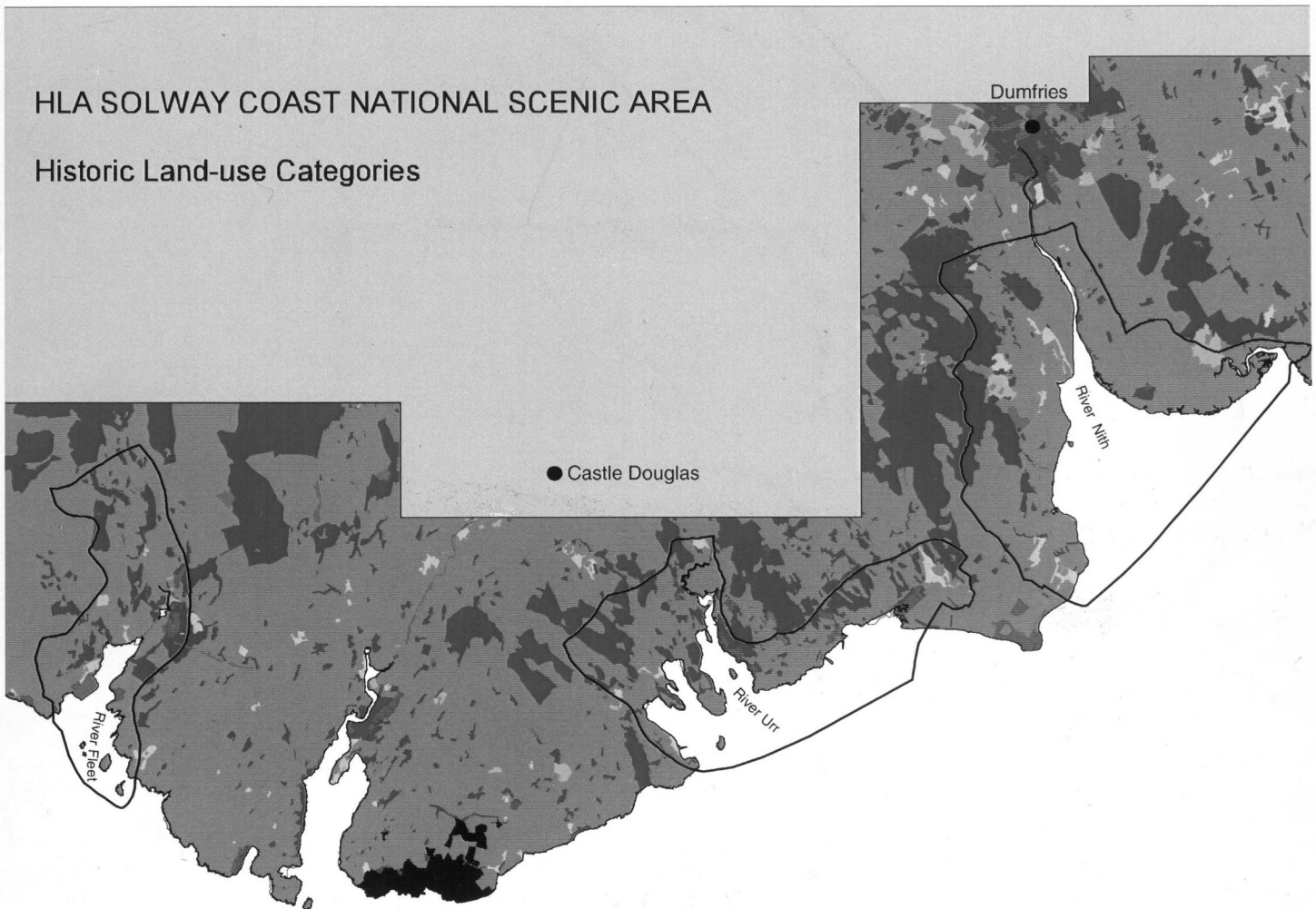




# The Historic Land-use Assessment of the Solway Coast National Scenic Areas:



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A Report by  
the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland  
and Historic Scotland

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A Report by the Royal Commission on  
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RCAHMS

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## Preface

The Historic Land-use Assessment Project is jointly managed and funded by Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The desktop survey on which this report is based was carried out by Karen Clarke, Caragh O'Neill and Allan Kilpatrick under the supervision of Piers Dixon. The research and analysis for this report was carried out by Karen Clarke. The text was prepared by Karen Clarke, Piers Dixon and Sarah Govan. The illustrative work was undertaken by Karen Clarke and Ian Parker and the layout was prepared by John Stevenson.

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## Background to the Historic Land-use Assessment

The Historic Land-use Assessment (HLA) of the Solway Coast was carried out by Historic Scotland (HS) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). This was to help in the preparation of a Management Strategy for each of the three National Scenic Area (NSA) designations in Dumfries and Galloway to ensure that the human contribution to the formation of the landscape was fully considered.

This report summarises the results of the HLA mapping of the Solway Coast of Kirkcudbright and Dumfries-shire encompassing the three NSAs. HLA is a technique that was developed in Scotland for assessing the human impact upon the landscape. The methodology was inspired by the Historic Landscape Character Assessment of Cornwall, but the methods have been adapted substantially for the Scottish context (Cornwall County Council 1996, Herring 1998, Fairclough *et al* 1999, Dyson Bruce *et al.* 1999, Dixon and Hingley 2002).

Historic Scotland and the RCAHMS first established the HLA Project in October 1996. It is a partnership venture to develop and implement a methodology for assessing historic land-use patterns in Scotland. The work is undertaken in Edinburgh by RCAHMS on the platform of their Geographical Information System (GIS). A Steering Group involving a wide range of organisations and individuals oversees the project and partnerships have been formed with the Forestry Commission, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Ayrshire Joint Structure Plan Committee. Data collection for the Solway Coast NSAs was completed in February 2002.

## The HLA and Management of the Landscape

The HLA provides us with information on the nature of land-use through time. It indicates the ways in which the countryside reflects how people have exploited and changed their physical environment and adapted to it through time (Fairclough, Lambrick and Hopkins 2002, 69). It also helps in the understanding of processes behind the formation of the current landscape and its present character. It is not the role of HLA to select areas for protection from change, though it can assist with that process. Rather, in identifying the historical character of today's landscape and its key physical elements, the HLA helps in the understanding of the continuity and change that have brought us to the present. In doing this it can inform management decisions, to ensure that they are taken in full knowledge of their implications for the historical context of the area.

Other sources of information, such as the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes and the Scottish Burgh Survey, complement the HLA and provide further detail. In particular, however, the HLA should be used in conjunction with information on known sites and monuments which are too small in extent to have been mapped in the HLA, but which represent the basic evidence for many periods of the past. As noted above, this information is held in the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS) and the local sites and monuments record (SMR).

Through identifying general trends and key characteristics, the HLA aids our understanding of the historic patterns and time-depth within the landscape and helps assess the impact of change. This is essential for the sustainable management of the historic environment, though other issues are also relevant here, such as building style, materials and the re-use of buildings (Historic Scotland 2002). The HLA has, therefore, an important role to play in helping to ensure that the management of the modern landscape continues to reflect its rich historical tapestry, thereby enhancing our sense of place.

The following summaries try to draw out the historical character of the area and offer some suggestions about the implications of this for landscape management.

## Summary Description of Methodology

Today's landscape contains a record of prehistoric and historic events upon its surface. HLA characterises and maps these events at a scale of 1:25,000 using the OS Pathfinder maps as its base, the smallest scale at which the topographic detail is accurately depicted. The assessment is a broad-brush exercise, which involves outlining an area that has common characteristics. These are defined as Historic Land-use Types, each of which has both a chronological period, i.e. when it was established, and a general land-use category to aid the presentation of the results. The mapping process involves the systematic assessment of topographic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, archaeological and historical data in the National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), the Land Cover Map of Scotland (MLURI 1993) and vertical aerial photographs.

The information is collated and mapped on an overlay by the application of a series of historical land-use types that have been grouped by land-use principles into general categories and also by period of currency. In addition relict features and archaeological remains are incorporated into the map, but are identified as Relict Types. The simple principle is that all parts of the landscape may be categorised as having a historic land-use type, but there are some parts, which display the traces of previous land-use types, i.e. Relict Land-use Types. Both types are mapped so that in any given area there will be a Historic Land-use Type, but Relict Types will occur occasionally as they are detected. The distinction may be defined thus:

*Historic Land-use Types* - reflecting historic land-use types in current use, which may include types that are in origin several hundred years old, and

*Relict Land-use Types* - reflecting historic land-use types that are no longer maintained for their original purpose, but have left a visible trace in the landscape, including relict archaeological landscapes, which have no modern equivalent.

A glossary of terms has been compiled, which includes 50 Historic Land-use Types grouped under 14 Historic Land-use Categories, and forms Appendix 1 of this report. There are 49 Relict Types grouped into 16 Categories, of which four are exclusively archaeological, comprising 21 of the Relict Types. The remaining 28 overlap with the Historic Land-use Types: an illustration of the constantly changing face of the historic landscape. For example, the fields of the improvement period are in many cases part of the modern framework of fields, but in some areas the fields have been abandoned and the ground turned to rough grazing. In this latter instance the Historic Land-use Type is Rough Grazing, but the Relict Type is Rectilinear Fields of the 18th and 19th centuries, which

is also a Historic Type elsewhere. For many of the archaeological landscapes the main source is the National Monument Record of Scotland, but in large areas of Scotland where no recent archaeological survey (i.e. since 1985) has been carried out, aerial photographs become more critical as a source. In addition, a validation process that involves ground visits to check information and interpretation is built into the project.

This scale of data capture, however, has the limitation that any feature that is less than one hectare in extent is too small to map. Groups of structures are included using a yardstick, for example, of at least five shielings or three hut-circles per hectare, but many individual archaeological sites do not show up on the HLA maps. Information on small sites can instead be added to the GIS from the NMRS or local sites and monuments records (SMRs), and therefore used in conjunction with HLA.

The resulting composite map overlay is entered into GIS to produce topologically correct maps. The digitising is executed using the OS Basic Scale digital map as a base. Polygons are tagged with the historic land-use reference number and attached to an up-to-date copy of the database, so that analyses can be carried out textually. Once completed, the map can be accessed on a PC-based browser called ArcView. The maps may then be combined with other datasets, including site data from the NMRS or SMRs, for further interrogation and analysis. Interpreted data of this sort on Historic Land-use, Relict Land-use and the survival of field patterns are not available from other sources, which makes this a unique resource in Scotland.

In the study of the Solway coast, it was decided to continue the practice of mapping deserted settlements in forestry that was conducted in Ayrshire, but only where features had been retained on the OS map. A new type, **Subrectangular Fields** (see Appendix 1), was created to deal with the fields that had no straight edges. This includes a relict type as well. There is no reason to suspect that these fields are anything but 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, except that some may be enclosures of former areas of rigged fields without any of the usual elimination of curves that the Agricultural Improvers favoured. This appears to have been driven by the broken terrain of the county rather than any other factor. A second new type was created for **Land Reclamation** in order to deal with the merse areas of the Nith estuary, and the identification of a canalised river at Gatehouse of Fleet (see Water Bodies below) led to the creation of a new Historic type for **Canals**.

## Summary of the Historic Land-use Assessment of the Solway Coast National Scenic Areas

Although the HLA has examined a large and continuous swathe of the Solway coast, this report focuses on the NSAs and adjacent areas. It identifies the key features within the NSAs and sets them within the context of the wider landscape. Each of the NSAs of the Solway coast encompasses an estuarine zone, though this common ground highlights the fact that the hinterlands of each area, visible as a backdrop to the coastline, are very different in character. The contribution of the coast to the economy of the area is not easily expressed through the HLA itself, due to the relatively small scale of the associated structures on land (quays etc.). Instead, the area appears in the HLA essentially as a farming landscape, as this is the dominant use of the land. Within this general picture, however, there are a variety of historic land-uses, including wooded headlands and tidal flats on the coast, and a hinterland of improved fields, unimproved moorlands and designed landscapes. This variety reflects the range of human interaction with the natural environment, an aspect of which contributes to the scenic qualities of the area.

However, there are distinctive differences in the modern farming landscapes of the coastal plain of Dumfriesshire and that of Kirkcudbrightshire. These are attributable partly to the variations in the topography of the hinterland, but possibly also to the differences in land-tenures in the two counties before the improvements. The interplay of unimproved ground, modern forestry and improved farmland in the lowlands ranges from the geometric planned improvements of Dumfriesshire to the less regular field patterns of Kirkcudbright, with occasional subrectangular fields, a distinctive element of the Galloway landscape. The influence of fishing and the sea is mainly confined to the estuarine areas, where the last vestiges of the use of fishtraps and netting may still be seen and where the small fishing ports that hug the coast may be found. The relict pre-improvement farms, which decorate the moorland fringe and the interior of forestry plantations, may still be traced, and occasional prehistoric landscapes, particularly in the hinterland of Gatehouse, remind us of the antiquity of farming and settlement in this area and its more extensive survival before the agricultural improvements.

### The Nith Estuary

The Nith estuary has a very different backdrop to the other two areas around the Urr and the Fleet. The hinterland of the Nith is dominated by low-lying, gently-sloping land, which has been enclosed in a regimented fashion. The local roads are often straight for long stretches and, like the field boundaries, follow the trends in the topography. Unimproved areas are few but, where they do exist, they are generally mosses that could not be drained. One large area east of the Nith, the Black

Grain Plantation has been planted with conifers in recent decades. There are also extensive designed landscapes such as Arbigland, Kirkconnell and Shambellie.

The area around New Abbey displays little of its medieval past, apart from the precinct and the layout of the old village with the mill and the fishponds. On the south-west of New Abbey there is an area of small regular fields which are probably small-holdings for tenants in the village, which was established at the time of enclosure, as happened at Newcastleton in Liddesdale in 1793. Elsewhere around the village much of the land is regimented with 'planned' fields, except for a block of enclosures of less regular form on the north-east in the direction of Shambellie Grange and the Abbot's Tower. The possibility of this being enclosed separately from the rest, because of a difference in landholding should be borne in mind. The planned fields suggest the work of a single landowner unencumbered by the interests of anyone else.

The hinterland of Dumfries is peppered with small-holdings, many of which appear to be post-World War I creations, occupied by cottages typical of the period, and now in various stages of decay or enlargement. It is likely that they formed part of a wider national 'homes fit for heroes' policy under which veterans were given allotments or crofts, often on former farmland in the lowland zone.

The estuary itself is not recognisable as a separate zone within the HLA. Similarly, some other historic and current land uses do not leave physical traces that can be characterised by the HLA, eg. wildfowling, haaf netting, cockle fishing. Other characteristics can be picked out, however, such as the tracts of less fertile grazing, or merse, on either side of the Nith, where land has been reclaimed from the sea by a mixture of natural processes and human activity. Along the Caerlaverock coast, in particular, is an area of sea flats that has dried out during the post medieval period. Indeed, the early castle in the woodland to the south of the later castle was originally accessible from the sea. Although there is often little evidence of human activity on the flats to distinguish them, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping and the evidence from Caerlaverock coastal studies clearly show that there are extensive tracts of reclaimed land. The process is not, however, one way. A strip of 19<sup>th</sup> century farmland has been lost to the Merse just east of Caerlaverock.

The evidence of fishing may be seen in at least one location on the west of the Nith estuary where there is a fish-trap several kilometres to the north of Carsethorn fishing village. Others may be detected in future, but they have not been recorded on this occasion. Fishing is better represented by the settlements of Carsethorn and Glencaple on respective sides of the Nith, which have

functioned as small fishing ports, and also as a convenient method of moving agricultural produce to market in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Overall, this area is dominated by land-use that has its origins in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Of the elements that date to the late-20<sup>th</sup> century, a significant proportion is plantation forestry, although there are pockets of **18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century Woodland and Designed Landscapes**. The coastal strip to the west is dominated by **Moorland and Rough Grazing** on Criffel; though this usage is very difficult to date, it could stretch back into prehistory, as suggested by the record of prehistoric hut-circles on Boreland Hill on the west of Criffel (NX 96SW 6).

### **The Urr and Fleet**

Both these areas are estuarine, with fish-traps visible in Portling Bay, at Balcary Bay, and on the west side of Fleet Bay. Although fishing activity is otherwise not evident, the small coastal settlements at Palnackie and Kippford also functioned as fishing ports. The small islets off the coast are accessed by causeways (e.g. Rough Island), but there is little evidence for active land-use. Individual sites, however, have been recorded, as at Hestan Island, indicating their long-term use and occupation.

The hinterland of both these two areas is very different to the Nith. The topography is broken with numerous rocky hills and this has produced a distinctive enclosure landscape that partly reflects the pre-improvement pattern that preceded it, to an extent rarely seen in the gentler lowland areas. This does not mean that there has not been effective enclosure during the Improvement period, but that its character is different. There are few straight roads, for example, and there are occasional subrectangular fields with curvilinear, as opposed to rectilinear, boundaries that reflect the topography and possibly the pre-improvement fields. The small areas of hill-ground are often sub-divided into relatively small portions that are visibly cut by stone dykes. The process of enclosure has led to these areas of rough grazing being divided between the surrounding farms. An example of this may be seen to the north-east of Rockcliffe. The rough-grazing on Kirkland Hill was divided into several parts in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century, three of which were small farms or crofts, since abandoned, and two portions of rough grazing that were appropriated to the adjacent lowland farms and divided by a fence or dyke. This boundary has since become disused, but leaves its mark on the landscape.

The impact of pre-improvement land-use is evident in the modern landscape in several ways. In the rough pastures, abandoned farms can be seen with their tumbled-down drystone field boundaries surrounding subrectangular fields that reflect the glaciated topography of Galloway. These sites are also to be found on the modern map, outlined within conifer plantations, which indicates that they may have been visible features when they were planted, and may still be picked out in the trees if there has been no deep ploughing. Some of

the fields from these 18<sup>th</sup> century farms were enclosed and improved without straightening their boundaries, because of the topography. This type of landscape is distinctive: the improvers generally viewed irregular enclosures as anathema - they made for inefficient agriculture, and should not have been tolerated!

The impact of modern recreational trends is highly visible on the coast, in the form of golf courses, spreading residential zones, adapted policies, such as Cally Park, and caravan parks. Thus the improvement landscape itself is subject to change. For example, around Rockcliffe the small coastal plain was enclosed in a regular fashion with planned fields, but the farm (Glenluffan) has been converted in recent times to a residential and recreational area. The Iron Age fort of Mote of Mark now sits in a recreational area and is itself a monument in the care of the National Trust that is open to the public. The estuarine flats have, however, limited the development of the area for boating and yachting.

Of the towns in this area, Gatehouse of Fleet is a planned village, and had a canalised port on the Fleet to provide sea access. Kirkcudbright, which lies outwith the two NSAs, on the other hand originated as a medieval burgh and port that has many surviving features. It still operates as a fishing port and has a maintained channel to the sea. Like Gatehouse, it sits at the high tide line at the head of an estuary which has many of the same features that are evident on the Fleet and the Urr; the indented estuary, the wooded headlands, the tidal flats and a surrounding hinterland of mixed, improved fields, unimproved outcrops and occasional designed landscapes.

