

Map 27: KINGS CAVE TO PORT AN RIGH

Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology: This section of coastline is exposed to the full force of gales from the NE quadrant. Undifferentiated schist of the Moine Series extend northwards. Precipitous cliffs rise to above 150m. The cliff edge is highly indented overlooking exposed abrasion platform and gullies. A narrow discontinuous platform forming a marine terrace runs parallel with the shoreline. Morainic drift forms a thin mantle over the near-surface sandstone outcrops.

Erosion class: The exposed nature of the cliff to wave hammer and storm surges is sculpting the cliff base. The cliff cover soils are prone to loss by deflation. However, this unit is eroding at such an immeasurably slow rate that much of it has to be classified as stable.

Built Heritage and Archaeology: The King's cave is purportedly the abode of king Nechtan, although the site may also have earlier connections. The site of the 18th/19th century farm buildings was one of the few sites recorded. The shell midden at Port an Righ was found to be severely eroding and a whetstone and rubber stone were both found on the surface below the exposed section.

Map 27: Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology

1. South of KINGS CAVE to south of PORT AN RIGH

NH 830 707

2.2km

Rock platform/sea arches/boulders

High cliff (>75m)

Glacial till over visible rock

Exposed high cliff with irregular edge forming discontinuous platforms and terraces. The shoreline is composed of rock ledges of Old Red Sandstone.

