

## **Introduction to Map 23: Traigh nan Cisteachan to Port Bhiorgaidh**

This map section covers some 6.6km of coastline. From the northern tip of the Ardnave peninsula, it extends along the north-west facing shores of the Rhinns. The start of the area lies within Loch Gruinart and is composed of coastal dunes with rough grazing in the hinterland: this coast edge is definitely eroding.. From Ardnave point onwards, the coastline becomes more rugged, with fewer sandy deposits and gradually becomes more stable. The hinterland in this area comprises rough grazing and moorland. There is no modern settlement within the coastal zone and no modern access roads or tracks.

A total of eight sites were identified within this map section; four of these had been recorded previously. Sites of 18th-20th C date are represented by cultivation remains (IY85, IY105 and IY106) and a disused lobster farm (IY104). Of earlier date, a prehistoric house (IY102) excavated by RCAHMS between 1977 and 1980 at Ardnave remains visible as a concentration of walling surrounded by a deflation surface containing frequent shell, burnt stone, bone and flint. The building was found to have been in use in the Bronze Age, with subsequent use in the Iron Age.

Another potentially early structure (IY291) which was reported previously could not be relocated during this survey and a site reported to be that of a dun (IY103) could not be conclusively identified as a defensive structure.

At Ardnave Point (IY84) traces of past lazy bed cultivation are visible within a blow out among the sand dunes at bears on its base. The area is partially covered with a deflation surface. Several fragments of cut antler, together with marine shell and animal bone are visible with this deposit. No in-situ artefact scatters were noted but a bronze pin is recorded from this general area.

It is recommended that both the excavated house (IY102) and the site of the potentially early structure (IY291) be monitored for future change and the emergence of new exposures and that the cultivated area and deflation spreads at Ardnave Point (IY84) be surveyed to record their nature and extent and to assess if further deposits exist in the local area.

**IY84**

NR 29346 74836  
Ardnave Point  
Cultivation remains and artefact scatter  
???  
Fair  
Survey

**IY85**

NR 29604 74694  
Port nam Marbh  
Cultivation remains and wall  
18-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

**IY102 (NR27SE 22)**

NR 29003 74583  
Ardnave  
House  
3-1st Mill BC  
Fair  
Monitor

**IY103 (NR27SE 20)**

NR 28580 74402  
Ardnave  
Indeterminate remains- alleged site of dun  
???  
Poor  
Nil

**IY104**

NR 27758 73666  
Eilean Nostaig  
Lobster farm (disused)  
18-20th C  
Good  
Nil

