

Introduction to Map 18: Lon na Cnuasachd to Uamhannan Donna

This map section covers some 6km of coastline. This section extends around the north-west facing coast of the northern tip of Islay. The coastline in this area is rugged and the hinterland is high moorland. The coast edge in this map section has been classified as stable. There is no modern settlement and no roads. Access to the coast is by foot; there are no tracks or paths. There are numerous caves and raised beaches, together with natural arches and rock stacks, which now stand on dry land. The coast edge is generally less than 50m OD, but the land behind rises up steeply in a series of rounded hills, the most dominant of which are Sgarbh Breac (364m OD) to the east and Sgarbh Dubh (294m OD) to the west.

A total of twelve sites were identified within this map section; four of these had been recorded previously. Eight sites have been ascribed a date within the 18th to 20th C range. These include cultivation remains and land boundaries (IY72, IY74, IY78) and structural remains (IY70, IY71, IY75, IY76), some of which are accompanied by old cultivations. One site (IY66) at Uamh Mhor comprises of 18th-20th C enclosures centred on and within a cave. It is possible and likely that this cave was also utilised in earlier times, although the evidence for this is not so readily available.

Four sites are of uncertain date. Of these, two are dun sites (IY73, IY77). The former, Port An T-Sruthain, occupies a rock stack and has traces of walling near its summit. To the landward side of this dun there are three cairns, and whilst they have the appearance of clearance cairns, there are no traces of past cultivation or agricultural activity in the surrounding area. At Rubha Bholsa (IY77) the depleted remains of a once massive wall with an entrance guard a narrow neck of land leading on to a promontory surrounded by sea cliffs on three sides. No structural remains could be traced behind the wall on the promontory.

At Port a'Chotain there are two sites of uncertain date (IY68, IY69). One (IY68), a cave which extends for some 12m in depth contains traces of recent activity, as evidenced by fire pits and modern refuse. A test trench excavated previously by E. MacKie uncovered shell midden deposits which indicated that the cave had been utilised in the 17th and 18th C. It remains possible that the cave was used in earlier periods also. The second site here (IY69) comprises of a line of stones, representing the very depleted footings possibly of a stock barrier, which extend across the head of a stony beach.

IY66 (NR37NE 1)
NR 39837 78411
Uamh Mhor
Caves and enclosure
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

IY68 (NR37NE 7)
NR 39770 78361
Port a'Chotain
Cave- utilised
???
Good
Nil

IY69
NR 39671 78351
Port a'Chotain
Structural remains
???
Poor
Nil

IY70
NR 39611 78272
Port a'Chotain
Structural remains
18-20th C
Poor
Nil

IY71
NR 39532 78193
Port a'Chotain
Structural and cultivation remains
18-20th C
Poor
Nil

IY72
NR 39213 78813
Beinn a' Bhorrain
Wall and possible cultivation remains
18-20th C
Poor
Nil

IY73 (NR37NE 2)
NR 38754 78157
Port An T-Sruthain
Dun, possible clearance cairns and wall
???
Poor
Monitor

