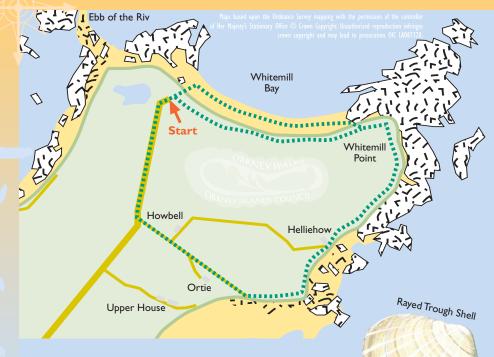
Whitemill Circular

4.4km (2.7m) circular walk along a beautiful coastline





Lady's Bedstraw

This walk starts at the beautiful sandy beach of Whitemill Bay, backed by sand dunes. Further along the coast becomes rocky with sandy

inlets and is frequented by seals and wading birds such as ringed plover. Flowers bloom on the sandy links adjacent to the coast. Look out for lady's bedstraw, yarrow and eyebright. Inland the small loch and extensive wetlands are popular with birds. The more unusual shoveler and pintail ducks can be seen along with common teal and mallard.

An island folk-tale relates that the mound of Helliehow was home to a mischievous imp called a Hogboon. He caused the human inhabitants so much trouble they left home, but they'd not gone far with their belongings when the Hogboon jumped up from a milk-kirn on the cart saying "Wir gittan a fine day for the flittin."

'Ortie' was built as a model crofting township in the 19th century. It was designed as a 'closs' (narrow passage between the buildings) and the land was farmed in strips. The township thrived and in 1871 there were 15 crofts in the township. The population was about 70 people at its peak. It became derelict in 1876.

Ortie