

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

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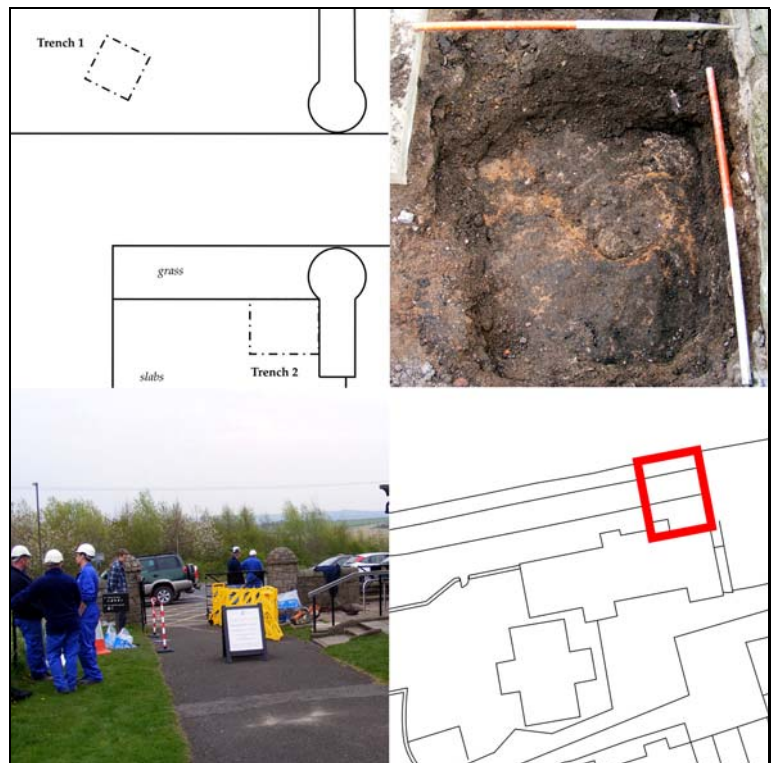
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh, City of
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Craigmillar Castle
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90129-2009-02
PARISH:	Edinburgh, City of
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Murray
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NT27SE 107; NT27SE 5812
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Defence; Residential/ Castle; Cottage
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NT 2893 7091
START DATE (this season)	24 April 2009
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PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> 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 ticket office at Craigmillar Castle, Edinburgh (NT27SE 107). These trenches were for the installation of two new signs. Deposits rich in brick fragments were seen in both trenches, most likely related to the construction of the nearby 18th-century buildings (NT27SE 5812: Craigmillar Castle Cottages), and a rough surface seen in one trench may represent an earlier access road.</i>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
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Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
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Craigmillar Castle

Archaeological monitoring, April 2009

HS PIC Index number: 90129
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6 July 2009
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Craigmillar Castle
<u>N.G.R</u>	NT 2893 7091
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90129-2009-02

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SUMMARY: April 2009 – A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of two small trenches near the ticket office at Craigmillar Castle, Edinburgh. These trenches were for the installation of two new signs. Deposits rich in brick fragments were seen in both trenches, most likely related to the construction of the nearby 18th-century buildings, and a rough surface seen in one trench may represent an earlier access road.

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 near the ticket office at Craigmillar Castle, Edinburgh. The trenches were for the installation of new signs either side of the access road, just N of the 18th-century building now used as the ticket office.

The work was carried out on 24 April 2009.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

2.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located just to the N of the road up to the castle, measured 700 mm square and reached a depth of 400 mm. After the removal of 200 mm of fine dark brown slightly clayey silt topsoil a compact surface was exposed. This comprised small angular sandstone chips and small brick fragments over larger chunks of sandstone. This was cleaned up and photographed, and on its removal was found to be some 200 mm thick. The trench bottomed on compact pale brown sandy silt with charcoal, sandstone and some brick fragments throughout.

2.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was to the S of the road, dug against the W face of the car park boundary wall. It measured 1.0 m E-W by 800 mm N-S, and was dug through stone slabs. These were removed using a breaker, and proved to be 60 mm thick, set in 40-50 mm of pale grey cement. This sealed 200-300 mm of dark grey slightly clayey silt, rich in coal, brick and sandstone fragments, which ran under the wall to the E. Below this

was orange-ish sandstone bedrock in sheets which sloped down to the E and gently to the N. Two holes *c* 100 mm diameter were drilled into the top of this bedrock to take the legs of the sign.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

No indications of early deposits were revealed in these trenches. The presence of brick fragments in both trenches suggested relatively recent activity. A rough but workable surface was seen in Trench 1. This could represent an earlier access road to the castle, but could also relate to the construction of the house that now serves as the ticket office.

