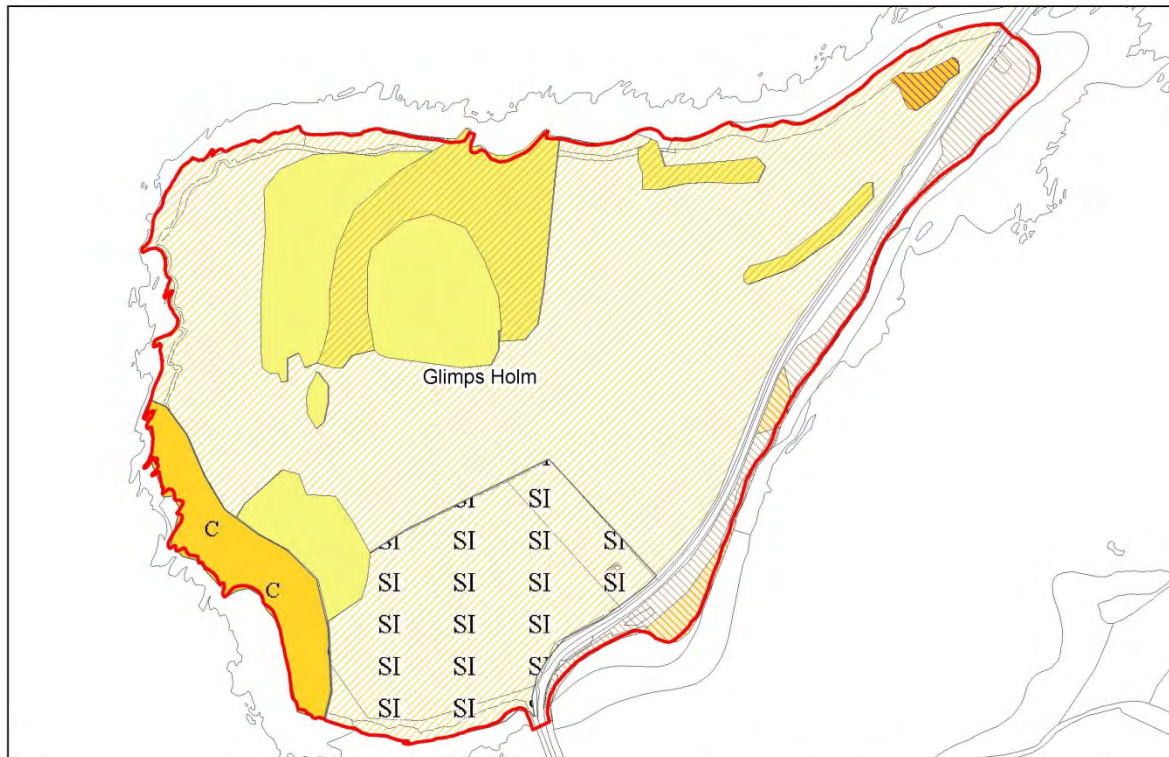
<b>Gaitnip Hill.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Holm.
<b>Area:</b> c. 120 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 72.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This is a large area of mainly dry heather moorland dominated by heather and crowberry to the south, and peat bog with worked out cuttings to the north. The latter area is very wet with a mosaic of blanket bog dominated by bog cotton and heather, marshy and swamp, with drier 'islands' of uncut peat. Along the coastal edge is short grassland with plants such as spring squill and sea plantain. A burn flows through the site. The vegetation cover of its steep banks includes abundant blaeberry and a dense stand of bracken. Locally along it are springs producing unusual mounds of calcium-encrusted moss.</p> <p>The site is important for breeding birds of prey. It supports a variety of nesting waders including oystercatcher, curlew, lapwing and snipe. In addition a variety of small birds nest here, including skylark, meadow pipit, wren, stonechat, twite and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.  Crowberry heath.  Lowland fens*.  Blanket bog*.  Burns and canalised burns.  Maritime cliff and slope*.  Maritime grassland.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Hen harrier*.  Short-eared owl*.  Merlin*.  Curlew*.  Lapwing*.  Snipe.  Skylark*.  Twite*.  Reed bunting*.  Moss carder bee*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Gaitnip Hill, Holm/St Ola (Site ref No: 72)

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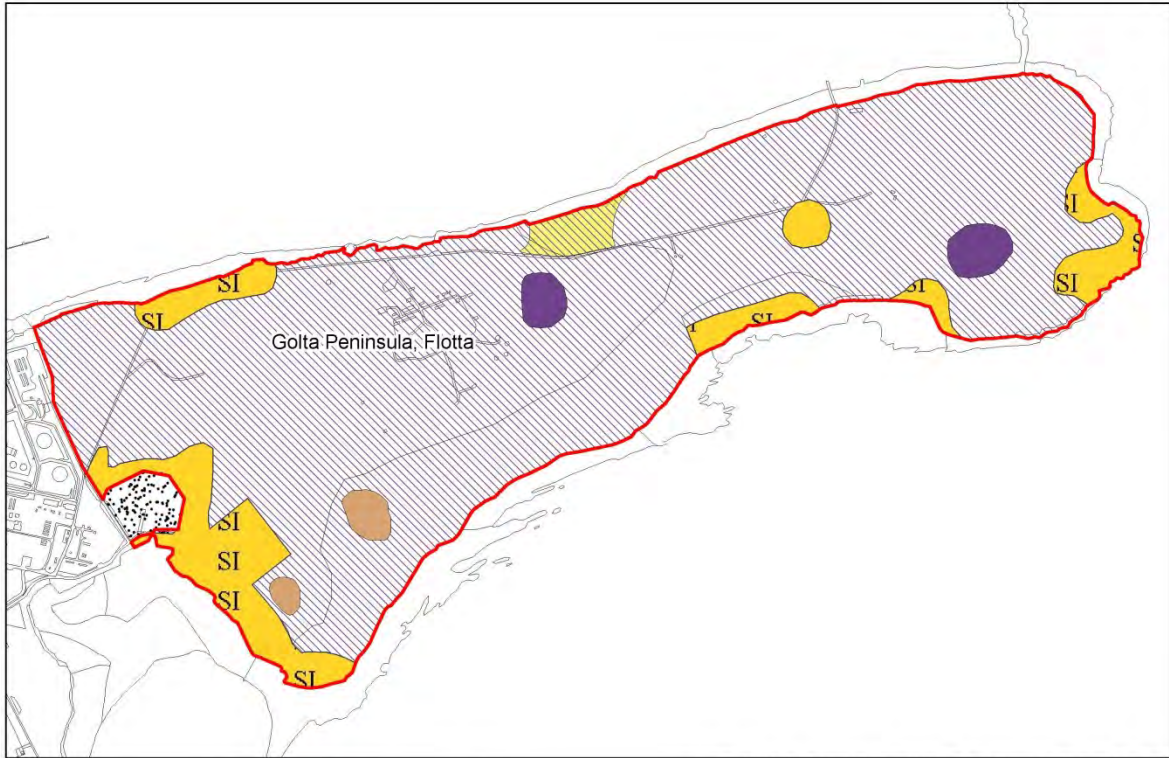
<b>Glimps Holm.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Linked Isles.
<b>Area:</b> c. 52 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 73.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  The island of Glimps Holm is covered in grassland with some patches of heather. The grassland varies from maritime, with plants such as spring squill and sea plantain, at the coast, to acid grassland and wet meadow with patches of yellow iris inland. On the Weddell Sound side of the road there are sand dunes and dune grassland.</p> <p>Glimps Holm is important for its arctic tern colony – 270 pairs were recorded here in 2007. Other nesting birds include oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew, redshank, ringed plover, common gull, skylark and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Maritime cliff and slope*.  Coastal sand dunes*.  Upland heath*.  Maritime grassland.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Arctic tern*.  Lapwing*.  Curlew*.  Redshank.  Skylark*.  Garden tiger (a moth)*.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Glimps Holm (Site ref No: 73)

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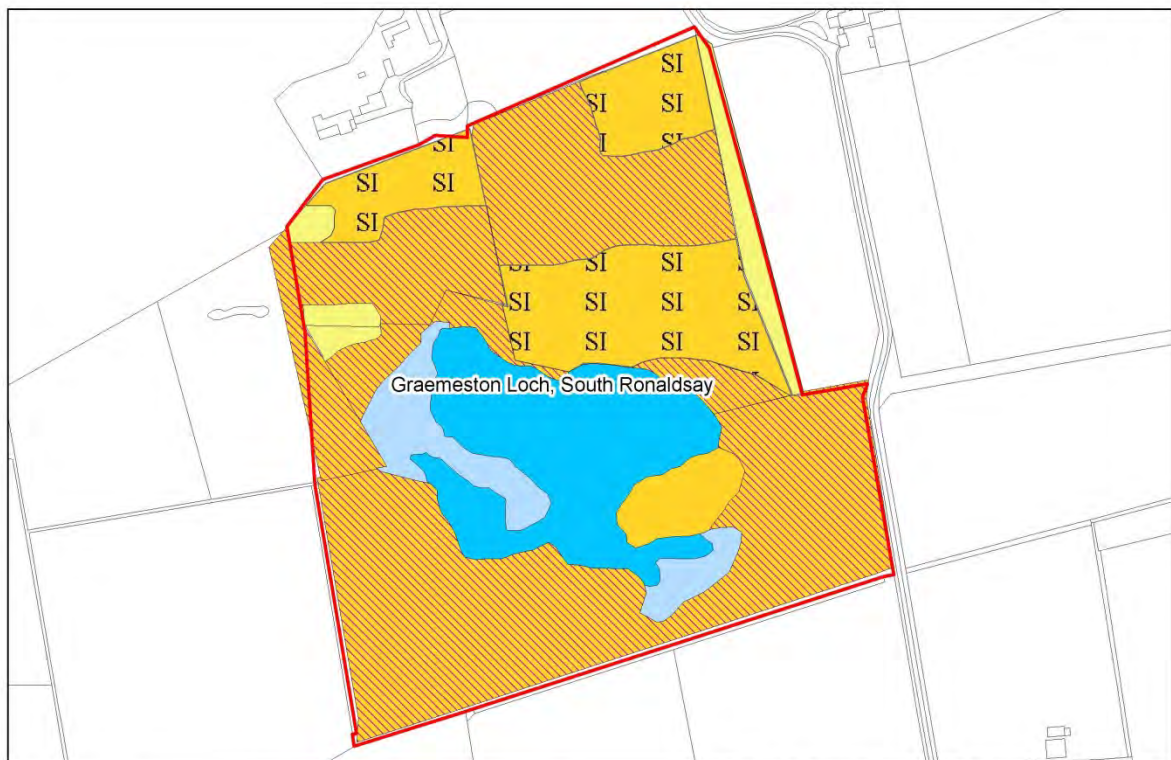
<b>Golta Peninsula.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Flotta.
<b>Area:</b> c. 180 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 74.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>Most of the Golta Peninsula is made up of moorland habitats, including blanket bog on deep peat, with bog cotton and heather; drier moorland on thin peat; and some coastal grassland and cliff. The bog vegetation has been modified by peat cutting and burning in the past.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest here - oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew, redshank and ringed plover. Other breeding birds include shelduck, eider duck and red grouse in small numbers. Skuas are more common, with both arctic and great skuas nesting – the site is especially important for arctic skuas, with 24 pairs recently recorded. Other breeding seabirds are common gull, great black-backed gull and arctic tern. Small birds are present too – a few skylark and many meadow pipits.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.  Blanket bog*.  Maritime cliff and slope*.  Maritime grassland.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic skua*.  Great skua.  Arctic tern*.  Curlew*.  Lapwing*.  Redshank*.  Snipe.  Skylark*.  Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Golta Peninsula, Flotta (Site ref No: 74)

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<b>Graemston Loch.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 9 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 75
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  A shallow loch situated amongst marsh and wet grassland, with small areas of semi-natural grassland and patches of heather. The wet grassland can be flower-rich with plants such as bird's-foot trefoil, devil's-bit scabious and sedges. Some of the site is swamp, with bogbean and water horsetail.</p> <p>Waders like this site for breeding – oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe and curlew are all present. Occasional tufted duck, moorhen and coot nest here, along with skylark, reed bunting, sedge warbler and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Lowland fens*.  Eutrophic standing water*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Curlew*.  Lapwing*.  Snipe.  Skylark*.  Reed bunting*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

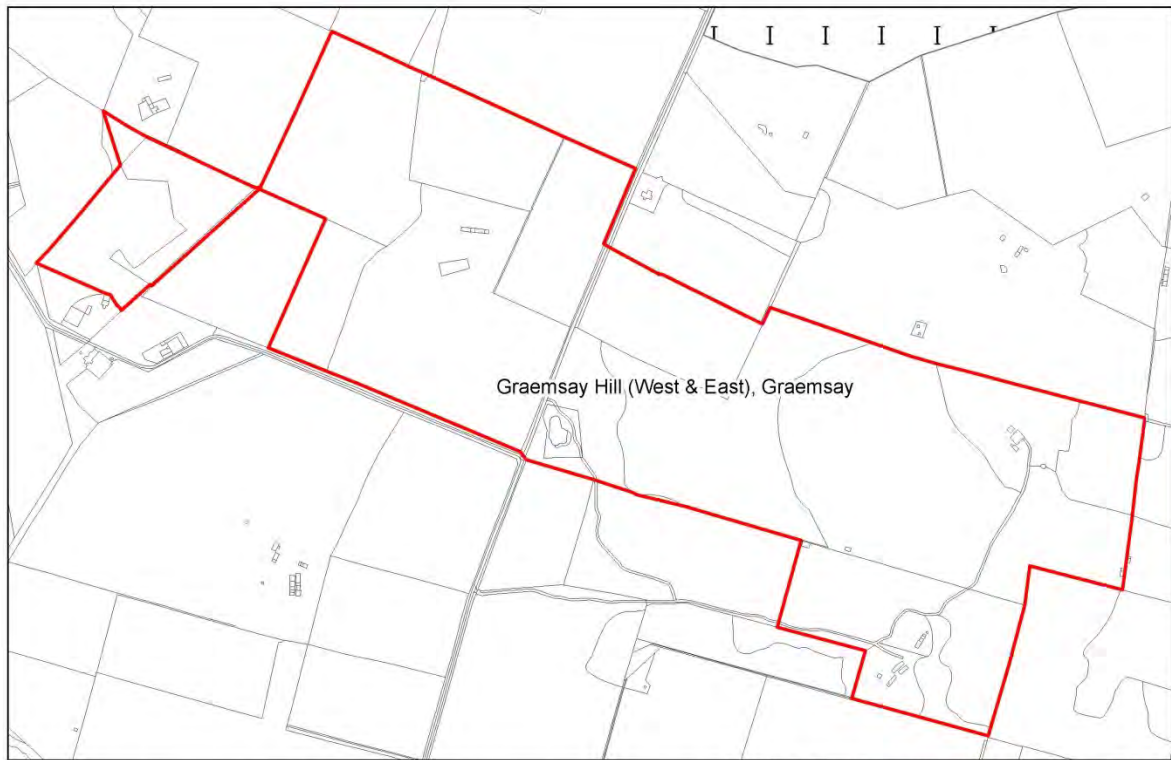


Graemston Loch, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 75)

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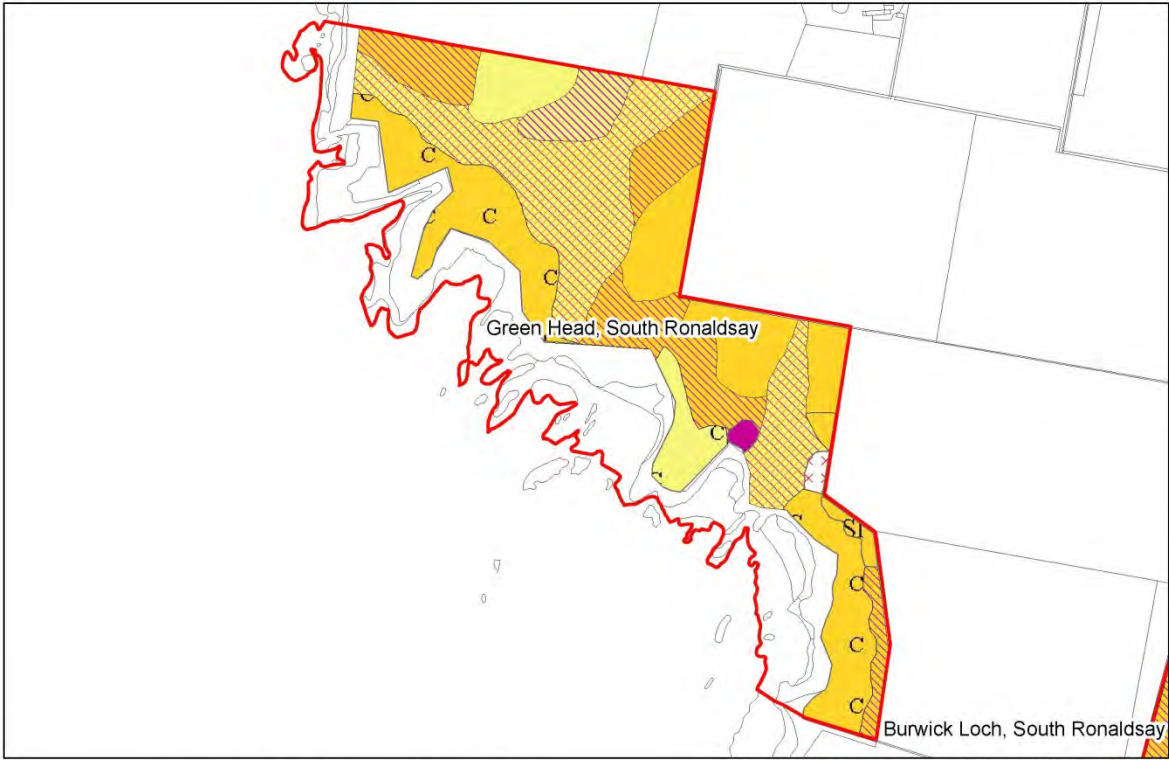
<b>Graemsay hill (west and east).</b>	<b>Location:</b> Graemsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 37 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 76.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An extensive area of moorland, dominated by heather, with other plants including purple moor-grass, deer grass and bog asphodel. Some areas are drier and here there is bell heather with the heather. In a few places there are calcium-rich springs and here the plant life is more varied, with small flowering plants such as northern marsh orchid, ragged-robin and butterwort. There is some unimproved and semi-improved grassland also.</p> <p>Oystercatcher, snipe, redshank and lapwing nest in the area and curlew are especially numerous. There is a large common gull colony. Small birds nesting include many skylark and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*. Lowland fens*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*. Skylark*. Lapwing*. Snipe. Redshank. Skylark*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Graemsay Hill (West & East), Graemsay (Site ref No: 76)

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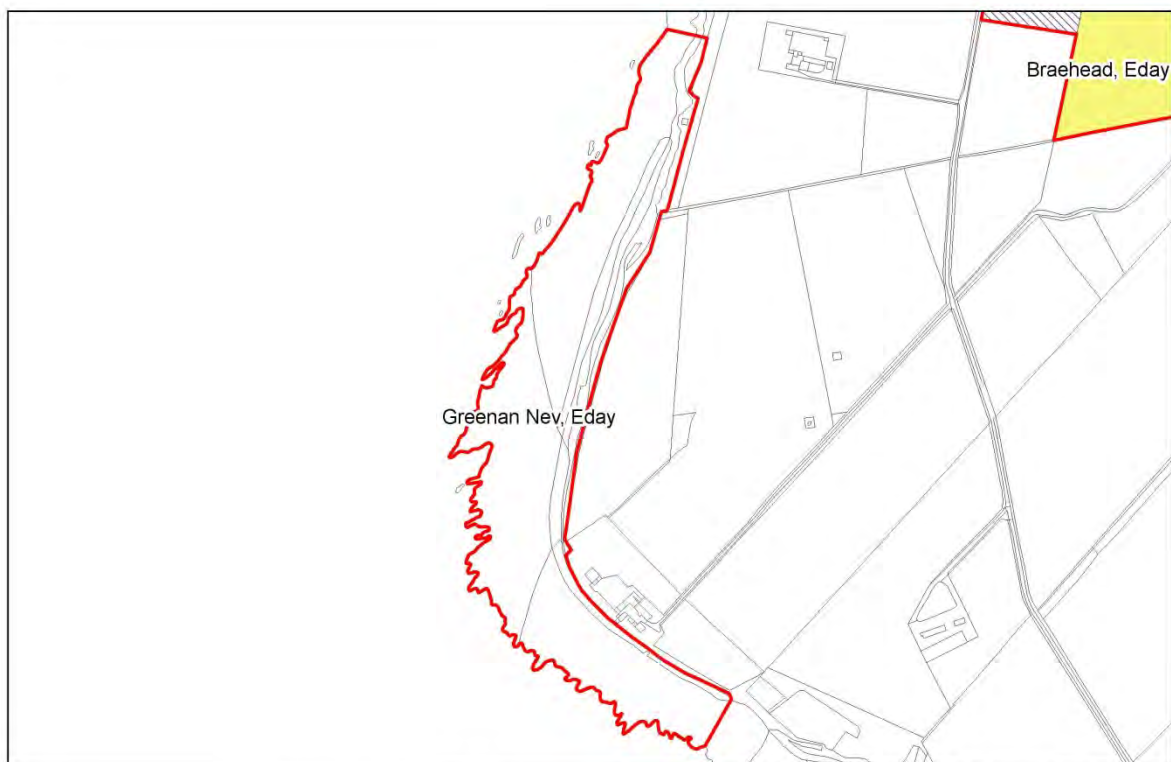
<b>Green Head.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 24 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 77.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>On the south west-facing coast of South Ronaldsay, this is an area of high cliffs, backed by maritime grassland, heather moorland and acid grassland, with some marshy grassland and drier, flowery, semi-natural grassland. The moorland is at the northern end of the site.</p> <p>Lapwing and oystercatcher are common breeding birds on this site, along with smaller numbers of curlew, snipe, redshank, arctic skua and skylark.</p> <p>Grey seals breed on the shore beneath the cliffs.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope* .</p> <p>Lowland fens* .</p> <p>Lowland meadows* .</p> <p>Maritime heath.</p> <p>Crowberry heath.</p> <p>Maritime grassland.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic skua* .</p> <p>Lapwing* .</p> <p>Curlew* .</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Skylark* .</p> <p>Grey seal* .</p> <p>Great yellow bumblebee* .</p> <p>Sea aster.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Green Head, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 77)

