

4.7 *Map 7: Loch Eriboll (NE)*

4.7.1 *Map Content Descriptions*

1. *Built Heritage and Archaeology:*

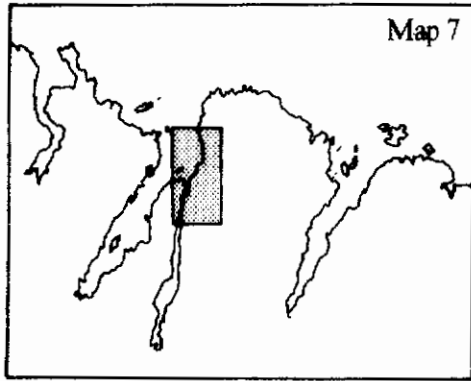
13 sites were identified within the survey area covered by Map 13. Just over half of these have been classified as being of unknown date. The main reason for this is that five of the seven sites thus classified lay partially or wholly in the intertidal zone of the River Hope and were in very poor condition. Whilst it is likely that the fishing weirs or traps (eg NC 4750 6133: Gazetteer no 6) and revetment (eg NC 4760 6134: Gazetteer no 8) are part of an improved landscape or Estate-related works, this could not be ascertained with any certainty. The main, previously unrecorded site in this area is the Post-Medieval deserted settlement located N of Inverhope (NC 4779 6190; Gazetteer no 13), which requires a more extensive survey than that carried out within the specifications of this project. The relationship between this settlement and the later, single-household settlement at Inverhope is interesting against the backdrop of the general depletion of the population in this area in the Nineteenth Century. The well-constructed Ice-House recorded here (Gazetteer no 9) also fits into the later period of use of the area around the River Hope.

2. *Erosion Class:*

The cliffs at the W of this area, leading from the mouth of Loch Eriboll, are stable. The cliffs at the E end of the mouth of the River Hope climb steadily as they run to the N toward Whiten Head. Similarly these cliffs are stable. The tidal limits of the River Hope are both eroding and accreting. This is due to the migration of deposits within the tidal zone, as sediment is washed down from the hinterland and mixed in with the tide and then re-deposited in islands. As this happens, other areas of the banks are undermined by the flow of the watercourse, particularly when the river is in spate or during the High Spring-Tides, leading to erosion and inundation of the hinterland. Much of the area around the outflow of the River Hope, particularly the raised beach at the W, would be susceptible to flooding should the sea-level rise.

3. *Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology:*

The Cambrian rocks at the W end of this area are in synclinal fold and display imbricate structure. There is a raised beach at the W of the mouth of the River Hope, whilst the E is dominated by peat/soil cover over the visible rock of the precipitous Creag Ruadh. Loch Hope would have been a sea-loch when the sea-level was higher, but the enigma of why the glacier that cut the up to 53 m deep Loch bed did not break through the threshold marked by the area of the River Hope today remains. The intertidal zone of the river-bed itself is mainly alluvial/marine mud and is fed by the Hope, the sea and numerous smaller streams which flow from the higher ground at the E.



Map 7: Loch Eriboll (NE)

4.7.2 The Built Heritage and Archaeology: Gazetteer

1. RIVER HOPE

G/R: NC 4772 6206
Location: Hinterland, 17 m from HWM
1:10 560 Map: NC 46 SE
Site Type: Possible structure
Date: Unknown
Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Survey

2. RIVER HOPE

G/R: NC 4774 6119 (first piling)
Location: Intertidal zone
1:10 560 Map: NC 46 SE
Site Type: ?Fish-Traps
Date: ?C20th
Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Nil

3. RIVER HOPE

G/R: NC 4768 6148
Location: Intertidal zone
1:10 560 Map: NC 46 SE
Site Type: Possible building
Date: Unknown
Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Nil

4. RIVER HOPE

G/R: NC 4764 6146
Location: Intertidal zone
1:10 560 Map: NC 46 SE
Site Type: Slipway or noust
Date: ?Post-medieval
Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Monitor