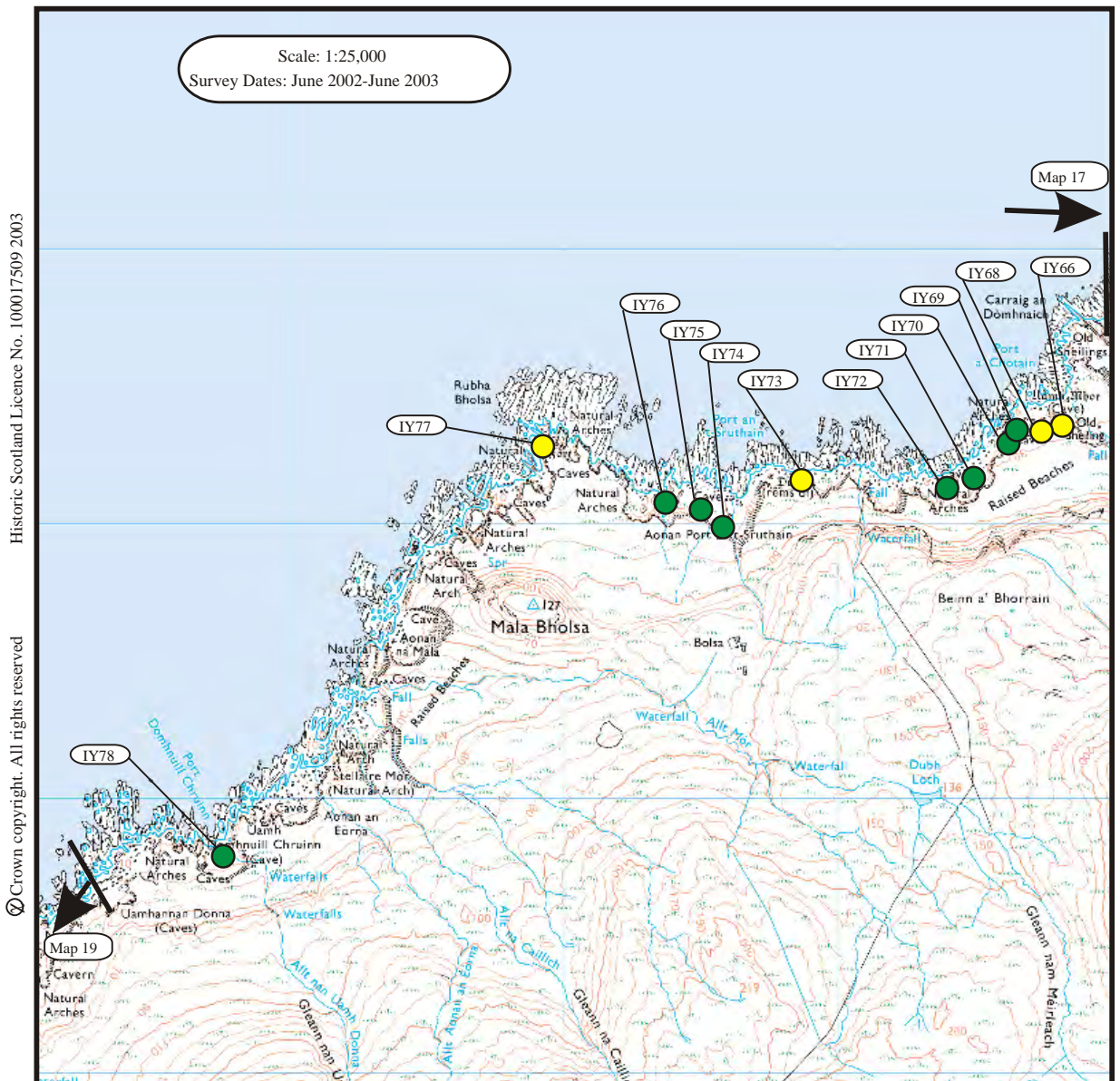
IY74
NR 38607 78032
Port An T-Sruthain
Enclosure, wall and cultivation remains
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

IY75
NR 38520 78085
Port An T-Sruthain
Cultivation and structural remains, bank and
clearance cairns
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

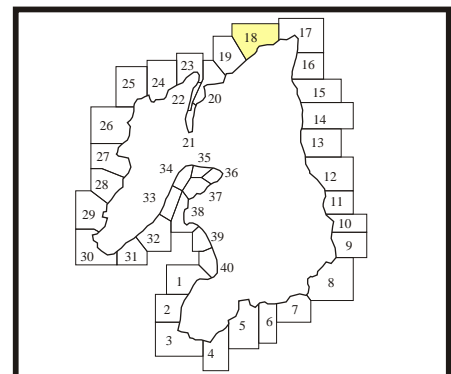
IY76
NR 38305 78091
Aonan Port an T-Sruthain
Structure
18-20th C
Fair
Nil

IY77 (NR37NE 4)
NR 37986 78286
Rubha Bholsa
Dun
???
Poor
Monitor

IY78
NR 3675 7676
Uamh Domhnuill Chruinn
Cultivation remains
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. Mala Bholsa

NR 379 782

6.0 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.

