Map 3: West Burra, Papil to Steina

Built Heritage and Archaeology

This map section takes in the south end of the island. Modern settlement is concentrated around Papil and Duncansclett on the east coast, while the west coast and the promontory of Kettla Ness are uninhabited and largely unenclosed. Ruined croft houses on Kettla Ness testify to late 19th and early 20th C occupation. The west coast is rugged and exposed but some of the better quality land on the island is located around Papil and Duncansclett.

A total of 16 sites are recorded within this map section. Of these, nine sites represent new discoveries. Sites of 3rd-1st millennium date include three houses, two burnt mounds, a probable cairn and the site of a souterrain. These sites all occur on the east coast of Kettla Ness. At Duncansclett, eroding deposits indicate the presence of a site of late prehistoric or early historic date, which given the proximity to Papil, is likely to be of importance. A probable Viking or Norse period long house is eroding on the north side of the sandy bay of Banna Minn. 18th-20th C remains include five click mills, a noost and an enclosed promontory. Three sites of unknown date are recorded on the west coast. These include anthropogenic deposits eroding from a coastal section, a mound on an off-shore stack and a crop mark.

Geomorphology

The east side of the island in this unit is fairly well protected, reflected in the more gentle topography here, whereas the western side is much more rugged and inhospitable.

Erosion

In this section, the coastal erosion is for the most part fragmented into very small sections. Most erosion is evident where soft sediments lie within reach of the waves. There is a small amount of accretion to the north west of the isthmus to Kettla Ness. On the whole the unit has a fairly stable coast edge.

WB1
HU 363 302
Minn
Settlement remains
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

WB2
HU 363 299
Gossigarth
Noost
18th-20th C
Poor
Nil

WB3 HU32NE10
HU 359 294
Bight of the Sandy Geos
Burnt Mound
3rd-1st Mill BC
Good-fair
Survey

WB4 HU32NE12
HU 359 294
Bight of the Sandy Geos
House
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

WB5 HU32NE11
HU 359 293
Bight of the Sandy Geos
Structure, possible cairn
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair-poor
Survey

WB6 HU32NE9
HU 359 294
Bight of the Sandy Geos
Burnt Mound
3rd-1st Mill BC
Good-fair
Survey

WB7
HU 352 295
Loch of Annyeruss
Click mill
18th-20th C
Poor
Survey

WB8
HU 3565 2995
Fugla Stack
Indeterminate mound
Unknown
Fair
Monitor

WB9
HU 362 307
Lotra of Minn
Enclosed promontory
18th-20th C
Fair
Nil

WB10
HU 3655 3095
Banna Minn
Indeterminate structure
Unknown
Fair-poor
Monitor

WB11
HU 364 310
Bannaminn
Structure, possible house
10th-14th C
Fair-poor
Survey

WB34
HU 3685 3051
Duncansclett
Settlement
1st Mill BC-1st Mill AD
Fair
Survey

WB35
HU 360 319
Gossigarth
Possible burial mound
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

