

Watching Brief
Ardgartan Hotel
Ardgartan
LOCH LONG
ARGYLL

LQ02

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ARDGARTAN HOTEL
LOCH LONG

LQ02

1	Background.....	1
2	Details of Work.....	1
3	Interpretation.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
4	Conclusions and Recommendations	3
5	Bibliography	4
Appendix 1	Context Register.....	5
Appendix 2	Photographic Register	10
Appendix 3	Drawing Register.....	13
Appendix 4	Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry	14
Appendix 5	Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Illustration 1: Site location plan

Illustration 2: Excavations monitored during watching brief

Illustration 3: Services and other features noted during watching brief – main area

Illustration 4: Services and other features noted during watching brief – areas B and C

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ABSTRACT

Alder Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by John H White Architects on behalf of Neil Wells to carry out a Watching Brief during the construction of a hotel at Ardgartan, Loch Long. The hotel is located behind the site of a youth hotel that was demolished in 2009. Apart from the site of Ardgartan Hall and an associated cottage (both demolished) and remains of a walled garden, no archaeological deposits were known on the site. However, it was thought possible that the alluvial fan on which the development lies may have been the focus for Prehistoric activity. The work was carried out over 8 days between the 8th and the 22nd of February 2010 in cold but sunny conditions. Various areas of topsoil stripping were observed including the locations for two haul roads, the hotel, a sewage treatment plant and the building for staff accommodation. No significant archaeology was revealed during this work, only services for the Youth Hostel. Neil Wells funded this Watching Brief, the site code was LQ02.

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

John H White Architects on behalf of Neil Wells commissioned Alder Archaeology to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the site of new hotel at Ardgartan. The development area (measuring roughly 7.5 hectares) lies on the south side of the Croe Water on an alluvial fan which sticks out into Loch Long. The site (centred on NN 2728 0280) encompasses the grounds of an old hall (Ardgartan hall – now demolished) and the site of a youth hostel which was built in the 1960s. The work (SUAT site code LQ02) was undertaken during 8 days between the 8th and the 22nd of February 2010 in good, though cold weather conditions. The requirement was to monitor any excavations that might reveal archaeological deposits.

The work was designed to satisfy the archaeological condition on development application reference LT/2005/0095/DET/A.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

The main aim of this investigation was to establish the presence/absence, date, character and quality of any archaeological remains surviving within the development area.

1.3 Reporting

The present document has been prepared as the final report on this watching brief. Copies will be sent to the client, The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and the local authority Sites and Monuments Record.

1.4 Planning and Curatorial Issues

This Watching Brief is the final part of a programme of archaeological work designed to satisfy the outstanding archaeological condition on the planning consent for this development.

1.5 Acknowledgements

SUAT wish to thank Paul Robins from WOSAS, Kirsty Sweeny from the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, Architect John H White, as well as Neil Wells and Stuart Mackay for their assistance and guidance throughout this project. Neil Wells funded this watching brief.

2 Details of Work

2.1 The Site (Illus 1 & 2)

Ardgartan lies near the north end of Loch Long, at the foot of Glen Croe, where the Croe Water has formed an alluvial fan projecting out into the loch. The development site comprises all land on the fan lying on the south side of the Crow Water. At the south-east end of the development area there is a low lying area of ground with a looping metalled track, once the site of numerous plots for caravans. Further to the west is the site of the demolished youth hostel and the new hotel which lie on ground that slopes gently down southwards to the shores of the loch. In the centre of the

development area is an area of flat ground where the river has cut a loop in the alluvial fan creating a steep bank to the west. This area was the site of a walled garden (only the western part of the wall survives) and Ardgartan hall (demolished). It also served as a caravan area in the more recent past. Further to the west the development area slopes gently uphill following Glen Croe.

