

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

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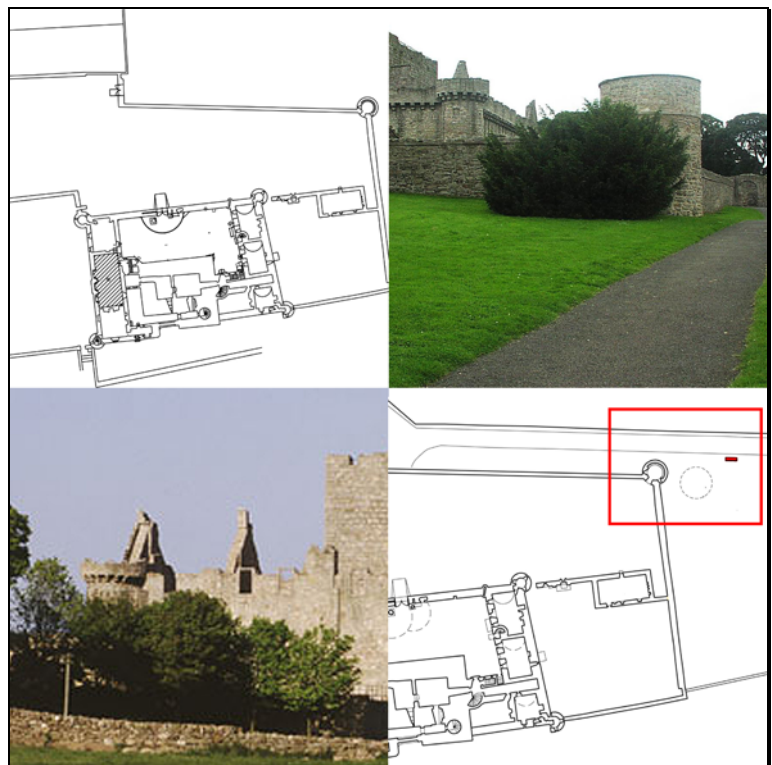
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PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Craigmillar Castle
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PARISH:	Edinburgh, City of
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Alan Radley
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
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PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<i>A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of two small trenches near the dovecot at Craigmillar Castle, Edinburgh. These trenches were for the installation of bases for a new bench. Upper landscaping layers of uncertain date overlay what appeared to be demolition debris, also possibly material imported for landscaping.</i>
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**Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2008-9**

Craigmillar Castle

Archaeological monitoring, February 2009

**HS PIC Index number: 90129
Project code: HSCO-90129-2009-01**



**30 March 2009
Kirkdale Archaeology**

<u>Site</u>	Craigmillar Castle
<u>N.G.R</u>	NT 2885 7091
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90129-2009-01

Contents

1.0 Introduction	1
2.0 Description	1
3.0 Interpretation and observations	2
A1.0 Appendix 1: List of contexts	3
A2.0 Appendix 2: List of drawings	3
A3.0 Appendix 3: List of photographs	3
Fig. 1 : Location plan	4

SUMMARY: February 2009 – A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of two small trenches near the dovecot at Craigmillar Castle, Edinburgh. These trenches were for the installation of bases for a new bench. Upper landscaping layers of uncertain date overlay what appeared to be demolition debris, also possibly material imported for landscaping.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to monitor the excavation of two trenches at Craigmillar Castle, Edinburgh. The trenches were for the installation of bases for a new bench between two yew trees by the access path.

The trenches were c 10 m E of the dovecot and c 0.8 m to the S of the path leading from the ticket office to the castle.

The work was carried out on 16 February 2009.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

2.1 Trench 1

This trench measured 850 mm N-S, 240 mm wide and up to 250 mm deep. The upper deposit, **101**, was a 100 mm thick deposit of turf and mid brown sandy topsoil.

101 sealed **102**, a 150 mm thick deposit of fairly compact mid grey sandy silt with 20-30% angular stone fragments measuring 80 mm by 60 mm on average.

At the S edge of the trench, **103** was an area of stones sitting flat within the area. Below **102** elsewhere, **104** comprised compact mid grey sandy silt with roughly 70% angular sandstone fragments. **104** was not excavated.

2.2 Trench 2

This trench was located 1.22 m W of Trench 1 and measured 830 mm N-S, 240 mm wide and up to 240 mm deep.

The turf and mid brown sandy topsoil, **201**, measured up to 100 mm in depth.

Below **201** there was a fairly compact deposit of mid grey sandy silt, **202**, with roughly 25% sub-angular stone fragments measuring 80 mm by 60 mm on average.

At the limit of excavation, **203** comprised compact mid grey sandy silt comprising 60-70% angular sandstone fragments.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

There were no datable artefacts recovered from the excavated areas.

The main deposit removed from the trenches (**102** and **202**) was probably imported as part of the landscaping for the current layout.

It is possible that **103**, seen at the S edge of Trench 1, is a remnant of a structure, perhaps a path, but there was little of this feature seen and it was left unexcavated. There was no equivalent of **103** seen in trench 2.

At the limit of excavation, **104** and **203** seemed like demolition debris, perhaps used as infill in an earlier landscaping phase.

