

## MAP 12 - DYSART TO MACDUFF'S CASTLE

- **Built heritage and archaeology** - The coast edge north-east of Dysart town displays numerous sites originating from the colliery workings which run parallel to the foreshore just short of Chapel Wood and then between West and East Wemyss (NT39NW11,23). Regarding individual sites, Frances Colliery (NT39SW25) is a Listed Building and it appears to be in poor condition requiring a survey. There are numerous buildings associated with the coal workings (NT31459408, NT31209380, NT30759345) and all of these are in poor condition, and because they are not listed in the NMRS, a thorough survey of these features is required. The same is true for a collection of colliery trucks and engine which are located next to some stanchions for a narrow gauge line (NT30959355). West Wemyss harbour (NT39SW5: site description 6) appears to be in fairly stable condition. The coastline around the villages of East and West Wemyss is most notable for its sandstone caves. A cave at West Wemyss (NT33009515) does not appear to be on the NMRS and a survey of this is therefore recommended. The caves situated in the sand-stone cliffs to the north east of East Wemyss have long been of interest to archaeology as a source of Pictish carvings dating broadly to the 1st Millennium AD (Walker and Ritchie 1987,146) and these have been widely recorded and researched (NT39NW7,10,5,4,28,27,9,31,8,15). While the caves appear to be stable at present, the boulder defences along the coast edge parallel to the caves may be experiencing erosion and this is a cause for concern. In the first instance, baseline erosion survey measurements are required between East Wemyss and East Wemyss Gasworks (NT39NW20) to assess whether erosion does represent a concern even to protected sections of the coast edge.
- **Hinterland geology and coastal geomorphology; Erosion class** - Where colliery workings border the coastal edge, much of the natural geological base has been covered by colliery land-fill (Geology units 1, 2, 3, 10, 11). There are localised sections of coastal defence (Geology units 6,14,15) but for the most part the coastal edge is unprotected. This coastal sector is probably the most threatened by erosion which is particularly bad around the shorefront of East Wemyss and some unprotected sections to the north of the village (Erosion units 2, 11, 13).

**MAP 12: DYSART TO  
MACDUFF'S CASTLE**

**EROSION UNITS.**

**1**  
NT314939  
0.8 km  
Both accreting and eroding.  
*The foreshore appears to be accreting but the low coastal edge comprising colliery land-fill may be eroding.*

**2**  
NT317944  
0.2 km  
Definitely eroding  
*Coastal edge north east of Frances Colliery.*

**3**  
NT318945  
0.5 km  
Accreting or stable  
*Shingle beach with sections of colliery land-fill behind.*

**4**  
NT322947  
0.2 km  
Both accreting and eroding  
*Coastal edge comprising land-fill may be eroding but sediment appears to be accreting on the beach.*

**5**  
NT325946  
0.6 km  
Stable  
*Eroding face protected by sea-wall.*

**6**  
NT329949  
0.3 km  
Both accreting and eroding  
*Build up of shingle on the beach and possible erosion of the low coastal edge behind.*

**7**  
NT331953  
0.4 km  
Eroding or stable  
*Beach may be eroding south east of a concrete wall groyne on the beach.*

**8**  
NT333955  
0.2 km  
Accreting or stable  
*Beach may be accreting north east of a concrete wall groyne on the beach.*

**9**  
NT335958  
0.6 km  
Both accreting and eroding  
*Colliery landfill over mine may be eroding along the coastal edge with sediment build up along the shore.*

**10**  
NT338963  
0.4 km  
Eroding or stable  
*Land-fill along coastal edge may be eroding along a shorefront that is partially protected by boulder coastal defence.*