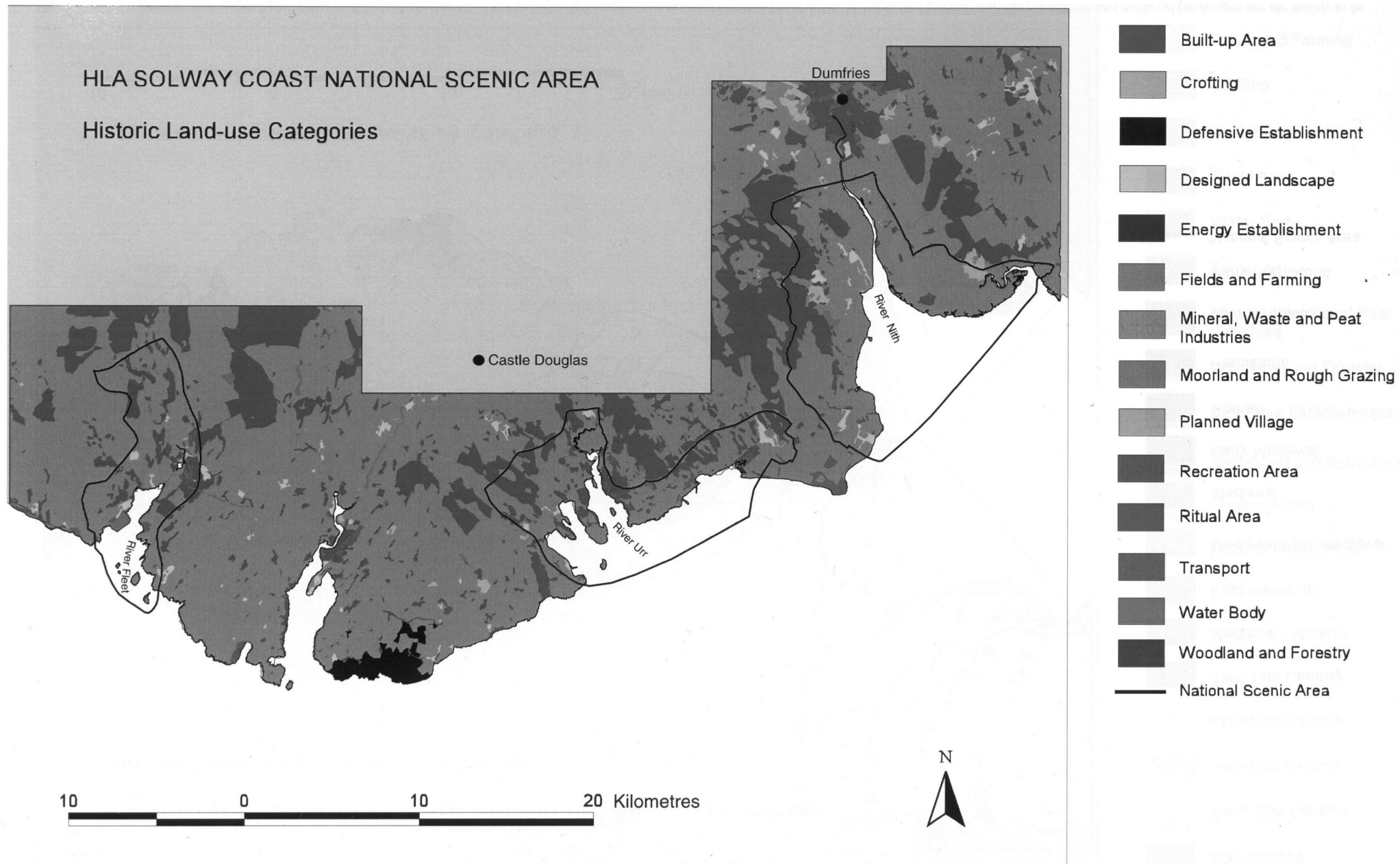
The hinterland of the Fleet is particularly rich in much earlier traces of past land-use. There are many cup-marked rocks, numerous prehistoric round houses and clearance cairns, and even some field-systems spread across the more extensive rough pastures that are to be found in this area. Major early prehistoric sites, burial cairns and stone circles still make a significant impact on the local landscape of places like Cambret Moor. Prior to the agricultural improvements, such remains may have been as much a feature of the lowland areas as the upland, glimpses of which are now confined to major sites like Cairnholy or the Mote of Mark. This puts a premium on these surviving upland landscapes and makes their conservation a priority for consideration.



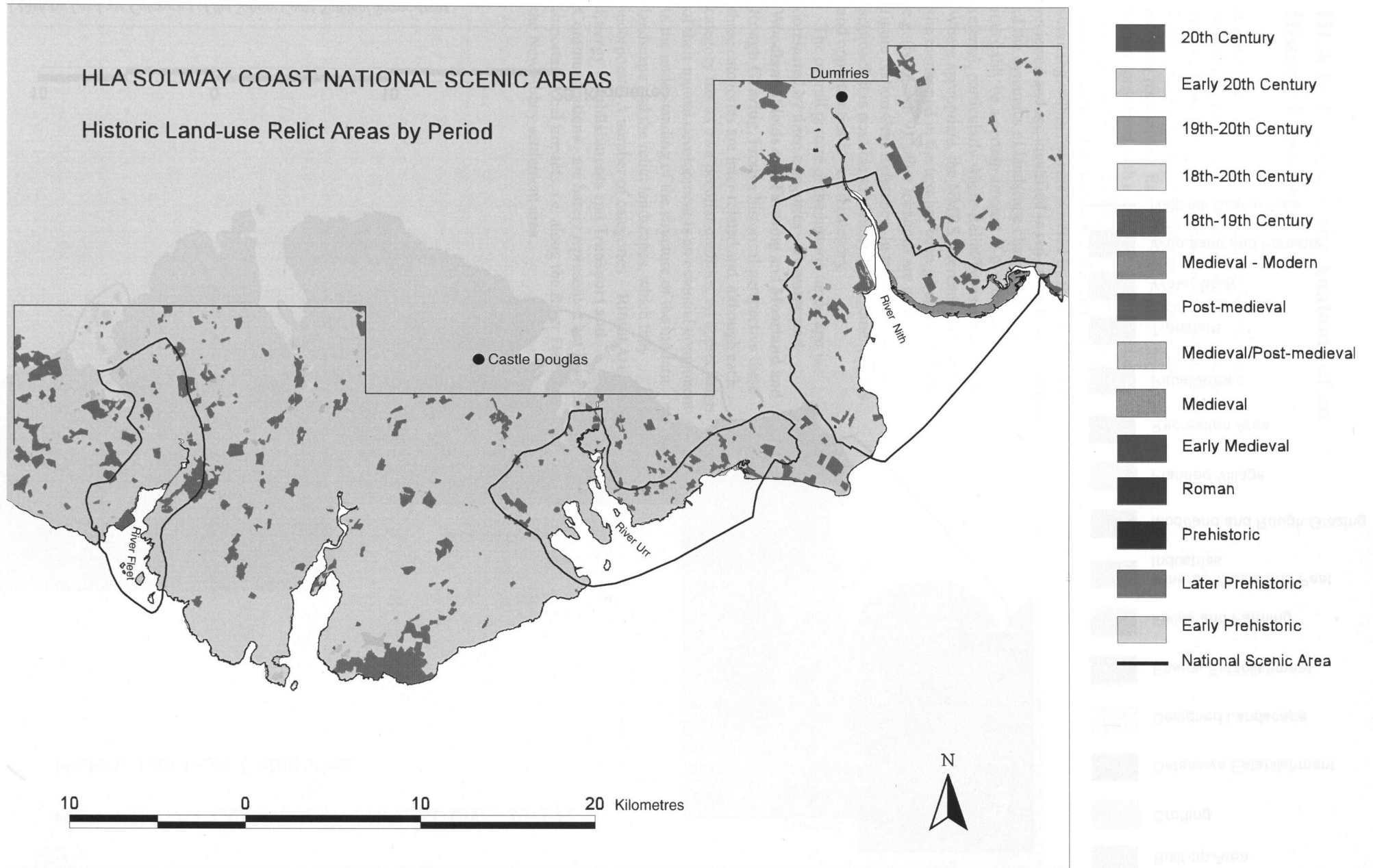
## HLA by Category: the Anatomy of an Historic Landscape

A generalised view of land-use in the Solway Coast National Scenic Areas is shown on Map 1, where the Historic Land-use Categories have been selected. Maps 2 and 3 analyse the relict landscapes by period and category respectively. Each of the individual categories is then considered with a discussion of the particular types included in the category and an accompanying map. In addition, the occurrence of Relict Types surviving within the area covered by the category are reviewed and are identified in red on each map. Because of the dynamics of landscape change, there will inevitably be a certain amount of overlap and cross-referral, particularly where Relict Types are concerned. Where appropriate, the NMRS reference number to a site mentioned in the text has been given in brackets, e.g. (NX64NE 9); other locations are given an eight-figure Nation Grid Reference. In taking this line of approach it is possible to identify management issues and opportunities for each category.

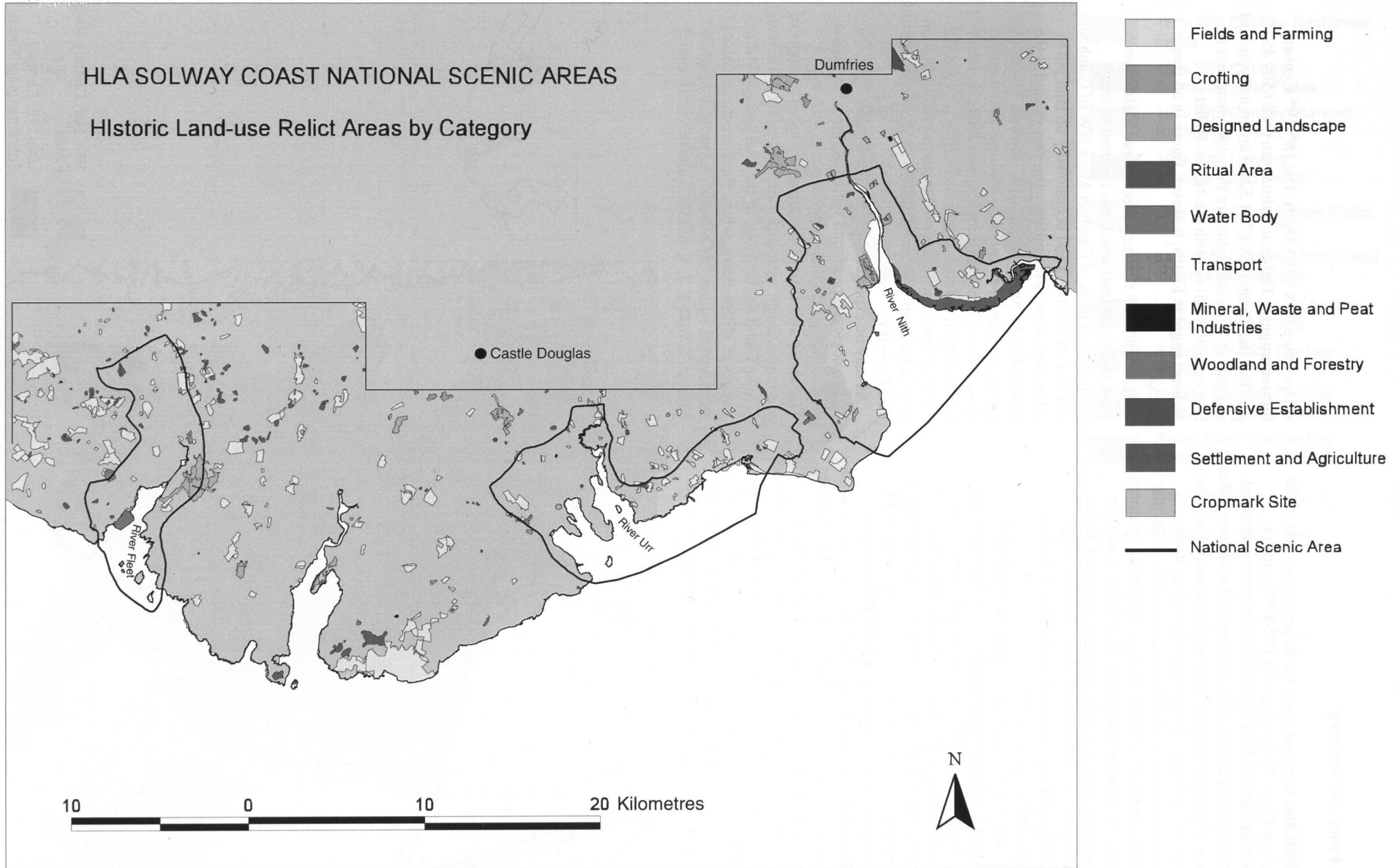
The overall picture of the historic landscape is dominated by three categories – **Forestry and Woodland, Fields and Farming** and **Moorland and Rough Grazing**. From a historical perspective these three categories are inter-related and, although each category has its own peculiar qualities, an appreciation of their mutual development is an essential component in the understanding of the structure of the modern landscape and the relict landscapes, which they incorporate. A number of categories – **Ritual Areas, Energy Establishments** and **Transport and Communications** - are barely represented but have had important local impacts, i.e. along the River Dee or in the New Abbey settlement area.



Map 1 Historic Land-use Categories of the Solway Coast National Scenic Areas



Map 2 Historic Land-use Assessment Relict Areas by Period. Note that 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century relict features are the most common in all areas, as might be expected, and that prehistoric and medieval landscapes are the mainly to be found in the hinterland of Gatehouse of Fleet where rough pasture is most extensive.



Map 3 Historic Land-use Assessment: Relict Areas by Category. This highlights the land-use origins of the relict areas.

## 1. Fields and Farming

**Fields and farming** cover the largest proportion of the Solway Coast NSAs area with **18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Rectilinear Fields** being the most frequently recorded. For the most part this is an element of the landscape that owes its origins to the agricultural improvements of the later-18<sup>th</sup> and early-19<sup>th</sup> century. There has, however, been some attrition and modification of the fields that relate to later 20<sup>th</sup> century changes in farming practices. These include the amalgamation of fields as modern machinery makes it more economical to work larger field units, or intakes of new land from the rough pastures under encouragement from the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU.

There is a noticeable concentration of **19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century Amalgamated Fields** around Dumfries and the Nith Estuary at Mersehead: an indication of the gentler terrain and better quality agricultural land. In contrast the topography around the Urr and the Fleet is generally more broken, resulting in less regular field boundaries and fewer blocks of **18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Planned Rectilinear Fields**. **New Fields** often occur in areas which were formerly part of the policies of houses like Gelston (NX75NE 13) and Argrennan House (NX75NW 63) to the north of Kirkcudbright, but also at sites within the NSAs. On the whole, **New Fields**, like **Amalgamated Fields**, are much less common to the west of Criffel than to the east. This is reflected in the intakes of new arable on the south-east flank of Criffel

at Drumbuie (NX 9550 5850). The **18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Subrectangular Fields** at Balmangan (NX 6509 4577) and Toll Bar Drum (NX 6764 5216) are more typical of this part of Kirkcudbrightshire than elsewhere, but the best examples fall outwith the NSAs. **Relict Subrectangular Fields**, however, figure in all three NSAs.

**Relict 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Rectilinear Fields** survive most visibly on land which has reverted to rough pasture, as in parts of Cambret Moor NW of Gatehouse of Fleet (NW55NW) and occasionally on land put to other uses, such as the military training ground at the Kirkcudbright Army Ranges (NX74SW 6). Traces of earlier pre-improvement agriculture are also found in these areas of **Moorland and Rough Pasture**, which have not been as intensively cultivated (e.g. NX 8578 5452), or have been preserved in areas of afforestation (e.g. in Dalbeattie Forest, NX 8636 5559, see **Woodland and Forestry**).

As may be expected there are fewer relict archaeological types found within improved farmland than within some other categories, e.g. such as **Moorland and Rough Grazing**. One good example of pre-improvement agriculture and settlement in farmland is to be found on the fringe of the Dundrennan Military Ranges at Milton Parks, where there are the remains of the deserted village of Dunrod, a homestead moat and church (NX64NE 7, 8, and 9), while the fields round

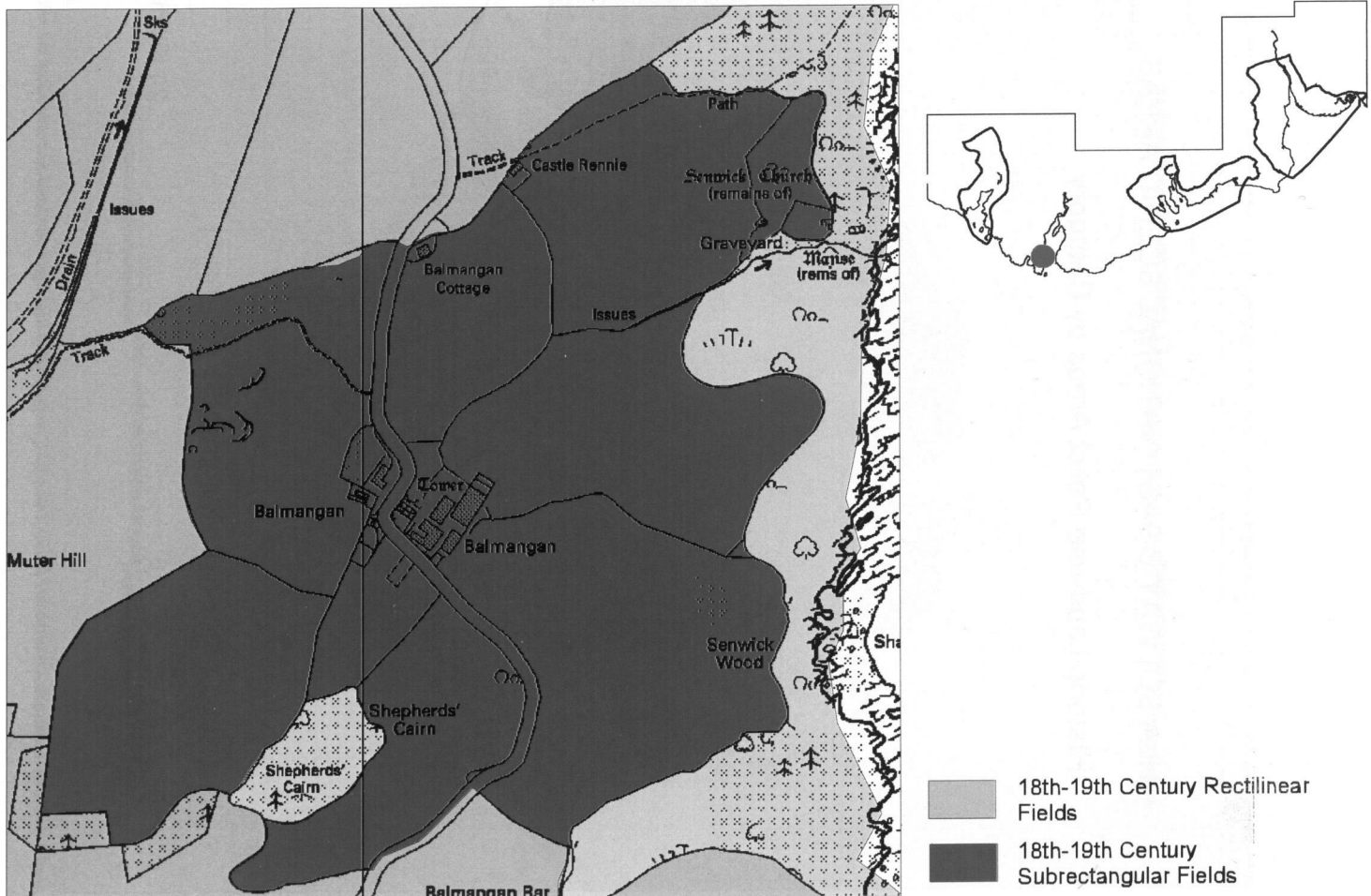
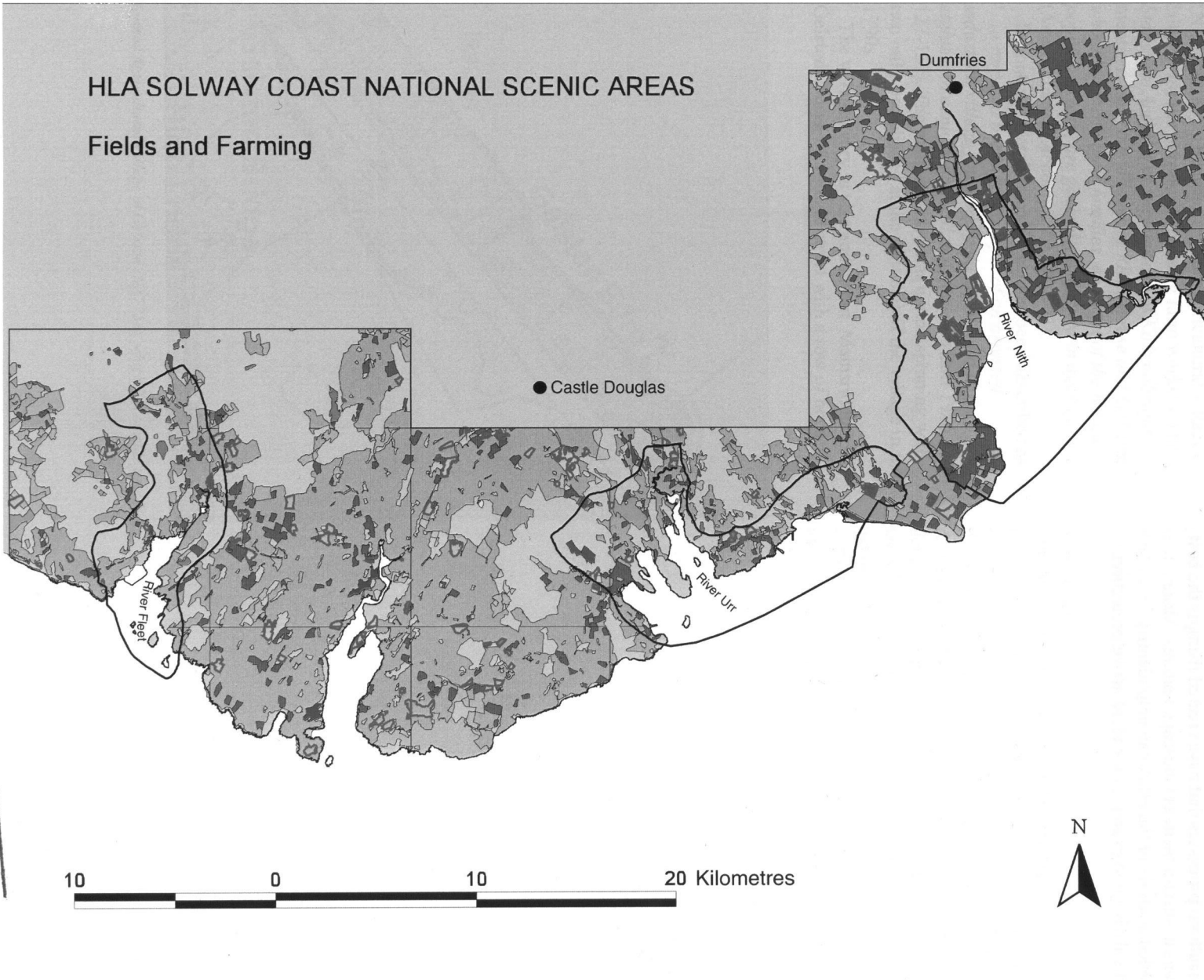














Fig. 1 An example of **18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Subrectangular Fields** at Balmangan (NX 6509 4577) outside the NSAs.

