Isle of Vallay
Archaeology/Climate Change Expedition

Explorers Club Flag #109

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The Isle of Vallay Archaeology/Climate Change Expedition

Outer Hebrides, Scotland

Island Center (NF 778 765)

Explorers Club Flag #109

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Table of Contents

The Explorers Club Flag on Vallay 3

Acknowledgements 4

Introduction 5

Background 6

The Explorers Club Flag 8

Research Objective 8

Research Method 9

Project Findings 10

Future Research 41

Resources 42

Appendix 43
The Explorers Club Flag in the Field

Rodrick B. MacLennan FN 98 and June Julian, Isle of Vallay, June 2015
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Isle of Vallay Archaeology/Climate Change Project
Explorers Club Flag Expedition # 901
June 2015

Rodrick B. MacLennan FN 98
June Julian, Ed.D.

Introduction

In the late 1800’s Erskine Beveridge, an English merchant, photographer and archaeologist, arrived in North Uist, Outer Hebrides, Scotland. He became very interested in the local archaeology, especially that of the Isle of Vallay, a tidal island, off the coast of North Uist, and excavated many sites there. He published *North Uist: Its Archaeology and Topography* in 1911.

With Beveridge as our inspiration, as a team we brought a professional background in both Archaeology and Art to the Isle of Vallay project. The beginnings of the project followed a circuitous route. After her presentation at a University of Strathclyde conference in Glasgow in 2008, June wanted to invite Art Students in Scotland to participate in her Internet Art project with her University students in Philadelphia. Rod discovered *The University of the Highlands and the Islands* as a possibility, and noted that its Art school, Taigh Chearsabhagh, was located on the Isle of North Uist, an 8 hour bus ride from Glasgow to the ferry port of Uig on Skye, our point of departure for North Uist. At that time, Rod’s motivation for the journey was genealogical, since his Grandfather was from Scotland, and he had little information on his MacLennan surname.

So, from Uig, we boarded the Caledonian MacBrayne Ferry crossing the Little Minch, the legendary sea between Scotland and the Outer Hebrides. After arriving at the Ferry dock in Lochmaddy, North Uist, in the late afternoon, we walked inland a bit and were overjoyed to see the Taigh Chearsabhagh Art Center sign. When we inquired there about a
place to stay since it was closing, a nice lady at the book shop phoned The Old Courthouse B & B, run by Mr. Norman Johnson and his wife Margaret. We arranged the Art project with Fiona Pearson at the Art Center the next day. As it turned out, that year the Internet Art project with Taigh Chearsabhagh was a great success, with students on both sides of the Atlantic sharing their artwork and personal stories of their sense of place on their Wish You Were Here Project Blog, http://soundsofthecity-scentofthesea.blogspot.com/

Because of our direct involvement with the people, the place and viewing the local Archaeology sites on that first trip, Rod became hooked on the old homeland myth, and Scotland’s special version of The Mythology of Loss, the Highland Clearances version. Mr. Norman Johnson supplied the local details with the story of Erskine Beveridge. The hook was then set by the fellow archaeologist Beveridge, and the romance of ruins, ones with which Rod might even have a personal association.

Background

The Archaeology of North Uist and the Beveridge book were a source of great inspiration for our 2015 project. Numerous prehistoric sites have been recorded on Vallay: standing stones, middens and structures, and duns. Two possibly Medieval chapels, Teampull Mhuir and Teampull Orain, and two stone crosses were recorded. At the Seidinish site, a possible Norse midden was recorded. Other sites on Vallay consist of, boat noosts, a jetty, and field boundaries & structures of 18th-20th century crofts.

Various artifacts have been collected on Vallay from the Paleolithic (7000 – 4000 BCE), Neolithic (4000 BCE to 2500 BCE), Bronze Age (2100 – 750 BCE), Iron Age (800 BCE to 43 ACE), and Medieval (400 ACE to 1600 BCE) times. Between the times of Erskine Beveridge and the advent of modern Archaeology, such as Historic Scotland, some tantalizing artifacts from Vallay have made their way into local collections: various cloak pins and toggles, bone needles, spindle whorls, gravers, iron swords, Viking ship rivets, stone hammers and axes, pottery, fishing weights, whale vertebrae bowls, etc.
With his previous academic and professional credentials in American Southwestern and Islamic Archaeology, Rod began taking courses on Northern Europe and Viking Archaeology from Professor Thomas McGovern at Hunter College at City University of New York. When he subsequently participated in a summer dig on Rousay, one of the Orkney Isles, it became clear that immediate action was needed. Rising seas were destroying ancient sites in Scotland. In 2008, Julie Gibson, County Archaeologist and professor at Orkney College had published *Rising Tides: the Loss of Coastal Heritage in Orkney*. The local Archaeologists could use some help.

