Map 1: West Burra, Coast Guard Lookout to Southerhouse

Built Heritage and Archaeology

The area around Hamnavoe is the most densely settled part of the island but much of the rest of the area is unenclosed and uninhabited. The landscape is generally rugged although the area around Hamnavoe and to the east side of Lu Ness is more sheltered and favourable. A total of 23 sites are recorded in this area, of which 12 sites are new discoveries. Sites of the 3rd to 1st millennium BC predominate and include ten settlement and field systems, five burnt mounds and two cairns or burial monuments. A cluster of burnt mounds together with a prehistoric settlement and field system lies on the east coast of Bruna Ness. Further clusters, comprising a house and field system, occur to the south at Gardins and at Southerhouse where there are three houses and a burial mound. The remainder of sites in this area are of unknown date and include two enclosed promontories, a shell midden, a noost and two probable structures.

Geomorphology

A large proportion of the isthmus linking the Hamnavoe peninsula with the rest of the island consists of shell sand. Further to the west, the coast is dominated by storm beaches with large boulders on the coast edge and near hinterland. There are fewer storm beaches to the north and east but cobbles are common along the upper foreshore throughout the unit.

Erosion

Most of the erosion taking place within this unit is on the Hamnavoe peninsula. The high energy storm beaches to the west of Hamnavoe may possibly be migrating landwards however where there is no strong evidence of this and the storm beaches have been classed as stable. Most of the erosion is due to marine action but there are some areas, on the north and south of the Hamnavoe isthmus, where sub-aerial action is the major cause of erosion.

WB18
HU 375 351
Brough
Possible burnt mound
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair-poor
Survey

WB19
HU 3710 3545
Branchiclett
Wall
Unknown
Poor
Nil

WB20
HU 3690 3590
Hamnavoe
Shell midden
Unknown
Fair
Monitor

WB21
HU 379 369
Setter
Settlement and field systems
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair-poor
Survey

WB22
HU 379 369
Setter
Possible burial cairn
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair-poor
Survey

WB23
HU 3845 3695
Bruna Ness
Enclosed promontory
Unknown
Fair
Survey

WB24
HU 3835 3680
Bruna Ness
Probable burnt Mound and structure
3rd-1st Mill BC
Poor
Survey

WB25
HU 3835 3680
Bruna Ness
Burnt Mound
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

WB26
HU 3835 3680
Bruna Ness
Burnt Mound
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

WB27 HU33SE68
HU 3810 3485
Southerhouse
Possible burial mound
3rd-1st Mill BC
Good-fair
Survey

WB28
HU 3815 3480
Southerhouse
Noost
Unknown
Poor
Nil

WB29
HU 381 347
Southerhouse
Indet, structural
Unknown
Fair-poor
Survey

WB36 HU33NE8
HU 3824 3670
Bruna Ness
Settlement and field system
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

WB37 HU33NE27
HU 3678 3605
Atla Ness
House
3rd-1st Mill BC
Good-fair
Survey

WB38 HU33NE4
HU 3692 3535
Lu Ness
Burnt Mound
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

WB39 HU33NE7
HU 3697 3531
Lu Ness
Settlement and enclosed promontory
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair-poor
Survey

WB40 HU33NE25
HU 3727 3540
Sand of Meal
Structure: house/ cairn
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair-poor
Survey

WB41 HU33NE21
HU 381 354
Gardins
Field System
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

