

## MAP13 - MACDUFF'S CASTLE TO METHIL

- **Built heritage and archaeology** - The gasworks at East Wemyss (NT39NW20) have been documented in more detail in site description 4. Nearby to this interesting industrial site a sandstone cave (NT39NW13) showing signs of habitation, and a midden (NT39NW21) have been recorded but these were not seen during the survey. The remainder of the sites in this sector comprise aspects of Buckhaven Oil Rig Construction Yard and Methil Dockyard. The yards themselves were not surveyed by the team because of prohibited access and because Methil Dockyard (NT37509950) may contain aspects of interest, a further survey is recommended of this area.
- **Hinterland geology and coastal geomorphology; Erosion class** - To the north east of Macduff's Castle there is a sloping hill of boulder clay which appears to be experiencing substantial landslip and erosion along its edge (Erosion unit 1). Land-fill along much of the coast-edge of Buckhaven promontory has covered up the natural geological base but has been deployed to stabilise erosion rates along the sea-front of the town. As the coastline progresses north-east, much of the coastal edge is protected by a sea-wall deployed to protect Buckhaven Oil Rig Construction Yard and Methil Dockyard which have mostly been constructed on reclaimed land.

**MAP 13: MACDUFF'S CASTLE TO  
METHIL**

**EROSION UNITS.**

**1**  
NT349975  
0.5 km  
Definitely eroding  
*Unprotected shoreline eroding fairly rapidly  
with land-slip of steep clay slope behind.*

**2**  
NT354977  
0.3 km  
Accreting or stable  
*Land-fill along the shore and accretion of sand,  
coal dust and shingle along a sheltered fore-  
shore.*

**3**  
NT356976  
0.2 km  
Both accreting and eroding  
*Coastal edge comprising land-fill may be erod-  
ing with deposition of sand, coal dust and shin-  
gle along a sheltered  
foreshore.*

**4**  
NT357975  
0.2 km  
Accreting or stable  
*Sea-wall protects the coastal edge while sand,  
coal dust and shingle may be  
accreting on the foreshore.*

**5**  
NT359976  
0.3 km  
Stable  
*Coastal defence sea-wall.*

**6**  
NT361979  
1.0 km  
Accreting or stable  
*Sea-wall protects the coastal edge and sediment  
may be building up on the foreshore.*

**7**  
NT329985  
0.6 km  
Not seen  
*Sea-walls at entrance to Buckhaven Harbour*

**8**  
NT371990  
0.5 km  
Accreting or stable  
*Sea-wall protects the coastal edge and sediment  
may be building up on the foreshore.*

**9**  
NT379995  
1.5 km  
Stable  
*Methil Harbour breakwater*

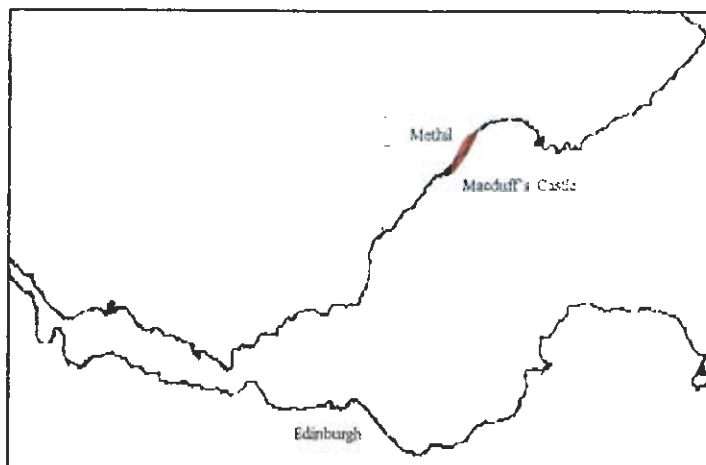
MAP CLASS: EROSION  
 (Assessment date: 23 January 1996)  
 NT29/39, Scale 1: 25 000

MACDUFF'S CASTLE TO METHIL



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 13: EAST WEMYSS TO METHIL**

**GEOLOGY UNITS**

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**1**

NT351977

0.5 km

Mainly sand

Low edge (< 5 metres)

Drift, boulder clay

*Boulder clay forms a steep slope to a sand and shingle foreshore.*

*Evidence of land-slip and slumping of the clay onto the foreshore.*

**2**

NT359977

1.1 km

Mainly sand

Human disturbance

Reclaimed land and boulder clay behind.