# HLA SOLWAY COAST NATIONAL SCENIC AREAS

## Fields and Farming



-  18th-19th Century Rectilinear Fields
-  18th-19th Century Subrectangular Fields
-  18th-19th Century Planned Rectilinear Fields
-  19th-20th Century Amalgamated Fields
-  Late 20th Century New Fields
-  Late 20th Century Unenclosed Improved Grassland
-  Late 20th Century Industrial Scale Farming Units
-  Relict 18th-19th Century Rectilinear Fields
-  Relict 18th-19th Century Subrectangular Fields
-  Relict 18th-19th Century Planned Rectilinear Fields
-  Relict Area
-  National Scenic Area

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about display the extensive corrugations of well-preserved pre-improvement rig (see **Defensive Establishment** below). The Roman camp at Wardlaw which has been reduced to a cropmark by cultivation over the years, lies in an area of **Rectilinear Fields** near the still upstanding Iron Age fort (NY06NW 4 and 5).

#### *Management*

In general, the maintenance of field boundaries, which date back over the last 200 years or so, would help ensure the survival of the characteristic field pattern. The subrectangular examples are particularly typical of the area and demonstrate evidence of change through time. In general, continued use of these fields, and the agricultural processes that have created them, is the best means to sustain them as landscape features. More detailed analysis of the HLA can help identify particularly good examples for more active protection.

## 2. Planned Villages

During the course of the agricultural improvements some landowners sought to provide for the landless by establishing new villages. This was not an entirely philanthropic exercise since it was also to provide a resource of labour and rural industries. Sometimes they had an entrepreneurial role or were related to an industrial enterprise.

There are seven **18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Planned Villages** recorded within the study area, namely Lauriston (NX6864), Gatehouse of Fleet (NX65NW 23), Bridge of Dee (NX7360), Rhonehouse (NX75NW 35), Gelston (NX7758), Mainsriddle (NX9456) and Carsethorn (NX95NE 55). The majority were agricultural villages laid out for the purpose of housing farm workers. The *Statistical Account of the Stewarty of Kirkcudbright* mentions that 'the villages of Rhonehouse and Gelston, who, along with their families, and part of the female population also, are generally employed in agriculture' (*New Statistical Account* IV 1845, 163).

In contrast, Gatehouse of Fleet has been described as '...a rare and beautiful example of an arrested industrial village founded by the local laird in the eighteenth century and still maintained.' (Butt 1966, 127-137). The main industry was cotton spinning with two mills established at the west end of the village in the 1790s.

The villages vary in size and layout. Mainsriddle and Gelston consist of a single street with a row of houses,

while the larger settlement of Gatehouse of Fleet was laid out in regular blocks made up of three main streets running parallel to one other.

A cluster of planned villages is located to the north of Kirkcudbright in the vicinity of the market town of Castle Douglas (e.g. Rhonehouse and Bridge of Dee). On the coast the planned village of Carsethorn is situated south of Carse Bay and described by the minister of Kirkbean parish as of '...great advantage to the farmers for conveying their fat stock, &c. to a better market than is to be found nearer home.' (*New Statistical Account* IV 1845, 241). It also functioned as a fishing port.

Comparison with the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS 6-inch map sheets (Kirkcudbrightshire 1852) shows little growth of these settlements with the exception of Gatehouse of Fleet. Rhonehouse and Mainsriddle remain much the same size as they were in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### Management

The distinctive character of settlements has been recognised as one of the key features of the NSA. The HLA data will aid understanding of this by identifying the different forms of origin to which their character relates. Although more work is required to define the details of individual settlements, policy guidance can take the layout, purpose and character of each place into account. Some settlements are designated as conservation areas or, in the case of Gatehouse of Fleet, as an Outstanding Area of Conservation.

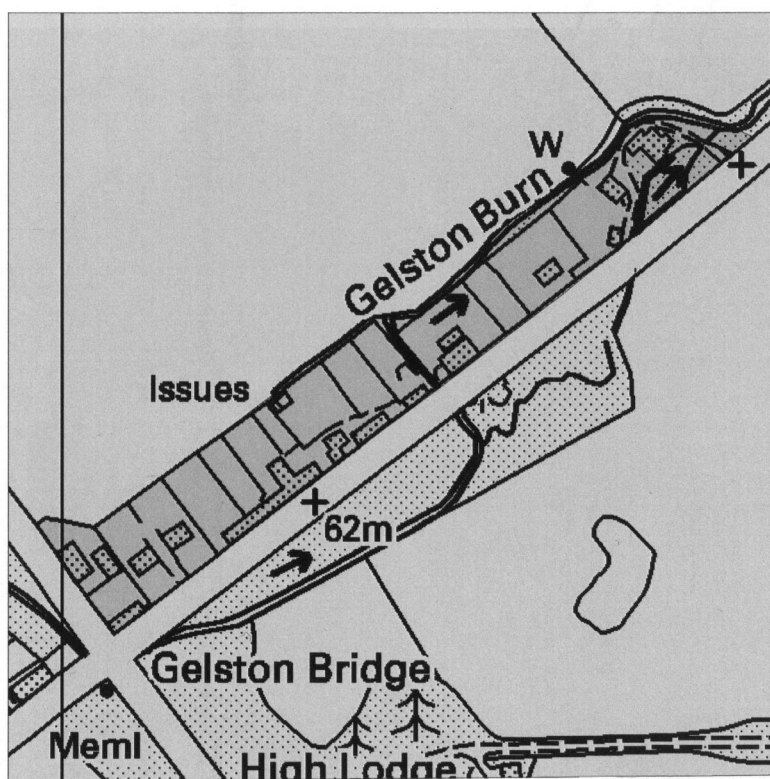
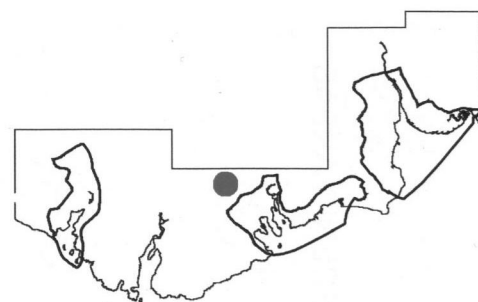
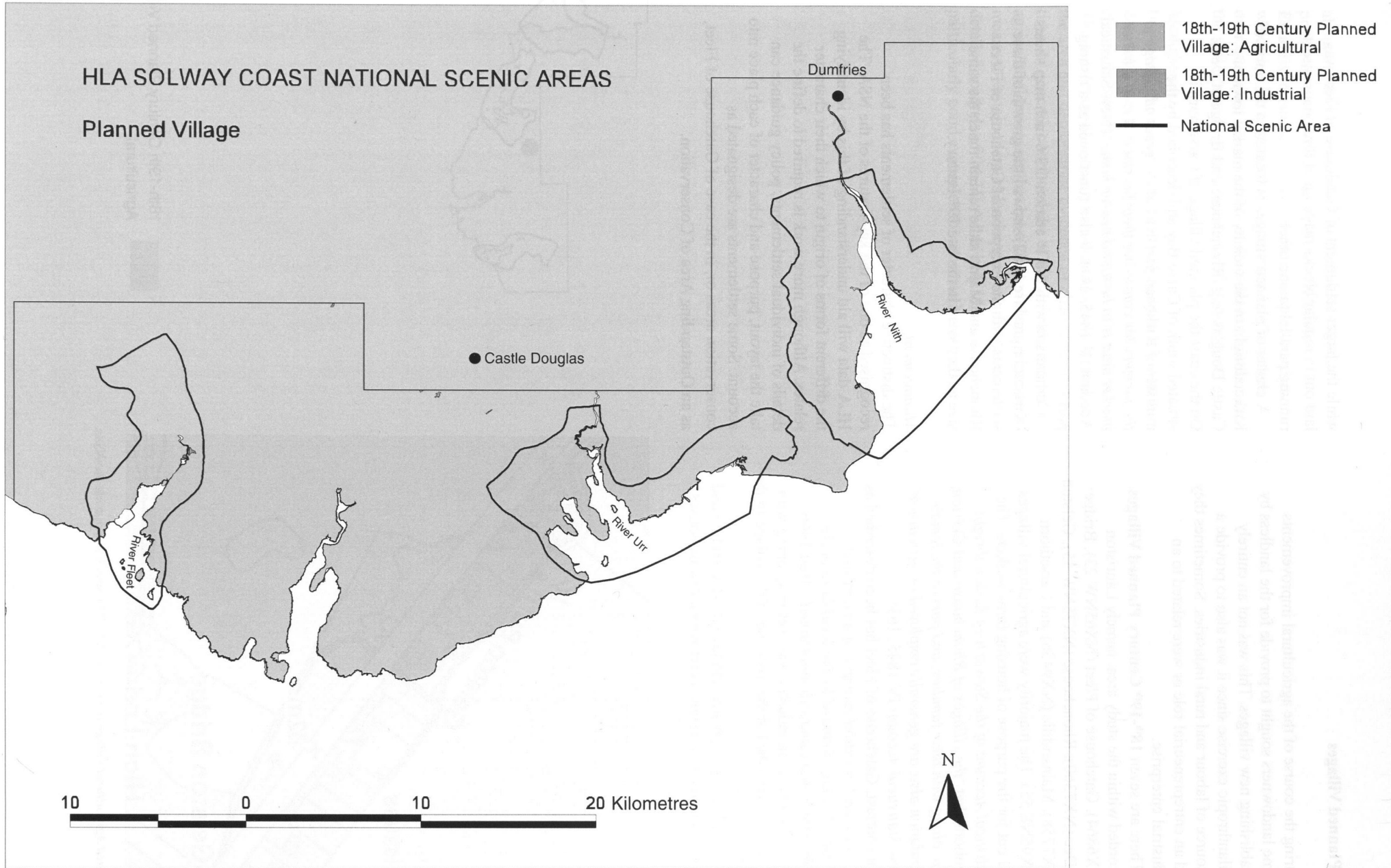


Fig. 2 The Planned Agricultural Village of Gelston (NX7758), which lies outside the NSAs.



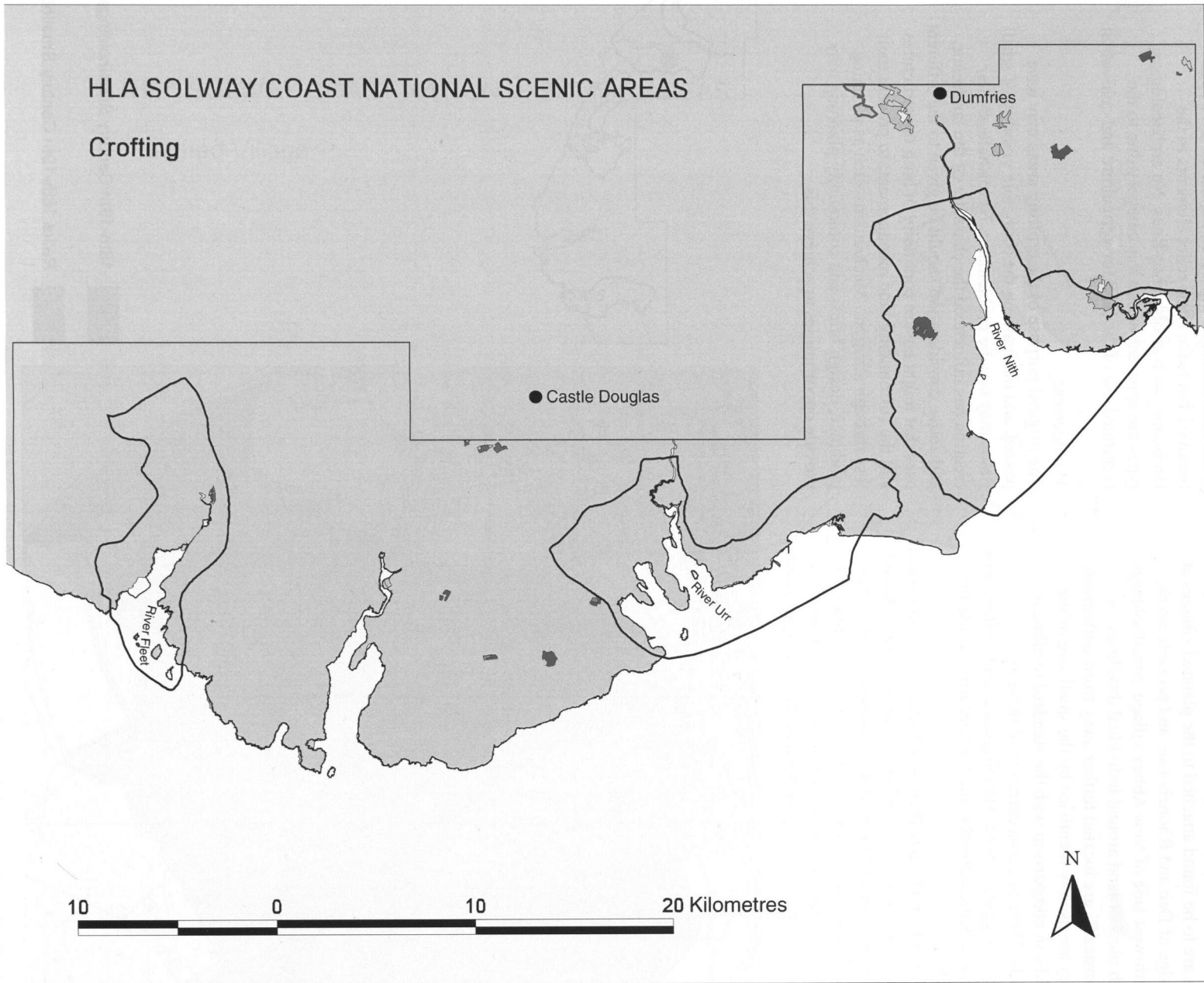
■ 18th-19th Century Planned Village:  
Agricultural





Map 5 Historic Land-use Assessment: Planned Village





- 18th-19th Century Allotments
- 18th-19th Century Smallholdings
- Early 20th Century Smallholdings
- Relict 18th-19th Century Allotments
- Relict 18th-19th Century Smallholdings
- Relict early 20th Century Smallholdings
- Relict Area
- National Scenic Area

Map 6 Historic Land-use Assessment: Crofting

#### 4. Built-up Area

The main urban settlements in the area can be found at the head of the estuaries which provide access to the sea, such as Dumfries (NX97NE 98) on the River Nith, Kirkcudbright (NX65SE 67) on the River Dee and Gatehouse of Fleet (NX65NW 23) on the Water of Fleet. The latter was a planned village (see **Planned Village** above) founded in the late 18th century by the improving landowner James Murray not far from his mansion Cally House (NX55SE 11). In contrast, the medieval core of the royal burgh of Kirkcudbright may be seen adjacent to the site of Kirkcudbright Castle (NX65SE 26). That of Dumfries lies outside the study area. An estuarine location was also the key to the establishment of villages at Glencaple and Carsethorn (see **Planned Village**) on the Nith and Palnackie and Kippford on the Urr.

Smaller settlements and villages are scattered around the main towns, or are spread along the coast, as for example around the Rough Firth. These include the villages of Rockcliffe (NX85SE 32) and Kippford (NX85NW 51) which have benefited from the attractive seashore location with views of Rough Island and the wooded peninsula of Horse Isle. Other villages were established around the sites of the former medieval abbeys at Dundrennan and New Abbey, while the village of Twynholm is in the vicinity of three earthworks

NX65SE 1,3,4), of which one is a motte, and may be of medieval origin.

Industrial areas are not substantial and are confined mainly to various factories on industrial estates around Dumfries.

Relict areas are also scarce within this category. Heathhall Industrial Estate has been built on Heathhall Airfield, a military airfield between 1940 and 1959 (NX97NE 153).

#### Management

To maintain the historical character of built up areas, it is important to identify their historical core and understand their subsequent development. This will allow decision-makers to be aware of the impact of their decisions on the historical context of these areas, and enable them to respect both key features and their wider settings.