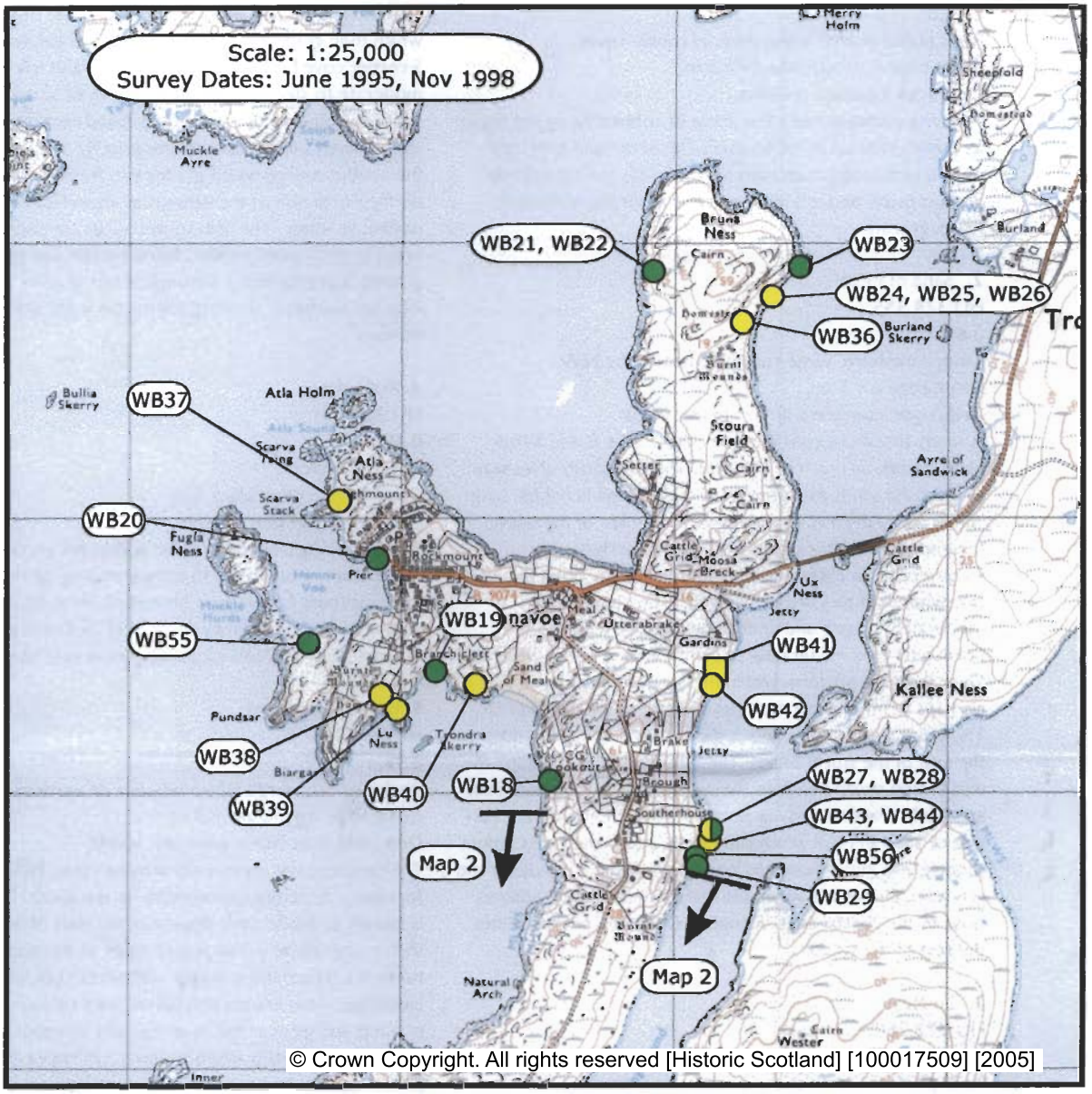
WB42 HU33NE20
HU 3811 3542
Gardins
Structure, possible house
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair-poor
Survey

WB43 HU33SE65
HU 3812 3482
Southerhouse
Structure, poss. house
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

WB44 HU33SE66
HU 3812 3481
Southerhouse
Structure, prob house
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

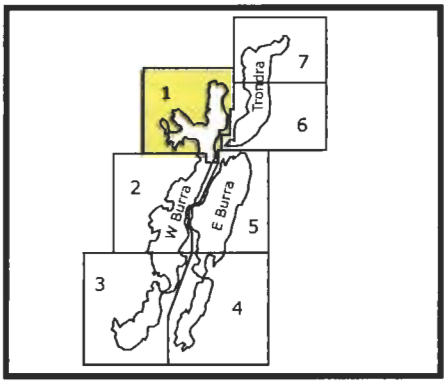
WB55
HU 3668 3558
Fugla Ness
Enclosed promontory
Unknown
Fair
Survey

WB56 HU33SE67
HU 3805 3477
Southerhouse
Structure, poss. house
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair-poor
Survey



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. Coast Guard Lookout
HU 375 351
0.4km
Rock platform with a few areas of cobble cover.
Coast edge is predominantly > 5 m.
Drift/rock interface is visible.
The rock platform has a few areas of cobbles along the upper foreshore with up to 60% cover. The hinterland is steeply sloping with craggy outcrops of rock. Soils are imperfectly drained peaty podzols and rankers supporting unfenced rough grazing.

