

Map Introduction: Benbecula Map 4

This section covers the north west coast of Benbecula. It extends from Baile a'Mhanaich to Uachdar, skirting around the periphery of the Baile a'Mhanaich airport. The coast is low lying and, with the exception of the area around Baile a'Mhanaich, there is no modern settlement within the coastal zone.

A total of four sites were found in this area, all of which are new discoveries. They represent farmsteads and field systems of 18th-21st C date.

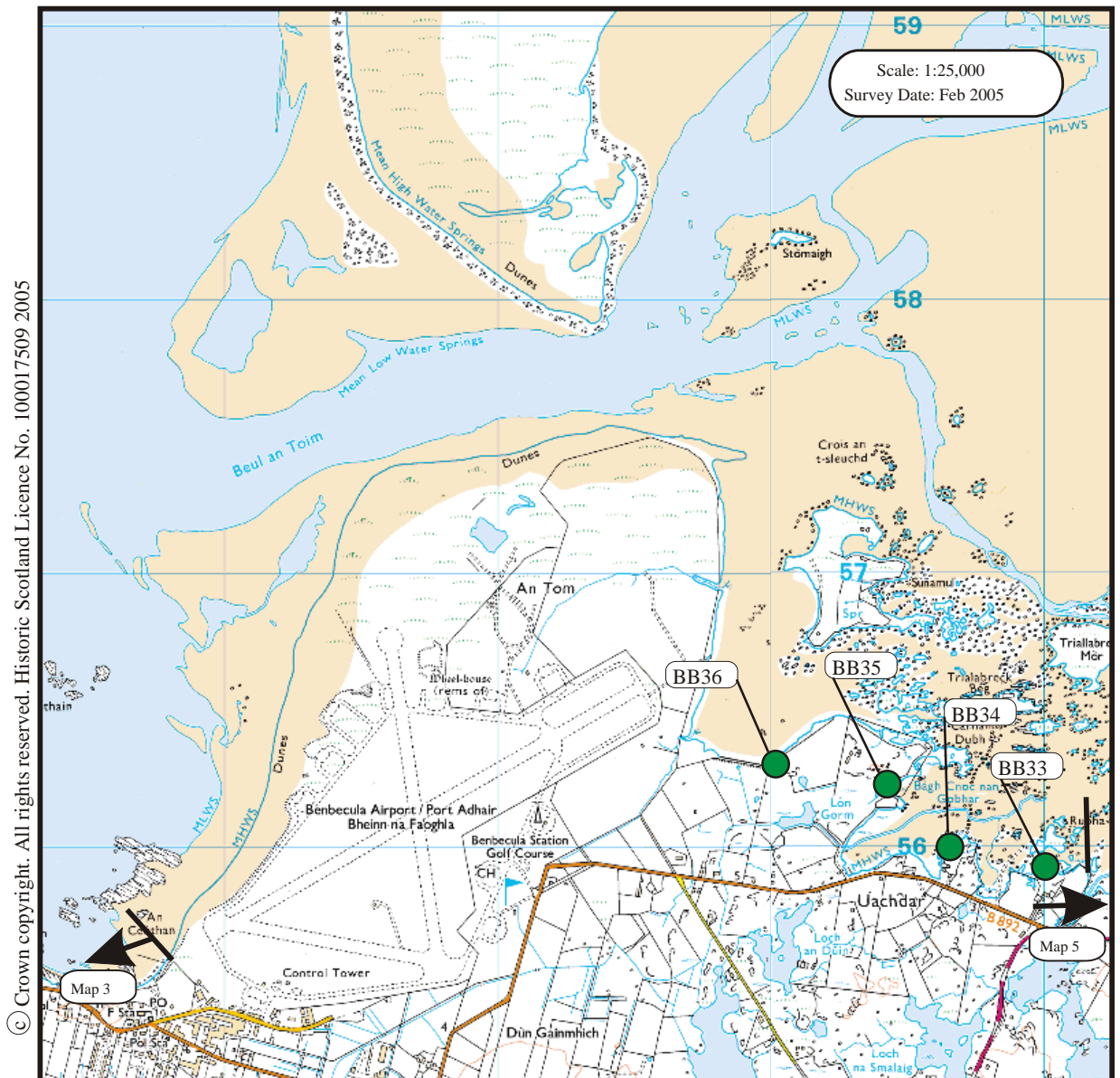
The coastline comprises mainly of sand for much of the area, with some marsh present around Uachdar. There is a gabion wall on the coast edge at the airport. The hinterland is covered with blown sand deposits. The coastline has been classified as stable to the immediate north side of Baile a'Mhanaich. Between this point and the north-facing coastline of the headland of An Tom, the coast is definitely eroding. The east facing coast of this headland is classified as accreting or stable, while the remainder of the section to Uachdar is stable.