2. South of PORT AN RIGH to OLD SHANDWICK

NH 854 735

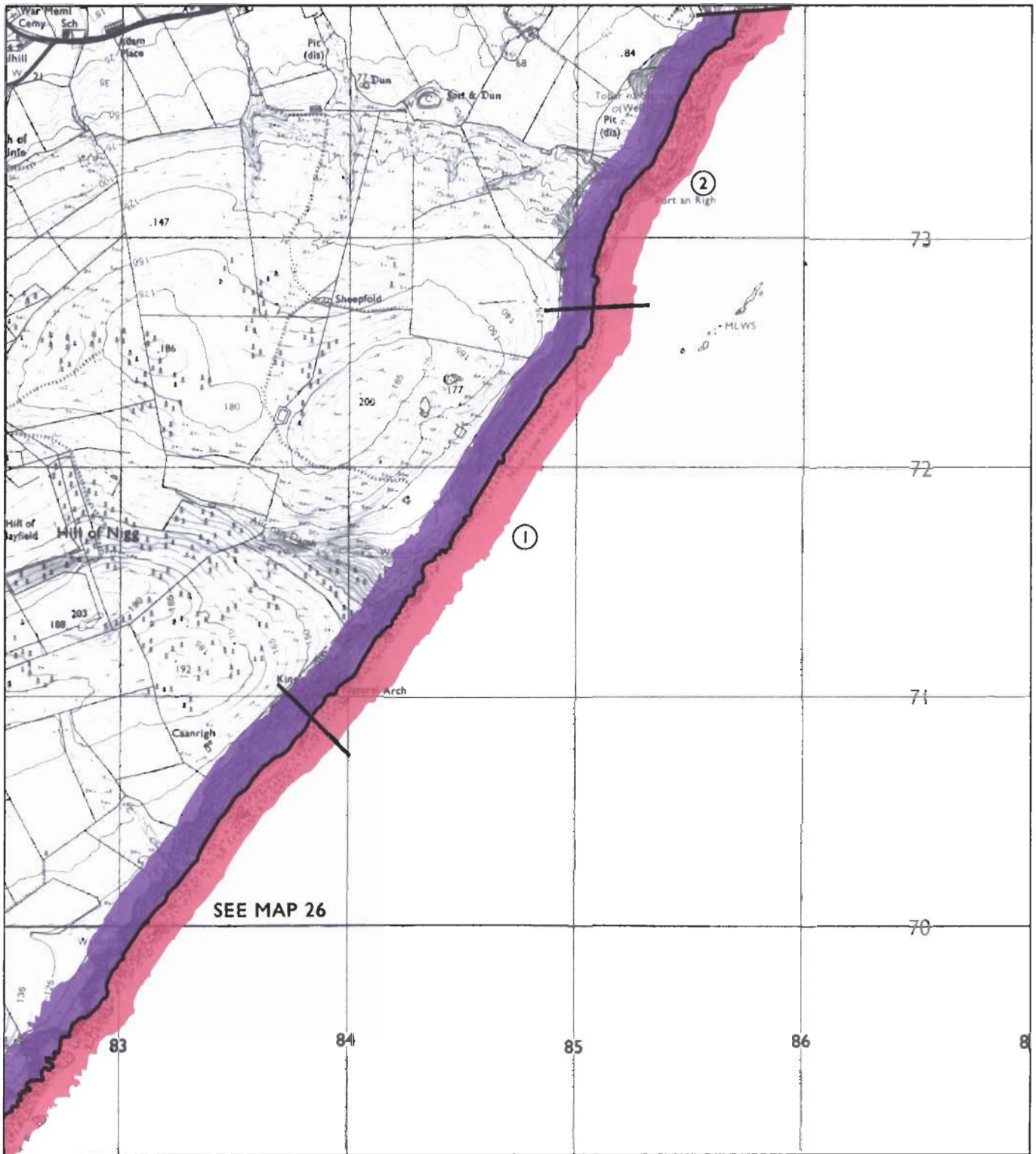
1.3km

Rock platform/boulders

High cliff (100m)

Glacial deposits over visible rock

Exposed high cliff overlain by glacial drift over visible rock. Terrace formation with steep gradients. The foreshore is exposed rock platform.



MAP 27: KING'S CAVE TO PORT AN RIGH

MORAY FIRTH SURVEY Grid ref: NH 83-87/69-74

1:25 000

Basemap: O.S. Pathfinder Series
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**HINTERLAND GEOLOGY
AND FORESHORE
GEOMORPHOLOGY**

Assessment date: 21 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 27: EROSION

1. KINGS CAVE to

NH 843 715

2.4km

Eroding or stable

Exposed precipitous cliffs continue northwards from Kings Cave. Stable rock platforms outcrop at the base of the cliff. Conditions are generally stable.

2. PORT AN RIGH

NH 852 732

1.3km

Eroding or stable

Exposed precipitous cliff and terrace overlook a rock and platform shoreline. Conditions are considered to be stable based on the hard nature of the outcropping sandstone.

