



Linlithgow Palace was once a magnificent palace, built and lived in by successive Stewart kings and where Mary Queen of Scots was born.

# INVESTIGATING LINLITHGOW PALACE

Information for Teachers





## Timeline

- 1143 David I refers to castle at Linlithgow
- 1296 Edward I of England invades Scotland and uses castle as occasional base
- 1313 Castle retaken by Scots. Used as royal base
- 1424 Fire destroys castle, church and town
- 1425 James I orders new palace to be built: east range constructed
- 1460 James III extends south range
- 1488 James IV completes west range and builds north range to complete courtyard
- 1538 James V creates new entrance and fountain
- 1542 Mary Queen of Scots is born at palace
- 1590 Palace falls out of use
- 1607 North range of palace collapses
- 1617 James VI & I orders rebuilding of north range
- 1633 Palace is renovated for the visit of Charles I
- 1746 Fire destroys palace and it is left in ruins

**Linlithgow Palace was once a magnificent palace, built and lived in by successive Stewart kings and where Mary Queen of Scots was born. Though in ruins now, it is still an impressive and exciting site and provides a wonderful opportunity to investigate life at the court of the Stewart monarchs.**

## Historical background

Linlithgow Palace was begun in 1425 by James I (1406-1437) and completed almost a century later by his great grandson James IV (1488-1513). James I wanted a glittering Renaissance palace far finer than any of his nobles – an ambition which cost him an estimated one tenth of his income.

Building stopped when James was murdered in 1437 and it was largely left to James's grandson James III (1460-1488), to continue the building work. However, it was not until the reign of James IV (1488-1513) that the palace was completed to celebrate his marriage to Margaret Tudor, daughter of Henry VII of England, to whom he presented the palace as a wedding gift.

After James IV's death in 1513 on the battlefield at Flodden, his widow returned to England and the palace was neglected. Some fifteen years later, James V (1513-1542) remodelled parts of the palace, creating the present approach from the town with the outer gate and adding the fabulous fountain in the courtyard.

The Stewart kings and queens used Linlithgow Palace as a retreat where they could relax and enjoy themselves away from the formalities of Edinburgh and Stirling castles, and as an escape from the plague. They could feast in splendour in the great hall, grant audiences in their luxurious apartments, walk in the pleasure gardens and by the loch and hunt in the park. Here, Margaret Tudor gave birth to Prince James in 1512 and in 1542, Marie of Guise gave birth to Princess Mary, later Mary Queen of Scots.

However, by the late 16th century, the palace was showing its age and it gradually fell into disrepair. Finally, in 1746 following occupation by government troops in pursuit of the Jacobites, a disastrous fire broke out, destroying the palace. Since then it has remained roofless and uninhabited.



Linlithgow Palace



## Supporting learning and teaching

A visit to Linlithgow Palace is particularly appropriate for teachers working on class study topics such as:

- The Middle Ages
- The Wars of Independence
- The Stewart monarchs
- Mary Queen of Scots

The Curriculum for Excellence aspires to motivate and challenge pupils through a wide range of varied learning experiences. Site visits have a particular role to play in joining up learning outcomes across the curriculum. A visit, and use of the supporting materials, will help to:

- **develop successful learners** by challenging pupils to consider how life has changed for people. It will help them to think critically about evidence and arrive at their own conclusions.
- **develop confident individuals.** Pupils will learn about aspects of their community's past, develop an understanding of social changes, establish some of their own values and communicate their views on different historical and social issues.
- **develop responsible citizens.** It will help to increase pupils' social and historical knowledge and understanding and encourage greater respect for their own historic and built environment.
- **develop effective contributors** by broadening pupils' knowledge and understanding through investigative, creative and critical thinking.

