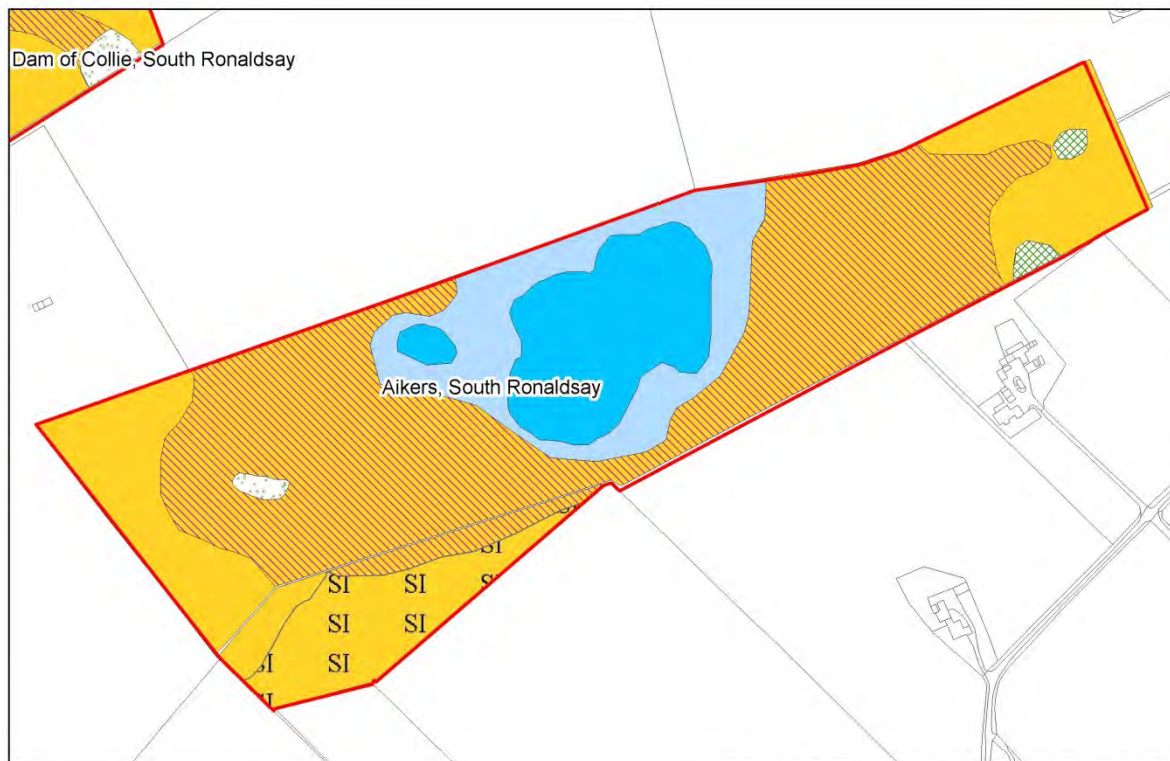


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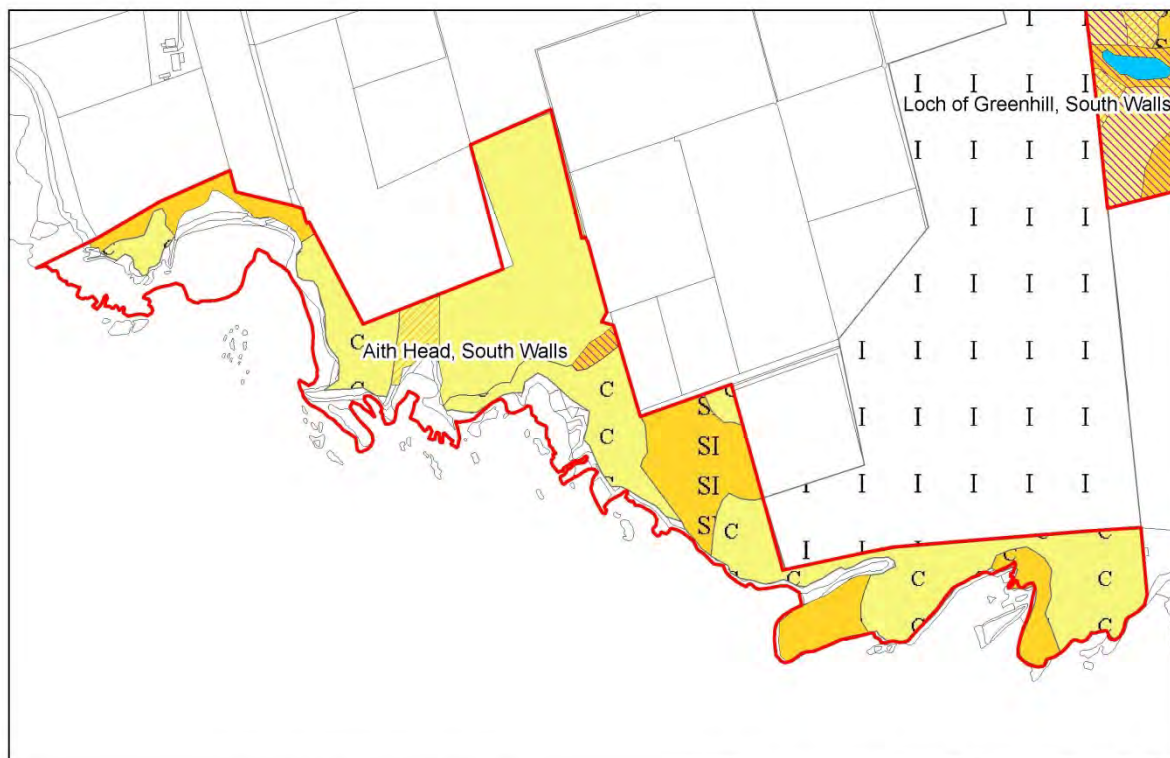
Aikers.	Location: South Ronaldsay.
Area: c. 13 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 1.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This is a very wet valley area surrounded by sloping land. A small loch in the centre of the site merges into swamp around the edges. Ragged robin and marsh marigold are amongst the flowering plants found throughout the dominant vegetation comprising rushes and sedges.</p> <p>The area has not yet been surveyed for nesting birds, but breeding ducks, including teal, shoveler and wigeon, and waders have been noted as present in the breeding season.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing water*. Lowland fens*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Breeding waders and ducks*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Aikers, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 1)

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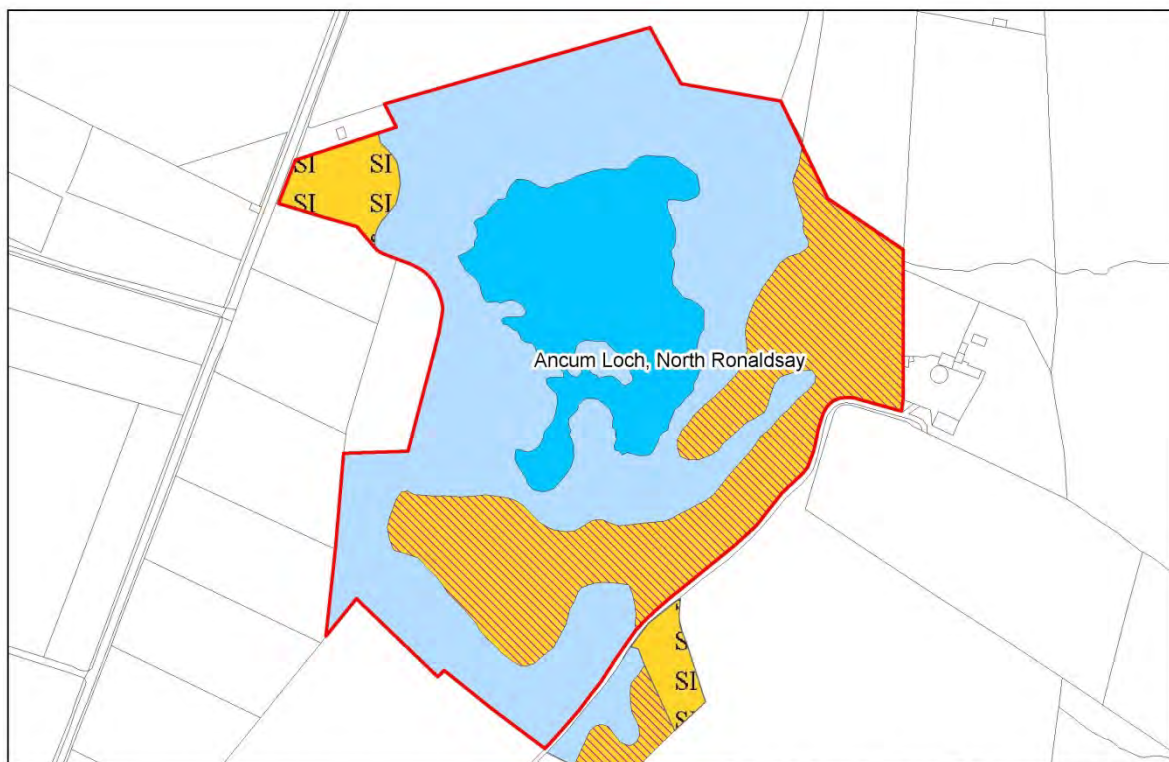
Aith Head.	Location: South Walls.
Area: c. 21 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 2.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site comprises a strip of coastal heath and grassland along the cliffs near Aith Head, extending inland in one place. The heath is dominated by heather and crowberry, but varies according to the amount of exposure to sea spray. In more exposed places plants such sea plantain and spring squill grow among shorter heather. Likewise the grassland on cliff edges and growing down steep slopes is varied: at the western end the grass is tall and flowery, and a rare hawkweed grows here at its only known site in Orkney.</p> <p>The area has not been surveyed for nesting birds, but the habitats can be expected to attract at least skylark and meadow pipit. Breeding birds of prey have been recorded here.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*. Maritime heath. Maritime cliff and slope*. Maritime grassland.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Breeding birds of prey*. Hieracium maritimum (a hawkweed).</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Aith Head, South Walls (Site ref No: 2)

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Ancum Loch.	Location: North Ronaldsay.
Area: c. 7 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 3.
Site Description: A small loch, which provides the island's water supply, surrounded by marshy grassland. Yellow iris dominates the marshy areas. A variety of waders breed here, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. There are nesting wildfowl, including teal, shoveler, moorhen, coot and mute swan. Pairs of gadwall and water rail have been recorded. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark and meadow pipit.	
Special Habitats: Lowland Fen*. Eutrophic standing water*.	Special Wildlife: Lapwing*. Snipe. Shoveler. Gadwall. Skylark*. Water rail.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



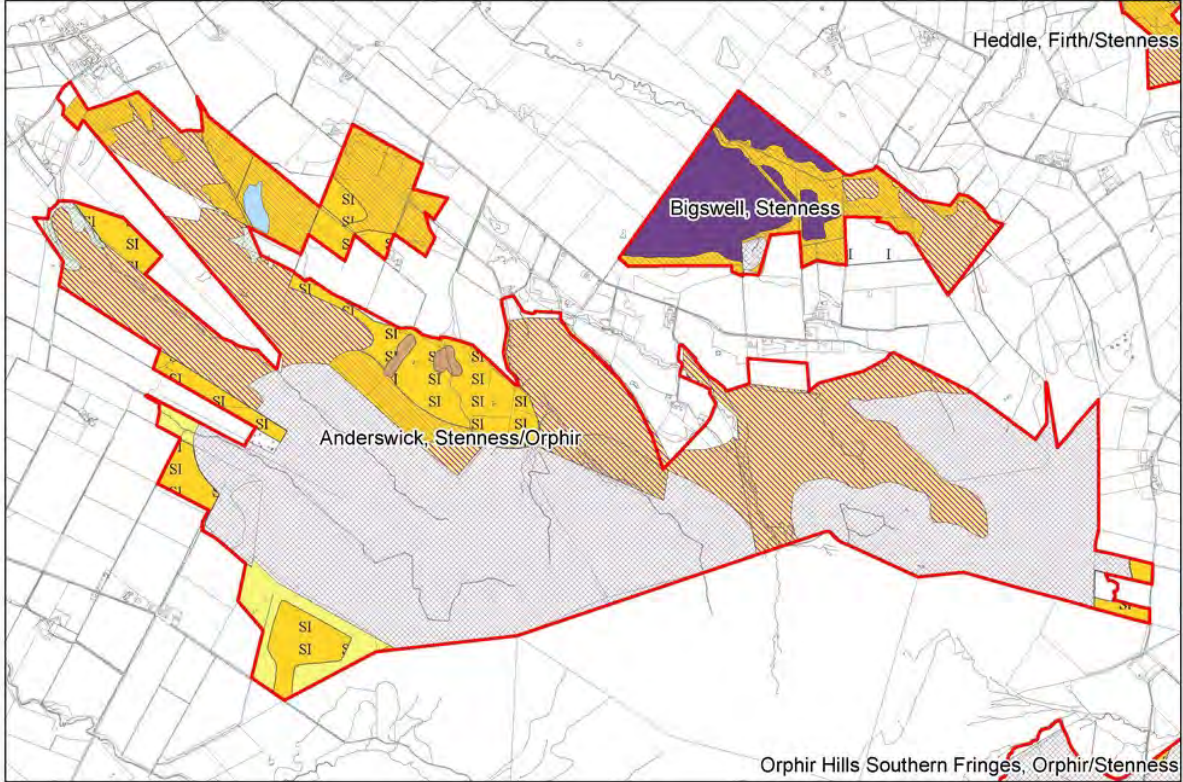
Ancum Loch, North Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 3)

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Anderswick.	Location: Stenness/Orphir.
Area: c. 430 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 4.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This large site encompasses hill ground to the north of the Orphir/Stenness hills, with a variety of moorland habitats and low ground with marsh, marshy grassland and wet moorland. A number of burns and deep ditches thread the hill and low ground.</p> <p>The flatter ground and gentle slopes on the hill are covered in blanket bog, with plants including bog cotton, heather, bog asphodel and sphagnum moss. Steeper ground is covered with drier moorland on thinner peat, with the dominant heather joined by bell heather and fine grasses. On the low ground, there is cut-over peat bog, where old cuttings have flooded and turned to swamp, and areas of heather moorland on thin peat.</p> <p>The marsh is varied also: there is a reedbed; other tall vegetation with plants such as meadowsweet and yellow iris; and short vegetation with grasses, sedges and many other plants, like ragged robin, orchids and horsetails. There are other features of special interest: lime-rich springs on hill and low ground, with their distinctive array of small plants and mosses; an ancient water-filled quarry with varied water plants and insects including dragonflies; and woodland or scrub. This woodland includes native species, especially willows along the Russadale Burn, gorse on the lower hill fringes and various planted species. A number of nationally and locally uncommon plants occur. The burns harbour spawning trout.</p> <p>The site is an important one for nesting birds of prey, comprising hen harrier, short-eared owl and merlin. A variety of waders nest on the site in good numbers, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. There is a colony of common gulls. Red grouse are quite common. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, stonechat, wheatear, songthrush, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Upland fens, flushes and swamps*.</p> <p>Reedbeds*.</p> <p>Ponds*.</p> <p>Wet woodlands*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Lowland dry acid grassland*.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Hen Harrier*.</p> <p>Merlin*.</p> <p>Short-eared owl*.</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>Songthrush*.</p> <p>Large heath butterfly*.</p> <p>Moss carder bee*.</p> <p>Common hawker dragonfly.</p> <p>Large red damselfly.</p> <p>Blue-tailed damselfly.</p> <p>Brown trout.</p>

	<p>Grey willow. Tea-leaved willow. Marsh fragrant orchid*. Stag's-horn clubmoss.</p>
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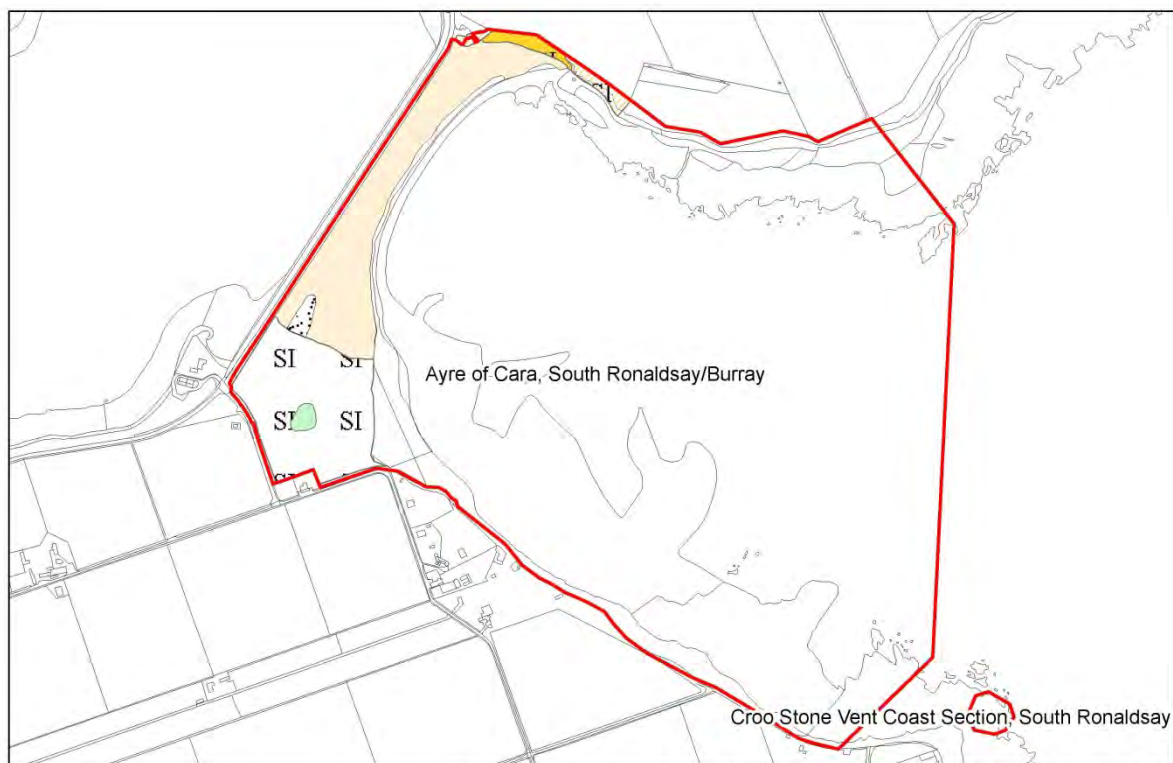
* Nationally important habitats and species.



Anderswick, Stenness/Orphir (Site ref No: 4)

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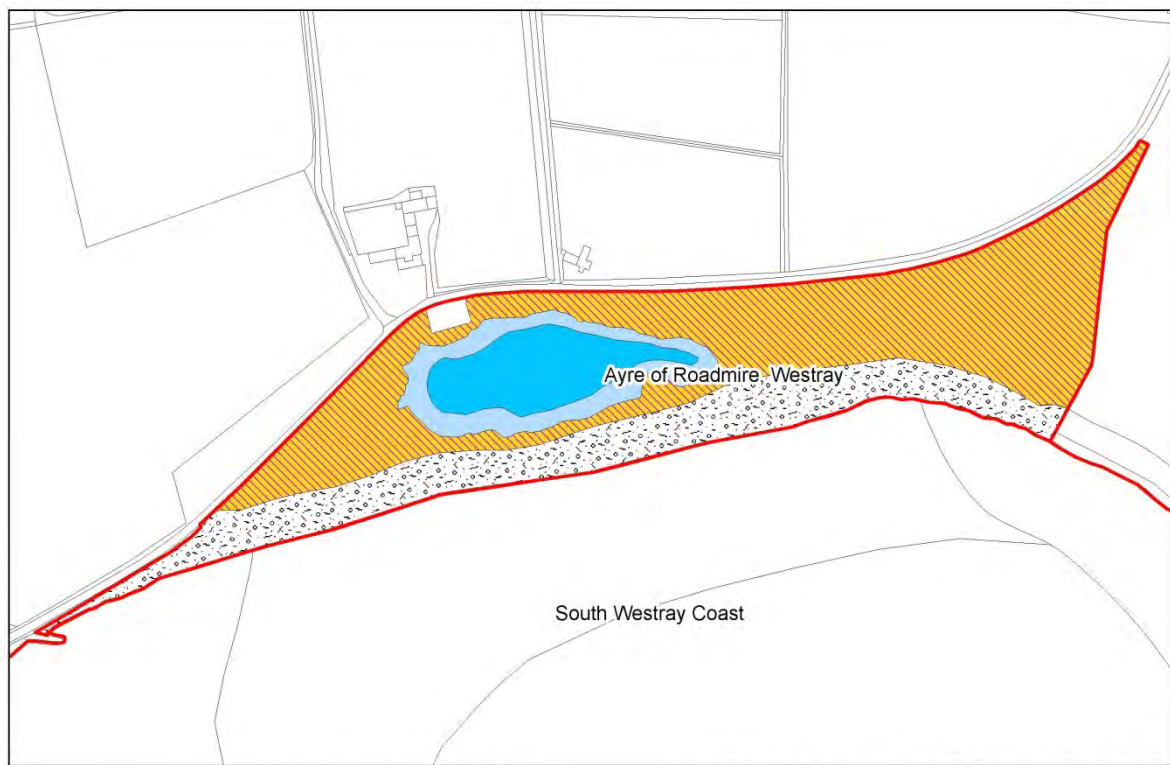
Ayre of Cara.	Location: South Ronaldsay/Burray.
Area: c. 73 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 5.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site has been created by natural sand accretion following the building of Churchill Barrier No 4 during World War II. The site comprises the beach and the sand dunes backing the beach, plus some grassland. Along the top of the beach there is a continuous line of strandline vegetation that supports the unusual oysterplant and frosted orache. The dune habitat has much marram grass, which stabilises the dune system.</p> <p>There is an important little tern colony on this site.</p> <p>The 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>Coastal sand dunes*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Little tern*.</p> <p>Oysterplant*.</p> <p>Frosted orache.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Ayre of Cara, South Ronaldsay/Burray (Site ref No: 5)

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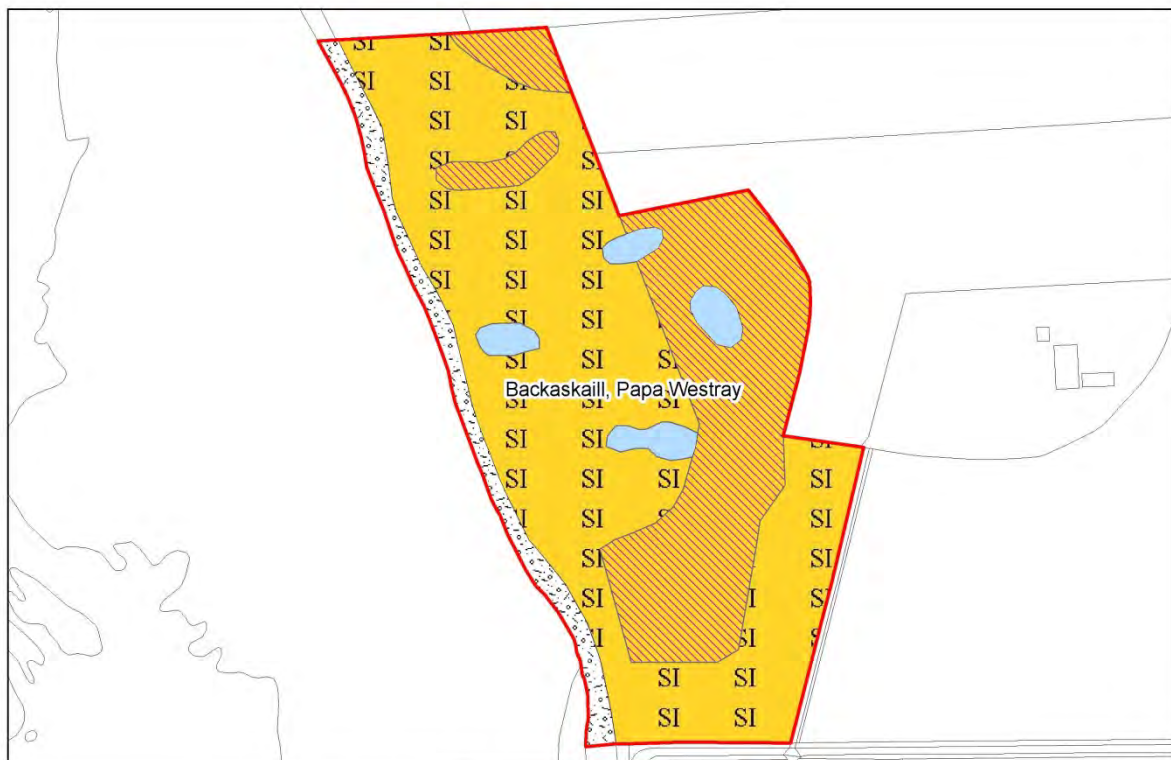
Ayre of Roadmire.	Location: Westray.
Area: c. 3 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 6.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The Ayre of Roadmire is a vegetated shingle bar enclosing a small lagoon and area of wetland, including a reedbed.</p> <p>A variety of waders and ducks nest here in small numbers, including oystercatcher, ringed plover, redshank, coot and moorhen. Small arctic tern and black-headed gull colonies are also present. Smaller birds nesting here include sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Coastal vegetated shingle*.</p> <p>Saline lagoons*.</p> <p>Reedbeds*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic tern*.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Ringed plover.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Ayre of Roadmire, Westray (Site ref No: 6)