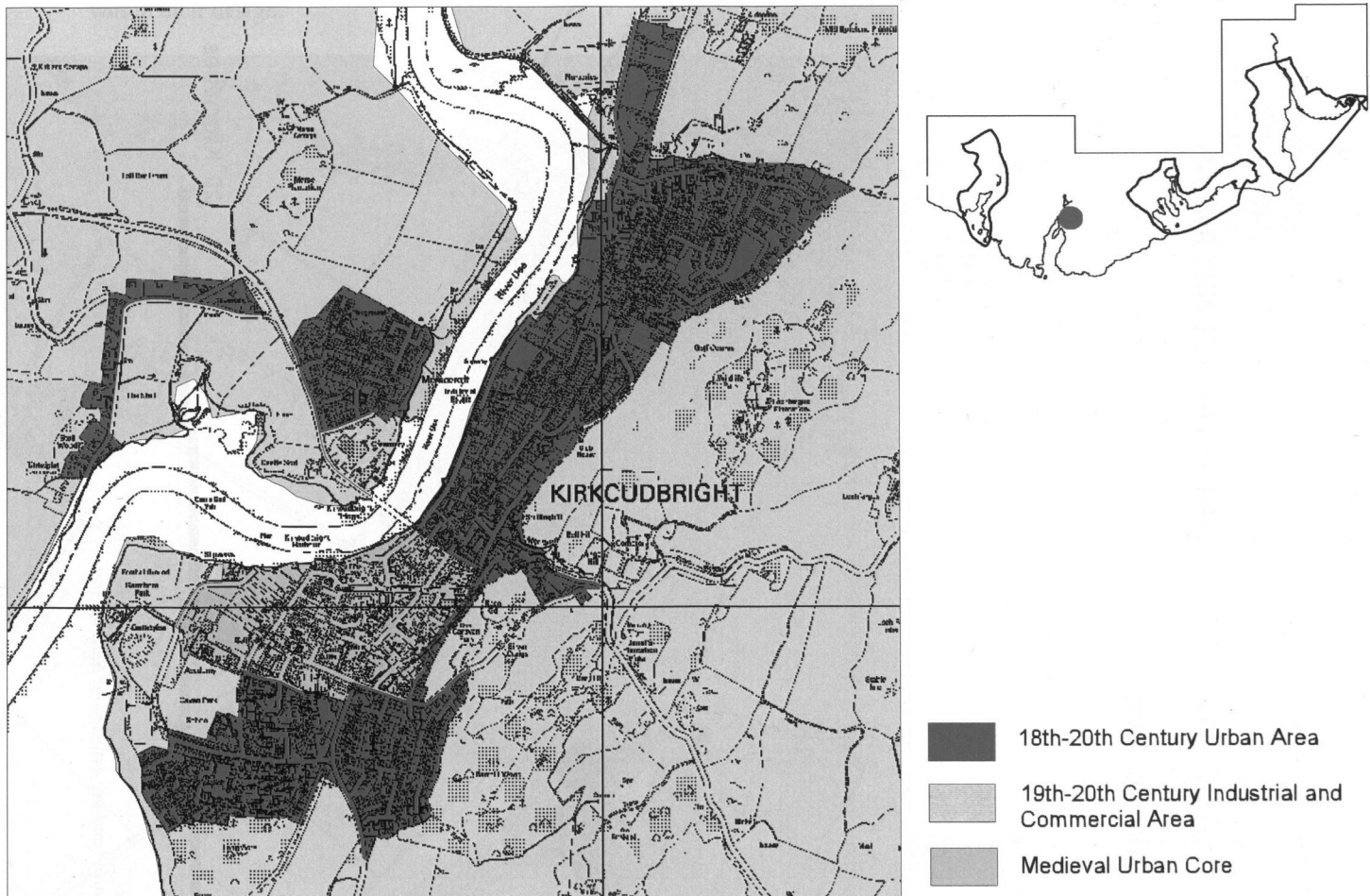
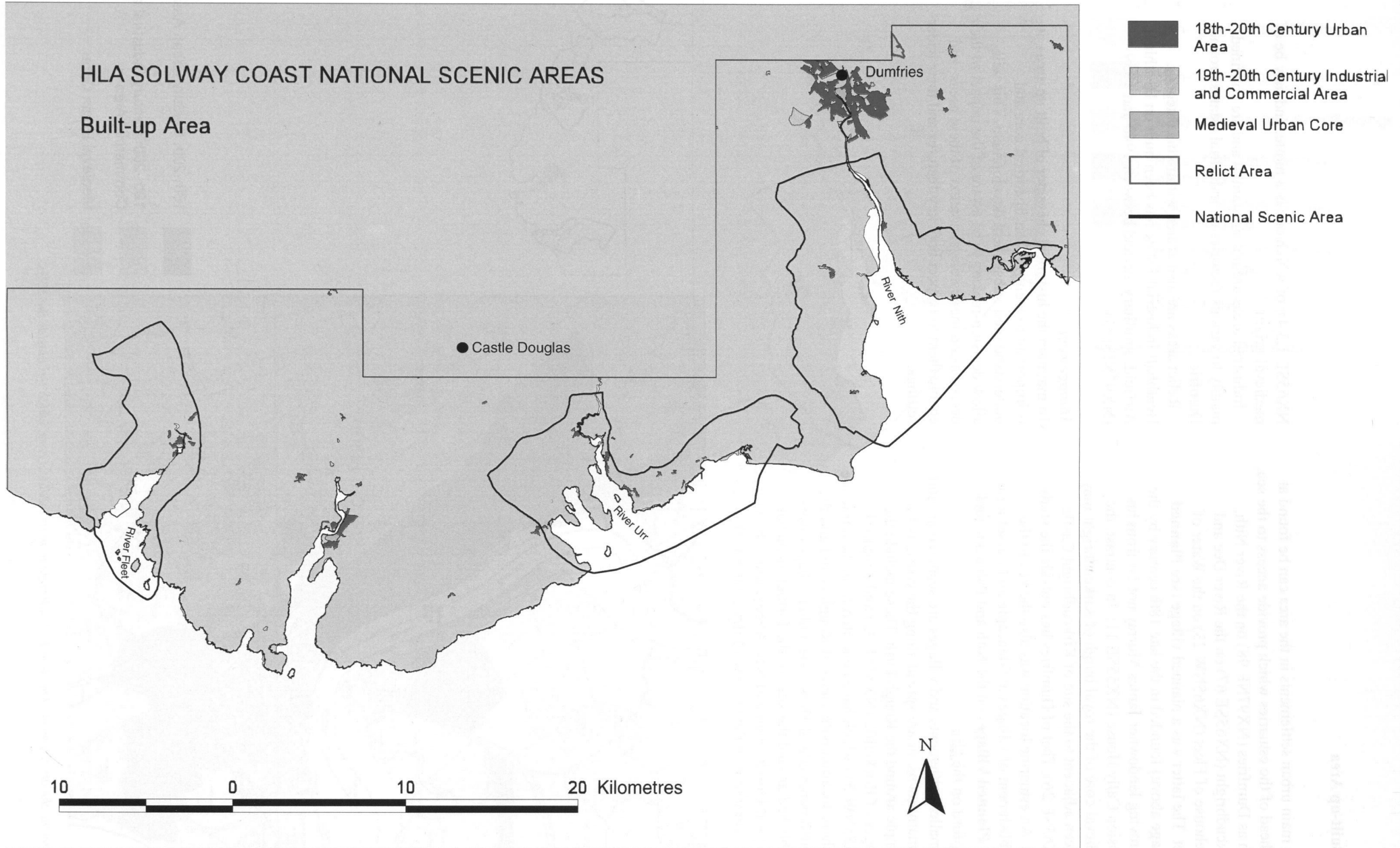


Fig. 4 A map showing the development of modern Kirkcudbright from its medieval core, which lies outside the NSAs.



Map 7 Historic Land-use Assessment: Built-up Area

## 5. Designed Landscapes

Designed landscapes include the policies and parklands of great houses and mansions that were constructed mainly during the 18th and 19th centuries. In the late 17th century the imposition of man on nature was seen as the essence of design, and generally involved great avenues of trees focused on the house at its centre. The intention was to impress the approaching visitor, or provide vistas to distant features. Later in the 18th century, a more romantic or 'naturalistic' approach was developed which is the more common survival today. Both, however, involved planting trees as part of the design.

Designed landscapes in the form of **17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Policies and Parklands** are scattered throughout the study area with a concentration around Dumfries, and some in close proximity to Kirkcudbright and Gatehouse of Fleet. Others are located along the main route ways connecting Gatehouse of Fleet and Kirkcudbrightshire with Dalbeattie, Castle Douglas and Dumfries.

A large number of designed landscapes in Kirkcudbrightshire are situated along the coast suggesting that scenic qualities were a factor in their choice of location. Inland, the larger estates like Cally House (NX55SE 11) and Cumstoun House (NX65SE 116) have developed around older estate centres, incorporating earlier tower houses and earthworks within their design.

Drawing boundaries around a designed landscape, while helpful, can be problematic, and must take into account the influence of the design on the surrounding landscape, as at Kirkconnell Tower on the Nith. The fields around policies such as Cavens, near Kirkbean (NX95NE 62) and Kirkconnell House (NX96NE 2) have a more formal planned layout, while this is less evident in the fields around designed landscapes in the vicinity of Gatehouse of Fleet and Kirkcudbright, where the land is in general more broken and hilly. However, the policies at Gelston Park around Gelston Castle (NX75NE 13) NE of Kirkcudbright are obviously attached deliberately to the planned village of Gelston.

Relict policies and parkland survive comparatively well in recreation areas such as the caravan park on part of the grounds of Cardoness House (NX55SE 8) and the former policies of Cally House (NX55SE 11), which are currently used as a hotel, golf course and parkland. In many cases, aspects of the original design, including the associated woodland, are still maintained. Other areas within former designed landscapes like Terregles House (NX97NW 83) and Argrennan House (NX75NW 63) have since been taken in as farmland and now only leave a trace of the boundaries of the former parkland.

Relict archaeological areas large enough to be recorded within the policies and parkland category are confined to just one example, Tregallon Motte

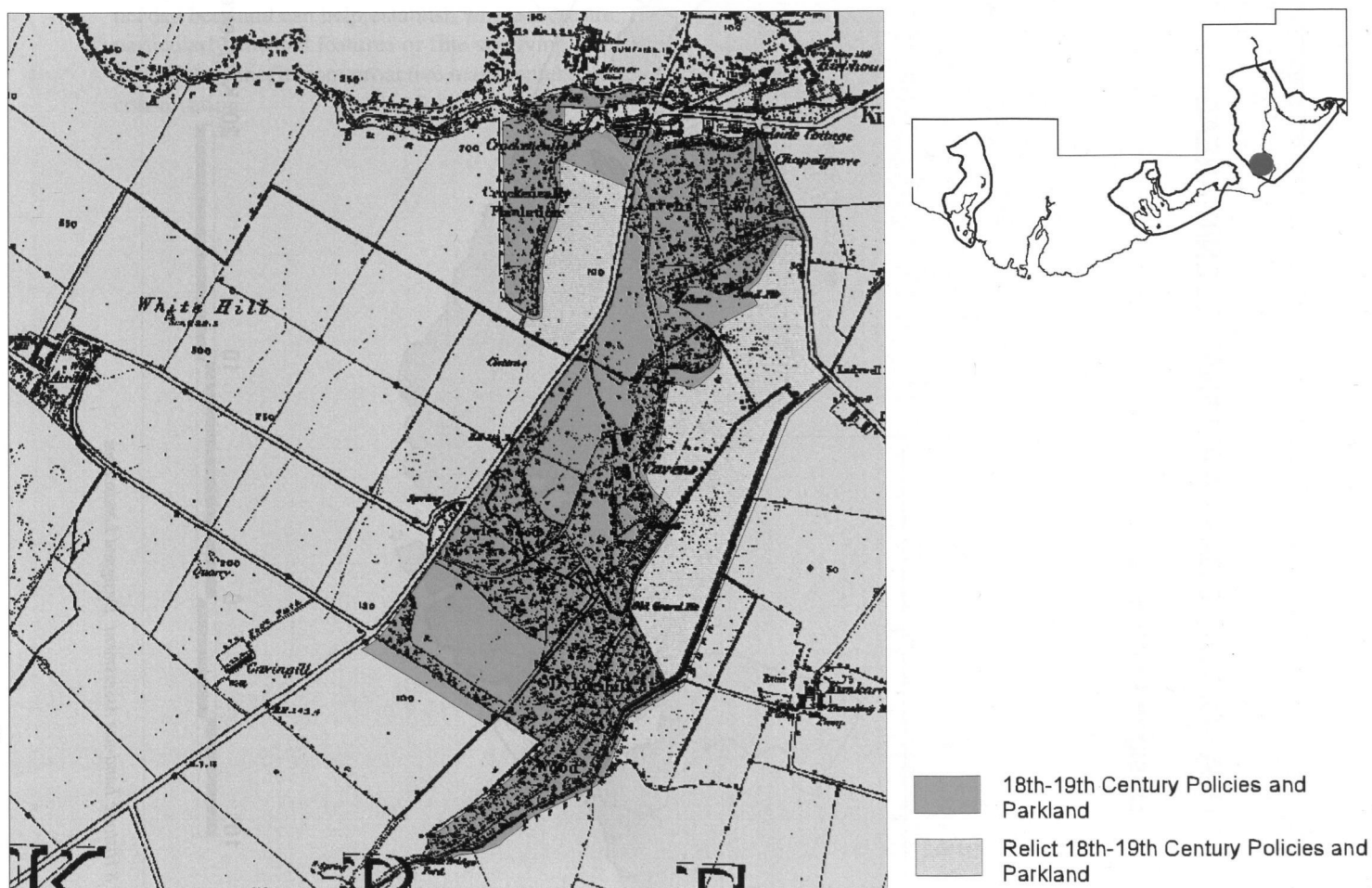
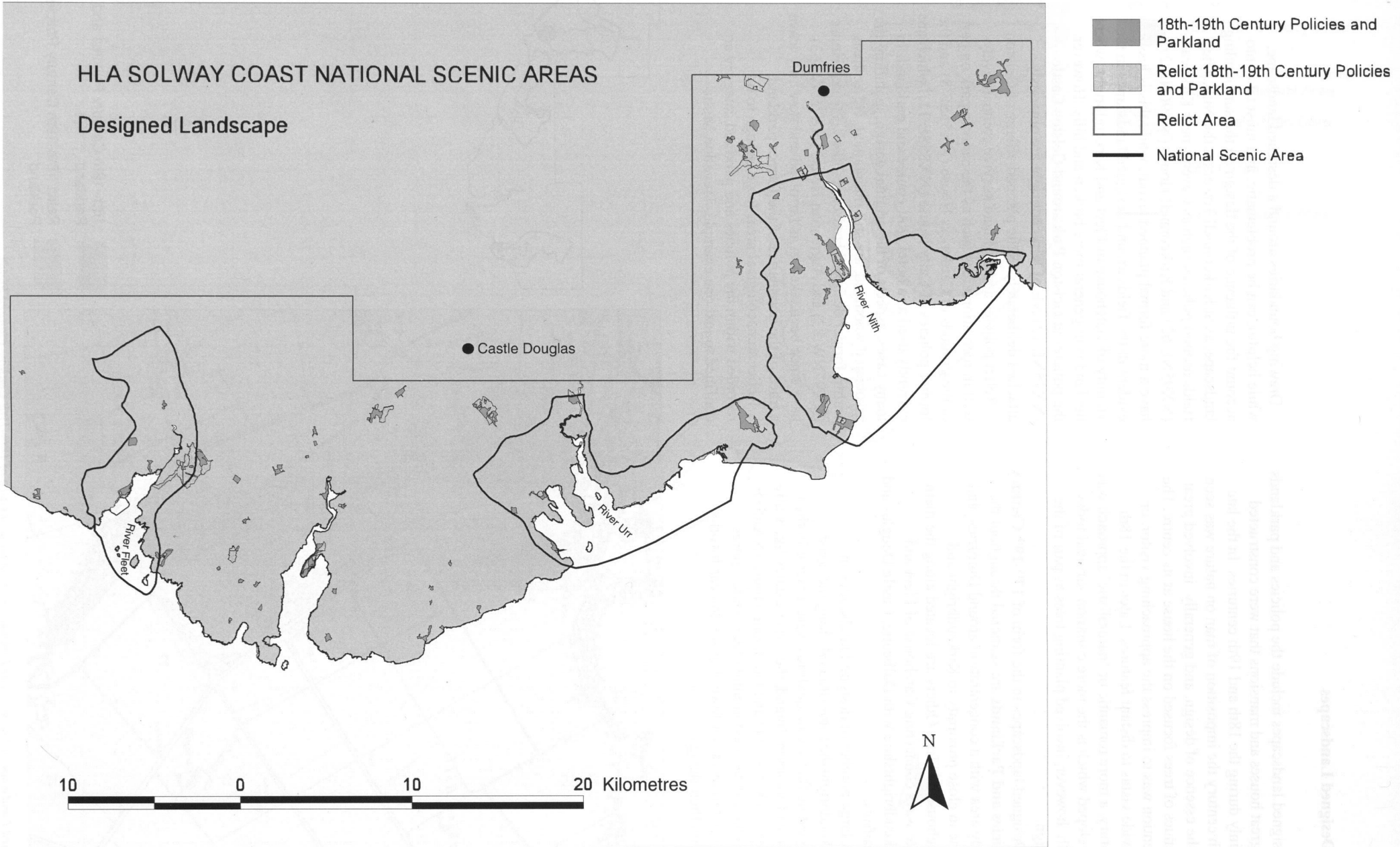


Fig. 5 The Designed Landscape of Cavens, near Kirkbean, with an adjacent area of 18th-19th Century Planned Fields.



Map 8 Historic Land-use Assessment: Designed Landscapes

(NX97SW 3) at the edge of Goldielea Wood within the grounds of Goldielea House (NX97SW 18). The absence of any others may be the result of the conversion of relict policies and parkland to more intensive agriculture or commercial forestry, the small scale of the monument or the lack of fieldwork in Parklands and Policies.

### *Management*

Designed landscapes have a significant impact on the NSAs and are a useful focus for understanding the influences of large landowners on the surrounding countryside. It was within the houses at their core that many of the improvements were planned, and where early experiments in agriculture were carried out. Both relict and historic types are of value in demonstrating the physical manifestation of the philosophies of the time, and even where an estate has been long abandoned the networks of paths and vistas reflect their history and often continue to have an influence in the landscape today.

The HLA helps in the management of these areas by improving our understanding of the extent of the designed landscape and its relationship to the wider setting. However, it is also important to understand the different elements within the landscape. For instance, did an arboretum exist and what form did it take? Are there vistas focussing on a prominent feature, man-made or otherwise. Did the layout of the fields depend upon the alignment of the main house or its policies? Further research with other sources, including field survey, is needed here and can help establish where there are particularly unusual features or fine surviving examples that might benefit from proactive management and conservation.



## 6. Woodland and Forestry

Woodland has been managed since prehistory, as a resource for fuel, building materials, grazing, or charcoal, to name but a few. Some will have been coppiced to ensure that there was a supply of suitably sized poles, while others will have been allowed to grow to maturity as standard trees. Grazing will also have been allowed in woodland, for deer in medieval hunting forests, or pigs as pannage (a medieval method of grazing oak woods) or as wood pasture. Where woods were harvested and regeneration was intended, animals will have been kept out by enclosing them with dykes, fences or earthworks. Woodland for ornamental purposes is included in **Designed Landscapes**. In the 20th century the strategic requirements for timber in a national emergency lead to the creation of the Forestry Commission in 1919, with the intention of planting enough woodland to provide the timber needed in the event of another war. This resulted in the planting of extensive conifer woodland on areas of rough grazing, since the government would not allow agricultural land to be planted. The ubiquitous conifers were shown to be best suited to the conditions in these areas.

**Coniferous Plantations** generally occur on marginal terrain that had previously been rough grazing. The main areas of commercial forestry in the study area are all on more upland areas such as Glencap Forest on Meikle Cullendoch Moss to the North of Kirkcudbright,

Dalbeattie and Mabie Forest to the south of Dumfries extending around the Nith Estuary.

Comparison with the OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch map sheets shows the expansion of forested areas in the 20th century and the extent of the survival of **17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century Managed Woodland**. Many of these pockets of woodland are classified by SNH as long established or ancient woodland, often within or adjacent to areas of policies and parklands (see **Designed Landscapes**).

In a few cases, areas which were depicted as woodland on OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 6-inch map sheets are currently farmland, or rough pasture, but the boundaries of former plantations have survived as relict features. Traces of earlier plantation survive in the form of plantation banks, either in farmland, or in areas of rough pasture, as at Drumbuie (NX 9529 5849) and Millknock (NX 5550 5498).

Although afforestation tends to obscure much of the evidence of past land-use, a number of relict areas have been recorded within the **Woodland and Forestry** category. The field boundaries of some **18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Rectilinear Fields** are still recorded on current 1:10000 map sheets in parts of Mabie Forest and Dalbeattie Forest. At Glenquicken Moor newly planted trees have been planted within rectilinear fields where there are remains of a farmstead and stretches of stone dykes (NX55NW 28).

