

Old Castle Lachlan

Strachur, Argyll and Bute

Evaluation: 19-21st of March

for

The Lachlan Trust

March 2018



West Hall of Old Castle Lachlan

Addyman Archaeology

Archaeology Heritage Consultancy Architecture

Addyman Archaeology

The Old Printworks, 77a Brunswick Street, Edinburgh EH7 5HS
admin@addyman-archaeology.co.uk
0131 555 4678

Old Castle Lachlan

Strachur, Argyll and Bute

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by Jenni Morrison

Contents

Illustrations

Acknowledgements

Executive Summary

1.	<i>Introduction</i>	3
	<i>i. Background and previous work</i>	3
	<i>ii. Site location and setting</i>	4
2.	<i>Historical Summary</i>	5
3.	<i>Methodology</i>	6
4.	<i>Results</i>	8
	<i>i. Test Pit 1</i>	8
	<i>ii. Test Pit 2</i>	9
	<i>iii. Test Pit 3</i>	11
	<i>iv. Test Pit 4</i>	13
5.	<i>Discussion and Recommendations</i>	15
	<i>References</i>	16
<i>Appendix A</i>	<i>Context Register</i>	17
<i>Appendix B</i>	<i>Drawings Register</i>	18
<i>Appendix C</i>	<i>Finds Register</i>	19
<i>Appendix D</i>	<i>Samples Register</i>	20
<i>Appendix E</i>	<i>Photograph Register</i>	21
<i>Appendix F</i>	<i>Photographic Contact Sheets</i>	23
<i>Appendix G</i>	<i>WSI</i>	28
<i>Appendix H</i>	<i>Scheduled Monument Documentation</i>	33

Illustrations

List of Figures

Figure 1	Site location	4
Figure 2	Location of Test Pits (not to scale)	7
Figure 3	Plan of Test Pit 1	9
Figure 4	Plan and section of Test Pit 2	10
Figure 5	Plan and section of Test Pit 3	12
Figure 6	Plan and section of Test Pit 4	14

List of Plates

Plate 1	Location of Test Pit 1.(2253_032)	8
Plate 2	Wall 006 exposed in Test Pit 1 (2253_025)	8
Plate 3	Plan view of Test Pit 2.(2253_008)	10
Plate 4	Base of fireplace moulding and hearth slab Test Pit 2 (2253_016)	10
Plate 5	Location of Test Pit 3.(2253_020)	11
Plate 6	Post –ex shot of Test Pit 3 (2253_046)	11
Plate 7	Location of Test Pit 4.(2253_035)	13
Plate 8	Post –ex shot of Test Pit 4 (2253_051)	13

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Acknowledgements

Addyman Archaeology are grateful to James Gilchrist and the Lachlan Trust for commissioning the project and for their assistance. We would also like to thank Simon Stronach of HES for his advice and support.

Old Castle Lachlan

Strachur, Argyll and Bute

Excavation of Test Pits

Executive Summary

This report details the results of an evaluation undertaken at Old Castle Lachlan, Strachur. The concrete surface at first floor level is failing causing water to leak through to the vaults beneath. Four test pits were hand excavated through the concrete surface to understand the nature of the substrate and bedding beneath the concrete and determine the depth extent of any archaeological deposits surviving beneath.

Test Pits 1 and 2 were excavated in the West Hall. Test Pit 1 revealed a considerable depth of rubble and the remains of a lime mortared wall running east west parallel to the front wall of the castle. Test Pit 2 abutted the fireplace and revealed the base of the moulded fireplace and hearth slab indicating the original floor level. Test Pits 3 and 4 were excavated in the East Hall. Test Pit 3 uncovered what may have been a rough levelling deposit of stones with a clay patch, possibly sealing the top of the vaults. Within Test Pit 4 a deposit was uncovered which has been interpreted as the top of the vault beneath.

A record of the test pit excavation together with the building recording will be deposited with the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS addymana1-312767) website hosted by the Archaeological Data Service and with *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (DES), the annual publication of fieldwork by Archaeology Scotland.

1. Introduction

i. Background and previous work

The castle is undergoing a long term and extensive programme of repair and conservation. As part of this process Addyman Archaeology are undertaking a detailed building survey of the castle in order to fully understand the structure and development of the castle. As part of the current phase of work five samples of mortar have been taken from key areas within the castle, full analysis is being undertaken. It is hoped that the results of the mortar analysis will assist in the interpretation and phasing of the castle. At an early stage in the project a hand dug trench was excavated through the main entrance ramp by Claire Ellis of Argyll Archaeology to record archaeological deposits prior to the stabilization of the main retaining wall. The excavated trench demonstrated that the ramp was constructed of loose stone rubble and the retaining wall had previously undergone several phases of re-building (*Ellis 2015*).

Old Castle Lachlan is a Scheduled Monument (SM 292). Scheduled Monument Consent was applied for and granted in March 2018 prior to the evaluation. The Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) and supporting Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) are included within this report as *Appendix A*. Further Scheduled Monument Consent was applied for and granted for the collection of five mortar samples from locations within the Castle. These samples were taken from specific areas where it is hoped they can provide information about the phasing and dating of alterations carried out at the Castle.

ii. Site location and setting

Old Castle Lachlan is located on a low promontory of land on the east side of Loch Fyne overlooking Lachlan Bay. The promontory on which the castle sits is connected to the mainland by a low marshy strip of land. (figure 1).