It is difficult to state with confidence that there were structural remains at the base of the N end of Trench 1. However it does seem that the features seen at the limit of the excavation may be of archaeological significance, albeit only demolition debris. Any future intrusive work in this area should be considered likely to encounter such deposits at a depth of 250 mm.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

#	Description
101	Turf and topsoil.
102	Fairly compact mid grey sandy silt and angular stone fragments
103	Stones at the base of the N end of the trench.
104	Angular stone fragments and compact mid grey sandy silt.
201	Turf and topsoil.
202	Fairly compact mid grey sandy silt and stones.
203	Angular stones and compact mid grey sandy silt.

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

#	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Plan of Trench 1, post excavation.	1:20
2	Section	East facing section of Trench 1	1:20
3	Plan	Plan of Trench 2, post excavation.	1:20
4	Section	East facing section of Trench 2	1:20

A3.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

#	Description	Date
1	Post Excavation, trench 1	16/2/09
2	Post Excavation trench 1, detail of 103	16/2/09
3	Location of trenches 1 and 2.	16/2/09

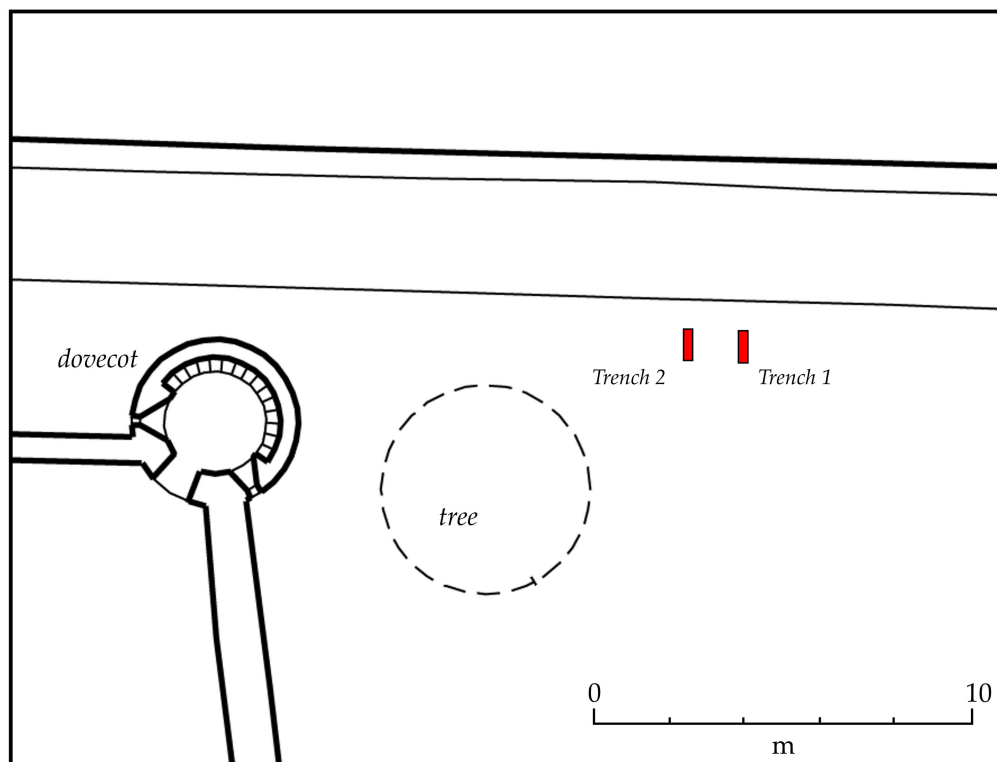
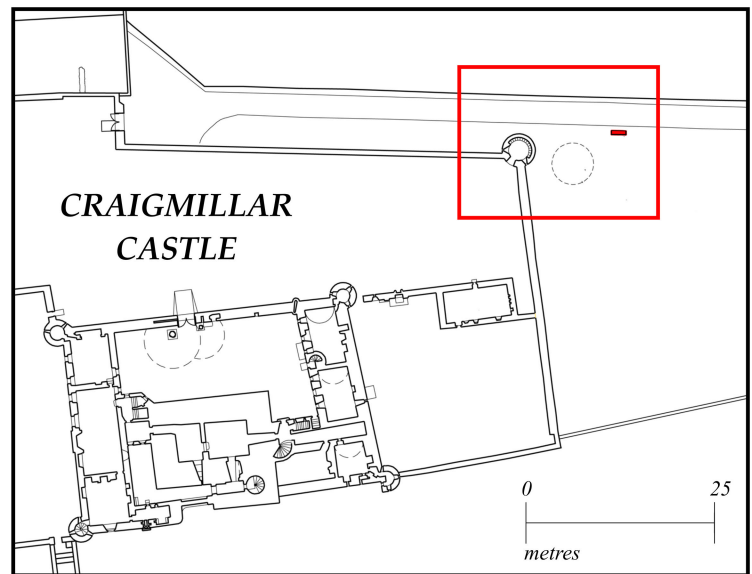


Fig. 1 : Location plan