

## MAP 36: RASCARREL TO HORSE ISLES

**Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology:** The hinterland geology east to Airds Point consists of raised beach deposits and fluvio-glacial drift. These overlie an irregular steep cliff-edge. Steeply dipping Carboniferous Limestone outcrops down to the MHW. This has been incised into two small bays. These are covered with sand and shingle between exposed rock. Towards and northwards from the headland at Balcary Point till and fluvio-glacial drift occurs as far as North Lodge. This particular stretch of coast overlooks the sheltered tidal flats at Auchencairn Bay. Marine derived sand and gravel occur at the head of the bay. Here the shoreline is colonised with salt-marsh and vegetated shingle. The small peninsula at Toor Point is covered with till over a low rocky shore. A larger peninsula has been formed at Almorness Point (Unit 4) and is covered with the till.

**Erosion Class:** The coastline east to Balcary Point is susceptible to erosion owing to its softer geology (Carboniferous Limestone) which is prone not only to wave impact but also the corrosive effects of sea water. However, the rate of erosion in terms of its effect on any archaeology is considered to be slow. Auchencairn Bay is in a sheltered location and north to Orcharton Bay the coastline is stable and accreting in parts. Salt-marsh is a prime factor in coastal stability within both bays. Further east the foreshore at Almorness Point is eroding but considered to be mostly stable.

**Built Heritage & Archaeology:** A wide range of sites are contained in this section, including a "homestead" (RCAHMS, NX84NW 2) and fort of the first millennium BC/AD, the remains of a fourteenth century manor house, and various eighteenth and nineteenth century listed buildings. Also included are fishing stakes in the wide flats of Auchencairn Bay and a disused mine shaft at Airds Heugh. At only one site; Airds homestead, is limited coastal erosion evident and monitoring required.

## Map 36: Hinterland Geology and Coastal Geomorphology

---

### 1. CASTLE MUIR POINT to AIRDS POINT

NX 814 484

3.3km

Cliff (> 10m)

#### *Raised beach and glacial drift*

The high cliff -edge is irregular and overlain by raised beach deposits with glacial drift towards Airds Point. The foreshore consists of exposed rock platform of steeply dipping limestone. Boulder beds intermixed with sand and shingle occur between the rock platforms.

### 2. AIRDS POINT to north of NORTH LODGE

NX 820 550

4km

Cliff (< 10m)

#### *Till and fluvioglacial drift deposits*

Till overlies the exposed promontory headland at Balcary Point. Above Balcary Bay fluvioglacial clays occur along with till immediately to the north. The foreshore is mainly outcropping rock platform with mud and sand intermixed with poorly sorted boulders.

### 3. North of NORTH LODGE to OAKBANK WOOD

NX 814 520

6km

Low edge (Cliff < 5m, cliff >10m towards west)

#### *Marine deposits and till*

The upper tidal reach of Auchencairn Bay and Orchardton Bay. Both these areas contain marine sands and gravels at the bay heads. Torr Point (NX 823517) forms a rocky peninsula between Auchencairn Bay and the smaller Craigrow Bay. All three bays have well established salt-marsh which border low lying mud flats.

### 4. OAKBANK WOOD to north of GIBB'S HOLE WOOD

NX 844 540

3km

Cliff (< 10m)

#### *Till over visible rock*

This unit contains a peninsula that forms a division between Orchardton Bay and Rough Firth. Till overlies an irregular cliff-edge. The foreshore on both sides of the peninsula consists of greywackee rock platform which is broken only at White Port (NX 841519) and Horse Isles Bay (NX837524). Here the beaches are sand and shingle.

