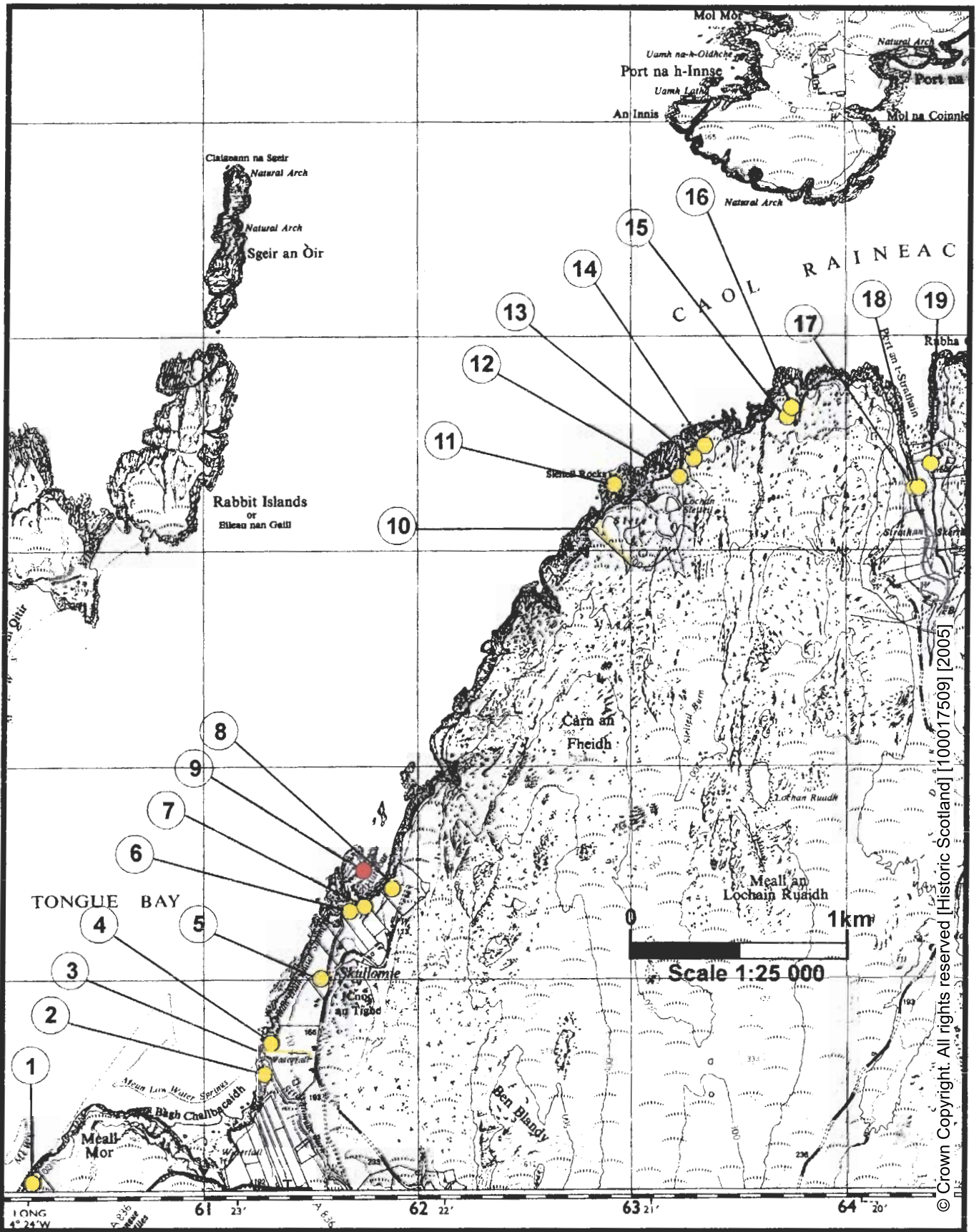
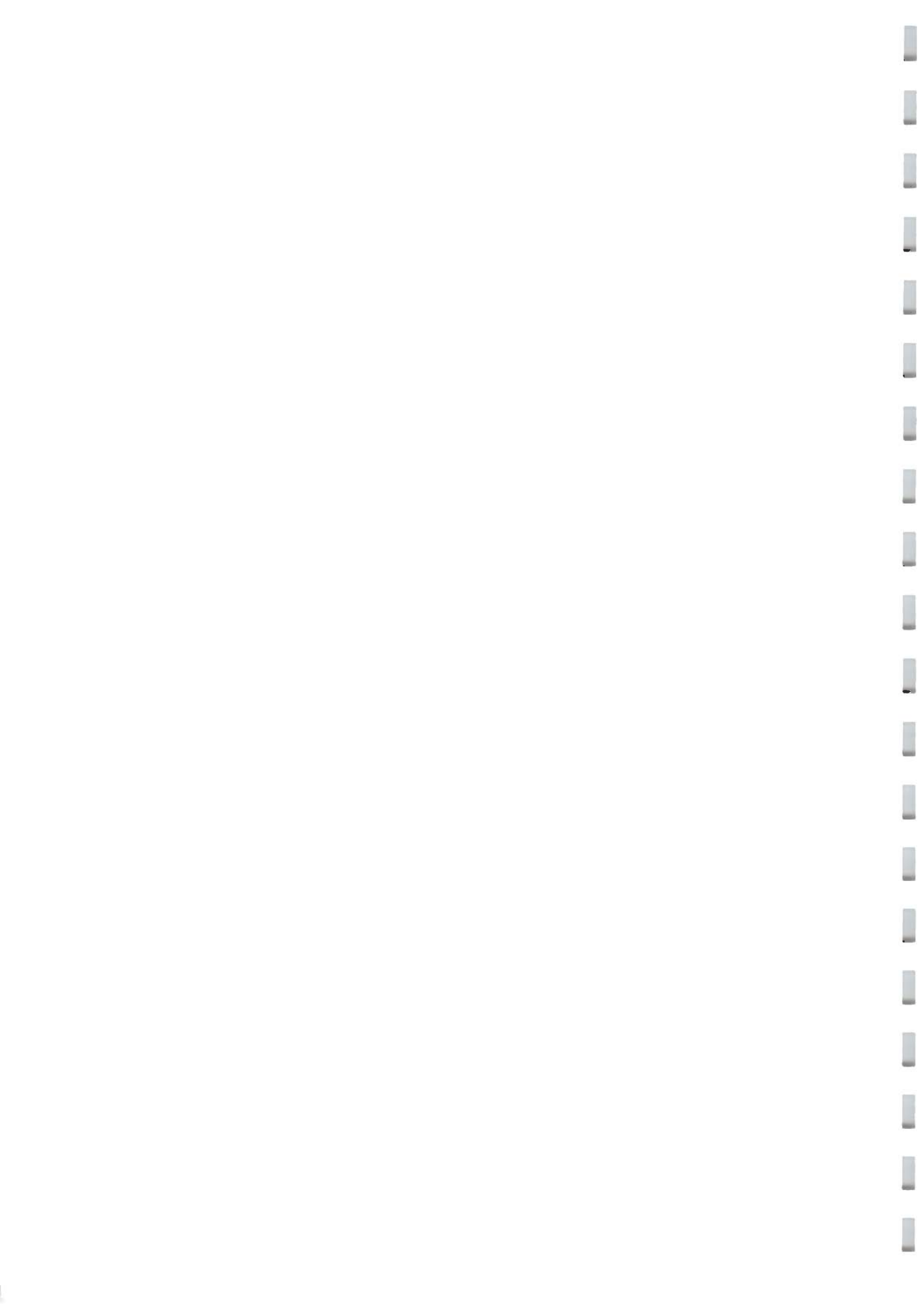


