

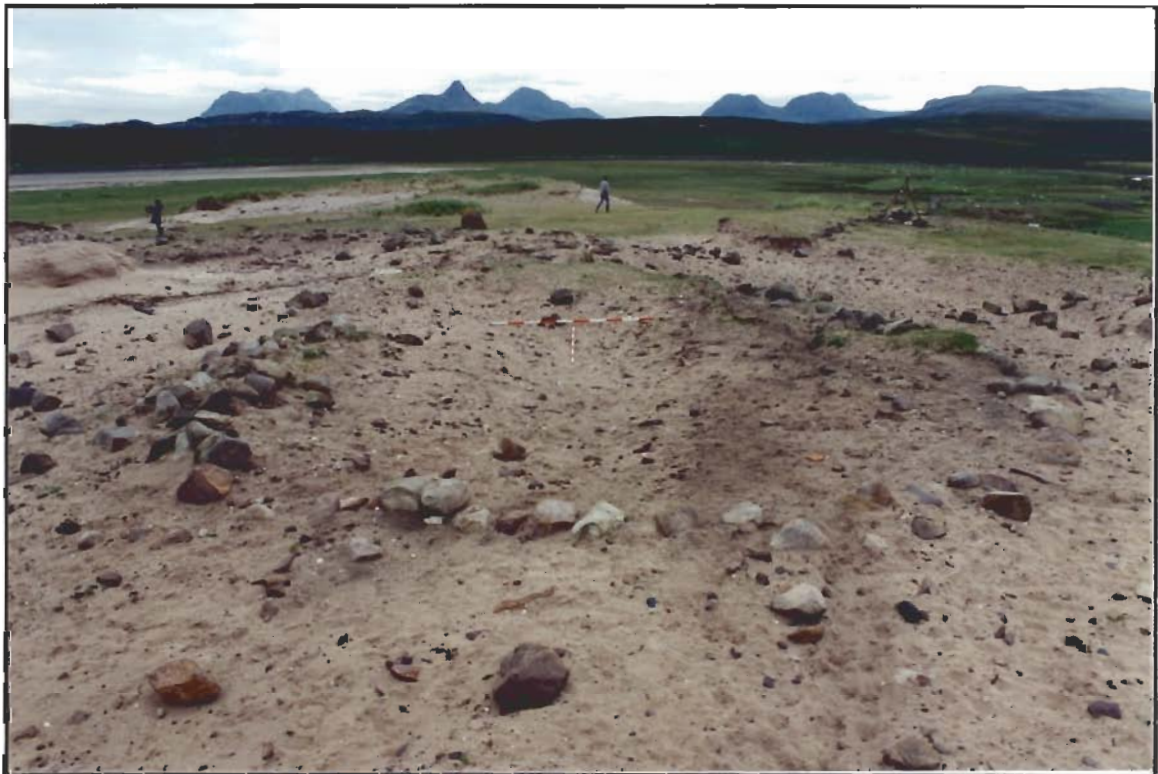


# Coastal Assessment Survey Ullapool to Lochinver

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October 1996

Volume 2



*Prepared for Historic Scotland*

*by*



**ANDREW LONG**

*Consultant Archaeologist*

*in association with*



**UNIVERSITY  
of  
GLASGOW**

Cover: Achnahaird Sands (NC 01 SW 2). Building 2, facing east south east towards the Coigach mountains. Note stock damage to the walls and interior of the structure.

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Coastal Assessment Survey  
Ullapool to Lochinver

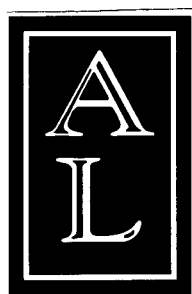
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*A Report Prepared for Historic Scotland*

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## Abstract

In August 1996 a coastal assessment survey was conducted along a 115 km stretch of the north western coastline of mainland Scotland between the towns of Ullapool and Lochinver. The principal aims of the survey were to document the archaeology of the coastal zone and assess the impact of coastal related processes on the cultural environment. The survey involved an inspection of both the intertidal zone and a 50m wide coastal strip above the high water mark.

In summary 192 sites were inspected, of which 136 were new recordings. The sites primarily consisted of structures and field systems associated with 18th-19th century crofting townships, however several structures and deposits dating back to the prehistoric and medieval periods were also recorded. A total of 5 sites were considered to be actively eroding, including the most significant site recorded, the multi-period structural complex and midden deposits at Achnahaird Sands (NC 01 SW 2).

