

## **Map Introduction: South Uist Map 11**

This map section covers the north west corner of the island of South Uist. It extends from Aird a'Mhachair to Baile Gharbhaidh. There is sparse modern settlement in the area; this extends along beside the road to the south end of this section.

A total of 13 sites were reported here, of which 2 sites had been reported previously. Some 8 sites represent domestic, agricultural and maritime remains of 18th-21st C date; 2 sites are thought to be new exposures associated with the partially excavated Iron Age settlement at Hornish Point (SU33 & 35); 2 sites represent new coastal exposures of indeterminate but possibly early date; the remaining site is a mound of indeterminate date.

The foreshore in this area comprises mainly of sand, with rock platform occurring around the Aird a'Mhachair headland and again at Rubha Thornais (Hornish Point). The coastline alternates between eroding/stable sections and definitely eroding sections. The hinterland lies below 10m OD.

SU 30  
NF 76646 46953  
Baile Gharbhaidh  
Rock with carvings  
18th-21st C AD  
Good  
Nil

SU 31  
NF 76548 47025  
Baile Gharbhaidh  
Coastal exposure  
18th-21st C AD  
Fair  
Nil

SU 32  
NF 76406 47133  
Baile Gharbhaidh  
Farmstead  
18th-21st C AD  
Fair  
Nil

SU 33 (NF74NE16)  
NF 75924 47187  
Rubha Thornais, Hornish  
Point  
Coastal exposure  
1st Mil BC/1st Mil AD  
Fair  
Monitor"

SU 34  
NF 75882 47201  
Rubha Thornais, Hornish  
Point  
Farmstead and cultivation  
remains  
18th-21st C AD  
Fair  
Nil

SU 35 (NF74NE18)  
NF 75815 47038  
Rubha Thornais, Hornish  
Point  
Coastal exposure  
1st Mil BC/1st Mil AD  
Fair  
Survey

SU 36  
NF 75441 46404  
Mol Mor  
Coastal exposure  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Monitor

SU 37  
NF 75209 46127  
Mol Mor  
Farmstead  
18th-21st C AD  
Fair  
Nil

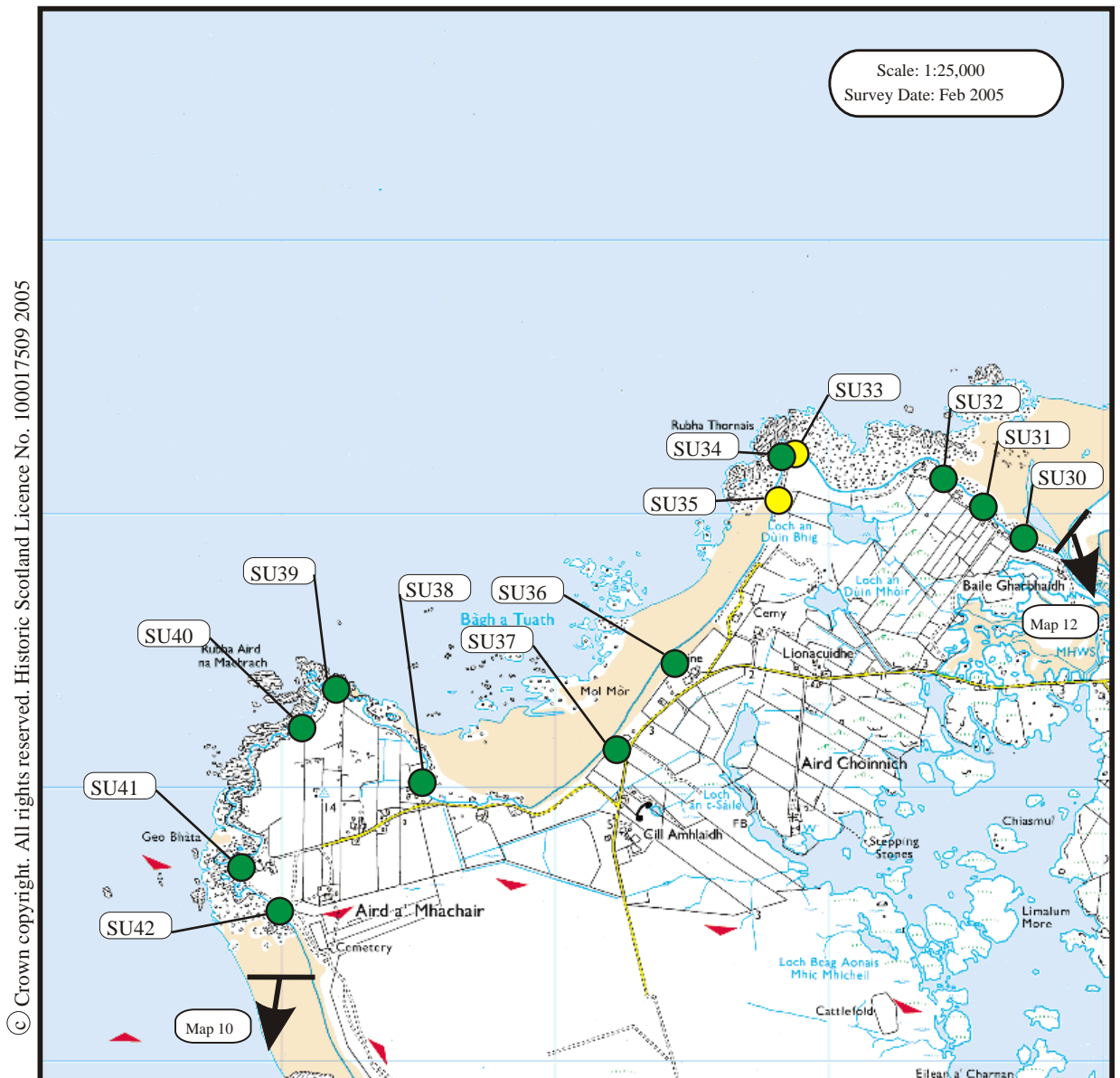
SU 38  
NF 74535 46042  
Aird A'Mhachair  
Farmstead  
18th-21st C AD  
Fair  
Nil