2.2 Archaeological Potential

The site of Ardgartan House (demolished in the 20th century) and gardens is first shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Edition map (1860s). Prior to this, Roy's map shows a number of individual houses on the site of the hall, as well as rig and furrow to the south and north of the Croe Water. These features presumably depict the old settlement of Ardgartan which did not survive the construction of the hall. Though the development will not affect areas containing these potential building remains, the hotel and some of the haul roads will be built over where the cultivation is shown on Roy's map. Construction work may well have the potential to reveal evidence of this agriculture, as an archaeological evaluation on the site of the caravan park north of the Croe Water in 2009 (Rebecca Shaw) successfully revealed traces of rig and furrow. This followed the alignment shown on Roy's map. As well the potential for finding traces of agriculture, there is also a possibility of finding general remains relating to Ardgartan hall. The alluvial fan may also have been the focus for prehistoric activity.

2.3 Archaeological Method (Illus 2)

Initially the footprint of the hotel and any land scheduled for landscaping was stripped using a digger equipped with a toothless ditching bucket (A). This involved removing the topsoil and then excavating in spits down to natural layers. Any archaeological deposits/features encountered were investigated by hand, recorded on a site plan using tape and offsets, photographed and recorded with detailed plans. Notes were taken of the deposits encountered which included the depths of the various topsoils and subsoils. As well as the major site strip around the footprint of the hotel, a number of other areas to be the subject of intrusive development were investigated and recorded in the manner described above. These included the site of a sewage treatment plant (B), the footprint of the staff accommodation building (C), a western haul road/turning circle (D), an eastern haul road (E) and removal of the bank behind the hotel (F). In addition a trench (G) was dug under the foundations of the old youth hostel, to assess the truncation of any deposits caused by the construction of the building.

2.4 Results of Investigations (illus 3 & 4)

Areas A

Despite extensive monitoring in this area, only modern services and features were found to have been dug into the natural. The services either relate to the youth hostel (10, 16, 21, 23, 25, 53, 61) or the caravan area to the east (29, 06). One exception was (14), which may be a land drain excavated when Ardgartan hall was still in use. Other features encountered but not recorded were small hearths containing modern rubbish and pottery (see 08). These were interpreted as fires relating to the youth hostel. On the eastern side of the area was track (05) which comprised a shallow deposit of crushed grey gravel and grits running south towards the loch from an existing track. This track appeared to be fairly modern as it lay just below the topsoil and looked similar in make up to a layer below the tarmac on the main E-W haul road (13). However, it remains a possibility that it was part of a track which originally ran

from Ardgartan hall down to the loch, perhaps to a jetty. Elsewhere in this area, the walls of the youth hostel building were revealed (51, 55, 57, 59, 48), but the natural ground was found to have been truncated on the inside of the demolished building.

Areas B

No features of interest were found, only modern services for the caravan area. However, it was noted that the bank sloping down to the Croe Water had been artificially extended out to the NE to make more room for the caravans.

Areas C

This area had been heavily disturbed by modern services and tree root activity. The services were nearly all electric cables, and many of them served the old caravan park reception buildings to the NE (since burnt down). Three small tree boles were noted towards the SW end of the area. These were exposed and investigated, but found to be irregular in shape and depth. The area around the tree boles was carefully examined but no traces of human activity was found. At the NE end of the site, layers of gravel (67), grey hardcore, geotextile and prepared ground (78, 79), marked the position of ground that had been the site of platforms for recent temporary buildings/tracks.

Areas D

Evidence of a track was found in this area. This consisted of two parallel topsoil marks (80, 82) pressed into the subsoil and natural. Stratigraphically, the track appears to be fairly modern and it seems likely it was formed by off-road vehicles such as Land Rovers.

Areas E

Excavation of this haul road revealed that the bank in this area had been artificially raised in the recent past with layer (89). It is likely this landscaping was carried out to hide the view to the caravan area. The other alteration to the bank had been the digging of a trench on the east side to bury rubble (91) from a demolished mid 20th century building.

Areas F

No archaeology was revealed in this area.

Areas G

The trench across the demolished youth hostel revealed the concrete foundations of the front and an internal wall. No rear wall (north) was found, so presumably its foundations had been grubbed up when the youth hostel was demolished. Demolition material rested directly on natural gravels, showing that the construction and demolition of the youth hostel had truncated any layers that might have contained archaeology.