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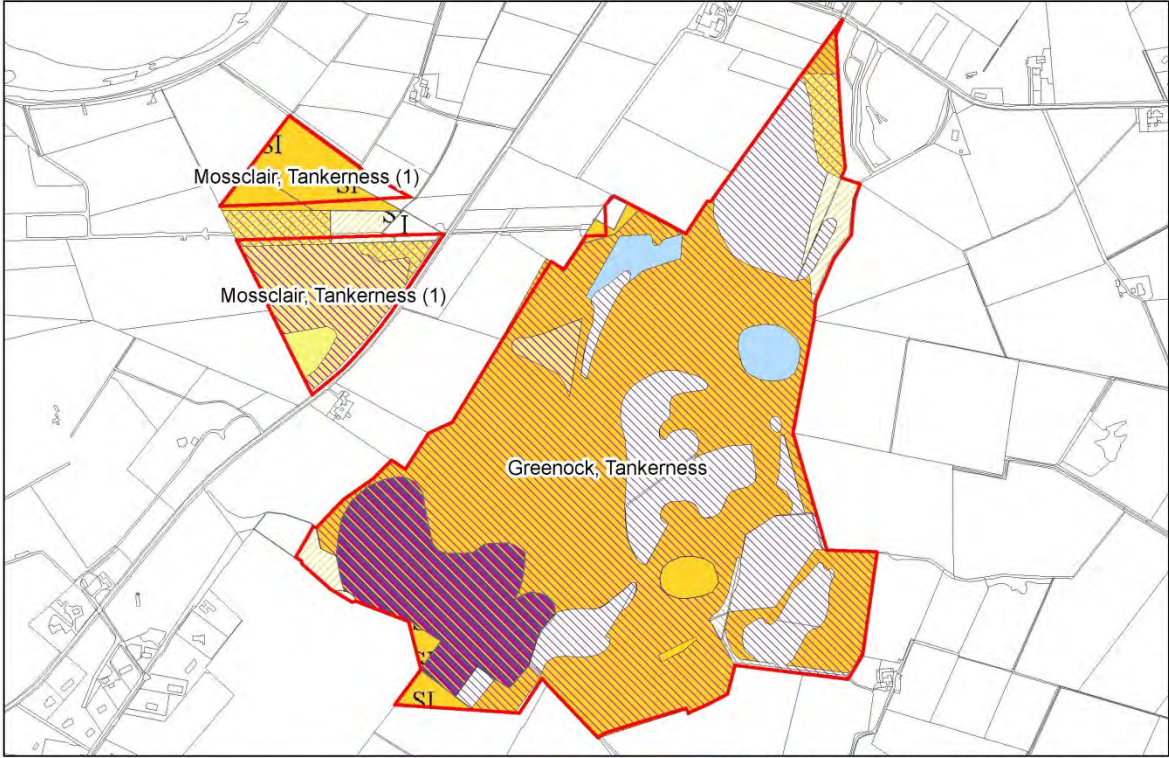
<b>Greenan Nev Coast.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Eday.
<b>Area:</b> c. 5 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 78.
<b>Site Description:</b> Exposure of Eday marls of interest in the study of Palaeo environments. Greenan Nev Coast is designated as a Geological Conservation Review (GCR) site.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b>	<b>Special Wildlife:</b>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Greenan Nev, Eday (Site ref No: 78)

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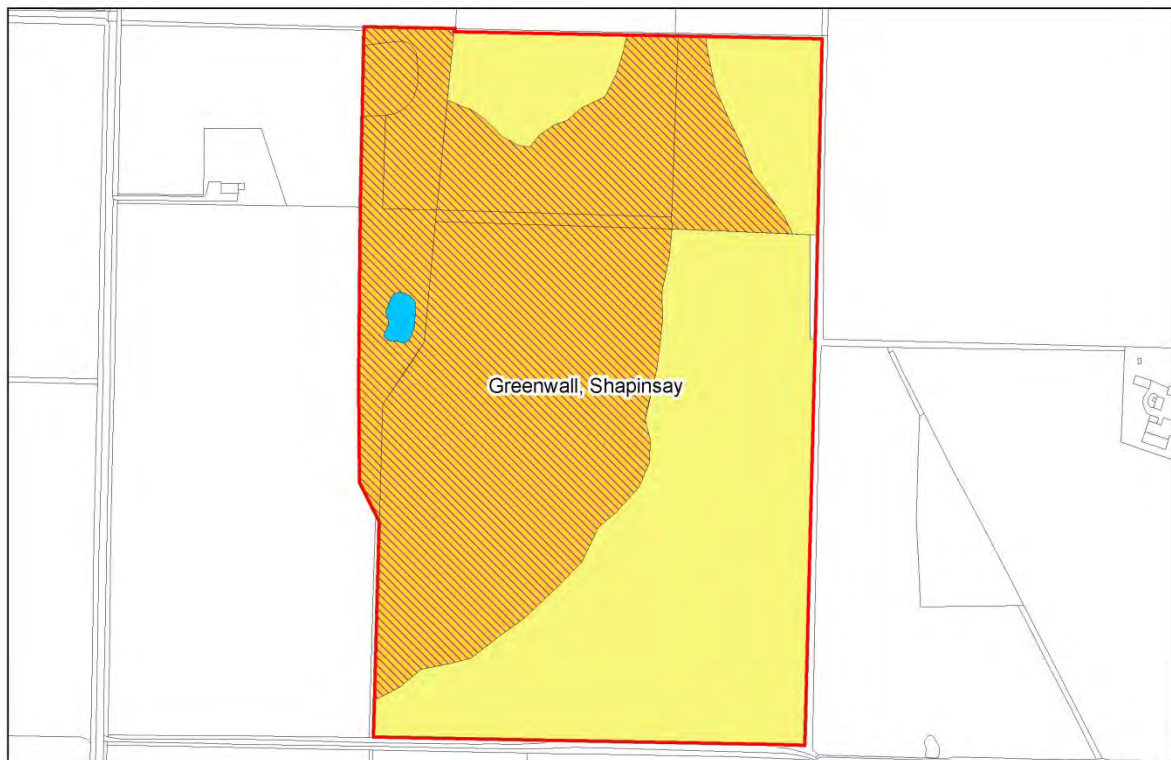
<b>Greenock.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Tankerness.
<b>Area:</b> c. 56 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 79.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site acts as a basin to the surrounding area and is wet throughout with peat bog, marshy grassland and swamp dominating the site. Much of the peat has been cut in the past and the remaining banks show how deep the peat is. The marsh and marshy grassland that occupies most of the area are often rich in plant species, including horsetails, ragged-robin, orchids and meadowsweet.</p> <p>The site supports a variety of breeding waders, including oystercatcher, snipe, curlew and redshank and a few pairs of shelduck. Small birds breeding here are meadow pipit, wren, stonechat, sedge warbler, linnet and reed bunting. Birds of prey also nest here.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fen*.  Blanket bog*.  Basin bog.  Upland heathland*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.  Snipe.  Redshank.  Breeding birds of prey*.  Shelduck.  Sedge warbler.  Linnet*.  Reed bunting*.  Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



**Greenock, Tankerness (Site ref No: 79)**

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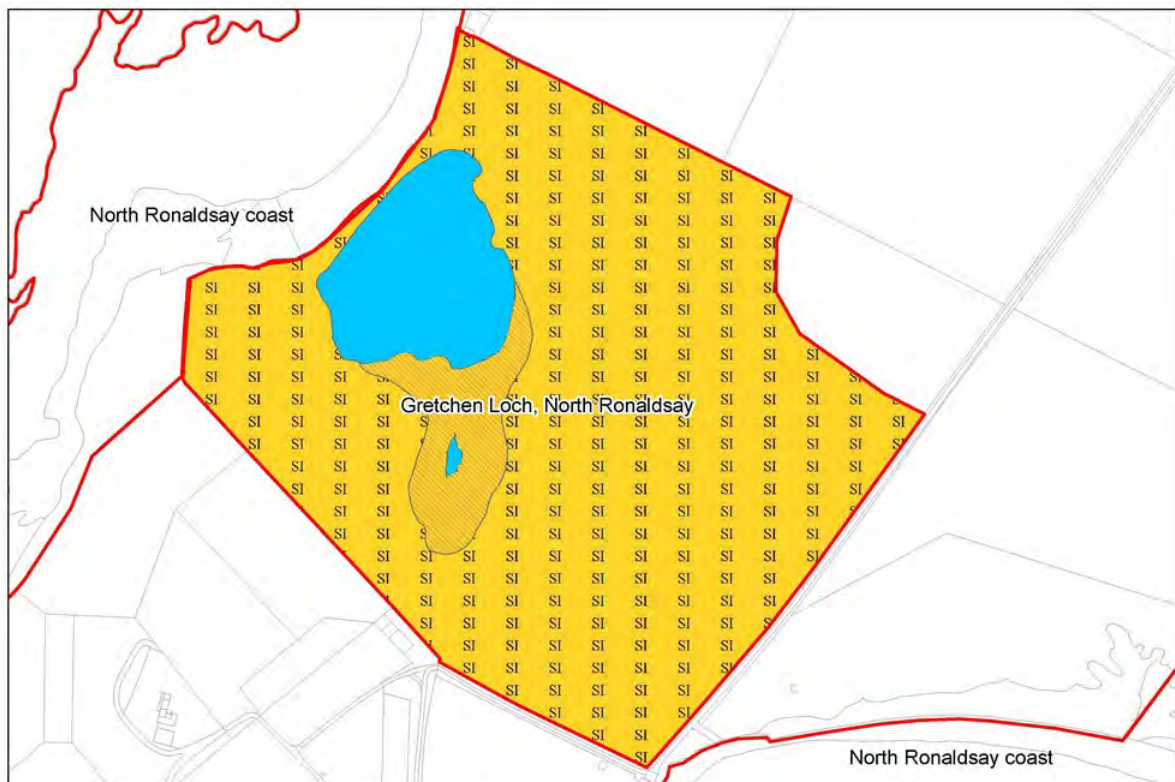
<b>Greenwall.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Shapinsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 10 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 80.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  This site comprises heather moorland, marsh and marshy grassland, with a pool, all surrounded by farmland. The heather is wind-pruned and short, and with abundant lichens in places. The marsh is on shallow peat and has many plant species, including bog cotton, sedges and ragged robin.</p> <p>The site supports breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew, snipe and redshank. Wigeon and gadwall also nest here. Smaller breeding birds include skylark and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Upland heath*.  Crowberry heath.  Lowland fens*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Lapwing*.  Curlew*.  Snipe.  Redshank.  Wigeon.  Gadwall.  Skylark*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Greenwall, Shapinsay (Site ref No: 80)

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<b>Gretchen Loch.</b>	<b>Location:</b> North Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 15 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 81.
<p><b>Site Description:</b></p> <p>A small loch surrounded by wet sandy links. The area is part of a wider landscape of blown and stabilised sand, which has been termed machair because of similarities with comparable landscapes in the Western Isles. This area is rich in flowers including grass-of-Parnassus, orchids and ragged-robin.</p> <p>A variety of waders breed on this site, with good numbers of oystercatcher and lapwing and smaller numbers of snipe, ringed plover, redshank and curlew. Nesting ducks are also present including shelduck and mallard. An arctic tern colony is usually present. Small birds such as skylark and wheatear also breed here. The site also important for migrant birds.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b></p> <p>Eutropic standing water*. Machair*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b></p> <p>Curlew*. Lapwing*. Snipe. Redshank. Arctic tern*. Skylark*.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	

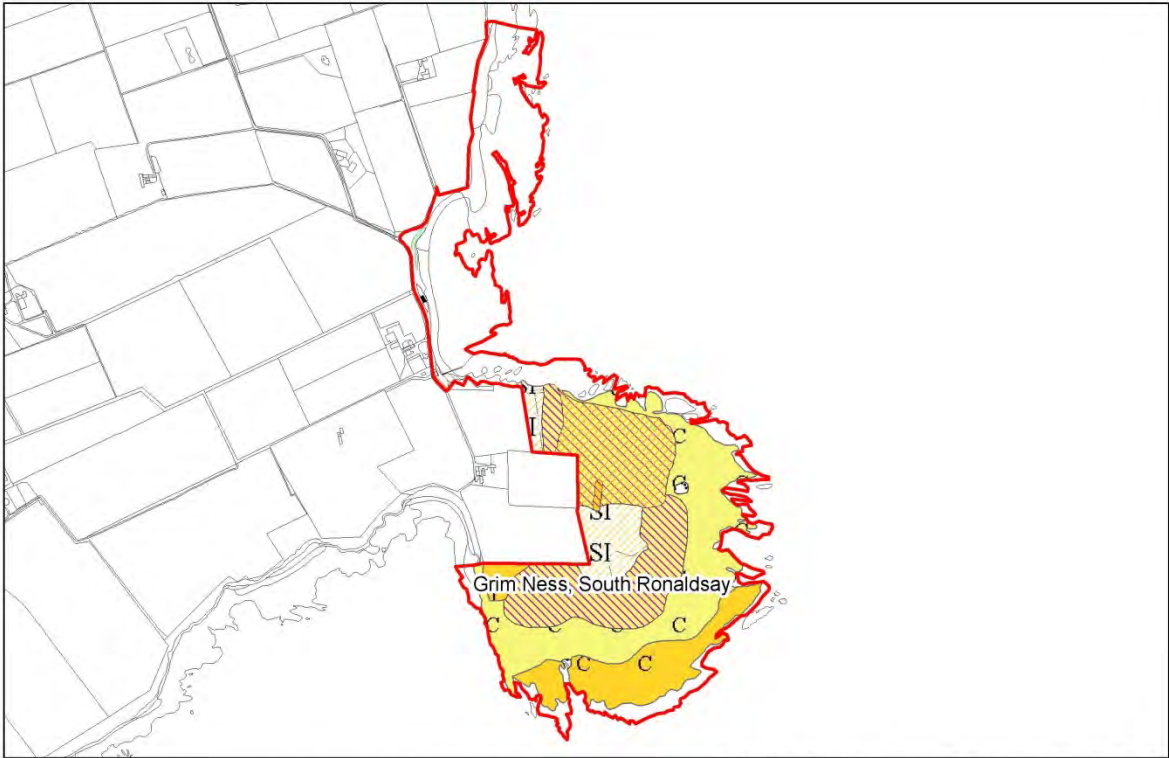


Gretchen Loch, North Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 81)

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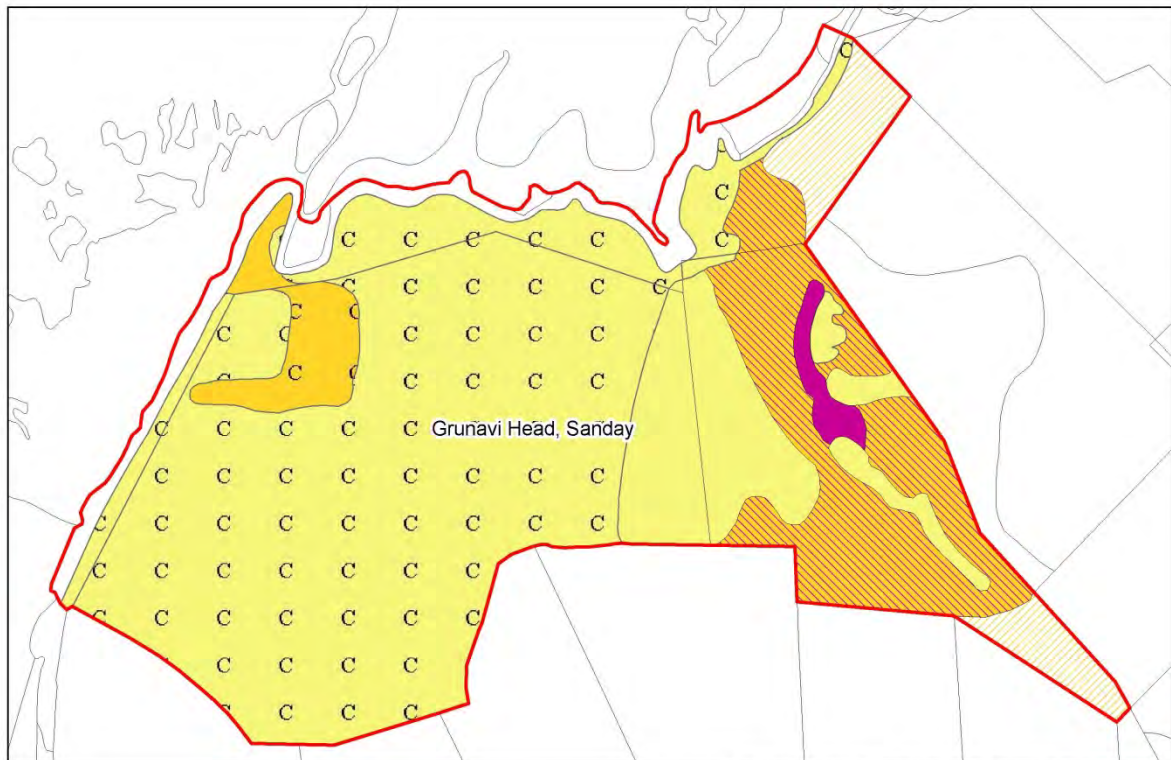
<b>Grim Ness and Honeysgoe.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 36.5 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 82.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site mainly comprises heather moorland, with much crowberry among the heather and a variety of other flowering plants such as violets, eyebright and primrose, and coastal heath and grassland on the exposed eastern side, with plants such as thrift and sea plantain. The site includes the sandy bay of Honeysgoe, with a small area of saltmarsh at its northern end, on a rock platform above normal high water mark. Oysterplant and sea kale, the latter at its only Orkney site, grow on the beach.</p> <p>Waders nest on the site – curlew, lapwing, snipe and oystercatcher are all present. 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>Maritime cliff and slope*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Maritime heath.</p> <p>Lichen heath.</p> <p>Crowberry heath.</p> <p>Maritime grassland.</p> <p>Coastal saltmarsh*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic skua*.</p> <p>Great skua.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Oysterplant*.</p> <p>Sea kale.</p> <p>Saltmarsh flat-sedge.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Grim Ness, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 82)

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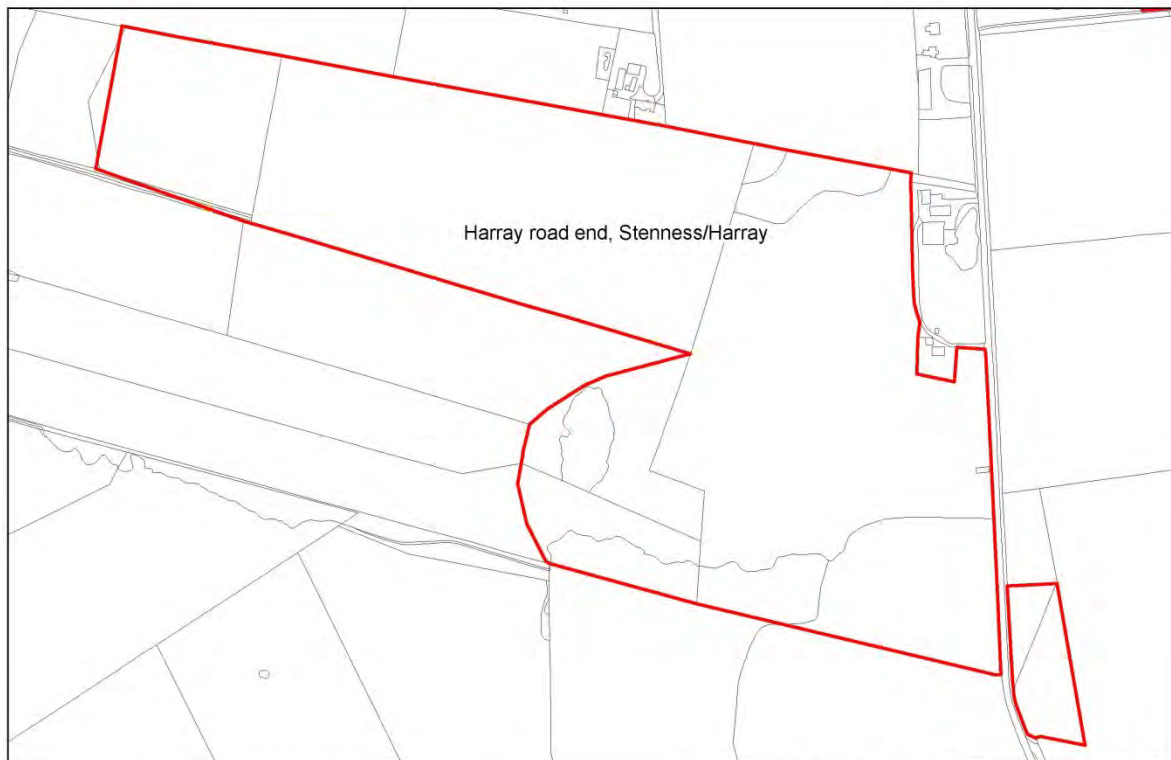
<b>Grunavi Head.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Sanday.
<b>Area:</b> c. 15 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 83.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>          Much of the area is dominated by heather moorland and acid grassland, the moorland becoming more coastal in character near the cliff edges, with plants such as spring squill and sea plantain. To the west, there is a change in landscape and habitats in the form of a small, steep-sided valley, with wet grassland and marsh. Amongst the marsh are lime-rich springs that support an array of distinctive plants such as grass of Parnassus, bog asphodel and ragged robin.</p> <p>The site supports a variety of breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing and curlew. There are colonies of common gulls and arctic terns, and a pair of arctic skuas. Skylark, meadow pipit and wheatear nest here as well.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>          Upland heath*.          Maritime cliff and slope*.          Maritime heath.          Crowberry heath.          Lowland fens*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>          Lapwing*.          Curlew*.          Skylark*.          Arctic skua*.          Arctic tern*.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Grunavi Head, Sanday (Site ref No: 83)