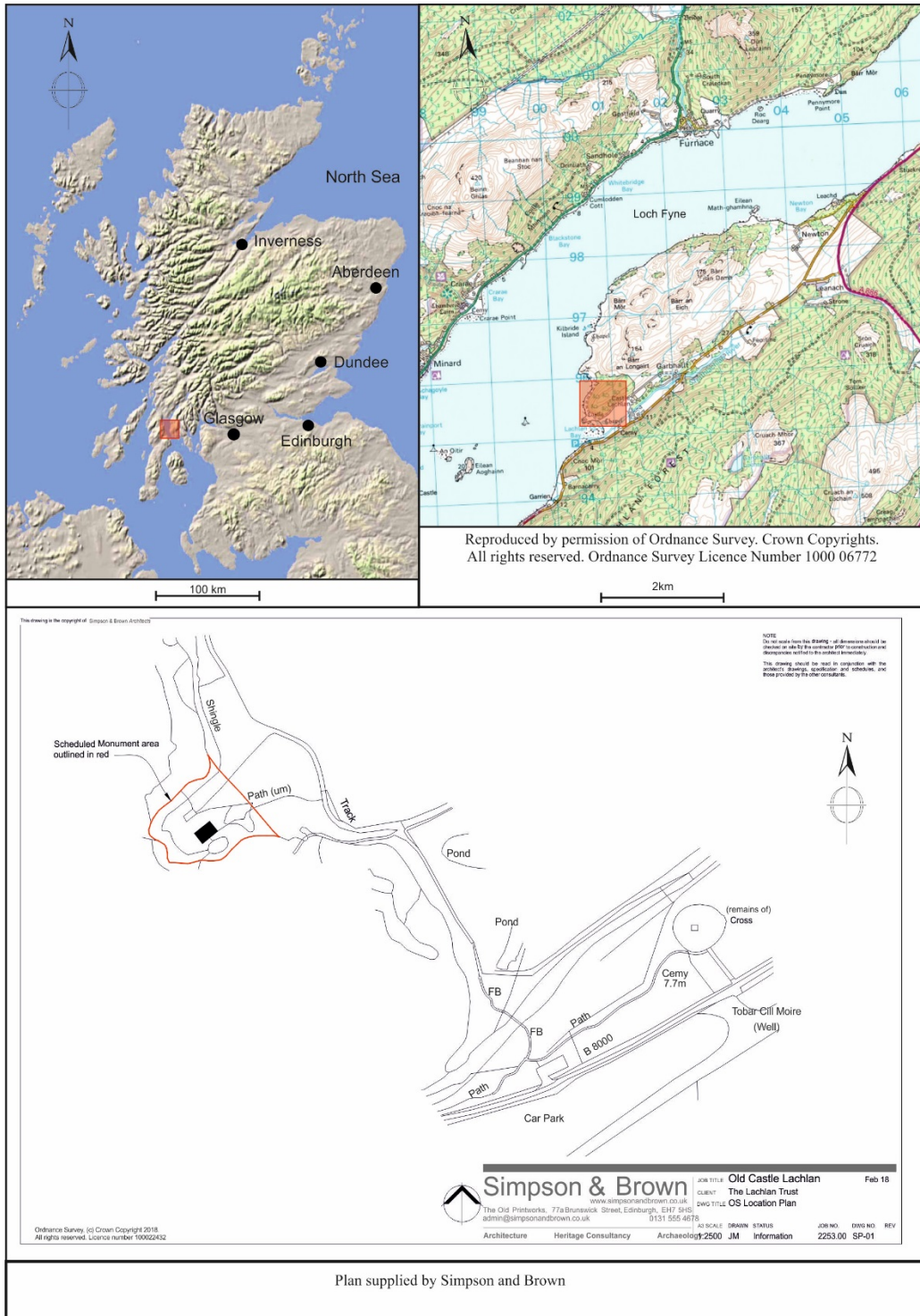


Figure 1 Site location

2. *Historical Summary*

Historic documents record the presence of a castle thought to be on the site of the present Old Castle Lachlan from the middle of the 14th century. In 1314 Gilaspec MacLouchlan was granted rent from lands at Kilbride beside 'Castle lachlan' by a charter dated at the castle. There is no evidence of this early castle within the upstanding remains. The curtain wall has been dated to the 15th century (*RCAHMS 1992*). The internal structure of the castle has been dated to c1500 on the basis of the elaborate fireplaces.

The castle remained as the main residence of the Chiefs of MacLachlan family until the construction of the present Castle Lachlan, built in 1790 in Strathlachlan just a short distance to the north of the Old Castle.

As part of the detailed programme of building recording and analysis, historical research will be undertaken. The results of the evaluation detailed in this report will be referred to in the build recording report.

3. Methodology

Four exploratory trenches were hand dug through the existing failing concrete surface at first floor level of the West Hall and first floor level of the East Hall. The location of the test pits is shown in *figure 2*. The Written Scheme of Investigation stated that the test pits would not exceed 1m by 1m. Test Pit 1 measured 1m by 1m, the remaining three test pits were 0.8m by 0.8m.

The test pits were excavated by hand. The concrete surface was broke up and removed and the rubble infill/levelling deposits beneath were excavated until the surface of the archaeological deposits were exposed. These deposits were carefully cleaned and recording as detail in the WSI. The location of the test pits was tied in to the upstanding walls of the castle.

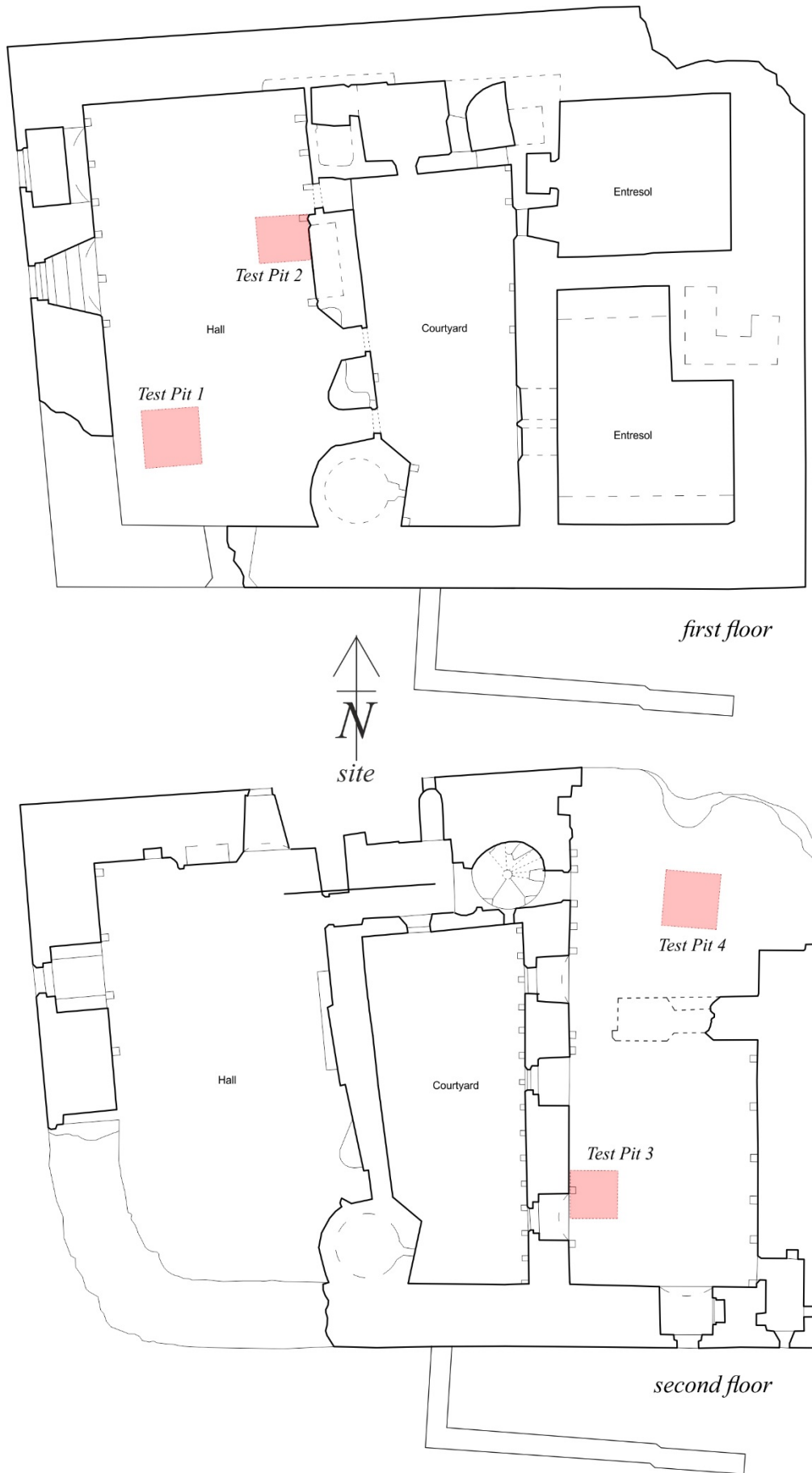


Figure 2 Location of Test Pits (not to scale)

4. Results

i. Test Pit 1

Test Pit 1 was excavated at the south west corner of the West Hall, close to the point at which access is gained to the hall at present. The concrete in this area was very cracked and broken with parts missing and a thin layer of soil and grass growing on top.



Plate 1 Location of Test Pit 1.(2253_032)



Plate 2 Wall 006 exposed in Test Pit 1 (2253_025)

At the north side of the Test Pit c.20cm below the current ground surface the remains of a wall were uncovered. Only the south face of the wall was exposed within the test pit; its total width is it was at least 0.4m wide, and the face was exposed to a height of 0.4m. The masonry was mortared with coarse cream lime mortar with small animal bones used as pinnings. It runs parallel to the main south wall of the castle. The remainder of the Test Pit contained loose dry stone rubble; there was a component of loose soil and roots which had entered into the rubble through the broken concrete. The rubble consisted of large angular and sub-angular stones with considerable voids and was visible to a depth of 0.8m below the current ground surface.

According to the RCAHMS Survey of the site, the wall located in Test Pit 1, is above the oven and chimney area of the kitchen. It is possible that the loose rubble is infilling the void of the chimney.