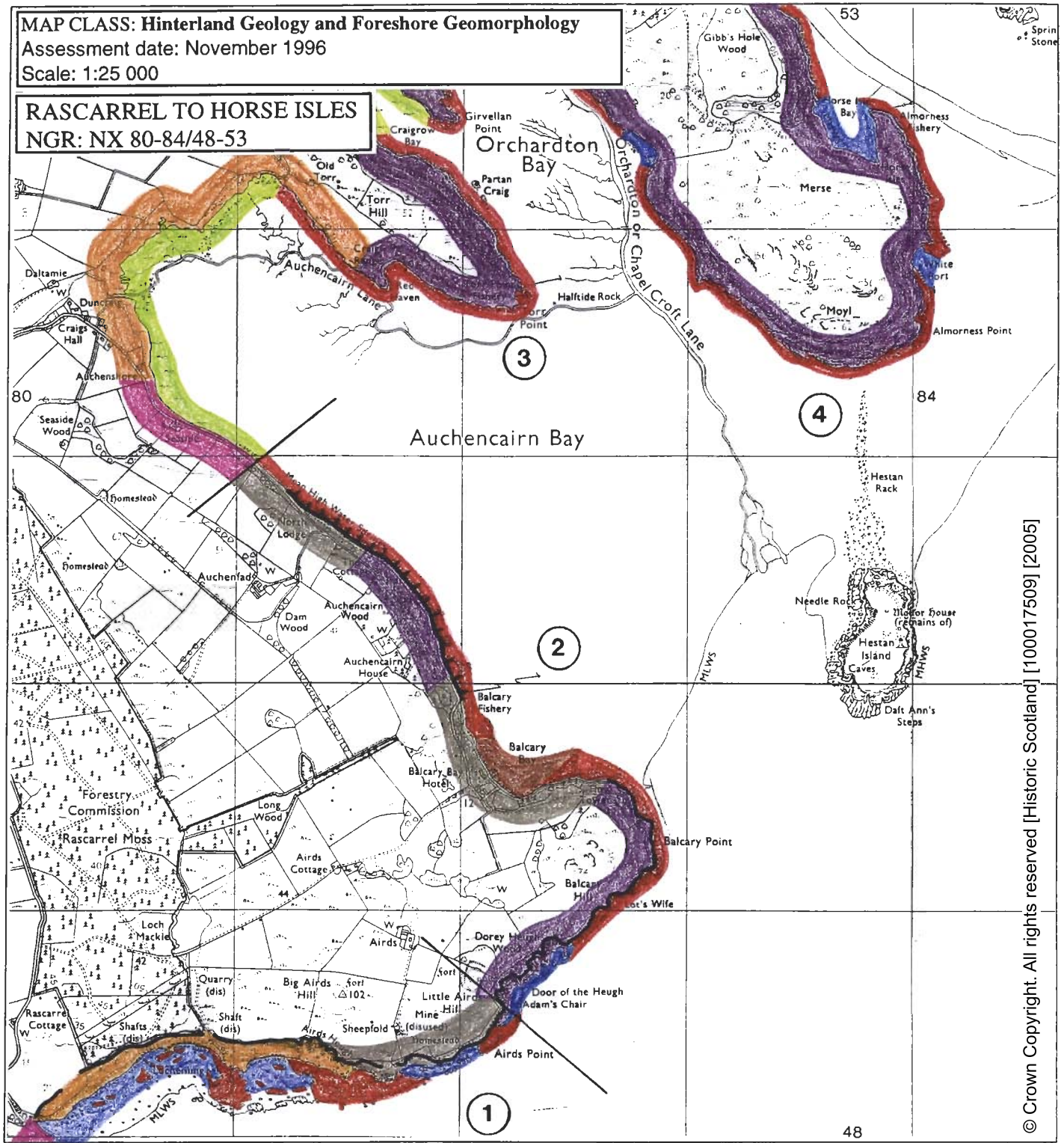
**MAP CLASS: Hinterland Geology and Foreshore Geomorphology**

Assessment date: November 1996

Scale: 1:25 000

**RASCARREL TO HORSE ISLES**

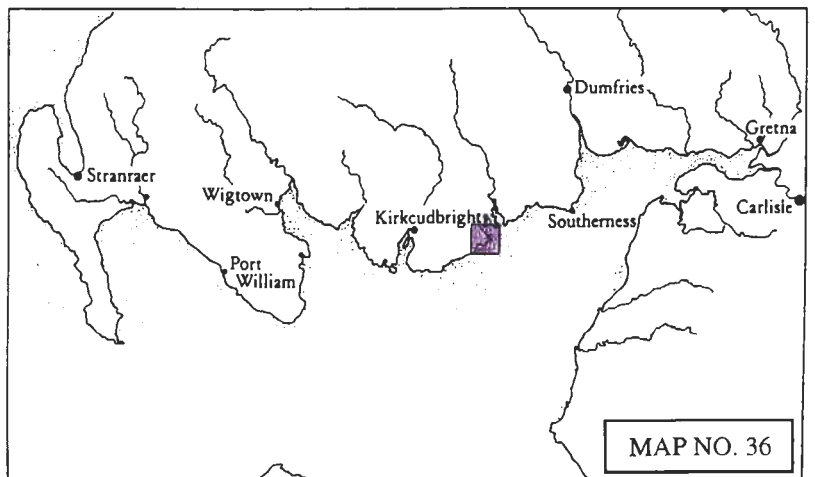
NGR: NX 80-84/48-53



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved [Historic Scotland] [100017509] [2005]