## Before the visit

- Discuss what a palace is and how it differs from a house or a castle; who lived in palaces in the past
- Look at maps of the Linlithgow area and discuss why a palace was built there
- Talk about the Stewart dynasty and the role of the monarch. If possible, discuss these figures and events:

*James IV and his marriage to Margaret Tudor (the 'marriage of the Thistle and the Rose');* *his death at Flodden in 1513*

*The life of Mary Queen of Scots*

*James VI and I – the Union of the Crowns in 1603*

- Discuss the different activities which would have gone on in a palace. Pupils could research different topics (e.g. food, travel, entertainment, weapons).
- Some children find it hard to imagine that the palace was ever anything other than a ruin. Discuss how buildings change with age – does the house they live in look the same now as it did a few years ago? Has their family made any changes to the house? If so, why? Discuss how wind and weather can affect the look of a building as well as the deliberate changes that people choose to make.
- It is helpful if pupils know some architectural terms as this makes discussing on site easier. Useful words might include: **courtyard, chamber, shield, coat of arms, spiral stair, turnpike, archway, range, prison, drawbridge, portcullis, apartment, bower.**
- As there is so much good evidence about drawbridges at Linlithgow, it would help if pupils could study the mechanics of drawbridges, maybe even making simple models.

## Working on site

Pupils should be encouraged to look for physical evidence. Useful starting points are:

- What materials were used to construct the palace? Where did they come from?
- What evidence is there for everyday life e.g. cooking, entertaining, storage?
- What evidence remains of the monarchs who lived there?
- How was the palace protected against intruders?
- Can you see any ways in which the palace has changed?

Pupils can record by making notes, making quick drawings, taking photographs, using tape-recorders to describe what they see, hear, feel and smell.

On the Historic Scotland website [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/education\\_unit](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/education_unit) teachers can find additional resources to help with work on site. These include compiling an *Evidence Record* and a *My Impressions Record*.

## Suggestions for follow-up work

Following the visit pupils can pool their findings in groups to create a fuller record of the palace and the lives of the people who lived and worked there. This could form the basis for a range of presentation activities, for example:

- A guide book for future visitors
- A slide show with commentary of their visit
- Imaginative writing based on the lives of the inhabitants of the castle
- Role play based on activities or events at the palace or on the lives of Stewart monarchs.



### On the trail of the Stewart monarchs

This tour focuses on the palace as a Stewart residence. There is a lot to see in the palace, so we suggest a tour of seven key locations, marked on the plans to the right:

1. Courtyard
2. Old Entry (internal)
3. Court Kitchen
4. Great Hall
5. Chapel
6. King's Apartments
7. Queen Margaret's Bower

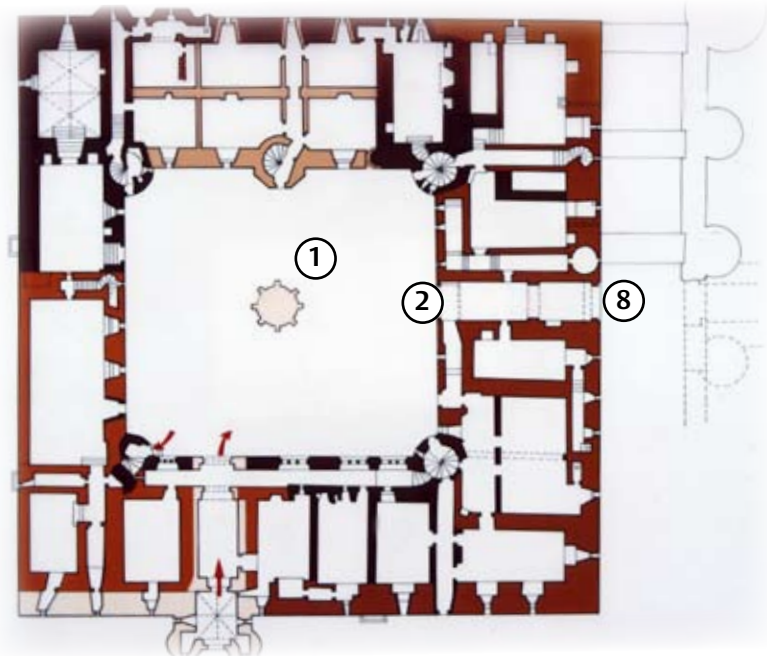
Outside the palace there is one further location which can be explored as you leave:

