

COLL: SITE DESCRIPTIONS

C1, Map 1

NM26SE18

Coll no. 165

NM 27172 63192

Sorisdale

Former fishing township, largely abandoned, includes one listed building

Listed

18-20th C

Elements on coast edge

Township comprises of several houses, outbuildings, yards, cultivated land, earthworks, small mounds, boat noosts and other features, some of which extend down to the coast edge. The majority of the buildings are reduced to foundation level. Some have been reused in recent times as sheds. The listed cottage is roofless and ruinous and lies less than 20m from the coast edge. The houses measure 9m by 4m (externally), on average. A boat noost lies on the N side of the bay. Set into the grassy banks at the head of the shore, this has drystone walls and measures 6m by 2m; the walls stand to 2m. To the S side of the bay there are at least two further noosts. The most prominent retains a revetted stone wall and measures 5m by 2m; the walls stand up to 1m. The other noost lies immediately adjacent and is defined by grassy banks. It measures 3.5m by 1m; the banks stand to 0.5m.

Fair-poor

Survey

C2, Map 1

Coll no. 303

NM 27261 62750

Sorisdale Bay (south)

Probable fishing harbour, ruinous

18-20th C

On coast edge

(i) A wall extends down a sloping rock face to cross a narrow neck of low-lying land which leads to a rocky headland. It is coursed but roughly built of beach stone and is lichen covered. It survives to 0.75m-1m in height and is between 1.5 and 1.75m in width. It is some 13m long. It has been built up over bedrock, which at some time in the past, has been worn smooth by the sea. (ii) A second length of more ruinous walling extends from the face of the headland into the sea. It survives to a length of 8m and is approximately 2.5m wide. No coursing is visible and much of the wall has been reduced to a single stone in height. This wall extends in front of a stony storm beach. (iii) On the storm beach, to the rear of wall (ii), a large boulder has an iron ring inserted into it. Together these walls are thought to represent the remains of a small fishing harbour.

Fair

Nil

C3, Map 2

NM 27137 62353

Bagh na Coille

Enclosure, three-sided, of earth banks and stone walling

18-20th C

<50m from coast edge

A three-sided rectangular enclosure lies against an outcrop of bedrock. It measures some 25m by 8m and is aligned east-west. The ends of the enclosure are formed from rough walling which is largely reduced to a single stone in height. The long side is formed from an earthen bank some 1.3m wide, which survives to a height of 0.4m. Two small water-courses run close by. The structure is thought to

Site Descriptions: Coll

be a stock enclosure of 18th-20th C date.

Fair

Nil

C4, Map 2

NM 27137 62353

Bagh na Coille

Cave

Unknown

<50m from coast edge

A cave, suitable for use as a rock shelter, has been formed from a chasm beneath a bedrock outcrop. The floor of the cave is dry and it is roofed with large collapsed boulders, covered with dense vegetation. It extends inwards for at least 10m.

Fair

Survey

C5, Map 2

NM26SE7

Coll no. 163

NM 26521 61327

Dun Dulorichan/Laorachan

Structural remains, probable Dun, enclosures

1st mill BC- 1st mill AD

>100m from coast edge

The remains of several structural features are situated on or close to a steep sided rocky prominence between the coast edge and the SE end of Loch Airidh Raonuill. The site has previously been recorded as a dun. The surviving structural features are as follows: (i) A wall, now largely covered by rugged vegetation, extends for some 20m on level ground from the foot of the dun to a crag located to its eastern side. It is 1.75m wide, 0.4m high and largely ruinous. (ii) At the seaward end of (i), fragments of walling may indicate the presence of a small enclosure. (iii) On the N slopes of the crag there is a rough wall some 7m long by 2m wide and aligned NW-SE. Almost entirely obscured by peat and rough vegetation, this wall is likely to be that described by RCAHMS; no trace was seen of the wall on the E side of the crag. (iv) A slight hollow lies immediately to the S of wall (iii) and some stonework is visible, suggesting either an associated structure or a segment of collapsed walling. (v) Two enclosures, each 9m in diameter, lie against the S foot of the crag.

Poor

Monitor

C6, Map 2

NM 26096 60367

Canada

Boundary/enclosure built between outcrops

18-20th C

>100m from coast edge

A fragment of walling, 9m long and up to 0.65m high, extends between two rock outcrops. It is formed from large boulders which have been roughly piled rather than coursed. It is probable that this structure originally formed part of a stock enclosure or shelter. It may be associated with Canada croft, which lies further inland in this area.

fair

Nil

Site Descriptions: Coll

C7, Map 2

NM 25754 59962

Port Trealabhaig (N of)

settlement and field system, abandoned

18-20th C

Elements <100m from coast edge

A complex of ruinous croft buildings lie beneath an outcrop on relatively level rough ground, some 100m and more from the coast edge. The best preserved building is aligned N-S and measures 8m by 4m externally. The walls stand up to 1.3m high and are 0.7m wide. No trace of any internal features survive. (ii) At the N end of (i), the footings of a square structure or enclosure, 6m in length, are outlined by grass-covered stones. (iii) The ruins of a rectangular building lie to the W of (ii). Measuring 7m by 6m and aligned N-S, much of the W wall has been robbed out. (iv) and (v) The ruins of two smaller buildings lies to the S end of (i). Traces of field walls and formerly cultivated ground lie close by.

Fair

Nil

C8, Map 3

NM 25332 59308

Port an Fhion (N of)

Settlement, ruinous, and cultivations

18-20th C

>100m from coast edge

The ruins of a subrectangular building stand on high but sheltered ground between two rock outcrops close to a small loch. The building measures 9m by 5.5m and is aligned E-W. The walls are, on average, 1m wide, and survive up to 1.1m high. They have a pronounced inward batter and are rounded off at the corners, in a manner most reminiscent of traditional blackhouse architecture. The interior of the building is very overgrown with rough vegetation. (ii) to the W of the building, on the other side of the outcrop, overgrown footings define a building some 3m by 7m in size. (iii) A series of lazy beds surround the buildings and extend across structure (ii). (iv) an area of rig and furrow lies to the S of the complex.

Fair

Survey

C9, Map 1

Coll no. 304

NM 27378 63182

Sorisdale Bay (north)

Rock cut basins

Unknown

On coast edge

A group of five or more small rock cut basins are visible in the surface of the bedrock to the N side of Sorisdale Bay. They lie within 2.5m of the sea. On average, the basins measure 0.08m in diameter and are 0.04m deep. Exploration of the surrounding area was hampered by slippery rock and thus it is not know if further, similar groups exist in the wider area. This site has been recorded in more detail by Coll Archaeological Association.

Good

Nil

Site Descriptions: Coll

C10, Map 1
NM 27425 63198

Sorisdale

Track, possible

18-20th C

<10m from coast edge

A spread of small stone, covering an area 10m N-S by 2.5m E-W, extends through a low-lying gap between two rock outcrops. To the E side of the spread, a line of larger stones appears to form an edge to this feature. Thought to represent the remains of an old track, this feature may reuse stone from an earlier structure since little loose stone is available in the immediate area.

Fair

Nil

C11, Map 1
NM 27489 63478

Port a Mhor Mhuil

Possible Kelp kiln, ruinous

18-20th C

10m from coast edge

A group of earthfast and grass-covered stones appear to describe a small circular structure, possibly the remains of a kelp kiln. The feature measures 1m in diameter and lies in short grass some 10m from the coast edge.

Poor

Nil

C12, Map 1
NM 27394 63678

Traigh Tuath (south)

Field, cairn and platform

Unknown

Elements <10m from coast edge

An area of well drained grassland lies between rock outcrops close to the coast edge. (i) To the center of the area stands a conical-shaped cairn. This measures some 4m in diameter and stands up to 1m high. It is largely covered with vegetation but some stone is visible within. The stones measure approximately 0.5m x 0.15m x 0.05m. This structure may be a clearance cairn, containing stone removed from the surrounding field, but the possibility that it represented a burial monument could not be discounted. (ii) Some 50m to the N side of the cairn, close to the point at which the sand dunes begin, there is a small raised platform lying amongst rough grass. It measures 8m by 3.5m and stands some 0.25m above the surrounding ground surface. The identity of this feature is unknown.

