

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

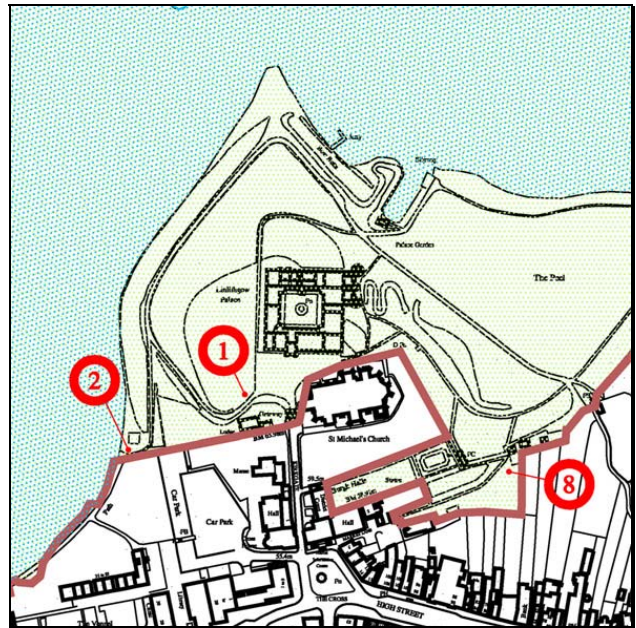
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|---|---|
| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | West Lothian |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Linlithgow Palace |
| PROJECT CODE: | HSCO-90201-2009-01 |
| PARISH: | Linlithgow |
| NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR: | Claire Casey, Alan Radley |
| NAME OF ORGANISATION: | Kirkdale Archaeology |
| TYPE(S) OF PROJECT: | Watching brief |
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| SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S): | Residential/ Palace |
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| NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures) | NT 00 77 |
| START DATE (this season) | 18 February 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 maintained during the excavation of a series of eight small trenches in advance of the installation of new information boards near the Palace and around the loch side. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance.</i> |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | |
| CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS: | |
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| ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited) | Archive to be deposited in NMRS |

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2008-9

Linlithgow Palace & Royal Park

Archaeological monitoring, February 2009

HS PIC Index number: 90201
Project code: HSCO-90201-2009-01



30 March 2009
Kirkdale Archaeology

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u>Site</u> | Linlithgow Palace: Royal Park |
| <u>N.G.R</u> | NT 00 77 |
| <u>Project Description</u> | Archaeological monitoring |
| <u>Project code</u> | HSCO-90201-2009-01 |

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Summary: A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a series of eight small trenches in advance of the installation of new information boards near the Palace and around the lochside. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake archaeological monitoring near Linlithgow Palace and around the loch in the Royal Park during the excavation of eight small trenches. These trenches were required for the installation of a series of new information boards.

The work took place on the 18 and 19 February 2009.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

2.1 Trench 1

Trench 1 was located S of the Palace in the area W of the SW corner of the car park. To enable removing the setts forming a kerb at the N edge of the path down the hill, an area of turf measuring 1.40 m E-W and 1.20 m N-S was removed, although the deeper trench only occupied the N 600mm of this and was excavated to a depth of 560 mm.

Forming the S edge of the larger trench, stone setts **103** were rectangular and measured up to 280 mm E-W, 100 mm wide and 100 mm thick. These were to be removed as part of the current work.

The upper deposit **101**, comprised turf and bark brown silty loam topsoil that measured 160 mm in depth.

101 sealed **102**, rounded gravel measuring 80 mm in diameter on average and very compact red brown sand. **102** was excavated to a depth of 400 mm but not bottomed, stones comprised roughly 80% of this deposit.

2.2 Trench 2

Trench 2 was located W of trench 1 on the S shore of the Loch, and measured 1.20 m E-W, 600 mm wide and 600 mm deep.

201, the uppermost deposit, comprised turf and mid brown silty loam topsoil measuring between 100 mm and 160 mm in depth.

Below **201**, **202** comprised bright red ash with 10% small stones and measured 200 mm in depth.

202 sealed **203**, a loose deposit of mid-dark grey silt and ash. Up to 300 mm of **203** was excavated but it was not bottomed. There was a 1980s crisp bag and a yogurt pot recovered from this deposit.

2.3 Trenches 3-6

These trenches were all c 1.25 m by 600 mm by 550 mm deep. The only features seen were mid-dark brown, loamy topsoil over loamy subsoil, except in Trenches 5 and 6 in which in a thin layer of hardcore was noted. The topsoil from Trench 3 contained three sherds of 19th-century pottery.

2.4 Trench 7

This trench was on the S shore of the Loch to the E of the Palace and it measured 1.20 m E-W, 600 mm wide and 560 mm deep.

