

MAP 20 - THE COVES TO FIFENESS

- **Built heritage and archaeology** - There are no foreshore sites between the Coves and Crail but there are a number of interesting coastal edge sites including two salt pans (NO60NW36, NO60NW39), a salmon fisherman's cottage (NO60600660), and a disused coast-guard station (NO60910682). There is also a collection of sites on the shore below the coast-guard station all located within a small area, a cleared slipway (NO60980688), evidence of mine working (NO60980698), drystone buildings visible in the eroding cliff-face (NO61100698), and a recorded burial cist burial site (NO60NW16) which was not seen. The Royal Burgh of Crail has two harbours. The main harbour (NO60NW31) is still in use and is described in more detail in site description 6. A second, 'Roome harbour' was used periodically as a natural haven since the 16th century and there are still remains of a cobbled slip-way at that site. Two shell and bone middens were also located above the high water mark at the north east end of Crail village (NO61580782, NO61720789:site description 5) and these need to be recorded in more detail. In the same area there is an intertidal swimming pool (NO61600772) with cement bordering which bears a ship graffiti inscribed in cement with the date "1915" next to it. Between Crail and Fifeness, no sites have survived on the foreshore but there are numerous features associated with the defence of Crail airfield which are still visible along the coast edge. These include pillboxes (NO62170785, NO62770812, NO62910853, NO60NW49.6, NO60NW49.5), disused trackways to the airfield (NO62300795, NO62610808), foundations for airfield buildings (NO60NW49.1) and standing buildings (NO62800850, NO62950851). In addition to the Crail Airfield complex, the area of Kilminning Castle is of interest. Although there are no visible remains of Kilminning chapel (NO60NW8), a known burial site in the ploughed fields nearby has yielded numerous human bones. A flat grass platform (NO63200865) below the position given for the chapel site was identified as being of particular interest..
- **Hinterland geology and coastal geomorphology** - The lack of foreshore sites along this coastal stretch may be due to the predominance of the rock platform along this coastline. Except for localised sheltered beaches at Roome Harbour and in the lee of Crail harbour walls (Geology units 4, 7), there is almost no sand cover along this stretch. Any sediment which may have accumulated high up on the rocky shore will have eroded from the coast edge. A raised beach backs the foreshore except for a section of blown sand deposits which can be seen near the coast edge in the vicinity of Crail. The raised beach is most evident in short cliff sections by Roome Harbour (Geology Unit 7) and west of Crail Harbour (Geology Unit 3). There was clear evidence of erosion of much of the unprotected raised beach just behind the coastal edge but this has not been caused by marine action. For the most part, the rocky foreshore remains stable.

**MAP 20: THE COVES TO
FIFENESS**

EROSION UNITS.

1
NO601058
0.2 km
Stable
Rocky foreshore by Caiplie Coves

2
NO602060
0.1 km
Accreting or stable
Localised build up of sand on the foreshore.

3
NO604062
0.4 km
Stable
Rocky foreshore is stable

4
NO605065
0.2 km
Eroding or stable
Localised erosion of land-fill coastal edge behind a stable foreshore.

5
NO606066
0.2 km
Stable
Stable rocky foreshore.

6
NO609068
0.3 km
Both accreting and eroding
Accretion of sediments along the foreshore and erosion of the coastline behind.

7
NO611069
0.1 km
Accreting or stable
Accretion of sediments along the foreshore and a stable coastal edge.

8
NO612071
0.2 km
Definitely eroding
Localised cliff erosion near Westland Skelly

9
NO612073
0.2 km
Eroding or stable
The cliff may be eroding but the rocky fore-

shore is stable.

10
NO611074
0.1 km
Both accreting and eroding
Cliffs west of harbour are eroding with evidence suggesting accretion on a sandy beach.

11
NO612074
0.1 km
Stable
Crail Harbour is stable.

12
NO616076
0.6 km
Eroding or stable
Partial erosion of the coastal edge and a stable rocky foreshore.

13
NO618079
0.3 km
Accreting or stable
Accretion of sand in the bay to the north east of Crail. Coastal edge is partially protected by coastal defence.