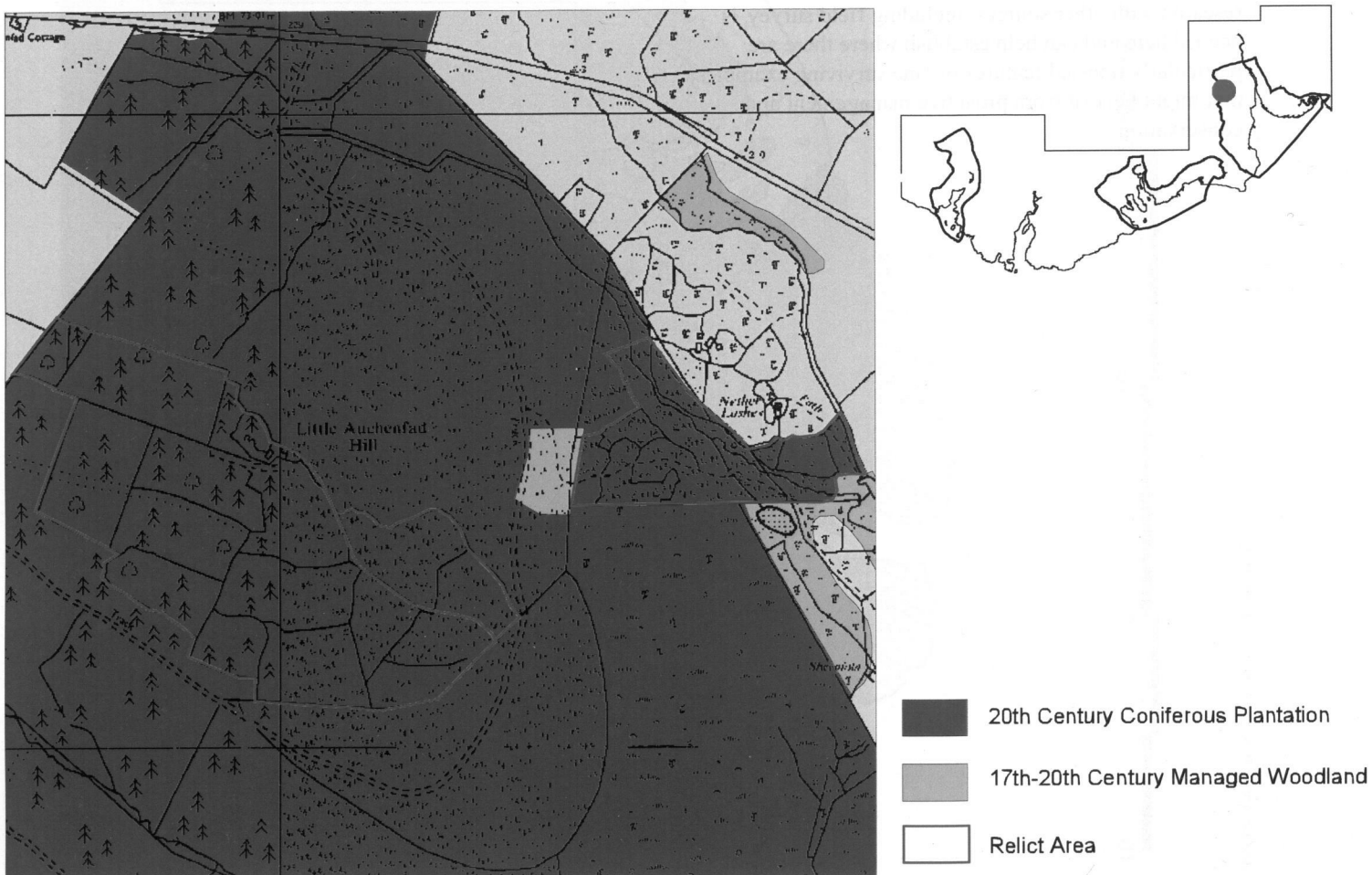
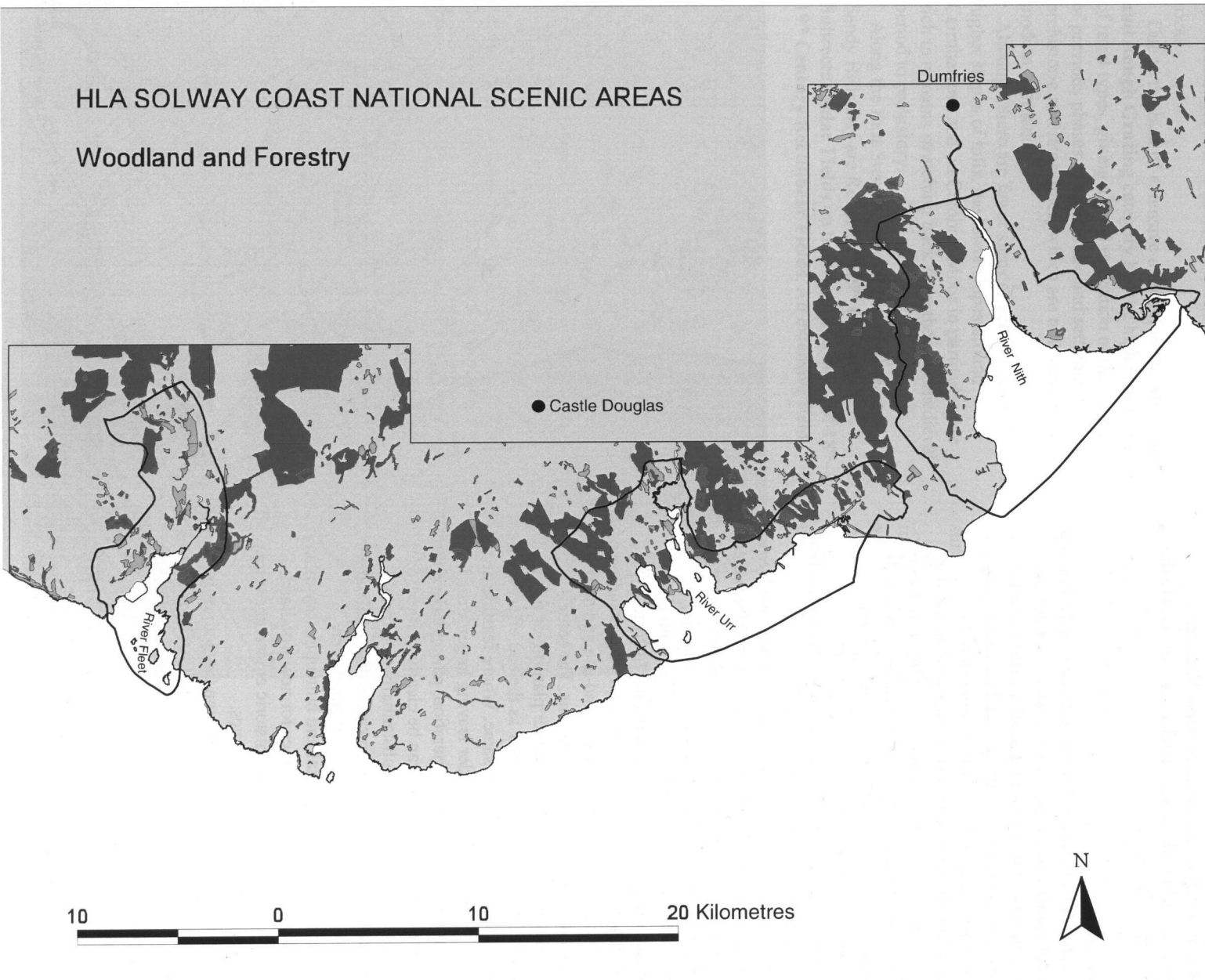


Fig. 6 An example of a relict archaeological landscape in forestry at Little Auchenfad Hill, comprising 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Rectilinear Fields in one instance and 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Subrectangular Fields in the other. Some of the forestry has recently been clear-felled.

# HLA SOLWAY COAST NATIONAL SCENIC AREAS

## Woodland and Forestry



- 20th Century Coniferous Plantation
- 17th-20th Century Managed Woodland
- Relict Post-medieval Plantation
- Relict Area
- National Scenic Area

Traces of pre-improvement field-systems along with the remains of farmsteads and other structures (NX96NW 28) have been recorded within Mabie Forest. The field boundaries of **18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Subrectangular Fields** are also apparent in areas of coniferous plantations within the policies around Cally Palace (NX 5876 5327) and around New Abbey (e.g. Shambellie Wood NX 9580 6752).

There are few relict archaeological landscapes within forestry that have been recorded in this exercise. The remains of the earthworks of 'Old Caerlaverock' (NY06NW 7), dating to the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, are one such example, in an area maintained as woodland at Castle Wood, to the south of Caerlaverock Castle, now a monument in the care of the Scottish Ministers. However, fieldwork in woodland areas may lead to the recovery of more sites.

### *Management*

Research is being carried out by a number of bodies into the continuity and change in woodland cover across Scotland since the retreat of glacial ice some 10,000 years ago. Both climate variation and human activity have impacted upon this, and it is important to understand the various processes that have resulted in the woodland cover that we see today. Opportunities for interpretation are numerous; long standing woodlands have a story to tell in terms of their environmental, economic and social history while the recent commercial plantations conceal evidence for earlier land management within their boundaries.

The structure of woodland and forest across the NSA varies considerably, but there are certain principles that we can apply in terms of management. Where either new or replacement planting is considered, it is important to refer to the HLA data, along with other information sources, to avoid damaging historic environment features. This will give an understanding of the historical context of the area's land-use and help clarify the most appropriate locations. The same principles must be applied whether planting or natural regeneration is being considered, as the end effect on the historic elements will be the same. Where feasible, it may be appropriate to consider leaving larger areas free from planting or natural regeneration, particularly if the evidence for earlier activity can be clearly defined, or if previous land-use has been substantially free from woodland. As people have interacted with woodland for millennia, there can be substantial benefits in considering the environmental and human history of an area before undertaking schemes for new woodland. Furthermore, the needs of the historic environment may complement biodiversity objectives.

Following the Forestry Commission Guidelines for Design and Planning and for Forests and Archaeology will help minimise the impact of woodland and forestry on the historic environment.

## 7. Moorland and Rough Grazing

Areas of **Moorland and Rough Grazing** tend to be confined to upland areas less suitable for cultivation, although there are some low-lying areas of merse along the seashore that fall into this category (e.g. at Caerlaverock). The distribution map shows the main areas of this category are to be found on Cambret Moor and a series of hills including Cairnharrow around the Fleet Valley, Bengairn, Doon Hill and Suie Hill in the East Stewarty Coast and Criffel on the Nith Estuary. In low-lying areas, patches of rough pasture are scattered throughout the rest of the area between farmland, where there is hill ground, or pasture dominated by outcrops of rocks.

Due to the lack of extensive cultivation the **Moorland and Rough Grazing** category has the highest survival of relict types, giving a good indication of the high tides of previous phases of agriculture and settlement in prehistoric and later times, which are now largely lost in modern farmland.

Although there are fewer signs of activity on the higher slopes of hills, the lower slopes around Cairnharrow, and on Cambret Moor in particular, are rich in remains stretching back from the post-medieval period to prehistory.

Along the East Stewarty Coast just north-east of Sandy Hills Bay are Relict **18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Subrectangular Fields** on the fringe of a block of **18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Rectilinear Fields**. An extensive field

system stretching up around Doon Hill (NX95NW 37-39) is depicted on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the OS 6-inch map (Kirkcudbrightshire 1854, sheet 46) and annotated 'Old Fences'. These irregular fields are a particular feature of this part of Kirkcudbrightshire, and are subtly different from the enclosures of drumlins that have been found on the north-west border of the county with Ayrshire. Both, however, demonstrate an accommodation of improved agriculture to the demands of the topography and reflect the extent of the unenclosed pre-improvement fields that preceded them. This is supported by the evidence of surviving rig.

### Management

Continued grazing is the most appropriate form of management to maintain this type of historic land-use, though grazing levels could sometimes be reduced to prevent erosion to significant features. Attention should be paid to the relict areas that have been identified, as their recognition through HLA suggests that they are extensive and unusual. Continued grazing will ensure their stability, provided that levels are not too intense and that feeding stations are kept well away from surviving structures.

Where continued grazing is not possible, alternatives to natural regeneration and the emergence of scrub should be considered, particularly for those areas that have not been drained or otherwise improved, as these land-uses would represent a dramatic change from the use to which the land has been put for centuries.

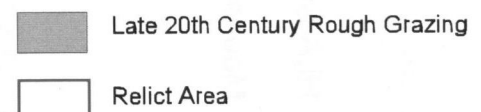
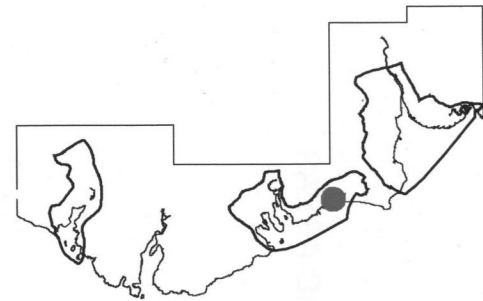
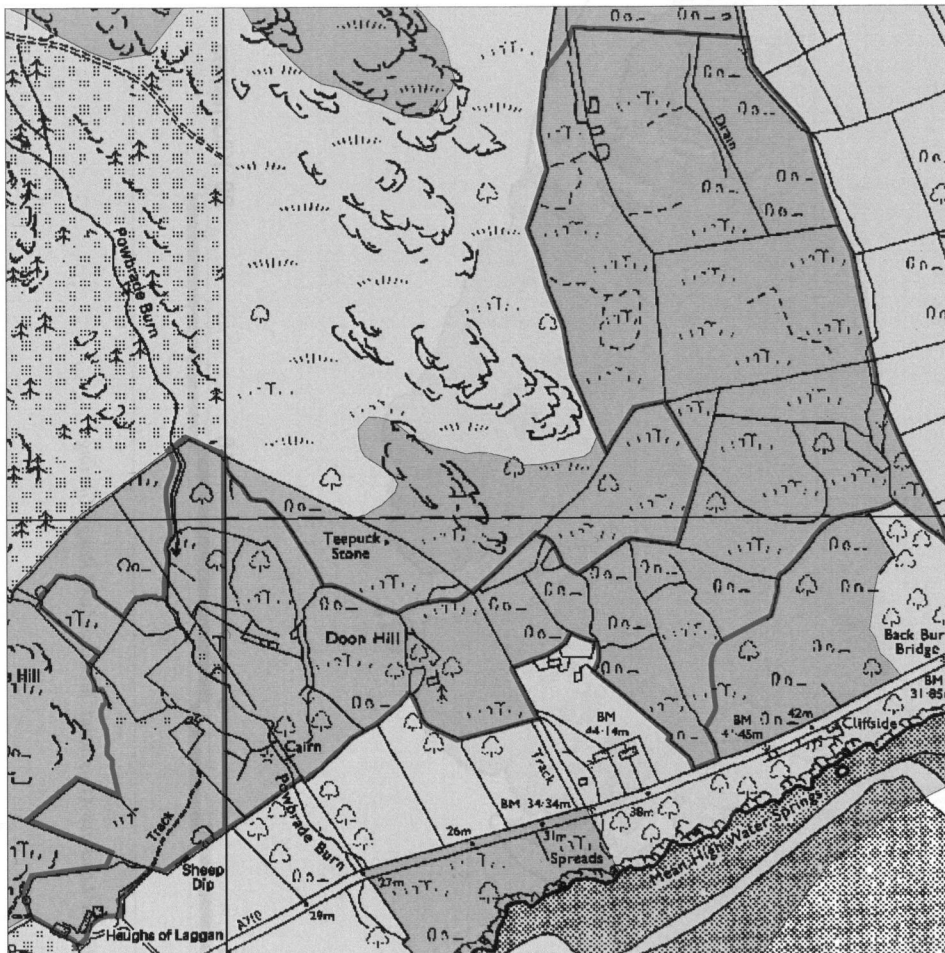
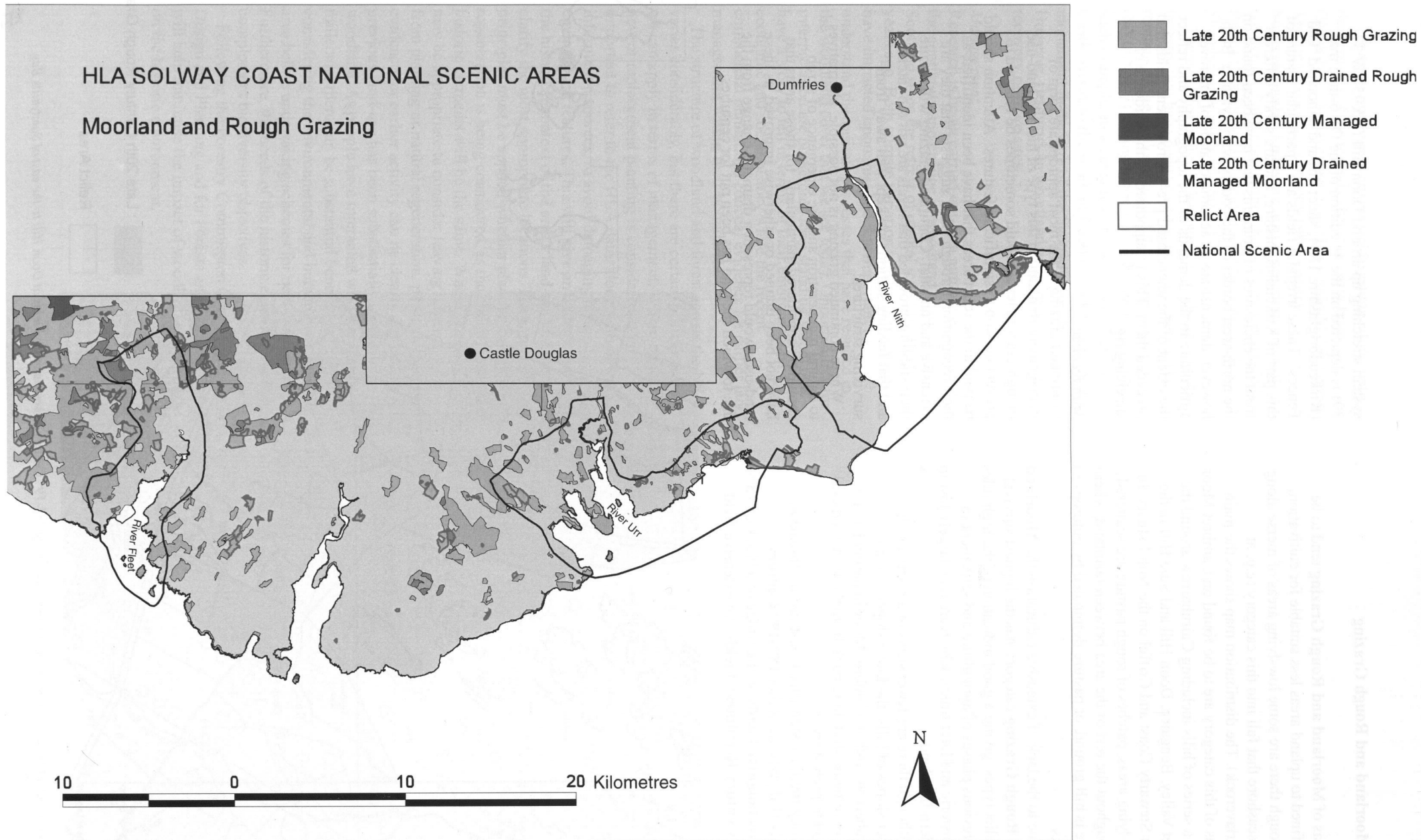


Fig. 7 Relict archaeological landscapes in rough grazing, comprising 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Subrectangular Fields at Doon Hill to the east of Sandyhills Bay.



Map 10 Historic Land-use Assessment: Moorland and Rough Grazing

Extensive areas of moorland have already been lost to forestry planted during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and it is consequently important that any decision for further extensive planting or natural regeneration is made with full awareness of the impact of this on surviving areas of moorland and rough grazing, and on the cultural heritage value of these areas. Relict types in particular hold valuable evidence for understanding the past. Additional information sources, especially the local Sites and Monuments Record, should be consulted when considering any land-use change.

## 8. Recreation Area

Recreational landscapes are a relatively recent development. Until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, leisure was exclusive to the aristocracy who constructed policies and parklands for their own enjoyment. With urbanisation and the expansion of the wealthy middle classes the demands of leisure and recreation increased. This took the form of urban parks, zoological and botanical gardens, golf and race courses, and more recently of country parks. In many cases they owe something in their design to the parklands of the aristocracy, if not actually using former policies for their site. The Solway coast was exploited as a holiday area from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, accessible by rail.

