

Linlithgow Peel has been altered by human activity and traces of that activity, from prehistoric times to the present can still be detected. This has created a wealth of archaeological and historical interest in the site.

Two of the islands in the Loch, the 'Rickle' and 'Cormorant Island', have been identified as Crannogs. These are a type of ancient loch dwelling found throughout Scotland and Ireland. Built some 5,000 years ago, they were originally timber roundhouses supported on piles driven into the loch bed. They now appear as tree covered islands.



Artist's impression

The Loch was an important food source to the Palace, providing swan, ducks, eels and fish, as well as water for brewing and baking purposes. It also acted as a natural defence for the Palace against possible attack.

The present day Peel and Loch are used for a variety of recreational activities including: fishing, water sports, horse riding, sunbathing, playing and many others.

Please assist us by :

- Respecting the wildlife, geology and archaeology by taking only photographs
- Only feeding the wildfowl 2/3 slices of wholemeal bread
- Wearing stout footwear, as sections of the path are rough
- Taking your litter home
- Respecting other users

Historic Scotland Ranger Service has been established to ensure that visitors to Linlithgow Peel and Holyrood Park in Edinburgh have a safe and enjoyable visit.

You can speak to a Ranger at the Peel Office located opposite Linlithgow Palace.

To book a visit for your group, for further information about the Service, special events or guided walks held throughout the year contact:

Historic Scotland Ranger Service
Linlithgow Peel
Kirkgate
Linlithgow

West Lothian EH49 7AL

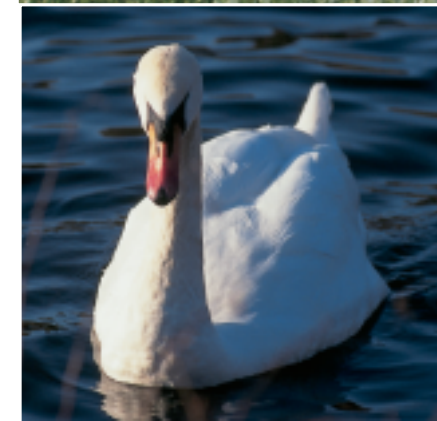
Phone and fax 01506 842065

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Welcome to LINLITHGOW PEEL



Linlithgow Peel originally comprised the gardens and grounds around the Palace of Linlithgow. As more and more lands bounding the Loch have been passed to Historic Scotland and its predecessors over the years these areas have come to be known as part of the Peel. The Rose Garden was added in 1946, the North Shore in 1975 and Fiddler's Croft in 1977.

Lady Park and Calf Lea are in the hands of a Board of Trustees with a representative of Historic Scotland on the Board. A circular path exists around the Loch. It is, however, necessary to detour up an alley, along the Blackness road for a short way, and back into the Peel at Fiddler's Croft.

The walk will take an hour

The walk provides some stunning views of the Palace, the church and the town of Linlithgow.

The Loch is a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of the large numbers of wintering wildfowl, the species of aquatic plants and it is one of only two natural lowland Lochs in the Lothians.



Coot



Pochard

As you walk round the Loch watch out for the elusive Little Grebe (Dabchick) or Moorhen hiding in the vegetation, or the flocks of Tufted Duck and Mallard. You may even spot a Great Crested Grebe. Round at the Town Bay, you will find flocks of the majestic Mute Swan.

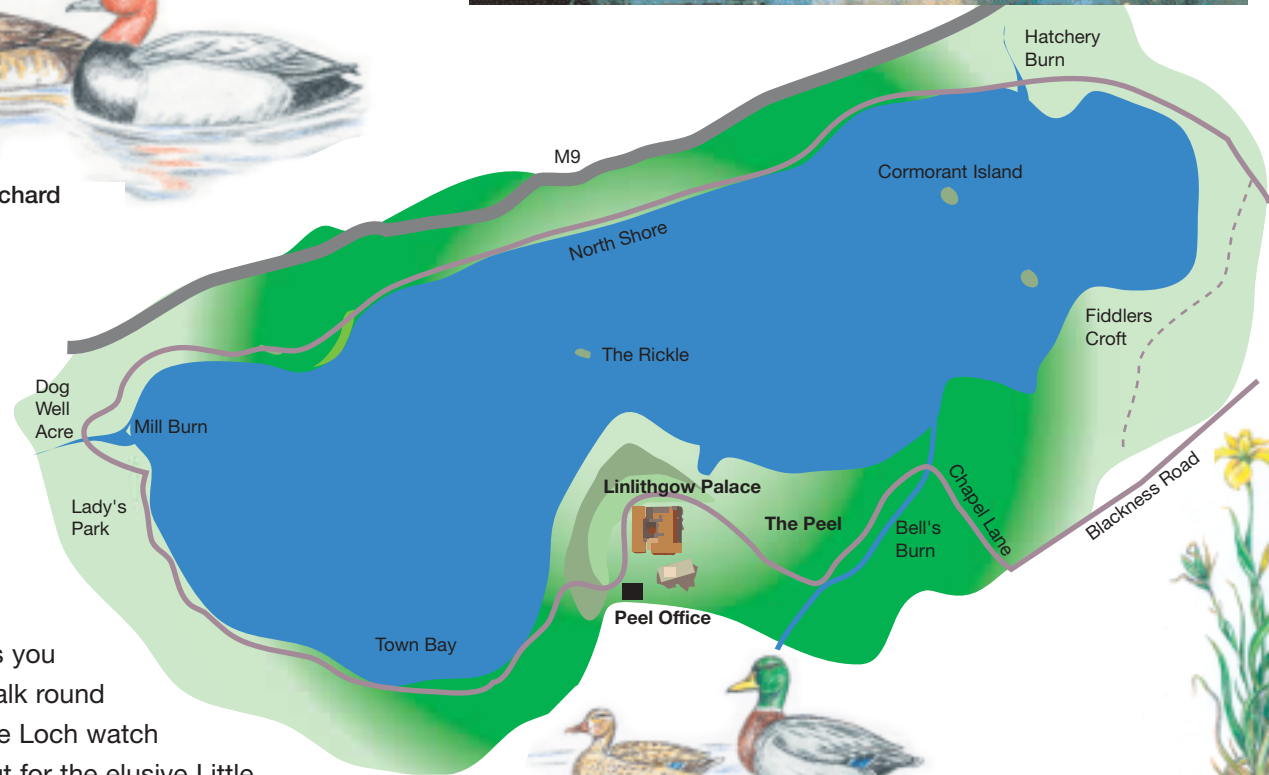
Take a closer look amongst the Common Rush and Bulrush and you will find lots of colourful



Mute Swan



Mallard



plants. Like Yellow Flag Iris, Water Mint, Water Forget-Me-Not, Heath Bedstraw to name but a few.

On the grassy banks look out for Cow Parsley, Dead and Common Nettle, Creeping Thistle, Comfrey, Blackberry, Germander Speedwell, Buttercups, Tufted Vetch, Cranesbill and many others.