**11**  
NT341967  
0.4 km  
Definitely eroding  
*Unprotected shorefront.*

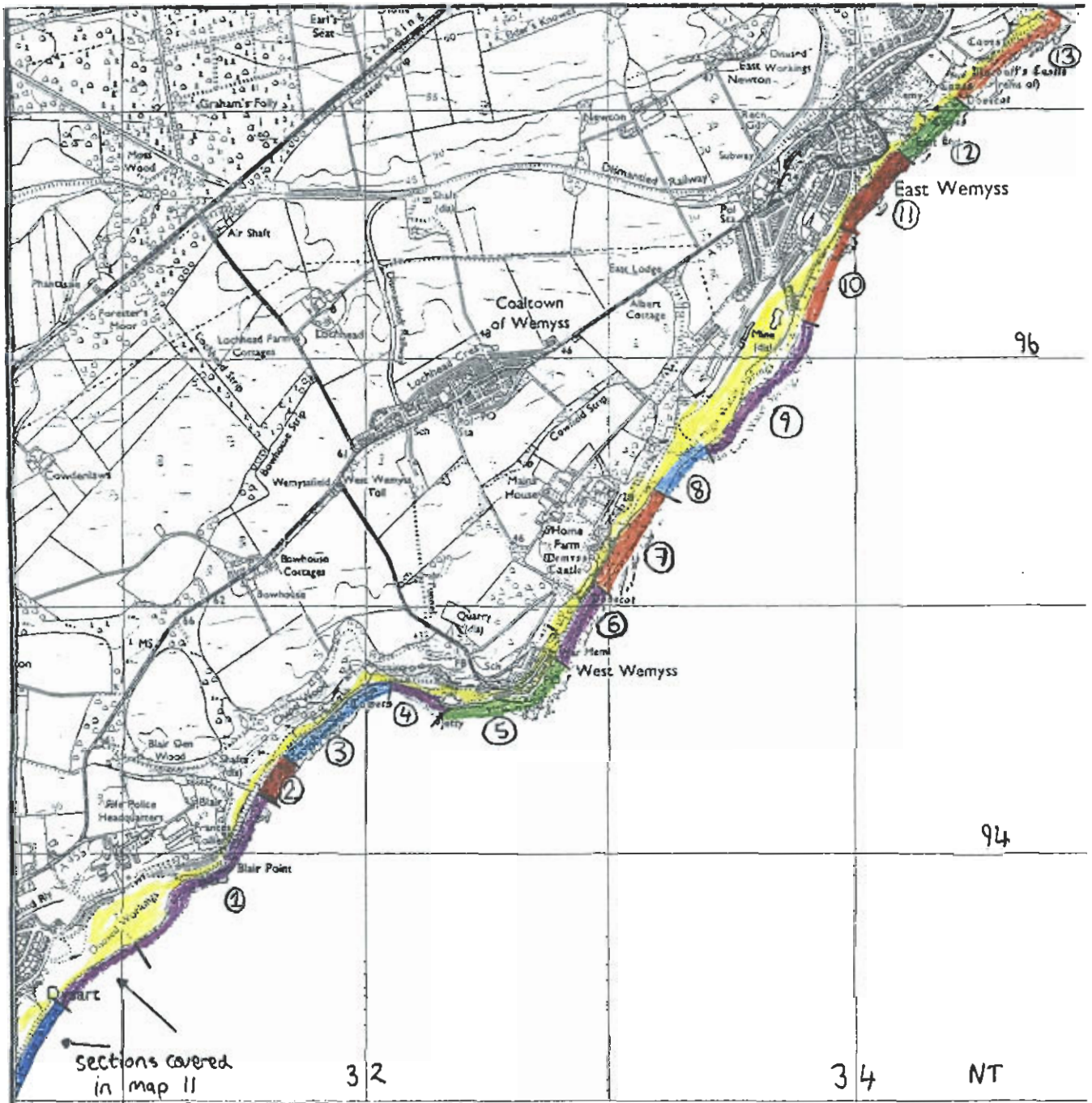
**12**  
NT343969  
0.3 km  
Stable  
*Due to boulder coastal defence measures.*