3 Conclusions and Recommendations

Despite being subject to a relatively extensive watching brief, no important remains were found on this part of the alluvial fan. The lack of features dating to the 19th century is a little surprising; however, the main focus for such remains will be further to the north around the walled garden and site of the hall - an area that will not be affected by the development.

The watching brief also showed that post-medieval agricultural remains do not seem to survive on this side of the alluvial fan. No further work is recommended during this development.

4 Bibliography

- Bowler, D P. Written Scheme of Investigation, Ardgartan Hotel, Loch Long. (2010).
- Shaw, R., Rebecca Shaw Archaeological Services, Ardgartan, Loch Long, Arrochar: Archaeological evaluation. (2009). [From WoSAS SMR]
- OS 1st -3rd editions - 6 inch maps.
- The Roy Military Survey of Scotland 1747-1755.

Context Register

<i>No:</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Phase</i>
01	Topsoil in the eastern part of area A. Rich dark brown loamy sandy silt with tree roots. Contained 19 th century blue glazed pottery, plastic, salt glazed pot, nails, animal bone and coal. Depth 20-30cm.	-
02	Mid brown silty sand with 30% gravel below (01). Difficult to see / absent in some areas. Depth 10-15cm.	-
03	Fill of destroyed septic tank (for caravan area?). Rubble and mortar containing plastic. Dimensions not taken.	Modern
04	Cut for septic tank, contains (03).	Modern
NAT	Natural around eastern end of (A), loose mid brown-orange grits and gravels containing occasional cobbles c 7 x 5 x 3cm.	-
05	Light grey-beige compact gravels and grits (occ stones 6 x 5 x 3) just below topsoil. Interp - track surface 2.5m wide. Only 5-15cm thick, above natural. Runs down to shore of the loch from the current track through the middle of the development area.	19 th or 20 th century.
NAT	Natural around SE corner of (A) – mid brown well sorted gravel, 1 - 2cm dia. No subsoil seen here.	-
06	A cast iron water pipe running E-W across site (east end of (A)). Same as (29). 5cm in dia.	19 th / 20 th century
07	Cut for (06)	19 th / 20 th century
08	An oval buring stain 64 x 30cm. Loamy mid brown sand and pink-orange silts mixed with charcoal. Contains modern highly fired pottery with thick mottled brown glaze (1970s from youth hostel?). Interp - barbeque patch? Not planned.	Modern
09	Cut for (08) 7cm deep.	Modern
10	Ceramic sewage pipe and inspection hole on the S side of the youth hostel.	Modern
11	Cut for (10).	Modern
12	Tarmac on E-W haul road behind proposed hotel. 8cm thick.	Modern
13	Below (12), a grey gritty sand with 40-60% beige gravel. 7cm deep. Similar to (05).	19 th or 20 th century.
14	A narrow (7cm bore) ceramic drainpipe (like small land drain), square in profile running under (13) and (12).	19 th or 20 th century.
15	Cut for (14), just a little wider than the pipe. Runs roughly E-W. Cut into natural orange sands and gravels.	19 th or 20 th century.
16	Sewage pipe and trench fill joining (10) - youth hostel service.	Modern