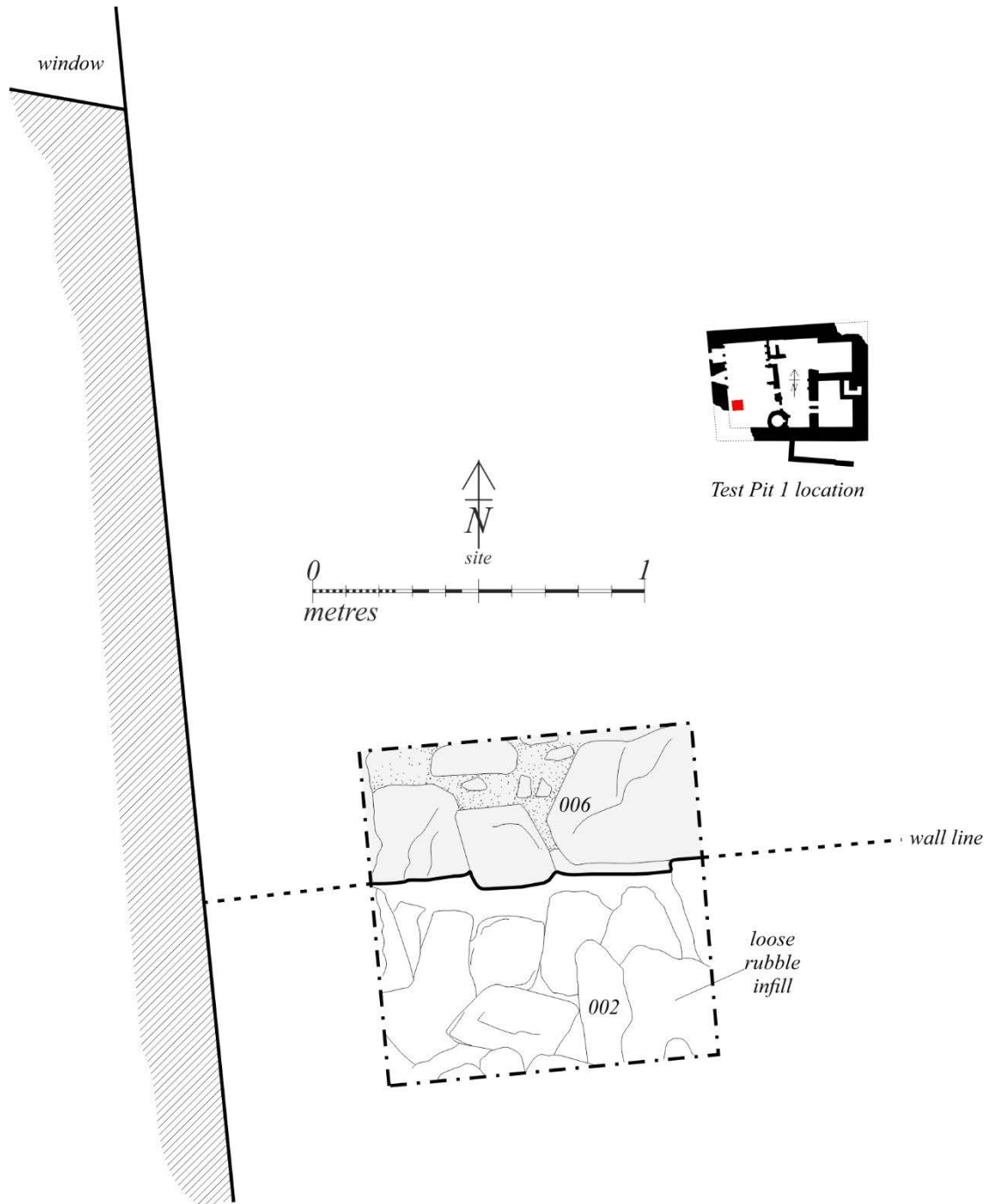


Figure 3 Plan of Test Pit 1

ii. Test Pit 2

Test Pit 2 was located towards the centre of the West Hall abutting the blocked fireplace. It was positioned in order to reveal the base of the carved stone fireplace and if possible establish the original floor level. The excavation of the Test Pit revealed the base of the carved stone and uncovered part of the hearth slab. The level sand deposit recorded beneath this is believed to have been the bedding material for the original flag stone floor. This deposit, together with the hearth slab provides reliable evidence to show the level of the original floor (*plates 3 and 4*).



Plate 3 Plan view of Test Pit 2.(2253_008)



Plate 4 Base of fireplace moulding and hearth slab
Test Pit 2 (2253_016)

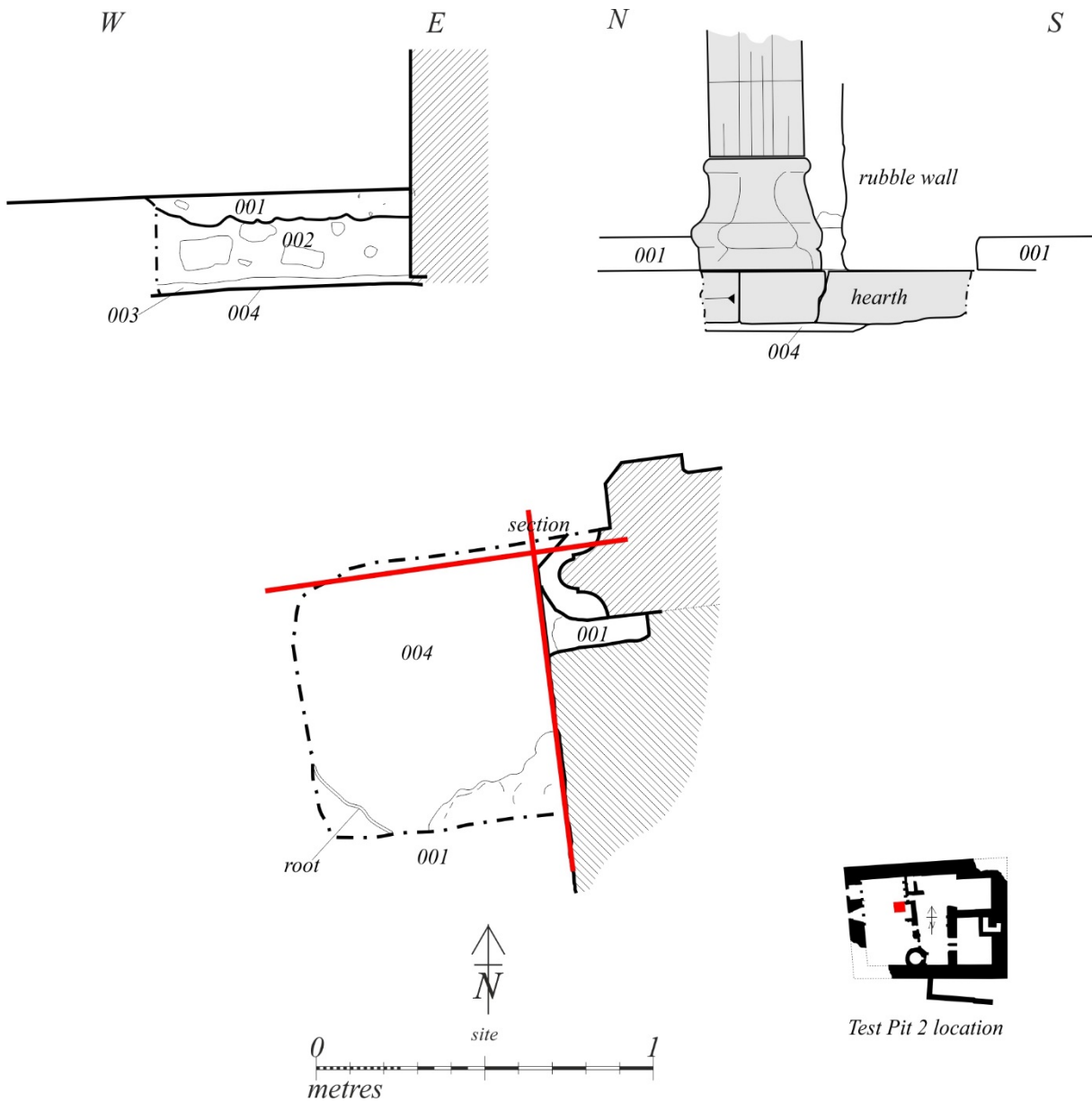


Figure 4 Plan and section of Test Pit 2

iii. Test Pit 3

Test Pit 3 was excavated in the south west corner of the East Hall. It abutted the wall where the masonry had undergone extensive rebuilding and or blocking (*plate 5*). Immediately beneath the concrete was a deposit consisting of loose stone rubble and a large number of roof slates, 0.2-0.3m in depth (008). This deposit was most probably laid to create a level base for the concrete. There was very little soil within the rubble, unlike the similar rubble deposit encountered in Test Pit 1. It is thought that this was due to the concrete being intact in this area preventing soil and vegetation being washed down amongst the rubble. The clean and uniform nature of the deposit indicated that it was deliberately laid rather than being formed by a gradual accumulation of rubble and debris from the degrading walls of the building over time. This was reinforced by the lack of mortar within the deposit.