SU 39  
NF 74207 46334  
Rubha Aird na Mhachrach  
Coastal exposure  
18th-21st C AD  
Fair  
Monitor

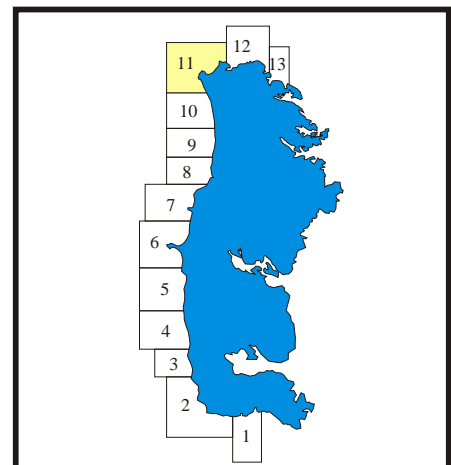
SU 40  
NF 74085 46198  
Rubha Aird na Mhachrach  
Mound  
Indeterminate  
Fair  
Monitor

SU 41  
NF 73925 45730  
Geo Bhata  
Structural remains  
18th-21st C AD  
Fair  
Nil

SU 42  
NF 73926 45637  
Aird A'Mhachair  
Coastal exposure  
1st Mil BC/1st Mil AD  
Fair  
Monitor



- 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. Aird a' Mhachair headland

NF 740461

2.2 km

Rock Platform

Coast edge mostly <5m

Blown sand

The coastal section SW of road end adjacent to the cemetery is characterised by vertical dune faces 5m high and evidence of strong wave erosion. To the north the headland is dominated by rock outcrops mantled by till. Rock platforms form 80% of the headland with sand and shingle comprising the remainder. Gravel and shingle are dominant at the SW area of the headland at NF 738455. This area of the headland has exposed an extensive peat bed c. 30cm thick at the base of the cliffs at NF 739457. Machair vegetation mantling blown sand forms the hinterland of the Aird a' Mhachair headland.