**KEY**

Hinterland Geology	Derwent Code	Colour
Drift, boulder clay	French Grey	
Drift, boulder clay over visible rock	Dark Violet	
Raised beach and marine deposits	Golden Brown	
Blown sand	Pink Madder Lake	
Glacial sand and gravel	Magenta	
Alluvium	Emerald Green	
Coastal Geomorphology		
Mainly rock platform	Deep vermilion	
Mainly sand	Ultramarine	
Mainly alluvial/marine mud	Venetian Red	
Marsh	May 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	



MAP NO. 36

## MAP 36: EROSION

---

**1. CASTLE MUIR POINT to LOCHENLING**  
NX 805 483

2.3km

*Definitely eroding*

This unit consists of an irregular exposed cliff-edge which is highly fractured and indented with deep gullies. These are being slowly eroded by wave action and boulder abrasion. .

**2. LOCHENLING to BALCARY POINT**  
NX 821 484

2.1km

*Definitely eroding*

Exposed promontory headland that is deeply incised with an irregular cliff-edge. The base of the cliffs are being scoured by cliff-fall and slump debris.

**3. BALCARY POINT to AUCHENCAIRN**  
HOUSE

NX 823 495

1.5km

*Stable*

Balcary Bay (NX 832495) is sheltered from the extreme storm conditions by Balcary Point (NX 828493). The beaches consist of poorly sorted boulders with shingle banks at the MHWM. Sea walls afford protection along with tree cover and grasses.

**4. AUCHENCAIRN HOUSE to TORR POINT**  
NX 806 514

3.6km

*Stable and accreting in parts*

This unit contains Auchencairn Bay that has a low intertidal area consisting of mainly mud flats. The shoreline is well vegetated and therefore imparting stability to the beaches. Towards Auchencairn Lane (NX 813520) a small bay is dominated by stable mud flats that appear to be accreting.

**5. TORR POINT to north of GIRVELLEN**  
WOOD

NX 816 524

2.3km

*Stable and accreting in parts*

This unit is sheltered and consists of a wide exposed mud flats. Saltmarsh is well established in Craigrow Bay (NX 815525) and is stable. The shoreline either side of the bay is stable.