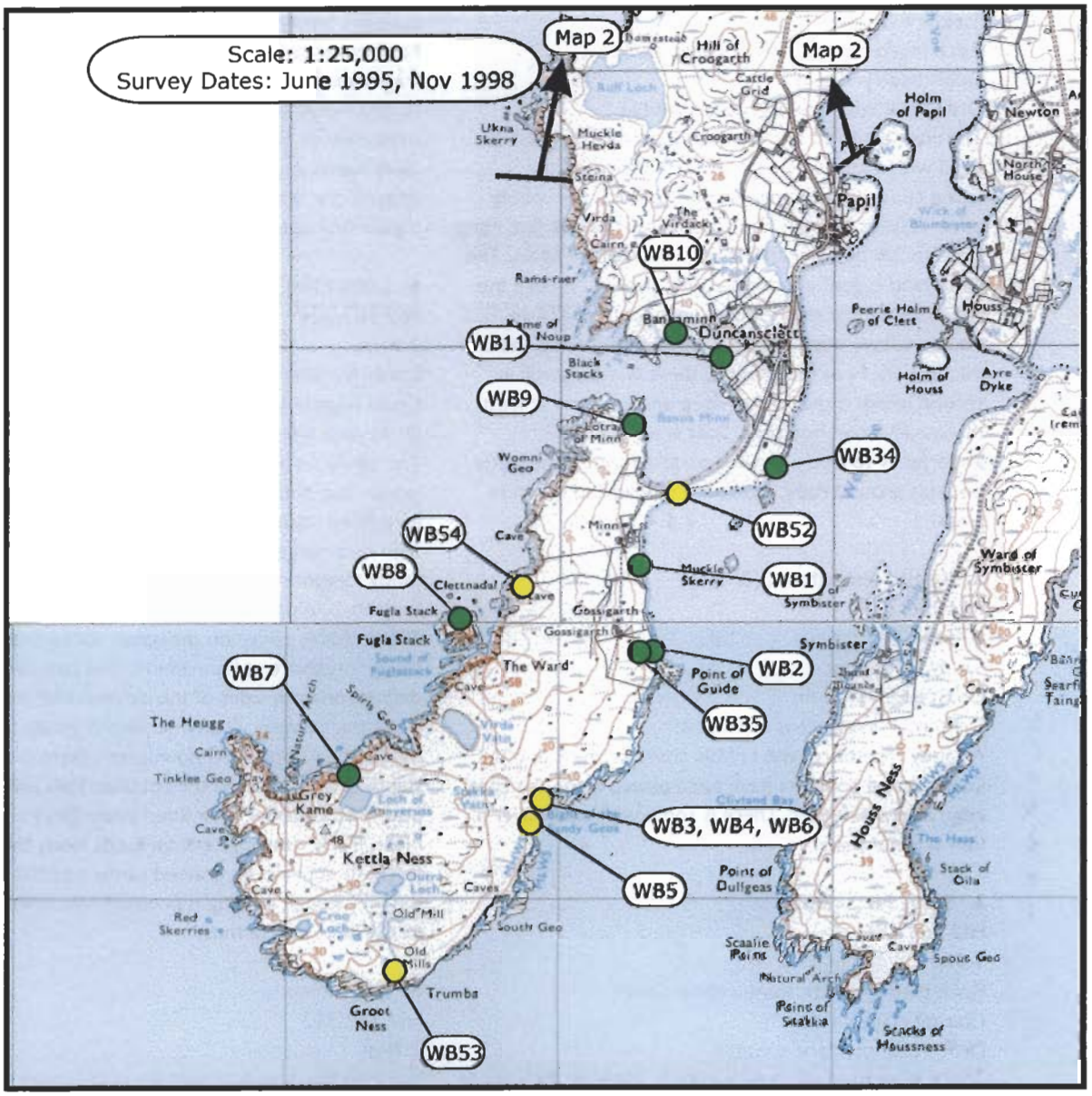
WB52 HU33SE18
HU 364 304
Minn
Site of possible souterrain & artefacts
3rd-1st Mill BC
Unknown
Monitor

WB53 HU32NE4
HU 3539 2876
Groot Ness
Click mills
18th-20th C
Poor
Nil

WB54 HU33SE69
HU 3585 3012
Clettnadal, Kettla Ness
Crop mark
Unknown
Unknown
Monitor

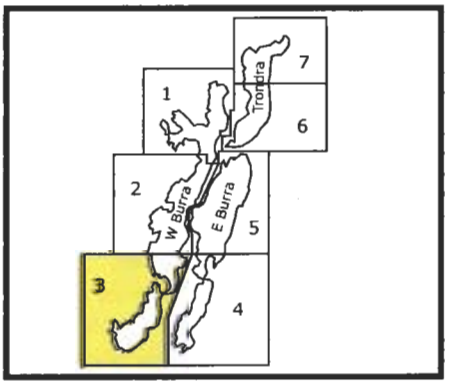
Built Heritage & Archaeology

West Burra Map 3



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. Papil
HU 369 310
1.6km
Rock platform with some cobble cover.
Coast edge is < 5 m.
Drift/rock interface is generally visible.
The rock platform has more cobble cover to the S of Papil with a long well sorted storm beach on the S facing coast below Papil. Further to the S the cobble cover lessens slightly. The coast edge is below 5m, rising close to 5m by Duncasclett before dropping again. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping. Where the road runs alongside the coast edge S of Papil large boulders have been placed as a sea defence. To the S of this section, N of the isthmus, there is a deep soil in section which is over 1.5m deep and contains at least three cultivation horizons. Soils are generally imperfectly to freely drained podzols with some peaty podzols around Papil. Fields are fenced and down to grass.

2. Kettla Ness Isthmus (South)
HU 366 305
0.4km
Sandy foreshore.
Coast edge is < 5 m.
Drift/rock interface is not visible.
A sandy foreshore with cobble cover to the E and W. Gabions and boulders have been placed along the coast edge as sea defences. There is some vegetation over a thin skeletal soil.

3. Kettla Ness (East)
HU 363 296
1.8km
Rock platform with some cobble cover.
Coastal edge is < 5 m.
Drift/rock interface is visible.
There is perhaps up to 60% cobble cover to the very N of this section but it decreases to less than 30% to the S. The coast edge is under 5m, rising slowly towards the S. The hinterland is flat to gently sloping with exposed rock along the coastal edge. Soils are generally poorly drained peaty podzols and gleys supporting open rough grazing.

