

**HISTORIC SCOTLAND PROPERTIES IN CARE
MINOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS 2013**

Meadowbank Lodge • Monitoring • October 2013

HS PIC Index Number: 10811

SITE: Meadowbank Lodge, Holyrood Park, Edinburgh

N.G.R.: NT 2780 7408

DESCRIPTION: Watching Brief during excavation over drains and services on the eastern and southern sides of the house

PROJECT CODE: HSCO-10811-2013-02

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4 Western Terrace, Murrayfield, Edinburgh EH12 5QF

OCTOBER 2013

INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract with Historic Scotland, Kirkdale Archaeology was asked to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the 19th-century Meadowbank Lodge at the eastern entrance to Holyrood Park, Edinburgh (Fig.1). A single trench was excavated parallel to the eastern and southern sides of the property in order to reveal existing services, as part of the investigation of on-going drainage/flooding problems.

The work took place on 25 October 2013.

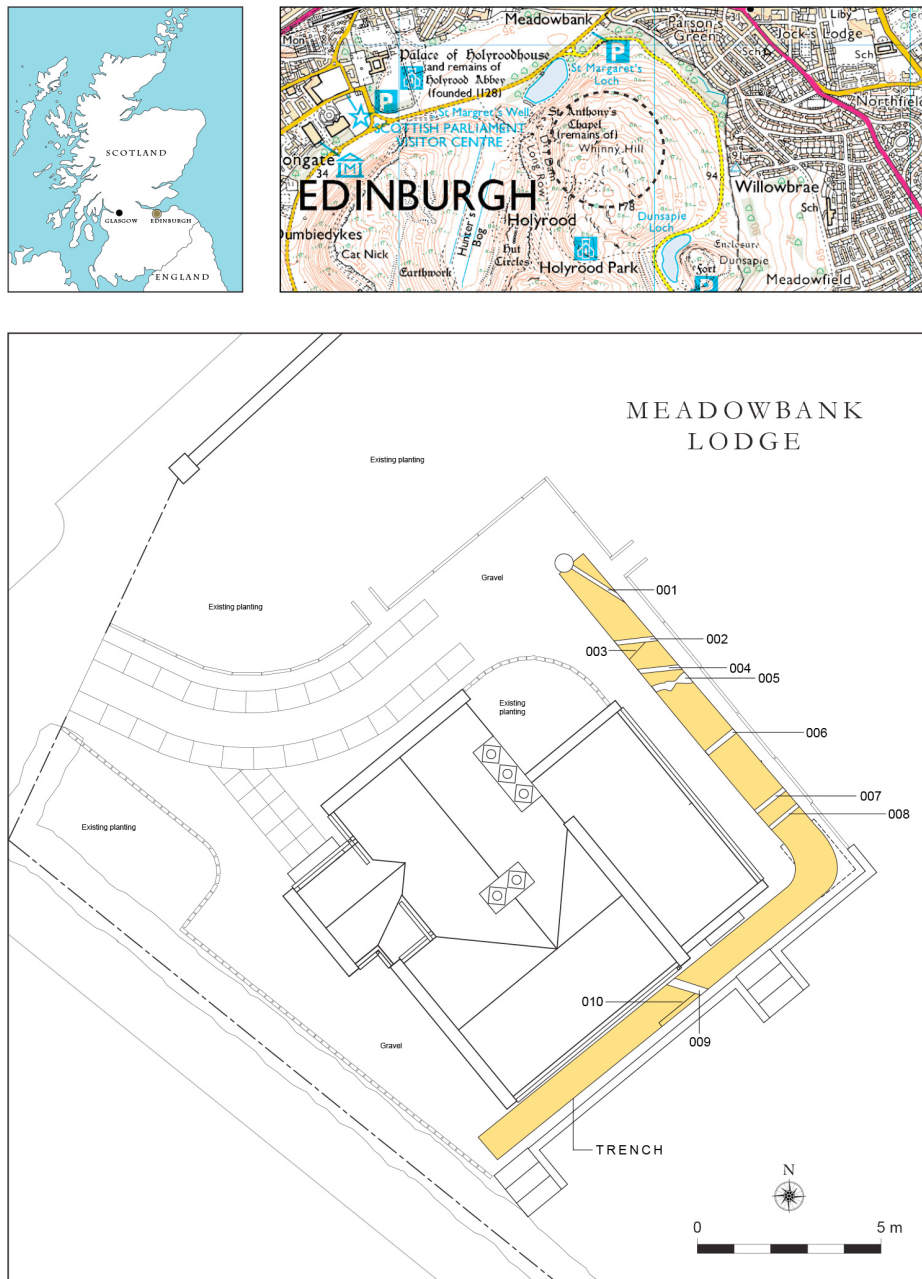


Figure 1: Plan showing the trench location and features described below.
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DESCRIPTION

The trench was excavated to an average depth of 750mm throughout, and saw the removal of three landscaping/levelling deposits. The uppermost (011) comprised compacted 'Type 2' gravel/small stones to a depth of c.150mm. This sealed two tips of dark silt and small stones (012 and 013 respectively) with a combined depth of 500mm. The limit of excavation was defined by a deposit of large stone fragments, (014), which was not fully excavated.

To the E of the property, various pipes were revealed. To the N, and linked with a small manhole, was a plastic pipe (001); c.2 m to the S was a ceramic pipe (002) and a narrow plastic pipe (003). Approximately 1m further to the S was an iron pipe (004) with two rubber coated wires (005) lying over it. Towards the S end of the E side of the property were three more services – a plastic pipe (006), a lead pipe(007) and a further plastic pipe (008).