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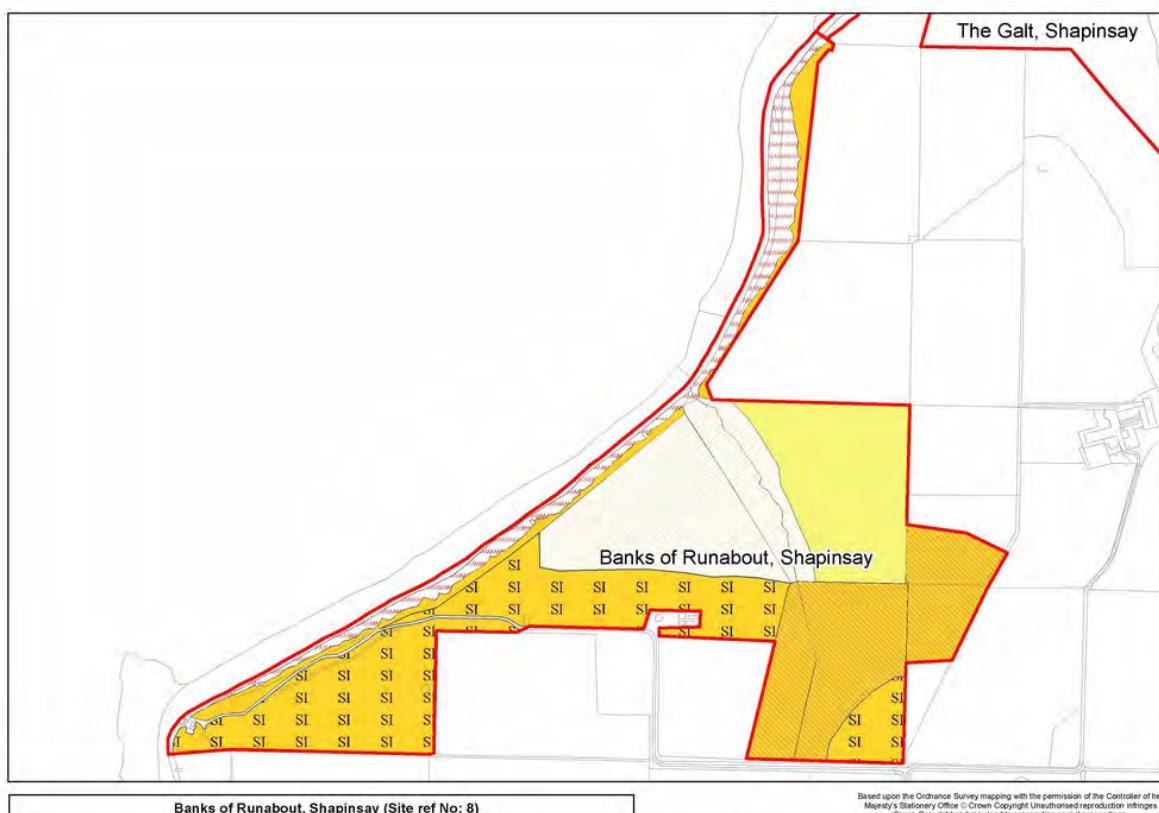
Backskail.	Location: Papa Westray.
Area: c 3.5 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 7.
Site Description: A coastal site with a narrow shingle bank backed by grassland. Some areas are wet with stands of yellow iris or swampy and covered in mare's-tail. The swampy areas are likely to have standing water in winter. Waders including lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank nest here, along with ducks including mallard, shoveler and eider. There is a small colony of arctic terns and a few nesting common and black-headed gulls	
Special Habitats:	Special Wildlife: Lapwing*. Snipe. Curlew*. Redshank. Arctic tern*. Shoveler.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



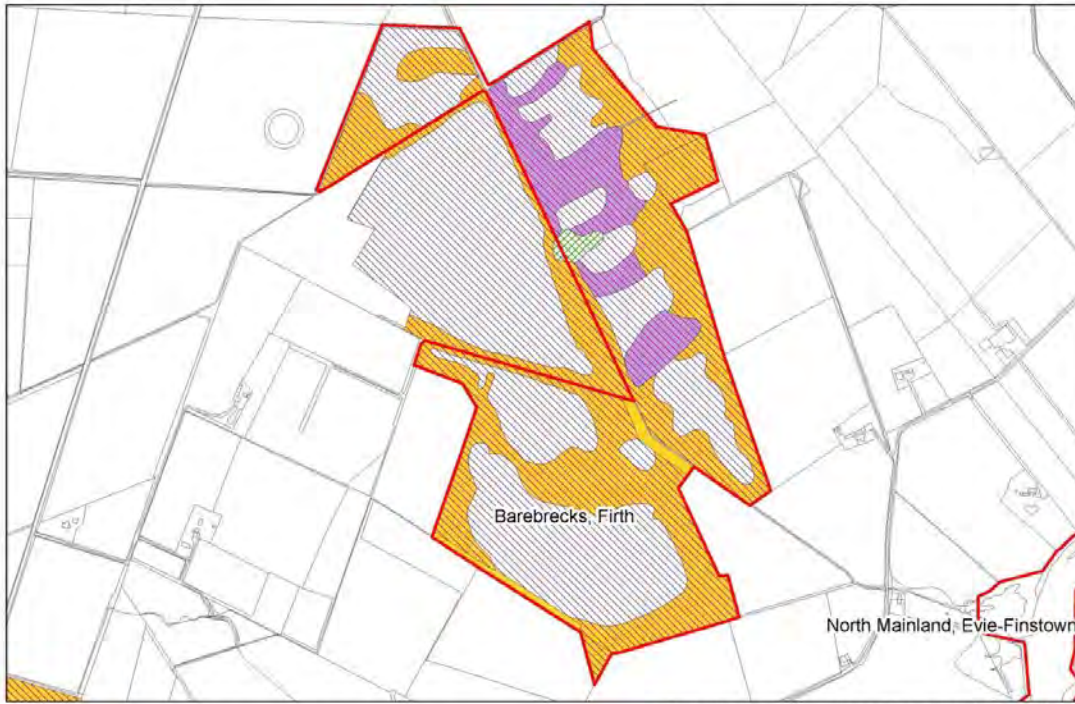
Backskail, Papa Westray (Site ref No: 7)

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Banks of Runabout.	Location: Shapinsay.
Area: c. 19 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 8.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site includes a variety of natural and man-made features and several different habitats. There is some dry heather moorland, wind-pruned and short, with abundant lichens in places. There is semi-natural acid grassland, on the site of a WW2 camp, and this has many plant species including abundant heath-spotted orchids. There are wet areas with marsh and shallow pools. An unusual feature is the steep, eroding, soft cliffs descending to a raised beach with plantigrus. A small burn runs in its natural course between high banks.</p> <p>The site supports breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew, snipe and redshank. A single pair of arctic skuas was present in 2010. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit and linnet.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*. Crowberry heath. Lowland dry acid grassland*. Lowland fens*. Maritime cliff and slope*. Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic tern*. Lapwing*. Curlew*. Snipe. Redshank. Skylark*.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



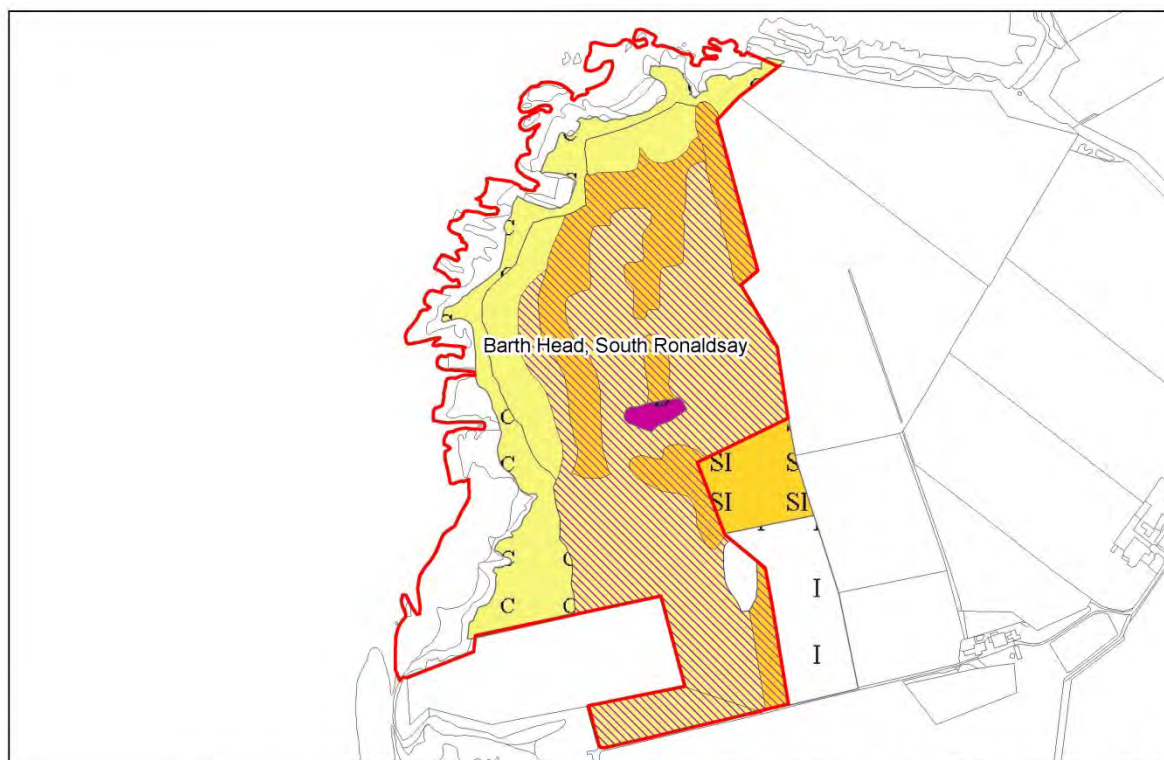
Barebrecks.	Location: Firth.
Area: c. 36 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 9.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site lies in a basin of deep peat and has a variety of wetland and moorland habitats. A deep canalised burn runs through the centre, taking water from tributaries that include the Burn of Redland. Peat cutting in the past has created a landscape made up of many islands of relatively dry peat with a cover of heather, bog cotton and other peatland plants, surrounded by marshes and swamps with a greater variety of wetland plants, often dominated by meadowsweet. Native willow bushes grow along the burn.</p> <p>The site is an important one for breeding waders, especially curlew that nest here in large numbers. Others breeding here in lesser numbers include oystercatcher, snipe and redshank. There are colonies of common and black-headed gulls. Smaller birds nesting here include meadow pipit, sedge warbler, willow warbler and reed bunting. Hen harrier, short-eared owl and merlin hunt over the area.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Basin bog.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Wet woodlands*.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Willow warbler.</p> <p>Linnet*.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Hunting birds of prey.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Barebrecks, Firth (Site ref No: 9)

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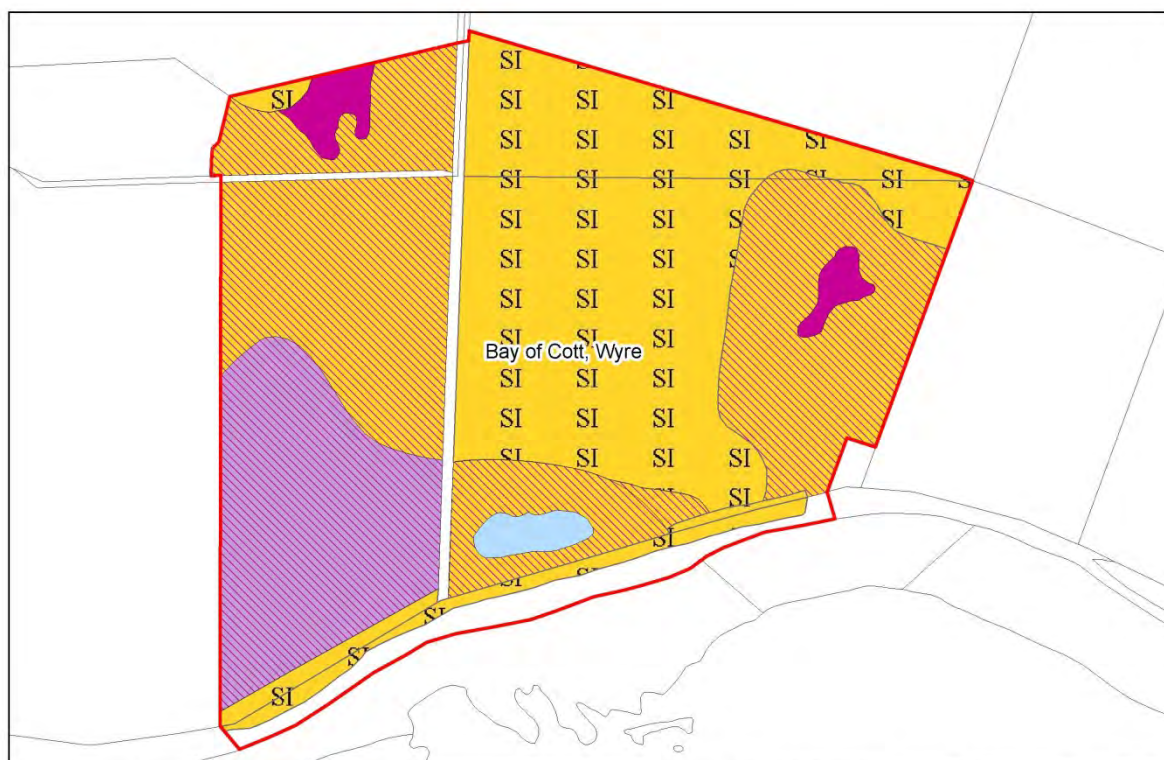
Barth Head.	Location: South Ronaldsay.
Area: c. 23 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 10.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The Barth Head promontory is on the exposed south-west facing coast of South Ronaldsay. The land slopes downwards inland from the coastal edge through maritime heath to a low-lying area of wet moorland and marshy grassland. The heath is wind-clipped and short, dominated by heather and crowberry with areas of lichens and the low-growing creeping willow. Wetter areas have bog asphodel and sundew. Variety of plant life increases where springs locally create more lime-rich conditions. A variety of waders nest here including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Other nesting species include skylark, meadow pipit, wheatear, and rock pipit. Grey seals breed on the shore below the cliffs.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope*. Upland heath*. Maritime heath. Lichen heath. Lowland fens*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*. Lapwing*. Snipe. Redshank. Skylark*. Grey Seal*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Barth Head, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 10)

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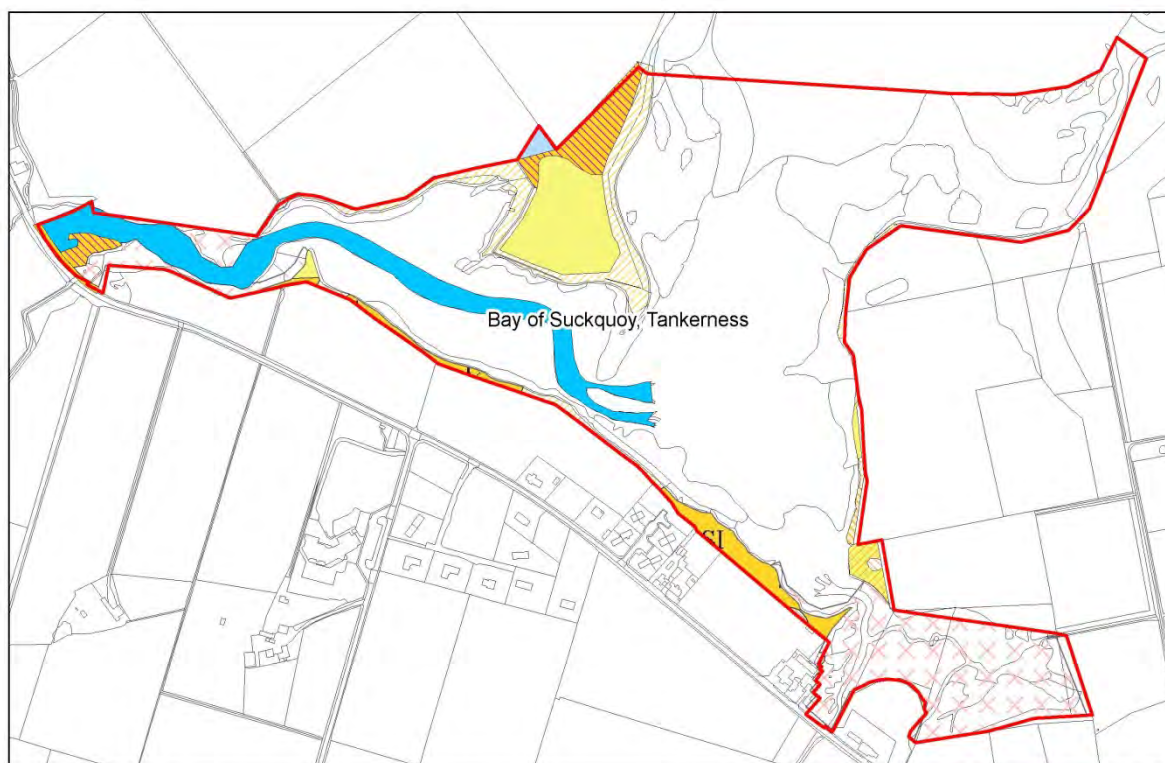
Bay of Cott.	Location: Wyre.
Area: c. 6 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 11.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>Situated on the south-western side of Wyre, the site comprises marshy grassland and semi-natural grassland on slopes running down to a seasonally flooded hollow and then the shore. Yellow iris, rushes and meadowsweet occur in the marshy grassland, and diversity of plant life increases around the frequent lime-rich springs with their distinctive array of small plants and mosses. A pool next to the shore has fringing marsh and open water overgrown with bogbean.</p> <p>The site is important for breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew, snipe and especially redshank. There are nesting shoveler and a small colony of black-headed gulls. Small numbers of arctic terns have been recorded recently. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*. Curlew*. Redshank. Arctic tern*. Shoveler. Skylark*. Black-headed gull*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Bay of Cott, Wyre (Site ref No: 11)

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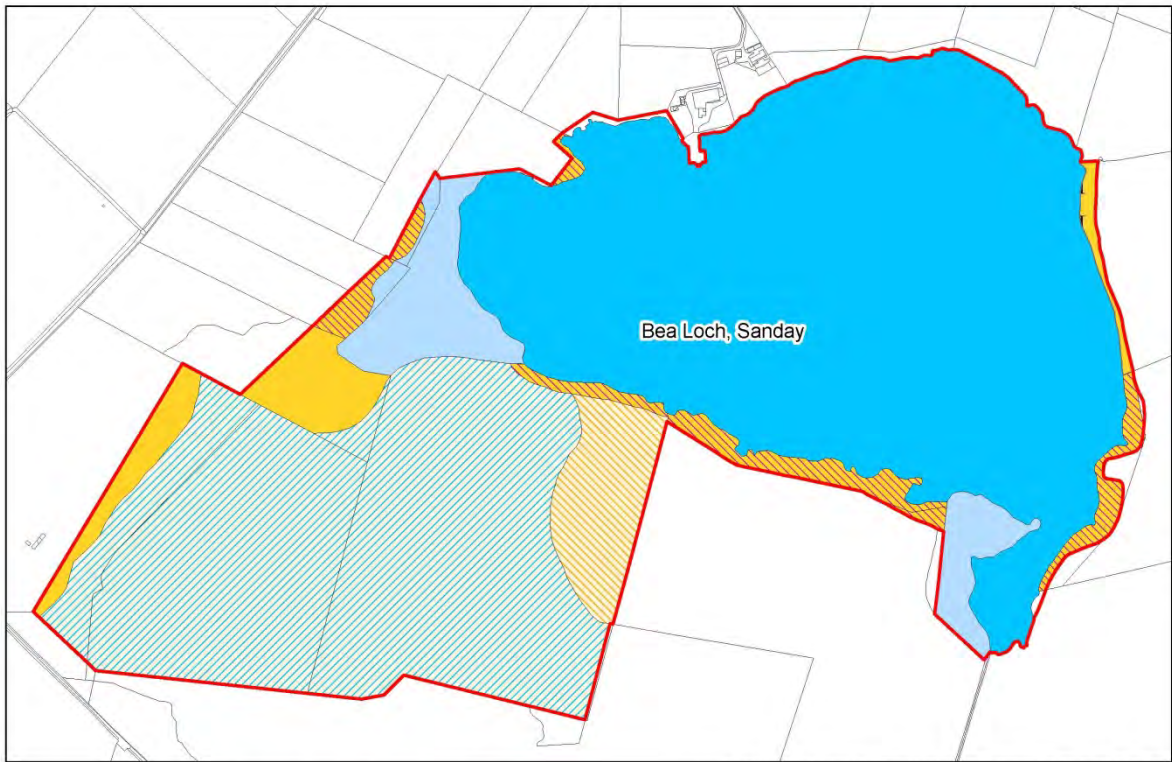
Bay of Suckquoy.	Location: Tankerness.
Area: c. 35 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 12.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The Bay of Suckquoy is important for its large area of intertidal saltmarsh, with a distinctive flora of plants that tolerate salt. The Sebay Mill Ouse forms a saltmarsh of approximately 0.5 ha. The larger area east of Toab School, is approximately 2.5 ha. The saltmarshes are bordered by a variety of other habitats including semi-natural grassland, a patch of heather on a dry mound, freshwater marsh and planted willows. Two burns run into the site. The bay itself has extensive mud flats at low tide which are important for wintering waders.</p> <p>Breeding birds include eider, black-headed gull and occasional arctic tern, and small colonies of common gull.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Salt marsh*.</p> <p>Intertidal mud flats*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic tern*.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p> <p>Wintering waders.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Bay of Suckquoy, Tankerness (Site ref No: 12)

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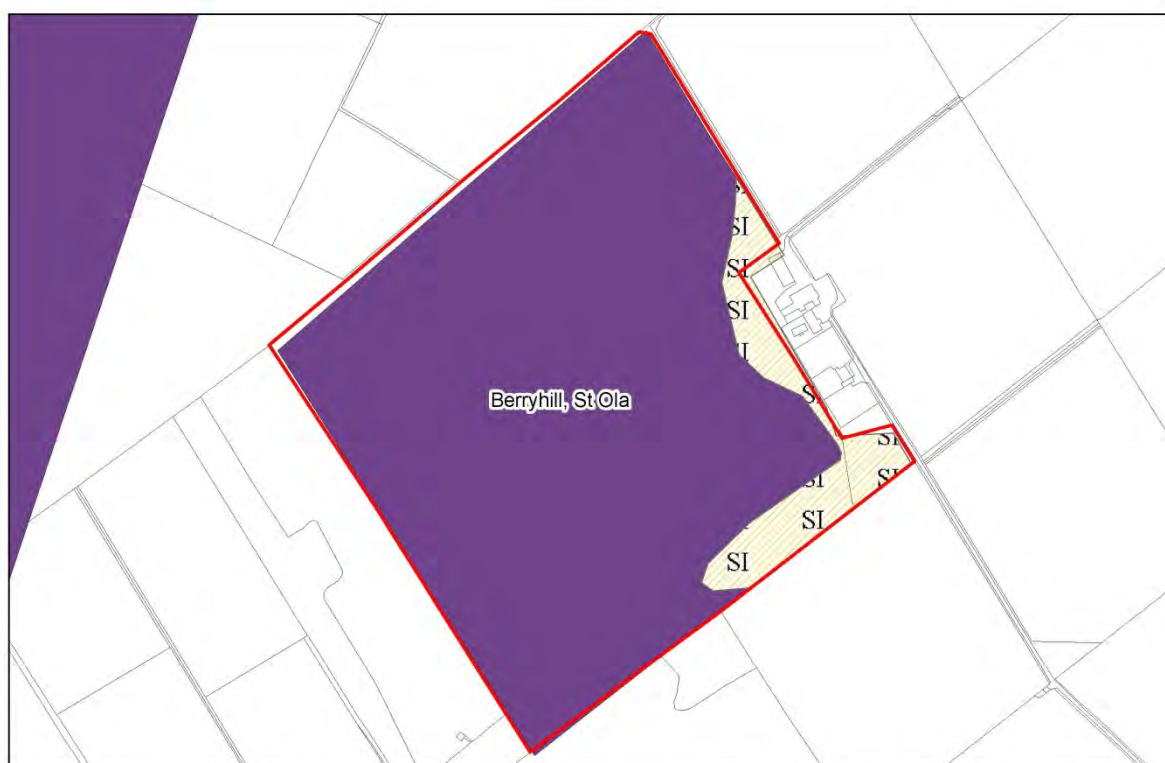
Bea Loch.	Location: Sanday.
Area: c. 76 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 13.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site mainly comprises the Bea Loch and a flat, sandy plain to its south. The reedbed at the western end of the loch is one of the largest in Orkney. Much of the loch has bare, stony margins but there are marshy parts with floating and emergent plants near the reedbed and at the extreme south-eastern end. There are often many ducks on the loch, especially on spring and autumn passage and in winter. The low-lying sand plain is partially flooded in winter, drying in summer to form damp and dry natural pastures with an abundance of wild flowers. This kind of land form, called links in Orkney, has been termed machair because of similarities with comparable landscapes in the Western Isles. Orchids, bird's-foot trefoil and grass-of-Parnassus are some of the striking plants that give colour to the area in summer.</p> <p>The site supports many breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. There are small colonies of arctic terns and common gulls, a few breeding gulls of other species and a pair of arctic skuas. Breeding ducks include red-breasted merganser and tufted duck. Sedge warblers and reed buntings nest in the reedbed.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p> <p>Reedbeds*.</p> <p>Machair*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew *.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Arctic skua*.</p> <p>Arctic tern*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Bea Loch, Sanday (Site ref No: 13)