5. RIVER HOPE

G/R: NC 4760 6140
Location: Intertidal zone
1:10 560 Map: NC 46 SE
Site Type: Possible fish-weir, possible causeway
Date: Unknown
Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Survey

6. RIVER HOPE

G/R: NC 4750 6133
Location: Coast-edge at HWM and Intertidal zone
1:10 560 Map: NC 46 SE
Site Type: Revetment; fish weir
Date: Unknown
Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Monitor

7. RIVER HOPE

G/R: NC 4756 6133
Location: Intertidal zone
1:10 560 Map: NC 46 SE
Site Type: Possible fish-trap
Date: Unknown
Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Nil

8. RIVER HOPE

G/R: NC 4760 6134
Location: Coast-edge and Intertidal zone
1:10 560 Map: NC 46 SE
Site Type: Revetment
Date: Unknown
Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Monitor

9. INVERHOPE

G/R: NC 4767 6133
Location: Hinterland, c 20 m from HWM
1:10 560 Map: NC 46 SE
Site Type: Ice-House
Date: C19th
Condition: Good
Recommendation: Monitor

10. INVERHOPE

G/R: NC 4772 6135 (S end); 4791 6200 (N end)
Location: HWM to c 10 m into Hinterland
1:10 560 Map: NC 46 SE
Site Type: Revetted pathway
Date: Unknown
Condition: Fair
Recommendation: Nil

11. INVERHOPE

G/R: NC 4785 6157
Location: Coast-edge at HWM and Intertidal zone
1:10 560 Map: NC 46 SE
Site Type: Slipway
Date: Post-Improvement
Condition: Fair
Recommendation: Monitor

12. INVERHOPE

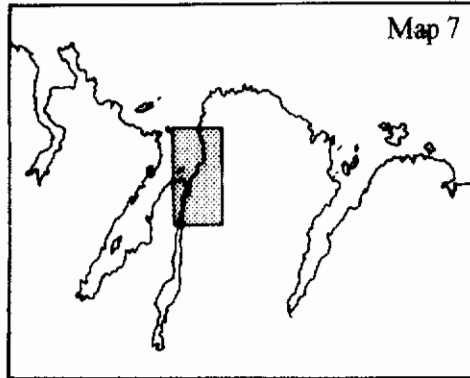
G/R: NC 4792 6166
Location: Hinterland, c 30-60 m above HWM
1:10 560 Map: NC 46 SE
Site Type: Building; enclosure
Date: C19th
Condition: Good
Recommendation: Monitor

13. INVERHOPE

G/R: NC 4779 6190 (centred)
Location: HWM and extending c 10 m into Hinterland
1:10 560 Map: NC 46 SE
Site Type: Deserted settlement
Date: Post-Medieval
Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Survey/Rescue