In the summer of 2009 Rod joined the research teams from NABO (North Atlantic Biocultural Organization) from Hunter College, and associates from Bradford University in Manchester, UK. The Orkney College team led by Professor Jane Down participated locally. Working with this eminent group in Orkney made it clear that all the Scottish islands and coastlines, as well as those around the world were being threatened by climate change. The realization was that Vallay was in danger of disappearing.

Because the Isle of Vallay is a tidal island, it is extremely vulnerable to the increasing frequency and severity of North Atlantic storms. It is located at the North end of the Isle of North Uist, and it can be reached at low water by crossing a two mile strand that is subject to swift changing tides and dense sea fogs. Vallay lies exposed to the North Atlantic and the conveyor belt of storms carried by the Gulf Stream as it impacts the West coast of Scotland. Originally called *Bhalaigh* in Gaelic, it is 642 acres, about two and one half miles in length by one half mile wide. The highest point is 125 feet above sea level. (See Appendix)

Vallay is now uninhabited, but that was not always the case. Fertile, dramatic, and endowed with all the resources of both land and sea, Vallay has been an attractive environment for centuries. The land is composed of Machair, an endangered grassland habitat. It is marked by high dunes and outcrops of Precambrian Gneiss. The underlying bones of these islands are the remnants of an ancient mountain range. Its beaches with their pure white sands and deep blue waters have featured plentiful coves and boat landings throughout time.
In its 2015 Arctic Report Card, NOAA (The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) reports increasing Arctic air and sea temperatures and their global effects. The United Kingdom Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP) unites scientists, government, its agencies and NGOs to provide coordinated advice on climate change impacts. It reports that severe winds and larger mean wave heights are being observed in western and northern UK seas. Scottish National Heritage states that although the last Scottish ice sheet began melting 20000 years ago, and that Scotland’s land mass has been rebounding, the vertical uplift rates are now modest (around 0.6 mm per year max). When compared to the more rapid rate of the rising of UK coastal waters (up to 2mm per year) all of Scotland is currently experiencing net sea level rise.

In his *Coastal Zone Assessment Survey – North Uist*, Professor Tom Dawson provides critical information on the continuing need for archaeological research on Vallay. He describes the effects of storms and sea level rise in eroding documented sites and exposing new ones. By combining his 2005 work with the pioneering work by Erskine Beveridge in 1911, we had important Vallay data to use as a starting point for our research.

**The Explorers Club Flag**

We wrote the research proposal for *The Isle of Vallay Archaeology/Climate Change Project* in 2014, and, as a New York Regional Fellow of the Explorers Club, Rod applied for the privilege to carry the Explorers Club Flag on the expedition the following month of June. Since 1918, the flag has been carried on hundreds of expeditions: to outer space, to both Poles, to the deepest ocean and to the highest peaks in the world. Rod received the prestigious award notification in January 2015 and subsequently selected Flag #109. That particular flag had been carried on research expeditions to both Poles, New Guinea, and Vietnam, among others.

**Research Objective**

The research objective is to record the current status of those archaeology sites first discovered by 19th cen. archaeologist Erskine Beveridge on the Isle of Vallay, Scotland, as impacted by climate change.
Research Method

Our qualitative research methods were historical desk research, walking survey on Vallay using GPS, photo, video and sketch documentation and journaling. Visual Art collaboration is a common practice in Archaeology field research. Before modern photography, early explorers and Archaeologists employed visual artists to sketch artifacts, excavations and their environmental contexts.