**6. North of OAKBANK WOOD to HORSE ISLE**  
BAY

NX 837 514

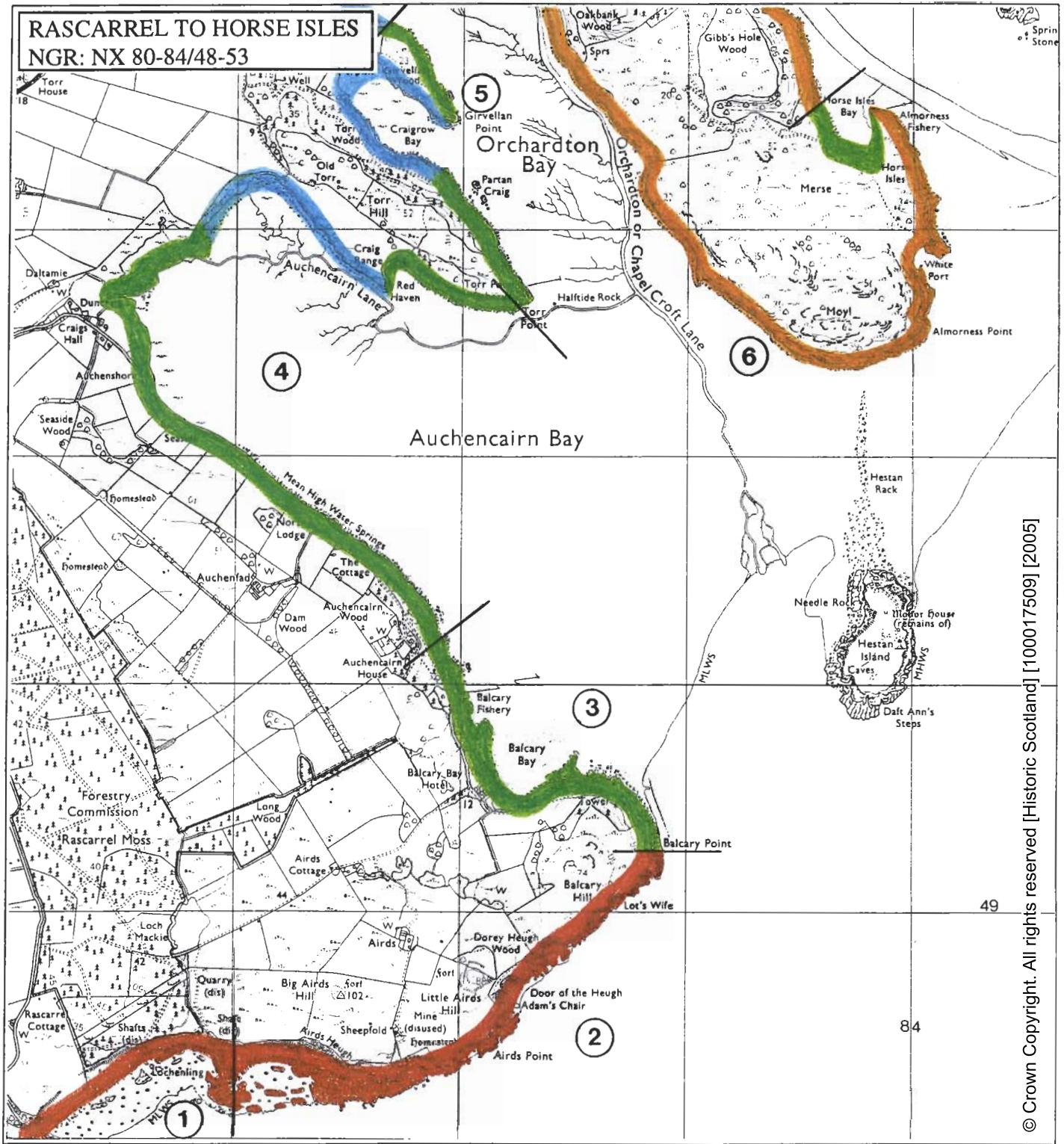
4.9km

*Eroding or stable*

This unit consists of a large promontory that has an outcropping rock and boulder shoreline. This becomes more incised on its eastern side which is more exposed to wave action. Erosion is reduced by the resilient nature of the hard granites occurring at this location. Horse Isle Bay is stable owing to its sheltered position.



**RASCARREL TO HORSE ISLES**  
NGR: NX 80-84/48-53



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved [Historic Scotland] [100017509] [2005]

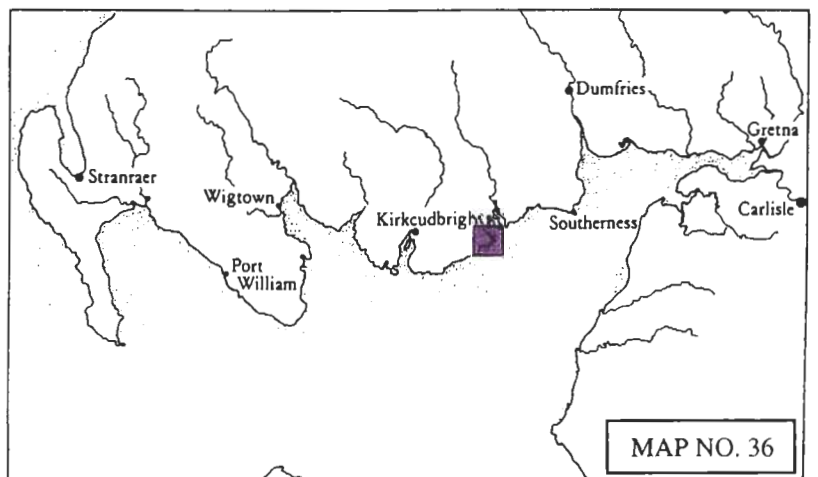
**KEY**

Erosion class	Derwent Code	Colour
Definitely accreting	Prussian Blue	
Accreting/stable	Light Blue	
Stable	Grass Green	
Stable/eroding	Deep Chrome	
Definitely eroding	Deep Vermilion	
Both accreting and eroding	Imperial Purple	
No access	Blank	
Land below 10m	Straw Yellow	

