

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

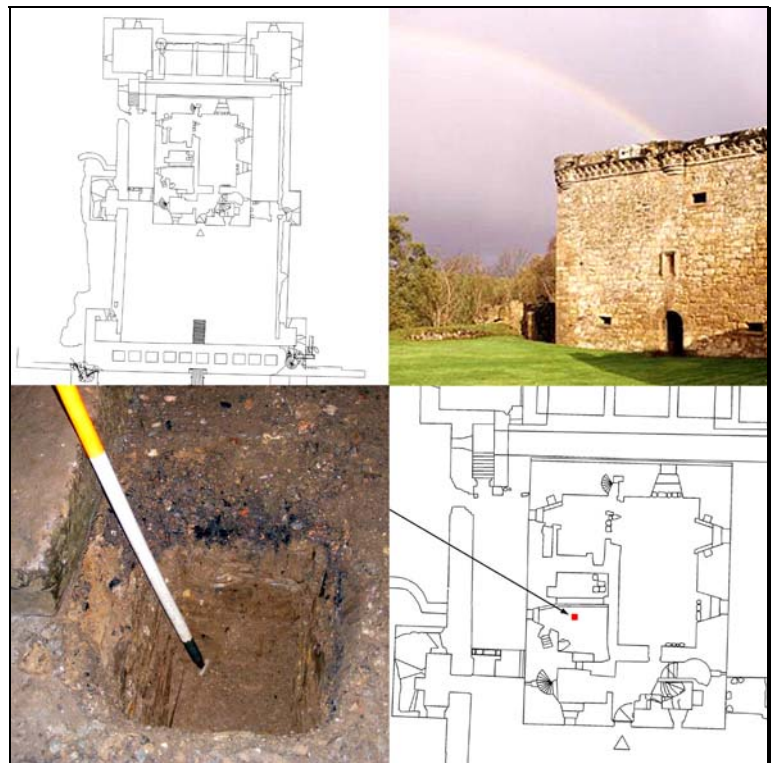
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LOCAL AUTHORITY:	South Lanarkshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Craignethan Castle
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90083-2008-01
PARISH:	Lesmahagow
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Murray
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Watching brief
NMRS NO(S):	NS84NW 3
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Defence; Residential/ Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NS 8161 4635
START DATE (this season)	16 December 2008
END DATE (this season)	16 December 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<i>A small trench was excavated in the basement of Craignethan Castle for the insertion of a concrete base to hold a new handrail for the existing steps. Modern deposits of gravel and bedding overlay mortar debris, probably from the stair's construction, under which was a compact layer of imported clay.</i>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2008-9

Craignethan Castle: Archaeological excavation, December 2008

HS PIC Index number: 90083
Project codes: HSCO-90083-2008-01



24 March 2009
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Craignethan Castle
<u>N.G.R</u>	NS 8161 4635
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological excavation and monitoring
<u>Project codes</u>	HSCO-90083-2008-01

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1.0 SUMMARY

December 2008: A small trench was excavated in the basement of Craignethan Castle for the insertion of a concrete base to hold a new handrail for the existing steps. Modern deposits of gravel and bedding overlay mortar debris, probably from the stair's construction, under which was a compact layer of imported clay.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to excavate a small trench in the basement of Craignethan Castle. This was to take the base of a handrail for the existing stair connecting the cellar in the SW part of the castle with the kitchen in the NW part.

This work was carried out on 16 December 2009.

3.0 DESCRIPTION

The trench was 400 mm square and 400 mm deep and was hand dug. It was situated at the foot of the SE corner of the stairs, 1.05 m S of the N wall, and 1.25 m of the W wall of the cellar.

The uppermost deposit, **001**, was a very compact mix of mid brown silty clay and sub angular gravel up to 50 mm thick. Below this, **002** was a compact, black to dark grey, mixed deposit, comprising ash, blaze and silty clay up to 50 mm thick. Beneath **002**, but only seen at the W end of the trench, where it ran off under the bottom step, was **003**, up to 50 mm of orange sandy mortar. This in turn sealed **004**, a compact, mid brown, slightly silty clay, with some coal and angular sandstone fragments throughout. This was excavated to a depth of 350 mm without reaching its base.

4.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

This small scale excavation exposed a straightforward sequence. Gravel **001** is a modern surface, with **002** as its underlay. **003** is the mortar used to construct the stairs, and this directly overlay **004**, a thick deposit of silty clay whose inclusions

indicate that it is not natural boulder clay, but rather a deliberate imported deposit.
No artifacts were recovered.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

#	Description
001	Upper deposit, gravel and silty clay
002	Compacted mix of ash, blaze and silty clay below F001
003	Mortar below F002
004	Basal deposit, silty clay

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

#	Description	From	Date
1- 2	Pre- excavation, base of the stair	E	16/12/08
3- 5	Trench after excavation	E	16/12/08
6	Trench after excavation	S	16/12/08
7- 8	General view of castle	W	16/12/08

