

## *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*

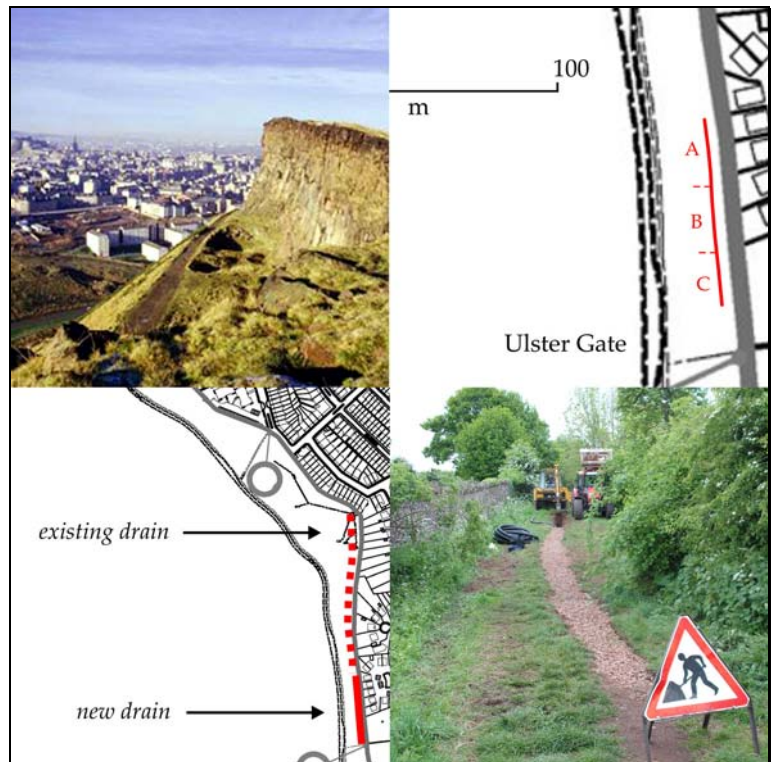
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<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY:</b>	Edinburgh, City Of
<b>PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:</b>	Holyrood Park (Perimeter Wall – Ulster Gate)
<b>PROJECT CODE:</b>	HSCO-90131-2009-02
<b>PARISH:</b>	Edinburgh, City Of
<b>NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	Alan Radley
<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION:</b>	Kirkdale Archaeology
<b>TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:</b>	Watching Brief
<b>NMRS NO(S):</b>	NT27SE 197
<b>SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):</b>	Park, Wall
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<b>NGR (2 letters, 8 or 10 figures)</b>	NT 2828 7351
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<b>PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)</b>	
<b>MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION:</b> (May include information from other fields)	<i>A watching brief was maintained to monitor work undertaken by contractors to excavate a new drain near the boundary wall of Holyrood Park just north of the Ulster Gate near the northeast corner of the park.. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance encountered during these works.</i>
<b>PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:</b>	
<b>CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:</b>	
<b>SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:</b>	Historic Scotland
<b>ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:</b>	4, Western Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5QF
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS:</b>	g_ewart@hotmail.com
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Historic Scotland  
Properties in Care  
Minor Archaeological Works 2009

# Holyrood Park (Ulster Gate): Archaeological Monitoring, May 2009

HS PIC Index number: 90131  
Project code: HSCO-90131-2009-02



6 October 2009  
Kirkdale Archaeology

<b><u>Site</u></b>	Holyrood Park (Ulster Gate)
<b><u>N.G.R</u></b>	NT 2828 7351
<b><u>Project Description</u></b>	Archaeological monitoring
<b><u>Project code</u></b>	HSCO-90131-2009-02

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*SUMMARY: May 2009: A watching brief was maintained to monitor work undertaken by contractors to excavate a new drain near the boundary wall of Holyrood Park just north of the Ulster Gate near the northeast corner of the park.. There were no finds or features of archaeological significance encountered during these works.*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Under the terms of its PIC call-off contract Kirkdale Archaeology was asked by Historic Scotland to monitor work undertaken by contractors to excavate a new drain near the boundary wall of Holyrood Park just north of the Ulster Gate towards the northeast corner of the park.

The south end of the trench was located 17.10 m north of the Ulster Gate and the trench ran roughly parallel to and 2.20 m west of the boundary wall. The trench measured 67.0 m N-S, up to 450 mm E-W and was generally *c* 1.0 m deep.

The trench is described in three sections, Areas A, B and C, running north to south.

The work was undertaken between 19 and 21 May 2009.

## 2.0 DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Area A

This was the northernmost section, 24.0 m long.

The trench in this area was mostly 400 mm wide but occasionally up to 450 mm, while most of the trench was 1.00 m deep but only 900 mm deep at the north end.