As elsewhere Scotland, **Recreation Areas** consist largely of caravan parks and golf courses, along with playing fields and urban parks. The majority of these, like Brighthouse Bay Holiday Park and Golf Course (NX 62 45) and the caravan park and golf course at Southernness (NX 97 54), are situated along the coast, or around the more populated areas of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright and Gatehouse of Fleet.

Several parks are on, and around, ground containing monuments, such as Kirkhill Motte (NX97NE 5), Lincluden Abbey (NX97NE 4), Caerlaverock Castle (NY06NW 6), Dundrennan Abbey (NX74NW 12), New Abbey and the site of Kirkcudbright Castle (NX65SE 26). Some of these are monuments in the care of the Scottish Ministers.

Other recreation areas were formerly **18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Policies and Parklands** and still maintain much of the designed landscape. At Cally Park within the grounds of the Cally Palace Hotel, the remains of Cally Castle (NX55NE 12), a tower-house within a ditched earthwork, are now incorporated in a golf course.

In many cases caravan parks and golf courses have been built on former farmland. At Southernness (NX9754) and Gatehouse of Fleet (NX6057), there are traces of the boundaries of **18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Rectilinear Fields** within the golf courses. This is also to be seen on the caravan park at Southernness and in the grounds of the hotel at Ardendee, north of Kirkcudbright, which is outside the NSAs.

### Management

Recreation areas are, by definition, managed deliberately for the enjoyment of the public. As indicated, many of these may no longer serve their original function, but it remains nonetheless explicit in the features that survive today. They offer important opportunities for interpretation and for understanding historical and environmental processes. An understanding of past function and management is essential both for managing these areas to their full potential and to ensure that any change of use is appropriate.

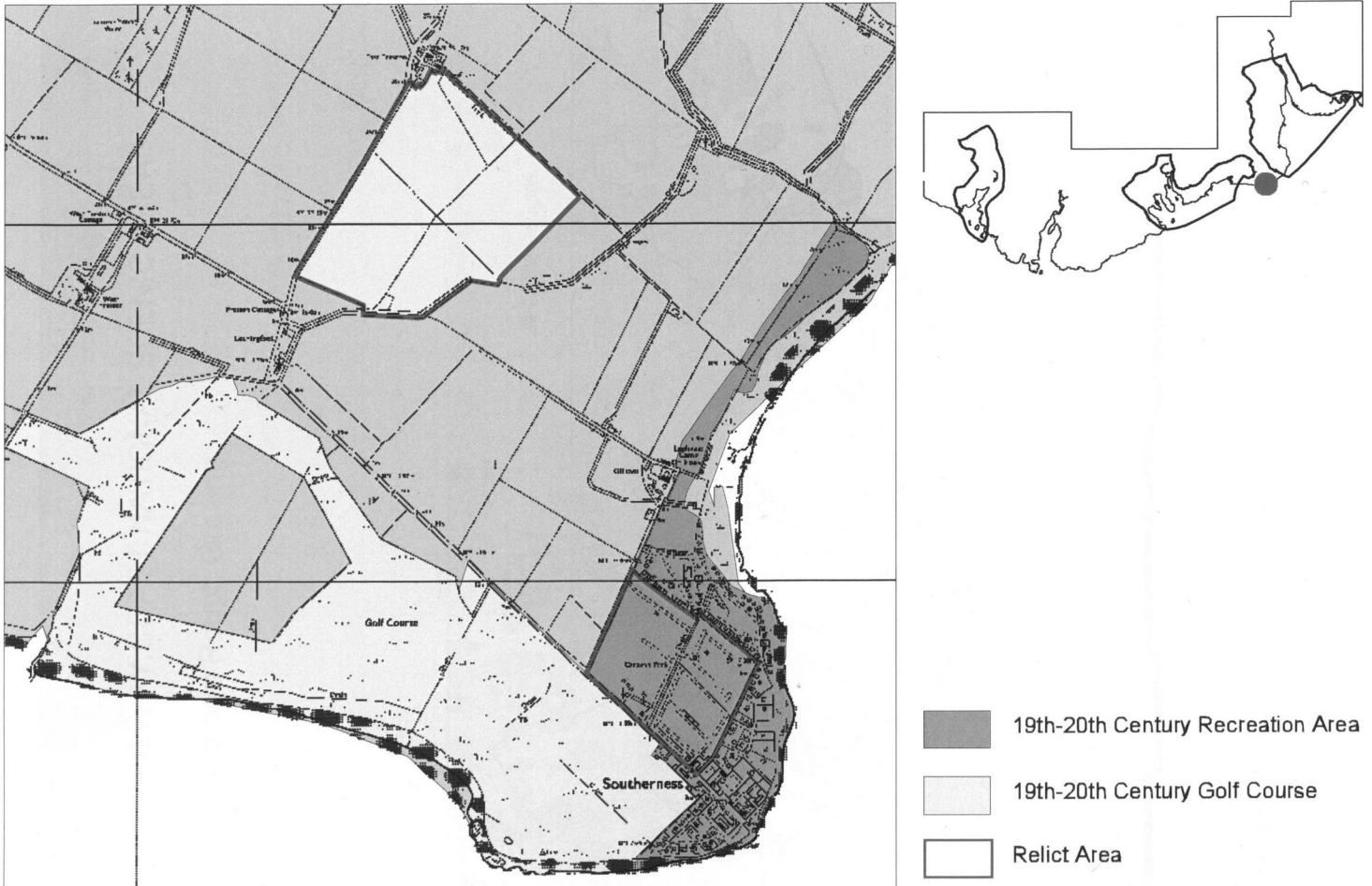
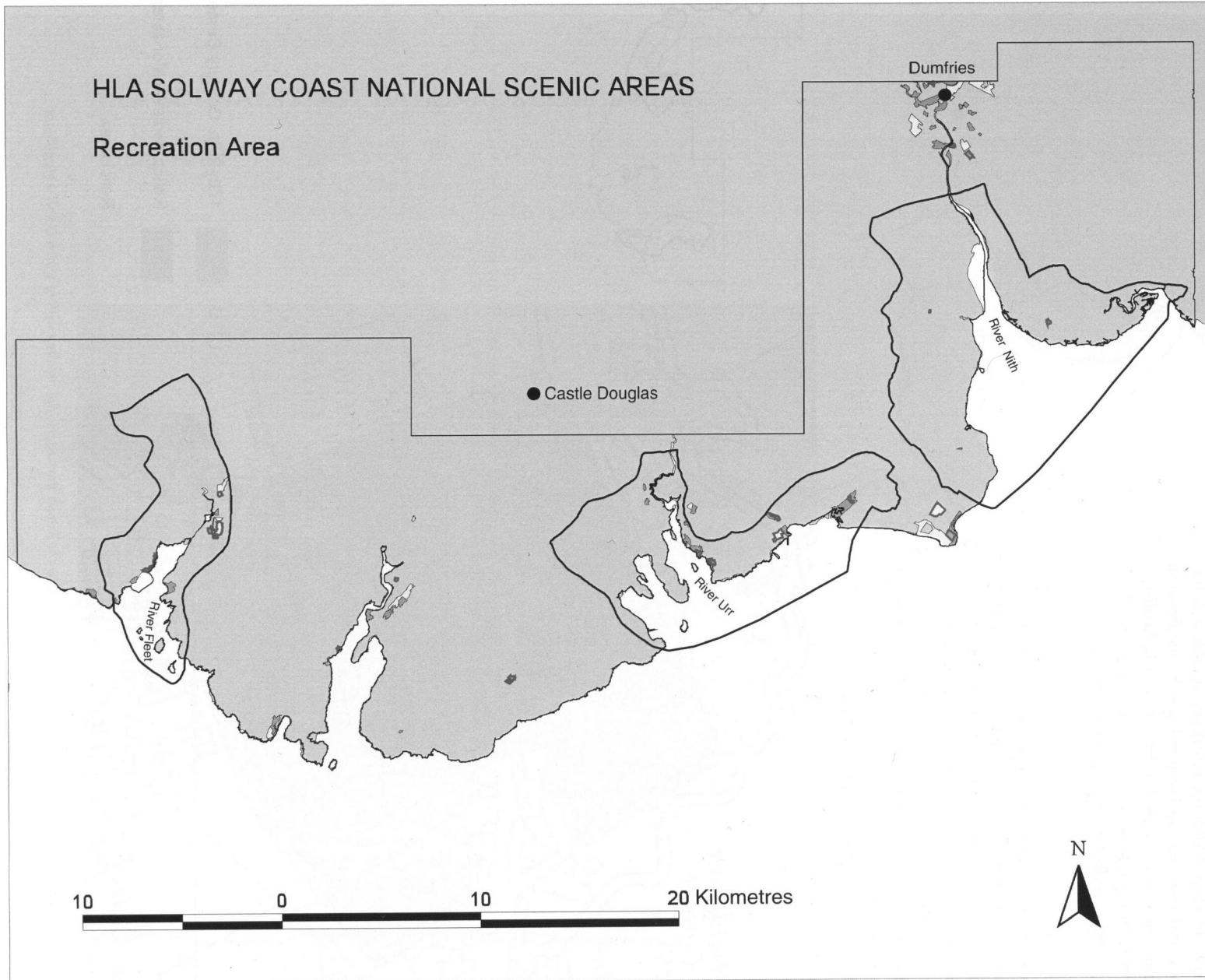


Fig. 8 The Recreation Area of Southernness includes a golf course and caravan park.



- 19th-20th Century Recreation Area
- 19th-20th Century Cemetery
- 19th-20th Century Golf Course
- Relict Area
- National Scenic Area

Map 11 Historic land-use Assessment: Recreation Area



## 9. Ritual Area

There are only four cemeteries in the area big enough to be recorded as landscapes; St Cuthbert's churchyard in Kirkcudbright (NX65SE 30), a burial ground within the precinct walls of New Abbey (NX96NE 9.06), and two cemeteries in Dumfries (NX97NE 349, NX9875).

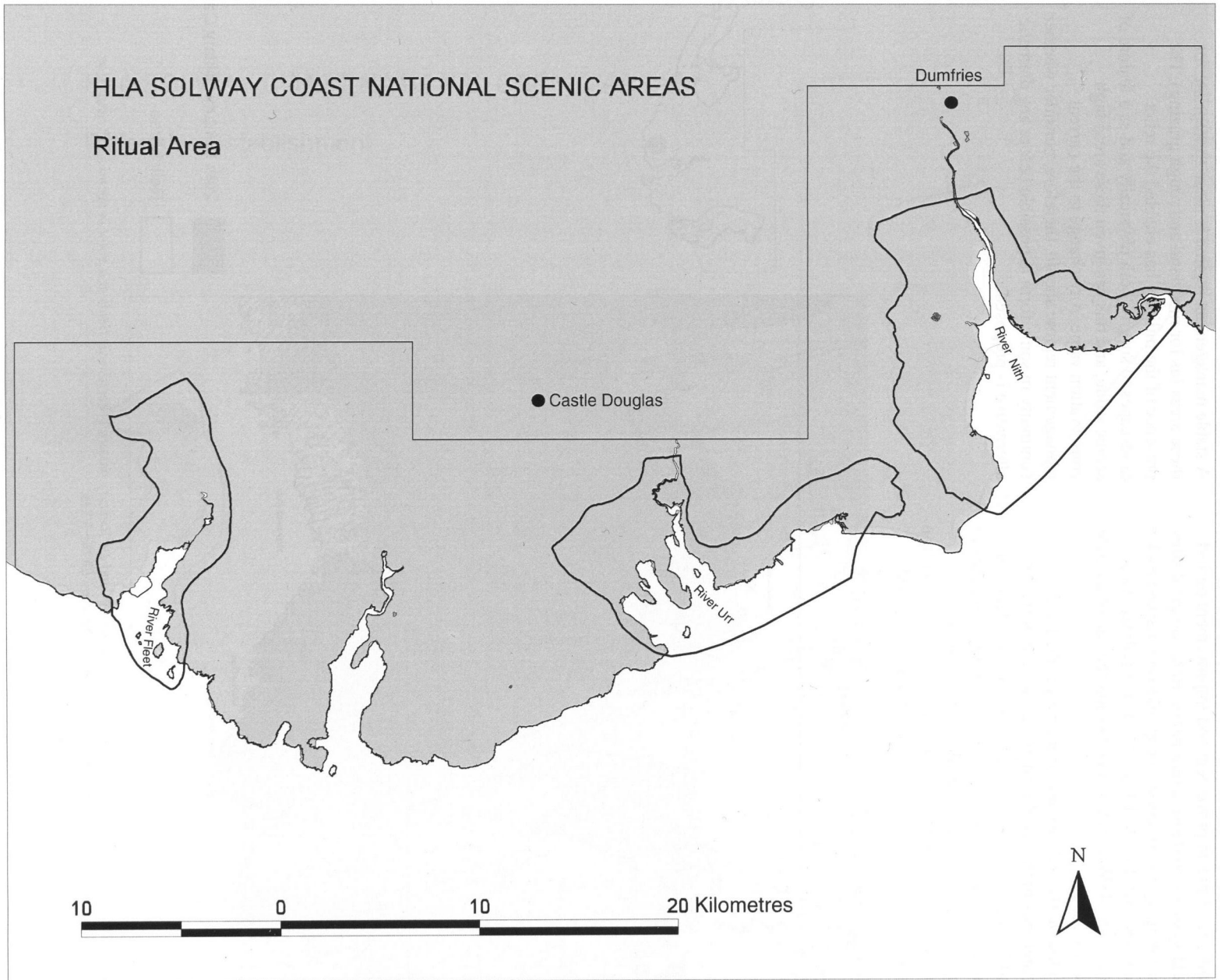
Three Relict Archaeological types in this category have been recorded at New Abbey (NX96NE 9), Dundrennan Abbey (NX74NW 12) and Lincluden Abbey (NX97NE 4). The precinct of the monastery at New Abbey is a notable and significant survival of a medieval ritual landscape. The adjacent village appears to have developed after the reformation, although the abbey mill and adjacent fishpond may be medieval in origin. The water system for the abbey mill, leading water from Loch Kindar is an impressive piece of engineering, probably of post-medieval date.

### Management

Ritual areas, whether functioning actively or not, are of great value to their local communities. Advice and grant assistance may be available for their management, and if appropriate, restoration. There are a number of initiatives that will support community based recording and conservation programmes, and Historic Scotland has recently published a *Guide for Practitioners 2: Conservation of Historic Graveyards*.



Fig. 9 The modern cemetery at New Abbey lies immediately adjacent to the former monastery, the precinct wall of which is still a significant feature in the landscape.



- 17th-20th Century Cemetery
- Relict medieval Monastery
- Relict Area
- National Scenic Area

Map 12 Historic Land-use Assessment: Ritual Area

## 10. Defensive Establishment

Kirkcudbright Army Ranges, which are situated along the Solway coast of Kirkcudbright, south-west of Dundrennan, were established in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The ranges are used for training purposes at various times throughout the year and access is therefore restricted. Some of the land within the ranges is still farmed, but most of the range has been predominantly used for military manoeuvres and is criss-crossed with tank tracks and other installations. In consequence, this land has been less intensively farmed than elsewhere in Kirkcudbrightshire since World War II, preserving much evidence of pre-improvement and improvement period field-systems, and also a number of archaeological sites including a concentration of cup-and-ring marked rocks (NX64SE 10, 11, 18, 19, 32, 33, 37) at Balmae, two forts (NX74SW 1, NX74NW 14) and the site of a castle (NX64SW 6).

Despite the military use of the range, the field boundaries of the rectilinear fields laid out in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries are still clearly visible. Evidence of earlier cultivation also survives in the form of patches of curvilinear rig in the fields along the coast near Howwell Bay (NX 6996 4304) and inland near at Milton Parks (NX 7036 4594), near the remains of Dunrod

deserted village, moated site and medieval church (NX64NE 7, 8 and 9).

A scatter of **Relict Defensive Establishments** that are large enough to map in this exercise are scattered across the area in a variety of Historic Land-use Types, but few lie within the NSAs, exceptions being Caerlaverock Castle (NY06NW 19), Craig Wood fort (NY06NW 1) and Cally Castle (NX55NE 12). The plough-flattened Roman fort is also worthy of mention (NY06NW 4).

### Management

A stable management regime is most appropriate for these areas (as for moorland and rough grazing). The presence of the military has enabled the relict landscapes to survive both physically and as a feature of scenic value, and this has given these areas high conservation value. Any change to the current management regime should, therefore, consider whether continuity in some form is possible before any dramatic alternative is proposed.

