

Coll

Map 8: Barra Nodha to Sgeir Dubh

This map section extends from the E side of Loch Breachacha, around the high headland of Glac Shilisteir and along the northern part of the long sandy beach at Crossapol. There is some modern settlement in the area, spread along the head and W side of Loch Breachacha. The coastline is generally low lying except between Port na-Luing and Glac Shilisteir.

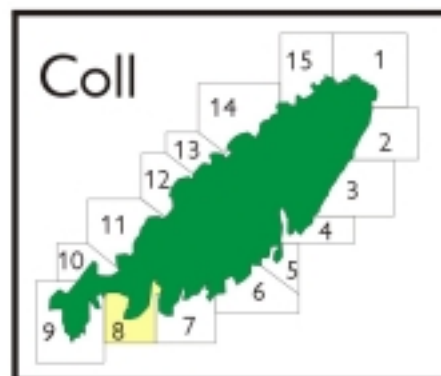
The coast edge at the head of Loch Breachacha is formed by low lying soft sediments and is eroding. The development of a salt marsh in this area suggest that the erosion is gradual. To the west side of the bay, the coast edge is formed by rock platform and is stable. From the east side of Crossapol Bay, the coast edge is low lying, formed from soft sediments and backed by sand dunes. The coast edge in this area is eroding, as can be clearly seen from the number of undermined fence posts present along the shore. At the time of this visit, some accretion was noted at the base of the dunes which frame the foreshore. It is probable that this represents a seasonal occurrence build up which is liable to swept away during the winter months. The dunes behind the coast edge are generally stable but there are several large blow outs which are not currently covered with vegetation from which sand can be transported by the wind. This is a complex and active dune system and it is likely that current land management practices have little or no affect upon the natural dynamics of sand movement in this area.

Visually, the area is dominated by Breachacha Castle which is situated at the NW corner of Loch Breachacha, but outside of the coastal zone. The castle is believed to have been built, originally as a tower house, in the first half of the fifteenth century, possibly by John Garbh, the founder of the family of MacLean of Coll. Site C74 represents a slipway and port area associated with the castle. An associated building, the MacLean Mausoleum, which was built in the 19th C, lies nearby to the SE of Traigh Crossapol (C70). Traces of 18-20th C settlement is reflected in the old cultivations, enclosures and possible house remains situated on the W shores of Loch Breachacha (C72, 73). Sites of earlier date are also represented in this area by a possible hut circle, a probable cist and a site noted previously as consisting of two mounds in close association with finds of flint and pottery.

<p>C70 (NM15SW18) NM 14888 52361 Ardnish, Crossapol Bay MacLean Mausoleum 18-20th C Fair Nil</p>	<p>C74 NM 15891 53545 Loch Breachacha (NW side of) Noost/slipway/ landing area 18-20th C Fair Nil</p>
<p>C71 NM 15306 52144 Port na Luinge (N of) Possible hut circle 3rd -1st mill BC Fair Survey</p>	<p>C114 (NM15SW20) NM 1353 5352 Port Na Luinge Alleged site of souterrain, more probably a cist Unknown Fair Monitor</p>
<p>C72 NM 15367 52369 Port Aoir Ardnish (S of) Cultivations, structures and clearance cairns 18-20th C Fair/poor Nil</p>	<p>C115 (NM15SW13) NM 1477 5212 Glac Shilisteir (S of) Settlement remains, mounds Unknown Fair Monitor</p>
<p>C73 NM 15756 52748 Loch Breachacha (SW side of) Land boundary and possible house 18-20th C Fair Nil</p>	



- Built Heritage & Archaeology
- Protected Ancient Monument or area of Designated Wreck
 - Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling or wreck for designation
 - + Listed Historic Building
 - Undesignated wreck
 - Known ancient monument
 - Site found by this survey
 - Site complex



1. Loch Breachacha

NM 163 536

2.1 Km

Sandy foreshore

Coast edge <5m

Drift/rock interface not visible

A deep sandy bay which shelves gradually towards the sea. The west side has a more rocky coast edge. There is a short stretch of salt marsh (not marked) on the west side of the bay c. < 100m long, and a further more extensive area of salt marsh at the head of the bay which extends for some 2-300m and up to 50m inland. The hinterland is rough grazing; some dunes at the east side of the head of the bay.

3. Traigh Chrossapol

NM 144 532

2.0 Km

Sandy foreshore

Coast edge <5m

Drift/rock interface not visible

This unit encompasses the eastern portion of a wide sandy beach backed by an extensive dune system.

