

Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

Updated on 15/06/2007

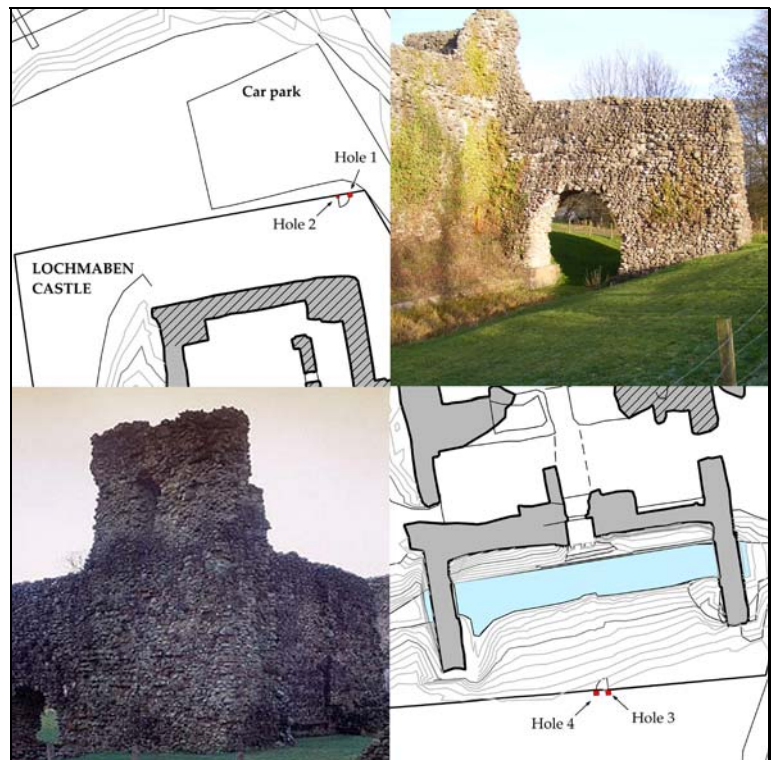
LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Dumfries and Galloway
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Lochmaben Castle
PROJECT CODE:	HSCO-90205-2008-01
PARISH:	Lochmaben
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	David Murray
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Kirkdale Archaeology
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Archaeological monitoring of minor excavations
NMRS NO(S):	NY08SE 8
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Castle
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)	NY 0883 8118 & NY 0883 8112
START DATE (this season)	25 November 2008
END DATE (this season)	25 November 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	Four small holes were excavated for the installation of new gates in the perimeter fence of Lochmaben Castle. Other than fragments of stone, possibly evidence of stone robbing, there were no finds or features of archaeological significance.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Historic Scotland
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	4, Western Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5QF
EMAIL ADDRESS:	g_ewart@hotmail.com
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

Historic Scotland
Properties in Care
Minor Archaeological Works 2008-9

Lochmaben Castle

Archaeological monitoring,
November 2008

HS PIC Index number: 90205
Project code: HSCO-90205-2008-01



30 March 2009
Kirkdale Archaeology

<u>Site</u>	Lochmaben Castle
<u>N.G.R</u>	NY 0883 8118 & NY 0883 8112
<u>Project Description</u>	Archaeological monitoring
<u>Project code</u>	HSCO-90205-2008-01

Contents

Summary	1
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 photographs	3
Fig. 1 : Location plan	4

SUMMARY: November 2008 - Four small holes were excavated for the installation of new gates in the perimeter fence of Lochmaben Castle. Other than fragments of stone, possibly evidence of stone robbing, 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 monitor the excavation of four small holes outside Lochmaben Castle, a ruinous castle which is a property in care in SW Scotland. The holes were dug on the line of the existing fence around the monument, and were to allow the installation of two new gates through this. One gate was to be positioned towards the NE part of the fence, adjacent to the car park, the other roughly central to the S side. All four holes were hand dug by contractors.

2.0 DESCRIPTION

The first two holes dug, 1 and 2, were towards the NE part of the site (NGR NY 0883 8118). Hole 1 was 550 mm square, and was dug 1.8 m W of the NE corner of the site, while hole 2 was only 350 mm square, and was located 1.1 m W of hole 1. Both showed an identical sequence of 100 mm of dark grey silty clay over a similar soil, but richer in stones, mostly angular red sandstone fragments, but also some rounded greywacke. Both were excavated to a depth of 750 mm.

Holes 3 and 4 were on the S side of the fence line (NGR NY 0883 8112), and both were 600 mm square. Hole 3 was located 18.7 m W of the SE corner of the fence, with hole 4's E side 1.1 m W of the W edge of hole 3. Both were excavated to a depth of 900 mm, and produced the same sequence, with 200 mm of dark brown slightly clayey silt over reddish brown silty clay with frequent rounded cobbles throughout.

The work was undertaken on 25 November 2008.

3.0 INTERPRETATION AND OBSERVATIONS

None of the four trenches produced any significant archaeological information. The stones noted in all four holes could be evidence for the evidently extensive stone robbing carried out on the site, but further work would be needed to confirm this.