*Land-fill along the coastal edge to prevent ongoing erosion of the southern promontory and original entrance to old Buckhaven Harbour.*

**3**

NT372990

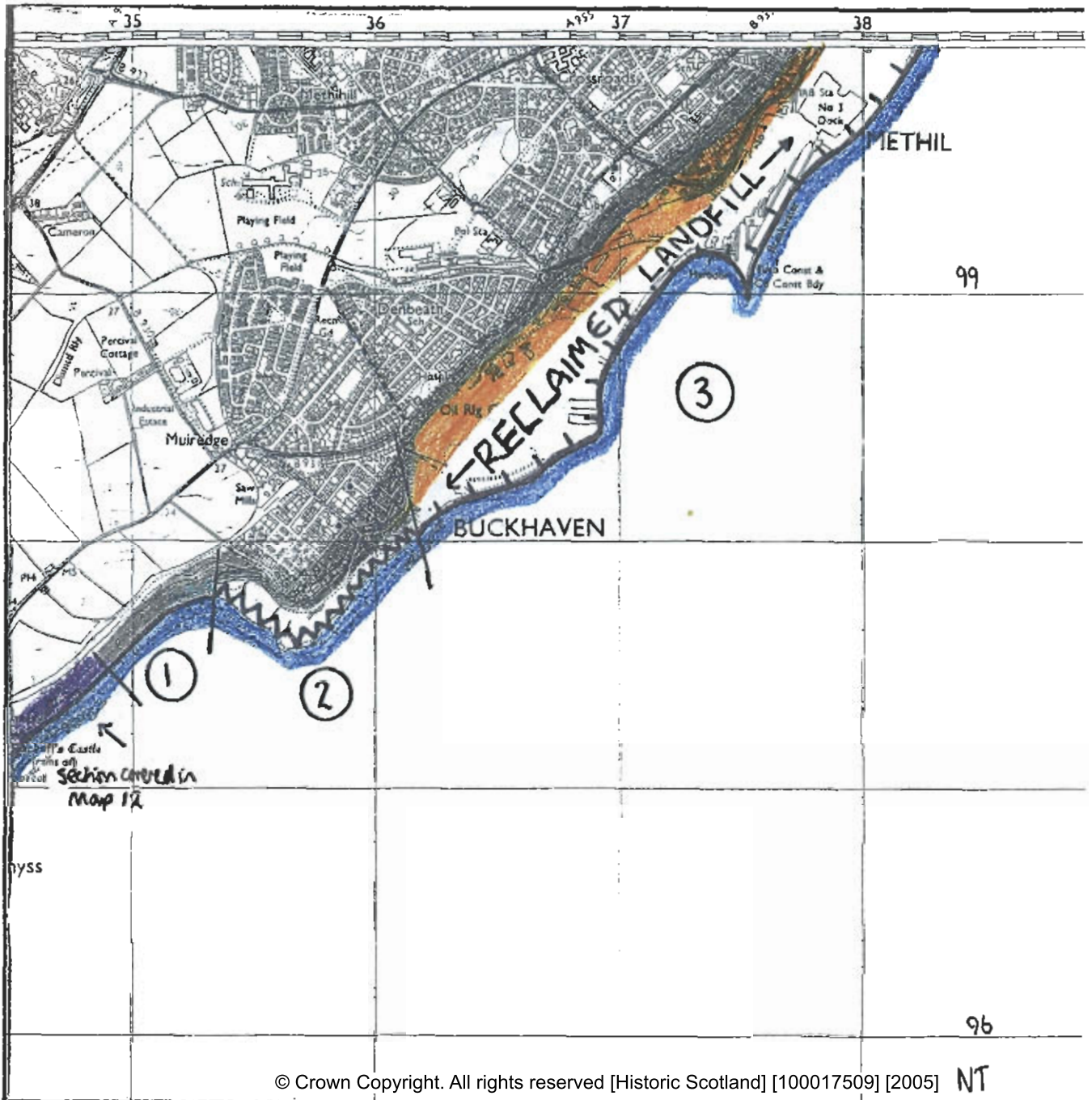
3.0 km

Mainly sand

Man made barrier

Reclaimed land with raised beach and marine deposits, and boulder clay deposits in the hinterland behind.

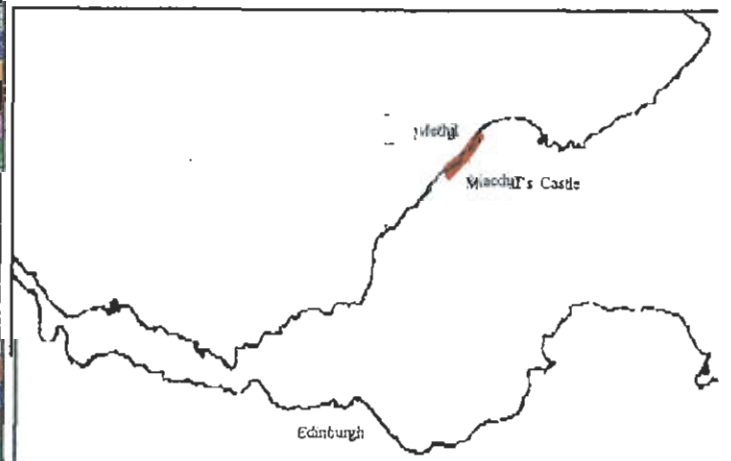
*Long concrete sea-wall forms outer boundary to Buckhaven Oil Rig Construction facility and Methil Dockyard. Both these facilities have been built on reclaimed land which lies in front of a raised beach.*



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KEY

Hinterland Geology	Staedtler colour	
Drift, boulder clay	light grey	
Drift, boulder clay over visible rock	Coran D'acke-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	



**MAP 13: MACDUFF'S CASTLE TO METHIL.**

**BUILT HERITAGE AND  
ARCHAEOLOGY UNITS**

*Sites along the coastal edge*

**NT39NW13**

EAST WEMYSS: GASWORKS CAVE  
CAVE: STONE ; MORTAR,  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF REGIONAL  
IMPORTANCE