Beneath the rubble levelling deposit, but only present in part of the Test Pit was a compact strong reddish brown deposit, which contained large lumps of lime mortar (009); this deposit was directly above the possible stone surface (012). This surface was composed of a series of medium and smaller flat stones, possibly bedded in loose sandy pea grit deposit (010); this deposit was only visible where the stones were missing. The stones were not removed therefore it is not certain if deposit (010) continued beneath them. Only visible in the south east corner of the Test Pit, was a very clean compact deposit of light bluish grey clay (011). This material would have been ideally suited to improve waterproofing above the vaulted ceiling beneath, though further excavation would be necessary to establish if this was its function.



Plate 5 Location of Test Pit 3.(2253_020)



Plate 6 Post-ex shot of Test Pit 3 (2253_046)

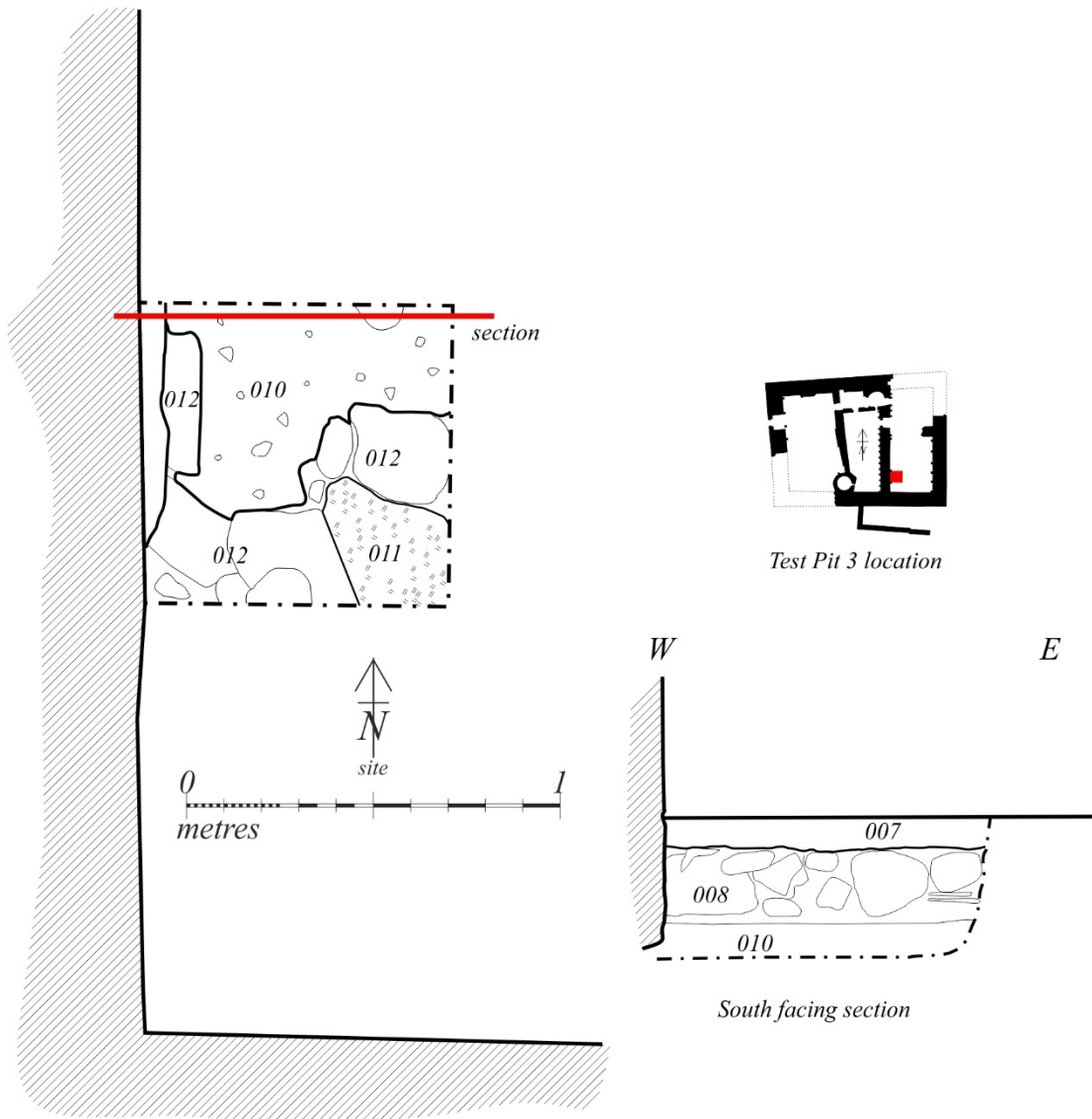


Figure 5 Plan and section of Test Pit 3

A small number of undatable finds were recovered during the excavation of Test Pit 3 see Appendix C for details.

iv. Test Pit 4

Test Pit 4 was excavated at the north east corner of the East Hall; the concrete in this area was relatively sound with no obvious large cracks. Directly beneath the concrete was a layer of loose beach sand and gravel (013). This deposit overlay a layer of rubble consisting of flat and rounded boulders (014,015). During excavation two numbers were allocated due to the difference in the shape of the stones, however following partial excavation it was clear that they formed a single deposit. Beneath this rubble was a thin layer of humic sandy soil (016) which represented an earlier layer of turf. The turf appeared to have accumulated on the top of the vault which was visible beneath (017). There was no evidence directly above the vault for bedding material on which flags could have been laid, as the turf layer peeled off cleanly on to the masonry below. This may indicate a timber rather than a flag floor in the Hall as it is unlikely that that bedding material would have been carefully removed following the removal of the floor.

The top of the vault was built of lime bonded masonry. A number of the stones were set almost vertically within a creamy lime mortar.



Plate 7 Location of Test Pit 4.(2253_035)



Plate 8 Post-ex shot of Test Pit 4 (2253_051)