Fair/Good

Survey

C13, Map 1
NM26SE8
Coll no. 166
NM 2721 6384

Traigh Tuath, Sorisdale

Old Ground Surface with midden scatter

Unknown

<50m from coast edge

Site Descriptions: Coll

A spread of stone, shell and animal bone associated with a probable old ground surface is exposed in the base of a blow out within an area of high dunes. Small scraps of flint and pumice are also present, although no tools or debitage was noted. The spread extends over an area measuring some 20m by 10m. Previous work in this area by RCAHMS uncovered an inhumation burial with a beaker vessel within a stone setting and associated with anthropogenic spreads. The area is unstable and liable to erode rapidly. It is recommended that a full survey together with methodical collection be carried out without delay and that the area be kept under surveillance for the appearance of new exposures. References: Ritchie and Crawford, 1980.

Fair

Survey

C14, Map 1

NM26SE13

Coll no. 162

NM 26175 63925

Eileraig

Farmstead

18-20th C

<5m from coast edge

The ruins of a stone built house are situated on grassland at the seaward end of a small valley bounded by rocky outcrops at the mouth of a sandy bay. The building lies some 3m above the beach and 10m from the coast edge. It measures 9m by 4.5m (externally) and is aligned N-S. The walls stand up to 7 courses or 1.5m in height and are built from a regularly coursed mix of quarry and beach stone. Natural clay and small stone has been used to pack the wall core. The corners of the building are square. Internally, it is divided into two chambers of unequal size. The internal division is formed from large orthostats and probably of secondary origin. Traces of internal render survive at the S end of the interior, while fallen stone with mortar adhering may be the remains of a chimney. The footings of at least two other, smaller buildings lie in the immediate area and the ground appears to have been improved and worked over a considerable period. The 1st edition OS map (1881) shows two buildings in this area which more than likely are represented by these ruins.

Fair

Survey

C15, Map 1

NM 26063 63939

Eileraig (W of)

Land boundary wall

18-20th C

<20m from coast edge

A wall runs between two rock outcrops and appears to be part of a discontinuous field boundary which extends inland for over 30m. It stands up to 0.75m high and is surrounded by tumbled stone. A modern field boundary runs on an approximately parallel alignment nearby and it is likely that the wall represents a predecessor to this land division.

Fair

Nil

C16, Map 1

NM 25380 64083

Traigh Bhoud

Wall

Site Descriptions: Coll

18-20th C

30m from coast edge

A curving section of coursed walling, some 7m in length, runs parallel with the coast. It extends between two rock outcrops in an area of marshy ground and may be part of a now ruinous land boundary. It may be associated with field boundary C17.

Fair

Nil

C17, Map 15

NM 25078 64170

Bousd

Field boundary

18-20th C

<50m from coast edge

A ruinous wall runs uphill from the sea and is visible, although discontinuous, for over 50m. It appears to be roughly coursed and in places is built over jutting bedrock. A track which remains in use runs beside the wall for some distance. It is probable that this boundary is associated with wall C16.

Fair

Nil

C18, Map 15

NM 24880 63861

Cornaig Bay

Rectangular enclosure, ruinous

18-20th C

<50m from coast edge

The ruinous footings of a stone built enclosure are situated within an area of green, fertile land which is surrounded by rock outcrops and marshy ground. It measures 7m by 4m and is aligned NE-SW. There is an entrance in the NW wall. The walls stand up to 0.4m high and are built from large angular and subangular stones, probably taken from nearby rock falls. The enclosure backs onto an outcrop. It is thought to have been used as a stock enclosure.

Fair

Nil

C19, Map 15

NM 24901 63656

Cornaigh Bay (E side)

Enclosure, ruinous

18-20th C

<10m from coast edge

Several large upright boulders define the remnants of a three-sided rectilinear enclosure built against a rocky outcrop on the E side of Cornaigh Bay. The structure measures some 6m by 9m and has rubble walls up of between 0.7 and 1m in thickness. The majority of the walling is now reduced to foundation level. This structure is of a type commonly found particularly in the more rugged upland areas of the island and is thought to be a stock enclosure.

Poor

Nil

Site Descriptions: Coll

C20, Map 15
NM 24738 63710
Cornaig Bay (W side)
Enclosures
18-20th C

>50m from coast edge

Two small rectangular enclosures are situated on sloping, rocky ground to the W side of Cornaig Bay. (i) One is reduced to foundation level and is estimated to have measured some 5m by 4m. The wall was built from large upright stones. The ground level within the interior is slightly raised, suggesting that this enclosure may have been used for small-scale cultivation. (ii) The second enclosure, measuring 8m by 5m, lies to the seaward side of (i). It is defined by earthen banks which may originally formed the base to a wooden superstructure.

Fair
Nil

C21, Map 15
NM26SW12
Coll no. 146
NM 2345 6331
Dun Morbaidh
Site of alleged Dun
Unknown
On coast edge

A prominent rocky outcrop on a short headland is alleged to be the site of a Dun. It is surrounded by the sea on three sides and has high, sloping sides. The site was recorded by Beveridge (1903) who noted the presence of a wall on the W side of the summit and traces of terraces and walling on the E side of the hill. From exposed midden deposits, several sherds of pottery with incised decoration, one bearing a representation of a deer, were recovered. These are now in the NMAS (Accession nos.: HD 322-327). No trace of the walls or of any midden deposits were noted on this visit. The only possible structural remains visible being several large stones protruding from the seaward flanks of the crag.

Poor
Monitor

C22, Map 14
NM 22732 62782
A'Chroic (SW of)
Field walls, ruinous
18-20th C

>30m from coast edge

Several discontinuous and ruinous lengths of walling occur in the area of an old raised storm beach. Beach stone has been used in their construction. Most lie over 50m from the coast edge.

Poor
Nil

C23, Map 14
NM 22355 62401
Traigh Gharbh (SW of)
Enclosures/field walls
18-20th C
<10m from coast edge

Site Descriptions: Coll

The remains of several earthen banks and stone walls forming a series of probable stock enclosures, occupy low-lying ground between rocky outcrops. (i) At the eastern end of the complex, an earthen bank extends between the outcrops. It is 2m wide and 0.35m high and is covered with vegetation. (ii) and (iii) Two further earthen banks lie to the W of and parallel to (i). (iv) To the W side of the complex, a stone wall, now in a very ruinous condition and possibly built over an earlier earthen bank, runs between the outcrops and extends inland for over 100m towards the road.

Fair

Nil

C24, Map 14

NM26SW6

Coll no. 118

NM 21780 61877

Killunaig

Probable burial mounds and old ground surface

3rd-1st mill BC

>50m from coast edge

In a low-lying area between the dunes there are a series of low-lying small grassy hummocks. One amorphous mound measures some 6m by 7m (E-W) and is associated with a group of 12 or more large earthfast stones, which may be the remains of a structure. Six of the stones form a rough arc, measuring some 3m across and are reminiscent of a kerb, perhaps to a small prehistoric burial mound. To the center of this mound, several large earthfast stones are exposed. The area is poorly vegetated and traces of shell and stone exposed in the upper ground surface may be the remains of an old ground surface now becoming exposed. The probability that this site is a prehistoric burial ground is strengthened by previous records and the excavation of burial cists in this area by RCAHMS in 1976. The excavations examined two cists. One contained an internal partition and the bones of at least three individuals. The other contained a small amount of cremated bone. Previous stray finds from the area have included pottery, a bone pin, a pennanular bronze ring and a piece of bronze wire. The remains described above may be the ones previously examined, but it seems probable that further sites also exist in this area. A full survey and continued monitoring is recommended. References: Ritchie and Crawford, 1980.

Fair/poor

Monitor

C25, Map 13

NM 20748 61148

Gallanach (NW of)

Track

18-20th C

Elements <10m from coast edge

A roughly surfaced track runs along by the coast for over 50m, meandering between rock outcrops. In places, the remains of a retaining wall or kerb are visible to either side. This feature is thought to be of relatively modern origin.

Fair

Nil

C26, Map 13

NM 20554 61055

Gallanach (NW of)

Enclosure

Site Descriptions: Coll

18-20th C

>20m from coast edge

A curvilinear earth banked enclosure occupies an area of fertile grassland on a sloping hillside some 30m from the coast edge. The bank is most clearly visible to the E side, here it has spread to 3m in width and stands between 0.75 and 1m high. There is the suggestion of a corner at the NE and it is probable that the enclosure was rectilinear in plan but that subsequent slumping of the banks has lent it a more rounded appearance. The internal area measures 25m by 25m, approximately. There is no indication that the ground inside was ever cultivated and it may be more likely that served as a stock enclosure.

