

Map 4: East Burra, The Taing to Newton

Built Heritage and Archaeology

The area covered by this map section comprises of the southern half of East Burra. There is a cluster of modern settlement between Newton and Houss but Houss Ness, which forms the southern tip of the island, is uninhabited. There are numerous pockets of cultivable land over the whole of this map section. The area surrounding Voe of North House is particularly well-drained and sheltered and coastal exposures reveal substantial depths of cultivated soil.

A total of 17 sites are recorded in this area and of these, 13 sites are new discoveries. An equal number of 3rd-1st millennium BC and sites of unknown date were found. The prehistoric sites include two probable houses, three burial mounds or cairns and two burnt mounds. These sites are spread out along both the east and west coasts and no site clusters were apparent. An enclosed promontory at the extreme southern tip of the island was tentatively ascribed a date in the range 1st millennium BC-1st millennium AD. The seven sites of unknown date include three sets of structural remains, a mound, an enclosed promontory, a boundary and an enclosure. Two enclosures of 18th-20th C date were noted at The Taing.

Geomorphology

The extreme south of East Burra is low-lying and has been cultivated in the past. There are large cliffs to the east and south of Houss Ness and much lower coast edges to the west.

Erosion

The south of East Burra is fairly stable with only localised erosion. Most of the west side of Houss Ness has some form of erosion, especially around Symbister. The coast line is stable to the north west of Houss Ness.

EB1

HU 3765 2985
Scarfi Taing
Enclosure and dyke
Unknown
Fair
Survey

EB2

HU 3715 2875
Point of Stakka
Stone box/cist
Unknown
Poor
Nil

EB3

HU 371 287
Point of Stakka
Enclosed promontory
1st Mill BC-1st Mill AD
Fair
Survey

EB4

HU 371 288
Scaalie Point/Point of Stakka
Enclosed promontory
Unknown
Poor
Survey

EB5

HU 369 288
Scaalie Point
Bank
Unknown
Poor
Nil

EB6

HU 373 302
Symbister
Possible burial mound
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

EB7

HU 3765 3095
Ayre Dyke
Possible burial mound
3rd-1st Mill BC
Good
Survey

EB23

HU 383 316
The Taing
Enclosure
18th-20th C
Good
Nil

EB24

HU 383 316
The Taing
Stony mound
Unknown
Fair
Survey

EB25

HU 383 316
The Taing
Enclosure
18th-20th C
Good
Nil

EB26

HU 381 313
The Taing
Possible structure
Unknown
Poor
Monitor

EB27

HU 378 313
Voe of North House
Structural remains
Unknown
Fair-poor
Survey

EB40

HU 3760 3154
Wick of Blumbister
Structure, house or crue
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

EB43 HU32NE1

HU 3696 2948
Clivland Bay
Cairns
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