17	Cut for 16.	Modern
18	Subsoil in field W of hotel – area (D). A mid to light brown silt with 10% gravel (1cm dia) and occ angular stones c 7 x 3cm. Contains blue glazed 19 th century pottery.	-
19	A fractured concrete platform 8cm thick east of the gas tank platform (west end of (A)). Full extent not determined. Modern outbuilding near youth hostel?	Modern
20	A mid brown gritty silt mixed ith plastic and metal below (19). Interp – construction layer from outbuildings near youth hostel. West end of area A.	Modern
21	Service trench fill east of the gas tank platform (runs E-W). A grey brown gravel. West end of area A.	Modern
22	Cut for (21) – 45cm wide.	Modern
23	A sewage pipe running N-S west of the gas tank platform. West end of area A. Same as (53).	Modern
24	Cut for (23)	Modern
25	Iron pipe and pipe trench fill – a mid grey sand. Top of pipe 80cm below ground surface. Water main to youth hostel or an outbuilding. West end of area A.	Modern
26	Cut for (25) linear 45cm wide.	Modern
27	A grey silty sand with 50% coarse components (demolition rubble) from destruction of youth hostel or an outbuilding. 20 th C brick. Uneven deposit, seems to have been pressed into the natural in patches (caused by tracked machines?). West end of area A.	Modern
28	Subsoil at N end of (25). 15cm deep. A beige-brown clayey silt. NW end of area A.	-
29	A cast iron pipe and trench fill, a grey brown sandy silt with 40% gravel. Same as (06). Central part of area A.	Modern
30	Cut for (29), same as 07.	Modern
31	Void	-
32	Made up ground north of 1960s youth hostel building. Centre of area A. Layer is 34-40cm deep on top of natural orangy gravels. Comprises mixed coarse grey-brown sands and darker gravels with plastic and charcoal.	Modern
33	Topsoil at location of proposed sewage treatment works (B). A loamy silt and re-deposited natural mixed with plastic and charcoal. – Artificial layer for caravan area. 10-35cm deep.	Modern
34	A grey silt below (33). Up to 40cm deep at steepest part of bank.	Modern
35	A buried turf layer below (34) – old ground surface prior to caravan site being built. c 20cm deep.	-
NAT	Natural at location of sewage treatment plant, orange grits, gravels and sands. Occ boulders c 20 x 10 x 30cm.	-

36	Grey and grits, fill of [38]. 47cm deep max. Seen in E edge of sewage treatment plant footprint.	Modern
37	Sorted gravel layer – a lens inside (36), stones c 1cm dia. 12cm deep max.	Modern
38	Cut for modern feature noted in E edge of sewage treatment plant footprint. Vertical cut, square profile – hole relating to caravan site.	Modern
39	Fill of hole for caravan electricity point hookup. Mixed topsoil and gravel. (Sewage treatment plant footprint)	Modern
40	Cut of of hole for caravan electricity point hookup. Rectangular in shape, dug next to electricity cable (41).	Modern
41	Fill of electricity cable trench. A grey gritty gravel and occ mixed topsoil. Cable low voltage. (Sewage treatment plant footprint)	Modern
42	Cut for 41 c 30cm wide.	Modern
43	Concrete slab painted with '2'. Marker of caravan point. At level of 33.	Modern
44	Electricity cable and trench fill, similar to (41). (Sewage treatment plant footprint)	Modern
45	Cut for 44, similar to [42]	Modern
46	Re-deposited natural gravels and sands N of the youth hostel building. Central part of area A. Sim to (32).	Modern
47	Below (46) – An old compressed topsoil (dark silty loam) N of the youth hostel building. Central part of area A.	Pre 1960s
48	Wall of youth hostel building projecting north (foundations only). Probably a revetting wall for a garden attached to youth hostel. Brick built. Central part of area A.	Modern
49	Wall foundation cut for (48) Central part of area A.	Modern
50	Made up ground inside (to W of) (48) – Crushed rubble, grey grits and stones. Below this layer is natural. Central part of area A.	Modern
51	West wall of N extension of youth hostel building. 30cm wide, brick built. West part of area A.	Modern
52	Cut for wall foundation trench belonging to (51). West part of area A.	Modern
53	Service trench running along the west side of (51) - filled with a brown silty sand and yellow plastic and ceramic service pipe. 15cm dia. West part of area A.	Modern
54	Cut for (53), 20cm wide.	Modern
55	A single skin N-S partition wall made of brick to the east of (51). West part of area A.	Modern
56	Cut for (55).	Modern
57	Northern wall (running E-W) of west wing of youth hostel building. Similar to (51). West part of area A.	Modern