Map 13 : NC 66/76

Surveyed November 1997



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13.0 Map 13

1. Tongue Bay (E)

G/R: NC 6010 6002
Location: Cliff-edge and extending c 200 m into Hinterland
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Dyke
Date: Post-Medieval

Description: On a steep craggy, grassed slope is a dry-stone dyke which stands to 1 m high at the top of the hill but becomes increasingly tumbled to as little as 0.3 m (two courses) as it continues down the slope to the cliff. This dyke has been replaced by a wire-and-post fence which is in poor condition. The NW end of the dyke is eroding over the cliff.

Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Monitor

2. Bàgh Challbacaìdh

G/R: NC 6128 6055
Location: Coast-edge above HWM
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Unknown
Date: Unknown

Description: On the top of an old, turfed-over dune-system at the rear of the beach is a large sub-circular depression with a 4 m diameter at top with sloping sides to a 2 m diameter flat base. This feature is up to 1.1 m deep and there is no associated stone evident. This may be a natural feature but may also mark the area of an old sand quarry.

Condition: Fair
Recommendation: Nil

3. Skullomie

G/R: NC 6140 6065 (centred)
Location: Cliff-edge and Hinterland
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Drainage
Date: Post-Improvement

Description: At the S of the improved fields of Skullomie is a drainage channel that has been excavated down the slope E-W toward the cliff-edge, leaving the spoil from the trench as a bank at one side. This is part of the general agricultural landscape of Skullomie and probably relates to the buildings of site no 5 below.