EB44

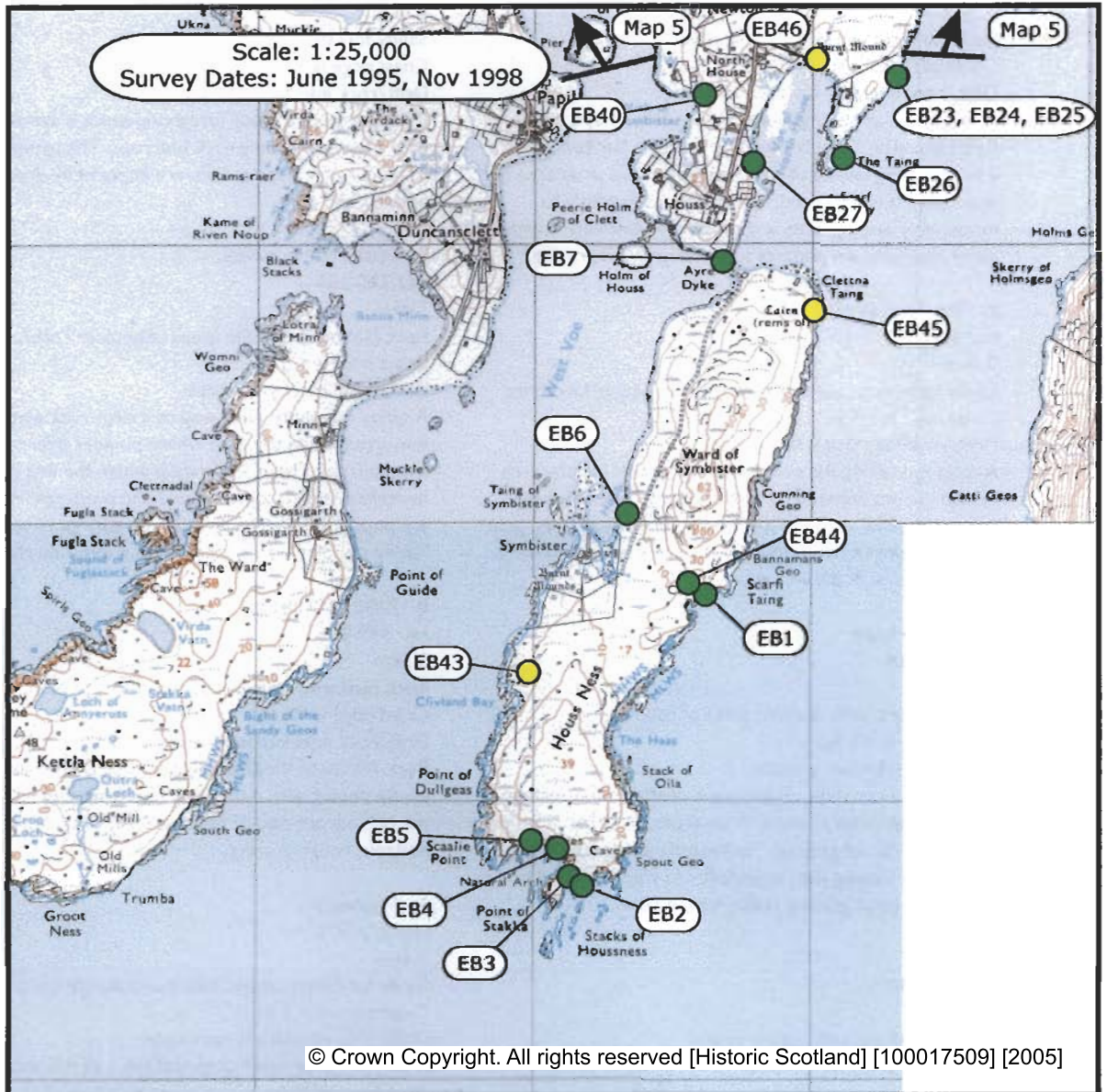
HU 3755 2981
Scarfi Taing
Structure, possible house or
cairn
3rd-1st Mill BC
Fair
Survey

EB45 HU33SE13

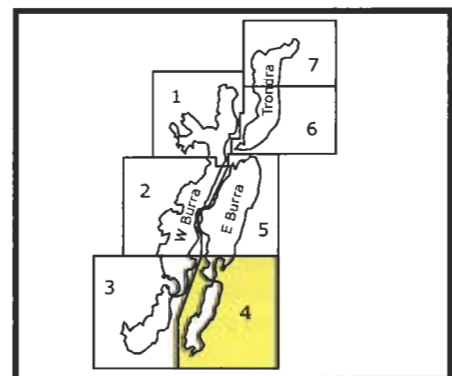
HU 3799 3076
Clettna Taing
Structure
Unknown
Fair-poor
Survey

EB47 HU33SE32-36

HU 3870 3323
Easter Hogaland
Click mills
18th-20th C
Poor
Nil



- 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. The Taing (North)

HU 382 315

0.7km

Rock platform with little cobble cover

Coast edge is < 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is visible to the W.

A small cove at the beginning of this section has a sandy foreshore. The Taing is joined by a shingle bar containing a few remaining talards of soil. Apart from this small area the coast edge is well defined. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping. Soils are imperfectly to freely drained peaty podzols and podzols supporting rough grazing.

2. The Taing (West)

HU 381 315

0.4km

Sandy foreshore, cobble cover over the upper foreshore

Coast edge is < 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is not visible.

A road runs along the coast edge with a wet marshy area behind. Slopes are level to gently sloping. Soils are freely drained skeletal sands by the road and poorly drained peat and peaty gleys behind the road. Rough grazing and some rush species lie in the wet area.

3. North House

HU 378 314

0.5km

Rock platform with discrete areas of cobble.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is visible.

Some sand and cobble cover to the centre of this section; some cobble cover to the S. A small peninsula has 1.5m deep soil, over 1.5m of grey till. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping with imperfectly to freely drained podzols supporting good grazing within fenced fields.

4. Houss

HU 377 310

0.4km

Sandy foreshore with shingle cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is not generally visible.