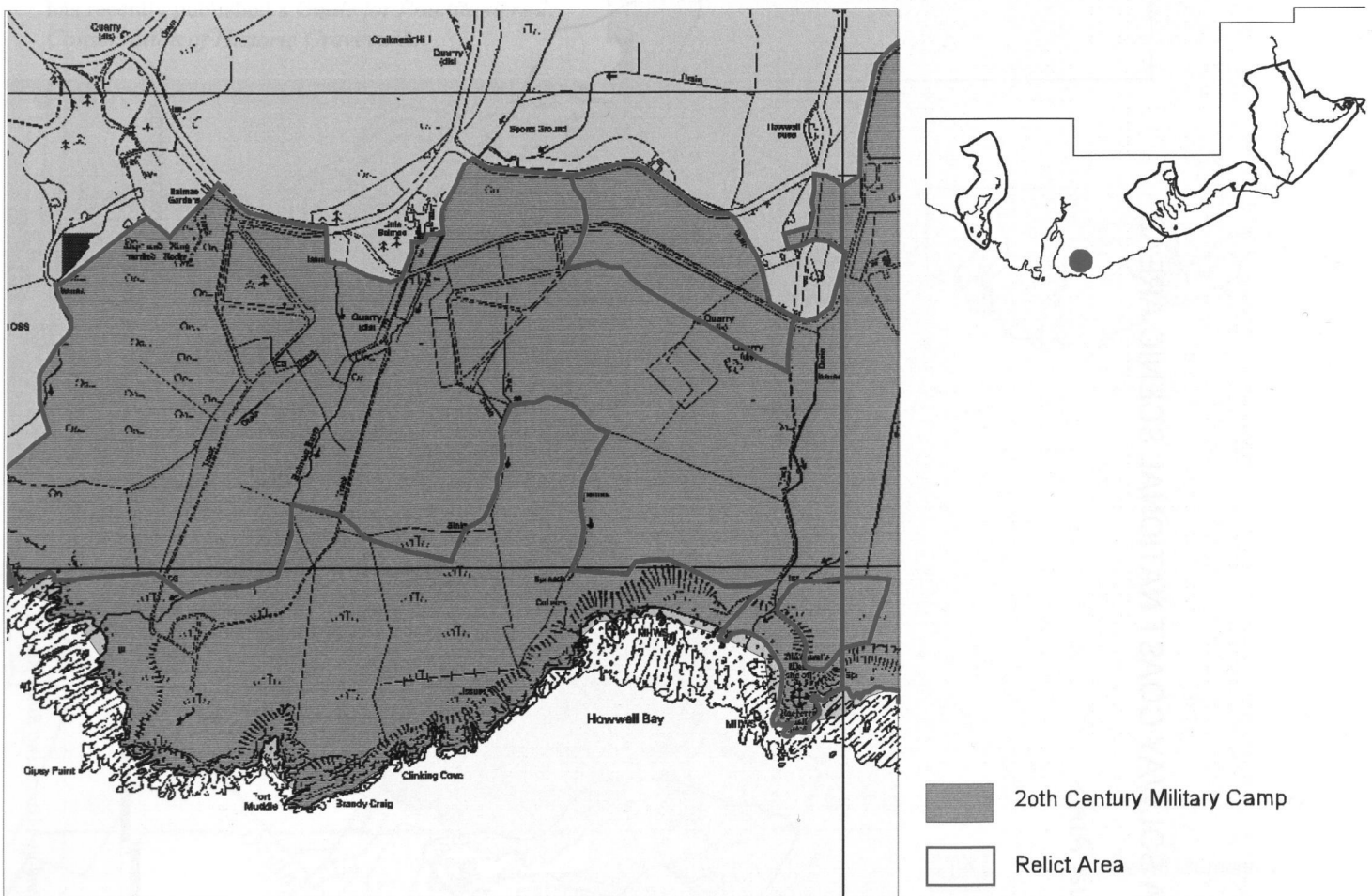
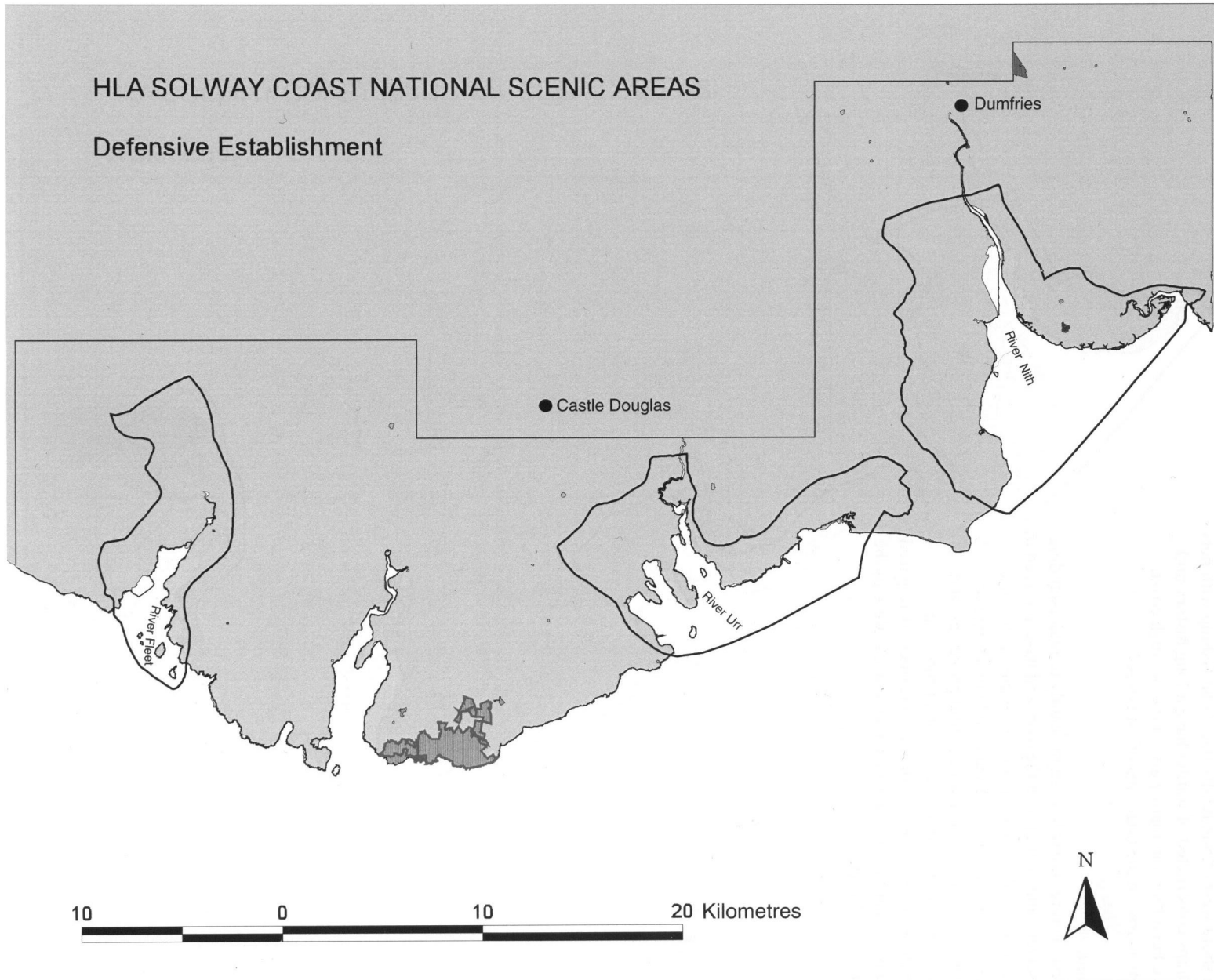









Fig. 10 The military ranges at Dundrennan have fossilised the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century pattern of rectilinear fields at a point in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century as well as preserving areas of pre-improvement rig. The range lies outwith the NSAs.



-  20th Century Military Camp
-  Relict 20th Century Defence Site
-  Relict Medieval Castle
-  Relict Roman Military Site
-  Relict Later Prehistoric Fortified Site
-  Relict Area
-  National Scenic Area

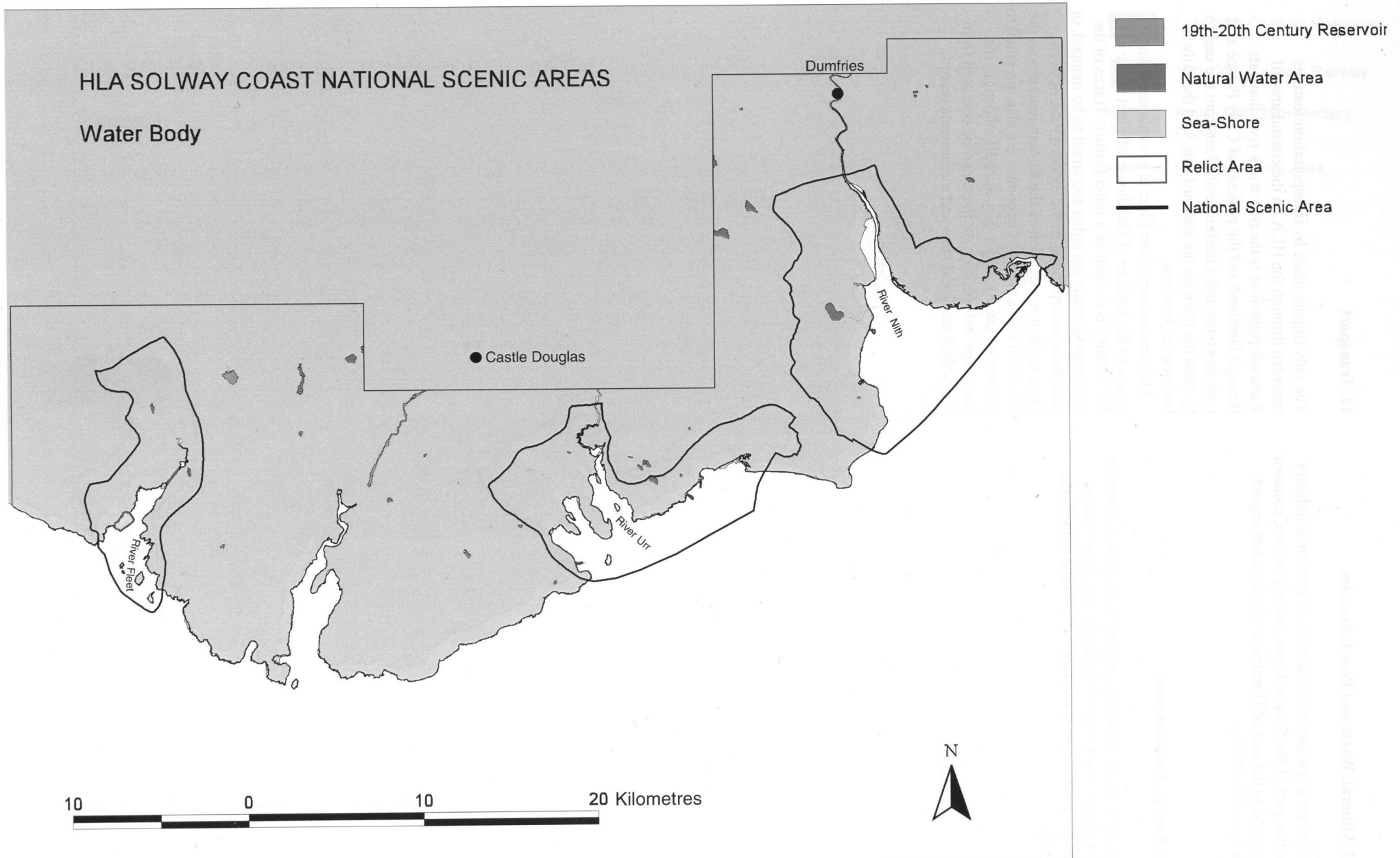
## 11. Water Bodies

The only major artificial water body are the waters of the River Dee that are dammed to provide power for the hydroelectric scheme at Tongland (see Energy Establishment). This has had a significant impact on the river and Glen Dee, visually and otherwise. The reservoir at Loch Whinyeon originally served as a source of water-power for the mills at Gatehouse in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Relict fishtraps were mapped on the west side of the estuaries of the Fleet, the Nith and the Urr on Auchencairn Bay, while two traps were also noted on the shore west of Sandyhills Bay. Tidal fishing with nets or traps constructed of wattles have a long history and have been found in many parts of the Scottish coast, particularly on the tidal runs of estuaries.

### *Management*

These features contribute significantly to understanding of society and economy in the past, and have survived in a relatively stable environment since their active use ceased. However, they are vulnerable to a range of threats from both human and natural processes, and consideration should be given to their future, in particular whether any positive management is required to ensure that they remain a characteristic feature of the coastal landscape.



### 13. Mineral, Waste and Peat Industries

There are a few isolated examples of extractive industry on this part of the Solway Coast, mainly in the Creetown area and to the east of Dumfries, which do not impact on any of the NSAs.

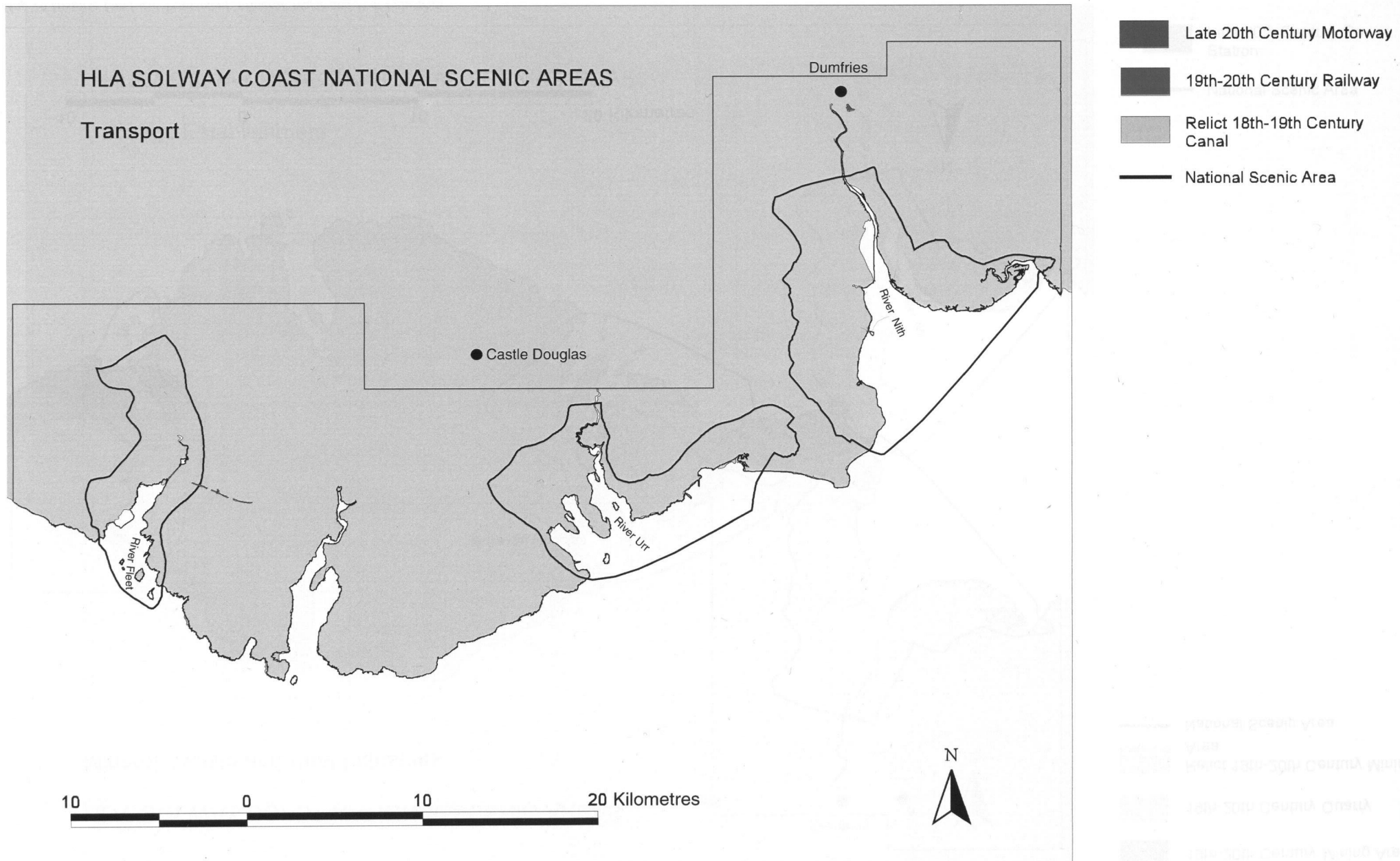
### 14. Energy Establishment

The only example of this category is the power station at Tongland to the north of Kirkcudbright at the head of the dammed waters of the Dee, which falls outwith the NSAs.

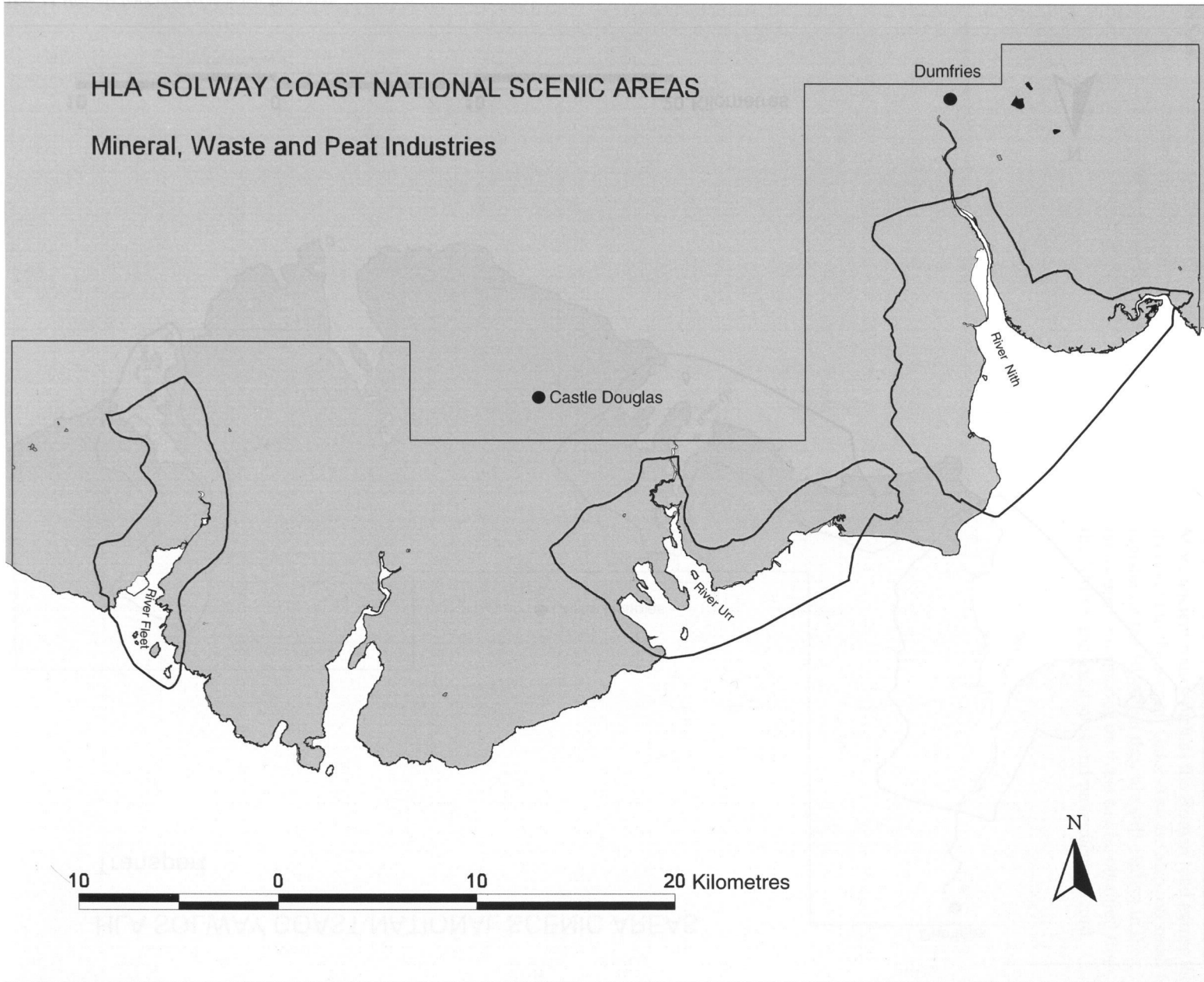
### 12. Transport

The only impact made by transportation features recorded through the HLA on the coastal area of Kirkcudbrightshire is the new trunk road that cuts through farmland and the policies of Cally Palace as it runs down towards Gatehouse of Fleet from the east to by-pass the town on the seaward side, and the railway junction at Dumfries.

The canalisation of the Fleet to provide sea-going access to the harbour of Gatehouse of Fleet in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century is evident as a relict feature. Traces of the old turnpike roads are either too small to be mapped, or have been incorporated in the modern road network. More ancient routes such as the Roman road across the moorland to the west of Gatehouse are also too small to register on the HLA, but they are still evident in the landscape: information on these can be obtained from the NMRS and local sites and monuments record.

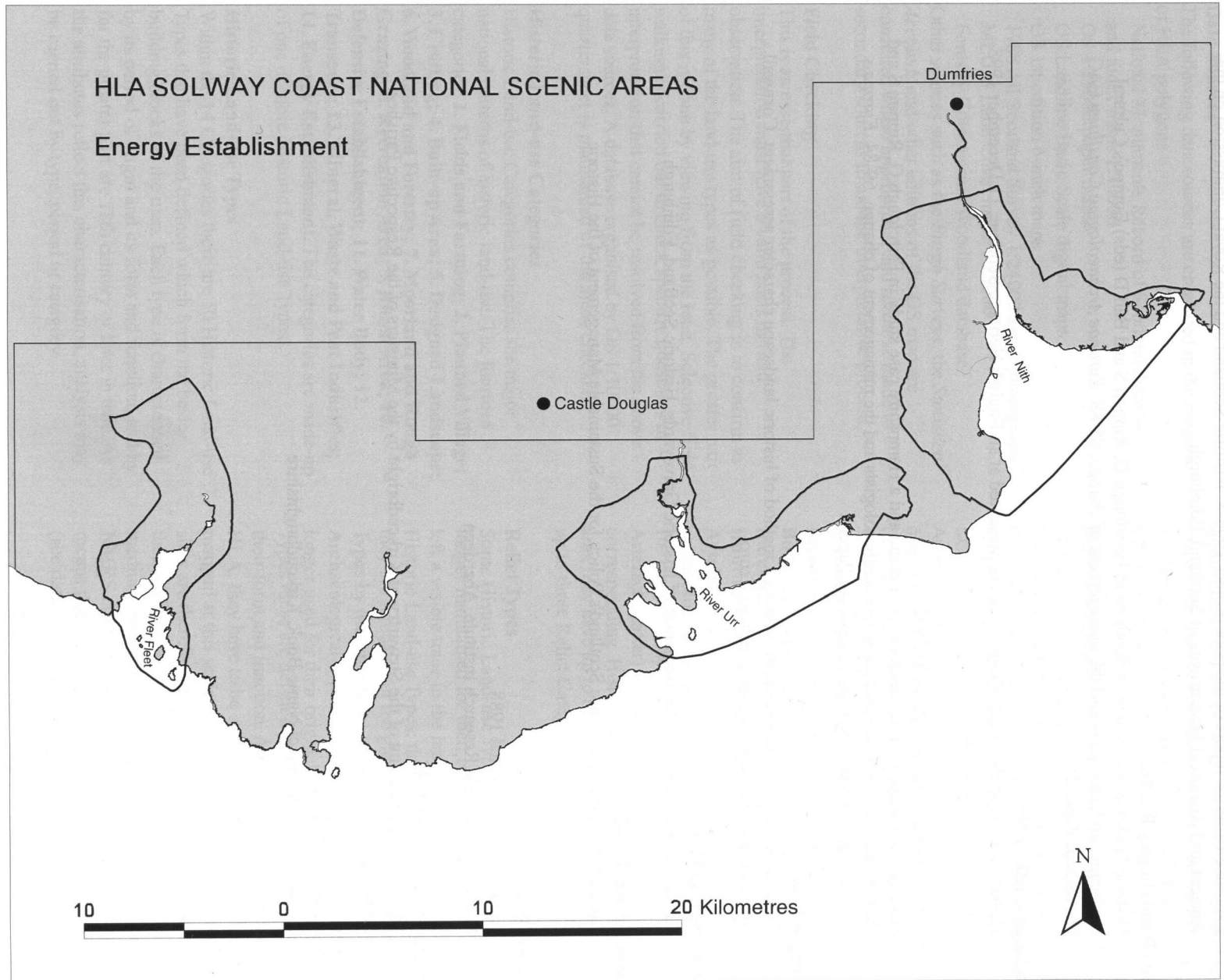






- 19th-20th Century Mining Area
- 19th-20th Century Quarry
- Relict 19th-20th Century Mining Area
- National Scenic Area

Map 16 Historic Land-use Assessment: Mineral, Waste and Peat Industries



- Late 20th Century Power Station
- National Scenic Area

HLA SOLWAY COAST NATIONAL SCENIC AREAS  
 Energy Establishment

● Castle Douglas

Dumfries

River Nith

River Urr

River Fleet

10 0 10 20 Kilometres



Map 17 Historic land-use Assessment: Energy Establishment

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## Appendix 1: Glossary Of Historic Land-Use Types

The Historic Land-use Assessment (HLA) is a map of the extent of past and present Land-use areas defined by period of origin, form and function. It is compiled at a scale of 1:25000, using the relevant OS map as background. Because of the scale of the map, Historic Land-use Types of less than 1 hectare are too small to be mapped.