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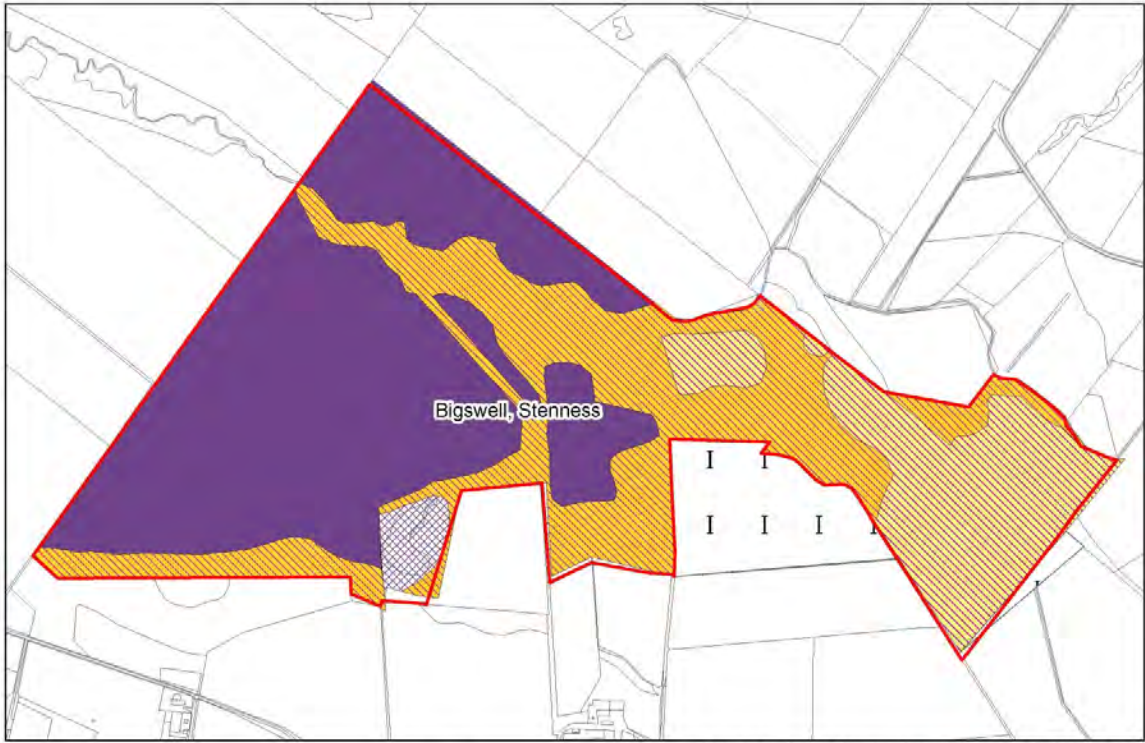
Berryhill.	Location: St Ola.
Area: c. 16 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 14.
Site Description: An area of blanket bog on deep peat, edged with acid grassland. Heather and bog cotton are the dominant plants. Wetter parts have pools with sphagnum mosses. The site supports breeding waders including oystercatcher, snipe, curlew and redshank. There is a colony of common gulls.	
Special Habitats: Blanket bog*.	Special Wildlife: Curlew*. Snipe. Redshank.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Berryhill, St Ola (Site ref No: 14)

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Bigswell.	Location: Stenness.
Area: c. 52 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 15.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site mainly comprises peat bog, with heather moorland on thinner peat, and smaller areas of marsh and wet grassland. Burns and ditches run through it. Abundant plants of the bog are heather and bog cotton, with others such as bog asphodel and sphagnum moss. The marsh has abundant meadowsweet, rushes and sedges, with patches of yellow iris and reed canary-grass. There are pools with characteristic plants such as bogbean, and scattered patches of native willows.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Curlew are especially common. There is a large colony of common gulls. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting. Hen harrier and short-eared owl hunt over the area.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath* .</p> <p>Basin bog.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing* .</p> <p>Curlew* .</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Skylark* .</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting* .</p> <p>Tea-leaved willow.</p> <p>Large heath butterfly* .</p> <p>Otter* .</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	

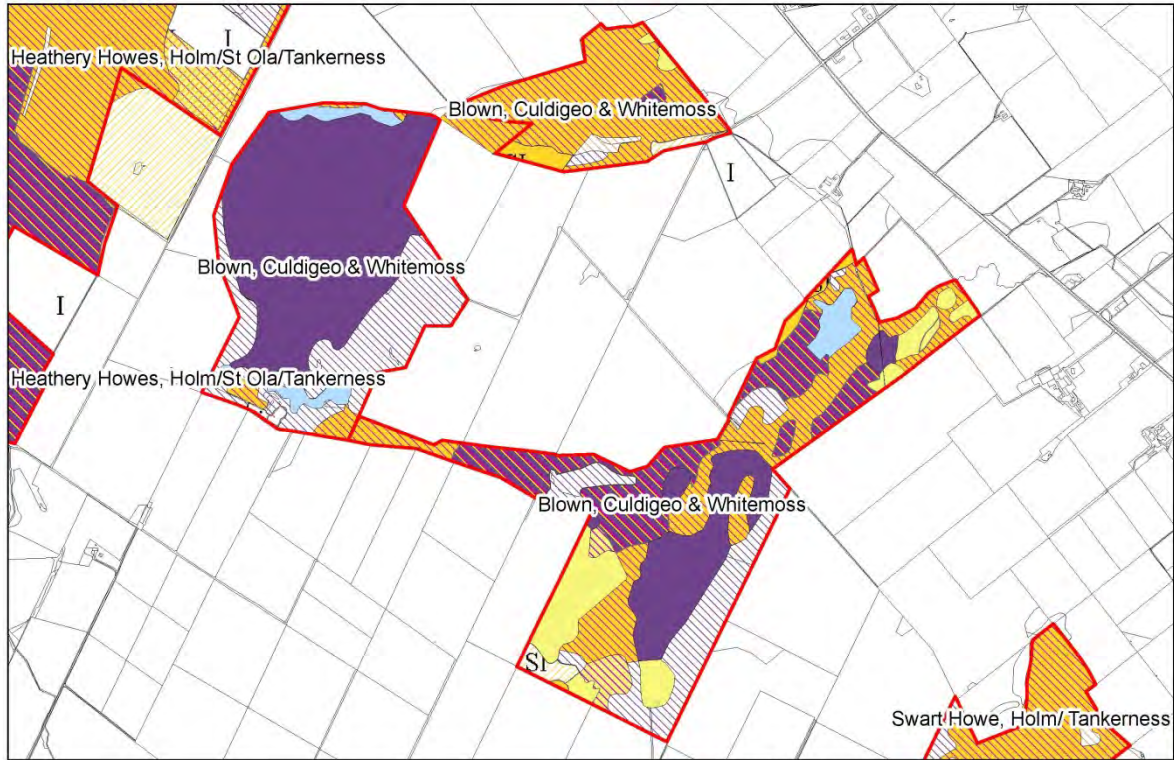


Bigswell, Stenness (Site ref No: 15)

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Blown, Culdigeo and White Moss.	Location: Holm/Tankerness.
Area: c. 126 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 16.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site comprises three adjacent areas – Blown, Culdigeo and White Moss.</p> <p>1. Blown - this is a site of worked-out peat cuttings, now mainly marsh dominated by soft rush and meadowsweet. There is one small area with shorter and more varied wetland vegetation.</p> <p>2. Culdigeo - this part of the site is threaded by the Burn of Culdigeo. Each side of the burn for most of its length is a marshy basin. The vegetation over this lower part of the site is a complex mix of swamp and marshy grassland with abundant meadowsweet. Parts of the site have more flower-rich marshy grassland, heather moorland and blanket bog. To the south the land rises towards Burrody's Hill and the vegetation cover here is mainly blanket bog and drier heather moorland. Bog plants are typically bog cotton and heather, with others including deer grass, bog asphodel, sphagnum moss and some lichens.</p> <p>3. White Moss - an area of blanket bog with pools, the largest, Loomi Shun, a substantial c. 0.5 hectares in extent, and old peat cuttings. Cut-over areas have dried out and are heather-dominated, but more than half of the site has not been cut and remains very wet, with abundant bog cotton and sphagnum moss: some uncommon bog plants grow here. Large red damselflies breed at Loomi Shun.</p> <p>The area as whole is important for breeding birds of prey and red-throated diver. Waders also nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew, redshank and snipe. A variety of gulls breed on the site, with large colonies of lesser black-backed gull and herring gull. A variety of small birds nest here including skylark, meadow pipit, wren, sedge warbler, reed bunting and stonechat.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Upland fens flushes and swamps*.</p> <p>Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes*.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Breeding birds of prey*.</p> <p>Red-throated diver*.</p> <p>Herring gull*.</p> <p>Lesser black-backed gull.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Twite*.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Large red damselfly.</p> <p>Great sundew*.</p> <p>Bog blueberry.</p> <p>Grey willow.</p> <p>Sphagnum magellanicum.</p> <p>Sphagnum austinii*.</p>

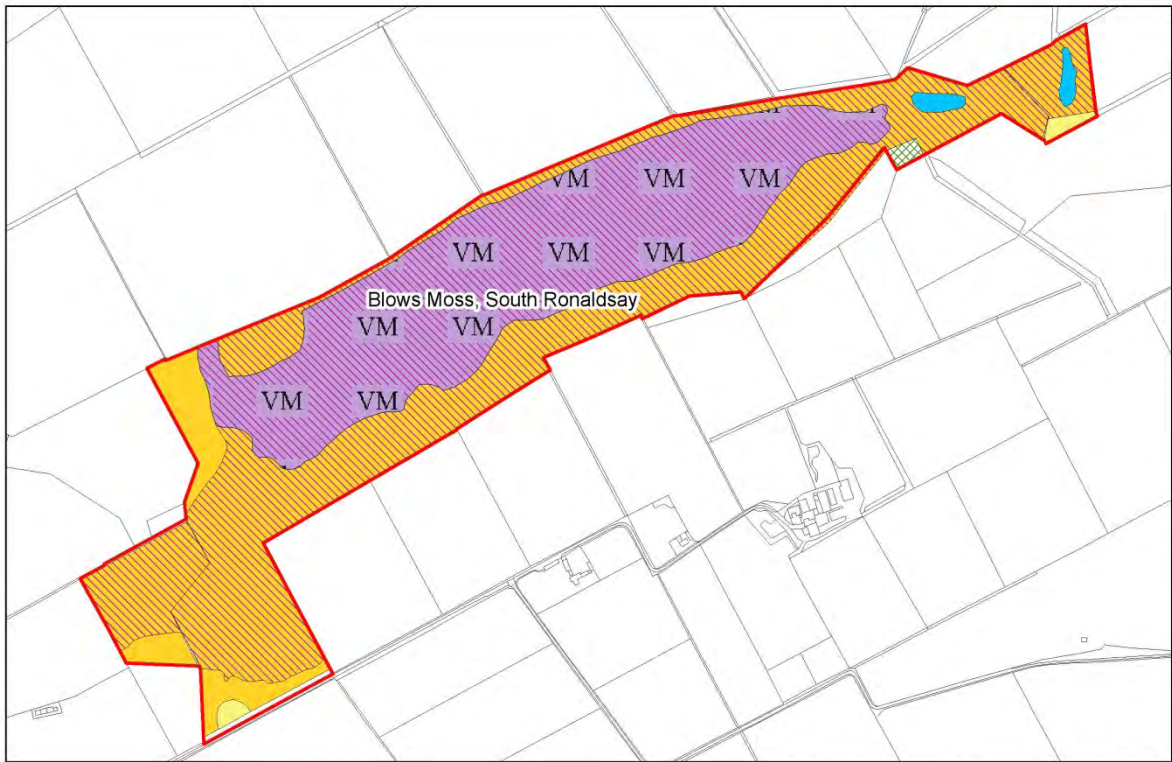
* Nationally important habitats and species.



Blown, Culdigeo & Whitemoss (Site ref No: 16)

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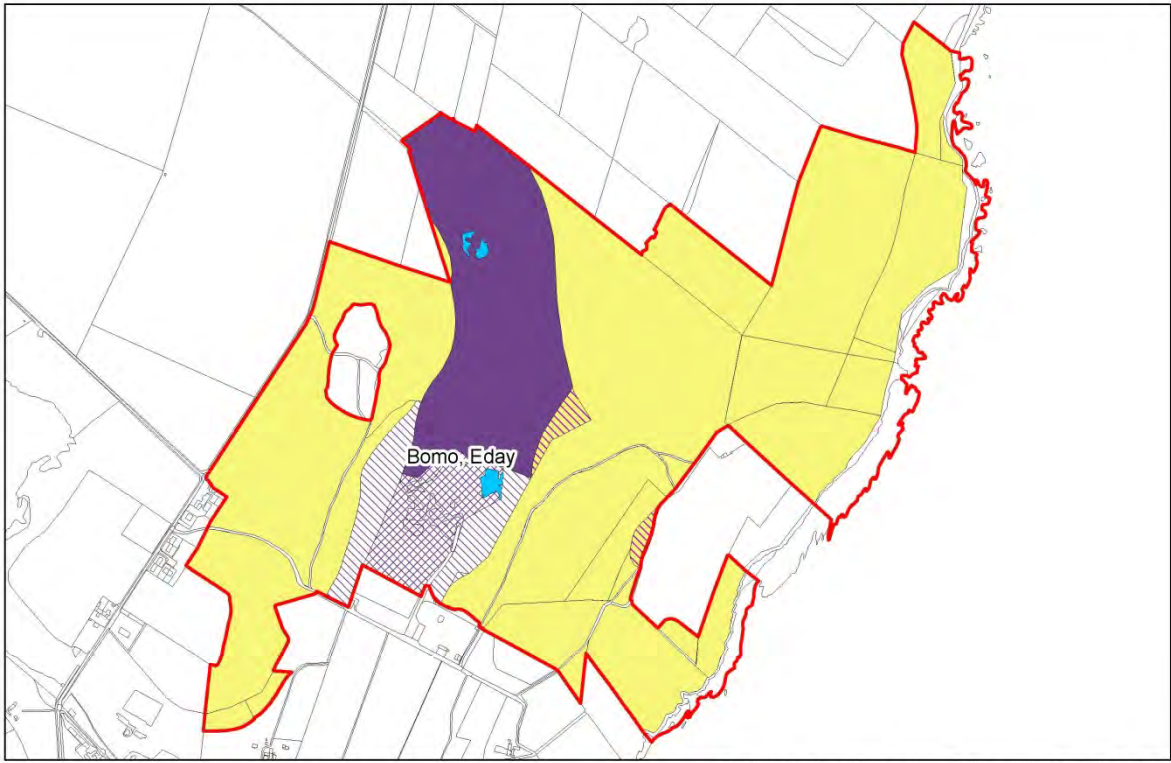
Blows Moss.	Location: South Ronaldsay.
Area: c. 25 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 17.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The core of this site is a basin of very deep peat that probably originated as a shallow lake. This is classified as fen, which is a very wet area with small sedges, grasses, horsetails and other herbs, also swamps and peaty pools with plants such as bogbean. Around the outside of the basin there is taller wetland vegetation with abundant meadowsweet. Variety of plant life further increases where springs locally create more lime-rich conditions. Flowers include the uncommon marsh fragrant-orchid, butterwort, ragged robin and grass-of-Parnassus. Native willows grow in one area of the site.</p> <p>Curlew, oystercatcher, redshank, lapwing and snipe all nest on this site. Mallard, wigeon, moorhen and teal also breed in small numbers. Smaller birds including meadow pipit, sedge warbler, stonechat, twite, reed bunting and skylark all nest in this area. Dragonflies, damselflies and the large heath butterfly have also been recorded here.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Wet woodland*.</p> <p>Upland heathland*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Wigeon.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Twite*.</p> <p>Black darter dragonfly.</p> <p>Blue-tailed damselfly.</p> <p>Large heath butterfly*.</p> <p>Marsh fragrant-orchid*.</p> <p>Grey willow.</p> <p>Tea-leaved willow.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Blows Moss, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 17)

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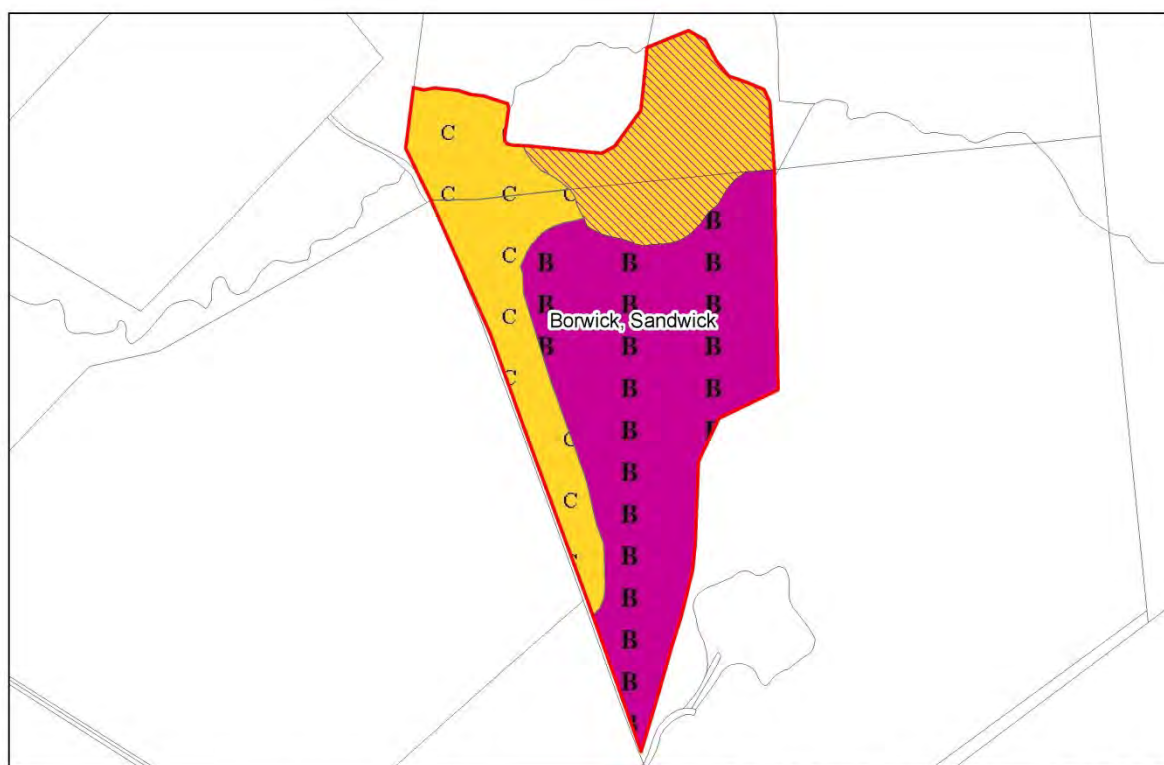
Bomo	Location: Eday
Area: c. 75 hectares	Site Reference Number: 18
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises a basin of deep peat and surrounding drier heather moorland. The southern end of the bog has been cut for peat, including commercial cutting in recent years, but $\frac{3}{4}$ remains uncut. Deep drains have been dug to allow peat cutting, but the bog remains very wet, with pools in places, and sphagnum moss is common.</p> <p>To the west of the bog lies a low hill ridge with the Hill of Bomo at the north and Hammarhill at the south – here the vegetation is mostly heather. There is heather moorland on the eastern side also, extending to the coast. Along the coast the dwarf shrubs are very short and crowberry is plentiful.</p> <p>Many waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe and curlew. There is a pair of red-throated divers. There is a small colony of arctic terns and the occasional pair of arctic and great skuas. Smaller birds breeding here include skylark, meadow pipit, twite and linnet.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*. Blanket bog*. Crowberry heath.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Red throated diver*. Curlew*. Snipe. Arctic tern*. Skylark*. Twite*. Linnet*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Bomo, Eday (Site ref No: 18)

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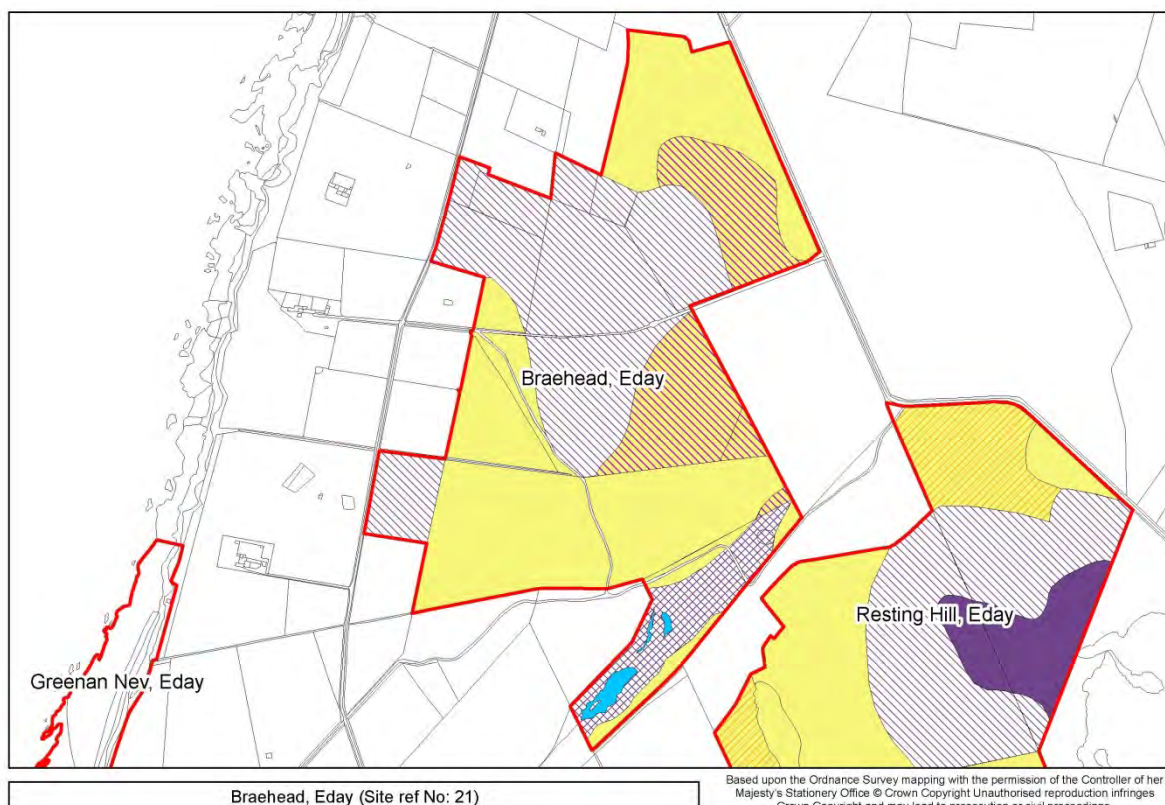
Borwick.	Location: Sandwick.
Area: c. 2.5 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 20.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site consists almost entirely of wetland influenced by diffuse springs of lime-rich water from the underlying rocks. The resulting vegetation is distinctive, and unusual for being spread over such a large area of ground: it is very short and has an abundance of sedges and small flowering plants, especially orchids, grass of Parnassus and butterwort. The site is not far inland from the cliffs of Yesnaby and Borwick, and therefore subject to sea spray, so some drier fringes of grassland have characteristic coastal plants such as spring squill and sea plantain.</p> <p>The area has not been surveyed for nesting birds, but the habitats can be expected to attract nesting waders like and lapwing, and common and black-headed gulls have been recorded as present in the breeding season.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*. Maritime grassland.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Nesting waders and gulls*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



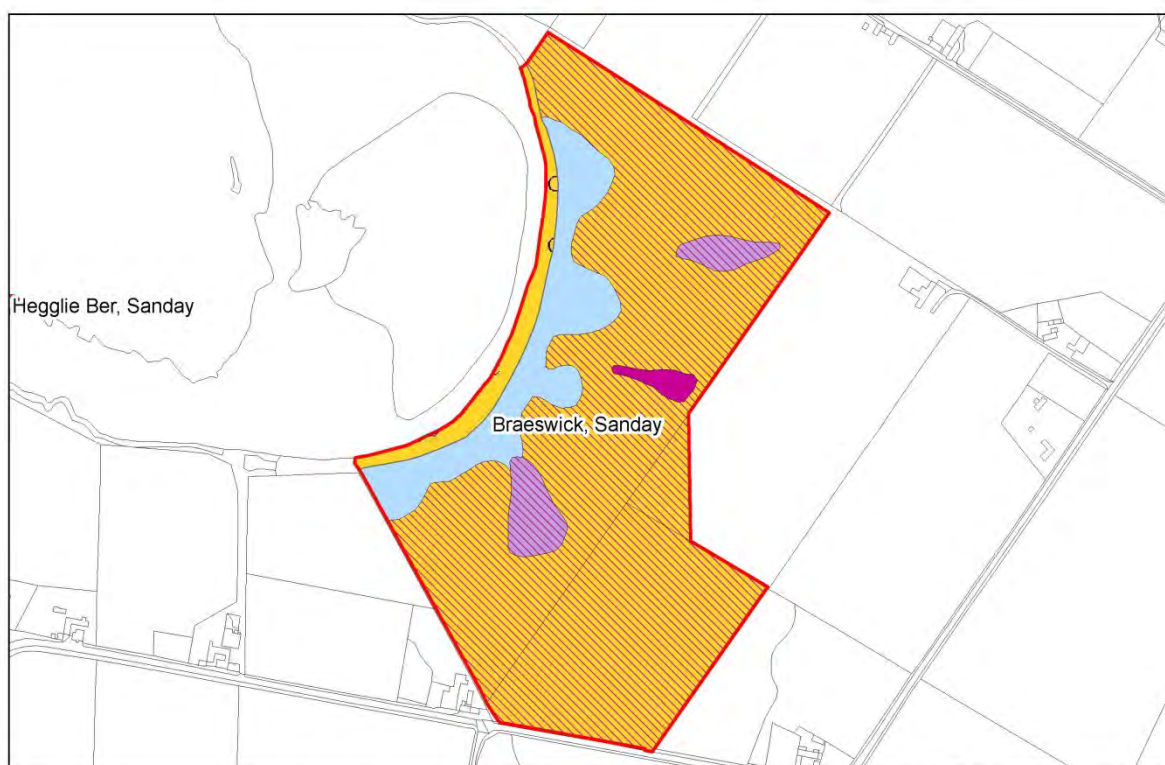
Borwick, Sandwick (Site ref No: 20)

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Braehead.	Location: Eday.
Area: c. 29 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 21.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area north-west of Resting Hill, comprising heather moorland on thin peat and blanket bog on deeper peat. Most of the deeper peat has been cut over and has dried out. At the southern end of the site is a small, linear-shaped basin bog, with permanent standing water where red-throated diver nest.</p> <p>The area has not been surveyed for nesting birds, but the habitats can be expected to attract nesting waders like curlew, redshank, snipe and lapwing, also skylark and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*. Blanket bog*. Oligotrophic and dystrophic lakes*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Red throated diver*. Breeding waders.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



