

### 3.4 Geodha Mór to Badenscallie

1. **Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology:** This stretch of coastline is formed by a subsidiary ridge of the Coigach mountain range, Meall Dubh Ard (145m), and effectively defines the point of transition between the steep, precipitous slopes of Ben Mór Coigach (Section 3.3) and the relatively flat coastal shelf at Achiltibuie (Section 3.5). The ridge terminates in a headland (Rubha Dubh Ard) and is flanked by a series of peat covered coastal shelves. The predominant bedrock throughout the area is Torridonian sandstone, which frequently outcrops in the form of coastal cliffs and on steep, rocky hill slopes. Small raised beaches are located on occasional low coastal terraces (e.g. Achduart and Achnacarinan).

The foreshore is dominated by rock platform exposures, while cobble and boulder beaches occur in a number of small bays located along the coastline. At Acheninver there is a small stretch of sandy foreshore backed by a low, stabilised blown sand deposit. Alluvial deposits occur at the mouths of the Allt nan Cosiche and Allt Ach' a' Bhraighe valleys.

2. **Erosion Class:** A relatively exposed stretch of south west facing coastline, which receives limited shelter from a series of offshore islands situated 2km to the west (e.g. Horse Island). In general the coast edge is considered to be eroding or stable, though the rate of regression is considered to be negligible for the purposes of cultural resource management. There are very few high cliffs and wave notch development is generally weak, indicating only a limited influence of mechanical wave erosion on the coast edge. This is typical of a coastline formed by the inundation and / or emergence of a landscape characterised by a resistant bedrock. The occasional small coves located in valley mouths are considered stable, but exposed environments, and have no obvious indications of either active erosion or accretion. Unusually for such an exposed section of coastline, there is no incidence of storm bar development, possibly due to a lack of suitable shingle or cobble supply. There is little low lying coastal hinterland vulnerable to marine inundation, however many recorded sites would be at risk in the event of a rise in sea level.

3. **Built Heritage and Archaeology:** This section has a relatively high site density, principally as a result of its situation at the southern end of the fertile Achiltibuie coastal shelf. The archaeological record is dominated by small 18th-19th century settlements clustered around raised beaches at Achnacarinan (NC 2046 9047) and Achduart (NC 00 SE 5). These well documented townships (Baldwin 1994) relate to a late phase of population expansion in the region. Several buildings, enclosures, boat nausts and slipways relating to these settlements are located adjacent to the shoreline. A 'cave' at the coast edge near the spring of Uisge Làidir contained evidence of 19th century occupation, and this date is corroborated through local oral history (Baldwin 1994, 305-6). The disturbed fragments of a steel hulk or shipwreck was located at the end of slipway near Achduart (NC 00 SW 5).

Prehistoric occupation of the coastal zone in this section is indicated by the occurrence of hut circles (NC 00 SW 2 & NC 00 SW 3), and a short length of curving drystone wall exposed in sand deposits at Acheninver (NC 00 NW 22) is potentially medieval in origin. It is highly probable that unobtrusive structures or landscape features relating to these periods are present along this stretch of coastline, but as yet remain unidentified or obscured by overlying deposits or vegetation.

No obvious evidence of coastal erosion was observed at any recorded site in this section, though the curved wall structure at Acheninver was only visible as a result of disturbance caused by sand quarrying activities. The significance and preservation of this site should be fully assessed.

### 3.4.1 Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology

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#### 1. CULNACRAIG (EAST)

NC 207 902

0.5 km

*Mainly cobble beach*

*Cliffs (> 10m)*

*Peat / soil over visible rock*

A peat covered shelf at the top of low cliffs above a series of cobble and shingle beaches.

#### 2. CULNACRAIG (CENTRAL)

NC 206 903

0.4 km

*Mainly cobble beaches in the east, with rock platforms in the west.*

*Low edge < 5m*

*Raised beach / alluvial deposits*

A narrow corridor of fluvial and marine deposits at the mouth of the Allt na Glaic-rainich.

#### 3. CULNACRAIG (WEST)

NC 206 903

1.7 km

*Mainly rock platform, with some isolated boulder beaches*

*Low edge < 5m with a short stretch of Cliffs (> 20m)*

*Peat / soil over visible rock*

A wide sloping rocky shelf above low cliffs and rock platforms.