14
NO620079
0.2 km
Definitely eroding
The cliffs at the eastern end of Roome Harbour

15
NO626080
1.2 km
Eroding or stable
The coastal edge may be eroding behind a rocky foreshore.

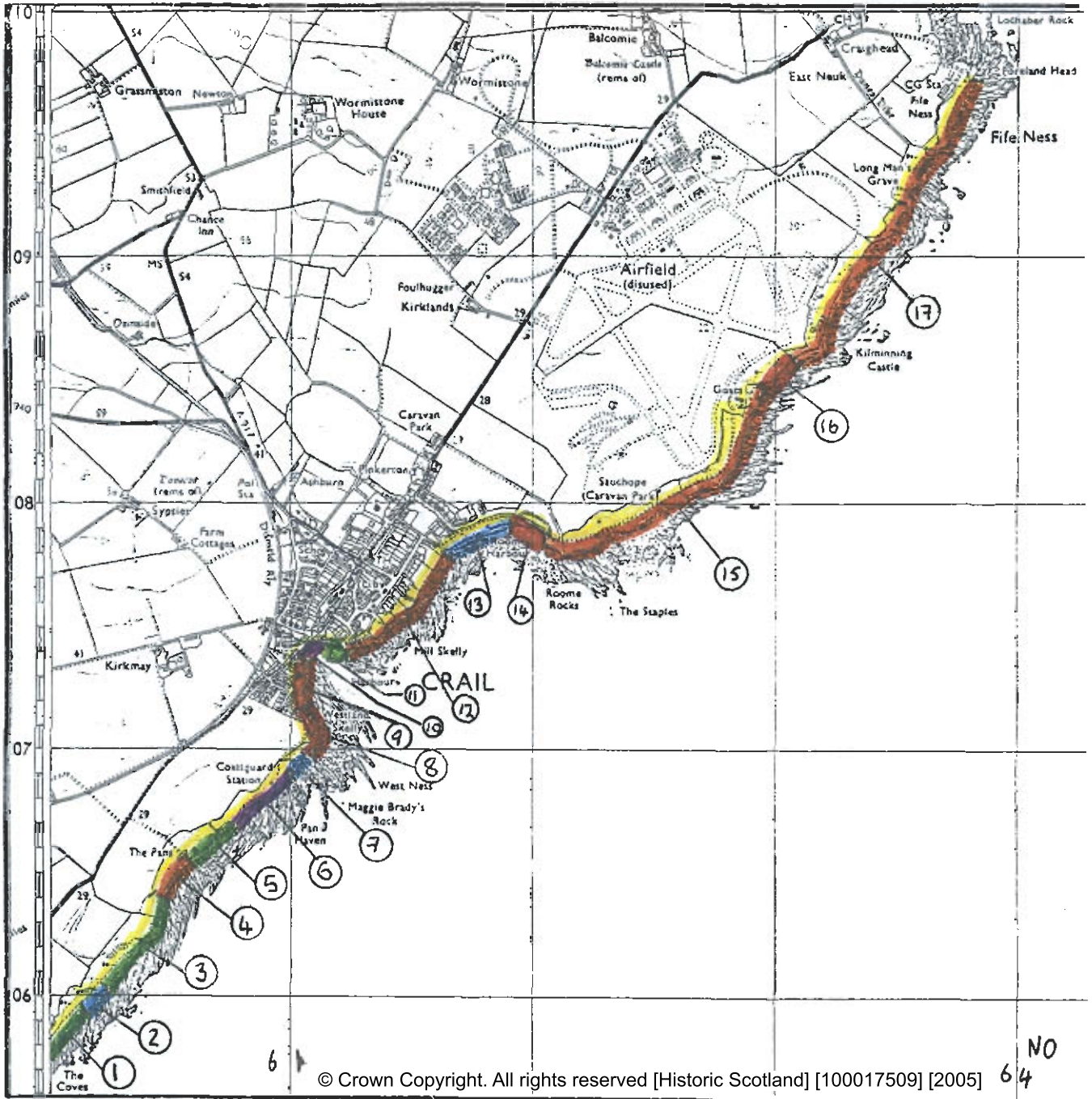
16
NO630085
0.2 km
Definitely eroding
Localised erosion of the cliff face.