For our Archaeology field work in the entire month of June 2015, we adopted the research method built into SCAPE, (Scottish Coastal Archaeology and the Problem of Erosion), a group within SCHARP, (Scotland’s Coastal Heritage at Risk), organization. All of the Archaeology sites at risk in Scotland are noted on an interactive map on the SCHARP web site under four designations: high, medium, and low priority, and recently recorded sites. All of the Beveridge sites are noted on the Isle of Vallay, and we selected 18 of those original sites for our research. We used the SCHARP ShoreUPDATE digital application to update existing site reports and to add current photographs.

We utilized the North Uist Ordnance Survey Maps dated 1904, 1973 and 2007 to examine the changes to the shoreline. By overlaying the 1973 and 2007 maps over the one for 1904, we were easily able to view the changes. (See Appendix)

The Visual Arts research method for the project follows the definition of Art provided by Morris Weitz, an American philosopher of Aesthetics: Art is an open concept. In addition to the visual documentation, multiple disciplines are integrated into the project, engaging a community of participants within the Relational Aesthetics & Social Practice theoretical frameworks. June created an Internet blog, where she posted daily journal entries, sketches and photographs of the ongoing Vallay project. http://northuist.blogspot.com

Since Social Practice Art is interdisciplinary and participatory, it is an appropriate aesthetic grounding for the Vallay project. Not only were traditional fine arts media such as drawing and painting used, along with digital and Internet technologies, but also collaboration with local artists and citizens of diverse interests and talents. All of them
generously contributed valuable input to the project. Additionally, rather than an insular private perspective for artists, Relational Art involves interactive social opportunities and conviviality, proving also to be an excellent approach for our work on the project.

Project Findings
The weather on North Uist and Vallay in June 2015 was uncharacteristically cold, overcast and rainy. The temperature varied between 50 – 54 degrees Fahrenheit, with either a brisk wind or fog. Additionally, access to Vallay was possible only during low tide. We had approximately a 4 hour window of opportunity in which to conduct our research. This included travel across the 2 mile strand to Vallay and back to North Uist. Sometimes we got lifts in 4 wheel drive vehicles, and sometimes we walked across. In the course of the month, the low water timetable ranged between very early morning to very late at night. In spite of these constraints, we made numerous trips to successfully survey the 18 original Beveridge sites that we had selected.

The 18 Original Beveridge Sites That We Surveyed

1. Seidinish 9779 E 76537 N875930
2. Seidinish 9780 E76570 N875950
   Seidinish 9777 E76361 N876091 Not Found
3. Vallay House 9784 cup marks E77130 N876000
4. Cattle Fold Vallay 9783 E77000 N876000
5. Dun Thomaidh 9770 E75900 N875810
6. Taigh Bhalag 9785 E77223 N875723
7. Tempull Orain, Oronsay 9847 E77250 NN877120
8. Leac NaN Cailleachan Dubha 9821 E79080 N876500
9. Bachdanan, or Burthag Lir 9843 E78670 N877160
10. Cuil Na Mucie 9845 E77361 N876949
11. Cuil Na Muice 9846 E77353 N876945
12. Gearraidh Mhartainn 9848 E76196 N876404
13. Gearraidh Mhartainn 9851 E76081 N876379
14. Tempull Mhuir or St. Ultan's Chapel 9814 E78580 N876350
15. Tempull Mhuir 9815 E78580 N876380
16. Mornrinish 9774 E76232 N875958
17. Rudh'An Duin 9812 E78610 N876180
18. Brownies Stone and Earth House 9813 E78550 N876310
SCHARP’s SCAPE ShoreUPDATE Internet Application provides the following fields for each location on its corresponding Site Form: Priority, Description, Condition, Site Type, and East-North GPS Position. We had previously downloaded the ShoreUpdate Site Forms to the iPhone while connected to the Internet, and subsequently updated each of those forms while unconnected on Vallay. Later, when we were connected to the Internet again, we uploaded the forms to the SCAPE database.

The North Uist Ordnance Survey Maps dated 1904, 1973 and 2007 combined with our walking survey demonstrated significant evidence of sea erosion to the Vallay coastline, with many of the Archaeology sites now underwater. (See Appendix)

In summary, each of the 18 original Beveridge sites that we surveyed demonstrated marked change from Beveridge's original reports, Dawson’s 2005 survey, and on those indicators as currently provided on the SCAPE interactive site form. Notably, their condition was markedly degraded by erosion. Stones had been scattered; they were significantly eroding from the dunes due to sea action; they were located closer to the water's edge and in many cases were now within the tidal zone. Some were gone entirely. The original Beveridge site, Seidinish 9780 was not found. Additionally, we located 6 new sites that were previously unrecorded by Beveridge or others.