**13**  
NT345972  
0.5 km  
Eroding or stable  
*Partially protected boulder defences may be eroding away.*

**MAP CLASS: EROSION**

(Assessment date: 23-24 January 1996)  
 NT29/39. Scale 1: 25 000

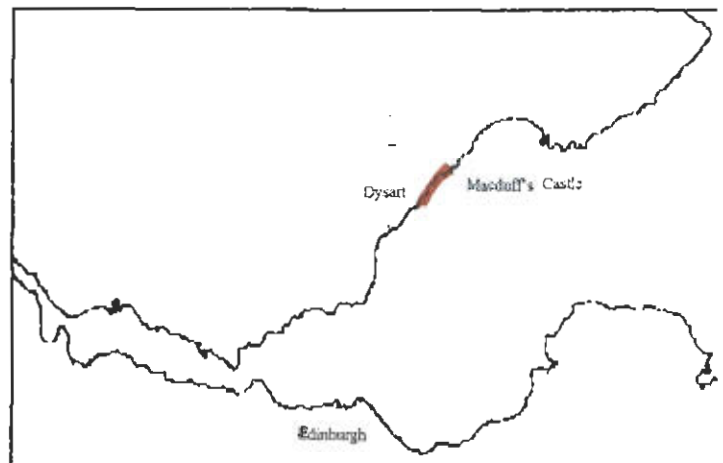
**DYSART TO MACDUFF'S CASTLE**



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**KEY**

Erosion class	Staedtler colour	colour
Definitely Accreting	ultramarine blue	
Accreting or stable	light blue	
Stable	light green	
Eroding or stable	orange	
Definitely Eroding	scarlet	
Both accreting and eroding	purple	
No access	blank	
Land below 10m	canary yellow	



**MAP 12: DYSART TO  
MACDUFF'S CASTLE**

**GEOLOGY UNITS**

**1**  
NT312937  
0.3 km  
Mainly sand  
Human disturbance  
Drift, boulder clay over visible rock with boulder clay behind  
*Land fill from the mining industries along the coastal edge with a shingle and sand foreshore.*

**2**  
NT313939  
0.1 km  
Mainly sand  
Human disturbance  
Drift, boulder clay  
*The hinterland geology comprise boulder clay which has been exposed at this point on the coastal edge, where signs of human disturbance are visible too.*

**3**  
NT314942  
0.2 km  
Mainly sand  
Human disturbance  
Drift, boulder clay over visible rock with boulder clay behind.  
*Debris land-fill in front of Frances and Blair collieries.*

**4**  
NT318946  
0.8 km  
Mainly sand  
Low edge (< 5 metres)  
Drift, boulder clay over visible rock with boulder clay behind.  
*Foreshore comprises sand and shingle with a low coastal edge behind round to a bay formed by the promontory dominated by the village of West Wemyss.*

**5**  
NT323946  
0.1 km  
Mainly sand  
Low edge (< 5 metres)  
Drift., boulder clay over visible rock with boulder clay and raised beach deposits behind.  
*Raised beach deposits behind the coastal edge.*

**6**  
NT36946  
0.6 km  
Mainly sand  
Man made barrier  
Drift, boulder clay over visible rock with raised beach and boulder clay deposits behind.  
*Concrete jetty, harbour walls, and sea-wall protect the village of West Wemyss*

**7**  
NT330950  
0.8 km  
Mainly sand  
Low edge (< 5 metres)  
Drift, boulder clay over visible rock with raised beach and boulder clay deposits behind  
*Foreshore comprises sand and shingle with low coastal edge of boulder clay deposits and a raised beach and de-graded cliff behind*

**8**  
NT332953  
0.1 km  
Mainly sand  
Man-made barrier  
Drift, boulder clay over visible rock  
*Large coastal defence grove on beach controlling movement of sediment along foreshore.*

**9**  
NT332954  
0.2 km  
Mainly sand  
Low edge (< 5 metres)  
Drift, boulder clay over visible rock with boulder clay deposits behind.  
*Continuation of sand and shingle on foreshore with low coastal edge behind.*