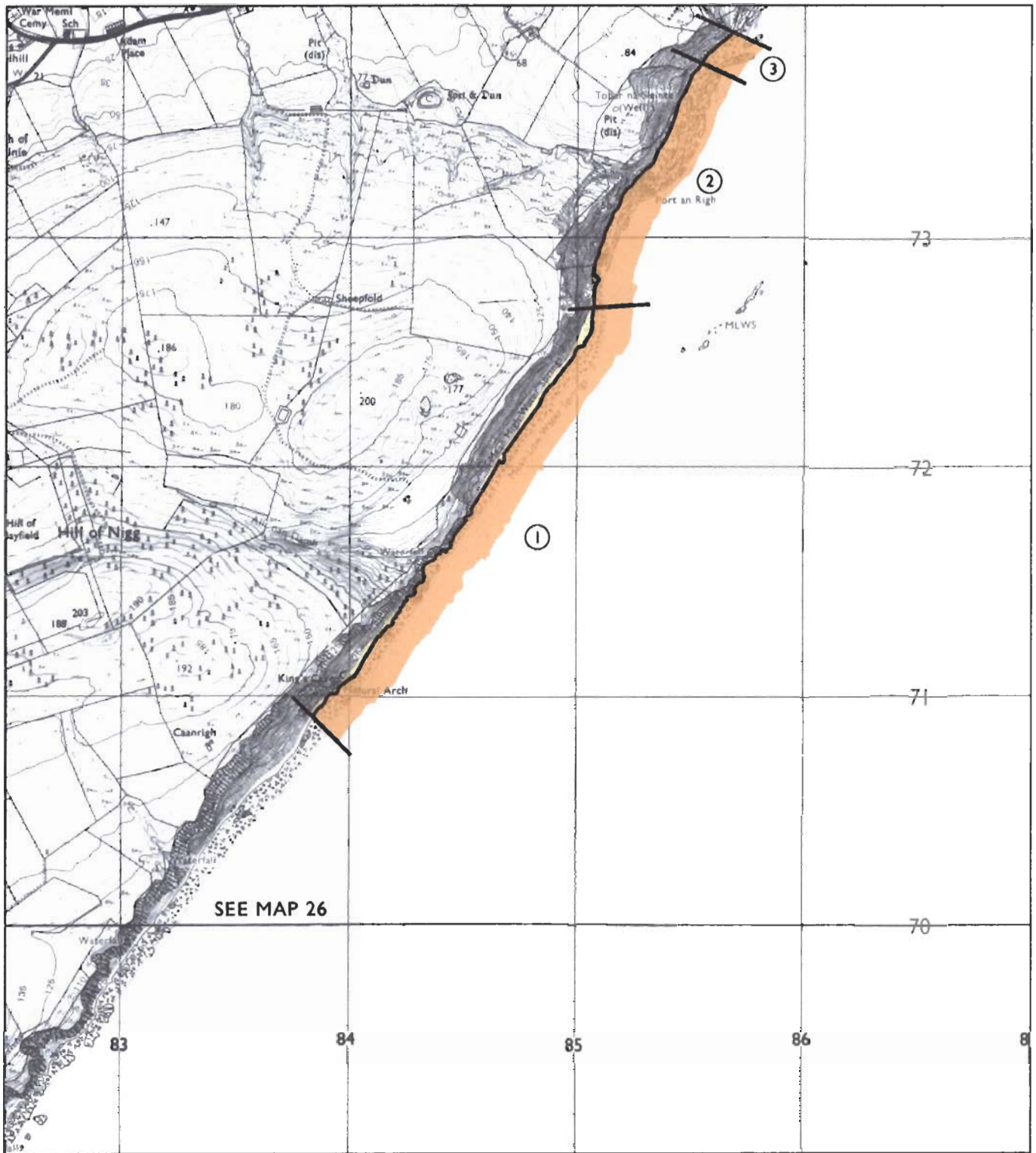
3. North of PORT AN RIGH

NH 857 738

0.1km

Eroding or stable

Landslides have led to a steep inclining cliff face that is eroding onto the beach and being reworked at the cliff base. Gullies are scoured by wave attack albeit at a slow rate.



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1:25 000

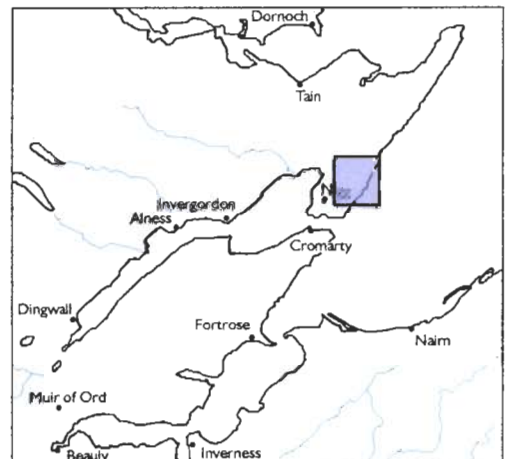
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EROSION CLASS

Assessment date: 21 September 1998

Key:

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



MAP 27: BUILT HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Sites on the Coastal Edge & Foreshore

NH87SW 15

NH 8393 7104 - 8365 7080

KING'S CAVE;

