



HISTORIC SCOTLAND

# STIRLING CASTLE PALACE

Archaeological and Historical Research 2004 - 2008

## DOOK METHODOLOGY & TYPOLOGY: A SUMMARY OUTLINE

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## DOOK METHODOLOGY AND TYPOLOGY

Hundreds of dooks and dook holes were revealed within the elevations of the principal level rooms in the Palace when the paint and plaster surfaces were removed from the walls.

The dooks and dook holes are important because they represent a series of interior finishes and/or fixtures that were secured to the walls by a variety of fixtures such as metal nails, pins, bolts or screws which in turn required wooden pegs or plugs wedged into holes in the masonry to receive the fixtures.

With hundreds of dook holes to classify, certain characteristics were chosen to form the basis of a Dook typology, namely:

- Shape of the dook hole.
- Size of the dook hole.
- Whether the dook hole was cut fully, cut partially or wedged in between the masonry or cut into brick.
- Fill of the dook hole.
- Where applicable, the depth of the dook hole.

To allow immediate comparison between dooks and to aid classification of groups of dooks, a composite reference was used for each dook consisting of:

Size / Depth (where applicable) / Shape / Cut / Fill
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Where:

Size classification	Dimension (cm)
Small	< 2
Normal (usually left blank)	2 - 6
Large	6 - 10
Very large	>10

Depth classification	Depth (cm)
Shallow	< 2
Normal (usually left blank)	2 – 6
Deep	6 – 10
Very deep	>10

Shape class	Form
A	Square
B	Sub-square
C	Horizontal rectangle
D	Vertical rectangle
E	Circular
F	Irregular
G	Inserted sandstone block
H	Joist hole

Cut class	Form
1	Cut into stone
2	Cut partially into the edge of a stone
3	Cut or wedged between stones
4	Cut into brick

Fill
Wood
Dowel
Cement
Plaster
Metal
Rawl plug
Other

In addition to the composite reference for individual dooks, a number of distinct groups of dooks were identified on the principal floor. The composite reference for these was based on the physical characteristics of the dooks, and did not phase or date the dooks directly. Therefore it cannot be said that all **type small A1 filled with wood** (for example) are of one date or belong to the same phase. However, generally groups of dooks did contain dooks with similar physical characteristics, and sometimes it was possible to date a dook group using traditional stratigraphic dating; a dook cut through the margin of an inserted door or the blocking of an aperture of known date for example, could provide a *terminus post quem* for the whole dook group. It was also possible to interpret the date of certain groups of dooks based on the likely function of the group in relation to the use of the Palace in a given period.