The foreshore grades into a narrow bar joining E Burra to Houss Ness. Cobbles lie on the upper foreshore. A track runs along the bar ridge. There is little vegetation on the bar.

5. Clettna Taing

HU 378 302

1.9km

Rock platform with discrete areas of cobble.

Coast edge is predominantly > 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is visible.

The geo at Clettna Taing is covered by large boulders, many >1m in diameter. In Cunning Geo there is boulder and cobble cover with some sand over the lower foreshore. Rockfall and some loss of topsoil has taken place W of Scarfi Taing. The hinterland is gently to steeply sloping. Soils are generally imperfectly drained peaty podzols and gleys supporting open rough grazing.

6. Houss Ness (East)

HU 373 290

0.6km

Sandy foreshore.

Coast edge is > 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is visible.

Cliffs rise from a sandy foreshore which is almost cobble free with a few protruding rock outcrops. The hinterland is gently to moderately sloping. Soils are imperfectly drained peaty podzols and gleys.

7. Stacks of Houssness

HU 370 288

1.4km

Rock platform, discrete areas of boulder cover.

Coast edge is > 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is visible.

A sandy foreshore gives way to a clear rock platform with a few areas within the geos where boulder debris has accumulated. There is a landslide within the first cove. The hinterland is exposed with gentle to moderate slopes. Soils are poorly to imperfectly drained peaty gleys with parts having standing water. Vegetation is exposed rough grazing.

8. Point of Dullgeas

HU 369 295

0.9km

Rock platform, cobble cover increases to N

Coast edge is < 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is generally visible.

Rock fall lies to the N of Dullgeas Point. The hinterland is gently sloping with much rock debris thrown up, especially to the N. Soils are poorly to imperfectly drained peaty gleys and podzols; rough grazing.

9. Symbister

HU 372 300

0.4km

Sandy foreshore, storm beach and shingle cover.

Coast edge is < 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is not visible.

A cobble storm beach begins at the S of this section, breaking up in front of Symbister to a cobble covered upper foreshore. A shingle ayre lies to the N of the croft with more cobble to the E. The coast edge is not well defined especially to the N where small talards of grass lie at the coast edge. The hinterland has a gentle to level slope with a wet salting area to the NE of the croft. Soils are freely drained podzols on the slightly higher rises and poorly to imperfectly drained podzols and gleys within the lower areas.