Map 7



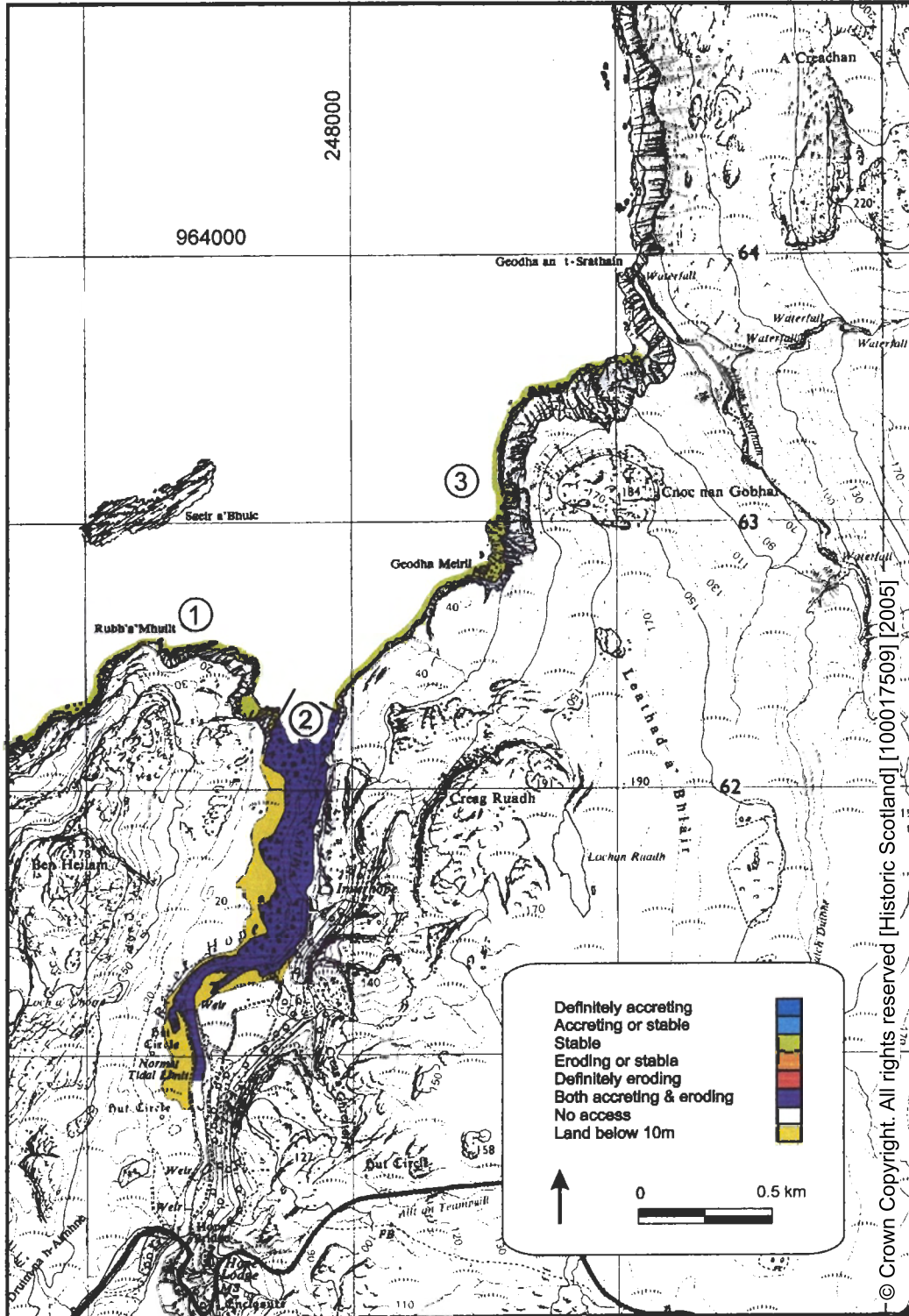
MAP 7 LOCH ERIBOLL (NE)

Erosion Class

NC46/56

Scale 1:25,000

Surveyed November 1997



Map 7: Loch Eriboll (NE)

4.7.3 Erosion Class: Gazetteer

1. RUBHA'A'MHULT

NC 247 962

1.5 km

Stable

This stretch of the coastline, which links the E shore of Loch Eriboll and the mouth of the River Hope, is a continuation of that described in no 8 of Map 4 (4.4.3 above). The cliffs are formed from stable Cambrian rocks which are in a synclinal fold and have been pushed forward by the Arnaboll thrust, leaving sheer cliffs down to the sea. There is no evidence of active erosion or accretion.

2. RIVER HOPE

NC 247 961

3.125 km

Both accreting and eroding

The tidal estuary of the River Hope is marked by raised beaches on either shore. The W shore is particularly low-lying and would be highly susceptible to inundation as a result of severe flooding from the sea or the hinterland water source. This is also the case with the land at the E end of the meander S of Inverhope. This area is clearly frequently flooded from both the River Hope itself and a small tributary stream at the NE. The channel cut by the river as it flows through the estuary fluctuates as the water fans during spating of the river and at the High Spring-Tides. The result of this activity is that the silt deposits brought in by the river and the tide are being moved around the estuary and accreting in several islands. The banks are being eroded as the pressure of the water course cuts back into the hinterland. At the mouth of the river there is also clearly some inundation of the low-lying hinterland at high-tide.