Fair

Nil

C27, Map 13

NM26SW5

Coll no. 104

NM 20401 61141

Rubh'an t-Sean Chaisteil

Alleged site of Dun, possible hut circle

3rd-1st mill BC

<10m from coast edge

It has been recorded by Beveridge (1903) that a dun formerly occupied this prominence but no trace of any remains were found on the crag itself during this visit. The remains of a curvilinear building or enclosure, were noted however, on the landward flanks of the hill. Visible as a depression, surrounded by slight banks, this structure is estimated to measure some 6m by 5m internally. A break in the bank to the E side is suggestive of an entrance. The banks stand highest to the W and SW sides where they measure 2m in width and stand up to 0.5m high. A slight depression in front of the banks on the N and E sides suggests that the ground surface in these areas may have been artificially scarped. The site is not eroding.

Fair

Monitor

C28, Map 13

NM 19371 60262

Grishipoll (N of)

Structural remains and cultivations

18-20th C

Elements <10m from coast edge

On a rocky headland, between the dunes S of Gallanach and Grishipoll Bay, an more fertile area of grassland shows signs past cultivation. A raised storm beach lies to the rear of this area. (i) The remains of a drystone field wall borders the western edge of the cultivated land. This extends inland towards the road and has been constructed from rounded and subangular stone, much of it probably taken from the storm beach. (ii) A length of ruinous walling runs parallel to the coast. Extending for 10m in length, this wall is 0.5m wide and stands up to 0.3m high. It incorporates both beach stone and angular blocks within its fabric. (iii) At the E end of (ii), are the footings of a small subrectangular structure. This measures 1.75m long by 0.75m wide and is defined by a continuous line of earthfast and lichen covered angular stones which are set on edge. It is aligned E-W, and while this might be suggestive of a grave setting, it more likely represents a kelp kiln.

Fair

Nil

Site Descriptions: Coll

C29, Map 13
NM 19218 59873
Grishipoll

Possible hut circle
3rd-1st mill BC
<5m from coast edge

A horseshoe shaped earthwork occupies land which has been cultivated into the recent past. The structure measures 8m by 3m and is aligned N-S. Several stones protrude from the banks. It is possible that this site represents the remains of a prehistoric hut circle, but it may alternatively be a boat noost or enclosure or more recent origin.

Fair
Survey

C30, Map 13
NM15NE16
Coll no. 086
NM 1903 5973

Grishipoll House
House, garden and cultivated land
18-20th C
<25m from coast edge

The ruinous shell of Grishipoll House stands close to the shore, surrounded by enclosed garden ground and, beyond this, the remains of numerous enclosures and fragments of walling. Built in the mid-18th C, this served as the laird's house. A stone bearing the date of 1737 and said to come from the house has been removed and built into a cottage in the area, although it has not been located. The site, however, is alleged to have been occupied since the later Middle Ages. It was last occupied c.1900. It is known locally as "the White House". The roof has gone and the interior now stands open and empty. Formerly a two storied building with a garret in the attic, it is rectangular in plan and retains a central gabled division on the interior. There are traces of plaster on the interior, scratched into which is graffiti dated 1886.

Poor
Monitor

C31, Map 4
NM 22588 56473
Arinagour Pier (N of)
Enclosure, ruinous
18-20th C
<20m from coast edge

A rectilinear enclosure is defined by a short section of roughly coursed walling at its S end and by large boulders at its E and W sides. It measures 8m by 5m internally. There is a watercourse adjacent to the E side. The interior and surrounding area is overgrown with heather and bracken.

Fair
Nil

C32, Map 4
Coll no. 328
NM 22580 56754
Arinagour Pier (N of)
Settlement, enclosures, cultivated land, abandoned

Site Descriptions: Coll

18-20th C

Elements <10m from coast edge

A former farmstead is indicated by a group of structural remains, located on very rough and rocky ground, close to the sea shore. (i) The ruinous walls of a rectilinear house are located on sloping rough ground between the road and the coast edge. Measuring 5m N-S by 11m E-W, there is an entrance towards the center of the E wall. The W side of the building is built into the slope. The walls are 0.75m thick, on average, and are faced on both sides with large squared blocks, with more massive blocks forming the corners. There is a window at the N end of the E facade. (ii) The footings of a subrectangular enclosure stand in front of the house. Defined by several large blocks and upright stones, this measures 8m by 6.5m and is aligned N-S. The E side of the enclosure abuts a rock outcrop. (iii) The remains of a smaller enclosure or structure lie to the S of the house. Defined by occasional large stones and heaps of rubble, this structure measures 4m by 2m and is aligned E-W.

Fair

Nil

C33, Map 4

NM 22394 58241

Arinagour

Fish trap/crossing place

18-20th C

Crosses tidal river

A wall constructed from large boulders extends across the tidal end of the river at the mouth of Loch Eatharna, to the N of Arinagour. It measures some 2-2.5m in width and stands some 1.5m high; in overall length it exceeds 50m. It is locally thought to served as a salmon trap. The wall head is broad enough to walk over and it is probable that it also served as a crossing place. From this point inland, the river appears to have been embanked, one of the effects of which has been to contain the water and create deeper pools within the river. See also C44.

Good

Nil

C34, Map 3

NM 25207 59082

Port an Fhion (N of)

Deserted settlement and cultivations, later stock enclosures

18-20th C

>100m from coast edge

Behind rocky knoll, which lies to the S of a ruinous blackhouse (C8) the ruins of a rectangular house are surrounded by enclosures and other structural remains. The house is aligned E-W and measures 8m by 3m. The drystone walls stand up to 2m high. A doorway in the S facade has later been blocked up. The remains of a hearth or second blocked doorway survive in the E end wall. The wall heads appear to have been heightened after the building had already become ruinous. It is possible that this construction, together with the blocking up of the doorways/hearth may have been carried out in order to facilitate reuse as a stock enclosure. (ii) A small annex tacked onto the end of the house appears to be of later and rougher construction and may have been used as a stock enclosure. (iii) The footings of a building on a similar alignment to (i) but of earlier date, are visible to one end of the building. (iv) and (v) The remains of two later constructions, both probable late stock enclosures, have been built on to (i). (vi) Some 50m to the SE and towards the coast from the house, an enclosed field shows traces of past lazy bed cultivation. The field walls stand up to 0.35m high and enclose an area some 25m by 40m. The area is now very overgrown with bracken and rough vegetation.

Fair

Survey

Site Descriptions: Coll

C35, Map 3
NM 25100 58921

Port an Fhion

Noost

18-20th C

<25m from coast edge

Fragments of walling located on rough sloping ground at the head of a small bay may be the remains of a boat noost. The walls appear to form a rectangular plan, open to the seaward end. The structure measures some 4m by 2m. The rear wall is constructed from rounded beach boulders which have been revetted into the slope; it stands up to 0.7m high. The side walls are made of roughly coursed larger stone and stand up to 0.5m high. The interior of the structure is filled with rubble.

Fair

Nil

C36, Map 3
NM 25091 58756

Bagh Feisdalum (N of)

Ruinous wall

18-20th C

<20m from coast edge

A 5m long stretch of walling extends between a rock outcrop and the side of a watercourse at the mouth of a small inlet. It is largely ruinous. It may represent part of a former stock enclosure or field wall.

Poor

Nil

C37, Map 3
NM 24978 58715

Bagh Feisdalum

Pier, walling, possible noost and structure

18-20th C

On coast edge

A series of poorly preserved remains at the head of Bagh Feisdalum are suggestive of a small harbour area. (i) A 20m long wall projects from the shore into a small inlet to form a small pier. The wall is 2m wide and stands up to 0.75m high. The outer face is constructed from large stones, the core and inner face are of smaller stone. (ii) Traces of a second wall nearby are suggestive of a small harbour or breakwater. This wall is estimated to survive to a total length of 12m, although it has been much reduced and not readily distinguished from the surrounding stony beach. (iii) A hollowed area is situated in rocky ground to the N side and overlooking the head of the bay. The hollow measures approximately 5m by 3m. There is the suggestion of stonework in the sides of this hollow, although it is very overgrown and difficult to discern artificial construction from natural outcropping. (iv) A spread of stone at the head of the bay may be the remains of a boat noost, although this feature is so ill defined that it cannot be positively identified. (v) A ruinous fragment of walling extends along the S side of the bay and may mark a land boundary.

Fair

Nil

C38, Map 3
NM25NW23
Coll no. 152

Site Descriptions: Coll

NM 24985 58831

Pile of Stones, Feisdlum

Possible burial cairn

3rd-1st Mill BC

>50m from coast edge

A grass and heather covered mound, some 6m in diameter and up to 1m high, may be a prehistoric burial cairn. Several rounded stones up to 0.4 X 0.35 X 0.35m are scattered nearby but no suggestion of a structure could be discerned.