The uppermost deposit that was removed, **101**, comprised turf and loose, light to mid grey, clayey loam measuring 200 mm in depth.

In the northernmost 2.00 m of the area, there was a 650 mm thick deposit of loose gravel, **102**, immediately under **101**.

Throughout the remainder of the area, **101** sealed a fairly compact deposit of red/brown, sandy clay, **103**. **103** was seen to a maximum depth of 800 mm but it was not bottomed in this area.

Seen intermittently at the bottom of the trench, **104**, was a deposit of fairly compact red brown sandy clay.

## **2.2 Area B**

This area was the central 24.0 m of the trench, measuring an average of 400 mm in width and between 1.00 m and 1.20 m deep, with the trench deepening slightly to the S.

The turf and topsoil, **101**, varied between 160 mm and 220 mm in thickness.

There were four features within the upper part of **103**, namely **105**, **106**, **107** & **108**; these were all filled with loose, light to mid grey, clayey loam.

**105** was the northernmost of these features, 5.25 m S of the southern limit of Area A, and it measured 350 mm in width and 400 mm in depth, and sloping north toward the bottom. **105** could be seen in the west section, but not during excavation or in the east section.

Roughly 3.0 m north of **105**, **106** measured 450 mm N-S, 550 mm in depth and was seen E-W across the trench. The south edge of **106** was fairly steep but the south side sloped in and the feature came to a point at the base.

2.0 m further north, **107** measured 150 mm N-S and 250 mm deep, while both sides sloped in so that the feature was only 70 mm wide at the base.

Located 7.00 m north of **107**, **108** measured 200 mm N-S and 250 mm deep and both sides of the feature sloped in and came to a point at the base. **107** and **108** were only seen in the west section.

Deposit **103** was seen throughout this area where it measured 500 mm in depth on average.

At the base of **103** at the south end of the area, **109** comprised compact, mid brown, clay and stones. Approximately 35% of this feature comprised sub-rounded stones and those that were removed were basalt. **109** was seen across the trench in an area 4.25 m N-S and 500 mm deep.

Deposit **104** was seen in the bottom 200 mm of this area but it was not fully excavated.

### 2.3 Area C

This, the southern end of the trench measured 19 m N-S, an average of 400 mm in width and 1.00 -1.20 m in depth.

The turf and topsoil, **101**, measured an average of 150 mm in depth.

Immediately below **101** in this area there were three features, **111**, **113**& **117**, filled with loose, light-mid grey, clayey loam.

**111** was the northernmost of these features, located 2.5 m south of the junction with Area B, and it measured 500 mm N-S and 350 mm deep. The sides of **111** sloped gently and the base was curved, and this feature was only just visible across the trench and could be detected in the east section although it was not as well defined there.

Located 7.50 m south of **111**, **113** measured 300 mm deep and 300 mm wide at the top, narrowing to 150 mm at the base. **113** had sloping sides and a flat base; it was only seen in the west section.

Roughly 3.0 m north of the south limit of the trench, **117** measured 100 mm in width and 300 mm deep, and the sides sloped south towards the base. **117** was only seen in the west elevation.

**103** was seen throughout the trench and measured up to 650 mm in depth.

In the bottom part of **103**, **110** and **112** were areas of sub-angular pieces of basalt and mid brown, sandy clay, approximately 60% stones measuring 200 mm by 150 mm on average.

At the north end of this area **110** was seen in an area measuring 1.50 m N-S, E-W across the trench and although a depth of up to 400 mm was excavated it was not bottomed.

Roughly 1.5 m S of **110** and also seen E-W across the trench, **112** measured 1.90 m N-S and a depth of 300 mm was seen.

Sealed by **103**, a depth of up to 350 mm of **104** was seen but it is not known if the full depth of this deposit was excavated.

At the base of the trench features **114**, **115** and **116** were seen, comprising sub-angular pieces of basalt up to 250 mm by 200 mm in size, and compact yellow/ light brown clay.

Roughly 2.00 m north of the south limit of the trench and extending 1.80 m N-S in the west section and 1.20 m in the east, a depth of up to 250 mm of **116** was excavated but the base was not seen.

Approximately 1.50 m S of **116**, **115** measured 2.00 m N-S and was seen E-W across the trench. A depth of 200 mm was removed but it was not bottomed.

Located 2.25 m S of **115**, **114** measured 2.70 m N-S in the west section and 2.30 m in the east - a depth of 250 mm was removed but the limit of the feature was not seen.

### 3.0 INTERPRETATIONS AND OBSERVATIONS

The stony areas **114**, **115** and **116** all underlay at least some of **104**, but since the limit of neither these features nor that deposit were seen, it is difficult to be sure whether these were sealed by **104** or within it. The strong suspicion is that these features and deposit **104** are *in situ* natural deposits, probably the broken upper surface of bedrock and/or boulder clay.