8. Old entry (external)

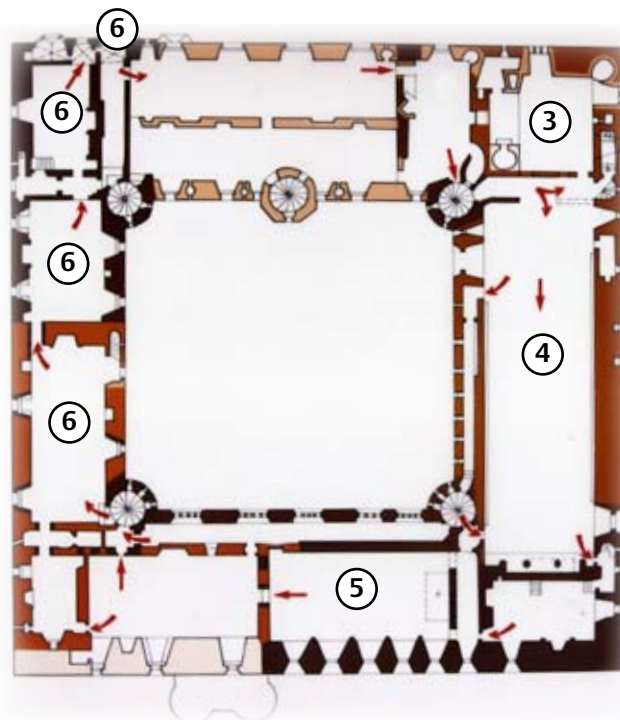
**Background information** is given in the pack for each location. It is written in fairly simple language so that it can be read aloud to pupils if desired. Also included are suggested **questions for discussion**. The focus is on encouraging pupils to **interpret** the building and deduce what they can from clues they see around them.

We suggest that the class is divided into groups of about ten; they can start the tour at different points. Allow at least an hour for the suggested tour.

## Plan of Linlithgow Palace



Ground Floor



First Floor



**Did you know...**

King James I wanted Linlithgow to be a wonderful 'pleasure palace'. He spent a tenth of all his money on building the palace!



East range from the courtyard



Date on north range

## Tour notes: On the trail of the Stewarts

Go through the doorway where the office is and into the courtyard. Opposite the door you can see the north range, to the right the east range with the former entrance.

### Location 1: The Courtyard

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.**

- We are now standing inside the courtyard of a royal palace. Five hundred years ago this was one of the most dazzling buildings in Scotland.
- The four sides of the palace were all built at different times by different kings. They all wanted to show off and impress people by building in the latest style. It used to be brightly painted with statues on the walls. **Can you see the places where the statues used to be?**
- **Can you work out which part of the palace is the oldest?** Have a look! It is the **east** range, on the right of the entrance where we came in. You can see the old gateway entrance. It was built in the 1420s by King James I, nearly six hundred years ago.
- The newest part of the palace is still very old. It is the **north** range, opposite where we came in. King James VI had to rebuild it when the old wall collapsed in the middle of the night in 1607! He rebuilt it with lots of bedrooms for all his official guests. In 1746 a terrible fire started here. It burnt down the inside and roof of the palace.

**Teacher prompts**

Each of the of the official apartments in the north range had two rooms, one looking into the courtyard and one on the inside. Can you count the windows and work out roughly how many apartments there would have been?

**Desired pupil responses**

There were 14 apartments altogether.

What do you think all the tiny slit windows are?

They are the windows to 'privies' – toilets. Very posh to have a toilet for each room!

James VI was the first king of Scotland and England. Can you see anything carved on the wall to show this?

There are carved thistles and roses. You can also see a harp for Ireland, the three feathers for Wales, a portcullis, angels, crown jewels and the initials of James VI – I.R, standing for Jacobus Rex, King James.

When James VI finished rebuilding this range, he put the date at the top. Can you see it?

1620, at the top of the middle stair.