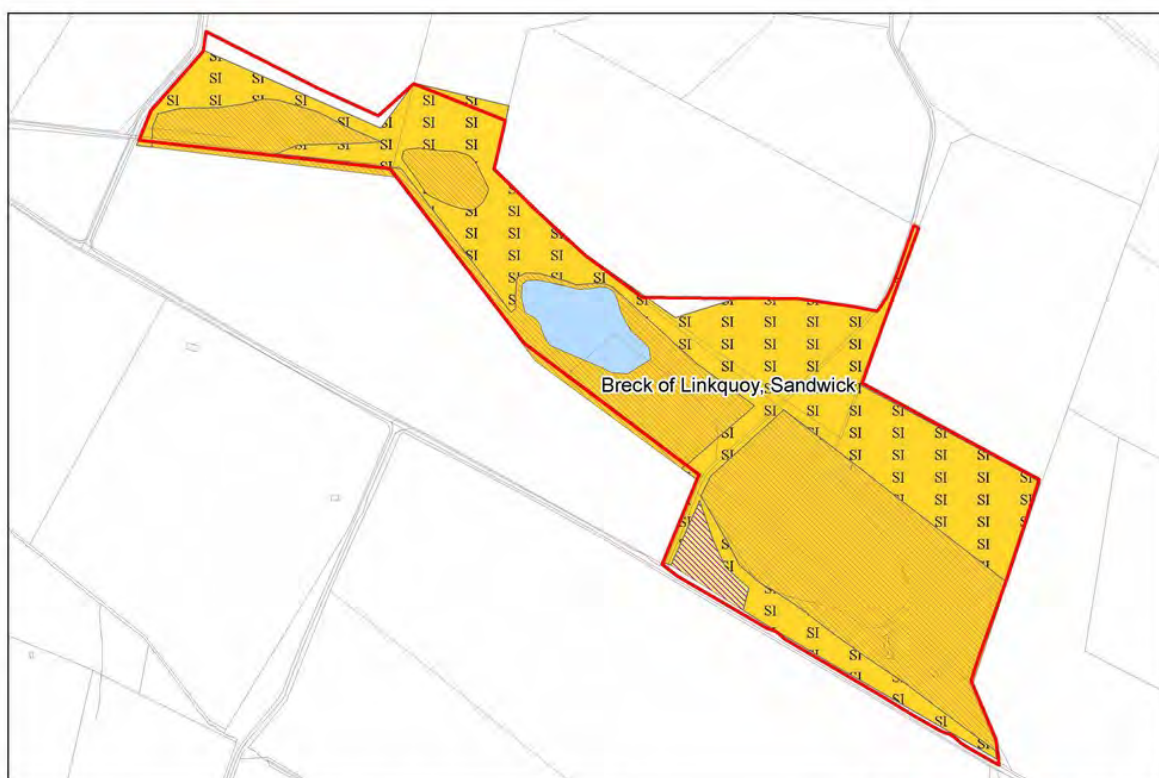
Braeswick.	Location: Sanday.
Area: c.11 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 22.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site comprises an area of marsh and wet grassland, spring-fed on sloping ground. At the foot of the slope is a barrier of storm-thrown shingle at the head of Braes Wick. Stands of yellow iris dominate some areas, while others have shorter, more grassy vegetation. Locally, lime-rich springs feed into swamp behind the shingle barrier. Plants less common on the site as whole grow around these springs and runnels; these include greater tussock sedge, a scarce plant in Orkney.</p> <p>The area has not been surveyed for nesting birds, but the habitats can be expected to attract nesting waders like lapwing, curlew, redshank and snipe and lapwing, also reed bunting, skylark and meadow pipit. Otters have been seen on the site.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*. Vegetated shingle*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Breeding waders*. Otter*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Braeswick, Sanday (Site ref No: 22)

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Breck of Linkquoy.	Location: Sandwick.
Area: c. 14 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 23.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area of marsh and marshy grassland and semi-natural grassland with small patches of heather moorland. Notable features of the wet areas are lime-rich springs, supporting a wealth of small flowering plants and sedges, including grass of Parnassus, butterwort, orchids and eyebrights. Much of the grassland is also rich in flowers, such as primrose and violet.</p> <p>The site supports a variety of breeding waders – oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Small birds breeding on the site are meadow pipit and sedge warbler.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Lowland meadows*.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Breck of Linkquoy, Sandwick (Site ref No: 23)

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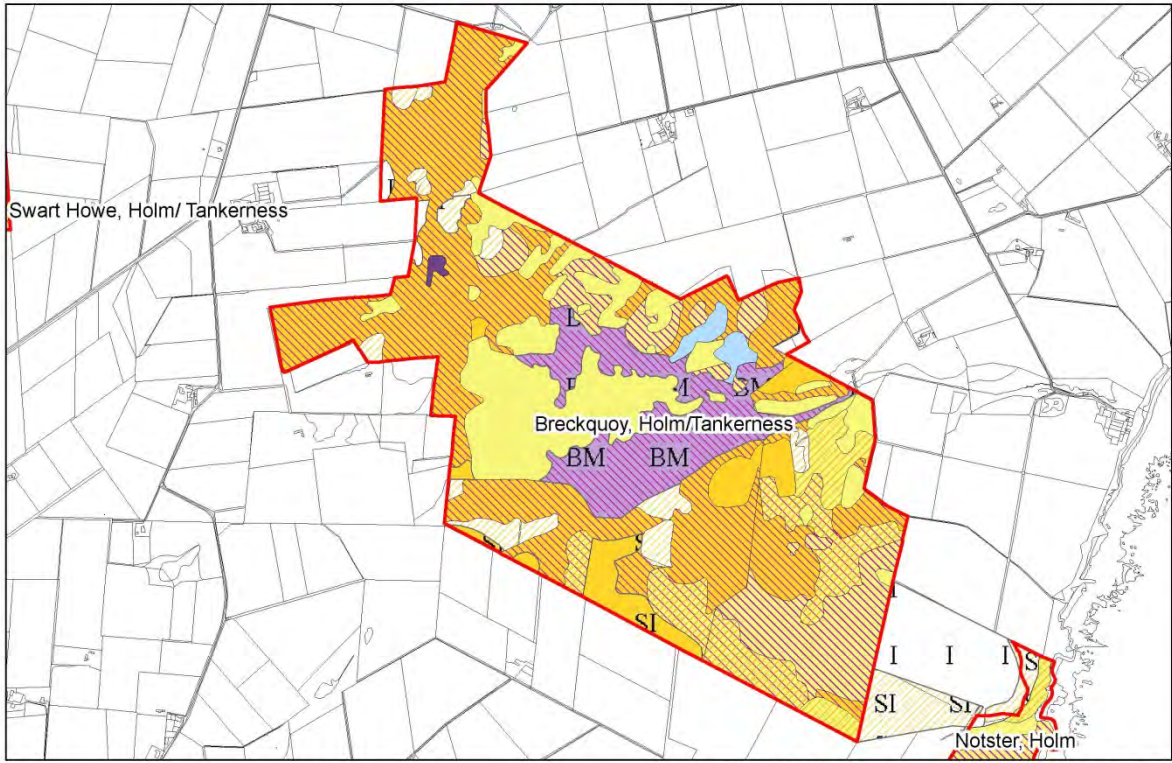
Breckan.	Location: Harray.
Area: c. 10 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 24.
Site Description: An area of marshy grassland with rushes, which supports many pairs of breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew, snipe and redshank. There are colonies of common and black-headed gulls, and a few smaller birds including meadow pipit and skylark.	
Special Habitats:	Special Wildlife: Lapwing*. Curlew*. Redshank. Skylark*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Breckan, Harray (Site ref No: 24)

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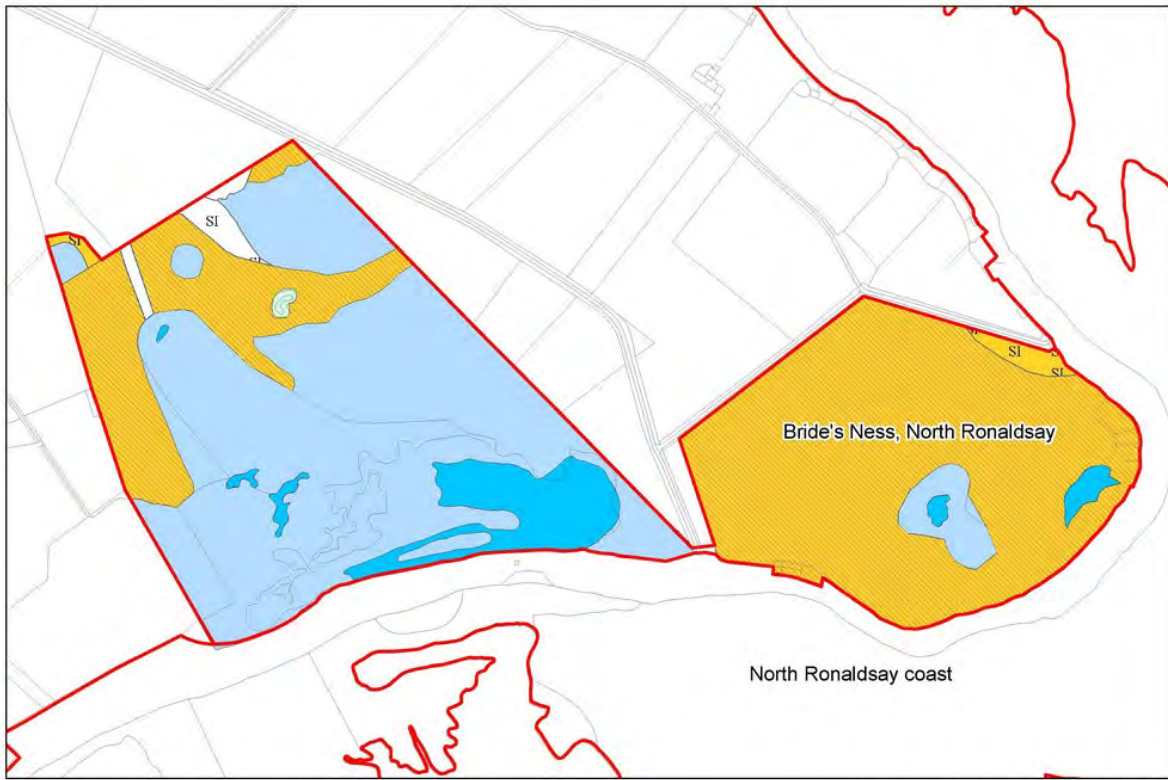
Breckquoy.	Location: Holm/Tankerness.
Area: c. 135 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 25
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This is a large site with a variety of habitats that support many breeding birds. It comprises a shallow, largely peat-filled basin forming the catchment of the Burn of Voy, surrounded by drier moorland, dominated by heather, and types of natural or semi-natural grassland. There are extensive marshy areas with abundant meadowsweet and a great variety of sedges, grasses and other flowers. Within the wet areas are numerous springs, along with pools, runnels and swamps and one small area of bog with much sphagnum moss. Areas around springs can be especially rich in plants, including orchids, butterwort and sedges. The western and southern fringes of the site are mainly on mineral soil and thinner peat, where better drainage and more agricultural improvement have resulted in grassier habitats, but these are still damp and flower-rich.</p> <p>The site is important for breeding waders – oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank all breed here in good numbers. Colonies of arctic tern and mixed gulls are present, especially common gull, lesser black backed gull and herring gull. The site also supports breeding birds of prey. A variety of small birds nest here as well, including skylark, meadow pipit, sedge warbler, linnets and twite.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Crowberry heath.</p> <p>Lowland meadows*.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Breeding birds of prey*.</p> <p>Arctic tern*.</p> <p>Arctic skua*.</p> <p>Herring gull*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Twite*.</p> <p>Linnets*.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Large heath butterfly*.</p> <p>Garden tiger (a moth)*.</p> <p>Large red damselfly.</p> <p>Black darter dragonfly.</p> <p>Common blue damselfly.</p> <p>Least bur-reed.</p> <p>Tea-leaved willow.</p> <p>Grey willow.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Breckquoy, Holm/Tankerness (Site ref No: 25)

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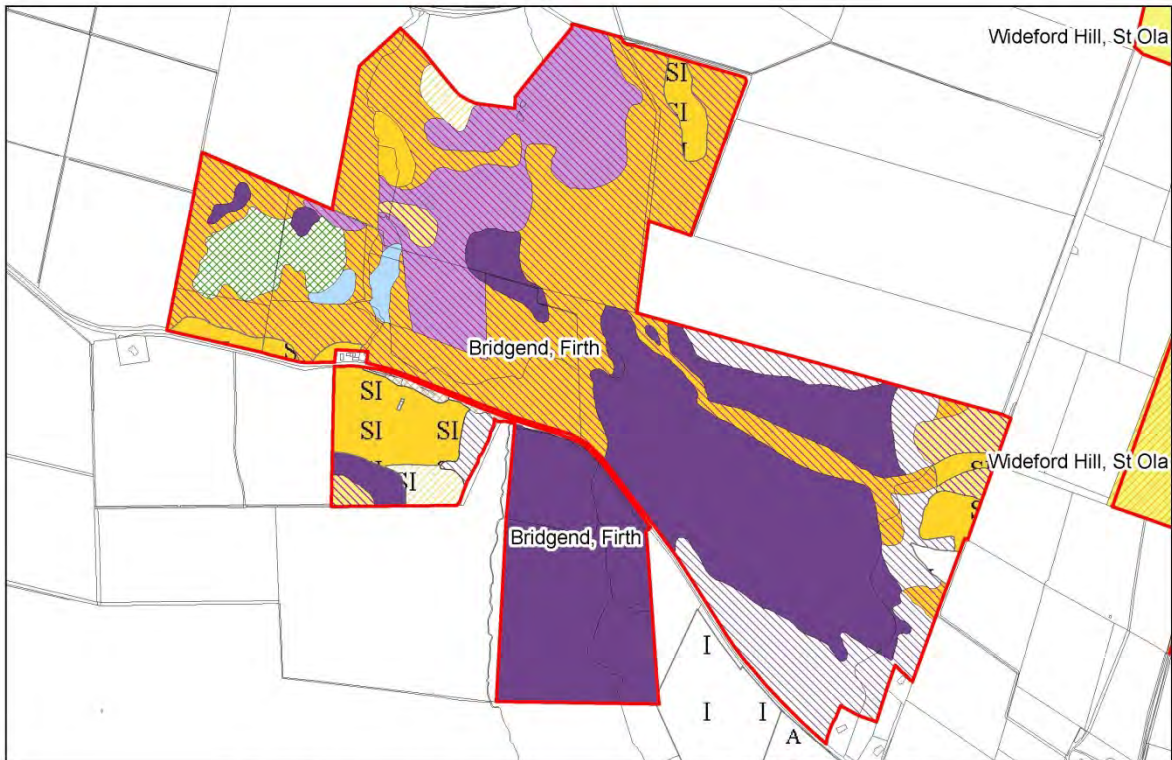
Bride's Ness.	Location: North Ronaldsay.
Area: c. 12 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 26.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area of open water surrounded by marsh and wet meadow. Wetland flowers include yellow iris and ragged-robin.</p> <p>A variety of waders breed here, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Nesting wildfowl include teal, gadwall, shoveler, moorhen, coot and mute swan. There are colonies of black-headed and common gulls. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</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>Gadwall.</p> <p>Shoveler.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Bride's Ness, North Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 26)

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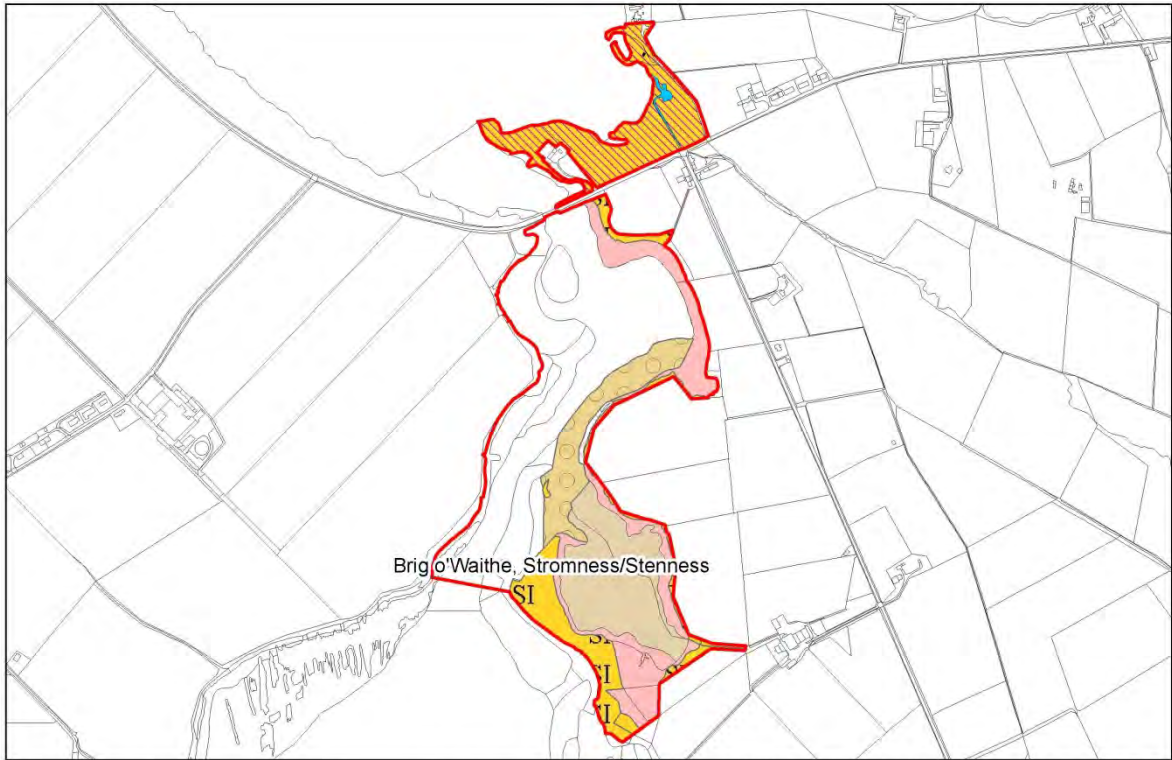
Bridgend.	Location: Firth.
Area: c. 75 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 27.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This large site has a variety of wetland and moorland habitats, with some native willow scrub. There are large areas of blanket bog on deep peat, dominated by heather and bog cotton. On its fringes, probably on thinner peat and where there has been grazing by livestock, there are areas of marshy grassland, with meadowsweet and rushes. The lowest and wettest ground is different: it is less acidic and has a great variety of marshland plants, such as ragged robin, marsh marigold and bogbean. Diversity of plant life increases still further where there are lime-rich springs with their distinctive array of small plants and mosses, including butterwort and sundew. Greater tussock-sedge, uncommon in Orkney, occurs here. Where the ground locally rises above this wetland, there are patches of heather, and flowery grassland with primroses and violets. Amongst this diverse wetland is a large area of willow scrub, in which most of the bushes are Orkney native species (though the non-native and invasive salmonberry is also common).</p> <p>The site is an important one for breeding waders, especially curlew that nest here in large numbers. Others breeding here in lesser numbers include oystercatcher, snipe and redshank. There are colonies of common and black-headed gulls. Smaller birds nesting here include meadow pipit, sedge warbler, willow warbler and reed bunting. Hen harrier, short-eared owl and merlin hunt over the area and one of these species may nest here.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Wet woodlands*.</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Lowland dry acid grassland*.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Willow warbler.</p> <p>Linnet*.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Common gull.</p> <p>Breeding birds of prey*.</p> <p>Hunting birds of prey.</p> <p>Greater tussock-sedge.</p> <p>Lemon-scented fern.</p> <p>Grey willow.</p> <p>Tea-leaved willow.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Bridgend, Firth (Site ref No: 27)

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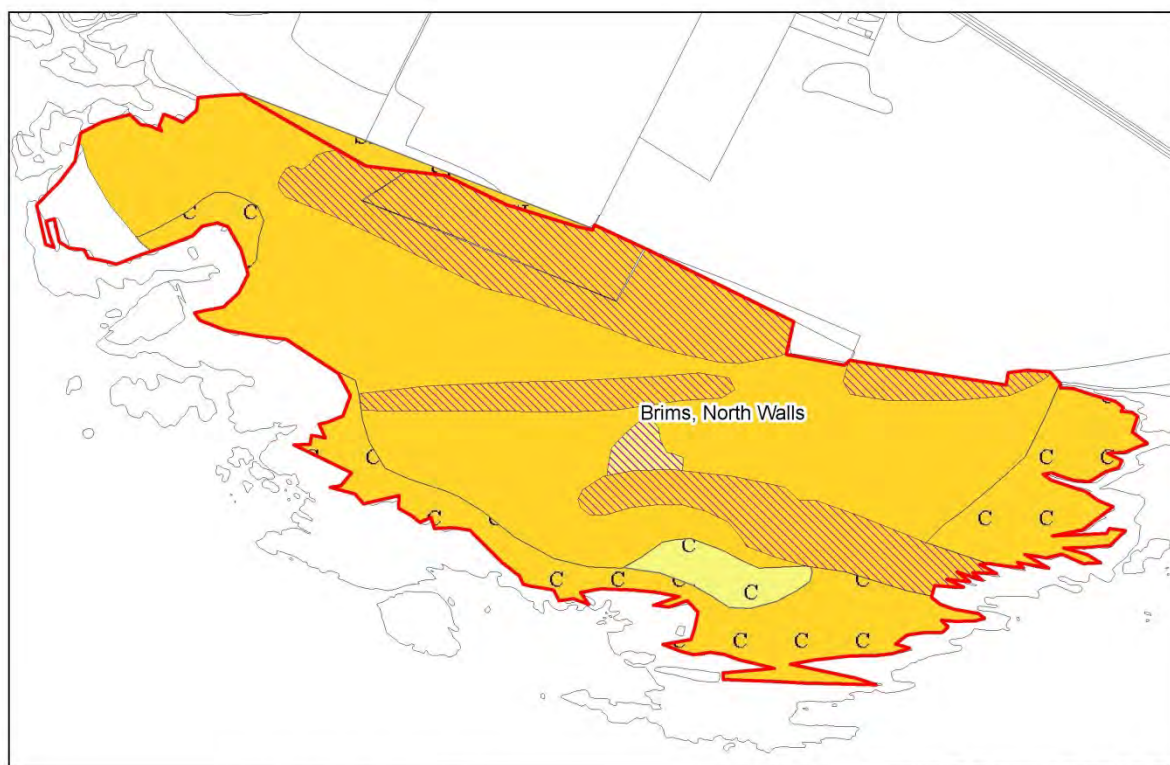
Brig o'Waithe.	Location: Stromness/Stenness.
Area: c. 27 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 28/29.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises land on the east side of the tidal channel known as The Bush, north and south of the Brig o' Waithe. There is a strip of saltmarsh along the shore, widening into a more extensive area of shallow creeks and pools at the head of Dead Sand, Cumminess. The swards of salt-adapted grasses and other plants are enlivened in summer by sea pinks and the blue flowers of sea aster. Drier ground on the Cumminess spit has some natural grassland and a patch of heather. North of the bridge there is marshy grassland with taller plants including meadowsweet.</p> <p>The site is important for breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew and redshank. Waders on migration use the area as a stopping-off point. A few pairs of ducks nest here, including eider and shelduck. Shelduck congregate here in spring before breeding. There are small colonies of black-headed and common gulls. Smaller birds nesting here include meadow pipit, pied wagtail and wheatear.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Coastal saltmarsh*. Inter-tidal mudflats*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*. Curlew*. Redshank. Migrating waders. Shelduck. Sea aster. Great yellow bumblebee*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Brig o' Waithe, Stromness/Stenness (Site ref No: 28/29)

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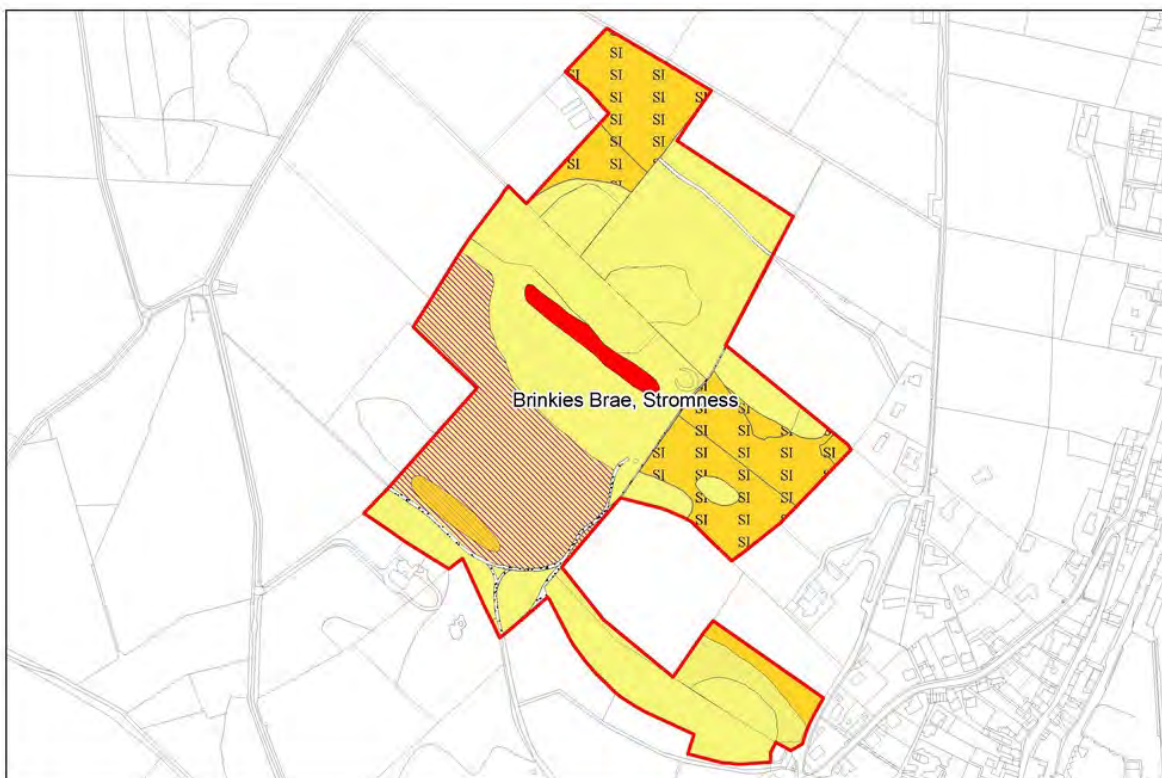
Brim.	Location: North Walls.
Area: c. 19 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 30.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site comprises the southern extremity of the Brims peninsular, an area mainly of semi-natural grassland and marsh, with coastal grassland and remnant coastal heath near the shore. A valley runs through it and this is marshy along the bottom. Soft rush is dominant in the wet areas, with plants such as yellow iris, marsh marigold and ragged robin. Along the coastal edge, spring squill, sea plantain, and thrift occur in grassland cropped short by sheep.</p> <p>The site supports breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew and redshank. There is also a common gull colony. Skylark and meadow pipit also breed here.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland meadow*. Maritime heath. Lowland fens*. Maritime cliff and slope*. Maritime grassland.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*. Lapwing*. Redshank. Common gull. Skylark*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Brim, North Walls (Site ref No: 30)