6 New Vallay Sites That We Found

- Long Cist - Vallay 13047 E70207/ N876586
- Cist 2 Vallay E91826 N868776
- Vallay Cairn 1 13044 E76119 N876052
- Vallay Cairn 2 13043 E76155 N875987
- Vallay Cairn 3 13042 E76161 N875988
- Exposed Wall – E Vallay 13046 E79466 N876927

Our Isle of Vallay Expedition – 2015 Site Reports
Seidinish 9779 E 76537 N875930 – Beveridge 1

Priority 2
Fair
Structure
Previously Described: A sub-rectangular structure formed of at least 8 uprights. Outlying stones and a small stretch of walling is also visible. Co-ordinate suggests this may be the same site noted in NMRS (NF77NE 36) (site 808), although description of structure is slightly different.

2015 site as described is degrading. Remaining structure appears to be a cist. The cist is on a point, 20 feet from high tide mark. It consists of 8 upright stones 3 ft. high. Adjoining cist consists of 7 similar stones.

Photo
No coastal Defense
Low Tide
intertidal
Active Sea erosion
Has eroded in the past
Highly Visible remains
Limited visibility in section
Accessible Difficult terrain
Accessible by foot no footpath
Well Known
Local associations & and history
Watch
Seidinish 9777 E76361 N876091 – Beveridge 2
Priority 1
Condition Poor
Site type Midden
Previously Described: Midden exposed in face of large dune. Marine shells and animal bone visible, but metal, including ?norse rivets & 2 coins of King Edgar reported found (Earl Granville pers comm). Short stretches of walling visible within midden (including site 806).

2015 site completely covered by machair & eroding at coast edge. Pottery fragments & bone found.
Photos
No coastal defense
Low tide
Intertidal
Active Sea erosion
Animal burrows
Not visible
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Well known local associations and history
Seidinish 9777 E76361 N876091 – Surroundings

Seidinish 9777 E76361 N876091 – Pottery Fragments
**Vallay House 9784 cup marks E77130 N876000** – Beveridge 3
Priority Unknown
Condition now poor previously fair
Cup marks on stone
Previously described: A group of cup-marks on a flat rock showing just above the surface 400 yds due west of Vallay House. Four are especially distinct while others are shallower and less clearly marked. The rock lies 100 yards from the shore. The thirteen cupmarks depicted on Pike's plan (J D Lyford-Pike 1940) can be seen although those hatched on his plan are very indistinct. Stone much eroded. as 4 distinct and others shallow

**2015 1 partial cup mark still visible. Stone much eroded**
No Photo
No coastal defense
Low tide
<50 meters from coast
Weathering
Limited visibility
Not visible in cross section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Site is well known & has local associations

**Cattle Fold Vallay 9783 E77000 N876000** - Beveridge 4
Priority Unknown
Condition Unknown
Structures & Midden
Previously Described: Beveridge reported that near the south shore of Vallay there is a large cattle-fold, where drifting sand occasionally reveals slight traces of at least three buildings, together with layers of peat ashes and kitchen-midden remains. The finds included a fine bone weaving-comb and bone pins, needles and borers, and pointed tines and antlers, bronze pins, needle and brooch fastening, Viking-type iron rivets and lumps of slag, hammerstones, whorls and pottery fragments. The finds are in NMAS. The site could not be located in 1965.

**2015 traces remain into the dunes with evidence of bone, subjected to extreme beach erosion**
Photo
No coastal defense
Low tide
At coast edge
Active sea erosion
Active wind erosion
Past erosion
Stock erosion
Animal burrows
Not visible above ground
Limited visibility in section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Well known local associations and history