2. Sand of Meal
HU 374 355
0.6km
Sandy foreshore, some rock platform to the NW
Coast edge is < 5 m.
Drift/rock interface is intermittently visible.
A sandy foreshore runs into the cove on the E side a rock platform lies on much of the west. This eventually gives way to a second sandy foreshore. There is negligible cobble cover within the eastern cove and up to 40% cover of the upper foreshore on the rock platform. The westerly sandy foreshore has a cobble beach with two berms along the west side where cobbles are well sorted. The hinterland is moderately sloping and undulating over the sands to the north east then moderately to gently sloping to the west. Over the rock platform within the Sand of Meal cove there is perhaps 0.5m of good dark soil over the same depth of till. There is a small section with a dark stony soil c. 0.8m deep to the east of the storm beach. The hinterland is wet behind the well sorted storm beach to the west end of this section. Soils are freely drained sandy skeletal soils over dunes on the east side of Sand of Meal which run briefly into brown soils before running into imperfectly and poorly drained peaty podzol and gley soils. Dunes are vegetated with some deflation hollows close to the coastal edge. Rough grazing then predominates the rest of the section.

3. Lu Ness
HU 372 360
7,7km
Rock platform, large storm beaches on western peninsulas.
Coast edge is generally < 5 m.
Drift/rock interface is generally visible.
The cobble cover increases towards the cove W of Biargar where there are huge boulders and cobbles constituting a high energy storm beach. The boulders at this point lie up to 80m into the hinterland. The isthmus to Fugla Ness is boulder strewn. The boulder and cobble cover lessens towards Hamnavoe although there are a few isolated areas of shingle cover. Boulder cover increases north of Scarva Stack with small boulder and cobble beaches to the east of Scarva Taing. Some of the boulders almost make up an ayre to Atla Holm. The cobble cover continues to the east of Atla Ness with some discrete areas of shingle. Cobble cover is up to 90% although an average of 70% is more common. There is one small discrete pocket of boulders north of Setter before cobble cover lessens to negligible to the east of Bruna Ness. The coastal edge is generally rocky to the S and E with the rock to drift interface obscured only by storm beach areas, and defences and pier at Hamnavoe. The hinterland is craggy and rock strewn to the south. Boulders and cobbles lie behind the storm beaches around both western peninsulas. The hinterland is moderately sloping to Rockmount then steep to very steeply sloping along the northern side of the isthmus, which then grade down to moderate and gentle slopes to the S corner cove below Setter. The hinterland has more moderate to steep craggy slopes north of Setter. Soils are generally imperfectly to poorly drained rankers around the storm swept peninsulas with imperfectly drained podzol along the northern edge which grades into freely draining podzol on the north side of the isthmus to imperfectly drained podzol at Setter. The soils to the north are poorly to imperfectly drained ranker, Peaty podzol and gley. Rough grazing is predominant although better grazing grass species exist on the freely draining soil on the north side of the isthmus.