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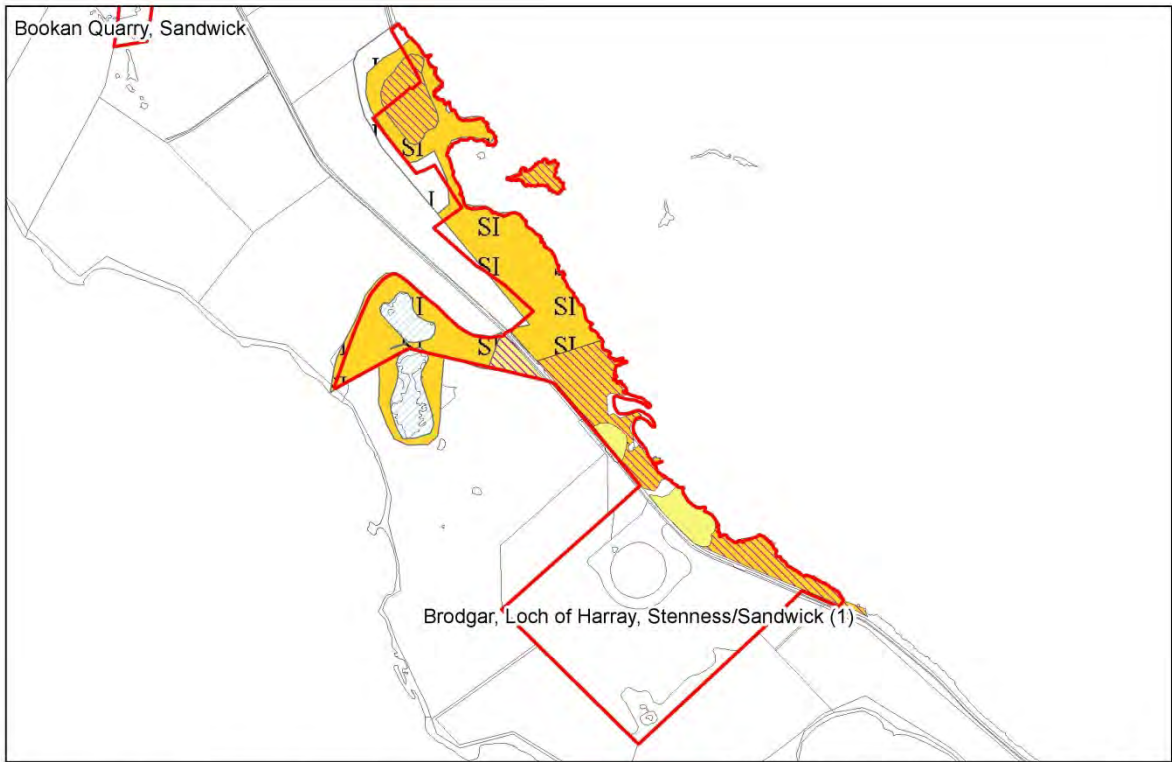
Brinkies Brae.	Location: Stromness.
Area: c. 14.5 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 31.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The granite hilltop above Stromness, covered in heather moorland and semi-natural grassland. Due to the exposure to strong winds, the heather is short and there are patches of bare peat and rock. In places, lichens are abundant, giving the ground a frosted appearance. Much of the moorland is quite dry, but there are wetter areas, with bog cotton and deer grass among the heather. Likewise the grassland is mainly dry, but also has wetter areas with rushes. There are some native willow bushes.</p> <p>Waders including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew, redshank and lapwing nest on the site. Small birds nesting include skylark, meadow pipit, wheatear and twite.</p> <p>The site is much used for recreation by local residents.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*. Empetrum heath. Lichen heath. Outcrops*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*. Curlew*. Redshank. Skylark*. Twite*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Brinkies Brae, Stromness (Site ref No: 31)

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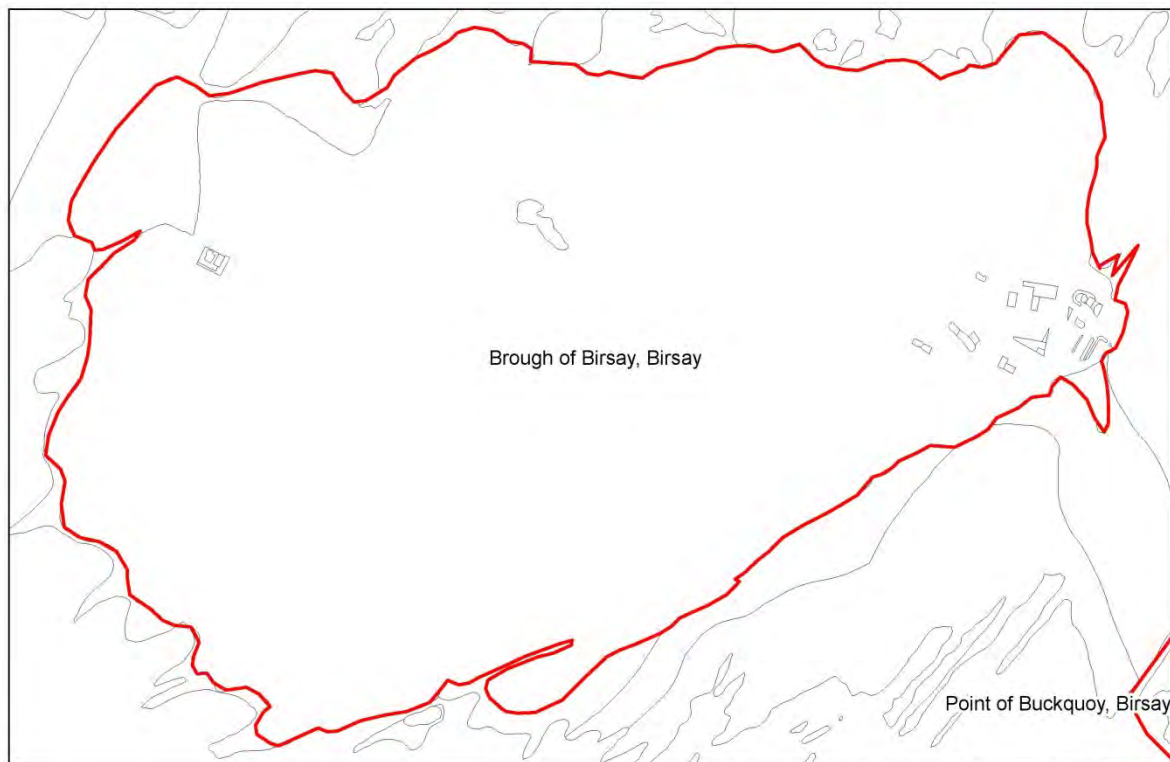
Brodgar, Loch of Harray.	Location: Stenness/Sandwick.
Area: c. 24 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 32.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site includes the Ring of Brodgar, a strip a land along the shore of the Harray Loch, and some marshy grassland with pools to the north of the Ring. Within the fenced area including the Ring are natural grassland and a patch of heather moorland within the Ring itself. The natural grassland is flowery, with much bird's-foot trefoil, orchids and yellow rattle. The strip of land between Harray Loch and the public road also contains some heather moorland, but the main habitat is marshy grassland dominated by tall plants and grasses, especially meadowsweet. Amongst this is a large patch of holy grass, a rare plant in the British Isles. The various mounds and cairns are grass-covered and also rich in flowers: common twayblade (an orchid) is locally common.</p> <p>The site is important for breeding waders – oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank all breed here in good numbers, also dunlin in smaller numbers. There is a black-headed gull colony. A variety of small birds nest here as well, including skylark, meadow pipit, pied wagtail, stonechat, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland meadows*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p> <p>Species-rich heath.</p> <p>Mesotrophic lakes*.</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>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Great yellow bumblebee*.</p> <p>Moss carder bee*.</p> <p>Holy grass*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Brodgar, Loch of Harray, Stenness/Sandwick (1) (Site ref No: 32)

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Brough of Birsay.	Location: Birsay.
Area: c. 21 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 33.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area of exposed cliff-top coastal grassland and heath. Typical coastal grassland plants grow nearest the cliffs, especially thrift, sea plantain and spring squill. Further inland, short, wind-clipped heather and crowberry predominate.</p> <p>A feature of the site is the many breeding eider. Oystercatchers also nest on the site. Small birds breeding here include skylark, twite, rock pipit, meadow pipit and wheatear.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope*.</p> <p>Maritime heath.</p> <p>Maritime grassland.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Eider.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Twite*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Brough of Birsay, Birsay (Site ref No: 33)

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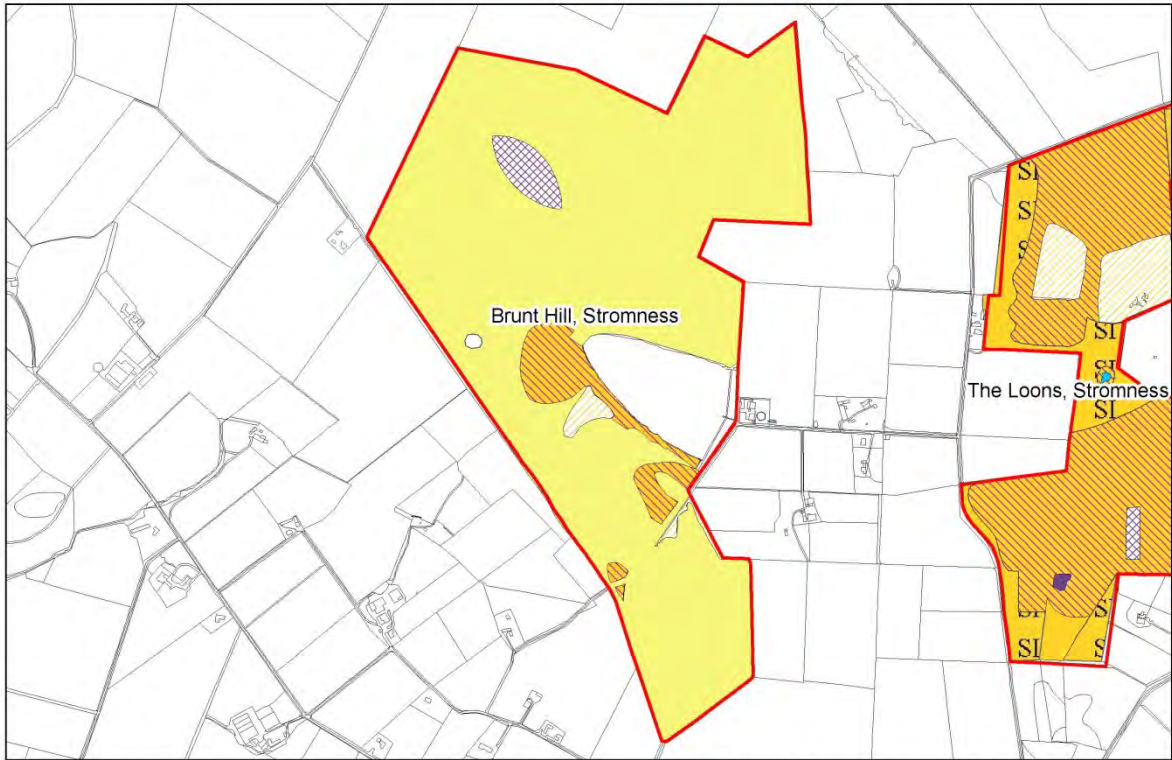
Bruce's Loch.	Location: Stronsay.
Area: c. 3 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 34.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>Two small lochs separated from the sea by shingle barriers or ayres, tending to dry out in summer and surrounded by marsh and wet meadow with large stands of yellow iris.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, snipe, lapwing and redshank. Other birds present in the summer are black-headed and common gulls, shelduck, mallard and wigeon.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing waters*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Otter*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Bruce's Loch, Stronsay (Site ref No: 34)

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Brunt Hill.	Location: Stromness.
Area: c. 66 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 35.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An extensive area of moorland around the Stromness Reservoir. The mainly dry moorland is dominated by heather, with other plants including bell heather, crowberry and mat grass. In some parts the heath is rich in species, including primrose, thyme and violet. Much of the site is very exposed to westerly winds off the sea, the dwarf shrubs are very short and there is erosion caused by wind and water. Uncommon plants found in this short, exposed heath are juniper and Alpine clubmoss. Small areas of flatter ground on the hill have deeper peat with bog vegetation including heather, bog cotton, bog asphodel, deer-grass and sphagnum moss. There is some marsh and marshy grassland round the reservoir, with rushes and many other plants such as meadowsweet, ragged-robin and marsh marigold; and the variety of plant life increases where springs create more lime-rich conditions. Waders including oystercatcher, ringed plover, curlew, redshank and lapwing nest on the site. There is a small common gull colony. Small birds nesting include skylark, meadow pipit and wheatear.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Mesotrophic lakes*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Crowberry heath.</p> <p>Species-rich heath.</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Upland fens, flushes and swamps*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Juniper.</p> <p>Alpine clubmoss.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed.</p> <p>Great yellow bumblebee*.</p> <p>Moss carder bee*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Brunt Hill, Stromness (Site ref No: 35)

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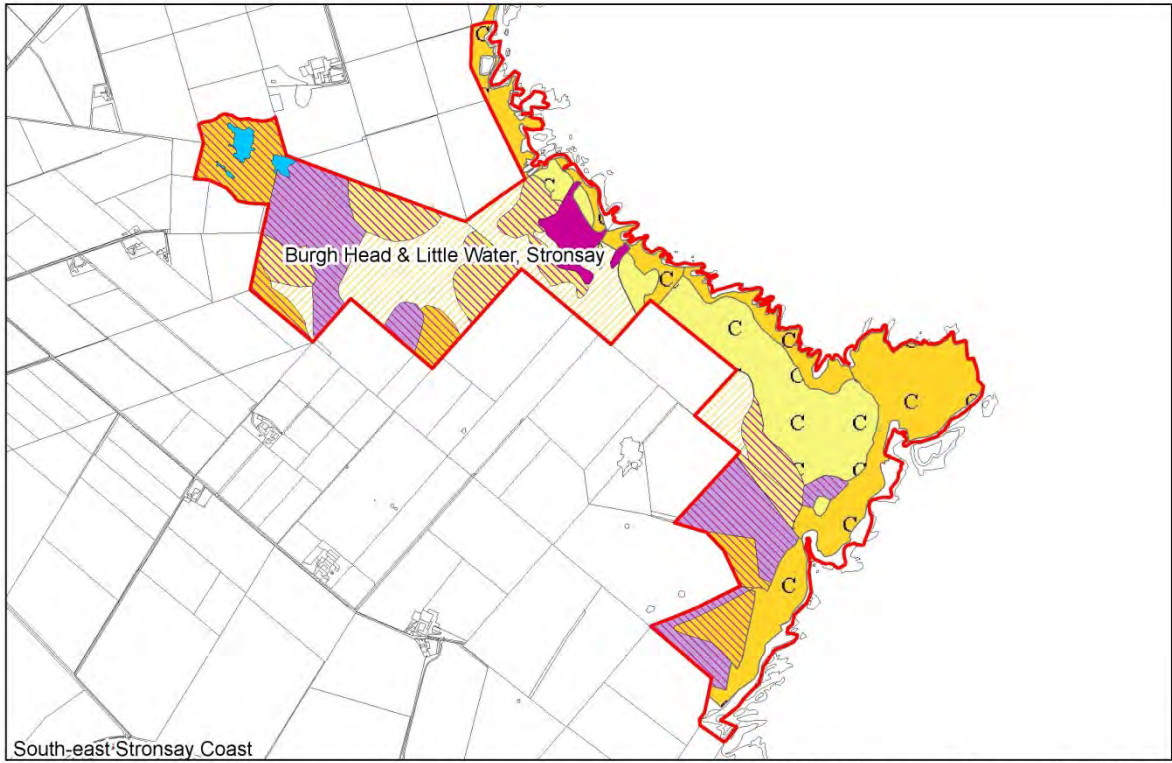
Bu, Moaness.	Location: Hoy.
Area: c. 1.5 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 36.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>Two steep and narrow clefts run for a short distance downhill towards the shore. They are densely wooded with mature plantation sycamore, with some rowan, ash and willows in the upper parts. At the highest point of the site there are recently planted birch and rowan. The woodland flora is very rich, with ferns, water avens and abundant primrose. A single hazel tree is a rare survivor of the former tree cover of Orkney, the only others being at Berriedale, near Rackwick. Under the trees on the steep burn side is a locally rare fern, hard shield fern, and another local rarity, hedge woundwort.</p> <p>The area has not yet been surveyed for breeding birds, but the habitats can be expected to support woodland species.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland willow scrub.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Hard shield fern. Hazel. Hedge woundwort. Grey willow. Tea-leaved willow. Rowan.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Bu, Moaness, Hoy (Site ref No: 36)

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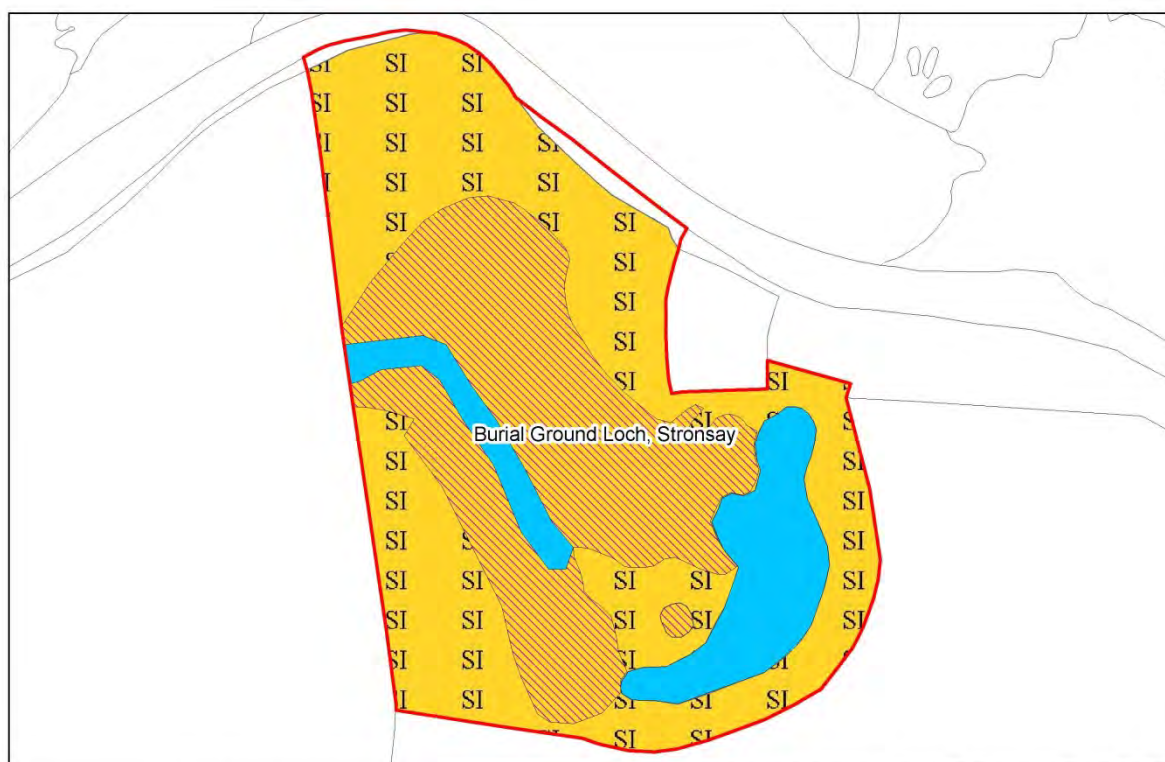
Burgh Head and Little Water.	Location: Stronsay.
Area: c. 88 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 37.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>A coastal site with high cliffs and spectacular coastal scenery including the Vat of Kirbister. The exposure to sea spray combined with the underlying rocks and topography have produced a rich assortment of vegetation, mainly maritime heath and grassland. Typical coastal grassland plants grow nearest the cliffs, especially thrift, sea plantain, eyebright and spring squill. Further inland, short, wind-clipped heather and crowberry predominate, interwoven with creeping willow and small herbs such as bird's-foot trefoil and violets. There are also extensive wet areas with much bog cotton. A notable feature of the coastal heath and wetland are lime-rich springs, supporting a wealth of small flowering plants and sedges, including grass of Parnassus, butterwort and orchids. In one of these grows brookweed, a rare plant in the north of Scotland, at its only Orkney location. The site includes the small loch of Little Water, which has several species of water plants including one that is nationally scarce.</p> <p>The site is important for breeding waders including oystercatcher, curlew, redshank, snipe and lapwing. There are a few pairs of arctic and great skuas, and breeding gulls of four species, including common gull in several small colonies. Seabirds breeding on the cliffs include shag, cormorant and auks. Various ducks and other wildfowl, some of which are breeding, have been recorded at the loch in summer. They include teal, mallard, shoveler, wigeon, moorhen, coot and mute swan. Small birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit and twite.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Maritime heath.</p> <p>Species-rich heath.</p> <p>Maritime grassland.</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope*.</p> <p>Lowland fen*.</p> <p>Eutrophic standing water*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic skua*.</p> <p>Great skua.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Shoveler.</p> <p>Wigeon.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Twite*.</p> <p>Slender-leaved pondweed*.</p> <p>Brookweed.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Burgh Head & Little Water, Stronsay (Site ref No: 37)

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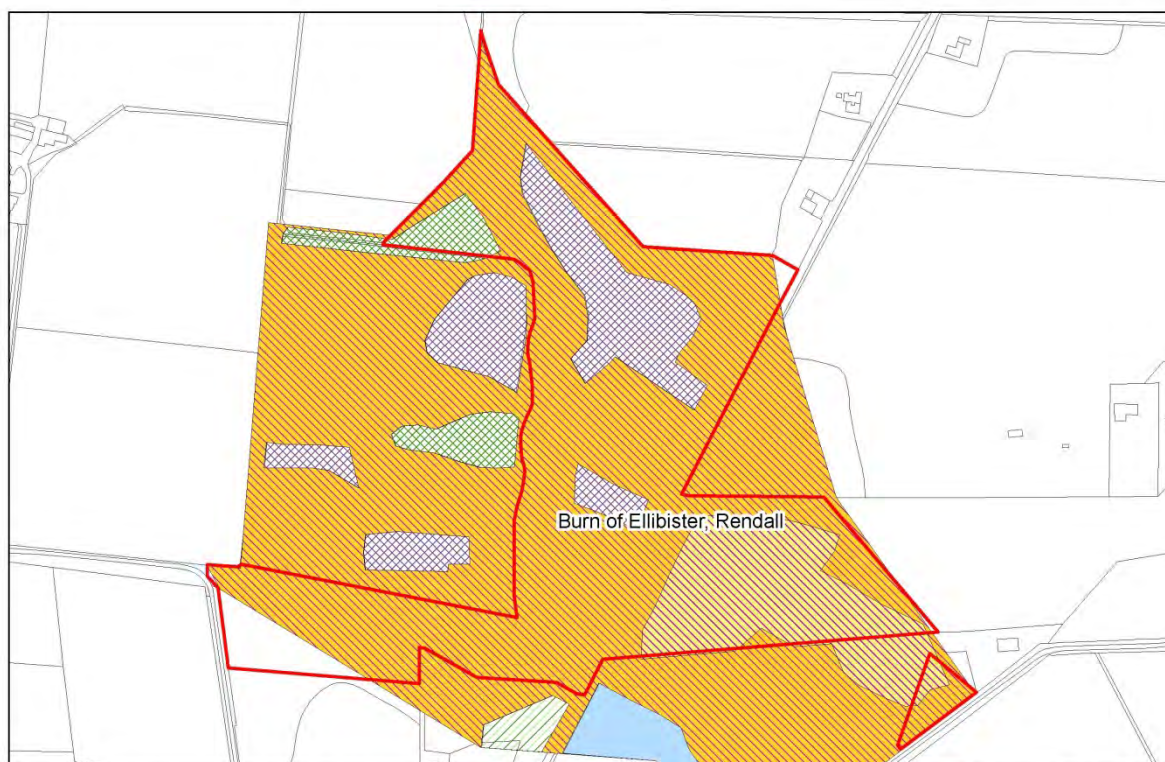
Burial Ground Loch.	Location: Stronsay.
Area: c. 2 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 38.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>A small freshwater loch surrounded by wet meadow and marsh with dense stands of yellow iris. The loch is shallow and the extent of open water is much reduced in summer.</p> <p>A variety of waders breed on the site in small numbers, including oystercatcher, lapwing, ringed plover, snipe, redshank and curlew. There are colonies of common and black-headed gulls.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Eutrophic standing water*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Burial Ground Loch, Stronsay (Site ref No: 38)

