

Introduction to Map 17: Achadh to Lon na Cnuasachd

This map section covers some 5.3km of coastline. It takes in the east facing and north west facing coasts of the northernmost point on Islay. The topography of the east facing coastal fringe is made up of open moorland and rough grazing, sloping down to a rough but low-lying coast edge. The north-west facing coast is more rugged and indented, with numerous caves and stacks and raised beaches. The coast edge in this map section has been classified as stable. The hinterland to this area contains a series of steep-sided hills higher and is dominated by Sgarbh Breac, which rises to 364m OD.

A total of five sites were identified within this map section; three of these had been recorded previously. Three sites are of 18th-20th C date. These include cultivation remains (IY64) and a deserted farmstead (IY65) at Aonan Na H-Uamha Moire and the lighthouse buildings at Rhuvaal (IY61). The lighthouse complex stands at the north entrance to the Sound of Islay. Designed by D. and T. Stevenson and built between 1857 and 1859 for the Northern Lighthouse Board, the circular lighthouse tower is of brick and stone construction. The single-storied, brick-built keepers cottages are set within a stone enclosure.

At Uamh an Da Dhoruis (IY63) a former sea cave contains scatters of shell midden on its floor and may have been used as a habitation place or a temporary shelter. The date of this usage is uncertain. It is recommended that this site be surveyed in order to record the position and extent of the shell midden and possibly to ascertain the nature and date of activity within the cave.

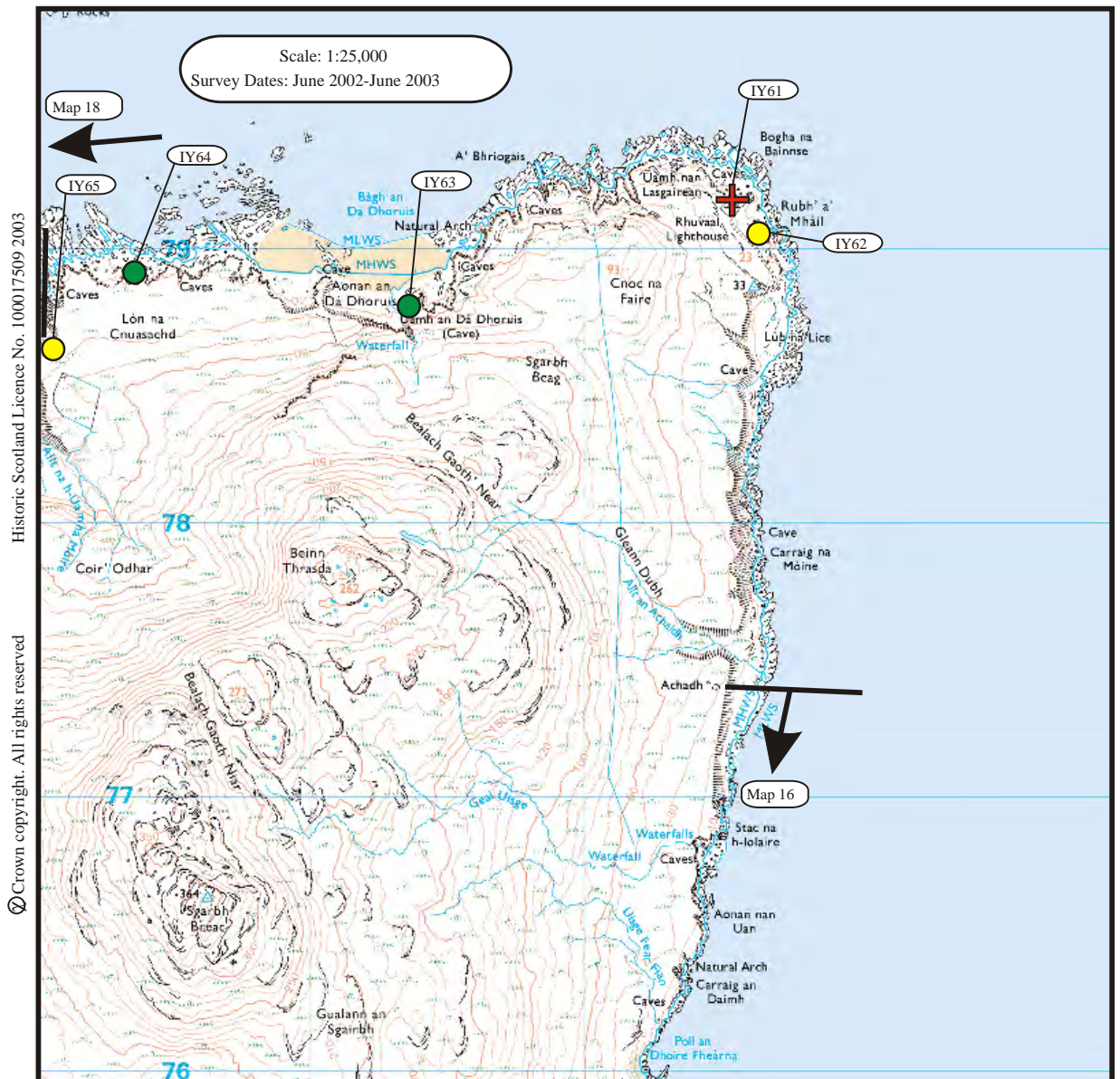
IY61 (NR47NW 4)
NR 4259 7916
Rhuvaal
Lighthouse and associated buildings
18-20th C
Good
Nil