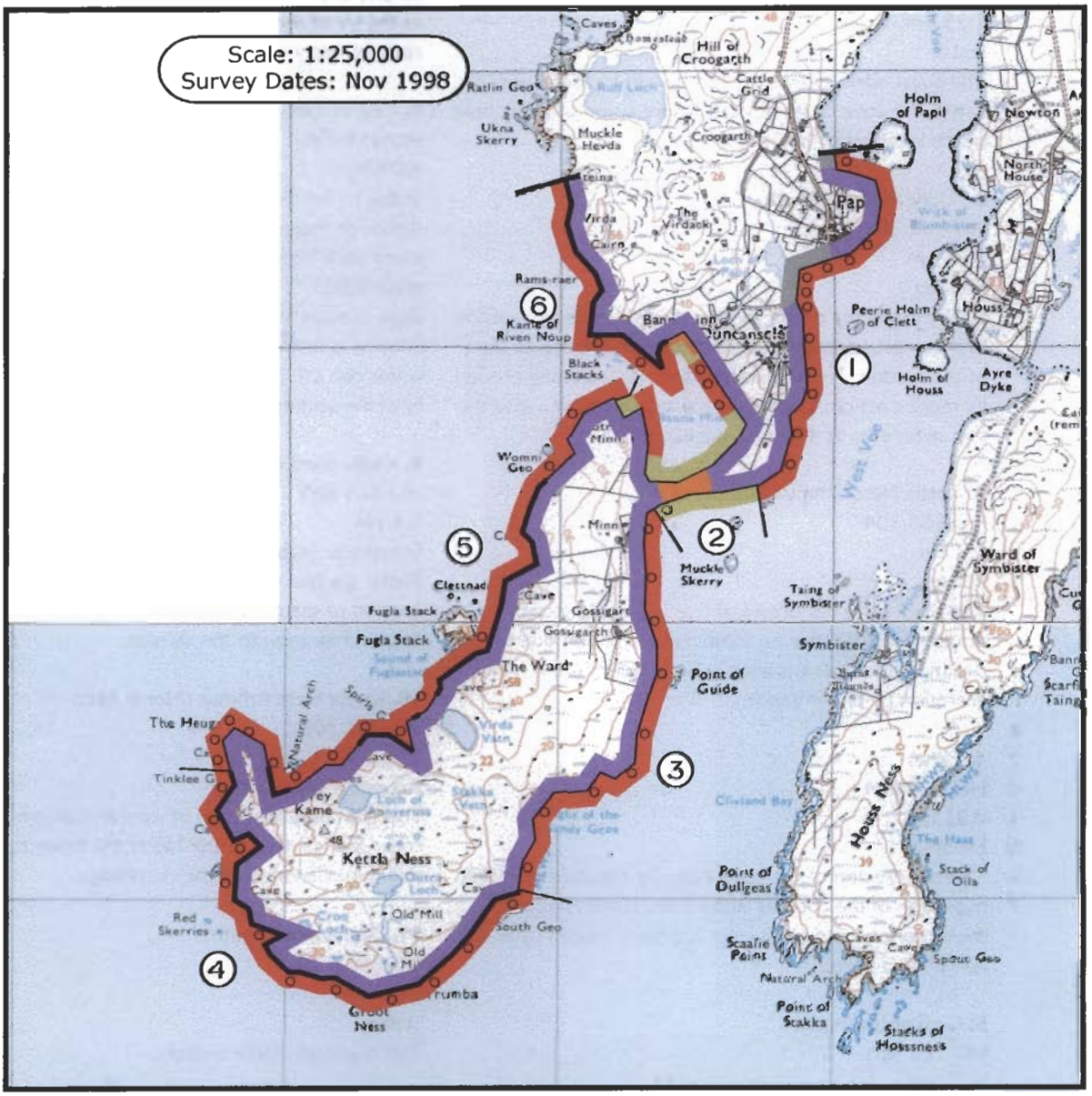
4. South Geo
HU 350 293
2.4km
Rock platform with discrete areas of cover.
Coast edge is > 5 m.
Drift/rock interface is visible.
The rock platform has discrete areas of cover within the small geos beginning with South Geo which has some shingle cover. The majority of coast edge is over 5m. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping with craggy rock outcrops. Some of the rocks around Groot Ness have been stripped up to 30m back of vegetation. A large amount of rock debris has been thrown back onto the hinterland on the S shore of The Ward. To the N of the section there are large areas where rock fragments have been thrown back almost 50m into the hinterland by wave action. Slopes are generally moderate or gentle with only a few steep slopes around Grey Kame and The Ward. Soils are poorly to imperfectly drained peaty podzols, gleys and rankers supporting open rough grazing.

