

HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2011

Holyrood Park: Monitoring of Rock Clearance, November 2010.

HS PIC Index Number: 90131

Site: Salisbury Crag, Holyrood Park, Edinburgh.

NGR: c. NT 270 733

Project Description: Monitoring the clearance of rocks from the W face of Salisbury Crag.

Project Code: c. NT 270 733

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Short Archaeological Report

**10th February 2011
Kirkdale Archaeology**

INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to oversee the clearance of rocks from the W face of Salisbury Crags, between the two quarry sites. The loose rocks were to be removed by a three person rope team. Prior to any rocks being displaced, the area they would land in was inspected - as was the top of the hill, where anchor points for the ropes were to be hammered into the ground.

The work was carried out between 8th - 11th November 2010.

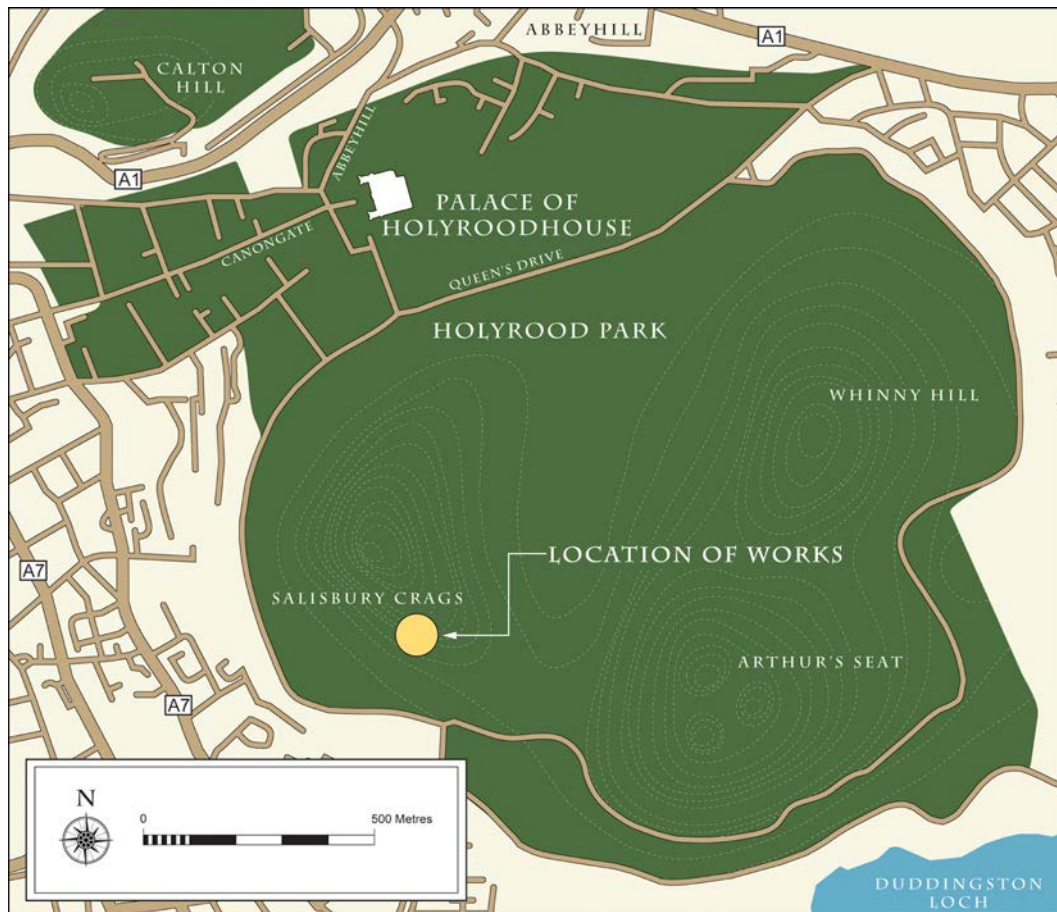


Figure 1: Location map of the works.

DESCRIPTION

During the initial walkover survey, some stones arranged in (roughly) straight lines were noted. The most prominent of these was an E/W arrangement, located to the E

of the track (003) that formed the E limit of the work area. While these were probably natural features, they were avoided when the anchor points were fixed in place.

In all, thirty-four holes were hammered into the ground, though not all were used as fixing points. The depths of the holes were recorded, and these measurements revealed the depth of the bedrock beneath the present ground surface (001) and (002).

Three sherds of white earthenware, with blue transfer printed decoration, were recovered from among the stones at the bottom of the slope. All the pottery was thought likely to date to the end of the 19th or start of the 20th century. These finds must have originated in the topsoil at the cliff edge, as they and were not present at the bottom of the slope before commencement of the work.

Sketches at a scale of 1:100 were made of the locations of the holes, and photographs were taken of the crag face, the top of the hill, and loosened rocks.

CONCLUSIONS

Whilst it is possible that there are archaeological features on the top of this part of the hill, none were positively identified, and the most promising areas were avoided when the anchors were being driven into the ground. It is therefore unlikely that this work had a significant impact on any archaeology that may survive in this area.