17
NO634091
1.5 km
Eroding or stable
The coastal edge may be eroding behind a rocky foreshore between Kilminning and Fifeness.

MAP CLASS: EROSION

(Assessment date: 13-15 January 1996)
NO60/61. Scale 1: 25 000

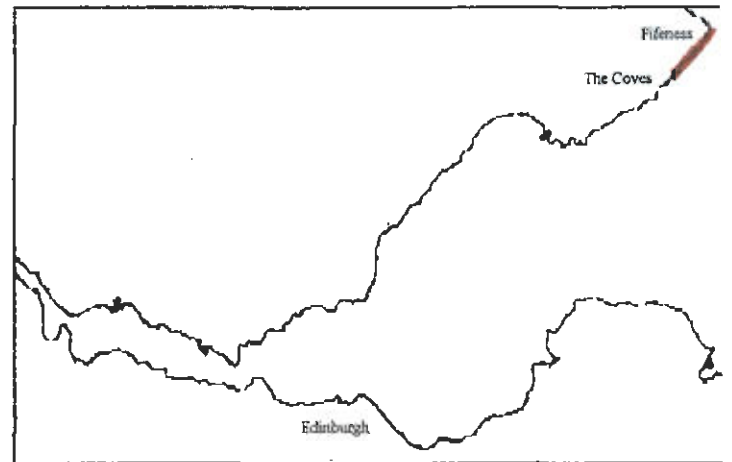
THE COVES TO FIFENESS



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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 20: THE COVES TO FIFENESS

GEOLOGY UNITS

1
NO606065
1.5 km
Mainly rock platform
Low edge (< 5 metres)
Raised beach and marine deposits
The Caiplie Coves are formed from Raised beach materials, the dominant coastal edge geology type along this sector.

2
NO611070
0.3 km
Mainly rock platform
Cliff (> 5 metres)
Raised beach and marine deposits
Cliffs rise steeply just to the west of the Coast-guard Station.. Large boulders occur on the platform surface below and these have presumably eroded from the cliffs.

3
NO611072
0.2 km
Mainly rock platform
Cliff (> 5 metres) and man made barrier
Raised beach and marine deposits
The high cliffs continue round towards Crail Harbour by Westland Skelly. As the cliffs approach Crail village, some of the coastline has been protected by sea-defences.

4
NO611074
0.1 km
Mainly sand
Man made barrier
Blown sand
Sand has accumulated over the rock platform within the sheltered environment created by Crail Harbour, forming a beach with high cliff behind. Some of the beach material may have eroded from the cliffs.

