

## Map 6: CHARLESTOWN TO KILMUIR

**Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology:** Brecciated conglomerates assigned to the Middle Old Red Sandstone Formation dominate the basal geology along this unit of coastline. Nearshore lithologies are exclusively marine in origin with raised beach terraces resting unconformably towards the base of the steeply rising hinterland. Late-glacial and Main Postglacial shorelines are represented. The latter masks the former at NH 664 487. Boulder clay outcrops between the brecciated deposits which continue further eastwards. The coastal edge is a fairly low plateau covered by a thin cover of marine deposits and alluvium. The foreshore is narrow owing to the position of the main river channel that runs close to the shore.

**Erosion class:** The coastal edge between Craigton Point and Kilmuir village was seen on the whole to be stable with only local isolated patches of scour on the foreshore. The narrow coastal plateau on which the village rests is exposed to locally generated waves travelling across the Murray Firth from the south west (the predominant wave direction). Rock armouring is effective at Kilmuir where the beach gradient is shallow and offers a good level of protection to the grass edge.

**Built Heritage and Archaeology:** The built heritage in this area is all 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century and no earlier archaeological remains were located during the survey. Part of the built heritage of the North Kessock village was a direct result of the ferry which used to cross the mouth of the Beaully Firth, until the Kessock Bridge was completed in 1981. At Craigton and Croft Downie the built heritage includes two private slipways and a boat house.

## Map 6: Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology

---

### 1. CHARLESTOWN to CRAGTON POINT at KESSECK BRIDGE

NH 630 483

1.7km

Mainly mud and shingle/sea defences

Low edge (>10m)

*Marine sands and gravel*

Developed coastal edge with predominantly marine derived deposition in the immediate hinterland. Tidal mud flats are not as well exposed as in previous unit owing to deeper channel development towards the mouth of the inner estuary. Flood defences are present along the length of this unit.

### 2. CRAIGTON POINT to east of KILMUIRE

NH 668 490

1.9km

Mainly mud/boulders and shingle

Low edge (10m)

*Raised beach and marine deposits*

An exposed section of the Moray Firth with mud, boulders and shingle. The hinterland is wooded and fairly steep sided. Towards Ord Hill boulder clay is present.

