

Map 15: ALNESS FERRY TO EASTER TOBERCHURN

Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology: The basement geology within this unit of coastline is Middle Old Red Sandstone overlain by boulder clay and morainic drift. At the shoreline a narrow coastal plateau is backed by a raised sea platform. This is fronted by another wave cut platform closed to the shore and is attributed to the Post-glacial shoreline. These features overlook a linear coastal edge with intertidal mud flats.

Erosion class: This unit of coastline is predominantly stable owing to its sheltered position. The intertidal area is accreting mud flats with accreting cobbles and shingle on the foreshore. Fine bedded sandstone is exposed in the region of Craig Castle at the base of a steep cliff which is densely vegetated and stable.

Built Heritage and Archaeology: The foreshore archaeology along this area consists of seven stone piers or quays associated with shoreline quarries, between Wester Alnessferry and Wester Cullicudden. Castlecraig is a scheduled and listed late 16th century tower house affected by severe erosion, some of which is marine. The cliffs on which it is built are stable but evidence of erosion was noted when a gun loop was found on the foreshore 100 m to the west of the tower house. The gun-loop masonry has fallen from the eroding tower wall.

Map 15: Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology

1. WESTER ALNESSFORD to WESTER CULLICUDDEN

NH 654 657

2.6km

Sand and shingle

Low edge (<15m)

Raised beach and marine deposits

Linear stretch of coastline backed by raised beach deposits becoming with the low cliff becoming steeper towards Wester Cullicudden. The foreshore is comprised of sand and shingle.