*Uncertain*

Not seen

*Nil*

**NT39NW20**

EAST WEMYSS GASWORKS  
GASWORKS, Noted as Brick and stone in the section

**\* See site description 4**

*Uncertain*

Poor

*Survey*

**NT39NW21**

EAST WEMYSS CAVES  
MIDDEN,

*Uncertain*

Not seen

*Nil*

**NT35749765**

Buckhaven

Sea-wall

*Uncertain*

Fair

*Nil*

**NT35809770**

Buckhaven

Concrete pier

19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century

Fair

*Nil*

**NT36209810**

Buckhaven

Tank traps, concrete

Mid 20th century

Fair

*Nil*

**NT36509830**

Buckhaven

Coal mine and bing, disused

19<sup>th</sup> Century

Fair

*Nil*

**NT36709870**

Methil

Shipyard

20<sup>th</sup> Century

Fair

*Survey*

**NT37509950**

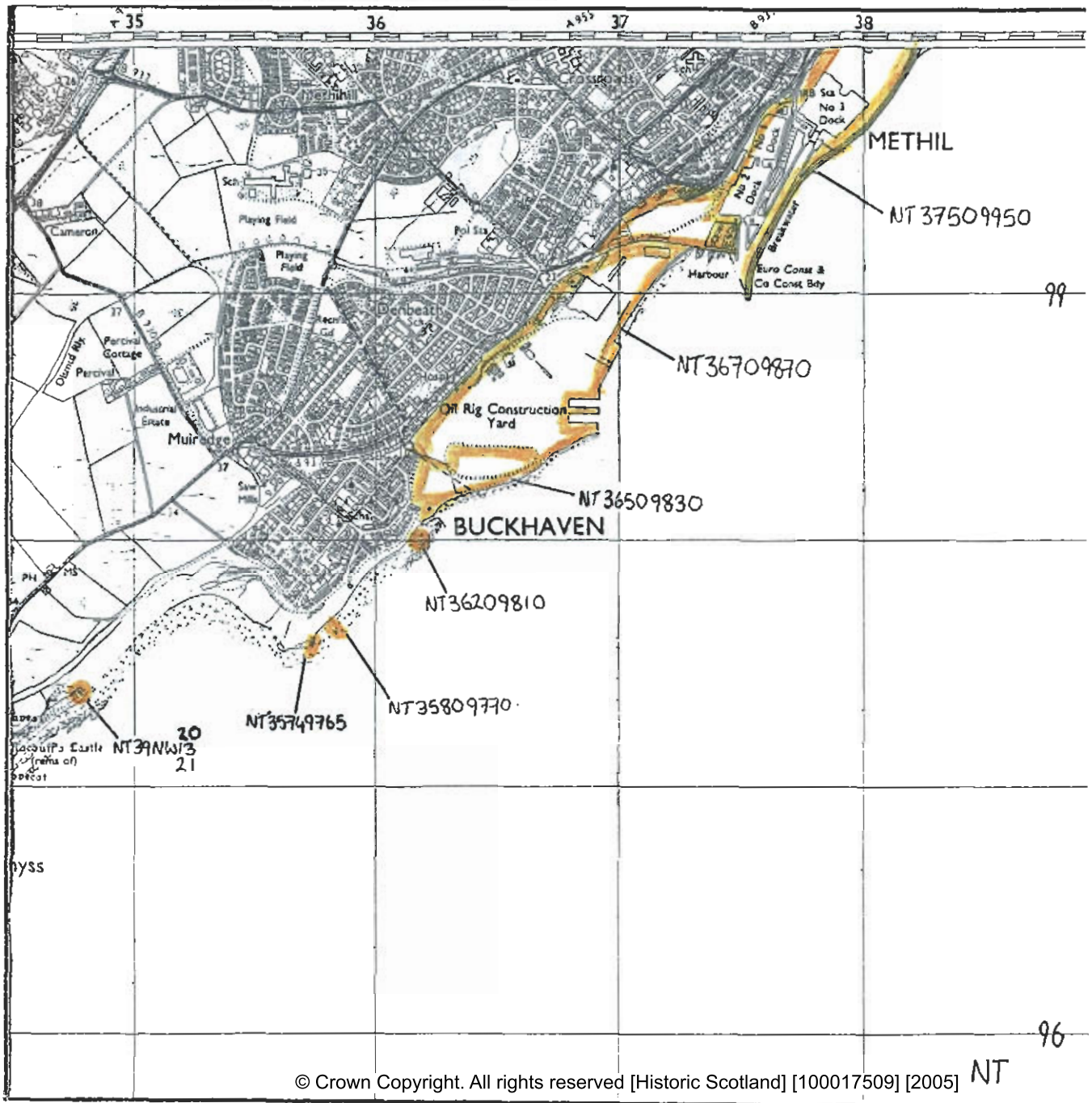
Methil

Harbour, Docks, owned by Forth Harbour Co.

17th - 19th Century

Fair

*Survey*



KEY

Site location	Symbol	Staedtler colour	Significance
NQR 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
	solid roundel	yellow ochre	Other known Ancient Monument
NMRS e.g. NT28NE13	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