**IY105**

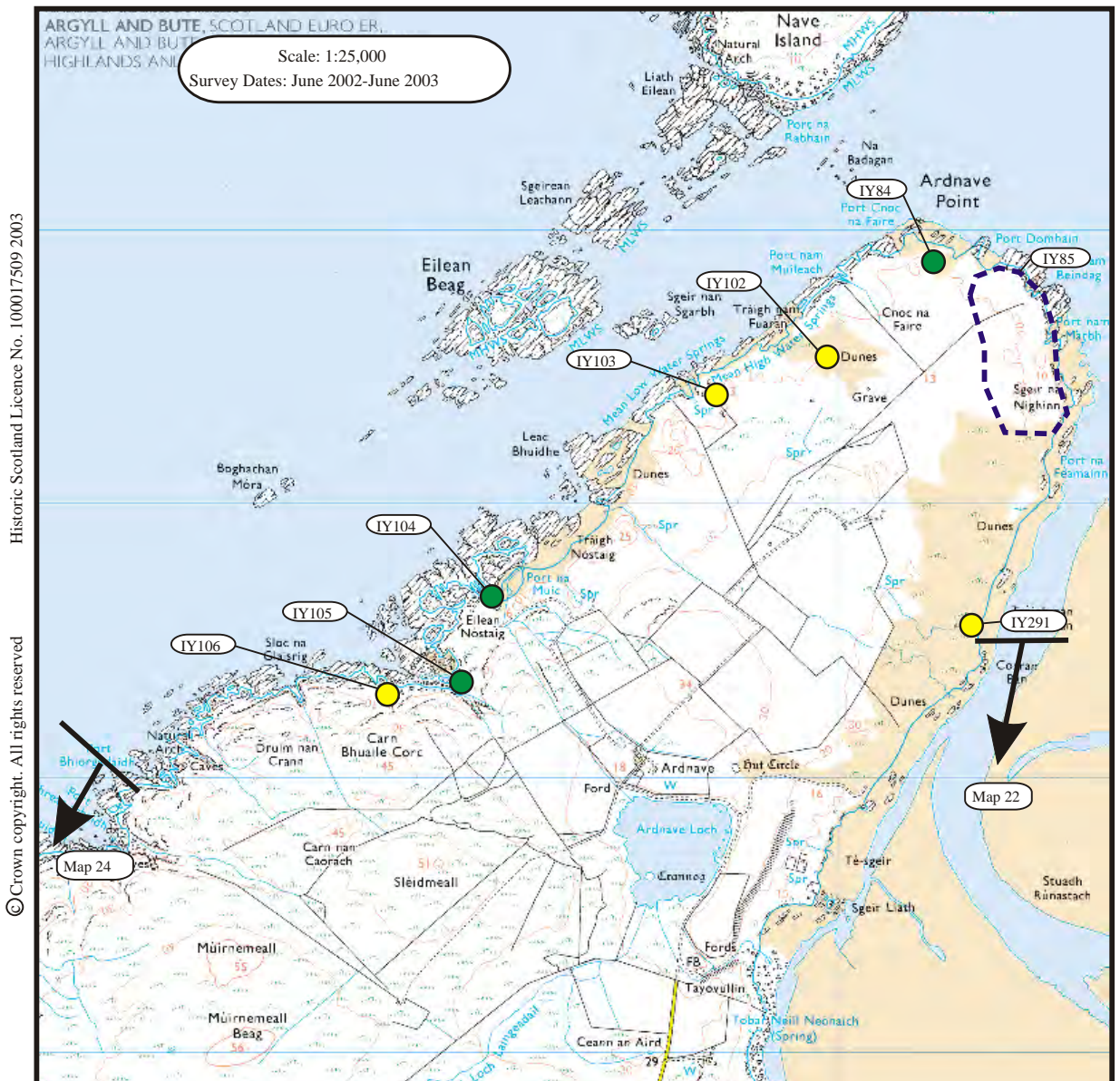
NR 27673 73348  
Eilean Nostaig  
Cultivation remains  
18-20th C  
Fair  
Nil

**IY106 (NR27SE 10)**

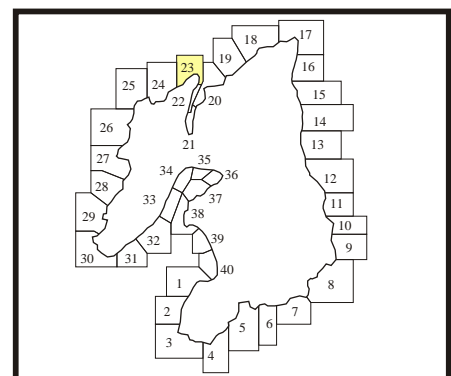
NR 27348 73270  
Druim Nan Crann  
Structural remains  
18-20th C, ???  
Fair  
Nil

**IY291 (NR27SE 17)**

NR 2941 7354  
Traigh Nan Cisteachan  
Structural remains and midden deposits  
3rd-1st Mill BC  
N/A  
Monitor



- 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. Ardnave Point**

NR 290 748

4.9 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.