Fair

Nil

C39, Map 3

NM 24948 58556

Feisdlum (S of)

Walling- Field boundary

18-20th C

<30m from coast edge

A very reduced and ruinous length of walling runs between two rock outcrops at a distance of 25m from the coast edge. It stands up to 0.4m high, is less than 1m in width and can be followed for 10m. It may be part of a land boundary, possibly associated with other remnant field walls noted in the area (see C37, (v)).

Poor

Nil

C40, Map 3

NM 24594 57974

Loch na Geadh (E of)

Land boundary and peat cuttings

18-20th C

elements <10m from coast edge

The remains of a ruinous land boundary extend inland from the coast edge and are visible over a distance of 50m. Constructed from roughly coursed beach stone, the wall stands up to 0.6m high. It appears to have originally measured less than 1m in width but has spread out as it collapses. The seaward end runs to a stony beach. Some 100m to the SE there is a rectangular area of old peat cuttings measuring some 100m by 25m. The area is now overgrown and disused.

Fair

Nil

C41, Map 4

NM 23062 57068

Airidh Mhaoraich

Slipway

18-20th C

On coast edge

A narrow passage has been cleared for boats through the stony intertidal area. The displaced stone is piled up to the NW side of the slipway and forms a low rough pier. It measures 10m in length and is 3.5m wide.

Fair

Nil

Site Descriptions: Coll

C42, Map 4

NM 230 571

Airidh Mhaoraich

Settlement, enclosures and land boundary

18-20th C

Elements <10m from coast edge

The remnants of a ruinous house together with several field boundaries and enclosures survive on sloping rough grass behind the coast edge. (i) The house lies some 100m from the shore and has largely been reduced to its foundations. It measures 9m by 6m and is aligned parallel to the coast. The gables appear to be slightly rounded and there is the suggestion of an internal dividing wall. A doorway is let into the inland facade. Several of the large stones within the walls have tool marks and appear to have been quarried. (ii) The remains of a rectilinear structure, possibly outbuilding or an enclosure, abut one end of the house. The plan of this structure covers an area some 15m by 8m. The interior is very overgrown. Several smaller walls project from the exterior of this structure, suggesting that further structures once stood in this area. (iii) A boundary wall runs intermittently along the coast edge in front of the house. Modern wire and post fencing is set back some 20m behind this wall. An occupied house stands to the SE of this complex. The area would benefit from more intensive field survey.

Fair

Nil

C43, Map 4

NM 22532 58012

Loch Urbhaig (SW of)

Possible structural remains

Unknown

<20m from coast edge

In marshy land at the head of Loch Eatharna, a group of large stones are arranged in a roughly rectangular plan. A second group of similarly sized boulders lie immediately inland and may be associated. While several of the stones appear to be set in rows, the rows are not continuous. Most of the stones are angular and earthfast and measure, on average, 0.75m X 0.5m X 0.5m. The nature of these features could not be discerned and it is possible that they are of entirely natural origin.

Fair/poor

Survey

C44, Map 4

NM 22433 58133

Arinagour (N of)

Fish trap/crossing place

18-20th C

Crosses tidal river

A wall constructed of large boulders extends across the river at the head of Loch Eatharna. Measuring some 35m in length, this wall is 2-2.5m in width and up to 1.5m high. It is locally thought to be a salmon trap but may also have served as a crossing place on the river. See also C33.

Fair

Nil

C45, Map 9

NM15SW9

Coll no. 020

NM12795 53062

Site Descriptions: Coll

Crossapol

Burial ground and site of chapel

14-18th/18-20th C

Elements on coast edge

A burial ground lies on high sloping ground above the coast edge. It is surrounded by a mortared stone wall of recent date. There has been some landslide in the past and a protective wall was erected on the coast edge in the mid 20th C. The graveyard contains numerous slumped and structurally unsound stones and monuments. It also contains carved recumbent burial slabs decorated with a sword motif in the style of the Iona School of the 14th/15 C. One slab is currently visible at NM 12805 53064 (Coll Archaeological Association). A cross shaft is reported to have been found here in the past. A survey of the graveyard is currently being carried out. There is no sign of any structural remains associated with the chapel.

Fair

Monitor

C46, Map 9

NM 12698 52810

Caoles (SE of)

Mound

Unknown

<20m from coast edge

A flat topped mound lies in unenclosed grassland close to a rocky shore. It measures some 5.5m in diameter and stands 0.7m high. The nature of the mound could not be discerned from its visible features and it is possible that it is of natural origin.

Fair

Monitor

C47, Map 9

NM 12610 52676

Caoles (SE of)

Settlement, field systems, slipways

18-20th C

Elements on coast edge

A settlement with numerous remnant land boundaries stands behind the shore. On the coast edge there are slipways for boats and good natural harborage. The area would benefit from more intensive field survey.

Fair

Survey

C48, Map 9

NM 12573 52186

Caoles (S of)

Field boundary

18-20th C

<20m from coast edge

The overgrown foundations of a field wall extend down slope through two terraced fields at a right angle to the coast edge. It is reduced to a height of no more than 0.3m in height except at the coast edge where it stands to 0.5m. It is visible over a distance of some 30m.

Fair

Nil

Site Descriptions: Coll

C49, Map 9

Coll no. 323

NM 12578 52105

Caoles (S of)

Mound

Unknown

<30m from coast edge

A grass-covered mound lies on sloping rocky ground some 30m from the coast edge. It measures 8m by 4.5m and is aligned E-W. Seven or more large angular boulders are piled on top of the mound and more are visible within it. The mound partially lies over a rock outcrop at its seaward end. There are small pebbles exposed at the center of the mound. While the nature of this feature could not be discerned from the surface remains it is thought unlikely to represent a natural feature.

Fair

Monitor

C50, Map 9

Coll no. 324?

NM 12581 52072

Port an Duine (N of)

Two mounds

Unknown

<50m from coast edge

Two grassy mounds, separated by a watercourse, lie within marshy ground. (i) One mound measures 5m by 3m and is visible as a lumpy ridge. It is aligned N-S and stands up to 0.4m high. (ii) The second mound is also aligned N-S but its edges are not well defined. It measures some 6m by 4m and stands up to 0.4m high. A small amount of stone is exposed in the sides of this mound. There were no surface indications as to the nature of these features but they are unlikely to be of natural origin. This site may be equivalent to Coll Archaeological Association site 324, described as a possible burial cairn, at NM 12588 52065.

Poor

Survey

C51, Map 9

NM 12586 52070

Port an Duine (N)

Structural remains, possible site of early chapel and burial ground

Unknown

<50m from coast edge

The much reduced footings of a building occupy an area of level ground between two rock outcrops. Rectangular or subrectangular in plan, it measures 11m by 6m and is aligned NE-SW. Much of the walls have been reduced to piles of stony rubble but in places they stand up to 0.4m high. The remnants of a field boundary run along part of the seaward edge of the building. It may be of interest to note that it has been alleged that there is a chapel and burial ground site in this area. Beveridge identified a possible site within this general area (1903), possibly even the same structure as is recorded here. The location of the alleged chapel site was not found either by Beveridge or by RCAHMS and OS surveyors but is noted as site NM15SW10. The possibility that these remains may represent an early chapel cannot be discounted from surface examination alone. A survey of the area, preferably incorporating remote sensing techniques, could be considered.

Fair

Survey

Site Descriptions: Coll

C52, Map 9

NM 12356 51834

Port Ban (N of)

Land boundary

18-20th C

Elements <20m from coast edge

The remains of a drystone boundary wall extend inland over undulating sand hills behind the coast. The wall is aligned at a right angle to the shore and is visible for over 50m. In places, the build up of sand against the wall has created a long ridge which is now overgrown with rough vegetation. The wall stands up to 0.4m high and is approximately 1m wide.

Fair

Nil

C53, Map 9

NM 12338 51696

Port Ban

Structure: Shed or Corn drying kiln

18-20th C

<50m from coast edge

The foundations of a small rectangular structure occupy a level terrace above sloping grassland some 50m from the coast edge. It measures some 3m by 2m and is built from rounded beach stone. There is a slight depression to the center of the structure and another linear depression in front of it: these features may identify it as a small corn drying kiln with a flue to one side. Alternatively it may be the base of a small shed or a kelp pit. These remains may be the same as those described by RCAHMS as NM15SW10.

Fair

Survey

C54, Map 9

NM 12192 51336

Port a'Chromain

Field boundary

18-20th C

Elements on coast edge

A ruinous field boundary extends over sand hills at a right angle to the coast edge. At the seaward end, the wall runs up to a deep cleft which issues out to the sea. The wall stands up to 0.4m high and is 1m wide. In places, it is covered with blown sand deposits.

