

IN CONFIDENCE NOTE TO BE QUOTED WITHOUT PRICE REFERENCE TO THE LABORATORY  
CRUISE REPORT

FRV 'MARA'

24 February - 8 March 1975

#### OBJECTIVES

1. To sample and assess the types and distribution of bottom sediments in Irvine and Ayr Bays.
2. To sample selected transects for macrobenthos.
3. To collect seawater from Irvine Bay and Ballantrae Bank positions.

#### NARRATIVE

'Mara' left Buckie on 24 February bound for the Clyde. Due to inclement weather the route via the Crinan canal was taken. After rudder trouble at Ardrishaig, running repairs were necessary causing the 'Mara' to delay arrival at Troon until Thursday 27 February at 23.20 hrs. Scientific Staff joined at Troon and on Friday 28 February and work was commenced the same day, 25 stations being sampled by grab in Irvine Bay before tying up at 21.40 hrs. Water was collected at the Irvine Bay position for Mr Baxter. Grab sampling was continued on Saturday 1 and Monday 3 March. The water collection at the Ballantrae Bank position was undertaken as the 'Mara' was on the return journey to Buckie.

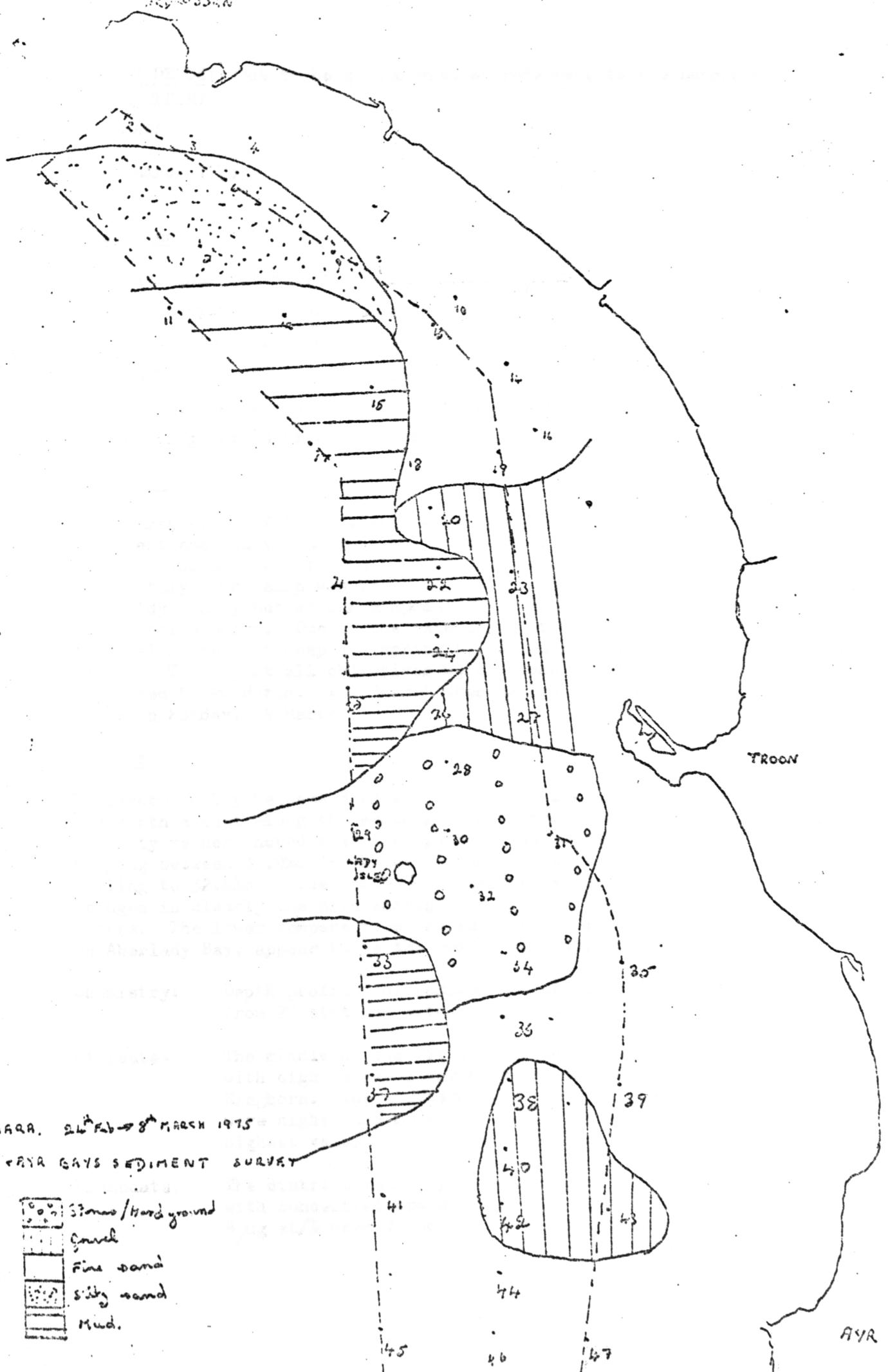
#### PRELIMINARY RESULTS

46 Sediment samples and 27 macrobenthos samples were collected on the cruise, the sediment types ranging from thick mud to large boulders. Visual observations yielded information which has enabled the attached sediment distribution map to be drawn up. (N.B. This gives only a very rough outline of the sediments present.)

D C Moore  
6 March 1975

Seen in draft - Mr W T Bair, FRV 'Mara'.

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FR.V. MARR. 24<sup>th</sup> Feb - 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 1975  
 RIVINE & AYR BAYS SEDIMENT SURVEY

-  Stones/Hard ground
-  Gravel
-  Fine sand
-  Silty sand
-  Mud.