Within Trench 2 deposits rich in brick directly overlaid bedrock. This trench was only 1.35 m N of the ticket office, and this clearance down to bedrock may well relate to its construction.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

#	Description
	Trench 1
101	Turf and topsoil.
102	Compact surface - small angular sandstone chips and small brick fragments over larger chunks of sandstone, 200 mm thick
103	Compact pale brown sandy silt with charcoal, sandstone and some brick fragments throughout
	Trench 2
201	Stone slabs, 60 mm thick
202	Cement 40-50 mm thick
203	200-300 mm of dark grey slightly clayey silt rich in coal, brick and sandstone fragments
204	Bedrock

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF DRAWINGS

#	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Location plan	1:50

A3.0 APPENDIX 3: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

#	Description	Taken from	Date
1- 2	General shots, trenches being opened	-	24/04/09
3	Trench 1, detail of surface	E	24/04/09
4	Trench 1 as finished	S	24/04/09
5	Trench 1 W facing section	W	24/04/09
6	Trench 2 as finished	S	24/04/09
7	Trench 2 as finished	W	24/04/09
8- 9	General shots	-	24/04/09

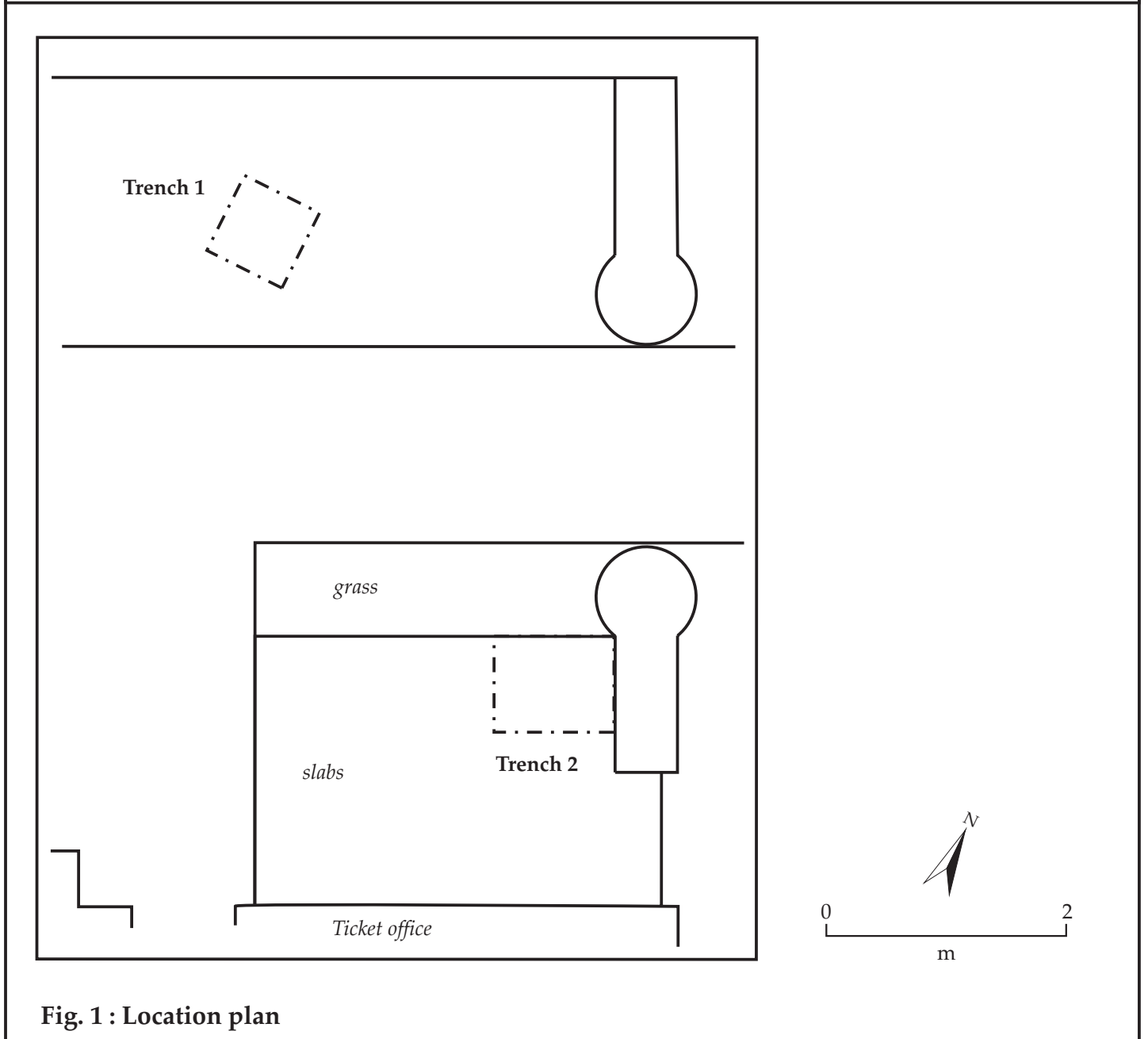
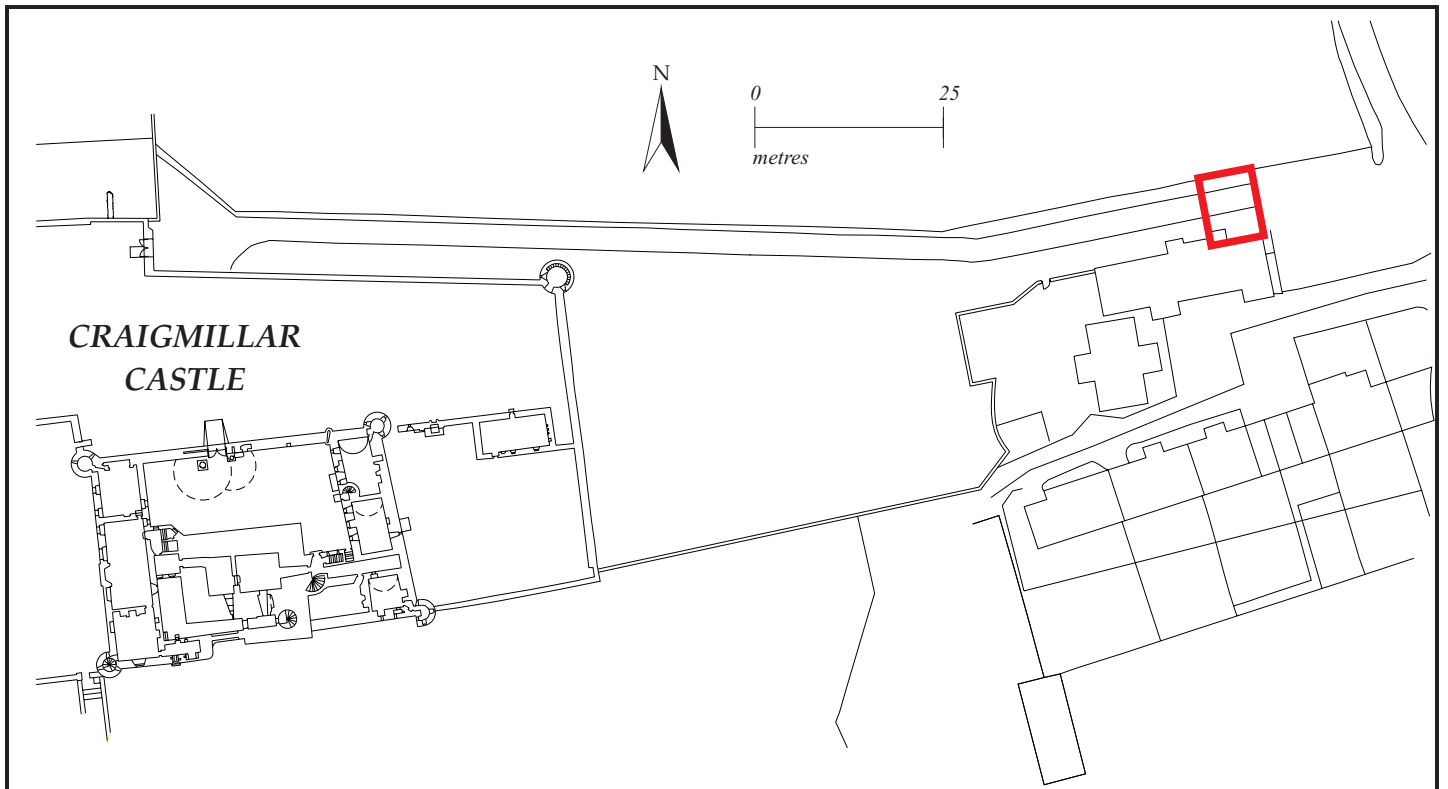


Fig. 1 : Location plan