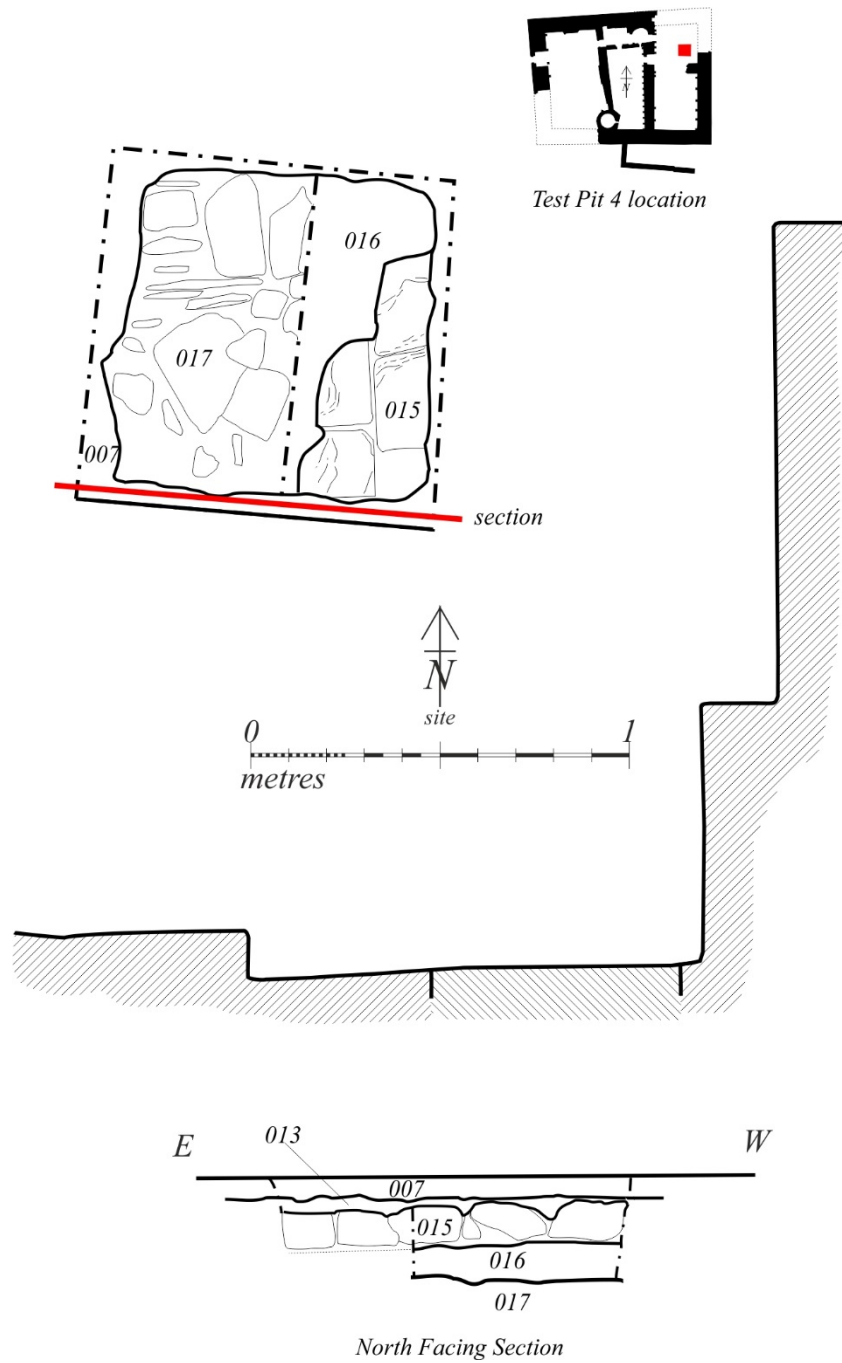


Figure 6 Plan and section of Test Pit 4

5. Discussion and Recommendations

The purpose of the evaluation was to gain an understanding of what lay beneath the current failing concrete floor in order to inform further conservation and restoration work. The results were interesting in that each of the test pits revealed completely different deposits beneath. Within the West Hall Test Pit 2 uncovered evidence of the original flagged floor surface, indicated by the presence of bedding material. This deposit together with the uncovering of the hearth slab shows the level of the original floor. No floor surface was visible within Test Pit 1 which revealed a great depth of loose rubble and a mortared cross wall thought to relate to the kitchen chimney beneath.

Within the East Hall Test Pit 4 was the only location where the top of the vaults beneath were exposed. The deposits above the vault suggested a timber floor had been present rather than flag stones. Although archaeological deposits were present within Test Pit 3, including a number of finds, it was difficult to interpret them within the scope of the current project. The clay deposit was clearly deliberately laid but further excavation would be required to understand its purpose.

The results of the evaluation clearly show that archaeological deposits relating to the earlier phases of the castle survive beneath the more recent concrete floor. The depth of these deposits is relatively consistent across the test pits at 0.2-0.3m below the surface of the concrete. In order to protect the vaults below from further water damage and to help to stabilize the castle, it will be necessary to remove the current concrete surface and relay a suitable surface. This process will result in the exposure of the archaeological deposits identified during the evaluation, and afford an opportunity to record and better understand the earlier phases of the castle.

It would also be necessary to find a suitable means of protecting the archaeological deposits before relaying the new floor surface.

References

Ellis, C 2015 *Hand excavation of a trench adjacent to the leaning ramp wall of Old castle Lachlan, Argyll*. Argyll Archaeology unpublished report.

RCHAMS 1992 *Argyll Volume 7*

Appendix A Context Register

Context No.	Recorded by	Date	Area	Description
(001)	KmacF	20/03/2018	Test Pit 1/2	Concrete
(002)	KmacF	20/03/2018	Test Pit 1/2	Loose rubble/soil make-up
(003)	KmacF	20/03/2018	Test Pit 2	Thin turf layer
(004)	KmacF	20/03/2018	Test Pit 2	Sand bedding
(005)	JMM	20/03/2018	Test Pit 1	Thin turf layer above (001)
[006]	JMM	20/03/2018	Test Pit 1	Cross wall, lime mortared
(007)	JMM	20/03/2018	Test Pit 3/4	Concrete
(008)	JMM	20/03/2018	Test Pit 3	Loose rubble and slate
(009)	JMM	20/03/2018	Test Pit 3	Compact brown soil deposit, with mortar
(010)	JMM	20/03/2018	Test Pit 3	Loose pea grit/sandy gravel
(011)	JMM	20/03/2018	Test Pit 3	Grey compact clay
[012]	JMM	20/03/2018	Test Pit 3	Possible stone surface
(013)	KmacF	20/03/2018	Test Pit 4	Thin intermittent spread of rounded beach gravel, below (001)
(014)	KmacF	20/03/2018	Test Pit 4	Spread of rounded beach cobbles, below (013), for bottoming
(015)	KmacF	20/03/2018	Test Pit 4	Spread of neatly lain rubble for bottoming
(016)	KmacF	20/03/2018	Test Pit 4	Thin turf line
[017]	KmacF	20/03/2018	Test Pit 4	Masonry, lime bonded, likely a vault

Appendix B Drawings Register

<i>Dwg No.</i>	<i>Sheet</i>	<i>Scale</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Drawn by</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	1	1:20	Plan	20/03/2018	Kmacf	Test Pit 2, Plan at LOE
002	1	1:20	Section	20/03/2018	Kmacf	Test Pit 2, North section
003	1	1:20	Elevation	20/03/2018	Kmacf	Test Pit 2, East elevation showing fire jamb base
004	1	1:20	Plan	20/03/2018	JMM	Test Pit 1, Post-ex plan
005	1	1:10	Section	20/03/2018	JMM	Test Pit 2, South facing section
006	1	1:20	Plan	21/03/2018	JMM	Test Pit 3, Plan at LOE
007	1	1:20	Section	21/03/2018	JMM	Test Pit 3, Section at LOE
008	1	1:10	Elevation	21/03/2018	JMM	Test Pit 3, Wall west elevation at LOE
009	1	1:20	Section	21/03/2018	Kmacf	Test Pit 4, South section at LOE
010	1	1:20	Plan	21/03/2018	Kmacf	Test Pit 4, Plan at LOE
011	1	1:20	Plan	21/03/2018	Kmacf	Test pits location plan

Appendix C Finds Register

<i>Finds No.</i>	<i>Context No.</i>	<i>Trench No.</i>	<i>Material</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Initials</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Description</i>
001	(008)	Test Pit 3	Plaster	-	JMM	2	Two plaster fragments
002	(008)	Test Pit 3	Fe	-	JMM	1	Iron nail
003	(009)	Test Pit 3	Faunal	-	JMM	1	Ovicaprid tarsal
004	(009)	Test Pit 3	Glass	-	JMM	2	White, window glass
005	(009)	Test Pit 3	Fe	-	JMM	1	Iron nail
006	(010)	Test Pit 3	Faunal	-	JMM	1	Ovicaprid rib
007	(010)	Test Pit 3	Glass	-	JMM	1	Dark green bottle shard
008	(010)	Test Pit 3	Fe	-	JMM	1	Iron nail driven through a small iron plate

Appendix D *Samples Register*

Sample No.	Context No.	Size	Date	Initials	Description
001	West Hall	-	20/03/2018	KmacF	Mortar, blocked window
002	West Hall	-	20/03/2018	KmacF	Mortar, blocked door
003	West Hall	-	20/03/2018	KmacF	Mortar, blocked door in stair tower
004	East Hall	-	20/03/2018	JMM	Mortar, around reworked opening
005	Courtyard	-	20/03/2018	JMM	Mortar, blocked stair tower?

