

A83 Artilligan - Drilling & Blasting

Client :
Scottish Office

Main Contractor :
R J McLeod

Location :
Argyll & Bute

Date :
1999



The A83 at Artilligan between Campbeltown and Lochgilphead had a history of landslips and slope instability. Two landslips took place in 1998 and local groups had campaigned to have the road improved.

The main contract involved the removal of the dangerous areas of rock and the reconstruction of some 700 metres of road. BAM Ritchies, as the specialist contractor, drilled and blasted 70,000 tonnes of rock from the hillside in three controlled blasts.

The work was planned to take place over four consecutive weekends but the work progressed so well that only one weekend of blasting was needed. Charging commenced on the Tuesday and went on continuously for three days and nights before blasting all the areas on the Friday. The main road was re-opened to the public on the following Monday morning.

Not only did the BAM Ritchies work remove the dangerous material but also the pre-split blasting produced a stable final rock face.

During the course of the work and attendant road closures, an enhanced ferry service was operated and, as the work was completed in one weekend, disruption was kept to a minimum.

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