2. WESTER CULLICUDDEN to EASTER TOBERCHURN

NH 632 638

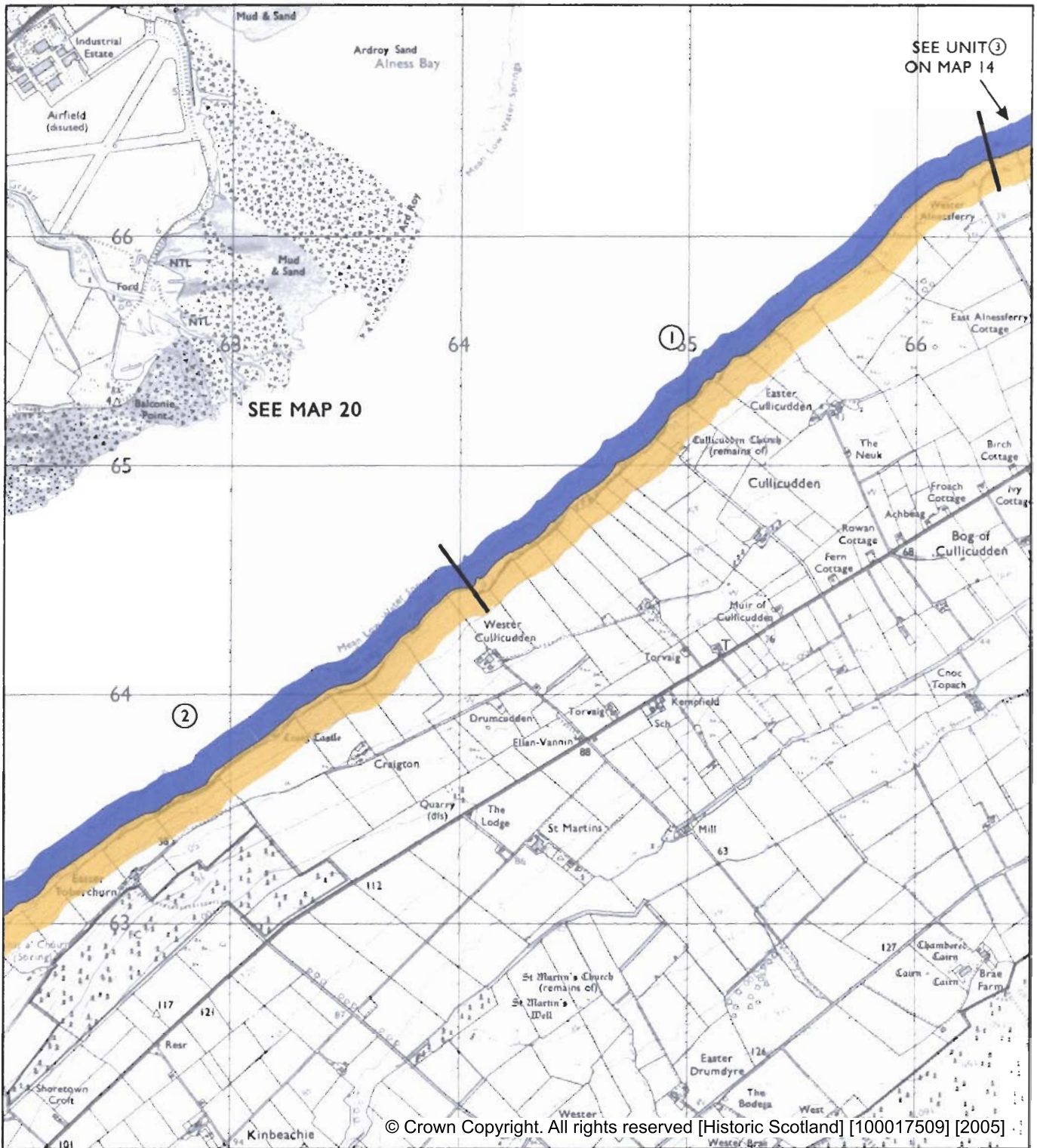
2.4km

Sand and shingle

Low cliff (<15m)

Raised beach and marine deposits

Linear stretch of coastline with cliff becoming steeper towards Wester Cullicudden. Raised beach deposits continue backing onto a foreshore dominated by sand and shingle.



MAP 15: ALNESS FERRY TO EASTER TOBERCHURN 1:25 000

MORAY FIRTH SURVEY Grid ref: NH 62-66/62-67

Basemap: O.S. Pathfinder Series
Sheet 144

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HINTERLAND GEOLOGY AND FORESHORE GEOMORPHOLOGY

Assessment date: 14 September 1998

Hinterland:

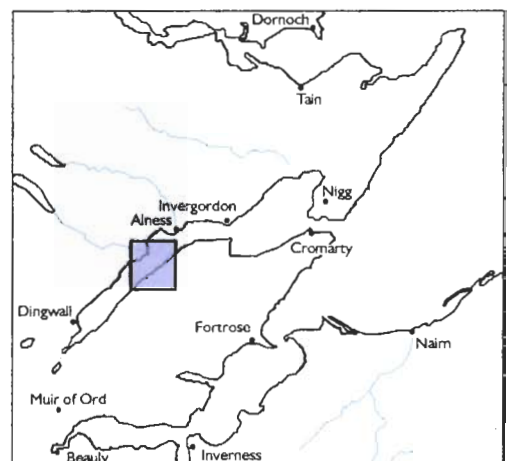
- Drift, boulder clay
- Drift, boulder clay over visible rock
- Raised beach and marine deposits
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand and gravel
- Alluvium

Coast edge:

- Low edge (< 5m tall)
- Cliff over 5m tall
- Man made barrier
- Shingle/storm bank
- Human disturbance

Foreshore:

- Mainly rock platform
- Mainly sand
- Mainly alluvial/marine mud
- Marsh



MAP 15: EROSION

1. East of ALNESFERRY

NH 664 664

0.2km

Eroding or Stable

Sea defences are being eroded by wave action.

Cobbles and shingle is banked at the HWM and appears to be stable.

2. North of ALNESFERRY to EASTER

CULICUDEN CHURCH

NH 655 657

2km

Stable

The build up of shingle and cobbles at the MHWMS suggest that conditions are stable with a sandy beach towards the LWM. There are no indicators to suggest conditions are not stable.