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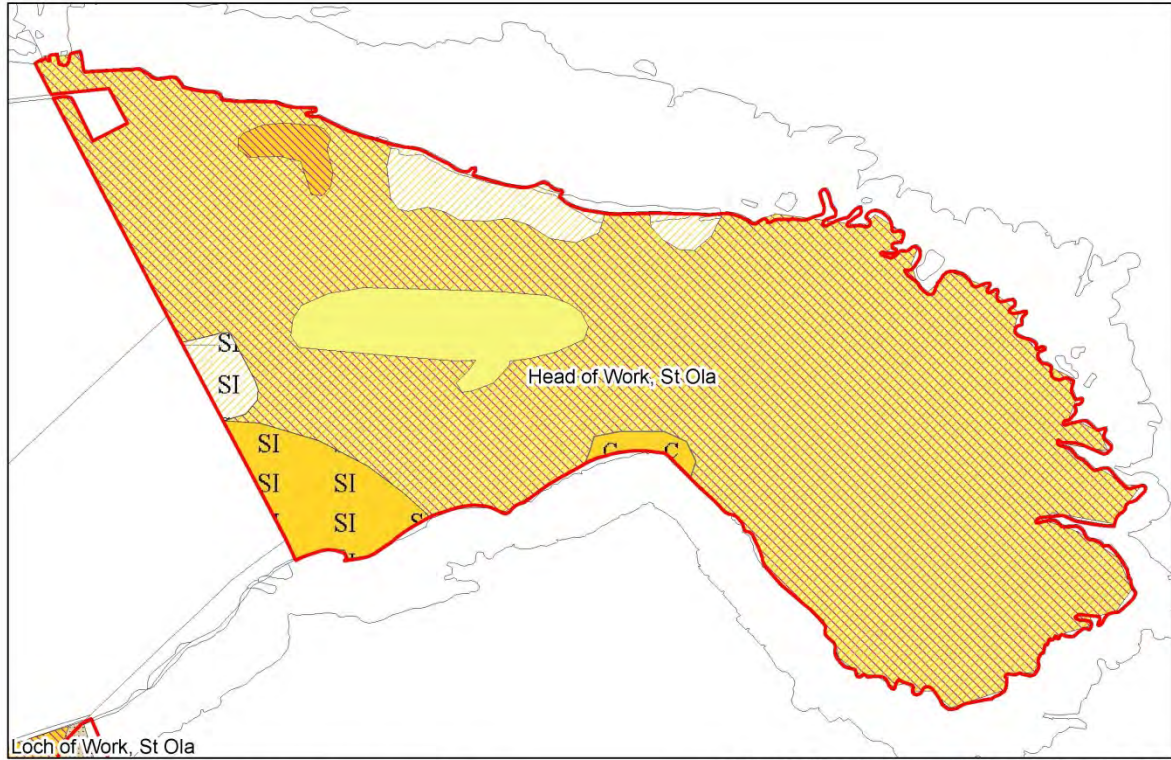
<b>Harray Road End.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Stenness/Harray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 22 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 84.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  The site mainly comprises wet heather moorland, including some blanket bog on deeper peat, dominated by heather and bog cotton, with purple moor grass and sphagnum moss. In several places, calcium-rich springs add a variety of other plants such as butterwort, orchids and sedges. There are pools, including one large one and a burn runs through the site.</p> <p>The area has not yet been surveyed for nesting birds, but the habitats can be expected at least to attract nesting waders like curlew and snipe. It is an area much used by hunting birds of prey.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Upland heath*.  Blanket bog*.  Lowland fens*.  Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Breeding waders*.  Hunting birds of prey*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Harray road end, Stenness/Harray (Site ref No: 84)

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<b>Head of Work.</b>	<b>Location:</b> St Ola.
<b>Area:</b> c. 20 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 85.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This promontory has a mixed cover mainly of heather moorland and acid grassland.. The moorland is dominated by heather and crowberry, with lichens and mosses. The dwarf shrubs are wind-clipped and short, and this allows a variety of other plants to grow among them. Around the coastal edges there is more grass including typical coastal species such as sea plantain, bird's-foot trefoil and spring squill. There are grassy areas among the moorland throughout the site: the quality of these varies from being rough with much Yorkshire fog grass to short and more species-rich. Variety of plant life further increases where springs locally create more calcium-rich conditions.</p> <p>The site supports a variety of breeding waders, including oystercatcher, snipe and curlew. There are a few pairs of arctic and great skuas and some arctic terns. Smaller birds breeding here are meadow pipit, and wheatear.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.  Crowberry heath.  Lichen heath.  Maritime cliff and slope*.  Maritime grassland.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.  Snipe.  Arctic tern*.  Arctic skua*.  Great skua*.  Garden tiger (a moth)*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

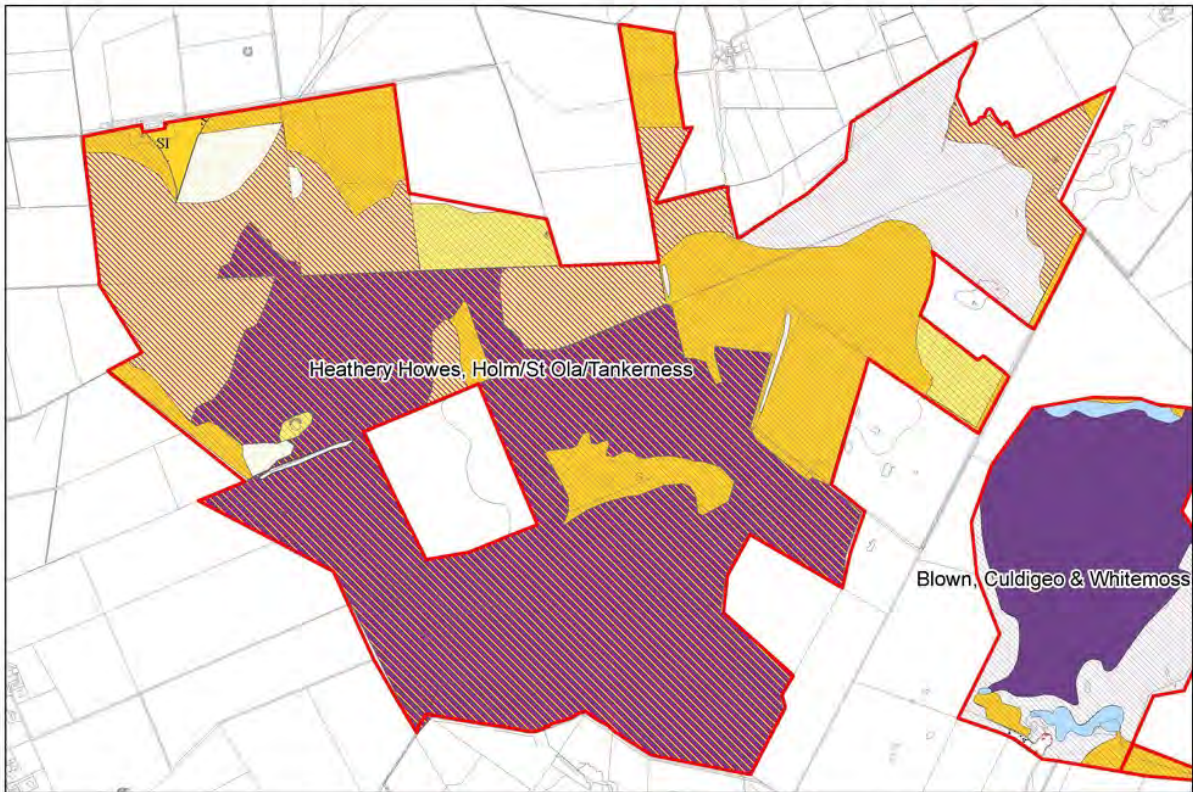


Loch of Work, St Ola

Head of Work, St Ola (Site ref No: 85)

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<b>Heathery Howes.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Holm.
<b>Area:</b> c. 244 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 86.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site lies in a shallow depression about 2 km wide, between the ridges of hills in Tankerness and Holm. Almost all the site is moorland, though most of it has been modified by drainage, peat cutting and reclamation. The effect has been to dry out most of the deep peat, so that wet bog plants like sphagnum moss are confined to hollows whilst the dominant plant cover is tall heather, with ferns and willowherb in places. Rushes dominate some areas. Extensive areas of thinner peat, not cut over, also have a cover of heather, with bog cotton, deer grass and mosses.</p> <p>The site supports a variety of breeding waders in good numbers, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Birds of prey and red-throated diver also nest on the site. Gull colonies are present - common gull, lesser black-backed gull, herring gull and great black-backed gull all breed here. Small birds that breed here include skylark, meadow pipit, wren, stonechat, sedge warbler, linnet and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Oligotrophic and dystrophic loch*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Short-eared owl*.</p> <p>Hen harrier*.</p> <p>Red-throated diver*.</p> <p>Herring gull*.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Linnet*.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

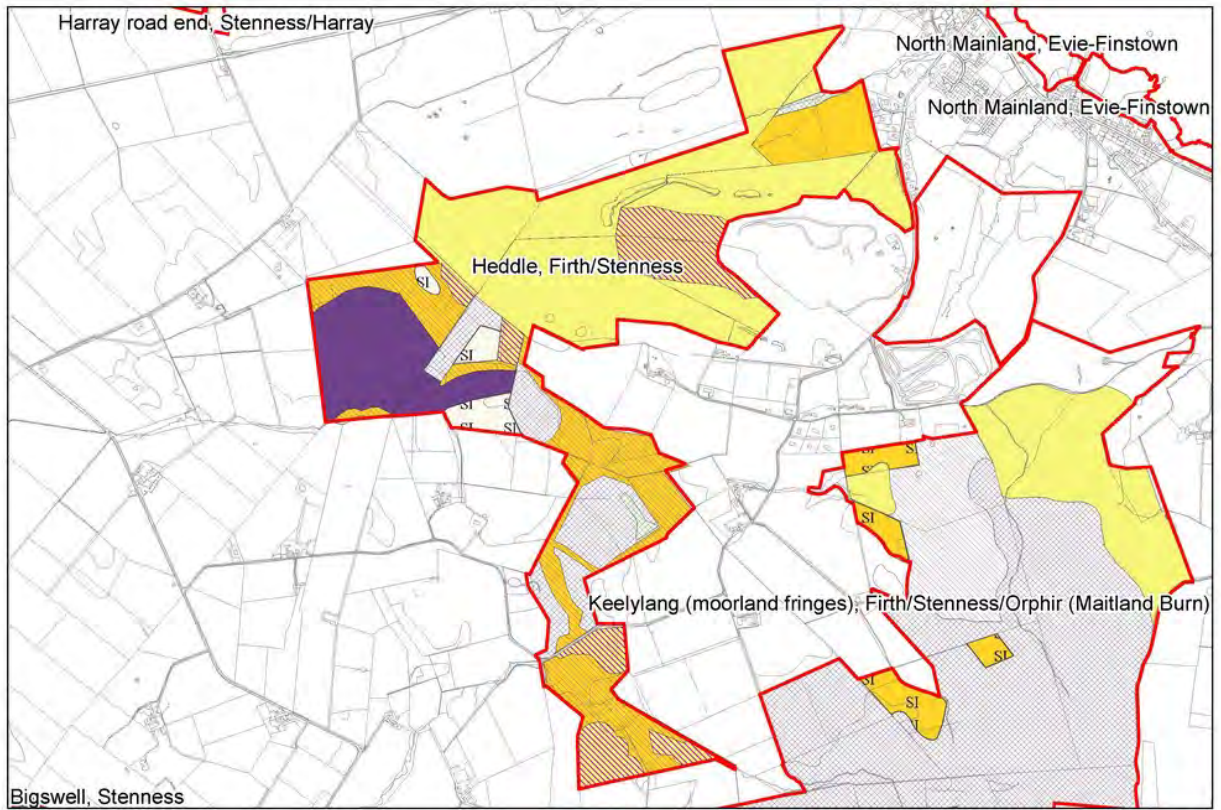


Heathery Howes, Holm/St Ola/Tankerness (Site ref No: 86)

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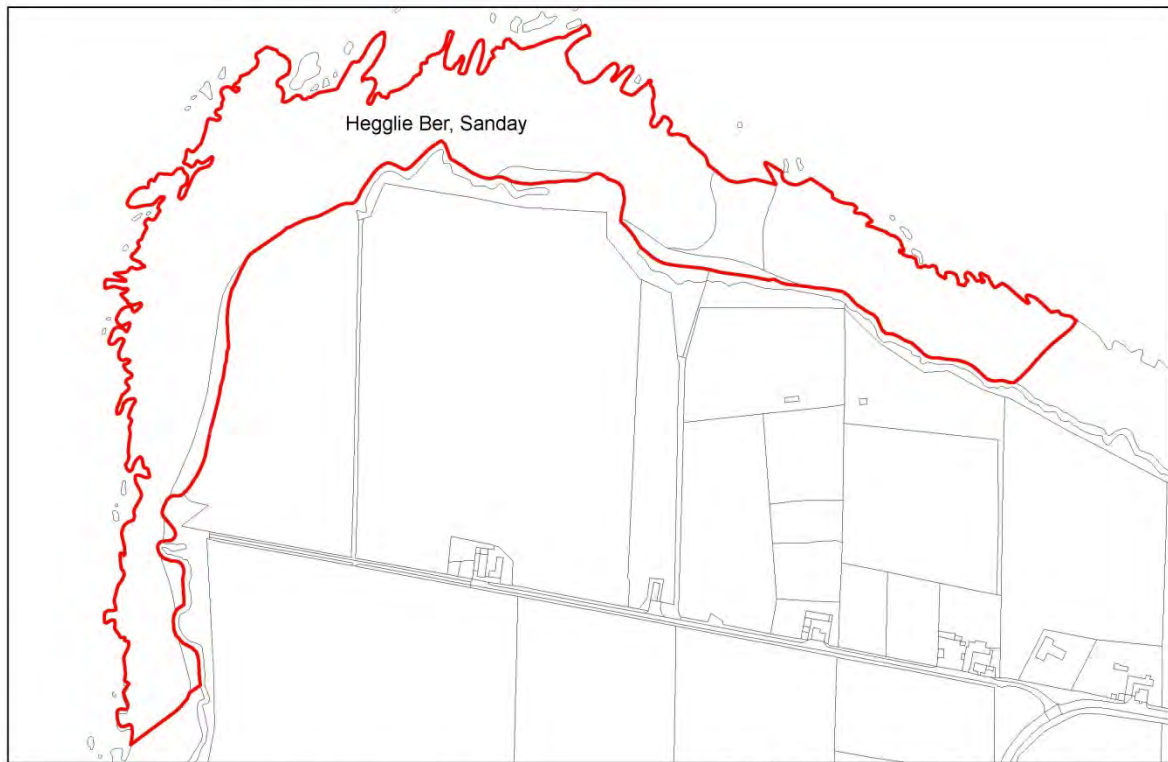
<b>Heddle.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Firth.
<b>Area:</b> c. 116 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 87.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This large site surrounds the Hill of Heddle and stretches southwards towards Appiehouse and Nisthouse. The area can roughly be divided into three parts, each supporting its distinctive habitats: the steep slopes of the Hill of Heddle with their dry heather moorland: low ground with marsh and peat bog to the south: and a meadow of semi-natural grassland by the Burn of Stennadale to the north.</p> <p>The heather moorland of the Hill of Heddle is varied on the north side by short, flowery grassland growing among the rubble waste of long-disused quarries, and by young native trees, planted as part of a Millennium Forest for Scotland Project.</p> <p>On the low ground, there is some peat bog of varying depths with plants including bog cotton, heather, bog asphodel and sphagnum moss. Old, worked-out cuttings have turned to marsh and swamp, with plants such as meadowsweet, rushes and yellow iris, and shorter vegetation with grasses, sedges and many other plants, like ragged robin, orchids and horsetails. Small burns and ditches run through this wet ground; clumps of native willow scrub are common.</p> <p>The grassland of Stennadale is within a fenced enclosure, extensively grazed and unusually rich in plant species: in particular, it is carpeted with primroses in spring. It includes lime-rich springs, with their distinctive array of small plants and mosses. Through it the Burn of Stennadale runs in its natural course, fringed with native and planted trees. Adjacent to it is an area of dry heather moorland with thickets of gorse.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site in good numbers, including oystercatcher, golden plover, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. There is a colony of common gulls. Smaller birds breeding here include skylark, meadow pipit, stonechat, linnets, wheatear, pied wagtail, song thrush, dunnoek, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland meadows*.</p> <p>Lowland calcareous grassland*.</p> <p>Lowland dry acid grassland*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Upland willow scrub.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</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>Linnets*.</p> <p>Song thrush*.</p> <p>Grey willow.</p> <p>Tea-leaved willow.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Hedde, Firth/Stenness (Site ref No: 87)

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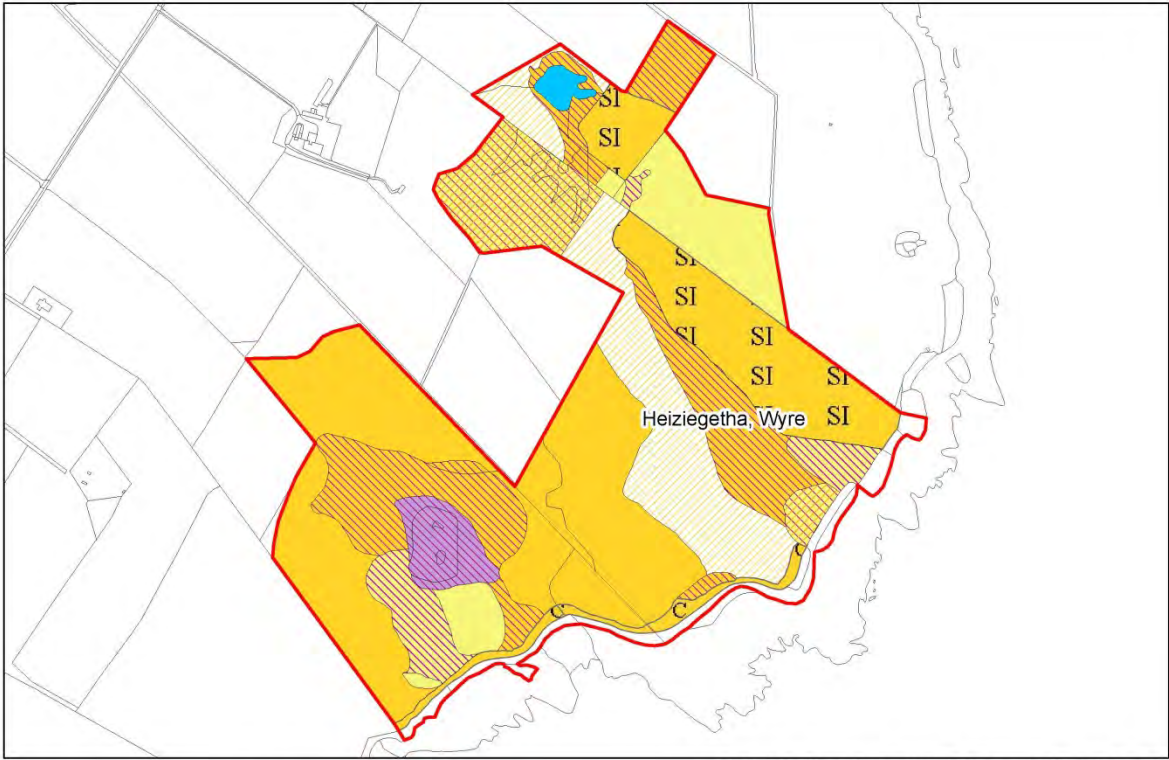
<b>Hegglie Ber.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Sanday.
<b>Area:</b> c. 7.5 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 88.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>          Within a highly faulted sequence extending from the Rousay Flags to Upper Eday Sandstone, the Lower Eday Sandstone shows a coarse pebbly and conglomeratic facies found only in the northern part of the Orkney Isles. A facies is a distinctive rock unit that forms under certain conditions of sedimentation, reflecting a particular process or environment.</p> <p>The Hegglie Ber section illustrates well the character and form of the Lower Eday Sandstone beds. Exposures are visible in the cliffs and in the extensive wave-cut platforms.</p>	
<b>Special Habitats:</b>	<b>Special Wildlife:</b>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Hegglie Ber, Sanday (Site ref No: 88)

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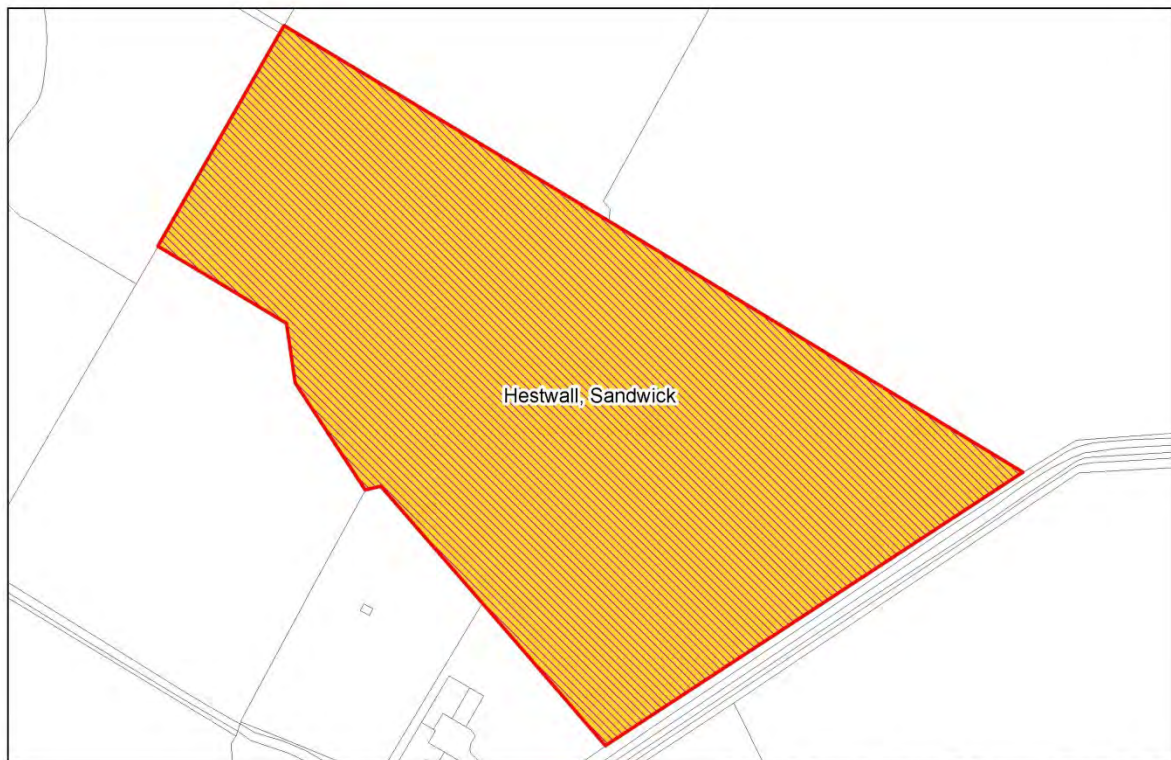
<b>Helziegetha.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Wyre.
<b>Area:</b> c. 32 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 89.
<p><b>Site Description:</b></p> <p>Situated on the south-eastern side of Wyre, the site mainly comprises marshy grassland and semi-natural grassland with patches of heather on gentle slopes running down to the shore. Towards the southern end of the site, the land dips to form a wet, peat-filled basin, the central part of which comprises species-rich marsh with plants such as marsh marigold, ragged robin and abundant northern fen orchid, and pools with bogbean and mare's-tail. Diversity of plant life increases still further where there are lime-rich springs with their distinctive array of small plants and mosses. At the opposite, northern end of the site is the small Loch of Oorns and surrounding marsh with abundant bog cotton. The various vegetation types form a complex pattern of habitats across the site, reflecting differences in management, past and present, in different compartments and the preferential grazing behaviour of livestock now ranging over large areas of semi-natural vegetation.</p> <p>The site is important for breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew and redshank. Several species of ducks nest here, including wigeon, teal, shoveler and eider, and there are colonies of black-headed gulls, common gulls and arctic terns. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b></p> <p>Lowland fens*.  Lowland meadows*.  Upland heath*.  Purple moorgrass and rush pastures*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b></p> <p>Lapwing*.  Curlew*.  Redshank.  Skylark*.  Black-headed gull*.  Wigeon.  Shoveler.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Heiziegetha, Wyre (Site ref No: 89)