Watch

Cattle Fold Vallay 9783 E77000 N876000 – View from Coast Edge

**Dun Thomaidh 9770 E75900 N875810 – Beveridge 5**

Priority 2
Condition Unknown

Structure Dun

Previously Described: Beveridge reported that Dun Thomaidh occupied the summit of a steep rocky islet in Vallay Sound, surrounded at approx. high-water level by a wall of large blocks of stones, up to c. 3ft in height. Within this is a second wall surrounding the remains of a house and other smaller buildings. At the east side of the outer wall there are traces of a small harbour. The site is connected to a tidal islet on the shore of Vallay by a causeway 87 yards long and c. 8ft wide, with a gap of 12 or 13ft at its southern end. Finds included implements and/or fragments of stone, flint, bone, bronze and iron, and the usual kitchen-midden debris. OS reported that although much dilapidated and overgrown, the remains of the structure were generally as described above, though the harbour and pier could not be located, and the causeway and the south side of the outer wall were under water at the time of investigation. **2015 causeway is much the same condition as described. Dun could not be reached from Vallay shore in June 2015 because the current was flowing out fast & strong even at LW. Causeway heavily**
covered with sea weed. The island on which the dun is situated is heavily overgrown with grass & brush. No individual structures were visible from the shore vantage point.

Photo
Low tide
Intertidal
Active sea erosion
Vegetation growth
Highly visible
Limited visibility in section
Not accessible
Is well known
Local associations and history
Watch
Closer survey would be appropriate
Taigh Bhalach 9785 E77223 N875723 – Beveridge 6
Priority Unknown
Condition Fair
Site Type wall
Previously Described: A wall in intertidal zone, runs from this point out to a rocky islet at NF 77197 75699.
2015 a line of double stone with ceramic pipe inside that comes out from under coast wall running due south under the water.
No Photo
Coastal defense
Low tide
Intertidal
Active sea erosion
Has eroded in the past
Limited visibility
Clearly visible in section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Watch

Tempull Orain, Oronsay 9847 E77250 N877120 – Beveridge 7
Priority Unknown
Condition fair, now Poor
Site type chapel
Previously Described: The foundations of a rectangular structure standing E and W, with unmortared walls, nearly 4ft thick, and the interior of which is 24ft by 17ft. Many large stones lie scattered at the west (E Beveridge 1911). The walls of this chapel are ruinous and rise only a little above ground-level. One or two small shielings lie to the north and west of the chapel.
2015 cut stones are largely scattered. Hard to see original structure. A small round ended structure is visible with 4 layers of stone, smaller structure with curved end on south side. Boast noost at west end of site. Exposed midden with signs of burning.
Photo
No coastal defense
Low tide
Coast edge
Active sea erosion
Has eroded in the past
Animal burrows
Stock erosion
Visitor erosion
Limited visibility
Limited visibility in section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Well known
Well visited
Local associations & history
Restrict livestock, testing would be appropriate before outline is too scattered

Leac Nan Cailleachan Dubha 9821 E79080 N876500 – Beveridge 8
Priority Unknown
Condition Fair
Site type standing stones
Previously Described: Two standing stones as described: 0.5 m apart. The Northernmost stone measures 1.6 m high by 1.1 m wide by 0.2m thick. The other measures 1.4 m high by 0.9 m wide and 0.2 m thick.
2015 appears to be a long Cist because there is a line of stones extending to the E and falling into the sea.
Photos
No coastal defense
Low tide
Coast edge
Active sea erosion
Has eroded in the past
Stock erosion
Highly visible
Clearly visible in section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Is well known
Well visited
Local associations and history
Watch

Leac Nan Cailleachan Dubha 9821 E79080 N876500 - Standing Stones
Bachdanan, or Burthag Lir 9843 E78670 N877160 – Beveridge 9
Priority unknown
Condition Unknown
Cist Burial
As described: Reported by Beveridge as the traditional site of a temporary habitation of a shipwrecked Norseman. He described a 'walled enclosure' which encompassed a megalithic slab. One hundred yards to the south there was a mound of sand, its outline indicated by the foundations of 'rectangular walls', 20 by 16ft internally. Slag and ashes were found in the mound and, to the west, 'exactly outside' its walled edge and a foot below the surface, was a cist which contained an extended inhumation, oriented N-S. The OS report that the enclosure and 'megalithic slab' are situated at NF 7867 7716, but that they do not appear to be of any antiquity. Some 150.0m to the south, at NF 7862 7701, there are the vague outlines of a possible rectangular structure, oriented E-W, with a pile of stones near its west side. They thought this pile of stones may cover Beveridge's cist. 2015 outline of walls of large rectangular enclosure is still visible but no sand pile was visible. Large megalithic slab to W of enclosure. 2015 Outline of walls is a large rectangular enclosure, still visible but no sand pile was visible.
Photos
No coastal defense
Low tide
Coast edge
Active wind erosion in dunes
Has eroded in the past
Stock erosion
Highly visible
Not visible in section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Well known
Well visited
Has local associations history
Watch
Long Cist - Vallay 13047 E70207/ N876586
Not Previously Located
2015 Central orthostat 24 in. High & line of large stones in wall running S to N And disappearing into the peat as it runs uphill. NE of standing stones 9821.
Photo
No coastal defense
Low tide
11-50 meters to coast edge
Stock erosion
Highly visible
Clearly visible in section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Watch
Cist 2 Vallay E91826 N868776