10. Ward of Symbister (West)

HU 376 310

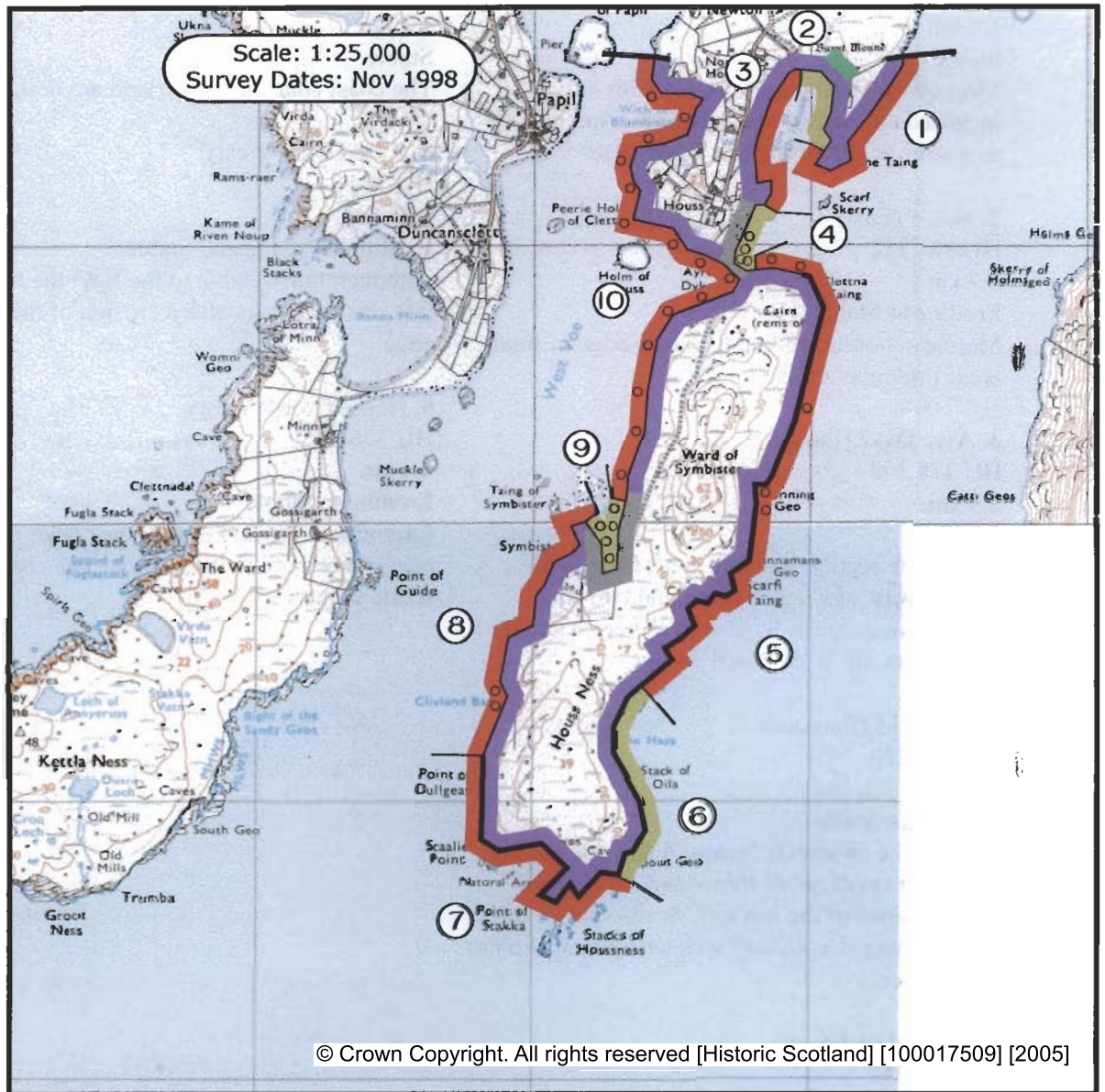
2.2km

Rock platform with 20%-50% cobble cover

Coast edge is < 5 m.

Drift/rock interface is generally visible.

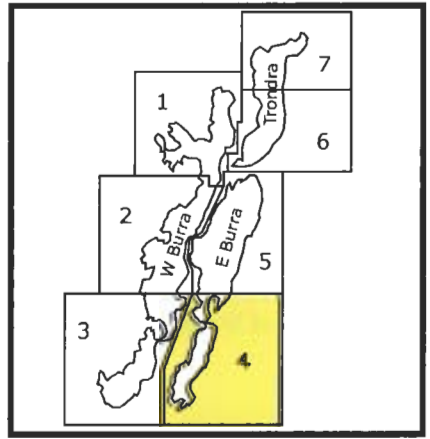
The hinterland is moderately sloping with rock outcrops to the N of Houss Ness. Soils are imperfectly drained podzols on Houss Ness and freely to poorly drained podzols and gleys on E Burra. A small area of dumping lies at the N end of the cove N of Houss. Open rough grazing is the norm on Houss Ness, good fenced pasture on E Burra.



- 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. The Taing

HU 381 314

1.4 km

Stable

Most of the coast edge is stable with only localised erosion around The Taing, mainly due to marine action of the low coast edge.

2. Houss (East)

HU 381 312

0.7 km

Eroding to Stable

Marine action is eroding the coast edge in small areas throughout this section.

3. Ayre Dyke (East)

HU 378 300

2.9 km

Stable

The whole section is stable apart from local erosion west of Clettna Taing and two small discrete areas to the S. There has been a small rock fall to the W of Scarfi Taing.

4. Stacks of Houssness

HU 370 289

0.95 km

Eroding to Stable

Most of the erosion is localised and due mainly to water run off, wave throw and exposure so eroding some of the top soil. At the start of this section there is a solitary area where land slip has taken place.

5. Point of Dullgeas

HU 369 292

0.4 km

Stable

There is minor erosion of the hinterland due to wave throw and water run off.

6. Houss Ness (West)

HU 370 297

0.85 km

Eroding to Stable and Eroding (0.25)

There is some rock fall at the start of this section with pieces of broken rock thrown into the hinterland for much of the S end. There is definite erosion of the coast edge adjacent to and N of the storm beach. The coastal erosion is much more localised to the E and N of Symbister. A small area of hinterland is marshy to the east of Symbister.

7. Ward of Symbister (West)

HU 374 305

1.1 km

Stable

The coast edge and hinterland are both stable.