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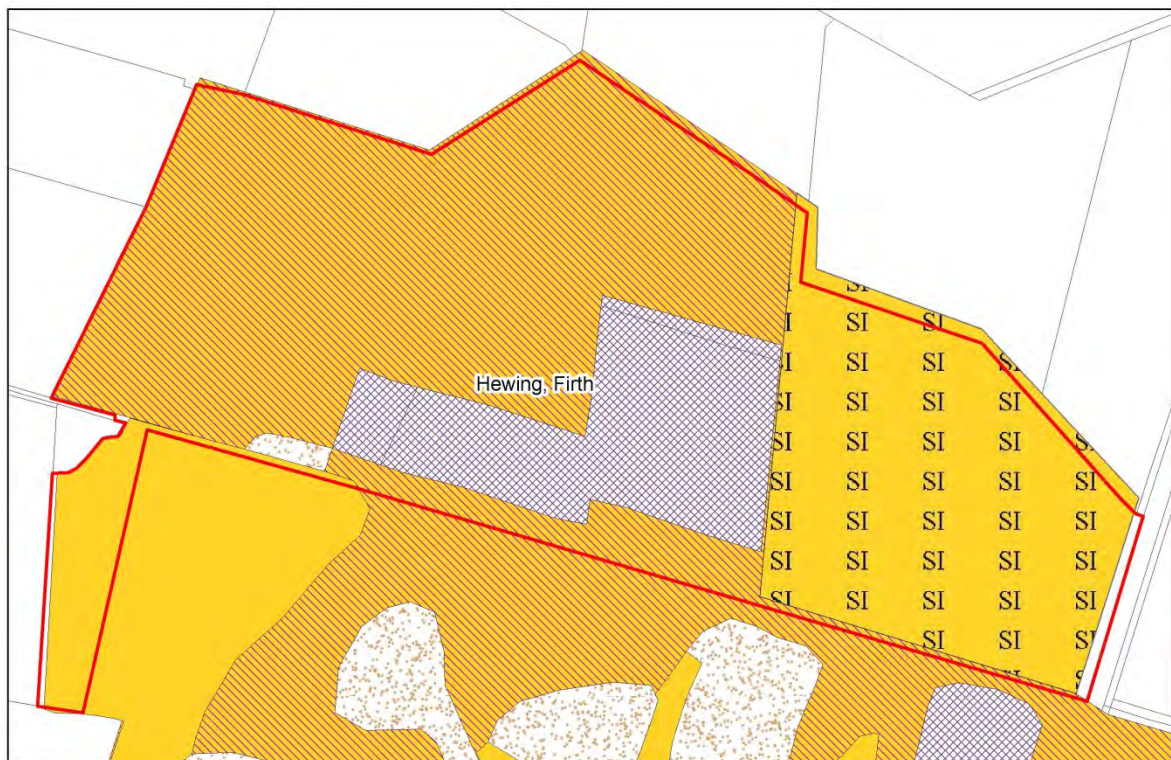
<b>Hestwall.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Sandwick.
<b>Area:</b> c. 3 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 90.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  This site mainly comprises marshy grassland, which is mainly quite rich in flowers, including orchids, marsh marigold and cuckoo-flower. It also has three shallow pools that have bogbean and water horsetail growing in them.  The pools attract wildfowl to breed – teal, shoveler, moorhen and coot.  Oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank nest here, in large numbers for a relatively small area. Smaller breeding birds include meadow pipit and skylark.</p>	
<b>Special Habitats:</b>	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Lapwing*. Curlew *. Snipe. Redshank. Skylark*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Hestwall, Sandwick (Site ref No: 90)

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<b>Hewing.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Firth.
<b>Area:</b> c. 4 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 91.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  This site mainly comprises marsh and marshy grassland with remnant patches of peat bog. There are water-filled ditches and a burn running through. The marshland is dominated by meadowsweet, with yellow iris and reed canary-grass. There are Some areas of dried-out, deep peat are dominated by heather, while others are covered with rosebay willowherb or rushes. Native willow scrub occurs locally. Snipe and curlew nest on the site. Smaller birds breeding here include meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Basin bog.  Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Curlew*.  Snipe.  Reed bunting*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

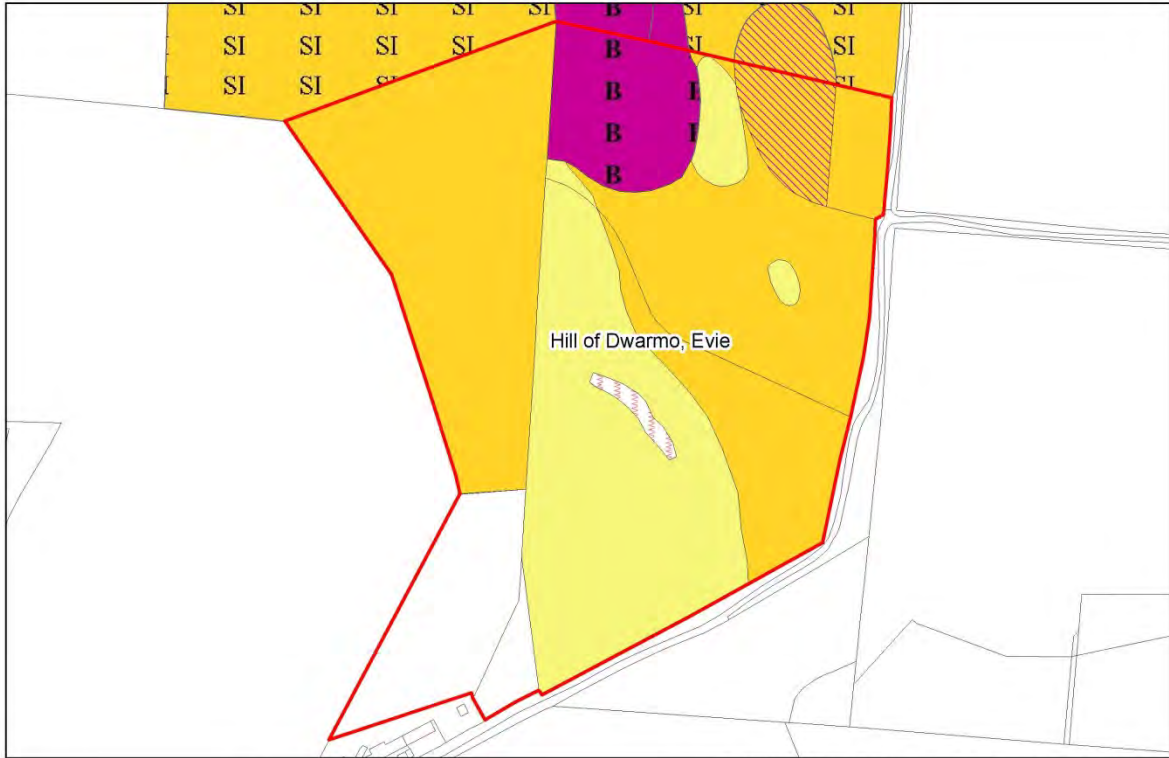


Hewing, Firth (Site ref No: 91)

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<b>Hill of Dwarmo.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Evie.
<b>Area:</b> c. 7 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 92.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area of heather moorland, flowery grassland and wetland, with some rock outcrops. The dry moorland is dominated by heather, and is unusual in Orkney for having so many small herbs growing among it, these including lime-loving plants such as thyme. Likewise the grassland has an unusual variety of these herbs. This is due to the underlying rocks, which have uncommon small ferns and the rare hoary whitlow-grass growing on them where they outcrop. Areas of wetland within the site are more variable: there are peaty, acidic hollows and pools, with bog-cotton and sphagnum moss, and lime-rich springs with a distinctive array of small plants such as butterwort.</p> <p>The site is chiefly important for its habitats and plants, but there are breeding birds also, including oystercatcher, skylark, meadow pipit and wheatear.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.  Species-rich heath.  Lowland calcareous grassland*.  Lowland fens*.  Inland rock outcrop and scree*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Skylark*.  Hoary whitlowgrass*.  Black spleenwort.  Maidenhair spleenwort.  Silver hair-grass.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	

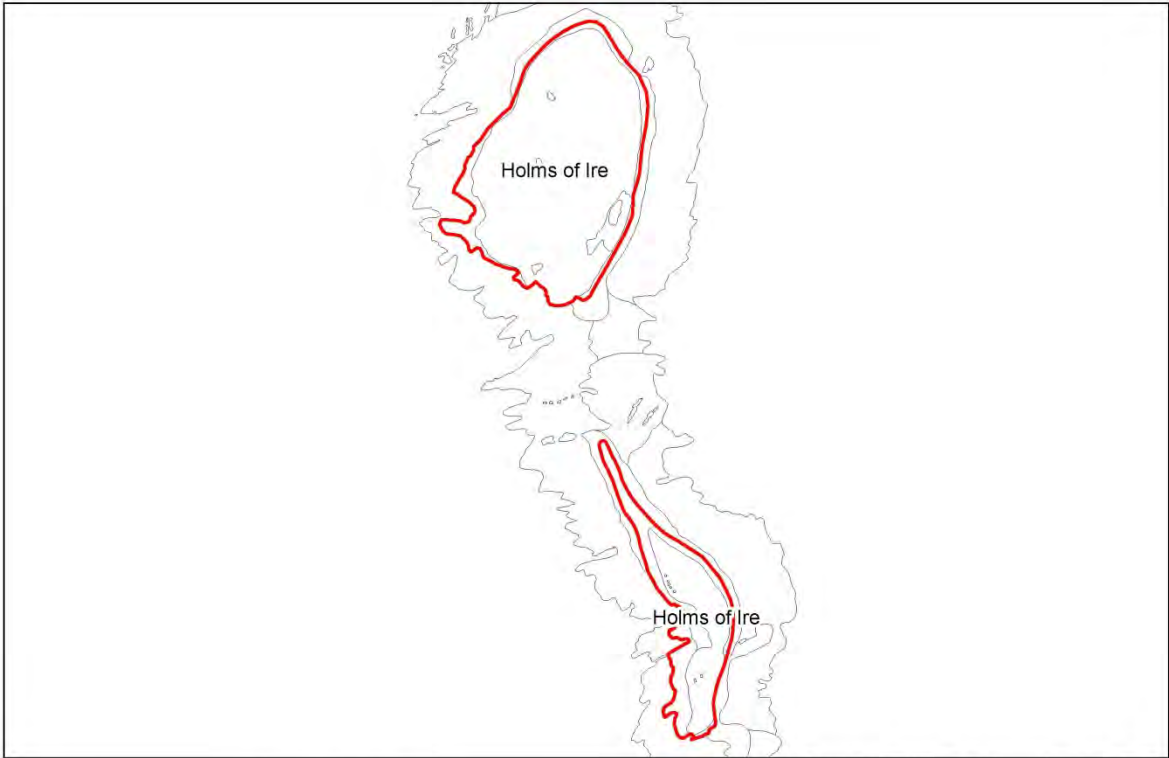




Hill of Dwarmo, Evie (Site ref No: 92)

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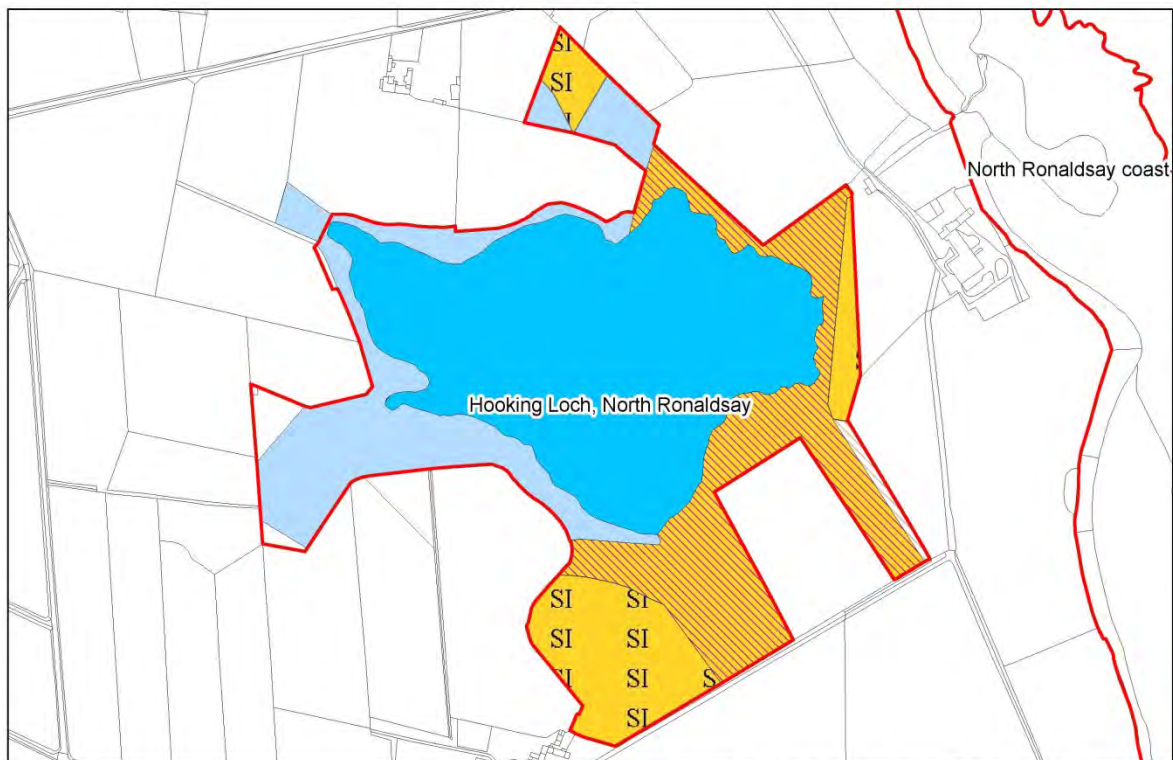
<b>Holms of Ire.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Sanday.
<b>Area:</b> c. 12 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 93.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises the two holms except for the shore, which is part of a Special Area of Conservation and Special Protection Area (mainly for common seals and wintering waders). The islands have a cover of natural grassland that includes coastal species such as sea pink. There are damp areas and hollows that flood in winter, and the nationally scarce plant northern yellow-cress grows profusely in some of these. Round parts of the shore is a rampart of boulders and shingle thrown up by storms, and skullcap (a plant) grows among the stones here at one of its very few Orkney sites.</p> <p>The area has not been surveyed for nesting birds, but some that have been recorded here recently are common gull, great black-backed gull, tystie, eider and oystercatcher. Others can be expected in the habitats present, such as lapwing, rock pipit and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope* .</p> <p>Vegetated shingle*.</p> <p>Maritime grassland.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Eider.</p> <p>Tystie.</p> <p>Northern yellow-cress* .</p> <p>Skullcap (a plant).</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Holms of Ire (Site ref No: 93)

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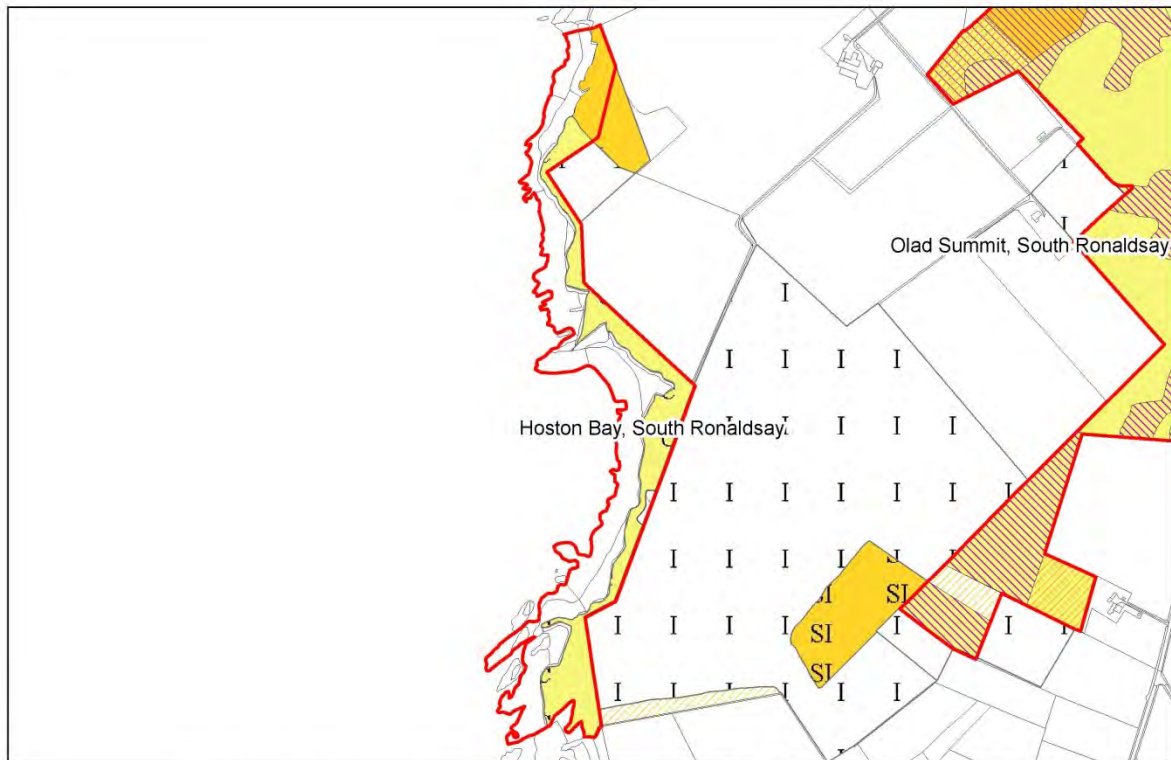
<b>Hooking Loch.</b>	<b>Location:</b> North Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 13.5 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 94.
<b>Site Description:</b> An area of shallow open water overgrown with mare's-tail, surrounded by marsh and marshy grassland dominated by yellow iris. The site is important for breeding waders and ducks. Oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew, snipe and redshank all nest here, along with ducks such as shelduck and mallard. A breeding black-headed gull colony is also here in the summer.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Eutrophic standing water*.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Curlew*. Lapwing*. Snipe. Redshank. Black-headed gull*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Hooking Loch, North Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 94)

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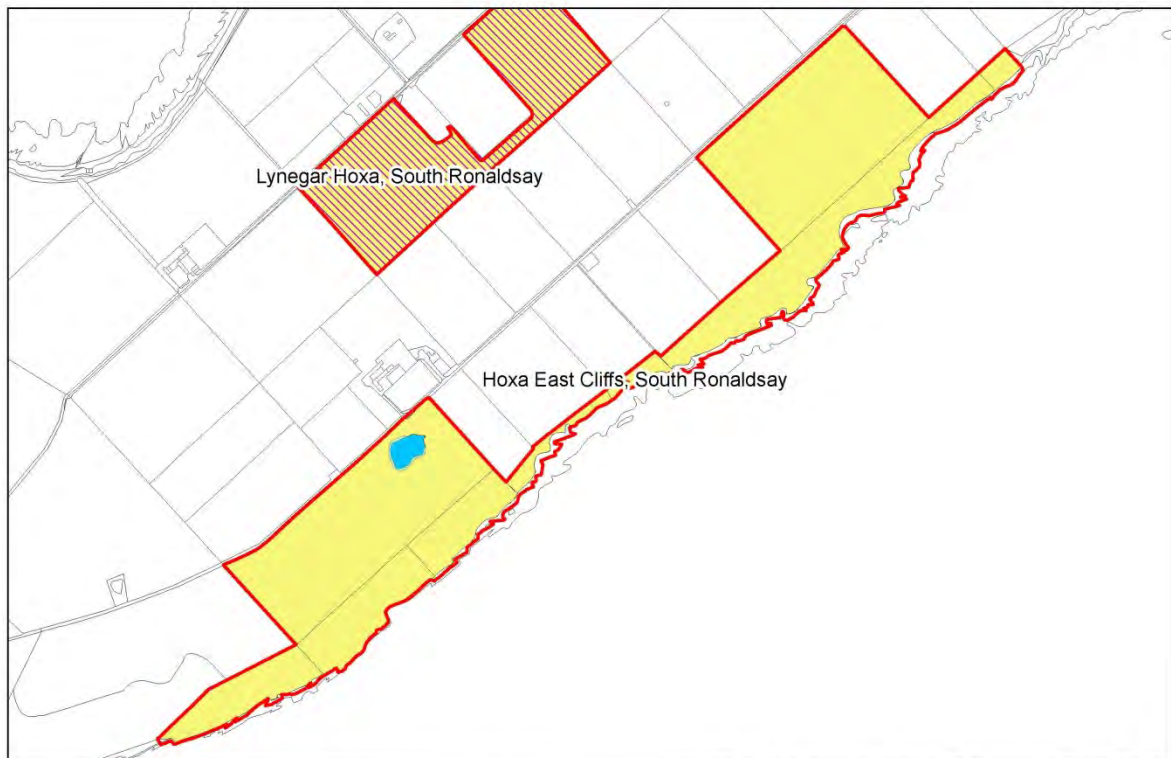
<b>Hoston Bay.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 10 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 95.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  An area of coast with impressive cliffs. Vegetation comprises tall herbs, grasses and shrubs on steep rocky slopes, with coastal heath and unimproved grassland on the land above. This grassland has a range of flowers including meadow vetchling, lady's bedstraw and wild angelica.  The wild flowers attract great yellow bumblebees, moss carder bees and common blue butterflies.  Grey seal breed on the rocky shore at the base of the cliffs.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Maritime cliff and slope*.  Maritime heath.  Lowland meadow*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Great yellow bumblebee*  Moss carder bee*  Grey seal*  Juniper*</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Hoston Bay, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 95)

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<b>Hoxa East Cliffs.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 15 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 96.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  An area of heather and other dwarf shrubs along the coastal edge, with some native willow scrub. The willow is mostly eared willow and there is also some dog-rose and aspen. Wood small-reed grows here at its only Orkney location.  Waders including oystercatcher, snipe and curlew breed here, along with common gull and birds of prey. Small birds that nest here include meadow pipit, twite and stonechat.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Maritime cliff and slope*.  Upland heath*.  Upland willow scrub.  Crowberry heath.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Curlew*.  Snipe.  Twite*.  Breeding birds of prey*.  Aspen.  Wood small-reed.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Hoxa East Cliffs, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 96)

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<b>Hoy and North Walls SSSI Moorland Fringes.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Hoy.
<b>Area:</b> c. 2170 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 97.
<p><b>Site Description:</b></p> <p>This large site stretches from Lyrawa Hill in the north to the lower slopes of Binga Fea in the south, occupying the hill slopes east of the Hoy SSSI. Throughout, the major habitat of these hills is blanket bog on deep peat, with a lesser amount of wet heather moorland on thinner peat on steeper slopes. Bog plants are typically bog cotton and heather, with deer grass, bog asphodel and sphagnum mosses. Valleys with swift-flowing burns cut through the hills, and here there is greater variety of habitat including native willows, other trees and bracken. In places these burns are edged by marshes and calcium-rich springs, these supporting a greater variety of flowering plants different from those found on peat bog and heath.</p> <p>The outstanding breeding bird species of the open moorlands are great skuas, present in large numbers, and a much lesser number of golden plover. The area is especially important for the number of breeding birds of prey. Many other species of birds nest in the variety of habitats present. Dragonflies and damselflies breed in many of the pools that are so common on the site.</p> <p>Different parts of the area vary in the particular interests they have, and these are described below in four sections.</p> <p><b>1. Lyrawa Hill and Lyrawa Burn</b></p> <p>East of the public road, the summit of Lyrawa Hill is close to the road and from it extends a long ridge south-eastwards to the sea. The flat ridge top is mostly blanket bog on deep peat, except for grassland around wartime concrete remains, while the sloping land is mainly wet heather moorland on thinner peat. In the short grass turf near the wartime remains grow the unusual plants heath cudweed, field gentian and small adder's-tongue (a fern). On the crags around the shore grow aspen and other native trees.</p> <p>This part of the site includes the Water of the Wicks where red throated divers breed. Many other birds nest within the site including waders such as snipe, curlew, oystercatcher and lapwing. Nesting pairs of skylark and meadow pipit are also abundant. Great skuas and great black-backed gulls breed on the moorland. Hen harrier and short-eared owl use the area for foraging.</p> <p>West of the public road and north of the Pegal Burn, peat of varying depth blankets the landscape, except along the course of the burn itself. Along the burn there are patches of bracken and native trees, including stands of aspen and a single birch. Breeding waders are scarce except for several pairs of golden plover and the occasional lapwing and curlew. Arctic and great skua nest, the latter in good numbers. This is an important area for birds of prey and red-throated diver. A variety of small birds also nest here, including many skylark and meadow pipit.</p> <p><b>2. Pegal Hill and Pegal Bay.</b></p> <p>The area between the Lyrawa and Pegal burns, plus an area extending southwards along the coast at Pegal Bay.</p> <p>The interior, west of the public road, is clothed in blanket bog. East of the road and</p>	

along Pegal Bay, there is both deep peat, thoroughly cut over in the past, and thinner peat supporting heather moorland and grassland. Occasionally, there are springs of relatively alkaline water, supporting a diversity of small flowering plants unlike those of the bog and heath, including orchids, butterwort and small sedges. The steep banks of the lower Pegal Burn are clothed with bracken and thickets of native scrub, with trees including aspen, rowan and several different willows. There is saltmarsh at the mouth of the burn.