Fair

Nil

C55, Map 9

NM 11063 52540

Calgary Point

Field boundary

18-20th C

Elements <10m from coast edge

A grass-covered linear feature, probably a buried field wall, runs over a rocky headland to the N of a sandy bay. It is aligned at a right angle to the coast edge (NW-SE) and is visible inland for over 50m. It is 2.5-3m in width and stands up to 0.75m high.

Fair

Nil

Site Descriptions: Coll

C56, Map 9

NM 11091 52977

Calgary Point (N of)

Cultivated land, clearance cairns

18-20th C

Elements on coast edge

(i) On the N side of a headland there are traces of extensive past cultivation covering several hectares. Within fields defined by earthen banks, rig and furrow marks can be clearly seen. The rigs run on several alignments, are approximately 5m wide and are separated by furrows of 1m in width. (ii) Towards the E end of the cultivated ground, a group of four cairns have been built up over a rock outcrop. They each measure in the region of 5m by 4m and stand up to 1m high. They are probably clearance cairns associated with the nearby cultivations. This area would benefit from more intensive field survey.

Good

Survey

C57, Map 9

NM 11925 53289

Eilean Halum (SW of)

Earthen boundary banks

18-20th C

<10m from coast edge

(i) An earthen bank extends inland at a right angle to the coast. It is 3.5m wide and stands up to 0.75m high. It is visible for over 40m. It is similar in appearance to the boundary banks noted to the S of this area (see C56) and may be associated. (ii) Some 50m to the N of (i), a second bank also runs from the coast edge inland. It is similar in form but of smaller proportions to (i).

Fair

Survey

C58, Map 10

NM 12529 53829

Traigh Halum (NE of)

Earthwork and mound

18-20th C

<100m from coast edge

(i) An earthen bank runs parallel to a watercourse, through sloping grassland to the coast edge. It measures 2m in width and stands up to 0.7m high. It may be the remains of a land boundary, but alternatively could be material cleared from the watercourse. (ii) A low amorphous mound lies close to the watercourse. It measures 10m by 5m and stands up to 0.5m high. It is covered with grass but some stone can be seen within it. There are several further but smaller mounds in the general area.

Fair

Survey

C59, Map 10

NM 13037 54436

Feall Bay (W of)

Wall

18-20th C

<10m from coast edge

A length of drystone walling stands on undulating grassland before a rocky shore. It stands to 0.5m high, is 1m wide and can be traced for 10m. It is largely covered with accumulated sand deposits and vegeta-

Site Descriptions: Coll

tion. It may be part of a former land boundary.

Fair

Nil

C60, Map 12

NM 17188 57828

Traigh Hogh (N of)

Earthen boundary banks and cultivations

18-20th C

<20m from coast edge

A field of low-lying grassland on sandy, fertile soil contains traces of former rig and furrow cultivation. The field extends to 1 ha or more and is located to the S of rocky ground and extends to the coast edge. It is defined by an earthen bank which is 1.5m wide and stand less than 0.2m high.

Fair

Survey

C61, Map 12

NM 17383 58657

Ballyhaugh (W of)

Boundary walls

18-20th C

Elements <10m from coast edge

Grid Reference: from NM 17383 58657 to 17213 58104.

A series of drystone walls run between rock outcrops in a zone some 25m to 50m behind the coast edge. They define enclosures and fields in which traces of former cultivations are visible. Several probable clearance cairns are situated within the fields. The remains cover several hectares and the area would benefit from a more intensive field survey.

Fair

Survey

C62, Map 12

NM 17534 58833

Totamore (NW of)

Enclosure

18-20th

<100 from coast edge

A stock enclosure of drystone walling is built against a rock outcrop which forms one side of the structure. It measures 9m by 4m and the walls stand up to 1.7m high.

Fair

Nil

C63, Map 12

NM 18077 58981

Clabach (NW of)

Land boundaries, enclosures and cultivations

18-20th C

Elements <10m from coast edge

Numerous fragments of ruinous walling, apparently the remnants of land boundaries, together with enclosures and traces of former cultivations and terraces occupy sloping fertile ground close to a sandy

Site Descriptions: Coll

beach. There is modern settlement on the higher ground inland. The area would benefit from a more intensive field survey.

Fair
Survey

C64, Map 12
NM 18496 59524
Grishipoll (NW of)
Land boundary and structure
18-20th C

<100m from coast edge

(i) Lengths of much reduced drystone walling, forming a land boundary, meander through an area of high ground with frequent rock outcrops. The boundary is set approximately at a right angle to the coast edge. The walling stands up to 1m in height and is built of rounded, subangular and angular stone.
(ii) The footings of a small structure occupy high ground, below the site of an alleged Dun at NM 18528 59548. The structure measures 4.5m by 2.1m and is indicated by occasional earthfast stones. It is likely to have been a small stock enclosure.

Fair
Nil

C65, Map 11
NM15NE31
Coll no. 049
NM 16444 56991
Traigh Hogh (S end)
Stone lined trough
Unknown

<10m from coast edge

A stone lined depression is set into sloping grassland some 5m from the coast edge. It is 3m long, 0.5m wide and 0.35m deep. The lining is incomplete and may have been robbed out; the site is not eroding. In form, this feature resembles a kelp kiln, although it might be considered unusual that it stands in isolation, there being no sign of further similar features or of the drying walls usually associated with kelp workings. The location appears a good one for the collection of tangle and at the time of the visit, a large heap of tangle was present on the shore nearby. Alternative interpretations of the feature might be that it represents either a prehistoric or early historic period burial cist or possibly the burial place of a body washed in by the sea. The surviving remains are unlikely to preserve any information to determine which, if either, of these interpretations is more likely.

Fair
Nil

C66, Map 11
NM 16022 56853
Cnocan Loisgte (W of)
Land boundaries and cultivations
18-20th C
Extends to coast

An area of some 3 hectares comprising of low-lying ground surrounded by rock outcrops and facing on to a small bay contains the remains of old rig and furrow cultivations. To the NE side of the area, the remnants of a drystone wall define a boundary which runs inland from the coast edge at a right angle to meet with rock outcrops. It is visible over a distance of some 40m. A second wall lies to the SW of the

Site Descriptions: Coll

area. Close to the coast, at the SW of the area, the footings of a small rectangular structure are visible. This measures 6m by 3m and is aligned NE-SW. It lies some 10m from the coast edge and is likely to represent either a small stock enclosure or perhaps a boat shed. The area would benefit from more intensive field survey.

Fair
Survey

C67, Map 11
NM 15720 56524
Dun Beic (N of)
Field walls and cultivations
18-20th C
<30m from coast edge

In a narrow valley between rock outcrops, a wall runs parallel to the coast. Traces of former cultivations are visible inland and there are numerous fragments of drystone walling which appear to have once defined several small fields. A more intensive survey of the area would be of benefit.

Fair
Survey

C68, Map 11
NM 15404 55938
Creag na Druideige (SW of)
Enclosure and cultivations
18-20th C
Elements on coast edge

(i) An area of low-lying fertile ground lies between rocky outcrops. Traces of rig and furrow cultivation can be seen over an approximately 1 hectare area. The rigs are aligned perpendicular to the coast. (ii) The footings of a small building lie between the cultivated area and the shore. Subcircular in plan, this structure measures 3m in diameter and is reduced to occasional earthfast stones. It may represent a small stock enclosure. (iii) There is an area of level ground to the SE of the area which is suggestive of an artificial platform, possibly for a house. No trace of structural remains are visible. (iv) Fragments of drystone field walls extend southwards from this valley into the higher rocky land beyond. A more intensive field survey of this area would be beneficial.

Fair
Survey

C69, Map 11
NM15SW14
Coll no. 033
NM 14825 54936
Port an tSaoir
Probable settlement, metalworking debris and middens
1st mill BC-1st mill AD
<50m from coast edge

An accumulation of soil located to one side of a watercourse has been eroded by wind and water. The exposures reveal a probable old ground surface of dark brown peaty soil in association with anthropogenic deposits containing shell fragments, flint chips and traces of probable metal working debris. In the same area, but some 2m or so higher up into the dunes, there are more extensive spreads of metalworking debris and anthropogenic soils. These cover an area of some 30m N-S by 40m E-W. The remains are actively eroding and vulnerable to further subaerial erosion. Previous investigators have

Site Descriptions: Coll

noted the presence of shell middens and artefacts including stone and flint tools, pottery and glass in association with drystone walling. The variety of artefact types would suggest that this may be a multiperiod site. The identification of glass on the site by several recorders may, however, be an erroneous identification of vitrified material associated with metalworking. It is apparent that this site has been eroding for at least a century and many artefacts have been removed either to museums or to private collections. The presence of metalworking and Viking period artefacts may indicate that it is a rare example of a Viking/Norse settlement. Because the site is actively eroding and unlikely to be amenable to consolidation, it is recommended that further survey and excavation be considered. This site should be regarded as a top priority for action and should be thoroughly assessed as soon as possible.