58	Cut for (57), as for [52].	Modern
59	Another N-S partition wall of the west wing of the houth hostel building. East of (55), same construction. West part of area A.	Modern
60	Cut for (59)	Modern
61	A wide trench for a large ceramic sewage pipe on the west side of the youth hostel building. West part of area A. Fill was yellow gritty sand and redeposited topsoil.	Modern
62	Cut for (61), 1.10m wide.	Modern
63	Topsoil around footprint of staff accommodation building.	-
64	A grey-brown light silty subsoil at the SW end of the staff accommodation building. Area C	-
NAT	Natural at area C, orange silts mixed with gravel and occ stones c 5 x 6 x 3. Area C.	-
65	Fill of trench containing a black 2cm wide electricity cable. Area C.	Modern
66	Cut for trench containing (65).	Modern
67	A blackish-grey firm layer of grit and gravel 5-10cm thick below topsoil. – Old surface for temporary buildings. Area C.	Modern
68	Fill of trench containing a large electrisity cable/old stay for nearby electricity pole. Re-deposited natural. Area C.	Modern
69	Cut for (68).	Modern
70	Tree bole - mid brown sity loam with occ boulders, irregular shape & depth.	-
71	The fill of the very bottom of a modern service trench running N-S 20cm wide, redeposited topsoil. Cable pulled out?, no cable found. Trench ends at a wooden post to the south.	Modern
72	Cut for (71) 20cm wide.	Modern
73	Tree bole – mid brown sity loam with occ boulders, irregular shape & depth.	-
74	Tree bole – mid brown sity loam with occ boulders, irregular shape & depth.	-
75	Electric cable running across to concrete foundations at the NE end of Area C.	Modern
76	Trench for (65).	Modern
77	A layer similar to 67 at the N end of Area C below (78)	Modern
78	Re-deposited natural below thin topsoil, hardcore and geotextile. Preparation of ground for geotextile. Temporary cabins foundation layer. N end of Area C	Modern
79	A clay and silt layer below (77). Preparation of ground for geotextile. Temporary cabins foundation layer. N end of Area C	Modern
80	A rich dark brown loamy silty sand with occasional gravel, just below topoil – fill of [81]. Area D.	19 th century or modern

81	A linear cut running next to [83], dish shaped profile, 7cm deep max. Eastern rut of track running NE-SW down to the loch. Area D.	19 th century or modern
82	A rich dark brown loamy silty sand with occasional gravel, just below topsoil – fill of [83]	19 th century or modern
83	A linear cut running next to [81], dish shaped profile, 7cm deep max. Western rut of track running NE-SW down to the loch. Area D.	19 th century or modern
84	Topsoil around Area E. 1-5cm thick.	-
85	NW of bank, a hardcore layer of crushed angular creamy rock 13cm deep mixed with crushed brick – under topsoil.	Modern
86	Below (85), brown and grey clays and grits mixed with crushed rock similar to that in (85). Haul road not excavated below this layer. Area E.	Modern
87	Topsoil mixed with grit and yellow plastic – fill of electricity service trench running alongside bank to NW. Area E.	Modern
88	Cut for 87, 45cm wide.	Modern
89	A dump of mixed purple-grey clay with grit, glass, cobble and tar on bank. Area E.	Modern
90	E of bank, a pink and grey hardcore layer above a geotextile base – base for caravan platform. Area E.	Modern
91	Brick rubble and concrete blocks (presumably from demolished building) filling [92] on E side of bank. Area E.	Modern
92	A deep trench/hole on the E side of the bank filled with (91). Trench/hole not bottomed as haul road not going that deep. Ditch more than 1.5m deep and 3m wide at top. Hole to bury rubble from a demolished 1960s? building. Area E.	Modern
93	Fill of modern service trench going behind caravan platform (E of bank). Light beige gravel and grits with plastic pipe. Area E.	Modern
94	Modern service cut (filled with 93), 10cm wide. Area E.	Modern
95	Concrete wall foundation of the front of the youth hostel	Modern
96	Cut for (95)	Modern
97	Concrete wall foundation of a middle wall in the youth hostel	Modern
98	Cut for 97	Modern
99	Fill of the trench left from demolishing the northern wall of the youth hostel.	Modern
100	Cut for 99	Modern
101	General number for demolition layer of youth hotel.	Modern