Appendix E Photograph Register

<i>Image No.</i>	<i>Original No.</i>	<i>Facing</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Initials</i>
001	738	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, Pre-ex	KmacF
002	739	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, Pre-ex	KmacF
003	740	W	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Pre-ex, bad light	JMM
004	741	SW	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Pre-ex, bad light	JMM
005	742	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, Pre-ex	KmacF
006	743	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, Concrete removed	KmacF
007	744	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, Top of deposit (002)	KmacF
008	745	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, Top of deposit (004), fully excavated	KmacF
009	746	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, showing hearth slabs	KmacF
010	747	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, Post-ex	KmacF
011	748	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, Post-ex	KmacF
012	749	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, Post-ex, detail	KmacF
013	750	E/Vert.	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, Post-ex	KmacF
014	751	N	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, South facing section	KmacF
015	752	S	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, North facing section	KmacF
016	753	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, Hearth slabs, detail	KmacF
017	754	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 2, Carved stone, detail	KmacF
018	755	S	19/03/2018	General view	KmacF
019	756	W	19/03/2018	Working shot	KmacF
020	757	-	19/03/2018	Test Pit 3, Pre-ex	KmacF
021	758	-	19/03/2018	Test Pit 3, Pre-ex	KmacF
022	759	N	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Post-ex	KmacF
023	760	S	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Post-ex	KmacF
024	761	W	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Post-ex	KmacF
025	762	W	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Post-ex	KmacF
026	763	N	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Post-ex	KmacF
027	764	N	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Post-ex	KmacF
028	765	W	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Post-ex	KmacF
029	766	W	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Post-ex	KmacF
030	767	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Post-ex	KmacF
031	768	N	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Post-ex	KmacF
032	769	S	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Post-ex, general view	KmacF
033	770	W	19/03/2018	Test Pit 1, Location shot in relation to wall	KmacF
034	771	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 4, Pre-ex	KmacF
035	772	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 4, Pre-ex	KmacF
036	773	W	19/03/2018	Test Pit 3, Concrete removed	KmacF
037	774	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 4, Turf removed	KmacF
038	775	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 4, Stone surface	KmacF
039	776	E/Vert.	19/03/2018	Test Pit 4, Stone surface	KmacF
040	777	W	19/03/2018	Test Pit 3, (008) removed	KmacF
041	778	W	19/03/2018	Test Pit 3, Showing (009) and top of (011)	KmacF
042	779	N	19/03/2018	Test Pit 3, Showing (009) and top of (011)	KmacF
043	780	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 4, Stone surface removed	KmacF
044	781	E	19/03/2018	Test Pit 4, Stone surface removed	KmacF
045	782	W/East	19/03/2018	Test Pit 3, Showing (010), (011) and (012)	KmacF
046	783	S/Vert.	19/03/2018	Test Pit 3, Showing (010), (011) and (012)	KmacF
047	784	W	19/03/2018	Test Pit 3, East facing section	KmacF
048	785	SE	19/03/2018	Test Pit 3, Deposits (011) and (012)	KmacF

<i>Image No.</i>	<i>Original No.</i>	<i>Facing</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Initials</i>
049	786	SE	19/03/2018	Test Pit 3, Deposits (011) and (012)	KmacF
050	787	S	19/03/2018	Test Pit 4, Post-ex	KmacF
051	788	S/Vert.	19/03/2018	Test Pit 4, Post-ex	KmacF
052	789	S	19/03/2018	Test Pit 4, Post-ex, top of vault?, detail	KmacF
053	790	W	19/03/2018	Test Pit 4, Post-ex, east facing section	KmacF
054	791	N	19/03/2018	Test Pit 4, Post-ex, south facing section	KmacF

Appendix F Photographic Contact Sheets



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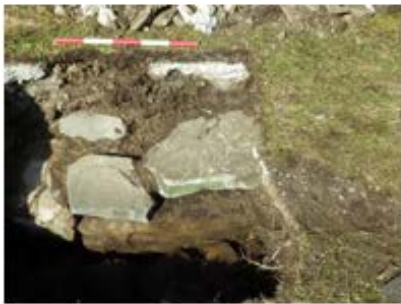
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AA2253

Old Castle Lachlan – excavation of test pits

Written Scheme of Investigation for Old Castle Lachlan

Addyman Archaeology – March 2018

1. Introduction

i. General

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) contains the details of archaeological works to be undertaken as referred to in a recently application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) as part of a proposed programme of conservation and restoration of Old Castle Lachlan, Argyll (NGR NS 5189 5288; SM292). The WSI is required by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) in support of the application for Scheduled Monument Consent submitted by Simpson and Brown Architects on behalf of The Lachlan Trust, 7th March 2018 (*Appendix 1*).

This document details the methods that will be employed to carry out the excavation of four test pits within the castle in order to assess the failing concrete floor surface and to establish if any earlier floor surfaces or other archaeological deposits survive beneath.

ii. Archaeological Background

Historic documents record the presence of a castle thought to be on the site of the present Old Castle Lachlan from the middle of the C14th. In 1314 Gilaspec MacLouchlan was granted rent from lands at Kilbride beside 'Castle lachlan' by a charter dated at the castle. There is no evidence of this early castle within the upstanding remains. The curtain wall has been dated to the C15th (*RCAHMS 1992*). The internal structure of the castle has been dated to c1500 on the basis of the elaborate fireplaces.

It is known that the castle remained as the main residence of the Chiefs of MacLachlan family until the construction of the present Castle Lachlan built in 1790 in Strathlachlan.

The castle is undergoing a long term and extensive programme of repair on conservation. As part of this process Addyman Archaeology are undertaking a detailed building survey of the castle in order to fully understanding the structure and development of the castle. At an early stage in the project a hand dug trench was excavated through the main entrance ramp by Claire Ellis of Argyll Archaeology to record archaeological deposits prior to the stabilization of the main retaining wall. The excavated trench demonstrated that the ramp was constructed of loose stone rubble and the retaining wall had previously undergone several phases of re-building (*Ellis 2015*).

iii. Setting

Old Castle Lachlan is located on a low promontory of land on the east side of Loch Fyne overlooking Lachlan Bay. The promontory on which the castle sits is connected to the mainland by a low marshy strip of land. (*figure 1*).