**10**  
NT336958  
0.9 km  
Mainly sand  
Human disturbance  
Raised beach and marine deposits.  
*Land-fill from mine consisting of wood, metal, coal dust and other scrap debris forms an un-protected coastal edge. Foreshore consists mostly of sand with debris from the eroding coastal edge.*

**11**  
NT338963  
0.1 km  
Mainly sand  
Human disturbance  
Drift, boulder clay with raised beach and marine deposits behind.  
*Boulder clay deposits visible on the coastal edge where land-fill ends.*

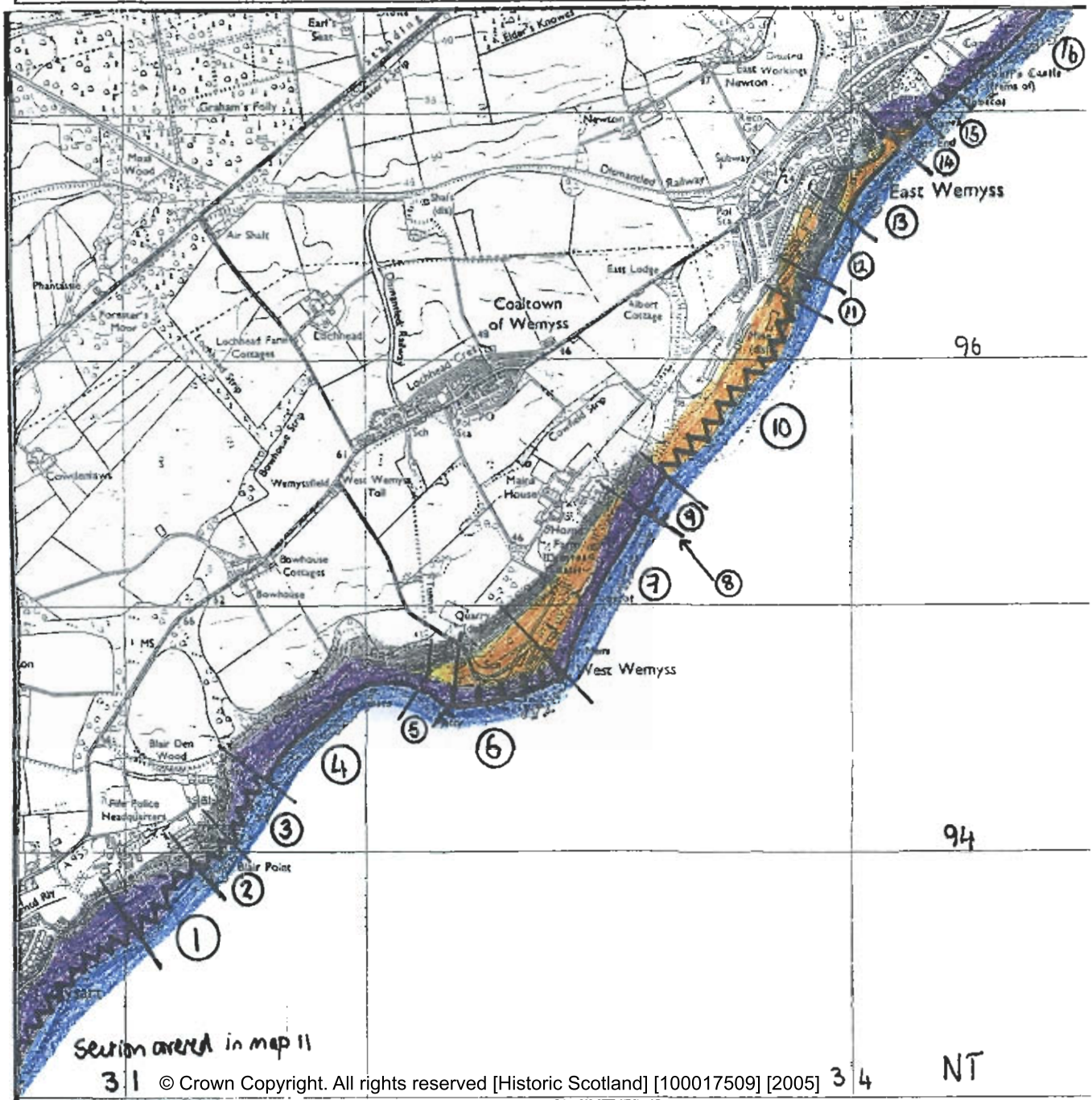
**12**  
NT339965  
0.3 km  
Mainly sand  
Low edge (< 5 metres)  
Drift, boulder clay with raised beach and marine deposits behind.  
*Foreshore of sand and shingle with a low coastal edge which is protected by a boulder revetment in parts, and un-protected in others.*