Not Previously Located

2015 Exposed collapsed Cist length 90 ft E & W & 40 ft N & S. Is 300 ft E of 9843 of the megalith slab structure remains

Photo

No coastal defense

Low tide

11-50 meters from coast

Has eroded in the past

Stock erosion

Highly visible

Limited visibility in section

Accessible difficult terrain

Accessible on foot no footpath

Watch
Vallay Cairn 1 13044 E76119 N876052

Not Previously Located

2015 Small disturbed cairn approx 4 ft in dia. Evidence of animal burrowing
On a knoll overlooking the Vallay Strand & Dun Thomaidh 9770.

No photo
No coastal defense
Low tide
< 50 meters fro coast
Ploughing
Stock erosion
Animal burrows
Highly visible
Clearly visible non section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Watch
Vallay Cairn 2 13043 E76155 N875987
Not Previously Located
2015 Collapsed cairn with animal burrowing damage
Approx 6ft dia 3 ft high on a knoll overlooking Dun Thomaidh 9770.
Photo
No coastal defense
Low tide
<50 meters from coast edge
Ploughing
Stock erosion
Animal burrows
Highly visible
Clearly visible in section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Watch
Vallay Cairn 3 13042 E76161 N875988
Not Previously Located
2015 Partially collapsed cairn 12 ft dia, 4 ft exposed above ground, on a knoll overlooking the Strand & Dun Thomaidh 9770.
Photo
No coastal defense
Low tide
<50 meters
Ploughing
Stock erosion
Animal burrows
Highly visible
Clearly visible in section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Watch
Exposed Wall – E Vallay 13046 E79466 N876927

Not Previously Located

2015 Built Stone Wall disappearing into dunes at extreme E end of Vallay.

Appears to be a circular structure. Approx. 70 ft. long

Photo

No coastal defense

Low tide

11-50 meters from coast

Has eroded in the past

Stock erosion

Highly visible

Limited visibility in section

Accessible difficult terrain

Accessible on foot no footpath

Watch
Cuil Na Muice 9845 E77361 N876949 – Beveridge 10
Priority 2
Site type wall
Condition Fair/nonexistent
Described Previously: 5 Courses of walling exposed eroding at coast edge. Should be monitored/surveyed due to proximity to Teampull Orain (NF77NE 11)
2015 walls at this site no longer visible. Sea Erosion has removed all traces but cut stones visible in tidal area. Should be monitored & surveyed due to Proximity to Tempull Orain Oronsay 9847.
Photo
No coastal defense
Low tide
Intertidal
Active sea erosion
Active wind erosion
Stock erosion
Not visible
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Well known
Local associations history
Watch
Cuil Na Muice 9846 E77353 N876945 – Beveridge 11
Priority 2
Site type wall
Condition fair/ nonexistent
Described Previously: 3 courses of wall exposed at coast edge, with 2 m visible before being covered by dune. Should be monitored/surveyed due to proximity to Teampull Orain (NF77NE 11)
2015 wall not now visible due to tidal erosion. Was 3 courses of wall eroding at coast edge with 2 meters before covered by dune. Should to be monitored surveyed due to proximity to Tempull Orain Oronsay 9847
No photo
Low tide
Intertidal
Active sea erosion
Active wind erosion
Has eroded in the past
Stock erosion
Animal burrows
Not visible
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Well known
Local associations history
Watch for future exposure