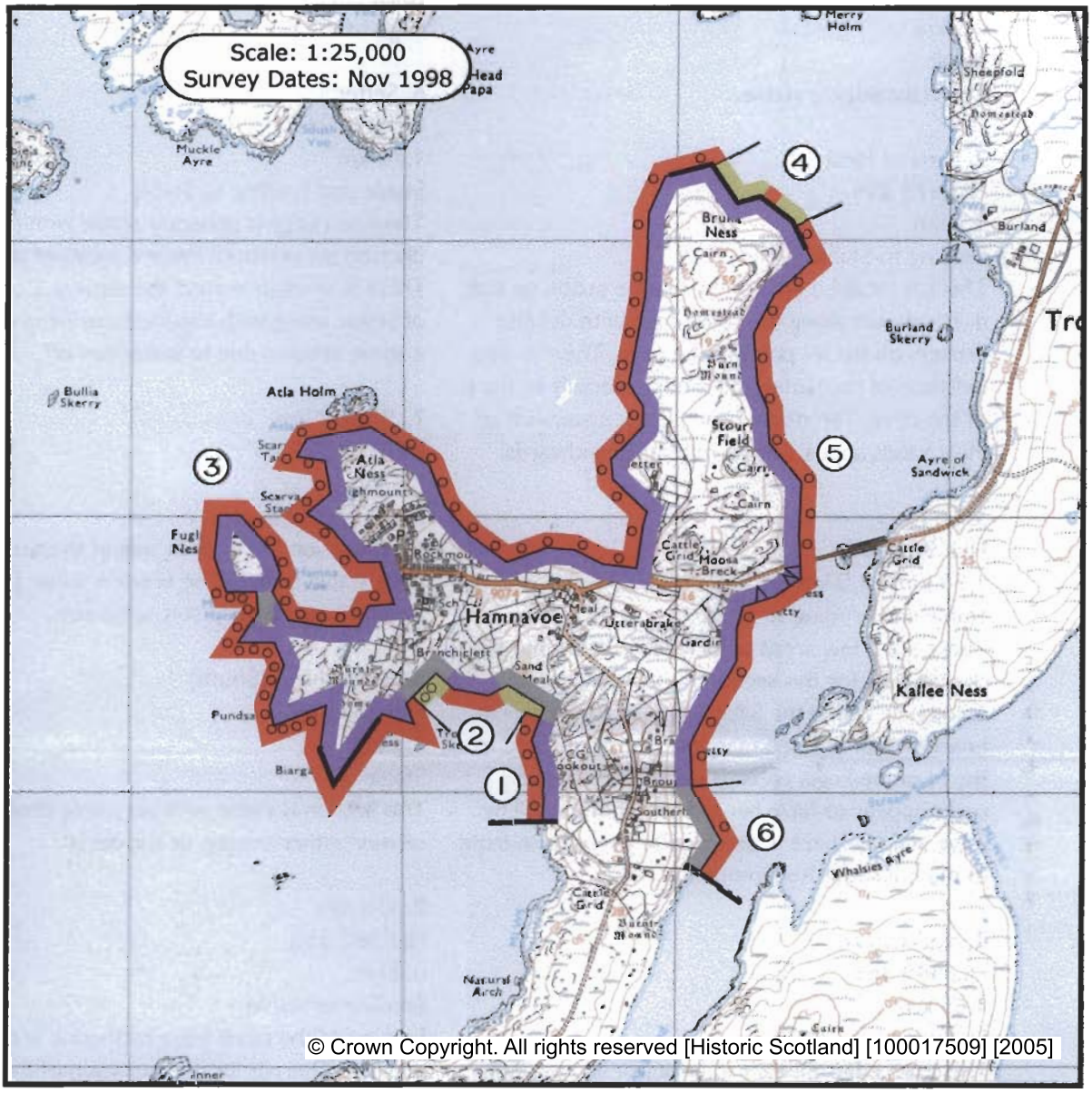
4. Bruna Ness
HU 383 371
0.4km
Sandy foreshore.
Coast edge is generally > 5 m.
Drift/rock interface is visible.
There is negligible cobble cover within this section. The hinterland is moderately to steeply sloping. In section a 4m deep saprolite can be seen beneath 0.5m-0.6m till/colluvium with 0.4m soil overlain by 0.2m peat. Soils are imperfectly drained peaty podzols supporting moderate to good grazing.

5. Bruna Ness (East)
HU 384 360
2.4km
Rock platform, large storm beaches on western peninsulas.
Coast edge is generally < 5 m.
Drift/rock interface is generally visible.
The cobble cover is generally around 30 to 70% of the upper foreshore, lessening considerably to the south. The hinterland is steeply to moderately sloping at the start of the section then moderate to gentle slopes south of the bridge. To the north the hinterland is craggy with some rock fall lying on the hinterland. Soils are imperfectly drained rankers, peaty podzols and gleys to the N and poorly to imperfectly drained podzols and peaty podzols to the S. Unfenced rough grazing predominates the N although the grazing is much better than the W side of this peninsula. Fenced grazing lies to the S of the bridge. There is also some man made disturbance of the coastal edge south of the bridge.