Across the SW corner of the trench, cutting **701**, **703** was a 250 mm wide and 300 mm deep trench for a corrugated plastic pipe. The fill of **703**, **704**, was loose gravel.

The upper deposit, **701**, comprised mid-dark brown slightly silty loam and turf with occasional small stones.

Below **701**, **702** comprised fairly loose mid grey sandy silt with 35%-40% 2 mm-6 mm diameter stones. Both this deposit and **701** were very heavily rooted.

2.5 Trench 8

This trench was located to the SE of the Palace, in the S part of the Park, it measured 1.40 m N-S, 70 mm wide and up to 600 mm deep.

The upper deposit, **801**, was turf and fairly compact mid-dark grey silty loam and

measured 160mm in depth.

801 sealed **802**, a 200mm thick, fairly compact deposit of mid brown silty clay with orange brown clay patches throughout.

Sealed by **802**, **803** comprised angular pieces of sandstone in loose dark grey silt, 45%-50% stone fragments with occasional pieces of brick. Up to 250mm of **803** was removed but the limit of it was not seen.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

3.1 Trench 1

The deposits seen in this area are probably part of landscaping, forming a fairly flat area at the top of the hill to the W of the Palace and car park for picnic tables etc. The material seen at **102** looked to be water washed stones and may indicate there was work in the Loch at the same time. There were no finds from **102** to help with the dating of this work but it is thought most likely to have occurred after the monument was taken into public care.

3.2 Trench 2

The earliest deposit seen, **203**, produced a 1980s crisp bag showing this area to have been recently disturbed, Perhaps this area had been boggy and ash was imported to form a well drained surface to form a path around the edge of the Loch. **202** may have been part of the imported build up but is equally likely to be the earlier (1980's) path.

3.3 Trenches 3-6

No features of note seen in these trenches. Areas much affected by landscaping and path construction

3.4 Trench 7

203 is the trench for a recent drain taking water from the surface of the path into the loch, the pipe in this trench looks no more than ten years old.

There was a tree immediately NE of this trench and roots from it were seen

throughout deposits **701** and **702** and there was no dating evidence from either. It was noted that there was 35%-40% small stones in **702** and it may be that this was remnants of an earlier path.

3.5 Trench 8

The deposits seen in this trench were thought to be 20th century landscaping. The angular sandstone and brick in **803** looked like demolition debris, perhaps there were some structures cleared from this area immediately prior to the current layout of the parkland. This area would also have been disturbed when the previous sign, in the same location, was erected.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Trenches 3-6

| # | Description |
|-----|--|
| 001 | Turf |
| 002 | Topsoil. Dark brown loam that is found in Trenches 3-5 |
| 003 | Topsoil. Dark grey loam that is located in Trench 6 |
| 004 | Layer of hardcore, red in colour located in Trench 5 |
| 005 | Layer of hardcore, black in colour located in Trench 6 |

Trenches 1,2,7& 8

| No | Trench | Description |
|-----|--------|---|
| 101 | 1 | Turf and topsoil. |
| 102 | 1 | Compact deposit of gravel and red brown sand. |
| 103 | 1 | Stone setts forming edge of the path. |
| 201 | 2 | Turf and topsoil. |
| 202 | 2 | Bright red ash deposit. |
| 203 | 2 | Mid-dark grey silt and ash. |
| 701 | 7 | Turf and topsoil. |
| 702 | 7 | Mid grey sandy silt and stones. |
| 703 | 7 | Pipe trench. |
| 704 | 7 | Corrugated plastic pipe within 703. |
| 801 | 8 | Turf and topsoil. |
| 802 | 8 | Deposit of mid brown silty clay. |
| 803 | 8 | Dark grey silt and angular sandstone fragments. |

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Trenches 3-6

| Frame | Description | From | Date |
|-------|--|------|---------|
| 1 | Working shot of the de-turfing of Trench 3 | SE | 19/2/09 |
| 2 | Trench 3 | NW | 19/2/09 |
| 3 | Trench 4 working shot | N | 19/2/09 |
| 4 | Working shot | SE | 19/2/09 |
| 5 | Trench 4 | S | 19/2/09 |

| Frame | Description | From | Date |
|-------|--|------|---------|
| 6 | Trench 4 | E | 19/2/09 |
| 7 | Trench 5 working shot | SW | 19/2/09 |
| 8 | Trench 5 showing the layer of red hardcore | E | 19/2/09 |
| 9 | Trench 5 showing the layer of red hardcore | N | 19/2/09 |
| 10 | Trench 6 showing some of the layer of black hardcore | SE | 19/2/09 |
| 11 | Trench 6 the layer of black hardcore faintly shown | NW | 19/2/09 |