Oystercatcher, curlew and snipe and the occasional golden plover nest here. This is an important area for birds of prey. With such a variety of habitats present, the list of breeding birds is long, including several species of gulls, many great skuas, abundant skylark and meadow pipit and various woodland/scrub birds such as chaffinch, sedge warbler and wood pigeon.

### 3. Shell Hill to Mill Bay.

The area between Pegal Burn and Mill Burns but not including Pegal Bay (see previous section).

The greater part of the hill is clothed in blanket bog. The eastern and southern edges of the area have more varied habitats, including willow scrub, marsh, mosaics of grazed heath, acid grassland and rushy pasture. In some places along the Mill Burn there are calcium-rich springs and runnels: here there is a greater variety of small flowering plants including the rare bog orchid.

Great skuas are common breeders on the moorland. There are breeding birds of prey and a few grouse. This is an important place for nesting golden plover. Other waders include dunlin, oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew, snipe and redshank, the last of these confined to the meadows and marshes of the lower ground. Smaller birds nesting in the various habitats include wheatear, twite, willow warbler, pied wagtail, sedge warbler and many skylark and meadow pipits.

### 4. Moi Fea, Wee Fea, Burn of Ore and Binga Fea.

The area between the Mill Burn and the Burn of Heldale.

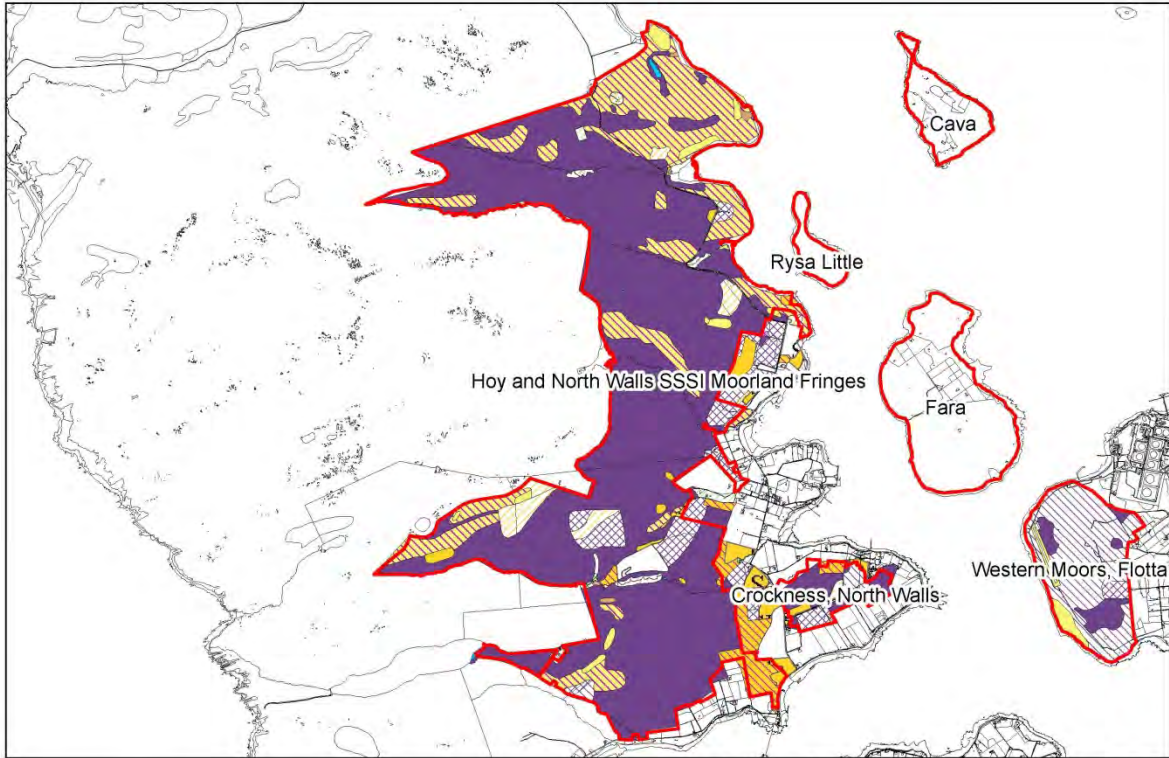
As in other parts of the site as a whole, the greater part of the hill is clothed in blanket bog. Areas of other habitats are mainly along the Burn of Ore and the eastern fringes of the site. They include marshy grassland and semi-improved grassland, and along the Burns of Ore and Moifea, small areas of calcium-rich springs and marsh with many flowering plants including three local rarities, bog orchid, mud sedge and broad-leaved cotton-grass, and scattered native willow scrub.

Many great skuas breed on the moorland, a few arctic skuas, also gulls including great black-backed, herring, common and black-headed. The many breeding waders include golden plover, oystercatcher, curlew, snipe and lapwing. There are nesting birds of prey. A variety of small birds nest too, including stonechat, pied wagtail, sedge warbler and many skylarks and meadow pipits.

<p>Special Habitats:  Upland heath*.  Blanket bog*.  Crowberry heath.  Upland flushes, fens and swamps*.  Upland birchwood*.  Upland willow scrub.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:  Red-throated diver*.  Breeding birds of prey*.  Golden plover*.  Curlew*.  Lapwing*.  Dunlin*.</p>
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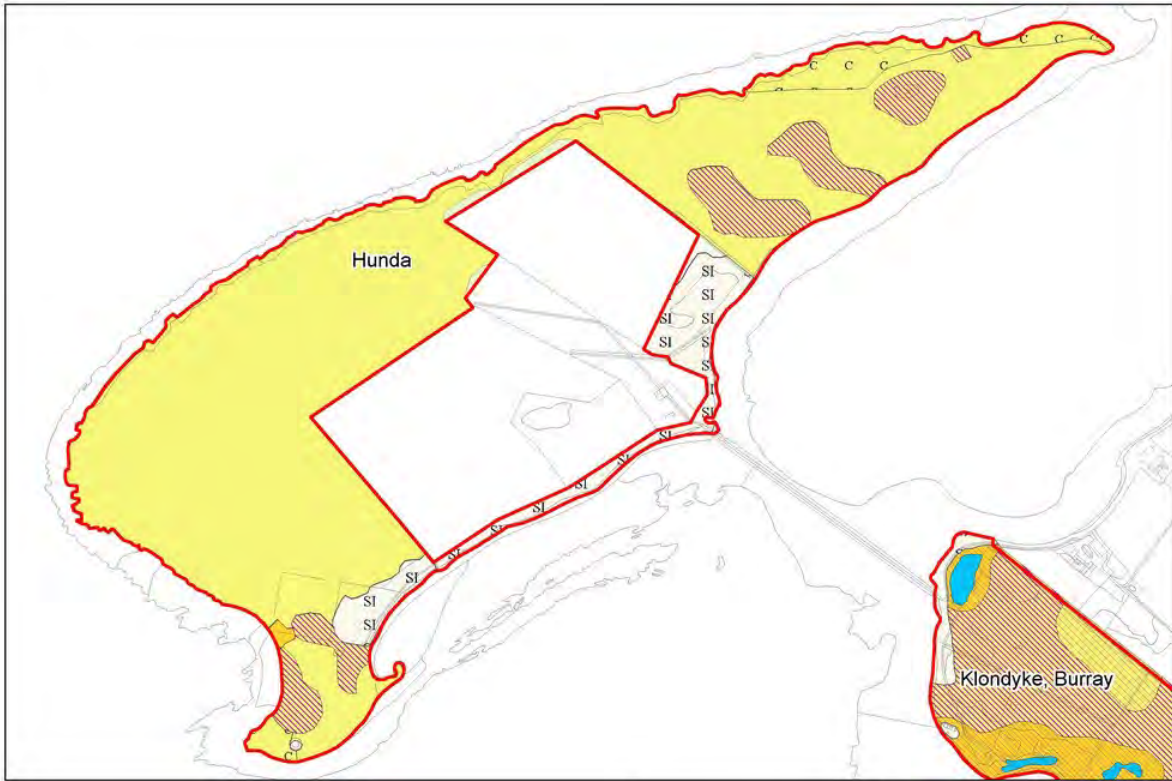
<p>Conifer plantation.  Burns and canalised burns.  Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes*.  Maritime cliff and slope*.  Coastal saltmarsh*.</p>	<p>Arctic skua*.  Great skua.  Black-headed gull*.  Herring gull*.  Skylark*.  Mountain hare*.  Otter*.  Common toad.  Common hawkmer dragonfly.  Black darter dragonfly.  Large red damselfly.  Common blue damselfly.  Meadow grasshopper.  Moss carder bee*.  Aspen.  Grey willow.  Tea-leaved willow.  Rowan.  Downy birch.  Field gentian*.  Heath cudweed*.  Small adder's-tongue*.  Juniper*.  Mud sedge.  Broad-leaved cotton-grass.  Bog orchid.  Alpine bearberry*.  Great sundew*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Hoy and North Walls SSSI Moorland Fringes (Site ref No: 97)

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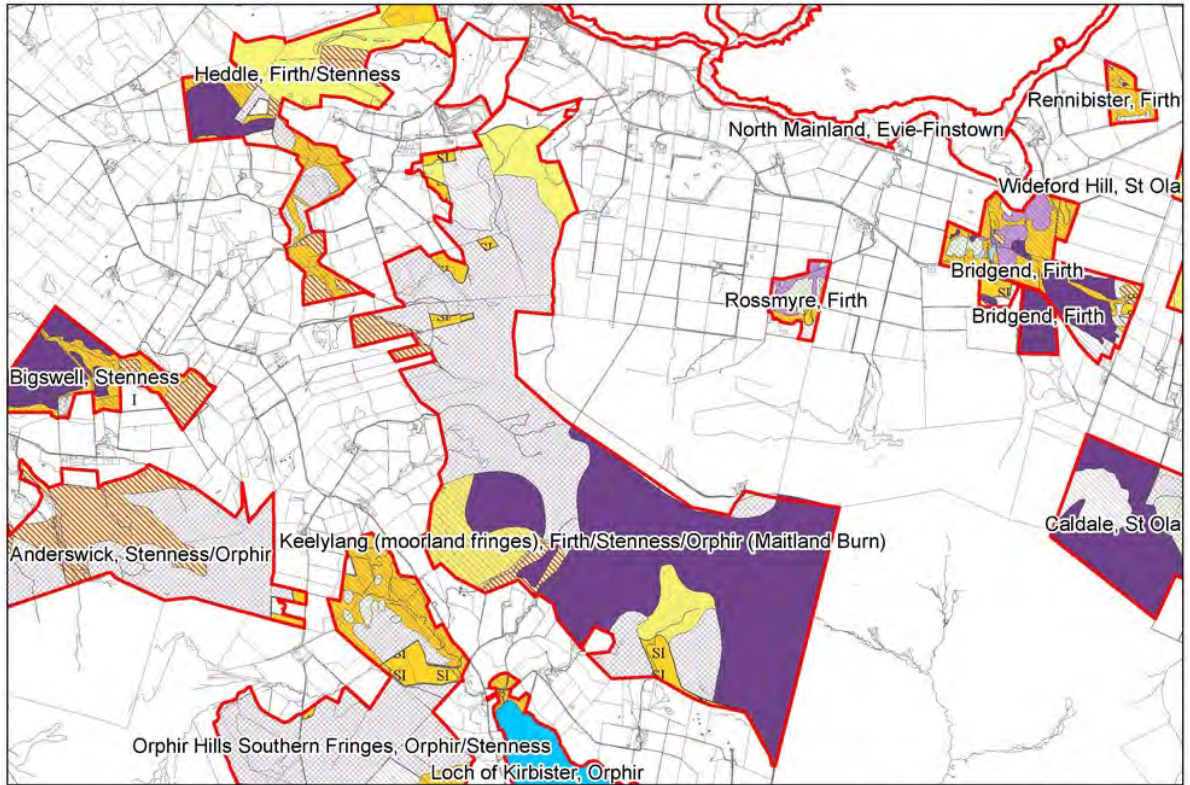
<b>Hunda.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Burray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 57 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> Burray.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An offshore island approximately 1 sq km in extent and linked to the island of Burray by a causeway. The coastline is mostly low and rocky, except on part of the west side where there are vertical cliffs. The area is moorland dominated by heather and crowberry.</p> <p>A range of birds nest on the island. It is an important site for arctic terns – 120 pairs were recorded here in 2007. Other nesting sea birds include common and great black-backed gulls, and smaller numbers of great and arctic skuas. A variety of waders nest here, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew, redshank and ringed plover. There are also small birds such as skylark, meadow pipit, rock pipit and wheatear.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.  Crowberry heath.  Maritime heath.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic tern*.  Arctic skua*.  Great skua.  Lapwing*.  Curlew*.  Snipe.  Redshank.  Skylark*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Hunda (Site ref No: 98)

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<b>Keelylang.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Firth/Stenness/Orphir.
<b>Area:</b> c. 518 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 99.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This large site stretches from the Maitland Burn, above Finstown cemetery, south-eastwards to the southern slopes of Keelylang, above the Loch of Kirbister. It mainly comprises hill ground, also a variety of low ground habitats.</p> <p>On the hill, the flatter ground and gentle slopes are covered in peat 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. Where the underlying rocks have a high lime content, as in the Cuween area especially, the moorland vegetation can include many flowering herbs, such as thyme and field gentian. Much of the hill has been cut for peat, and in some places on the lower hill the old cuttings have grown up with marshy vegetation including abundant meadowsweet and a variety of other wetland plants. A feature of special interest is the lime-rich springs on hill and lower ground, with their distinctive array of small plants and mosses.</p> <p>The lower ground has similar moorland habitats, also, particularly along the Maitland Burn, marshy grassland with plants such as meadowsweet and yellow iris, and short vegetation with sedges and many other plants, such as ragged robin, orchids and primroses. There is extensive native willow scrub with wild roses.</p> <p>The site is an important one for breeding birds of prey. Red grouse and a variety of waders nest on the site in good numbers, including oystercatcher, golden plover, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. There are breeding great skua. Smaller birds breeding here include skylark, meadow pipit, stonechat, pied wagtail, dunnock, wheatear, sedge warbler, willow warbler and songthrush.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Upland fens, flushes and swamps*.</p> <p>Wet woodlands*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Species-rich heath.</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Breeding birds of prey*.</p> <p>Golden plover*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Willow warbler.</p> <p>Songthrush*.</p> <p>Large heath butterfly*.</p> <p>Otter*.</p> <p>Grey willow.</p> <p>Tea-leaved willow.</p> <p>Field gentian*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Keelylang (moorland fringes), Firth/Stenness/Orphir (Maitland Burn) (Site ref No: 99)

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<b>Kirbist Mire.</b>	<b>Location:</b> North Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 1 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 100.
<b>Site Description:</b> A small area of open water surrounded by marsh and wet meadow with large amounts of yellow iris. Waders including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe and redshank nest here, along with wildfowl including teal, mallard, coot and moorhen. There is a colony of black-headed gulls.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b>	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Lapwing*. Snipe. Curlew*. Black-headed gull*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	

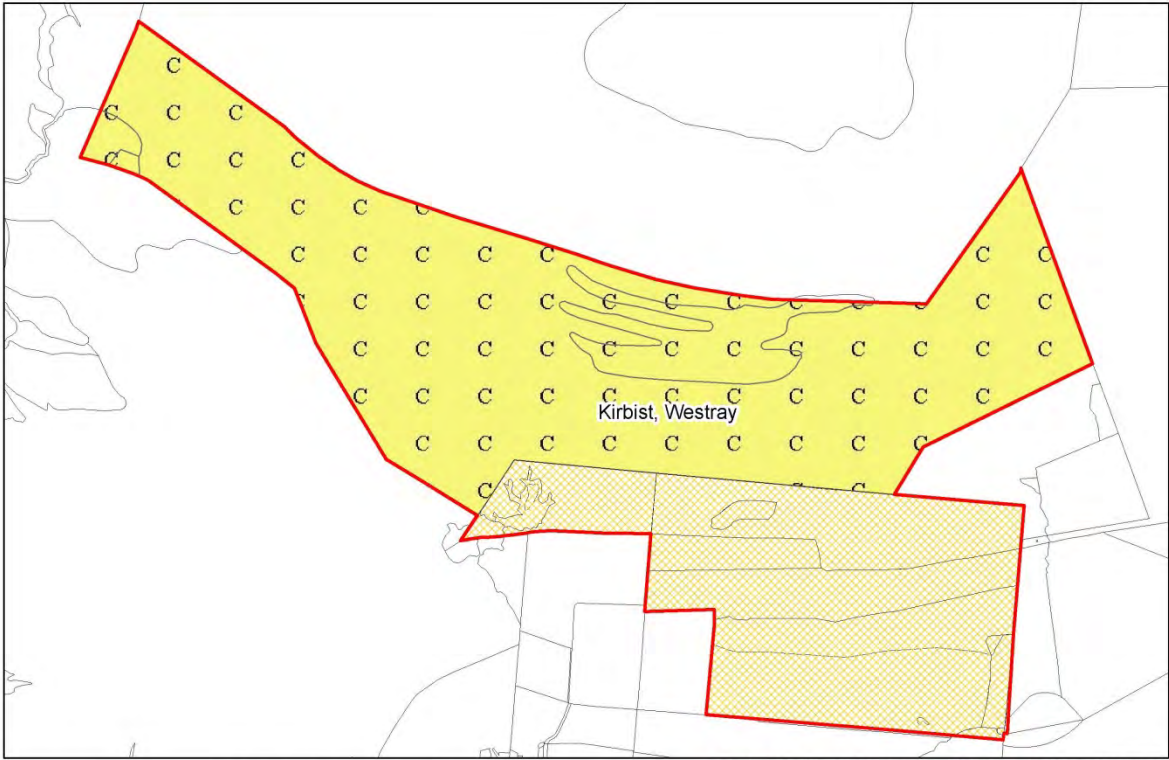


Kirbist Mire, North Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 100)

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<b>Kirbist.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Westray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 39 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 101.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area mainly of coastal heath and grassland adjacent to the West Westray SSSI. The vegetation is a fine example of the habitat on lime-rich bedrock, with short, wind-clipped heather and crowberry, interwoven with small herbs such as thyme and bird's-foot trefoil. The well-known rarity Scottish primrose <i>Primula scotica</i> grows here, and other plants that are unusual in Orkney. Nearer to the sea, heath gives way to short grassland, with sea pinks, sea plantain and even saltmarsh plants usually found at sea level, such is the exposure to sea spray. The steep southern face of Fitty Hill is broken by vertical crags, in the cracks of which grow ferns that are rare in Orkney. The lower ground is flowery, semi-natural grassland on stony ground with springs and runnels of lime-rich water, and these too have a distinctive array of small plants and mosses. At the lowest level of the site is a marsh with bog-cotton. The site has not yet been surveyed for breeding birds, but waders, gulls and smaller moorland and grassland birds have been recorded here in the breeding season.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope*.</p> <p>Maritime heath.</p> <p>Maritime grassland.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Lowland calcareous grassland*.</p> <p>Inland rock outcrops and scree*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Scottish primrose*.</p> <p>Heath pearlwort.</p> <p>Maidenhair spleenwort (a fern).</p> <p>Black spleenwort (a fern).</p> <p>Breeding waders and gulls*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

