

# Tiree

## Map 5: An t-Ard to Craigaig

This map section begins at the E end of the sandy beach of Traigh Bhagh and continues past the rocky shores at Crossapol to Traigh Sorobaidh and, finally, to the small beach at Craigaig at Balemartine. The hinterland in this area is gently undulating, low lying and fertile sandy soils. Most of the land is currently down to grazing. The modern B8065 road runs behind the coast to Crossapol before turning inland. The B8066 road joins the coast before Balemartine and continues to the end of the section. There is frequent, dispersed settlement to either side of both of these roads. The modern field systems generally extend up to the road edge, leaving the coastal strip unenclosed.

The coast edge at Traigh Bhagh and Traigh Sorobaidh are formed from soft sediment and are eroding. These beaches are separated by an area of rock platform which lies in front of Crossapol House. This area is stable. To the south of the area, from Port na Luinge to Craigaig the coast edge, although formed from soft sediment, is largely stable.

The extensive dune areas behind Traigh Bhagh and Traigh Sorobaidh appear to represent good locations for archaeological exploration but in both cases, no traces of any remains were noted on this occasion. The dunes are mostly covered with vegetation and appear stable. It is possible that the WWII camp at Traigh Bhagh, of which extensive remains survive, have displaced or obscured earlier remains which may have existed in the area. A refuse dump associated with the camp is currently eroding from the dunes and onto the beach below. Two mounds of indeterminate date are noted within this area (T74, 75). Mound T74, said to lie to the S of Crossapol, was first reported by Beveridge (1903) but no trace of it can now be seen. The location given lies close to a ruinous house and it is possible either that this mound was associated with agricultural or domestic activity centred on this building or that, if earlier in date, it has been obscured or destroyed by this activity. Mound T75 does not appear to be a clearance cairn and may be a burial monument of prehistoric date.

---

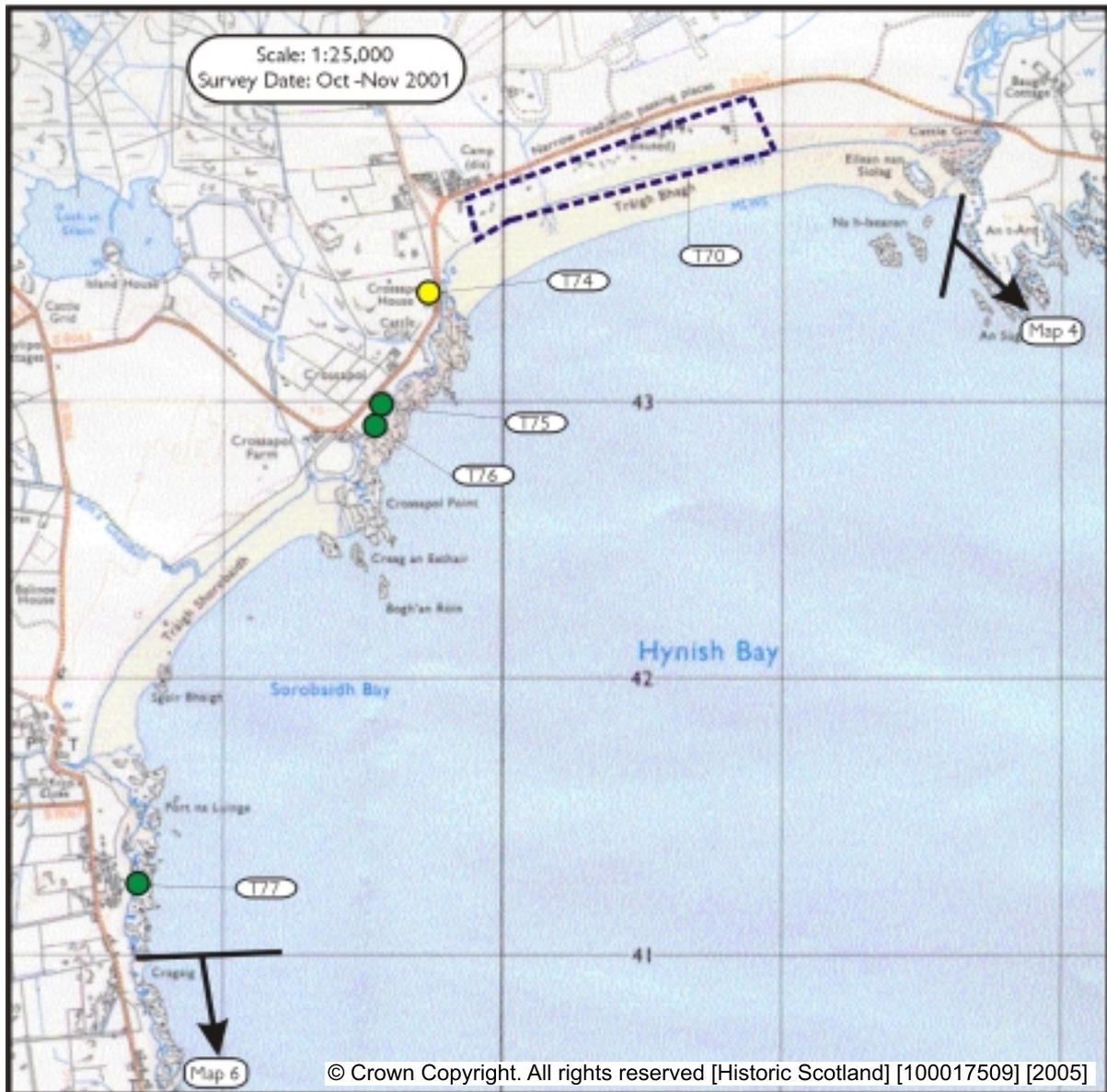
T70  
NL 99942 43643  
Crossapol (SE of)  
WWII army camp and refuse dumps  
18-20th C  
Good/fair  
Nil