2. Bagh Tuath area

NF 750460

2.8 km

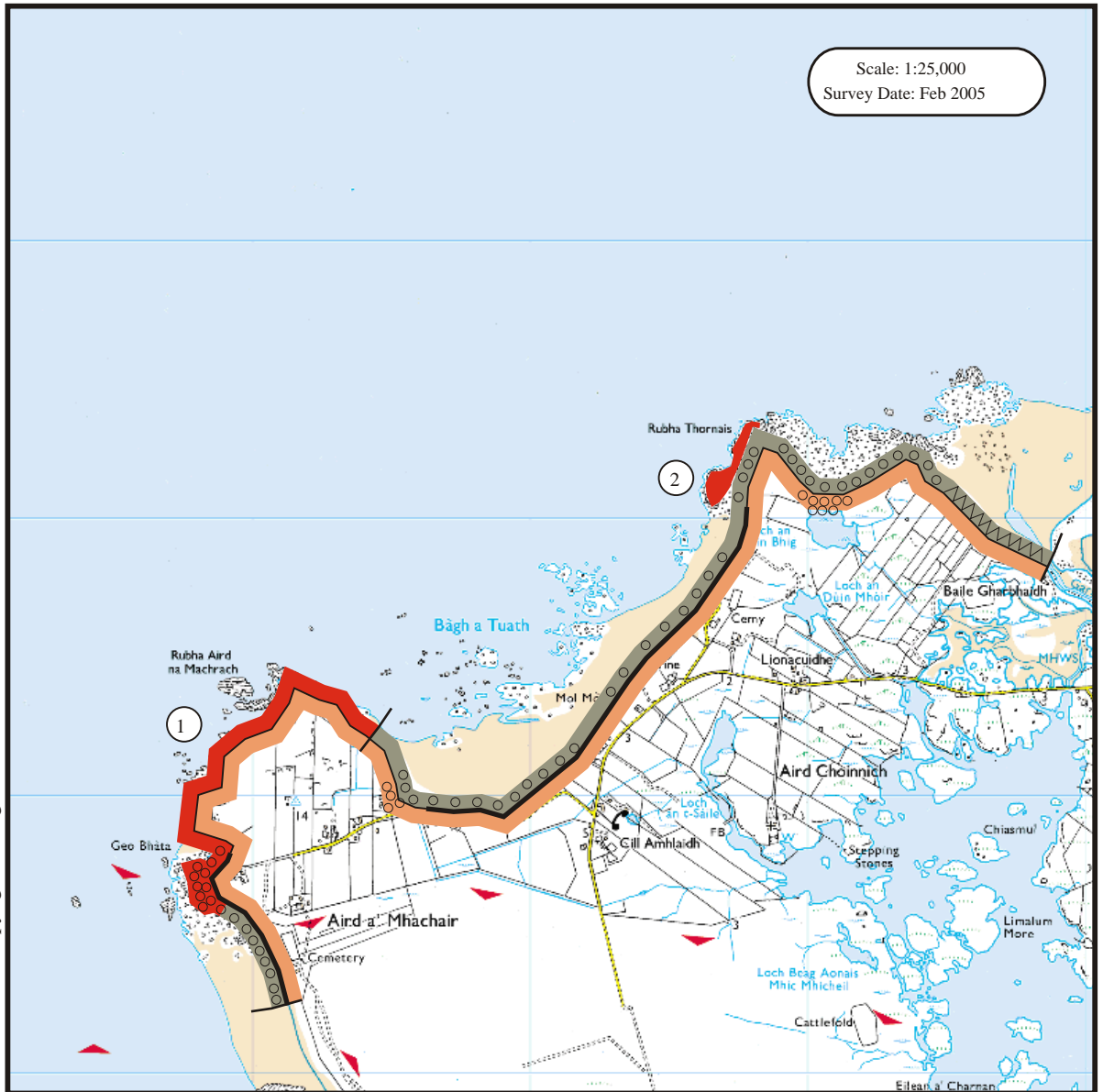
Mainly Sand

Coast edge >5m

Blown sand

The bay is comprised of sand. (75%). Boulders thrown on to the till surface at the back of the rock platform. The dune height decreases from maximum ca. 5m in NE to 0.5m in SW. The cliff base is mantled along the beach by shingle accumulations. In areas where the cliff height is low (at western end) the shingle banks partially rest upon the cliff top – elsewhere the shingle boulders rest against the cliff base. Heavy boulder armour comprise the cliff areas immediately to the west of Gualan island which has protected the settlements located closest to the shore.