The fountain

- Look at the amazing **fountain** in the middle of the courtyard. It was built by King James V, probably as a wedding present for one of his French queens, Madeleine or Marie of Guise. Usually the fountain ran with water but on special occasions it ran with red wine! It was repaired in 2005.

**Teacher prompts**

What figures and animals can you see?  
Which ones do you think are oldest?

What clues are there that it was a royal fountain?

How do you think the fountain was useful as well as impressive?

**Desired pupil responses**

Farmer, mermaid, puppy etc

Crown at the top, statue of a lion symbolising royalty, statues of unicorns as guardians of royalty.

Fresh water for drinking, cooking etc.

**Walk over to the old entrance. Stand just under the arch on the courtyard side.**



Detail of fountain



**Did you know...**

One of the duties of the guards was to ring the palace bell to tell everyone the time...but how did they know?



Old Entry from the courtyard



East range from the outside

**Location 2: The Old Entry and Guard room**

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.**

- This was the original entrance to the palace. If you look up you can see a slit in the roof. **What do you think this was for?** This was where there used to be a giant metal spiked grill called a **portcullis** (as on a penny) which could be raised to let people in or lowered to keep people out.
- Go and stand on the edge by the railing, looking out at the lake. There used to be a drawbridge here which was lowered to let people in. If you look down to the right and left of the entrance on the outside you can see the metal hinges where the drawbridge used to be.
- The room on the right was where the guards were based. They controlled entry into the palace and used the guard room as their ‘mess’ room and sleeping quarters. Their duties included watching the main gate, patrolling the palace, operating the drawbridge and portcullis.

**From the guard room you can look down into the prison below and on the other side you can peer into the brewhouse where beer was made.**

| Teacher prompts  | Desired pupil responses  |
|--|--|
| Can you work out how the drawbridge would have been raised or lowered?   | Look up for gaps up above where chains and beams would have been.  |
| Count how many gates there would have been.<br>Why do you think there were so many gates as well as a drawbridge and a portcullis too? | There is evidence for four kinds of ‘gate’: the drawbridge, hinges for a big door right at the edge near where the modern door is; there are signs of a further internal gate just by the portcullis, and the portcullis itself.<br>For security – royal residence. Visitors could be trapped the between raised drawbridge and the portcullis while the guards checked who they were. |
| How do you think prisoners got into the prison?  | Possibly lowered by rope or thrown down.   |

**Face the courtyard again and turn right. Walk into the corner and go up a spiral stair, known as the kitchen turnpike. Go up 27 steps, taking the fifth doorway on the left. Walk out into the end of the great hall, go straight on and turn left into the court kitchen.**



**Did you know...**

One evening in December 1528 King James V held a banquet where the guests ate: 95 loaves of bread, 23 gallons of ale, 40 white fish, 40 codling, 200 herring, four salted salmon, one halibut, two pike, not to mention scallops, eels, cuttlefish, cheese, eggs and apples.

The next day they ate 43 loaves of bread, 13 gallons of ale, five and three-quarter sheep, two and a quarter sides of beef, two pounds of cuttlefish, 5 geese, 6 chickens and about 25 other birds.....



Fireplace in the court kitchen

**Location 3: Court Kitchen**

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils:**

- We are now in the court kitchen, next to the great hall. Banquets were prepared here. Food was cooked here and then served through three serving hatches. **Can you find two of them?** The third one is blocked up now.
- The huge fireplace was where most of the cooking took place. Meat was cooked on a metal pole called a spit, which was turned above the fire. Big pieces of meat needed long spits, tiny birds were cooked on thin spits. Small boys known as turnbrochies would have the job of sitting in the fireplace and turning the spits.
- To the left of the fireplace is the oven which would have been heated by the fire too. The cooks could make pies or bread here.
- To the right of the fireplace is a little room, probably used for keeping plates and pots and pans. Just inside this little room is a square cupboard space. This was where salt was kept. Salt was used to stop meat from going off.
- There is another kitchen in the palace just below this one. If there were a lot of guests both kitchens would be used.