8. Ayre Dyke (West)

HU 374 311

0.55 km

Eroding to Stable and Stable

Although fairly stable to the NW, the S side of this section has localised erosion of the coast edge.

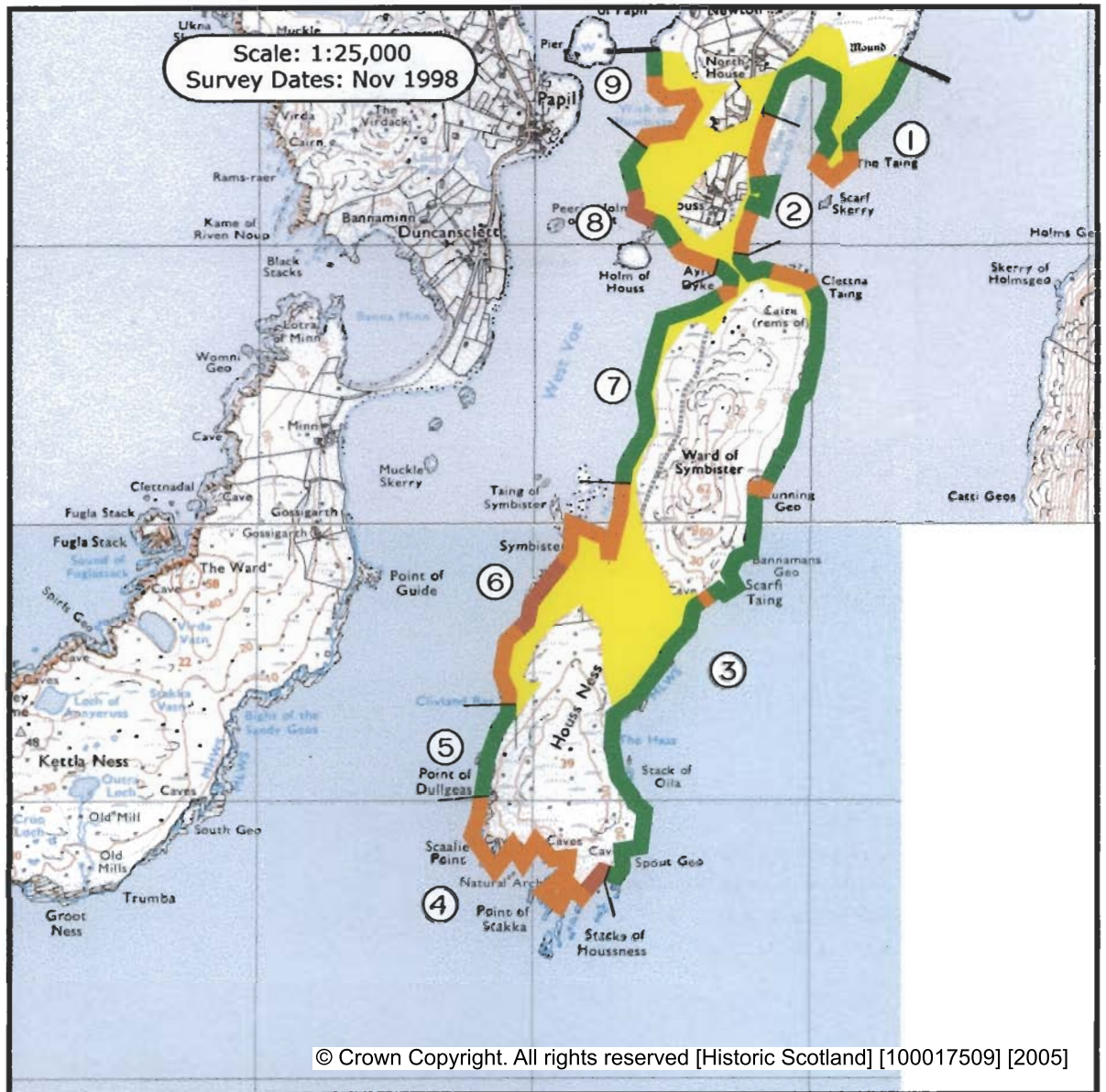
9. Houss (North West)

HU 376 315

0.5 km

Eroding to Stable

Intermittent erosion of the coast edge is a regular occurrence within this section. The coast edge is stable to the very north.



- Erosion Class**
- Definitely Accreting
 - Accreting or Stable
 - Stable
 - Eroding or Stable
 - Definitely Eroding
 - Accreting and Eroding
 - No access
 - Land below 10m