#### 4. ACHDUART

NC 205 903

0.15 km

*Mainly cobble beach*

*Low edge < 5m*

*Raised beach*

A small, enclosed bay containing a boulder beach.

#### 5. RUBHA DUBH ARD

NC 204 903

2.0 km

*Mainly rock platform, with some isolated boulder beaches*

*Low edge < 5m with a short stretch of Cliffs (> 20m)*

*Peat / soil over visible rock, with a small isolated raised beach*

A substantial headland composed of a wide peat covered shelf at the top of low cliffs above rock platforms. A raised beach occurs in a small cove at the centre of the headland.

#### 6. ACHNACARINAN (SOUTH)

NC 205 904

0.15 km

*Mainly cobble / boulder beach*

*Low edge < 5m*

*Raised beach.*

A small, enclosed bay containing a cobble/boulder foreshore.

#### 7. ACHNACARINAN (NORTH)

NC 205 904

0.5 km

*Mainly cobble / boulder beach*

*Low edge < 5m*

*Peat / soil over visible rock*

A peat covered shelf above low cliffs and a series of cobble and boulder beaches.

#### 8. ACHENINVER

NC 204 905

0.35 km

*Mainly sand and shingle / cobble beach*

*Low edge < 5m*

*Blown sand and alluvial deposits*

A narrow corridor of fluvial and marine deposits at the mouth of the Allt Ach' a Bhraille. The terrace to south of the stream is covered with approximately 1.0m of blown sand. This overlies coarse raised beach material, which is exposed in various quarry pits behind the shoreline. A wide expanse of sand is exposed on the foreshore.