T74 (NL94SE11)  
NL 99771 43315  
Crossapol (S of)  
House, alleged site of mound  
18-20th  
Fair  
Nil

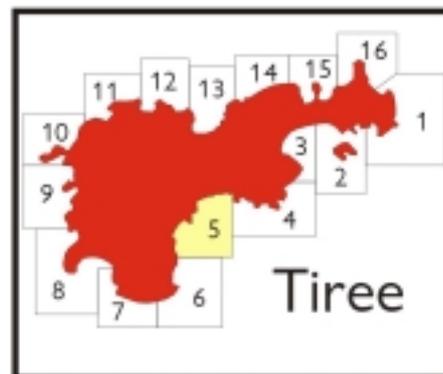
T75  
NL 99548 42990  
Crossapol (SW of)  
Mound  
3-1st mill BC  
Fair  
Monitor

T76  
NL 99560 42895  
Crossapol (SW of)  
WWII structure & features, kelp walls, cultivation  
18-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

T77  
NL 98665 41301  
Balemartine, Port na Luinge (S of)  
Wall  
18-20th C  
Fair  
Nil



- 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. Hynish Bay

NL 996 430

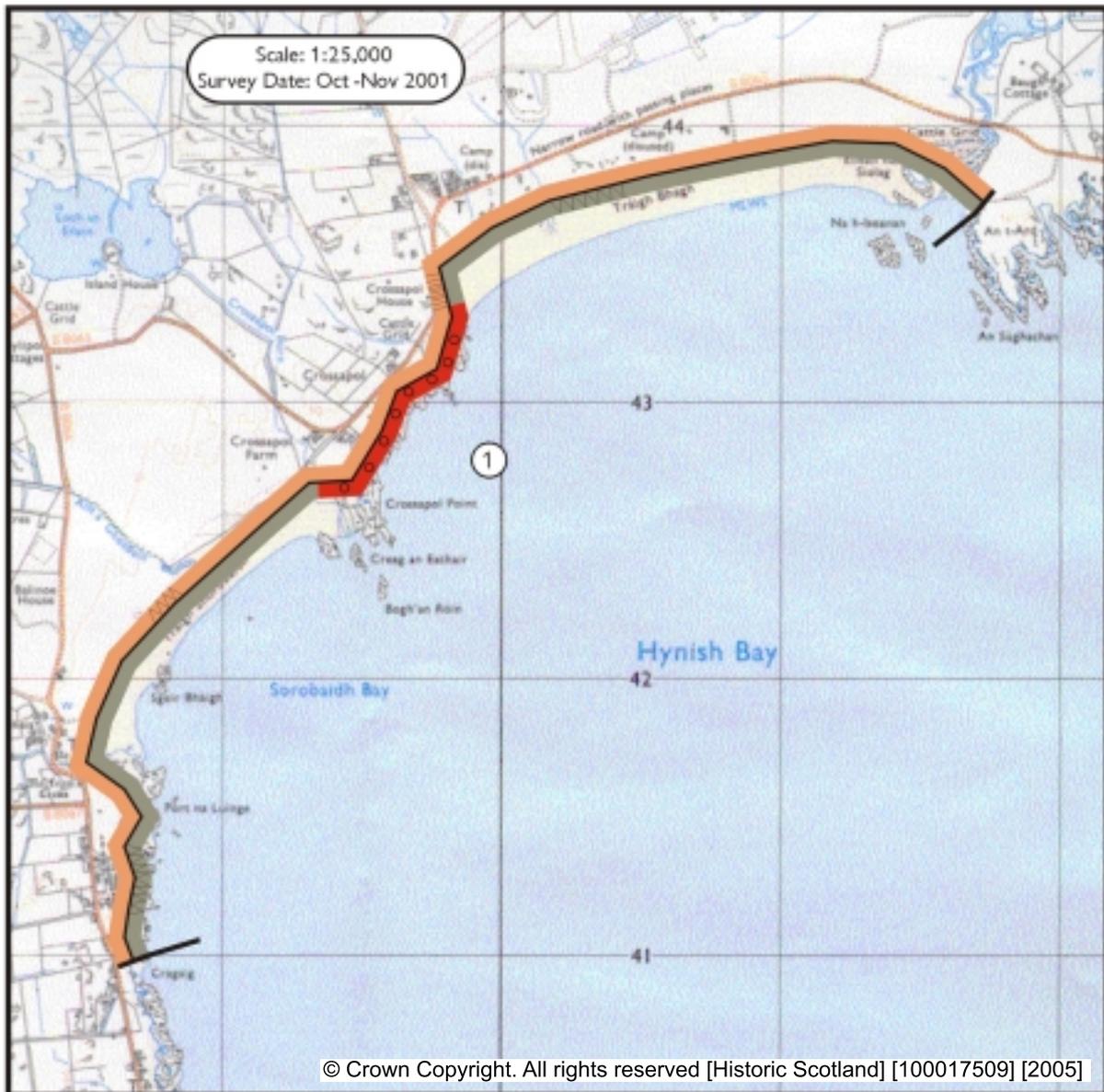
5.6 Km

Sandy foreshore

Coast edge <5m

Drift/rock interface not visible

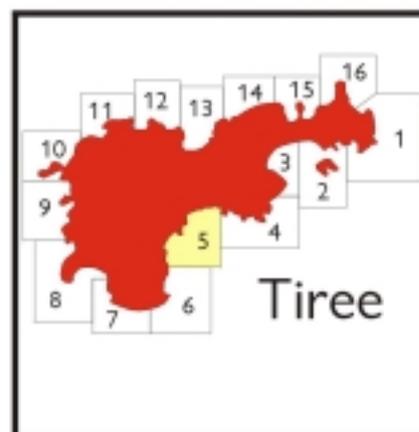
This unit encompasses a wide sandy bay divided by a central rocky headland at Crossapol. There is some cobble cover on the rock platform around the central headland. Three areas of coast edge in this unit are affected by dumping. The easternmost, at Traigh Bhagh, is an extensive area of material apparently derived from WWII or immediately post-WWII clearance, now eroding from the dunes. In Sorobaidh bay there is another area of more recent dumping, of building rubble, within a blow out located some 10m behind the coast edge. At Balemartine the coast edge has been partially obscured by the dumping of a mix of refuse, rubble and garden waste, some of which appears to be recent. A short length of sea wall has been constructed near Crossapol, where the road passes close to the coast edge. The hinterland comprises dune systems, and is for the most part unfenced rough grazing except in the vicinity of Crossapol where the land is fenced and appears to have been improved.



- 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. Traigh Bhagh  
NM 004 437

