

Introduction to Map 22: Kilnave to Traigh nan Cisteachan

This map section covers some 3.4km of coastline. It extends along the west shores of Loch Gruinart, towards the open sea. The land within the coastal zone is low lying and, to the south of the area, enclosed in a series of pasture fields. At the north of this section and surrounding the farmstead at Ardnave, the landscape is one of more open grazing with substantial dune systems extending along the coast edge. The coast edge is low and soft, being composed of sandy deposits. The northern part of the coast edge within this map section has been classified as definitely eroding. The sparse modern settlement in this area is generally set back from the coastal zone and focused on the public road, which ends between Kilnave and Ardnave.

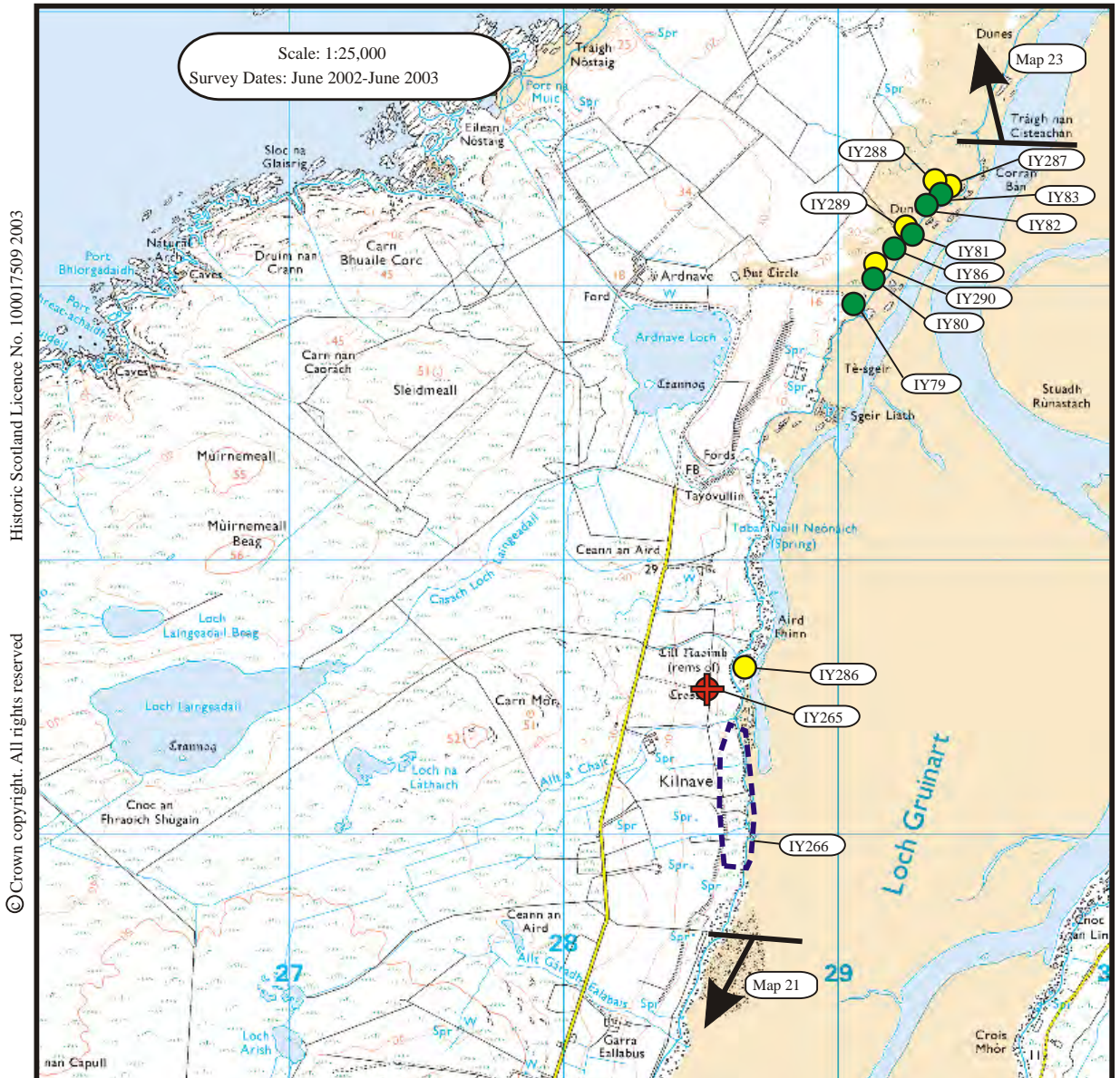
A total of thirteen sites were identified within this map section; six of these had been recorded previously. The sites include field walls of 18th-20th C date (IY81, IY266) and the Chapel and burial ground at Kilnave. The standing chapel building is thought to be medieval (10th-14th C) in date, although the presence of the cross slab, which is of 5th C AD type, is indicative of an earlier foundation on this site.