#### 9. RUBHAN A' GHILLE DHUIBH

NC 203 905

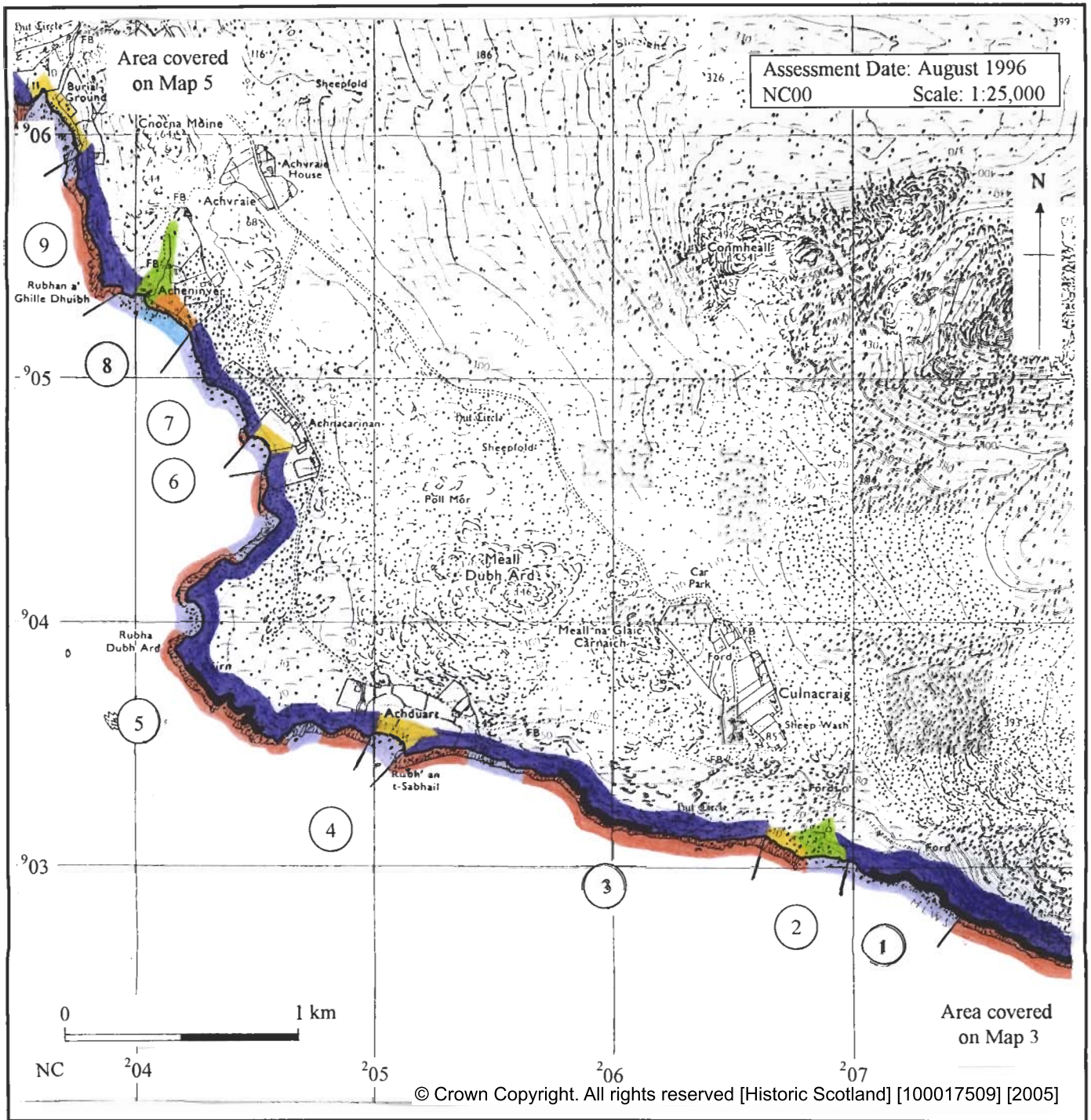
0.6 km

*Mainly rock platform, with some isolated stretches of boulder beach*

*Low edge < 5m*

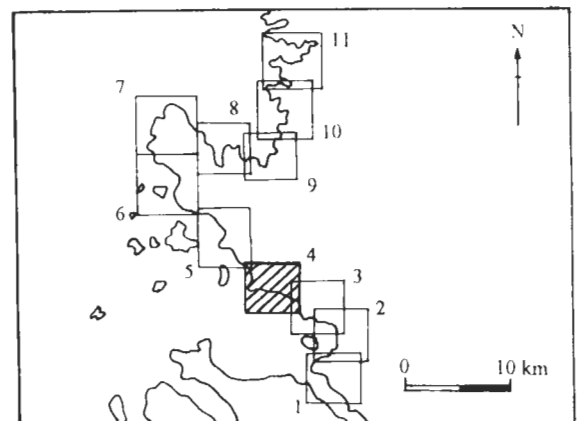
*Peat / soil over visible rock*

A small headland composed of a sloping peat covered shelf above low cliffs and a rock platform foreshore.



Key:

<b>Hinterland Geology</b>	
Peat / soil over visible bedrock	
Raised beach and marine deposits	
Blown sand	
Alluvial deposits	
<b>Coast Edge</b>	
Low edge (<5m)	
Cliff (>5m)	
Man made barrier	
Storm beach	
Human disturbance	
<b>Coastal Geomorphology</b>	
Mainly rock platform/boulders	
Mainly shingle/cobbles/boulders	
Mainly sand	
Marsh	



### 3.4.2 Erosion Class

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1. CULNACRAIG

NC 207 902

1.6 km

*Eroding or stable*

This exposed stretch of coast is slowly eroding, as indicated by the presence of rock platforms, low cliffs and occasional boulder beaches.

2. ACHDUART

NC 205 903

0.15 km

*Stable*

A small sheltered bay between minor headlands with an exposed aspect. There are no indications of active erosion or accretion.

3. RUBHA DUBH ARD (SOUTH)

NC 204 903

1.0 km

*Eroding or stable*

The presence of cliffs and rock platforms around the south side of an exposed headland indicate slow but steady erosion.

4. RUBHA DUBH ARD

(CENTRE.)

NC 204 904

0.15 km

*Stable*

A small sheltered bay located at the end of an exposed headland. There are no indications of active erosion or accretion, though this location would be prone to erosion under storm conditions.

5. RUBHA DUBH ARD

(NORTH)

NC 204 904

0.85 km

*Eroding or stable*

The presence of cliffs and rock platforms around the south side of an exposed headland indicate slow but steady erosion.

6. ACHNACARINAN (SOUTH)

NC 205 904

0.15 km

*Stable*

A small sheltered bay between minor headlands with an exposed aspect. There are no indications of active erosion or accretion.