IY64
NR 40392 78902
Lon na Cnuasachd
Cultivation remains
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

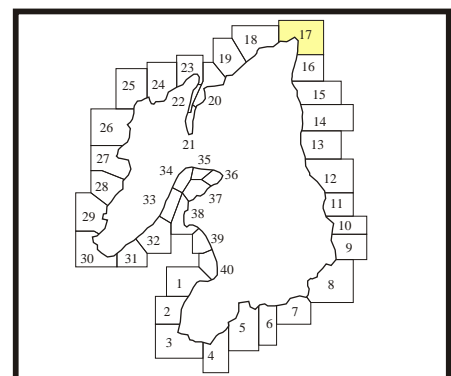
IY62 (NR47NW 3)
NR 425 790
Rhuvaal
Alleged site of cupmarked stone
N/A
N/A
N/A

IY65 (NR47NW 1)
NR 39974 78601
Aonan Na H-Uamha Moire
Deserted settlement and cultivated land
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

IY63
NR 41380 78796
Uamh an Da Dhoruis
Cave- utilised
???
Good
Survey



- 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. Rubh' a' Mhail

NR 425 792

3.5 Km

Rock platform

Coast edge mostly <5m

Raised beach etc.

The foreshore is a narrow shingle beach, interrupted by rock outcrops. The coast edge is mostly under 5m in height but the northern part of the unit has been classified as over 5m because cliffs are frequently on the coast edge here. The coast edge to the west of Rhuvaal lighthouse is broken by a series of long geos. The flattish, low lying area in front of the sea is interpreted as raised beach. The hinterland is poorly drained and overgrown. There are frequent small areas of scrub, and bracken

2. Bagh an Da Dhoruis

NR 410 788

Km

Mainly sand

Coast edge <5m

Raised beach etc.

In this unit the foreshore is sand, broken by the occasional rock outcrop. The hinterland is a wide flat area of grass in front of high cliffs. This area is interpreted as raised beach. The hinterland is poorly drained and contains a mix of sedges and bracken.

3. Lon na Cnuasachd

NR 404 789

0.9 Km

Rock platform

Coast edge <5m

Raised beach etc.

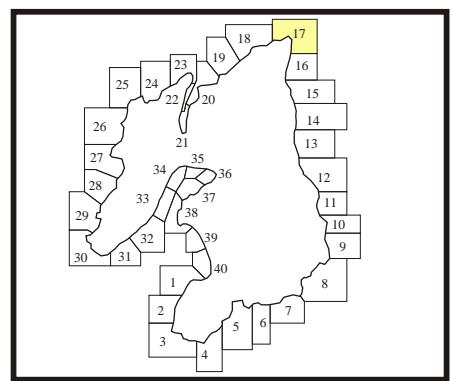
The coast edge is covered by shingle, interspersed by frequent rock outcrops. Cliffs lie generally 20m - 40m back from the coast edge but often come close to the coast in the form of rocky spurs. Storm beaches were noted in many small coves. The immediate hinterland is low lying, flat and grassy. Occasionally, old beach deposits could be seen in the hinterland, and these areas are interpreted as raised beach. The wider hinterland is rough and overgrown.



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

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

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



1. Rubh' a' Mhail

NR 419 792

5.3 Km

Stable

The coast edge in this unit is rocky and stable. No signs of erosion.



- Erosion Class
- Definitely Accreting
 - Accreting or Stable
 - Stable
 - Eroding or Stable
 - Definitely Eroding
 - Accreting and Eroding
 - No access
 - Land below 10m