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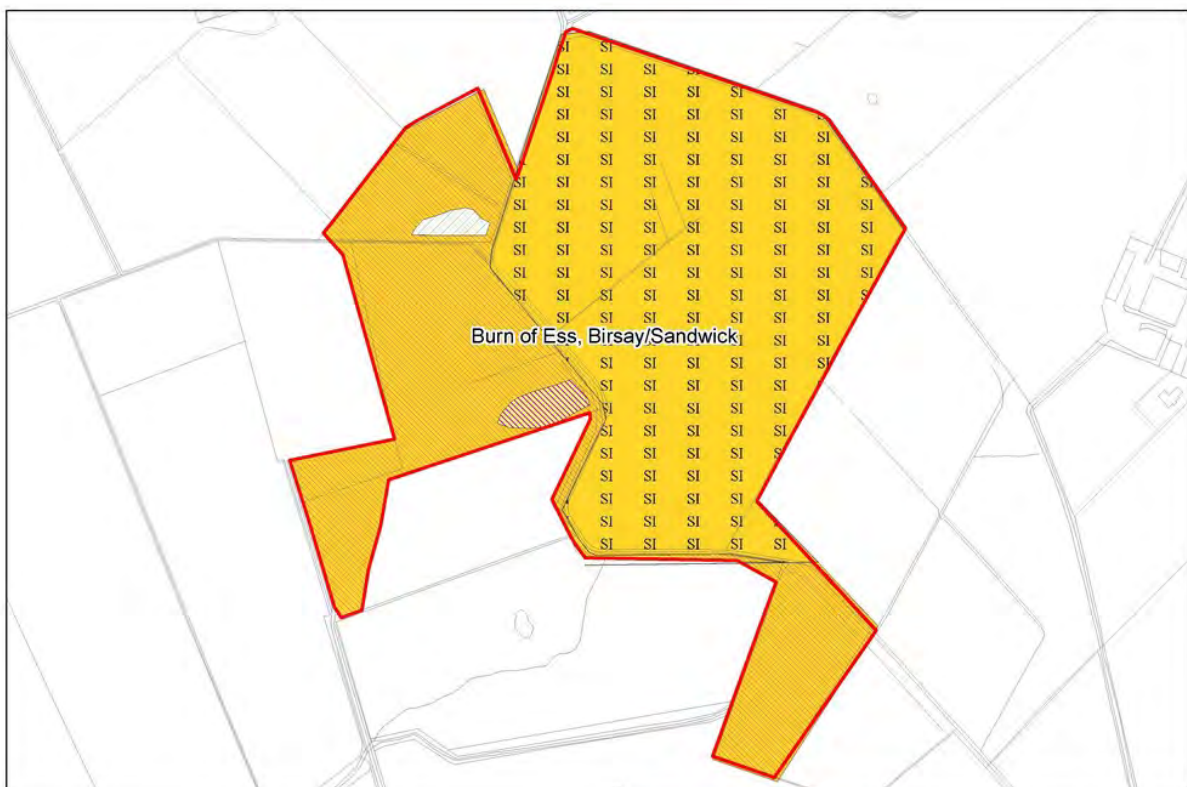
Burn of Ellibister.	Location: Rendall.
Area: c. 8 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 39.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site mainly comprises marsh and marshy grassland with remnant patches of peat bog. There are water-filled ditches and a burn running through. The marshland is dominated by meadowsweet, with yellow iris and reed canary-grass. There are small pools and swamps with plants such as bogbean. Native willow scrub occurs locally.</p> <p>Snipe and curlew nest on the site. Smaller birds breeding here include meadow pipit, willow warbler, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*. Blanket bog*. Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*. Snipe. Skylark*. Sedge warbler. Willow warbler. Reed bunting*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Burn of Ellibister, Rendall (Site ref No: 39)

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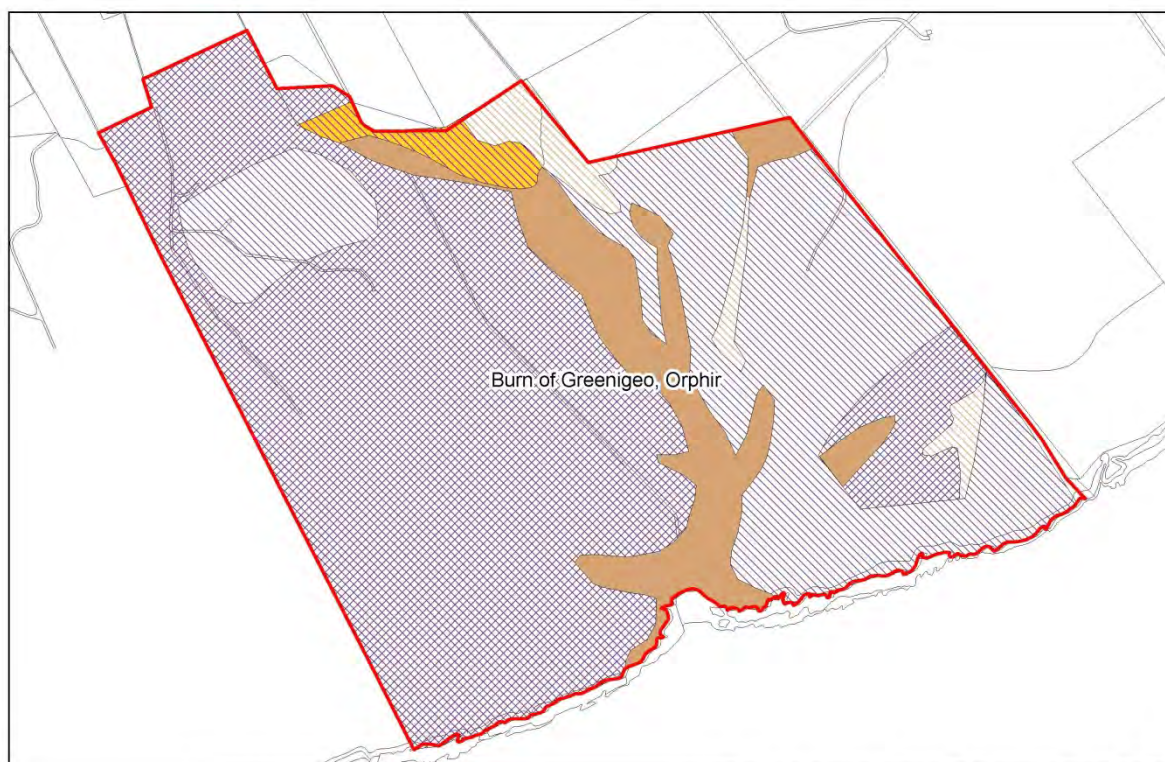
Burn of Ess.	Location: Birsay/Sandwick..
Area: c. 14 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 40.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site comprises marsh and marshy grassland along the Burn of Ess, dominated by meadowsweet with some yellow iris, and wet pasture with abundant rushes. A variety of waders nest on the site, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*. Curlew *. Redshank. Snipe. Skylark*. Sedge warbler. Reed bunting*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Burn of Ess, Birsay/Sandwick (Site ref No: 40)

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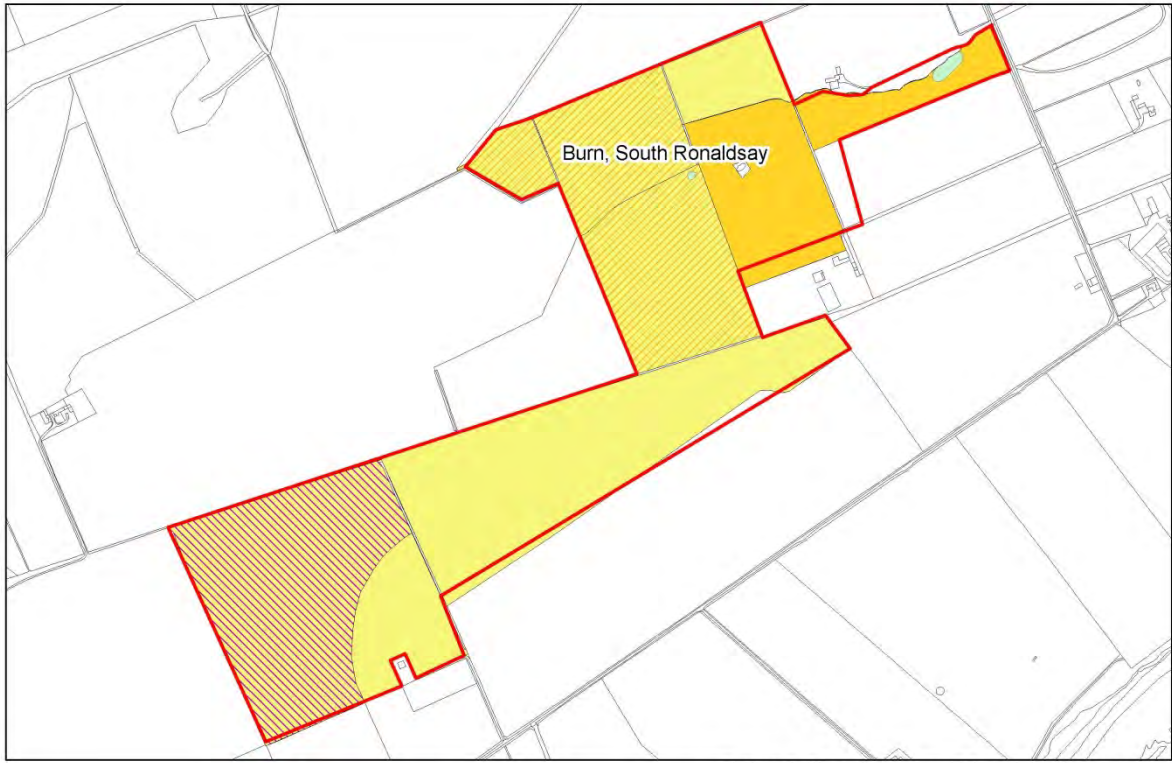
Burn of Greenigeo.	Location: Orphir.
Area: c. 54 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 41.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site mainly comprises peat bog. Much of the peat has been cut-over but the vegetation has recovered: abundant plants of this blanket bog are bog cotton and heather, bog asphodel, deer grass and sphagnum moss. More elevated, drier parts are more heather-dominated. A burn runs through the site, in a small valley. At the head of the valley is a small area of marsh and marshy grassland, with dominant meadowsweet and yellow iris. Further down, bracken grows densely along the valley sides. On slopes above the shore is some drier heather moorland, with crowberry and grasses.</p> <p>Birds nesting on the site include oystercatcher, curlew, skylark and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Crowberry heath.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Burn of Greenigeo, Orphir (Site ref No: 41)

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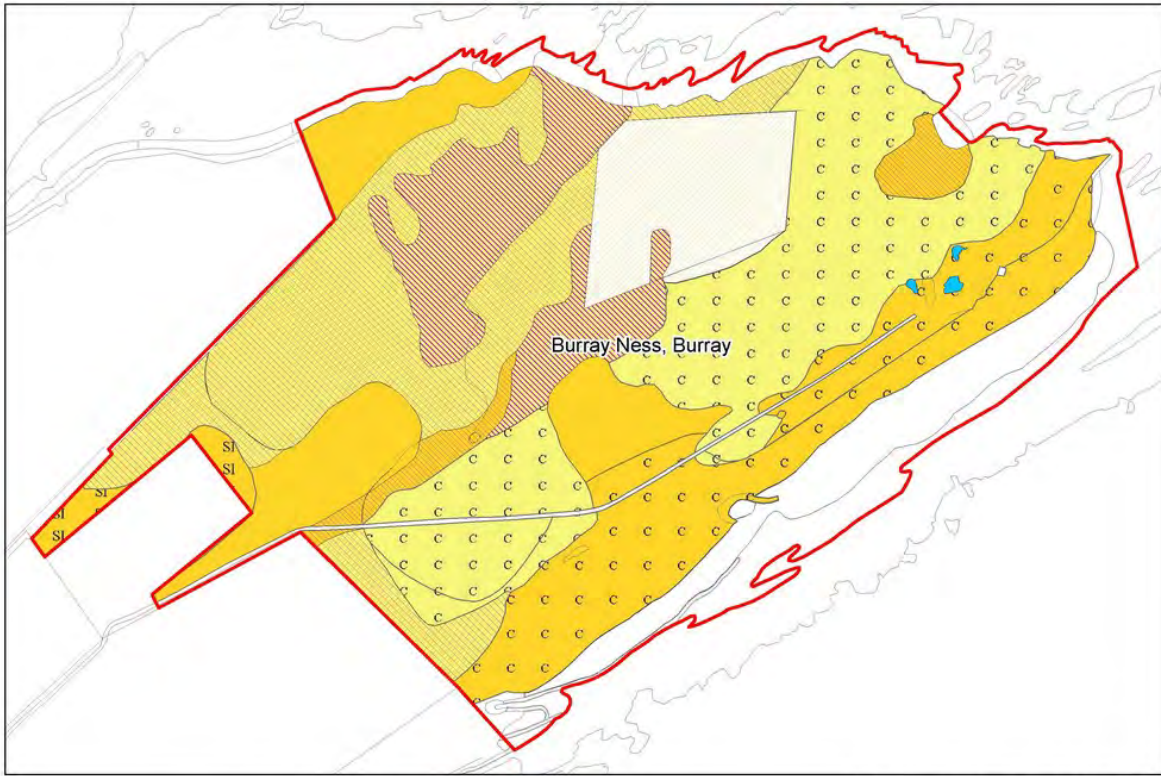
Burn.	Location: South Ronaldsay.
Area: c. 37 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 42.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site includes a mixture of heather moorland, wetland and grassland. The southern part, on the northern slopes of Vensilly Hill, is mainly wet moorland with short, grazed heather and other plants such as purple moor-grass and mosses. The northern part has not been grazed for some time and the heather and grassland are longer. A small burn emerges from the wet, central part of this area, then running east past the Burn house and a stand of planted willows.</p> <p>Waders including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, redshank and curlew breed, also gulls including common gull (more than 180 pairs recorded), black-headed gull and lesser black-backed gull, and ducks including wigeon. Small birds nesting here include a few skylark, many meadow pipits and single pairs of twite and wheatear.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew* .</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p> <p>Wigeon.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Twite*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Burn, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 42)

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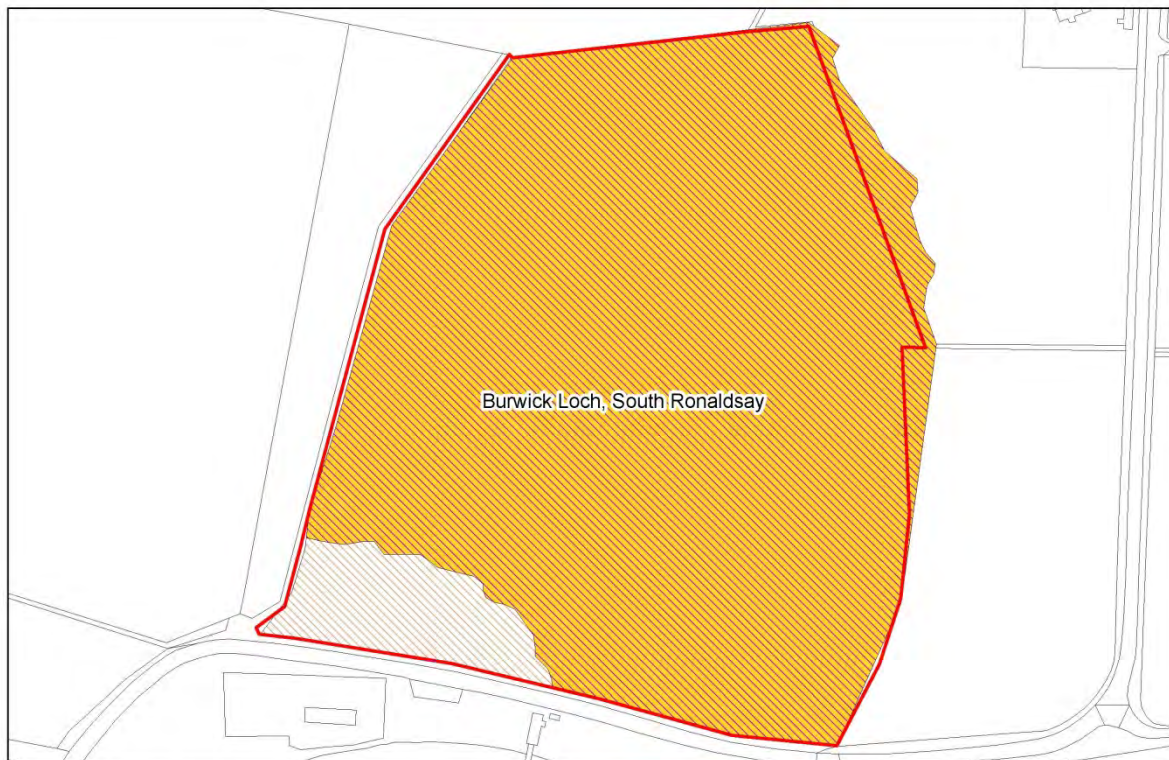
Burray Ness.	Location: Burray.
Area: c. 22 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 43.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>Burray Ness forms the exposed, eastern extremity of Burray. The main vegetation types are coastal heath and grassland on the south side, heather moorland and acid grassland on the north side. The coastal heath and grassland on the exposed south side has short shrubs such as crowberry and other plants including spring squill, sea plantain and grass of Parnassus. The extensive rock platform has pools of brackish water and crevices containing cliff and saltmarsh plants such as sea pink and saltmarsh rush. Much of the grassland is also rich in flowers. On the north-facing, sheltered coastal bank these include primroses, violets and bird's-foot trefoil. The uncommon plant Northern yellow-cress occurs on this site.</p> <p>Waders nest here, including curlew, oystercatcher, snipe and lapwing. Other breeding birds include eider, arctic tern and arctic skua. A colony of nearly 50 pairs of herrings gulls has been recorded here as well, plus some black-headed, common and lesser black-backed gulls. Birds of prey have been recorded breeding here. Small birds present include skylark, meadow pipit and twite.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope*.</p> <p>Maritime heath.</p> <p>Maritime grassland.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Lowland dry acid grassland*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic tern*.</p> <p>Arctic skua*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Herring gull*.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Twite*.</p> <p>Breeding birds of prey*.</p> <p>Great yellow bumblebee*.</p> <p>Moss carder bee*.</p> <p>Northern yellow-cress*.</p> <p>Long-bracted sedge.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Burray Ness, Burray (Site ref No: 43)

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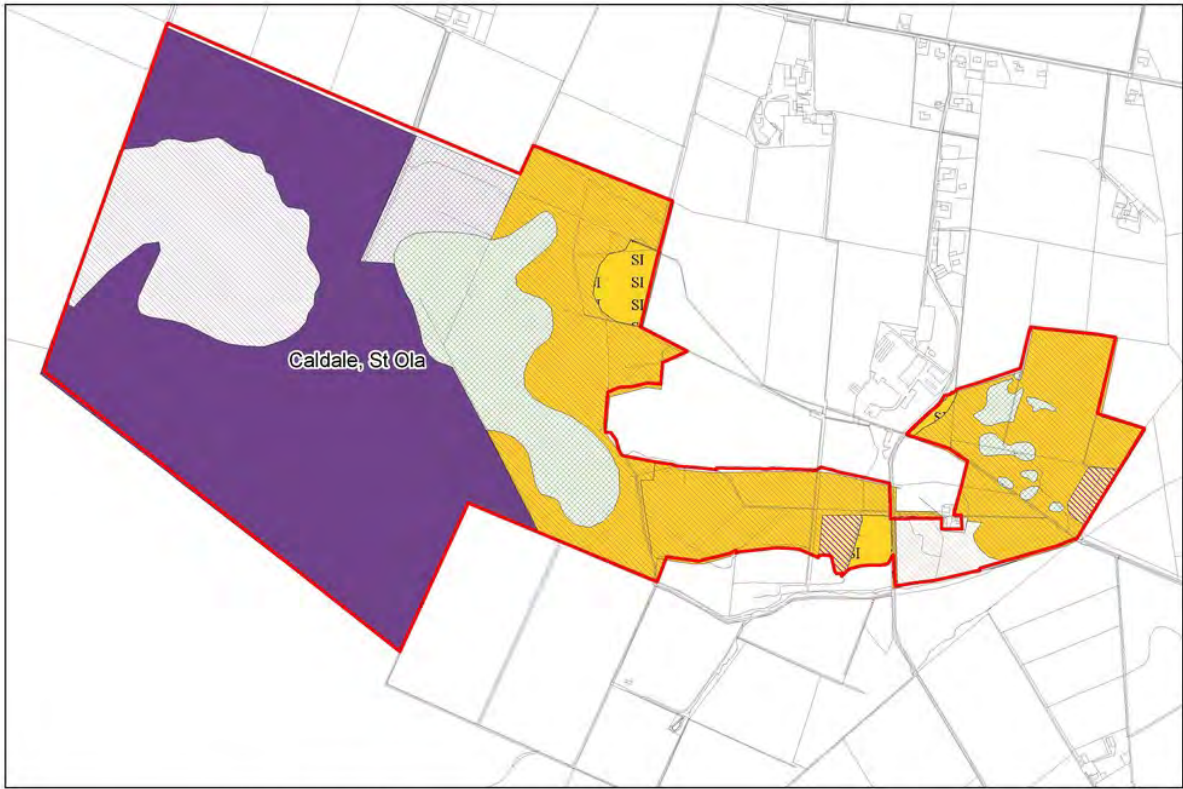
Burwick Loch.	Location: South Ronaldsay.
Area: c. 6 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 44.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>Burwick Loch is really a marsh with no standing water. It is dominated by tall plants such as meadowsweet, horsetail and yellow iris.</p> <p>Breeding waders are present on the site, including snipe, curlew, lapwing and oystercatcher. Other birds also breed here, such as reed bunting, sedge warbler, meadow pipit and linnet.</p>	
Special Habitats:	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Sedge warbler.</p> <p>Linnet*</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Burwick Loch, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 44)

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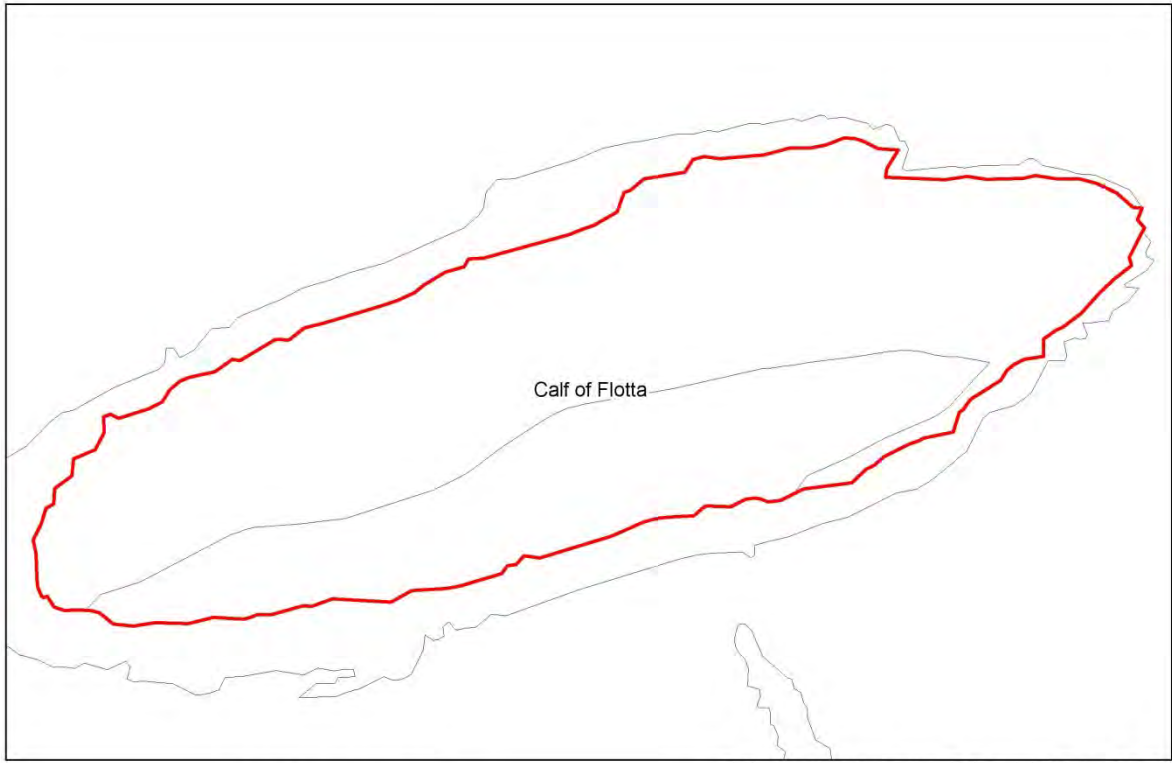
Caldale.	Location: St Ola.
Area: c. 113 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 45.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The site comprises two different types of landscape and their associated habitats: the open hill named Burrey Brae, almost entirely blanket bog on deep peat, and the valley along the Caldale Burn below, with more varied but mainly marshy habitats. Bog cotton grass and heather are the dominant plants of the blanket bog, with others such as bog asphodel and sphagnum moss. Much of the marsh is dominated by meadowsweet. There is some peat bog in the valley too, with pools, though some has been drained and/or cut for peat. On both peat bog and marsh there are large and small areas of native willows, in total probably the largest area of native scrub on Orkney mainland.</p> <p>This is an important site for breeding birds of prey. It also supports breeding waders in good numbers, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew, golden plover and redshank: curlew are especially numerous. A variety of small birds nest here, some in large numbers and some uncommon breeders in Orkney. They include skylark, meadow pipit, reed bunting, sedge warbler, greenfinch, dunnock, pied wagtail, song thrush, stonechat and willow warbler. Common red damselfly and large heath butterfly have been recorded here.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Blanket bog*. Upland heath*. Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Breeding birds of prey*. Lapwing*. Golden plover*. Snipe. Curlew*. Redshank. Skylark*. Song thrush*. Reed bunting*. Large heath butterfly*. Large red damselfly. Grey willow. Tea-leaved willow.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Caldale, St Ola (Site ref No: 45)