7. ACHNACARINAN (NORTH)

NC 205 904

0.5 km

*Eroding or stable*

This exposed stretch of coast is slowly eroding, as indicated by the presence of rock platforms, low cliffs and occasional boulder

beaches. This section is substantially sheltered by Horse Island.

8. ACHENINVER

NC 204 905

0.35 km

*Stable*

A wide stretch of beach in a shallow bay with an exposed aspect, situated adjacent to the Allt Ach' a' Bhraighie. Sand has been exposed on the foreshore and this has been blown inland to form a low, consolidated ridge. There are no indications of active prograding, however. This section is substantially sheltered by Horse Island.

9. RUBHAN A' GHILLE

DHUIBH

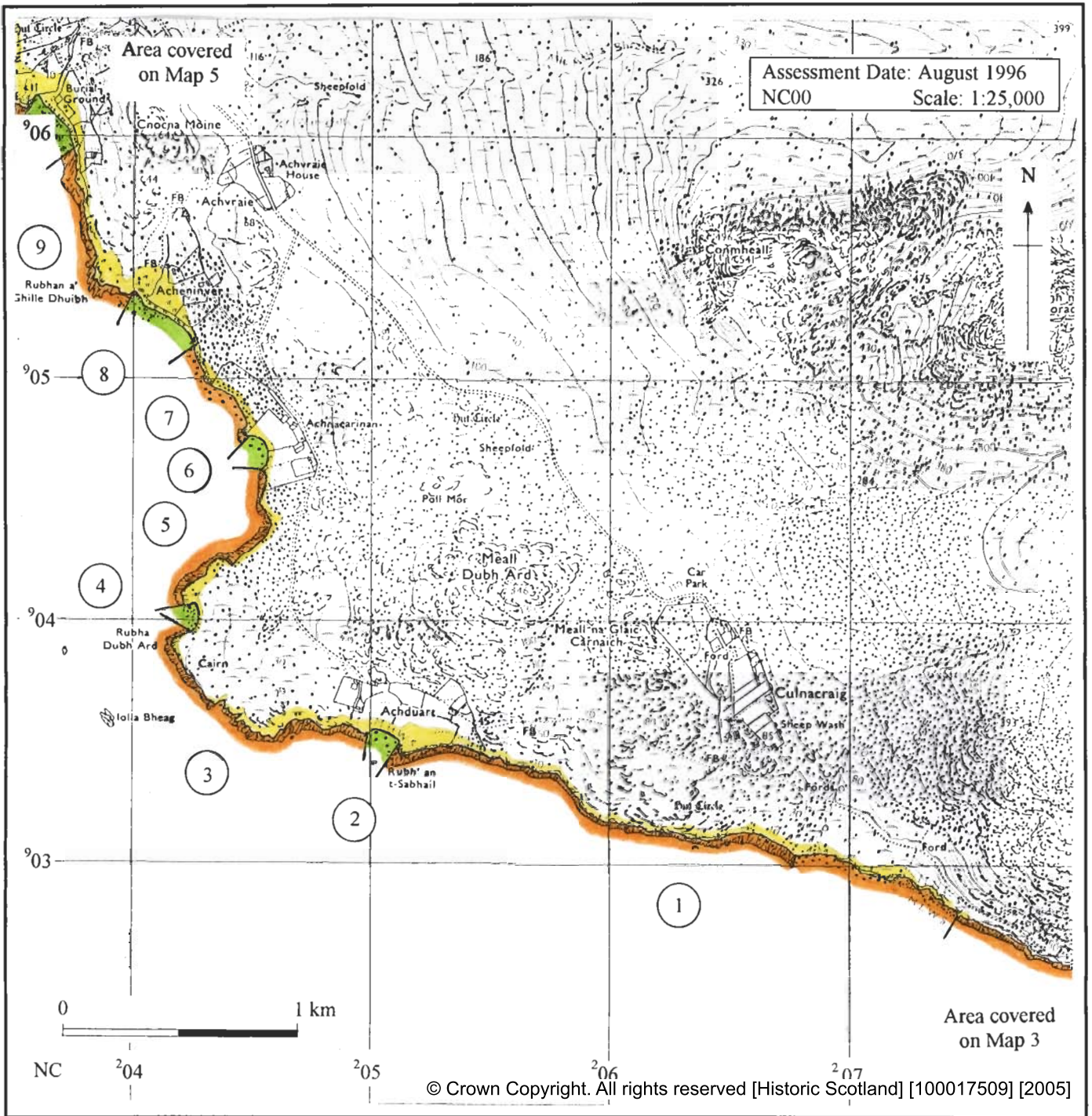
NC 203 903

0.6 km

*Eroding or stable*

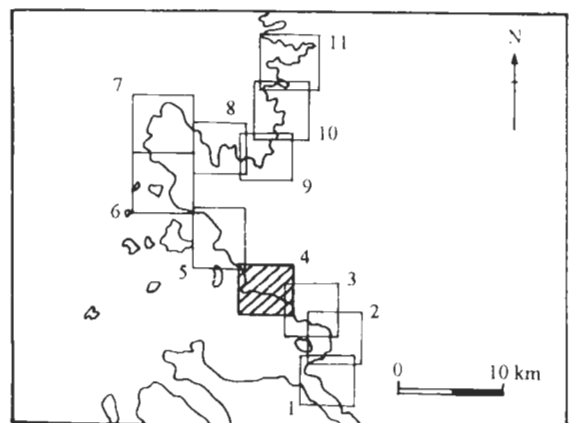
This exposed stretch of coast is slowly eroding, as indicated by the presence of rock platforms, low cliffs and occasional boulder beaches. This section is substantially sheltered by Horse Island.





Key:

Erosion Class	
Definitely accreting	
Accreting or stable	
Stable	
Eroding or stable	
Definitely eroding	
Both accreting and eroding	
Land below 10m	