### 3. East of KILMUIR to North of St Marys Church

NH 684 510

2.7km

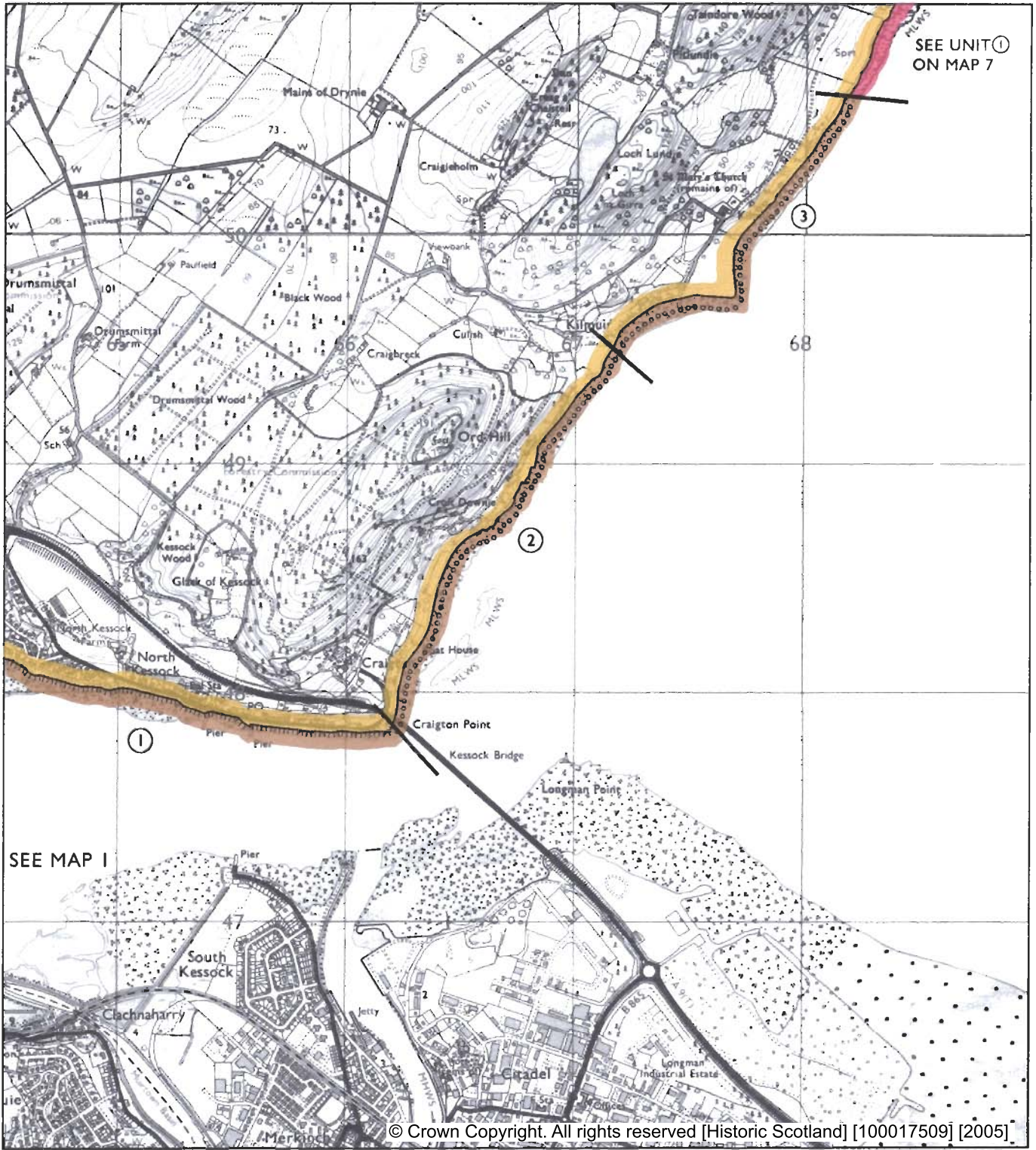
Mud, boulders and shingle with exposed rock platform

Cliff (>10m)

*Raised beach deposits*

A small cusped headland has been formed north east of Kilmuir consisting of marine sands over beach gravel. The foreshore is predominantly mud and shingle as far as east of Taindore Wood. From here northwards, exposed rock platform occurs terminating at the mouth of Munloch Bay. Raised beach deposits extend throughout the length of this unit.

---



**MAP 6: CHARLESTOWN TO KILMUIR**

MORAY FIRTH SURVEY Grid ref: NH 65-69/46-51

1:25 000

Basemap: O.S. Pathfinder Series  
Sheets 160 & 177  
© Crown Copyright Reserved

**HINTERLAND GEOLOGY AND FORESHORE GEOMORPHOLOGY**

Assessment date: 08 September 1998

**Hinterland:**

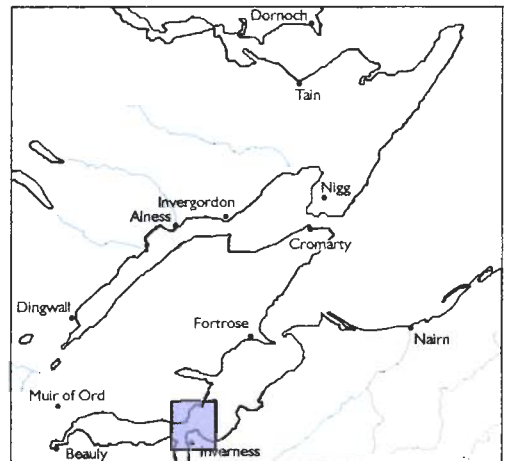
- Drift, boulder clay
- Drift, boulder clay over visible rock
- Raised beach and marine deposits
- Blown sand
- Glacial sand and gravel
- Alluvium

**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 6: EROSION

---

### 1. TORGORM POINT to CRAIGTON POINT

NH 650 480

2.7km

Stable

The intertidal zone is noticeable narrower than further down the coast with no evidence of instability. At North Kessock stability is being maintained owing concrete sea walls.