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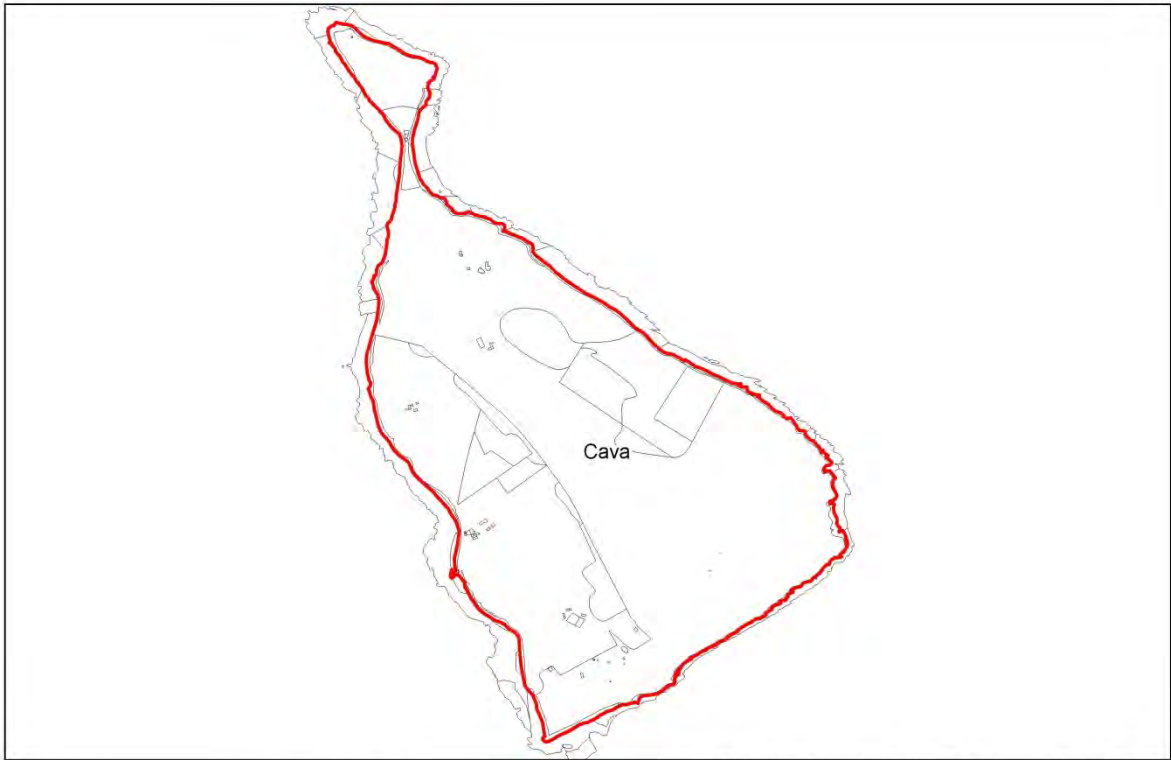
Calf of Flotta.	Location: Flotta.
Area: c. 18 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 46.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The island is almost entirely peat-covered. Some of the peat is deep and has been cut-over. Presumably due to past management (possibly burning and/or heavy grazing as well as peat cutting) the plant cover typical of deep peat – heather, bog cotton, deer grass, sphagnum mosses and others – has mostly been replaced by grassland with much tormentil among it. There is a substantial area of bracken on drier slopes facing Flotta. Though this vegetation has little other variety it includes wood sorrel, a rare plant in Orkney, the uncommon hay-scented buckler-fern and small adder’s-tongue (a rare fern). The shoreline is in parts grassy and steep to a height of 5 m, in others it comprises vertical cliffs of similar height. The ledges on low cliffs facing Flotta have several patches of aspen. Below these low cliffs is a small sandy beach with strandline plants – not seen in the other, sheep-grazed small islands of Scapa Flow.</p> <p>Several pairs of oystercatcher nest here, and a few curlew and snipe. Breeding gulls are a feature of the island, including common, herring, great black-backed and lesser black-backed. There are a few breeding arctic terns. Small birds nest here too – a few skylark and meadow pipits.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope*.</p> <p>Maritime grassland.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic tern*.</p> <p>Herring gull*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Wood sorrel.</p> <p>Small adder’s-tongue*.</p> <p>Aspen.</p> <p>Rowan.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Calf of Flotta (Site ref No: 46)

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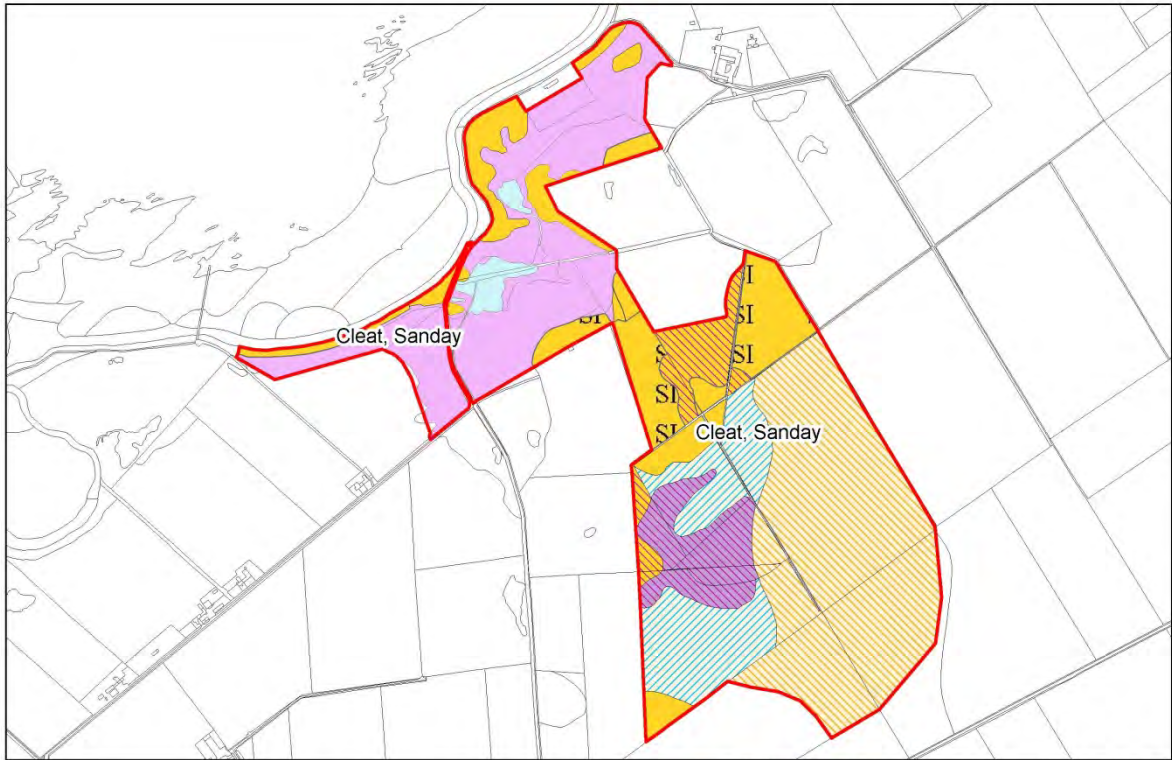
Cava.	Location: Scapa Flow.
Area: c. 89 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 47.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>About one third of the island area is semi-improved grassland, all formerly cultivated. There is also marshy grassland with rushes, probably reverted from cultivated and improved grassland also. Most of the rest is peat-covered. The peat is thin, the land more or less dry and dominated almost entirely by heather, with some bell heather. There are smaller areas of peat bog, acid grassland and bracken. In a few places, mostly at the north of the island are some lime-rich springs and here the plant life is more varied, with small sedges, eyebright, butterwort and northern fen orchid. There are also small pools, these drying in summer, with much water purslane, an uncommon plant in Orkney, growing in them. Most of the shoreline is of boulders and coarse shingle, at the foot of steep-sloping banks, except at the southeast part of the island, where it is steep and rocky up to a height of 10 metres at the Point of Tuberry. Here where the sheep cannot reach are plants such as goldenrod, Scots lovage, angelica and some native willow.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest here - oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. Arctic terns have bred in good numbers. Other breeding birds include eider and great skua. A feature of the site is the number of breeding gulls, including great black-backed, lesser black-backed and common. Small birds nesting include pied wagtail, swallow, rock pipit and many skylark and meadow pipit.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Maritime cliff and slope*.</p> <p>Maritime grassland.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Arctic tern*.</p> <p>Great skua.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Water purslane.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Cava (Site ref No: 47)

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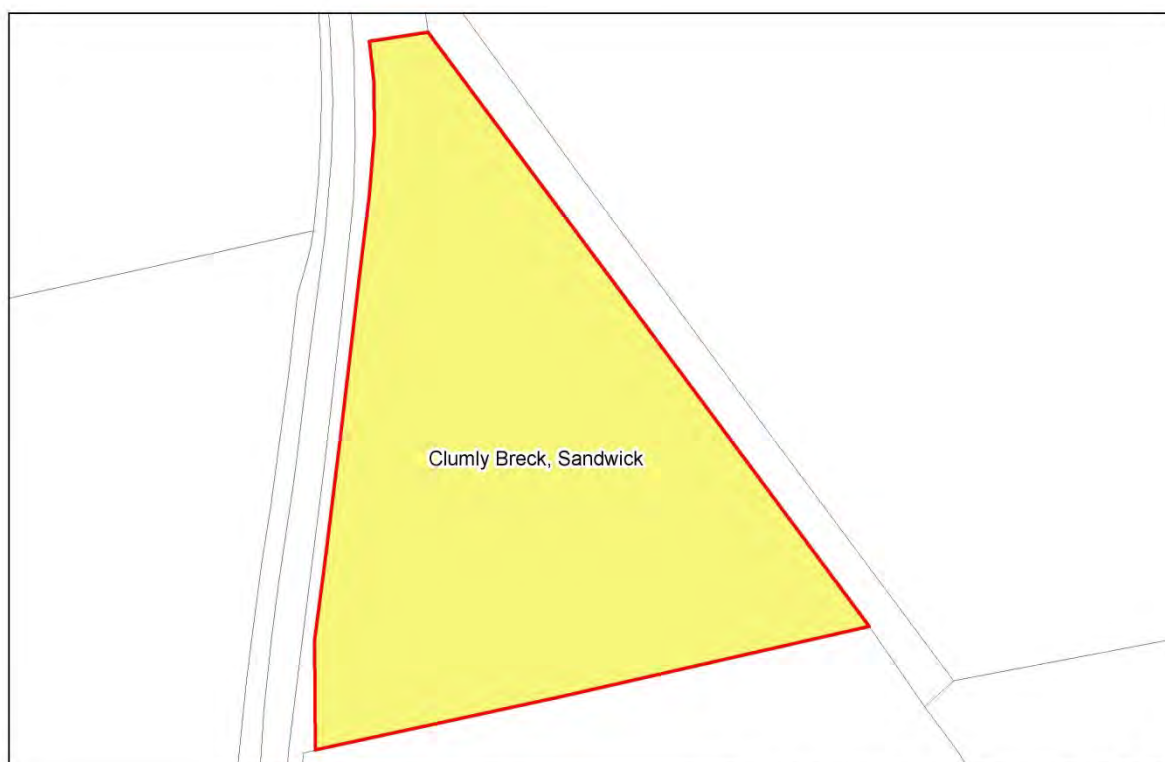
Cleat.	Location: Sanday.
Area: c. 46 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 48.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This large site mainly comprises a low-lying, almost level area at the north side of the Plain of Fidge, extending to the coast in the area known as the Black Rock. Along its southern edge are dry and damp sandy pastures or links with an abundance of wild flowers. This kind of land form, called links in Orkney, has been termed machair because of similarities with comparable landscapes in the Western Isles. Orchids, red clover, bird's-foot trefoil and grass of Parnassus are some of the striking plants that give colour to the area in summer. These drier areas merge into extensive wet meadows, marsh and swamp, also rich in plants such as bogbean, marsh marigold, bog cotton and ragged-robin. Close to the sea on the north side, sea water enters through a drainage culvert to form shallow pools and saltmarsh with a distinctive flora of plants that tolerate salt.</p> <p>The site is important for its large number of breeding birds, especially waders. Breeding lapwing, oystercatcher, curlew and redshank are abundant, while snipe and ringed plover are also present. There are small numbers of common and black-headed gulls and arctic terns. Small birds nesting include skylark, sedge warbler, wheatear and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens* .</p> <p>Machair* .</p> <p>Saline lagoons* .</p> <p>Coastal saltmarsh* .</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing* .</p> <p>Curlew * .</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Reed bunting* .</p> <p>Skylark* .</p> <p>Otter* .</p> <p>Moss carder bee* .</p> <p>Bristly stonewort.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Cleat, Sanday (Site ref No: 48)

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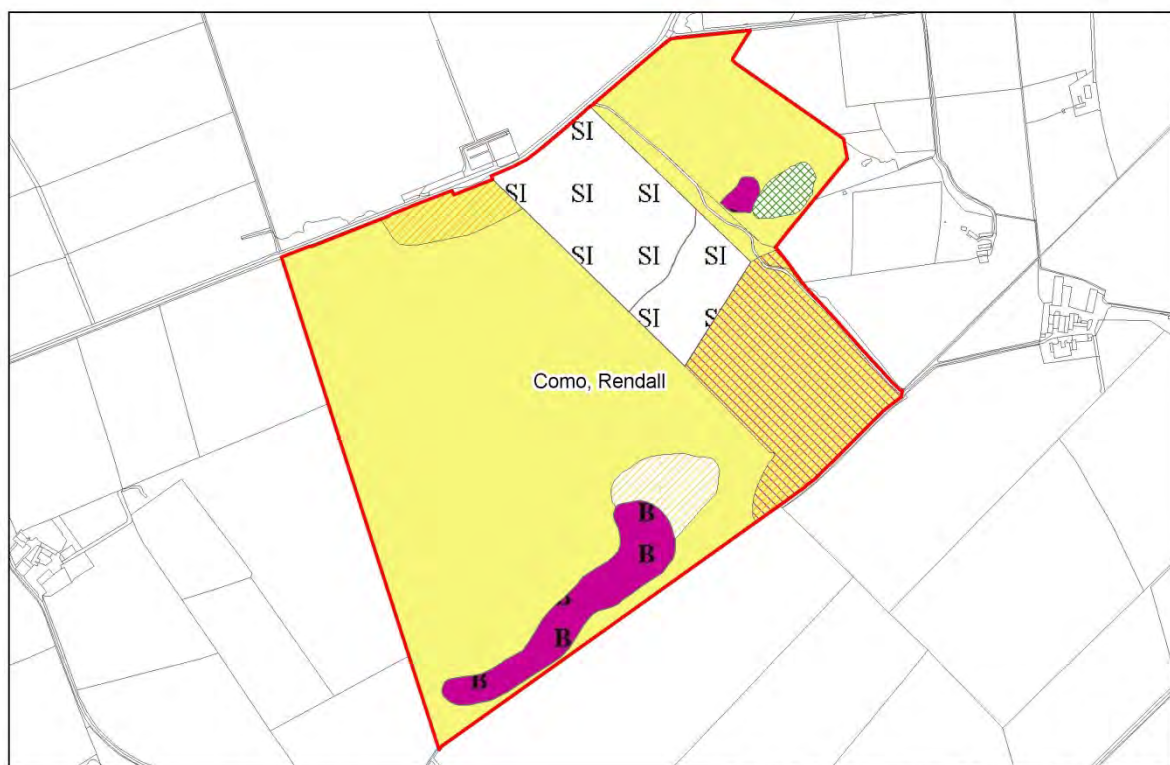
Clumly Breck.	Location: Sandwick.
Area: c. 1 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 49.
Site Description: This small area of dry heather moorland has a variety of flowering herbs growing among it, and is chiefly important for the locally rare fragrant orchid growing there. Birds nesting here include oystercatcher, curlew and common gull.	
Special Habitats: Upland heath*. Species-rich heath.	Special Wildlife: Curlew*. Heath fragrant orchid*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Clumly Breck, Sandwick (Site ref No: 49)

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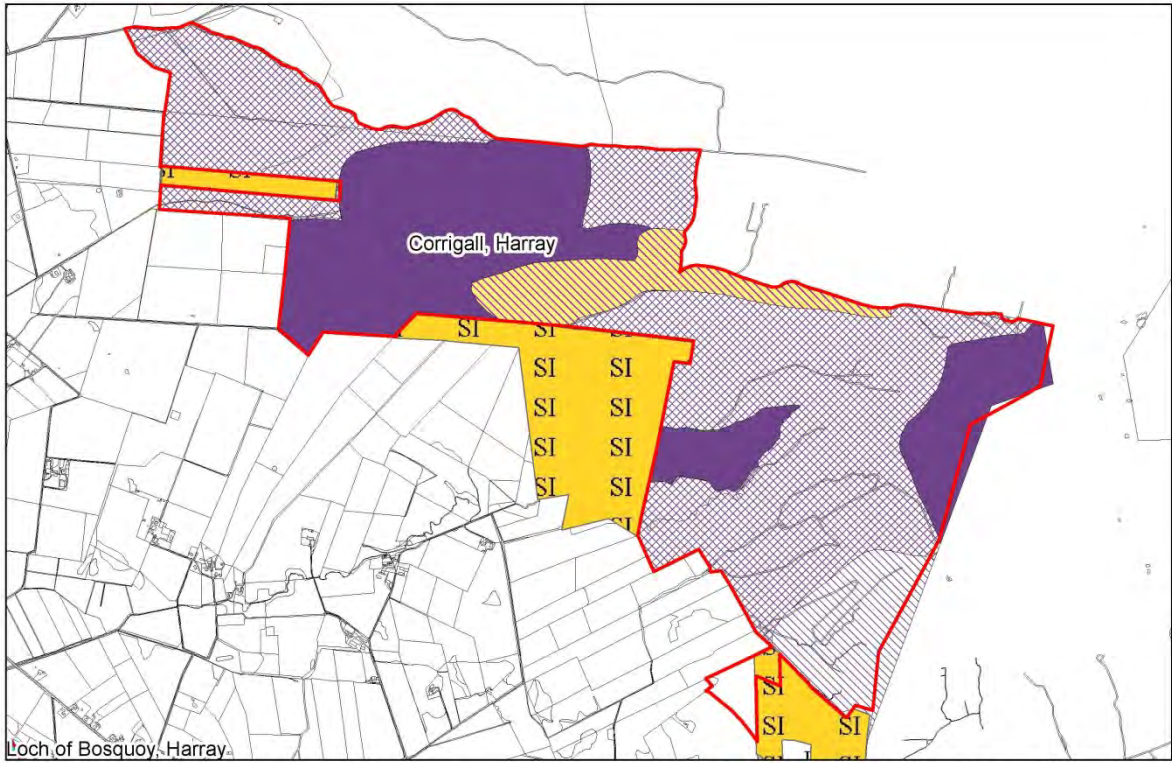
Como.	Location: Rendall.
Area: c. 45 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 50.
Site Description: The site mainly comprises dry heather moorland, with some areas of grassland and others of mixed grass and heather. In places, lichens grow thickly among the heather, giving a frosted appearance to the ground. Locally there are diffuse springs of lime-rich water and these produce quite different vegetation, comprising carpets of sedges and small flowering plants such as butterwort, ragged robin and orchids. There are many pairs of lapwing, oystercatcher, curlew nesting on the site, and the occasional redshank; also a colony of common gulls and a few black-headed and herring gulls. Smaller birds breeding here are skylark, meadow pipit and pied wagtail.	
Special Habitats: Upland heath*. Species-rich heath. Lichen heath. Lowland fens*.	Special Wildlife: Lapwing*. Curlew*. Skylark*. Common twayblade (an orchid).
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Como, Rendall (Site ref No: 50)

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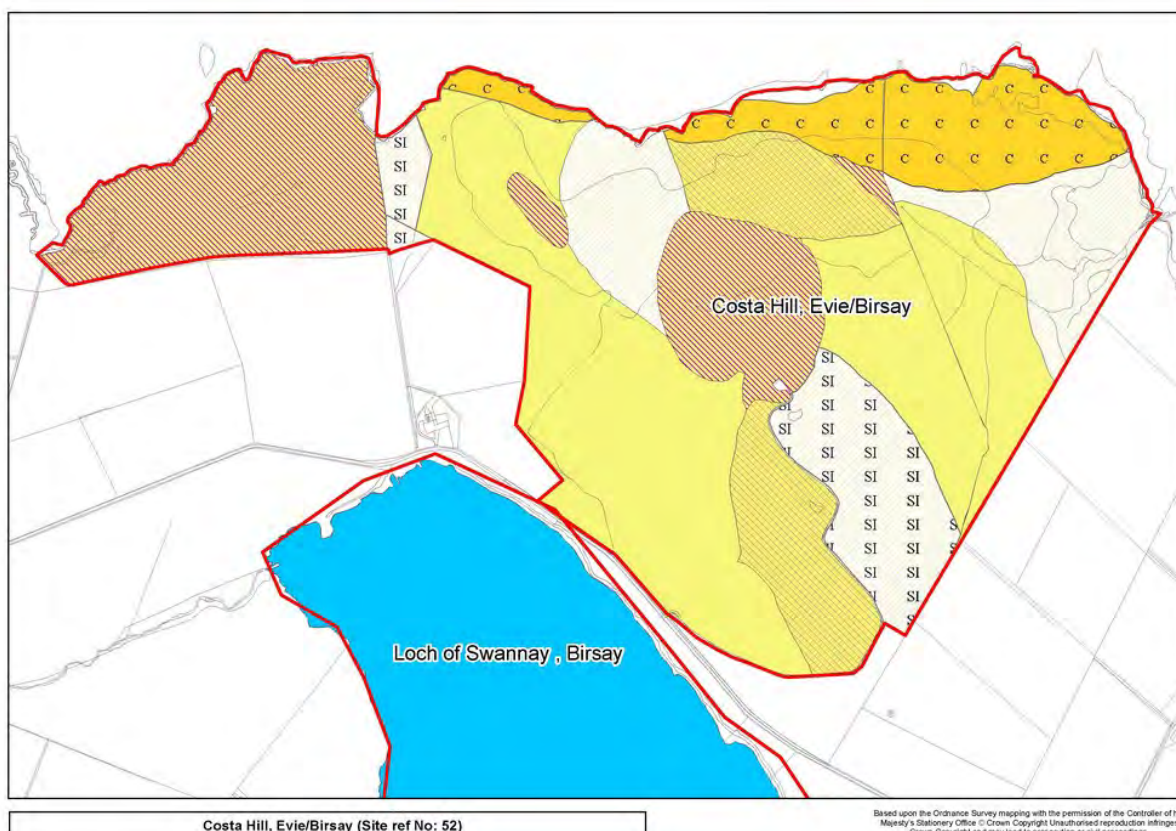
Corrigall.	Location: Harray.
Area: c. 361 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 51.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site mainly comprises peat bog. Much of it has been cut-over but the vegetation has recovered over most of the area: abundant plants of this blanket bog are bog cotton and heather, with bog asphodel and sphagnum moss. Some of the old peat workings have developed into marsh, with meadowsweet, rushes and native willows. There is also heather moorland on thinner peat. A burn runs through the site, in a small valley.</p> <p>The site is an important one for nesting birds of prey. A variety of waders nest here, in good numbers, including oystercatcher, golden plover, lapwing, snipe and curlew. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, stonechat and wheatear.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Blanket bog*.</p> <p>Upland heath*.</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Nesting birds of prey*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Curlew *.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Golden plover*.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Large heath butterfly*.</p> <p>Moss carder bee*.</p> <p>Large red damselfly.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



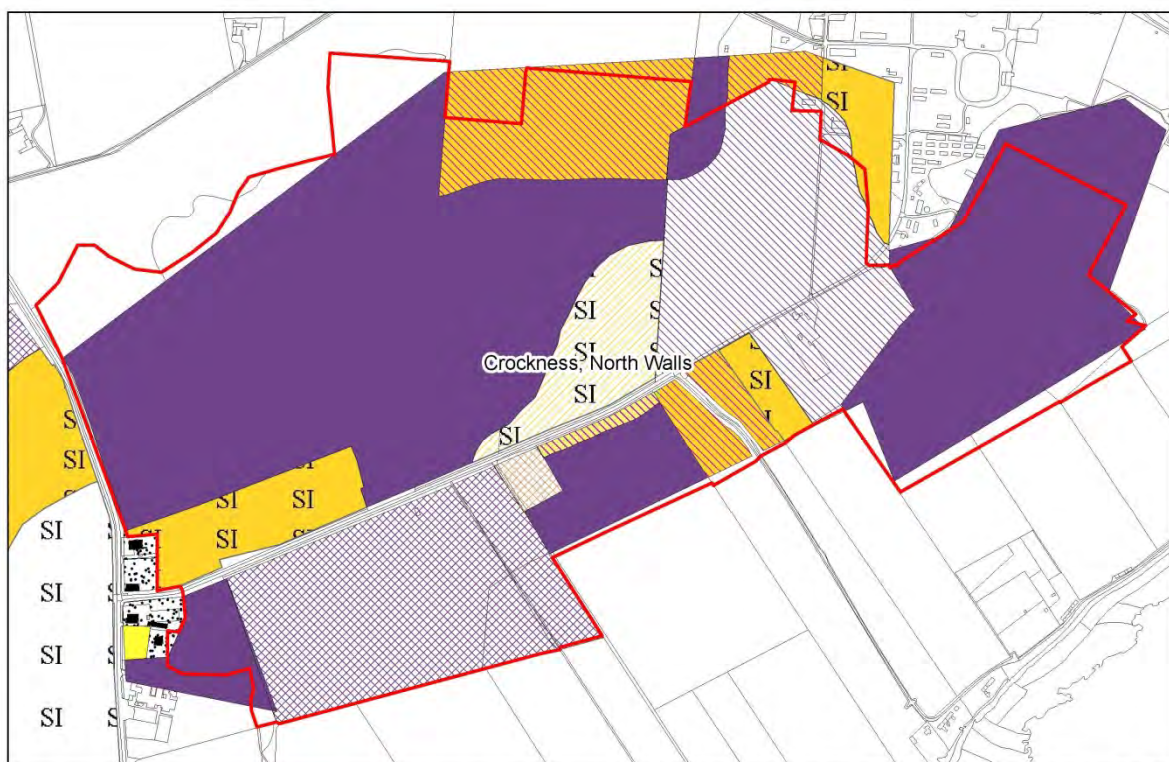
Corrigall, Harray (Site ref No: 51)

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Costa Hill.	Location: Evie/Birsay.
Area: c. 115 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 52.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area of heather moorland with patches of grassland. The mainly dry moorland is dominated by heather, with other plants including bell heather, crowberry and mat grass. Coastal grassland with plants tolerant of sea spray, such as thrift and spring squill, occurs near the cliff tops. There are some wetter areas, including bog pools with sphagnum moss, and lime-rich springs with their distinctive array of small plants such as butterwort.</p> <p>Waders including oystercatcher, curlew, redshank and lapwing nest on the site. There are small common and black-headed gull colonies and two pairs of ravens. Small birds nesting include skylark, meadow pipit, twite and wheatear.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*. Crowberry heath. Maritime heath. Maritime cliff and slope*. Maritime grassland. Upland fens, flushes and swamps*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Peregrine falcon*. Curlew*. Lapwing*. Redshank. Skylark*. Twite*.</p>
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