LIST OF CONTEXTS

No.	Description	Date
001	Scrubby grass with occasional lumps of bedrock showing through.	08/11/2010
002	Grass with bedrock often showing through.	08/11/2010
003	Path or paths, two foot worn paths in the N part of the area, a single path to the S.	08/11/2010

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	Facing	Date
1	View W from the site toward Edinburgh Castle.	W	08/11/2010
2	Ground surface on top of the hill, N end of the site.	S	08/11/2010
3	Top part of the cliff face at the N end of the site.	S	08/11/2010
4	View W from the site towards Edinburgh Castle.	W	08/11/2010
5	Top part of the cliff face.	N	08/11/2010
6	Top part of the cliff face.	N	08/11/2010
7	Top part of the cliff face.	S	08/11/2010
8	Cliff face, continuing down from Photograph 7.	S	08/11/2010
9	Topography to the E of the site, including a possible bank and ditch, ditch is exaggerated as it has been used as a path.	E	08/11/2010
10	Part of the path forming the E limit of the area.	S	08/11/2010
11	Topography to the NE of the site.	NE	08/11/2010
12	Topography of the central part of the site.	S	08/11/2010
13	Close up of graffiti on Photograph 16.	E	08/11/2010
14	Bottom part of the N end of the cliff face.	E	08/11/2010
15	Bottom part of the cliff face, continuing S from Photograph 14.	E	08/11/2010
16	Bottom part of the cliff face, continuing S from Photograph 15, some graffiti shown.	E	08/11/2010
17	Bottom part of the cliff face, continuing S from Photograph 16.	E	08/11/2010
18	Whole cliff face at the S end of the area.	E	08/11/2010
19	Whole cliff face at the S end of the area.	E	08/11/2010
20	Bottom part of the cliff face, continuing S from Photograph 17.	E	08/11/2010
21	Bottom part of the cliff face, continuing S from photograph 20.	E	08/11/2010
22	Bottom part of the cliff face, continuing S from Photograph 21.	E	08/11/2010
23	Bottom part of the cliff face, continuing S from Photograph 22, S end of the area.	E	08/11/2010
24	Face of the crags, S part of the clearance area.	NE	09/11/2010
25	Face of the crags, S part of the clearance area.	NE	09/11/2010
26	Face of the crags, central part of the clearance area.	E	09/11/2010
27	Face of the crags, central part of the clearance area.	E	09/11/2010
28	Face of the crags, N part of the clearance area.	NE	09/11/2010
29	Face of the crags, N part of the clearance area.	NE	09/11/2010

No.	Description	Facing	Date
30	Face of the crags in the quarried area to the N of the site.	NE	09/11/2010
31	Face of the crags in the quarried area to the N of the site.	NE	09/11/2010
32	Unidentified graffiti.	E	09/11/2010
33	Unidentified graffiti.	E	09/11/2010
34	Unidentified graffiti.	E	09/11/2010
35	Unidentified graffiti.	E	09/11/2010
36	Location for photographs 32-35.	E	09/11/2010
37	Unidentified scratched graffiti.	E	09/11/2010
38	Unidentified scratched graffiti.	E	09/11/2010
39	Unidentified chalk graffiti.	E	09/11/2010
40	Face of the crags with the rope team starting the second clearance line from the N.	E	09/11/2010
41	Face of the crags with the rope team starting the second clearance line from the N.	E	09/11/2010
42	Face of the crags at N side of area with the rope team starting the second clearance line from the N.	E	09/11/2010
43	Face of the crags at N side of area with the rope team starting the second clearance line from the N.	E	09/11/2010
44	Face of the crags at N side of area with the rope team starting the second clearance line from the N.	E	09/11/2010
45	Face of the crags at N side of area with the rope team starting the second clearance line from the N.	E	09/11/2010
46	Face of the crags to the S of the clearance area.	E	09/11/2010
47	Face of the crags showing S part of the area with the rope team starting the second clearance line from the N.	E	09/11/2010
48	Face of the crags showing S part of the area with the rope team starting the second clearance line from the N.	E	09/11/2010
49	Crag face at the S end of the clearance area.	E	09/11/2010
50	Face of the crags to the S of the clearance area.	E	09/11/2010
51	Detail of the clearance team at work.	E	09/11/2010
52	Face of the crags to the S of the clearance area.	E	09/11/2010
53	Location shot of the area being cleared of loose stone.	E	09/11/2010
54	Location shot of the area being cleared of loose stone.	E	09/11/2010
55	Cleared rocks at the bottom of the face, N end.	S	11/11/2010
56	Cleared rocks at the bottom of the face, central area.	SE	11/11/2010
57	Cleared rocks at the bottom of the face, N half.	N	11/11/2010
58	Cleared rocks at the bottom of the face, whole area.	N	11/11/2010
59	Cleared rocks at the bottom of the face, S half.	N	11/11/2010
60	Cleared rocks at the bottom of the face, S half.	N	11/11/2010
61	Cleared area and quarried face to the N.	E	11/11/2010
62	Location shot of the area being cleared of loose stone.	E	11/11/2010
63	Detail of the central part of the cliff face.	NE	11/11/2010

No.	Description	Facing	Date
64	Whole area with the rock team.	E	11/11/2010

LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	North end of site; anchor points 1-8 and features 001-003.	1:100
2	Plan	Area S of plan 1; anchor points 9-18 and features 001-003.	1:100
3	Plan	Area S of plan 2; anchor points 19-25 and features 001-003.	1:100
4	Plan	S end of site; anchor points 27-34 and features 001-003.	1:100