### 2. CRAIGTON POINT to north east of KILMUIRE

NH 668 490

2.5km

Stable or Eroding

This unit of coastline appears to be stable with only slight evidence of scouring on the foreshore. At Kilmuir the shoreline is well defended.

### 3. North east of KILMUIR

NH 678 498

0.4km

Accreting and eroding

Immediately north east of Kilmuir a triangular headland projects out into the firth. This feature has shingle banks down to the LWM. The cliff behind the foreshore is undergoing rabbit erosion. This is leading to slope failure in parts.

### 4. North east of KILMUIR to CRAIGIEHOWE

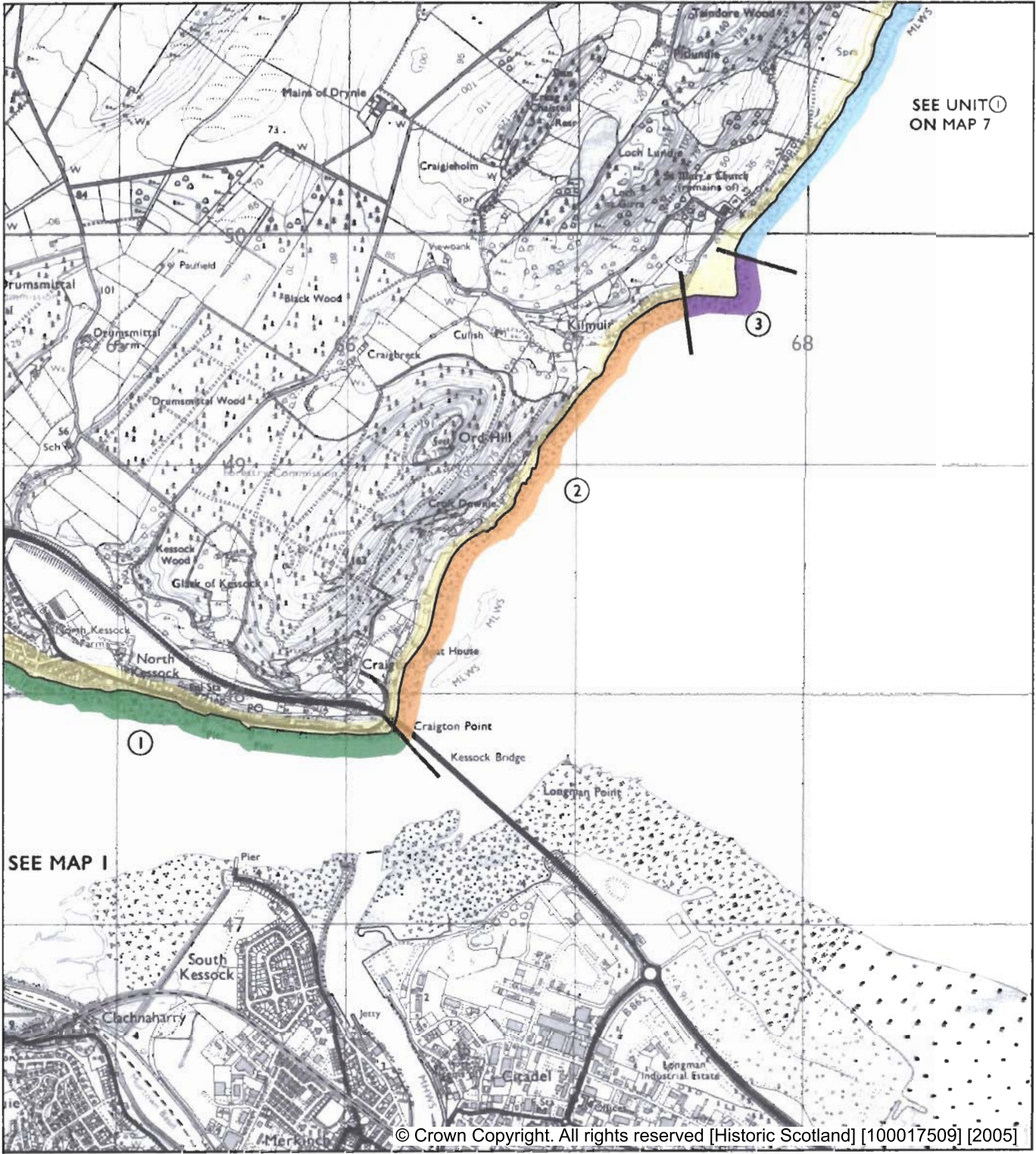
NH 685 510

2.5km

Stable or accreting

This section of coastline appears to be stable owing to the resilient nature of the underlying sandstone geology. Towards the base of the cliffs rock fall is vegetated providing stability to this region.

---



**MAP 6: CHARLESTOWN TO KILMUIR**

MORAY FIRTH SURVEY Grid ref: NH 65-69/46-51

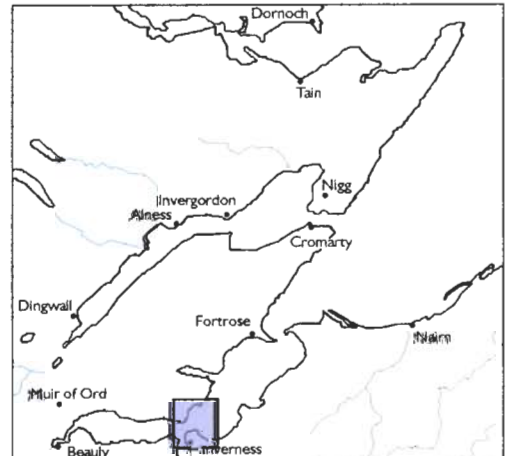
1:25 000

Basemap: O.S. Pathfinder Series  
Sheets 160 & 177  
© Crown Copyright Reserved

**EROSION CLASS**

Assessment date: 08 September 1998

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



## MAP 6: BUILT HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

---