**13**  
NT342967  
0.4 km  
Mainly sand  
Low edge (< 5 metres)  
Raised beach and marine deposits with boulder clay behind.  
*Raised beach evident behind a foreshore protected in parts by boulder revetments. Caves in raised beach suggest active marine erosion in the past.*

**14**  
NT342969  
0.1 km  
Mainly sand  
Man made barrier  
Raised beach and marine deposits with boulder clay over visible rock behind.  
*Sea-wall protecting part of the sea-front of East Wemyss.*

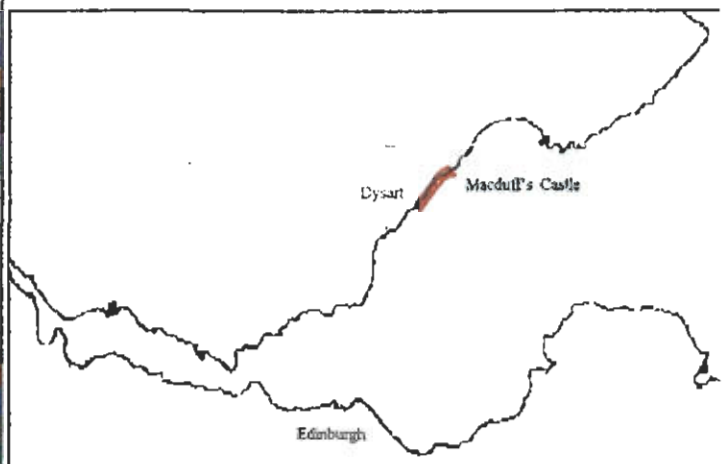
**15**  
NT344970  
0.2 km  
Mainly sand  
Man made barrier  
Drift, boulder clay over visible rock.  
*Boulder clay visible along the coastal edge with boulder revetments on the foreshore protecting coastal edge from erosion.*

**16**  
NT347973  
0.6 km  
Mainly sand  
Low edge (< 5 metres)  
Drift, boulder clay over visible rock.  
*Sand and shingle cover the inter-tidal zone with a low coastal edge of boulder clay behind which is slumping badly towards the north east of the section.*



KEY

Hinterland Geology	Staedtler colour	
Drift, boulder clay	light grey	
Drift, boulder clay over visible rock	Caran D'ache violet	
Raised beach and marine deposits	golden brown	
Blown sand	peach	
Glacial sand and gravel	magenta	
Alluvium	grass green	
Coast Edge		
Low edge (<5m)	thin black line	
Cliff (>5m)	solid black line	
Man made barrier	black line with spines	
Shingle beach	small circles	
Human disturbance	black carats	
Coastal Geomorphology		
Mainly rock platform	vermilion	
Mainly sand	indigo	
Mainly alluvial/marine mud	sienna brown	
Marsh	true green	



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**BUILT HERITAGE AND  
ARCHAEOLOGY UNITS**