3. GEODHA MEIRIL

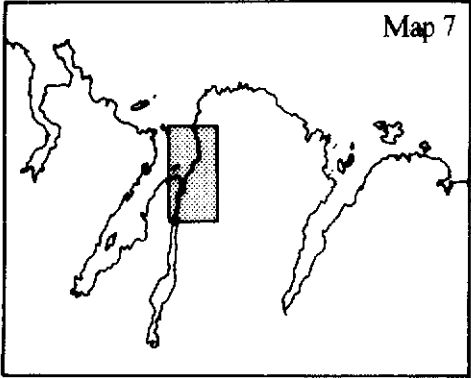
NC 248 962

1.875 km

Stable

The Cambrian rock cliffs, which increase in height to in excess of 100 m at the N, are stable. There is no sign of active erosion.





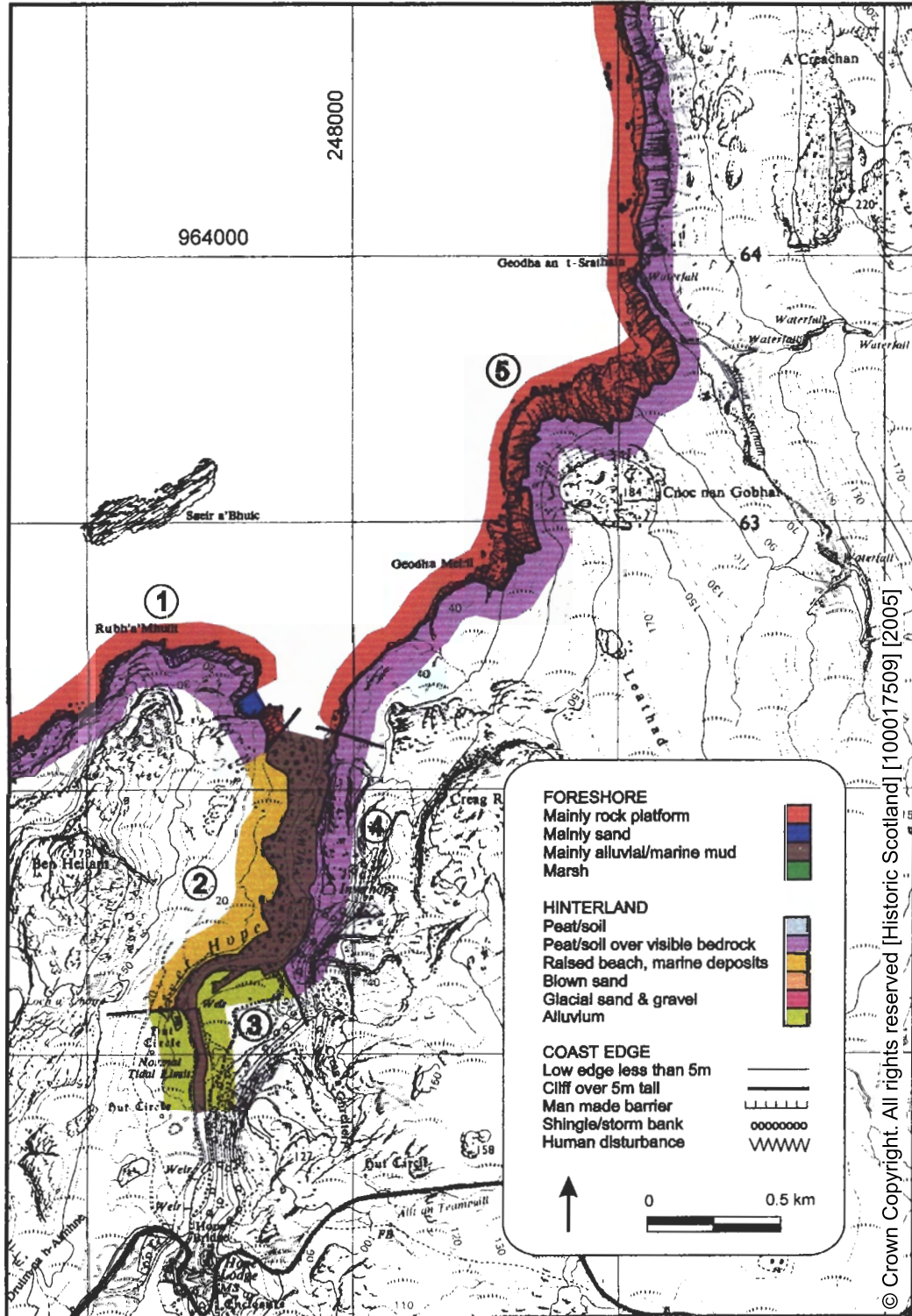
MAP 7 LOCH ERIBOLL (NE)

Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology

NC46/56

Scale 1:25,000

Surveyed November 1997



Map 7: Loch Eriboll (NE)

4.7.4 Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology: Gazetteer

1. RUBHA'A'MHUILT

NC 247 962

1.225 km

Mainly rock platform with isolated sand inlet

Cliff > 5 m tall

Peat/soil over visible bedrock

The Cambrian rocks of this part of the coastline are in a synclinal fold and have been pushed forward by the Arnaboll thrust and display imbricate structure. The cliffs that this has formed are up to 20 m high and fall almost vertically to the sea. The exception is a small sand-filled geo between high cliffs at the E end of the area. The hinterland is uneven and rugged, being composed of peat over visible outcrops of the rock.

2. W BANK OF THE RIVER HOPE

NC 247 961

1.075 km

Mainly alluvial/marine mud

Low edge < 5 m

Raised beach

The tidal limit within the mouth of the River Hope reveals a mixture of alluvial mud from the course of that river, and marine mud from the incoming sea. This is mostly evident at the N end, and only at low-tide. The low edge of the river-bank separates the intertidal zone from the raised beach hinterland.

3. W AND E BANKS OF THE RIVER HOPE (S)

NC 247 961

1.05 km

Mainly alluvial/marine mud

Low edge < 5 m

Alluvium

The alluvial/marine mud noted above continues in the intertidal zone of this area. Again, the banks of the river are a low edge, but the hinterland of both banks at this meander is alluvium.

4. INVERHOPE

NC 247 961

1 km

Mainly alluvial/marine mud

Low edge < 5 m and cliffs > 5 m

Peat/soil over visible bedrock

The intertidal zone of the River Hope reveals alluvial/marine mud at low-tide. The bank at the S end of this area forms a low edge, but this climbs to up to 10 m at the N of this area. There is possibly a very thin and patchy strip of raised beach at the edge of the river but the hinterland very quickly climbs to peat-covered rock outcrops.

5. INVERHOPE-GEODHA AN T-STRATHAIN

NC 248 962

1.875 km

Mainly rock platform

Cliff > 5 m tall

Peat/soil over visible rock

The cliffs at the NE mouth of the Hope River rise abruptly to 40 m high and continue to rise to the N, reaching upwards of 70 m below Cnoc nan Ghobhal. These cliffs are almost entirely sheer and plunge down to the sea below. The hinterland on top of the cliffs is mostly peat over visible rock outcropping.

6. N OF GEODHA AN T-STRATHAIN

The area represented by this stretch of coastline was not visited by this survey and thus no comment can be made about the hinterland geology and coastal geomorphology, other than noting that the lofty rock cliffs of this area are in the Lewisian Gneiss and Cambrian quartzite and that the hinterland is famed for its barren peat bog.