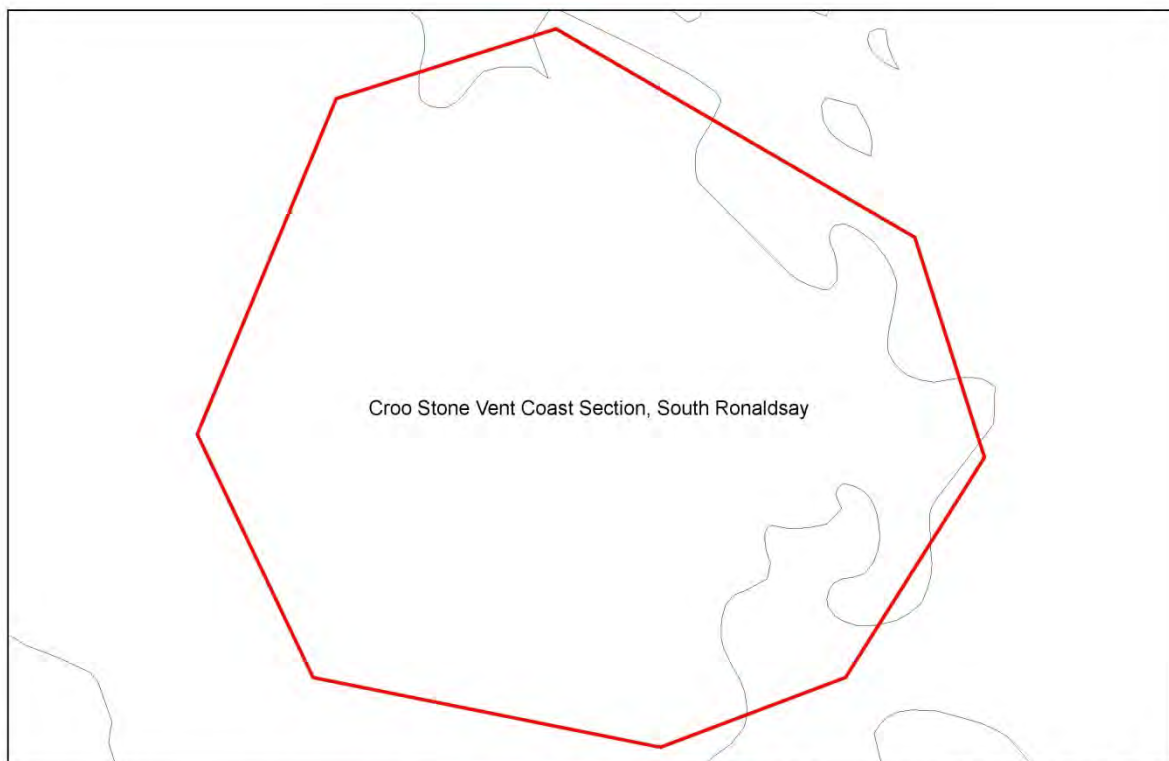
Crockness, North Walls.	Location: Hoy.
Area: c. 85 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 53.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area mainly of blanket peat, sub-divided into several enclosures. Dominant plants are bog cotton and heather, with crowberry and sphagnum mosses. Peat cutting, drainage and grazing have affected parts of the site, and some of these are now drier heather moorland and others marshy grassland with rushes.</p> <p>The site supports a variety of breeding birds. Waders such as oystercatcher, curlew and lapwing breed in good numbers and there are also snipe and redshank. Great skua nest and there is a colony of common gulls. A variety of small birds breed here, including stonechat and many skylark, meadow pipit and rock pipit.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Upland heath*. Blanket bog.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*. Lapwing*. Snipe. Redshank. Great skua. Skylark*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Crockness, North Walls (Site ref No: 53)

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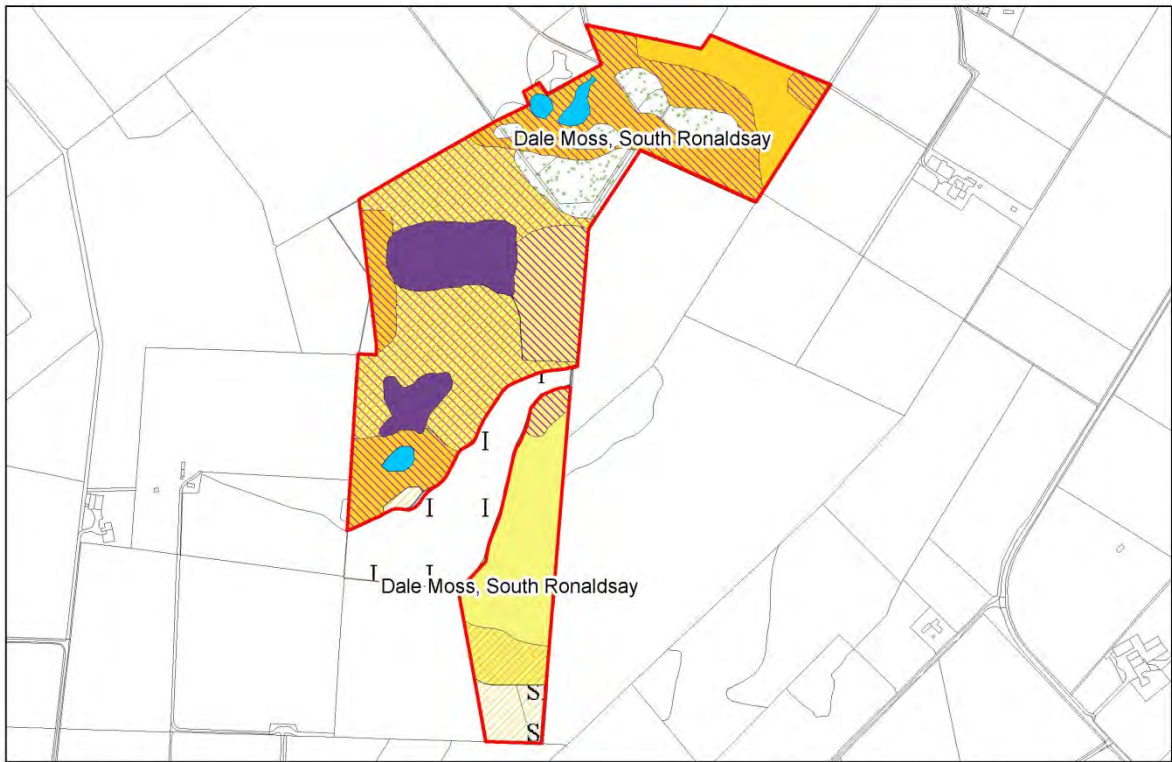
Croo Stone Vent.	Location: South Ronaldsay.
Area:	Site Reference Number: 54.
Site Description: The Croo Stone vent, the largest and most complex volcanic vent in Orkney, outcrops on the foreshore to the south of Rumley Point, where it can be seen at low tide. Measuring 160m by 90m, its long axis trends roughly north-east to south-west.	
Special Habitats:	Special Wildlife:
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Croo Stone Vent Coast Section, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 54)

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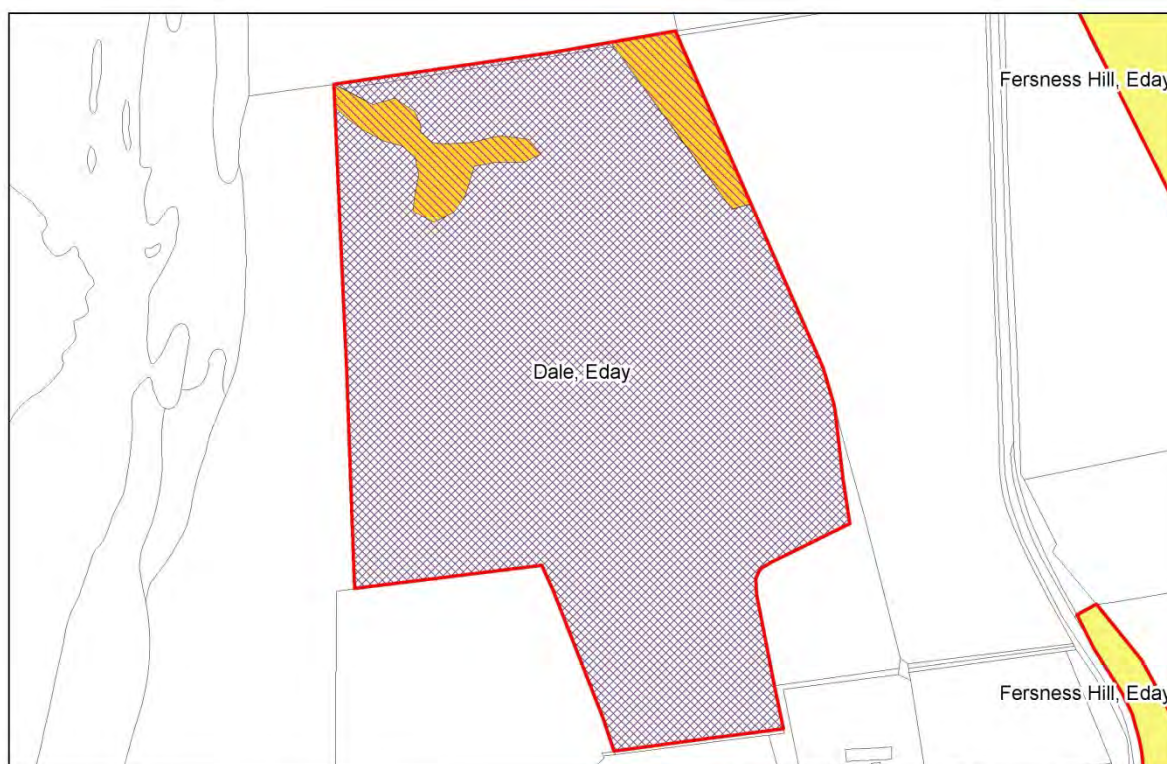
Dale Moss.	Location: South Ronaldsay.
Area: c. 19 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 55.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area of peat bog and wet grassland with small pools. The bog vegetation is mainly heather and bog cotton, with sphagnum moss in places. Willow bushes grow on some parts of the site.</p> <p>Breeding waders are plentiful, especially curlew, oystercatcher and lapwing, plus a few snipe and redshank. Other breeding birds include ducks such as mallard and shoveler. A colony of about 215 pairs of common gulls has been recorded. Small birds like skylark, meadow pipit, twite, reed bunting and sedge warbler nest here. An important species found here is the great yellow bumblebee.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Basin bog.</p> <p>Upland heathland*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Snipe.</p> <p>Redshank.</p> <p>Shoveler.</p> <p>Skylark*.</p> <p>Reed bunting*.</p> <p>Twite*.</p> <p>Great yellow bumblebee*.</p> <p>Heath carder bee*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Dale Moss, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 55)

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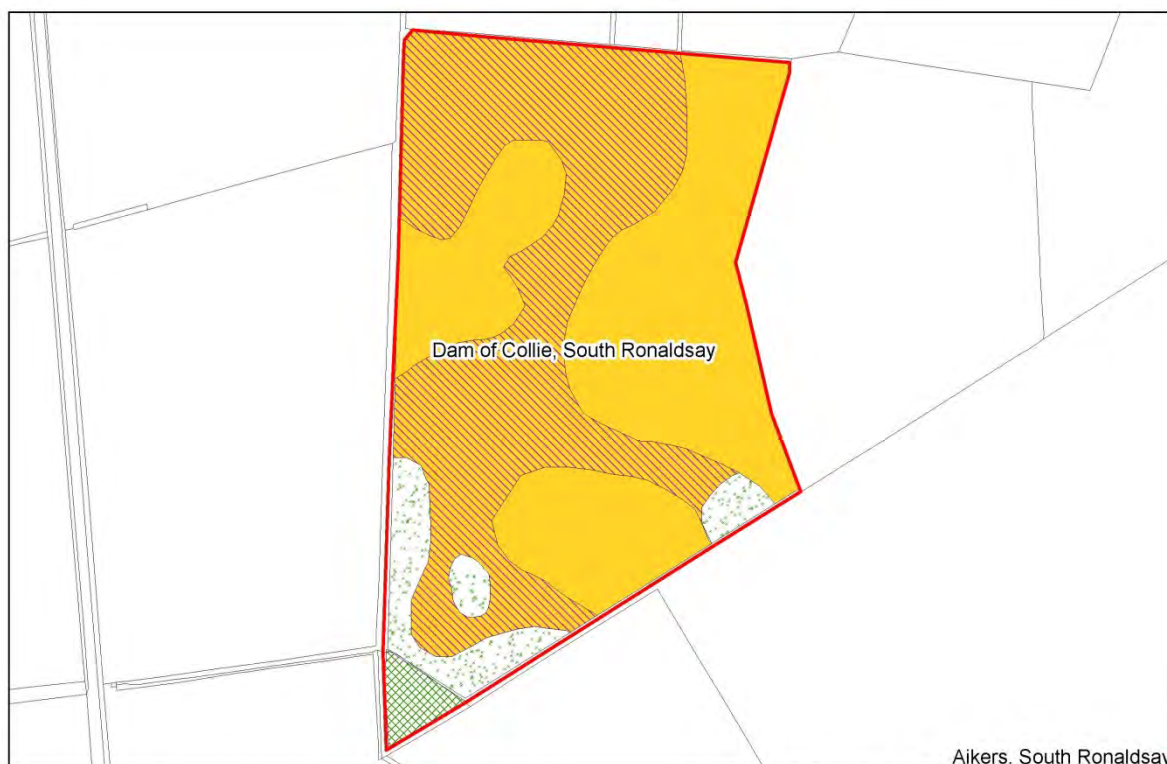
Dale.	Location: Eday.
Area: c. 5 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 56.
Site Description: The site consists of an area of bog surrounded by grass fields. It has been cut over in the past but still has deep peat. Vegetation cover is mainly heather, crowberry and bog cotton. Old peat cuttings have pools, with bog asphodel and a little sphagnum moss. Water draining from the site at its north-west corner has created a small area of marsh with a variety of plants including marsh marigold and ragged robin. This site supports a variety of breeding waders, including oystercatcher, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank. There is also a colony of common gulls. Small birds nesting here include skylark and meadow pipit.	
Special Habitats: Lowland fen*. Blanket bog*.	Special Wildlife: Curlew*. Lapwing*. Snipe. Redshank. Skylark*.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Dale, Eday (Site ref No: 56)

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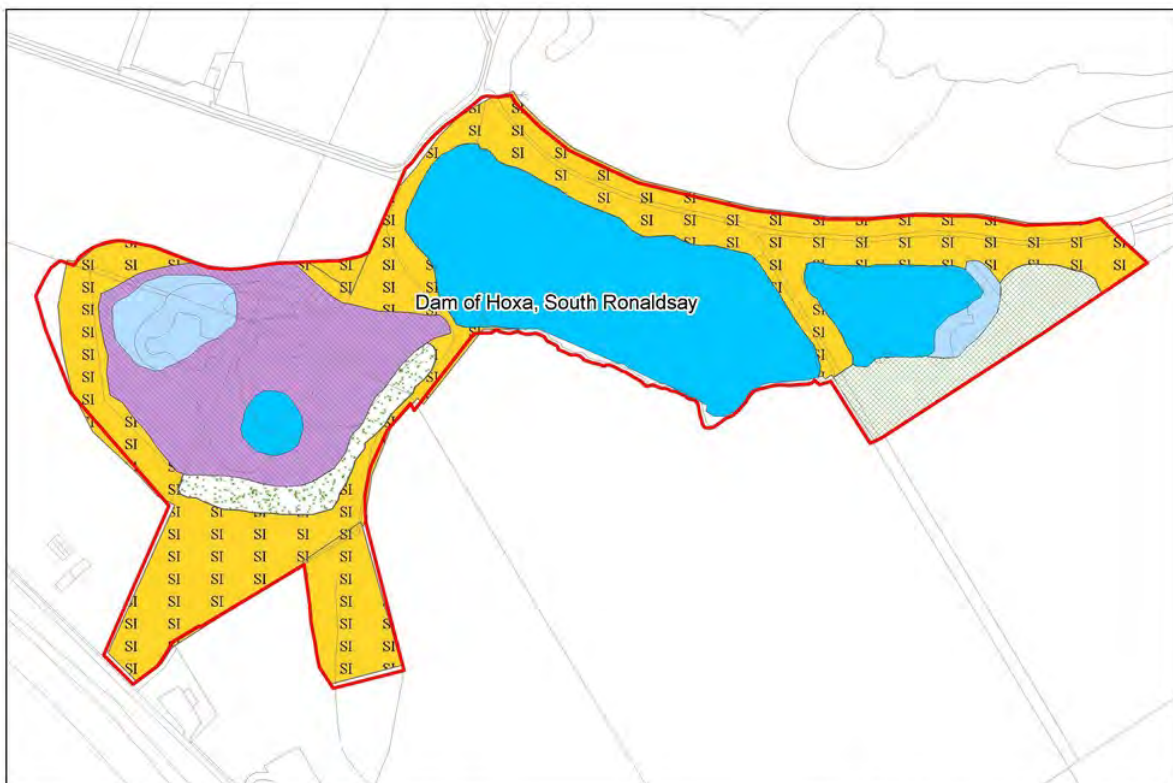
Dam of Collie.	Location: South Ronaldsay.
Area: c. 8 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 57.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area of wetland on the site of a former milldam, now drained. Plant life is quite rich, with plants including sedges, ragged-robin, orchids and horsetails. Variety of plant life further increases where springs locally create more lime-rich conditions. Gorse is locally common on the dry fringes of the site.</p> <p>A range of birds nest here, including waders such as lapwing, curlew, oystercatcher and snipe, and colonies of black-headed and great black-backed gulls. Small birds including linnet and meadow pipit also nest here. Short-eared owl hunt over the site as well.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Lowland fens*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Short-eared owl*.</p> <p>Curlew*.</p> <p>Lapwing*.</p> <p>Black-headed gull*.</p> <p>Linnet*.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Dam of Collie, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 57)

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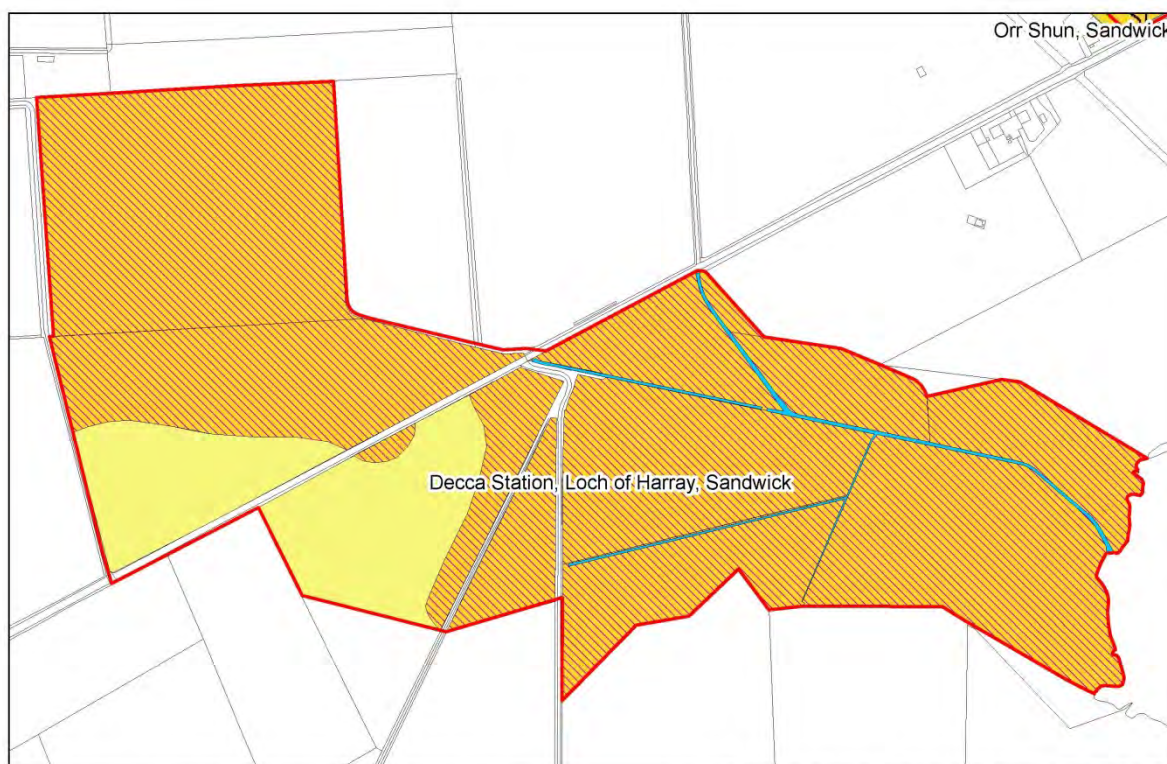
Dam of Hoxa.	Location: South Ronaldsay.
Area: c. 7 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 58.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>The Dam of Hoxa is a varied site including two lochs separated from the sea by a shingle bank. There are also areas of reedbed and marsh with plants such as yellow iris. Less wet areas are mostly semi-natural grassland, with patches of planted trees, including downy birch and various willows.</p> <p>The wetlands attract breeding waders such as oystercatcher, ringed plover, lapwing, snipe, curlew and redshank, as well as black-headed gulls. The open water attracts ducks and mute swan – mallard, shelduck and moorhen all nest here.</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>Reed bed*. Lowland fens*. Lagoon*.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Curlew*. Lapwing*. Snipe. Redshank. Skylark*. Black-headed gull*. Blue-tailed damselfly.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Dam of Hoxa, South Ronaldsay (Site ref No: 58)

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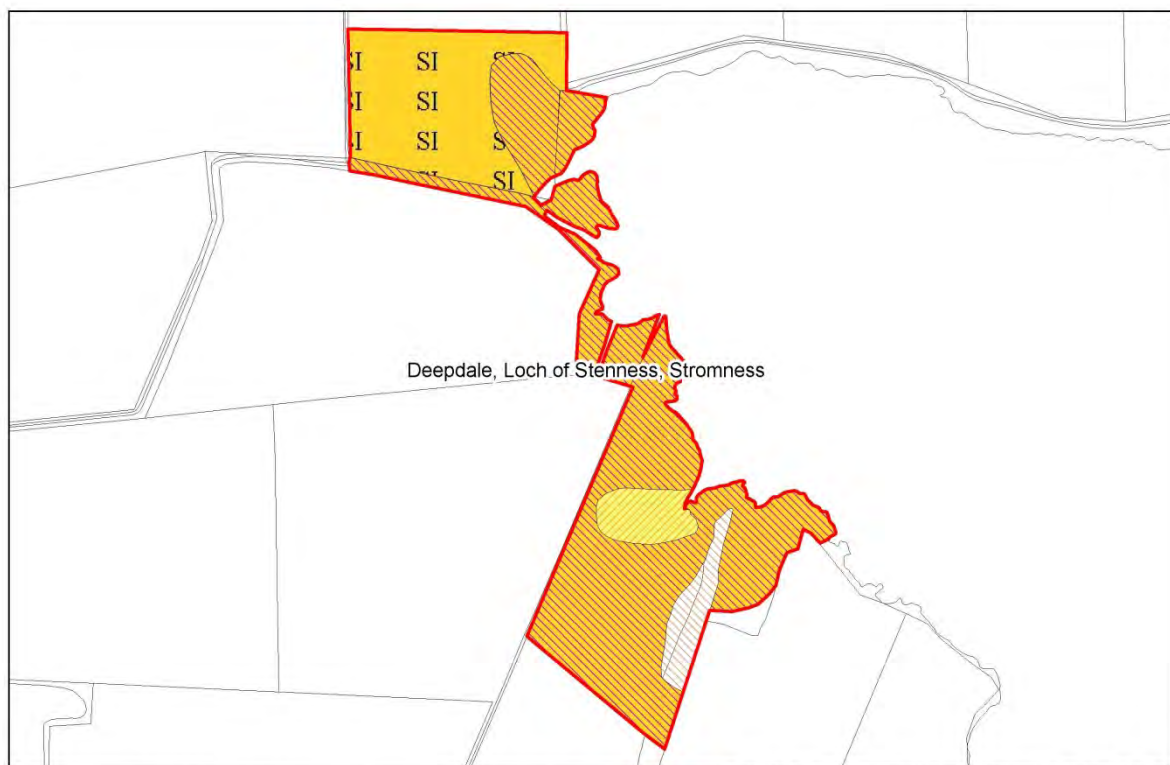
Decca Station, Loch of Harray.	Location: Sandwick.
Area: c. 21 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 59.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>An area of marshy grassland largely dominated by meadowsweet, with yellow iris and rushes. There is heather on drier ground at the western end of the site.</p> <p>A variety of waders nest here, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew and redshank, in good numbers. There are small colonies of common and black-headed gulls. Smaller birds nesting here include skylark, meadow pipit, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
Special Habitats:	Special Wildlife:
	Lapwing*. Curlew*. Redshank. Skylark*. Reed bunting*. Sedge warbler.
* Nationally important habitats and species.	



Decca Station, Loch of Harray, Sandwick (Site ref No: 59)

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Deepdale, Loch of Stenness.	Location: Stromness.
Area: c. 5 hectares.	Site Reference Number: 60.
<p>Site Description:</p> <p>This site mainly comprises rushy pasture, running down to the Loch of Stenness. The lower parts have more natural vegetation with some heather and purple moor grass, and a stand of meadowsweet. The loch being brackish, some plants usually found by the sea in saltmarshes grow along the loch edge.</p> <p>The site supports breeding waders in good numbers, including oystercatcher, lapwing, curlew and redshank. Ducks and gulls also nest – teal, mallard, shoveler eider, common gull and black-headed gull. Smaller birds nesting here include meadow pipit, skylark, twite, sedge warbler and reed bunting.</p>	
<p>Special Habitats:</p> <p>Burns and canalised burns.</p>	<p>Special Wildlife:</p> <p>Lapwing*. Curlew*. Redshank. Skylark*. Twite*. Reed bunting*. One-glumed spike-rush.</p>
<p>* Nationally important habitats and species.</p>	



Deepdale, Loch of Stenness, Stromness (Site ref No: 60)

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