Gearraid Mhartainn 9848 E76196 N876404 – Beveridge 12
Priority unknown
A collapsed wall
Condition fair
Previously Described: A collapsed wall
2015 A collapsed wall, lime plaster particles & cockles visible.
Photo
No coastal defense
Low tide
Coast edge
Active sea erosion
Active wind erosion
Has eroded the past
Stock erosion
Animal burrows
Tipping
Slumping go sandy edge
Not visible above ground
Limited visibility in section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Watch
Gearraid Mhartainn 9851 E76081 n876379 – Beveridge 13
Priority 2
Condition Poor
Midden
Previously Described: Midden material exposed in section for c. 20m, and horizontally exposed on beach extending 4m out from dune. Being damaged by both erosion and cattle trampling. Bronze slag recovered from here in past (Earl Granville pers comm).
2015 w of midden is stone wall of an undefined structure. Bone needle & bone fragments found.
50 meters from coast edge
Photo
No coastal defense
Low tide
11-50 meters
Active sea erosion
Active wind erosion
Has eroded in the past
Stock erosion
Animal burrows
Teampull Mhuir or St. Ultan's Chapel 9814 E78580 N876350 – Beveridge 14
Priority Unknown
Condition Fair/unknown
Site type Chapel
Previously Described: RCAHMS in 1928 reported that only portions of the foundations of Teampull Mhuir remain. They seem to have represented a chancel about 9 or 10 ft square, with walling 3ft thick. A depression in the ground probably indicates the lines of a nave some 3ft wider then the chancel. Various crosses are associated with Teampull Mhuir (see NF77NE 18). When OS visited in 1968, they stated the remains of Teampull Mhuir were as described above, except that the nave could no longer be traced. The structure named on the OS 25" map as Teampull Mhuir is a modern enclosure, measuring 7.7m x 5.5m over walls 0.6m thick and 2.0m high. There is no evidence of St. Ultan’s Chapel. Three unroofed buildings, the most N of which is annotated as
Teampull Mhuire (Ruins of), are depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map and on the current edition OS map.

2015 St. Ultan's Chapel shows only as a mound to the S of the ruin of St. Mary's, it may in part underlay that later chapel.

Photo

No coastal defense
Low tide
<50 meters
Stock erosion
Vegetation growth
Limited visibility
Not visible in section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Well known
Local associations history
Further survey
Teampull Mhuir 9815 E78580 N876380 – Beveridge 15
Priority Unknown
Condition Fair/Poor
Site type Stone Cross
Previously Described: Two stone crosses in the burial yard of St Marys chapel. One of them, now used as a headstone, is situated at NF 7857 7638. The other, with the two incised crosses, lies recumbent at the SW corner of the modern burial enclosure.
2015 Found both crosses in place as described. Covered in dense vegetation.
Photos
No coastal defense
Low tide
<50 meters
Stock erosion
Vegetation growth
Animal burrows
Highly visible
Clearly visible in section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Well known
Well visited
Watch
Morornish 9774 E76232 N875958 – Beveridge 16
Priority unknown
Condition Fair
Site type Wall
Previously Described: A similar wall to site 804, it crosses the intertidal zone out to small island. Also constructed of upright stones, and also has a 2m wide channel, though this may be caused by erosion.
2015 Similar wall to the South. Possible series of fish traps in intertidal zone as described. Possibly 2 meter wide channel was a function of the trap.
No Photo
No Coastal defense
Low tide
Intertidal
Not eroding
Highly visible
Clearly visible in section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Watch
Rudh'An Duin 9812 E78610 N876180 – Beveridge 17
Condition Fair/Poor
Site type Dun
Previously Described: The remains of this dun are in a good state of preservation, except for the SE segment which has been almost completely destroyed by sea-erosion. The dun is almost circular, having an overall diameter of 24.5m, the walls varying in thickness from 5.0m to 6.2m. The well-preserved entrance is in the NW and appears to lead to a small natural harbour. The entrance is 1.3m wide, its side walls 1.0m high, and has a paved floor: There were no indications of chambers in these side walls, or of a door-check. Finds retrieved by Beveridge included pottery, hammerstones, a fragment of bronze and fragments of an iron long sword, in addition to kitchen-midden remains. These are in the NMAS.