2. Glac Shilisteir

NM 156 524

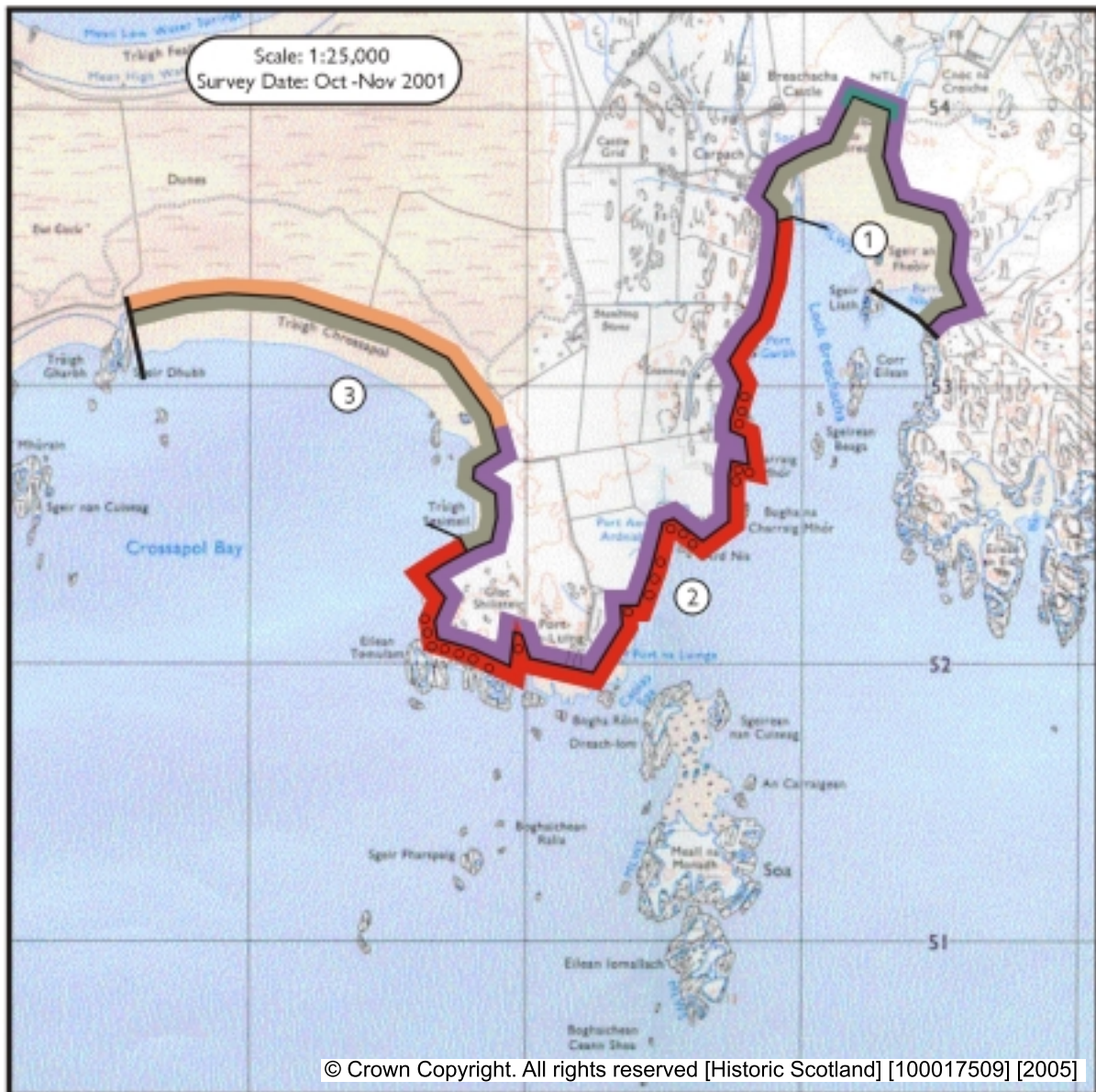
4.4 Km

Rock platform, some cobble cover

Coast edge <5m

Drift/rock interface occasionally visible

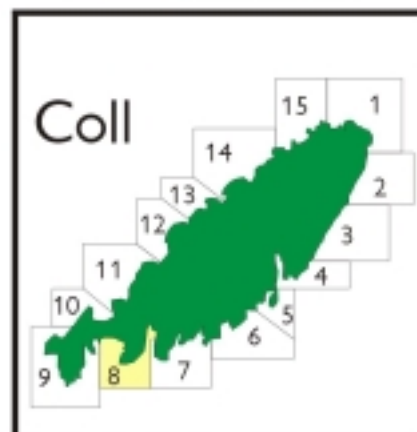
Rocky foreshore with cobble cover in coves. A sea wall has been constructed in front of farm buildings at Port-na-Luing. The hinterland is rough grazing; moderately well drained and appears to have been quite closely cropped by sheep.



- Foreshore**
- Rock platform
 - Mainly sand
 - Mainly alluvial/marine mud
 - Marsh

- Modifiers**
- Low edge <5m
 - Cliff >5m
 - Man made barrier
 - Shingle/storm bank
 - Human disturbance

- Hinterland**
- Drift
 - Drift on visible rock
 - Raised beach etc.
 - Blown sand
 - Glacial sand/gravel
 - Alluvium



1. Loch Breachacha

NM 163 536

2.1 Km

Eroding to Stable

The head of Loch Breachacha is low lying and inundated by sea water at high tide, creating a salt marsh here which extends up to 50m inland. The east side of the unit rises and becomes more rocky and stable

2. Glac Shilisteir

NM 156 524

4.4 Km

Stable

A rocky coast edge with no sign of recent erosion.

3. Traigh Chrossapol

NM 144 532

2.0 Km

Definitely Eroding

The dunes which form the coast edge within this unit appear to be actively eroding; fence lines are suspended in mid air in places.