Seven sites have been identified as most probably belonging within the date range 3rd-1st millennium BC. These include previously reported sites such as the discovery of structural remains, possibly representing part of a cairn or house of prehistoric date, together with artefact scatters of flint and chert (IY288), a scatter of coarse stone tools of quartzite and granite, together with flint and chert flakes artefacts (IY289) and flint cores and flakes (IY286). Two cists have also been reported. One (IY290) was constructed from four slabs and contained the remains of a cremation burial. The other (IY287) was formed from four slabs and contained a fragment of charcoal.

Discoveries made during this survey include an exposure of old ground surface containing deposits of shell, charcoal stained soil and burnt stone (IY86). A second exposure of old ground surface (IY80) was found to be covered with a deflation deposit containing marine shell, animal bone, and coarse pottery of probable prehistoric date. In a third exposure (IY79), a charcoal rich deposit and a concentration of cremated bone was found lying over an old ground surface. A rescue excavation was conducted by the authors with the assistance of the Islay Archaeology Group to recover what survived of this deposit. Specialist analyses of the remains are currently ongoing.

The discovery of midden and structures over a long time period within this area indicates that it is both high in archaeological potential and very vulnerable to erosion. It is recommended that the entire dune area, and especially that part covered only by loose sand, should be kept under close surveillance for the emergence of new exposures.

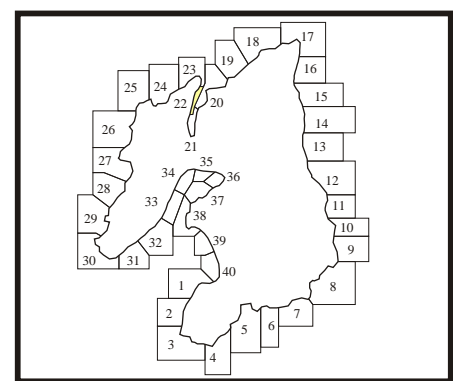
<p>IY79 NR 29061 72901 Ardnave Old ground surface with shell midden and possible cremation spread 3rd-1st mill BC Fair Monitor</p>	<p>IY86 NR 29204 73154 Ardnave Possible occupation surface/old ground surface 3rd-1st mill BC Fair Survey</p>	<p>IY288 (NR27SE 9) NR 293 734 Ardnave Structural remains, artefact scatters 3rd-1st Mill BC N/A Monitor</p>
<p>IY80 NR 29098 73074 Ardnave Artefact scatter 3rd-1st mill BC Fair Survey</p>	<p>IY265 (NR27SE 1) NR 2852 7151 Kilnave Chapel Chapel, cross and burial ground 10-14th C Fair Monitor</p>	<p>IY289 (NR27SE 8) NR 292 732 Ardnave Artefact scatter 3rd-1st Mill BC N/A Monitor</p>
<p>IY81 NR 29195 73225 Ardnave Wall 18-20th C Fair-Poor Nil</p>	<p>IY266 NR 28652 71140 Kilnave Field walls 18-20th C Fair Nil</p>	<p>IY290 (NR27SE 29) NR 2916 7313 Ardnave Cist 3rd-1st Mill BC N/A Monitor</p>
<p>IY82 NR 29245 73285 Ardnave Possible structural remains ??? Poor Monitor</p>	<p>IY286 (NR27SE 7) NR 2863 7160 Kilnave Stray finds: flint ??? N/A Monitor</p>	
<p>IY83 NR 29280 73306 Ardnave Stone spread ??? Fair Monitor</p>	<p>IY287 (NR27SE 36) NR 294 733 Ardnave Cist 3rd-1st Mill BC N/A N/A</p>	



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- 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. Aird Fhinn

NR 286 715

1.8 Km

Rock platform

Coast edge <5m

Raised beach etc./ Drift on visible rock.

Rocky coast edge with frequent cobble cover. At the south end of the unit a low scarp is present set 50m - 100m back from the coast edge. The land between the scarp and the coast is rough unfenced grazing. This area is interpreted as raised beach. From a point north of Cill Naoimh church fenced land comes down to the coast edge.

2. Ardnave

NR 290 729

1.6 Km

Mainly sand

Coast edge <5m

Blown sand.

The coast edge is a sandy beach 15m - 30m wide. The hinterland is an extensive dune system used as rough grazing.