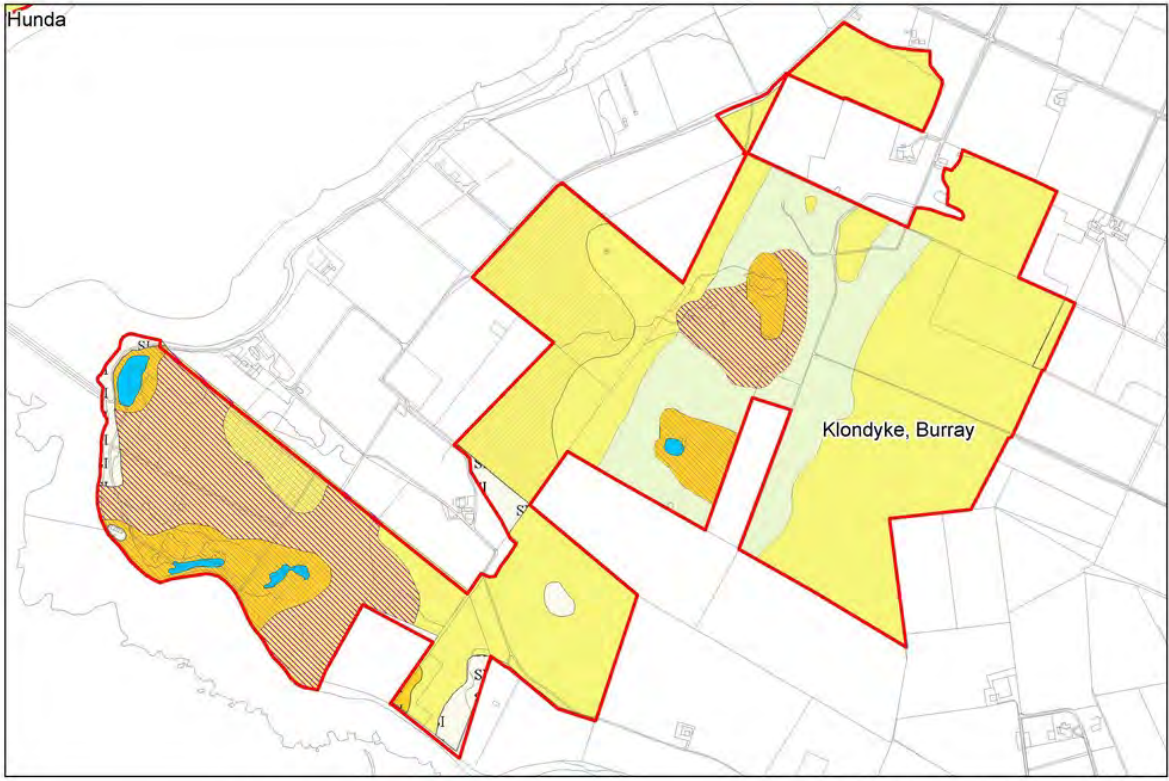




Kirbist, Westray (Site ref No: 101)

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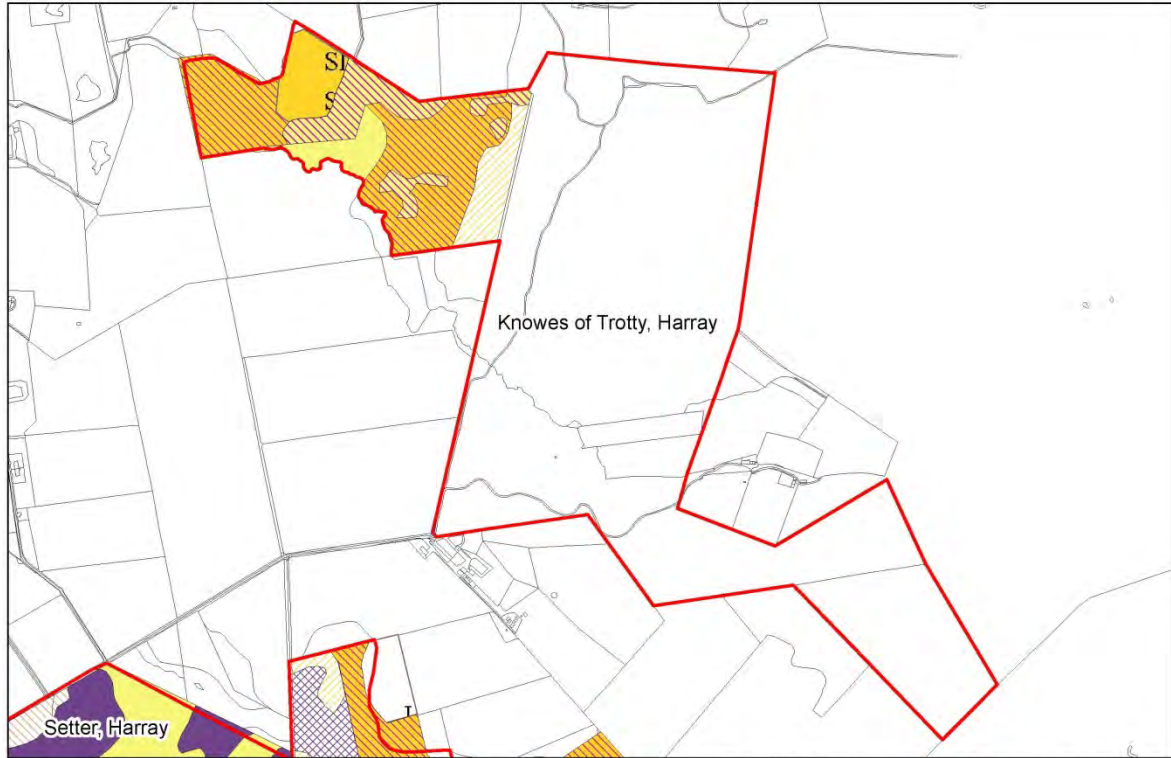
<b>Klondyke.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Burray.
<b>Area:</b> C. 81 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 102.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises a large area of heather moorland with smaller areas of peat bog, natural grassland and other habitats. The moorland is mainly dry and dominated by heather and bell heather. Lichens are abundant in places, giving the ground surface a frosted appearance. There are substantial areas of bog on deeper peat: these have sphagnum mosses and bog cotton. Sundew, a small carnivorous plant can be found. There are small pools just inland from the coast, surrounded by marshy grassland with plants such as marsh marigolds and ragged-robin.</p> <p>The site is important for its breeding waders, having good numbers of oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Colonies of black-headed gull, common gull and arctic tern are also present. Birds of prey have been recorded as nesting here in recent years. Small birds such as skylark and meadow pipit are common breeders.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.  Blanket bog*.  Basin bog.  Lichen heath.  Crowberry heath.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.  Lapwing*.  Snipe.  Redshank.  Ringed plover.  Black-headed gull*.  Arctic tern*.  Skylark*.  Breeding birds of prey*.  Great yellow bumblebee*.  Moss carder bee*.  Bog bilberry.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Klondyke, Burray (Site ref No: 102)

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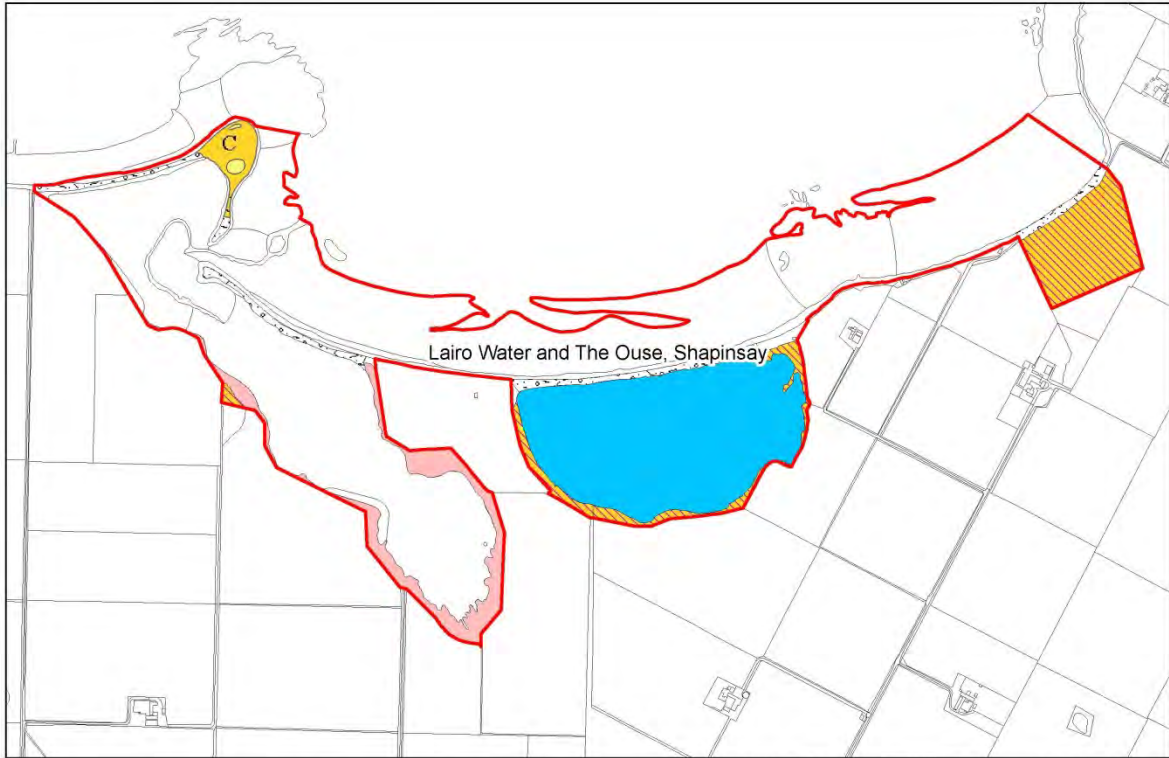
<b>Knows of TroTTY.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Harray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 75 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 103.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises a basin with marsh, wet grassland and some heather-covered areas to the west part of the Knowes, and extensive hill ground to the east. The marshy area is varied in quality. Amongst it there are swamps overgrown with plants such as bogbean. Some parts, especially where springs create more lime-rich conditions, are rich in plant species, including the nationally uncommon marsh fragrant-orchid. Drier natural grassland on and around the Knowes is also flowery, with bird's-foot trefoil, orchids and yellow rattle. Moorland areas include blanket bog on deeper peat, with bog cotton and sphagnum moss among the heather, and drier moorland on thinner peat, with a variety of herbs and grasses among the heather. Waders including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank nest on the site. Smaller birds nesting include stonechat, skylark, twite, meadow pipit and sedge warbler. Nesting birds of prey have been reported.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland dry acid grassland*.  Upland heath*.  Lowland fens*.  Blanket bog*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.  Snipe.  Curlew*.  Redshank.  Skylark.  Twite*.  Nesting birds of prey*.  Marsh fragrant-orchid*.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Knowes of Troty, Harray (Site ref No: 103)

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<b>Lairo Water and the Ouse.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Shapinsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 51 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 104.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>A coastal site comprising a small tidal inlet part-enclosed by a shingle spit and fringed by salt marsh; and the freshwater loch of Lairo Water, which is separated from the sea by a shingle ayre. There is also an area of marshy grassland and a small, heathery holm.</p> <p>The site supports breeding waders, including oystercatcher, ringed plover, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Mute swan, shelduck, eider duck, teal and mallard also nest here. It is also a very good site for wintering waders and wildfowl, including long tailed duck.</p> <p>Coastal features here have also been recognised for their geomorphological (the shape and evolution of landforms) interest and importance.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p> <p>Maritime heath.</p> <p>Maritime grassland.</p> <p>Coastal vegetated shingle*.</p> <p>Coastal saltmarsh*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Ringed plover.</p> <p>Shelduck.</p> <p>Wintering waders and wildfowl.</p> <p>Slender-Leaved Pondweed*.</p> <p>Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Laird Water and The Ouse, Shapinsay (Site ref No: 104)

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<b>Lea Shun.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Stronsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 39 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 105.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>Lea Shun is a freshwater loch close to the sea. On the inland side of the loch there is marsh and wet meadow with a variety of flowers such as ragged robin and northern marsh orchid. Closer to the shore the vegetation is dune grassland or links. A nationally scarce plant, northern yellow-cress, grows here, in shallow pools that dry up in summer. A water plant growing in the loch is also nationally scarce.</p> <p>Waders breed here, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew, redshank, ringed plover and dunlin. A few ducks, geese and swans are seen on the loch in the summer, with more stopping here during migration or in the winter. A colony of arctic tern nest on the site. Breeding skylark and meadow pipit are common.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing water*.</p> <p>Links.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic tern*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Dunlin*.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Northern yellow-cress*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

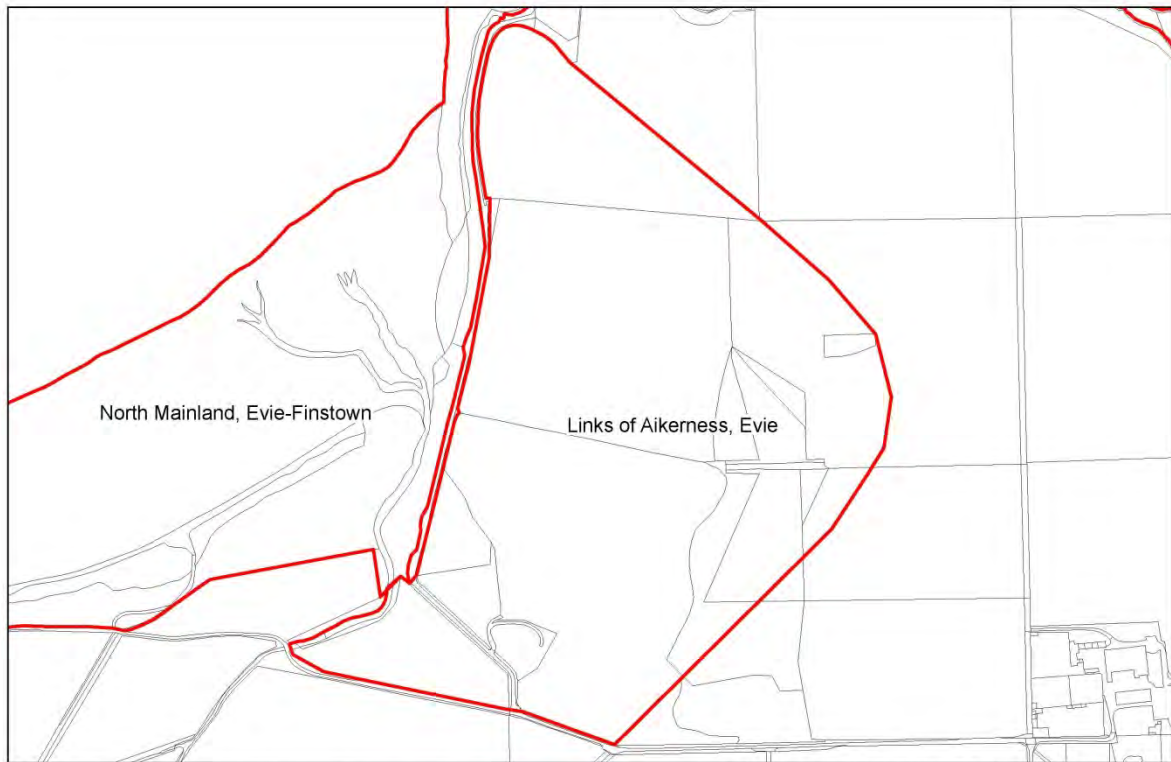




Lea Shun, Stronsay (Site ref No: 105)

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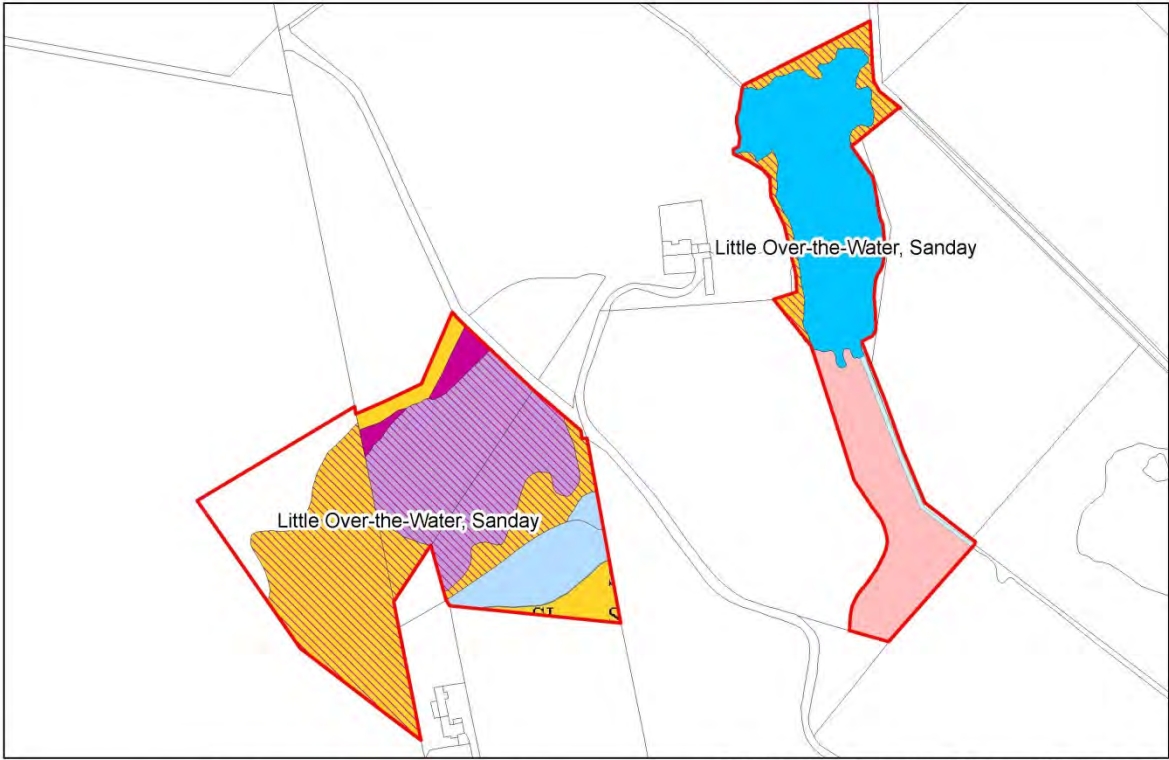
<b>Links of Aikerness.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Evie.
<b>Area:</b> c. 23 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 106.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  The site is important for its outcrops of aeolianite and the distinctive array of plants associated with it. Aeolianite is a soft rock formed from wind-blown deposits of lime-rich sand. The outcrop at Aikerness is the larger of only two sites known in Orkney. Some small, drought-resistant plants such as thyme, kidney vetch and moonwort (a fern) can root into it: another is sea fern-grass, which in Orkney is found only on aeolianite.</p> <p>The site has also been recognised its geomorphological (the shape and evolution of landforms) interest and importance.</p>	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Aeolianite.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Stiff sand-grass
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Links of Aikerness, Evie (Site ref No: 106)

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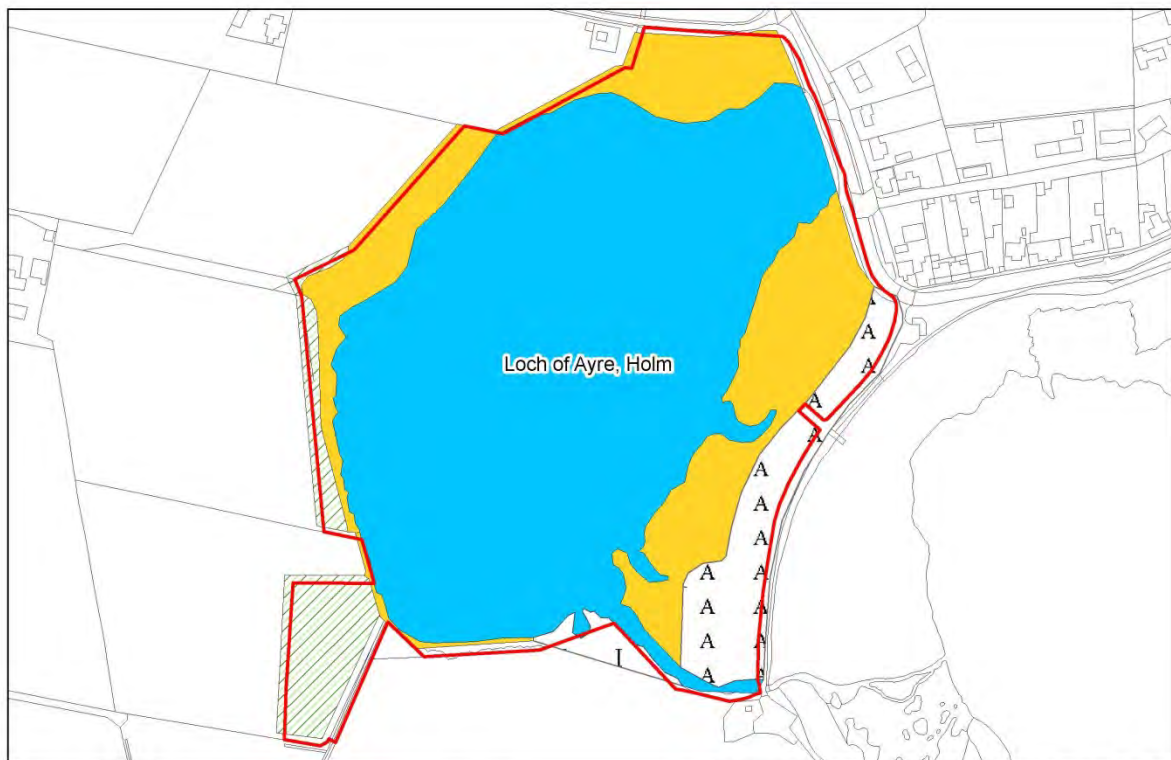
<b>Little Over-the-Water.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Sanday.
<b>Area:</b> c. 3.5 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 107.
<p><b>Site Description:</b></p> <p>This small site has a surprising variety of habitats. There is a small, brackish loch, connected to the sea by a drainage channel. The marshy grassland next to the loch is sometimes inundated by seawater and has a distinctive flora that tolerates salt. Nearby freshwater marsh includes stands of yellow iris and reed canary-grass, and more open, flowery areas with plants such as ragged robin and marsh marigold. In a few places, along the northern edge of the marsh, the variety of plant life is further enhanced by the influence of lime-rich springs and there are even patches of heather. One plant, slender sedge, grows here at its only Orkney location.</p> <p>Oystercatcher, snipe, curlew and redshank nest on the site. There are also breeding wildfowl including mute swan and shelduck, and a small colony of common gulls. Smaller birds breeding here include skylark, meadow pipit, linnets and reed bunting.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b></p> <p>Saline lagoon*.  Lowland fens*.  Upland heath*.  Coastal saltmarsh*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b></p> <p>Lapwing*.  Curlew*.  Snipe.  Redshank.  Skylark*.  Linnets*.  Reed bunting*.  Otter*.  Slender sedge.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Little Over-the-Water, Sanday (Site ref No: 107)