The deposit of red/brown sandy clay, **103**, seen throughout the trench, is probably hill-wash. There is a possibility that some of this deposit has been moved here as part of landscaping but if so then there is no clear difference between it and any hill-wash in the deposit. A possibility is that **104**, is hill-wash and this material has been imported but that is unlikely.

**109** in Area B and **110** and **112** in Area C are patches of stone and clay that seem to be part of the hill-wash.

The turf and topsoil, **101**, is constantly disturbed and added to by vegetation. **102** is recently deposited gravel infill.

The features **103** and **105-108** in Area B and **111**, **113** and **117** in Area C appear to be recent features as they are filled with topsoil. It seems likely these are areas of root disturbance.

**A1.0 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT REGISTER**

#	Area	Description
001	A,B& C	Turf and topsoil.
002	A,B& C	Deposit of loose gravel
003	A,B& C	Fairly compact red/brown sandy clay.
004	A,B& C	Fairly compact red brown sandy clay.
005	B	Feature, possible root hole.
006	B	Feature, possible root hole.
007	B	Feature, possible root hole.
008	B	Feature, possible root hole.
009	B	Compact mid brown clay and stones.
010	C	Mix of sub-angular basalt chunks & mid brown sandy clay.
011	C	Feature, possible root hole.
012	C	Mix of sub-angular basalt chunks & mid brown sandy clay.
013	C	Feature, possible root hole.
014	C	Sub-angular pieces of and compact yellow/light brown clay.
015	C	Sub-angular pieces of and compact yellow/light brown clay.
016	C	Sub-angular pieces of and compact yellow/light brown clay.
017	C	Feature, possible root hole.

**A2.0 APPENDIX 2: DRAWING REGISTER**

#	Area	Type	Description	Date
1	A	Elevation	N end of the W (E facing) section.	19/05/09
2	A	Elevation	S end of the W (E facing) section.	19/05/09
3	B	Elevation	N end of the W (E facing) section.	20/05/09
4	B	Elevation	S end of the W (E facing) section.	20/05/09
5	C	Elevation	N end of the W (E facing) section.	21/05/09
6	C	Elevation	S end of the W (E facing) section.	21/05/09



No	From	Area	Description	Date
1	N	A	Machine excavation of the N end of the area.	19/05/09
2	E	A	Detail of feature 102.	19/05/09
3	N	A	Machine excavation of the S end of the area.	19/05/09
4	N	A	Infilling the trench.	19/05/09
5	N	A	Infilling the trench.	19/05/09
6	N	B	Machine excavation of the N end of the area.	20/05/09
7	N	A	Gravel filled trench.	20/05/09
8	N	A	Gravel filled trench.	20/05/09
9	N	B	Machine excavation of the N end of the area.	20/05/09
10	NE	B	Gravel filled trench.	20/05/09
11	N	C	Machine excavation of the area.	21/05/09
12	N	C	Machine excavation of the area.	21/05/09
13	SW	C	Machine excavation of the S end of the area.	21/05/09
14	W	C	Location of the S limit of excavation.	21/05/09