**MAP CLASS: EROSION**

Assessment date: 11.10.96

Scale 1:25 000



**MAP NO. 36**

## MAP 36: BUILT HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

---

### Sites on the Coast Edge & Foreshore

**NX 8166 4832**  
**AIRDS HEUGH**  
 Disused Mineshaft  
 Uncertain  
 Good  
 Nil

**NX84NW 2**  
 NX 8190 4834  
**AIRDS**  
 Homestead  
 1<sup>st</sup> Mill BC/AD  
 Fair  
 Monitor

**NX 8208 4836**  
**AIRDS POINT**  
 Sign Post  
 20<sup>th</sup> century  
 Good  
 Nil

**NX84NW 7**  
 NX 8278 4936  
**BALCARY LIFEBOAT STATION**  
 Boat House & Slipway  
 Statutory Listed Building  
 19<sup>th</sup> century  
 Good  
 Nil

**NX 8200 4994**  
**BALCARY BAY**  
 Fishing Stakes  
 19/20<sup>th</sup> century  
 Good  
 Nil

**NX85SW 11**  
 NX 8388 5032  
**HESTAN ISLAND**  
 Manor House  
 Possibly 14<sup>th</sup> century  
 Uncertain; not visited  
 Nil

**NX 8148 5070**  
**AUCHENCAIRN BAY**  
 Fishing Stakes  
 19/20<sup>th</sup> century  
 Good  
 Nil

**NX 8140 5208**  
**OLD TORR, AUCHENCAIRN**  
**BAY**  
 Possible Enclosure  
 Uncertain  
 Uncertain; not visited  
 Nil

### Sites in the Hinterland

**NX84NW 3**  
 NX 8210 4870  
**LITTLE AIRDS HILL**  
 Fort  
 1<sup>st</sup> Mill BC/AD  
 Good  
 Nil

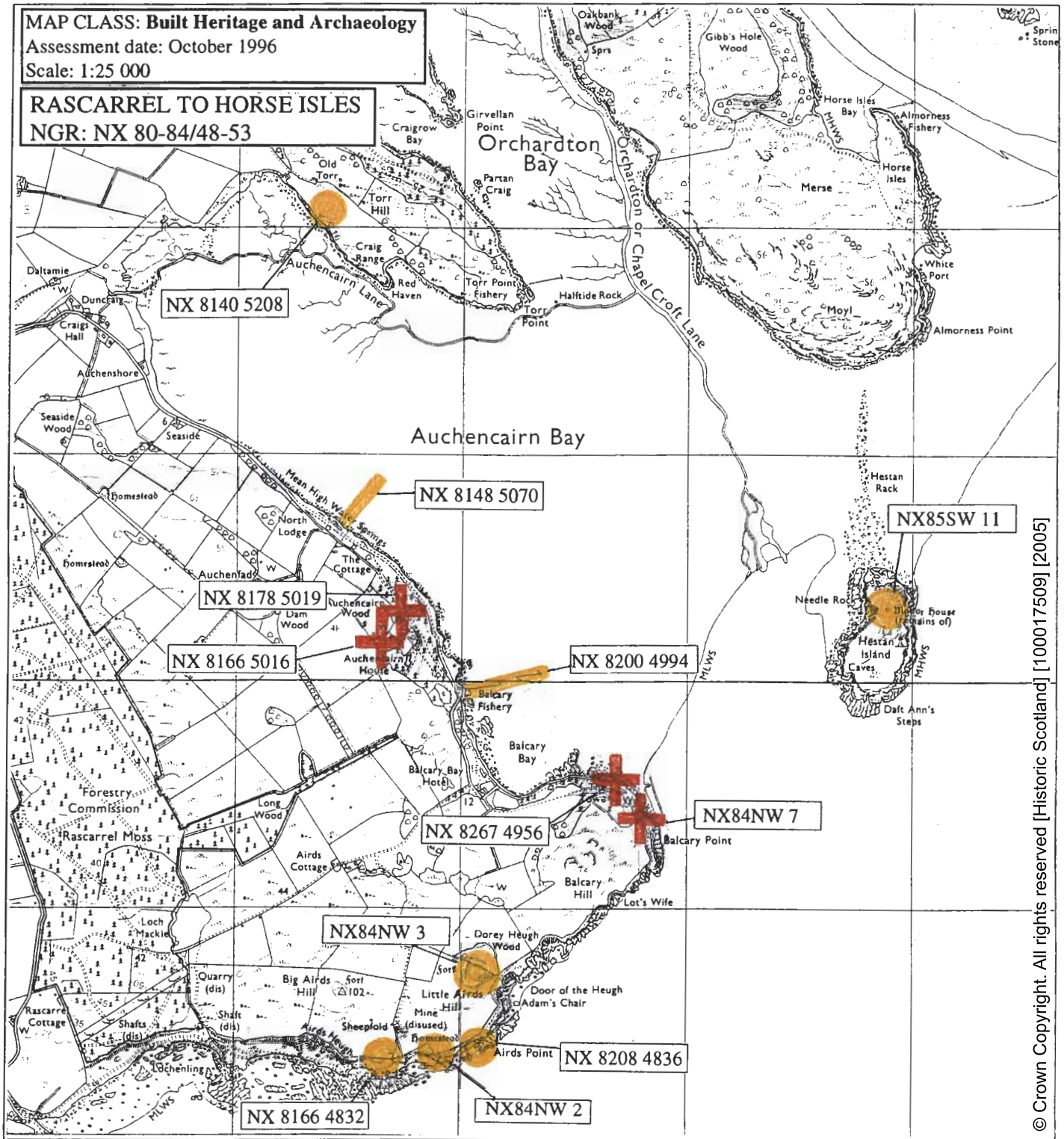
**NX 8267 4956**  
**THE TOWER, BALCARY**  
 Tower House  
 Statutory Listed Building  
 Late 19<sup>th</sup> century  
 Good  
 Nil