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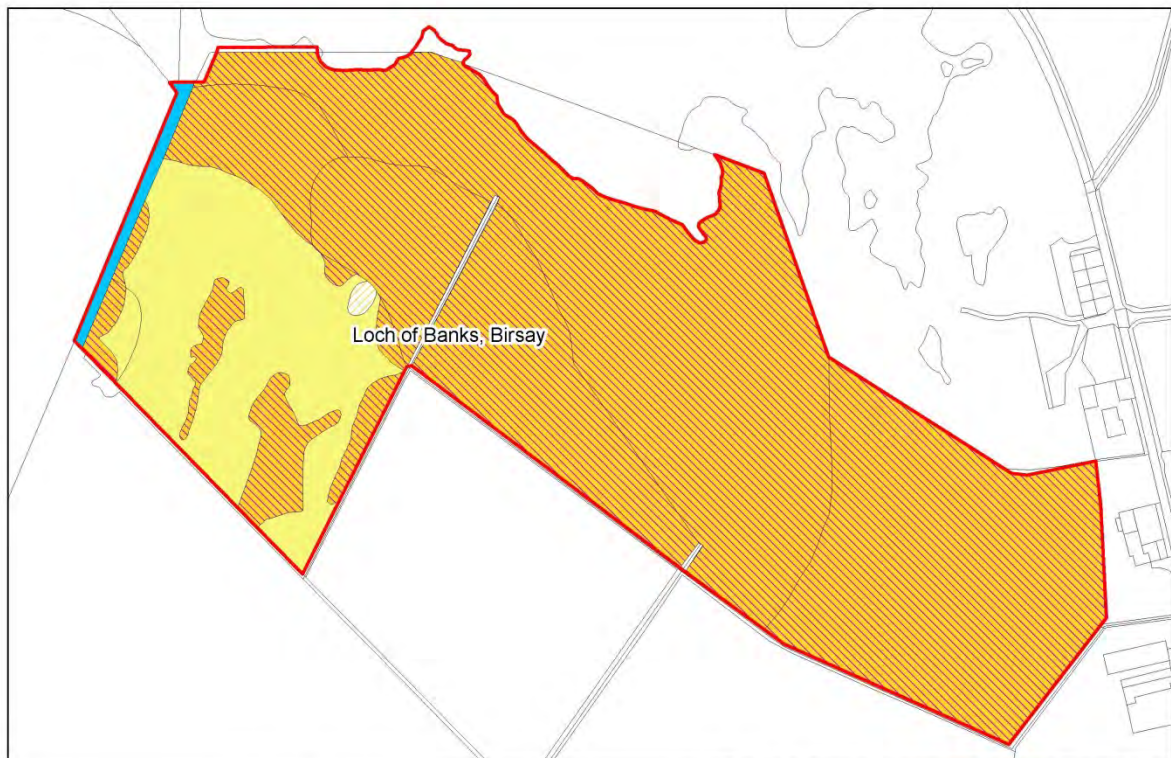
<b>Loch of Ayre.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Holm.
<b>Area:</b> c. 10 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 108.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  A medium-sized loch adjacent to the Bay of Ayre. Bordering the loch is an area of semi-natural grassland. There is a small area of planted woodland on the western side of the site.</p> <p>Small numbers of redshank, ducks, gulls and a pair of mute swans breed close to the loch. This site is important for wintering wildfowl, especially whooper swans.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Mesotrophic loch*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Wintering wildfowl.  Redshank.  Skylark*.  Whooper swans.  Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Ayre, Holm (Site ref No: 108)

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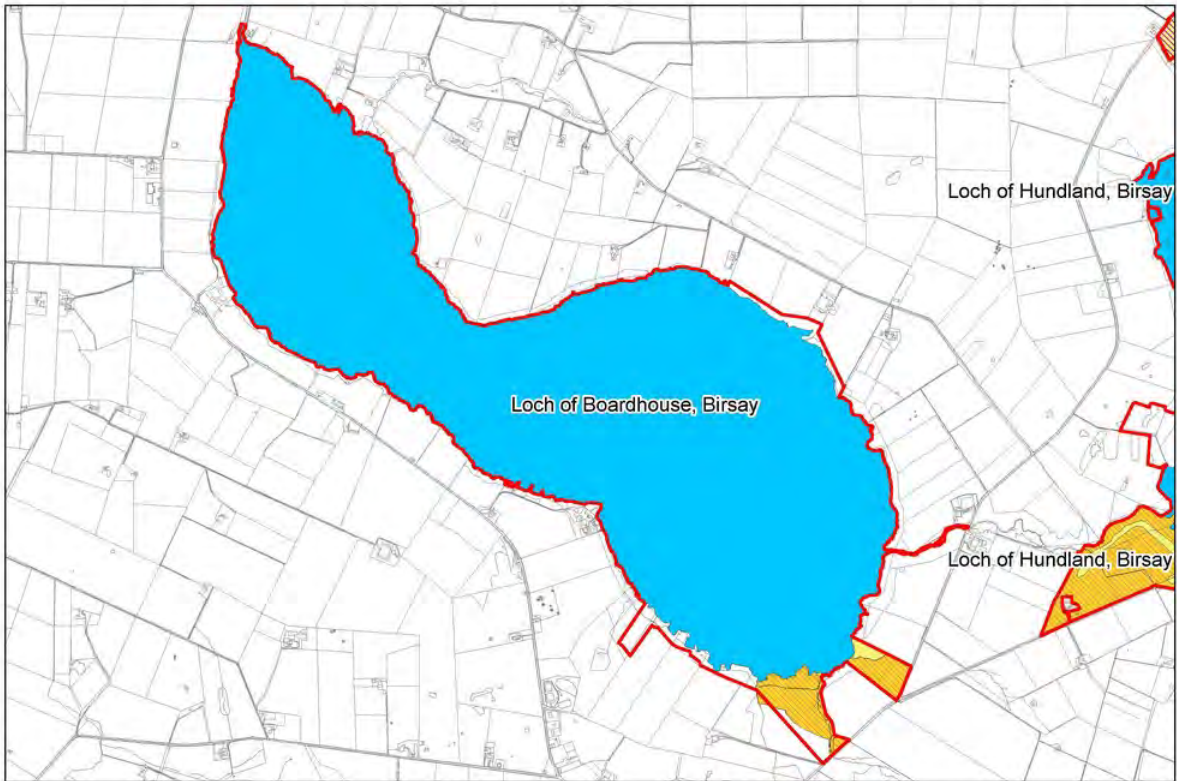
<b>Loch of Banks.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Birsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 11 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 109.
<p><b>Site Description:</b>  An area mainly of marsh fringing the southern side of the Loch of Banks SSSI, with some heather moorland at its western end. The marsh mainly has a thick cover of meadowsweet, yellow iris, tufted hair-grass and rushes. There are some wetter hollows and shallow pools.</p> <p>The area has not been surveyed for nesting birds, but the habitats can be expected at least to attract nesting waders like curlew, redshank and snipe, and ducks such as mallard and teal. Smaller birds like sedge warbler and reed bunting are also likely.</p>	
<p><b>Special Habitats:</b>  Upland heath*.</p>	<p><b>Special Wildlife:</b>  Breeding waders, ducks and other wetland birds*.  Large heath butterfly*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Banks, Birsay (Site ref No: 109)

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<b>Loch of Boardhouse.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Birsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 249 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 110.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises the loch itself, areas of marsh and marshy grassland at its south-eastern end, and the lower course of the Burn of Kirbister where it enters the loch. Elsewhere round the loch. Some of the marshy grassland has a good variety of plants, including meadowsweet, marsh marigold, yellow iris and ragged-robin; some is rushy and poorer in species. The loch has many pondweeds and other water plants, including nationally uncommon species.</p> <p>Red-throated diver nest by the loch. There is a colony of black-headed gulls. A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew and redshank. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark and meadow pipit. The loch is also important for wintering wildfowl, especially pochard.</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>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Wintering wildfowl.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Brown trout.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

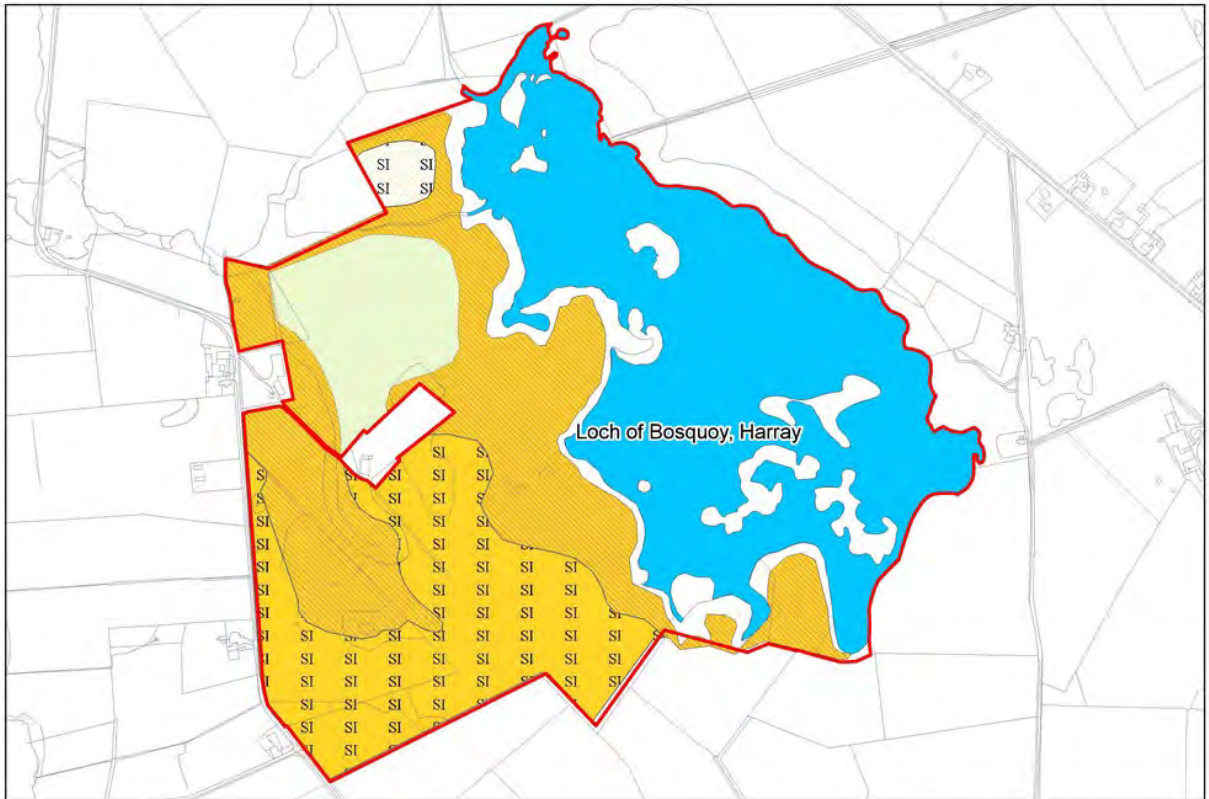


**Loch of Boardhouse, Birsay (Site ref No: 110)**

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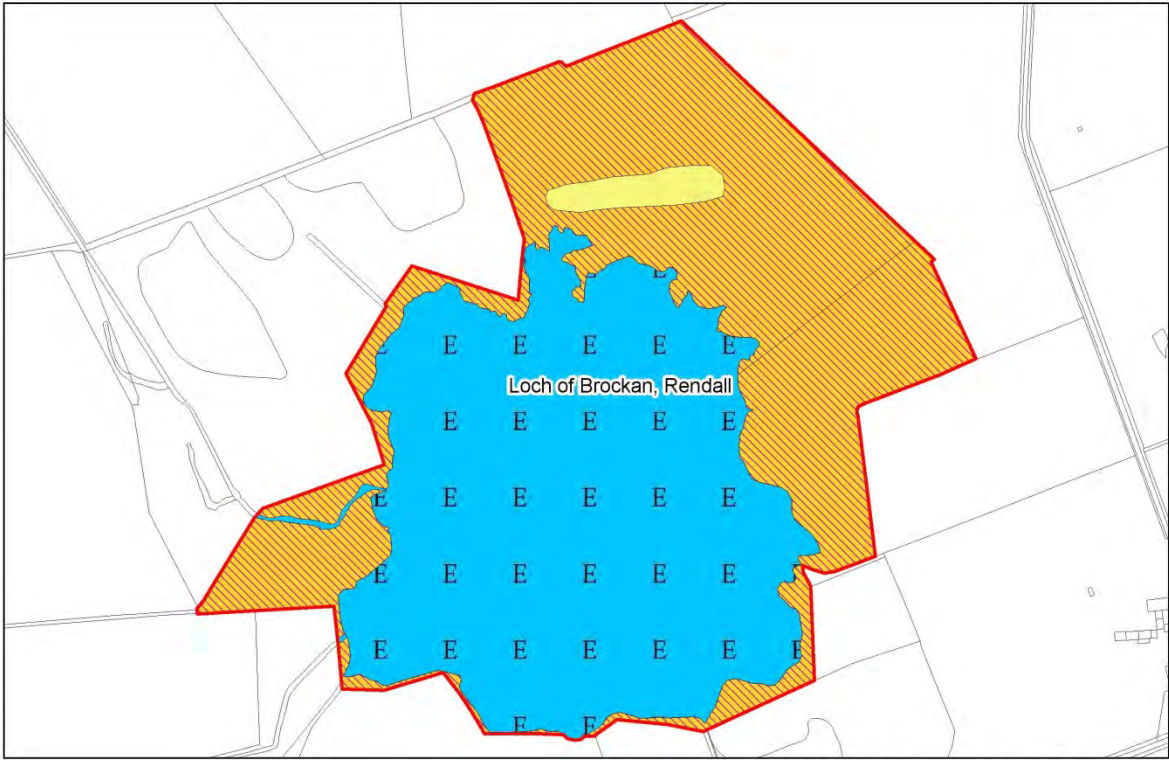
<b>Loch of Bosquoy.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Harray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 55 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 111.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>A medium-sized loch with adjacent marshy grassland, drier, flower-rich grassland and patches of heather. The loch has many pondweeds and other water plants, including nationally uncommon species, and stands of club-rush, an uncommon plant in Orkney. The marshy grassland has a good variety of plants, including yellow iris, meadowsweet, rushes and sedges. There are some small pools amongst it. The heather on dry banks is mixed with bell heather and a variety of flowering herbs such as bird's-foot trefoil.</p> <p>The site is important for breeding waders – oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank all breed here in good numbers, also common sandpiper, dunlin and ringed plover in lesser numbers. There are also breeding ducks and a black-headed gull colony. A variety of small birds nest here as well, including skylark, meadow pipit and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing water*.</p> <p>Lowland meadows*.</p> <p>Lowland dry acid grassland*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Species-rich heath.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Dunlin*.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Common sandpiper.</p> <p>Little grebe.</p> <p>Common club-rush.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Brown trout.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Bosquoy, Harray (Site ref No: 111)

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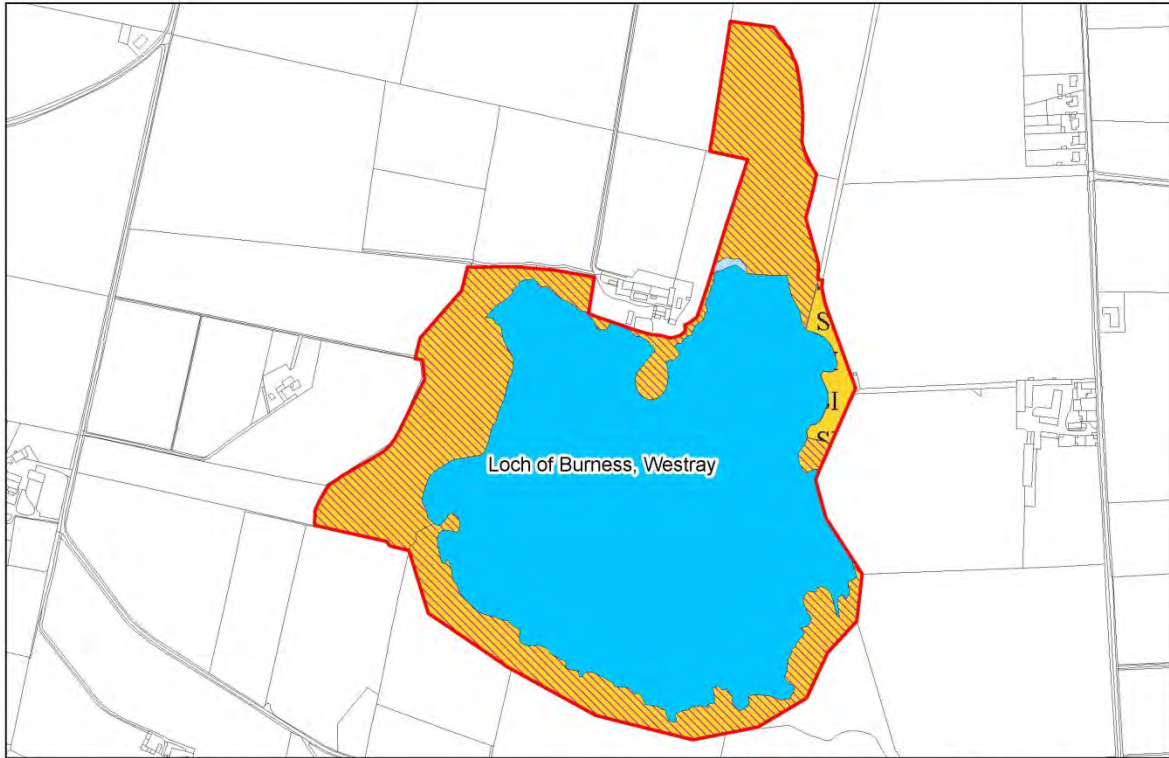
<b>Loch of Brockan.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Rendall.
<b>Area:</b> c. 17 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 112.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises the loch and its margins, the latter including substantial areas of marshy vegetation and some heather on the northern side of the loch. The vegetation not yet been fully surveyed, but there are existing records of a good range of wetland plants, including taller plants such as meadowsweet, yellow iris and reed canary-grass, and others such as bogbean overgrowing the shallow edges of the loch. The loch has several pondweeds and other water plants.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew and redshank, in good numbers. Breeding wildfowl include shelduck, gadwall, teal and coot. There are colonies of common and black-headed gulls. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting. The loch is much used by wildfowl and waders on passage.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p> <p>Upland heathland*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Passage waders and wildfowl.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Brockan, Rendall (Site ref No: 112)

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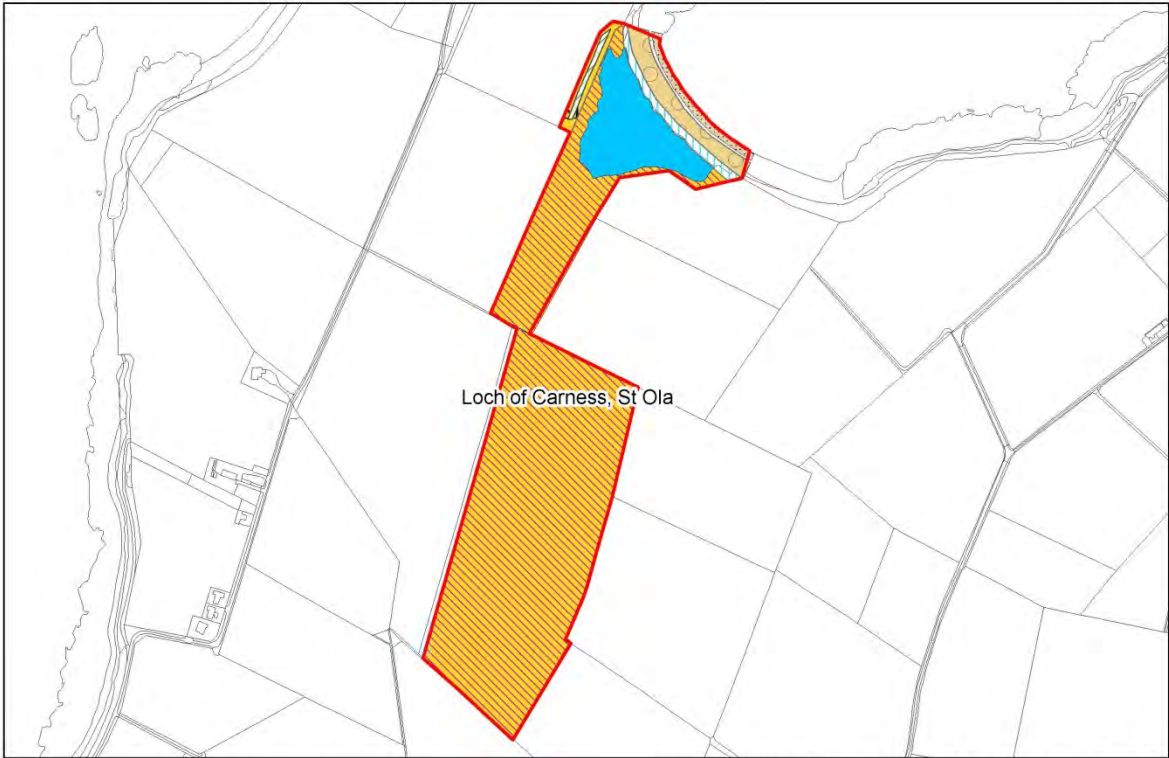
<b>Loch of Burness.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Westray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 25 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 113.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>A freshwater loch with reedbed and a fringe of wetland with much yellow iris. Many water plants occur in the loch, including nationally scarce species.</p> <p>Lapwing nest on the site in good numbers, along with several pairs of curlew and redshank. A variety of wildfowl also breed here in small numbers, including little grebe, teal, mallard, shoveler, tufted duck, coot and moorhen. There is a large colony of black-headed gulls. Sedge warblers and reed buntings nest in the tall reeds.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing water*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Black headed gull*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Little grebe.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Burness, Westray (Site ref No: 113)

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<b>Loch of Carness.</b>	<b>Location:</b> St Ola.
<b>Area:</b> c. 15 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 114.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>A coastal loch, separated from the sea by a shingle bar, with the sea able to enter the loch at high tide. The loch is bordered by marshy grassland, with much yellow iris, rushes and some meadowsweet. There are swamps with plants such as bogbean. Holy grass, a rare plant in the British Isles, grows on this site, also herb robert, which is locally uncommon.</p> <p>The site supports a variety of waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Skylark and meadow pipit also nest here. It is a good site for migrating waders.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</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>Migrant waders.</p> <p>Holy grass*.</p> <p>Herb robert.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