Trenches 1,2,7& 8

| Frame | Trench | Description | From | Date |
|-------|--------|----------------------|------|----------|
| 1 | 1 | N section of trench. | S | 18/02/09 |
| 2 | 1 | N section of trench. | S | 18/02/09 |
| 3 | 1 | Trench Location. | SW | 18/02/09 |
| 4 | 2 | N section of trench. | S | 18/02/09 |
| 5 | 2 | N section of trench. | S | 18/02/09 |
| 6 | 2 | Trench Location. | N | 18/02/09 |
| 7 | 8 | E section of trench. | W | 18/02/09 |
| 8 | 8 | E section of trench. | W | 18/02/09 |
| 9 | 7 | S section of trench. | N | 18/02/09 |
| 10 | 7 | Trench Location. | SW | 18/02/09 |

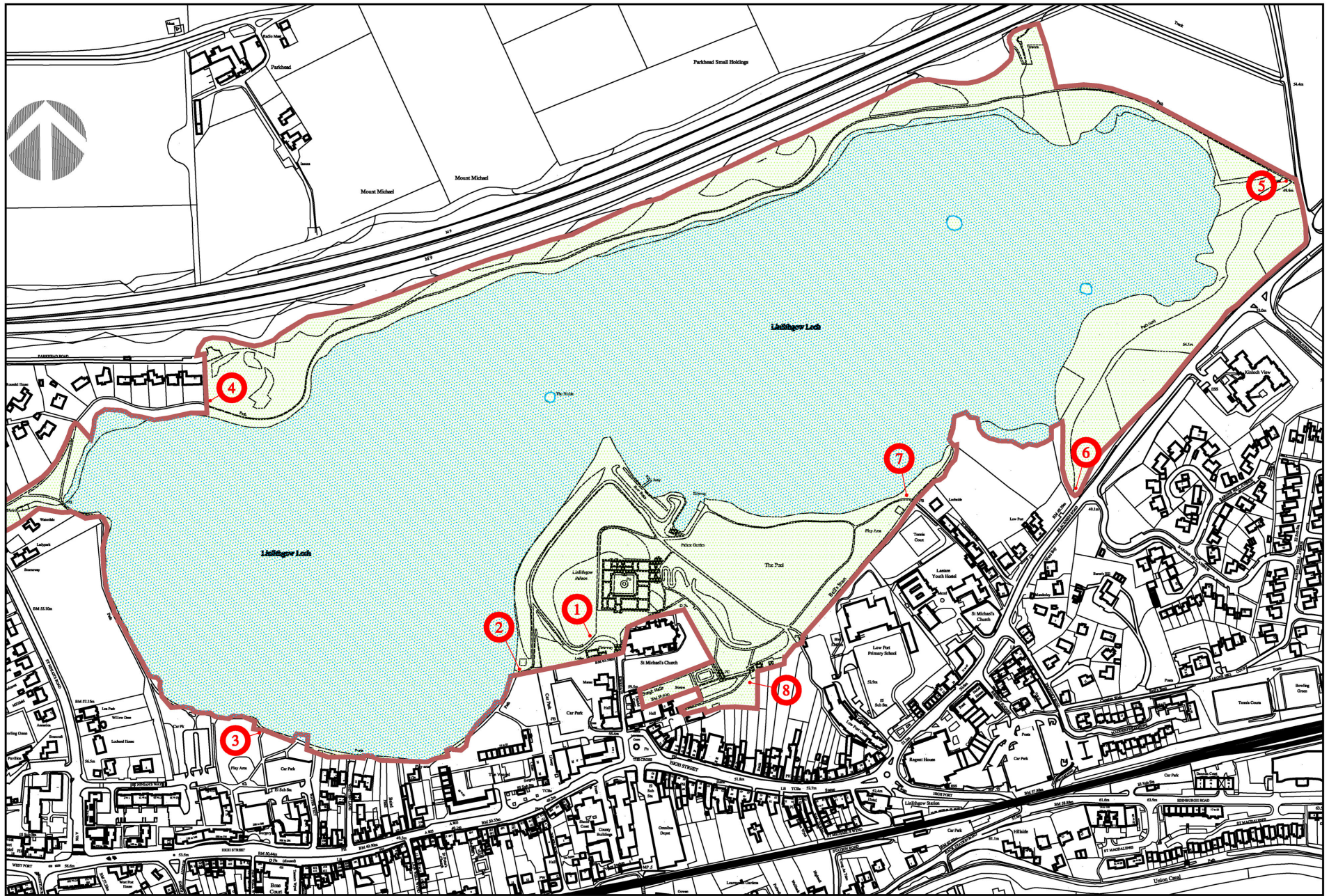


Fig. 1 :Plan (not to scale) showing location of trenches 1-8