*Sites along the coastal edge*

**NT30759345**

Blair Point  
Brick structure under edge of coal bing. Military ?  
Mid 20th Century  
Poor  
*Survey, Monitor*

**NT30769345**

Blair Point  
Iron coal cart, narrow gauge  
20th Century  
Poor  
*Survey*

**NT30959355**

Dysart  
Colliery trucks and engine, by stanchions for narrow  
gauge line  
20th Century  
Fair  
*Survey*

**NT30999360**

Dysart  
Concrete tanktraps reused as coastal erosion defence.  
20th Century  
Fair  
*Nil*

**NT39SW25**

FRANCES COLLIERY  
COAL MINE  
LISTED BUILDING  
20<sup>th</sup> Century  
Poor  
*Survey*

**NT31209380**

Blair point  
Brick structure under edge of coal bing, mining struc-  
ture?  
19th - 20th Century  
Poor  
*Survey, Monitor*

**NT31459408**

Blair Point, Dysart  
Surface mining, (Coal) with stone/mortar buildings in  
section  
17th - 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Poor  
*Survey*

**NT39SW14**

WEMYSS; CHAPEL GARDEN  
CHAPEL (POSSIBLE); BURIAL ENCLOSURE  
LISTED BUILDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SITE OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE  
17th - 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Fair  
*Nil*

**NT39SW1**

WEMYSS; CHAPEL GARDEN  
TOWER-HOUSE; TOWER; DOVECOTE  
(POSSIBLE)  
LISTED BUILDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SITE OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE  
17th - 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Fair  
*Nil*

**NT39SW5**

WEST WEMYSS HARBOUR  
HARBOUR  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF REGIONAL IM-  
PORTANCE  
**\*See site description 6**  
17th - 19th Century  
Fair  
*Survey, Monitor*

*Sites behind the foreshore at West Wemyss (W.WMS)*

**NT39SW31**  
WEST WEMYSS  
VILLAGE  
Uncertain  
Noted but not visited  
*Nil*

**NT39SW8**  
WEMYSS; CHAPEL GARDEN  
HOUSE  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT39SW6**  
WEST WEMYSS; 1-4 SHORE  
HEAD  
HOUSES  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT39SW27**  
WEST WEMYSS; COXSTOOL  
HOUSES  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT39SW11**  
WEST WEMYSS GASWORKS  
GASWORKS  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT39SW13**  
WEST WEMYSS TOLLBOOTH  
TOLLBOOTH  
PROTECTED ANCIENT  
MONUMENT  
Early 18<sup>th</sup> Century  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT39SW7**  
WEST WEMYSS; 53 MAIN  
STREET  
HOUSE  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT39SW12**  
WEST WEMYSS; GAS HOLDER  
STATION  
GAS HOLDER STATION  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*  
*Sites along the coastal edge*

**NT32859480**  
West Wemyss  
Tidal pool  
Uncertain  
Fair  
*Nil*

**NT32799486**  
West Wemyss  
Fishermens' boat huts, and boat  
winches  
20th Century  
Fair  
*Survey*

**NT32809510**  
West Wemyss  
Walls visible in the eroding face  
Uncertain  
Poor  
*Monitor*

**NT39NW14**  
WEMYSS CASTLE  
TOWER-HOUSE; HOUSE; DOVE-  
COTE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF  
REGIONAL IMPORTANCE  
Uncertain  
Fair  
*Nil*

**NT33009515**  
West Wemyss  
Caves with carvings  
Early Christian/Uncertain  
Fair  
*Survey*

**NT39NW12**  
WEMYSS CASTLE  
CROSS-SLAB.  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT33329553**  
West Wemyss  
Sea defences  
17th - 19th Century  
Fair  
*Nil*

**NT39NW6**  
EAST WEMYSS; GLASS CAVE  
CAVE; ROCK CARVINGS (POSSIBLE),  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF RE-  
GIONAL IMPORTANCE  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT335959**  
West Wemyss  
Track leading from beach (disused)  
Uncertain  
Fair  
*Nil*