2.4 Km

Definitely eroding

The coast edge in this unit is dunes, which are actively eroding. There are blowouts in the hinterland. Erosion faces are fresh and a large expanse of rubble and refuse dumping is exposed towards the central part of the unit, on the east side of a river which passes through the dunes to the sea. The dumped material is c. 50 years old and derives from WWII activity in the area. The unit appears more stable to either end of Traigh Bhagh.

2. Crossapol

NL 996 430

1.0 Km

Stable

The coast edge here is rocky and stable. There are no signs of recent erosion.

3. Traigh Shorobaidh

NL 988 423

1.6 Km

Definitely eroding

The coast edge in this unit is dunes which are currently eroding. The hinterland also appears unstable - there are a few blowouts close to the coast edge and more larger ones further inland (beyond the survey area). The coast edge is eroding most noticeably towards the centre of the bay, where the Allt a Gheadain river comes out through the dunes. Here the erosion appears rapid and ongoing, and a vertical sand face some 2-3m high has been formed. Elsewhere in the unit, recent fence lines have been moved back from the coast edge, leaving old one hanging in mid air. Old turf lines are visible in eroding sections, indicating gradual dune formation in the past, with intermediate periods of stabilisation.

4. Balemartine

NL 986 412

0.6 Km

Eroding to stable

The coast edge here is a mix of sand and rock. It is quite high here and appears to be mostly stable and grassed over, however there are some isolated areas of erosion. There is also large-scale dumping of refuse on the coast edge, derived from the adjacent housing. It is unclear whether this dumping has been carried out in an effort to impede erosion in this area.