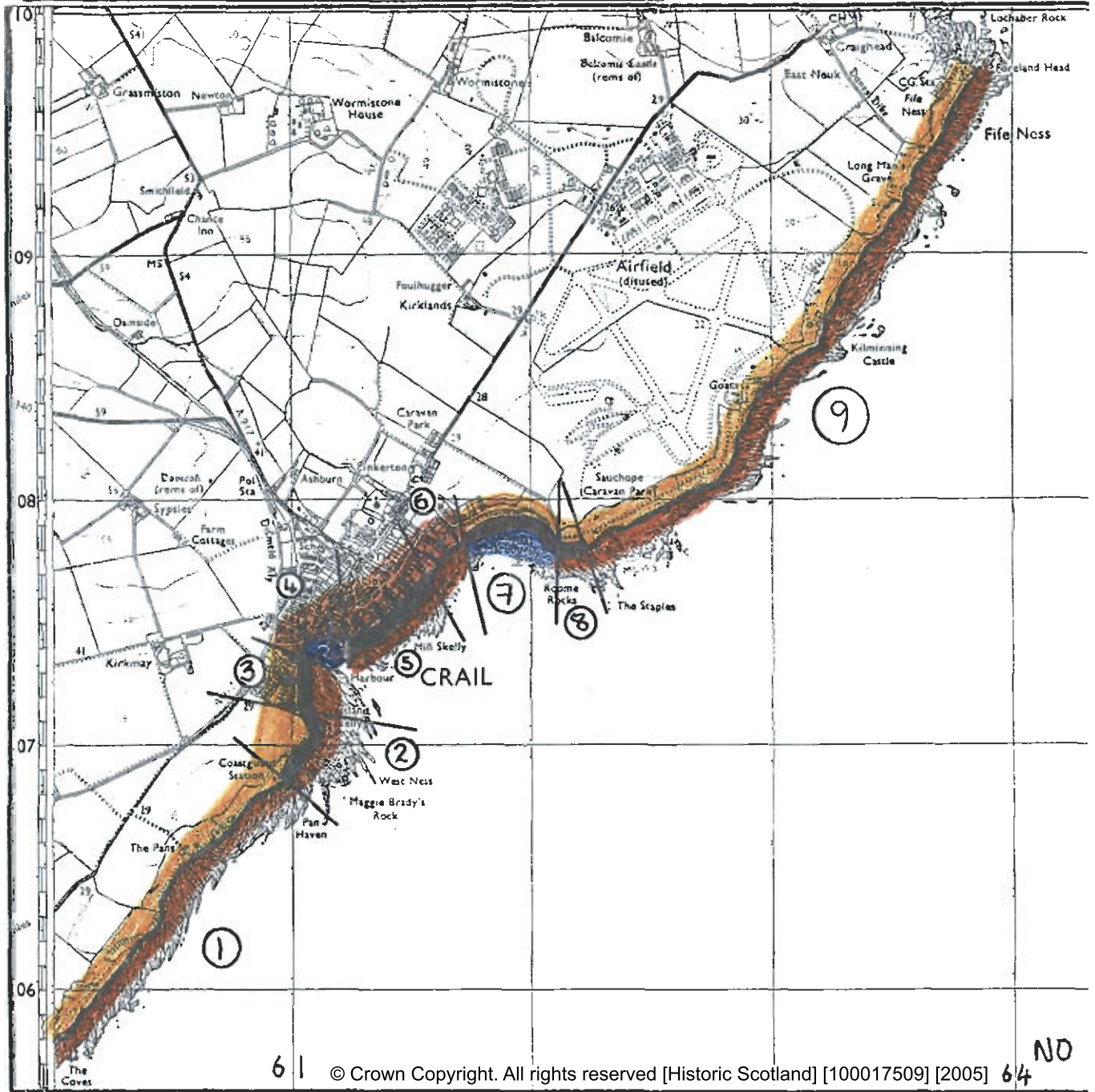
5
NO614075
0.5 km
Mainly rock platform
Cliff (> 5 metres) and man made barrier
Blown sand
A high cliff continues to the east of Crail harbour but descends in height as it heads eastwards. The coastal edge is protected in parts and exposed in others and a rock platform dominates the foreshore once again

6
NO616078
0.2 km
Mainly rock platform
Man made barrier
Blown sand
The cliff line descends to form a low coastal edge the majority of which is protected by sea-wall.

7
NO619079
0.4 km
Mainly sand
Cliff (> 5 metres)
Raised beach and marine deposits
A cliff (approx 10 metres above O.D.) rises behind Roome Harbour. The sea-bed of this natural haven consists of shingle and sand with a rocky promontory to the west.

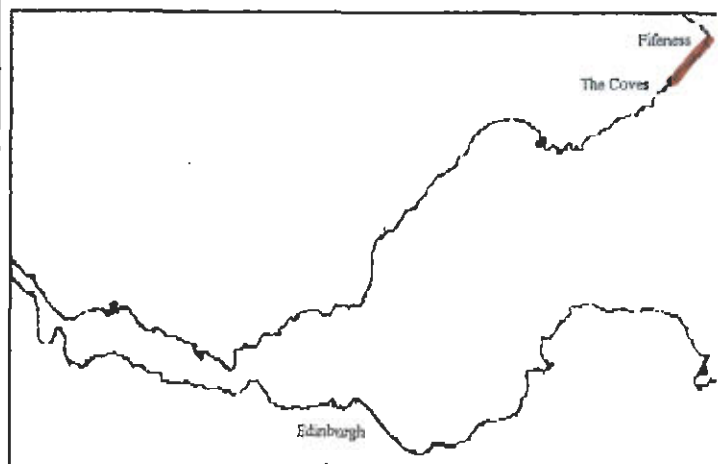
8
NO622078
0.2 km
Mainly rock platform
Cliff (> 5 metres)
Raised beach and marine deposits
The cliff continues but descends to form a low coastal edge of raised beach materials behind a rocky foreshore.