### Sites on the Coastal Edge & Foreshore

#### **NH64NE 121 - Listed C (S)**

NH 6538 4785  
NORTH KESSOCK  
Pier; Kessock Ferry  
18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century AD  
Good  
Nil

#### **NH64NE 151**

NH 6558 4782  
NORTH KESSOCK  
East Pier  
19<sup>th</sup> century AD  
Good  
Nil

#### **NH64NE 153**

NH 662 478 - 669 472  
KESSOCK BRIDGE  
Bridge  
20<sup>th</sup> century AD; built 1976-82  
Good  
Nil

NH 6632 4820

CRAIGTON  
Boat house and slipway  
19<sup>th</sup> century AD  
Poor  
Monitor

NH 6676 4896

CROFT DOWNIE  
Boat house  
19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century AD  
Poor  
Monitor

NH 6722 4953

KILMUIR  
2 boat slipways  
19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century AD  
Poor  
Monitor

### Sites in the Hinterland

#### **NH64NE 122 - Listed B**

NH 6540 4794  
NORTH KESSOCK  
Kessock Hotel  
18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century AD  
Good  
Nil

#### **NH64NE 41**

NH 655 478  
NORTH KESSOCK  
Cottages  
19<sup>th</sup> century  
Good  
Nil

#### **NH64NE 43**

NH 6563 4787  
NORTH KESSOCK  
Hotel stables  
18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century AD  
Good  
Nil

