

Site Blackness Castle

N.G.R NT 0556 8027

Project Description

2/12/97 Kirkdale Archaeology were contracted to monitor the digging of foundations for a set of steps and a disabled access ramp to the sea gate in the NW of the castle. This was to provide access to the existing pier beyond this gate.

Report

Excavation was undertaken by hand within an odd shaped trench approximately 8.50 m long, roughly N-S, running along the inside (E) of the curtain wall. The trench averaged 40 cm wide and was a maximum of 30 cm deep.

Disturbed ground was found over the whole area, mostly a loose light grey silt with mortar (chunks and flecks), stone and brick being very common, and with some shell, bone, glass etc. throughout. A plastic pipe was noted at the extreme N end of the trench. For the final 170 cm of the S end of the E 'fork' of the trench was a deposit of crushed yellow sandstone, with some larger chunks throughout. This deposit may represent the only undisturbed archaeology located. It lay some 10 cm below modern ground level.

Interpretation

Although some sort of demolition, levelling or construction deposit seems most likely, interpretation is impossible in such a restricted area.