9
NO632086
2.6 km
Mainly rock platform
Low edge (< 5 metres)
Raised beach and marine deposits
A low raised beach extends from Crail to Fifeness with a rock platform foreshore interspersed only by localised accumulations of boulders and shingle, particularly near the high water mark.



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	



MAP 20: THE COVES TO FIFENESS

BUILT HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Sites behind the foreshore at Crail (CRL)

NO60NW28
CRAIL BURGH VILLAGE
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF REGIONAL IMPORTANCE
 Uncertain
 Noted but not visited
Nil

NO60NW26
CRAIL; TEMPLE CRESCENT; UPPER MEAD BEACON
 BEACON
 Uncertain
 Not seen
Survey

NO60NW25
CRAIL; TEMPLE CRESCENT; LOWER MEAD BEACON
 BEACON
 Uncertain
 Fair
Nil

NO60NW18
CRAIL JAR
 Uncertain
 Not seen
Nil

NO60NW46
CRAIL BATTERY
 BATTERY
 20th Century
 Not seen
Nil

NO60NW13
CRAIL; THE MARKET CROSS; MARKETGATE
 PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENT
 Early 17th Century
 Not seen
Nil

NO60NW15
CUNNINGHAMS CASTLE HOUSE,
 17th Century uncertain
 Not seen
Nil

NO60NW22
CRAIL; BRIERY WELL WELL
 Uncertain
 Not seen
Nil

Sites along the coastal edge

NO60NW36
THE COVES SALT PAN
 Uncertain
 Fair
Survey

NO60NW37
THE COVES ENCLOSURE
 Uncertain
 Not seen
Nil

NO60200603
The Coves
 Field wall
 Uncertain
 Fair
Nil

NO60NW39
CRAIL BUILDINGS; SALT PANS
 17th - 19th Century
 Fair
Survey

NO60600660
Crail
 Salmon Fisherman's Cottage
 17th - 19th Century
 Fair
Survey

NO60NW38
CRAIL TILE-WORKS
 Uncertain
 Not seen
Nil

NO60910682
Crail
 Coast-guard Station, Disused
 19th - 20th Centuries
 Fair
Nil

NO60980698
Crail
 Surface mining, with signs of military reuse
 19th and mid 20th Century
 Poor
Survey

NO60980688
Crail
 Slipway, Cleared of stone.
 Uncertain
 Fair
Nil

NO61000690
Crail
 Fossil tree
 Uncertain
 Fair
Survey

NO61090690
Crail
 Fossil Beds
 Uncertain
 Fair
Nil

NO61100698
Crail
 Drystone buildings visible in the eroding face
 Uncertain
 Poor
Survey, Monitor

NO60NW16
CASTLE HAVEN
CISTS: LONG (POSSIBLE),
 Uncertain
 Not seen
Nil

NO61100730
Crail
 Fossil Tree
 Uncertain
 Fair
Survey

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**BUILT HERITAGE AND
ARCHAEOLOGY UNITS (CONT.)**

Sites along the coastal edge.

NO62800850

Craik Airfield
Buildings at Goats
Mid 20th Century
Fair
Nil

NO62910853

Craik Airfield
Octagonal, brick pill box
Mid 20th Century
Fair
Survey

NO62950851

Craik Airfield
Pump house (1.5 metres square)
Mid 20th Century
Fair
Nil

NO63200865

Kilminning Castle
Below site of Kilminning castle is a
large flat ground platform
Uncertain
Fair
Monitor

NO60NW 8

KILMINNING CASTLE
LONG CIST CEMETERY; CHAPEL
Uncertain
Not seen
Nil

NO633090

Kilminning Castle
Quarry pits
Uncertain
Fair
Nil

NO60NW49.1

Craik Airfield
Building footings for Prefabricated build-
ings
Mid 20th Century
Fair
Survey

