

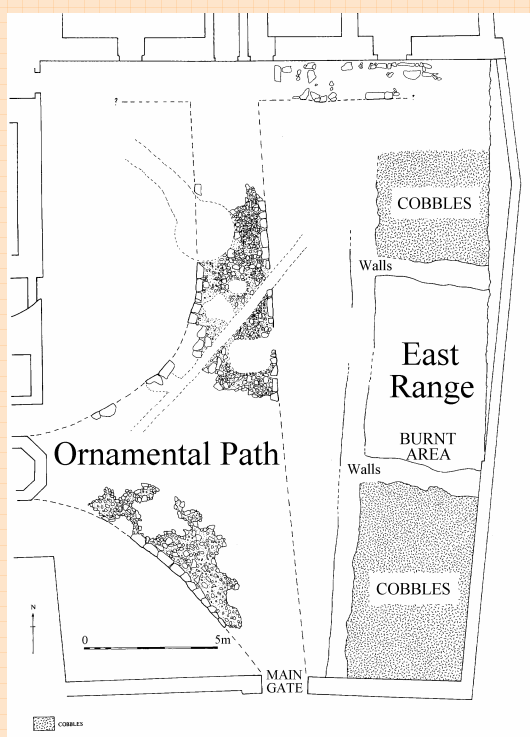
# Archaeology and... ...new discoveries



## Courtyard at Culross

Re-organisation of the late 16th/17th-century 'courtyard' of Culross Palace in Fife showed that originally this had not been a courtyard at all. A range of buildings was found to fill much of the area. They included the surviving hearth of a smithy, and the intact cobbled floor of a stables.

A wide, curving decorative path leading to the principal entrances showed that this was a high-status group of buildings. Many everyday artefacts were found during the excavations, giving clues about how people lived and worked in Culross 400 years ago.



The excavation plan clearly shows the curve of the pathway



Visitors viewing work in progress during the dig Open Day



The reconstructed courtyard, with the smithy (white) marked out on the left



A late medieval token found during the courtyard excavations

The Crathes ice pond after excavation, showing the roughly-cobbled bottom, sloping up for ease of access



## Crathes Castle's frozen secrets

Staff on the Crathes estate in Aberdeenshire had long wondered about the small square depression hidden in the woods. On closer investigation this was identified as an ice pond, used to encourage the formation of ice to feed the ice houses on the estate.

The pond is part of a simple yet effective system that includes a reservoir of unfrozen water and a canalised stream leading to the pond. The pond was probably last used in the 19th century, and was re-excavated by local volunteers under professional supervision.

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