To the S of the property, two sections of plastic pipe (009 and 010) were revealed towards the middle of the trench. These pipes were associated with a plastic membrane extending over the western half of the trench.

CONCLUSIONS

The excavation showed evidence of recent landscaping and drainage efforts in the form of levelling 011 and pipes 001, 003, 006, 008 and 009/010.

The other service pipes reflect early domestic amenities, of at least 20th-century date, cut against the main landscaping deposits (012/013) – these comprised a waste pipe 002, water supply (004) and gas pipe (007).

It is likely that the property was constructed on an artificial terrace or platform comprising 012/013, over a massive stone dump (014). These in turn probably represent measures to raise the property footings above naturally wet and boggy ground at the foot of the adjacent slope.



Plate 1: Eastern trench, showing pipes 002, 003, 004 in foreground, 007 and 008 in background

LIST OF CONTEXTS

Number	Description
001	Modern plastic drain pipe – E side of house
002	Victorian waste pipe – E side of house
003	Modern plastic pipe – E side of house
004	Victorian iron pipe – E side of house
005	Two 'loose' wires/cables – E side of house
006	Modern plastic pipe – E side of house
007	Victorian lead pipe – E side of house
008	Modern plastic pipe – E side of house
009	Modern plastic pipe – S side of house
010	Modern plastic drain pipe – S side of house
011	Modern levelling – imported gravel and small stones – 150mm deep
012	Mixed dark silt and stones – compacted – depth c.300mm, below 011
013	As above but silt lighter brown in colour – depth c.250mm, below 012
014	Dump of large loose stones – unexcavated – below 013

LIST OF DRAWINGS

No.	Type	Description	Scale
1	Plan	Location plan of features	1:100

LIST OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS

No.	Description	From	Date
1	Eastern trench, showing pipes 002, 003, 004 in foreground	NW	25/10/2013
2	Eastern trench, pipes 002, 003, 004 and levelling 011, 012, 013	NW	25/10/2013
3	Southern trench, showing plastic pipes 009/010	NE	25/10/2013
4	Southern trench, pipes 009/010 and plastic membrane	NE	25/10/2013