Condition: Fair
Recommendation: Nil

4. Skullomie

G/R: NC 6130 6070 (centred)
Location: Cliff-edge and Hinterland
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Cultivation
Date: Post-Medieval

Description: At the S of the improved fields of Skullomie is an area of probable 'lazy-beds' which run E-W down the slope to the cliff-edge. These cultivation remains are up to 5 m wide and 20 m long. This may be an element of the agricultural landscape that pre-dates that described in no 5 below.

Condition: Fair
Recommendation: Nil

5. Skullomie

G/R: NC 6155 6100 (settlement: centred); 6154
6113 (cairns)
Location: Hinterland, c 20-170 m from cliff-edge
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Buildings; dykes; enclosure; cairns
Date: C19th/C20th

Description: As represented on the OS 1:10 560 map (1962), three buildings and an enclosure form the main elements at this site, set on the landward side of the 100 ft contour. The most northerly structure measures 10 m by 4 m externally and has a 1 m wide paved surface running the length of the S side. The structure runs down-slope towards the sea. There are no discernible internal features but there is an entrance 2 m from the seaward end in the S side. This building survives in parts to ten courses (1.8 m) high but in others to only one course. Located approximately 6 m to the S of this, and on the same down-slope alignment, is another building in a less ruinous state. The SE gable of this structure survives to its full height and still has a turf-cap at the top, presumably a remnant of the roofing material. Again, in places, this building has been reduced to one course. This building measures 13 m by 4.5 m and is bi-compartmental. The seaward end of the structure would appear to be a store attached to the house but with only outside access. This measures 5 m by 4.5 m and the entrance is in the N wall beside the NW gable. The main part of this structure measures 8 m by 4.5 m and although no internal features are visible, it would appear to be a dwelling. Located 6 m up-slope at the landward side of this structure, aligned at right-angles to it, is another measuring 12 m by 4.5 m. This building has been heavily repaired with concrete spread over the stonework, a corrugated-iron roof in place, a glazed window in the sea-facing wall and a wooden, hinged door in the opposing wall.

There are two blocked windows at either side of the door, piles of tumble at either gable which may have been now collapsed chimney-stacks, and the top of the walls have been roughly levelled-off to secure the corrugated-iron roof. Located c 10 m to the S of the latter building is a dry-stone rectangular enclosure measuring 20 m by 15 m which survives from 3-4 courses to 9-10 courses (1.2 m high) and this has an entrance in the NW corner. Also associated with this site are two clearance-cairns, measuring 3 m by 3.5 m and 0.75 m high and 3.5 m by 1.5 m by 0.5 m high respectively. Both of these cairns are located on a terraced slope at the S of the complex described above and within an area defined by two low turf-dykes at right-angles to one another. There is also a stretch of grassed-over trackway which leads along the terrace at the S to the buildings.

Condition: Fair
Recommendation: Survey

6. Skullomie

G/R: NC 6172 6135 (N end)
Location: Hinterland, c 20-50 m from cliff-edge above HWM
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Revetment
Date: C19th/C20th

Description: At the road-side leading down to Skullomie harbour is a length of heavily-overgrown revetment visible in patches over a 20-25 m strip. This dry-stone construction is revetting the raised ground at the landward side of the road and only four-five courses are visible through the overgrowth. Stretches of this revetment are entirely obscured by land-slip from above but it would appear to have a maximum height of 0.7-0.8 m.

Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Nil

7. Skullomie

G/R: NC 6174 6135
Location: Hinterland, c 50 m from HWM
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Clearance-cairns
Date: Post-Medieval

Description: At the head of a stream flowing in to the harbour is a small, roughly triangular platform of land at the seaward side of the 50 ft contour. This platform is bounded on the S by the course of the stream, on the N by the coastline and on the E by the sharp slope to the 50 ft contour. Both of these edges are further defined by c 25 m long linear boundaries that run toward the point of the triangle but do not join up. These linear features consist of beach-rubble and earth pushed up into a long heap. These heaps are very irregular in height and shape but stand up to 0.7 m high from inside the platform, 1 m high from the level of the stream at the S, and 2 m high from the coast-edge. The centre of the platform is flat, but the spread of the banks at either side and the slope to the contour give the area a bowl-like appearance. At the base of the slope at the E there are four distinct clearance-cairns within the area enclosed by the linear banks. There was no sign of cultivation noted on the surface but the area is largely covered with ferns. This would appear to be a small enclosed field with the enclosing banks acting as protection against the stream and the sea.