#### **NH64NE 44 - Listed, B**

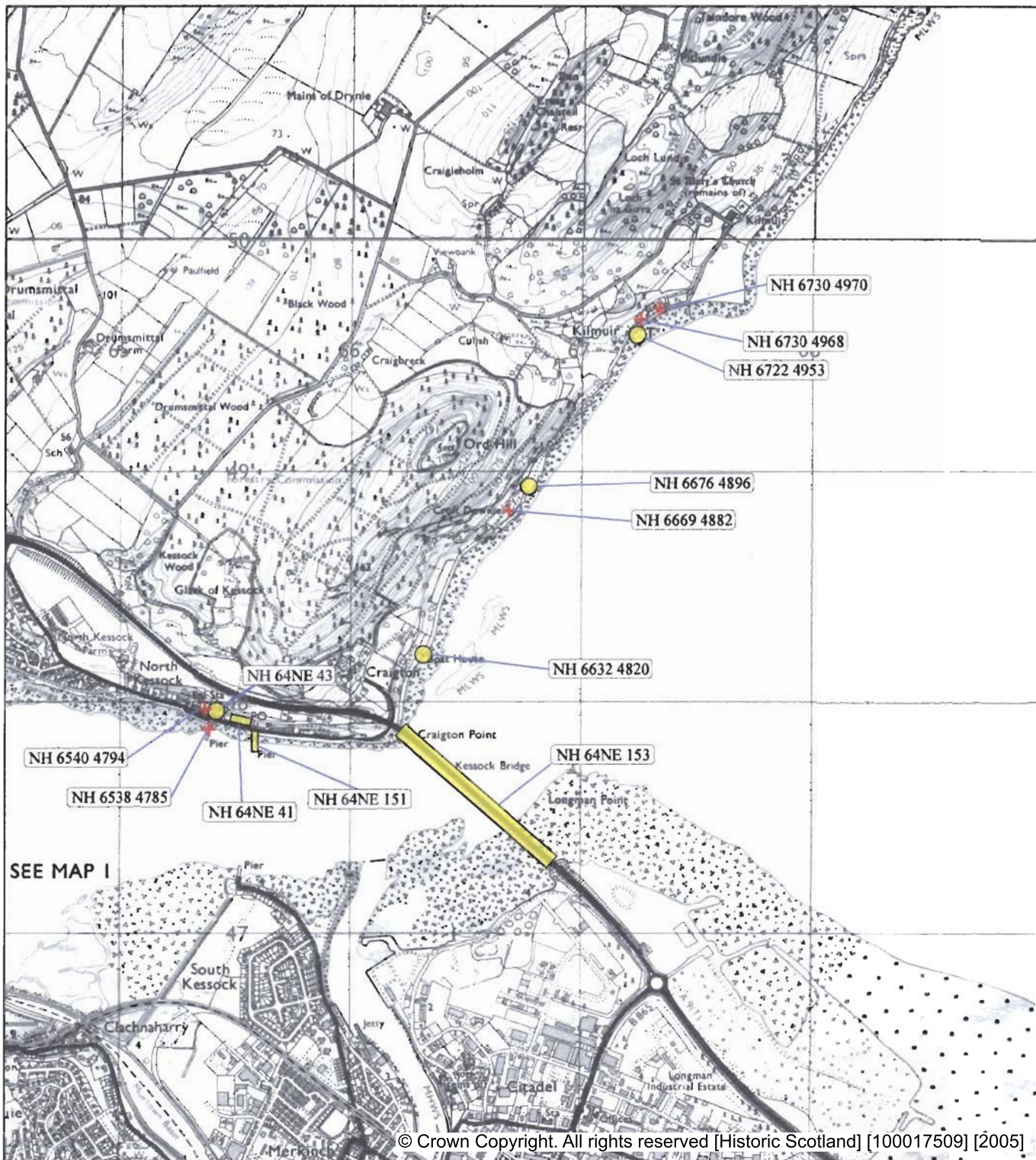
NH 6669 4882  
CROFT DOWNIE  
Cottage: 'Craigton Cottage'  
19<sup>th</sup> century AD  
Good  
Nil

#### **NH64NE 468 - Listed C(S)**

NH 6730 4968  
KILMUIR  
Chisholm Cottage  
19<sup>th</sup> century AD  
Good  
Nil

#### **NH64NE 469 - Listed C(S)**

NH 6730 4970  
KILMUIR  
*Neuk Cottage*  
19<sup>th</sup> century AD  
Good  
Nil



### MAP 6: CHARLESTOWN TO KILMUIR

MORAY FIRTH SURVEY Grid ref: NH 65-69/46-51

1:25 000

Basemap: O.S. Pathfinder Series  
Sheets 160 & 177  
© Crown Copyright Reserved

### 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