1. Aird Fhinn

NR 286 715

1.9 Km

Eroding or Stable

The coast edge in this unit is a mix of rocky outcrop and small areas of salt marsh. The salt marsh appears to be becoming inundated, in the long term, by the sea.

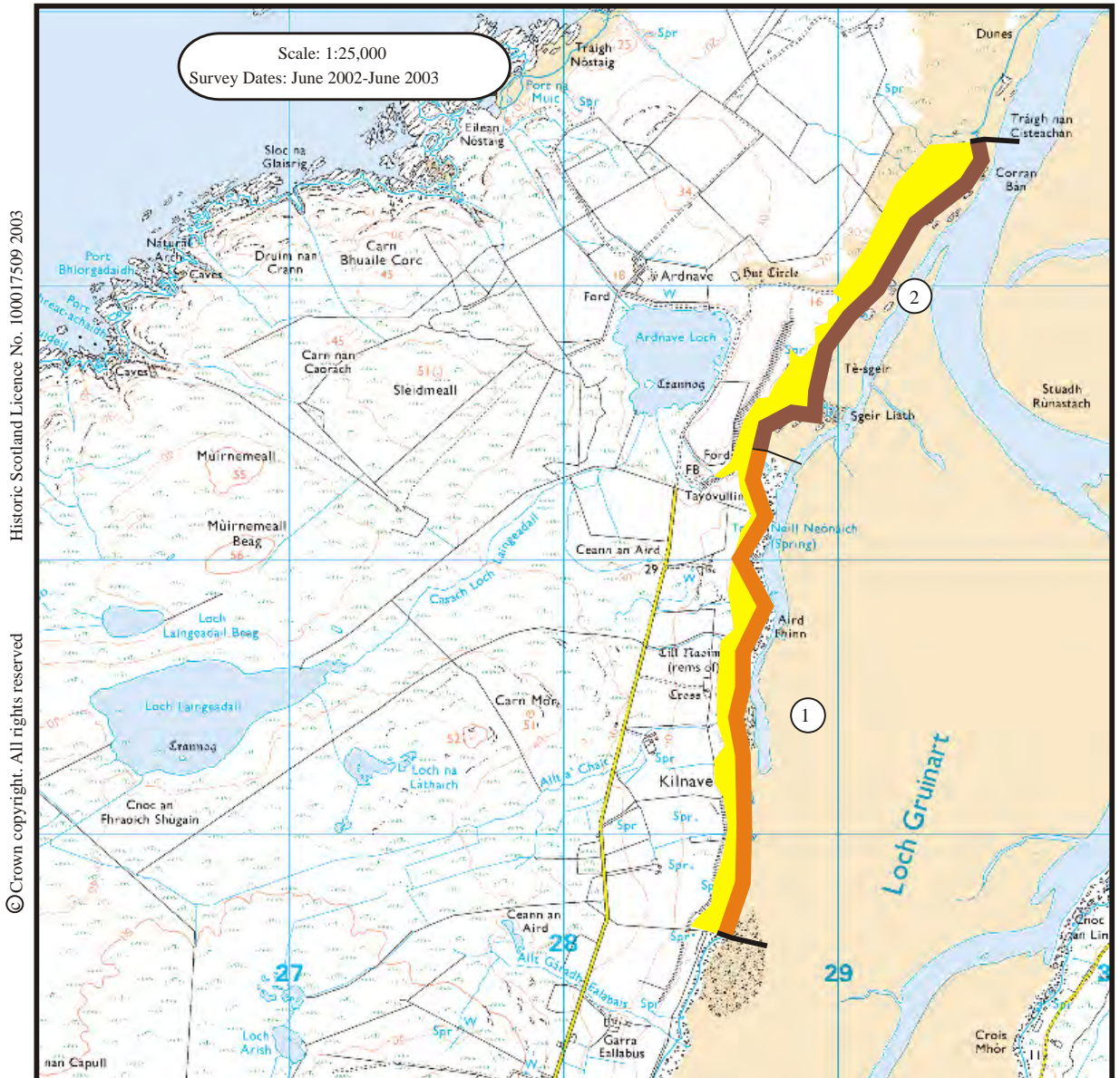
2. Ardnave

NR 290 729

1.5 Km

Definitely Eroding

A wide sandy beach sloping gently to the sea. There is a dune system in the hinterland, which is clearly actively eroding. There are many blowouts in the hinterland and long narrow sandy defiles set at right angles to the coast. The defiles lead to large areas of sand devoid of vegetation. The main agent of erosion is probably wind, which has been exacerbated or even started by animal poaching. At the time of survey the hinterland was in use for rough grazing.



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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