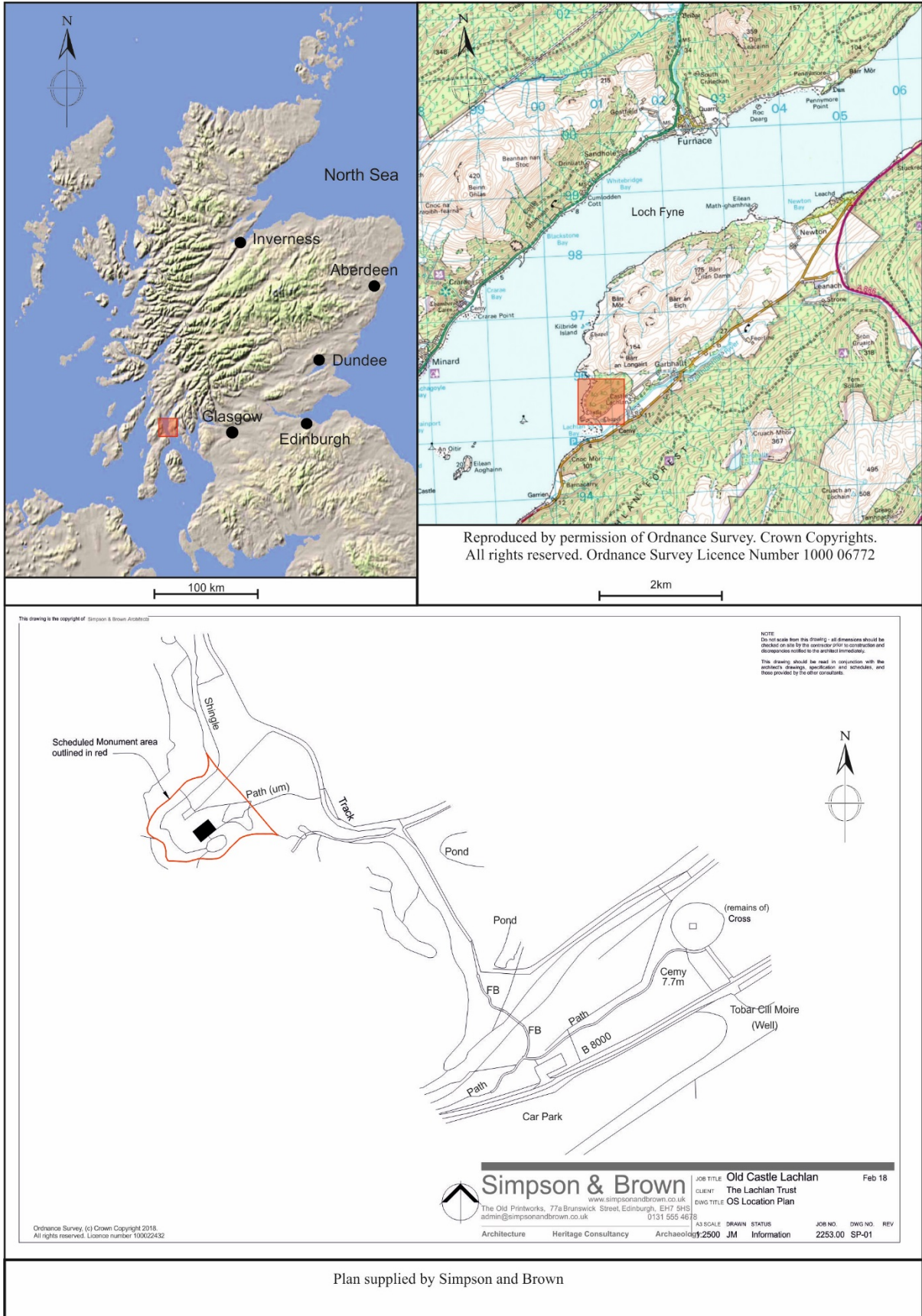


Figure 1: Site location plan

2. Scope of Proposed Works

The purpose of the investigation will be to:

- Understand the nature of the substrate / bedding material beneath the concrete
- To establish whether there is any likelihood that early floor surfaces survive intact (probably flagged originally)
- To establish the original floor levels
- To examine lower deposits down to the tops of the vaults (either expose the vault structure or to reveal the masonry infill in areas away from the crest of the vault arch)

i. Methodology

Exploratory trenches will be hand dug through the existing failing concrete surface at first floor level of the west hall and first floor level of the east hall. These levels are not the same due to varying heights of the vaults beneath therefore the first floor of the east hall is shown on the plan labelled 'Second Floor'. Two test pits will be opened up in each area - four in total. The dimensions of each test pit will not exceed 1m by 1m. Proposed locations of the test pits are shown in figure 2.

The excavation will be undertaken by hand. If an early flagged floor surface is encountered in any of the trenches, excavation will cease, and Historic Environment Scotland will be informed. In the absence of such a surface being present careful hand excavation will continue until either the top of the vaults is exposed or the masonry infill. All deposits will be recorded in plan and section as appropriate.

Following excavation and recording the test pits will be temporarily re-instated in such a manner as to prevent further ingress of water damaging the vaults beneath.

ii. Standards and Recording

All site recording will be undertaken using standard *pro-forma* sheets for the recording of archaeological contexts, finds and samples and for drawings and photographs produced during the archaeological works, which become part of the archaeological record. These records will be produced to *CIfA* standards; Addyman Archaeology will adhere to the *CIfA*'s principles and codes of conduct at all times.

Standard recording drawings will be undertaken at 1:20 scale (in plan) with details and sections drawn at 1:10. Plans and sections of areas that yielded archaeological remains will be produced representing and preserving the features and encountered stratigraphy. A general site plan indicating the position of the test pits will be prepared at a larger scale.

iii. Reporting, archiving and artefact analysis

The results of the work will be presented in a formal Data Structure Report (DSR), following *CIfA* procedures.

The formal report is to include:

- An executive summary
- National Grid Reference and formal address
- Note of any statutory and non-statutory designations
- Date of record, names of recorders, archive location
- Location plan
- Historical summary and map regression
- Detailed description of findings
- Summary statement of results
- Recommendation for mitigation

The report should be completed within 4 weeks of completion of the fieldwork.

A summary of the findings will be presented in a small article for 'Discovery and Excavation in Scotland' (DES), published by Archaeology Scotland. The results of the project will also be uploaded to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) platform, and be available for wider public consultation.

Any finds recovered from the site will be declared to Treasure Trove within 6 months of completion of the project. The paper and digital archive will be prepared following AAF and HES guidelines and submitted to the NRHE held at HES within 6 months of the completion of the project.

iv. Finds and environmental sampling strategies

All finds from the archaeological excavations will be retained and bagged according to context. All finds will be washed and catalogued and presented in a table in the report, with a summary of the assemblage. Any finds requiring specialist analysis will be appropriately packaged and sent away to the relevant specialists.

Environmental samples will be taken from secure contexts with the potential for preservation of carbonised remains if these are encountered. If possible samples should be at least 30 litres, with smaller deposits sampled in their entirety. A sub-sample may be chosen for processing, dependent upon the volume of environmental samples recovered from the site. If environmental samples are taken an initial sample assessment will be undertaken, with any further analysis of material recovered based on the results of the assessment. Carbonised remains will be assessed for their potential to inform on the site or suitability for submission for radiocarbon dating.

3. Mitigation Strategy

If significant archaeological remains are encountered during the excavation of the test pits all excavations should cease and HES and the client would be informed. A mitigation strategy would then need to be proposed, with all further work suspended until this had been agreed in writing by HES.

4. Resources

i. Staff

The archaeological works will be undertaken by Kenny Macfadyen, and Jenni Morrison Addyman Archaeology's experienced buildings archaeologists. The project will be managed by Tom Addyman. CVs can be supplied on request.

ii. Schedule

Subject to the acceptance of this WSI and the granting of Scheduled Monument consent it is anticipated that the excavation of the test pits will be undertaken in the week beginning the 26th of March 2018.

The DSR report will be submitted to HES within four weeks of the completion of fieldwork.

Any PERD required will be submitted within 3 months of the submission of the DSR.

Any final publication required will be submitted within 1 year of the submission of the PERD.

5. *References*

Argyll Archaeology 2015 *Hand excavation of a trench adjacent to the leaning ramp wall of Old castle Lachlan, Argyll.* unpublished report.

RCHAMS 1992 *Argyll Volume 7*

Appendix H Scheduled Monument Documentation



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

By email to:

JMulcair@simpsonandbrown.co.uk

Ms Jacqueline Mulcair
Simpson & Brown
The Old Printworks
77a Brunswick Street
Edinburgh
EH7 5HS

Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Simon.stronach@hes.scot

T: 0131 668 8077

Our ref: AMH/292/1/1
Our case ID: 300026927

12 March 2018

Dear Ms Mulcair

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
Application for Scheduled Monument Consent: Carry out four trial pits for purposes of
archaeological investigation
Statutory Designation: Lachlan Castle
Designation Reference: SM292
Scheduled Monument Consent Decision Notice

I am writing to notify you that the works detailed in your application for scheduled monument consent, which we validated on 08 March 2018, have been **granted without conditions**. Please find your Decision Notice attached. You may now proceed with the works.

Please note that any works on the monument must be limited to those detailed in your application. It is an offence to carry out unauthorised works on a scheduled monument.

Further explanation of this decision is given in our attached Report on Handling together with a link to the decisions portal which contains all documentation relevant to this decision.

A copy of the decision notice is available for public inspection at Historic Environment Scotland at the above address and online at <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot>.

If you require any further information, please contact Simon Stronach on the above telephone number or email.

Yours sincerely

Historic Environment Scotland

Cc: Local Authority Archaeologist, Argyll and Bute Council

Historic Environment Scotland – Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH

Scottish Charity No. **SC045925**

VAT No. **GB 221 8680 15**



**Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
Scheduled Monument Consent Decision Notice**

Case ID	300026927	Index no	SM292
Scheduled Monument	Lachlan Castle		
Location/ Address	Argyll And Bute		
Proposed Works	Carry out four trial pits for purposes of archaeological investigation		

Historic Environment Scotland hereby **grants** scheduled monument consent for the works detailed below without conditions.

Consented Works:

- Excavation of four archaeological trial pits

as described in your application which we validated on 08 March 2018 and the following supporting documents:

- Old Castle Lachlan - Excavation of test pits - Written Scheme of Investigation
- Location Plan
- Plans - Ground & First Floors – Proposed Trial Pits

Reasons for the Decision:

The works proposed are considered acceptable in meeting the terms of national policy for scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material considerations.