NO63320908

Craik Airfield
Disturbed ground, building footing
Mid 20th Century
Fair
Nil

NO63430910

Kilminning castle
Pill box, hexagonal, concrete double
skinned.
Mid 20th Century
Fair
Survey

NO63450911

Kilminning Castle
Boundary wall and building of drystone
and stone/mortar
Uncertain
Fair
Nil

NO60NW49.5

CRAIL AIRFIELD
PILLBOX,
20th Century
Not seen
Nil

NO60NW49.8

CRAIL AIRFIELD
PILLBOX
MONUMENT FORMALLY PROPOSED
FOR PROTECTION BY HISTORIC
SCOTLAND
20th Century
Not seen
Nil.

NO60NW6

LONG MANS GRAVE
MOUND
Uncertain
Not seen
Nil

NO60NW52

FIFENESS; COASTGUARD STA-
TION
COASTGUARD STATION
Uncertain
Fair
Nil

NO60NW49.6

CRAIL AIRFIELD - Fifeness
PILLBOX; Octagonal, stone/mortar
MONUMENT FORMALLY PRO-
POSED FOR PROTECTION BY HIS-
TORIC SCOTLAND
Mid 20th Century
Fair
Nil.

NO60NW29
CRAIL; 8 WEST SHOREGATE
SHOP
Uncertain
Not seen
Nil

NO60NW44
CRAIL; 35 SHOREGATE; CUSTOM
HOUSE
HOUSE
17th Century
Fair
Nil

NO60NW31
CRAIL HARBOUR
HARBOUR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF RE-
GIONAL IMPORTANCE
*See site description 6
17th-19th Century
Fair
Survey, Monitor.

NO60NW31.1
CRAIL HARBOUR, HAND CRANE
Hand crane
17th - 19th Century
Fair
Survey

NO60NW19
CRAIL CASTLE
CASTLE,
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF RE-
GIONAL IMPORTANCE
14th Century uncertain
Not seen
Nil

NO61600772
Crail
Tidal pool constructed of cement and
stone with ship graffiti dated 1915 in-
scribed on cement.
19th - 20th Century
Fair
Survey

NO61580782
Crail
Drystone wall and staircase
Uncertain
Poor
Nil

NO61580780
Crail
Midden containing shell, pottery, and
bone in the eroding face.
*See site description 5
Uncertain
Poor
Survey/Monitor

NO60NW12
CRAIL DOVECOTE
DOVECOTE
17th - 19th Century
Fair
Nil

NO61720789
Crail
Midden containing shell, pottery, and
bone in the eroding face.
*See site description 5
Uncertain
Poor
Survey/Monitor

NO60NW35
ROOME HARBOUR,
HARBOUR (POSSIBLE) including laid
cobble slipway and track through the
stable dunes (NGR: NO62040781)
17th - 19th Century
Poor
Survey

NO60NW49.0
CRAIL AIRFIELD.
AIRFIELD;HANGARS;NISSAN HUTS:
MONUMENT FORMALLY PRO-
POSED FOR PROTECTION BY HIS-
TORIC SCOTLAND
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF RE-
GIONAL IMPORTANCE.
20th Century
Fair
Nil

NO62170785
Crail Airfield
Pill box, concrete (looking north into
the airfield)
Mid 20th Century
Fair
Survey