3. East of CULICUDEN CHURCH

NH 647 651

0.1km

Definitely Eroding

A short stretch of exposed cliff is eroding where softer raised beach deposits outcrop over the hard laminated sandstone.

4. East of CULLICUDEN CHURCH to CRAIG CASTLE

NH 640 646

2km

Stable or Eroding

Large boulders and shingle are accreting on the foreshore. The cliff margins are dense with trees. Quarrying has been carried out in the past along this section leading to exposed cliff sections. The vestigial remains of piers connected with this industry can just be made out among the rocky shore. At Craig Castle erosion of the cliff has led to the wide distribution of building fabric along the foreshore.

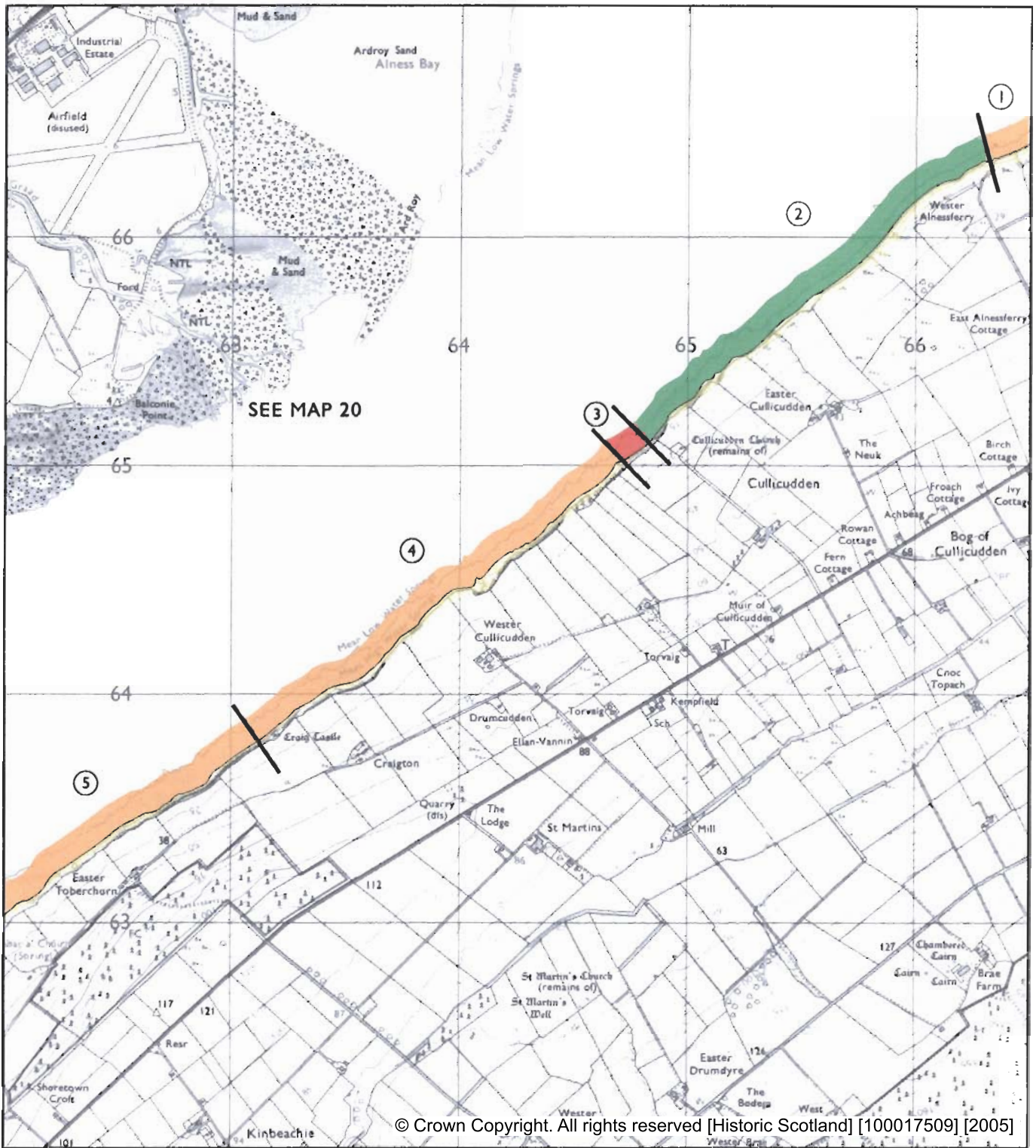
5. CRAIG CASTLE to WEST OF BROOMTOWN WOOD