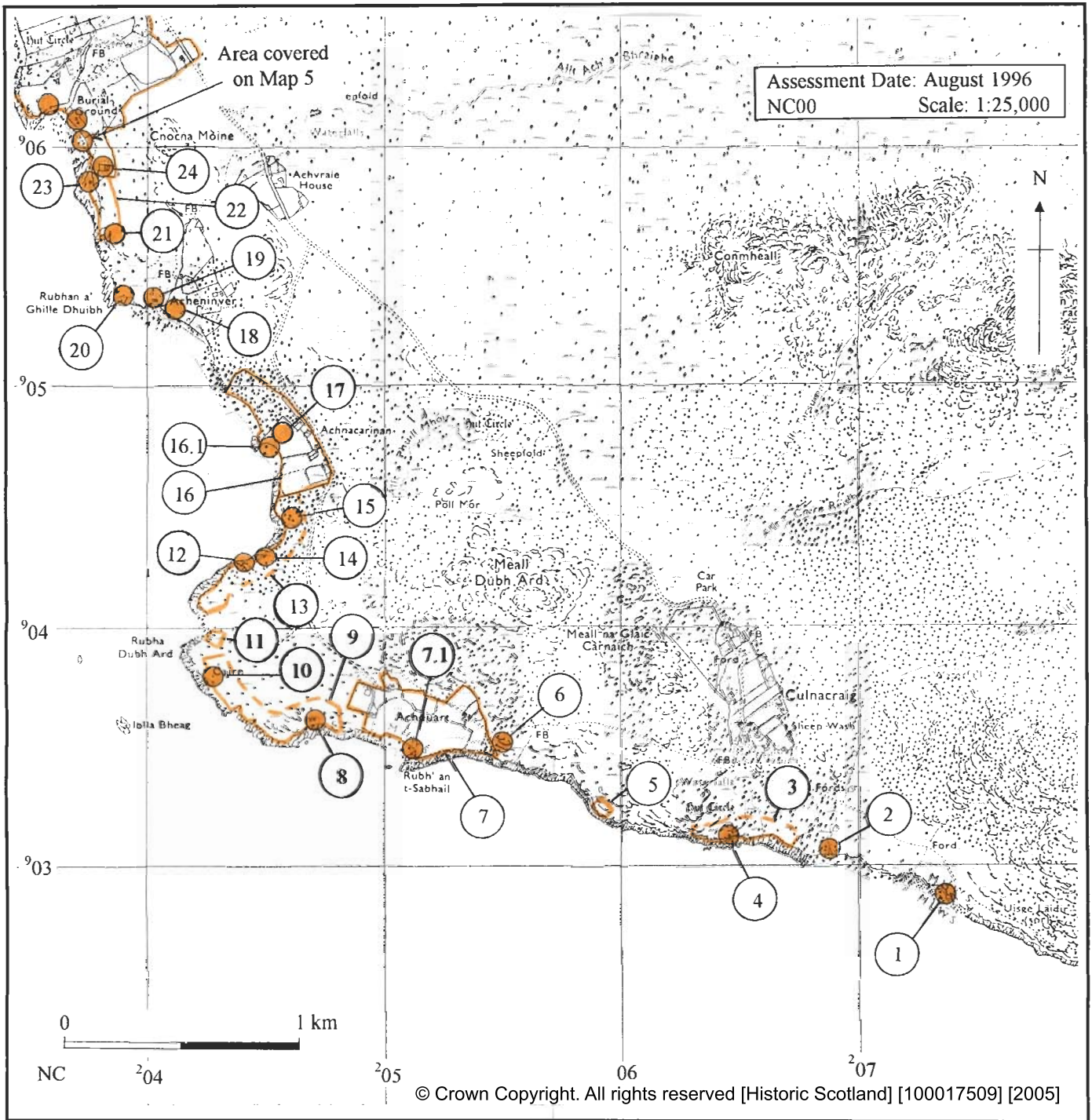


### 3.4.3 Built Heritage and Archaeology

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1. UISGE LÀIDIR Cave NC 2074 9029 19th-20th Century Fair Nil	9. RUBHA DUBH ARD Peat cuttings NC 2045 9035 18th-20th Century Fair Nil	Fair Nil  17. ACHNACARINAN Hut circle NC 00 SW 2 Late Prehistoric Fair Nil
2. ALLT NAN COSICHE Circular structures NC 2069 9031 16th-19th Century Fair Nil	10. RUBHA DUBH ARD Trigonometric cairn NC 2043 9038 19th Century Fair Nil	18. ACHENINVER Structures, field systems NC 00 NW 22 Pre-improvement Poor Survey
3. CULNACRAIG Cultivation, peat cuttings NC 2066 9032 18th-19th Century Fair Nil	11. RUBHA DUBH ARD Cultivation NC 2043 9039 16th-19th Century Fair Nil	19. ACHENINVER Pen complex NC 2040 9054 19th-20th Century Good Nil
4. CULNACRAIG Building, slipway NC 2065 9031 18th-19th Century Fair Nil	12. RUBHA DUBH ARD Building, field systems, boat naust, slipway NC 2044 9042 18th-19th Century Fair Nil	20. ACHENINVER Boat naust NC 2039 9054 18th-19th Century Good Nil