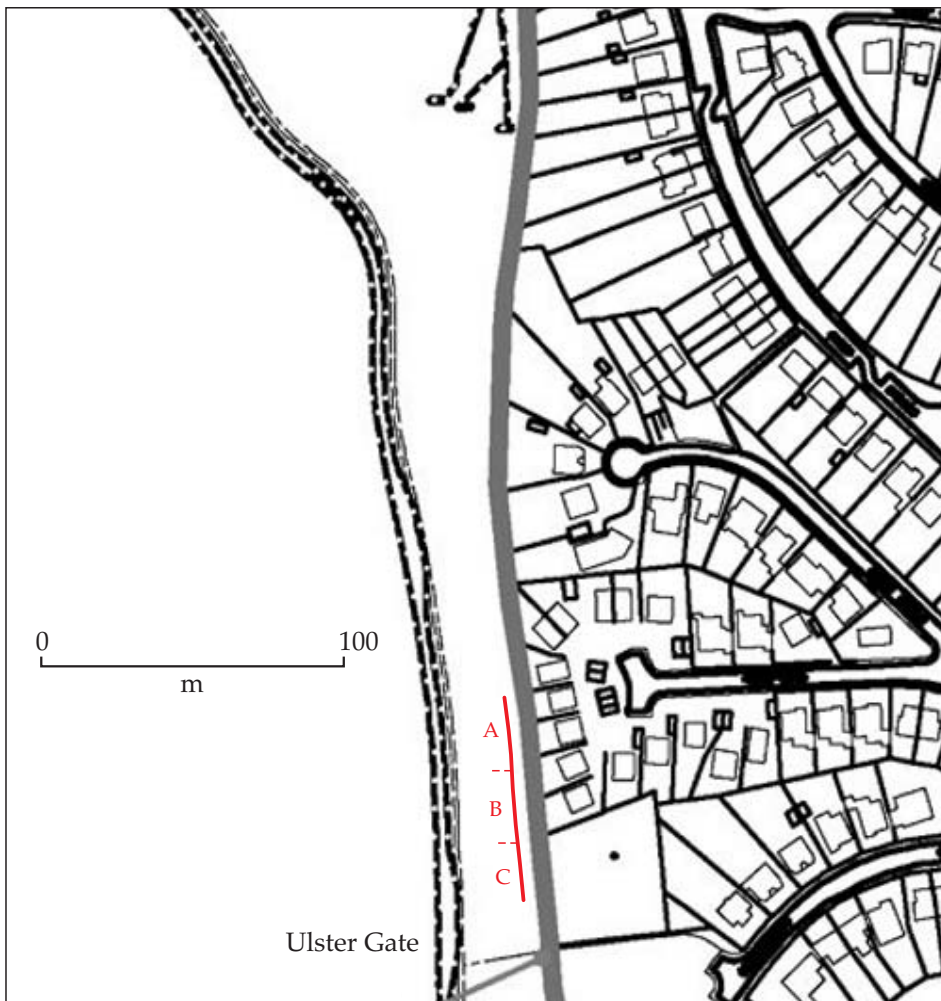
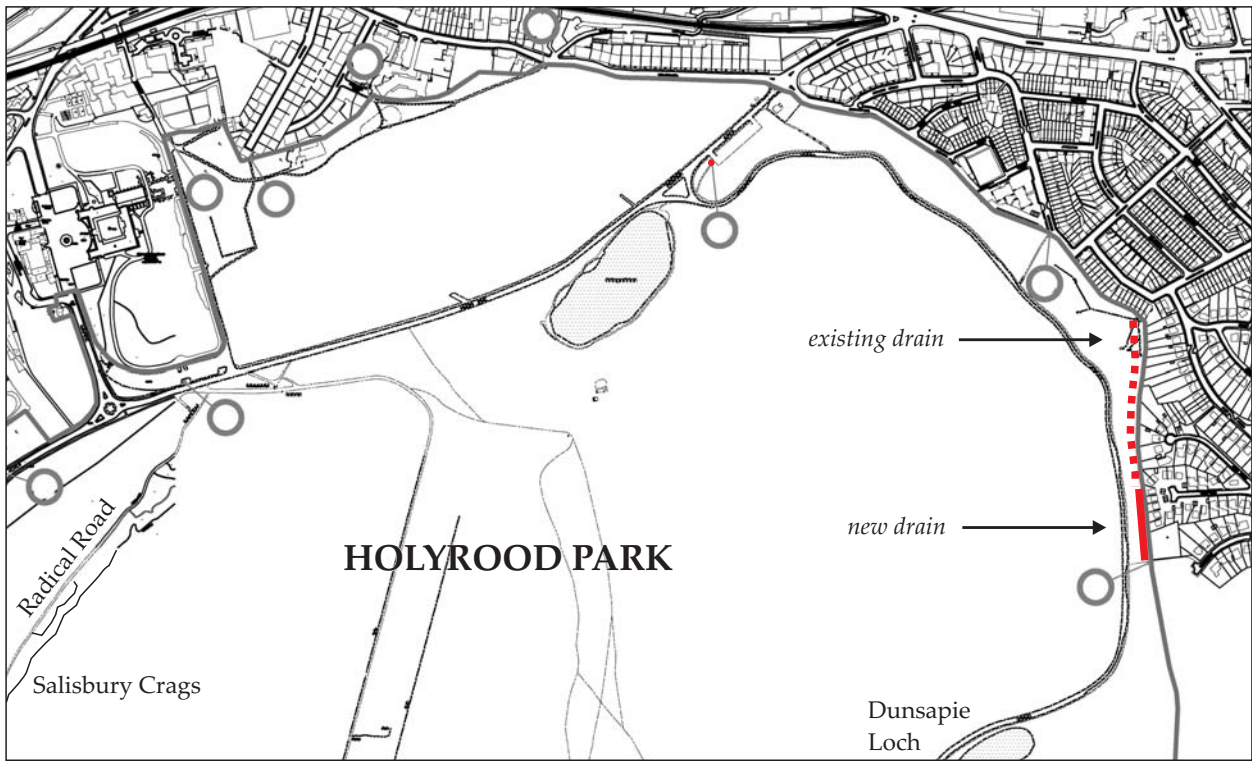


Fig. 1 : Map showing location of works