NH 625 634

3.7 km

Stable or Eroding

This unit of coastline consists of cobbles and shingle banked at the HWM. Slight erosion is occurring along the MHWMS where marine gravel outcrops or where vegetation is poor. The beach becomes sandier offshore but there is no evidence for active erosion.



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Basemap: O.S. *Pathfinder* Series Sheet 144

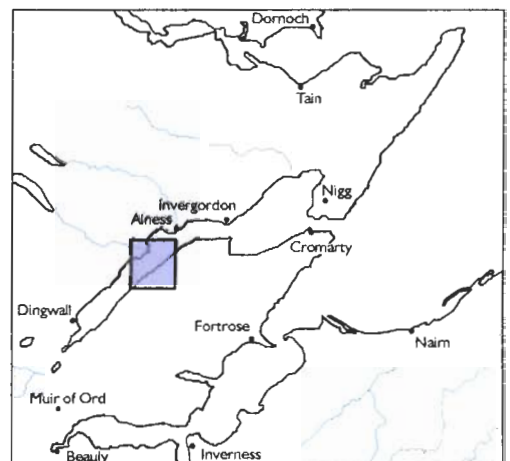
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EROSION CLASS

Assessment date: 14 September 1998

Key:

- Definitely accreting
- Accreting or stable
- Stable
- Eroding or stable
- Definitely eroding
- Both accreting and eroding
- No access
- Land below 10m



MAP 15: BUILT HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Sites on the Coastal Edge & Foreshore

NH 6516 6539
 WESTER CULLICUDDEN
 Stone pier
 Uncertain
 Poor
 Monitor

NH 6500 6532
 WESTER CULLICUDDEN
 Stone pier
 Uncertain
 Poor
 Monitor

NH 6480 6509
 WESTER CULLICUDDEN
 Stone pier associated with shoreline quarry
 Uncertain
 Poor
 Monitor

NH 6470 6501
 WESTER CULLICUDDEN
 Stone pier
 Uncertain
 Poor
 Monitor

NH 641 645
 WESTER CULLICUDDEN
 Quay and associated quarry
 19th/20th century AD
 Fair
 Monitor

Sites on the Coastal Edge & Foreshore

NH 6367 6422
 WESTER CULLICUDDEN
 Quay and associated quarry
 19th/20th century AD
 Poor
 Monitor

NH 6319 6382
 CASTLE CRAIG
 Carved stone gun loop
 Late 16th century
 Fair
 Monitor