5. CULNACRAIG Peat cuttings NC 2059 9032 18th-20th Century Fair Nil	13. RUBHA DUBH ARD Peat cuttings NC 2045 9042 18th-19th Century Fair Nil	21. CNOONA MOINE Hut NC 2039 9056 16th-19th Century Not located Nil
6. ACHDUART Building NC 2055 9035 18th-20th Century Not located Nil	14. ACHNACARINAN Hut circle NC 00 SW 3 Late Prehistoric Fair Nil	22. CNOONA MOINE Cultivation, field systems NC 2038 9057 16th-19th Century Fair Nil
7. ACHDUART Township, field systems, slipway NC 00 SE 5 7.1 Building, NC 2052 9035 18th-20th Century Fair Nil	15. ACHNACARINAN Structure NC 2046 9044 18th-19th Century Fair Nil	23. CNOONA MOINE Boat naust, slipway NC 2038 9059 19th-20th Century Fair Monitor
8. ACHDUART Building complex, hulk NC 00 SW 5 18th-20th Century Fair Nil	16. ACHNACARINAN Township, field systems, cultivation NC 2046 9047 16.1 Structure, slipways, boat naust (?), hulk NC 2045 9047 18th-20th Century	24. CNOONA MOINE Building complex NC 00 NW 55 19th Century Fair Nil

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Key:

<i>Protected Ancient Monument</i>	●
<i>Listed Historic Building</i>	+
<i>Other known Ancient Monument</i>	●
<i>Undesignated wreck</i>	○
<i>Site complex</i>	▭
<i>Undetermined boundary</i>	▭