BB 33
NF 81015 55894
Rubha Fliuch
Farmstead
18th-21st C AD
Fair
Nil

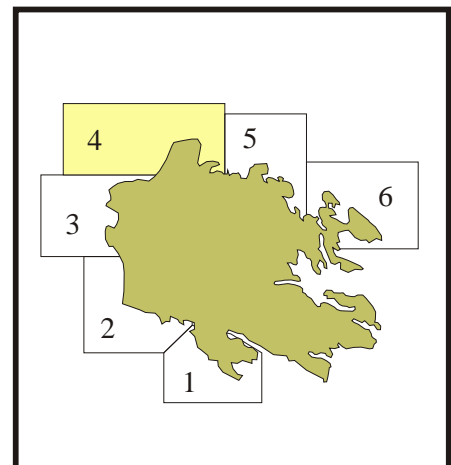
BB 35
NF 80444 56218
Lon Gorm
Field systems and cultivation remains
18th-21st C AD
Fair
Nil

BB 34
NF 80749 55949
Uachdar
Farmstead and noost
18th-21st C AD
Fair
Nil

BB 36
NF 80042 56319
Lon Gorm
Field system
18th-21st C AD
Fair
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. Airport
NF 791574

4.4 km

Mainly Sand

Coast edge <5m

Blown sand

The area comprising the airport is predominantly sand foreshore although cobbles and boulder spreads occur along the western edge of the dunes. At NF 779567 extensive made boulder armourment occurs at the cliff face which affords some protection to the dunes and the airport runway. Farther north the western edge of An Tom is characterised by 8-12 m high coastal dune cliffs.