**NX 8166 5016**  
**AUCHENCAIRN HOUSE**  
 House  
 Statutory Listed Building  
 18<sup>th</sup> century  
 Good  
 Nil

**NX 8178 5019**  
**AUCHENCAIRN LODGE**  
 Gatehouse  
 Statutory Listed Building  
 Late 19<sup>th</sup> century  
 Good  
 Nil

MAP CLASS: Built Heritage and Archaeology  
 Assessment date: October 1996  
 Scale: 1:25 000

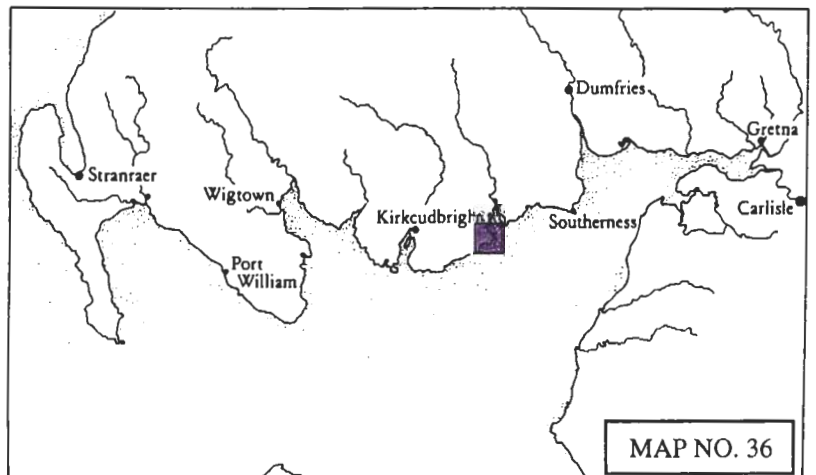
RASCARREL TO HORSE ISLES  
 NGR: NX 80-84/48-53



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved [Historic Scotland] [100017509] [2005]

**KEY**

Site location	Symbol	Colour	Significance
NGR ref. - eg.	Roundel - Solid, (or area)	Red	Protected Ancient Monument
	Cross	Red	Listed Historic Building
NX 143 368	Roundel - Open, (or area)	Red	Monument formally proposed by Historic Scotland for designation
	Roundel - Solid, (or area)	Yellow	Other known Ancient Monument
NMRS ref. - eg.	Dashed outline	Yellow	Gardens/Designed landscape
	Roundel - Solid, (or area)	Yellow	Undesignated wreck
NX13 SW17	Area	Green	Insufficient information; more work needed
	Area	Blue	Probably archaeologically sterile



MAP NO. 36