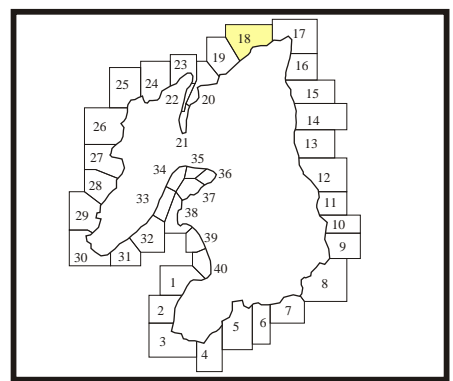


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- Foreshore**
- Rock platform
 - Mainly sand
 - Mainly alluvial/marine mud
 - Marsh

- 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



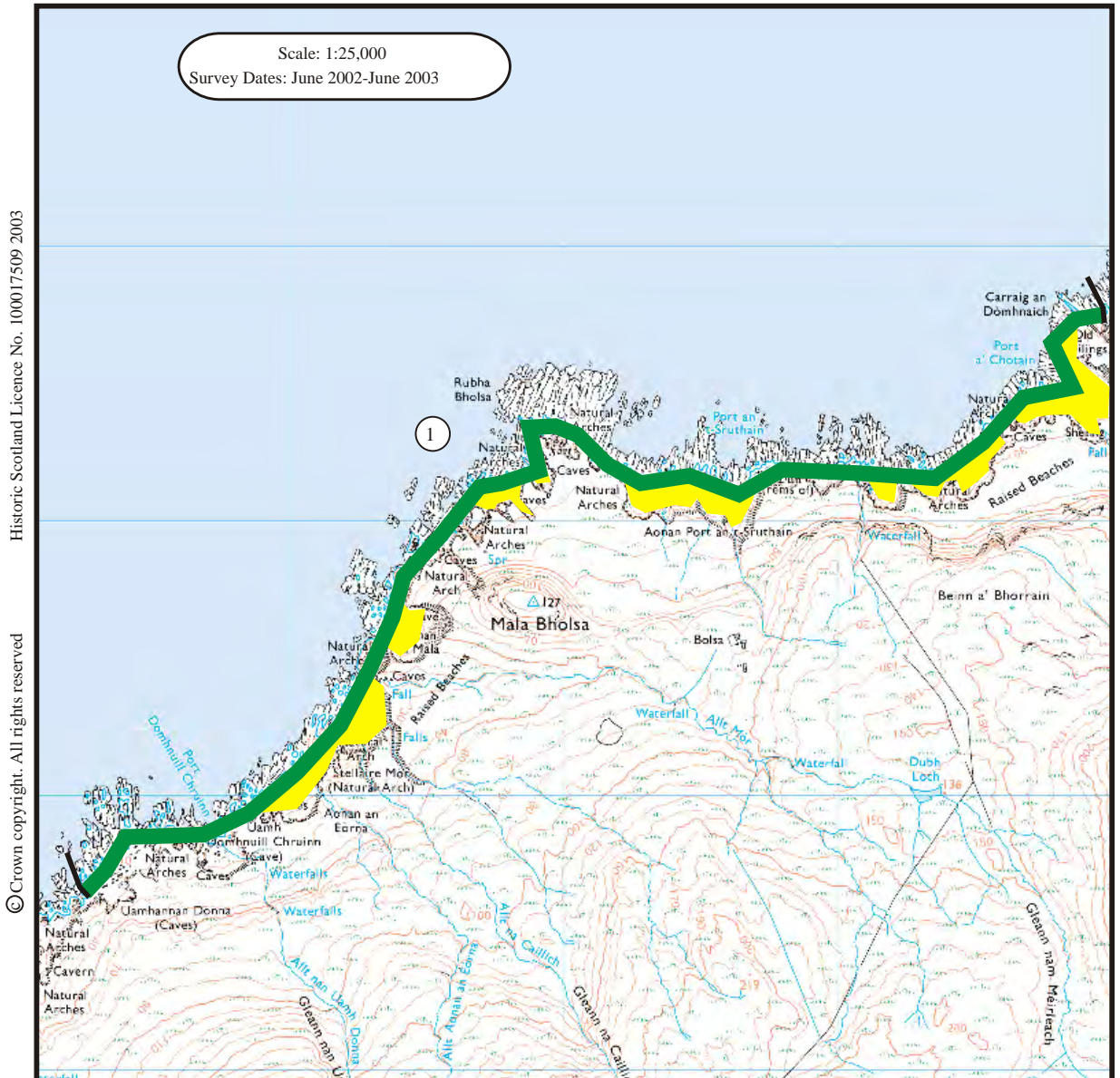
1. Mala Bholsa

NR 379 782

6.0 Km

Stable

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



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