6. Brough
HU 381 348
0.4km
Rock platform with 30 to 50% cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5 m.
Drift/rock interface is not visible.
There is a deeper till at the coastal edge which obscures the drift to rock interface. The hinterland is moderately to gently sloping with fenced gazing. Soil depth is approximately 0.2m-0.4m of peaty podzol which is generally poorly to imperfectly drained.

Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

West Burra Map 1



Foreshore

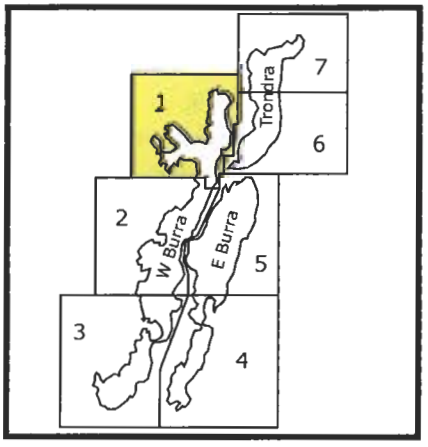
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

Modifiers

- Low edge <5m
- Cliff >5m
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Hinterland

- Drift
- Drift on visible rock
- Raised beach etc.
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand/gravel
- Alluvium



1. Coast Guard Lookout
HU 375 355
0.5 km
Stable
The coast edge is stable.

2. Sand of Meal
HU 374 354
1.2 km
Eroding to Stable
There is localised erosion by marine action on soft drift deposits along the coast edge with definite erosion on the W point of the cove. There is also deflation of the hinterland sands especially to the E of the cove. The storm beach in the cove west of Meal Sands appears to be migrating landwards.

3. Lu Ness
HU 367 356
1.85 km + 1.0 km for Fugla Ness
Stable and Eroding to Stable
There are a few areas of localised erosion but the overall class for this section is *Stable*. Areas of erosion lie within the S facing coves where storm beaches appear to be marginally migrating and to the N of the Fugla Ness isthmus where some rocks appear to have been stripped of topsoil by wave action. There is also localised erosion in front of the houses at Rockmount.

4. Rockmount
HU 369 363
1.65 km
Stable
The coast edge appears to be stable around Atla Ness with a small area to the N where there is minor erosion of the hinterland. There is minor erosion just N of the pier at Rockmount. Very few of the boulders along the W storm beaches appeared to have been moved by wave action.

5. Hamnavoe (North)
HU 379 367
0.6 km
Stable and Eroding
There are definite areas of erosion to either side, with a generally stable area in the middle, of this section. The erosion to the W lies on a steep slope and is predominantly due to sheep where a large area of ground, approximately 100m X 20m, has been denuded of vegetation laying bare drift sands. These are being eroded downhill and over the coast edge. There is marine erosion of the coast edge to the E.

6. Setter
HU 379 367
1.75 km
Stable and Eroding to Stable
The coast edge is generally stable with only a few discrete areas where there is localised erosion. There is erosion around the slipway S of Setter. N of Setter along with localised marine erosion there is some erosion due to water run off.

7. Bruna Ness
HU 383 371
0.6 km
Eroding and Stable
Most erosion lies to each side of the section with a fairly stable centre. The erosion is due to marine action stripping deep soft sediments.

8. Bruna Ness (South)
HU 384 362
1.6 km
Stable
This section is stable with very little observable erosion either marine or sub-aerial.