Two natural caves, alleged abode of

King Nechtan

8th century AD

Fair

Nil

NH 8523 7326

PORT AN RIGH

Building remains

18th/19th century AD

Poor

Monitor

NH 8542 7352

PORT AN RIGH

Shell midden

Uncertain

Poor

Survey and monitor

Sites in the Hinterland

NH87SW 20

NH 8425 7185

HILL OF NIGG

Deserted farmstead; enclosure

Uncertain

Poor

Monitor

NH 8545 7360

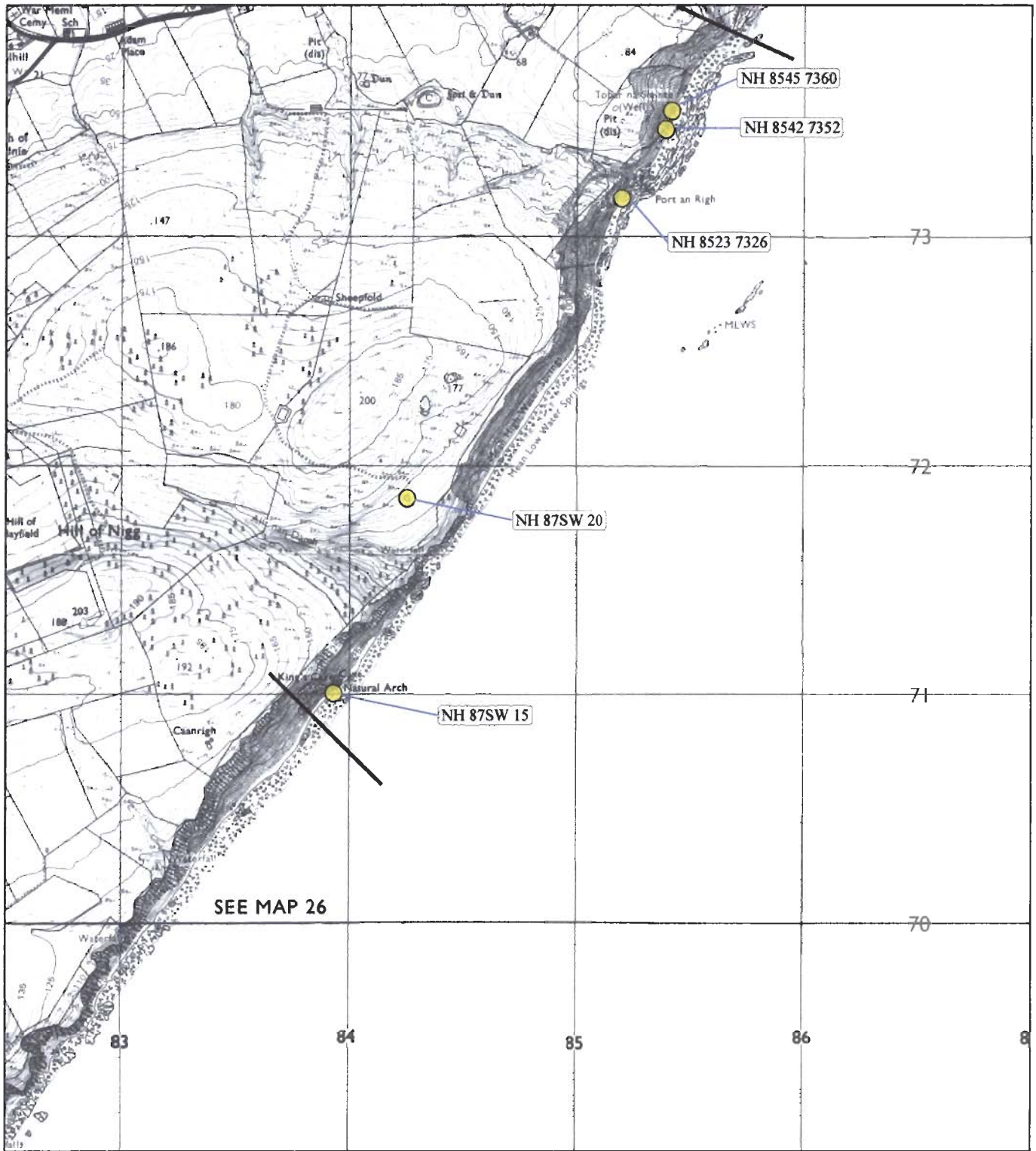
TOBAR NA SLAINTE

Well

Uncertain

Good

Nil



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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