Appendix 1 Photographic Register

Folder: From 08-02-10

<i>Frames</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>View</i>
1-2	Stripping topsoil, far eastern part of area A	SW
3	Filled in septic tank. Eastern part of area A	N
4	Stripping topsoil, far eastern part of area A	W
5	As above	N
6	Shot looking down loch long	S
7	Stripping under topsoil in SE part of Area A	NE
8	As Above	N
9-10	Track (05)	NNE
11-18	Stripping under topsoil in E part of Area A	Various
19	Shot of demolished youth hostel.	W
20-22	Stripping under topsoil in E part of Area A	Various
23-24	Modern burnt patch (08)	-
25	Stripping under topsoil in E part of Area A	SE
26-7	A section through track (05)	S
28-31	Stripping under topsoil in E part of Area A	Various
32-34	Stripping soil and subsoil around the eastern side of the youth hostel.	Various
35-37	Misc shots of site and youth hostile rubble.	Various
38-39	Stripping topsoil to the south of the youth hostel	E and NE
40-45	Drain (10) S of youth hostile and general strpping S of youth hostel	Various, mainly E
46	General Shot of stripped area A	S
47	Shot of cabins	SE
48	Removal of two Alder trees	E
48-51	General stripping of areas not yet monitored in eastern part of area A	Various
52-53	Excavation into main E-W haul road where site will eventually be lowered.	NW
54	Layer (13)	NW

55-57	Pipe (14) under the haul road	NW
58-59	General shot of site looking at the youth hostel rubble	NW
60-63	Stripping of topsoil/subsoil in area D.	Various
64-65	Shot of platform for gas tank (flipped over) and service (21)	NE
66	General stripping in western end of area A.	NE
67	Service (23)	NE
68-69	Service (25)	NE
70-72	Breaking into (25)	Various
73	General shot of in western end of area A after investigations below subsoil.	NE
74-79	General shots of stripping in the centre of area A, N of youth hostel. Shot 77 shows service (29).	Various
80	A concrete pier sticking out into loch long. This is perhaps where track (05) was heading.	S
81-83	General shots across site	Various
84-85	Stripping a little more round the youth hostel building	Various
86-88	Excavation of the N end of the sewage treatment works footprint	S
89-90	Layer (34)	W
91-94	General stripping of sewage treatment works footprint	Various
95	Grey silty vegetation marks below buried turf (35)	SW
96	General stripping of sewage treatment works footprint from a distance.	S
97	Modern feature [38]	SE
98	General stripping of sewage treatment works	W
99	Modern feature (40)	NW
100-1	Electricity cable (41)	NW
102-3	General stripping of sewage treatment works footprint.	Various
104-5	Electricity cable (44)	NW
106	Stripping of sewage treatment works footprint complete	N
107	Stripping just north of the youth hostel building	NW
108-9	Wall (48) of youth hostel	NE
110-111	Stripping at the west end of area A.	E/SE

112	Wall (51) of youth hostel.	NE
113-15	Shot showing walls (51), (57), (55) and (59) of youth hostel.	Vartious
116-119	Start of stripping of area C.	Various
120	Modern deposit (67)	NE
124-25	Tree boles (70), (73) and (74)	NE
126	Stripping of NE end of area C	N
127-29	Final stripping of area C	Various
130	Modern deposits for possible site of cabins inc geotextile. Deposits (78) and (77). N end of area C	N
131-134	Excavation of trench through youth hostel.	N
135-136	The front wall of the youth hostel (94) – number on board wrong	E
137-138	The middle wall of the youth hostel (94) – number on board wrong	E
139-140	Line of the demolished north wall of the youth hostel – number on board wrong	E
141-142	General shots showing demolition rubble (101) against the natural gravels.	E
143-144	General shots of the lowering of the bank behind the haul road (area F)	Various

Folder: From 17-02-10

1-3	Stripping in area D.	Various
4-8	Shots of features (82) and (80)	NE
9-12	General shots of Stripped area D.	Various
13	Looking at route of the eastern haul road (area E) from the caravan site.	NW
14-16	Clearing vegetation at area E	Various
17-18	Scraping back topsoil on W side of bank at area E	S
19-23	Layer (85) revealed	S
24	General strpping, Area E	SE
25	Modern service trench (87)	NW
26-27	Excavation through feature [92] with rubble (91)	SE
28	An electric cable behind the caravan platform	E
29-32	General stripping over the caravan platform	Various