**Teacher prompts**

How did the cooks cook the food?

Opposite the fireplace against the wall is a kind of chute. What do you think this was used for?

In kitchens today there is always water. Where would cooks in this kitchen get their water from?

**Desired pupil responses**

Roasted on a spit, baked in an oven, boiled in a cauldron over the fire.

A rubbish chute which emptied directly outside into a dry moat.

Servants would have to carry water up the stairs from a deep well in the basement.

**Walk into the great hall and stand just inside it, beside the serving hatches.**



Drawing of the court kitchen in use





**Did you know...**

Sometimes when visitors became too full during a banquet, they would disappear to be sick before coming back to eat some more! The story goes that they would make themselves sick by tickling their throats with feathers.



The Great Hall



Drawing of the great hall

**Location 4: The Great Hall**

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils:**

- The great hall was a magnificent room where banquets, plays and lavish entertainment took place. Guests would sit at benches at long tables ranged up and down the hall. Where we are standing now used to be a serving area. There would be a wooden screen between us and the hall. The servants would get the food ready to serve here.
- The great fireplace is said to be the largest in Scotland. When the hall was full, whole tree trunks would be burnt in the fireplace. When there were fewer guests, only the middle part of the fireplace would be used – like turning on or off part of a gas fire.
- The hall would have looked very different in the old days. Before it burnt down, there would have been a high roof with wooden beams. The walls would have been plastered and painted brightly. **Can you see where there used to be statues?** At the kitchen end of the hall you can see the remains of a special gallery area for musicians to play music or for jugglers and actors to perform.
- In 1585 there was a terrible plague in Edinburgh. The Parliament moved out of Edinburgh and moved into this great hall until the plague was over.

**Teacher prompts**

**Desired pupil responses**

How many people do you think could eat in here at once? Can you work it out, looking at how much space your group takes up?

About 300 – but possibly more.

Where do you think the king would sit?

At fireplace end of hall – warmest and in the light of the big window.

Look carefully at the outside wall to find what the guests would sit on.

You can see the remains of stone benches at the kitchen end of the outside wall.

The walls would have been covered with bright tapestries. Can you see how they would have been attached?

Small iron hooks are still visible below the windows on the inside wall.

Why do you think they had tapestries?

Tapestries were nice to look at and would have helped keep the room warm.

This was where the drawbridge was wound up or down from. Can you see where the chains for winding would have been?

You can see two small square holes on the outside wall below the windows.

- If you go into the little door on the right of the hall you come into a narrow passage. If you look down at your feet and up to the ceiling you can see the narrow slit where the portcullis would be raised and lowered.

**Go through the door to the right of the fireplace and turn right into the chapel.**



The Chapel



Consecration cross



Eel spear, found in Linlithgow Loch

### Location 5: The Chapel

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils:**

- This used to be the king’s private rooms, but in about 1492 it was turned into a chapel, so that the king and his court could have their own religious services here.
- This room has changed a lot too. There used to be an altar, an organ, lovely stained glass windows and beautifully painted statues. The ceiling was painted blue.
- There are special crosses carved on the wall called **consecration crosses** which were carved here when the room first became a chapel. They look a bit like flower petals in a circle. There used to be 13, one for Jesus and each of his 12 disciples.

**Teacher prompts**

Look around the room for the consecration crosses. How many can you find?  
What do you think happened to the other ones?

There are still a few carvings of angels around the chapel. What instruments are they playing?

**Desired pupil responses**

There are at least six to be found!  
The others may have been worn away or were destroyed when the building burnt in 1746.

Harp, a keyboard instrument of some sort.

**Palace Museum**

In the corridor parallel to the chapel there is a small museum containing objects associated with the palace. These include original water pipes from 1538, tiles from the floor, and a spear for catching eels in the loch outside.

**At the end of the museum corridor go up two steps of the spiral stair and then take three steps immediately down to find yourself in the first room of the King’s Lodgings.**



**Did you know...**

Nobles and foreign ambassadors built houses in the town to be near the king and queen.



