

Site Dundonald Castle

N.G.R NS 3636 3451

Project Description Watching Brief

Report

A watching brief was undertaken on the 8th September 1997 during the excavation of foundation trenches for the provision of steel benches. One bench was located a third of the way up the hill on the E side beside the new footpath, with the second bench placed inside the castle courtyard against the W face of the perimeter wall.

TRENCH 1

This trench was laid out on an area of backfill inside the courtyard S of the entrance through the E perimeter wall, and measured 2m N-S x 1m E-W. The trench was excavated to a depth of only 0.05m, involving the removal of turf alone. The trench was photographed nonetheless, and levels were even taken.

TRENCH 2/3

Two small trenches were opened to take the founds for the lower bench, measuring 0.7 x 0.25m x 0.30m in depth, and lying side by side. In both trenches, 0.15m of turf and topsoil removed onto 0.15m of light brown soil and dolerite fragments, the bedrock at this point lying close to the surface. No finds were made, and the trenches were photographed.