Fair/poor

Survey

C70, Map 8

NM15SW18

Coll no. 034

NM 14888 52361

Ardnish, Crossapol Bay

MacLean Mausoleum

18-20th C

<20m from coast edge

A stone built mausoleum erected in the 1800's has been used as the burial place for the MacLean family. It is situated on low-lying ground some 20m from the coast edge on the E shore of Crossapol Bay. It is built from random rubble and has a castellated facade on the N side which incorporates carved and dressed red sandstone. The doorway and window apertures which flank it to either side are arched in neo-Gothic style. The corners of the front facade are formed by a pair of angled turrets. The base of the building is now undermined and, in places, the stonework stands above the level of the surrounding ground surface. There are major structural cracks in the E and S walls and much loose stone above the door in the N facade. The interior is unkempt.

Fair

Nil

C71, Map 8

NM 15306 52144

Port na Luinge (N of)

Possible hut circle

3rd -1st mill BC

<20m from coast edge

A curvilinear earthen bank defines a subrectangular or oval structure located on sloping rocky ground above a rocky coast edge. Though largely covered with vegetation, some stone can be seen within the earthwork. The bank measures 1.2m in width and stands up to 0.7m high. The area enclosed measures 4m by 3m and, at the time of the visit, was waterlogged. The structure may represent the remains of a stock enclosure but, alternatively, may be a prehistoric house or hut circle.

Fair

Survey

C72, Map 8

NM 15367 52369

Port Aoir Ardnish (S of)

Cultivations, structures and clearance cairns

18-20th C

Site Descriptions: Coll

<30m from coast edge

(i) To the seaward side of a small loch, the footings of a small building are visible amongst low grass. The building measures approximately 2m by 2.5m, although it may be larger but obscured by vegetation.

(ii) Near to (i), two small clearance cairns lie on the margins of a formerly cultivated area. They each measure in the region of 1.5m by 0.5m and stand up to 0.25m high. (iii) Several further clearance heaps have been built up over bedrock outcrops to the NE of this area, close to the coast edge.

Fair/poor

Nil

C73, Map 8

NM 15756 52748

Loch Breachacha (SW side of)

Land boundary and possible house

18-20th C

<20m from coast edge

(i) A grass-covered stone dyke runs parallel to the coast between rocky outcrops. It may originally have been part of a more extensive land boundary but now is visible for some 50m. It is 0.7m wide and 0.4m high. (ii) To the N of (i) lie the footings of a structure. Measuring 8m by 4m, the grass-covered walls of this building stand up to 0.6m high. It stands on a slightly raised platform. The presence of earthfast stones at the N end and surrounding the platform suggest that it may not be entirely of natural origin.

The platform is 5m longer than the surviving building, suggesting, perhaps, that it may have been originally constructed for a larger building of earlier date. There are no surviving features with which to identify the nature of this building, although the size and presence of a probable platform may suggest that it was a house. This building is estimated to date to the 18-20th C, but there is no evidence to refute an earlier date. (iii) A slipway for a boat has been made through the rocky intertidal area.

Fair

Nil

C74, Map 8

NM 15891 53545

Loch Breachacha (NW side of)

Noost/slipway/ landing area

18-20th C

On coast edge

An area 8m wide and over 20m long has been cleared of stone to form a slipway or portage for a boat. The displaced stone has been heaped up to the W side of this channel to form a landing area and to provide protection to the vessel. This feature lies close to and is associated with Breachacha Castle.

Fair

Nil

C75, Map 7

NM 16590 53221

Barra Nodha (S of)

Enclosure

18-20th C

<30m from coast edge

A rectangular enclosure, defined by banks or grass-covered walls, occupies high ground close to a watercourse and in the lee of an outcrop. It measures 6m by 6m internally and is very overgrown.

Poor

Nil

Site Descriptions: Coll

C76, Map 7

NM 16483 52875

Breachacha Bay (SE side of)

Slipway, wall

18-20th C

Intertidal zone

(i) A slipway for boats has been made through the intertidal area. This is bounded to either side by rough walls formed from heaped stone. It measures 8m in width and 30m in length. (ii) The remains of a 5m long drystone wall stand at the head of the beach behind the slipway. The wall is 0.75m wide and stands 0.2m high. It would appear to be associated with the slipway and may have served as a landing area.

Fair

Nil

C77, Map 7

NM 16955 52590

Rubha Fasachd

Slipways and boundary wall

18-20th C

Elements on coast edge

(i) Two slipways have been made through the rocky foreshore on either side of a promontory. (ii) A wall extends across the neck of the promontory to the seaward side of the slipways. It runs across the full width of the promontory for a distance of some 50m. Generally, the wall stands up to 1m high but in places it has been reduced to its foundations. It is 0.75m wide. The purpose of this structure is unclear; it may have served to keep stock off the farthest end of the promontory.

Fair

Nil

C78, Map 7

NM 17513 53391

Loch Gortan (W side of)

Land boundary wall

18-20th C

Elements on coast edge

A land boundary wall runs parallel to the coast edge. Built from large boulders, it stands up to 1m in height and is 0.75m wide. It meanders around the coast for over 100m before turning uphill and inland.

Fair

Nil

C79, Map 7

NM 17614 53388

Loch Gortan

Wreck

18-20th C

Intertidal zone

The wreck of a wooden vessel protrudes from the shallow waters close to the head of Loch Gortan. The keel and some ribs are visible and it is estimated to measure some 40m in length. The wreck is covered at high tide and is not accessible on foot.

Poor

Survey

Site Descriptions: Coll

C80, Map 7

NM15SE8

Coll no. 061

NM 17677 52961

Dun Ghortain

Structure, alleged Dun

Unknown

On coast edge

Traces of a structure survive amongst heaps of fallen stone in a prominent and inhospitable situation on a long rocky ridge surrounded on three sides by the sea. The structure appears to be rectilinear in plan and is estimated to measure approximately 6m by 4m. There appears to be a circular annex or recess at the N end. Previous records (RCAHMS 1980) describe the structure as measuring 18m by 6m and note several structural features which are not now apparent. The site is allegedly that of a dun, but the surviving remains are so insubstantial as to make this interpretation impossible to confirm. Whilst there are no obvious signs of coastal erosion, it is probable that the remains are being gradually reduced by both coastal and subaerial erosion. It is also probable that the site is close to or has passed the point where further investigation is likely to be worthwhile.

Poor

Survey

C81, Map 7

NM 17982 53269

Gortan (SE & SW of)

Possible blackhouse, fields, clearance etc.: abandoned settlement

14-18th C/18-20th C

Elements <100m from coast edge

Grid reference: from NM 17982 53474 to 17982 53269.

(i) The very reduced remains of a structure lie on level ground between two outcrops and above a break in slope to the coast edge. In outline, it appears to be rectilinear or oval and to have an internal subdivision. It measures 12m by 7m and is aligned NE-SW. The walls stand up to 0.75m in places. The interior of the building is filled with rubble and field clearance. The building stands within an enclosure inside which there are also several clearance cairns. The apparent lack of squared corners on the building may suggest that it is of traditional blackhouse design. (ii) An enclosed field lies close to (i). It contains numerous clearance cairns. (iii) At a distance of more 100m from the coast edge are the remains of numerous other buildings, land boundaries and cultivated ground, apparently the remains of a small settlement of probable Late Medieval/post Medieval date. This area lies out with the current survey area but would undoubtedly benefit from more intensive field survey.

Fair/poor

Survey

C82, Map 7

NM 18489 53474

Friesland Bay (SW side of)

Wall and possible structure

18-20th C

<20m from coast edge

The remains of a field wall extend for over 20m inland at a right angle to the coast. It stands to 0.7m high and is approximately 0.6m wide. Nearby, a pile of stone may mark the site of a former structure, but alternatively may be part of an exposed raised storm beach.

Fair/poor

Nil

Site Descriptions: Coll

C83, Map 7

NM 18641 53640

Friesland (SW of)

Land boundary and enclosure

18-20th C

<20m from coast edge

(i) A ruinous land boundary runs from the coast edge to an outcrop but may originally have extended further inland. It is aligned at a right angle to the coast, stands up to 1.1m high and is approximately 0.8m wide. (ii) The footings of an enclosure lies some 20m inland from the coast edge, close to (i).

