

EXTREME ARCHAEOLOGY

Investigation at the site of Tintagel, Cornwall

Aims of evaluation work

- Assessment and consolidation of archaeology revealed through natural erosion
- New geophysical survey of unexcavated 'South Terrace' area
- Archaeological investigation of targets on South Terrace
- Evaluation of any existing evidence for dock

Results of archaeological excavation

- Evidence to support assumptions concerning Mediterranean trade
- Evidence for stone and turf revetments supporting main building
- Evidence for extensive building work on south terrace
 - Dated to 5-7th century (post Roman)

Conclusions

Supporting evidence discovered for intensive period of settlement and trade during 5-7th century AD. Finds continue to support the idea that Tintagel has a place of some significance locally and even internationally. We cannot tell whether imported wares were brought by boat to the site or overland, but we may assume, based on comparative evidence, that Tintagel retained its importance and association with high status by maintaining and even strengthening links with the Mediterranean. From a CHM (cultural heritage management) point of view, the fragile nature of the archaeological resource at Tintagel is emphasised and further data collected to support the need for consolidation work on the North side of the headland. Survey work on the South Terrace has revealed a number of previously unknown structures. These require full survey and excavation before more solid conclusions as to their form and function can be drawn.

Further work

- Environmental analysis of domestic deposits from south terrace
- Full finds analysis of evaluation work