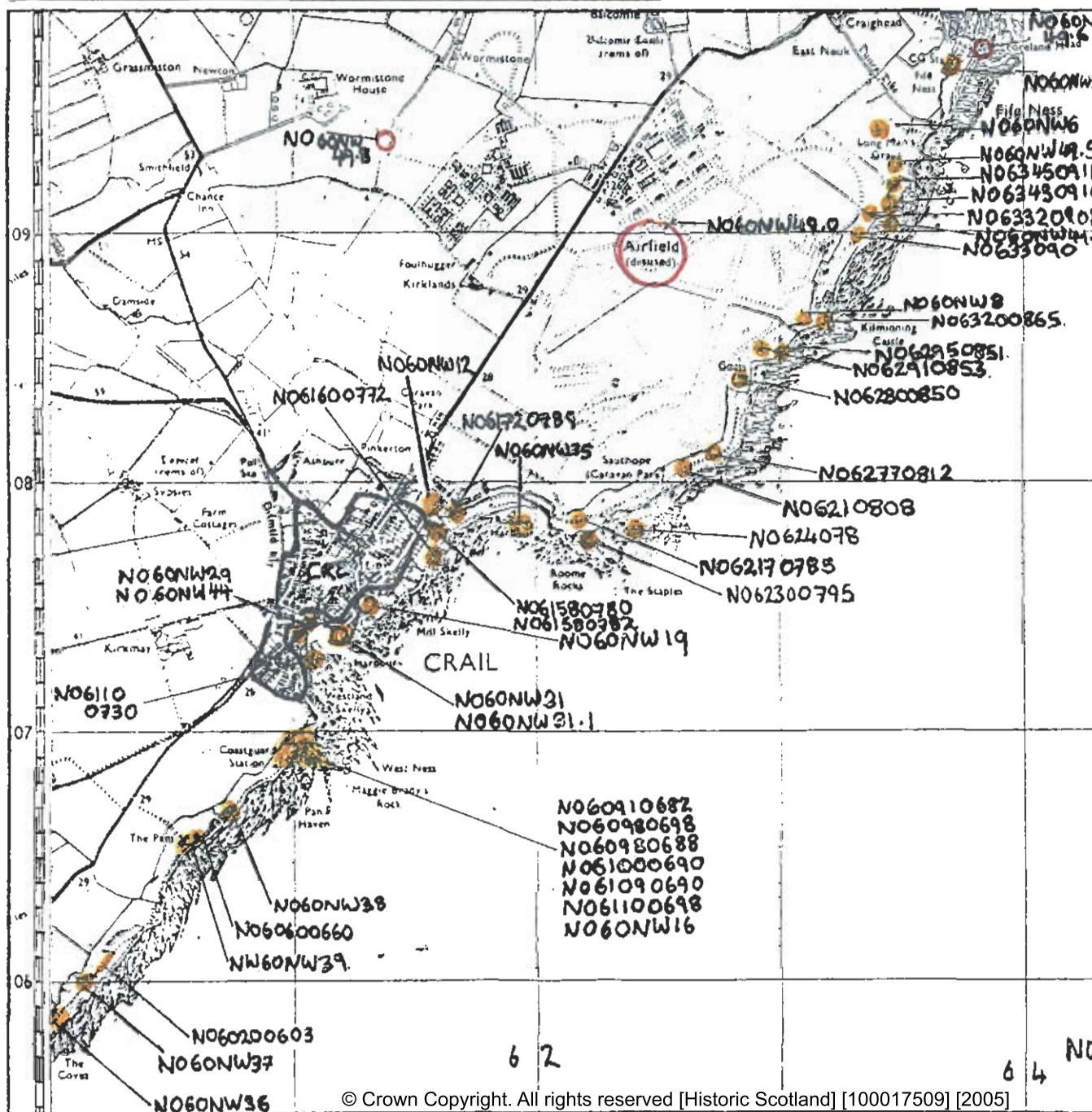
NO62300795
Crail Airfield
Disused track from airfield to the beach
Mid 20th Century
Fair
Nil

NO624078
Sauchope
Circular turf structures; Aerial photo-
graph unconfirmed on the ground
Uncertain
Not seen
Nil

NO62610808
Crail Airfield
Disused track from airfield to the beach
Mid 20th century
Fair
Nil

NO62770812
Crail Airfield
pill box, concrete, (looking into the
airfield)
Mid 20th Century
Fair
Survey

P.T.O.



KEY

Site location	Symbol	Staedler colour	Significance
NGR, e.g. NO61345678	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
NMR/S, e.g. NT28/NE23	dashed outline	yellow ochre	Designed Landscape
	roundel open	yellow ochre	Undesignated 'Work'
	area	green	Insufficient information, more work needed (no access, or not walked)
	area	blue	Probably archaeologically sterile