Game in King's Hall

**Did you know...**

The window sill here provided a space for a small altar.



Ladder window

**Location 6: The King's Apartments**

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils:**

The whole of this side of the palace was built for King James IV. This was where the king met visitors, slept and worked. There used to be rooms for the Queen too, but they were probably in the north range, which collapsed. The first room you come to is:

**6a The King's Hall**

- This was a kind of waiting room where people waited until the king was ready to see them. The king might have also had private parties here and there is a stair which leads down to the wine cellars. **Can you see a kind of board game set into the floor?**
- Look out of one of the windows on to the grass outside. This used to look very different. There used to be beautiful gardens to relax in. There was also a special kind of tennis court and a place where the kings and queens could practise archery and other sports.

| Teacher prompts   | Desired pupil responses  |
|---|--|
| What game do you think you could have played with the board?  | Maybe a kind of noughts and crosses; possibly a kind of skittles game.   |
| Have a look at the windows. Can you see where the glass used to fit?                                  | There is a groove round the top half of the window which shows where the glass was.                                  |
| Only the top half of the window had glass. What do you think the rest of the window was made of? Why? | There are marks which show that the bottom half was probably wooden shutters which could open to allow fresh air in. |

**6b The King's Presence Chamber**

- Once the king was ready to see you, you would enter the King's Presence Chamber. People would come here to meet the king and ask for favours.
- If you look at the floor, you can see tiles which mark out where the throne was. The other tiles mark where people would have to stand. When you were chosen, you would walk forward from your tile. After you'd spoken to the king, you would have to walk backwards until you arrived back at your tile. You couldn't turn your back on the king! Try this out, with one of you as the king!
- Look up at the inside window which looks like a ladder. This was added later by King James V to light up a beautiful painted ceiling which used to be here. The window used to be coloured glass.
- Below the window there is a square cupboard set into the wall.

| Teacher prompts   | Desired pupil responses                            |
|---|--|
| What do you think might have been in the cupboard below the window? | Valuables for the king to show off – maybe silver. |
| What clues are there that this was a special room?                  | Markings on floor; ladder window.                  |

**Move into the next room.**



### Did you know...

Mary Queen of Scots was born in this palace. The room where she was born isn't here any more. She became Queen when she was only six days old and lived at Linlithgow for seven months before her mother took her to Stirling Castle for greater safety.



Decoration on oratory roof

### 6c The King's Bedchamber

- This was the most important room out of all the king's private rooms. He slept here, but he would also have had private meetings here. Only the most important visitors such as foreign ambassadors were allowed in here.
- The trapdoor in the corner has steps which lead down to the king's treasure room, called a **strong room** where valuables were stored during his stay. As well as money and valuables, the special official stamps of the king, known as the **Great Seal** and the **Privy Seal** were kept here.

#### Teacher prompts

Can you find the bathroom for the king?

Why do you think the king had steps to the strong room?

#### Desired pupil responses

To the left of the door is a tiny room where the king would have washed and where there is the remains of a toilet.

So that he could keep an eye on his valuables.

### 6d The King's Oratory

- At the end of the bedroom is a little room overlooking the loch. It was a private chapel for the king, where he had a private church service every morning, prayed and thought about things as he gazed over the loch.
- Look up at the ceiling. This used to be brightly painted and still has carvings of unicorns which were a symbol of kings.

**Go back out of the oratory and the bedroom. Turn left. Go right up the spiral staircase to the very top. The stairs are quite worn from years of royalty and other visitors tramping up and down, so take care.**



**Did you know...**

Stewart kings and queens enjoyed all kinds of sport. Such as bowls, practised archery, trained their falcons and went boating on the loch. They even played a special kind of tennis, which they called 'catchpule'.