5. Lotra Minn
HU 367 306
2.9km
Sandy foreshore with some rock platform.
Coast edge is < 5 m.
Drift/rock interface is generally visible.
The sandy foreshore within the geo at Lotra Minn grades out onto rock platform before the sandy foreshore returns along the isthmus. Rock platform then re-emerges on the E side before it is replaced by a sandy foreshore at the end of this section. Cobble cover is up to 50% on each side of the isthmus with up to 100% cobble cover on the upper foreshore of the last sandy foreshore at Bannaminn. The coastal edge is well defined on both sides of the isthmus and more dune like along the isthmus. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping. At Bannaminn there is some standing water behind the cobbles. Soils are generally poorly to imperfectly drained peaty gleys on Kettla Ness, freely draining skeletal sands along the bar and freely to imperfectly drained sandy podzols and gleys to the NE. Rough grazing is predominant with fenced fields to the N of the isthmus.

6. Bannaminn
HU 362 312
2.7km
Rock platform with negligible cobble cover.
Coast edge is > 5 m.
Drift/rock interface is visible.
The coast edge rises steeply to cliffs over 20m. The hinterland is moderately to steeply sloping with rock outcrops. Soils are poorly to imperfectly drained peaty gleys and some rankers supporting open rough grazing.

Hinterland Geology & Coastal Geomorphology

West Burra
Map 3



Foreshore

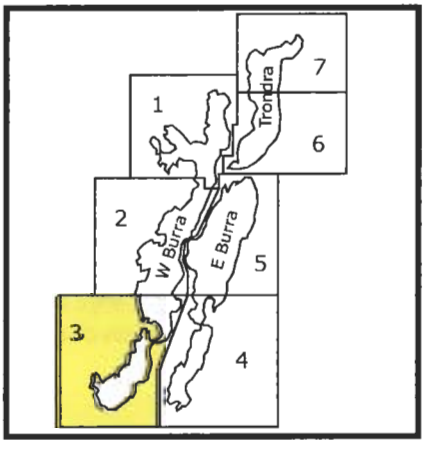
- Rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh

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. Papil
HU 369 313
1.25 km
Stable
The coast edge is generally stable with localised erosion within the cove south of Papil where some of the cobble beach is migrating landwards.

2. Duncansclett (South)
HU 368 306
0.35 km
Eroding
At the beginning of this section there is localised erosion of the coast edge which becomes much greater to the S of the section. The soft drift sediments are being eroded by marine action. Cobbles are also being driven into the soft sediments of the coast edge.

3. Kettla Ness Isthmus (South)
HU 366 304
0.3 km
Stable
The coast edge has been stabilised by gabions and boulders. There may be some minor erosion due to deflation although it is equally likely that there is minor accretion by blown sands.

4. Mines
HU 363 304
0.25 km
Eroding
There is erosion of the coast edge by marine action with migration of the cobbles landwards. Some erosion of the hinterland and coast edge has been caused by water run off and sheep.

5. Gossigarth (North)
HU 363 301
0.25 km
Stable
The coast edge and hinterland are stable.

6. Gossigarth (South)
HU 363 295
1.1 km
Eroding to Stable
There is a small area of definite coast erosion to the N followed by a stable area and then localised coast edge erosion with some hinterland erosion. The section ends with another area of definite coast edge erosion.

7. South Geo
HU 354 287
2.3 km
Stable
The majority of the coast edge and hinterland is stable with only a few minor areas of erosion. At Trumba there is erosion of the hinterland soils due to water run off and exposure. The only real coast edge erosion lies to the W of the section where there has been some rock fall within a small cove.

8. Tinklee Geo
HU 358 300
4.0 km
Stable to Eroding
Although there are areas of stable coast edge there are many rock fragments that have been thrown inland by wave action. It is hard to pinpoint specific areas of coast edge erosion in the areas which are marked stable. Erosion is mainly due to wave throw, exposure and water run off. Most rock shards thrown inland lie to the N of the section.

9. Kettla Ness Isthmus (North)
HU 365 305
0.4 km
Eroding to Stable
There are few sea defences and there is only localised erosion of the sands by light deflation with possible cobble migration to the W side.

10. Kettla Ness Isthmus (North East)
HU 367 306
0.25 km
Accreting and Eroding
There is some accretion of sand and shingle over the rocks and gabions to the NE of the isthmus. There is also minor erosion of the coast edge.