Overall the coastline was considered to eroding, though generally at a rate negligible for the purposes of cultural resource management. It was noted that a significant proportion of the recorded sites exist in exposed and low lying positions and are thus highly vulnerable to marine transgression or erosion under extreme conditions.

This is Volume 2 of the report, which contains a site gazetteer, glossary of definitions, list of sources, organisations and individuals consulted and a list of previously unrecorded sites. A selection of sketch plans and colour plates have been appended to the rear of the report.

## Abbreviations

ALS:	Afforestation Land Survey	N:	North
APU:	Aerial Photograph Unit, RCAHMS	NMAS:	National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland
ASL:	Above Sea Level	NMRS:	National Monuments Record of Scotland
E:	East	RCAHMS:	Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland
GUAD:	Glasgow University Archaeology Department	S:	South
GUDGTS:	Glasgow University Department of Geography & Topographic Science	SIMS:	Scottish Institute of Maritime Studies
HS:	Historic Scotland	SNH:	Scottish Natural Heritage
HWM:	High Water Mark (mean)	SSS:	School of Scottish Studies, Edinburgh University
LWM:	Low Water Mark (mean)	W:	West
MOLARS:	Medieval or Later Rural Settlement		

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## PREFACE TO VOLUME 2

This document comprises Volume 2 of a coastal assessment survey conducted in August 1996 between the towns of Ullapool and Lochinver on the north west mainland coast of Scotland. This part contains supplemental information to the main report (Volume 1), and includes detailed site information in a site gazetteer (Appendix 1), a glossary (Appendix 2), a list of parties consulted (Appendix 3) and a separate list of previously undocumented sites (Appendix 4).

At the request of the project sponsors (Historic Scotland) the initial emphasis was placed on the production of Volume 1, which contains the basic survey data, maps, analysis and recommendations. Since the production of the 2 volumes comprising this report has occurred in two stages, it is inevitable that there have been both minor revisions to the contents of Volume 1 and additions to the planned contents of Volume 2. These changes are listed below:

- Occasional minor reassessment has been made to site interpretation and recommendations which generally do not effect the overall results of this study. In case of doubt, Volume 2 should be considered the more up to date source of information. It is not considered warranted to list each minor correction, except in the case of recommendations. The following additional sites require occasional monitoring:

a)	<i>Achduart</i>	<i>Settlement</i>
b)	<i>Camas a' Bhothain</i>	<i>Settlement</i>
c)	<i>Loch Kirkaig</i>	<i>Standing stone (?)</i>

In other cases where only minor erosion is evident and no immediate action is required, a note has been appended to the condition section of each site entry.

- Additional references not contained within the Volume 1 Bibliography (Section 6) have been inserted in the form of footnotes. While not judged the best editorial style, for consistency with Volume 1 the Harvard system is still used for works already cited.
- A selection of measured sketch plans have been included at the back of the volume, generally for sites with a high degree of complexity not adequately illustrated elsewhere. These are duplications of the original survey sketch plans with only occasional annotation (e.g. site reference numbers). It is hoped that the interpretational value of these useful illustrations will outweigh their rough presentation.

A site numbering system has been used throughout this volume which cross-references with the site lists and survey maps in Volume 1 (e.g. 5/3.1.2 = survey map 1, site 3, element 1, building 2). In instances where sites are referred to in the text this system is consistently employed, except in the case of sites located outside the study area when NMRS nos. are used. An ALS number has been included if a site had previously been recorded as part of the RCAHMS Achiltibuie Afforestation Land Survey (e.g. ALS 247).

The Site Gazetteer (Appendix 1) contains an expanded version of the data contained in the site lists of Volume 1. Many of the site dimension measurements have been gained from the previous ALS survey records. Two variations in survey methodology should be noted here. Firstly, in some cases the ALS measured internal, rather than external dimensions of buildings. Secondly, the maximum height of wall measurements taken by the ALS generally excluded the additional height of a gable. Unless stated otherwise, all measurements in this study are external dimensions, and include the gable height.

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The photographs, maps and plans used in the report were produced by Jenny Lee, Fred Stevenson and Andrew Long. Any errors, opinions and misinterpretations contained within this report are the sole responsibility of the author.