2. Uachdar
NF 807558

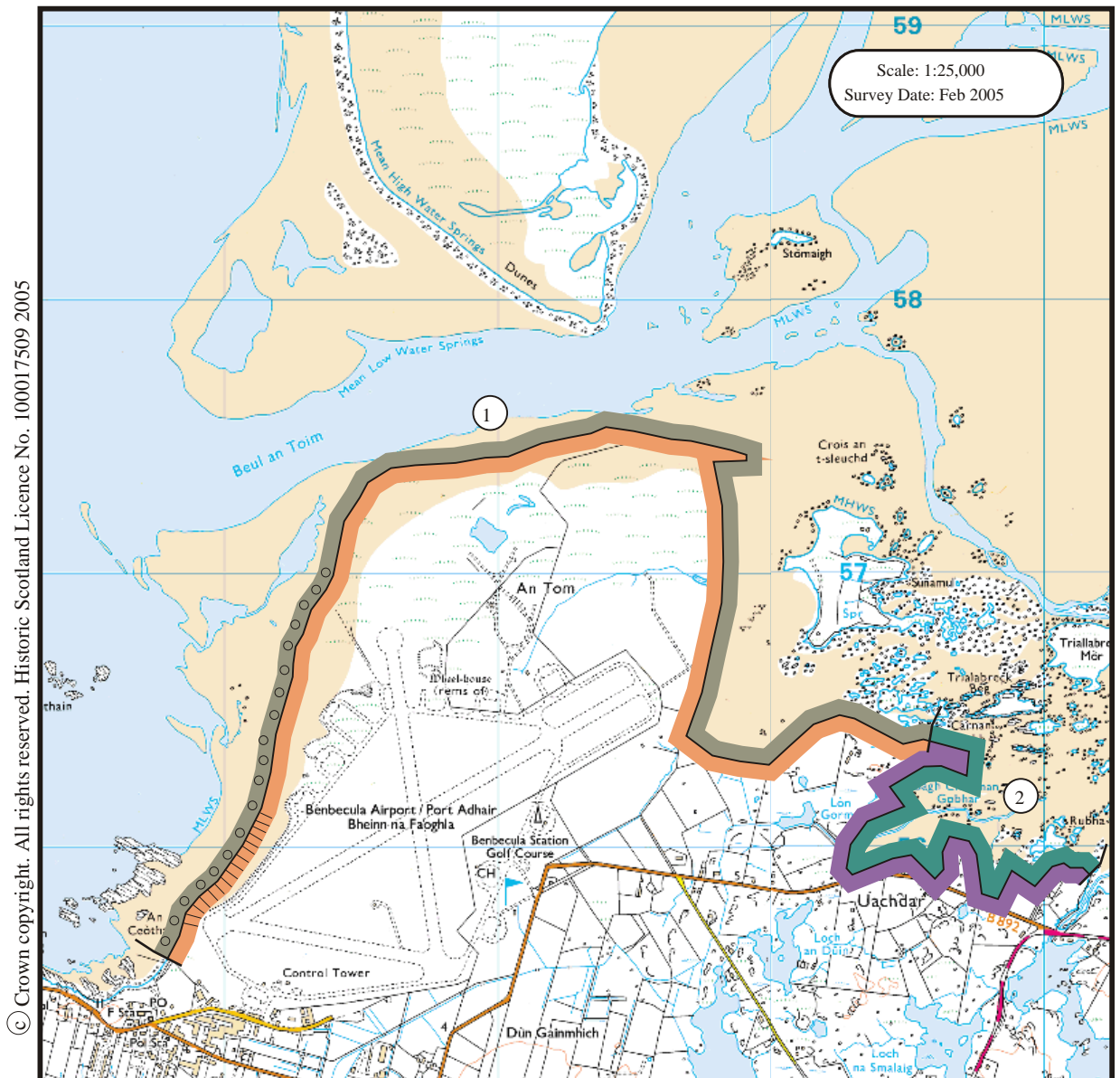
1.6 km

Marsh

Coast edge <5m

Drift on visible rock

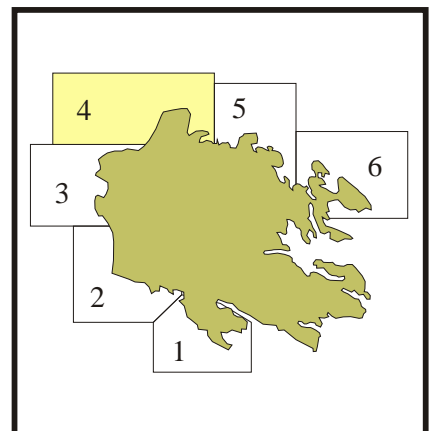
This coastal stretch is located in the (eastern) lee of An Tom. The area, including the offshore islands, is typified by extensive areas of salt marsh the most extensive areas of which occur near NF 797564. The hinterland areas are composed of peat and drift covered rock and the area beyond is characterised by marshy areas and many shallow lochans.



- 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. Baile a' Mhanaich to E end of An Tom
NF 774555 to NF 798565

4.13 km.

Eroding

East of Balvanich the machair plain and coastal dunes of An Tom represent the site of Benbecula airport. Apart from the eastern flank of An Tom, the coastline is characterised by a strip of coastal dunes that locally display evidence of severe erosion arising from the January hurricane. The coastal edge at the SW end of the runway (NF 778556) adjacent to the main road displays evidence of severe erosion with a prominent vertical dune cliff-face and badly damaged fence lines. The coastal strip immediately seaward of the SW end of the main runway is protected by a 400 m stretch of gabion baskets and inspection of these shows relatively little damage from the hurricane.