**2. Carn Bhuaile Corc**

NR 270 732

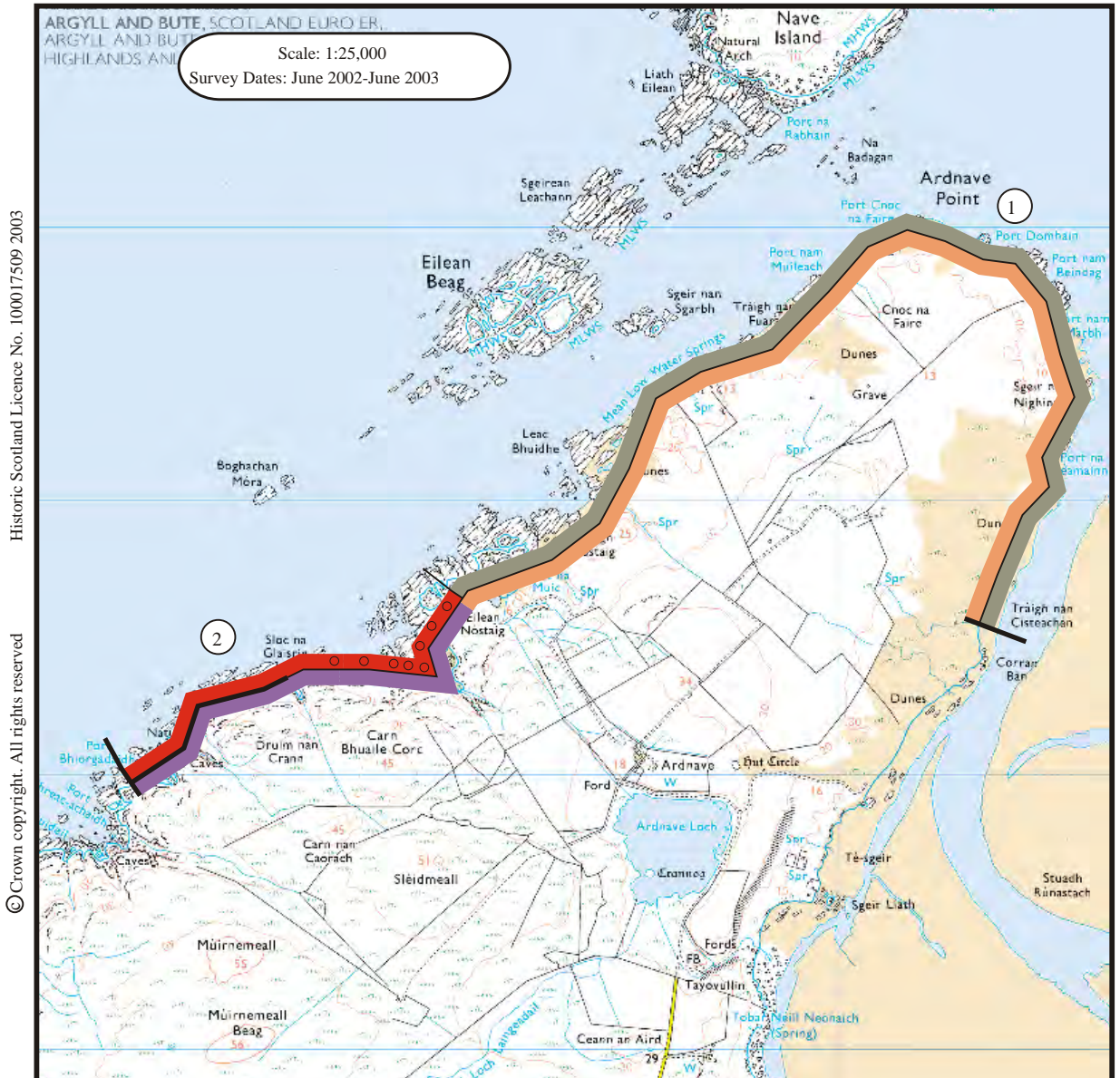
1.7 Km

Rock platform

Coast edge mostly <5m

Drift on visible rock.

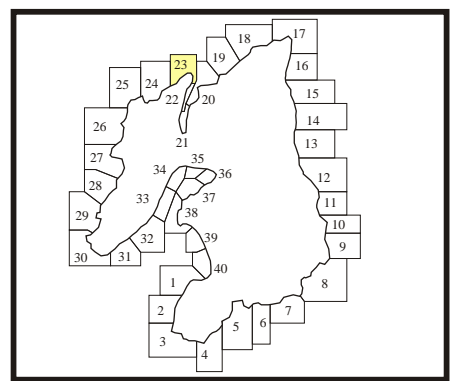
The sand and dunes of the previous unit give way to a rocky foreshore with poorly drained rough grazing in the hinterland. There is cobble and gravel cover on the upper foreshore where the coast edge is low lying; as the coast edge increases in height, to the west, the cobble cover decreases until there is none. For the last c. 500m of the unit the coast edge is a high rock platform, 50m wide, devoid of vegetation.