Queen Margaret's Bower



View from tower looking south



View north over loch

**Location 7: Queen Margaret's Bower**

**Right at the top you will come out onto the roof of a tower, with access to a tiny room known as Queen Margaret's Bower.**

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.**

- This room is known as Queen Margaret's Bower. The story goes that Queen Margaret, the wife of King James IV was sitting in this room when she heard the news that he had been killed at the Battle of Flodden in 1513. In the nineteen hundreds, people thought this was a very romantic story, and a famous writer called Sir Walter Scott wrote a poem about it, which is carved above the door:

*His own Queen Margaret,  
Who, in Linlithgow's Bower  
All lonely sat,  
And wept the weary hour.*

- When you look out of the tower, you get a great view across Scotland. People would see the palace from a long way off, which would have been very impressive.
- Down below you can see grass. At the time of the Stewarts this would have been gardens for growing food and for relaxing.
- Look down into the north range. You can see all the chimneys from all the rooms built by James VI.
- Look out for the remains of burnt beams – this is where the terrible fire started in 1746.
- Look out for the places we have already seen. **Can you spot the hall, chapel, fountain and king's apartments?**

**Teacher prompts**

Do you think Queen Margaret really spent her time weeping?  
How do you think she might have spent her time up here?

Why do you think this was such a good place for a Palace?

Look at the outside of the tower. You can see the remains of another staircase going up even higher. What do you think these stairs were used for?

**Desired pupil responses**

Unlikely! She probably chatted with her ladies in waiting, prayed, did embroidery....

A good place to be seen, to show off.

Very central, between Edinburgh and Stirling, the two important royal centres.

The loch was a good form of defence.

Maybe a kind of watchtower, a good look out point.



### Did you know...

Water used to be unfit for drinking so people – including children – drank ale, a kind of beer? The palace has its own brewery, under the east wing. If you were part of the royal family or one of the nobles, you would drink wine.



Walkway in the north range



The Laich kitchen

*Make your way down the stairs again, through the king's bedroom and then on the first floor head east along the modern walkway known as the New Wark.*

*When you get to the end of the walk way, go through the pantry and down the kitchen turnpike until you find yourself in the courtyard again.*

*The internal tour is now finished. However, if you have time, you may wish to visit the following two sites within the palace before looking at the outside of the palace.*

- Keep going down the spiral stair if you want to visit the **Laich** ('lower') kitchen in the basement which contains the well for the palace – 9 metres deep, but now sadly dry. There were two kitchens because one wasn't big enough when there were a lot of visitors.
- **The wine cellar**, on the opposite side of the courtyard. This was where barrels of wine were kept for the king. Look out for a carved stone in the wall which probably came from the nearby graveyard. In the lower cellar there is also a small carved figure drinking happily from an enormous glass! There is also a small window for the king to check on his wine supplies from!



**Did you know...**

Originally the walls of the palace would have been covered with a coat of something called lime harl – like plaster? You wouldn't have seen the stone.



*East entrance from the outside*

**Location 8: The Old Entry (from outside the palace)**

*Go back out of the courtyard the way you came in. Turn left and head round the outside of the palace. As you walk around, look for the drains which would have carried rubbish and the contents of the toilets outside. Stop so you can see the original entrance, on the east wall.*

**Background information for teachers. This can be read to pupils.**

- This was the original entrance to the Palace. It faced towards Edinburgh and was an impressive way into the Palace until King James V built a new entrance in the south wall. We are standing in the old dry moat – where all the rubbish would be thrown!

**Teacher prompts**

**Desired pupil responses**

What do you think the two giant grooves either side of the carved shield were for? You can also see the square holes where the winding chains would have gone into the great hall.

This is where the beams for the draw bridge would have slotted in when the bridge was up and the gate was closed.

What do you think would have been in the two spaces either side of the gate?

Statues - perhaps of St Andrew - Scotland's patron saint- and of St James, after the king.

What clues are there that this was a royal palace?

Carved crown and shield with the lion rampant – royal coat of arms.

This is a really impressive entrance. Why do you think King James V decided to build a new way into the palace?

Wanted to make his mark on the palace. Also wanted to show off to the burgh of Linlithgow.



## FAQ

**Q** What is the minimum number of adults required for supervision?  
**A** 1 adult to 10 pupils.

**Q** Is there disabled access?  
**A** Wheelchair users can gain access to the courtyard and The Old Entry but access to the rest of the palace is very limited.