Condition: Fair
Recommendation: Nil

8. Skullomie

G/R: NC 6195 6149
Location: Hinterland, c 30 m from cliffs above HWM
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Dykes; clearance-cairns
Date: Post-Medieval

Description: On a terraced slope overlooking Skullomie harbour are the remnants of an agricultural landscape pre-dating the Improved field lay-out. This consists of a turf-and-stone dyke at the N of this complex running E-W and another running NW-SE below a modern fence-line at the S. These bound an area, within which are three large clearance cairns which measure up to 5 m in diameter and which are largely turfed-over. Two of the cairns at the W are linked by a right-angled stretch of a third dyke which measures 5 m by 4 m. There is also a drainage-ditch in this field.

Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Survey

9. Skullomie

G/R: NC 6170 6145
Location: Intertidal zone
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Harbour; quay; sea-wall
Date: C19th
NMRS Number: NC 66 SW 7
Listed - B

Description: A massive dry-stone rubble quay built in the late C19th (Hume 1977, 320) and said to have been constructed for the use of the people of Tongue. However, it was inconveniently placed for access by land, with a dangerous sea-approach, and was thus little used (Hume, *ibid*; Beaton 1995, 85). The quay is built onto a rock-islet and linked to the shore by a causeway, which is constructed in two parts at a slight angle to each other, which creates the harbour at the S. The landward stretch of the quay runs for c 74 m to the NE before turning slightly to run for c 76 m to the NNE, where it terminates on the rock-islet. The S edge of the quay has three stair-wells built into the structure, and a ramped high-tide launch attached to the SW end. On the surface of the quay there are a number of vertical stone mooring-bollards as well as a portable iron fish-gutting table. At the seaward end of the quay there is a large sea-wall which has been breached and has tumbled over the surface of the quay. There is also a great deal of damage to the NNE tip of the quay where there is a large quantity of dressed blocks strewn across the intertidal zone. The road which leads down to the quay has been revetted at the SW where it meets the quay as there is a small inlet where water rushes through at the S. This revetment has been badly damaged by the force of the water that comes through here. The NE and SW ends of this quay are being badly damaged by the force of the waves that hit it. This process is probably being aided by the manual removal of stones from the fabric for use in surrounding settlements. This allows gaps into which the water is forced and it can dislodge surrounding stones and wash out smaller packing-stones which give the structure stability. This is a monumental site, very impressively built, and requires to be surveyed in the light of the effect that wave-and-storm action is having on it in an attempt to preserve its structural integrity.

Condition: Fair
Recommendation: Survey/Protection

10. Sleiteil

G/R: NC 6285 6309 (boundary)
Location: Cliff-edge and Hinterland, up to 300 m
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Dykes
Date: Post-Medieval
NMRS Number: NC 66 SW 10 (settlement)

Description: The buildings of this settlement lie outside the area of this survey. However, underneath the modern fence-lines at the W of Sleiteil there are the remains of older turf-and-stone boundaries either on the same line or diverging slightly. These survive to only one course and the turf has slumped. The cliff-edge sections of these dykes have been stone-built, presumably for extra stability. These should be surveyed in conjunction with the rest of the settlement.

Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Survey

11. Sleiteil Rocks

G/R: NC 6293 6333
Location: Intertidal zone
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Slipway
Date: Post-Medieval
NMRS Number: NC 66 SW 10 (settlement)

Description: In the small bay at the NW of the settlement is a W-E running area of the intertidal zone that has been cleared of rocks and beach-rubble to facilitate the launching and landing of small vessels, presumably at high tide. This slipway uses a channel at the E of the cobble-beach and loose stones have been pushed to one side to create a launching area 3.5 m wide and 50-55 m long at low tide. This should be surveyed in conjunction with the rest of the settlement. Some of the displaced stones have been moved around by wave and storm action.

Condition: Poor
Recommendation: Survey

12. Slettell

G/R: NC 6320 6335 (centred)
Location: Cliff-edge and extending 30 m into Hinterland
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Cultivation
Date: ?Post-Medieval
NMRS Number: NC 66 SW 10 (settlement)

Description: On a rough stretch of ground immediately above the cliffs at the E of Slettell township is an area of 'lazy-beds' running NW-SE. These cultivation remains are located along the NW side (ie inside) of a turf-and-stone dyke which skirts the township and would appear to have been its head-dyke. The beds cover an area approximately 30 m wide and are being slightly eroded at the cliff-edge where the land is slipping. These features should be surveyed in conjunction with Slettell township (NMRS NC 66 SW 10).