Fair

Nil

C84, Map 7

NM15SE23/24/30

076/81/88

NM 1898 5378

Friesland

Township, abandoned

14-18thC/18-20th C

Elements on coast edge

Grid reference to center.

The extensive remains of an abandoned township are scattered around the head of Friesland Bay. The remains include numerous drystone houses and enclosures together with associated structures and boundaries. Many of the houses stand up to or almost to roof height and are solidly built with rounded corners and double faced walls. None of these structures are vulnerable to coastal erosion. Adjacent to these remains, on the coast edge, are the remains of several track ways, boat noosts and slipways. The area would benefit from a more intensive field survey.

Good/fair

Survey

C85, Map 7

NM 19049 53340

Friesland Bay (SE side of)

Rock cut basins

Unknown

On coast edge

A series of twelve or more circular rock cut basins are sited on a steep rock outcrop beside the coast edge. Their average diameter is 0.15-0.2m and most are around 0.08m deep. Two of the basins are conjoined. They lie to one side of a small bay with traces of a slipway for boats at its head.

Good

Nil

C86, Map 7

NM 19120 53249

Friesland Bay (SE of)

Paravane

18-20th C

On coast edge

A paravane of probable WWII date has been washed up onto the grassy banks at the side of a sandy bay. This object was used to tow behind a ship to cut away enemy mines. It measures 3m in length.

Site Descriptions: Coll

Good

Nil

C87, Map 6

NM 19252 53375

Cnoc Shoirbidh (S of)

Enclosure

18-20th C

<30m from coast edge

A small three-sided stock enclosure is built against a rock outcrop. The walls are built from large stones. It measures 5m by 3m and the walls stand to 0.75m high.

Fair

Nil

C88, Map 6

NM 19355 53414

Cnoc Shoirbidh (SE of)

Cairn

Unknown

<50m from coast edge

A small cairn of rounded stones is situated on rough sloping grassland behind the beach. It measures some 3m in diameter but is not completely circular in plan. It may represent a clearance cairn, but the possibility that it may be a funerary monument cannot be discounted.

Fair

Monitor

C89, Map 6

NM 1955 5334

Creag an Fhitich (SW of)

Possible enclosed settlement

3rd-1st mill BC

<40m from coast edge

A group of structures are situated on a raised beach above the modern rocky shore. The complex extends for some 80m E-W and 30m N-S. It is enclosed by a heather covered bank. Inside the enclosure stand the remains of several curvilinear structures measuring between 6m and 8m in diameter. These are defined by earthen banks which stand up to 0.3m high. Nearby, a rock face contains several caves and smaller shelters. The site may represent a prehistoric enclosed settlement and is in a very good state of preservation. An assessment of these remains and a survey of the surrounding area would be of benefit. The site is not currently under threat of erosion.

Good

Survey

C90, Map 6

NM 19753 53667

Eilean Dubh (opposite W side of)

Land boundary and enclosure

18-20th C

Elements <10m from coast edge

A land boundary extends inland for over 50m at a right angle from the coast. It is built from large

Site Descriptions: Coll

boulders and stands up to 0.75m high. An enclosure measuring some 100m by 50m lies between rock outcrops nearby.

Fair

Nil

C91, Map 6

NM 19707 53824

Port na hEathar (W side)

Probable abandoned township, land boundaries and slipways

18-20th C

Element on coast edge

The remnants of several drystone walls are ranged around the head of the bay. There are several slipways for boats nearby in the intertidal area. The hinterland is very overgrown with bracken but traces of abandoned settlements can be seen some 100m and more inland. The number of structural features within the coastal zone in this area is suggestive of substantial settlement in the hinterland. A more intensive field survey would be beneficial.

Fair

Survey

C92, Map 6

NM 19966 54144

Hyne

Settlement and port area

18-20th C

Elements on coast edge

Grid reference: from NM 19966 54144 to 20341 54095

A complex of abandoned houses, known locally as 'The Bachelors' stand on rough sloping ground behind the shore at Hyne. The houses stand up to roof height and are well built with windows to front and rear and central doorways. Traces of internal divisions survive but is no sign of hearths in the gable ends. The houses are associated with yards and small enclosures. Land boundaries radiate from the settlement to the coast edge. On the shore there are traces of numerous walls and slipways, suggestive of past fishing activity. The area would benefit from a more intensive field survey.

Good

Survey

C93, Map 6

NM 2103 5461

Hyne (NE of)

Possible hut circle

3rd-1st mill BC

<50m from coast edge

A bank which may be of artificial origin surrounds an oval depression and is suggestive of a prehistoric house or hut circle. The site occupies a high rocky outcrop above cliffs. There is no stone visible within the bank, but the area is heavily overgrown with bracken. The banks stand up to 0.75m high and are 1m wide. Overall the structure measures 10m N-S by 4m E-W. Further survey during the winter months when the vegetation is lower would be of benefit.

Fair

Survey

Site Descriptions: Coll

C94, Map 5

NM 21091 54905

Fiskary ((SW of)

Probable burial cairns

3rd-1st mill BC

Elements <20m from coast edge

A group of seven or more cairns are spread out over approximately 1 ha of sloping rough ground at the head of a rocky beach. Some are built against rock outcrops. Most are subcircular in plan. The stones of which they are made are generally larger than what could be expected of field clearance and their distribution likewise argues against such an interpretation. It is probable, therefore, that they represent burial monuments of prehistoric date. The cairn which lies closest to the coast edge measures 2m by 4m and stands up to 0.5m high. A more intensive field survey of this area is recommended.

Fair

Survey

C95, Map 5

NM25NW36

Coll no. 112

NM 21091 54905

Fiskary Bay

Boundary walls, fish trap

18-20th C

Elements on coast edge

Grid reference: from NM 21091 54905 to 21729 55397

The remains of numerous land boundary walls extend down to the coast edge and are associated with an abandoned township located further inland at Fiskary (NM25NW36). The walls are largely reduced to below 0.5m in height and are overgrown with vegetation. A boundary wall extends around the coast edge at the head of Fiskary Bay. There is a fish trap, roughly constructed from large beach stone, located at the narrowest point of the bay. A survey of this area and the surrounding hinterland is highly recommended.

Fair

Survey

C96, Map 5

Coll no. 330-335

NM 21290 54973

Fiskary Bay

Boat Noost, rock cut basins, harbour

18-20th C

On coast edge

(i) A boat noost is built into the banks at the SW side of Fiskary Bay. It is boat shaped in plan and measures 9m in length by 5m at its greatest width, narrowing to a point at the landward end. There are no clear traces of walling except at the seaward end, where the boundary wall which runs around the bay (see C95) stops to form an entrance to the noost. A slipway some 15m long extends from the noost through the intertidal zone. This site has been recorded in more detail by Coll Archaeological Association (CAA Inventory site 330). (ii) There are numerous iron rings for tying up boats set into the rocks around the bay which would suggest the intensive use of this bay as a port (Jim Hill, pers com). (iii) There are also numerous rock cut basins located around the SW side of the bay. These have been recorded in more detail by Coll Archaeological Association (CAA Inventory sites 331-335). (iv) A ruinous pier (NM 21226 55068) stands at the head of the bay. It is constructed from two parallel walls of piled boulders set some 4m apart and standing up to 1.1m high. The walls extend into the intertidal

Site Descriptions: Coll

zone for 25m. The tops of the walls are relatively level and stand just above the water level at high tide. A survey of this area, in combination with surveys surrounding site C95 and the hinterland beyond, would be of benefit.

Fair
Survey

C97, Map 5
NM 21729 55397

Gharbhaird

Probable burial cairns and telegraph hut

3rd-1st mill BC/18-20th C

Elements <50m from coast edge

(i) A group of cairns lie in bracken and are very overgrown. At least one of these structures appears to have a surrounding kerb made of larger boulders. The distribution of the cairns and their location on rough ground close to the coast edge suggests that they are unlikely to be the result of field clearance and it is possible that they represent funerary monuments. A survey of the area, preferably during the winter months when the vegetation is lower, would be beneficial. Compare with C94. (ii) A wooden telegraph hut and adjacent pole stand behind the shore. They represent the first of such structures built on Coll (Jim Hill, pers com).

Fair/poor
Survey

C98, Map 5
NM 21973 55672

Caolas an-eilean (SW side of)

Enclosure, boundary wall

18-20th C

<20m from coast edge

(i) A ruinous, drystone walled stock enclosure is situated among high vegetation some 10m from the coast edge. It is square, measuring 6m in length. The walls stand up to 1m high and there is an opening at the N end of the E wall.

(ii) The remnants of a stone dyke lie 15m to the S of (i).