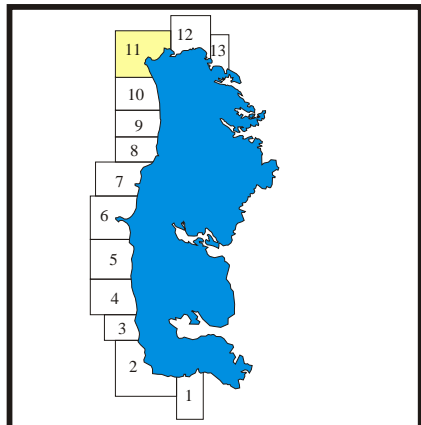
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- Foreshore**
- Rock platform
  - Mainly sand
  - Mainly alluvial/marine mud
  - Marsh

- Hinterland**
- Drift
  - Drift on visible rock
  - Raised beach etc.
  - Blown sand
  - Glacial sand/gravel
  - Alluvium

- Modifiers**
- Low edge <5m
  - Cliff >5m
  - Man made barrier
  - Shingle/storm bank
  - Human disturbance



## 1. Ardivachar headland

NF 739462

2.03 km

Eroding

A 200 m eroded coastal section below a house on the southern side of Geo Bhata shows an extensive foreshore peat located near high tide mark. Coastal dune faces are typically 3-4m in height and all show evidence of recent storm wave erosion. Farther north within Geo Bhata, recent erosion has exposed relict storm beach gravels resting upon organic sands. The coastal section everywhere exhibits evidence of severe erosion with boulder and gravel deposition also evident upon the cliff tops.

## 2. Rubha Thornais (western end) and Bagh Tuath area.

NF 750460.

2.06 km.

Eroding

Widespread erosion of coastal dunes along beach area is indicative of a ca. 5- 10 m cliff retreat during January 2005 hurricane. Thus the beach area can be considered as having recently been subject to severe erosion and cliff retreat and a subsequent phase of shingle deposition.