2015 site degrading. Southern half heavily eroded. High tide covers ruin.

Photos
No coastal defense
Low tide
Intertidal
Active sea erosion
Active wind erosion
Has eroded in the past
Stock erosion
Highly visible
Clearly visible
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Well known
Well visited
Local associations history
Brownies Stone and Earth House 9813 E78550 N876310 – Beveridge 18
Condition Unknown
Site type Earth House
Previously Described: Beveridge investigated an earth-house, on a slight knoll ... 30 yards SW of St Mary’s Chapel (NF77NE 6). It consisted of a curved wall 10 yards N-S, 12 to 18ins below the surface. No trace of the opposite wall could be found. Finds included pottery and midden remains. A square-facetted or bramble-headed pin, found in an earth-house is possibly from this site. M Martin (1934) describes the Brownies Stone (? NF 7851 7629) as a thin flat stone 'below' the chapels of St Mary and St Utan. No trace of the earth-house or of the Brownie's Stone was found during field investigation.

2015 Brownie's stone was not found. Possible earth house walls approx. 50ft SW Of the Teampull Mhuir 9814. The entire area is densely covered in wild rhubarb vegetation
Site location Unsure
Photo
No coastal defense
Low tide
>50 m
Stock erosion
Vegetation growth
Limited visibility
Not visible in section
Accessible difficult terrain
Accessible on foot no footpath
Well known local associations history
Further survey

Possible Earth House 9813 E78550 N876310

Seidinish 9780 E76570 N875950 – Beveridge 19
Priority 2
Condition Fair
Structure & Midden
Previously described as 4 courses of walling, a hearth deposit & midden spreads
2015 Not Found
Aird Mhic Caoilt 9798 E78352 N875479
Priority Unknown
Condition Fair
Site type structure
Previously Described: A rectangular structure (aligned NE-SW) 6m x 3m with rectangular square extension to east, 3m x 2m. Walls survive for 2 courses. Part of a concentration of buildings.

2015 Rectangular Structure opening to S, 3 walls visible in cross section.
No Photo
No coastal defense
Low tide
11-50 m
Stock erosion
Animal burrows
Highly visible
Limited visibility in section
Local associations & history
Survey

Aird Mhic Caoilt 9801 E78394 N875478
Priority Unknown
Condition Poor
Site type structure
Previously Described: The possible remains of a building, though grass covered and very collapsed. Extends c. 4m x 4m and has a hollow in its centre. Probably associated with the concentration of buildings and should be surveyed at the same time.

2015 Stone antechamber walls attached to a square structure. 15 ft. wide X 25 ft. long. The wall is 2 ft high and 2 ft. wide.
Photo
No coastal defense
Low tide
11-50m
Stock erosion
Animal burrows
Highly visible
Limited visibility in section
Accessible difficult
Accessible on foot no footpath
Well known
Local associations history
Survey
Aird Mhic Caoilt 9801 E78394 N875478

Aird Mhic Caoilt 9803 E78465 N875654
Priority unknown
Wall
Fair
Previously Described: East end of wall enclosing promontory (wall 821)
2015 wall is visible & grass covered extending E to W, 290 ft long
No Photo
Stock erosion
Highly visible
Clearly visible in section
Accessible difficult
Accessible on foot no footpath
Well known
Local associations history
Survey
The Art component of the research resulted in the Internet Blog with archival and current photography of the Beveridge sites, artifact drawings, watercolor paintings, and daily descriptive narratives of the field work. Interdisciplinary connections and numerous conversations and interactions with local persons contributed data. In this project, the blog functions as a research artifact. http://northuist.blogspot.com (See Appendix)

**Future Research:**
It is important that the Vallay sites are revisited annually to reassess their condition and the effects of climate change upon them. We propose to return to Vallay in the Summer of 2016 to continue our work there. Specifically, we intend to survey the structures, enclosures and field boundaries of the 18th and 20th century crofts on the island, and to conduct interviews about them. We intend to further examine the Seidinish sites and the other previously undocumented cists and walls on the island before they are further impacted by climate change.
Resources


Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk. (SCHARP). Retrieved from [http://scharp.co.uk](http://scharp.co.uk)


Isle of Vally Archaeology/Climate Change Project Blog

http://northuist.blogspot.com