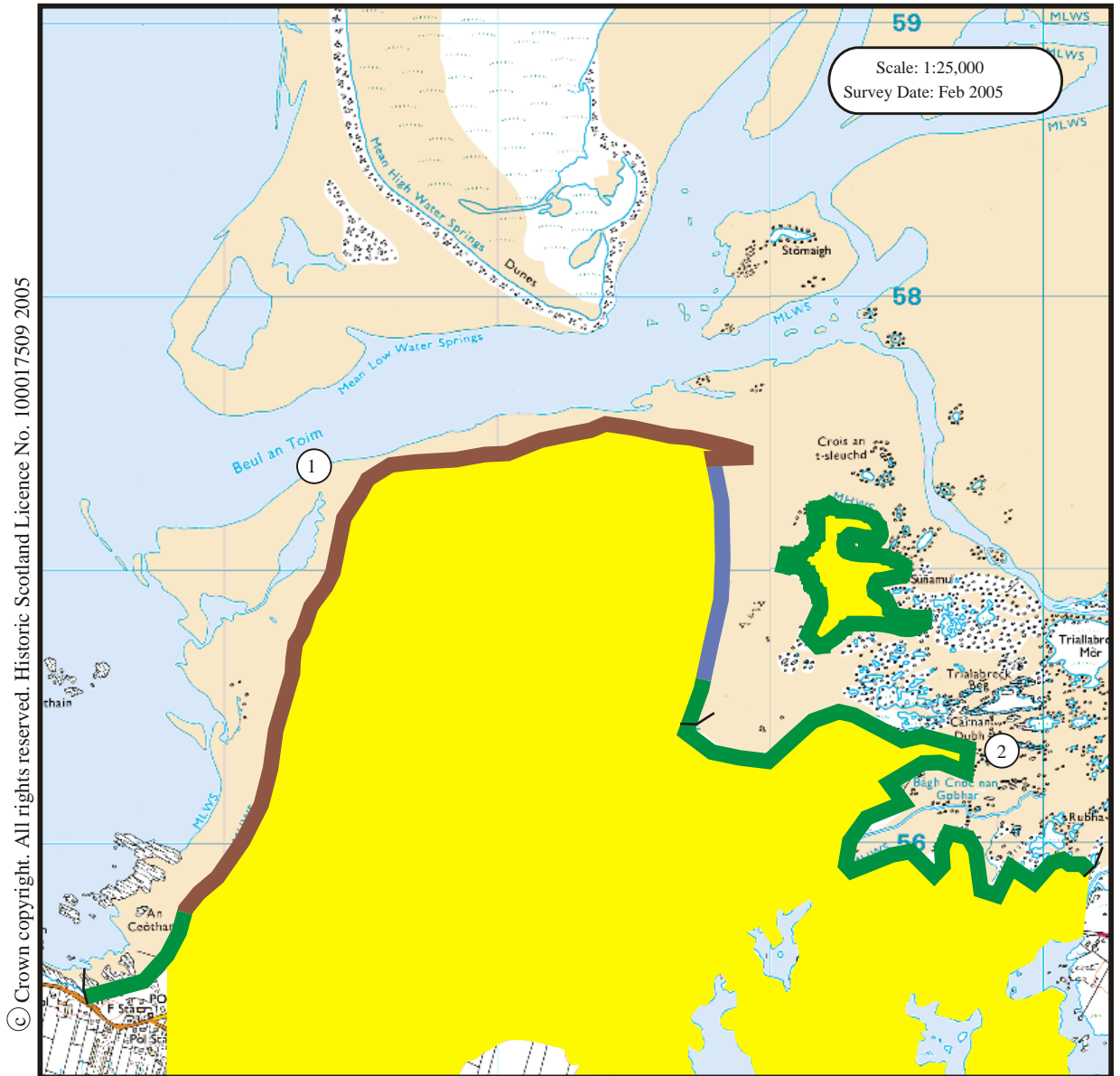
Farther north the western edge of An Tom is characterised by 8-12 m high coastal dune cliffs with prominent blowouts at NF 782563 and NF 785571. Much of this western section of dunes appears to have been eroded and overtopped by flood waves as evidenced by splays of gravel and sand landward of the dune crests. Parts of the west coastal edge as well as sections of the northern coastline display evidence of both erosion and accretion with the latter (northern) area strongly influenced by tidal currents between the northern edge of An Tom and Baleshare to the north. By contrast, the eastern edge of An Tom displays evidence of sediment accretion and extensive saltmarsh deposition.

2. E end of An Tom to Rubha Fliuch
NF 798565 to NF 810559

1.41 km.

Stable

This coastal stretch is located in the (eastern) lee of An Tom. The area, including the offshore islands, is typified by extensive areas of salt marsh the most extensive areas of which occur near NF 797564. Evidence that the area was extensively flooded during the January hurricane is very clear but the flooding does not appear to have been associated with destruction of the salt marsh surfaces.



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