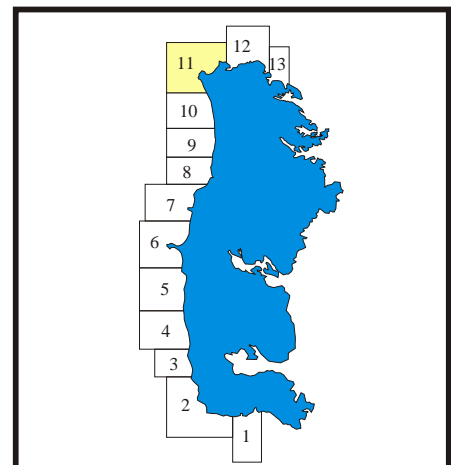
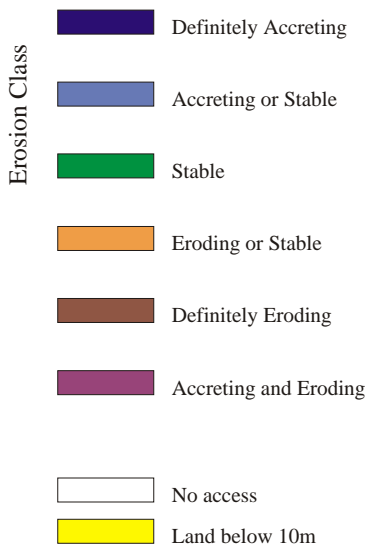
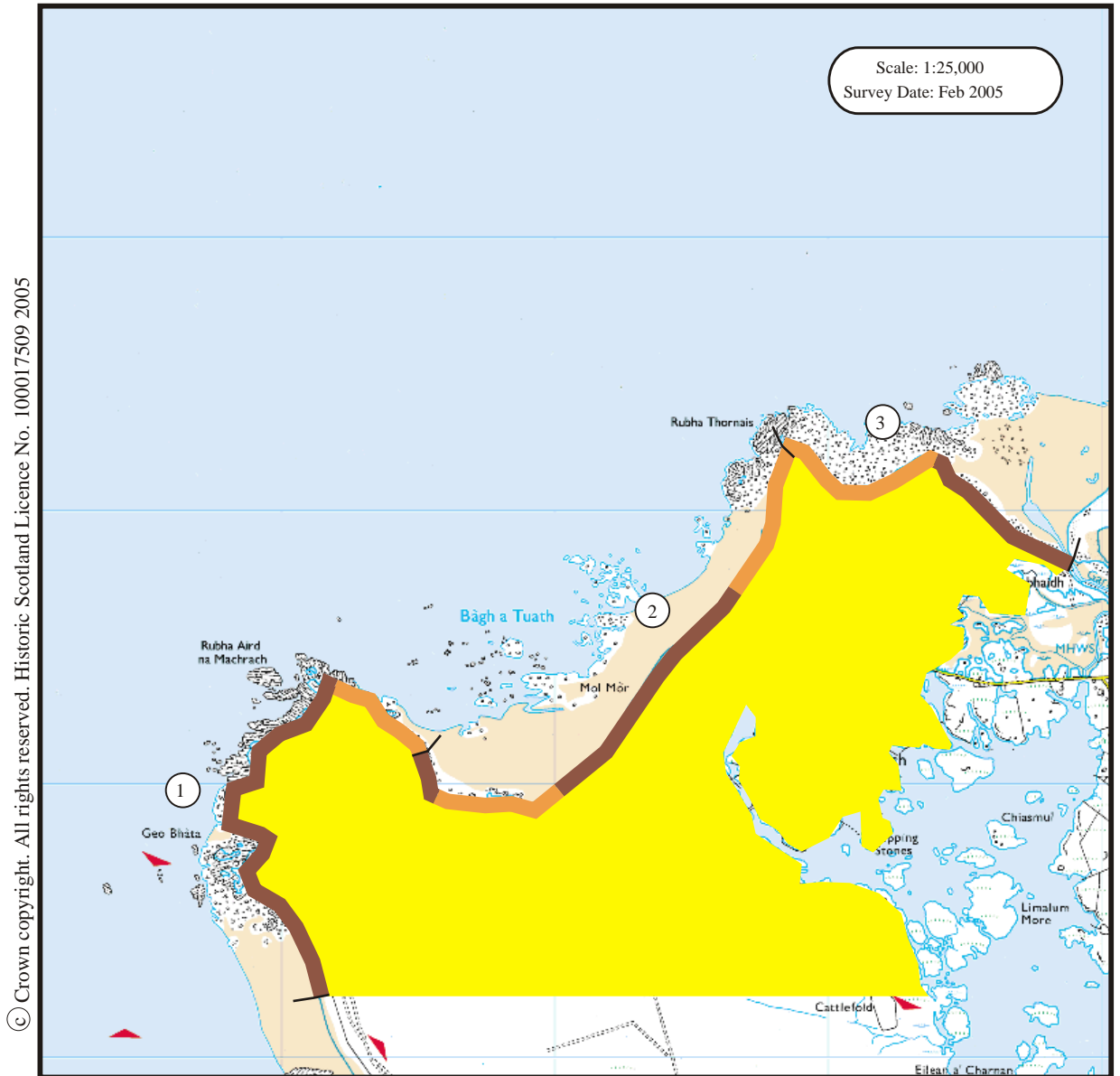
## 3. Rubha Thornais to Gualan island

NF 764473.

1.73 km.

Eroding

The coastal stretch immediately south of Gualan island adjacent to the settlement of Baile Gharbhaidh is everywhere characterised by severe erosion. The damage has been sufficient to have resulted in the emplacement of a boulder barricade along this coastal length, this having prevented severe erosion during the January 2005 hurricane. The eastern end of the barricade lies adjacent to the western limit of the salt marsh areas described below (section 1, Map 12). However, whereas that area of salt marsh is located in the lee of Gualan island, here the eroded and boulder-barricaded stretch of coastline is not protected by the island and is exposed to Atlantic wave action. The boulder barricade extends NW and ends at a small headland (NF 764471). Here, the gneiss platform surfaces are locally overlain by grey till upon which is an organic bed containing shells and bone debris. At the headland additional exposures in a vertical cliff face reveal archaeological horizons beneath dune sand. This entire coastal section along the headland is characterised by definite and severe coastal erosion –in this case almost entirely due to the effects of the January 2005 hurricane. On the cliff tops in this area, the destructive effects of the January storm are widespread and include eroded remnants of turf, boulders, shingle spreads and sand.



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