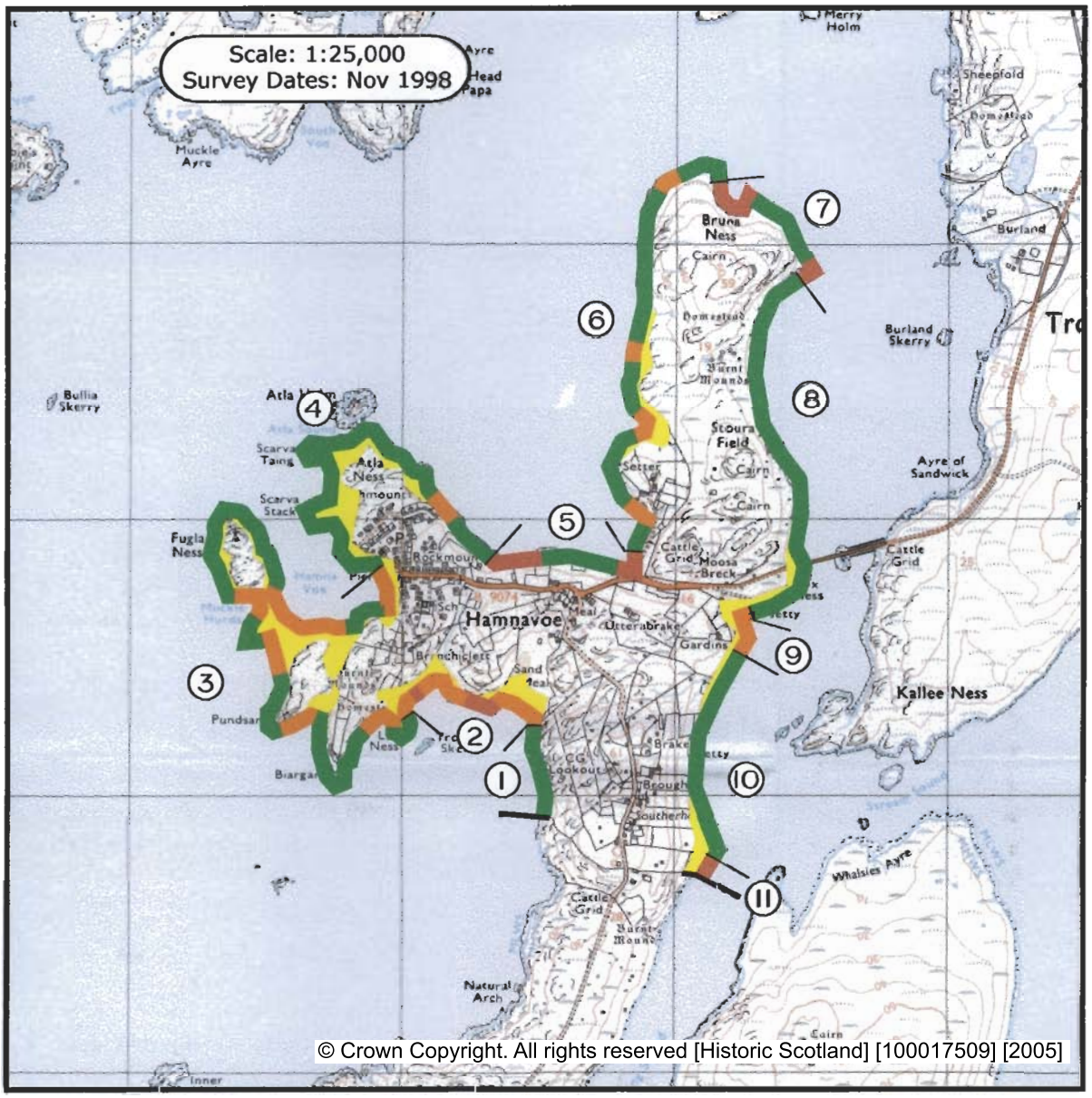
9. Gardins
HU 380 355
0.3 km
Eroding to Stable
Erosion of the coast edge by marine action is minimal. There is localised erosion of the hinterland adjacent to the coast edge due to sheep and sub-aerial action.

10. Gardins (South)
HU 380 350
0.7 km
Stable
The coast edge is stable.

11. Southerhouse
HU 381 347
0.1 km
Eroding
A small section of almost 100m where the S facing coast edge is eroding due to marine action on soft sediments.

Erosion Class

West Burra
Map 1



Erosion Class

- Definitely Accreting
- Accreting or Stable
- Stable
- Eroding or Stable
- Definitely Eroding
- Accreting and Eroding

- No access
- Land below 10m