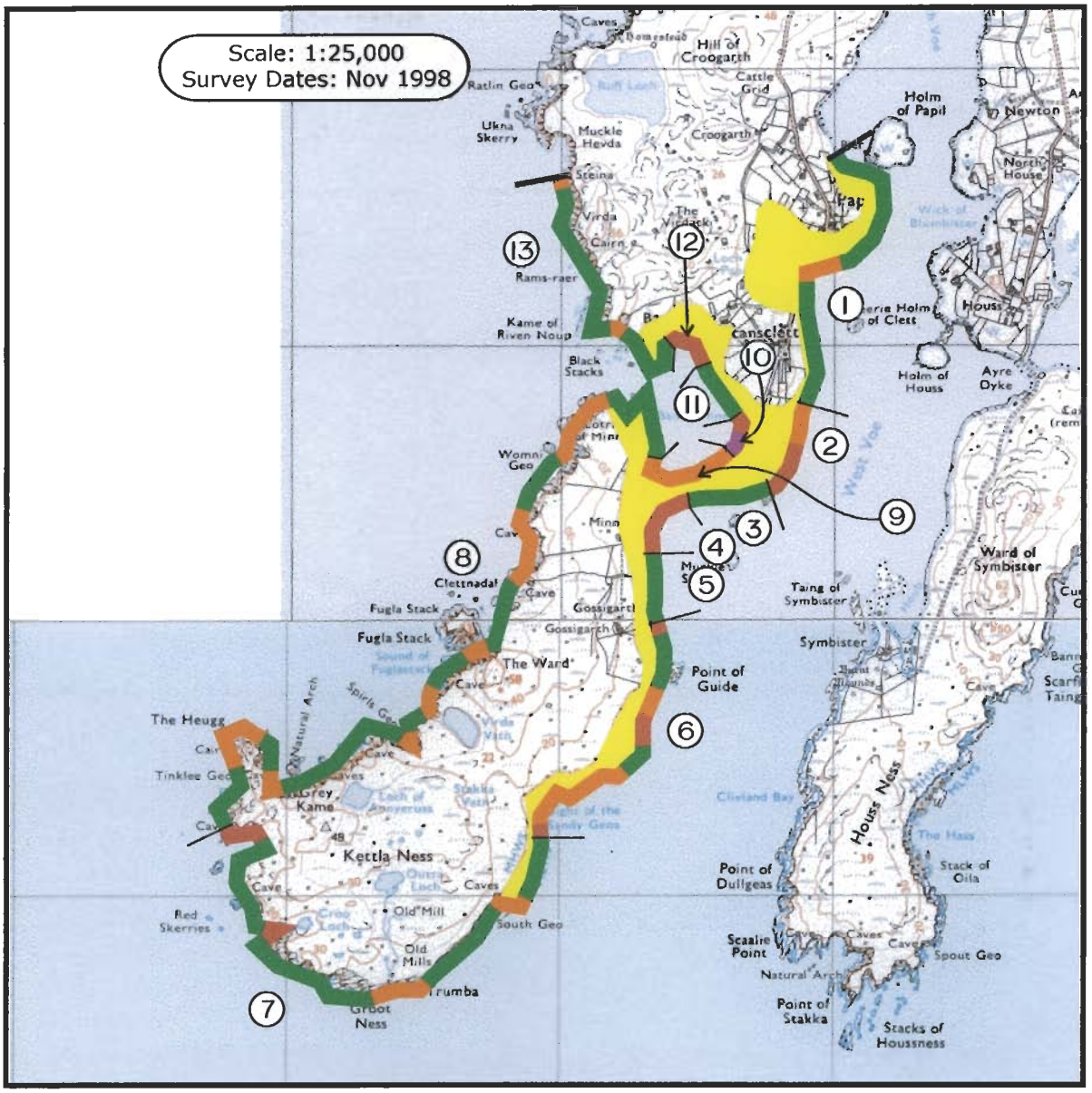
11. Bannaminn (South)
HU 366 309
0.25 km
Stable
This is a small stable section.

12. Bannaminn
HU 365 310
0.2 km
Eroding
There is erosion of the coast edge due to marine action with hinterland soil erosion mainly due to sheep and water run off.

13. Bannaminn (West)
HU 362 312
1.0 km
Stable
The coastline is stable with two areas where there is localised erosion. There is some erosion of the hinterland soil just within the first cove due to soil creep. There is similar erosion of the hinterland soil to the N of this section due to water run off.

Erosion Class

West Burra
Map 3



Erosion Class

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

- No access
- Land below 10m