33-34	The route of the haul road over the bank.	SE
35-37	Excavation through feature [92] with rubble (91)	E
38	Strpping behind the caravan platform and discovering pipe (93)	E

Appendix 2 Drawing Register

<i>Sheet No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Scale</i>
1	Notes & unscaled drawings.	-
2	Plan of features and notes, Main area.	1:500
3	Plan of features and notes, Main area.	1:250
4	Plan of features and notes , sewage treatment plant area.	1:100
5	Plan of features and notes, staff accommodation building area.	1:200
6	Plan of track (80) and (82) and notes	1:100

Appendix 3 Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Watching Brief, Ardgartan Hotel
PROJECT CODE:	LQ02
PARISH:	LOCHGOILHEAD AND KILMORICH
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Barton, T
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Alder Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching Brief
NMRS NO(S):	NN20SE 29
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Hall, youth hostel
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	-
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	Site centred on NN 2728 0280
START DATE	08-02-2010
END DATE	22-02-2010
PREVIOUS WORK	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Alder Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by John H White Architects on behalf of Neil Wells to carry out a Watching Brief during the construction of a hotel at Ardgartan, Loch Long. The hotel is located behind the site of a youth hotel that was demolished in 2009. Apart from the site of Ardgartan Hall and an associated cottage (both demolished) and remains of a walled garden, no archaeological deposits were known on the site. However, it was thought possible that the alluvial fan on which the development lies may have been the focus for Prehistoric activity. The work was carried out over 8 days between the 8 th and the 22 nd of February 2010 in cold but sunny conditions. Various areas of topsoil stripping were observed including the locations for two haul roads, the hotel, a sewage treatment plant and the building for staff accommodation. No significant archaeology was revealed during this work, only services for the Youth Hostel. Neil Wells funded this Watching Brief, the site code was LQ02.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Neil Wells
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	-
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	SUAT Ltd, 55 South Methven Street, Perth PH1 5NX

ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Director@alderarchaeology.co.uk

Appendix 4 Standard Terms of Reference for all Fieldwork

4.1 Recording Methodology

Alder Archaeology employs a Single Context Recording System that allows full cross-referencing of stratigraphy, finds and environmental samples, as well as site-wide phasing. All features will be planned at scale 1:20, and sections drawn at scale 1:10. Sections and profiles will be drawn and all features will be photographed with metric scale included. Environmental samples will be taken from archaeologically significant contexts, if the analysis of these samples would aid significantly in the interpretation of any features identified.

4.2 Human Remains

If human remains are encountered they will be left in situ and the local police will be informed. If removal is required this will take place in compliance with Historic Scotland's Policy Paper *The Treatment of Human Remains in Archaeology*.

4.3 Products and Reporting

A Data Structure Report will normally be prepared within a period agreed within the Written Scheme of Investigation/ Project Design, after the completion of the fieldwork. This forms the basic level of reporting. Further reporting may be required on the basis of discoveries made during excavations.

A copy of the report and the project archive will be deposited in the NMRS. Further copies will be sent to the client, LAAO and others, as appropriate.

4.4 Artefacts

Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and *Bona Vacantia*. We will report such finds, if recovered, with supporting documentation to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel for disposal to the appropriate museum.

4.5 Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*.

4.6 General Conditions and Health and Safety

We adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists.

Alder Archaeology Ltd has public liability insurance of £2,000,000. Details of this can be provided on request.

We operate a strict health and safety policy and conforms to the Health and Safety at Work Act. We undertakes Risk Assessments on all fieldwork carried out.

Alder Archaeology representatives will at all times wear protective footwear, high visibility clothing and other appropriate clothing. Hard hats will be worn if there is active plant on site or at all times if the site is deemed a hard hat area.

If lightly contaminated deposits are uncovered disposable boiler suits and gloves will be worn. A source of clean water will be made available for staff to clean hands with. If the health risk posed by site contamination is felt to be too high all further archaeological work will stop in that area.