**NT39NW11**  
EAST WEMYSS, MICHAEL CAVE  
CAVE, ROCK CARVINGS, CUP AND  
RING MARKS, POTTERY, MIDDEN.  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF RE-  
GIONAL IMPORTANCE.  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil.*

**NT39NW23**  
EAST WEMYSS, MICHAEL COLLIERY  
COAL MINE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF RE-  
GIONAL IMPORTANCE  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT33759630**  
West Wemyss  
Lobster fishermens' huts and beach winch  
19th - 20th Century  
Fair  
*Survey*

**MAP 12: DYSART TO  
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**BUILT HERITAGE AND  
ARCHAEOLOGY UNITS (CONT.)**

*Sites behind the foreshore at East  
Wemyss (E.WMS)*

**NT39NW18**  
EAST WEMYSS; 1-3 SCHOOL WYND  
HOUSES  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT39NW19**  
EAST WEMYSS; MAIN STREET  
MANSE; STABLES; GARAGE  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT39NW32**  
EAST WEMYSS; EAST END  
OUSES  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT39NE39**  
EAST WEMYSS  
WATCHING BRIEF  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT39NW3**  
EAST WEMYSS; COURT CAVE  
CAVE; ROCK CARVINGS  
PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT  
Early Christian  
Fair  
*Nil*

**NT39NW7**  
EAST WEMYSS; DOVECOTE CAVE,  
CAVE; ROCK CARVINGS; DOVECOT  
PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT  
Early Christian  
Fair  
*Nil*

**NT39NW10**  
EAST WEMYSS; WELL CAVE  
CAVE; ROCK CARVING (POSSIBLE),  
PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT39NW5**  
MACDUFFS CASTLE  
DOVECOTE  
PROTECTED ANCIENT MONU-  
MENT  
16th Century  
Fair  
*Nil*

