HISTORIC SCOTLAND ALBA AOSMHOR

Explore Linlithgow Peel

Your map and guide

About the peel

The magnificent ruins of Linlithgow Palace sit above Linlithgow Loch, amid an expanse of parkland known as the peel.

This peaceful sanctuary was forged in war. The peel was named for the hilltop timber castle that the invading English king, Edward I, built in 1302 during his campaign in Scotland – *pele* is the French word for a palisade.

That castle has long since disappeared beneath the magnificent palace of the Stewart kings. Visitors now enjoy the peel for recreation while other stretches of the loch and shore provide habitat for the abundant wildlife.

Welcome to

Linlithgow Peel

The peel's remarkable natural heritage is legally protected by conservation orders that recognise the importance of Linlithgow Loch's wildfowl and rare aquatic plants.

The loch was formed from a block of ice left behind by retreating glaciers at the end of the last Ice Age. It is one of only two remaining natural lowland lochs in the Lothians.

Look out for great crested grebes and little grebes, coots and moorhens, tufted duck and mallard and the mute swan. Other waterfowl, such as greylag geese, pochard and goldeneye, visit during the winter.

Walking around the loch

The walk around the loch is about 4km or 2.3 miles long and takes about an hour.

As you walk around the loch you will notice its islands: Cormorant and the Rickle. They might look natural now but both are artificial. These are remains of crannogs, timber round houses sitting on wooden pilings, driven into the loch bed thousands of years ago.

The path parts company with the loch for a short distance out onto Blackness Road and then rejoins it at Fiddler's Croft, the grassland in the south-east edge of the loch.

Please take care. The path can be uneven and muddy.

Help us keep the peel special

Historic Scotland and the rangers need your help to take care of this magnificent landscape.

Well-behaved dogs, and responsible dog owners who clean up after them, are always welcome.

Fishing is allowed in Linlithgow Loch if you book in advance with the Forth Area Federation of Anglers on 01506 671 753.

Parking is available at Linlithgow Palace, or in the town centre. Parking is not permitted on Parkhead Road.

Litter can be harmful to wildlife so please leave yours in the bins provided.

Cycling is allowed on paths around the peel.

Please do not camp, make fires or barbecue anywhere in the peel.

Golf is not permitted in the peel.

Please be aware of the water's edge.

Take care on uneven and slippery surfaces.

We recommend you wear sturdy footwear, with good grips.

Great Crested Grebe image (left)
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The Ranger Service

Historic Scotland's Ranger Service delivers a varied programme of events throughout the year.

There are guided walks, conservation work and historically-themed activities aimed at all ages and levels of interest.

Contact us

For more information about the peel and details of the guided walks and other events, please contact us:

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