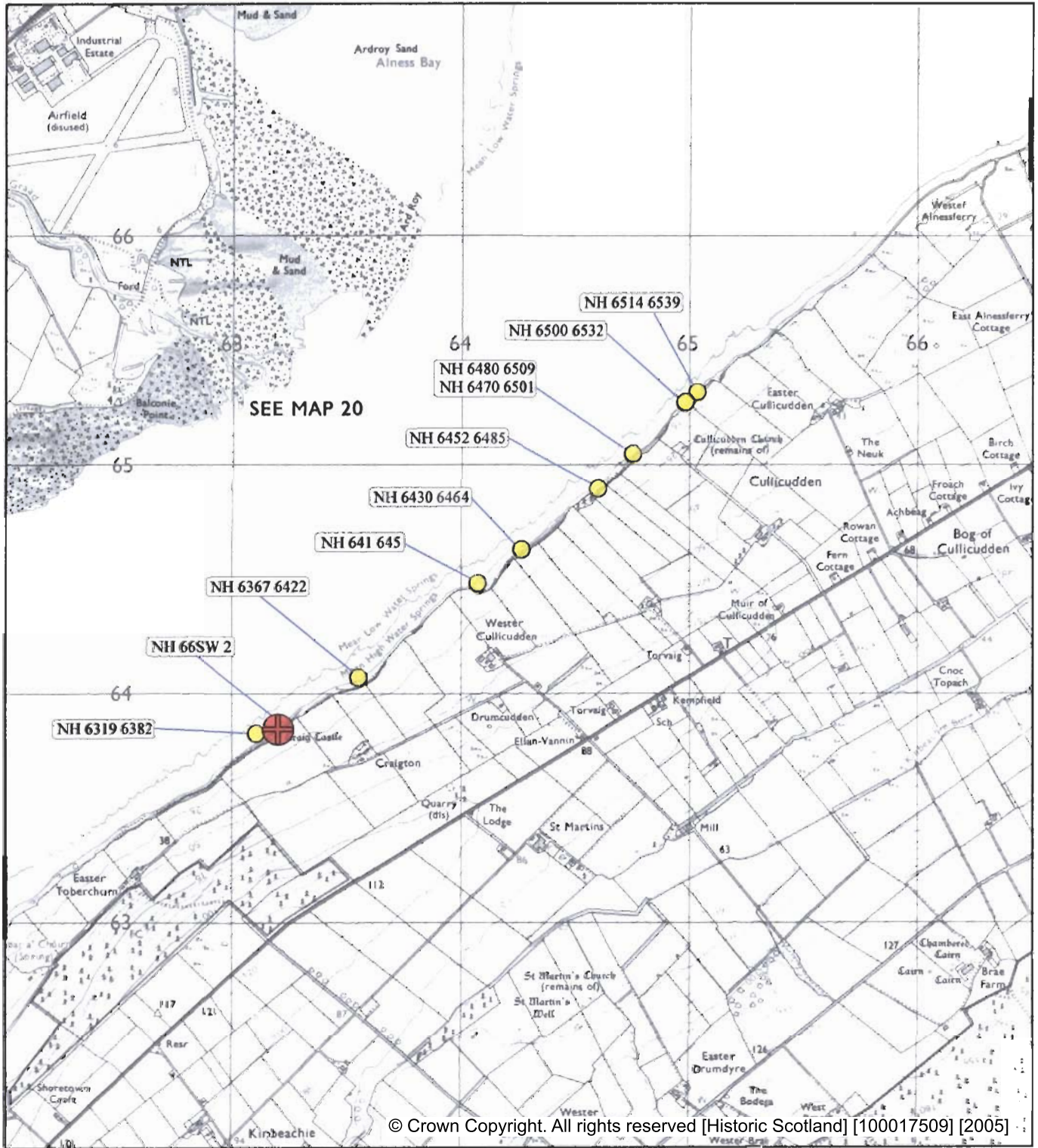
Sites in the Hinterland

NH 6514 6539
 EASTER CULLICUDDEN
 Quarry
 Uncertain
 Good
 Nil

NH 6452 6485
 WESTER CULLICUDDEN
 Stone building
 Uncertain
 Poor
 Monitor

NH 6430 6464
 WESTER CULLICUDDEN
 Stone building
 Uncertain
 Poor
 Monitor

NH66SW 2 - Scheduled & Listed B
 NH 6319 6381
 CASTLECRAIG
 Tower-house
 Late 16th century AD
 Poor
 Monitor



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BUILT HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Assessment period: September 1998

Key:

- Protected Ancient Monument, or area of designated wreck
- Listed Historic Building
- Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for scheduling, or wreck for designation
- Other known Ancient Monuments, or Undesignated wreck
- Designated Landscape
- Insufficient information; more work needed
- Probably archaeologically sterile