.....
12 March 2018

Historic Environment Scotland
Longmore House
Salisbury Place
Edinburgh
EH9 1SH

Tel: 0131 668 8716

Email: ScheduledMonumentConsent@hes.scot



Scheduled Monument Consent Report on Handling

Case Information

Reference/Case ID	300026927		
Scheduled Monument	Lachlan Castle		
Index no	SM292	Grid ref	NS 00518 95288
Date application validated	08 March 2018		
Summary of proposed works	Carry out four trial pits for purposes of archaeological investigation		

1. Summary recommendation

This report recommends that approval for the hand excavation of 4 trial pits for the purposes of archaeological investigation be granted.

2. Background

Lachlan Castle is an impressive ruined fortification on a promontory overlooking Loch Fyne. It was probably built in the 15th century and consists of two blocks on the east and west sides of a narrow open court connected at the north end by a building with a small wheel-staircase. The castle was occupied by the Maclachlans until 1746, when it was attacked by a government warship.

The monument is of national importance because it is a fine example of a late medieval, small stone castle situated in a typically strategic, and very picturesque, location by a sea loch on the Atlantic coast. The courtyard and the surviving structures around it are noted to be particularly striking and unusual. The castle's fabric and associated archaeological remains preserved below ground have the potential to provide much information about the lives of its inhabitants and it has important historical associations with a particular family and national events.

It is a modern concrete surface and deposits underneath it on the first floor of the castle that this application relates to. The concrete and deposits overlie the ground floor vaults of the castle, which are suffering water ingress. The application is to test the nature of the

deposits to assist in the design of a scheme to consolidate the castle and this includes creating a new water-proof layer, and durable surface, over the vaults. It has been submitted by The Lachlan Trust.

The application is accompanied by a Written Scheme of Investigation, including plans, showing the proposed locations of the pits.

Historic Environment Scotland (HES) has undertaken pre-application discussions with the applicant regarding the scope and timing of the works.

3. Proposals

- Excavation of four archaeological trial pits

The four pits would be hand dug through the existing failing concrete surface at first floor level of the west hall and first floor level of the east hall; both halls are above vaults. Two pits would be opened up in each hall. Each pit would be no more than 1 sq/m in plan and the proposed pit locations are shown on plans submitted in support of the application.

The purpose of the investigation would be to:

- Understand the nature of the substrate/bedding material beneath the concrete
- To establish whether there is any likelihood that early floor surfaces survive intact (probably flagged originally)
- To establish the original floor levels
- To examine lower deposits down to the tops of the vaults (either exposing the vault structure or to reveal the masonry infill in areas away from the crest of the vault arch)

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the proposed work has been submitted in support of the application. This makes clear that should any early flagged floor surface be encountered excavation would cease and HES would be informed. The WSI also sets out a provision that if significant archaeological remains were encountered all excavation would cease and any further work subject to written agreement of a mitigation strategy with HES.

If no floor surface or significant remains were encountered then excavation would continue to the top of the vaults, or masonry infill over it. The exposed deposits in the pits would be recorded in plan and section at standard archaeological scales.



Recording would be undertaken using standard pro-forma sheets for the recording of archaeological contexts, finds and samples and for drawings and photographs produced during the archaeological works. These records would be produced to Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standards.

The results of the investigation would be presented in the form of a Data Structure Report following CIfA standards. The report would be submitted to HES within 4 weeks of completion of fieldwork. Summary reports would be submitted to Discovery and Excavation Scotland and uploaded to the OASIS database. Any artefacts would be declared to Treasure Trove and an archive deposited with the National Record of the Historic Environment within 6 months.

The WSI sets out a method for retrieving finds and samples. This is not repeated in full here but allows for appropriate treatment of finds and sampling of relevant secure contexts.

The WSI sets out the names of relevant Addyman Archaeology personnel and a timetable for the work.

Once the investigation were complete the pits would be filled with clay to deter moisture ingress until such time as the proposed re-surfacing takes place (to be subject to a future scheduled monument consent application).

4. Representations received

No third party representations were received.

5. Report

a) Policy considerations

The application should be considered with the following legislative and policy considerations in mind:

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

Part 1 Section 2: Control of works affecting scheduled monuments.

Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement June 2016

3.14. A monument is included in the schedule to secure the long-term legal protection of the monument in the national interest, in situ and as far as possible in the state it has



come down to us. Scheduled monuments have an intrinsic value as monuments, not related to any concept of active use. It is the value of the monument to the nation's heritage, in terms set out in the section on Scheduling in Chapter 2 of this policy statement that is the primary consideration in determining applications for scheduled monument consent.

3.16. Works on scheduled monuments should therefore normally be the minimum level of intervention that is consistent with conserving what is culturally significant in a monument.

3.17. As each monument will require treatment specific to its individual nature, characteristics, significance and needs, any proposed change to it must be fully and explicitly justified.

3.18. Scheduled monument consent applications must be considered in terms of the cultural significance of the monument and the impact that the proposals would have upon this cultural significance. The more important particular features of the monument are to its cultural significance, the greater will be the case against interventions which modify these features.

3.20. Where change is proposed, it should be carefully considered, based on good authority, sensitively designed, properly planned and executed, and where appropriate in the context of an individual monument, reversible.

b) Assessment

The proposed works involve the archaeological hand excavation of four trial pits. This is intended to inform an understanding of the material overlying ground floor vaults in the castle and, in turn, would inform the design of work to water-proof and re-surface the vaults.

The proposed works would remove a modern concrete surface and make-up material under it. The modern concrete surface and make-up layer laid to support it do not contribute to the cultural significance of the castle and removal of part of them would not adversely affect the cultural significance of the monument. Excavation would cease at the top of the vault structure or masonry infill over it. If significant archaeological remains were encountered above this, in particular a flagged floor, then excavation would cease and HES would be informed. No further work would be undertaken until the scope of this had been agreed in writing by HES. This would ensure that no significant remains were removed as part of the proposed works. It is concluded that, with this control in place, the proposed works would have a minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument.



The results of the work would be included in a Data Structure Report that would be submitted within four weeks. The report would be publically available and inform our understanding of the castle. The results would inform the design of conservation and access works. These are assessed as considerable public benefits.

The application has been accompanied by sufficient information and has been discussed in advance with HES. The project team are highly experienced and have an established track record of successful delivery of similar projects. Accordingly, the specified method of the work is appropriate to ensure it is undertaken to a professional standard and reflects all professional expectations.

The test pits would be backfilled with clay to ensure they do not contribute further to water ingress into the vaults. They would be through a failing concrete floor that does not contribute positively to the character of the castle. The visual change caused by the backfilled pits would not adversely affect the character of the castle.

c) Other material considerations, including impact of the works on Protected Species and Places

No impact on Protected Species and Places considered likely.

d) Conclusion

The application should be viewed as works as set out in both Part 1 Section 2 of the AMAA Act 1979 and paragraph 3.4 of the policy statement.

The proposed works, comprising the hand excavation of four archaeological trial pits would have minimal impact on the cultural significance of the monument. The work has been designed with sufficient HES control to ensure that features that are important to the cultural significance of the monument are preserved. The works have also been proposed in order to improve our understanding of the monument but most importantly, contribute to the design of a wider project for conservation and improved public access to the castle. The proposals, therefore, comply with paragraphs 3.16 to 3.18 of the policy statement.

The application has been accompanied by an appropriate methodology and meets paragraph 3.20. No conditions are considered necessary.

6. Recommended decision

The works proposed are considered acceptable in meeting the terms of national policy for scheduled monuments, and also accounting for other material considerations.



I recommend consent is **granted without conditions**.

7. Conditions

No conditions have been attached to this decision.

8. Approval

Case officer	Simon Stronach	Date	12 March 2018
Approved by	John Raven	Date	12 March 2018

Annex A – list of supporting documents

- Old Castle Lachlan - Excavation of test pits - Written Scheme of Investigation
- Location Plan
- Plans - Ground & First Floors – Proposed Trial Pits