Condition: Fair
Recommendation: Survey

13. Caol Raineach

G/R: NC 6329 6343
Location: Hinterland, c 60 m from cliff-edge
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Cairn
Date: Modern

Description: On a ridge of rocky ground at the E of Slettell township (NMRS NC 66 SW 10) is a modern cairn 0.9 m high and which is composed of small boulders piled on a natural outcrop. Some of the stones at the base are lichen-covered and may have been in place somewhat longer than other stones at the top. This may be a navigational-cairn or a fishing-marker and several rocky-knolls in the surrounding land have similar features on top.

Condition: Good
Recommendation: Nil

14. Caol Raineach

G/R: NC 6335 6346 (centred)
Location: Cliff-edge and extending c 70-100 m into Hinterland
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Drainage-channel
Date: Post-Medieval

Description: On a flat marshy area to the E of Slettell township (NMRS NC 66 SW 10) is a drainage-channel cut through the peat. This runs down the contour ENE, turns to run NE and then turns sharply NW to terminate 5 m from the cliff-edge. This may be related to fields associated with the nearby township with which it should be surveyed.

Condition: Good
Recommendation: Survey

15. Caol Raineach

G/R: NC 6370 6362
Location: Hinterland, 70 m from cliff-edge
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Cairn
Date: Modern

Description: On a rocky knoll to the S of site no 16 below is a modern cairn on an irregularly-shaped base built from large slabs. The base measures 1 m N-S, 0.7 m E-W and stands 1.25 m high. There is a smaller example 2.5 m to the SW which is built from seven slabs. Some of the stones at the base are lichen-covered and may have been in place somewhat longer than other stones at the top. This may be a navigational-cairn or a fishing-marker and several rocky-knolls in the surrounding land have similar features on top.

Condition: Good
Recommendation: Nil

16. Caol Raineach

G/R: NC 6375 6367
Location: Hinterland, 60 m from cliff-edge
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Cairn
Date: Modern

Description: On a rocky knoll in a moorland between Strathan Skerray (NMRS NC 66 SW 12) and Slettell (NMRS NC 66 SW 10) townships is a modern cairn. This cairn has a base that is 0.7-1 m wide and is built from large, squared boulders with a cone-shaped arrangement of smaller slabs on top and stands 1.3 m high. Some of the stones at the base are lichen-covered and may have been in place somewhat longer than other stones at the top. This may be a navigational-cairn or a fishing-marker and several of the rocky-knolls in the surrounding land have similar features on top.

Condition: Good
Recommendation: Nil

17. Strathan Skerray

G/R: NC 6433 6328
Location: Hinterland, 200 m from HWM
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Clearance-cairns
Date: ?Post-Medieval

Description: At the W edge of a raised beach is a group of five small clearance-cairns, which have been dumped up against the base of the hinterland scarp, the largest of which is 6 m long by 2 m and stands 0.5 m high. This should be surveyed in conjunction with the township (NMRS NC 66 SW 12) and sites nos 18 and 19 below.

Condition: Fair
Recommendation: Survey

18. Strathan Skerray

G/R: NC 6435 6329
Location: Hinterland, 200 m from HWM
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Cairn
Date: Unknown

Description: On a raised beach, is a cairn which measures 9 m NW-SE by 5.5 m and is mostly composed of small angular stones (up to 0.25 m across) with some larger stones visible below. The visible stones have been piled in a neat ridge, which looks like a fairly recent construction, but they may have been placed on an earlier cairn as turf-clad stones are visible sloping out at the edges of the turf-free upper stones. There is some land-slip at the E and W of this cairn which may impinge upon the site. This should be examined in conjunction with the township of Strathan Skerray (NMRS NC 66 SW 12) and site nos 17 above and 19 below.

Condition: Fair
Recommendation: Monitor

19. Strathan

G/R: NC 6440 6340
Location: Hinterland, 90 m from HWM
1:10 560 Map: NC 66 SW
Site Type: Dyke
Date: ?Post-Medieval

Description: On a low-lying, grassed, raised beach between a burn and the base of the scarp is a length of low turf-clad dyke. This feature runs for 8 m E-W from just N of a footbridge over the burn and is 0.8 m wide and stands 0.2 m high. To be surveyed in conjunction with the township (NMRS NC 66 SW 12) and site nos 17 and 18 above.

Condition: Fair
Recommendation: Survey