**Q** Are there lunch facilities?  
**A** There are limited facilities if the weather is wet but please check with the Steward on arrival. Otherwise schools can picnic in park on the shores of Linlithgow Loch known as the Peel.

**Q** Where are the toilets?  
**A** There is one toilet (suitable for wheelchairs) at the back of the Education Room. Public toilets are located in the Peel, two minutes from the palace and the Vennel, five minutes walk away.

**Q** Do you carry out risk assessments on behalf of schools?  
**A** Risk assessment of the site is the responsibility of the teacher in charge of the group. Hazard information sheets available on the Historic Scotland website provide information that can help teachers prepare their risk assessments.

**Q** Is there a shop?  
**A** There is a shop that sells postcards, guidebooks and souvenirs.

## Visiting Linlithgow Palace

**Pre visits:** We strongly recommend that teachers should make a **free** visit to the palace to familiarise themselves with the palace and to make a risk assessment before bringing school parties.

**Booking a visit:** Admission is free to a range of educational groups including school parties. More information about who qualifies for free visits can be found on the Historic Scotland Education Unit website (see below). Phone **01506 842896** to book a visit, discuss your needs and confirm opening times with the Steward.

**Linlithgow Palace Junior Guides:** In a unique scheme, Primary 7 pupils from a local school are trained to act as costumed guides for the palace. The aim is to provide an insight into a day in the life of the palace during the reign of Mary Queen of Scots. Ask for details when you book.

**Location:** Linlithgow Palace is situated on the south shore of Linlithgow Loch in the centre of Linlithgow, 18 miles west of Edinburgh. It is easily reached by M8 motorway, or by regular train service on the main Edinburgh to Glasgow Queen Street service. The palace is 10 minutes walk from the station.

**Parking:** There is free car parking in the palace forecourt. Coaches can drop pupils at Linlithgow Cross from where there is a short walk up the Kirk Gate to the palace. Coaches should park in Lochside car park at the west end of Linlithgow High Street.

**Health and safety:** Please note the following:

- Beware of heights on the upper floors.
- Pupils should be supervised at all times.
- Pupils should not climb on the walls.
- As part of our commitment to Green Tourism, we ask that any rubbish be disposed of back at school.
- Ball games are not allowed in the Peel – the park surrounding the loch and palace.

**Historic Scotland Education Unit:** For further information about school visits, activities and resources for teachers linked to Linlithgow Palace visit: [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)

## Additional resources

### For teachers:

Chris Tabraham *Linlithgow Palace: the official souvenir guide* Historic Scotland 2004 Very readable and useful with great photographs.

David Breeze *A Queen's Progress: an introduction to the buildings associated with Mary Queen of Scots in the care of Historic Scotland* HMSO 1987 Mary's life, told with references to places she visited.

[www.scran.ac.uk](http://www.scran.ac.uk) An excellent source of photographs and images from Scotland's past.

[www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/linlithgow/linlithgowpalace/index.html](http://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/linlithgow/linlithgowpalace/index.html) Useful summary of the site with good photographs.

### For pupils:

Elizabeth Douglas *Mary, Queen of Scots* NMS Publishing 1994.

Elizabeth Douglas *Scottish Kings and Queens* NMS Publishing 1997.

Historic Scotland *Look at Linlithgow Palace* – an activity sheet for children. Available at palace.

Colin Dargie *Stuart Scotland* Heinemann 2002. Richly illustrated with photographs and contemporary accounts.

Terry Deary *Bloody Scotland* Scholastic 1998.

[www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/as/burghlife/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/scotland/education/as/burghlife/) Explore 16th century burgh life in Stirling. Complete the quiz to gain an invitation to the christening of Mary's baby.

[www.ltscotland.org.uk/scottishhistory/stewartscotland](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/scottishhistory/stewartscotland) An excellent library of resources relating to the life of Mary, life at her time, information about government at that time. Also a very elaborate maze game. Suitable for Levels D-F.

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