A1.0 APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

#	Description
001	Topsoil
002	Black, ashy hardcore for loch side path
003	Dark brown topsoil

A2.0 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Frame	Description	From	Date
1	General shots of castle	-	25/11/08
2	Holes 1 and 2 being opened up	S	25/11/08
3	Holes 1 and 2 as dug	SE	25/11/08
4	Hole 2 finished	S	25/11/08
5	General shot	-	25/11/08
6	Holes 3 and 4 being opened	W	25/11/08
7	Hole 3 as finished	S	25/11/08
8	Holes 3 and 4 general shot	S	25/11/08
9	Gate fitted into holes 1 and 2	S	25/11/08

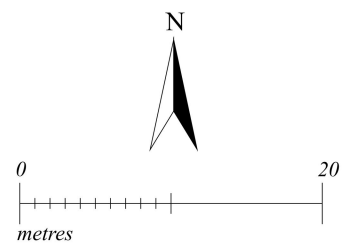
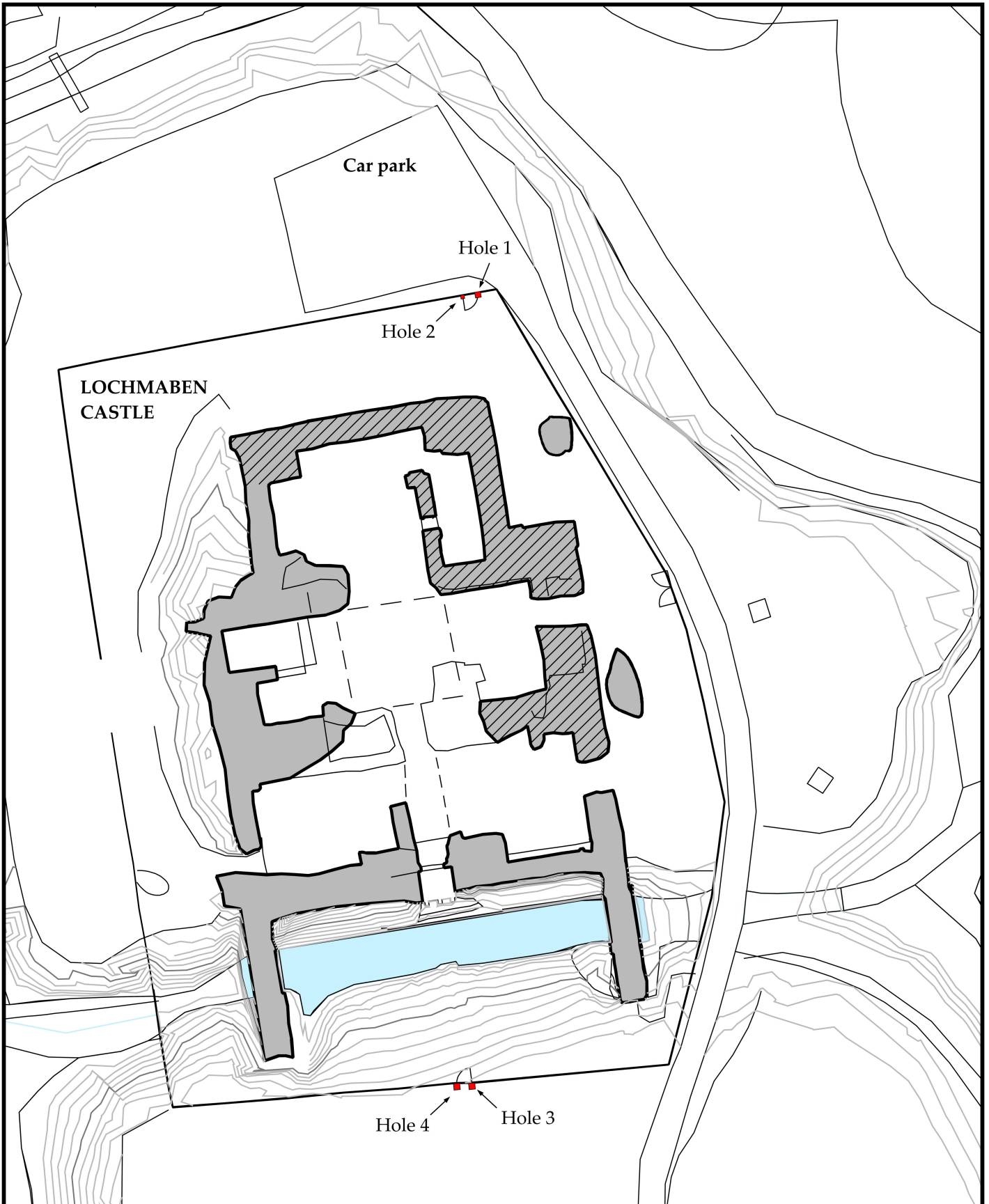


Fig. 1 : Location plan (1:500)