**NT39NW4**  
MACDUFFS CASTLE  
TOWER-HOUSE,  
PROTECTED ANCIENT MONU-  
MENT  
14th - 17th Century  
Fair  
*Nil*

**NT39NW28**  
EAST WEMYSS; JONATHANS  
CAVE  
BURIALS,  
10th-11th Century  
Not seen  
*Monitor*

**NT39NW27**  
EAST WEMYSS  
WALLS  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*

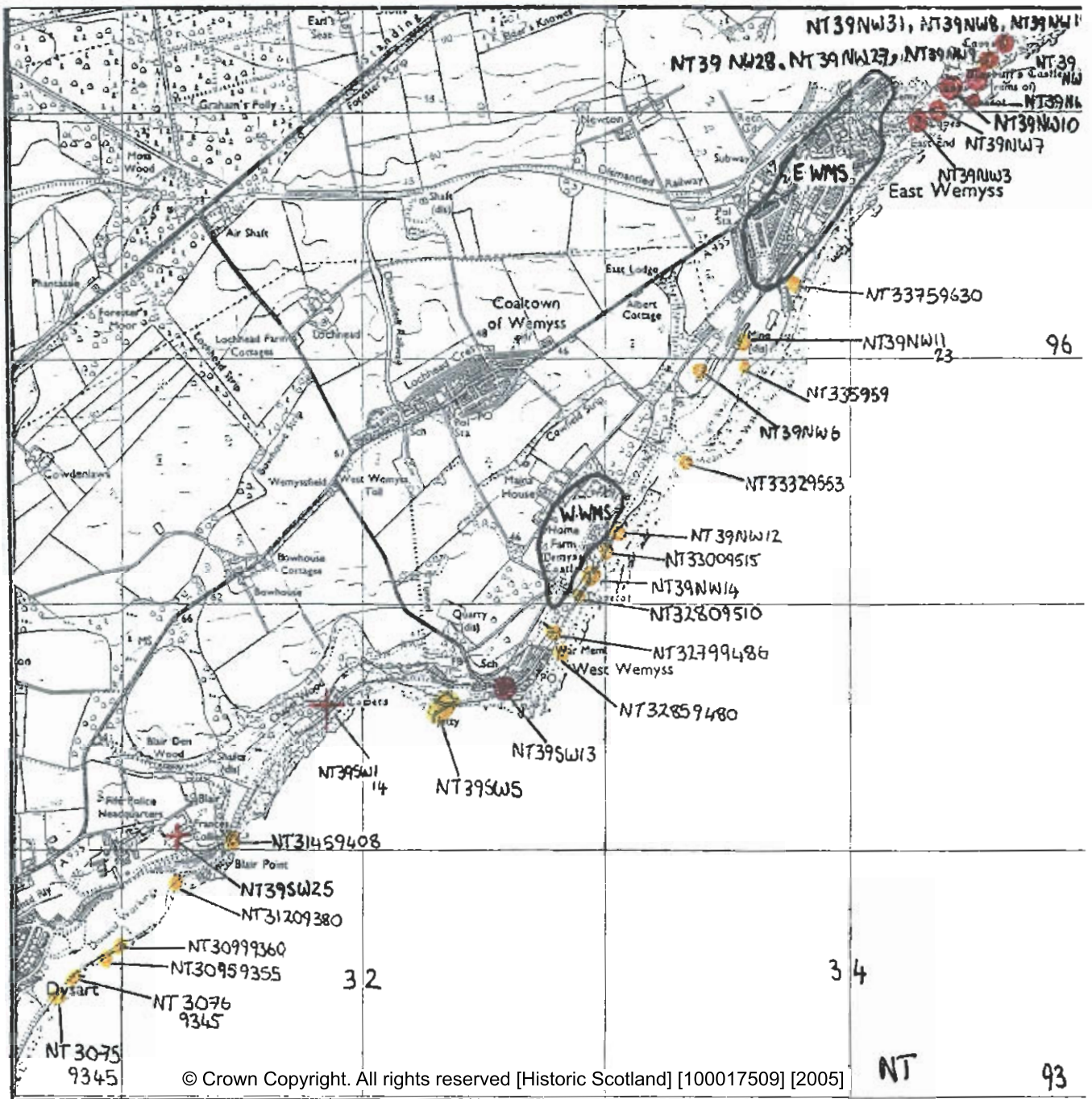
**NT39NW9**  
EAST WEMYSS; JONATHANS  
CAVE  
CAVE: ROCK CARVINGS; PIC-  
TISH SYMBOL WALL CARVINGS,  
PROTECTED ANCIENT MONU-  
MENT  
Uncertain  
Fair  
*Nil*

**NT39NW31**  
EAST WEMYSS; JONATHANS  
CAVE - GASWORKS  
TRIAL EXCAVATION; GEOMOR-  
PHOLOGICAL SURVEY AREA;  
MIDDEN,  
Medieval -uncertain.  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT39NW8**  
EAST WEMYSS; SLIDING CAVE  
CAVE; ROCK CARVINGS; PIC-  
TISH SYMBOL WALL CARVINGS,  
PROTECTED ANCIENT MONU-  
MENT  
Early Christian  
Not seen  
*Nil*

**NT39NW15**  
EAST WEMYSS  
CAVE; ROCK CARVINGS, now col-  
lapsed  
Uncertain  
Not seen  
*Nil*





KEY

Site location	Symbol	Strædler colour	Significance
NGR e.g. NO12345678	solid roundel	carmine	Protected Ancient Monument
	cross	carmine	Listed Historic Building
	open roundel	carmine	Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for designation
NMRS e.g. NT28NE13	solid roundel	yellow ochre	Other known Ancient Monument
	dashed outline	yellow ochre	Designed Landscape
	roundel open	yellow ochre	Undesignated Wreck
	area	green	Insufficient information, more work needed (no access, or not walked)
	area	blue	Probably archaeologically sterile