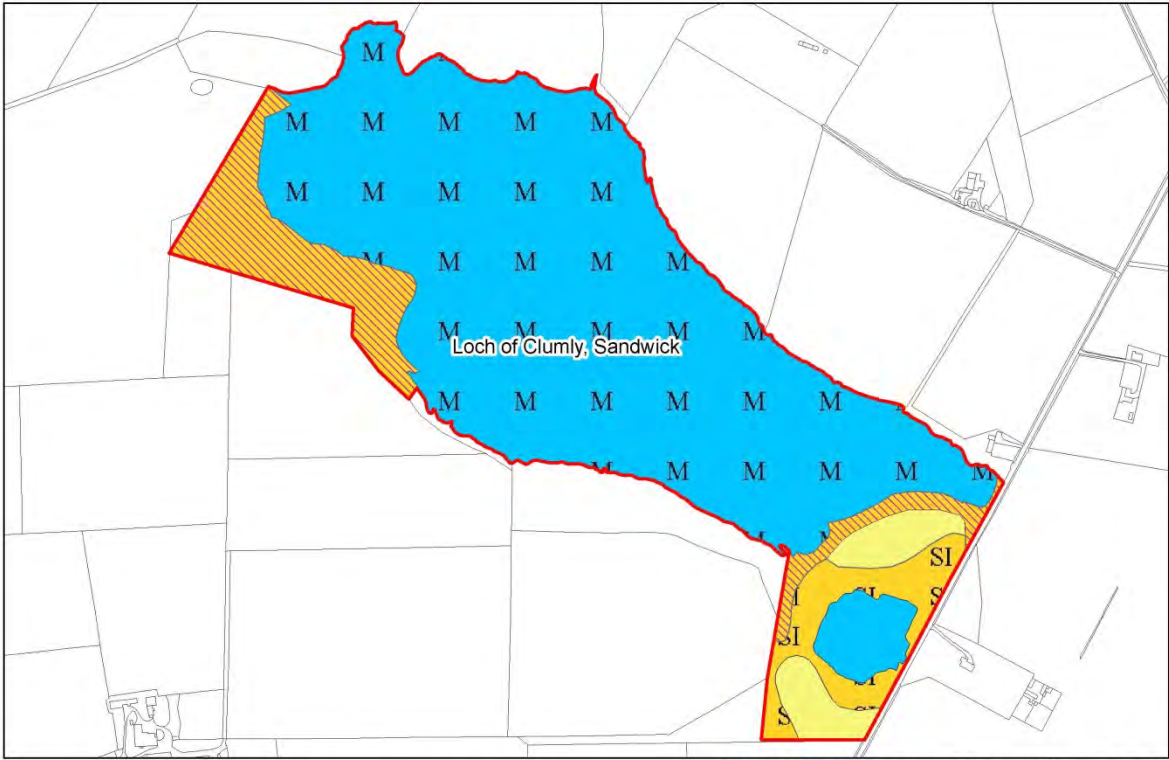


Loch of Carness, St Ola (Site ref No: 114)

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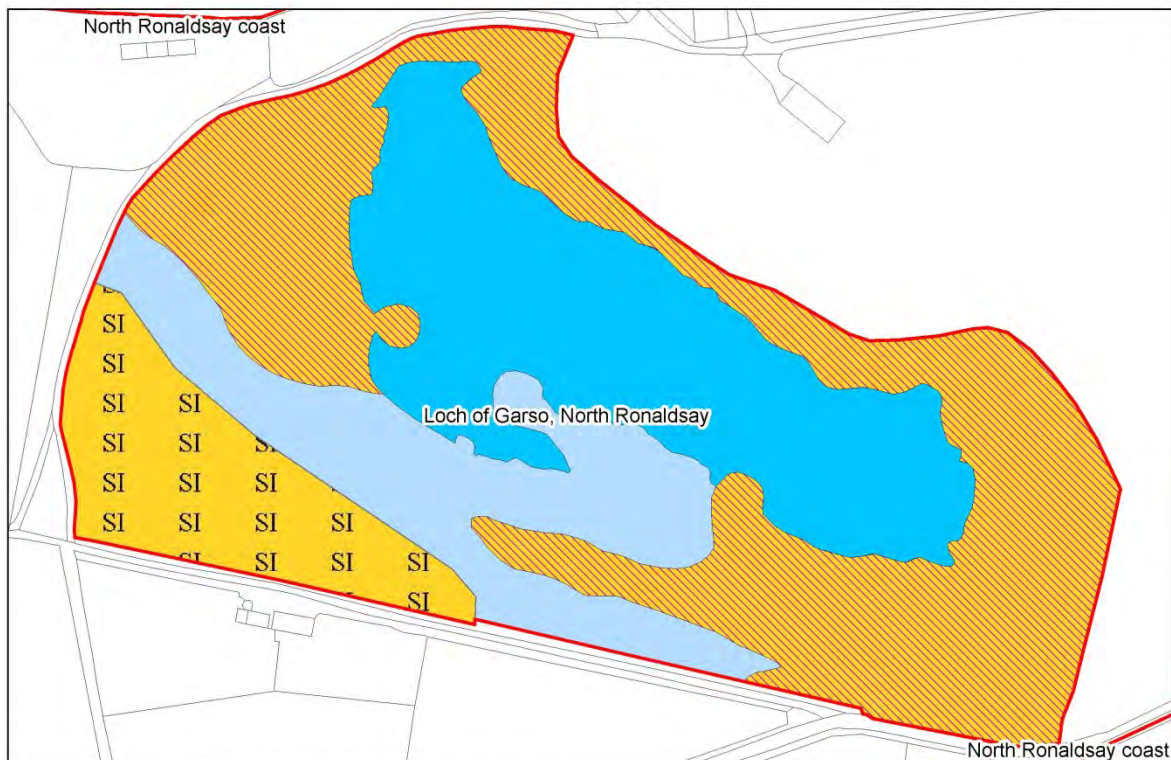
<b>Loch of Clumly.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Sandwick.
<b>Area:</b> c. 30 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 115.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises the loch itself, the disused quarry, an area of marshy grassland with plants such yellow iris, meadowsweet and marsh marigold at the western end of the loch, and an area with heather round the quarry. Elsewhere round the loch, improved grassland reaches to or very nearly to the shore. The loch and quarry have many pondweeds and other water plants, including nationally uncommon species.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew and redshank. Small numbers of gulls also nest, and fulmars in the quarry. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, wheatear, twite and pied wagtail. The loch is also important for wintering wildfowl.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Mesotrophic lakes*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Twite*.</p> <p>Wintering wildfowl.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Lesser bearded stonewort*.</p> <p>Clustered stonewort*.</p> <p>Brown trout.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Clumly, Sandwick (Site ref No: 115)

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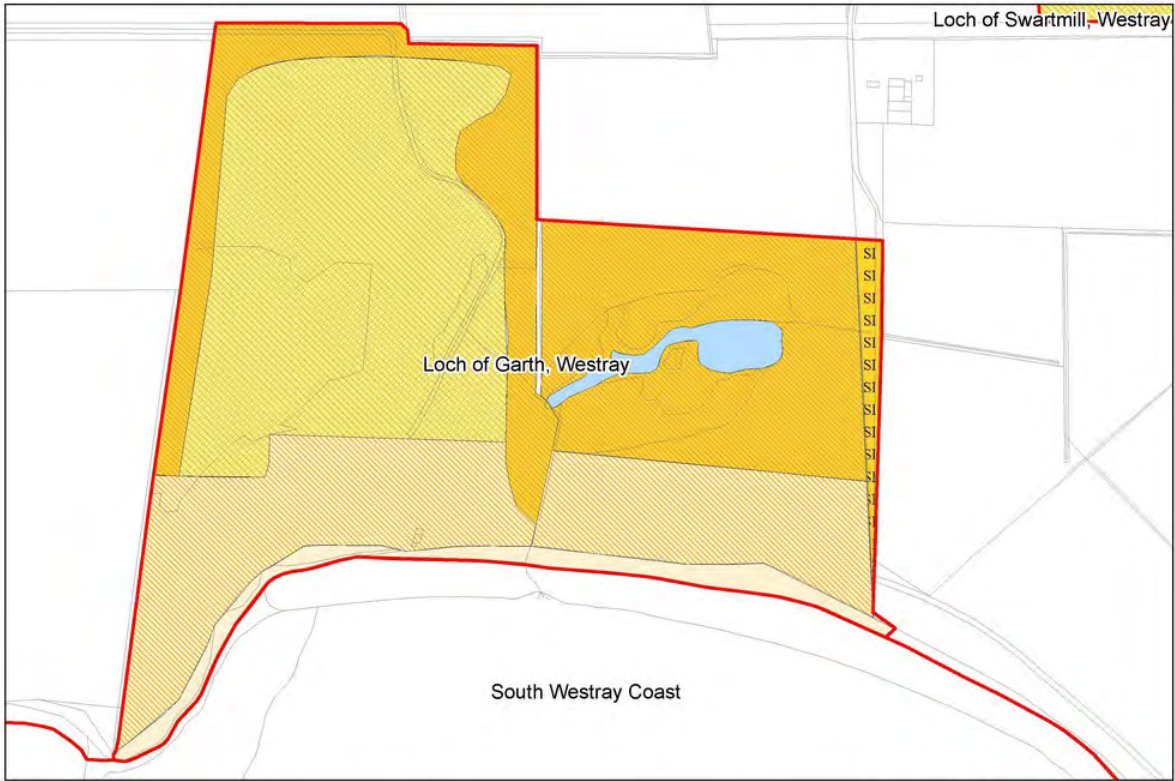
<b>Loch of Garso.</b>	<b>Location:</b> North Ronaldsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 4 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 116.
<b>Site Description:</b> An area of open water surrounded by marsh and wet meadow with abundant yellow iris. Oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank nest here in small numbers, along with a range of wildfowl such as shelduck, teal, shoveler, mallard and coot. Occasional skylark and reed bunting also breed on the site.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Eutrophic standing water*.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Curlew*. Lapwing*. Shoveler. Skylark*. Reed bunting*. Flat-stalked pondweed*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Loch of Garso, North Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 116)

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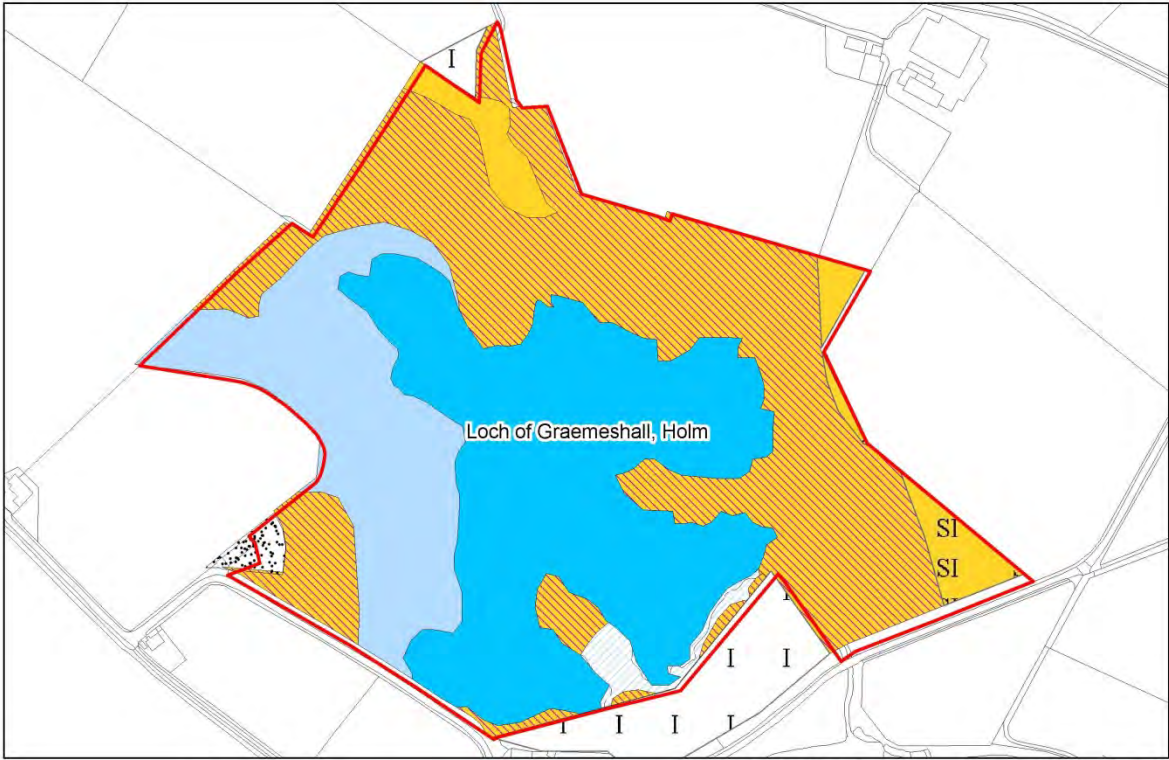
<b>Loch of Garth.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Westray.
<b>Area:</b> c. 11 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 117.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area of wetland and remnant wet heather moorland, adjacent to coastal habitats of sandy links and low dunes. The wetland has small pools and very marshy areas with plants such as meadowsweet, marsh marigolds and mare's-tail. There are patches of heather and bog cotton in the northwest part of the site. Along the shore is a low ridge of dunes with lyme grass growing on it.</p> <p>Waders breed on this site in good numbers, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Teal, mallard and shoveler also nest in small numbers. A few pairs of gulls, and occasional common and arctic terns have been recorded here. Other breeding birds include skylark, meadow pipit and sedge warbler.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Coastal sand dunes* .</p> <p>Links</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing* .</p> <p>Curlew* .</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Shoveler.</p> <p>Skylark* .</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Garth, Westray (Site ref No: 117)

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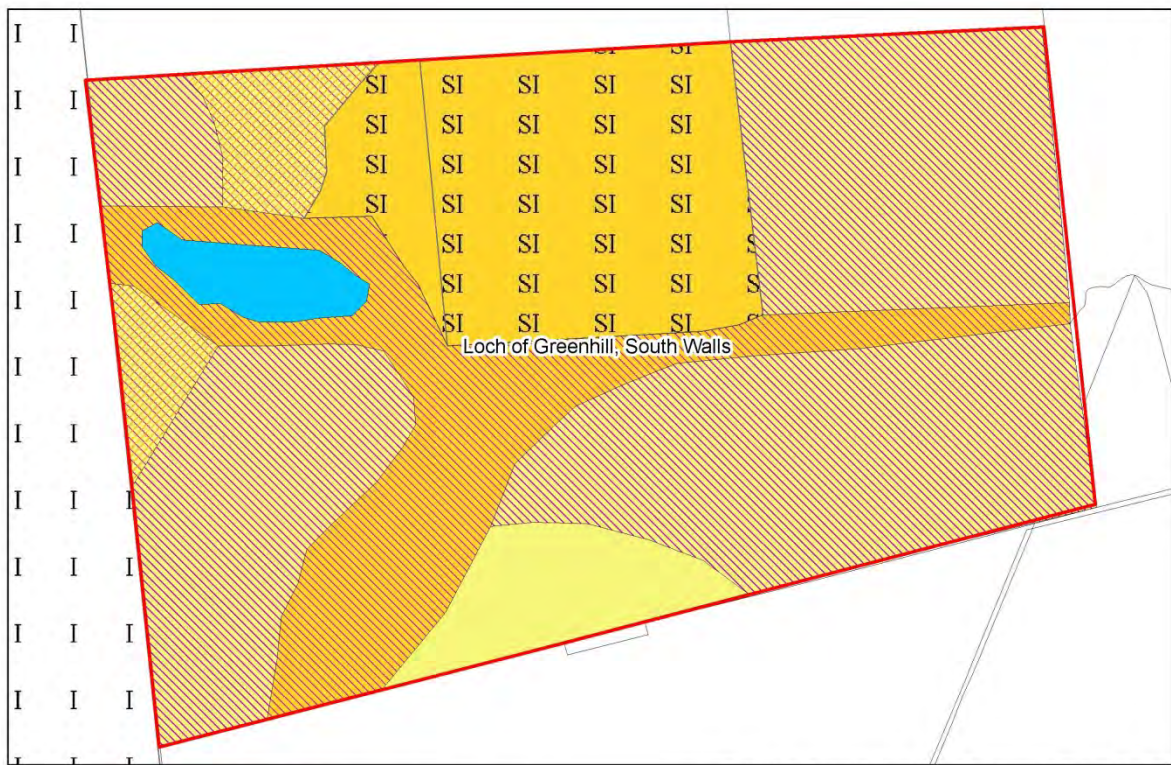
<b>Loch of Graemeshall.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Holm.
<b>Area:</b> c. 16 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 118.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>A medium-sized loch surrounded by tall vegetation consisting of reed beds on the eastern side, with meadowsweet dominating the marshy grassland that surrounds the rest of the loch.</p> <p>This site has the largest swallow roost in Orkney. A few waders nest here along with wildfowl such as shoveler, tufted duck, moorhen, coot and little grebe. Sedge warbler nest in the reedbeds. The loch is important for wintering wildfowl. Damselflies breed in the loch.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Reedbeds*.</p> <p>Eutrophic standing water*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*</p> <p>Redshank*</p> <p>Shoveler</p> <p>Swallows</p> <p>Sedge warbler</p> <p>Little grebe</p> <p>Wintering ducks</p> <p>Common blue damselfly</p> <p>Blue-tailed damselfly</p> <p>Large red damselfly</p> <p>Haworth's minor (a moth)*</p> <p>Grey club-rush</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Loch of Graemeshall, Holm (Site ref No: 118)

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<b>Loch of Greenhill.</b>	<b>Location:</b> South Walls.
<b>Area:</b> c. 8 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 119.
<b>Site Description:</b> An area mostly of heather moorland, with a marsh and shallow loch near its centre. The moorland is mainly wet, with bog asphodel, bog cotton and mosses, also abundant lichens in places. Marsh around and to the south of the loch is rich in species, including orchids, ragged robin, horsetails and sedges. The area has not yet been surveyed for nesting birds, but breeding black-headed and common gulls, and waders including curlew and lapwing have been noted as present in the breeding season.	
<b>Special Habitats:</b> Upland heath*. Lowland fen*.	<b>Special Wildlife:</b> Breeding waders and gulls*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	

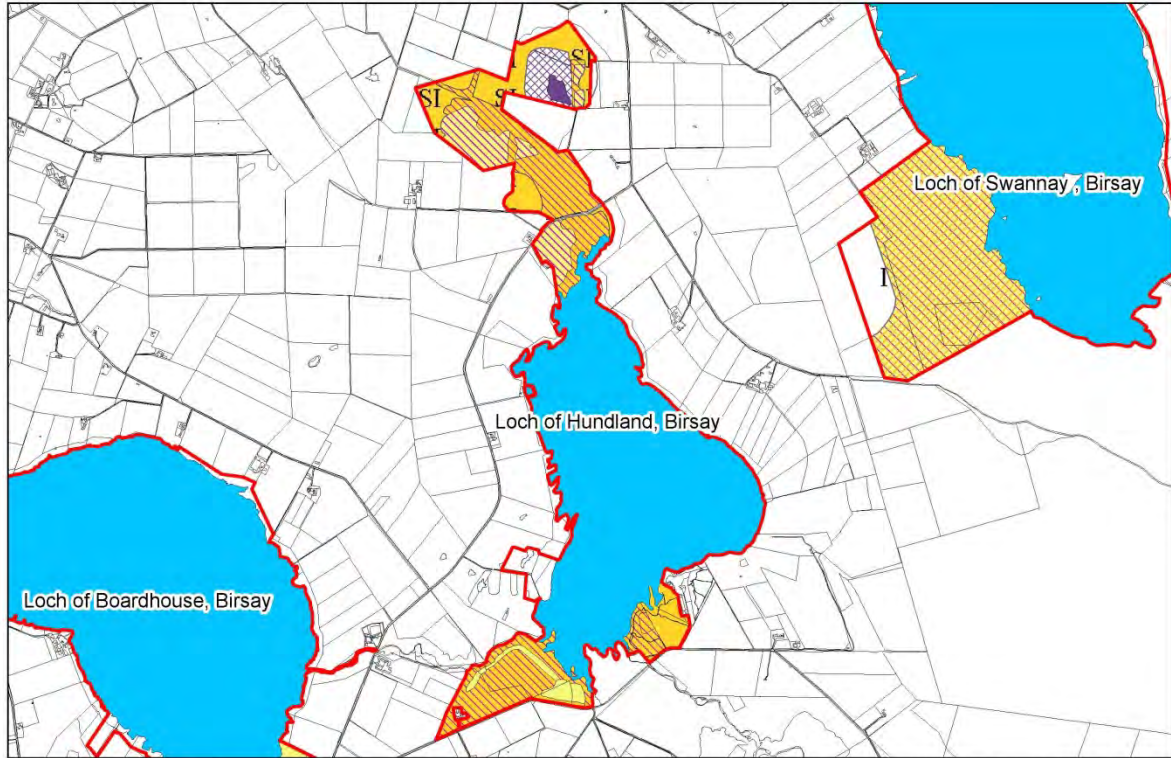


Loch of Greenhill, South Walls (Site ref No: 119)

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<b>Loch of Hundland.</b>	<b>Location:</b> Birsay.
<b>Area:</b> c. 167 hectares.	<b>Site Reference Number:</b> 120.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site comprises the Loch of Hundland and areas of marsh at its northern and southern ends. The loch itself has a great variety of aquatic plants, including locally and nationally unusual species. The largest land area of the site is situated in the broad valley to the north of the loch. The main habitat here is marsh dominated by meadowsweet, with other common plants including yellow iris, marsh marigold and horsetails. There is some wet heather moorland on thin peat and bog on deeper peat, with plants including bog cotton, heather, bog asphodel, deer grass and sphagnum moss. There are water-filled ditches and some small pools. There is also some semi-natural grassland round the drier edges. Marsh at the southern end has greater variety in the form of lime-rich springs.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site in good numbers, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. A rare breeding wader, black-tailed godwit, utilises the area. Ducks, including mallard, wigeon, shelduck and tufted duck also breed here, as do birds of prey and red-throated diver. There is a colony of common gulls and lesser numbers of other gulls. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, pied wagtail, stonechat, sedge warbler and reed bunting. Hen harrier hunt over the area.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Mesotrophic lakes*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Breeding birds of prey*.</p> <p>Red-throated diver*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Wigeon.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Large red damselfly.</p> <p>Brown trout.</p> <p>Common toad.</p> <p>Lesser bearded stonewort*.</p> <p>Flat-stalked pondweed*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Pink water speedwell.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Loch of Hundland, Birsay (Site ref No: 120)

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