### Data Sources

The following data sources are consulted in the creation of HLA polygons –

National Monuments Record of Scotland database and index maps 1:10000

OS 1:25000 paper maps

OS Landline Basic Scale digital maps

OS 1st edition 6-inch maps

1988 All Scotland Survey 1:24000 aerial photographs

MLURI Land Cover maps 1:25000

Forestry Commission Woodland database

Other sources such as the *Burgh Surveys*, the *Statistical Accounts* and other editions of the OS map are consulted where appropriate, and recourse made to secondary sources to aid the interpretative process.

### Field Checking

This is an essential part of the process. The interpretation must have a valid basis in field observation. The aim of field checking is to confirm as many of the land-use types as possible. The greater part of this is done by viewing from the road. Selective field-walking is carried out to check specific questions of interpretation that cannot be resolved from the above data sources. A database organised by OS 1:10000 quartersheet is maintained of the areas checked.

### Historic Land-use Categories

Historic Land-use Categories comprise the major national patterns of historic land-use. The fourteen categories: **1. Fields and Farming; 2. Planned Village; 3. Crofting; 4. Built-up Area; 5. Designed Landscape; 6. Woodland and Forestry; 7. Moorland and Rough Grazing; 8. Recreation Area; 9. Ritual Area; 10. Defensive Establishment; 11. Water Body; 12. Transport; 13. Mineral, Waste and Peat Industries; 14. Energy Establishment.** The categories are made-up of one or more Historic Land-use Types.

### Historic Land-use Types

Within the 14 Categories there are 50 Historic Land-use Types that have been defined which form the basic building blocks of the map. Each type is characterised by its period of origin and its form and function, and by far the greater part are 18th century or later in date. As the attributes reflect this characterisation, analysis may be carried out by type, period or category.

### Historic Land-use Period

The period of each Historic Land-use Type is applied as an indication of its period of currency. This is based upon the current archaeological and historical understanding of the Land-use Type. For Historic Types that date before the modern era it is defined by historical age such as Medieval, but for those of recent centuries a century to century span, or part thereof, is applied that matches as closely as possible the currency of use. This means that there are types, which have overlapping periods of currency, because of the diachronic historical processes involved.

### Relict Categories

The Relict Types have also been grouped into Categories. Like the Historic Land-use Categories, Relict Categories reflect the survival of major national patterns of past land-use in the landscape, either as Relict Historic Land-use Types or as Relict Archaeological Types. These Categories may comprise one or more Relict Type. There are sixteen Relict Categories: **1. Fields and Farming; 2. Planned Village; 3. Crofting; 4. Built-up Area; 5. Designed Landscape; 6. Woodland and Forestry; 8. Recreation Area; 9. Ritual Area; 10. Defensive Establishment; 11. Water Body; 12. Transport; 13. Mineral, Waste and Peat Industries; 15. Settlement and Agriculture; 16. Hunting Trap or Park; 17. Cropmark Site; 18. Artefact Scatter.** Four of these are exclusively based on archaeological types (15. Settlement and Agriculture; 16. Hunting Trap or Park; 17. Cropmark Site and 18. Artefact Scatter) while the remainder have corresponding Historic Land-use Categories. Since an area may have up to three Relict Types it may also have up to three Relict Categories.

### Relict Types

Some Historic Land-use Types, or parts of types, are no longer maintained for their original purpose, but have left a visible trace in the landscape. These are Relict Historic Land-use Types: there are 21 at present and they are indicated in the glossary for Historic Land-use Types by the letter R. In addition there are 28 Relict Archaeological Types that are archaeological features no longer used for their original function. Like the Historic Types these are defined by their period of origin and their form and function. As with all areas within the HLA, they have to be sufficiently extensive (1 ha) to be mapped at this scale (1:25000). Many archaeological sites are therefore too limited in extent and whatever their visibility will not be accessible through this medium. Such sites should be sought by consulting the NMRS or local SMR. The complexity of past land-use means that, on occasion there are up to three relict types (see data structure) in the same area. Where there is

such a palimpsest, the relict types are ordered from youngest to oldest in the data structure.

### **Relict Period**

This is organised on the same basis as Historic Land-use Period (see above), but ranges back as far as the Mesolithic.

## **Historic Land-use Types listed by Category**

The codes used in data collection are in brackets after the description. The letter R after the code denotes that the Type has an equivalent Relict Type.

### **1. Fields and Farming**

**18th-19th Century Reverse-S Shaped Fields** – field boundaries, which preserve the reverse-S shape of pre-Improvement rig. [43] R

**18th-19th Century Subrectangular Fields** - Improvement fields, subrectangular or oval on plan, enclosed during the Agricultural Improvements which incorporate the pre-Improvement field boundaries. [44] R

**18th-19th Century Rectilinear Fields** - arable and improved pasture field pattern with associated farms and structures, with/without drainage. [1] R

**18th-19th Century Planned Rectilinear Fields** - planned agricultural field-systems with a distinct rectilinear layout superimposed upon the landform. [31] R

**19th-20th Century Amalgamated Fields** -enlarged arable fields, created by the amalgamation or reorganisation of Improvement Period Fields. [2]

**Late 20th Century New Field** - recently defined fields with new boundary fences; for instance, new fields formed in an area of former rough pasture. [3]

**Late 20th Century Unenclosed Improved Grassland** - areas of pasture showing no evidence of enclosure but some form of improvement; for instance, clover, fertilising, ploughing, reseeding, or drainage. [4]

**Late 20th Century Industrial Scale Farming Units** - large-scale constructions for farming enterprises, diversification such as poultry sheds, fish farms, market gardens etc.[33]

### **2. Planned Village**

**18th-19th Century Planned Village: Agricultural** - small settlement clusters built to house workers for farming activities. [10]

**18th-19th Century Planned Village: Industrial** - small settlement clusters built to house workers for mining and industrial activities. [36] R

### **3. Crofting**

**18th-19th Century Allotments** - planned system of allotments with no settlement, usually allocated to households in a planned village. [39] R

**18th-19th Century Smallholdings** - irregular pattern of smallholdings, possibly representing crofts, or pendicles. [40] R

**18th-19th Century Crofting Township** - areas showing evidence of traditional enclosure pattern either in strips or dispersed, with associated structures, field boundaries. [6] R

**Early 20th Century Smallholdings** - rectilinear smallholdings awarded to WW I veterans. [41] R

#### **4. Built-up Area**

**Medieval Urban Core** - urban cores in towns and cities, preserving their medieval street plan and/or property lay-out. Any burgh foundation pre-18<sup>th</sup> century may be included. [8]

**18th-20th Century Urban Area** - built up areas of housing, schools, universities, hospitals and associated structures. [7]

**19th-20th Century Industrial and Commercial Area** - areas of factories (light and heavy), mills, open-air markets, shopping centres (malls), harbours, ports. [11] R

**20<sup>th</sup> Century Summer Houses** – modest dwellings rented from a landowner primarily for use as a summer residence. [46]

#### **5. Designed Landscape**

**17th-19th Century Policies and Parklands** - estates with designed policies, parklands, and landscaping, including associated woodlands. Related dataset – Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, jointly created by HS and SNH. [18] R

#### **6. Woodland and Forestry**

**20th Century Coniferous Plantation** - areas of mainly coniferous timber plantations, with no reference to species composition; areas of planting, ground ripping, immature or mature stands, felled etc. are treated as a single type. Related dataset – Forestry Commission's Woodland Inventory [12]

**17th-20th Century Managed Woodland** - woods, possibly managed for timber production by traditional means; for instance: coppicing, and relict areas of remnant 'native pine woodlands'. Much of this woodland is classified by SNH as 'Ancient Woodland'. Related dataset – SNH's Woodlands. [19]

#### **7. Moorland and Rough Grazing**

**Prehistoric to Modern Rough Grazing** - pasture areas showing no visible evidence of recent agricultural improvements, includes mountainous areas of the highlands with low grazing value. These areas often include the remains of relict archaeological landscapes, but have evolved into their present extent as a result of a process of woodland clearance, grazing, and episodes of agriculture since early prehistory. [5]

**Late 20th Century Drained Rough Grazing** - pasture with open drainage, interconnected drainage systems, rectilinear, dendritic, or curvilinear. [37]

**Late 20th Century Deer Lawn** - Grassland areas currently maintained for deer pasturage, within a wooded area. [42]

**Late 20<sup>th</sup> Century Managed Moorland** - areas of moor with evidence of muirburn, usually managed in association with grouse shooting - without drainage. [13]

**Late 20th Century Drained Managed Moorland** - with drainage, interconnected drainage system, rectilinear, dendritic, or curvilinear, for grouse shooting. [38]

#### **8. Recreation Area**

**19th-20th Century Recreation Area** - for instance: race courses, motor racing circuit, campsites, caravan sites, and associated areas, including monuments in care. [17 & 35] R

**19th-20th Century Golf Courses** - designed golfing landscapes and associated structures. [14]

**Late 20th Century Ski Area** - slopes, tows, and associated structures. [15]

**Late 20th Century Country Park** - area managed primarily for recreation purposes, where known, whether or not formally a designated country park. [16]

#### **9. Ritual Area**

**17th-20th Century Cemetery** - burial areas and associated structures. [32] R

**19th-20th Century Monastery** – monasteries, nunneries, churches and cathedrals of any religious denomination. [9]

#### **10. Defensive Establishment**

**20th Century Military Camp** - delimited areas for military use - training grounds, buildings, housing. [21]

#### **11. Water Body**

**19th-20th Century Reservoir** – modified or artificial water bodies for drinking water, hydro-electric power production, etc. [22] R

**Natural Water Area** - lochs etc. [0]

**Sea-Shore** - inter-tidal zone lying between high and low tide. [47]

#### **12. Transport**

**Late 20th Century Motorway** - and associated structures, junctions, service areas. [23]

**19th-20th Century Railway** - and associated structures, marshalling yards, stations. [24] R

**20th Century Airfield** - commercial and military airfields and strips with associated structures. [20] R

**18th-19th Century Canal** – artificial waterway or canalised river and associated structures including locks and aqueducts. [48] R

**19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century Port** – artificial harbour, including quays, warehouses and breakwaters. [49]

#### **13. Mineral, Waste and Peat Industries**

**19th-20th Century Mining Area** - associated with any extraction industry. [25] R

**Late 20th Century Landfill** - associated with refuse, commercial and building fill. [26]

**19th-20th Century Quarry** - all types, e.g. stone, mineral. [27]

**Late 20th Century Opencast** - all types; e.g. coal, sand, gravel. [28]

**20th Century Peat Extraction: Commercial** - modern extraction (surface and subsurface), milling. [29] R

**18th-20th Century Peat Extraction: Traditional** - traditional spade-dug extraction. [30] R

**Late 20th Century Restored Agricultural Land** - land backfilled or restored from open-cast or similar activity, usually as pasture, where known. [34]

#### 14. Energy Establishment

**Late 20th Century Power Station** - power stations, wind farms etc. [45]

**Note:** this is the list of Land-use Types applied at the end of 2000 with 20% of Scotland covered. It is still possible that new Types may be required.

## Relict Historic Land-use types Grouped by Category

These are the Historic Land-use Types, which occur as Relict Types. The types are grouped by the same Historic Land-use Categories as above and the codes used in data collection are listed in brackets after the description.

### 1. Fields and Farming

#### **18th-19th Century Reverse-S Shaped Fields** -

enclosures or fields, which preserve the reverse-S shape of rig in the enclosures. [138]

**18th-19th Century Rectilinear Fields** - arable and improved pasture field pattern with associated farms and structures, with/without drainage. [104]

**18th-19th Century Planned Rectilinear Fields** - planned agricultural field-systems with a distinct rectilinear layout superimposed upon the landform. [123]

#### **18th-19th Century Subrectangular Fields** -

Improvement fields, subrectangular or oval on plan, enclosed during the Agricultural Improvements which incorporate the pre-Improvement field boundaries. [143]

### 2. Planned Village

**18th-19th Century Planned Village: Industrial** - small settlement clusters built to house workers for mining and industrial activities. [125]

### 3. Crofting

**18th-19th Century Allotments** - planned system of allotments with no settlement, usually allocated to households in a planned village. [109]

**18th-19th Century Smallholdings** - irregular pattern of smallholdings, possibly representing crofts, or pendicles. [134]

**18th-19th Century Crofting Township** - areas showing evidence of traditional enclosure pattern either in strips, or dispersed, with associated structures, field boundaries. [124]

**Early 20th Century Smallholdings** - rectilinear smallholdings awarded to WWI veterans. [129]

### 4. Built-up Area

**19th-20th Century Industrial and Commercial Area** - areas of factories (light and heavy), mills, markets, shopping centres (malls, town centre), harbours, ports. [112]

### 5. Designed Landscape

**17th-19th Century Policies and Parkland** - estates with designed policies, parklands, and landscaping, including associated woodlands. [122]

## **8. Recreation Area**

**19th-20th Century Recreation Area** - for instance: race courses, motor racing circuit, campsites, caravan sites, and associated areas, including monuments in care. [133]

## **9. Ritual Area**

**17th-20th Century Cemetery** - burial areas and associated structures. [114]

## **11. Water Body**

**19th-20th Century Reservoir** - previously modified or artificial water bodies. [142]

**18th-19th Century Fish-Traps** - a wooden or stone structure defining an area within the inter-tidal zone for the purpose of fishing. [141]

**19th-20th Century Timber Ponds** - a defined area of water used for the seasoning and storing of wood such as the timber basins at Firhill. [140]

## **12. Transport**

**19th-20th Century Railway** - and associated structures, marshalling yards, stations. [116]

**20th Century Airfield** - commercial and military airfields and strips with associated structures. [128]

**18th-19th Century Canal** - artificial waterway or canalised river and associated structures including locks and aqueducts. [144]

## **13. Mineral, Waste and Peat Industries**

**19th-20th Century Mining Area** - associated with any extraction industry. [115]

**20th Century Peat Extraction: Commercial** - modern extraction (surface and subsurface), milling. [121]

**18th-20th Century Peat Extraction: Traditional** - traditional spade-dug extraction. [113]

## **Relict Archaeological Types Grouped by Category**

These are the historic types that survive only as relict elements of the landscape. Like Historic Land-use Types, they are grouped by Category. The four Categories, which have equivalent Historic Land-use Categories, are listed first and the four purely archaeological Relict Categories after that, again with the codes in brackets.

### **6. Woodland and Forestry**

**Post-medieval Plantation** - banks surrounding former area of managed woodland. [135]

### **9. Ritual Area**

**Early Prehistoric Ritual and Funerary Site** - cemeteries, burial mounds, ring ditches, henges, standing stones, generally of Neolithic and Bronze Age date etc. [117]

**Early Medieval Christian Site** - early Christian monasteries, churches, burials etc. [132]

**Medieval Monastery** - 12th century to Reformation e.g. Melrose Abbey. [110]

### **10. Defensive Establishment**

**Later Prehistoric Fortified Site** - hillforts, generally of 1st millennium BC or AD date. [106]

**Roman Military Site** - any Roman military site. [108]

**Medieval Castle** - earthwork or stone castle pre-c.1550. [111]

**Post-medieval Fortification** - an artillery fort and/or military establishment [139]

**20th Century Defence Site** - WWI-WWII camps, gun placements, observation posts etc. [119]

### **13. Mineral, Waste and Peat Industries**

**Prehistoric Quarries** - extensive remains of early prehistoric stone extraction such as Boddam in Aberdeenshire. [137]

**Post-medieval Turf Stripping** - areas where the surface layer of turf has been removed for a variety of purposes, leaving a pattern of small rectilinear scars. The date range of this activity is insecure, but probably ceased with the abandonment of feal dykes and turf in building. [127]

### **15. Settlement and Agriculture**

**Mesolithic Shell Midden** - Mesolithic and later. [118]

**Early Prehistoric Settlement and Agriculture** - Neolithic-early Bronze Age agricultural systems and associated settlement structures. [136]

**Later Prehistoric Settlement and Agriculture** - agricultural systems with associated settlement structures; for instance, hut circles. [100]

**Early Medieval Settlement and Agriculture** - early Medieval settlement with associated field/agricultural systems, e.g. Pitcarmick-type buildings or Norse settlement. [130]



**Medieval Assart** - an enclosed area of settlement and agriculture which is delimited by a deer-dyke in a medieval hunting forest. [126]

**Medieval Manorial Enclosure** - enclosed settlements of manorial elite, including moated sites and granges.

[131]

**Medieval/Post-medieval Agriculture and Settlement** - Pre-Improvement agriculture and associated settlement (including head-dykes). [101]

**Medieval/Post-medieval Shielings** - group of at least 5 shieling-huts of medieval or post-medieval date. [103]

**Medieval/Post-medieval Stock/Sheep Enclosures** - sheep or stock enclosures, generally 17th to 19th century. [102]

**18th-19th Century Water Meadows** – a system of irrigated ridges fed by a lade to provide an improved meadow environment [145]

**Medieval-Modern Land Reclamation** – areas of coastline or low-lying ground taken in for agriculture or grazing, either by dyking and draining, or by taking advantage of natural estuarine or shoreline processes.

[146]

## 16. Hunting Trap or Park

**Medieval Deer Park** - an enclosure defined by a deer-dyke, generally comprising a bank and internal ditch.

[107]

**Medieval/Post-medieval Deer Trap** - deer-dykes, defining an open-ended or funnel-shaped area into which deer are driven to be killed, typically surrounding a natural gully or elrig. [120]

## 17. Cropmark Site

**Prehistoric Cropmarks** - any prehistoric cropmark features [200]

**Medieval/Post-medieval Cropmark Rig** - Rig and furrow visible as cropmarks [201]

**Roman Cropmarks** - Roman military and related sites reduced to cropmark [202]

## 18. Artefact Scatter

**Prehistoric Lithic Scatter [210]**- flints and other lithics retrieved from field walking / ploughing.

**Medieval Pottery Scatter [211]**- pottery retrieved from field walking / ploughing.

**Roman Finds Scatter [212]**- pottery, glass, metalwork etc. retrieved from field walking / ploughing.

**Note:** this is a list of Types identified and applied in the areas covered by end of 2001. It is recognised that some additional Relict Archaeological Types may have to be added during the course of the assessment.

