

Site **Lochranza Castle**

N.G.R

Project Description

Watching Brief during the excavation of a service trench

Report

Over a period of 3 days from 14-16.4.97 a watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a trench on the strip of land connecting Lochranza Castle to the S shore of the loch, providing a new water main along the coast road. The castle lies some 200m off shore in the loch at the end of a sand and gravel spur. The only other features on the spit are a breakwater protecting the exposed N side and a narrow tarmac track running the length of the spit between the castle and shore. The trench was intended to run along the S end of the track from a point W of the castle to a point 4.6m NW of the coast road and 51m S of the breakwater. For the final 60m of its length, the pipe trench curved southwards away from the road.

The spit comprised tidal sands and gravels, and the trench, 23cm wide and 30cm deep was excavated across 190m of its length (approx.). The material exposed in the trench comprised 8-10cm of peaty turf over 15cm of dirty sandy gravel, in turn over the natural gravel. The only structural element discovered in the trench comprised 2 discrete areas of flat schist slabs (003 and 004) buried to a depth of between 20 and 25cm. These slabs appeared to be loosely laid, and of a single layer, buried in the beach gravels - there function is not clear.

Contexts

No.	Description
001	Peaty turf
002	Subsoil below 001 - dirty sand/gravel
003	Flat grey schist slabs
004	As 003

Finds

No finds were retained