Fair
Nil

C99, Map 11
NM15SW1/11
Coll no. 025/26
NM 14388 54653

Ben Feall

Alleged site of Dun, possible burial cairn, cultivations and clearance cairns

3rd-1st mill BC/18-20th C

>100m from coast edge

(i) At the site of an alleged Dun no traces of artificial construction could be seen. (ii) A grassy mound lies beneath the E side of the summit of the hill, over 100m from the coast edge. It measures 5m in diameter and stands up to 1m high. It may represent a burial monument. (iii) Traces of terrace cultivation and clearance cairns are present on a roughly level area to the E of the alleged Dun site.

Fair
Nil

Site Descriptions: Coll

C100, Map 4
NM 22444 57874
Arinagour (N of)
Enclosure, possible house platform
18-20th C
<30m from coast edge

The footings of a possible enclosure occupy an area of greener vegetation on sloping ground some 25m from the coast edge. Some stonework remains but more has been robbed out. The enclosure measures 8m by 4m and is aligned E-W. The W end is best preserved. The enclosure has been on a platform of apparently artificial origin and more likely to have been constructed to accommodate a house.

Fair
Nil

C101, Map 4
NM 22412 58073
Arinagour (N of)
Ford, troughs
18-20th C
On coast edge

(i) A ford across the river reuses an old slipway for boats. The channel has been cleared of large stone with the displaced material piled up to either side. (ii) There are several trough-like features set into the ground surface in this area. All are filled with washed in stone. They may represent old kelp kilns but could equally be associated with the fishing industry.

Fair
Nil

C102, Map 4
NM 22397 58046
Arinagour (N of)
Enclosure
18-20th C
<20m from coast edge

A small curvilinear enclosure backs onto a bedrock outcrop. It measures 3m in diameter and is constructed from a double row of stones. The function of this structure is unclear.

Fair
Nil

C103, Map 4
NM 22453 57930
Arinagour (N of)
Slipways
18-20th C
In intertidal zone

Two slipways are cleared at the side of the river. The displaced stone is heaped into three rows forming rough rubble walls. The slipway extends for some 40m into the deep water channel.

Fair
Nil

Site Descriptions: Coll

C104, Map 4
NM 22492 57859
Arinagour (N of)
Slipway/track
18-20th C

In intertidal zone

A 4m wide slipway has been cleared through the rocky foreshore. It has been used latterly as a vehicle track to ford the river at low tide.

Fair
Nil

C105, Map 4
NM 22507 57716
Arinagour (N of)
Structure: house reused as enclosure
18-20th C
<20m from coast edge

The ruins of a structure, probably originally built as a house, have been reused latterly as an enclosure. It measures 8m by 4m and the walls stand up to 0.4m high and are 0.75m wide. The corners are neatly squared. Traces of an internal division are visible within the interior. The structure occupies a patch of greener vegetation located on sloping land some 15m from the coast edge. There are traces of a possible annex at the E end of the building and remains of a surrounding enclosure wall around the S end.

Fair
Nil

C106, Map 4
NM 22542 57668
Arinagour (N of)
Slipways
18-20th C

On coast edge

Two slipways, one of which has a boulder wall alongside it, extend from the shore into the intertidal zone. The wall extends for 15m, is 2m wide and stands up to 0.5m high. The slipways are each 4m wide. The hulk of a large clinker built vessel, some 6m in length, lies close offshore. To the E of this area, close to an area of recent modern stone dumping, the remains of an 8m long metal framed wooden vessel are partially buried in the sand.

Fair
Nil

C107, Map 4
NM 22549 57561
Arinagour (N of)
Track way, slipway
18-20th C

In intertidal zone

The remains of a slipway lie on the shore of the river. The center of the slipway is now filled with washed in stone. At the landward end, a disused track way is accompanied by stone walls which extend along the coast edge up to NM 22549 57335.

Fair
Nil

Site Descriptions: Coll

C108, Map 4
NM 22544 57244
Arinagour (N of)
Rock cut basins

Unknown

On coast edge

A group of four or more rock cut basins are located on a sloping rock face forming the coast edge in this area. They measure, on average, 0.06m in diameter and are between 0.04 and 0.05m deep.

Good

Nil

C109, Map 1
NM26SE3
Coll no. 160
NM 258 640" "Traigh Bhousd
Find spot and concentration of stone

Unknown

<50m from coast edge

A concentration of large stones in connection with finds of hammerstones and pottery were reported in this area. No trace of any archaeological remains were noted during this visit.

Fair

Monitor

C110, Map 1
NM26SE12
Coll no. 167
NM 273 638
Rubha Sgor-innis

Settlement

4th-3rd mill BC

<100m from coast edge

A collection of recovered artefacts, said to have been found eroding from an old land surface, include flint and stone tools, among which are limpet hammers of possible Mesolithic date. The finds have been donated to NMAS.

Fair

Monitor

C111, Map 4
NM25NW40
Coll no. 136
NM 22650 56940
Arinagour

Harbour

18-20th C

On coast edge

Good

Nil

Site Descriptions: Coll

C112, Map 5
NM25NW15
Coll no. 128
NM 2240 5539

Eilean Ornsay
Cairn, probable clearance
18-20th C
<50m from coast edge

A prehistoric burial cairn is alleged to have stood on Eilean Ornsay. This is more probably a clearance cairn of relatively recent origin.

Fair
Nil

C113, Map 5
NM25NW33
Coll no. 123
NM 221 558

Caolas-an-Eilean
Township, deserted
18-20th C

Elements <100m from coast edge

The remains of a township comprising several ruinous drystone buildings and associated with enclosed fields and cultivations. Most of the remains are situated over 50m from the coast edge. See also C98.

Fair/poor
Nil

C114, Map 8
NM15SW20
Coll no. 032
NM 1353 5352

Port Na Luinge
Alleged site of souterrain, more probably a cist
Unknown
<100m from coast edge

A souterrain is said to have been discovered at Port Na Luinge. The description provided states that it measured 1.22m high by 1.22m wide and 1.52m deep. This does not accord with the details of any known souterrain and it is more probable that the structure in question is either a pit or a cist. It is even probable that it is the same as the cist site recorded as NM15SW24.

Fair
Monitor

C115, Map 8
NM15SW13
Coll no. 028
NM 1477 5212

Glac Shilisteir (S of)
Settlement remains, mounds
Unknown
<100m from coast edge

Grid reference: from NM 1477 5212 to 1492 5208. Two mounds are recorded in this area. Some flint

Site Descriptions: Coll

chips, hammerstones and pot sherds were recovered. No archaeological remains were visible at the time of this visit.

Fair

Monitor

C116, Map 11

NM15NE5

Coll no. 037

NM 1549 5644

Dun Beic

Dun

1st mill BC- 1st mill AD

On coast edge

A dun site is said to have occupied a small rocky knoll which is surrounded by the sea. It comprised of a wall which extended around the summit of the knoll enclosing a rocky area in which stood a structure. The structure is reported to have measured 7.6m by 4.6m with an entrance in the NE wall. Anthropogenic deposits containing bone and pottery, some of which was decorated, was noted in an area of landslip to the N side of the site. There are now few traces, other than occasion earthfast stones, to indicate that a site existed here.

Poor

Nil

C117, Map 12

NM15NE22

Coll no. 075

NM 188 599

Grishipoll Bay

Possible settlement site: midden deposits

3rd-1st mill BC

<100m from coast edge

Midden type deposits have been reported previously amongst the sand hills in this area. They are said to have contained hammerstones, shell and some pottery. Sherds of beaker-type pottery have been donated to NMAS. No archaeological remains were visible at the time of this visit. References: Close-Brooks and Ritchie, 1980.

Fair

Monitor

C118, Map 13

NM15NE28

Coll no. 090

NM 191 598

Grishipoll

Burial with grave goods

1st mill BC- 1st mill AD

<100m from coast edge

An inhumation burial was discovered in the sand hills some 750m NNE of Grishipoll House in the 1950's. It was accompanied by a spearhead. This object was not closely classifiable but it has been suggested that it may indicate a burial of Viking date. No archaeological features were noted during this visit. References: Close-Brooks and Ritchie, 1980.

Fair

Monitor

C119, Map 15

NM26SW16

Coll no. 149

NM 242 634

Cornaigmore

Chance finds from possible nearby settlement

1st mill BC- 1st mill AD

<100m from coast edge

Finds of shell, bones, coarse pottery sherds said to be of Iron Age date, slag and flints have been found on consecutive occasions among sand hills in this area. It is probable that they are derived from anthropogenic deposits associated with a nearby settlement. No trace of archaeological remains was noted during this visit.

Fair

Monitor