

## *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*

Updated on 15/06/2007

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Falkirk
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Blackness Castle
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	HSCO-90036-2012-03
<b>PARISH:</b>	Bo'ness and Carriden
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Gordon Ewart
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Kirkdale Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NT08SE 6
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Castle
<b>SIGNIFICANT FINDS:</b>	
<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NT 0552 8006
<b>START DATE (this season)</b>	26 April 2012
<b>END DATE (this season)</b>	26 April 2012
<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)</b>	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of a small trench close to Blackness Castle, West Lothian, to house a stone plinth for a new interpretation panel. The flat expanse of grass that the trench was dug through is level with the top of the sea wall, a feature that appears quite recent. This area of grass was doubtless landscaped when the wall was built.
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Historic Scotland
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<b>ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)</b>	Archive to be deposited in NMRS

HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE  
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2012

**Blackness Castle: Watching Brief, April 2012**

**HS PIC Index Number: 90036**

**SITE:** Blackness Castle, West Lothian

**N.G.R.:** NT 0552 8006

**DESCRIPTION:** Watching Brief during the excavation of a trench to house new  
stone plinth

**PROJECT CODE:** HSCO-90036-2012-03

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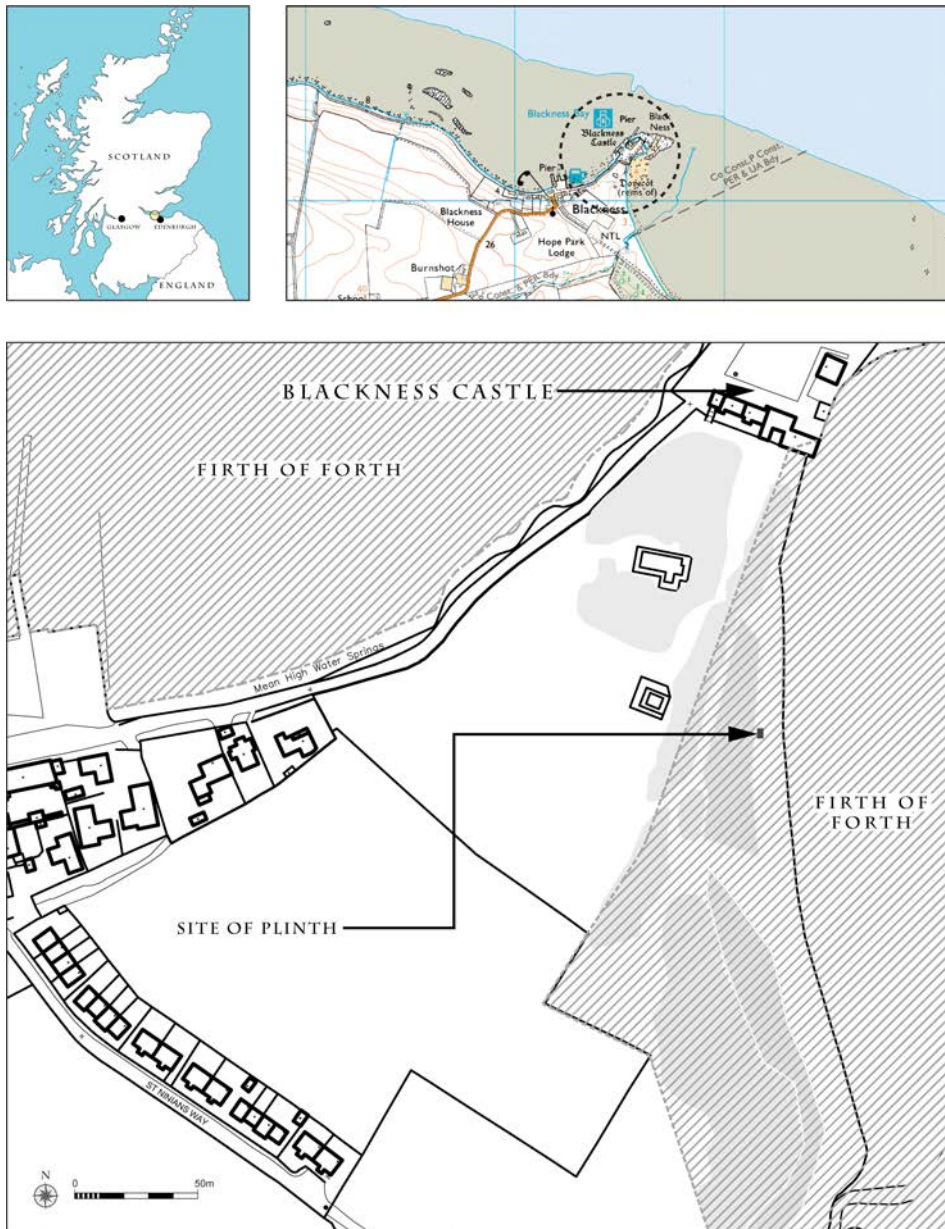


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JULY 2012

## INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its Properties-In-Care (PIC) call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the excavation of a small trench close to Blackness Castle, West Lothian, to house a stone plinth for a new interpretation panel (Fig.1).



**Figure 1:** Plan showing the location of Blackness Castle, and the area of works.  
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The castle sits at the seaward end of a short promontory orientated roughly SW/NE, jutting out into the Firth of Forth. To the S of the castle the low ridge that makes up this promontory

is capped by a dovecot and the foundations of a chapel. On its SE side the ground drops down towards the sea, where an expanse of flat grass sits at the back of a low sea wall. This is perhaps one meter above the beach, and appears to be of relatively recent date.

The trench was hand dug by Historic Scotland staff under archaeological supervision, and the work took place on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012.

## **D E S C R I P T I O N**

### **Trench 1**

The trench measured 1m x 1m in plan. The topsoil **100** comprised a mid-grey silty sand some 0.08m thick. This sealed **101**, a loose sand with frequent small rounded stones some shell and occasional discrete patches of mid-grey silty sand. Context **101** was not bottomed.

## **C O N C L U S I O N S**

The flat expanse of grass that the trench was dug through is level with the top of the sea wall, a feature that appears quite recent. This area of grass was doubtless landscaped when the wall was built.

## LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description
101	Silty sand topsoil
102	Sand rich in stones below 100

## LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
01	Trench being opened	SW	26/04/2012
02	Trench being opened	SW	26/04/2012
03	Trench location from dovecot	NW	26/04/2012
04	Trench location from dovecot	NW	26/04/2012
05	Trench as finished	W	26/04/2012
06	Trench as finished	W	26/04/2012

## LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
01	Plan	Location plan of Trench 1	1:5000