- 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. Ardnave Point**

NR 290 748

4.8 Km

Definitely Eroding

A wide sandy beach sloping gently to the sea, broken by the occasional rock outcrop. There is a dune system in the hinterland, which is clearly actively eroding. There are many blowouts in the hinterland. There are long narrow sandy defiles set at right angles to the coast at Traigh Nostaig. 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.

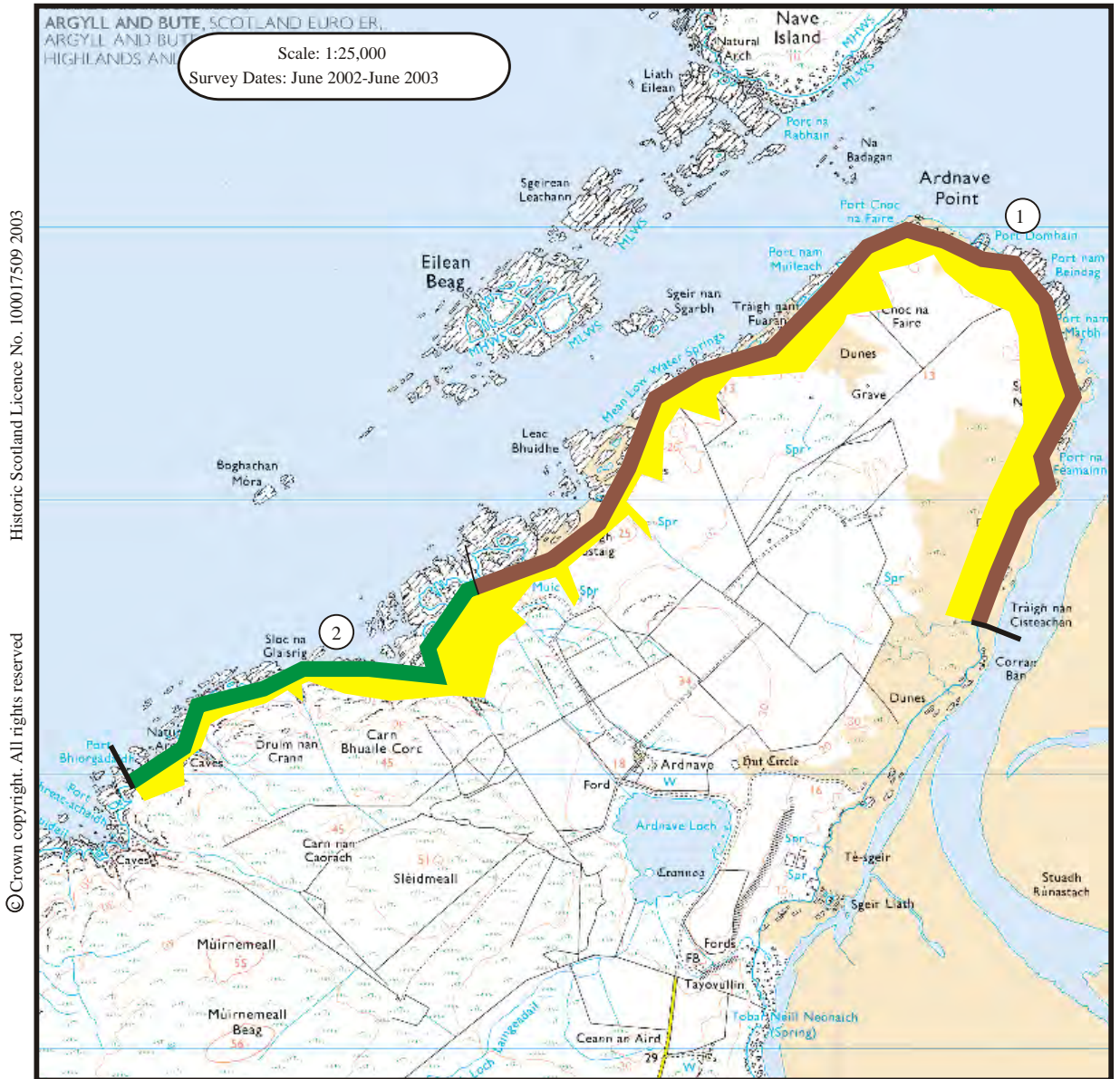
**2. Carn Bhuaile Corc**

NR 270 732

1.8 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

